

ARABIC TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH NEWS: A
COMPARATIVE STUDY OF STYLE AND
MESSAGE

KAIS AMIR KADHIM

ARKIB

rb
fP306
K11
2008

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA
2008

**ARABIC TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH NEWS: A
COMPARATIVE STUDY OF STYLE AND
MESSAGE**

BY

KAIS AMIR KADHIM

**Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy**

October 2008

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my mentor and meticulous Professor Mashudi Bin Kader for his advice, encouragement and invaluable comments throughout the research process. His guidance has had a profound and essential influence on this work. I shall remain forever indebted to him. Special thanks also go to my co-supervisors Dr. Rokiah Binti Awang and Dr. Muhammad Azizan Sabjan for their useful help, advice and support.

I also warmly thank Christopher Pointon and Prof. Brain Joseph for their readings of the final draft and for their valuable comments.

Finally, no endeavor is possible without the blessing of the Creator, Allah The Mighty. I thank Allah for granting me the health, the strength and the patience to complete this work while far from home and those whom I love.

I would like to dedicate this piece of work to my whole family especially my beloved wife, Nora Binti Alias, my dearest daughter Maria, and my father and mother.

Kais Amir Kadhim,
Penang, Malaysia.

LIST OF CONTENT

	Page
Acknowledgments.....	ii
Table of Content.....	iii
List of Tables.....	xii
List of Figures.....	xvii
List of Abbreviations.....	xviii
List of Transliteration.....	xx
Abstrak.....	xxii
Abstract.....	xxiv
CHAPTER 1- INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.0 Introduction and Statement of the Problems.....	1
1.1 Objectives of the Study.....	5
1.2 Research Questions.....	6
1.3 The Data.....	7
1.4 Scope of the Study.....	7
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	7
1.6 Theoretical Framework.....	9
1.7 Definition of Major Terms.....	11
1.7.1 Translation.....	11
1.7.2 Cultural Translation.....	11
1.7.3 Word for Word Translation.....	11
1.7.4 Free Translation.....	11
1.7.5 Naturalization Translation.....	12
1.7.6 Literal Translation.....	12
1.7.7 Functional Translation.....	12
1.7.8 Communicative Translation.....	12
1.7.9 Semantic Translation.....	13

1.7.10	Ambiguous Translation.....	13
1.7.11	Undertranslation.....	13
1.7.12	Overtranslation.....	13
1.7.13	Field, Tenor and Mode.....	13
1.7.14	Componential Analysis.....	14
1.7.15	Political News.....	14
1.7.16	Procedure and Strategy.....	14
1.7.17	Message.....	15
1.7.18	Style.....	15
1.7.19	Register.....	15
1.7.20	Function.....	15
1.7.21	Culture.....	15
1.7.22	Back Translation.....	16
1.7.23	Grammatical (or functional) Word.....	16
1.7.24	Lexical Word.....	16
1.8	The Organization of the Study.....	16
CHAPTER 2 - SOME ASPECTS OF STYLES IN JOURNALISTIC WRITING AND REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE.....		18
2.0	Introduction.....	18
2.1	The Background of Journalistic Writing Styles of Arab Press.....	18
2.1.1	The Background of the Vocabulary of the Arabic Press.....	21
2.1.2	Background of English- Arabic Stylistic Features	25
2.1.2.1	Style of Formality.....	25
2.1.2.2	Style of Fronting.....	28
2.1.2.3	Style of Parallelism.....	30

2.1.2.4 Style of Ambiguity.....	31
2.1.2.5 Complex and Simple Style.....	32
2.1.2.6 Style of Short Sentences.....	33
2.1.2.7 Style of Long Sentences.....	34
2.1.2.8 Passive and Active Styles	35
2.1.2.9 Style of Repetition and Redundancy.....	37
2.1.2.10 Style of the Show of Muscles (Expressivity, Context and Readership).....	42
2.1.2.11 Style of Nominalization versus Verbalization.....	46
2.1.2.12 Style of Irony.....	48
2.1.2.13 Punctuation Marks in the Translating Process.....	51
2.2 Literature Review.....	54
2.2.1 Past Studies on the Translation of English –Arabic News.....	54
2.2.1.1 Lexical Problems.....	58
2.2.1.2 Cultural Problems.....	66
2.2.1.3 Pragmatic Problems.....	70
2.2.1.4 Problems of Translating English Political Speeches into Arabic.....	73
2.2.1.5 Simultaneous Translation in War Time.....	76
2.2.1.6 Loan Translation in English-Arabic News.....	78
2.2.2 Problems in Translating English Journalistic Texts into Arabic.....	81
2.2.2.1 Wrong Equivalence.....	83
2.2.2.2 Types of Equivalence.....	91
2.2.2.3 Formal Equivalence.....	91

2.2.2.4 Formal Equivalence and Multi-word Units.....	94
2.2.2.5 Formal Equivalence and Ambiguous Expressions.....	96
2.2.2.6 Functional Equivalence.....	98
2.2.2.7 Ideational Equivalence.....	98
2.2.3 Past Studies on the Translation of English News.....	100
2.2.3.1 Kais Amir Kadhim (2004).....	100
2.2.3.2 Ghydaa Abas-Ali (2004).....	101
2.2.3.3 Raymond Chakhachiro (1997).....	103
2.2.3.4 Abdullah Al- Harrasi (2001).....	103
2.2.4 Past Studies on English News in general	105
2.2.4.1 Ideologies and Cultural Understanding in the News.....	105
2.2.4.2 Norms and Convention.....	108
2.2.4.3 The Structure of News Texts.....	110
2.2.4.4 The Language of Newspaper.....	112
2.2.5 Past Studies on English News into Different Languages.....	115
2.2.5.1 The Translation of News from English into Malay (Bahasa Malaysia).....	115
2.2.5.2. The Translation of News from English into Indonesian.....	117
2.3 Summary and Conclusion.....	120
CHAPTER 3 – THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	121
3.0 Introduction.....	121
3.1 Theoretical Framework.....	123
3.1.1 Vinay and Darbelnet (1995).....	123

3.1.1.1	Borrowing.....	123
3.1.1.2	Calque.....	124
3.1.1.3	Literal Translation.....	124
3.1.1.4	Transposition (Shift).....	125
3.1.1.5	Modulation.....	125
3.1.1.6	Equivalence.....	127
3.1.1.7	Adaptation.....	127
3.1.2	Ghazala (1995).....	128
3.1.3	The X' Theory.....	129
3.1.4	Newmark's Ideas in Newmark (1981, 1988).....	133
3.1.5	Halliday and Hasan's (1985) Functional Theory.....	134
3.1.6	Componential Analysis.....	136
3.1.7	Hatim's Concepts on Communication Across Cultures.....	139
3.1.8	Fishman Sociolinguistic Concept on Language Reflections.....	141
3.2	Research Methodology.....	143
3.2.1	Comparison of Styles.....	144
3.2.2	Comparison of Messages.....	146
3.2.3	Evaluating the Translating and Stylistic Strategies.....	146
3.3	Conclusion.....	148
	CHAPTER 4 - STYLISTIC CHANGES.....	149
4.0	Introduction.....	149
4.1	Stylistic Changes Due to Borrowing.....	149
4.2	Stylistic Changes Due to <i>Calque</i>	155
4.3	Stylistic Changes Due to Literal Translation.....	160
4.4	Stylistic Changes Due to Transposition.....	165

