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

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July 12, 2007
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A Study of his "Lāfitāt"

By

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July 12, 2007
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يُقُولُ الْعَفَّاءُ الأَسْفَجِيُّ:
"إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ أَنَّهُ لَا يُخْتَبِهُ إِنْسَانٌ حَتَّى يَعْبُدُ، إِلَّا
قَالَ فِي نَفْهِ: لَوْ غَيْرَ هَذَا لَكَانَ أَحْسَنْ، وَلَوْ زِيْدَ
هَذَا لَكَانَ يُسَبِّحَنَّ، وَلَوْ فُجَّدَ هَذَا لَكَانَ أَحْسَنَ، وَلَوْ
تَرَكَ هَذَا لَكَانَ أَحْسَنٌ، وَهَذَا مِنْ أَعْظُمِ الْعَبْدِ، وَهَذَا
خَلِيلٌ عَلَى اسْتِياءِ النَّاسِ عَلَى جُمْهُرِ 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.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To ALLAH (Be Praised and Glorified) I express my deepest indebtedness. And praise be to ALLAH for willing this work to be achieved.

I would like to thank my supervisor Prof. Muhammad Raji Al-Zughoul for his continued belief in me and in my work, and for his significant remarks. I would like also to thank the members of the examining committee: Prof. Abd Al-Majeed Thalji and Dr. Muhammad Saraireh for their time, effort, and significant remarks, and Prof. Khalil Al-Sheikh for the time he dedicated to answer my questions and highlight important issues related to my study.

Mother and father, sisters and brothers, I am grateful to them all for supporting and encouraging me all the time. Special thanks are due to my sister Safa' for her invaluable effort in handling word processing and designing the format work.

Lastly, I thank everyone, in the English Department at Yarmouk University, who taught and helped me until I reached this level.
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# List of Phonetic Symbols

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Names of the Letters</th>
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<th>Names of the Letters</th>
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ABSTRACT

Al-Homoud, Esra' Muhammed. Translatability of Pun in the Poetry of Ahmad Matar: A Study of his 'Lāfitār'. 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 "Lāfitār", 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.