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Translatability Into English of Emotive Expressions in Arabic
Editorial Texts

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at investigating emotive expressions as they constitute a problematic area when translated from Arabic into English. More specifically, the study aims to:

a) identify the emotive strategies that are used in Arabic editorial texts, and

b) suggest some methods and strategies for translating these emotive expressions into English.

In order to meet the first objective, nineteen editorial texts from Arabic daily newspapers were studied. It has turned out that writers of such editorials employ a host of strategies to arrive at their goal of emotiveness. These strategies include linguistic, political and cultural ones. Words of direct emotiveness, figures of speech, Al-Qasr, rhetorical questions, repetitions, doublets, idioms and numbers were among the linguistic strategies. Political expressions and Islamic references are among the political and cultural strategies, respectively.

In order to meet the second objective, an analysis and discussion of some text examples are carried out. In light of this analysis, literal translation with footnotes is the first option in translating emotive expressions as long as it is comprehensible. In addition, functional equivalence translation is at the translator's disposal whenever he wants to lose or gain emotiveness.