



Translation Shifts: Semantic Alterations in News Headlines

Translation from English into Arabic

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Abstract

Rendering and preserving the source message meaning successfully and effectively lies in the significance of appropriate use of language. Therefore, an inappropriate use of semantics may result in inadequate translation and thus the consequences can be far-reaching (Cyrus, 2009) especially in cases where it can have ideological implications due to other non-linguistic constraints, for example, in news translation. Therefore, this paper sets out to investigate the different types of translation shifts taking place at the semantic level when transferring news headlines from English into Arabic. It is an attempt to identify and describe the different lexical shifts found between English news headlines and their Arabic versions. Thus, the current study is a comparative-descriptive study of a parallel corpus constituting of 24 English-Arabic news headlines sorted out and collected from a number of the most influential international news webpages, namely BBC, CNN, Reuters, AFP, AP, Aljazeera and Al-Arabiya. The research analysis reveals that lexical alterations permanently occur in the translation of news headlines from English into Arabic, specifically substitution and mutation shifts. These shifts are duly examined in this paper in order to point out the reason for the occurrence of each type of lexical shift in a more comprehensive and intelligible manner. By doing so, the research findings show that lexical alterations frequently take place in translation, especially between languages of two different linguistic systems due to a myriad of conceptual, cultural and stylistic discrepancies and other nonlinguistic criteria that marks news headlines language.



INTRODUCTION

Translation and linguistics are considered as two interrelated disciplines because the product of translation is taken from language. It is also a fact that translation and language are two entities that cannot be studied separately. And since one of the major aims of translation is meaning transfer from one language to another and for an accurate and appropriate transfer of this meaning, the translator needs to consider the different linguistic characteristics of languages. Jakobson points out that “translation involves two equivalent messages in two different codes” (cited in Venuti, 2004, p. 114) since translation aims to transfer a certain language to another substitute message in one language. Moreover, given that translation is an Interlingual process, it necessarily entails a set of changes when transferring a given text from one language into another. These changes inevitably occur in the process of translation because of the different natures of languages and variations that exist among them (Hosseini Massoum & Shahbaiki, 2013, p. 659). To deal with these linguistic inconsistencies among languages and to get a quality translation, the translator uses diverse approaches and procedures. Amid these translation procedures frequently take place in translation is ‘transpositions’ in Vinay and Darbelnet’s terms (1958) or ‘translation shifts’ in Catford’s (1965). Farrokh (2011) states that shifts could minimize the inevitable loss of meaning when rendering a text from one language into another. The notion of translation shifts has been considerably addressed by many translation theorists, scholars and researchers from different angles and perspectives to count for the various types of shifts that occur in translation. Most of these researches and studies on translation shifts have significantly focused on the different changes or deviations that occur at the structural and lexical levels of translations, for their prominent role in attaining a functional and pragmatic translation. However, the concept of translation shifts within specific contexts (i.e. media texts) has not notably been examined in the field of translation studies until recently. Furthermore, only a few research dealt with some types of semantic shifts in news headlines translation from English into Arabic. Ghayda (2009) points out “while headline translation has received some attention from scholars only a small amount of the literature deals specifically with the translation of English language headlines in Arabic”. Considering the distinct structures and functions of news headlines, they evidently require in-depth research



to investigate the process of rendering English news headlines into Arabic at both their linguistic and non-linguistic levels. Accordingly, our investigation is carried out based on the following queries:

1. Why do news headlines incur several lexical alterations when translated from English into Arabic or vice versa?
2. What are the most frequent types and subtypes of semantic shifts found in news headlines translation between English and Arabic?
3. How do certain semantic deviations take place in news headlines when transferred into Arabic to manipulate particular ideological convictions in the Arab world?

News Headlines Translation

Overall, News headlines commonly receive great attention from news editorship since they are considered as “an important vehicle of information and appraisal” (Sumai, 2014). Besides, news headlines are distinguished from other genres by their special rules and regulations to suffice certain journalistic demands. Their linguistic structures are peculiar because “the style of writing is largely geared to saving space and presenting information in striking ways” (Ali Mohammed, 2019, p. 33). These two factors affect their translation since the translator needs to take into account time and space limitations in rendering this type of text. Furthermore, news headlines represent a different type of register. We can notice the difference in language when talking about different subjects such as economics, sports, etc. This difference is exhibited in the style of writing and type of language used (formal or informal (colloquial)) technical or sensitive register. Therefore, headlines are often defined according to their distinctive linguistic features and described in terms of a range of functions that specifically dictate their shape, content, and structure (Ali Mohammed, 2019, p. 35).

