Term Planning: A Case Study on Weather Terms

by
Fatima Ahmad Hawamdeh

A thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of Master of Arts (Translation) in the Department of English, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan

Approved by:

Dr. Mohammad A. Sarairieh .......... Chairman
Assistant professor of linguistics, Yarmouk University

Dr. Lutfi Abulhaija .......... Member
Associate professor of linguistics, Yarmouk University

Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq .......... Member
Professor of linguistics, Yarmouk University

Prof. Mohammad Al-Khazali .......... Member
professor of Arabic Language, Yarmouk University

May 5, 2004
ABSTRACT
Al-Hawamdeh, Fatima Ahmad. Term Planning: A Case Study on Weather Terms. Master of Arts (Translation), Department of English, Yarmouk University, 2004 (Supervisor: Dr. Mohammad A. Saraireh).

The present study aimed at investigating the degree of acceptability and unacceptability of using methods of word formation in Arabic in translating weather terms, as part of scientific and technical translation. It also shed light on the roles of specialized dictionaries and the Jordan Academy of Arabic Language (JAAL) in rendering Arabic weather terms based on the following methods: arabicization, derivation, compounding, revival of old lexical items and semantic extension and definition. In addition, the study showed the capacity of Arabic language to cope with the language of science and technology in forming native terms. Data collection for this study were collected by using (1) a questionnaire of ten points, showing the degree of acceptability of using weather terms, produced by the JAAL pamphlet, and specialized dictionaries concerning weather-terms translation, and (2) a test consisting of 50 terms to show the degree of preference rating to each method of Arabic word formation in weather-terms translation. ‘Likert’s Scale’ is used to analyze the results of the questionnaire, whereas the Statistical Package in the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for analyzing the results of the test. The study sample included (26) specialists of meteorology field at the Meteorology Department (MD), (15) specialists of technical terms usage at Jordan Institution of Standard and Metrology (JISM), (10) M.A. students of translation at Yarmouk University (YU), and (16) B.A. student of “water management” specialization at Hashimite University (HU). The results of this study revealed that various methods of word formation in Arabic were familiar to and used by the specialists of the (MD and JISM). It was also found that weather-translation lacks standardized terms, resulting in inaccurate terms and synonyms. The researcher concluded that the pamphlet produced by the JAAL is not effectively used because of the almost complete dependence on the specialized dictionaries, as well as general knowledge. The study also revealed that Arabic is vital in creating scientific terms. Moreover, this study concluded that knowledge, competence, and practice are the most effective tools for accurate and precise rendition of technical terms. Finally, the researcher called for the acceleration of the unified and standardized dictionary project for weather terms, using native Arabic terms rather than arabicized ones, for the benefit of specialists, translators and learners on this field.

Keywords: Translation, Acceptability, Arabicization, Compounding, Technical, Derivation, Term, Weather, Synonyms