Abstract

The Translation of Some Metaphorical Expressions in *Shakespeare's Hamlet*

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This study is primarily concerned with the translation of 15 metaphorical expressions in *Shakespeare's Hamlet*. To fulfill this purpose, six Arabic translations of the play were subjected to analysis. The researcher analyzed the six Arabic versions of the play translated by six Arab translators, namely, Kiuaan, Hameed, Shaheen, Mohammad, Jabra, and Jamaal in terms of fullness, appropriateness, and metaphoricity. During the analysis, the study pointed out some problems encountered by the translators as they tried to convey the metaphorical expression in question into the target text. Also, it mentioned the strategies of translation opted by the six translators.

The researcher adopted the belief of some linguists and translators, e.g. Newmark (1981 and 1988), that metaphor is translatable. This study divided the 15 metaphorical expressions into two categories based on their types into: Original metaphors and cultural metaphors. Translating the original metaphors posed three lexical problems which were wrong-
choice of diction, mistranslation, and deletion while translating the
cultural metaphors posed cultural problems resulted from the use of
Greek characters or reference to a tale that the target audience may not be
familiar with.

The present study revealed that metaphor is translatable. The six
translators, sometimes, retained the metaphor in the target text fully and
appropriately while in other times they failed to do so. Also, most of
these translators opted for the strategy of alienation to convey the Greek
characters. The study also revealed that the most appropriate translation
was the one that maintained the metaphor of the source text. In order to
do that, the translator needed not to demetaphorize the metaphorical
expression in question.

Finally, the study recommended that more critical studies should
be conducted by comparing and contrasting the translations of literary
works, particularly concentrating on the metaphor translation. Also, it
recommended further studies on the translation of metaphor to compare
its translation in literary works with its translation in different fields.