4.4.1 Stylistic Changes to Past Continuous Tense.....	165
4.4.2 Stylistic Changes to the Past Simple Tense.....	170
4.4.3 Stylistic Changes to Future Simple Tense.....	170
4.4.4 Style in Past Continuous Tense of the ST.....	173
4.4.5 Stylistic Changes in Prepositional Phrases.....	165
4.4.6 Stylistic Changes in Adverbial Phrase.....	179
4.4.7 Stylistic Changes in Noun Phrases.....	182
4.4.8 Stylistic Changes in Verb Phrase and Complex Clauses.....	185
4.4.9 Stylistic Changes in Adjectival Phrases.....	189
4.4.10 Stylistic Changes in Articles: <i>a, an, the</i>	194
4.4.11 Stylistic Changes in Prepositions.....	196
4.4.12 Stylistic Changes in Conjunctions and Connectives.....	198
4.4.13 Stylistic Changes Due to Modality.....	201
4.5 Stylistic Changes due to Adaptation.....	204
4.6 Stylistic Changes Due to Modulation.....	205
4.7 Stylistic Changes due to Equivalence (Paraphrases).....	207
4.8 Passive Sentences.....	209
4.9 Long Sentences.....	212
4.10 Repetitions and Variation.....	213
4.11 Punctuation Marks.....	215
4.12 Conclusion.....	216
CHAPTER 5- CHANGES IN THE MESSAGES.....	217
5.0 Introduction.....	217
5.1 Overtranslation.....	218
5.2 Undertranslation.....	243

5.3 Replacement Translation.....	258
5.4 Incorrect Translation.....	271
5.5 Ambiguous Translation.....	283
5.6 Summary and Conclusion.....	289
CHAPTER 6- FUNCTIONAL MESSAGES.....	297
6.0 Introduction.....	297
6.1 Summary of Functional Analysis Model.....	298
6.2 <i>The Fugitive al-Qaeda Leader's</i>	299
6.3 <i>Parliamentary Speaker</i>	303
6.4 <i>Traders</i>	307
6.5 <i>'...have reduced the number of weapons</i>	310
6.6 <i>Some Sunnis</i>	313
6.7 <i>The 'shia bloc' and 'sunni groups'</i>	316
6.8 <i>Bashar al-Asad said .. ووجهه (wa wajaha :Literally: and faced'</i>	321
6.9 <i>The Various Movements for the Key Post</i>	325
6.10 <i>"Not defending" and "to defend"</i>	330
6.11 <i>"Has implicated ...but..."</i>	333
6.12 <i>"...is expected...pullout,... withdrawal ...is expected...moves...is expected to..."</i>	336
6.3 Conclusion.....	342
CHAPTER 7-PROCEDURES OF TRANSLATING: STRATEGIES AND STYLES.....	347
7.0 Introduction.....	347
7.1 Semantic Translation Strategy. (STS).....	352
7.1.1 <i>Bin Laden's call falls on deaf ears</i>	353
7.1.2 <i>Oil prices return to record highs</i>	355

7.1.3	<i>US Troops on Iraq abuse charges</i>	358
7.1.4	<i>US troops on Iraq abuse charges</i>	359
7.2	Communicative Translation Strategy.....	362
7.2.1	<i>Iraq Shia alliance to vote on PM</i>	362
7.2.2	<i>Iraq shias state coalition terms</i>	363
7.3	Functional Translation Strategy.....	365
7.3.1	<i>US troops on Iraq Abuse Charges</i>	365
7.3.2	<i>Iraq shia state coalition terms</i>	368
7.4	Literal Translation Strategy.....	369
7.4.1	<i>Iraq tribes 'taking on al-Qaeda'</i>	370
7.4.2	<i>US troops on Iraq abuse charges</i>	371
7.5	Naturalization Translation Strategy.....	373
7.5.1	<i>Maliki endorsed as new Iraqi PM</i>	374
7.5.2	<i>Gaza settlers face tough decision</i>	376
7.6	Free Translation Strategy.....	377
7.6.1	<i>Maliki endorsed as new Iraqi PM</i>	378
7.6.2	<i>Iraq poised to choose a new premier</i>	381
7.7	Word for Word Translation.....	383
7.7.1	<i>US warns Hamas over Israel blast</i>	383
7.7.2	<i>US warns Hamas over Israel blast</i>	386
7.8	Cultural Translation Strategy.....	389
7.8.1	<i>Missile exports to Iran alarm US</i>	389
7.8.2	<i>Iraq poised to choose new Premier</i>	391
7.9	Conclusion.....	393
	CHAPTER 8 – CONCLUSION.....	396

8.0 Introduction.....	396
8.2 Findings of the Study.....	398
8.2.1 Research Question 1: The Nature and Range of Stylistic Changes that occur in the Arabic Translation.....	398
8.2.1.1 Changes in Syntax.....	398
8.2.1.2 Changes in Style <i>via</i> Changes in the Lexicon or Morphology.....	403
8.2.1.3 Changes in Discourse Style.....	406
8.2.1.4 Changes Due to Modulation, Adaptation, Paraphrase or Translation.....	407
8.2.2 Research Question 2: The Quality of the Messages in the Arabic Translation when translating English Political News into Arabic.....	411
8.2.3 Research Question 3: The Extent of the Sustenance of Message in the Arabic Translation in terms of <i>Field</i> , <i>Tenor</i> and <i>Mode</i> as compared to the same in the original texts.....	424
8.2.4 Research Question 4: The Translating Procedures with Respect to Strategies and Styles.....	429
8.3 Lessons from the Study and Suggested Translation Guidelines.....	431
8.4 Implications for Translating Procedures, Translation Studies and for Translation Theories.....	433
8.5 Contributions of the Study.....	437
8.6 Scope for Future Studies.....	438
Bibliography.....	440

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table 1.1	Table 1.1 Symbols of Arabic Consonant Transliteration	xxi
Table 1.2	Shows the Arabic Letters and Their Transliterations	xxii
Table 2.1	English Styles Compared with Arabic Styles	27
Table 3.1	Three Dimensional Discourse Function	135
Table 5.1	English to Arabic Translation : Overtranslation	218
Table 5.2	English-Arabic Translation: Overtranslation	221
Table 5.3	English-Arabic Translation: Overtranslation	225
Table 5.4	English-Arabic Translation : Overtranslation	229
Table 5.5	English-Arabic Translation: Overtranslation	232
Table 5.6	English-Arabic Translation: Overtranslation	234
Table 5.7	English-Arabic Translation: Overtranslation	237
Table 5.8	English-Arabic Translation: Overtranslation	238
Table 5.9	English-Arabic Translation: Overtranslation	239
Table 5.10	English-Arabic Translation: Overtranslation	239
Table 5.11	English-Arabic Translation: Overtranslation	241
Table 5.12	English-Arabic Translation: Overtranslation	242
Table 5.13	English-Arabic Translation: Undertranslation	244
Table 5.14	English-Arabic Translation: Undertranslation	246
Table 5.15	English-Arabic Translation: Undertranslation	249
Table 5.16	English-Arabic Translation: Undertranslation	251
Table 5.17	English-Arabic Translation: Undertranslation	253
Table 5.18	English-Arabic Translation: Undertranslation	254

