RESEARCH ARTICLE

Tautology in Action: A Study Investigating Arabic Tautological Expressions with Reference to their Translations into English

Hana Balhouq¹ and Hamza Ethelb²

¹Department of English, University of Tripoli, Libya
²Department of Translation, University of Tripoli, Libya

Corresponding Author: Hamza Ethelb, E-mail: h.ethelb@uot.edu.ly

ABSTRACT

This research explores the way Arabic tautological expressions are used and translated into English. It aims to highlight the linguistic intricacies underlying their usage in cross-cultural contexts. The data of the study was qualitatively collected by analyzing the translation, structure (s syntactically) and meaning (semantically) of 11 Arabic tautological expressions. Those expressions were collected by using a systematic search method to identify posts and comments containing tautological expressions in several social media platforms known for their active Arabic-speaking user base. The findings of the analysis reveal that those tautological expressions in Arabic follow the verb-adverb structure where the verb is followed by an adverb with the same root as the verb in action. Furthermore, translating those expressions depends on various factors, including the specific context, target audience, and desired effect to convey the intended message and cultural implications. The translators need to consider the linguistic and cultural nuances to ensure that the translated expression captures the intended meaning in English.

KEYWORDS

Tautology, tautological expressions, Arabic-English translation, discourse.

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1. Introduction

Tautology, etymologically derived from the Greek terms tauto and logos, signifying same and word respectively (Swannell, 1992), manifests itself in language through the grammatical repetition of words or phrases and the conveyance of redundant meanings employing semantically similar terms (Leech, 1974; Shehab, 2004). Shehab (2004:695) defines tautology as the superfluous repetition of a single meaning utilizing distinct yet semantically akin words. Termed as logical tautology by Sakai (2012), grammatical tautology denotes the redundancy of a word or concept within a sentence, falsely suggesting the introduction of novel information when, in actuality, none is provided. For example, the inclusion of "جميل جداً" (very beautiful) in "منظر جميل جداً" (a very beautiful view) is redundant since "جميل" (beautiful) already conveys the idea of something being aesthetically pleasing. Arabic discourse, in fact, entails abundant tautological expressions. For example, the word "نهر جار" (flowing river) is unnecessary since rivers, by nature, are expected to flow. Moreover, Farghal (1992) argues that the domain of tautological expressions in Arabic remains relatively unexplored, primarily due to the prevailing focus of researchers on semantic and structural paradigms when providing systematic descriptions of Arabic as a whole. Tautologies, he continues, being closely related to pragmatics rather than semantics and syntax, have received limited attention from Arab linguists. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that tautologies are pervasive in everyday Arabic speech (ibid).

In linguistic terms, Pomorska et al (1987) refer to tautology as the iterative and superfluous use of words that redundantly convey the same idea but in varying linguistic forms. This rhetorical device serves the purpose of either reiterating a message or emphasizing a recently presented concept. The recurrence of such word repetitions was notably prevalent in the poetry composed
by 18th and 19th-century poets (Al-Marsumi, 2017). The examination of tautology necessitates the establishment of formal theoretical frameworks that facilitate the evaluation and formulation of hypotheses regarding the systematic repetition of words within texts. Notably, tautological expressions encountered in poetry often encounter challenges arising from the inherent uncertainty surrounding descriptive categories and their associated concepts, thereby leading to potential methodological errors (Al-Marsumi, 2017).

The remarkable abundance of tautological expressions in Arabic, compared to English and other European languages, presents an opportunity to gain insights into the study of tautologies across different languages. This, in turn, has the potential to either bolster or challenge theories that posit the universal generation of the communicative significance of tautologies based on general principles of human conversation (Farghal, 1992). Regarding the necessity of employing tautological expressions, divergent viewpoints emerge. Okamoto (1993, p. 433) contends that such expressions are "motivated rather than arbitrary," while Sakai (2012) argues for the potential conveyance of non-trivial content through tautological expressions. Levinson (1983:111) posits that assuming the speaker's cooperation, informative inferences can be derived. However, a prevailing discourse among scholars asserts that while tautological expressions may convey "significant communicative import" (Shehab, 2004:695), they are ultimately characterized as mere redundant repetitions devoid of utility (Al-Marsumi, 2017).

