| **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

Translation as Rewriting: A Case Study of Al-Monitor News Headlines on Palestine

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| **ABSTRACT**

This study analyzes the English translations of Arabic news headlines covering Palestinian events on the Al-Monitor news website, which is a well-known multilingual platform that features reporting and analyses on the Middle East. Using a corpus of news headlines on Palestinian events published on Al-Monitor between October and December 2019, the study examines the translation procedures used in translating Arabic news headlines into English and their textual realizations. Drawing on the taxonomy of translation procedures, mainly Vinay and Darbelnet's (1995), the analysis shows that addition, deletion, modulation, and adaptation procedures were heavily drawn upon in the translation of news headlines into English. The target text translators frequently added, adapted, deleted, or altered the source text headlines to appropriate a preferred version of reality to their target audiences. The textual analysis further illustrates how texts work ideologically through a process of making accessible, certain aspects of reality and downplaying or excluding other aspects of it. The study argues that translators' interventions are not simply an inevitable part of headline translation, but they can be seen in the context of the critical, mediatory role of news translation as a process of rewriting and reframing events. Thus, translators contribute to the appropriation of a specific representation of political reality congruent with the ideological, political, and institutional considerations within which translators operate and make sense of the world.

1. Introduction

News translation is expected to bridge physical and cultural distances and help people become well-informed about international events. In our highly mediated, complex world, the news media play a significant role in the dissemination and inculcation of a social group's values, beliefs, and ideologies, and at the same time, they are profoundly pivotal in constructing, influencing or challenging how one social group – in a broad sense – perceives, relates to, and represents 'other' social groups (Al-Saedi, 2020; Hall, 1997; Henry and Tator, 2002; Osisanwo and Ihoha, 2020; Scollon, 2001; Steuter and Willis, 2010). In this sense, the news is essentially a process of meaning-making which is actively produced, transmitted, and consumed through language. News texts do not constitute carbon copies of the reality 'out there', but they are, following Hall (1997, p. 16), "the result of a signifying practice – a practice that produces meaning, that makes things mean" and are conditioned by overlapping political, economic, cultural, ideological, and personal determinants and contexts.

This is quite manifested in the disparate and sometimes conflicting news representations of the same political event. Labeling political actors as 'heroes' and 'resistance fighters' or as 'villains' and 'terrorists', or representing a political action as an "act of aggression" or an "act of self-defense" instantiates this mediatory, interpretive work of journalists and news translator, as will be shown in this study. One of the most central means of media influence comes from the language of news. It provides some of the frames and linguistic structures which enable members of a social group to formulate and express their perceptions about their immediate environment and the world 'out there'. Fowler (1991, p. 4) quite aptly states that:

> News is a representation of the world in language; because language is a semiotic code, it imposes a structure of values, social and economic in origin, on whatever is represented; and so inevitably, news, like every discourse, constructively patterns that of which it speaks. News is a representation in this sense of construction; it is not a value-free reflection of 'facts'.

In their edited volume of studies on how contemporary media represented Jews, Arabs, Israelis, and Muslims and the conflict between them, Parfitt and Egorova (2004) show that both Jews and Muslims generally received a 'bad press' reflecting deeply rooted older representations of them in Western thoughts. In their analysis of the coverage of the first Palestinian Intifada by two Israeli newspapers, one 'quality' paper and the other 'popular', Nir and Roeh (1992) show little disparity in the newspapers' coverage. Consensus and mainstream national ideology seem to predominate over professional norms and practices. They point out that analysis of headline corpus from the two newspapers reveals meagre differences, for instance, in the referential categories and syntactic structures associated with Palestinian and Israeli news actors. Press treatment of Israeli actors is more personalized, while references to Palestinian actors are stereotypical. The transitivity analysis shows a proclivity towards presenting Israeli attacks on Palestinians as events that just happen with more use of nominalizations and passive structures with or without an agent. By contrast, reporting on Palestinian attacks on Israeli targets was more personalized with a higher degree of transitivity, where Palestinian actors dominated the thematic position in the headlines. According to Luostarinen (2002), cited in Baidoun (2014), the media are used as a powerful weapon that produces different meanings through the manipulation of language and events. Journalists not only cover events but also manipulate news discourse to serve the interests of their news agencies and thus contribute to the construction of social reality among readers.

This study analyses the English translations of Arabic news headlines covering Palestinian events on the Al-Monitor news website[1], which is a well-known multilingual platform that features reporting and analysis on the Middle East and proclaims to foster a deeper understanding between the Middle East and the international community. As the website itself states, "Al-Monitor features reporting and analysis by prominent journalists and experts from the Middle East and North Africa... for readers who want to explore the nuances of regional politics, but also for those who want to better understand the social and cultural context of the Middle East as seen, experienced and understood by those who live there." Founded in 2012 by American Arab entrepreneur Jamal Daniel, Al-Monitor provides reporting and analysis from and on countries in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as Turkey and the Gulf.

At the time of collecting the study data, the Al-Monitor news website used to have 'pulses' in different languages: Arabic, Turkish, Farsi, and Hebrew, as well as English, and news articles produced in those languages were translated into English. Starting in February 2020, the site has been providing content in English only and does not include original contributions written in other languages. The site states that its team of writers includes some of the most prominent journalists in the region representing a diverse set of perspectives and translates their work into English. Based in Washington, D.C., the site states that its content is regularly referenced in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, *Reuters*, *Le Monde*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, and many other publications. Internal analytics by Al-Monitor shows that the site attracts about 2 million page views per month. Many of those pageviews come from opinion and analysis pieces written by Al-Monitor's network of about 160 freelancers scattered across the globe who write in their native languages - Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish, Persian, or Russian - and then Al-Monitor's team translates their work[2].