Headlines are depicted as the title given to a newspaper/magazine article and placed at the top of the article indicating the subject of the article. Therefore, they should “compact the gist of news stories into a few snaring words” (Sumai, 2014) to inform the reader briefly of what the article is about and to lure his interest to read the whole story. Thus, headlines are characterized by their ‘brevity’ using short



and incomplete sentences written in a specific style different from daily use of language (Ali Mohammed, 2019, p. 32). Swan (2000 as cited in Hendar), who defines news headlines as short titles above newspaper reports, maintains that headlines in English-language newspapers can be very difficult to understand. One reason for this is that newspaper headlines are often written in a special style which is very different from ordinary English. In this style there are special rules of grammar, and words are often used in an unusual way (p. 467). While Bonyadi (2012), indicates that “newspaper headlines do not only have the function of representing the topic and briefing the main content of the news text, but also try to facilitate grasping the meaning of the text by the audience”. According to Crystal Davy (1969), headlines should contain “a clear, succinct and if possible intriguing message, to kindle a spark of interest in the potential reader [...]” (Ali Mohammed, p. 31). Moreover, Halliday (1985) states that headlines are ‘tiny texts’ and they have their specific grammar rules since they should convey enough information through few words due to space constraints. Therefore, the language used in headlines is described as an autonomous language (Straumann, 1935) that has its own syntactic, lexical, and rhetorical peculiarities. This type of language is known as ‘block language’; a type of structure different from normal clause or sentence structure but often conveying a complete message (Oxford of English Grammar, 1998 as cited Al-Hamdani, 2020, p. 3). According to Praskova, “this block language has its own linguistic, lexical, syntactic, stylistic and rhetorical characteristics” (Ali Mohammed, p. 32), for example using labels, font size subheadings, using a string of noun phrases without articles or prepositions and omission of functional words such as auxiliaries. Moreover, they are often filled with specific rhetorical devices such as alliteration, punning, neologism, metonymy and metaphor. This block language creates a sort of ambiguity and difficulty in understanding headlines. Hence Additional transformations of news headlines from one language to another (i.e., from English into Arabic) are very frequent in news headlines translation, ranging from superficial alterations to major changes with important semantic implications (Vald  on, 2007, p. 161). Vald  on notes that “these transformations and omissions may have a greater influence on the informative function of the headlines when an essential lexical item is omitted or altered” (p. 161). Therefore, the translation of news headlines is considered an art with a great level of difficulty and accuracy. It requires extensive



knowledge of both source and target languages in order “to achieve a larger degree of preciseness and credibility” (Al-Falahi, 2017 as cited in Al-Hamdani, p. 11).

To sum up, news headlines often represent the linguistic and cultural features of its language. Therefore, their translations are not merely an interlingual conversion, but a kind of communication between different cultures (Jiang, 2019). In the process of transferring news headlines internationally, translators might be influenced by different factors such as their cultural background, thinking patterns, beliefs, historical allusions and multiple journalistic norms which might affect their translations. In consequence, it is of paramount importance that journalist-translators employ various translation strategies and techniques in the translation of news headlines to make them more appealing and obtain their pragmatic functions in the TL. Ultimately, this paper discusses some of the techniques frequently utilized in the translation of news headlines. Other procedures like explicitation, implicitation or supplementation (a type of lexical amplification) are more elaborated in the analysis of different types of semantic shifts found in the Arabic versions of English news headlines to investigate their effect regarding news headlines translation.

Notion of Translation Shifts

The term ‘shift’ is defined as “a linguistic deviation from the original text, a change introduced in translation with respect to either the syntactic form or meaning of the source text” (Palumbo, 2009, p. 104). These deviations often occur because of the structural, lexical, stylistic, rhetorical and cultural differences between languages (even closely related ones); therefore, shifts occur in the translation process. Due to the potential role of shifts in translation, several studies have been conducted to describe how and why these shifts occur. The concept of shift is thus widely found in translation studies despite adopting different terminology to describe the various changes that occur between the original and translated texts (Palumbo, 2009, p. 105). The notion of shifts was first proposed by Catford (1965) as purely linguistic ‘alterations’ between the source text (ST) and target text (TT), “focusing his description mainly on the grammatical and lexical levels” (Palumbo, 2009, p.105). Others identify these shifts as ‘procedures’ (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1958), methods’, techniques’ or ‘strategies’ in Chesterman’s words



(1997). Chesterman (1997) views shifts “as changes made on the target language solution that is felt problematic or as ways of manipulating the linguistic material of the source text in order to produce an appropriate target text” (as cited in Palumbo, 2009, p. 106). These changes or shifts may occur at the syntactic, semantic or pragmatic level; hence their frequency of occurrence relatively depends on the norms and aims adhered by the translator or his organization. In addition to that, Vinay and Darbelnet (1958) maintain that translation shifts permanently occur in translation not only because of lexical and structural differences between languages, but also since “translation units are not identical across languages; a small unit in one language may be translated by a larger unit in another language and vice versa” (Rasul, 2018, p. 226). Hence, the translation of a given unit sometimes requires one single procedure while other units may involve two or more procedures to transfer the source language message appropriately and preserve its aims. Accordingly, recent translation research has shifted its concern towards the various types of shifts found in translation taking into account other extra-linguistic aspects involved in the production of the source text, particularly the textual, pragmatic and stylistic elements (Al-Zoubi & Al-Hassnaoui, 2001). In this respect, Cyrus (2009) holds that:

The concept of translation shifts has gradually regained an importance, too. However, the perspective on shifts has changed considerably: they are no longer considered as ‘mistranslations’ or ‘deviations of the norm’ [...], neither are they reduced to being a way of coping with systemic differences. Instead, now it is widely accepted that shifts can be caused and influenced by a variety of other factors, too, some of them extralinguistic, such as the function of the translated text in the target culture or a subjective interpretation by the translator. (p. 89)

As a result, contemporary translation studies have viewed translation shifts as a ‘phenomenon inherent to translation’ (Van Leuven-Zwart 1990b, as cited in Cyrus, 2009, p. 89), and thus have been defined from different perspectives using a multitude of taxonomies and descriptions.