Brown and Levinson (1987:220) provide a comprehensive overview of tautology, categorizing tautological expressions as "non-informative." The recipient of a tautological expression is thereby prompted to seek an informative interpretation. For instance, the word "عتادة" (usual) in the phrase "عتادة معتادة" (Usual habit) is redundant since "عتادة" (habit) already implies that it is a recurring or customary behavior. This is similar to the widely cited example of "war is war" may appear vacuous in its literal sense. Okamoto (1993) argues that tautological expressions acquire meaning within their specific contexts, while outside of these contexts, their significance diminishes. This concept could be illustrated by this example: أفكار فكرية (thoughtful ideas), which constitutes a challenge in comprehending it without its context as ideas are inherently products of intellectual thought.

The objectives of this study aim to deepen our understanding of tautological expressions in the Arabic language and the challenges involved in translating them into English. Firstly, the research seeks to identify and analyze the characteristics and patterns of tautological expressions in Arabic, shedding light on their structural and semantic aspects. It looks at possible translations of tautologies, and the way redundant meaning in Arabic tautological expressions is conveyed across. The research aims to uncover the complexities and potential pitfalls of accurately conveying the intended meaning of tautologies. The research questions of this study explore how translators approach the translation of tautological expressions from Arabic to English and to what extent English translations successfully capture the tautological nature and intended meaning of Arabic tautological expressions. Through these objectives and research questions, this study contributes to enhancing cross-linguistic understanding and improving translation practices in the context of tautological expressions between Arabic and English languages.

2. Literature review

Gibbs (1994) states that tautology is a rhetorical device and can be defined as the expression that redundantly elaborates on information already presented in the preceding phrase, usually within the same clause. Leech (1969) argues that tautologies do not offer novel insights into the world or language. Given the nature of tautological expressions as rhetorical devices, they hold a significant place within Arabic discourse. Ward & Hirschberg (1991) discuss that the development of formal theories to evaluate and hypothesize the utilization of redundancy presents a promising avenue for the analysis of tautologies, especially in Arabic poetry. Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge that these theories are currently in their early stages and encounter challenges stemming from the complexities inherent in related concepts and descriptive categories, thus potentially leading to methodological errors (Al-Marsumi, 2017).

The viewpoint that tautological language style leads to ineffective sentences is applicable primarily to the study of non-Arabic languages. In Arabic, words possess distinct characteristics and meanings, even when they are synonymous. For instance, the words "قاعة" and "جلسة," both meaning "sitting down," convey different nuances of sitting despite their similar meanings (Muzakki & Marzuqi, 2021). In the broader context, such figures of speech within Arabic literary tradition and grammar serve the purpose of reinforcing a message by considering the situational and contextual aspects of the conversation. The selection and arrangement of language in the Qur’an cannot be divorced from its historical context when it was revealed. Consequently, many of its language styles aim to exhibit the beauty of language usage, precision of expression, and richness of meaning, leading to diverse interpretations (ibid).

While tautology may initially appear as a mere repetition of words stemming from the reiteration of identical terms, it differs from replication or redundancy achieved through the use of different words conveying similar meanings (Waldoff, 2001). Moreover, tautology is intricately linked to the functioning of meaning in language. In the Arabic context, when different words are employed to convey the same meaning, it implies that the meanings embedded within those phrases or lyrics surpass the expressive capacity of individual words, shedding light on the rich semantic nuances of the Arabic language (Ethelb, 2019; Keach, 2004).
In the context of Arabic discourse, tautological expressions play a distinctive role. Arabic language and literature have a rich tradition of employing rhetorical devices, including tautology, to enhance the impact and aesthetic appeal of discoursal practices. Further, Russell (2005) argues that the implicit acceptance of a presumed substance of style over mere form affirms the existence of multiple reasons justifying the frequent utilization of tautology and repetition in Arabic discourse. Thus, tautology should not be perceived as a mindless replication of words; rather, it serves as an expressive tool encapsulating the profound depths of human emotions, resonating with the cultural and linguistic intricacies of the Arabic language (Ethelb, 2019).