The news headlines for this study were selected from news articles focusing on the Palestine pulse over a three-month period between October-December 2019. The news articles cover a broad range of Palestinian events and issues, such as the intra-Palestinian rift, support for the Palestinian Authority from European countries, Palestinian elections, regional and international efforts for internal reconciliation, to issues and events related to the conflict with the Israeli occupation, including Israeli restrictions, measures, and escalations targeting Palestinians and the Palestinian responses to them. Here it should be borne in mind that to offer a nuanced and detailed account of these events, let alone the history of this enormously complex and multi-layered conflict, goes well beyond the scope and space limits of this paper[3].

2. News Translation
News is a commodity traded among a wide array of producers and receivers. News translation is not a process of replacing words and expressions in one language with their equivalent words and expressions in another language, but it involves forms of recontextualization, and "any recontextualization involves transformation" (Schäffner and Bassnett 2010, p. 2, cited in Brook, 2012). The decisions journalists make in appropriating, translating, and including or excluding certain materials are central to this

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[1] https://www.al-monitor.com/

[2] The Poynter Institute for Media Studies (August, 2017). 5 years in, Al-Monitor is relaunching its website and expanding its coverage. Available at https://www.poynter.org/tech-tools/2017/5-years-in-al-monitor-is-relaunching-its-website-and-expanding-its-coverage1/

[3] For a nuanced account of the conflict see Finkelstein (2003) and Hirst (2003); for a simplified history, see Reinhart (2002), Philo and Berry (2004) and Friel and Falk (2007).

recontextualization process. Hatim and Mason (1990) argue that translating is not a random or neutral activity, for texts show evidence of intended meaning communicated by writers/speakers and how readers/hearers are positioned to infer meaning "in terms of what both parties perceive as being relevant to a particular context." (p. 223). They highlight the mediatory role of the translator in this dynamic process of communication.

Constructing a reframed reality of the source text (ST) with the aim of producing the most appropriate equivalent is sometimes considered part and parcel of the translator's work. In representing and translating news about the Syrian crisis, as embedded in translated quotations and ontological narratives, Jaber (2006) shows that the *NYT* and *The Guardian* named key events and actors according to their own ideologies; the two Anglo-American newspapers represented Syrian protests, residents, and refugees "victims", "heroes", and "free revolutionaries", while Assad and his regime's forces were repeatedly referred to "brutal", "a butcher", "massacre", "thugs", "armed gangs", etc.

Translators, journalists, and editors are not detached from the broader cultural, socio-political, economic, and institutionalized conditions and contexts within which they operate and make sense of the world. On this view, journalist-translators are inherently selective as they often make deliberate choices, for example, about what information to include, exclude, foreground or background, which lexical and syntactic selections to describe and evaluate news actors and events, bearing in mind that some choices become routinized in the mainstream media and reflect generic and conventionalized ways of saying things rather than being purely individual choices. In addition, journalists take into consideration who their target audience is and what socio-political, ideological, or professional values and contexts to draw on and function within.

These various dimensions of news production and reception often bear the ideological imprints of their producers and the social institutions for which they operate (cf. Fairclough, 1995, 2003; Wenden, 2005). Van Doorslaer (2010) holds that important decisions and choices regarding news selection, news translation, and news editing are generally determined by a complex mix of power relationships, whether continental, national, linguistic, political, and/or ideological. In other words, the translator inevitably modifies the text they translated as they take into account ideological or professional affiliations; s/he presumably adjusts, reshapes, mediates, deletes, and adds without close adherence to the original text.

In modern translation practice, translators do not focus on the mere linguistic transference of the text but rather on the cultural context of both the ST and the target text (TT). According to Ali (2007), translators take into account the different ideological implications of the text, including negotiations of the author's ideas, yet "the invisibility of the translator becomes relative, especially if the text is of a highly sensitive nature." Brook (2012) holds that defining news translation is not an easy task due to the explicit manipulation of the text that requires adapting to the target audience for ideological reasons.

3. Ideology, Translation and Rewriting

Ideology is a set of beliefs, values, and perceptions of the world which underlie a system of representation. Thus, ideology underlies all representations, whether they are used to maintain and exercise power and domination or equally to resist and challenge inequality and control (Amer, 2008). Ideology is the set of beliefs and values which reflect an institution's or individual's interpretations of facts or views of the world (Mason, 1994). According to Hatim and Mason (1997), ideology is "the tacit assumptions, beliefs, and value systems which are shared collectively by social groups" (p. 144), while Gee (1990) states that ideology plays an instrumental role in shaping language. Ideology is considered inseparable from the linguistic selections made because language is the only way through which social relations are represented. Fairclough (1992) views ideologies as constructions of reality, including the material world, social relations, and identities which are internalized in the forms and meanings of discursive practices. He holds that ideological representations become highly effective when they are implicitly embedded in discursive practices and presented as 'commonsensical' and 'natural', that is, the way things are or how they should be perceived or maintained.

The role of ideology in news translation is of paramount importance since translation as a process, and a product cannot be separated from its political or institutional contexts. Loupaki (2010) states that translators tend to "reproduce the norms shared by their community" by adapting the text using lexical choices and other textual features to mediate the text as expected in the target language. Consequently, this mediation affects the visibility of the translator; Venuti (2004) defines visibility as the activity of the translator in a given text and the degree of manipulation he/she makes. In this respect, a translator's ideology may pervade the text through various textual interventions to construct a reality that goes beyond the SL text, whether consciously or subconsciously. Whether this intervention is deliberate or not, the consequence is the translators 'perspective that shapes, or is intended to shape, the recipients 'view of the world. Therefore, translators "shape the perception and attitude of readers towards political events through the interpretation of events that emerge in target texts by the translators" (Bánhegyi, 2014, p. 147).