Table 5.19	English-Arabic Translation: Undertranslation	256
Table 5.20	English-Arabic: Replacement Translation	259
Table 5.21	English-Arabic: Replacement Translation	262
Table 5.22	English-Arabic: Replacement Translation	264
Table 5.23	English-Arabic: Replacement Translation	267
Table 5.24	English-Arabic: Replacement Translation	269
Table 5.25	English-Arabic: Replacement Translation	271
Table 5.26	English-Arabic: Replacement Translation	272
Table 5.27	English-Arabic: Incorrect Translation	274
Table 5.28	English-Arabic: Incorrect Translation	276
Table 5.29	English-Arabic: Incorrect Translation	277
Table 5.30	English-Arabic Translation: Incorrect Translation	278
Table 5.31	English-Arabic Translation: Incorrect Translation	279
Table 5.32	English-Arabic Translation: Incorrect Translation	281
Table 5.33	English-Arabic Translation: Incorrect Translation	282
Table 5.34	English-Arabic: Ambiguous Translation	283
Table 5.35	English-Arabic: Ambiguous Translation	284
Table 5.36	English-Arabic: Ambiguous Translation	286
Table 5.37	English-Arabic: Ambiguous Translation	287
Table 5.38	Changes in Styles ,the Nature and Quality of the Messages	290
Table 6.1	The <i>Field</i> of “ <i>the fugitive al Qaeda leader’s</i> ”	299
Table 6.2	The <i>Tenor</i> of “ <i>the fugitive al Qaeda leader’s</i> ”	301
Table 6.3	The <i>Mode</i> of “ <i>the fugitive al Qaeda leader’s</i> ”	302
Table 6.4	The <i>Field</i> of “ <i>parliamentary speaker</i> ”	303

Table 6.5	The <i>Tenor</i> on “ <i>parliamentary speaker</i> ”	305
Table 6.6	The <i>Mode</i> on “ <i>parliamentary speaker</i> ”	306
Table 6.7	The <i>Field</i> of “ <i>traders</i> ”	307
Table 6.8	The <i>Tenor</i> of “ <i>traders</i> ”	308
Table 6.9	The <i>Mode</i> of “ <i>traders</i> ”	309
Table 6.10	The <i>Field</i> of the verb phrase, ‘... <i>have reduced the number of weapons</i> ’	310
Table 6.11	The <i>Tenor</i> of the verb phrase “... <i>have reduced the number of weapons</i> ”	311
Table 6.12	The <i>Mode</i> of the verb phrase “... <i>have reduced the number of weapons</i> ”	312
Table 6.13	The <i>Field</i> of ‘ <i>Some Sunnis</i> ’	313
Table 6.14	The <i>Tenor</i> of “ <i>Some Sunnis</i> ”	314
Table 6.15	The <i>Mode</i> of “ <i>Some Sunnis</i> ”	315
Table 6.16	The <i>Field</i> of <i>The ‘shia bloc’ and ‘sunni groups’</i>	316
Table 6.17	The <i>Tenor</i> of “ <i>shia bloc</i> ” and “ <i>sunni groups</i> ”	317
Table 6.18	The <i>Mode</i> of ‘ <i>Shia bloc</i> ’ and “ <i>Sunni groups</i> ”	319
Table 6.19	The <i>Field</i> of <i>وجه (wa wajaha)</i> ‘and faced’	321
Table 6.20	The <i>Tenor</i> of <i>وجه (wa wajaha)</i> ‘and faced’	322
Table 6.21	The <i>Mode</i> of <i>وجه (wa wajaha)</i> ‘and faced’	323
Table 6.22	The <i>Field</i> of “... <i>the various movements for key posts</i> ”	325
Table 6.23	The <i>Tenor</i> of “ <i>the various movements for key posts</i> ”	326
Table 6.24	The <i>Mode</i> of “ <i>the various movements for key posts</i> ”	327
Table 6.25	The <i>Field</i> of “ <i>not defending</i> ” and “ <i>to defend</i> ”	330
Table 6.26	The <i>Tenor</i> of “ <i>not defending</i> ” and “ <i>to defend</i> ”	331

Table 6.27	The <i>Mode</i> of “ <i>not defending</i> ” and “ <i>to defend</i> ”	331
Table 6.28	The <i>Field</i> of “ <i>has implicated...but...</i> ”	333
Table 6.29	The <i>Tenor</i> of “ <i>has implicated...but...</i> ”	334
Table 6.30	The <i>Mode</i> of “ <i>has implicated...but...</i> ”	335
Table 6.31	The <i>Field</i> of “ <i>...is expected...pullout, ... withdrawal ...is expected...moves...is expected to...</i> ”	336
Table 6.32	The <i>Tenor</i> “ <i>...is expected...pullout, ... withdrawal ...is expected...moves...is expected to...</i> ”	338
Table 6.33	The <i>Mode</i> “ <i>...is expected...pullout, ... withdrawal ...is expected...moves...is expected to</i>	340
Table 6.34	Summary of the Extent of Change/Sustenance of Messages	343
Table 7.1	Types of Translation as the Universe of the Translator Translating Strategies	349
Table 7.2	Ghazala’s Perception of Styles	350
Table 7.3	Defining Characteristics of Ghazala’s Styles	351
Table 7.4	Defining Characteristics of Arabic Styles	351
Table 7.5	Characteristics of Ghazala’s and Arabic Styles	353
Table 7.6	<i>Bin Laden’s call falls on deaf ears</i>	355
Table 7.7	<i>Oil prices return to record highs</i>	358
Table 7.8	<i>US Troops on Iraq abuse charges</i>	360
Table 7.9	<i>US troops on Iraq abuse charges</i>	362
Table 7.10	<i>Iraq Shia alliance to vote on PM</i>	364
Table 7.11	<i>Iraq shias state coalition terms</i>	366
Table 7.12	<i>US troops on Iraq abuse charges</i>	368
Table 7.13	<i>Iraq shia state coalition terms</i>	370
Table 7.14	<i>Iraq tribes ‘taking on al-Qaeda’</i>	372

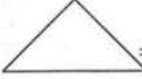



Table 7.15	<i>US troops on Iraq abuse charges</i>	374
Table 7.16	<i>Gaza settlers face tough decision</i>	376
Table 7.17	<i>Maliki endorsed as new Iraqi PM</i>	379
Table 7. 18	<i>Iraq poised to choose a new premier</i>	381
Table 7.19	<i>US warns Hamas over Israel blast</i>	384
Table 7.20	<i>US warns Hamas over Israel blast</i>	387
Table 7.21	<i>Missile exports to Iran alarm US</i>	390
Table 7.22	<i>Iraq poised to choose new Premier</i>	392
Table 7.23	Content of Translating Modules	395

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 3.1 Types of Translation as the Universe of the Translator's Translating Strategies.....	147
Figure 3.2 Polarities and Points of Styles.....	148
Figure 7.1 : Types of Translation as the Universe of the Translator's Translating Strategies.	349
Figure 7.2: The Relationships among Inter-related Modules.....	394
Figure 8.1: Guidelines for the Translation of English-Arabic News.....	432

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

	Page
A' = Adjective Phrase	152
A = Adjective	152
ADB = Adverbial	180
ADV = Adverb (sentential or verbal adverb)	180
Aux = Auxilliary	209
BBC = British Broadcasting News	7
BT = Back Translation	145
Conj = Conjunction	154
CONJ' = Conjunction	164
COMP = Complementation	160
Comp = Complementizer	218
CP = Complementizer phrase	132
C' = Complement	132
D' = Determiner Phrase	150
D = Determiner	150
F = Functional	217
I = Inflection	154
IP = Inflectional Phrase (sentence)	152
Mod. = Modal	209
MSA = Modern Standard Arabic.	27
N' = Nominal compound	150
N = Noun	150
NEG = Negation	196
NP = Noun Phrase	129
Obj = Object (argument)	167
OSV = Object Subject Verb	29
P' = Prepositional Phrase	152
Pro. = Pronoun	217
S = Subject (argument)	155
SL = Source Language	81

