

The Analysis of Grammatical Shift in English-Arabic Translation of BBC Media News Text

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Abstract

The challenging issues with reference to translation shifts as one aspect for an adequate translation have been widely studied. However, the present study investigates the grammatical shifts issues within media translation settings, since “most readers are probably unaware of the role played by translation in international news reporting” (Schäffner and Bassnett, 2010: 2). Accordingly, this study attempts to determine the types of the grammatical shifts between English as a source language (SL) and Arabic as a target language (TL) realized when translating English media news into Arabic. Furthermore, it examines the quality of the source text message after applying the grammatical shifts. To attain the research objectives, Catford’s notion on Translation Shifts (1965) is employed. The research corpus is a raw data consists of 40 English written news texts and their Arabic correspondences which are collected from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) channel website. The findings show that optional and obligatory shifts have been applied. It also finds that BBC translators applied all types of shift in their translations from English into Arabic. Generally, translators of BBC News from English into Arabic applied all types of shift to preserve the meaning of the source text and to sustain its quality of the message. Nevertheless, the findings suggest that BBC translators failed to sustain the meaning and the quality of the message when they applied structural shifts of sentence structure from passive voice into active voice and in some cases of unit-shifts.

Keywords: media news translation, BBC, grammatical shifts, translation, media news, English, Arabic, .

1. Introduction

Before 1950s, linguists were investigating only the meaning and the equivalence in a translation between two languages (Hodges, 2009). However, linguists' perspective toward translation through a linguistic approach analysis has been changed since the 50s and 60s of the nineteenth century (ibid). Many linguists such as Jean Vinay and Jean-Paul Darbelnet (1958), Eugene Nida (1964), Peter Newmark (1993), Roman Jakobson (1959), Werner Koller (1979), van Leuven-Zwart (1991) and John Catford (1965) shed light on shifts in translation in their works and studies. Moreover, the term used by linguists (such as Vinay & Darbelent, (1958), Nida (1964) and Newmark, (1993)) to study shifts in translation was 'transposition' and then the term 'translation shifts' has appeared for the first time in Catford's work in 1965 (Hatim & Munday, 2004). Moreover, a translator should have a certain amount of lexical and grammatical features knowledge of both source and target languages in order to be able to convey the message in a specific context. However, there are some translation difficulties due to the structural differences between the source language (thereinafter: SL) and the target language (thereinafter: TL). Moreover, according to Baker (1992), these differences between the SL and the TL often end in some changes (shifts) in the message content during the process of translation. These changes might rise with adding information to the target text (thereinafter: TT) which does not exist in the source text (thereinafter: ST) as a result of the lack of a grammatical category in the SL in the time that the TL has it. Thus, Hatim and Mason (1990) figured out that the lack of a grammatical category either in the TL grammatical system or in the SL grammatical system, would affect the translator's decision and, therefore, shifts would occur.

Catford has a remarkable work in distinguishing between formal correspondence and textual equivalence in translation of a source language into a target language. To Catford, a formal correspondence is a category of the TL (such as an element of structure, unit, etc.) which fills in almost the same place and function in the TL which the SL category serves in the SL. However, a textual equivalence is a TL text or a part of a text is seen in a specific occasion and it is considered as an equivalent to a given SL text or a part of a text. Hence, it is noticed that a textual equivalent is assigned to a specific ST-TT pair, while a formal correspondent is a general system-based concept roles between any pair of languages.

Consequently, translation shifts said to occur when the two concepts differ (Munday, 2008). Thus, Catford defined translation shifts as ‘departure from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL’ (Catford, 1965: 73). Moreover, ‘translation shifts are small linguistic changes occurring in translation of ST to TT’ (Munday, 2008: 55). Furthermore, translation shifts were the subject of study in Czech works. Levý (1969), for example, argued that in translation some text features categories have to be preserved such as connotation, syntax, sound repetition, stylistic arrangement and denotative meaning in order to achieve an equivalent translation. Miko (1970) discussed the shifts of expression and style and he stated that translators’ main goal is to preserve the style and the expressive character of the ST. Thus, he suggested a stylistic analysis within classification such as subjectivity, affectation, iconicity, operativity, prominence and contrast. Popovič stated that “an analysis of the shifts of expression, applied to all levels of the text, will bring to light the general system of the translation, with its dominate and subordinate elements” (Popovič, 1970: 85). Accordingly, Popovič work stressed on the importance of expression shifts concept in translation which also considers as a significant development in the field of translation shifts. Shift analysis in chapter 7 of Popovič (1970) is a way of affecting the norms system which roles the translation process. Hence, the purpose of the analysis of translation shifts is to “describe the phenomenon of translation by analysing and classifying the changes that can be observed by comparing ST-TT pairs” (Munday, 2008: 63).

Nevertheless, Toury (1995) introduced a new methodology in descriptive translation studies (DTS). Analysis shift is one aspect of his methodology which compares the ST and the TT to point out the relationships between the pairs of the ST and TT segments.

Aoudi (2001) studied the ‘correct translation’ between English and Arabic stating the equivalent translation of the source text in different grammatical aspects and settings. He stressed on the importance of accurate shift to avoid problems such as the issue of translation of the United Nation resolution number 242.

Meanwhile, Montgomery (2007) argued that only few studies discussed media news from a linguistic approach. He pointed out that news production organizations adjust the news to be compatible with the audience interest. Montgomery encouraged the news audience

to understand how the news production works as an order of discourse in order to examine the truth validity of broadcast news.

Arfanti (2011) found that shifts occur at the category type are more than the ones at the level type when the Indonesian Tempo magazine was translated into the English version. She concluded that translation of the Indonesian version of Tempo magazine into the English version tends to use more equivalent translation than shift.

Kadhim (2008) explained that shifts between English and Arabic occur due to the grammatical facts that Arabic has no correspondent tense for the English present perfect, the translators' tendency to sustain the Arabic text style, Arabic has no correspondent tense for the English past continues, English noun determiner/phrases phrases usually change in Arabic and their syntactic styles, in translating English ST into Arabic TT, there is a tendency in shifting from a definite determiner phrase to an indefinite and an indefinite determiner phrases of the ST is preserved as an indefinite determiner phrase in the TT, and modals in English are expressed separately in words; however, in Arabic they are attached as a prefix to the main verb.