The concept of tautology, in fact, highlights the lack of clarity in various dictionary definitions. Existing definitions of tautology fail to provide clear distinctions regarding repeated words or ideas. The Concise Oxford Dictionary, Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary of Synonyms, and the Oxford Dictionary of English emphasize the presence of unnecessary repetition of words or ideas in one sentence. Moore (2001) introduces related terms such as antanaclasis, paronomasia, pleonasm, and redundancy, showcasing different forms of repetition in language under the concept of tautology. One of the functions of tautological expressions is intended vagueness. States (1989) suggests that this strategy is associated with populism and is unsuitable for an elite audience. Tautologies can also serve the purpose of conveying acceptance or resignation to a particular circumstance. In English, all types of tautology can be used to fulfill this function of acceptance (Al-Marsumi, 2017).

Another function of tautology is the denial of differences within a category, which holds particular relevance in Arabic discourse. Tautological constructions can be employed to diminish the significance of distinctions among members of a category. This suggests that, within a specific context, all members are essentially identical (Al-Marsumi, 2017). In Arabic rhetoric, tautological expressions have been observed to serve as a means of emphasizing collective identity and unity while downplaying individual variations and highlighting shared characteristics (Al-Marsumi, 2017). Moreover, tautological constructions can arise as a result of the inherent limitations of language itself. Cherry (1978) argues that this type of tautology emerges due to the inadequacies inherent in language. It, in fact, necessitates the expansion of phrases and sentences to effectively convey intended meaning. In the context of Arabic discourse, the utilization of tautological constructions can be seen as a linguistic strategy to compensate for the complexities and nuances of the Arabic language, which often require additional elements to ensure the accurate transmission of intended messages.

Similarly, Jespersen (1917) posits that the use of unnecessary double negation in tautological constructions serves the purpose of preventing overlooked elements. In the realm of Arabic discourse, the employment of redundant linguistic structures, such as double negation, can be viewed as a deliberate linguistic choice to enhance clarity and emphasize certain aspects of the message. This redundancy aids in avoiding potential misinterpretations or omissions that may arise due to the intricacies of Arabic syntax and semantics.

3. Translation of tautologies

The phenomenon of tautology serves various functions, including avoiding clarity and straightforwardness in communication, thereby prompting the recipients to search for the intended meaning (Ateeg & Al-Tamimi, 2014). The Arabs and English speakers frequently employ tautological expressions, influenced by cultural factors that encourage deeper contemplation of the message to extract the implied meaning. Translating tautology poses challenges due to the cultural-loaded nature of certain words, emphasizing the need for cultural awareness in translation. Even seemingly simple words and phrases can present difficulties for translators (ibid).

Tautological expressions serve an emotive function in language, aiming to affect the recipient’s feelings and attitudes. Their truth-conditional meanings may be uninformative, but their emotive meanings hold significance (Okamoto, 1993). Translating tautological expressions involves pragmatic considerations, as it requires understanding the authors’ intended meanings, assumptions, objectives, and speech acts. Tautological expressions violate the maxim of quantity, but they convey extra information and implied meanings. Decoding the subtext and considering the surrounding linguistic context is crucial in translation, particularly in political contexts where the evaluative sense of a term and the translator’s ideology come into play (Ethelb, 2022). There are different views on whether words in one language have exact equivalents in others, leading to various approaches to interpreting tautological expressions. The radical-pragmatic approach is favored, as tautological expressions are context-dependent and meaningful within their specific contexts (Sakai, 2012).

Tautological expressions pose unique challenges in translation due to their inherent redundancy and the nuanced meaning they convey. The translation of tautological expressions requires a careful balance between conveying the literal repetition of words and capturing the implied meaning and intended effect on the audience. When translating tautological expressions, one approach is to preserve the repetition of words or elements in the target language. This strategy aims to replicate the tautological structure and emphasize the redundant nature of the expression. However, maintaining the exact repetition in the translation may not always be effective, as it can result in awkward or unnatural phrasing in the target language. In such cases, the translator may need to resort to alternative techniques to capture the essence of the tautological expression while ensuring linguistic fluency and cultural appropriateness in the target language. Further, tautological expressions often carry an emotive or rhetorical value that employed
to evoke certain feelings or attitudes. This involves not only conveying the literal meaning but also capturing the evaluative sense and the underlying message or implication of the tautological expression. Translating tautological expressions also requires careful attention to the pragmatic and contextual aspects of the expression. The subtext, implied meanings, and cultural connotations associated with the tautological expression play a crucial role in determining the most appropriate translation strategy.