SLT= Standard Language Text	82
Spec. = Specifier	132
SVO = Subject-Verb-Object	28
ST = Source Text	5
TL = Target Language	11
TLT= Target language Text	82
TT = Target Text	5
Trs= Transliteration	84
V' = Verb Phrase (Predicate)	129
V = Verb	129
VP = Verb Phrase	132
VSO = Verb-Subject-Object	2
XP = Phrasal Category. (The X can be either V, N, D, A' or P)	131
 = An indication where the detail of the constituents are not stated	152
[] = Domain of sentence constituent	152
 = Matching	353
 = Becomes	353
 = Change / sustenance of message	353

LIST OF TRANSLITERATION

This study employs the transliteration system in Translation produced by Hatim (1997:1) to alleviate the orthographic difficulties that occur in reading the original Arabic script. Tables 1.1 below summarizes the transliteration identities used in this system and in this work:

Table 1.1 Symbols of Arabic Consonant Transliteration

Arabic Character	Transliteration	Arabic Character	Transliteration
أ	a	ط	t
ب	b	ظ	z
ت	t	ع	'
ث	th	غ	GH
ج	j	ف	f
ح	H	ق	q
خ	kh	ك	k
د	d	ل	l
ذ	dh	م	m
ر	r	ن	n
ز	z	ه	h
س	s	و	w (as a semi-vowel)
ش	sh	ي	y
ص	S	ء	'
ض	D	ـ	n

All of the Arabic letters and their transliterations system in Table 1.1 have been used in this study except for the following variations:

Table 1.2 Shows the Arabic Letters and Their Transliterations

Arabic Letters	Transliteration
ذ	th
ص	s
ض	d
غ	gh
ظ	d

**TERJEMAHAN BAHASA ARAB BAGI BERITA BAHASA INGGERIS:
KAJIAN PERBANDINGAN GAYA DAN MESEJ**

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini meneliti terjemahan bahasa Arab daripada bahasa Inggeris yang dikumpulkan daripada BBC. Ia membandingkan teks sumber bahasa Inggeris dengan teks sasaran bahasa Arab daripada dua sudut: gaya dan kandungan mesej. Tujuannya ialah memastikan sifat-sifat perubahan gaya yang wujud dalam terjemahan bahasa Arab, menilai sama ada perubahan-perubahan gaya menjejaskan kualiti mesej, menilai sejauh mana pengekalannya berlaku daripada perspektif medan, tenor dan mod, dan untuk memastikan strategi-strategi yang berkemungkinan telah digunakan oleh para penterjemah. Kajian ini menggunakan kaedah perbandingan dan pada masa yang sama menerapkan beberapa idea daripada teori penterjemahan, teori struktur sintaksis, teori simantik, teori gaya, teori pragmatik, teori budaya dan teori sosiolinguistik. Dapatannya ialah perubahan dalam gaya tergolong dalam bidang sintaksis (ayat, klausa dan frasa). Perubahan gaya yang lain disebabkan oleh fungsi-fungsi morfologi (kala dan morfologi pada kata kerja). Pada amnya, perubahan pada mesej berpunca daripada kombinasi beberapa sebab; iaitu perubahan sintaksis, perubahan tatabahasa (terutamanya kala), butiran leksikal baru dan frasa baru yang bersesuaian dengan persepsi budaya dan sosiolinguistik penutur-penutur bahasa Arab, dan dimensi baru bagi berita yang sama yang bersesuaian dengan persepsi politik, ideologi dan budaya orang Arab. Idea-idea Halliday dan Hasan (1985) tentang medan, tenor dan mod dapat digunakan sewaktu meneliti data

tidak begitu serasi digunakan bagi menangani mesej yang membabitkan butiran budaya tersembunyi dan butiran ideologi yang mungkin wujud dalam teks. Didapati juga bahawa para penterjemah telah berkemungkinan menggunakan pelbagai strategi seperti penterjemahan semantik, komunikasi, fungsian, literal, bebas, kata demi kata dan budaya. Kelihatan, dibandingkan dengan strategi-strategi yang lain, penterjemahan literal lebih dominan. Juga kelihatan bahawa para penterjemah telah berkemungkinan menggunakan kesemua lapan strategi tersebut, akan tetapi mereka telah berbuat demikian secara eklektik. Pemilihan mana-mana satu strategi selalunya bersesuaian dan menurut gaya bahasa Arab moden. Satu kerangka panduan telah dapat dibina bagi para penterjemah akan datang dan sedikit sumbangan telah dikemukakan melalui penggubalan semula idea Newmark tentang pendekatan penterjemahan dengan cara memasukkan yang berikut: terjemahan gantian dan terjemahan salah.

ARABIC TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH NEWS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF STYLE AND MESSAGE

ABSTRACT

This study examines the Arabic translation of English BBC News. It compares the English ST and the TT from two angles: the style and the message. The objectives are to find out the nature of the stylistic changes that occur in the Arabic translation, to evaluate if the stylistic changes have affected the quality of the messages, to find out the extent to which the message is preserved in terms of *field*, *tenor* and *mode*, to find out the translating and the stylistic strategies that are likely to have been used by the translators. The study uses a comparative method and employs eclectically some ideas from the translation theory, structural (syntactic) theory, semantic theory, stylistics, pragmatics, cultural theory and sociolinguistic theory. The study shows that the changes in style are within the realm of syntax (sentences, clauses and phrases). Some other stylistic changes are due to morphological functions (tenses and verb morphology). Generally the changes in the message are attributable to a combination of causes, namely the syntactic changes, the grammatical changes (especially tenses), the new lexical items and phrases that are appropriate to the culture and sociolinguistic perceptions of the Arabic speakers, and the new dimensions of the same news that are appropriate from the perception of Arab political views, Arab ideologies and culture. Halliday and Hasan's (1985) ideas on *field*, *tenor* and *mode* have been useful in the examination of the data from the perspective of events, participants and language; but it does not do as well in the examination of the message in terms of the hidden cultural elements and the ideology that may exist in a text. The translators are found to have employed a variety of translating strategies, namely the semantic, communicative, functional, literal, free,

word for word, natural and cultural translating strategies. The literal translating strategy seems to be relatively predominant. That is, the translators seem to have used all of the eight translating strategies, but have done so eclectically. The choice of a particular strategy always seems to commensurate with the manifestations of the MSA style. We have been able to offer translation guidelines for future translators and a small revision of Newmark's translating approaches to include the following: replacement translation and incorrect translation.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction and Statement of the Problems.

The process of translation into Arabic reached a high level in the second century of the Hijra (Islamic calendar), i.e., the ninth century A.D., under the rule of a caliph called Al-Mamun (813-833H), (Al -Shabab, 1996:67). He was considered the founder of *Dar Al- Hikma* (The *House of Wisdom*). This translation school attracted scholars from all parts of the Islamic world at that time, (Al -Shabab,1996:67). Translation from foreign languages into Arabic, however, had started earlier in the Arabic civilization, and on this point, Al- Shabab (1996:67) mentions that:

...an important work known as 'Kalila and Dumuna', which tells stories narrated by animal characters, stories of Indian wisdom, was translated in the first century of the Hijra Calendar (eighth century A.D), by Ibn- AL-Muqafa, who was a prominent administrator of Persian origin in the Umayyad dynasty.

Al- Shabab (1996:70) also pointed out that during the Middle Ages, contacts between the Arab world and Western world were low, but at the turn of the eighteenth century, contacts between the East and West increased with the Napoleonic expedition to Egypt (1798-1801). Thus, Al- Shabab (1996:70) further mentions that:

...these contacts and other circumstances helped bring about general, political and cultural awareness which came to be known as the Modern Arab Renaissance. The return of Arab Egyptian scholars, who studied in European missionaries in Lebanon and Palestine, created the background for learning and teaching works of literature, philosophy and science.