Translators play the crucial role of inter-institutional mediators, their representatives, and the public. Hatim and Mason (1997) define 'mediation' as "the extent to which translators intervene in the transfer process, feeding their own knowledge and beliefs into processing the text" as cited in Hatim and Munday (2004, p. 102-103). Accordingly, it can be inferred that ideology and

translation are intertwined. Translation thus takes the form of editing since it is carried out under certain conditions and for certain purposes. According to Shuping (2013), there is always a certain force or power that determines the type of work to be translated, the objectives behind the translation, and the methods to be used. Basically, as a processor of texts, the translator filters the source text universe into his/her own ideological worldview.

Translators filter, select, add, omit and adapt information when translating certain news, which contributes to the release of some localized news versions for the new target audience (Schäffner and Bassnett, 2010). Only when such evidence is part of a discernible pattern, reflected in a whole range of linguistic features interpreted in a specific translation, can the analyst claim to identify the translator's underlying motivation or orientation. In addition, the discernible pattern can be seen in terms of the degree of mediation, that is, the extent to which translators participate in the transfer process, feeding their own information and values into the processing of a text.

The process of translating a news text is, to a large extent, determined by three factors: the readership, the policy of the publishing institution, and the ideology of the translator. The ideologies of the institutions shape the final product of the source text to make it convenient for their communities. Therefore, "translation forms an integral part of journalistic work: a complex, integrated combination of information gathering, translating, selecting, reinterpreting, contextualizing and editing" (van Doorslaer, 2010, p. 181). Guo (2019) also emphasizes the relevance of power and power relations to translational practice, which determine the kinds of texts to be translated, by whom, and their discursive manifestations and consequent social effects. Similarly, the findings of a study by Halley (2019) show that ideology not only informed interpreters' decisions but was a determining factor in how their services were provided, such that "the data speak to the roles that interpreters assumed in this contentious political setting and so highlight their ideologies." (p. 81).

The previous discussion underscores the conception that translation is more of a rewriting process because it is done under different power constraints and ideological underpinnings which go beyond the mere transference of meaning from the original language into the target language (Shuping, 2013). Lefevere's rewriting theory argues that translation is "a rewriting of an original text for all rewritings would reflect a certain ideology and a poetics in a given society in a given way and therefore would inevitably be undertaken in the service of power" (Lefevere, 2004, cited in Shuping, 2013, p. 59). Hatim and Mason (1990) observe that the process of translation is not a neutral activity. Rewriting the reality of the ST with the aim of producing a more appropriate TT seems to be an inevitable component of the translator's work, especially in politically sensitive contexts.

As Daraghmeh, Herzallah, and Abdel Karim (2010) conclude that formal equivalence and faithfulness become irrelevant issues, and the reality of the ST is questioned or rewritten, especially when the cultures of the two texts are divergent, the purposes of the translator and the author are different, and the agents of power in the production of texts are involved. In this sense, the function of translation becomes the rewriting of the foreign text into the domestic culture in line with that culture's parameters, constraints, and rules which work under an overall system of ideology, poetics, and patronage (Shuping, 2013). The translator could be an ideological mediator through decoding translation in its ideological, cultural, and political implications apart from mere linguistic or lexical choices; that is to say, the translator inevitably modifies the ST by taking into account ideological affiliations or expectancy norms; s/he adjusts, reshapes, mediates, deletes, and adds without adherence to the original text.

Thus, translation is viewed as part of the news production process, which involves translating into another language those parts of the original message that are considered newsworthy in the receiving cultural environment. In Guo's (2019) words, translational practice becomes a site of "power struggle," reflecting different levels of ideological investments. Deletion, addition, substitution, and reorganization are four processes involved in the translation process. Translators opt for different strategies. Although the literal translation is the most frequent procedure, in cases where literal translation may not work, the translator may consider other procedures, including adaptation, use of related words, explanation, and transliteration.

4. News Headlines

News headlines prototypically occupy the most prominent element of a news report and hence can be considered the most important element of a news text. Given their saliency, readers may just glance at the headline to know the gist of the news report. Simply put, headlines summarize the entire news event and orient the readers to its most important information (Bell, 1991; Fairclough, 1995; van Dijk, 1991). A headline generally describes the essence of the news story in short, simple, and catchy words to grab the readers' attention to continue reading. Van Dijk (1991) contends that headlines essentially define the situation and have cognitive functions as readers use them to construct their overall understanding of the particular event. The information conveyed in headlines is best recalled by readers, and as such, they are likely to influence their interpretation of previous and subsequent events (Reah, 2002). Readers may, therefore, need to exert further efforts to provide an alternative reading position to the one available in the text. The popularity and readability of the news article quite often depend on the headline, which is a representative part of the article and can, therefore, be considered the most important part of publicistic articles (Rich, 2010, p.259, cited in Petronienė and Žvirblytė, 2012).

The analysis of news headlines is particularly significant for "their position, semantic role, and cognitive consequences" (van Dijk, 1991, p. 29). Due to their prominence, structure, and the presumed newsworthiness of news content, headlines bear traces of the underlying ideologies of news editors; for instance, what or who is foregrounded, backgrounded, or excluded, or whether a verb is active or passive may reflect the ideological positions of headlines editors (Bell, 1991). Also, the headline affects the meaning of what follows, delimits the interpretation of what follows, and divides the text into smaller headings and paragraphs.

Translation of headlines has long been studied by translation scholars and researchers (Rasul, 2018). Rasul holds that headline translation poses challenges to journalist-translators as they have to produce news headlines that are appealing to TL readers. Hence, headlines may have to undergo rewording, modifications, or even complete replacement. Petronienė and Žvirblytė (2012, p. 66) hold that one of the difficulties of headline translation is the lack of context since they offer a very condensed idea of articles, while no other information or associations are readily available in the minds of the readers. They point to other difficulties, such as differences in syntactic structures of headlines in different languages, problems of the absence of equivalent terms or words in the target language, and/or culturally non-acceptable or non-understandable words used in the source headlines, including unusual or not widely known abbreviations, acronyms, names, titles, and others.

