



# Benha university

# **Faculty of Arts**

# **Faculty of Arts journal**

Scientific journal reveiw

# Problems of Translating Taha Hussein's 'alā Hameš Alsirah: A Cognitive-Pragmatic Approach

Merna Walid Abd El-Moneim

No.1 october 2023

https://jfab.journals.ekb.eg/

#### **Abstract**

The premise of this study is that cognitive-pragmatic aspects and context-dependent utterances in literary texts can present translation challenges because of cultural and linguistic differences that may impact the quality of the translation. On the basis of Gutt's (2000) cognitive-pragmatic theoretical framework of translation Pedersen's (2011) model of translation strategies, this research attempts to present a cognitive-pragmatic analysis of the translation of the Arabic novel 'alā Hameš Alsirah by Taha Hussein (1933) and its translation Marginalia on the Prophet's Biograpgy by Mohamed Enani (2021). Gutt's cognitive-pragmatic model of translation has been built upon Relevance Theory put forward by Sperber and Wilson (1986/1995). The results of the study show that the most adopted translation strategies are generalization, specification and substitution, applying the indirect translation approach. Due to the different cognitive environments of the source and target audiences, the indirect translation approach proved to be the appropriate method of translating the selected data. It enabled the translator to convey the intended message as much as possible without any distortion or loss of meaning.

**Key Words:** Translation, cognitive-pragmatics, *Marginalia on the Prophet's Biography*.

#### 1. Introduction

Language has always been seen as an expression of the speaker's culture and individuality (Baker, 2011, pp. 19-20). Newmark (1988) defines culture as "the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression" (p. 94). Therefore, translating a literary work is equivalent to translating the culture or cognitive environment where the work is produced, as Sperber and Wilson (2002) suggest (pp. 272-273). To explore the transfer of intended meanings from the source text to the target reader and the shifts in translation that could alter the intended meaning, this study adopts a cognitive-pragmatic approach to translation.

Relevance Theory is considered the main theoretical framework in the area of cognitive pragmatics (Huang, 2007). According to Gutt, translators of literature must make assumptions about the cognitive contexts and communicative clues present in both the source and target texts to render a translated version that is relevant to the target audience (2000).

#### 2. Statement of Research Problem

The research investigates, from a cognitive-pragmatic perspective, Taha Hussein's novel 'alā Hameš Alsirah (1933) and its English translation. The study applies Gutt's cognitive-pragmatic model of translation (2000) and his recent findings which develop Sperber and

Wilson's relevance theoretical framework (1986/1995). The study also investigates how cognitive-pragmatic inference is vital for the success of literary translation.

Moreover, in order to illustrate the substantive role of cognitive-linguistics and cultural turn in translation studies, the study applies Pedersen's (2011) model of translation strategies on the culture-specific items found in the selected data. The study attempts to illustrate how the translator could, or even could not, overcome the obstacles faced while transferring Hussein's idiosyncratic style and loaded language to a foreign culture adopting different translation strategies.

## 3. The Objectives of the Research

The study aims at: (1) examining different translation strategies used while transferring culture-specific items between different cultures considering the different cognitive environments of the source and target readers, (2) investigating the problems that translators might face while translating cultural reference in literary texts, (3) uncovering how direct and indirect translation approaches might be used to overcome such problems.

### 4. Research Questions

In order to fulfil the thesis objectives, the study attempts to find answers to the following questions: (1) what are the translation strategies that can be used to transfer culture-specific items between different cognitive environments? (2) what are the problems that translators might face while translating cultural reference in literary texts? (3) how the context of a target text may differ from the context of the source text in direct and indirect translation approaches? (4) to what extent does the translator succeed in conveying the intended meanings and the contextual effects of the source text?

## 5. Research Methodology

Encouraged by Gutt's cognitive-pragmatic model of translation (2000), this research adopts a relevance theoretic approach and attempts to present a cognitive-pragmatic analysis of the translation of the Arabic novel 'alā Hameš Alsirah by Taha Hussein. Moreover, in order to build the bridge between translation and cognition, the analysis is focused on the translation of culture-specific items in the novel adopting Pedersen's (2011) model of translation strategies. A descriptive and qualitative method is used.

