Translating the Absolute Object in the Holy Quran into English

by

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ABSTRACT


This study deals with translating the Arabic Absolute Object into English. While the Absolute Object (AO) is very common and functional in Arabic, English style frowns upon this kind of repetition. Therefore, the study aims at exploring a number of appropriate ways and means of translating the Arabic AO into idiomatic English. Examples of the AO, categorized into three main groups on the basis of their functions, are cited from the Holy Quran. Three suitable translations carried out by Ali, Pickthall, and Arberry and a commentary on each example from some authentic commentaries of the Quran are stated. The three translations are discussed concerning the problem addressed. Finally, alternative translations, as much as possible, are provided by the researcher.

It is concluded that the three translations sometimes repeat the root, which is often awkward, or lose the function of the AO in the target text. Besides, transferring all shades of the AO meaning is not an easy task, especially when the Quran is the source text. Translators have to pay attention to produce natural-sounding renditions by avoiding root repetition and opting for idiomatic TL expressions.

Key Words:

linguistics, Absolute Object, the Holy Quran, translation.