Becher (2011) argued that translators shift by adding and omitting connectives due to the following five reasons: (1) agree with specific limitations of the target language system, (2) use detailed features of the target language system, (3) show stylistically marked means of expression, (4) adjust the cohesion of the target text, and (5) realize the communicative norms of the target language public.

Nevertheless, Djamila (2010) argued that the different types of shifts occurred in translating Arabic text into English by master degree students of English affected the meaning of the overall text and understanding. She also figured out that master degree students of English are not aware of the phenomenon shifts in translation.

Khorshidi (2010) argued that structural shifts took place in everywhere within the target texts. However, he stated that unit shifts occur seldom in the Persian translation of the English novel Oliver Twist. Yet, intra-system shifts are claimed to take place frequently in the Persian translation. Furthermore, the researcher argued that intra-system shifts and structure shifts are obligatory shifts due to the differences between Persian and English which

requires change in the style of the target texts. Nevertheless, Khorshidi found that unit and class shifts are optional shifts in translation between English and Persian in the sense that the translator has the choice among two or more items. Accordingly, unit and class shifts determine translation whether covert or overt, free or literal, semantic or communicative. Further, he suggested translators to pay more attention for the sentence structure in translation between English and Persian in order to sustain the text structure. Khorshidi concluded that the more translators apply 'unit shifts', the more translation become 'free'.

However, Farrokh (2011) argued that the addition of the conjunctive Persian word 'ke' is considered as structure shift. She explained that unit shifts in some cases occur due to the fact that Persian and English differ in some points and meet in some others, for example the English phrase 'the fish' is translated into a Persian word 'mahi' without any definite article. Yet, translators translated the English adjectives into the Persian nouns which classified as 'a class shift' meanwhile; they translate the English plural nouns into the Persian singular noun which considered as 'an intra-system shift'. Farrokh concluded that translation shifts reflect the awareness and tendency of translators toward a naturalness translation between the source text and the target text.

Kadhim and Kader (2011) stated that due to the sentence structure differences between English and Arabic, there are many cases in which the translators shifted from Theme-Rheme in the SL into Rheme-Theme in the TT. They also argued that translators preserved the Arabic style in which they respected the semantics, syntax and style of Arabic in translating English BBC political news. Kadhim and Kader claimed that the translators sustained the general meaning of the texts and the quality of the message.

In another setting, Pad'ó and Erk (2010) argued that semantic shifts took place in only 3% of the research data in English-German translation. Yet, the findings show that the translators failed in most cases to produce a proper translation shifts which result of a high number of mismatches between the source language text and the target language text with many annotation errors.

Furthermore, Vossoughi and Pourebrahim (2010) explained that the findings which the study reached indicated the Iranian translators addiction toward the vast use of category shifts

compared to level shifts. Translators tended to use structural shifts among the other category shifts which might be a result of the differences in structure between Farsi and English.

Al-Khafaji (2006) figured out that in English-Arabic translation, the Arabic text contains 97 lexical repetition chains. However, the English texts contains shifts under the following categories: (1) Synonymy shifts, (2) Deletion shifts, (3) Paraphrasal shifts, (4) Partial lexical repetition (variation), (5) Expanding ST repeated word(s), (6) Shifting by pronominalization, (7) Adding extra repetition(s), (8) Shifting by substitute words, and (9) Nominalization shifts. The researcher categorized the 9 types of shifts found in the English text into 3 groups: (1) Avoiding/minimizing lexical repetition, (2) Retaining it, but with some modification/alteration and (3) Emphasizing it by extension/expansion. He argued that the translator's decision is controlled by two poles: the 'adequacy' of the SL and the TL 'acceptability' (i.e. the TL culture). His findings suggested that the TL culture and norms (i.e. acceptability) play a decisive role in the translator's decision on all translation shifts types made.

2. Research Data

A collection of written texts applied in a linguistic research aiming to investigate their structures and frequencies is called a corpus. Baker (1995) defined the word 'corpus' as any collections of writings. Moreover, Baker (1995) categorized corpora in translation into three categories; (1) parallel corpora which contains both the SL text and its TL text, (2) multilingual corpora which refers to a set consists of two or more monolingual corpora, and (3) comparable corpora which is something between parallel corpora and multilingual corpora. The corpus of the current study is worked out to meet the research objectives. Thus, the current research corpus is a parallel corpus based on Baker's classification. It is also a raw data consists of 40 English written news texts and their Arabic correspondent ones which are collected over the year 2012 from BBC channel website i.e. the English edition and the Arabic edition. The English texts are the source text (ST) and the Arabic texts are the target text (TT). The English version link is <http://www.bbc.com/news> , and the Arabic is: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic>.

3. Catford's Theory

Catford's theory on translation shifts argued that shifts take place at both grammatical and lexical levels and therefore their examination is pursued within or beyond the sentence boundaries as a higher rank. His framework of shifts is limited to textual equivalence. Thus, Catford's theory of shifts was built upon the idea that some translation has no formal correspondence between two languages code systems. And then textual equivalents are the utterances of translation between source text and target text.

3.1 Formal Correspondence

Catford defined formal correspondence as items in the target text which fill in the same, as nearly as possible, functions of the source language texts items. He stated that formal correspondence is "any TL category which can be said to occupy, as nearly as possible, the 'same' place in the 'economy' of the TL as the given SL category occupies in the SL" (Catford, 1965: 32). Further, Catford argued that formal correspondence is build between two languages since both languages texts function at the same grammatical untis such as morphem, word, group, clause, sentence. Hereinafter an example presents a formal correspondence between English as a source language and French as a target language at all ranks:

English SL text: I've left my keys on the table.

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

French TL text: j' ai laissé mes clés sur la table.

Accordingly, formal correspondence aims to cover the form and the content of the sorce text in the target text as much as possible. Hence, in translation process, translators have to reproduce various formal items such as the meanings in terms of the source context, consistency in word usage, and grammatical units. The reproduction process at the lexical and grammatical levels contains (1) preserveing all phrases and sentences intact, i.e. preserve the units' format and structure, and (2) translating verbs by verbs, nouns by nouns, etc. In such translation, the segments are usually numbered and the wording is almost literal thus the corresponding units can be easily compared.