Semantic Shifts in Translation

Types of meaning and translation

As mentioned earlier, translation is generally a process of meaning transfer from an SL to a second language. This meaning consists the key issue of any translation task, for the ultimate goal of the translator is to find an equivalent meaning of an SL unit into another language (Hatim & Munday, 2004). Accordingly, the translator should consider the different types of meaning conveyed in the ST and also the components embedded in a particular unit of meaning. It is only by understanding the different components of a given unit, the translator can provide the closest natural equivalent meaning of the ST in the TL (Rini, 2014). Words have more than one meaning or are interpreted differently since their comprehension depends on the linguistic, situational and cultural context within which they occur. Hence, a given lexical item can be defined beyond the conventional meaning assigned to it. Buhler (1965 as cited in Layachi, 1987) maintains that “situation and context are roughly speaking the two sources which in each case make it possible to glean a precise interpretation of a linguistic utterance” (p. 88). This means that the exact meaning of a lexical item is determined by taking the context in which it occurs into consideration. To understand which meaning a word designates, we need first to decide on the type of meaning it refers to. Any lexical item consists of two types of meaning; primary meaning and secondary meaning.

1. Primary meaning: It is the direct and first meaning of a word “to be understood without contextual conditioning” (Nida, 1964). It is the denotative meaning assigned to a lexical item “out of context of use” (Wirth, 1985 as cited in Layachi, 1987) and can be defined independently without considering its context. Primary meaning is often labelled as the referential meaning (Nida & Taber 1982, Larson 1998, Zaky 2005, etc.). Referential meaning is what the word refers to in reality i.e., to an object or things, events, attributes, a process or relation that people abstractly perceive or imagine (Larson, 1998). Zaky (2005 as cited in Rini, 2014) points out that referential meaning is also known as “‘the meaning of reference’ which refers to the ‘lexical’ meaning, the ‘conceptual’ meaning, or the ‘denotative’ meaning” (Rini, 2014). This type of meaning is governed by two main markers,



namely syntactic marking and the ORGANIZATIONAL meaning in Larson's words. Syntactic marking because the meaning of words often depends on their grammatical structure. The position of a word in a structure determines its meaning whether it refers to an object, action, or relation. This implies that the grammatical order of a word determines its semantic function and specify the "intended meaning explicitly" (Rini, 2014). In addition to that, referential meaning is organized into a semantic structure, and the relationship between the different components of a certain structure or unit ascertains the meaning of the words it composes. For example, a word may denote two different meanings if it has two different subjects. While, Larson (1998) in his book 'Meaning based Translation: A Guide to Cross-Language Equivalence', illustrates that the organization of lexical elements into units of the discourse determines the exact meaning of a word within the discourse; whether it refers to the same object for example or something new. He adds that "referential meaning is what the communication is about. It is the information context" (p. 41). Therefore, Larson (1998) argues that it is "the ORGANIZATIONAL meaning that puts the referential information together into a coherent text" (p. 42). This ORGANIZATIONAL meaning is signaled by various grammatical and lexical devices such as deictics, repetition, groupings, etc., and because these devices are inconsistent across languages, the way the ORGANIZATIONAL meaning is structured differs from one language to another since each language has its formal ways of organizing the referential information.

2. Secondary meaning: Secondary meaning, on the other hand, refers to the meaning of words within their context. It means when a lexical item contextually defines something different from its denotative sense. Its meaning is deduced from the context in which it occurs as it is "the function of the context to specify and elucidate the particular meaning intended by the author" (Layachi, 1987, p. 89). This type is defined as the connotative meaning because the meaning of a word is not merely dependent on its concrete or abstract dimension, but it involves other contextual factors to elucidate the intended meaning of a lexical item. Larson (1998) labels secondary meaning as the situational meaning because it is derived from the communication situation in which an utterance is used. The connotative or situational meaning can be inferred based on three main principles. First, the relationship between the participants of a communication process, their



background, age, gender, and social status, in addition to the setting and many other situational factors which will affect communication (Larson, 1998). This includes the context, which is pertinent to words signification; therefore, some expressions are related to certain environments such as in court, police station, market, tourism object, etc. Second, words and their use are often affected by the culture, social class, religion, education of their users. The third principle which sets out the right meaning of a word in a particular structure is the linguistic factor; in collocations, for instance, words carry different connotations when they constantly occur before certain items and hence interpreted differently. To conclude, the meaning of words is governed by several linguistic aspects of a language as well as other para-linguistic factors incorporated in understanding and rendering this meaning in translation. Besides, if the same total meaning is to be communicated to the TL readers, the connotative and situational meaning should also be included in the translated text. This is because the process of transferring meaning from one language into another is not mainly a matter of rendering the meaning conveyed in lexical units. But there are other aspects involved in this process which can affect the translator's choices. This implies that mistranslation may occur if the translator renders mainly "the primary meaning which a lexical item may inherently suggest" (Layachi, 1987, p. 89). This will result, of course, in a mistranslated work since mistranslation of one lexical item may lead to mistranslation of the whole sentence.