#### 6. Literature Review

In one study, El-Bahy (2019) applies relevance theory to the translation of Arabic proverbs into English. She uses Gutt's (2002) approaches of direct and indirect translation and claims that both are effective translation tools in relevance theory. However, she argues that indirect translation is more effective in achieving optimal relevance because it provides an explanation of the implicit message

of the source text to the target readers, making it easier for them to understand the contextual effect of the source text.

Zhu's paper (2021) compares Mai Jia's novel *Jie Mi* to its English translation and examines the communicative clues found in the proper nouns, culturally-specific concepts, and figurative psychological descriptions of the source text. It also analyzes whether these clues were accurately conveyed in the English version for the benefit of the target readers. The paper highlights the importance of cognitive-pragmatic inference in the success of literary translation and provides translators with practical ways to improve the quality of their translation in terms of literary style.

AL-JARRAH et al. (2018) utilized a relevance-theoretic approach to investigate how to translate structures that contain strategic ambiguity. The researchers found that a "good" translation, from a relevance-theoretic perspective, is one that permits all valid interpretations supported by the source text rather than representing a specific interpretation. Therefore, the translator's role is to "translate" rather than to "interpret."

In his 2017 research, Alwazna offered an account of relevance theory and its connection to translation within the sphere of pragmatics, emphasising the great importance of context and its fundamental role in clarifying the intended meaning of a particular utterance. The paper presented the translator's task that is to identify the illocutionary act

and perlocutionary effects of the source text and then to attempt to reproduce them in the target text.

Besbes (2013) conducted a research in which he attempted to deal with the relevance of Relevance Theory to the teaching and learning of literary translation in the Arab-speaking world. He sought to illustrate how the communicative clues in the source text can aid literary translation students in producing translations that are relevant both culturally and communicatively from English to Arabic and vice versa. The study suggests new avenues for exploring the handling of figurative language from the perspective of the relevance theory of communication.

Zhonggang (2006) tried to provide an explanatory framework for translating the implicit information in literary texts building on Gutt's relevance-theoretic approach (1991). The thesis focused on a study of the implicit information, its origin and its nature, and concluded that the implicit information is inherent in human communication and it is a prerequisite for relevance: to be relevant, an utterance must convey some implicit information.

Lin (2010) explored the translation of humorous metaphors in the novel *Fortress Besieged* from a relevance-theoretic perspective, using Gutt's cognitive pragmatic model of translation. He found that while Gutt's translation theory does not offer concrete solutions to problems faced by translators of humorous metaphors, it provides a practical

direction for them to follow. Translators should consider the cognitive environment of the target audience and their possible reaction to a translation based on their cognitive environment. Therefore, relevance theory is a useful guiding theory for translators of humorous metaphors.

Hakimi's 2019 Ph.D. dissertation focused on addressing the discrepancies between literal and implied translations of Naguib Mahfouz's *The Thief and the Dogs* by Trevor LeGassick, M. M. Badawi, and John Redenbeck. The study aimed to identify effective strategies for bridging problematic linguistic, pragmatic, and cultural differences between the source and target text. Hakimi concluded that the difference between literal and implied translation can create a significant gap for the reader.

## 7. Theoretical Background:

#### 7.1 Cultural Turn in Translation Studies

According to Pym, cultural turn is "a term proposed by Snell-Hornby and legitimated by Lefevere and Bassnett, whereby translation studies should focus on the cultural effects of translation" (2010, p. 149). Snell-Hornby defines cultural turn as 'the move from translation as text to translation as culture and politics' (1990, p. 42). It is the analysis of translation in its cultural, political and ideological context.

## 7.2 The Strategies for the Translation of Culture-Specific Items

Pedersen's model of translation strategies (2011) gives seven strategies: (1) **Retention**, when a given word in the ST is directly carried over to the TT with no change in the form; (2) **Specification**, refers to adding some extra information that does not appear in the source text. There are two ways of employing Specification strategy: Completion and Addition; (3) **Direct Translation**, in which the sense of the ST CR is conveyed with no additions or omissions; (4) Generalization, refers to replacing a specific CR by something more general. This can be done either by replacing the ST CR by a Superordinate term, or a Paraphrase; (5) Substitution, involves substituting the ST CR with either a different CR from the SC or the TC (Cultural Substitution), or something completely different that suits the situation (Situational Substitution); (6) Omission, refers to deleting a ST CR in the process of translation or replacing it with nothing; and (7) Official equivalent, in which for there to be an Official Equivalent, some sort of official decision by people in authority over a CSI is needed. For instance, the conversion of measurements (Pedersen, 2011, pp. 77-98).

