الترجمة وإعادة تأطير السياسة الخارجية العراقية :مقاربة تكاملية لتحليل الخطاب الدبلوماسي

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الملخص:

يتناول البحث الترجمة بوصفها وسيطاً في إنتاج التمثيل الخارجي للسياسة العراقية، ويقترح نموذجاً نظرياً يدمج منظور السرديات في دراسات الترجمة مع تحليل الخطاب النقدي ونظرية التقييم. تنطلق الدراسة من مشكلة التفاوت المحتمل بين القوة التداولية للبيان الدبلوماسي العربي وتمثيله الإنكليزي، وتختبر صلاحية خمسة مؤشرات للمقارنة: تسمية الفاعلين، وإسناد المسؤولية، ودرجة الالتزام، والتقييم، وإبراز المعلومات. تعتمد الدراسة تحليلاً مفاهيمياً مدعوماً بأمثلة توضيحية مصطنعة لا تُقدَّم بوصفها بيانات عراقية حقيقية. وتخلص إلى أن التكافؤ الدبلوماسي يتطلب المحافظة على الوظيفة السياسية والقانونية للعبارة، لا على معادلها المعجمي فحسب. وتوصي بإعداد مدونة ثنائية اللغة من النصوص العراقية الرسمية لإجراء اختبار تجريبي لاحق للنموذج.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الترجمة السياسية، العراق، السياسة الخارجية، إعادة التأطير، الخطاب الدبلوماسي.

Translation and the Reframing of Iraqi Foreign Policy: An Integrated Approach to Diplomatic Discourse Analysis

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Abstract:

This conceptual study examines translation as an intermediary in the international representation of Iraqi foreign policy. It develops an integrated framework combining narrative approaches in Translation Studies, critical discourse analysis, and appraisal theory. Five analytical dimensions are proposed: actor representation, attribution of responsibility, modality, evaluation, and information prominence. The paper employs conceptual analysis and explicitly constructed illustrative examples, not an empirical corpus of official Iraqi documents. It argues that diplomatic equivalence requires preserving the pragmatic and political force of a statement rather than merely its lexical content. The study suggests testing this frame on a set of validated two-language texts, including Iraqi diplomatic correspondence.

Keywords: political translation; Iraq; foreign policy; reframing; diplomatic discourse.

Introduction

Foreign policy cannot be separated from language through which states communicate their positions and explain position and decisions. Joint statement, press releases, and diplomatic notes are not only natural way to conveying information but also, they constitute communicative acts that shape the relation between the sender and the receiver, assign responsibility, and express different degrees of commitment or reservation. When

translated these texts enter a different linguistic system and reach a new political audience and creating the possibility of shifts in meaning and communicative impact, even when their over all sense remain intact.

Therefore, the language plays a central role in shaping foreign policy and articulating a state's orientations and position in international forums. Within this context diplomatic discourse extends beyond the transmission of the information to the construction of meaning, the projection of a state's image and the definition of its relationships with regional and international actors. Translation assumed particular significance in this process, as it involves more than transferring content between languages. It engages with political and cultural contexts and may influence both the interpretation of diplomatic messages and the way in which they are received.

The importance of studying translation within Iraqi diplomatic discourse becomes particularly evident in light of the transformations in iraq's foreign policy and many issues addressed in its official discourse, including sovereignty, security, regional, co-operation, and international relation. Lexical and syntactic choices in translated texts may contribute to reframing Iraqi political positions by foreground certain dimensions while down playing others. Based on this, the study adopts an integratve approach that combine discourse analysis and translation studies to investigate how translation practices interact with the construction of diplomatic meaning and the representation of Iraq's foreign policy.

Importance of the Study

The significance of this study are in treating translation as an active participant in constructing diplomatic language rather than as a secondary processing of a language. The study also contributes to the scope of research in the domain of Iraqi

foreign policy by addressing the linguistic and representational aspects of Iraqi discourse and thus provides a suggested understanding of how translated language may have a significant effect on the reception and dissemination of postions of this international actor. On a practical level, the results of the study can contribute to an increase of accuracy and consistency of diplomatic translation as well as a more effective communication of messages to multilingual and intercultural communities. The theoretical significance of the study lies in merging two fields which are often studied separately, while the practical significance is based on possible elaboration of the framework into a heuristic tool for a systematic review of the translated diplomatic resources.