Types of semantic shifts

Given that "it is the meaning that serves as the base for translation into another language" (Larson, p. 29) and since the transfer of this meaning between two distinct languages as we already said is not a direct process, the translator is required to make some adjustments to accomplish his task successfully. These adjustments necessarily occur to avoid producing a random collection of items that may alter the meaning and intent of the original text (Baker, 2006 as cited in Widiastuti, p. 12). Therefore, any changes occurring at the lexical level are described as semantic shifts. Semantic shifts are a set of lexical adjustments or modifications that occur because of some cultural and conceptual differences between the source and target language (Al-Zoubi & Al-Hassnawi, 2001, p. 17). Al-Zoubi and Al Hassnawi (2001) show that "such adjustments bring about certain shifts since the process of meaning



transfer is not a straightforward process” (p. 12). A Semantic shift is defined as a shift of meaning that may occur at the word, phrase, or sentence level. It occurs when the sense of the SL expression cannot be rendered into the TL literally. Also, when the semantic structure of the TL text does not correspond to that in the SL. However, these lexical or semantic adjustments can be either obligatory or optional. Obligatory semantic shifts take place when there is no lexical or semantic equivalence between the SL and TL, "this is mainly due to some cultural and conceptual differences between the two languages” (Widiastuti, 2019, p. 12). They are also caused by socio-cultural factors, for example using idioms and figurative language, the obscurity of the context in the sentences as in news headlines structures. Optional shifts, on the contrary, often occur in order to retain the essence of the SL message by using an appropriate diction in the TL text. It also entails the translator’s preferences in selecting adequate semantic equivalents in the TL for the adjustment of the context and situation into the TL to retain some textual effects of the ST (Widiastuti, 2019) and preserve its stylistic and expressive characteristics into the TT (Miko, 1970 as cited in Hijjo, 2017). In this regard Baker (1992 as cited by Rostami) holds that The choice of a suitable equivalence will always depend not only on the linguistic system or systems being handled by the translator, but also on the way both writer of the source text and the translator choose to manipulate the linguistic system in question.

According to Pym (2003), semantic shifts may occur because of the translator’s decisions and choices in adopting certain techniques to maintain; first the function rather than the form of the source text, second, in order to render the semantic values of the text on different linguistic levels and to make correspondence between the S and T texts. This implies that there are several types of shifts occurring at the semantic level in the process of translation. To determine the type of semantic shift found between the original and translated texts, we need first to deduce the semantic relationship between the different lexical components of a specific unit then examine the possibility of rendering a similar relationship in the TL by the same or different formal devices. Furthermore, this relationship must be elucidated in light of the current situation of the SL text for an accurate shift to avoid problems of translation loss (Audi, 2001 as cited in Hijjo, 2013).



Van Leuven-Zwart's model (1989-1990a)

Van Leuven provides a detailed comparative descriptive analysis of different types of shifts found between the SL and TL texts. Her model is comparative descriptive since it bases its analysis of shifts both on the micro-structural level; i.e., describing changes that occur within sentences, clauses and phrases and their effect on the macro-structural aspects of the text, i.e., “characters, events, time, place and other meaningful components of the text” (Cyrus, 2009, p. 95). Leuven-Zwart's analysis of the micro-structural shifts is carried out by identifying ST and TT transems (a transeme is a comprehensible textual unit- either a phrase, clause or sentence) and then finding their architransems in order to determine the relationship between the source transeme (ST) and target transeme (TT). This comparison between the STT and TTT with their architransems defines the kind of relationship between the two transems, whether it is synonymous or hyponymous. When both transems are synonymic, then no shift takes place. But, if these transems exhibit a sort of disjunction with their architransems, then there is a shift between the STT and TTT. This disjunction between the S and T transems may appear on the syntactic, semantic or stylistic level. Leuven-Zwart argues that this comparative analysis reveals what types of shifts exist between the source and target texts. According to her model, these shifts are categorized into three major types, modulation, modification and mutation.

1. Modulation: modulation occurs when the two identified transems are in a hyponymic relationship. This means when one of the transems is synonymic with the architranseme while the other transeme is not (i.e., is a hyponym). This type of shift takes place through **specification**; when the T transeme is hyponymous with its architranseme whereas the S transeme is a hypernym. By **generalization**; when the S transeme is hyponymous with its architranseme and the T transeme is a hypernym. According to Leuven-Zwart (1989), modulation may occur at the semantic or stylistic level. Semantic modulation can be an aspectual, subjective, concrete or intensive element, for example rendering the word ‘loved’ in English into ‘adorada’ in Spanish. Stylistic modulation appears due to the aspectual differences in register, formality, a text-specific element or culture-specific



elements. These stylistic differences bring about different effects; therefore, a shift occurs between the source and target texts (as cited in Cyrus, 2009, p. 96).

2. Modification: it can be applied at the semantic or stylistic level. Modification happens when both S and T transems are hyponymous with their architransemes or when there is a slight modification in the target transeme, so the relationship between them becomes hyponymic. Modification shift is subdivided into three forms. First, syntactic–semantic modification which occurs when there is a shift in the grammatical features (i.e., tense, person or number, etc.), the grammatical class or function. The second type is syntactic–stylistic modification if the SL and TL transems have the same value but differ in the number of elements they consist of. This can be achieved through **explicitation**; when the T transeme contains more elements than the S transeme, or **implication** when the S transeme is rendered into fewer elements in the TL. The third form is the syntactic–pragmatic modification which refers to a shift in the speech act or the thematic meaning of the S transeme.