4. Research method
This study investigates Arabic tautological expressions and their translation into English. The research design is primarily descriptive and exploratory, aiming to analyze the structure, meaning, and translation challenges of tautological expressions. The data collection is conducted through an examination of social media platforms, specifically focusing on user-generated content. The study adopts a qualitative approach, allowing for an in-depth analysis of the collected tautological expressions. The data for this research is collected from various social media platforms known for their active Arabic-speaking user base. A systematic search method is employed to identify posts and comments containing tautological expressions. To ensure a diverse range of tautological expressions, a purposive sampling technique is utilized, selecting posts from different topics, genres, and contexts. A total of 11 tautological expressions are collected as representative samples for analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Arabic tautology</th>
<th>Suggested linear translation</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>مهتم ينتخب</td>
<td>Elects election</td>
<td>Yantakhibu intihāban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>يشارك ينتخب</td>
<td>Shares election</td>
<td>Yantakhibu intihāban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ينتخب انتخابًا</td>
<td>Votes a vote</td>
<td>Yuṣawwitu taṣwitan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ينتخب انتخابًا</td>
<td>Delivers a speech</td>
<td>Yakhṭūbu ḥuṭāban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ينتخب نضالًا</td>
<td>Struggles a struggle</td>
<td>Yanādīlu niḍālan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ينتخب فاوضًا</td>
<td>Negotiates a negotiation</td>
<td>Yatafawadu taṭawadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ينتخب انتخابًا</td>
<td>Votes a vote</td>
<td>Yuṣawwitu taṣwitan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ينتخب كلامًا</td>
<td>Delivers a speech</td>
<td>Yakhṭūbu ḥuṭāban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ينتخب انتخابًا</td>
<td>Negotiates a negotiation</td>
<td>Yatafawadu taṭawadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>ينتخب نضالًا</td>
<td>Struggles a struggle</td>
<td>Yanādīlu niḍālan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>ينتخب فاوضًا</td>
<td>Negotiates a negotiation</td>
<td>Yatafawadu taṭawadu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The collected tautological expressions are subjected to a comprehensive analysis, which involves linguistic Analysis, cultural contextualization, and translation. Each tautological expression is examined for its syntactic and semantic structure to identify the redundant or repetitive elements present. The aim is to understand the specific linguistic features and patterns employed in Arabic tautological expressions. They are also studied within their cultural context. This includes considering the sociocultural factors that contribute to the usage and understanding of these expressions. The analysis will further examine the challenges and strategies involved in rendering the tautological nature of these expressions in the target language.

It is important to acknowledge the limitations of this research. The study is based on a relatively small sample size of 11 tautological expressions collected from social media platforms. The findings may not be generalizable to all Arabic tautological expressions or to other contexts beyond social media. However, the study provides valuable insights into the structure and translation of tautological expressions in Arabic, opening avenues for further research in this area.

5. Analysis and discussion
This section analyzes and discusses the tautological expressions in relation to their linguistic feature, cultural context, and possible renditions into English. It is evident that these tautologies are characterized by their repetitive structure, where the verb and its corresponding noun are derived from the same root word. The analysis reflects the linguistic aspects of these tautological expressions, such as their repetitive syntax. It is apparent that they employ a redundancy that emphasizes the action or concept being conveyed. The repetition serves to amplify the significance and intensity of the verb-adverb relationship, thereby intensifying the meaning and capturing the attention of the listener or reader. This repetitive structure contributes to the stylistic distinctiveness of these expressions within the Arabic language. Furthermore, the cultural context in which these tautologies are relatively explained to understand their usage and significance. Arabic-speaking cultures often place a strong emphasis on certain actions, and the utilization of tautologies serves to underscore their importance. These expressions are commonly found in various domains, including politics, activism, public speaking, negotiation, and personal communication. In the process of translation, it is a challenge to preserve the repetitive structure while accurately conveying their intended meaning.

