



## *The Application of Larson's Model of Translation Quality Assessment to the Translation of Arabic Journalistic Texts into English*

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### Abstract

In an ever growing industry with an enterprise as old as the practice of translation itself, and one of the most productive lines of scientific research in Translation Studies, translation quality assessment (TQA) establishes a pragmatic framework, an essential tool to be scaled to fit the needs of the different actors of translation.

This study investigates and tests the application of Larson's (1984) model of translation quality assessment. The criteria-based model is applied to assess the translation of Arabic news texts into English within an interdisciplinary framework of discourse analysis that draws heavily from critical discourse analysts, such as Dijk (1988), Fairclough (1995) and sociolinguists and practicing journalists, Bell (1991), and Cotter (2010), focusing mainly on translation errors, their nature and root cause.

The study hypothesizes the applicability, efficiency, and practicality of the adopted model in assessing news texts as it operates on three basic, but universal criteria. To test the hypothesis validity, nine MA translation students are given different news texts. The quality and success of the test subjects' translations are assessed based on the model's three criteria of accuracy, clarity, and naturalness. Along with a fourth criterion proposed to cover the typographical features of texts.

The study reveals that the model is, in fact, applicable when applied to test the translation quality of news texts and that it can be very helpful in shedding light on the complex nature of news texts that are often domesticated to fit the needs of both diligent newsagents and a demanding audience in a highly competitive market.

## تطبيق أنموذج لارسون لتقويم جودة الترجمة على ترجمة النصوص الصحفية العربية إلى اللغة

### الإنجليزية

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المستخلص:

تهدف الدراسة إلى التحقق من تطبيق أنموذج لارسون (1984) لتقويم جودة الترجمة. حيث يُطبق النموذج المعياري في تقويم ترجمة النصوص الصحفية العربية إلى اللغة الإنجليزية في إطار متعدد التخصصات لتحليل النص/الخطاب والذي يستقي بشكل كبير من أعمال محلي الخطاب النقدي، مثل دايك (1988) و فيركلف (1995) وعالمي اللغة الاجتماعيان والصحفيان الممارسان، بيل (1991) وكوتر (2010)، مع تركيز الدراسة بشكل أساسي على تقويم أخطاء الترجمة والنظر في طبيعتها وأسبابها الجذرية.

تفترض الدراسة كفاءة النموذج المعتمد وعمليته في ترجمة النصوص الإخبارية لأنه يقوم في عمله على ثلاثة معايير أساسية وعامة. ولأختبار صحة الفرضية، تم إعطاء تسعة طلاب ماجستير نصوص صحفية مختلفة. و أُختبرت جودة ونجاح ترجماتهم بناءً على معايير النموذج الثلاثة، وهي معيار الدقة والوضوح والطبيعية، إلى جانب معيار رابع مقترح لتغطية السمات المطبعية للنصوص.

تكشف الدراسة أن النموذج في الحقيقة فعال عند تطبيقه لاختبار جودة ترجمة النصوص الصحفية وأنه يمكن أن يكون مفيداً للغاية في تسليط الضوء على طبيعة النصوص الصحفية المعقدة والتي غالباً ما يتم تقريبها لتتناسب متطلبات كل من وكلاء الأخبار الدووبين والمتلقي المتطلب في سياقات تنافسية بحتة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** تقويم جودة الترجمة، أنموذج، النصوص الصحفية، معايير، الدقة، الوضوح، الطبيعية

### 1. The Concept of News Translation

In a narrow sense, within the discipline of translation studies, Davier and Conway (2019:2) use the term “news translation” to refer to an area of systematic study of the practice of translation, interpreting, and intercultural mediation in the production of news in news organizations or in organizations providing journalists with press releases. In a broad sense, Davier and Conway view translation as “the re-expression of bits of speech or text in a different language”, and “the explanation of how members of a foreign cultural community interpret an object or event”, (ibid.).

Scholars have identified some common aspects that seem to characterize the concept of translation in different news contexts; First, translations are rarely indicated as such in the news. Second, trained translators are generally absent from newsrooms. Third, translation is perceived as an inseparable process from news production, (Bielsa & Bassnett, 2009:10-71; Conway, 2015:518; Davier 2014:54). Fourth, key concepts in translation studies (i.e. the ST and TT) are challenged by several news translation studies, (Bielsa & Bassnett, 2009:2; Van Doorslaer, 2022:172; Davier & Van Doorslaer, 2018: 242; Schaffner 2012: 875).