3. Mutation: it means that there is a deviation between the S and T transems. In other words, when there is no correspondence between the S and T transems with their architranseme. Mutation may occur through: (1) **addition**: if an extra transeme is added in the translation of the S transeme, (2) **deletion**: when the S transeme is partially or totally omitted, (3) **mutation** includes also semantic deviation when the meaning of the TT is completely different from that of ST. This semantic mismatch between the target and source transems prevents from finding a common denominator between them; therefore, an architranseme cannot be established. However, Van Leuven–Zwart’s model is applied on the relationship between the S and T transems rather than on the subcomponents of the transems which “exhibit different and even conflicting types of shifts” (Cyrus, 2009, p. 97).

Her comparative analysis of the micro structural shifts merely identifies and describes the types of shifts found between the source and target texts transems. On the other hand, the descriptive model is designed for the analysis of shifts occurring at the macro–structural level. This descriptive analysis “attempts to interweave the concepts of discourse level. [...], and story level [...] with three linguistic ‘metafunctions’ (interpersonal, ideational and textual)” (1990a, p. 87). It



also indicates the relevance of micro and macro structural shifts to the three functions of the discourse and story levels, for instance the syntactic-pragmatic modulation affects the interpersonal function by shifting the interpersonal nature in the narrative. Eventually, Van Leuven incorporated the descriptive analysis in her model of shifts to detect the effect of the micro-shifts on the macro-structural features of the text and the realization of the communicative functions of the source text in the TL. To conclude, Leuven-Zwart's model can be placed among TT-oriented approaches which emphasize the acceptability of the translated text in the target culture. Besides, her model is distinguished from Catford and Vinay and Darbelnet's as it "goes further than the mainly linguistic comparisons" (1990a, p. 87). However, it is criticized for not providing a detailed comprehensive taxonomy of the different micro-shifts. Therefore, it's practically difficult to describe the multitude of types of shifts in a text relying mainly on Leuven-Zwart's model.

Methods and procedures

As mentioned earlier, this study is a comparative-descriptive analysis of the different semantic alterations found between English news headlines and their Arabic versions. Given the nature of the present research, this comparative analysis aims to investigate some forms of lexical departures occurring in English news headlines when translated into Arabic, such as substitution, omission, addition, and reversal/deviation. Based on the assumption that Arabic versions depart from the original English headlines by adjusting the existing information, presenting new information, omitting some information or deviating from the real sense of ST lexical components through using 'mild' or 'gross' semantic change i.e. mutation shifts. For this purpose, a number of 24 English headlines and their Arabic translations are collected from some of the most international news agencies. Furthermore, the selected data is tabulated, described and analyzed to find out the different lexical departures that exist between English headlines and their Arabic counterparts. The table includes the source headline (in English), its Arabic version, type and subtype of semantic shift. The analysis of semantic shifts is carried out by extracting the semantic relationship between the different segments of SL and TL texts then examining whether the two segments convey a similar relationship or are replaced by a different lexical device (i.e. hyponymy, reversal, metonymy, etc.) in



light of the situational context of the text. Given the situational context often has implications on the word choice used in news headlines. These lexical choices serve specific ideological interests of a particular group. Therefore, in the context of news, verbal-linguistic signs “are also subject to being selected, worked and treated according to ideological norms. So many phrases and terms, used in news-related texts, seem to be worked on to make them seem to generate specific messages and meanings” (Al-Shehari, 2007, p. 7). This is because ideological interests constitute one of the factors involved in selecting a specific lexical sign from a set of alternatives, and hence ignoring or distorting other alternatives (Al Shehari, 2007). Accordingly, when translating news items from one language into another, lexical alterations frequently take place through altering or deviating from the SL elements, to generate certain political and social messages. In this regard, Bignell (1997 as cited in Al Shehari, 2007) argues that “news is not just the bringing together of facts about any certain event, but rather the selection of facts which the publisher finds significant” (p. 7). This process of lexical selection in news context to fulfil certain political and social purposes of the target audiences requires news translators to use several strategies such as semantic equivalence, omission, addition and compensation in order to achieve these purposes. Nonetheless, lexical incongruence between SL and TL texts may also arise because of conceptual and cultural non-equivalence between the two languages. Thus, lexical alterations are applied for transferring the intended meaning in news headlines and make them TL readership oriented. This view justifies the occurrence of semantic shifts by means of lexical departures. Lexical departures/shifts take place in translation to maintain textual equivalence and retain the desired effect on the target readers (as intended not by the original news publisher but by the TL news agency). It “occurs for either language or culture associated reasons on the basis either of the semantic or pragmatic relationships between units of language [...]” (Hawamdeh, p. 3).

For the semantic shifts description and categorization, the 24 English news headlines along with their Arabic counterparts are tabulated to detect the dominant type of semantic shifts occurring in English news headlines being reframed and mediated in Arabic. The different types and subtypes of semantic shifts are classified and identified in the table. After that, each type of these shifts will be analyzed and interpreted according to the comparative analysis findings in order to explain their



occurrence and show whether the meaning of the original headline is fully sustained or deviated due to these shifts. The analysis of lexical changes brings light on the significance of Vinay and Darbelnet's complementary procedures (i.e., amplification, expansion, Explicitation and implicitation, supplementation and reduction, etc.) adapted in translation to cope with lexical and stylistic discrepancies between languages.

