An Annotated Arabic Translation of Frank Edwards' THE GAYSH: A History of the Aden Protectorate Levies (1927-1961 and the Federal Regular Army of South Arabia (1961-1967)

Ahmed Moqbil Nasser Ali AL-Hanash

Abstract: This study examines the complex process of translating specialized historical and military texts from English into Arabic. It focuses on Frank Edwards's work, "THE GAYSH: A History of the Aden Protectorate Levies 1927-61 and the Federal Regular Army of South Arabia 1961-67."The research provides an annotated Arabic translation of the first two books and three chapters of the third book. Authored by Major Frank Edwards in 1968 and published in 2004, this book is a vital historical reference for our country, offering crucial insights into a pivotal period. The study systematically investigates the objectives behind such a translation, the inherent challenges in replicating the original's intended impact, the specific difficulties encountered by the translator, and the array of strategies employed to surmount these obstacles. Through a meticulous annotated translation of 466 illustrative items randomly selected from the initial 130 pages of the source text, the research identifies and categorizes diverse lexical and stylistic translation problems, encompassing issues related to specialized military terminology, proper nouns, idiomatic expressions, cultural differences, and structural complexities. Findings clearly highlight the effectiveness of a multifaceted approach, integrating strategies such as direct equivalents, transcription, descriptive translation, quotation with explanation, functional equivalents, naturalization, and Arabicization to ensure the intended meaning is delivered. and functional equivalents, carefully complemented by extensive annotations to clarify difficult cultural and historical contexts. Based on these that translators are advised to use a variety of strategies to handle complex texts. It is important to add detailed notes to explain cultural and historical context. More research is also needed on translating military texts, especially with annotated translations.

Keywords: Annotated Translation, Military History, Cultural Equivalence, Translation Strategies.

1. Introduction: Translation, a practice as ancient as human civilization itself, fundamentally involves carrying across thoughts, ideas, and feelings from one person to another. The English word "translation" derives from the Latin *trans-* and *latum*, meaning "a carrying across" or "a bringing across." Essentially, it's the process of transferring a message or written content from a source language (SL) to a target language (TL). This transfer can occur between different languages or even within the same language (e.g., from one dialect to another). At its core, translation is a communication process where the meaning, ideas, or messages of a text are rendered from one language into another. Therefore, translation is often defined as the transfer of meaning. A successful translation aims to convey the same meaning as the source text, a process significantly influenced by cultural and ideological contexts, as well as the specific linguistic situation in which a word or sentence is used. According to Munday (2016), translation is not simply a matter of language transfer but also involves a "cultural turn," recognizing that meaning is deeply embedded in its cultural context. Similarly, Baker (2018) emphasizes that a key challenge for translators is finding the closest possible equivalent in the target language at different levels, from words to idioms and even grammatical structures. This implies rendering the SL text's meaning into the TL text as accurately and closely as possible, making translation a crucial instrument for the exchange of cultures and knowledge between nations. Ghazala (1995) emphasizes that translation encompasses all procedures and techniques used to extend the source meaning into a receiver language, highlighting meaning as a fundamental component. Thus, a thorough understanding of the SL text's meaning is paramount for achieving accurate counterparts in the TL. The focal point of this study is Frank Edwards' THE GAYSH: A History of the Aden Protectorate Levies 1927-61 and the Federal Regular Army of South Arabia 1961-67, published in 2004 by Helion and Company Ltd. This book offers a

unique and personal account of the military forces in South Arabia during a pivotal era of British colonial transition. Edwards, an officer in the Federal Regular Army, provides an insightful look into a key instrument of control in the ultimately short-lived South Arabian Federation. His narrative chronologically traces the evolution of the Aden Protectorate Levies (APL) into the Federal Regular Army (FRA), detailing early duties, engagements against Yemeni-backed tribesmen, and the FRA's role in conflicts like Radfan. This research specifically focuses on the initial 130 pages of the book due to time constraints, aiming to provide Yemeni readers, politicians, and historians with detailed insights into the emergence of the army and the historical context of the British colony.