 يناضل نضالًا (Struggles a struggle)
The tautological expression "يناضل نضالًا" possesses a distinct linguistic structure. Syntactically, the expression follows a verb-adverb pattern, where the verb "يتناسل" meaning "struggles" and the adverb "نضالًا" have the same root word. This repetition of
the root word creates a powerful rhetorical effect, emphasizing the intensity and ongoing nature of the struggle. From the semantic point of view, example 1 reinforces the significance of the struggle being described. It conveys a sense of continuous effort, resilience, and determination in the face of challenges or obstacles. By repeating the root word, the expression intensifies the semantic impact.

This semantic structure aligns with cultural values prevalent in Arabic-speaking societies, where perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity are highly appreciated. Pragmatically speaking, the phrase conveys a message of strength and endurance. It speaks to the cultural context of Arabic-speaking societies as it resonates with historical and contemporary experiences of individuals and communities striving for social justice, political change, and personal growth. This tautology can literally be rendered to “struggles a struggle.” Alternatively, other translations such as “endures a relentless struggle” or “engages in an enduring struggle” could also capture the semantic and pragmatic dimensions of the tautology. The choice of translation may depend on the specific context; however, it is crucial to convey the essence of the tautological expression in English while preserving its cultural and rhetorical impact.

2. يصوت تصويتًا (Votes a vote)

The Arabic tautological expression “يصوت تصويتًا” exhibits a distinct linguistic structure. The expression follows a verb-adverb pattern, where the verb “يصوت” meaning “votes” and the adverb “تصويتًا” share the same root word. This repetition of the root word creates a rhetorical emphasis of casting a vote. Evidently, tautology in Example 2 reinforces the significance of the act of voting. It conveys the action of participating in a voting process. By repeating the root word, the expression amplifies the semantic impact, which is the importance of individual engagement in decision-making processes. The emphasis in this tautology encourages individuals to exercise their rights and contribute to the political landscape. A possible literal rendition for this tautology could be “votes a vote.” This translation aims to maintain the tautological structure while conveying the action of casting a vote. Alternatively, other functional translations such as “participates in voting” or “exercises the right to vote” could also capture the semantic and pragmatic dimensions of the tautology.

3. يخطب خطابًا (Delivers a speech)

The Arabic tautological expression “يخطب خطابًا” exhibits a distinctive linguistic structure. The tautological expression follows a verb-adverb pattern, where the verb “يخطب” meaning “delivers” and the adverb “خطابًا” partake the same root word. This repetition of the root word creates a rhetorical emphasis in Arabic discourse. The tautology semantically conveys the notion of formal or public oratory, where an individual addresses an audience in a structured manner. It subscribes to the cultural context of Arabic-speaking societies, which place value on eloquence, rhetoric, and the art of effective communication. It encourages individuals to harness the power of speech to convey messages, inspire, and influence others. This tautology could literally be rendered as “delivers a speech”. Alternatively, other translations such as “gives an oration” or “engages in public speaking” could also capture the semantic and pragmatic dimensions of the tautology.

4. يتحدي تحديًا (Challenges a challenge)

The tautological expression “يتحدي تحديًا” places significant emphasis on the action of challenging or confronting a difficulty or obstacle. It conveys a strong sense of determination and defiance. Within Arabic culture, the notion of challenging oneself or others is highly regarded as a pathway to personal and collective growth. Linguistically, the expression follows a verb-adverb pattern, where the verb “يتحدي” meaning “challenges” and the adverb “تحديًا” belongs the same root word. Some possible translations of this tautology include “confronts a challenge,” “faces a challenge head-on,” or “undertakes a challenge.” These translations effectively convey the act of actively engaging with and overcoming challenges; however, the choice of translation may depend on the specific context and desired emphasis.

