HUR'ANIC METAPHORS IN TRANSLATION

BY

LAILA M. EL-OMARI

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of master of arts (Translation) at Yarmouk University

Supervisory committee:

1. Dr. Mahmoud Kharbutli chairman
2. Dr. Shahir El-Hasan member
3. Dr. Samir Ishtitiya member

July, 1989
ABSTRACT

This study is concerned with the question of translating Qur'anic metaphors into English. Four well-known translations of the Qur'an have been studied in order to find out whether 'metaphor' really hinders accurate translation of the Qur'an. Two important and interrelated issues have been discussed. These are: how Qur'anic metaphors have been translated, and how they should (or can) be translated. From the review of the related literature, it appears that metaphor transference from one language into another is generally possible. Thus, the researcher has tried to weigh the claim made by translators and scholars that metaphor hinders accurate translation of the Holy Qur'an. It appears, first of all, that nobody has yet studied Qur'anic metaphors in translation as a separate unit. The researcher also concludes that the translators have not treated Qur'anic metaphors according to any particular approach or any established classification. In some cases, they even do not seem to realize that they are translating a metaphor. After studying examples of the five classes of metaphor, it turns out that Qur'anic metaphors can almost always be transferred into English as metaphors though there are some occasionally unavoidable changes in form or some minor losses in meaning.