

**Translatability of Pun in the Poetry of Ahmad Matar:  
A Study of his "*Lāfitāt*"**

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A Study of his "Lāfitāt"**

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# بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَقُولُ الْعَمَاءُ الْأَصْفَهَانِيُّ:

"إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ أَنَّهُ لَا يَكْتُبُ إِنْسَانٌ كِتَابًا فِي يَوْمِهِ إِلَّا  
قَالَ فِي نَحْوِهِ: لَوْ خَيْرَ هَذَا كَانَ أَحْسَنَ، وَلَوْ زَيْدٌ  
هَذَا كَانَ يُسْتَحْسَنُ، وَلَوْ قُدَّ هَذَا كَانَ أَفْضَلَ، وَلَوْ  
تُرِكَ هَذَا كَانَ أَجْمَلَ، وَهَذَا مِنْ أَعْظَمِ الْعَبَرِ، وَهُوَ  
دَلِيلٌ عَلَى اسْتِيْلَاءِ النَّقْصِ عَلَى جُمْلَةِ الْبَشَرِ."

# DEDICATION

## TO MY FAMILY, I DEDICATE THIS WORK

### *My Father:*

From the sun we get the light,  
Because of which life is bright.  
You're our sun down on earth,  
From which we get power and strength.  
You've struggled in life to ease our own  
So you deserve our heart's throne  
With the smile in your eyes,  
Shine my darling, darling père.

### *My Mother:*

Like an angel you've been there,  
Spreading love, passion, an' care.  
When one's down, you lift him high  
To reach the stars up 'n the sky.  
To ALLAH, we always pray  
That you shall forever stay  
Our moon that sparkles night and day  
Shine my darling, darling mère.

### *My Brother: Taha*

Gentle, tender, and so sweet  
That's what you are, always great.  
We love you so, we miss you too  
We always pray: ALLAH bless you.  
We know you're eager to come back home  
Soon we'll see you in our sweet home  
So till that day you stay strong  
Shine my darling, darling frère.

***My Sister: Sana'***

Like the star up in the sky,  
You always sparkle, don't wonder why  
Coz you always smile, you don't know hate  
This is why you are so great  
I wish your dreams all come true  
You know we love you, we'll always do  
For all these things I want you to  
Shine my darling, darling sœur.

***My Brother: Tariq***

You are so handsome, you are so kind  
Let me tell you, and keep in mind  
That we're lucky to have you around.  
We wish you luck, and happiness  
We always do, remember this.  
For everything beautiful in you  
Shine my darling, darling frère.

***My Sister: Safa'***

All the time I looked around  
You were always by my side  
Your beautiful smile I always found.  
Thank you for being there  
Givin' me strength, showin' care.  
No one day I will forget  
That you never let me down, not a little bit.  
I thank ALLAH for giving me this  
Beautiful gift, beautiful sis  
Wish you happiness, hope you always  
Shine my darling, darling sœur.

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## LIST OF PHONETIC SYMBOLS

The following table shows the phonetic symbols adopted in this research:

Names of the Letters	The Letters	Transcription	Names of the Letters	The Letters	Transcription
الف <i>'alif</i>	ا	ā	ضاد <i>ḍād</i>	ض	ḍ
باء <i>bā'</i>	ب	b	طاء <i>ḥā'</i>	ط	ṭ
تاء <i>tā'</i>	ت	t	ظاء <i>ẓā'</i>	ظ	ẓ
ثاء <i>ṯā'</i>	ث	ṯ	عين <i>'ain</i>	ع	'
جيم <i>jīm</i>	ج	j	غين <i>ḡain</i>	غ	ḡ
حاء <i>ḥā'</i>	ح	ḥ	فاء <i>fā'</i>	ف	f
خاء <i>xā'</i>	خ	x	قاف <i>qāf</i>	ق	q
دال <i>dāl</i>	د	d	كاف <i>kāf</i>	ك	k
ذال <i>ḏāl</i>	ذ	ḏ	لام <i>lām</i>	ل	l
راء <i>rā'</i>	ر	r	ميم <i>mīm</i>	م	m
زاي <i>zāy</i>	ز	z	نون <i>nūn</i>	ن	n
سين <i>sīn</i>	س	s	هاء <i>hā'</i>	ه	h
شين <i>šīn</i>	ش	š	واو <i>wāw</i>	و	w (ū,aw,au)
صاد <i>ṣād</i>	ص	ṣ	ياء <i>yā'</i>	ي	y (ī,ay,ai)
			همزة <i>hamza</i>	ء	ʾ

Short Vowels	The Letter	Transcription
الفتحة	ا	a
الضمة	أ	u
الكسرة	إ	i
Long Vowels		
		ā
		ū
		ī

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## ABSTRACT

**Al-Homoud, Esra' Muhammad. Translatability of Pun in the Poetry of Ahmad Matar: A Study of his 'Lāfitāt'. Master of Arts, Department of English Language and Literature, Yarmouk University, 2007 (Supervisor: Prof. Muhammad R. Al-Zughoul).**

This study aims at investigating the translatability of polysemic pun (*'at-tawriyah* in Arabic) in the poetry of Ahmad Matar. It focuses on the interaction between Arabic and English with regard to translating this rhetorical feature. With the emphasis being mainly on the imprint of the user of the polysemic pun on it, and the extent to which its creation is governed by its user, this study was conducted. From the four hundred and forty poems in Ahmad Matar's seven collections "*Lāfitāt*", eighty-four occurrences of polysemic pun were identified. From these occurrences, thirty were subjected to translation and analysis by the researcher. The analysis was governed by the criterion of the functions shown by the polysemic puns in their contexts. Being the one who handled personally the analysis and translation of these occurrences, the researcher reached the conclusion that not only is polysemic pun a language peculiar, but it is also governed by its user. The poet is the one who gives the polysemic pun its role, function, and effect in the text in which it is used. And for this reason he prepares the whole context to help the existence of such feature. Moreover, despite the difference in origin between Arabic and English, many occurrences of polysemic pun were successfully translated into English with decent levels of effectiveness in carrying similar roles, functions, and effects of the original ones. Finally, this study recommends that in order to deal successfully with the nature of polysemic pun (*'at-tawriyah*), translators have to show persistence and readiness to work as hard as it takes to end up with desirable results.

**Key Words:** Translatability, Polysemic Pun, *'At-Tawriyah*, Rhetorical Features, Literary Translation, Ahmad Matar.