Socio-Political Impact on Translating Political Texts in the Media

By:

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Abstract

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This study endeavors to investigate the political and social impact imposed on translators while translating political texts from Arabic into English and vice versa. The researcher has tried to compare political texts in the Jordan Times, Al Horria newspaper, Al-Rai, Ad Dustour, IAP, Al Haqaeq with ones in the New York Times and The Washington Post and Haartez. Along the same time Al-Manar and Jordan television English news broadcast have been compared with Israeli television, Reuters, BBC and CNN television English news broadcast. The researcher comes to a conclusion that the translation of political texts is distorted because the translator is not always sufficiently aware of SL concepts, and also because of political and social restrictions imposed on translators from Arabic into English and vice versa. This distortion leads to wrong beliefs in the minds of both listeners and readers.

Finally the researcher recommends several suggestions to be considered for the translation of political texts: Translators of political texts should be neutral, and try to interpret what is happening rather than what they believe or achieves their goals and interests. They should be provided with theories of translation in general and the necessary information for translating political texts in specific. They should continue to challenge state restrictions, at great personal risk to revolutionize news coverage and interpret facts.