The Translatability of Metaphoric Expressions in Nizar Qabbani’s Poems into English

by

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Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to highlight some of the difficulties that face translators when translating metaphoric expressions in Nizar Qabbani’s poems from Arabic into English and to set forth a number of recommendations to overcome such difficulties. The study is based on an examination of the translation of (29) examples of Qabbani’s poems. In her critical analysis, the researcher relies on the two well-known translations of Qabbani’s poems by Bassam Feranjiheh and Clementine Brown (1992) and Mounah Khouri and Hamid Algar (1974).

The analysis of the translations of the metaphoric expressions in the poems shows the following:

1. Some of Nizar Qabbani’s metaphoric expressions are universal and can be rendered literally.

2. The translator of poetic metaphoric expressions should be a poet or at least someone who has sensitivity towards poetry.
3. Translating metaphor is a difficult task, particularly, the metaphors of Qabbani’s poems as it is shown in chapter 2 and 3 of the present thesis.

4. The obstacles in translating metaphoric expressions are due to figurative and connotative meanings of the poems.

5. Translators should be fully aware of the two cultures (Arabic and English) in addition to being well-versed in the two languages.

The study consists of four chapters. Chapter One introduces the translation of poetry and metaphor, as well as the purpose, significance, limitations of the study, and a statement of the problem and method of the study. Chapter Two reviews the related literature and furnishes various definitions for ‘metaphor’ in addition to discussing the various techniques of metaphor commonly used in both English and Arabic. Chapter Three includes an investigation, analysis and contrastive study of metaphor as used in Qabbani’s poems and the strategies that can be adopted in translating metaphoric expressions. Chapter Four provides conclusions, suggestions and recommendations.