Faithfulness And Spontaneity In Translating Metaphors:

A Study of Malak Hashem's Translation Of Naguib Mahfouz's

Yawma Qutila Al- Za'im (The Day the Leader was Killed)

By

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*Abstract*

This study aims at investigating the importance of metaphor in literary translation. It also examines the extent a failure to grasp the different functional shades of metaphors may lead translators to tarnish the original text they were taken from.

The material of the study consisted of thirty-three metaphorical expressions identified by the researcher as pivotal in contributing to the themes and atmosphere of Mahfouz’s novel (1985) “*Yawma Qutila AL-Za’īm*” and in their translations in Malak Hashem’s rendering of the novel into English, *The Day the Leader was Killed*. Thirteen highly educated Americans were asked to give their closest equivalents of the literal metaphoric images or expressions given in the questionnaire. Two semi-bilingual Americans were then given larger contexts from the novel to respond to a consultative extrapolation.
The researcher highlighted the relation between metaphor and other cases of implicature that face translators including synonymy, irony, proverbs and idioms. Then, the researcher analysed the importance of metaphor from a cultural, emotive, psychological, aesthetic, referential and stylistic perspective.

The central finding of this study was the very clear indication that the Arabic metaphorical expressions were not given main concern by Hashem; she did not benefit from the formal equivalence that she could have used in many cases without any cultural or linguistic failure.