However, Catford argued that in many other examples formal correspondence is not easily to be acheived due to the differences between languages linguistic systems and then

some elements of the source text can not be reproduce in the target text. Therefore, translators tend to produce a textual equivalence in translation between two languages.

Additionally, since some langauges follow the sentence structure SVO and some others follow VSO and others structure, Hatim and Mundy (2004) stated that textual equivalence within translation notion is unavoidable and translators shoud make changes in translation due to the fact that there is no typical linguistic system between langauges.

3.2 Textual Equivalence

According to the Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (2000), equivalence is “the condition of being equal or equivalent value and function”. Moreover, the Dictionary of Translation Studies (1997) stated that equivalence in translation employed “to describe the nature and extent of the relationships which exist between SL and target TL texts or smaller linguistic units” (ibid: 49). So equivalence in translation means that one element (linguistic unit) of the source text is translated into another element in the target text yet they share the same meaning.

Catford (1965) argued that the notion textual equivalence means “any TL text or portion of text which is observed on a particular occasion to be the equivalent of a given SL text or portion of text” (ibid: 27). It is said that in normal translation, the target text maintains chunks of the source text elements (linguistic units).

Hereinafter, we use the same example in the above section to clarify the notion textual equivalence but this time between English as a source text and Arabic as a target text:

English SL text: (I have left) (my keys) (on) (the table).



Arabic TL text: تركت مفاتيحي على الطاولة

The example above shows that the English SL text consists of 8 words and the Arabic TL text consists of 4 words only; however, both the SL and the TL have the same meaning. The English SL text sentence structure is SVO and the Arabic TL text sentence structure is VSO. It is noticed that in the English SL text, the subject is overt yet it is covert in the

Arabic TL text (implicit: understood through the context of the verb). And then, the morphemes ‘my’ in ‘my keys’ and the definite article ‘the’ in ‘the table’ in the English SL text are attached to the nouns ‘مفاتيحي’ and ‘الطاوله’ in the Arabic TL text respectively. Therefore, the Arabic TL text ‘تركت مفاتيحي على الطاوله’ is said to be the formal equivalence of the English SL text ‘I have left my keys on the table’.

Furthermore, Catford (1965) assigned chapter 12 to elaborate his work on ‘formal equivalence’. He classified formal equivalence into two main categories; namely, (1) level shifts and (2) category shifts. He also classified category shifts into 4 types: (a) structure shifts, (b) class shifts, (c) intra-system shifts and (d) unit shifts.

3.2.1 Level Shifts

This type of shift occurs when an SL item has an equal TL translation by which differences at the linguistic level emerge. Catford points out that the only possible shifts in translation are from grammar to lexis, or vice versa. In other words, level shift is a shift occurs when an utterance can be presented by grammar in a language and by lexis in another.

3.2.2 Category Shifts

In Catford’s definition to category shift, he referred to two types of translation, namely, unbounded translation and rank-bound translation. The first refers to a type of translation in which the translator is free to translate an SL grammatical unit of a certain size by a TL equivalent of a different size. Rank-bound translation refers to Special cases where equivalence is deliberately limited to ranks, thus leading to bad translation (Catford, 1965). In rank-bound translation; an equivalent is sought in the TL: for each word or for each morpheme encountered in the ST. Category shifts are divided into four types: structure, class, unit, and intra-system shifts.

3.2.2.1 Structure-shifts

Languages express a noticeable amount of differences in two axes: (1) the existance of the structure type in two languages and (2) the realization of a structure which similar

between these languages. Moreover, in the sentence structures, the agreement between the head of the sentence and its modifiers is an observed case in some languages. For example, the agreement of number and gender in between noun and adjective in the Arabic nominal sentence. Yet, in English sentence structure; there is no restrictions of agreement between noun and adjective but between articles and nouns. Therefore, structure shifts in translation realize in such cases. Furthermore, Catford (1965) looked at structure shifts as the most common type of shifts may take place at all ranks.

3.2.2.2 Class-shifts

Class is defined as the items which have or similarly have the same function and, can be said, they form a group of unit. It is a shift in which one of the SL parts of speech is changed to another in the TL. In other words, class shifts take place when the target text has an equivalence item to the source language text but from different class. Class shifts take place from noun to adjective, verb to noun, and adjective to verb.

3.2.2.3 Unit-shifts

It is a shift in that the SL rank is translated to another in the TL under consideration of translation equivalence. The word 'rank' in this case refers to the linguistic units (e.g. morpheme, word, group, clause and sentence) which are arranged in layers according to rank.

3.2.2.4 Intra-system shifts

This type of shifts occurs when two languages have almost the same corresponding systems; however, the TL text contains a non-corresponding term of the SL. In other words, intra-system shifts are changes occur within a language system. Intra-system shifts take place when a change occurs at the language's number, deixis, articles, etc. e.g. when a singular noun is translated into a plural noun.

4. Data Analysis

We have discussed translation shifts types based on Catford's (1965) on the previous section as follows: Level shifts, Structure-shifts, Class-shifts, Unit-shifts and Intra-system shifts. Now, we will follow the same ordering in our analysis of shifts.

4.1 Level Shifts

Only one type of level shifts was detected in the BBC translation; it is a shift from grammar (determiners, quantifiers, and pronouns) into lexis (nouns). This shift is illustrated in the following examples:

Text 1

ST: His wife, Graca Machel, and President Zuma visited **him** on Christmas Day and said he was in good spirits.

TT: وزارت غراسا ماشيل زوجة مانديلا مصحوبة برئيس جنوب أفريقيا الحالي، جاكوب زوما، مانديلا في المستشفى يوم عيد الميلاد (الكريسماس) إذ قال إنه يتمتع بمعنويات عالية.

Transliteration: wezarat ghrasa mashel zawjat **mandella** mashooba ber'ees janoub afriqia alhaly, jakob zooma, **mandella** fi almostashfa yawm eed almeelad (alkresmas) eth qala enaho ytamata' bimanaweyat aaliya.

