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An Assessment of As-Safi's Translation of Catford's *A Linguistic Theory of Translation* into Arabic: A Terminological Perspective

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Dedication

To

The heart which poured its secrets into my heart, my beloved husband for his love, kindness, sincerity and support
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Abstract

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This study aims to assess As-Safi’s translation of Catford’s 1965 *A Linguistic Theory of Translation* from a terminological perspective. As-Safi’s translation of the lexical items is compared with six other translations, by Baalbaki, Ali, Al-Khuli, El-Sayed, a Committee of Arab linguists, and the suggested translation. The researcher chose (50) lexical items. She then analyzed and assessed their Arabic renditions. Certain criteria of analysis and assessment such as naturalness and adequacy were relied upon in the comparison between Al-Safi’s and the six other translator’s renditions.
The study concluded that As-Safii's translation was adequate, idiomatic and natural, while others' translations were mostly inadequate and most of the terms were not translated. The study recommended the necessity of having complete coordination between translators of linguistic terms and support the efforts of both translators and specialists, and the organizing of specialized conferences among linguists and qualified translators in order to discuss the possibilities of compiling encyclopedias to serve student's needs.
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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1. Preview

Translation is a bridge that links societies and peoples of different languages, attempting to close gaps in order to achieve a better world. It plays a very important role in transferring the histories of previous cultures, their industries, and their developments in the fields of science, law, medicine, administrations, and religion, among others. To be a good translator, it is necessary to produce clear and acceptable messages while translating from the Source Language (SL) into the Target Language (TL) and vice versa. In this spirit, Bassenett and Trivedi (1999:7) point out that it is the translator's role to make the source text acceptable to the TL audience.

Translation has been considered a science by many linguists and theorists and different translation theories have emerged. Numerous definitions have been produced by many scholars. For example, Newmark (1982:7) defines translation as a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the
same message and/or statement in another language. Similarly, Catford (1965:20) is one of the first theorists and linguists who defined translation as "the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL)." From Catford's definition one can deduce that the translation process requires a mediator to facilitate communication between two languages. Hatim and Mason (1990:223-224) argue that the translator is the only mediator between the two parties for whom mutual communication might otherwise be problematic. This is particularly true in translating patents, contracts, fiction, and in simultaneous interpreting. Taft (1981:53) also shares the opinion that the translator is a mediator. He points out that a translator facilities communication, understanding, and actions between persons or groups who differ with respect to language and culture. The role of the mediator is performed by interpreting the expressions, intentions, perceptions and expectations of each cultural group to the other; that is by establishing and balancing communication between them.

Translators, unlike people who work in different professions, deal with feelings, intentions, and cultures. Translating is not only an art but also a
science and a skill. It is a science because the translator should be aware of
the linguistic characteristics and theories of translation. It is an art because a
translator should, in most cases and particularly when dealing with literary
discourse, be an artist who is very sensitive to his/her texts. It is a skill
because it requires intensive practice: the more experienced the translator, the
more faithful and adequate the translation is.

According to Holman and Boase-Beier (1999:7-8), translators should first
of all be informed, attentive readers, literary critics, and sensitive to the
relation between the SL text and the linguistic and cultural environment in
which it is exposed. They should be aware of SL audience expectations and
understand the original writer's concern so as to ensure the approval of their
target readers.

Translation of technical terms is one of the most significant and
problematic issues in the translation field. They constitute difficulty for
translators of technical texts. English linguistic and translation terms do not
lend themselves easily to translation into Arabic. Shaheen (1986:81)
identifies the fields of technical translation as mathematics, medicine,