#### 7.3 Cognitive Pragmatics:

According to Bara (2010), cognitive pragmatics refers to the examination of the mental states of individuals involved in

communication, and it involves the study of cognitive principles and processes that facilitate the interpretation of meaning within a specific context. The primary focus of cognitive pragmatics is on the inferential processes required to comprehend a communicator's intent. It aims to explore the mental processes engaged in intentional communication, in essence, to understand the cognitive processes involved in a communicative interaction (Gutt, 1998).

## 7.4 Relevance Theory:

Wilson defines relevance as "a property of inputs to cognitive processes and analysed in terms of the notions of cognitive effect and processing effort" (2000, p. 423). An input is more relevant when it gives more cognitive effects with less mental processing effort (Allot, 2013, p. 4).

Extent condition 1: An assumption is relevant in a context to the extent that its contextual effects in that context are large.

Extent condition 2: An assumption is relevant in a context to the extent that the effort required to process it in that context is small. (Sperber & Wilson, 1987, p. 703)

The major tenets in Relevance Theory include:

## 7.4.1 The cognitive principle of relevance

Human cognition tends to be geared to the maximization of relevance. (Wilson & Sperber, 2004, p. 255)

According to Wilson and Sperber (2004), humans possess an innate inclination to maximize relevance owing to the development of our cognitive systems (p. 254). Wilson (2019) explains that constant selection pressures during human evolution have led to the development of mental mechanisms or heuristics in the human cognitive system. The primary purpose of these mechanisms is to identify potentially relevant stimuli and process them in the most relevance-enhancing way possible (p. 8).

#### 7.4.2 Ostensive-inferential communication

Relevance theory postulates that a communicator generates a 'stimulus,' which the recipient uses to deduce two ideas. The first notion is that the communicator intends to convey a message, known as the communicative intention. The second concept is that the communicator has specific information to impart, known as the informative intention. Communication that includes both the communicative and informative intentions is referred to as ostensive-inferential communication (Sperber & Wilson, 1986/1995).

#### 7.4.3 Context and Contextual Effects

According to Wilson and Sperber (1985), the context for interpreting an utterance is defined in psychological terms as the background beliefs and assumptions the recipient employs during the interpretation process (p. 51). Gutt (2000) notes that, in relevance

theory, context pertains not to the text, situation, or preceding or subsequent utterances, but to the individual's cognitive environment, including their assumptions about the world (p. 27). Context is a subset of the recipient's existing assumptions, which, when combined with new assumptions, produces various contextual effects (Sperber & Wilson, 1986/1995, 132).

According to relevance theory, in order to get the speaker's intention, the hearer should be able to access his own context by comparing the new given information to his own existing or stored knowledge (Martinez, 1988, p. 175). According to Sperber and Wilson, "an assumption is relevant to an individual at a given time if and only if it is relevant in one or more of the contexts accessible to that individual at that time" (1986, p. 144).

Sperber and Wilson argue that the recipient's task in interpreting an utterance is to choose a suitable context against which the utterance will be understood (1985, p. 54). Each utterance requires a different context for interpretation, which is selected based on two principles. The first principle is the ease of accessibility, where the recipient selects the most accessible context to minimize effort. The second principle is the optimization of benefit, where the context is chosen to maximize the contextual effects gained from interpreting the utterance (Malmkjar, 1992, p. 26). The hearer selects the context that helps him to gain as most contextual effects as possible.

So, relevance is established by the relationship between an utterance and the recipient's perspective of the world. As a result of different cognitive environments, the same utterance can be interpreted differently by different individuals (Perez, 2000, p. 40). This variability in interpretation makes an utterance relevant to one person and irrelevant to another. The recipient's comprehension of the speaker's intended meaning can be restricted by the absence of a shared cognitive environment caused by cultural differences (Zixia, 2009, p. 98). However, if the speaker and recipient share the same cognitive environment, this issue can be resolved. To ensure that the recipient correctly interprets the intended meaning, Sperber and Wilson argue that both parties must have mutual knowledge of the contextual information (1995, p. 18).