Scammell (2018: 21-22) argues that the various processes in which newsagents intervene and modify a news text make journalistic translation unique in a way that separates it from the conventional conceptions of translation or its traditional role. Scammell contends that the closest the field has come to adopting a new label for news translation is ‘transediting’—a term coined by

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Stetting (1989) to describe the level of editing fundamental to the practice of news translation. In shedding light on editing processes involved in the production of a news text translated to suit the needs of a new audience, for example, omitting “passages which might be irrelevant in the foreign context”, is used, (Stetting, 1989: 371).

Stetting (1989: 371) argues that ‘transediting’ proves to be significant in the news translation context. Her proposed term, however, is debated heavily in the domain of news translation. Some researchers such as, (Van Doorslaer, 2022: 169-182), have adopted ‘transediting’ and went even further and introduced the term ‘journaltor’, others such as, Bielsa and Bassnett (2009:63–64) reject it. They argue that the use of the term would imply “the existence of another form of translating news”. Schaffner (2012:880) concludes that while ‘transediting’ can potentially bring about more awareness to the concept of news translation and help establish it as special genre, using the term would undermine the broader concept of the practice of translation, which is thought of by many in the past as a transfer of meaning or a linguistic exchange (equivalence theory), as opposed to translation in its modern sense.

## **2. News Translation Strategies**

Bielsa and Bassnett’s (2009:84) approach to news translation practices within the journalistic context, in which they discuss specific values, strategies, and analyze views of practicing journalists, can be summarized with the following:

1. News translation involves the thoroughgoing transformation of the source text and the production of a new one designed to suit specific audiences according to the journalistic norms of the region. Journalists do not need to view the (ST) as a finished product but as the basis for the elaboration of a new text.
2. Texts have to be adapted to the style and the journalistic norms of a different context. Often more than one source text is used for the elaboration of a news report which is not only a translation but also a synthesis of different news texts related to one particular theme.
3. In case where the (ST) is written in a way that cannot accept change, the translator’s obligation towards the source text is one of preserving the ‘spirit of the text’ in the broadest sense, that is, retaining the aims of the reporter who wrote it while transforming the text in such a way that the target reader can understand it and relate to the reality it describes.
4. The choice of texts is based upon the client's needs, and upon journalistic criteria of news relevance and high media interest in certain subjects and themes.
5. The translators/editors’ job is basically to ensure that the information they receive is accurate and that it describes effectively the development of events; that the sources are authentic and the order in which events are narrated follows an inverted pyramid structure.
6. Fluency is the main strategy to achieve conciseness and clarity, which are the main objectives of the two-fold task of editing/translation, in which texts are not only checked and corrected but also synthesized and rewritten for a new public.

7. Journalists stress that context is of primary importance: the translation draft must contain all the necessary information so that readers do not have to fall back on other sources in order to understand it fully.

News translation strategies can be best summarized by Bielsa and Bassnett's own words: "In news translation, the dominant strategy is absolute domestication, as material is shaped in order to be consumed by the target audience, so has to be tailored to suit their needs and expectations" (2009: 10).

### **3. The Concept of Translation Quality Assessment**

James S. Holmes classifies the applied area of research, which is primarily concerned with the actual practice of translation, in (TS) into: 'Translation Training,' 'Translation Aids,' and 'Translation Criticism', (Munday, 2016:16). Translation quality assessment (TQA) falls under the sub-field Holmes terms translation criticism, which according to House (2016:72. Part, 2. Ch8,) aims at evaluating whether a translation quality is simply good or bad. The question of quality, as she suggests, presupposes different theoretical stances that take into account: the relationship between the (SL) and (TL), the relationship between characteristics of texts and the way they are perceived by the text producer, the translator, and the audience, and the relationship between translation and other textual operations. House argues that, since translation is based on the equivalence between the (SL) and (TL), translation quality assessment serves as a tool to particularize and operationalize equivalence relations by differentiating between different equivalence frameworks, (i.e. extra-linguistic factors, connotative and aesthetic values, audience design and textual norms of usage).