Back translation: And Graca Machel, **Mandela's** wife, accompanied by the current President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, visited **Mandela** in hospital on Christmas Day (Christmas), as they said that he has high spirits.

In the above example, there are two level shifts from grammar to lexis in the same sentence. In the time that English avoids repetition, Arabic considers repetition as a part of its rhetorical style. Therefore, the two singular pronouns 'his' which refers to a man who has already been mentioned or is easily identified and 'him' which used as the object of a verb after the verb to refer to a male person that has already been mentioned or is easily identified, they refer to 'Mandela'. The pronoun 'his' in 'his wife' in the English ST was translated into the Arabic TT 'مانديلا' (**mandella/Mandela**) in 'زوجة مانديلا' (**zawjat mandella/ Mandela's wife**). Moreover, the English ST pronoun 'him' in 'visited him' was translated into the Arabic TT 'وزارت مانديلا' (**wezarat mandella/visited Mandela**). Consequently, the translator applied two level shifts changing and replacing the two ST pronouns by two nouns in the TT. These shifts are optional and can be avoided by the translator yet the translator see that

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Mandela should be emphasized and echoed in every part of the text to show that the message of the whole text is about Mandela. In terms of meaning, the meaning of the English BBC source text is sustained in the Arabic BBC target text as Graca Machel is Mandela's wife and she visited Mandela.

Text 2

ST: It currently advises against using social media to make the service aware of fires as it is not monitored 24 hours a day.

TT: وحاليا تطالب المطافي وخدمات الطوارئ المواطنين بالامتناع عن استخدام مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي للابلاغ عن الحوادث لانها لا تخضع للمراقبة 24 ساعة.

Transliteration: w halian totalib **almatafi wa khdamat almwatnin** balmtnaa an astkhdam moqea altwasol alegtmaai llablaa an alhawadeth lanha la tkhdaa llmoraqaba 24 saaa

Back translation: And currently **the fire brigade and the emergency services** ask the citizen to withhold use the social networking for informing about accidents because it does not follow 24 hours monitoring.

In the above example, the structural changes in both languages refer to a level shift as indicated by Catford (1965). The English grammar singular pronoun 'It' which used to refer to a thing that has already been mentioned or that is being talked about now was translated into Arabic by the two lexical cohesive nouns 'المطافي وخدمات الطوارئ'. These nouns are 'al matafae' (the extinguisher) which a plural and 'wa khadamat al tawara' (and the emergency services); the lexical noun 'khadamat' (services) is translated into plural as well. Unlike the English ST, the pronoun 'it' indicates indirectly المطافي وخدمات الطوارئ (the extinguishers and the emergency services). This is because English does not recommend repetition yet Arabic seems more likely to repeat the subjects. In terms of meaning, the word 'it' which refers to 'The London Fire Brigade' in the English ST has extended into two subjects in the Arabic TT which are المطافي وخدمات الطوارئ (the extinguishers and the emergency services). Therefore, the English BBC source text meaning was extended in the Arabic BBC target text meaning which, this change, leads to a partially sustained message.

Finally, it is noticed that the level shifts which the translators of BBC committed are all optional shifts yet they are necessary to preserve the meaning and the quality of the message and to meet the English ST style with the Arabic TT style. However, there is a case in which the translators of BBC extended the meaning and hence affecting the quality of the

message partially as in Text 3.1. Moreover, the above are selected examples to represent the level-shifts in the current research data which are 40 selected texts from BBC English and their correspondences from BBC Arabic based on Catford's (1965). Consequently, the same analysis of level shift can be applied to the detected texts which have a shift from grammar into lexis. It is noticed as well that there is no single level shift in the data of the current study from lexis into grammar. We can explain that by stating that English seems has less interest in repeating the nouns/subjects and it has more interest in replacing them with pronouns, determiners and quantifiers. However, Arabic seems to consider repeating nouns/subjects as a rhetoric.

4.2 Structure-shifts

Structure-shifts, based on Catford's classifications, are the most frequent shifts may occur at all ranks. Structure-shifts occur between the ST and the TT under the assumption that there is a formal correspondence between the English BBC ST and the Arabic BBC TT. Shifts of agent, verb tense and word-order (including active-passive case) in Arabic are seen as structure-shifts.

4.2.1 Shift of agent

Text 3

ST: Because **the US election** is a state-by-state contest, a presidential candidate must win key battlegrounds like Ohio, Virginia and Florida, which do not reliably vote for either party. No Republican has ever won the White House without taking Ohio.

TT: ولأن المعركة الانتخابية في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية هي منافسة بين المرشحين للفوز بتأييد الولايات، لذا على المرشح للرئاسة الأمريكية العمل على الفوز بولايات لها ثقلها السياسي مثل: أوهايو وفرجينيا وفلوريدا.

Transliteration: w la'an alma'raka alentikhabeya fi alwelayat almotahedda alamreekeya heya monafassa bayna almorashaheen lelfawr bita'yeed alwelayaat, letha 'ala almorashah lele'aasa alamreekeya ala'mal 'ala alfawz biwelayaat laha theqalaha aleyasi methl ohaio w ferginia w florida.

Back translation: And because **the electoral battle in the United States of America** is a competition among the candidates to win the states support, so the candidate for the U.S. presidency has to work to win states have political weight such as: Ohio, Virginia and Florida.