## 7.5 Cognitive-Pragmatic Model of Translation

In order to give a unified account of translation, Gutt (2000) builds on relevance theory and comes up with the notion of "direct translation" and that of "indirect translation". Smith (2002) argues that the primary distinction between these two approaches is that direct translation attempts to achieve complete interpretive resemblance, while indirect translation pursues interpretive resemblance in relevant aspects (pp. 109-110). The goal of direct translation is to convey the entirety of the source message, whereas indirect translation aims to

communicate only the portions of the source message that are relevant to the target audience (Smith, 2007, p. 73).

Indirect translation aims to convey only those assumptions of the source text that are relevant to the receptor audience. The target audience do not need to familiarize themselves with the original context. They can interpret the text in their own context because the relevant points can usually be conveyed in the receptor context (Smith, 2002, p. 112). Thus, the point of indirect translation is "to give access to an interpretation that resembles that of the original in relevant respects" (LIU & ZHANG, 2006, p. 59). If the original text cannot be made sufficiently relevant to the receptor language audience, indirect translation enables a translator to increase relevance by, for example, providing the target audience with further background information in order to widen their contextual background (Dong, 2012, p. 43).

# 8. Analysis & Results:

CSI	Translation	Strategy	<b>Gutt's Approach</b>

Table 1. Translation Strategies Adopted in the selected data.

یابن برکة	thou son of Baraka!	Explication	Indirect
صدي ابنك يدعو من يسقيه	The thirsty soul of your son still hovers over his grave, calling for a drink of vengeance.	Explication	Indirect
ورجمته طير أبابيل ،	The flocks of	Paraphrase	Indirect
ترمى عدوه بحجارة من			
سجيل ، فإذا هم كعصف	enemies with		
مأكول	pebbles as hard as		
	shotgun-pellets, so		
	that the soldiers		
	looked like a field		
	of stalks and		
	straw [of which		
	the corn] was		
	eaten up		

يبلغ الكتاب أجله	When the moment	Doronhrogo	Indirect
یبے (جند)	When the moment	rarapiirase	mairect
	of truth is to		
	occur, that is at		
	the right juncture		
بَرْزَةٍ	the kind of self-	Retention +	Indirect
<b>3</b> 5.	the kind of sen-	Retention	manect
	assured woman	Paraphrase	
	who tends to		
	accept socializing,		
	accept socializing,		
	i.e. not being loath		
	to talk to men -		
	described as		
	described as		
	Barzah-which		
	means 'she who		
	haa a biah muafilat		
	has a high profile'		
مولي	Mawla	Retention +	Indirect
		Explication	

غربان العرب	Arabian ravens	Direct Translation	Direct
شواء غريض، عسل هُذيل	succulent cuts of roast meat, milk sweetened with the honey of the Hudhail tribe,	Addition	Indirect
شيبه	Old man	Direct translation	Direct

As illustrated in **Table 1**, Indirect Translation has gained the highest percentage of use. CSIs have been divided into four categories: (1) CSIs related to Social Customs, (2) Religious CSIs, (3) CSIs specific to the SL, (4) Names of Food, Places and People. Firstly, taking into consideration that CSIs that are related to social customs are always loaded with intended meanings and beliefs, the translator applied the indirect translation approach in most cases to provide the TR with the closest equivalent that enables them to achieve contextual effects similar to those attained by the ST reader.

فقال له ابن أبي الفرات في كلامه : يابن بركة (يريد أم أيمن) فقال الحسن : " : " (1) ST: " فقال له ابن أبي الفرات في كلامه : يابن بركة (يريد أم أيمن) فقال الحسن : " (Hussein, 1933, p. 169).

TT: "During the verbal exchanges, the former addressed the latter, inter alia, as 'thou son of Baraka!'".

Now, Baraka is the proper name of Umm-Ayman, and in Arabia it is considered great shame to utter the name of a man's mother aloud. Al-Hassan, offended, cried, Be my witnesses!" to those present. He then took his complaint to Abu Bakr Muhammad Ibn Amr Ibn Hazm, who was then the judge of al-Medina, or the local governor, appointed by Omar Ibn Abdul-Aziz (Enani, 2021, p. 144).

(2) ST: " صدى ابنك ينتظر من يثأر له، وحيث صدى ابنك ابنك (Hussein, 1933, p. 76).