While it may link translation theory with its practice, Newmark (1988:184-185) argues that (TAQ) is not a simple question of black or white, but an area of different shades of grey. He contends that (TQA) values cannot be taken for granted for the fact that it has many aspects that makes it just as relative or as absolute as the act of translation itself. Newmark points out that if a translation quality assessment that is based on the standard referential or pragmatic accuracy proves to be pointless or inappropriate, other aspects of translation, such as faithfulness, may be worth considering. He is of the view that a translation should sometimes read like one, arguing that the absence of interference, naturalness, smoothness, readability, and easy flow of the translated text are false standards.

Al-Qinai (2000:498) maintains a similar view that applies to translation and by extension (TQA), arguing that translation is a hermeneutic complex process in which presentiment plays a key role in the interpretation of the (SL) writer's intentions. Al-Qinai contends that Languages are different with regard to connotations of lexical choices, syntax, and rhetorical devices and that these three aspects are the only substantial tools for translation quality assessment. He goes on to suggest that it is only reasonable to talk about the degree of equivalence rather than the adequacy of a translation. Thus, the concept of quality is relative and absolutes of (TAQ) fall short when the client forces their own subjective preferences onto the (TT).

In their attempt to address the dynamics of news translation and its assessment, Bielsa and Bassnett (2009:88) argue that the quality of news translation can be assessed without the need to go back to the original on two different levels:

- (1) the appropriate use of a journalistic style (brevity and correctness of headline and lead, inverted pyramid structure), along with coherent, clear, concise, and logical narration of events.

(2) the appropriate use of language and syntax. Translations must not be too literal, must employ a natural language that can be understood in the whole region, and must also be checked for false friends and incorrect expressions.

In addition, translated texts must also be checked against similar texts that have already been transmitted by a news agency with the view to homogenize expressions and concepts to present a coherent product to the client. Bielsa and Bassnett (2009:88) propose a second revision to compare the translated text with the original in order to verify numbers, dates, quantities, and similar data, as well as to check that quotes have been translated faithfully and accurately.

#### **4. Larson's TQA Model**

Primarily concerned with getting the message across, and motivated by the concept of good translation quality and usability, Larson (1984:485) proposes a criteria-oriented translation quality assessment model. Prompted by the view of texts as a total discourse, Larson emphasizes the quality of translation as a product as much as the assessment process and its testing procedures. She contends that testing should begin early in the process, on smaller units after the first part, episode, or chapter is completed. This, as she suggests, will provide feedback of errors, will help the translator to do better as he/she moves further in the assessment process, and to make sure that the process of assessment is done carefully and adequately.

Larson raises four questions to give insight into the different aspects of the assessment process, of which only the first inquiry will be discussed in detail due to its relevance to the current project: 'why test a translation?', 'who does the testing?', 'how the testing is done?', and 'how the results are used' to polish the final translation draft?

Larson (1984:485) proposes three main criteria to test translation: 'accuracy', 'clarity', and 'naturalness'.

##### **4.1 Accuracy**

A careful check for accuracy, as Larson suggests, is crucial because it is quite easy for translators to unconsciously leave out some part of the original text, or add unjustified information, which was not intended in the (ST) during the restructuring stage to get the message across. Inaccurate translation can also be the result of a wrong analysis of the (ST) and transfer process. Accurate translation in her view, thus, entails no addition, no omission, and no wrong information.

The Chartered Institute of Linguists, cited in Munday (2016:50), maintains a similar view of the assessment criterion, where it appears twice in the organization's assessment approach. First, accuracy appears as the very first requirement and stands for error-free transfer of information and a sign of complete comprehension. Second, it extends to include the technical aspects of a given text, such as punctuation. Munday states that in a way accuracy is the contemporary linguistic equivalent of 'faithfulness' and 'truth'. In Zhong's view (2002:575), the discourse of accuracy is a paradigm that requires a translation to be accurate on a lexico-semantic level, faithful to the source text, objective and impartial.