Results: Semantic shifts in English–Arabic news headlines translation

Significantly, the analysis of semantic shifts demonstrates that there are several lexical shifts found in the corpus of this study which result in prodigious differences between source headlines and their Arabic versions. These lexical shifts frequently take place by substituting an SL unit by a different lexical unit in the TL, by omission or addition of some lexical elements from/to the TT and when reversing or deviating from the SL meaning by using a distinct lexical equivalent in the TL which leads to lexical mismatches between the SL elements/expressions and their TL correspondents. The frequency of each semantic shift type analyzed in this research is represented in the table below.

Semantic	Frequency	Percentage Shift
Substitution	13	23.21%
Generalization	2	3.75%
Mutation	13	23.21%
<i>Omission</i>		
<i>Addition</i>	15	26.79%
<i>Sense mismatch</i>		
<i>Minimal</i>	8	14.29%
<i>Partial</i>	4	7.14%
<i>Mismatch</i>		
<i>Maximal</i>	1	1.79%
<i>mismatch</i>		
Total	56	100%

Table 1: frequency of occurrence of semantic shifts



The results obtained from the comparative analysis displayed in table 1 above shows that **substitution** is commonly applied in translating news headlines from English into Arabic with 23,21% of the total data, particularly when these lexical elements denoting conflicts and political issues, i.e., Israeli–Palestinian conflict. This is because “The type of register used may be interpreted differently by different parties involved in the conflict [...]. These ideological differences in the way terms are approached and actions are labelled make it difficult for translators to provide a representative translation for certain items and actions” (Lahlali & Abu Hatab, 2014, p. 127).

Furthermore, the research findings reveal that addition is the most efficient shift with the highest percentage; 26,79% of the total mutation shifts. This indicates that Arabic news titles tend to be more explicit and informative by adding extra details which are made implicit in the source headlines. Therefore, Arabic versions are often expanded and made more expressive by using emotive and subjective lexical elements “to create suspense, [...], shock, or arouse emotions in the reader” (Rawland & Avey, 2001 as cited in Lahlali & Abu Hatab, 2014, p. 125). Whereas English news headings are significantly characterized by their lexical and syntactic compactness.

On the other hand, omission shifts and sense mismatch permanently equally occur with 23,21% of each type. Interestingly, these results point out that Arabic translations are often paraphrased and reframed when using modulation and compensation through manipulation of theme and rheme in the TL. Hence the translated versions undergo a myriad of processes in translation and adaptation through cultures (Vald  on, 2007, p. 165). In addition to that, the analysis of lexical mismatches between the different segments of S and T versions revealed that complete adaptation of the source news titles results in two different semantic structures in order to attain some degree of originality in the TL.

Last but not least, shifts from specific into generic are the least employed lexical shifts, with only 3,75 %. Given that, and as mentioned earlier Arabic versions tend to be more specific and more amplified when using additional linguistic forms due to lexical gaps between source and target language to avoid confusion and



misinterpretation of the translated headlines. The following figure demonstrates the distribution of each semantic shift types and subtypes in the present study.

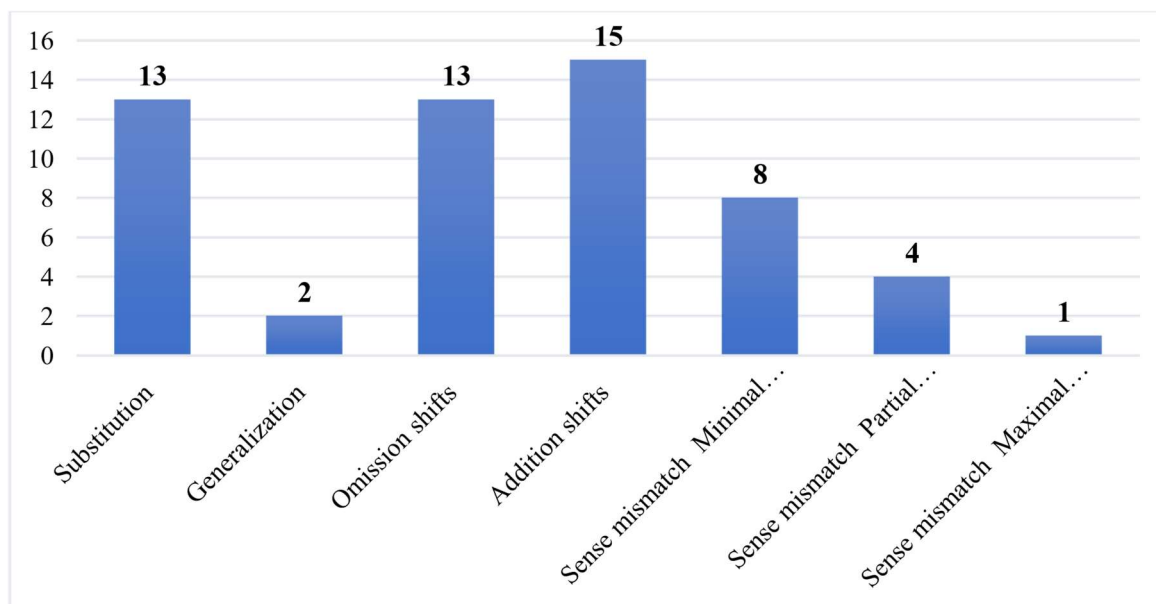


Figure 1: Distribution of occurrence of Semantic Shifts

Conclusion

The current study aimed at investigating the frequency of occurrence of translation shifts at the microstructural level, i.e. semantic shifts when transferring news headlines from English into Arabic. Hence its main objective was to describe and identify the different types of shifts that occur at the lexical level using Van Leuven Zwart's model and other related theories to explain the occurrence of different semantic alterations found between English news headlines and their Arabic versions.