TT: "Or you may have a kingdom in Yathrib, where the spilt blood of your son still waits to be avenged-the thirsty soul of your son still hovers over his grave, calling for a drink of vengeance" (Enani, 2021, p. 80).

Example (1) is based an a belief among Arabs that calling someone by his mother's name is offensive, which is explained by the translator both in-text and in a footnote applying explication strategy and following indirect translation approach to enable the TR to get adequate contextual effects. Adopting that strategy enables the TR to understand why Al-hassan complained Ibn Abdul-Furaat after being called by his mother's name, which might sound normal to the TR

with his different cognitive environment, customs and background. Similarly, example (2) is based on a social custom that has been common among Arabs a long time ago. They believed that when someone is killed, his soul hovers in thirst until his death is avenged. Without explicating such information to the TR, the text, being specific to the source culture, is vogue and the meaning is incomplete and confusing. Therefore, adopting explication strategy following the indirect translation approach in this context is an appropriate decision by the translator, it enabled him to provide the information needed to be added to the target reader's cognitive context to infer the intended message.

Secondly, in the following examples, where the problematic CSIs are related to the source readers' religion, the translator adopted a variety of strategies following the indirect translation approach to be able to transfer the right meaning of the religious CSIs as much as possible to the TR.

(3) ST: " فإذا هم كعصف عدوه بحجارة من سجيل ، فإذا هم كعصف (Hussein, 1933, p. 146).

TT: "The flocks of birds pelting the enemies with pebbles as hard as shotgun-pellets, so that the soldiers looked like a field of stalks and straw [of which the corn] was eaten up" (Enani, 2021, p. 128).

(4) ST: " منالك رأى الطفل قبر أبيه وهنالك لعب الطفل مع أطفال مثله سيكونون له " وهنالك رأى الطفل قبر أبيه وهنالك لعب الطفل مع أطفال مثله سيكونون له تدر في أصدقاء وأنصاراً حين يَجِدُ الجدّ، وحين يبلغ الكتاب أجله، وحين يتم في الأرض ما قدر في السماء (Hussein, 1933, p. 162).

TT: "The child sees his father's grave, and plays with toddlers of the same age, destined to be friends and partisans when the moment of truth is to occur, that is at the right juncture, when the Heavenly decree is to be enacted on earth" (Enani, 2021, p. 140).

Example (3) contains a part of a qur'anic verse related to a specific incident in Islam. Taking the target reader's ignorance of such an incident into consideration, the translator applied indirect translation approach by adopting paraphrase strategy which enabled him to make the religious CSIs explicit to the TR so that the TT will be as relevant to them as possible. In example (4), 'خلف الكتاب is a religious concept implies, in Islam, the right time to disseminate Islam and to convey God's message. The implied meaning of the source utterance cannot be inferred from words by a reader who does not share the same religious background with the author. Direct translation of such an expression could have distorted the meaning. Consequently, the translator, considering the cultural gap between SR and TR, adopted paraphrase strategy following the indirect translation approach to provide the TR with adequate contextual effects like those attained by the ST readers.

While translating the CSIs of the third category that are specific to the source language and have no equivalent in the target language, the translator tried to convey them to the TR without causing any loss or distortion of meaning by using the indirect translation strategies.

"وكانت فاطمة الخثعمية بَرْزَةٍ مُتبدِّيةً في مكة بعض الشيء لا تكره أن تظهر (5) ST: "وكانت فاطمة الخثعمية بَرْزَةٍ مُتبدِّيةً الله (Hussein, 1933, p. 39).

TT: "Fatima al-Khath'amiyya was the kind of self-assured woman who tends to accept socializing, i.e. not being loath to talk to men - described as *Barzah*-which means 'she who has a high profile' in Mecca" (Enani, 2021, p. 55).

"انظر كيف يلتمس لها الزوج فيقول لأصحابه: مَن سرّه أن يتزوج امرأة من أهل : ST: (6) ST: النظر كيف يلتمس لها الزوج فيقول لأصحابه: مَن سرّه أن يتزوج امرأة من أهل (Hussein, 1933, p.164).

TT: "And how, to that effect, he looks for a worthy potential husband for her: "He who is pleased to marry a woman destined for Paradise," he tells his companions, "let him marry Umm-Ayman!" Then Zayd, his *mawla*, was quick to marry her" (Enani, 2021, p. 141).

