Strategies of Denys Johnson-Davies in Dealing with Cultural and Linguistic Issues in his Translation of Tayeb Salih's Novel: "The Wedding of Zein".

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ABSTRACT

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Strategies of Denys Johnson-Davies in Dealing with Cultural and Linguistic Issues in his Translation of Al-Tayeb Salih's Novel: The Wedding of Zein

This study in its all thrust seeks to shed light on the way Denys Johnson-Davies translates into English the Arabic novel 'Urs al-Zayn' (The Wedding of Zein) written by Al-Tayeb Salih, the Sudanese novelist. The study aims to highlight the strategies employed by the translator in dealing with cultural and linguistic issues found in the novel in terms of accuracy and faithfulness towards the source text.

The results of the study have shown that the strategies used to overcome cultural issues are: paraphrasing, literal translation, translation by idioms (idiomatic translation), cultural equivalence, transliteration, borrowing and naturalization and domestication. And the strategies used to deal with linguistic issues have been: addition, omission, modulation, transposition (clefting and topicalization), style-shifting, and substitution. Also, it is revealed
that these strategies are appropriately, successfully and creatively employed by the translator in order to bridge the cultural and linguistic gaps between the source language (SL) and target language (TL) and to maintain the same meaning and the same impact intended. However, in some cases, the translator fails in capturing the intended meaning for some expressions, terms and concepts. This, of course, results in mistranslations and inadequate translation.

The study concludes that translation of a literary work with so many cultural gaps such as the present work should focus not only on the content of the source language text (SLT), but also on the aesthetic function and cultural acceptability by target language (TL) audience, as can be seen in Davies's translation.