The concept of accuracy is in itself subjective. Many have argued that achieving accuracy of translation is unattainable, due to the lack of one-to-one correspondence across languages, cultures, and personal understandings, (Hale & Campbell, 2002:17). Others argue, however, that accuracy of translation is achievable through a pragmatic reconstruction of the (SL) into the (TL). Baker (2018:320) maintains that while accuracy is a principle included in most codes of ethics, it

is difficult to comply with for ethical reasons. She argues that the assessment criterion is undoubtedly a significant aim in translation, however; some loss, addition, or distortion of meaning is often inevitable because in most cases languages tend to be too different to reproduce 'identical replicas', (Baker, 2018:62). Baker contends that it is important to bear in mind that the use of common (TL) patterns, which are familiar to the target reader, plays an important role in keeping the channels of communication open.

According to Lahlali and Abu Hatab (2014:94), accuracy poses a serious issue that should be taken into consideration in certain translation typologies (i.e. scientific texts). Accuracy, in their view, is a major issue, and that a translation should aim to convey the same objectives of the (SL), thus contributing to the major scientific areas introduced in the (SL). Proficiency in the (TL) is not adequate because translators must be familiar with the language of the discipline at hand, its jargon, and historical context, so that they can express their ideas thoroughly in the (TL) in line with the style and content of the (ST). If certain lexical items in the (SL) need more explanation or clarification in the (TL), the translator must make sure that an extended elaboration, for instance, footnote use, remains accessible for the reader.

## **4.2 Clarity**

To make sure a translation is clear, Larson suggests clarity as the second criterion for her (TQA) model. She argues that it is important to check for clarity because a translation can be accurate but still does not communicate the message to the target reader. Larson (1984:487) maintains that clarity dictates using forms of language that make the (TT) easily comprehensible and unchallenging to understand like the (ST) text itself is to understand in its original context.

Drugan (2013:17) states that it is often said that translation is invisible when executed well. The enterprise resembles a sheet of glass; 'good' translation is a clear and smooth pane, while flawed translation is one with visible cracks, textures, scratches, or bubbles, drawing attention to craft. Gutt (2010:69-72) states that among the universal objectives a translation should aim to achieve are accuracy and clarity of meaning. He contends while translation theory in the past tends to favor a source-oriented approaches to translation, preserving the form, style, and linguistic features of the original, modern approaches to translation since the 1960s have shifted the emphasis on the content of the message and the impact a translation exerts on the receptor language audience-Nida's dynamic equivalence is among the first approaches along these lines, (1982:12-32).

Angelelli (2009:13-49) maintains that of the various sub-components of translation competence/ability construct, which consists of a clearly defined skill or ability that not only involves identifying the ability, knowledge, or behavior under assessment but also analyzing that knowledge, ability or behavior into the components that create a construct, clarity of grammatical competence (i.e. lexis, syntax and graphemic knowledge) at the linguistic level is significant and vital. Each of the three areas is crucial for clear interpretation of the (ST) and production of the (TT) and that inadequacy in one of the three aspects can impact the practice of translation and consequently (TQA). For instance, inadequate knowledge of lexis can result in miscomprehension of the (ST) or inability to successfully communicate meaning in (TT).

## **4.3 Naturalness**

Larson (1984:487) states that a translation may be accurate in that the translator understands the (ST) correctly and that it may be clear in that it communicates the message in the (TL) adequately, yet, the language forms used sound strange or unnatural. Larson advocates for naturalness of translation to the point where she suggests that a translation should not sound like

one but as an original text in the receptor's language. Her criterion of naturalness manifests itself in idiomatic coherent translation with easy flow, vivid style, and familiar grammatical forms. As for the naturalness test, Larson (1984:488) suggests that the translator can test the criterion by comparing the translated text with original texts in the target language.

Naturalness is a key requirement for Nida and Taber (1982:12) as they argue that "translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style." Thus, the message must be translated in line with the receptor's linguistic needs, cultural expectation and should strive for total naturalness of expression. Pym (2014:33) maintains a similar view, arguing that what is said in one language can have a similar value, worth, or function when translated into another language. Pym contends that equivalence does not necessarily mean languages are the same, rather they have the same value and that translation is only natural when 'natural equivalence' manifests itself in concepts of equal value that exist in different languages prior to the process of translation.

