Collocation in Translation

by

Oraib Kamil Hamid Malkawi

B.A. (English Language and Literature), Yarmouk University, Irbid, 1984

Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of Master of Arts in Translation at Yarmouk University

Examinining Committee

Dr. Abdullah Shunnaq

Dr. Hassan Shuqair

Dr. Riyad Hussein

Dr. Mohamed Saraireh

Chairman

Member

Member

Member

1995
Abstract

Collocation in Translation

by

Oraib Kamil Hamid Malkawi

Supervised by

Dr. Abdullah Shunnaq

This study aims at investigating the probable causes of erroneous rendering of Arabic collocations. It shows that students face difficulties in rendering collocations which are culture-specific and they also encountered some lexical difficulties in rendering Arabic collocations into English such as the problem of lexical repetition.

The sample is randomly chosen from Yarmouk University students having a course in translation at the time of the study. The subjects of the study are 50 undergraduate students.

The results of this study has shown that translating collocations is a problematic area where student translators err when translating from L1 into L2. The study further look into the strategies adopted by the student translators in their attempt to render the target collocations. The strategies of generalization, synonymy, calquing, paraphrasing and deletion are shown to play a significant role in the process of translating.

The study has to answer the following questions:

1. Can erroneous rendering of collocations be attributed to cultural differences between the source language and the target language?
2. Can erroneous rendering of collocations be attributed to incongruence between Arabic and English lexical items?
3. Can erroneous rendering of collocations be attributed to literal translation?
4. Can erroneous rendering of collocations be attributed to the type of collocation lexical or grammatical?

To answer these questions the researcher studied the translation of Arabic collocational expressions in 8 texts dealing with political appeal. Then the strategies adopted by the students to overcome the problem of rendering the correct collocation are ranked according to their percentage.