

Translating as an ideological
move – an ideological approach

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Most researchers in translation studies and allied fields, however, see ideology as “the tacit assumptions, beliefs, value system which are shared collectively by social groups” at a certain time (Hatim and Mason 1997: 144).

In a direct link to translation, ideology is viewed by Lefevere (1998: 41) as an approach through which 'readers' in general and 'translators' in particular approach texts,

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In approaching texts, translators are **influenced**, whether consciously or subconsciously, by their own beliefs, backgrounds, assumptions and the like; hence their employment of certain linguistic devices, such as **'transitivity'**, **'cohesive device'**, **'over-lexicalisation'**, **'style-shifting'** and so on (Hatim and Mason 1997: 143–163).

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Farghal (2008: 1) sees translators' ideological moves as “superimposing certain directionality on the text in order to approximate it to, or even have it meet, their own or some other agent's goal”. Mazid (2007: 121) provides us with a clear example in which the translator does not mention 'Israel' or 'Palestine' when translating the map of the Arab world, which contains Israel in the original. The translator simply uses 'Gaza Strip' and 'West Bank', i.e.

قطاع غزة والضفة الغربية .

Hypothetically speaking, giving the same text to another translator who is an Israeli to translate it into Arabic, we might find Israel mentioned and Gaza Strip and West Bank ignored.

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Presumably, translators, being influenced by their own beliefs, backgrounds, social and political commitments, opt for various types of local strategies, such as naming strategy, i.e. the “choice of one type of name over another” (Simpson 1993: 141), addition, omission, style shift, viewpoint shift, modality shift, toning, euphemizing, dysphemizing, befogging, manipulation, emphatic shift, among others, which together may interact to produce a manipulated kind of discourse.

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Farghal (2008, 2012) distinguishes between two types of managing in translation, namely: **intrinsic** managing and **extrinsic** managing. He (2012: 180) states that

unlike intrinsic managing, which [...] is meant to facilitate things for the TL reader by offering translations that read smoothly and naturally, extrinsic managing mainly aims to reorient and/or delude the TL reader by presenting thought-worlds that are different at varying degrees from those expounded in the SL text.

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By way of explanation, let us consider the following example quoted from Farghal (2008: 3–4):

In an interview with Newsweek yesterday, the Israeli Defense Minister said that the Palestinian suicide operations constitute the main cause for the Israeli troops' entering cities in the West Bank.

ادعى وزير الحرب الصهيوني في مقابلة مع مجلة النيوزويك أمس أن العمليات الاستشهادية الفلسطينية هي السبب الرئيس في اجتياح قوات الاحتلال الاسرائيلية للمدن الفلسطينية في الضفة الغربية المحتلة .

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To see how what may seem a small ideological move at the lexical level can twist the message in varying degrees, let us consider the following BBC news item extracted from a text sent to ten students (4th year, Department of Translation, Basrah University) to be translated into Arabic:

He [Jihad] had just had a call from a friend to tell him the Israeli military had bombed his house and that his 11-month-old baby boy Omar was dead.

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- 1) حيث استلم اتصالاً هاتفياً من صديق له يخبره بأن الجيش الإسرائيلي قد فجر منزله وإن طفله عمر البالغ من العمر أحد عشر شهراً قد مات.
- 2) كان صديق له قد أخبره عن طريق مكالمة هاتفية بأن القوات الإسرائيلية قد فجرت منزله وأسفر ذلك الانفجار عن وفاة طفله عمر الذي يبلغ من العمر 11 شهراً.
- 3) لقد تلقى جهاد اتصالاً من أحد أصدقائه يفيد بأن القوات الإسرائيلية قصفت منزله وأن ابنه ذي الـ 11 شهراً قد قتل.
- 4) لقد تلقى للتو اتصالاً من صديق أخبره بأن الجيش الإسرائيلي قد فجر منزله وإن ابنه عمر البالغ من العمر أحد عشر شهراً قد مات.
- 5) حينها تلقى جهاد اتصالاً هاتفياً من أحد أصدقائه أخبره أن القوات الإسرائيلية قد دمرت بيته وأن طفله عمر ذو الحادية عشر شهراً قد استشهد.