Also according to Al-Shabab (1996:70) translation activities from the French and English had not stopped since the early decades of the nineteenth century. He further

mentioned that the missionary movement in Lebanon and schools in Egypt introduced French, English and the Humanities into Syria, Palestine and Egypt. He asserted that the introduction of foreign languages resulted in the soul of translation into Arabic, which remained active even today, (Al- Shabab,1996:70).

Arabic, a Semitic language, has a structure which is dominantly Verb-Subject-Object (VSO), (Mouakket,1986). The form of the language as well as the culture and social organization of its speakers, deviates strongly from the form and culture of Indo-European languages (Mouakket,1986). According to Al- Shabab (1996:72) these central points of form and culture probably explain why most works in English-Arabic-English translation approach the problem by consideration of important lexical features and structural patterns, particularly those which pose translation ambiguity; as for example, in the works of Arabic scholars such as Najjar (1984), Al-Shabab (1996) and Mouakket (1986). Nida's (1964) idea of "dynamic equivalence" as the theoretical basis for analysis was adopted.

Other scholars of Arabic translation, such as Alyas (1991) and Ghazala (1995) concentrated on morphological, syntactic, linguistic and semantic problems. They also attributed many problems in translation to the distinct cultural and social background of the Arabic language and showed how these affected the process of translating Arabic texts into and from English. They also considered the problems of equivalence and those of untranslatability. Besides, Alyas and Ghazala both had an outlook that combined pragmatism and scholarships. Their work both identified problems of translation and offered advice and practical solutions to some problems. In their views it was important to identify translation problems even when no practical solutions were possible.

Other than the above, Shamaa (1978) also dealt with the linguistic analysis of some problems associated with translation from Arabic into English, while Shunnaq (1989) dealt with the repetition that occurred when translating from English with reference to translation of political news.

There were also other researchers who had dealt with the problems of translation between Arabic and English, including Kharma (1983), and Kamel (1999). These scholars and their texts essentially addressed translation problems and gave solutions with special attention being given to equivalence at the word level, equivalence above the word level, grammatical equivalence, textual equivalence and pragmatic equivalence. They contended that in translation, anything that was likely to violate the target readers expectations must be carefully examined and, if necessary, adjusted in order to avoid conveying the wrong implications. They also believed that some 'Modern Linguistic Theories' can provide the theoretical basis required to make these decisions and adjustments.

Johnstone (1991), was a scholar of translation with a pragmatic approach, primarily making an effort to apply linguistics in the translation processes. He also dwelled in rhetorical and textual analyses. In addition he also employed culture considerations and recognized cultural constraints in his treatments of textual discourses. As a consequence, Johnstone's work seemed to have an influence beyond applied linguistics and made an important contribution to pragmatics and ethnography of rhetorics. Another scholar, Raymond Chakhachiro (1997) dealt with the translation of irony in Australian political texts of Arabic. He contended that the way Arabic and English speakers both employed irony to express themselves reflected the linguistic and cultural distance between both languages.

Ghaydaa Abas Ali (2004) dealt with the translation of news headlines from English into Arabic. The major innovation of this work was the combined application of van Dijk's (1988b and 1998a) Semantic Macrostructures and Ideological Square approaches and the Skopos Theory of translation to the analysis of English press headlines that appeared in the Arabic press (Ghaydaa, 2004). This work used the definitions and methodologies of several scholars namely, Evans (1974) and Mardh (1980) as cited in Ghaydaa (2004). These definitions and methodologies were applied to understand how the macroproposition (macrosemantics), syntax of word order, macro-function, typography, size, and lexical items of the target Arabic press headlines differed from their corresponding English press sources (Ghaydaa, 2004). She suggested that the Skopos Theory explained some of the changes that occurred in the translation of headlines (Ghaydaa, 2004). Socio-ideological discourse theory, as embodied in the Theories of Semantic Macroproposition and the Ideological Square seem able to explain the specific nature and form manifested in the many translation alterations shown in the translation of headlines (Ghaydaa, 2004). Taken as a whole, she suggested that this combined approach offered a better understanding of the differences of macroproposition, typography, syntax, size, microsemantics, lexical style, and rhetoric of translated news headlines, as well as the transformational strategies employed in the process of adopting English front-page news headlines into Arabic (Ghaydaa, 2004). The work of the scholars mentioned above, as well as the work of others show that the linguistic analysis approaches to the study of English-Arabic-English translation is a well plowed field.

This study hopes to explore the translation problems and the solutions on an extended dimension of linguistics, in the sense that our analysis shall include the realm of style. It shall analyze the translation of English political news-texts (source

text =ST) into Arabic news-texts (target text = TT) paying more attention on style as well as looking at the changes on the whole message. Mainly, it is a comparative study that examines the stylistic differences between the English ST and their corresponding Arabic texts. The work of some scholars mentioned above shows the linguistic analysis approach to the study of English-Arabic translation is an area of research which has been covered substantially. However, stylistic and message analysis have yet to receive due attention and the specific study of style in the translation of English News texts into Arabic is even less common. In fact, presently, it is not possible to find a single reference of this type study in the literature. Therefore, this research shall focus on the comparative analysis of style when translating English political news into Arabic and hopefully it will assist in filling the vacuum.

Underpinning the above is the assumption that translating a language into another language creates many stylistic problems. These problems may affect the message of the source texts through the processes of translation. In addition, the cultural and sociolinguistic differences between both languages (source and target languages) play a big role in producing a good translation output. All these differences may compel the translator to make some changes in style when translating one language to another. These changes may in turn affect the messages, contributing to a disparity in some cases between the content of the ST and the content of the TT.

1.1 Objectives of the Study.

This study aims at stylistically comparing selected excerpts of contemporary English and Arabic political news using their respective translations. The specific objectives are as in (1a-d) below:

(1) (a) To find out the nature of the stylistic changes that occur in the Arabic translation output from English political news.

(b) To evaluate if the stylistic changes in the Arabic translation affect the original message of the source English texts and to find out the nature of these changes.

c) To find out the extent of the sustenance of message of the Arabic translation in terms of *field*, *tenor* and *mode*.

d) To find out the procedures and strategies in terms of both processes used in the translation of English political texts into Arabic and whether the translating strategies have affected the style and the message of the source texts.

1.2 Research Questions.

The following research questions in (2a-d) will serve as guidelines during the analysis of the data:

(2) (a) What is the nature of the stylistic changes that occur in the Arabic translation?

(b) Do the stylistic changes affect the quality of the message in the Arabic translation when translating English political news? And what is the nature of these message?

(c) What is the extent of the sustenance of the message in the Arabic translation in terms of *field*, *tenor* and *mode* as well as in terms of the communicative and societal functions as compared to the same terms in the original message of the ST?

(d) What are the translating strategies and the styles that are likely to have been used, and how do they affect the message of the source texts?

1.3 The Data.

The data of this investigation comprises 100 political news articles from the BBC (British Broadcasting News) and their corresponding Arabic translations. The BBC news have been chosen because they are documents for public consumption in which the readers are not specialized group of people; instead they are laymen and general news readers. From the view of their content, these newspaper articles are not of general nature; instead they are news on political events and happenings in the Arab world (especially the Middle East). All these articles have been taken from the Internet, since the parallel versions in Arabic can be accessed easily.

