



Translating The Implicit Meaning from English into Arabic in Dubbed Children's Movies

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Abstract : This paper investigates how Arab translators render the Implicit Meaning from English into Arabic in dubbed children's movies. Analytical method is adopted. It analyzes five dubbed children's movies. Arab translators employ addition, Omission and Modification strategies to convey these pragmatic aspects from English into Arabic.

1.0.introduction

This paper aims at investigating some pragmatic features – the Implicit Meaning of dubbed children's movies from English into Arabic in the Arab world. Also, it depicts how Arab translators deal with such pragmatic features during dubbing process.

The discussion of the pragmatic features - Implicit Meaning – in this paper is based on the analysis of five movies for children along with their Arabic dubbed versions. The original scripts of these movies are available online, whereas the Arabic dubbed versions have been carefully transcribed. These movies are chosen because of their availability as well as their regular broadcasting on Arab television. Furthermore, the chosen movies are Oscar winners. These movies are : Lion King(1994), Incredibles(1994), Cars 2 (2003),Toy Story (1995) and The Rescuers Under Down(1990).

An analytical method is adopted in this paper. The analytical method is conducted by means of a close analysis of examples, not so many to pass judgments on the product, rather to investigate the linguistic aspects that pose difficulty, the errors that result from this difficulty (if any) and the strategies adopted by the translator to overcome this difficulty (if any).

2.0.Questions of Research :

This paper tries to answer the following questions :

- 1-Are Arab translators aware of Implicit Meaning during dubbing process?
- 2-What are the strategies Arab translators use to convey Implicit Meaning from English into Arabic?

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3.0. The Implicit Meaning

This section offers an overview of the different methods adopted to translate the implicit meaning of an utterance. Yule (1996) defines implicit meaning as “An implicit meaning or an inference is any additional information used by the listener to connect what is said to what must be meant” (p. 131). In dubbing, translators should be aware of the implicit and explicit information being communicated.

The pragmatic inferences of an utterance originate from some linguistic features which lead the hearer to think of meanings other than the literal meaning. “Pragmatic inferences include presuppositions and implicatures.” (Levison, 1983, p. 167) While presuppositions are considered background assumptions, “the existing knowledge common to speaker and hearer that the speaker does not therefore need to assert” (Grundy, 2000, p. 117). Implicatures are foreground conclusions which “after hearing an utterance as to the meaning the speaker intends to convey” (Grundy, 2000, p. 119).

Presuppositions can be defined as “what a speaker assumes is true or is known by the hearer” (Yule, 1996, p. 132). Levinson (1983, p. 167) emphasizes that concept (presupposition) is based “more closely on the actual linguistic structure of sentences [e.g. temporal clause, cleft sentences, non-restrictive relative clauses etc.]”.

Conversational implicatures fall into three types: (a) standard implicature, (b) particularized conversational implicature and (c) generalized conversational implicature.

4.0. Analysis of Data

4.1. Presuppositions & Conversational Implicature

The following examples illustrate how translators render presuppositions in the dubbing process of children's movies. Talking to a mouse within its paws, Scar says: “Life is not fair. Is it? I shall never be king. And you shall not see the light of another day,” (Lion king, tabel 1),

دنيا ماليهاش أمان. .. لا أنا هابقي ملك. .. ولا أنت هيطلع عليك يوم تانى

In this extract, there are two presuppositions: The first shared assumption is that Scar shall not be the king of the wood after his brother, Mufasa, but Simba will; the second is that the mouse in his paws will be eaten. The presuppositions are successfully preserved in dubbing in manner which enables the TL audience to get the same meaning as the SL audience.

Frozen tells Bob to “Tell the truth. I’d rather go bowling what we should actually do as our wives think we're doing for a change,” (Cars 2, table 2). This quote is translated into Arabic as ما تيجي نعمل اللي مرانتنا فاكرين أننا نعمله... يعني نحننا. أوضاعنا. The shared assumption between the speakers is that they deceive their wives. Instead of going to bowling as their wives think, they do incredible

adventures to help the police in rescuing people and arresting criminals. To lead a normal life, they promise their wives that they will not do such adventures, so the presupposed meaning is clearer in the TL.

The Arab children should understand the same intended meaning as the English children. For instance, Mufasa says: “Do not turn your back to me, Scar”, and Scar responds while looking back: “Oh, no, Mufasa. Perhaps you should not turn your back on me,” (Lion king, Appendix 1:22). This is rendered into Arabic as:

مفاسا: ما تدنيش ظهرك. سكار.
سكار: أنت اللي لازم ما ما تدنيش ظهرك. مفاسا

It is noticeable in this exchange that there are two presuppositions. The first is that Scar does not respect Mufasa as a king, and the second is that Mufasa should be cautious of Scar's future evil deeds. The two presuppositions assert how Scar and Mufasa hate each other which are not transferred into Arabic clearly due to the literal translation. The nonverbal elements, nonetheless, such as facial expressions, and tone succeed in conveying the hatred between the two brothers. Thus, translators sometimes fail to convey the presupposed meaning, so the accompanying nonverbal element are important to fill in the gaps words fail to.