In the above example, a shift of agent took place when the English BBC source text was translated into the Arabic BBC target text. Since the English BBC ST is the formal

correspondence of the Arabic BBC TT, the ST nominal phrase ‘**the US election**’ is the textual equivalence of the TT nominal phrase ‘المعركة الانتخابية في الولايات المتحدة الامريكية’ (alma’raka alentikhabeya fi alwelayat almotahedda alamreekeya/ **the electoral battle in the United States of America**). In the nominal phrase of the English ST ‘**the US election**’, ‘**the US**’ is the modifier of the head ‘**election**’; however, in the nominal phrase of the Arabic TT ‘المعركة الانتخابية في الولايات المتحدة الامريكية’ (alma’raka alentikhabeya fi alwelayat almotahedda alamreekeya/ **the electoral battle in the United States of America**), ‘المعركة الانتخابية’ (alma’raka alentikhabeya/ **the electoral battle**) is the modifier of the head ‘الولايات المتحدة الامريكية’ (alwelayat almotahedda alamreekeya/ **the United States of America**). Since modifiers modify the meaning of the phrase head, the meaning of the text is changed due to the shift of agent took place when the English BBC ST ‘**the US election**’ translated into the Arabic BBC TT ‘المعركة الانتخابية في الولايات المتحدة الامريكية’ (alma’raka alentikhabeya fi alwelayat almotahedda alamreekeya/ **the electoral battle in the United States of America**). The meaning of the ST indicates that the election is American yet the meaning of the TT indicates that the election is in the US but it is necessary to be American. Accordingly, the quality of the original message is partially distorted in the TT.

Finally, it is noticed that the agent shifts occurred in the current research data are mostly optional shifts yet there are cases in which the translators of BBC had to shift. The overall meaning of the texts after applying structural shifts of agent is partially distorted. Although BBC news translators of English into Arabic preserved the Arabic style of news, they committed optional shifts changed the source texts meaning these shifts would be avoided. Moreover, the above are selected examples to illustrate the shift of agent in the current research data which are 40 selected texts from BBC English and their correspondences from BBC Arabic based on Catford’s (1965). Consequently, the same analysis of structural shift of agent can be applied to the detected texts. BBC news translators were not successful in applying structural shifts of agent in most cases since these shifts change the meaning of the original message and then affect the quality of the message.

4.2.2 Shift of Verb Tense

In the current research data, we have detected types of structural shifts of tense. Therefore, the following two examples represent the structural shifts of tense found in the present study:

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Text 4

ST: "I need someone to give me psychological care. Maybe we'll **be involved** in crimes because there is nothing good in our future," he says.

TT: "ويقول "اني بحاجة الى علاج نفسي، قد **نتحول** كلنا الى مجرمين لأن مستقبلنا يفتقر الى اي شيء جيد ."

Transliteration: w yaqoul "eny behaja ela 'elaj nafsy, qad **natahawal** kolana ela mojreemeen la'an mostaqblona yaftaqer ela ay shay' jayed.

Back translation: He says, "I need psychological treatment, we may all **change** to criminals because our future lacks any good thing."

A shift of tense occurred in the above example under the assumption that the Arabic BBC news are the textual equivalence of the English BBC news. The English BBC predicate '**ll be involved**' was translated into the Arabic BBC predicate '**نتحول**' (**natahawal, change**). Therefore, the English future tense in the passive voice '**ll be involved**' matches the Arabic present simple tense in the active voice '**نتحول**' (**natahawal, change**). Since Arabic considers future tense as a part of present tense, it is possible to translate the English future into the present simple as in text 18.2 with or without 'سـ / سوف'. However, Ghazala (2008) suggested other possibilities for future past, progressive and perfect. Consequently, BBC translators succeeded in preserving the meaning of the English ST in the Arabic TT. Thus, the English ST message is sustained in the Arabic TT message. And then the readers of the Arabic news will receive the same idea expressed in the ST regarding the verb tense. Nevertheless, the change from passive voice into active voice leads to a change in meaning and message which will be discussed in the following section when we analyze the news sentence structure.

Text 5

ST: Julian Assange **has predicted** that he **will remain** inside an embassy in London for "six to 12 months".

TT: توقع جوليان أسانج أن يبقى حبيس سفارة الاكوادور في لندن لمدة تتراوح بين ستة أشهر إلى 12 شهراً.

Transliteration: tawaqa' jolian asang an **yabqa** habees safarat alekowadour fi landan lemoda tatarawah bayna setat ashhor ela 12 shahr.

Back translation: Julian Assange **predicted** that he **remains** prisoner at the Embassy of Ecuador in London for a period ranging from six months to 12 months.

There are two shifts of tense in the above example under the assumption that both English and Arabic BBC news are in formal correspondence. The two obligatory shifts

occurred when the English BBC predicates ‘**has predicted**’ and ‘**will remain**’ are translated into the Arabic BBC predicated ‘توقع’ (**tawaqa**, **predicted**) and ‘يبقى’ (**yabqa**, **remains**) . The present perfect tense of the English BBC news predicate ‘**has predicted**’ was translated into the past simple of the Arabic BBC news predicate ‘توقع’ (**tawaqa**, **predicted**). Since Arabic has no tense-to-tense equivalence of the English present perfect tense, Ghazala (2008) suggested that the English present perfect tense to be translated into the Arabic past simple with or without ‘قد’. Moreover, the future tense of the English BBC news predicate ‘**will remain**’ was translated into the present simple of the Arabic BBC new predicate ‘يبقى’ (**yabqa**, **remains**). This shift took place in the TT due to the non-existence of future tense in Arabic. Yet, it is suggested to translate the English future tense into the Arabic present simple with or without ‘سوف/سوف’. Therefore, the current example presents successful translation shifts of tense since the indication and meaning of the English news verb tense is preserved in the Arabic news verb tense. Thus, we can conclude that the English ST message is sustained in the Arabic TT message.

Finally, it is noticed that the tense shifts occurred in the current research data are mostly optional shifts yet there are cases in which the translators of BBC had to shift. The overall meaning of the texts after applying structural shifts of tense is partially distorted. Although BBC news translators of English into Arabic preserved the Arabic style of news reporting, they committed optional shifts changed the source texts meaning these shifts would be avoided. Moreover, the above are selected examples to illustrate the shift of tense in the current research data which are 40 selected texts from BBC English and their correspondences from BBC Arabic based on Catford’s (1965). Consequently, the same analyses of structural shift of tense can be applied to the detected texts. BBC news translators were not successful in applying structural shifts of tense in most optional cases since these shifts change the meaning of the original message and then affect the quality of the message. However, they succeeded in applying structural shifts of tense in case of obligatory shifts.

4.2.3 Shift of Sentence Structure

The detected shifts of sentence structure are sub-classified into two types: shift from passive voice into active voice and vice versa and shift from SVO word order of English into VSO and SC (nominal case) word order of Arabic.

