Literary Translation

الترجمة الادبية

University of Mustansiriyah

College of Arts

Translation Department

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4th stage/ Morning and Evening classes

Lecture 10: Poetry Translation

*Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day*

*Thou art more lovely and more temperate*

A prose version of the sonnet would be:

*أبيوم من أيام الصيف أشبه*

*إنك اكثر جمالا و أشد اعتدالا*

* حسن حجازي

A poetic version would be:

منذا يقارن حسنك بصيف قد تجلى

و فتون سحرك قد بدت في ناظري أسمى و أغلى

* صفاء خلوصي (1986)

In English culture, or to be more specific, environment, "*summer*" is a very lovely season of the year unlike in Arabic world where it reflects hotness and uncomfortable temperatures of the year. The reader will be confused to read that the poet compares his lover's beauty to a summer's day. And here comes the translator's role in choosing a substitution that is equivalent to the original and reflects the same effect on the TL readers as that found on the SL reader:

*منذا يقارن حسنك بالربيع..*