Moreover, Helen speaks to her husband, Bob, “Do not just stand there. I need you to intervene,” (Incredibles, table 2),

صبيحي اعمل حاجه. ماتقفش تتفرج. .. أنا عايزاك تتدخل.

in Arabic. The mutual assumption is that Bob is not interested in his children matters, and Helen does everything. This presupposition is successfully preserved, and the strategy used to convey the meaning is addition in صبيحي اعمل حاجه to clarify the meaning in the TL. In dubbing, the presupposition is sometimes preserved in the TL in a different form. In the following example, the form of the question tag is changed into a negative sentence when Buddy says, “It's because I do not have powers. Is not it?” (Incredibles, table 2), عشان ما عشان ما. The shared assumption is that Incredible heroes must have superpowers to help people who are in trouble. Despite this change in structure, the presupposed meaning is successfully transferred in the TL. Besides, Zazu tells Scar: “you will lose more than when the king gets through with you,” (Lion King, table 1), translated as هتضيع لما موفاسا يشوف شغله معاك... The shared assumption is that Scar is so bad that Mufasa cannot stand his deeds. The modification strategy the translator adopts enables the target audience to understand the meaning properly. When Bob says “Now you stay right here. They usually pick up the garbage in an hour,” (Incredibles, table 2), أترمي هنا. بيجمعوا القمامة في أقل من ساعة. The shared assumption is that thieves are as harmful as the garbage. The presupposition is effectively maintained.

Mufasa says to his son, Simba, “Everything you see exists in a delicate balance. As king, you need to understand all creatures from the ant to the leaping antelope,” (Lion King, table 1). This is translated as

كل حاجة فى الوجود منسجمة مع بعضها فى توازن دقيق والحاكم لازم يفهم التوازن ده ويحترم كل المخلوقات من النملة حتى البقرة.

The mutual assumption is that Simba will be the king in the future, and it is lost in dubbing because these words: “As king, you need to ...,” are deleted in translation. The translator could have rendered this part as كملك تحتاج أن تفهم.

Shenzi also says, “Do you know what we do to kings who step out their kingdom?” (Lion King, table 1), .. هو دخول الحمام زى خروجه يا صغنين. The shared assumption is that Simba and Nala (the future king and queen) are in danger.

The technique of omission used in dubbing does not preserve the presupposition in the TL.

Irony continues as Zazu says, “There is always one in every family ...and they always manage to ruin special occasions” (Lion King, table 1), سيادتك دائما. Zazu mocks Scar’s irresponsible behavior, and the target audience understands the intended meaning as the SL audience does.

In addition, Scar says, “I shall practice my curtesy” (Lion King, table 1), لازم. Being told by Mufasa that Simba will be his future king, Scar says these words ironically and uses some funny movements , and their implicature is preserved in the TL. Similarly, Scar says, “I was first ...until the hairball was born” (Lion King, table 1) rendered as , كنت الأول لحد المفعوص شرف. المفعوص conveys the ironic effect very clear. By dubbing, translators should pay due attention to the SL implicatures to convey their meanings in a proper way. One of the possible ways to translate irony is using the technique of compensation. Translators should not translate what is actually said, but they should strive to obtain the effect of irony

Woody: Don’t be silly. My hat isn’t under my boot. (Toy Story 2, table 4)

This exchange is rendered into Arabic as:

بو: وودي بص تحت رجلك.
وودي: ماتهريش البرنيطه مش تحت رجلي.

Woody flouts the maxim of relevance. Instead of looking under his boot, Woody mocks Po’s speech. What is implied is that he is so worried that he cannot think well or communicate with others. Hence, literal translation succeeds in conveying the implied meaning.

Another example for flouting is found in the following exchange between the toys; a toy says, “Leave Buzz play with his toys”, سيب بز مع ألعابه. Buzz responds, “Toys, toys, toys ...”(Toy Story 2 , 4) translated as , الألعاب, الألعاب. Buzz flouts the maxim of quantity, and the inference implies that

he has found out something. Once again, literal translation conveys the implied meaning in a proper way. Furthermore, the pictorial elements such, as Bernard's facial expressions and the engagement ring which was dropped under the table , illustrate this implied meaning.

5.0.Conclusion

Arab translators employ addition, Omission and Modification strategies to convey these pragmatic aspects from English into Arabic.

Due to literary translation, Arab translators do not convey the presupposed meaning from English into Arabic, but the accompanying non verbal movement succeed to fill the gaps the words fail to. To convey the presupposed meaning, Arab translators may change the form of the presupposed meaning from English into Arabic.

Regarding conversational implicature, compensation strategy is used to convey irony from English into Arabic , in dubbed children's movies. furthermore , Rendering ironic words is an obvious example of domestication. Arab translators usually try to translate negative implied meaning resulting from flouting the four maxims.

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