In this light, the study mainly aims to identify the type and frequency of translation procedures used in translating Arabic headlines Al-Monitor website into English. The study also seeks to provide a detailed textual analysis of key translation procedures used by deadline translators. In this way, the study adds to other research in translation (Al-Shehari, 2007; Baker, 2007, 2010; Bassnett, 2002; Hatim & Munday, 2004; Munday, 2008; Venuti, 2017; Wu, 2017) that establishes a link between translation, ideology, and power. In other words, translation is not simply a process of rendering language in a literal way, but it is primarily a subtle rewriting and reframing process motivated by ideological, political, cultural, and linguistic considerations.

5. Methodology
This study aims to identify the translation strategies used in the translation of Arabic news headlines into English at the Al-Monitor website. For the purpose of the study, a corpus of all 60 Arabic news headlines on the Palestine pulse published during a three-month period between October-December 2019 was collected along with their English translations. The corpus is analyzed both quantitatively by identifying the type and frequency of translation procedures and qualitatively by critical discourse analysis of a sample of headlines representing the most frequent translation procedures.

For purposes of analysis, the study draws mainly on Vinay and Darbelnet's (1995, pp. 30-40) seven procedures for translation, including borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. These translation procedures seem to be quite relevant and appropriate for the purpose of the analysis here. Vinay and Darbelnet note that while there are numerous translation procedures, these can be condensed to just seven, with "each corresponding to a higher degree of complexity. In practice, they may be used on their own or combined with one or more of the others." (p. 31).

This study draws on Vinay and Darbelnet's (1995) taxonomy of translation procedures that served as a springboard for later approaches and taxonomies. It benefits from Farghal and Bazzi (2017), who also introduce a taxonomy of additional translation procedures that are quite relevant to the study; these include employment of related words, explication, paraphrase, transliteration, one-to-one correspondence with the generic word, deletion, addition, cultural borrowing, particularization, and near synonymy. The two taxonomies are intended to cover the wide range of possible translation procedures used in translating the study's news headlines. Rasul (2018) aptly clarifies effective translation of headlines would ultimately require drawing on various translation procedures irrespective of the language pairs being considered.

Let's succinctly introduce some of the important translation procedures that proved highly relevant for the present study, with illustrative examples from the headline corpus of this study as shown in Table (1):

(1) **Literal Translation**, according to Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), involves the direct transfer of a SL text into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate TL text. Here the translator focuses on adhering to the linguistic rules of the TL. Example (1) in Table (1) below illustrates this strategy where the target text closely observes the wording and meaning of the source text.

(2) **Transposition** involves the replacement of one word class with another without making a change to the meaning of the text, for instance, from a noun to a verb or from an adjective to an adverb, etc. In example (2) below, one can see that the use of an active clause structure with the main verb 'target' in the source headline is a translation into a nominal phrase 'arrest campaign'.

(3) Modulation, according to Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), involves a change in the form of the message through a change in the point of view. Consider example (3) below, which instantiates this procedure very well. The ST headline focuses on how the Palestinian Gazans are angry with the lack of solidarity from their fellow Palestinians in the West Bank. The TT headline shifts the focus to why the West Bankers are silent over Israel's attacks against Gaza.

(4) Adaptation is the translation procedure involving (near) total replacement of the SL text with a new text, which may affect not only the syntactic structure but also the development and presentation of ideas. In example (4), the translated adapted the whole ST headline into a question of whether the proposed site to be built is a spy station or a hospital.

(5) Deletion involves the omission of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, bits of information, or complete paragraphs. Example (5) clearly shows major deletions in the ST headline and the addition of new references and words.

(6) Addition is the act of adding certain lexis or information to the target text. Like the example (5), the headline in example (6) exemplified both addition and deletion as procedures that frequently co-occur. Note the deletion of the 'PA', 'inclusion', and 'terrorist' list' in the source headline and the addition of the whole sentence of 'rid Abbas of Dahlan before the Palestinian elections'.

Table (1): Examples of key translation procedures discussed in the study

Translation Procedure	Source Text Back Translation	Target Text
(1) Literal Translation	ارتفاع حادّ في هدم منازل الفلسطينيّين بالقدس في 2019 **Sharp rise in demolitions of Palestinian homes in Jerusalem in 2019**	**Demolition of Palestinians' Jerusalem homes surges**
(2) Transposition	إسرائيل والسلطة الفلسطينيّة تستهدفان "حماس" في الضفّة الغربيّة **Israel and Palestinian Authority target "Hamas" in West Bank**	**Israeli-PA coordinated arrest campaign against Hamas in West Bank**
(3) Modulation	فلسطينيّو غزّة غاضبون من تراجع تضامن أشقّائهم في الضفّة الغربيّة **Palestinians in Gaza are angry at retreat of their brothers' solidarity in West Bank**	**Why the West Bank went silent when Israel attacked Gaza**
(4) Adaptation	السلطة الفلسطينيّة تتعهّد بمواجهة المستشفى الميدانيّ الأميركيّ في قطاع غزّة **Palestinian Authority pledges to confront American field hospital in Gaza Strip**	**Is proposed site in Gaza really a hospital or spy station?**
(5) Deletion	ناصر الدين الشاعر... اسم يتردّد في ترشيحات الانتخابات الرئاسيّة **Nasir al-Din al-Shaer... a name comes up frequently in presidential elections**	**Potential consensus candidate helps Hamas, Fatah communicate**
(6) Addition	إدراج تركيا دحلان في قائمة الإرهاب "هديّة" إلى السلطة الفلسطينيّة **Turkey's inclusion of Dahlan on terrorist list is a "gift" to PA**	**Will Turkey rid Abbas of Dahlan before Palestinian elections?**

6. Results and Discussion

The method of analysis involves identifying and counting the frequency of the translation procedure used for each headline. In addition, a critical textual analysis of a sample of news headlines were followed to elaborate on the translation procedures used and the kind of textual interventions made in the translation of the news headlines.

