Back Translation as a Measurement of Functional Equivalence

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Abstract

Producing the functional equivalence (FE) in translating certain Arabic texts into English and vice-versa constitutes a major problem that confronts translators, (i.e. idiomatic expressions, proverbs, collocations) and as a result of mistranslating them there would be an unquestionably distortion of the intended message. This study attempts to find out to what extent back-translation is a reliable measurement in supporting equivalence in general and functional equivalence in particular. This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter comprises: an introduction, purpose of the study, definition of terms, statement of the problem, study design and methodology, data-collection, and review of related literature. The second chapter deals with text analysis based on the deviations of Theroux’s translation from the appropriate translation. The third chapter deals with text analysis based on the deviations of the students’ translations from the source-language text, (i.e. a back translation compared with the Arabic original text). Finally, chapter four presents the researcher’s conclusions and recommendations as well as the appendices of the study.