(7) "وهذا يتحدث عن سذاجة أهل الشام وانخداعهم لغربان العرب" (Hussein, 1933, p. 5).

TT: "Another talked about the naivety of the Levantines, and how easily they were gulled by the Arabian 'ravens'" (Enani, 2021, p. 28). In examples (5) and (6), the translator used indirect translation strategies; paraphrase in transferring 'بَرُنَةٍ ' and explicitation in

transferring 'برزة'. 'مولی' is an Arabic CSI refers to a dignified, selfrespecting woman who mixes with men and takes part in their conversation and is listened to because of her wisdom and status (Mujaam Almaany). The translator succeeded in explaining the item meaning using paraphrase strategy following the indirect translation approach. Similarly, 'مولى' is an Arabic CSI that is considered one of 'al-addad' in Arabic. Words of that category can refer both to a thing and its opposite. Thus, 'امولى' in Arabic can mean master or slave (Mujaam Almaany). In this context, Zayd was a slave freed by Prophet Muhammad. Lack of sharing that background knowledge with the author could have led the TR to the opposite of meaning. Therefore, the translator explicated the item by adding a footnote using explicitation strategy and following the indirect translation approach. On the other hand, when the translator used direct translation with a CSI like 'غربان العرب' by transferring it directly into 'Arabian ravens', the translated version, lacking the background information needed to infer the intended meaning, is less relevant to the TR. 'غربان العرب', in brief, are a group of Arabs who, despite including great knights and poets, were known for being trickers, wicked and rebels (Manzur, 1873). This explains why the Levantines in the example above are described as naive and easily gulled by them.

Finally, names of food, places and people are also considered problematic CSIs that require attention while transferring them to a different culture.

(8) ST: "إِنَّ فِيها لِشُواءًا غريضاً وإن فِيها للبنا يمازجه عسل هُذَيل" (Hussein, 1933, p. 14).

TT: "Here were succulent cuts of roast meat, milk sweetened with the honey of the Hudhail tribe" (Enani, 2021, p. 35).

(9) ST: "إيه يا شيبة! ما خطبك؟ إنى لأنكرك منذ أيام (Hussein, 1933, p. 7).

TT: "What is it, my old man? What is wrong? For days on end you haven't been yourself" (Enani, 2021, p. 30).

Concerning example (8), 'غریضا' is a culturally specific Arabic expression that denotes meat that is 'soft,' 'juicy,' or 'ripe' (Mujaam Almaany). Allayani (2012) notes that 'هُذَيكُ ' is a tribe of Adnanite origin located in the western region of Saudi Arabia, specifically in Hijjaz. As food types and place names are cultural presuppositions that necessitate the target readers' awareness of the source utterance's cognitive environment, the translator applied addition strategy following the indirect translation approach to explicate such CSIs to the target readers. On the other hand, using direct translation strategy in example (9) is considered mistranslation. The prophet's ancestor is named Shayba ibn Hashim, he is better known as Abd al-Muttalib. Thus translating his name into 'old man' can be considered a type of overtanslation.

From the examples above, it is clear that in most cases the translator adopted the indirect translation approach using strategies such as explication, paraphrase, and addition, taking into consideration the huge cultural gap between the source audience and the target audience. However, when he applied direct translation with such specific items in some of the extracts, it resulted in a TT that is not as relevant to the TR as the ST is to the SR. Consequently, the most adopted translation strategies are the indirect ones, for instance, explication, paraphrase, and addition. However, direct translation strategies have been less used. Therefore, it can be concluded that indirect translation approach is much more appropriate in translating such literary works.

#### 9. Conclusion

This study aimed at analyzing different translation strategies used for transferring culture-specific items between cultures, taking into account the distinct cognitive environments of the source and target readers. The researchers used examples from the English translation of a case study to support their objective and identify challenges that may arise when translating cultural references in literary texts. Moreover, the primary aim was to explore to explore how direct and indirect translation approaches could be utilized to overcome these challenges and determine which approach is more appropriate for transferring culture-specific items between different cognitive

environments. The analysis of the examples showed the effectiveness of both approaches in different situations.