Kim (2009:123) suggests that accuracy and naturalness include not only one aspect of meaning ( i.e. linguistic) at the word or sentence level, but takes into account other necessary categories such as interpersonal meaning (i.e. degree of formality and personal attitudes), and textual meaning (i.e. coherent flow of information). In other words, limited translations that focus primarily on syntax, grammar, and idiomatic expression at the clause or sentence level, but does not read well at the text level are, in Kim's view, unnatural. Text's naturalness is jeopardized, as Munday (2016:51) suggests, only when the translator opts for a translation that is too or totally literal.

#### **4.4 Correctness**

To account for a crucial aspect of language Larson left unexplored, correctness is incorporated into the assessment model as a fourth criterion to investigate basic aspects of grammar and punctuation. Correctness in the current study will cover four typographical aspects of written texts: punctuation, abbreviation, morphology, and textual macrostructure.

Punctuation makes possible the clear presentation of the English language. It is a conventional system that is designed to help readers read and understand a story without stumbling. It is a key for effective communication and anyone who reads and writes should possess a good working knowledge of grammar-this includes the nuts and bolts of punctuation. A check for punctuation here includes: capitalization, periods, commas, colons, semicolons, apostrophes, exclamation marks, question marks, etc., (King, 2004:1-23; Trask, 1997: 1-113).

Abbreviations 'are useful space-saving devices'. They are employed extensively both in technical or specialized/formal and informal writing, however; to a lesser degree in formal writing. It is better to spell these linguistic tools out, especially for some abbreviations that stand for more than one thing, unless the context makes the meaning clear. For instance, (*He was a CO in the war*) is perplexing because the abbreviation stands for two meanings 'commanding officer' and 'conscientious objector', (Manser, 2003, A).

Morphology is technically the area of grammar that deals with the structure of words, and with relationships between words involving the morphemes that compose them. To allow the meanings of some complex words to be predictable, morphemes must be both distinguishable from one word to another and must in a way play a part in the meaning of the whole word, (Carstairs-McCarthy, 2002:16). It is a branch of linguistics that deals with the internal structure of words and how they are formed, (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011: 1-2). Morphology, here, is used in a

narrow sense to refer to a set of conventions called spelling, which is how morphemes or letters are put together to form meaningful written linguistic units.

Macrostructure is a term used by Dijk (1980: 51, 1988:31) to refer to ordered sets of propositions expressed indirectly by larger units of text or talk. Fairclough (1995:29) employs the term, in a similar manner, to refer to two concepts: the gist or core content of a text and its overall form and organization. Pajunen (2008:18) contends that the global level of semantic representation of a text, as opposed to the local level, is the typical place of operation for macrostructures. Macrostructure is employed here to account for the specific global schematic order of news discourse.

## 5. Data Analysis/Discussion

Sample (A) is taken from (*ALAYAM*/الايام), Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, January 2021 issue (No.11597), a Bahrain-based newspaper depicting the January 6, 2021, violent protest that took place in the American capital of Washington where a group of Trump supporters managed to breach the U.S. Capitol to overturn Trump's defeat in the 2020 presidential elections.

### 5.1 Test Subject-1

#### 1-Accuracy Criterion

Line No.	Source Text	Target Text
1- (Par.1, Snt.1)	حاول متظاهرون من انصار الرئيس دونالد ترامب اقتحام قاعة مجلس النواب الامريكي...	Trump's protestors supporters broke into the American representative hall...
2- (Par.4, Snt.4)	والتي من المتوقع ان تعلن رسميا الرئيس المنتخب جو بايدن الرئيس القادم للولايات المتحدة الامريكية.	,which is expected to be officially announced president-elect Joe Biden is the next president of the United States of America.
3- (Par.5, Snt.5)	فيما تاهبت القوات الامنية, اذا احتملت ان يتخلل الاحتجاجات اعمال عنف.	,while troops mobilized security if you expect that the protest will be interspersed with violence.

#### Discussion:

In terms of accuracy, although (Par.1, Snt.1) translation contains no addition, it is still inaccurate in the sense that it exhibits omission and provides wrong information. The translation of "Trump's protestors supporters" for the ST "متظاهرون من انصار الرئيس دونالد ترامب" is inaccurate, resulting in different meaning in the TL and distorts the SL message. The translator was unsuccessful in rendering the protestors and supporters as one group. The inaccurate rendition of "supporters" in a post-modifying position after "protestors" results in a different meaning in the TL- the protestors and supporters are no longer one or the same group. A pre- or post-modifying construction would be the only suitable choice after the noun head "Trump". Wrong information due to inappropriate equivalent choice can also be traced in "the American representative hall" for the ST "قاعة مجلس النواب الامريكي". The translation appears to be missing some information as well, such as "الرئيس دونالد ,حاول". A simple, concise, and clear translation would, for instance be "Protestors in Support of President Donald Trump tried to storm the U.S. House Chamber...".