1.4 Scope of the Study.

As Arabic and English are both international languages, there are many people of various cultures and from different countries who speak either English, Arabic or both. There are many types of newspapers written in these two languages such as *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *Al-Distur*, *Al-Wihda*, *Al-Shuruq*. As the scope for possible research is too wide, it is not possible for the study to look at all the Arabic newspapers in order to examine the processes of political news translation in the Middle East. This study, therefore, concentrates on texts found in the Standard English of BBC political newspapers (via the internet) and their corresponding Standard Arabic translations.

Comparative translation studies on two corresponding texts (source and target) such as the one attempted here can be done in various domains and at various angles. This study focuses only on the domain of style, message, procedures and strategies. In addition, as the *genre* of news writings often favors a narrative and descriptive styles, certain syntactic patterns such as the interrogative, imperative and the

exclamatory structures will not be covered in this study. There is also a limited number of direct speech in the data.

1.5 Significance of the Study.

The importance of the study of comparing translation outputs with those of their corresponding ST in terms of style and message lies on four facts in (3a-d) below:

- (3) (a) that stylistic differences due to the choice of lexis, syntax, textual categories, formal/informal language constitute the difference between culture, thought and manner of expressions, and also that translating English into Arabic often creates many stylistic problems as mentioned in Ghazala (1995) and;
- (b) that such stylistic problems may affect the message of the ST, Ghazala (1995);
- (c) that the differences between the culture and the sociolinguistic backgrounds of both languages of the ST and the TT play a functional role in the nature of style and message of the translation outputs, Ghazala (1995), Fishman (1972), Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) and Farghal and Shunnaq (1999), and
- (d) all these differences make the translator alter style and content when translating from English into Arabic. (Ghazala,1995), and (Farghal and Shunnaq, 1999).

Also, as this study will address some issues of English into Arabic translation practices in particular those pertaining to style and message of the texts of political news, it will, undoubtedly, be useful to many Middle Eastern translators engaged in similar translation activities and on similar language pairs. This is so because it is

hoped that the outcome of this study will contain some insights on the nature of the translating processes of English political news to Arabic especially in terms of style and message. It will also be highlighting many linguistic and extra-linguistic factors involved in these processes. Awareness in these areas is important for both the translators and would be translators to possess, as a change of style can make a good text into a poor one or a poor text into a good one, (Ghazala,1995). He continues to assert that a good text should be retained as good and a poor text must remain poor in the target language.

Further to the above, Ghazala (1995) recognizes the importance of stylistic problems in translation as he contends that they are no longer seen as secondary to meaning, as had often been claimed in the past. He further mentions that stylistic problems are no longer separated from meaning. For him stylistic problems have to be considered as a part of meaning, which affects the translation and gives an acceptable meaning. In fact, he asserts that nowadays, stylistic problems in the translation process have been given special attention and are regarded as a part and parcel of meaning. It is in these lights that the study embarked upon in this thesis finds its significance.

1.6 Theoretical Framework.

This study is not based on any particular theory. Instead, it relies on several ideas selected eclectically from various sources such as linguistic theory, theory on style, various translations theories and sociolinguistic theory. Also, none of these theories is used holistically; instead only certain pertinent ideas in each theory are identified and employed eclectically. Such an approach is adopted here in order to be able to use a specific idea as an effective instrument for analysis and evaluation. In this manner, it is hoped that some generalization can be drawn from many significant

observations during the comparison between the source texts and the target texts both in terms of the usefulness as an instrument for description of data and as an assessment of theoretical appropriateness or shift, if any. Towards that end, this study uses a composite theory drawn from linguistic theory, theory of style, socio-cultural theory, sociolinguistic theory and translation theories.

A large part of the data analysis adopts the procedures used by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) in their study on the comparison between two different languages. In their study, they consider comparative stylistics an essential applied linguistic approach to translation. They focus on the pragmatic stratum which determines the choices of lexical and grammatical devices in the text when the message of the ST and that of the TT are identical. On the matter of style in translation from English to Arabic, this study also draws from the ideas of Ghazala (1995). For the purposes of syntactic presentation, the X' (read as *x bar*) theory as in Culicover (1997) is used. In this study, the effect of stylistic changes and message shifts are further determined through the ideas of Newmark (1981, 1988), especially: overtranslation, undertranslation, terminologies such as semantic, communicative and ambiguous translations. It also employs the semantic notations used in componential analysis such as one that is propounded by Katz and Fodor (1963) and Jackson (1988). Further, the ideas of Halliday and Hasan (1985) on register such as *field*, *tenor* and *mode* are employed to assess the message shifts as a consequence of stylistic changes. On the nature of communication across culture, this study draws some ideas from Hatim (1997). And on the influence of sociolinguistic background on communicative content, this study uses the ideas of Fishman (1972). Finally, on procedures and strategies of translation, this study takes cognizance on the ideas from Newmark (1981, 1988). Each of those pertinent theories and approaches to be

used later in the analysis are mentioned above and will be elaborated upon separately in Chapter three.

1.7 Definition of Major Terms.

To facilitate a better reading and a clearer presentation of this thesis, this section provides the definitions of key terms used in this study. Some other less important terms that are used but are not mentioned here shall be included by the way in the analysis.

1.7.1 Translation.

“Translation is an operation performed on languages: a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another.” Catford (1965:1).

1.7.2 Cultural Translation.

“Cultural approximation is a translation strategy whereby a culture-specific expression in the SL is translated into a cultural substitute in the TL, i.e., an approximately culturally corresponding TL expression.” Farghal and Shunnaq (1999:26).

1.7.3 Word for Word Translation.

“Word for word translation transfers SL grammars and word order as well as the primary meaning of all the SL words into the translation, and it is normally effective only for simple neutral sentences.” Newmark (1988:69).

1.7.4 Free Translation.

“Free translation reproduces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the original. Usually it is a paraphrase much longer than the original, a

so-called 'intralingual translation', often prolix and pretentious, and not translation at all." Newmark (1988:46-47).

1.7.5 Naturalization Translation.

"Naturalization is a translation strategy whereby SL usage is converted into normal TL usage. This naturalization process is basically carried out at lexical, collocational, and structural levels." Farghal and Shunnaq (1999: 23).

1.7.6 Literal Translation.

"The replacement of source language syntactic structure by target language structure (normally at clause level) which is isomorphic (or near isomorphic) in terms of number and types of lexical item and synonymous in terms of content." Bell (1991: 70).

1.7.7 Functional Translation.

"This strategy determines the intended function when translating the original message into the TL text. The TL function is similar to that of the SL function, that is, informing. The concept of informing the translated news is similar to the news reporting concept of the SL text; transmission of precise, concise and objective news to the TL readership." Nord (1997: 42)

1.7.8 Communicative Translation.

"Where the translator attempts to produce the same effect on the TL readers as was produced by the original on the SL readers." Newmark (1981:22).

1.7.9 Semantic Translation.

“Where the translator attempts, within the bare syntactic and semantic constraints of the TL, to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the author.” Newmark (1981:22).

1.7.10 Ambiguous Translation.

“Most sentences carry a deal of lexical and grammatical ambiguity, which may be linguistic or referential, ...hopefully all this ambiguity will be cleared up by the micro and macrocontext. Where the ambiguity remains inspite of the macrocontext, the translator has to determine whether it is referential or linguistic, or between the two extremes.” Newmark (1988:122). In other words, an ambiguous translation is one where there is an availability of more than one possible semantic interpretations which may be cleared up through appropriate context.

1.7.11 Undertranslation.

“Where the translation gives less detail and is more general than the original.” Newmark (1988:285).

1.7.12 Overtranslation.

“A translation that gives more detail and more specific word than its corresponding SL unit during translation procedures.” (Newmark, 1988:284).