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(6) إن ما دفع جهاد للتصرف بهذا الشكل هو تلقيه لاتصال من صديق له يخبره بأن الجيش الإسرائيلي قد قام بتفجير منزله مما تسبب باستشهاد ابنه الذي يبلغ عمره احد عشر شهرا.

(7) إذ تلقى جهاد للتو مكالمة من صديق يخبره إن الجيش الإسرائيلي قصف بيته وإن طفله عُمر ذو الإحدى عشر شهرا قد لقي حتفه ! - -

(8) كان قد تلقى للتو مكالمة هاتفية من صديق يخبره بأن الجيش الاسرائيلي قصف منزله إذ توفي أثره ابنه (عمر) ذو الاحد عشر شهراً.

(9) إن ما جعل جهاد يتصرف بهذه الطريقة هو تلقيه لاتصال من صديق له يبلغه بتفجير بيته من قبل القوات الإسرائيلية مما تسبب باستشهاد ابنه عمر ذو الإحدى عشر شهرا.

(11) فقد تلقى للتو اتصالاً من صديق يخبره أن الجيش الاسرائيلي قد قصف منزله. وان ابنه عمر والبالغ من العمر أحد عشر شهراً قد توفي.

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As can be observed, three students (5), (6) and (9) have extrinsically managed the text to approximate it, or have it meet their own political attitudes, religious and cultural commitment, and accumulated value systems – they have changed the neutral lexical item ‘dead’ into politically and religiously loaded lexical items, viz. ‘استشهد be martyred’ in (5), ‘استشهاد martyrdom’ in (6) and (9). Here, it is clearly evident that they have been motivated by their own ideology since they are not affiliated to any specific body that might impose on them certain editorial translation guidelines.

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However, changing the direction of the text is not always motivated by the translator's beliefs, backgrounds, commitments and accumulated value systems, i.e. ideology; rather, the direction is sometimes changed due to the translator's inability to cope with the text. By way of explanation, let us consider the following example extracted from Greene's *The Bomb Party* (1980: 9–10) and translated into Arabic by a number of students (4th year, Department of Translation, Basrah University):

I think that I used to detest Doctor Fischer more than any other man I have known just as I loved his daughter more than any other woman.

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- 1) لم أبغض في حياتي أكثر من شخص الدكتور فشر ولم أعشق امرأة أكثر من أبنته في ذات الوقت.
- 2) أعتقد بأنني بدأت أمقت الدكتور فيشر أكثر من أي رجل اعرفه وذلك بمجرد ما إن تعرفت بابنته التي عشقتها أكثر من أي امرأة أخرى.
- 3) أظن إنني اعتدت على كرهه للدكتور فشر أكثر من أي رجل عرفته وكان مقدار هذا الكره كمقدار حبي لابنته التي أحببتها أكثر من أي امرأة أخرى.
- 4) تماماً كما أحببت ابنته أكثر من أي امرأة أخرى أعتقد إنني اعتدت على كره الدكتور "فيشر" أكثر من أي شخص عرفته.
- 5) إنني كنت أمقت الطبيب فيشر أكثر من أي رجل آخر عرفته، تماماً كما أحببت ابنته أكثر من أي امرأة أخرى.

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As can be observed, the students have failed to intrinsically manage the text they have failed to deal with issues, such as the ST **parallelism** and **antonyms** ('detest' vs. 'love' and 'man' vs. 'woman'), not to mention grammatical and spelling errors. As far as extrinsic managing is concerned, three students have extrinsically managed the text they have changed a mere possibility expressed by 'I think' in the ST into an absolute certainty in (1), (4) and (5). At the syntactic level, extrinsic managing may manifest itself through the translator's treatment of modality among other issues (for more details, see Farghal 2012: 184–196).

Thank You

