
By:

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Abstract

Throughout this study, we tried to critically review reader response towards proverbs in Theroux’s translation of Mudun al-Milh. It is basically a descriptive analysis of Peter Theroux’s translation of 30 proverbs in light of his translation strategies: formal, functional, and ideational. In line with this, the study was conducted by means of two questionnaires: an open questionnaire and a closed one. Each questionnaire is distributed to 15 American native speakers to judge their comprehensibility.

This thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is an introduction. In this chapter, we have handled some remarks relevant to the discussion of the study. It offers some definitions of the main translation equivalents that are employed in Theroux’s translation. Also, it includes a summary of the Arabic novel Mudun al-Milh and reviews related literature.

The second chapter deals with the proverbs that are formally translated. These proverbs form half of the proverbs in our study. Yet, when translated, not all of them sound readable in the TL. It is found that the employment of formal equivalence impressively succeeds in translating culture-independent proverbs. However, culture-dependent proverbs are poorly understood.

Chapter Three tackles the analysis of the other types of equivalence i.e., functional and ideational equivalence. We resorted to the same method used in Chapter Two. In showing reader responses, each group of proverbs is dealt with
independently by the help of the open and the closed questionnaire. Using these strategies, we found that the results of comprehensibility are relatively lower than those in chapter Two. However, some proverbs that are translated functionally score impressive results of comprehensibility. It is found that when there is no formal or functional equivalence in the TL, ideational equivalence is the only resort. Then we concluded that Theroux’s lack of familiarity in the SL led to mistranslation of certain items. This, as a result, led to poor comprehensibility.

The last chapter shows some concluding remarks and recommendations.