5. يتفاوض تفاوضًا (Negotiates a negotiation)

The Arabic tautological expression “يتفاوض تفاوضًا” provides a profound insight into the process of negotiation. Linguistically, the expression follows a verb-adverb pattern, where the verb “يتفاوض” meaning “negotiates” and the adverb “تفاوضًا” possesses the same root word. This repetition of the root word creates a tautological structure that emphasizes the action of engaging in negotiation. The tautology signifies the process of engaging in discussions and reaching agreements through dialogue and compromise. It encapsulates the dynamic and interactive nature of negotiation. Negotiations play a significant role in various domains, including diplomacy, business transactions, and interpersonal relationships. It emphasizes the constructive nature of negotiation processes and the potential for achieving mutually beneficial outcomes. Some possible translations for this tautology include “engages in negotiation,” “conducts negotiations,” or “participates in a negotiation.” Alternative translations such as “Enters into negotiations” or “Initiates a negotiation” can also highlight the proactive aspect of negotiation. The choice of translation should convey the concept of active participation in negotiation processes while reflecting the cultural and pragmatic significance of the tautological expression.
The Arabic tautological expression "يجلس جلوسًا" exhibits a notable syntactic structure. It follows a verb-adverb pattern, where the verb "يجلس" meaning "sits" and the adverb "جلوسًا" is a part of the same root word. This repetition of the root word creates a tautological structure that emphasizes the action of sitting. The inclusion of the adverb "جلوسًا" adds a sense of manner or continuity to the expression. This tautology implies the act of walking or moving forward. It conveys a sense of progress, advancement, or journey. Within the cultural context, the expression signifies the proactive and steadfast approach to personal growth, success, or the pursuit of aspirations. This tautology can pragmatically invite individuals to persevere in the face of obstacles by suggesting that progress is achieved through consistent effort and forward movement. Some possible translations for this tautology include "moves forward," or "progresses steadily." These translations effectively convey the action of walking or progressing while reflecting the continuous effort in the original expression.

The Arabic tautological expression "ينتخب انتخابًا" adheres to a syntactic pattern characterized by the repetition of the root word, wherein the verb "يَنتخب" denoting "elects," is juxtaposed with the adverb "انتخابًا" derived from the same linguistic root. This tautology engenders a structural redundancy that serves to accentuate the act of electing. Semantically, the tautology signifies the involvement in verbal communication and the conveyance of thoughts or ideas through the medium of words and conversational exchanges. Translations that accurately capture the essence of this expression include "speaks words," "communicates verbally," or "engages in conversation." These renderings effectively convey the fundamental concept of speaking or participating in verbal communication.

The Arabic tautological expression "يشير نظرة" "يَشيِّر" meaning "looks" and the adverb "نظرة" denoting the action of visual perception. The tautology conveys the notion of active participation within the democratic framework. In the cultural context, this expression assumes a profound significance of democratic principles. It fosters a political engagement, and upholds the inherent right to vote. Pragmatically, the tautology underscores the criticality of active civic participation, the judicious selection of representatives to shape the political landscape through the mechanisms of the electoral process. Within the realm of translation, possible renditions that effectively capture the essence of this expression encompass "elects an election," "chooses through an election," or "participates in an election." These translated alternatives adeptly convey the notion of electing or participating in the electoral process.

(ıldığı نظر) "يَشترِ" meaning "to look" or "gazes." This iterative employment of the root word engenders a tautological structure that accentuates the act of visual perception. The tautology conveys the notion of engaging in attentive observation or meticulous scrutiny from a visual standpoint. Within the cultural milieu, the expression assumes cultural appreciation for the efficacy of astute observation in unveiling concealed truths or facilitating profound comprehension. Consequently, the tautology underscores the cultural emphasis on introspection and the capacity of discerning observation. Regarding potential translations into English, various options exist to effectively capture the essence of the tautological expression. For instance, plausible renditions encompass "looks a look" or "gazes with a gaze." These translations adeptly convey the notion of intentional scrutiny or attentive observation while simultaneously reflecting the cultural import attributed to the practice of profound examination. The choice of translation may hinge upon the specific contextual considerations and desired emphases. Nonetheless, the crux lies in effectively conveying the concept of meticulous observation and the cultural significance interwoven within it.