Text (A) translation of the satellite (Par.4, Snt.4) is also inaccurate. It exhibits wrong information in that the translator opted for the passive instead of the active voice as in “is expected to be officially announced”- the results are expected to officially announce Joe Biden as the next president not to be announced. This would obviously result in different distorted meaning. Another source of inaccuracy is the addition of “is” instead of “as”, further reinforcing the translation inaccuracy.

The translation of (Par.5, Snt.5) “while troops mobilized security if you expect that the protest will be interspersed with violence” is also inaccurate: first, it provides wrong information in that it is the security forces that were mobilized not to mobilize security. Second, the omission of “تأهبت” and the unjustified addition of “you” further renders the translation inaccurate. To maintain accuracy, a translation such as “ while troops were mobilized in case of possible riots” can be proposed instead.

## 2-Clarity Criterion

	Line No.	Source Text	Target Text
1-	Headline	متظاهرون من انصار ترامب يقتحمون مقر الشيوخ الامريكي	Trump’s Protestors supporters Broke through the American senate headquarters.
2-	(Par.8, Snt.8)	ورفع قسم من هولاء لافتات كتب عليها "اوقفوا السرقة"...	Some of these people raised book banners. It bears “stop the theft”
3-	(Par.11, Snt.11)	في حين تم نشر حوالي 340 من عناصر الحرس الوطني بينما تستعد المدينة لاحتجاجات يحتمل ان تكون عنيفة تحيط بالتصويت المتوقع للكونغرس.	,while about 340 members deployed patriotic as the city prepares for possible violent demonstrations around the expected vote in the congress.

### Discussion:

A check for clarity in text (A) shows that there are a number of areas where the translator missed the mark. The phrase “Trump’s Protestors supporters” is ambiguous, strongly contradicting the ST information, and it makes it unclear whether there is one or two separate groups of protestors and supporters. The translator fails to get the message across in what is considered perhaps the most important part of any news item, that is the headline. A clear headline translation would be “Pro-Trump Protestors Storm U.S. Capitol”.

The same can be said with regard to the translation of (Par.8, Snt.8) where the lexical items “raised book banners” followed by “it” for the ST “رفع قسم من هولاء لافتات” makes the message unclear for the TL reader. It begs the question of whether “book banners” can even be raised, more importantly what does “book banners” have to do with protesting and what does “it” refer back to? In protests, protestors do not usually carry “book banners” but signs with written slogans. A clear rendition of (Par.8, Snt.8) would be “ some of them supported/raised signs that read...”

Clarity criterion also falls short in (Par.11, Snt.11) where lexical choices such, as “members deployed patriotic” and the literal rendering of “وطني,عناصر” into “patriotic, members”, the omission of the verb to be “were” and poor structuring of the clause hinders the message and masks it difficult to for the reader to understand. A clear translation would be: “while about 340 national guards were deployed...”.

### 3-Naturalness Criterion

	Line No.	Source Text	Target Text
1-	(Par.1, Snt.1)	حاول متظاهرون من انصار الرئيس دونالد ترامب اقتحام قاعة مجلس النواب الأمريكي بعدما تمكنوا من اختراق مبنى الكونغرس ودخول مقر مجلس الشيوخ.	Trump's protestors supporters broke into the American representative hall after they broke the congress Building and entering the Senate headquarters.
2-	(Par.4, Snt.4)	وكانت قد انطلقت تظاهرات في العاصمة الأمريكية واشنطن الاربعاء,...	Demonstrations were lunched in the American capital, Washington, on Wednesday,...
3-	(Par.5, Snt.5)	في اليوم نفسه للمصادقة رسميا على هزيمته في الانتخابات الرئاسية...	On similar day to authenticate officially his concur in the elections for the president...