The analysis shows that 12 translation procedures were used in the rendering of the corpus of news headlines into English, resulting in 226 translation procedure occurrences. The analysis shows that two or more translation procedures were used in translating news headlines which points to the particular nature of news headlines as a journalistic genre that serves several functions, most importantly summarizing the news story, attracting the reader's attention, and providing commentary on the news.

The analysis reveals that the use of deletion and addition procedures was quite extensive, with 'deletion' as the most frequent translation procedure as it was used 46 times, at a rate of (20.4%), followed by the procedures of addition that occurred 44 times, at a rate of (19.5%) (See Table (2) below). The third most frequent procedure was a modulation that was used 30 times, at a rate of (13.3%), and adaptation was used 29 times at a rate of (12.8). These four procedures together make up more than two-thirds of the procedures used, about (66%) of the total headline translation procedures. The remaining translation procedures were used to a lesser extent, with literal translation used at (11.1%), while the least frequent ones were paraphrased, explicitation, particularization, and calque at (2.7%), (2.7%), (0.9%), and (0.4%) respectively.

Table (2): Frequency and percentage of procedures used in translating news headlines from Arabic into English

Strategy	Frequency	Percentage %
Deletion	46	20.4
Addition	44	19.5
Modulation	30	13.3
Adaptation	29	12.8
Literal Translation	25	11.1
Transposition	19	8.4
Generalization	11	4.9
Borrowing	7	3.1
Paraphrase	6	2.7
Explicitation	6	2.7
Particularization	2	0.9
Calque	1	0.4
Total	226	100

Figure (1) visually illustrates the frequency and percentages of procedures used in the translation of news headlines from Arabic into English.

Figure (1): Bar chart of frequency and percentage of procedures used in translating headlines from Arabic into English
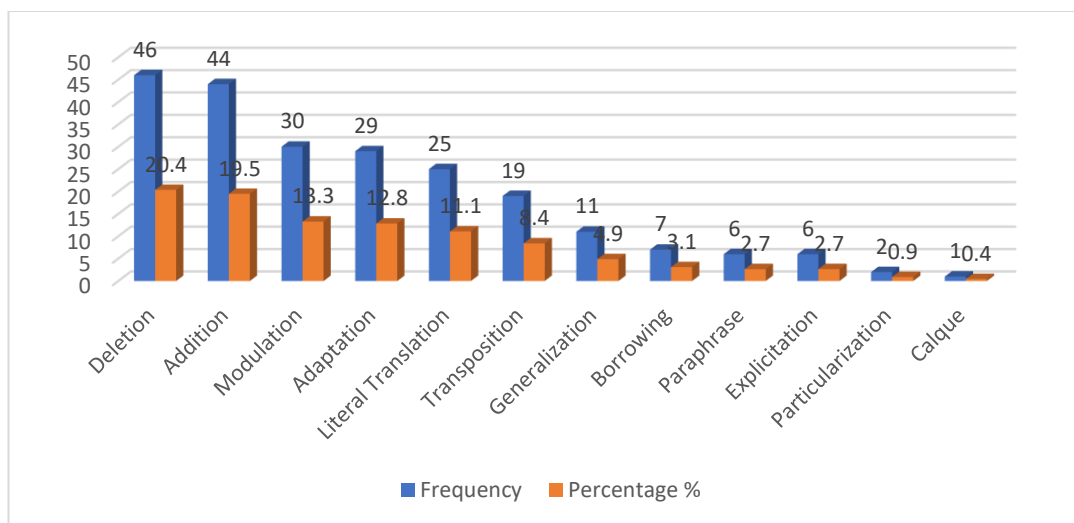
These findings indicate that Al-Monitor's translators were more oriented toward the English-speaking global audience, largely reflecting a kind of domestication, as the highest four strategies indicate that the translators were motivated by target audience considerations, whether at a textual level or contextual level. The most frequent procedure was deletion, with 46 occurrences (20.4%), which indicates that translation loss overweighs translation gain in rendering news headlines at Al-Monitor. The deleted items ranged from certain words and expressions to names, references, and specific content. Similarly, the higher frequency of using addition, modulation, and adaptation indicates that translation preference is geared more towards target audience considerations, as will be shown below. The less frequency of the other translation procedures that were variously used also points out that the main focus was on producing a localized version of events appropriate to the target audience. This variation in the use of translation procedures and their consequent textual realizations seems to be motivated by target text considerations as they are targeting the Western world, especially in the US, while the source text headlines are directed to an Arabic-speaking audience.

6.1 Textual Analysis

The textual analysis aims to elaborate on the translation procedures used in translating the Arabic headlines into English. The textual analysis is also carried out in order to show how events in the headlines are re-framed by linguistically examining the lexical and transitivity choices that the translators made in constructing political actors and their actions. These choices are useful in teasing out the underlying ideological positions from which the translators/journalists see the situation, what different process types and participant roles they assign, what aspects of the situation they foreground, background, mystify or exclude, and how they lexically characterize political actors and consequently evoke positive or negative evaluations of them.

A first glance at the first headline example, one sees a pattern of translation as re-writing and reframing events evidenced in the translator's textual choices. The transitivity selections that the headline translator makes in representing the situation, particularly choosing the process types and participant roles to characterize political actors and their actions, are especially worth noting (For more on transitivity analysis, see Halliday, 1994; Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004; Lukin, 2005; Lukin, Butt, and Matthiessen, 2004).