Text 6

ST: "Palestine is for all of us, we are partners in this nation. Hamas cannot do without Fatah or Fatah without Hamas, or any movement," he said.

TT: "فلسطين لنا جميعا. نحن شركاء في هذه الأمة. لا يمكن لحماس ان تفعل شيئا دون فتح، كما لا يمكن لفتح أن تفعل " شيئا دون حماس"

Transliteration: falasteen Ina jmee'an. Nahno shorakaa' fi hazehe alomma. La yomken lhamas an taf'al shay'aan doun fateh. Kma la yomken lfateh an taf'al shay'aan doun hamas.

Back translation: "Palestine (is) for all of us. We (are) partners in this nation. Hamas cannot do anything without Fatah, Fatah also cannot do anything without Hamas".

The current example represents a shift of sentence structure when the English BBC news were translated into the Arabic BBC news. The verbal sentences of English BBC 'Palestine is for all of us' and 'we are partners in this nation' are in a formal correspondence with the nominal sentences of Arabic BBC 'فلسطين لنا جميعا' (Falasteen Ina jmee'an, Palestine (is) for all of us) and 'نحن شركاء في هذه الأمة' (Nahno shorakaa' fi hazehe alomma, We (are) partners in this nation). Since English is a verbal sentence language and Arabic is a nominal-verbal sentence language, English verbal sentence is possible to be translated into an Arabic nominal sentence or an Arabic verbal sentence. The English verbal sentences 'Palestine is for all of us' and 'we are partners in this nation' have the word-order: S+V+O/C however the Arabic nominal sentences 'فلسطين لنا جميعا' (Falasteen Ina jmee'an, Palestine (is) for all of us) and 'نحن شركاء في هذه الأمة' (Nahno shorakaa' fi hazehe alomma, We (are) partners in this nation) have the word-order: Topic+Comment. Therefore, the English BBC news verbal sentences were shifted into the Arabic BBC news nominal sentences. It is noticed that these optional shifts preserved the meaning of the English ST in the Arabic TT. And then the message of the English BBC news ST is sustained in the message of the Arabic BBC news TT. This finding agrees with Ghazala (2008) suggestion of translating English verb (be) in present simple tense into the Arabic nominal sentence by deleting it completely.

Text 7

ST: "I need someone to give me psychological care. Maybe we'll be involved in crimes because there is nothing good in our future," he says.

TT: "ويقول "اني بحاجة الى علاج نفسي، قد نتحول كلنا الى مجرمين لأن مستقبلنا يفتقر الى اي شيء جيد"

Transliteration: w yaqoul “eny behaja ela ‘elaj nafsy, **qad natahawal kolana ela mojreem** la’an mostaqblona yaftaqer ela ay shay’ jayed.

Back translation: He says, "I need psychological treatment, **we may all become criminals** because our future lacks any good thing."

A shift of sentence structure occurred in the Arabic BBC news text when it was translated from the English BBC news under the assumption that the Arabic BBC news are the textual equivalence of the English BBC news. This optional shift happened when the passive voice of the English BBC news sentence ‘**Maybe we’ll be involved in crimes**’ was translated into the Arabic BBC news active voice ‘**قد نتحول كلنا الى مجرمين**’ (**qad natahawal kolana ela mojreem, we may all become criminals**). The English BBC passive news ‘**Maybe we’ll be involved in crimes**’ indicates that ‘**we**’(children of Iraq) are not involving in crimes by their will yet there are factors/people force them to do so. Nevertheless, the Arabic BBC news ‘**قد نتحول كلنا الى مجرمين**’ (**qad natahawal kolana ela mojreem, we may all become criminals**) indicates that children of Iraq are willing to become criminals and there is no force pushes them to do so. Since passive voice function differently from the active voice, Ghazalah (2008) insisted that English passive voice must be translated into Arabic passive voice. Therefore, the meaning of the news is changes and the message of the English BBC news ST is distorted.

Finally, it is noticed that the sentence structure shifts occurred in the current research data are mostly optional shifts. The meaning of the texts after applying optional structural shifts of verbal-nominal sentence and word-order is sustained. However, the meaning of the Arabic BBC news is distorted after applying optional structural shift of passive-active voice. Although BBC news translators of English into Arabic preserved the Arabic style of news reporting, they committed optional shifts changed the source texts meaning these shifts would be avoided in structural shifts of passive-active. Moreover, the above are selected examples to illustrate the shift in sentence structure of the current research data which are 40 selected texts from BBC English and their correspondences from BBC Arabic based on Catford’s (1965). Consequently, the same analyses can be applied to the detected texts. BBC news translators were not successful in applying optional structural shifts of passive-active cases since these shifts change the meaning of the original message and then affect the quality of the message. However, they succeeded in applying optional structural shifts of word-order and verbal-nominal cases.

4.3 Class-shifts

Text 8

ST: "The president will continue being president beyond 10 January, nobody should have any doubt about that," Mr Cabello said after his election, adding: "We will never **defraud** the people."

TT: وقال كابيللو بعد انتخابه "الرئيس سيظل رئيسا بعد العاشر من يناير، لا ينبغي أن يساور الشك أحدا بهذا الشأن"، "مضيفا" لن نسمح أبدا بخداع الناس."

Transliteration: w qal kabelle b'd entikhabah "alra'ees sayazal ra'esan ba'd ala'sher men ynayer. la yanbaghi an yosawer alshak ahadan bihatha alsha'n" modeefan " lan nasmah abadan **bikheda'** alnaas.

Back translation: Capello said after his election "The President will remain president after 10 January, No one should has doubt in this matter," adding "we will never allow people's **fraud**."

In the above example, there is a shift of class under the assumption that the English BBC news are in formal correspondence with the Arabic BBC news. Therefore, the Arabic BBC news noun 'خداع' (**kheda'**, **fraud**) is the textual equivalence of the English BBC news verb '**defraud**'. This shift of class from a verb to a noun changed the meaning of the original text. The English BBC news indicates that Mr. Cabello and the people who talk on their behalf, they, will never **defraud** the people however the Arabic BBC news indicates that Mr. Cabello and the people who talk on their behalf, they, will not allow anybody to **defraud** the people. Therefore, the optional change of class lead to change of meaning in that the agent of **defraud** in the English BBC news is Mr. Cabello and the people who talk on their behalf yet the agent of **defraud** in the Arabic BBC news is anybody. Consequently, the message of the English BBC news ST is partially distorted.