#### Discussion:

A careful check for naturalness in the translation of the latter part of the lead exhibits unnatural lexical, syntactic and stylistic choices made by the translator that make the text sounds foreign and unfamiliar. The translation of (Par.1, Snt.1) is unnatural in that the translator opted for a strictly literal translation strategy. The choice of “broke” without a preposition such as “broke through” is completely unnatural, resulting in a different meaning. The ST terms “قاعة” “مجلس النواب, مبنى الكونغرس” may best be accurately and naturally translated into “the U.S. House Chamber, the Capitol”. Syntactically, a more natural option, especially for the lead, would be by extending and elaborating on the main clause with subordinating clauses such as “after breaking through...”. Stylistically, the use of “broke” twice in the same sentence of the lead is repetitive and monotonous.

Larson's naturalness criterion in (Par.4, Snt.4) is not met due to inappropriate lexical, syntactic choices such as “lunched” for the ST “انطلقت”, which does not collocate with “demonstrations” and the unjustified use of passive instead of the active voice to render the clause. A more appropriate, natural translation is “Protests broke out in the American capital Washington on Monday,...”

Naturalness in (Par.5, Snt.5) also falls short in that unnatural lexical and syntactic choices were employed by the text producer. Certain lexical items such as “similar” for “نفسه”, “authenticate” for “المصادقة”, “conquer” for “هزيمته” are all unnatural choices. Syntactically, the translation of “to authenticate officially his concur”, where “officially” should intercept the preposition “to” and the verb “authenticate”, and “the elections for the president” instead of “the presidential elections”, is evidently unnatural. A natural translation of (Par.5, Snt.5) would be “on the same day to officially certify his defeat in the presidential elections”.

### 4-Correctness Criterion

	Line No.	Source Text	Target Text
1-	Headline	متظاهرون من انصار ترامب يقتحمون مقر الشيوخ الأمريكي	Trump's Protestors supporters Broke through the American senate headquarters.
2-	(Par.2, Snt.2)	واستخدمت الشرطة الغاز المسيل للدموع لتفريق المتظاهرين كما اشتبكت معهم, وطلبت من	and the police used tear gas to separate demonstrators as well as clashed with them.

		الصحفيين الاستلقاء...	and ordered journalists to...
3-	(Par.6, Snt.6)	وشدد ترامب على انه لن يستسلم مضيفا، "سنوقف عملية السرقة التي تعرضت لها الانتخابات".	Trump emphasized that he will not capitulate added that we will stop the process of theft that the election suffered from.

**Discussion:**

As for correctness, the translation appears to violate the criteria in a number of ways. First, the headline seems to mix upper and lowercase letters. It is true that headlines can be written with either upper or lowercase letters, depending on the style of the house. However, it is important to maintain consistency. The translator also incorrectly terminated the headline with a full stop. It is also worth mentioning that, most American newspapers begin a hard news report with the name of the city written at the start of the actual lead, for instance, text sample (A) lead should look like "Washington-protestors in support of President Trump..." .

On the macro level, the translator did not maintain the ST original installment organization. Instead they mixed the lead with the body of the report and opted for a similar approach with the rest of the news item satellites. This violates the correctness criterion in that the translator ignored the journalistic values upon which the macrostructure of news texts is constructed. In (Par.2, Snt.2) translation, the translator also used "and" to connect the paragraph after the lead with the lead. He/she also divided the satellite into two sentences as in "demonstrators as well as clashed with them. and ordered journalist", starting the second sentence with a lowercase letter.

The translation of (Par.6, Snt.6) appears to violate the criterion of correctness in that the translator chose to leave out a comma after "مضيفا"، and leave out quotation marks as in "سنوقف عملية السرقة"، incorrectly integrating the quote with the rest of the sentence.

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Test-Subject-1						Total
		Instalment	No	Instalment	No	Instalment	No	
Accuracy Errors	Addition	(Par.1 Snt.1)	-	(Par.4 Snt.4)	1	(Par.5 Snt.5)	1	2
	Omission	(Par.1 Snt.1)	2	(Par.4 Snt.4)	-	(Par.5 Snt.5)	1	3
	Wrong info.	(Par.1 Snt.1)	2	(Par.4 Snt.4)	1	(Par.5 Snt.5)	1	4
Clarity Errors	Lexical Ambiguity	Headline	-	(Par.8, Snt.8)	1	(Par.11 Snt.11)	-	1
	Syntactic Ambiguity	Headline	1	(Par.8, Snt.8)	-	(Par.11 Snt.11)	-	1
	Nonsense	Headline	-	(Par.8, Snt.8)	-	(Par.11 Snt.11)	1	1
Naturalness Errors	Lexically Unnatural	(Par.1, Snt.1)	3	(Par.4,Snt.4)	1	(Par.5, Snt.5)	3	7
	Syntactically Unnatural	(Par.1, Snt.1)	1	(Par.4,Snt.4)	1	(Par.5, Snt.5)	2	4