This is useful in highlighting the ideological effects these selections may have concerning issues of causality, agency, and assignment of responsibility for actions. In analyzing transitivity choices, Lukin (2005) explains that an action can be presented as directly affecting a second entity, thereby allowing the possibility of asking about who or what is doing the action (i.e., Actor) and who or what gets impacted in the process (i.e., Goal); for example, the sentence (1) '**We can attack the enemy on our terms**' involves two participants that are directly involved in the process 'attack'. The first entity, 'we,' has the grammatical role of 'Actor,' which directly affects the second entity, 'the enemy' (i.e., Goal). Another way of presenting an action is when the second entity is not directly affected by the action but rather "specifies the scope of the process" (Lukin, 2005, p. 7). For instance, the sentence (2), '**We conducted active security operations**', the second entity, 'active security operations' cannot be called a 'Goal' since they are not fully independent participants and are not directly impacted by the action, but rather they are "continuations of the process, expressing its range or domain" (Eggins, 2004: 218). Such examples of Range may have the function of mitigating the potential effect of the action and allow the possibility of 'generalizing away from the specific actions of 'attacking', 'destroying', 'killing', 'wounding', etc." (Lukin, 2005, p. 7).

The ST headline contains an explicit transitive relation in the first clause between an Actor, "Israel," and a Goal, "the heart of Hebron"[4], which foregrounds Israel's negative agency as Israel takes on the actor's negative role in this active clause structure and is associated with negative action which is 'targeting Hebron with settlement project' with the settlement activity having negative implications for an Arab-speaking audience). Note further that the transitivity selections in the headline present Israel's settlement activities in the heart of the city of Hebron as pushing violence which further accentuates Israel's culpability.

Example (1)

Source Text:	إسرائيل تستهدف قلب الخليل بمشروع استيطانيّ جديد قد يدفع إلى انفجار الأوضاع الميدانيّة	• **Modulation** • **Deletion** • **Addition** • **Calque**
Target Text:	**Palestinians plan legal steps to stop new Hebron settlement**	
Back translation of the source text:	**Israel targets the heart of Hebron with a new settlement project that could lead to an explosion of conditions on the ground**	

This accentuation in the ST headline stands in marked contrast with the translated version. Reading the target text headline, we see that the translator employs two main translation procedures; first, a modulation procedure that completely shifts the focal point from Israel's negative agency and responsibility to the Palestinians' legal move to stop Israel's settlement activities. The TT headline also undergoes a deletion strategy as it makes no reference to the words 'targeting heart of Hebron' and 'pushing to an explosion in events on the ground' are missing from the target headline, while 'Palestinians' legal plans' are added to the TT headline, with the agent for the new settlement project is deleted.

While one cannot overlook the possibility that some readers might readily be able to retrieve agency and establish causality between Actor and Goals, the decision to leave the Israeli agency invisible or obliquely implied may point to a process of mitigating Israeli negative agency for the actions. That is, this transitivity pattern mitigates or weakly implies Israeli negative agency for building settlements in Hebron and further exacerbates the conditions on the ground. The grammatical possibilities available to the translator of this headline appear to make Israel's illegal settlement building rather ambivalent, less emotive, and less concrete, which would have an effect of toning down the agent's responsibility for negative actions.

Turning to the second example, one notices that the translator used the deletion procedure in the target headline in deleting the idea of European "pressure" on Israel, which diverts focus from Israeli responsibility for not allowing Palestinian elections and shifts attention elsewhere. Further, the source headline focuses on the Palestinians' perspective in that they are counting on the Europeans to put pressure on Israel to allow them to hold elections in the occupied city of Jerusalem. The headline implies Israel's accountability by refusing to allow the Palestinian to run their elections in the holy city.

The presumed ideological mediation in the translation of the headline is further illustrated in the procedure of addition in the phrase 'Hamas edgy', which is not found in the source headline, thereby shifting the focus to Hamas' reaction rather than on Israel's action. The addition of the adjective 'mum' to describe Israel's conduct is rather ambivalent in a context where such Israeli behaviour is rather negative. Bielsa and Bassnett (2009, p. 103) correctly hold that "translation entails a considerable amount of rewriting through which the source text is filtered and reconstituted in a new form,… a new angle can be emphasized, or a particular emphasis changed when the new context and target readers to which it is addressed justify it."

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[4] Halliday (1994) refers to 'Actor' as the entity which performs the action or that which brings about the unfolding of the process, while Goal is the entity which is impacted by the action of the Actor or the entity to which the process is extended.

Example (2)

Source Text:	الفلسطينيّون يعوّلون على الأوروبيّين للضغط على إسرائيل لإجراء الانتخابات في القدس	• **Deletion** • **Addition** • **Modulation**
Target Text:	**Israel mum on permission for Palestinian vote, Hamas edgy**	
Back translation of the source text:	**Palestinians counting on Europeans to pressure Israel to hold elections in Jerusalem**	

Further, in the translated headline, we can observe that the modulation procedure was used as the focal point of the translated headline changes from the Palestinians' perspective to the Israeli one. Modulation involves a change in the semantics and a shift in the perspective of the source text, as it helps the translator generate a change in the point of view of the message without altering its meaning and without generating an unnatural feeling in the reader of the target text (see also, Hatim and Munday, 2004). The target headline highlights the Israeli silent reaction to the Palestinian demand to hold an election in Jerusalem, while there is no implicit assignment of culpability to Israel for its rejection of allowing Palestinian elections in the city. Note that other translation procedures are also used that also contribute to this meaning.