First, the analysis and discussion of lexical departures detected between English news headlines and their Arabic counterparts, deduces that shifts occurring at the semantic level in news headlines mediated in Arabic are commonly justified by the semantic, pragmatic and stylistic differences in news writing styles between English and Arabic. In this respect, these lexical alterations are not argued as deviations; they mainly take place to retain some textual effects of the source headlines and maintain some degree of originality in the TL. Moreover, the Arabic versions are frequently updated and reframed accordingly. This explains why addition is the most obvious



feature of Arabic headlines by making them more explicit and less ambiguous compared to their Anglophone counterparts. In addition to that, the research findings indicate how some ideological implications of some lexical choices are in some cases consciously intended through omitting, substituting or revering certain lexical items.

It is also worth mentioning that semantic shifts often result in structural shifts, for instance, addition shifts by amplification lead to upward unit shifts, substitution by labelling results in shifts of the agent. Similarly, structural shifts may bring about semantic shifts by inserting new lexical forms in the TT, such as shifts from passive agentless structures in English into active structures in Arabic. This also includes shifts from specific into a generic form which occurs in translation from English into Arabic, since English style of reporting generic references uses singular and indefinite nouns, while the Arabic style of reporting news generic references uses plural and definite nouns (Rasul, 2018 p. 102).

Ultimately, the significance of this study lies in the fact that it tackles a subject that has been sporadically addressed in translation studies. During conducting this research, we have found out that only a few research studies the notion of translation shifts at the microstructural level of news headlines translation specifically from English into Arabic. Given that, our research is mainly exploratory and aims to shed some light on the role and function of translation shifts in the process of translating different text types, especially in media texts.

Research limitations and recommendations for further research

The outcomes of the present thesis remain limited since the objectives of the research are attained by using a restricted amount of data. Besides, the analysis of the research corpus was concerned mainly with some types and subtypes of lexical shifts which occur between English–Arabic translation of news headlines, without thoroughly examining the impact of these alterations on the underlying implications of news headlines. Therefore, there is a need for in–depth research to investigate each specific type of translation shifts occurring in the translation of news headlines from English into Arabic or vice versa, i.e., syntactic alterations, pragmatic deviations or stylistic shifts in news headlines when translated from English into Arabic or vice versa. Most significantly, in addition to the current study, further



research within the scope of translation shifts would contribute to developing a more systematic model for analyzing different types of translation shifts that can be applied to several text types. This is because the previous theories related to translation shifts previewed in this study are generally confined to literary texts (Van Leuven-Zwart, Klaudy, Bruno, Diaz, etc.). Moreover, most research conducted in news translation is concerned with discourse analysis and ideological aspects of news texts. While research in journalistic translation, particularly in the translation of international news headlines from a linguistic perspective, is mostly overlooked in translation studies.



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Appendix A: English news headlines and their Arabic versions + back translation of the Arabic versions

NO	English news headlines	Arabic versions
H1	Mystery illness scare among <u>Vienna</u> US diplomats.	مخاوف من مرض غامض يصيب دبلوماسيين امريكيين BT: <i>Fears of mysterious disease infects American diplomats.</i>
H2	Lebanon <i>spins further into crisis</i> as Hariri abandons bid to form government (Reuters)	لبنان: اخبثار غير مسبوق لليرة واشتباكات مصحوبة باعتذار الحريري عن تشكيل الحكومة. BT: <i>Lebanon: an unprecedented collapse in the lira and clashes accompanied by Hariri's apology for forming the government.</i>
H3	Turkish influencer prosecuted 'for sex-toy photos'	في تركيا بتهمة الفحش. محاكمة نجمة انستغرام BT: <i>Instagram star in trial in turkey for obscenity.</i>
H4	Egypt president says bread price should rise	'عض قلبي ولا تعض رغيبي' BT: <i>'bite my heart, but not my loaf'.</i>
H5	9/11 anniversary: <i>Emotional tributes paid to lives lost</i>	سبتمبر: الولايات المتحدة تحيي ذكرى ضحايا الهجمات. 11 BT: <i>11 September: United States celebrates attacks' victims anniversary.</i>
H6	Bush alludes to US capitol rioters when condemning violent extremists behind 9/11 attacks.	هجمات سبتمبر.. بوش: المتطرفون العنيفون داخل أمريكا نسل من نفس 'الروح الكريهة'. BT: <i>September attack ..Bush: violent extremists in America are descendants of the same 'foul spirit'.</i>
H7	Bolsonaro posts picture <u>of himself</u> from hospital bed.	بعد معاناة من زغطة مستمرة... بولسنارو ينشر صور من على سرير المستشفى. BT: <i>After suffering from persistent hiccups .. Bolsonaro posts pictures from hospital bed.</i>



