Assessment of Anani's Translation of Shakespeare's

*The Merchant of Venice*: A Cultural Perspective

By:
Muhammad Khair Hussein Ali AL- Omar

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Examining Committee:

Dr. Abdullah Shunnaq................. Supervisor & Chairman

Prof. Nasser Athamneh................. Co-Supervisor

Prof. Mahmoud Shetawi............... Member

Dr. Mohammad Saraireh............... Member

Prof. Abdul Baqi AL-Safi............... Member

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Abstract

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The Merchant of Venice: A Cultural Perspective

This study aims to assess Muhammad Anani's translation of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice from a cultural perspective. Anani's translation is compared with four other translations of the play which are by: Khalil Mutran, Amer M. Buheiri, Mukhtar AL- Wakil and Hussein A.Amin. Taking into consideration the difficulties of translating cultural expressions, the researcher chooses (29) examples from the play. He then analyzes and assesses their Arabic renditions. Certain criteria of analysis and assessment such as accuracy and literariness have been relied upon in the comparison between Anani's and the four other translators' renditions. Also, some cultural problems and cultural gaps that translators face when translating from English into Arabic have been presented.

The thesis is divided into three chapters. Chapter One introduces the study and elaborates the approach used in it. It also presents a review of related literature and discusses the difficulties and characteristics of literary translation in general. Chapter Two, the core of the thesis, presents analysis of (29) examples, which have been
categorized into "Idiomatic Expressions and Nomenclature" and "Greek and Roman Legends and Biblical and Other Allusions". Finally, the last chapter sums up the researcher's conclusions and recommendations.

One of the most significant findings of the present study is that translation of a highly literary work of art with cultural gaps such as The Merchant of Venice should focus not only on the content of the SL text, but also on the aesthetic function and cultural acceptability by TL audience. In other words, the literary translator should evince poetic appreciation beside comprehending the SL text. One of the strategies used to meet this end is to naturalize the SL text into the TL, and simultaneously keeping a balance between beautiful rendition and fidelity to the SL text. Needless to say, such a translator should have a creative talent to do his strenuous job, and this can be seen clearly in Anani's translation. The study, finally, recommends that further studies in the field of translation assessment should be conducted to highlight cultural obstacles and to devise certain strategies to overcome them.