Text 9

ST: Analysts say a series of gains **by** rebels in the east and north shows their growing military strength, but the Syrian army still possesses vastly superior aerial firepower and has struck back with force.

TT: ويقول محللون إن سلسلة من المكاسب التي **حققتها** المعارضة شمالي البلاد وشرقيها توضح ان قوتهم العسكرية في ازدياد، ولكن القوات الجوية للجيش السوري ما زالت متفوقة بدرجة كبيرة

Transliteration: w yaqoul mohaleloun ena selsela men almaseb allaty **haqaqtoha** almo'arada shmaley albelad w sharqeha towadeh inna qowatahom fi ezdeyad, w laken alqowaat aljaweya leljaysh alsoury ma zalat motafaweqa bedaraja kabeera.

Back translation: Analysts say that a series of gains **achieved** by the opposition in the north and east of the country, shows that their military strength is increasing, but the Air Force of the Syrian army is still quite superior.

A shift of class occurred in the above example when the English BBC news was translated into the Arabic BBC news. The Arabic BBC news verb 'حَقَّقْتَهَا' (**haqaqtoha, achieved**) is in a formal correspondence with the English BBC news preposition 'by'. The English BBC news indicates that 'the set of gains are **by (achieved by)** rebels' moreover the Arabic BBC news indicates that 'the set of gains which the rebels **achieved...**' Therefore, the meaning of the English BBC news is preserved in the Arabic BBC news and then the message of the English BBC news is sustained in the Arabic BBC news. Consequently, we can conclude that translators of BBC succeeded in applying an optional shift of class in this example.

Finally, it is noticed that shifts of class from English BBC news adjectives and nouns to Arabic BBC news nouns are many however; shifts of class from nouns to verbs are found only in text 35.2, 36.1 and 17.2. Similarly, shift of class from an adjective to an adverb is only found in text 18.1, shift of class from an adverb to a noun is found in text 9.2 only and shift of class from a preposition to a verb is found in text 7.3. Moreover, the above are selected examples to draw the shifts in class of the current research data which are 40 selected texts from BBC English and their correspondences from BBC Arabic based on Catford's (1965). Consequently, the same analyses can be applied to the detected texts.

4.4 Unit-shifts

Text 10

ST: "The president will continue being president beyond 10 January, nobody should have any doubt about that," Mr Cabello said after his election, adding: "We will never defraud the people."

TT: وقال كابيللو بعد انتخابه "الرئيس سيظل رئيسا بعد العاشر من يناير، لا ينبغي أن يساور الشك أحدا بهذا الشأن"، "مضيفا" لن نسمح أبدا بخداع الناس."

Transliteration: w qal kabelle b'd entikhabah "alra'ees sayazal ra'esan ba'd ala'sher men ynayer. la yanbaghi an yosawer alshak ahadan bihatha alsha'n" modeefan "lan nasmah abadan bikheda' alnaas.

Back translation: Capello said after his election "The President will remain president after 10 January, No one should has doubt in this matter," adding "we will never allow Deceiving people.

Shifts of unit from a word into a morpheme are many when we translate the English texts into Arabic due to translation of the English word definite article 'the' as a morpheme 'ال' in Arabic. Further, translation of English pronouns into Arabic pronouns considered as a shift of unit from a word into a morpheme. Moreover, the above example illustrates shifts of unit from a word into a morpheme under the assumption that both English and Arabic BBC news texts are in formal correspondence. Therefore, the English BBC news word 'The' in 'The President' is shifted into the Arabic BBC news morpheme as 'ال' in 'الرئيس' (alra'ees, The President'. Furthermore, the English BBC news word 'We' in 'We will never' is translated as a morpheme 'ن' in 'لن نسمح أبدا' in the Arabic BBC news. These morphemes are attached to other lexical words. The shift of the definite article 'the' is obligatory. Although shifting the English word 'we' into a morpheme in Arabic, BBC translators succeeded to apply shifts of unit in the current text and preserving the meaning. Consequently, we can conclude that the quality of the English BBC news ST message has not been affected after applying unit-shifts.

Text 11

ST: "I was targeted because I was exercising my right to defend human rights, which is a right that is stipulated by the Bahraini constitution," he said.

TT: "وقال "استهدفت لأنني كنت امارس حق في الدفاع عن حقوق الانسان، وهو حق يكفله الدستور البحريني"

Transliteration: w qal "estohdeft la'eny kont omares haqey fi aladefa' 'an hoqouq alensaan, w howa haq yokalefoho aldostour albahreeney.

Back translation: He said "I was targeted because I exercise my right to defend human rights, a right which guaranteed by the Bahrain Constitution ."

We have detected two types of unit-shifts in the above example under Catford's assumption that there is a textual equivalence between the English BBC news and the Arabic BBC news. There two types of unit-shifts are a shift from a phrase to a word and a shift from a word to a morpheme. The phrase of the English BBC news 'I was targeted' is shifted into the word of the Arabic BBC news 'استهدفت' (estohdeft, I was targeted). The English pronoun 'I' becomes the Arabic morpheme 'ت' (t). Moreover, the verbal phrase 'was targeted' is embedded in the word 'استهدف' (estohdef, was targeted). However, the English

pronoun 'I' becomes the Arabic morpheme 'ي' which attached to the Arabic 'لأن' (la'n, that), the English pronoun 'my' is shifted into the Arabic morpheme 'ي' which attached to the noun 'حق' (haq, right) and the English definite article 'the' becomes the Arabic morpheme 'ال' which attached to the noun phrase 'الدستور البحريني' (aldostour albahreeny, the Bahrain Constitution). Therefore, we can conclude that BBC translators succeeded in applying shifts of unit in the current text without any change in the English BBC news ST meaning. Hence, the quality of the ST message is sustained.