1.7.13 Field, Tenor and Mode.

The term *field* refers to "...what is happening, to the nature of the social action that is taking place, while *tenor* has to do with who are taking part in the transaction as well as the nature of the participants, their status and roles, and *mode* concerns with

"...what it is that the participants [of a transaction] are expecting language to do for them in that situation," Halliday and Hasan (1985:12).

1.7.14 Componential Analysis.

"Componential analysis refers to a semantic analysis in which meanings of lexemes are analysed into components, and which can be compared across lexemes or groups of lexemes." Jackson (1988:79). "Components have distinguishing functions that are used to distinguish features of lexemes within a specified semantic domain." Jackson (1988:81).

The analysis involves "...comparing an SL word with a TL word which has a similar meaning but is not an obvious one-to-one equivalent, by demonstrating first their common and then their differing sense components." Newmark (1988: 114).

1.7.15 Political News.

Following Gerbner and Marvanyi (1981) as cited in Rokiah Awang (2000), "...news in the present study is defined as non-advertising printed matter (text or tabular information) not including pictures and news captions, feature articles, editorials, cartoons, comic strips, book reviews, indices, tables of content and weekend magazine sections or other special supplements not part of the general weekday format of the newspaper."

1.7.16 Procedure and Strategy.

Hewson and Martin (1991: 58) as cited in Rokiah Awang (2000) consider translation strategies, "...as an overall operation to achieve a certain result. Achieving the result involves procedures which they refer to as the working basis for the production of the desired object."

1.7.17 Message.

A message is the content of a text and Vinay and Darbelnet see it as, "The third plane, that of the message, is the encompassing framework into which the utterance fits. Each message is an individual entity. It arises from parole and only when it comes to choosing a particular linguistic system does it depend upon the structure of a language with its limits and servitudes." Vinay and Darbelnet (1995:29).

1.7.18 Style.

"The traditional, long-lasting view of style regards it as the way of expression." Ghazala (1995:12).

1.7.19 Register.

"The stylistic property of a language according to the degree of culture of its speakers." Vinay and Darbelnet (1995:349). It also refers to " a semantic concept. It can be defined as a configuration of meanings that are typically associated with a particular situational configuration of field, mode and tenor. But since it is a configuration of meanings, a register must also, of course, include the expressions, the lexico-grammatical and phonological features, that typically called accompany or REALISE these meanings." Halliday and Hasan (1985:38)

1.7. 20 Function.

"Function refers to what a text means or is intended to mean from the receiver's point of view." Nord (1997: 28).

1.7.21 Culture.

"I define 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.". Newmark

(1988:94). It also refers to, "...that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, arts, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society." Kotlak (2002: 268).

1.7.22 Back Translation.

"Translating a stretch or lexical units of TL text back into the SL, for purposes of comparison and correction." Newmark (1988:282).

1.7.23 Grammatical (or functional) Word.

"A word indicating relations, e.g., a preposition, pronoun, connective, and a pre-noun." Newmark (1988:283).

1.7.24 Lexical Word.

"A descriptive word referring to objects, events or qualities, usually a noun, verb, adjective or adverb." Newmark (1988:284)

1.8 Organization of the Study.

This thesis is concerned with the Arabic Translation of Political News: A comparative study of Style and Message. It is organized into eight chapters: Chapter 1 provides a statement of the problems and details the background of the research. It also provides other information including the definition of the principal terms used in this research, the objectives of the study, the research questions, the significance of the study, the scope of the study and a brief preliminary statement of the theoretical framework. A more detailed information on the theoretical framework and the research methodology will be provided in Chapter 3. Chapter 2 is a review of the previous study on English-Arabic translation of political news. Chapter 4 gives an analysis of the stylistic changes that occur during the process of translation. Chapter

5 presents a description of the changes of messages that occur during the process of translation. Chapter 6 examines the functional aspects of the Arabic translation output in terms of *field*, *tenor* and *mode* when translating English news into Arabic. Chapter 7 presents a description of the procedures of translation strategies and styles used by the translators of political news into Arabic. Finally, chapter 8 presents the findings and the conclusions of the study. In addition, general suggestions for further research shall be presented.

CHAPTER 2

SOME ASPECTS OF STYLES IN JOURNALISTIC WRITING AND REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction.

This chapter comprises three main sections: 2.1 provides the information on the background of journalistic writing styles in Arab newspapers, section 2.2 is a literature review of the previous studies on English- Arabic translation of political news. Section 2.2 is subdivided into three subsections, namely 2.2.1 is some of the past studies on Arabic translation of English –Arabic News, 2.2.2 surveys some problems in translating English journalistic texts into Arabic, 2.2.3 Past Studies on the Translation of English News into Arabic, 2.2.4 provides two past studies on English news into different languages, and 2.3 is a summary and conclusion.

2.1 The Background of Journalistic Writing Styles of Arab Press.

The genre of journalistic writing, especially in news reports, demands brevity and clarity to suit the transient nature of a newspaper's content, the limitations of the format and short deadlines (Ayalon, 1995:173). To him, the goal of mass circulation requires the use of straightforward language that can be readily understood by all. He further asserts that this is the reality of daily newspapers that are devoted mainly to reporting and discussing the transitory issues of the day. Ayalon (1995:173) further states that:

In the West, a journalistic style had evolved along with the development of the press that departed from literacy conventions associated with other types of writing, one of many literary and linguistic developments that took place over a period of three or four centuries.

Traditional linguistic and stylistic norms in Arabic did not readily lend themselves to journalistic writing (Ayalon, 1995: 173). Arab writers who were engaged in the new venture experimented with different modes of writing inherited from the past while seeking to mold a distinctive language for the press (Ayalon, 1995:173).

The most obvious point of departure for the press style was the literary prose of a classical *adab* – a generic term used to describe all fields of learning (Ayalon, 1995: 173). According to him, the term *Adab* prose in early Islam was simple and direct. *Adab* came to be marked by associative language that evoked both immediate and distant images through direct and indirect allusions (Ayalon, 1995:173). In form it was characterized by high quotations from the Quran and poetry, and such features a *saj* (rhymed and prose) and *Jinas* (homophony or phonetic conformity of words) (Ayalon, 1995:173). According to Ayalon (1995:174) “The more it made use of figures of speech- *ist ‘ara* ‘metaphor’, *tashbih* ‘simile’, *tawriyya* ‘allusion’ – and hyperboles, the better it was considered to be.”

A literary style was not the only source of inspiration for the new genre Ayalon (1995: 174). Ayalon (1995: 174) observes that “...the Arabic literary heritage also contained more direct and factual prose, of the kind that was used in chronicles and historical texts, geographic accounts, and administrative manuals.” He further observes that at that time neither *adab* nor technical, historical or geographical works were ever produced for mass consumption; rather, they were written for the relatively small literate community that had access to collections of manuscripts and appreciated high literary style (Ayalon, 1995:174). He adds that the demands of the periodic press read by a much larger public conducted its daily discourse in a functional, unadorned vernacular, which afforded another possible style source for

the new medium, albeit somewhat problematic source, as the spoken colloquial language had hardly ever been used for writing.