In order to further gauge the extent of re-writing and re-framing of events in the translation of this headline corpus, let's move to example (3), as the ST headline involves relaying information about economic agreements and projects between Palestine and Russia. It is striking to note that the two headlines exhibit different semantic meanings, as the translator of the headline uses two translation procedures of adaptation and addition, through shifting the focus on Russian leverage on the Palestinians, thereby topicalizing a political statement of a direct relation between Russian influence on one hand, and the weakening of US influence, on the other, neither of which is provided in the original headline to meet target audience expectations and media producers' interests.

Example (3)

Source Text:	فلسطين وروسيا تبرمان أضخم رزمة اتّفاقات اقتصاديّة ومشاريع تنمويّة بينهما	• **Adaptation** • **Deletion** • **Addition** • **Calque**
Target Text:	**Russia gains influence in Palestine at US expense**	
Back translation of the source text:	**Palestine and Russia are entering into the largest package of economic agreements and development projects between them**	

Here the translator conveys neither the main idea nor the same effect of the ST headline while embedding their own characterization of the situation by authoritatively purporting to present the forged agreements between the two sides as coming at the expense of the US. That is, the translated headline reflects not only an adaptation of the linguistic structures in the source text but there is a near complete transformation of the content of the source headline.

In addition, some information is added to the headline, and some are deleted. To illustrate, the deletion of 'the largest package of economic agreements and development projects between them' and the addition of 'at US expense' in the target headline also involve a re-framing of the news reported in a way that suits the translator or editor of the text. This disparity in representation is another illustration of the choices available to translators/journalists in representing actors and events and the underlying ideologies which influence the selection of a particular set of linguistic resources.

Example (4)

Source Text:	لماذا لم تشارك "حماس" في جولة القتال الأخيرة؟	• **Adaptation** • **Deletion** • **Addition**
Target Text:	**Hamas, Islamic Jihad - an unbreakable bond**	
Back-translation of the source text:	**Why did Hamas not participate in the last round of fighting?**	

A similar pattern of translation as rewriting can also be observed in example (4), as the main translation procedure is an adaptation, with considerable changes made to the ST headline. As Lefevere (1992, p. xi) aptly argues that 'Rewriting [also translation being a rewriting of the source text] is manipulation, undertaken in the service of power... Rewritings can introduce new concepts and new genres of the shaping power of one culture upon another. The translator of the headline decided to ignore the source headline altogether and used a different set of lexical items and grammatical structures together with their associated implications through using an adaptation procedure.

We can see that the prevalent idea in the target headline is completely different from that of the source headline, and the information in the ST headline is completely opted out. While the ST headline gives prominence to the issue of Hamas not participating in the last round of fighting, the main focus of the TT headline is different as it takes the reader to a completely different issue highlighting and elevating to headline status what the translator adds as 'unbreakable bond' between Hamas and Islamic Jihad, thereby expressing his authoritative evaluation and communicating political nuances about the two Palestinian groups. The headline subjectively determines the most important information in a news report (van Dijk, 1991) and states, sometimes in a biased way, the tip of its topical hierarchy.

Note that the transitivity structure of the ST headline involving a question form with an active clause structure with clear participant roles of agency for Hamas is replaced in the TT headline by process of nominalization and a metaphorical representation with no verb processes with the purpose of fronting the relationship between the two Palestinian movements. While there is information about 'Why did Hamas not participate in the last round of fighting?' in the ST headline, no such information is included in the headline. Note that the translator manipulated the ST headline by abstracting the information in the ST headline and preferred not to keep the same words; instead, a deletion procedure is used by omitting the idea of 'Hamas's not participating in the last round of fighting', thereby producing a completely different headline.

Here it needs little argument to point out that such choices are not arbitrary but are ideologically motivated in attaching the weight to certain propositions for the purpose of creating particular ideological effects. Editors do not always need to state their opinions or perceptions of events overtly; instead, these are communicated through the lexical choices they make together with their implied meanings and connotative values.

Similar to the example above, the translator in example (5) uses a modulation procedure that takes the focus from what is seemingly a news headline to an implicit message that implies Qatar's funding. There is a reference to the main idea of the original headline, but only scantily. While there is no positive overtone in the source headline, the target headline is manipulated in a way to present Israel favourably as **'to bring Gaza light'**, which reflects a positive presentation of Israel and gives it positive agency. Note that the notion of 'bring Gaza light' is not stated in the ST headline, as the translated headline shifts the focus by painting Israel in a favourable light and carries positive overtones of Israel as helping the Palestinians. While the original headline is conveyed as a technical, value-free proposition, the translator opted for a non-literal translation of the headline, but for a rather metaphorical formulation in **'Israeli gas set to bring Gaza light',** as the modulation procedure leaves some effect on the reader as it allows the reader to see the situation from the perspective of Israel's bringing light to Gaza, rather than from the prism of an agreement between Palestine and Qatar.

Example (5)

Source Text:	اتفاق فلسطيني قطري لتشغيل محطة كهرباء غزة بالغاز الإسرائيلي	• **Modulation** • **Adaptation** • **Addition** • **Deletion**
Target Text:	**With Qatar's money, Israeli gas set to bring Gaza light**	
Back translation of the source text:	**A Palestinian-Qatari agreement to operate the Gaza power station with Israeli gas**	

Underlying these structures is the differential treatment of the same event between the ST headline and the translated headline, as the translator seems to favourably present the Israeli action. That is, there is a transitivity change to the source headline into an active clause structure as well as an implicational meaning to the TT headline different from that of the original headline. The backgrounding of the Palestinian-Qatari agreement is compensated for by a re-writing of the headline as an Israeli benevolent action to 'set to bring Gaza light'. The phrase '**Israeli gas set to bring Gaza light**' evokes different associations from what is communicated in the original headline, when it is well-known that Israel, as the occupying power prevented the entry of fuel to Gaza's main power plant and has tightened the blockade imposed on the tiny enclave. The point I want to make clear here is that adding particular lexical references and excluding certain bits of information consequentially results in a (re)framing of the situation in line with the positions or orientations of the editors and translators. Such additions and/or exclusions may have the potential of influencing some readers' comprehension of the situation along the dominant frame, and in the absence of additional details, readers are likely to construct preferred models of the specific situation, "which may, in turn, be generalized to more general, preferred knowledge, attitudes or ideologies" (van Dijk, 1996, p. 85). Fairclough (1995, p. 12) points out that "the ideological work of media language includes particular ways of representing the world...particular constructions of social identities... and particular construction of social relations."

