Literary Translation

الترجمة الادبية

University of Mustansiriyah

College of Arts

Translation Department

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4th stage/ Morning and Evening classes

Lecture 2: Prose Translation

- Figurative Language

Let us assume that your brother has come in out of a rainy day and you say to him, "Well, you are a **pretty sight**, Got **slightly wet**", and he replies, "Wet? I'm **drowned**! **It's raining cats and dogs**."

If you examine the conversation literally you will find that it is nonsense:

Pretty sight

Slightly wet

Drowned

Raining cats and dogs

You didn't mean that your brother is a pretty sight but that he was a wretched sight. He is not slightly wet but very wet. Your brother did not mean that he is actually got drowned but he got drenched. It was not raining cats and dogs; it was raining water heavily.

From this simple conversation we will all be surprised to know that we speak figuratively every day. Broadly defined, a figure of speech is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way. Figurative language uses figures of speech that cannot be taken literally only. Figures like metaphor and simile which both are used as a means of comparing things that are essentially unlike. The only distinction between them is that in simile the comparison is expressed by the use of "like", "as", "similar to", "resembles", or "seems"; in metaphor the comparison is implied – that is, the figurative term is substituted for or identified with the literal term.

*On the mountain of truth**you can never climb in*

*vain; either you will reach a point higher up today,*

*or you will be training your power so that you*

*will be able to climb higher.*

- Nietzche

*لا تستطيع أن تتسلق عبثا نحو جبل الحقيقة, إما أن تصل لنقطة أعلى اليوم أو يمكنك أن تسلط طاقتك كي تستطيع أن تتسلق أكثر و أكثر في الغد.*

*Her lashes were* ***like*** *the feathery plumes of moths on her colorless cheeks.*

- Possession by A. S. Byatt

*كانت أهدابها كأنها فراشات ليل ذات ريش زاهية تحط على خدودها الذابلة.*