The Translatability of Intertextual Expressions in Two
Arabic Novels: Zīqaq Al-Midaq and Ruʿya

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for
the degree of the Master of Arts (Translation) at Yarmouk
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May, 1996
ABSTRACT

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The present study aims at investigating the problems translators face while rendering intertextuality in general and in Arabic fictional work in particular. *Ziqaq Al-Midaq* and *Ru’ya* have been selected in this study because they are highly loaded with intertextual aspects and expressions which are clearly bound to Arabic and Islamic culture. Further, the proposed translation by Le Gassick for *Ziqaq Al-Midaq* shows a great difference between the source text (ST) and the target text (TT).

The researcher founds that this difference results from the translations unawareness of the prior text (s), which in fact confused the translator and prevent him from being able to decipher the message encapsulated in the original text. However, this unawareness is not the only reason for such mistranslation.

In this study the researcher classifies forms of intertextuality into three categories: religious terms, historical expressions, and local proverbs and sayings. In the first category it is found that quotations from Quran in the text are not easy to be translated, as they lose their influence and emotive values in
translation. The second category is subdivided into historical and literary intertextuality in which literary universal terms could ease the translator’s job. The third category is classified into songs, proverbs and sayings. In this category it is more appropriate to convey the same intertextuality found in the source language (SL) into the target language (TL).

The possibility of translating intertextual expressions from SL into TL is one of the objectives of the present study. However, formal equivalence has been opted for in the translation of some texts. Consequently footnotes and further information have been found necessary for the clarification of meaning, especially when functional equivalent is difficult to attain.

Finally, the study concludes with recommendations and implications for future research, which are clearly stated in the Fourth chapter.