Statement of the problem

The research problem addressed in this study lie in the limited scholarly attention that given to the relationship between translation and the reframing of Iraq's foreign policy within an integrated analysis farmwork that considers both the linguistic structures of the texts and the contexts of their production and reception. Accordingly, this study seeks to answer the following central research questions :

- How does translation contribute to the reframing of Iraqi diplomatic discourse ?
- What impact do translational shifts have on the representation and reception of Iraq's foreign policy positions ?

This question further involves examining the nature of lexical, semantic, and argumentative shifts in translated texts, the contextual factors that influence them and the extent to which these shifts shape the perceptions of Iraqi positions among their intended audiences.

Hypothesis

This study hypothesizes that translation in Iraqi diplomatic discourse doesn't constitute a neutral transfer of meaning but also context-dependent practice that my contribute to reframing political position through linguistic, semantic, and argumentative choices. It further assumes that the impact of these choices is shaped by the interaction between the characteristics of the source text, the institutional, political, and cultural contexts, and the nature of the intended audience.

Methodology

This study adopts a description-analytical approach combined with conceptual comparison. It start with identifying the relevant theoretical concepts, from which a set of linguistic indicators is subsequently derived. The internal consistency of these indicators is then examined through constructed example illustrating possible types of translation shifts.

1- Literature Review and theoretical framework

1.1. Narratives in Translation Studies

Baker (2006) explains that translation plays an important role in constructing the narratives through which communities interpret events and relationships. The selected of a title, the characterization of an actor, or the arrangement of information may influence how a text is interpreted, even without the explicit addition of a new information (Baker, 2006). This perspective allows the analysis to move beyond literal equivalence and test how a particular position is represented across tow languages.

A narrative differs from a mere subject that provides a structure which connects actors to events and giving them meaning and direction. When a state translates a statement related to a regional crisis, the ordering of the parties involved, the causes, and the proposed solutions contributes to constructing a narrative of state's position and role. Therefor

translation should be evaluated in terms of the coherence of this arrangement and the function it serves.

1.2. Discourse and power

Fairclough establishes a connection between linguistic, social practices, and power relations, provides a basis for exanimating diplomatic expressions as discursive practices whose importance extends beyond their literal meaning (Fairclough, 2015). For example, The use of passive voice may reduce the prominence of the agent, while institutional labels may reinforce the formal character of the statement, and framing an actions as necessary may create the impression that alternative courses of action are unavailable.

However, The use of passive shouldn't automatically be interpretated as an attempt to hide responsibility. Such choice may reflect from conventional patterns of diplomatic writing or from the speaker's preference for emphasizing the event rather than actor. A critical reading therefore requires linguistic observation to be interpreted in relation to their context, without drawing unwarranted conclusions about intention solely from linguistic structure.

1.3. Appraisal and Positioning Theory

Martin and white provide a framework to analyzing evaluative language through three interrelated dimensions: attitude, graduation, and engagement with alternative voices (Martin and White, 2005). This framework facilitates the identification of distinctions between expressions of denunciation, condemnation, and concern between requesting, calling for, and urging action, and between categorical assertions and expressions of expectation.

In diplomatic discourse, it is important preserve as closely as possible, the degree of evaluative and illocutionary force when translating between languages. An expression of concern, for

example doesn't carry the same force as a direct accusation. Similarly, a statement indicating that a particular option is under consideration should not be treated as equivalent to a commitment to implement it.

1.4. Visibility and Cultural Choice

Finotti notes that seemingly fluent translations might mask some translation decisions which have an impact on reception (Finotti, 2008). Politically delicate terms may be over-adapted in the target text, by lightening their significance or expanding their scope in a diplomatic translation, or over-literalized, by producing awkward phrasing that communicates a foreign nuance. Being accurate does not equate to copying syntactic order from the original. Accuracy is correctly expressing the source text in the TL, maintaining the same degree of commitment, subjective stance and legal stance as expressed by the original.