The headline in example (6) illustrates how the deletion procedure is used to communicate ideologically motivated meanings. Let's contrast the two headlines. Notice that the ST headline focuses on Hamas's foiling of ISIS's attempt to infiltrate Sinai, and it gives a strong connotative meaning to this news. Strangely, the translator deletes the reference to ISIS completely and replaces it with the term **'gunmen',** which is typically used to describe armed criminals or people engaged in illegal activities, and often implies an act of a criminal nature, and therefore the two headlines are not equivalent connotatively. While tense and voice remain the same in both headlines, the translator's slanted version causes a loss of effect on the target readers as it removes the main idea of the ST headline in omitting the clash between ISIS and Hamas, for it would present Hamas in a favourable light as fighting terrorism. The idea of the ST headline is rather obliquely conveyed in the target headline, and the presumed effect is lost.

Example (6)

Source Text:	حماس تحبط محاولات أنصار تنظيم الدولة التسلل لسيناء	• **Literal Translation** • **Deletion** • **Addition**
Target Text:	**Hamas arrests gunmen trying to cross into Sinai**	
Back translation of the source text:	**Hamas thwarted ISIS supporters' attempts to infiltrate Sinai**	

This ideologically motivated selection appears to de-emphasize Hamas's positive action in cracking down on ISIS terrorists in a context where mainstream media often demonize the Palestinian Islamic Movement Hamas by equating it with an international terrorist group. The fact that in the translated headline, Hamas's arrest of ISIS members failed to reach headline status and instead is rather replaced by the generic reference 'gunmen' drawn from the domain of crime points to ideologically-motivated decisions made by the translator. Changes made at very low levels in, for example, single clauses or even single words can have significant ideological effects (Fairclough, 1995). That is to say; it is instructive to note how the exclusion of a single word, 'ISIS,' minimizes or obfuscates Hamas's efforts in fighting ISIS in favour of a rather dominant and privileged international media discourse. Subjectively selecting or omitting lexical items from a repertoire of available expressions conjures up a specific version of reality, while including other items would necessarily lead to a different understanding of the same event.

Here it should be noted that while exclusion in headlines may sometimes be understandably unavoidable in order to maintain brevity or to avoid mentioning details presumably known to the readers or there may be other elements, such as photographs or adjacent or secondary headlines to the respective headline, other exclusions may be ideologically motivated in that they prevent a full understanding of the source text in that they emphasize or de-emphasize specific details or aspects of such reality according to the interests and purposes of discourse producers in maintaining a particular representation of reality (Reisigl and Wodak, 2001; van Leeuwen, 1996).

7. Conclusion

This study examined the procedures used by the Al-Monitor news website in translating a corpus of Arabic news headlines on Palestinian events. The study also showed the textual selections made by Al-Monitor translators in rewriting events and constructing political actors and events. The study findings reveal that deletion, addition, modulation, and adaptation procedures constituted the main bulk of procedures used in translating Al-Monitor headlines. Al-Monitor's headline translators were actively involved in re-writing events as they adapted, deleted, added, and manipulated source headlines. One should not see these procedures as an inevitable part of news headline translations, especially given the mediatory role of news translators and agencies, especially in the context of highly sensitive political events and conflicts. This means that headline translators were not aiming at precision as much as at making events comprehensible and familiar to a non-Arabic speaking audience, mainly in the US.

The study makes a significant contribution to knowledge as it presents further research evidence using primary materials on how an often-overlooked part of the world is translated and re-translated. It emphasizes the inextricable relation between translation and its political and institutional dimensions and argues for the need for a critical and informed understanding of translation practice as fundamentally a political practice. The interventions made by translators, whether at translational or textual levels, are illustrative of how texts work ideologically, in line with the interests of Al-Monitor's translators and editors. This enables us to identify the ideological standpoints of translation by examining which decisions translators opt for in making accessible certain aspects of a particular event or downplaying or excluding certain other aspects of it.

This study, therefore, postulates the critical, mediatory role of news translation as a process of re-writing. This is a role one cannot afford to ignore, especially since journalist-translators are fundamentally selective and, in so doing, they contribute to the appropriation of a preferred representation of social reality that is congruent with the cultural, socio-political, economic, and institutional contexts and factors within which translators operate and make sense of the world.

News headlines, by their very nature, reflect an ideological version of the world underlain by the perspective of their media producers, with the intention of creating a certain effect on the readers in line with the interests of their media producers and institutions. As aptly stated by Daraghmeh, Herzallah, and Abdel Karim (2010, p. 35), "politics-oriented journalistic reports frequently reflect the policy of the country in which they are published; consequently, they should not be taken at face value when translated." Translation serves as a rewriting of the news reality through which a preferred construction of that reality is commensurate with the viewpoint of the media institution in the target language.

Future research should illuminate our understanding of translation practice by maximizing the benefits of existing research methodologies, especially in highly sensitive political contexts such as the one examined in this study. In addition, the study results call for the need to apply ethnographic research methods to complement the existing methods so as to further inform our understanding of translation as a process and to reflect on professional translators' perspectives and ideologies and the contexts and determinants which inform their translational decisions and selections.

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