(Tells a story) "يَفصح تفصيلاً" showcases a notable verb-adverb pattern, where the verb "يَفصح" meaning "to detail" or "to elaborate," is coupled with the adverb "تفاصيل" "تفاصيل" meaning "detail" or "elaboration." This repetition of the
root word creates a tautological structure that accentuates the act of providing thorough and comprehensive details. The inclusion of the noun “تفصيلاً” adds precision and depth to the nature of the detailed information being referenced. The tautology conveys the idea of delving into the specifics and intricacies of a subject matter. Within the cultural context, the expression signifies the value placed on thoroughness, precision, and comprehensive understanding. Possible translations include “elaborates in detail” or “provides a comprehensive account.” The choice of translation should convey the concept of providing detailed information and the cultural significance associated with it.

When we translate these tautological expressions into English, it is important to keep the repeated structure while still getting across the meaning and cultural significance. The suggested translations might change depending on the situation, but the goal is to capture the essence of the original expressions in English. The translations should reflect the repetitive nature of the tautologies, while also conveying the intended message and cultural implications. The aim is to find English equivalents that capture the same emphasis and impact as the original expressions. So, the translations may vary, but the objective is to maintain the accompanying connotations of the tautological expressions when conveying them across. The choice of translation may depend on several factors, including the specific context, target audience, and desired effect. Translators need to consider the linguistic and cultural nuances to ensure that the translated expression captures the intended meaning and resonates with the cultural context of the target language. It requires a careful balance between fidelity to the original expression and making it accessible and meaningful to the audience of the translated text. Moreover, the translation process may involve creative adaptations and selecting idiomatic expressions that convey a similar sense of repetition or redundancy in English. These translations should aim to evoke the same impact and convey the cultural implications of the original tautological expressions. Ultimately, the goal is to bridge the linguistic and cultural gaps, allowing the crux of the message of the tautologies to be effectively communicated and understood in the target language.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study explored the tautological expressions in the Arabic language and the challenges associated with their translation into English. Through the identification and analysis of the characteristics and patterns of tautological expressions in Arabic, the research shed light on their structural and semantic aspects. Moreover, the study has examined potential translations of tautologies and investigated how translators convey the redundant meaning present in Arabic tautological expressions across English translations. It uncovered the complexities and potential pitfalls involved in accurately conveying the intended meaning of tautologies. This research provided valuable insights for translation practices. The research questions explored the approaches taken by translators when translating tautological expressions from Arabic to English and assessed the extent to which English translations successfully capture the tautological nature and intended meaning of Arabic tautological expressions. This study significantly contributes to enhancing cross-linguistic understanding and improving translation practices in the context of tautological expressions between the Arabic and English languages.

The analysis presents the translation, linguistic analysis and cultural contextualization of the collected Arabic tautological expressions. In addition, it provides a complete explanation of the syntactic and semantic structure (construction) of each selected expression. The Arabic tautological expressions are analyzed by indicating their linguistic features, cultural context, and possible translation into English. It is important to mention that tautological expressions are formed with a repetitive construction, where the verb is followed by an adverb derived from the same root of the verb. This has been done to show the action or meaning in translation. Furthermore, the analysis provided the cultural context in which these tautologies are comparatively explained to understand their usage in Arabic and English. For example, the Arabic tautological structure “يناضل نضالًا” (Struggles a struggle) that is syntactically follows a verb-adverb structure in order to show and create a strong rhetorical effect. This structure semantically gives the meaning of continuous meaning of the verb in action “يُناضِل يناضل - struggle”. The choice of translation depends on the cultural context of the structure; however, it is essential to convey the literal meaning of the tautological expression in English with paying attention to its cultural and rhetorical impact.

This study is limited to the analysis of this type of tautological expressions. Therefore, translators must consider tautological expressions as this rhetorical device plays a significant role in the context of Arabic language discourse and literature. Thus, it is highly recommended that translators must be familiar with various strategies or techniques that can be taken in account in translating tautological expressions. Moreover, tautological expressions must be recognized in their translation teaching/learning and training. They must understand the culture and context of the expression in both languages to convey exactly and correctly the same literal meaning.

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