2-The Iraqi Context and The Limits of Drawing on Political Studies

Ammar saadoun salman al-badri's study examination the role of Iraqi diplomacy in achieving foreign policy objectives after 2016. It provides useful insights into the function of diplomatic activity and its place in the management of foreign relation (Salman al-Badri, 2024). However, the study doesn't provide evidence of a specific translation shift in itself, as its research question differs from that of comparative analysis of two language versions of a text.

The study by Haider Abd Jassas and Saba Hamid Saleh addresses the role of Iraqi diplomacy in ending the United State military presence in Iraq, examining a political issue including sovereignty, negotiations, and external communication (Jassas and Saleh, 2024). This background helps establish the sensitivity of terms such as military

presence, withdrawal, agreement, and commitment. It doesn't warrant assuming that the relevant documents contain translation mistakes. The contribution proposed by the present study lies in moving from an analysis of what foreign policy discourse says to an examination of how the representation of the same statement may change between Arabic and English. This proposed contribution requires subsequent test through the analysis of corresponding source text and its translations, rather than reliance solely on general references to studies of international relations.

3. Developing and Analytical of Reframing

3.1 Agency and The Attribution of Responsibility

The analysis pinpoint whether the one whose action is being displayed in a translation is the same in the original or else, if the agent is changed by an impersonal verb. It is considered significant when the change leads to the change of the perception of the recipient in the translation of who has the decision- making authority or responsibility. For operational purposes, it can be coded as none, of nonvague functional shift, nonvague functional shift/major shift that doesn't change the positions expressed, and major shift that may need special review. All valuation needs to be accompanied by a written justification based on textual evidence, not a numerical score.

3.2. Commitment and Probability

In this section the ways in which obligation, preference, prediction and commitment are expressed are compared with the agreement of 'will', 'shall', 'may', 'intend to' and 'consider'. Synonyms for translation are chosen in strength to source text and legal intention rather than on lexical criteria alone. For purposes of implementation, this indicator can be grouped in terms of whether there is no perceptible functional change, a

minimal change that does not alter the expressed position, and a substantive change that will require consideration and decision by an expert. A rationale must accompany each determination in writing.

3.3. Evaluation and Intensity

The analysis looks at changes in the wording used to express concern, criticism, and condemnation, as well as changes in the characterization of behavior as either unacceptable or illegal. A more strident tone may backfire by creating unintended political tension, while a softer tone may weaken the underlying message. For pragmatic purposes, this indicator can be categorized into three groups: no noticeable functional shift; a minor shift that does not alter the expressed position; and a potential substantive shift requiring expert review. Each assessment must be supported by a written explanation based on textual evidence, rather than merely a numerical score.

3.4. Naming and Terminology

It compares the nomenclature used for institutions, parties, agreements and resolutions, and assesses their matching with the official nomenclature nowadays. This assumes that there is an authoritative use of terminology by these institutions. Operationally, this indicator can be divided into three categories: no discernable functional change, small change that does not alter the expressed position, and possible substantive change. Explanations as to the indication of change must be provided in written form, drawing on the text, not simply on the number.

3.5. Salience and Information Ordering

In the analysis, the question is whether there has been a rearrangement of causes, results and reasons, or whether any of its items been moved up from prominent to secondary position, etc. A difference in order does not necessarily distort the

message, but it is examined as to what extent the relative importance of the parts of the message has been altered. For pragmatic purposes, the indicator can be coded as follows: no significant shift, slight shift (which does not change the conveyed position), possible substantial shift, to be checked by expert judgment. Each of the judgments has to be explained in a written argument by way of textual evidence, not just a number score.

4. Illustrative Analytical Example

The examples below were created for testing purposes and are not taken from statements made by the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs or any other officially recognized body.

