The Translatability of the Jordanian Drama
MuwaTin Hasab ITTalab
from Arabic into English

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Abstract

This study examines the translatability of the Jordanian drama *MuwaTin Hasab ITTalab* from Arabic into English. The study aims at translating this piece of drama from Arabic into English. The study has employed the semantic approach to translation that has been found so successful to handle the text of the presented drama. Through the translation the researcher faced some lexical and cultural problems in addition to the problem of translating metaphoric expressions. Some of these lexical problems are (polysemy, idioms, proverbs, denotative and connotative meaning, proper nouns, lexical gaps), problems of translating metaphoric expressions encountered while translating this piece of drama are discussed, and the strategies used overcome these problems are discussed, too. This study concludes that: (1) Translating the Jordanian drama *MuwaTin Hasab ITTalab* is possible, but the diversity between the two languages (English and Arabic) contributes to the loss of some of its distinguishing feature. (2) Translating Arabic texts with some sense of humor into English is not an easy task because what makes Arabs and western people laugh is not the same, though it is sometimes possible. (3) Translating metaphoric expressions is difficult; sometime translating lexical expressions is as difficult as translating metaphoric expressions,
especially when dealing with a text which is full of colloquial and religious expressions, such as, (4) The difficulties encountered while translating a dramatic text can be solved by using some strategies, such as adaptation, omission, addition and substitution. (5) When translating drama a translator must do his/ her best to transfer the culture and its values, so that the objectives of the dramatic text are clearly transferred.

KEYWORDS: Drama Translation, Lexical Problems, Metaphoric Expressions, Drama Translation Strategies.