To achieve the previous aims, the study attempted to answer the questions asked in section four. Concerning the first question, Pedersen's strategies (2011) have been applied to the translation of the extracted CSIs. The study found that indirect translation strategies, such as explication, addition, and paraphrase, were used more frequently than direct translation strategies, such as retention and direct translation. Concerning the second question, the study identified various problems that translators may face when translating CSIs in literary texts, including a lack of equivalent CSI in the target language, differences in meaning or connotations of a CSI in the target culture, and the possibility of an equivalent CSI in the target culture that does not fully convey the intended connotations of the source text. The study provided solutions to address these problems and analyzed practical examples to support its findings.

Concerning the third and fourth questions, when translating directly, a translator aims for complete interpretive resemblance and does not make any implied meanings in the ST explicit. However, if there is a significant cultural gap between the SC and TC, direct translation may not be successful, as seen in some examples. However, indirect translation is more sensitive to the TR's cognitive environment. The translator provides the necessary information for the TR to make an

accurate interpretation of the text. In the analyzed data, the translator frequently used the indirect translation approach, taking the target audience's cognitive context into account..

## ملخص البحث:

تفترض الدراسة الحالية أن الجوانب المعرفية الإدراكية والتعبيرات التي يرتبط تفسيرها بالسياق هي أكثر النقاط الشائكة في ترجمة الأعمال الأدبية وذلك بسبب الاختلافات الثقافية واللغوية والتي قد تؤثر على جودة الترجمة. ولقد تبنت الدراسة الحالية نموذج التحليل المعرفي التداولي للترجمة الذي اضافه إيرنست اوجست جت (٢٠٠٠) إلى جانب نموذج چان بدرسن لإستراتيجيات تحليل الترجمة (٢٠١١) لتقديم تحليل معرفي تداولي لرواية على هامش السيرة لطه حسين (١٩٣٣) وترجمتها إلى الإنجليزية للدكتور محمد عناني (٢٠٢١). جدير بالذكر أن النموذج المعرفي التداولي لتحليل الترجمة لإيرنست جت ما هو إلا تطوير ودمج لنظرية الصلة لكل من سبربر وويلسون (١٩٨٦/١٩٨٥) في مجال الترجمة. توضح نتائج الدراسة أنه نظرا للاختلافات المعرفية والثقافية ما بين جمهور النص الأصلي وجمهور النص المترجم فيعتبر نهج الترجمة الغير مباشرة هو أنسب منظور لتحليل العمل الأدبى المختار. أكثر الاستراتيجيات التي لجأ اليها المترجم للتغلب على مثل هذة الاختلافات هي التعميم والتوضيح والاستبدال، فمكنته تلك الاستراتيجيات من نقل المعنى المقصود للقارئ الهدف دون أي تشويش او تغيير في المعني.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الترجمة، المعرفية التداولية، على هامش السيرة.

## **References**

Al-Jarrah, R., Abu-Dalu, A. & Obiedat, H. (2018). Translation of strategic ambiguity: A relevance-theoretic analysis. *Poznan Studies in Contemporary Linguistics*, *54*(1), 1-35. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1515/psicl-2018-0001">https://doi.org/10.1515/psicl-2018-0001</a>

Al-lahyani, A. (2012). *The Sons of Hudhail* (2nd ed.). Dar Kunuz for publishing.

Allott, N. (2013). Relevance theory. In A. Capone, F. Lo Piparo & M. Carapezza (Eds.), Perspectives on Linguistic Pragmatics (pp. 57–98). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-01014-4 3

Alwazna, R. Y. (2017). Pragmatic aspect of translation: the interpretation-based inference and its implications for translation. *Arab World English Journal for Translation &Literary Studies*, 1(4), 39-51. https://doi.org/10.24093/awejtls/vol1no

Baker, M. (2011) In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation. Routledge.

Bara, B. (2010). *Cognitive Pragmatics: The Mental Processes of Communication* (J. Douthwaite, Trans.). MIT Press.

Besbes, K. (2013). The Relevance of Relevance Theory to the Teaching of Literary Translation to Speakers of Arabic language.

International Journal of Arabic and English Studies, 14, 1-28. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329000908

Dong, X. (2012). A Probe into Translation Strategies from Relevance Perspective—Direct Translation and Indirect Translation. *Canadian Social Science*, 8(6), 39-44. <a href="https://doi.org/10.3968/j.css.1923669720120806.9252">https://doi.org/10.3968/j.css.1923669720120806.9252</a>

El-Bahy, G. K. (2019). The relevance theory and the translation of Arabic proverbs. *Institute of Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies*. Alexandria University.