He further notes that such were the linguistic sources – embellished *adab*, the direct style of the spoken vernacular along with the foreign example of journalistic language, and they formed the basis for a new style that was designed during the first formative century of the Arabic press (Ayalon, 1995: 174). In this process, the press was different from any other literary medium which contributed to the shaping of the modern language and the molding of literary norms that would facilitate the popularization of the literature (Ayalon, 1995:175). He also opines that the effect of literary work was reflected in the daily political press not only in cultural journals but also in periodicals devoted to news and political analysis including the daily newspapers such as the *Jurnal al- Khidiwi*, and *Jurnal al Wqai al- Masriyya*. He goes further to state that by the early 1920s, the majority of editorial and essay writers were in the Egyptian press and many people in Arab countries viewed the press as a vocation profession or political mission rather than as a literary and cultural pursuit (Ayalon, 1995:175). He suggests that in the decades that follow, writers of the previous literary generation divided their efforts between writing novels and writing forms of press; and they abandoned the routine of political essay writing and shifting to other literary areas (Ayalon, 1995:182). He continues by mentioning that the development of modern *khabar* ‘news’ and *maqal* ‘article’ advanced the style of Arabic journalistic writing, although it evolved different characteristics in various parts of the region; and for him the Arabic press freed itself from the restrictions of unsuitable literary norms and created functional alternatives by the mid- twentieth century (Ayalon, 1995:182). On this, Ayalon (1995: 182) sums up as follows:

On the whole the process was rapid by the quick pace of developments in other domains. Many characteristics of traditional prose were still discernible below the surface of the modern journalistic style even as late as the mid-twentieth century. Arabic writers were no more lying than their counterparts anywhere to abandon their rich literacy legacy beyond what were needed to adapt to the new medium.

Such unease view of journalistic writing resulted in a variety of nuances especially in the area of vocabulary and terminology which will be commented on in 2.1.1

2.1.1 The Background of the Vocabulary of the Arabic Press.

Ayalon (1995:182) considers Arabic as a rich language with an elaborate lexicon and a structural capacity for self-expression. He notices that topics such as scientific, human, social and political are precisely expressed. Also he contends that Arabic reflects the views and attitudes of society; reflection in terms of socioeconomic and political realities.

Ayalon further contends that Arabic words had connotations rooted in society's values, having a conspicuous Islamic nature with harmony between conception and expression and on this he also notes that "...under the impact of modern developments, this harmony was lost, with the result that the language lost a good deal of its expressive vigor," (1995:183). Ayalon further contends that until late in the nineteenth century, and twentieth century, technical and political developments such as governmental administrative institutions, political procedures, social customs, tools and methods of agriculture, crafts and medicine were fully described and discussed; but appropriate terminology to handle them were insufficient (Ayalon, 1995:182). On these points, Ayalon (1995:182) remarks as follows ...

while periodically faced problems in addressing such matters in a concise style, as has been seen, the difficulty did not lie in vocabulary. However, once writers were confronted with the formidable challenge of dealing with foreign concepts to which society newly exposed a host

of unknown ideas, institutions and devices – the extent vocabulary proved inadequate.

He opines that consequently many concepts and political ideas began to be imported into the region at the initiative of the rulers of the time. These ideas came to Egypt and Lebanon which became the stages for experimentation with such new political ideas as nationalism, representative assemblies and constitutions during the last third of the nineteenth century (Ayalon, 1995:183). He adds that innovations in the fields of science and technology were also imported and notes that in some areas the conceptual changes were so fundamental that vocabulary has to be completely transformed. According to Ayalon (1995:183), Ibrahim Al Yaziji, a nineteenth century writer who was a master of classical Arabic, at the turn of the century, expressed amazement at the far-reaching changes that had affected the press language during the previous decades. He also opines that for writers in for example Tahtawi and Bustani's generation, which had preceded that of Yaziji, the press of the twentieth century would have been largely unintelligible and conversely, twentieth century readers would have found the language of the earlier journals strange and at times incomprehensible (Ayalon, 1995:183). On the influx of new terminologies into Arabic, Ayalon (1995:183) comments on the contribution of the newspapers as follows:

It was not only the journalists who faced the challenge of adapting the language to new needs. Translators of European works into Arabic, textbook writers in new (especially scientific) areas, and travel writers describing phenomena abroad all confronted similar problems even before the advent of the press. Yet the leading role in introducing linguistic change was played by newspapers. Forced to contend with problems of terminology on a regular, sometimes daily basis, they undoubtedly made the largest contribution to changing Arabic into a functional, articulate modern language.

On this point, he contends that speakers of Arabic were not the first in the Middle East to face the linguistic challenges posed by foreign ideas. He also mentions that

the Turks, rulers of the Islamic Empire for centuries, who had maintained diplomatic and extra diplomatic contacts with Europe had also been exposed to foreign ideas. By the turn of the nineteenth century however, the Turks had devised sufficiently large Turkish linguistic expressions to express them (Ayalon, 1995:183). Due to the lexical proximity between the two languages (Turkish and Arabic) and because many educated Arabs were knowledgeable in Turkish language, many Turkish words expressing foreign ideas were often used during the early decades of the modernization of Arabic in the principal centres (Ayalon, 1995:183).

Further according to Ayalon, the problem of the use of appropriate linguistic terminology in the other outlying Arabic provinces of the Ottoman Empire had lasted longer. There the official bilingual bulletins were used instead, until the Young Turk revolution (Ayalon, 1995: 183). To circumvent the linguistic problem arising from insufficient terminologies, Turkish officials whose command of Arabic was limited and who were more familiar with colloquial than literary Arabic, introduced words and morphological elements from Arabic into the written texts alongside Turkish expressions whenever they were writing the official journals in Syria, Iraq and Palestine (Ayalon, 1995:185). Ayalon further notes that Turkish officials borrowed foreign terms which were more common in Turkish than in Arabic such as *bashmudir* 'director', *bashkatib* 'clerk', *dawlatu* 'country', *fakhamatlu* 'highness', *kiler* 'warehouse', *khasta khane* 'hospital', *mashrutiyya* 'constitution', *mamnu'iyya* 'prohibition'. Words of European origin such as *qumandan* and *qumisiyyun* 'general', *bulis* 'police', *brins* 'prince', *bawabir* 'plural of *babur*', from the French word *vapeur* 'steamship' and *bandira* 'Italian *bandiera* 'flag' were also used often (Ayalon, 1995: 185).

Ayalon also notes that in regions where other languages were spoken, such as Kurdish, Armenian and Persian, words from these languages were interwoven with Arabic; and on such endeavors, very often the terminologies and their morphological contexts were randomly chosen, the syntax was chaotic and the aesthetic aspect, so important in Arabic language, was nonexistent. On the chaotic nature of the linguistic situation of the time, particularly arising from the problem of vocabulary, Ayalon (1995:186) comments on Arabic texts in 1911 as follows:

Contemporary readers reported that the Arabic text was sometimes decipherable only after checking and comparing it with the Turkish. "Should you examine one of these papers," commented an Iraqi linguist in 1911, "and wonder in which language it was written, you would be unable to tell. You may ask yourself, perhaps the author is speaking in Turkish or Kurdish or Persian or Hindi or colloquial Arabic, but the truth is that he speaks in all of these languages at once.

But by the beginning of the twentieth century for the Arabic press in Egypt, Lebanon and in Europe several decades of journalistic experience and intensive exploration of linguistic possibilities produced the elementary vocabulary needed for a communication between the press and the readership in political, social and scientific concepts that had after half a century, acquired standard names and could be discussed with coherence (Ayalon, 1995:186). He adds that many of the foreign ideas became familiar so that there was less of a need to interpret them. He also contends that the transformation of the Arabic language was complete but notes that not all the obstacles to clarity and designative accuracy in Arabic language had been removed. In fact, Egyptian and Lebanese papers of the early twentieth century continued to be marked by the old deficiencies but on the whole there was much improvement (Ayalon, 1995: 186).

Ayalon further notes that by the time it was almost nearing the World War 1, the Arabic language of the newspapers in Egypt and Lebanon was often displaying the