	Stylistically Unnatural	(Par.1, Snt.1)	1	(Par.4,Snt.4)	-	(Par.5, Snt.5)	-	1
<b>Correctness Errors</b>	Punctuation	Headline	1	(Par.2, Snt.2)	1	(Par.6, Snt.6)	2	4
	Morphology	Headline	-	(Par.2, Snt.2)	-	(Par.6, Snt.6)	-	-
	Abbreviation	Headline	-	(Par.2, Snt.2)	-	(Par.6, Snt.6)	-	-
	Macrostructure	All text	1					1
<b>Total</b>			1 2		6		1 1	29

**Table, (1) shows text (A) statistical error analysis**

## 6. Findings

1. The data shows that the total number of errors found in the text (A) is (29), out of which accuracy errors make up (9) (31.03%), clarity errors make up (3) (10.34%), naturalness errors make up (12) (41.37%), and correctness errors make up (5) (17.24%).
2. The highest rate of errors out of text (A) total number of errors is naturalness-induced (12) (41.37%), naturalness errors due to unnatural lexical items make up (7) (58.33%), naturalness errors due to unnatural syntactic structures make up (4) (33.33%), and naturalness errors due to unnatural style make up (1) (8.33%).
3. The second highest rate of errors out of text (A) total number of errors is accuracy-induced errors that make up (9) (31.03%).The highest rate of accuracy errors is found to be due to wrong information (4) (44.44%), followed by omission-induced errors (3) (33.33%), and addition-induced errors that make up (2) (22.22%).
4. The third highest rate of errors out of text (A) total number of errors is correctness-induced errors (5) (17.24%).The highest rate of correctness errors is found to be due to punctuation errors (4) (80%), and errors due to inappropriate macrostructure scheming that make up (1) (20%).
5. The lowest rate of errors out of text (A) total number of errors is clarity-induced errors making up (3) (10.34%). Lexical ambiguity-induced errors make up (1) (3.33%), followed by equal syntactic ambiguity-induced errors (1) (3.33%) and nonsense in which the message is heavily distorted (1) (3.33%).

## 7. Conclusion

1. Larson's translation quality assessment model proves to be applicable, valid, and practical when applied to assess the translation quality of Arabic journalistic texts into English. The model's universal criteria of assessment makes it easy, practical and objective in application, as it sheds light on different aspects of texts (i.e. semantic, cognitive, pragmatic).
2. Clarity at the local level of the text can have either a negative or positive impact on clarity at the global level of the text depending on the quality of translation. It is true that news texts come in installments that can be due to editing conventions to a certain degree removed or skipped, however; these installments are deeply connected when it comes to flow of information where news stories are presented in a top-down structure.

3. Translations that fulfill the criteria of clarity and naturalness are more compatible with journalistic values and writing conventions, thus they should be paid more attention in producing news texts. News style of writing champions simple, clear and overtly concise, fluent language-four features, which translations that focus mainly on the criterion of accuracy sometimes fail to achieve.

4. Typographical features prove to be crucial to news texts as they collide with the very basics of journalism and news values, such as, precision, clarity, and impact. Adding a fourth criterion is justified, as news organizations pay great attention to details when they cater to consumers; Constructing a news story with no proper punctuation, with incorrect orthography and improper organization may confuse the reader or worse jeopardize the integrity and authenticity of news institutions, as it leads to the dissemination of wrong information.

5. The translation of journalistic texts and the application of the model to assess them require a substantive linguistic and extra-linguistic knowledge of both languages-lack in one area can lead to a lack in the other and vice versa. The translator's lack of knowledge of journalistic writing conventions in general, and their inability to bear the burden to employ words beyond their denotative meaning have generated poor renderings.

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