H8	Ghani: Remaining in office as Afghanistan's president would have led to " dreadful disaster "	أشرف غني: غادرت أفغانستان حتى لا تصبح مثل سوريا واليمن. ولو بقيت كنت سأشقى. BT: <i>Ashraf Ghani: I left Afghanistan so that it would not become like Syria and Yemen..if I stayed, I would have been hanged.</i>
H9	Rifles, Humvees and millions of rounds of ammo: Taliban celebrate their new American arsenal	بندقيات وسيارات "همفي" والملايين من الذخيرة.. طالبان تحتفل بترسانتها الأمريكية الجديدة. BT: <i>Rifles, Humvees cars and millions of ammunition.. the Taliban celebrate their new American arsenal</i>
H10	ISIS supporter shot dead by New Zealand police after shoppers stabbed in 'terrorist attack'	هجوم نيوزيلندا.. تقارير تكشف إسم منفذ حادث الطعن وجنسيته. BT: <i>New Zealand attack.. reports reveal the name of the stabbing incident perpetrator and his nationality.</i>
H11	Four Palestinians <i>shot and killed</i> in Israeli army raid in Jenin	فلسطينيين إثر مواجهة 4 غضب وإضراب في جنين.. استشهاد مع قوة اقتحام إسرائيلية. BT: <i>Anger and strike in Jenin.. 4 Palestinians fall as martyrs in clashes with Israeli intrusion force.</i>
H12	<i>Israeli forces</i> kill Palestinian during West Bank <u>funeral</u> protest	شهيد برصاص جيش الاحتلال خلال مواجهات في الخليل. BT: <i>A martyr was shot by the occupation army during clashes in Hebron.</i>
H13	Israeli troops <i>shoot dead</i> Palestinian in <u>occupied</u> West Bank	شهيد وعشرات الجرحى في مواجهات مع الاحتلال ببلدة بيتا شمال الضفة الغربية. BT: <i>A martyr and dozens wounded in clashes with the occupation at the town of Beita in the northern West Bank.</i>



H14	Israel shells Lebanon after rockets fired <u>over border</u>	إطلاق صاروخين من لبنان على إسرائيل.. وجيش الاحتلال يرد بالقصف. BT: <i>Two missiles were fired from Lebanon at Israel ..and the occupation army responded with artillery fire</i>
H15	US: Blinken and Austin to visit Gulf to address post-war stresses (AP)	محورها الملف الأفغاني .. وفد أميركي يزور الدوحة ودول غربية تنقل سفاراتها بأفغانستان إلى قطر. BT: <i>Its concern is the Afghan issue.. an American delegation visits Doha and western countries move their embassies to Qatar.</i>
H16	FBI releases first 9/11 document after Biden order	تؤكد تورط مسؤولين FBI سبتمبر: وثيقة 11 عائلات ضحايا سعوديين BT: <i>11 September victims' families: FBI document confirms the involvement of Saudi officials.</i>
H17	Israel foreign minister arrives in Morocco on first visit <u>since normalization</u> (AFP)	وزير خارجية إسرائيل يصل إلى المغرب في أول زيارة رسمية. BT: <i>Israeli foreign minister arrives in Morocco on his first official visit.</i>
H18	Real Madrid president <u>Perez</u> denies he influenced Messi's departure (REUTERS)	رئيس ريال مدريد يكشف حقيقة علاقته برحيل ميسي. BT: <i>Real Madrid president reveals the truth about his relationship with Messi's departure</i>
H19	Morocco wants strong ties with Spain after diplomatic rift: Moroccan King.	ملك المغرب: هناك هجمات مدروسة على بلادي. BT: <i>King of Morocco: there are deliberate attacks on my country.</i>
H20	UNICEF warns millions of people in Lebanon face water shortages (REUTERS)	بعد البنزين أتى دور المياه.. لم يبق سوى الهواء في لبنان. BT: <i>After fuel, it was water's turn.. air is all that was left in Lebanon.</i>



H21	Turkey's Erdogan <i>holds</i> rare meeting with UAE National Security Adviser	اردوغان يبحث مع وفد إماراتي العلاقات الثنائية وقضايا المنطقة. BT: <i>Erdogan discusses with an Emirati delegation bilateral relations and regional issues.</i>
H22	Israeli <u>minister</u> says Iran giving militias drone training <u>near Isfahan</u>	إسرائيل: إيران تدرب مجموعات إرهابية على تشغيل المسيّرات BT: <i>Israel: Iran trains terrorist groups to operate drones.</i>
H23	Four <u>of six</u> Palestinian prison escapees recaptured – Israel	من الفلسطينيين الهاربين من سجن 4 إسرائيل تعلن القبض على جلبو ع BT: <i>Israel announces the arrest of 4 Palestinian escapees from Gilboa prison.</i>
H24	Explosives-laden drone <i>targets</i> US forces at Iraq's Erbil airport	العراق.. قصف صاروخي على قاعدة التحالف في مطار أربيل BT: <i>Iraq: missiles shells on the coalition base at Erbil airport.</i>