Arabic	English	
تؤكد الحكومة ضرورة احترام سيادة العراق	**The government emphasizes the need to respect Iraqi's sovereignty**	**A formulation that preserves the text's communication function**
	The government demands immediate action to protect Iraq's sovereignty	**A formulation that reform the text**

Analysis: The second translated text emphasizes the urgency of the request, going from a general assertion of necessity to a call for immediate action—a concrete shift that requires justification.

Arabic	English	
اعرب العراق عن قلقه إزاء التطورات.	**Iraq condemned the developments**	**A formulation that preserves the text's communication function**
	Iraq condemned the developments	**A formulation that reform the text**

Analysis: The shift in wording from "concern" to "condemnation" marks an escalation in the severity of the

assessment that cannot be justified by ordinary lexical equivalence.

Arabic	English	
جرى الاتفاق على مواصلة الحوار	**It was agreed to continue dialogue.**	**A formulation that preserves the text's communication function**
	Both government pledged to reach a final agreement	**A formulation that reform the text**

Analysis: the second formulation introduce specific agent and a commitment to a final outcome, neither of which appears in Arabic example.

Arabic	English	
يدعو العراق الأطراف الى ضبط النفس	**Iraq calls on the parties to exercise restraint**	**A formulation that preserves the text's communication function**
	Iraq orders the parties to exercise restraint	**A formulation that reform the text**

Analysis: A call to action is translated as a command, which changes the speaker's relationship with the audience and the level of power that this implies.

5. Discussion of Model and Theoretical Implications

From the way the indicators are applied to the given examples it would appear that the more important variations are not only in the designations of the entities, but also in the procedures and the relationship between the participants. Every word in translation may intelligible and individually accurate, yet their combination may convey a stronger or weaker stance than would express in the source text. Pragmatic review therefore complements lexical review.

The examples highlight the need to distinguish between describing a shift and judging its underlying motives. An

increase in force of the speech act doesn't establish that the translator or institution intended to alter policy. It may result from an maitake or subsequent editorial intervention. The study therefore proposes document the stages of text production, where such information is available, before translation the reasons for any differences.

At the institutional level, the model can inform the development of standard review checklist. Before an English language statement is published reviewers should ask: does the actor remail the same? Does the text preserve the level of commitment? Is the degree of evolution comparable? Has the approved official designation been used? And does the ordering or the main message remail clear?

Conclusion

This study confirms that evaluating translations of Iraqi foreign policy discourse requires focusing on the diplomatic function of the text as well as its linguistic accuracy. The integration of narrative theory, discourse analysis, and evaluation theory has made it possible to develop a workable framework that can be refined and tested on original documents. The significance of this framework, though, is in helping readers and reviewers identify a potential locus of change and to discriminate between variations that constitute linguistic processing from those which alter the position put forward by the original text. This framework does not argue that translation always impacts on Iraqi policy, but rather that an initial test of the model should be carried out on a sample of original texts.

Finding and Recommendation

Finding

Firstly, translated diplomatic texts are a linguistic and political practice in so far as the translated text accounts the actors, commitments, and evaluations to a new audience.

Second, since the idea of "rewriting" can illuminate the possibility of gains of pragmatic power without equating each difference in language with distortion.
Third, five practical implications can be derived from the overarching ideas of narrative theory, discourse analysis, and evaluation literature: Agency, Commitment, Assessment, Terminology, and Salience.
Fourth, political studies published at Al-Mustansiriyah university provide important of substantive background on Iraqi foreign policy. However, they cannot substitute for the analysis of bilingual diplomatic texts needed to establish whether reframing lie in practice.
Fifth, the study's findings remain theoretical and exploratory, constructed examples must neither be traded as empirical evidence nor used to generalize about the frequency of such shift.

Recommendations

- Prepare a documented bilingual corpus of officially published Iraqi diplomatic statements.
- Develop an Arabic – English terminology database covering political and legal terms, with contextual examples and dates of approval.
- Incorporate checks of agency, commitment, and evaluation into translation review before publication.
- Conduct empirical studies involving independent raters and measure inter rater agreement.
- Encourage research collaboration between translation and political science departments at Al-Mustansiriyah University.

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