Finally, it is noticed that shifts of unit from words into phrases, words into morphemes, clauses into words, phrases into words and vice versa occurred when translating English BBC news to Arabic BBC news. It is noticed also that shifts of unit took place in all the news texts due to the grammatical system differences between English and Arabic. Nevertheless, translation of the definite article 'the' is equivalent at the word level but not at the discoursal. Since 'the' in English largely indicates 'identifiability' where its classic role is an anaphoric (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). The definite article 'the' is consistently identified by a reference back in the text. It is a way to realize specificity. The purpose of the definite article is "an unmarked or non-selective referential deictic" (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 74). Therefore the noun it changes has precise referent which is available in the adjacent environment. Opposing to English, Arabic applies the definite article for a generic reference. Moreover, the above are selected examples to draw the shifts in class of the current research data which are 40 selected texts from BBC English and their correspondences from BBC Arabic based on Catford's (1965). Consequently, the same analyses can be applied to the rest of texts.

4.5 Intra-system Shifts

Text 12

ST: But **observers** say there have been signs of warming ties between **the rivals** ahead of **Wednesday's** talks.

TT: ولكن المراقبين يعتقدون أن هناك مؤشرات على تحسن العلاقات بين الحركتين المتنافستين، على موعد مع محادثات يوم الأربعاء.

Transliteration: w laken **almoragebeen** ya'taqedoun ana honak mo'shwerat ala tahason ala'laqat bayn **alharakatain almotanafessatain** ala maw'ed mohadathat yawm **ala'rbe'aa**.

Back translation: but **observers** think that there have been indicators on relations improvement between **the two competitive parties**, waiting next **Wednesday's** talks.

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The above example presents shifts of intra-system under the assumption that Arabic BBC news are the textual equivalence of the English BBC news. In the current text BBC translators applied two types of intra-system shifts: from indefinite noun to definite noun and vice versa and from plural noun to dual noun. The English BBC indefinite noun ‘**observers**’ was translated into the Arabic BBC definite noun ‘المراقبين’ (**almoraqbeen, (the) observers**). The definite article ‘ال’ is attached to the noun ‘مراقبين’. The Arabic definiteness of the noun expresses generic references, thus the meaning is sustained. Moreover, Arabic names of weekdays are defined with ‘ال’ (al, the) yet English ones have no definite article. Hence the shift of intra-system from indefinite noun ‘**Wednesday**’ to the Arabic definite noun ‘الأربعاء’ (**al’rbe’aa**) preserves the meaning of the English ST. However, the intra-system shift from plural noun ‘**the rivals**’ to ‘الحركتين المتنافستين’ (**alharakatain almotanafessatain, the two competitive parties**) succeeded to preserve the meaning of the English ST whereas Arabic distinguish between plural case and dual case yet English does not. Therefore, we can conclude that BBC translators from English news to Arabic preserve the meaning and sustain the quality of the ST message.

Text 13

ST: Venezuela's **National Assembly** has met to choose its leader, a possible stand-in for **President** Hugo Chavez who is in Cuba following cancer surgery.

TT: انعقدت الجمعية الوطنية (البرلمان) في فنزويلا لاختيار رئيسا لها، قد يحل محل الرئيس هوغو تشافيز الذي مازال يخضع للعلاج في كوبا بعد عملية استئصال لسرطان.

Transliteration: ina’qadat aljam’ya alwataniya (albarlaman) fi finzwella l’khtiyar r’yeesan lha. qd yhl alr’ees hogo tshafeez allazy ma zal yakhda’ lel’elaj fi kooba ba’d ‘amaliya este’sal l’saratan.

Back translation: The **National Assembly (Parliament)** met in Venezuela to choose its chairman, may replace **President** Hugo Chavez, who is still undergoing treatment in Cuba after a mastectomy for cancer.

A shift of intra-system from indefinite nouns into definite nouns occurred when the English BBC news was translated into the Arabic BBC news. The English BBC indefinite nouns ‘**National Assembly**’ in ‘Venezuela's **National Assembly**’ becomes the Arabic BBC definite nouns ‘الجمعية الوطنية (البرلمان)’ (**aljam’ya alwataniya (albarlaman), The National Assembly (The Parliament)**). This shift took place because the noun phrase ‘**National Assembly**’ is defined by ‘**Venezuela**’. However, the English BBC indefinite noun ‘**President**’ in ‘**President** Hugo Chavez’ has no definite article ‘the’ yet the Arabic BBC

equivelant 'الرئيس' (alr'ees, the President) has 'ال' (al). The English noun 'President' is defined by 'Hugo Chavez' yet the Arabic noun 'رئيس' (r'ees) is defined by 'the'. BBC translators shift the indifinite noun 'President' into the definite noun 'الرئيس' (alr'ees, the President) to preserve the meaning of the English ST since the Arabic TT without the definite article 'ال' (al) indicates that there is someone who is the president of Hugo Chavez. Therefore, the meaning of the English BBC news ST is preserved in the Arabic BBC news TT after applying intra-system shift from indefinite nouns by 'the' into definite nouns. Accordingly, the quality of the ST message is sustained.

Finally, It is noticed that the English style of reporting generic reference uses singular and indefinite noun; however, Arabic style of reporting generic reference uses plural and definite noun. Consequently, we can conclude that BBC translators applied intra-system shifts in the current text in order to preserve the meaning of the English ST and the style of the Arabic TT and then to sustain the quality of the English ST message.

Conculsion

The present paper presented an analysis of grammatical shifts occur within media news text. It analyzed the research corpus in two axes (1) the types of translation shifts occur in the process of translating BBC English news into Arabic, and (2) the quality of the target text message after the linguistic shift occurred in light of Catford's notion on Translation Shift (1965). The research data is 40 selected texts from the English and Arabic versions of BBC news published from January 2012 until January 2013. The findings suggest that translators of BBC news from English to Arabic apply all types of shift based on Catford's (1965) classification. BBC translators succeed in preserving the meaning of the source text and sustaining its quality of the message. However, the application of sentence structure shifts from passive voice into active voice provides a change of the news source language meaning and message.

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