Gutt, E. A. (1998). *Meaning-analysis of texts in an inferential framework of communication* [Unpublished manuscript]. Cambridge University Press.

Gutt, E. A. (2000). Translation and Relevance: Cognition and Context ( $2^{nd}$  ed). St. Jerome.

Hakami, A. (2019). *Gaps between the literal translation and the implied translation in 'The Thief and The Dogs' by Naguib Mahfouz: An empirical study* (Publication No. 13905025). [Doctoral dissertation, State University of New York at Binghamton]. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global.

Huang, Y. (2007) *Pragmatics*. University Press.

Hueesin, T. (2021). *Marginalia on the Prophet's Biography*. (M. Enani, Trans.). Cairo University Press. (Original work published 1933).

Liu, C.-W., & Zhang, G. Q. (2006). Translation of Chinese *xiehouyu* (sayings) and relevance theory. *Across Languages and Cultures*, 7(1), 49-76. https://doi.org/10.1556/Acr.7.2006.1.4

Malmkjaer, K. (1992). The Relevance of Translation Studies. *Ilha do Desterro*, (28) 25-36.

Manzur, F. (1873). *Lisān al-ʿArab* [The tongue of the Arabs]. Dar Sader Publishers. (Original work published 1290)

Martínez, M. J. (1998). Be Relevant (Relevance, Translation and Cross-Culture). Revista Alicantina de Estudios Ingleses, 171-182.

Mujaam AlMaany. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.almaany.com/">https://www.almaany.com/</a>

Newmark, P. (1988). A Textbook of Translation. Prentice Hall.

Pedersen, J. (2011). *Subtitling Norms for Television*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Pym, A. (2010). Exploring translation studies. Routledge.

Smith, K. (2002). TRANSLATION AS SECONDARY COMMUNICATION: THE RELEVANCE THEORY PERSPECTIVE OF ERNST-AUGUST GUTT. Acta Theologica Supplementum 2, 22(1), 107-117.

https://doi.org/10.4314/actat.v22i1.5456

Smith, K. G. (2000). *Bible Translation and Relevance Theory: The Translation of Titus* [Doctoral dissertation, Stellenbosch University]. http://hdl.handle.net/10019.1/51636 Smith, K. G. (2007). The Emergence of Relevance Theory. *Theological Research Conspectus*, 65-81.

Snell-Hornby, M. (1990). Linguistic transcoding or cultural transfer? A critique of translation in Germany. In Bassnett & Lefevere (Eds.), *Translation, History and Culture* (pp. 79-86). Pinter.

Sperber, D., & Wilson, D. (1986/1995). *Relevance: Communication and cognition* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Blackwell.

Sperber, D., & Wilson, D. (2002). Pragmatics, modularity and mindreading. *Mind & Language*, 17, 3–26. Reprinted in Wilson, D. & Sperber, D. (2012). *Meaning and relevance* (pp. 261-278). Cambridge University Press.

Wilson, D. (2000). Metarepresentation in Linguistic Communication. In D. Sperber (Ed.), *Metarepresentations* (pp. 411–448). Oxford University Press.

Wilson, D. (2019). Relevance Theory. *In Oxford Research Encyclopedia, Linguistics*. Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199384655.013.201

Wilson, D., & Sperber, D. (1985). On choosing the context for utterance interpretation. In J.S. Allwood & E. Hjelmquist (Eds.), Foregrounding background (pp. 51-64). Coronet Books.

Wilson, D., & Sperber, D. (2004). Relevance Theory. In L. Horn & W. Ward (Eds.), *The Handbook of Pragmatics* (pp. 249-290).

Blackwell. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470756959.ch27">https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470756959.ch27</a>

Zhonggang, S. (2006). A Relevance Theory Perspective on Translating the Implicit Information in Literary Texts. *Journal of Translation*, 2(2), 43-60. <a href="https://doi.org/10.54395/jot-xdhen">https://doi.org/10.54395/jot-xdhen</a>
Zixia, C. (2009, February). A Cognitive-Pragmatic Model for Translation Studies Based on Relevance and Adaptation. *Canadian Social Science*, 5(1), 88-111.

 $\underline{http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/j.css.1923669720090501.008}$