1.2 Statement of the Problem: This study aims to fill a specific gap by using annotated translation. This means the researcher won't just translate the text; He will highlight and explain the exact problems He faced in the translated text. For each problem, He will clearly show the solution he chose and explain my reasoning. This will provide a practical, detailed example of how to translate a complex military and historical text. Ultimately, this research will create a valuable resource for other translators and contribute a new, practical example to the field of translation studies.

1.3 Study Objectives: This annotated translation study aims to achieve several objectives:

• To produce an annotated Arabic translation of the source text.

• To highlight specific historical details concerning Aden and the broader region from 1927-1967.

• To identify and explain problematic areas encountered during the translation process.

• To propose appropriate solutions for challenges in political and military translation.

• To apply suitable translation strategies and techniques for rendering the book from English into Arabic.

1.4 Limitations: This study is limited to the translation and analysis of pages 1-130, which includes the first two main books and three chapters from the third one. The research will focus on conveying the original content and meaning, rather than providing a literal translation. It will systematically analyze the difficulties encountered during the translation process, using an annotated translation of selected texts.

2. Literature Review: Translation is far more than simply replacing words with their counterparts in another language. As many theorists, including Nida and Taber (1982), Newmark (1988), and Munday (2009), have noted, the true goal is to capture the original text's meaning and spirit and reproduce it in a new language. It's about creating an equivalent text that communicates the same message to a different audience. Nida and Taber's definition is particularly insightful. They argued that translation is the act of reproducing a message in the "closest natural equivalent" possible. For them, the priority was always meaning first, followed by style. This idea was echoed by Newmark, who saw translation as "rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended. "While definitions vary, a common thread runs through much of translation theory: the concept of equivalence. Many scholars, such as Dickens, Hervey, and Higgins (2002) and Hatim and Munday (2004), agree that translation is about establishing this equivalence between a source text and a target text across different linguistic levels. However, the very idea of "equivalence" is a complex and often debated topic. For instance, Nida (1964) introduced two key types of equivalence that translators often grapple with:

• **Formal Equivalence:** This approach focuses on a literal, word-for-word or sentence-for-sentence match, prioritizing the original form and content.

• **Dynamic Equivalence:** This is a more flexible approach. It aims for a natural expression that feels right for the target language and culture, even if it means changing the structure of the original text. The goal is to produce the same effect on the new reader as the original text had on its first readers.

The challenges of achieving this equivalence are numerous, especially when a direct match doesn't exist. To address these "non-equivalence" problems, **Mona Baker (1992)** identified and categorized eight specific strategies that professional translators commonly use. These strategies provide a toolkit for navigating the tricky parts of translation and ensuring that the message is successfully conveyed.

• **Translation Problems** Translators face various challenges that go beyond simple word substitution. These problems fall into several main categories:

2.3.1 Lexical Problems: stem from word-level issues where a direct equivalent doesn't exist. This includes figurative language like idioms and metaphors (Baker, 1992; Ghazala, 2008), which can't be translated

literally. It also covers concepts unique to a specific culture (semantic voids), words borrowed from other languages, and the complexities of translating proper nouns and acronyms (Newmark, 1988). The goal is to find the best way to render a concept when a simple, one-to-one word match is impossible.

2.3.2 Syntactic Problems arise from the fundamental structural differences between languages, as no two languages organize sentences in the same way (Nida, 1975). These issues involve variations in word order, grammatical relations, and word classes, all of which can lead to ambiguity

2.3.3 Cultural Problems are inherent to the fact that language and culture are inseparable. Translators must have a deep understanding of both cultures to bridge the gaps between them. While some human experiences are universal, significant cultural differences can make certain concepts difficult to translate. Theorists like Nida (1975) discuss strategies like "dynamic equivalence" and "foreignization" to help the target audience understand the cultural context, whether by making the text feel natural or by intentionally exposing them to the foreign culture.

2.3.4 Stylistic Problems relate to the form and manner of expression in a text. Style, which includes elements like clarity, sentence structure, and use of passive versus active voice, is a crucial part of the message, not just an ornament (Nida & Taber, 1969). Translators must ensure that the tone and stylistic choices of the source text are reflected appropriately in the translation.

• **Translation Strategies and Procedures:** The study applies practical translation theories and strategies to ensure the effective transfer of meaning. The theoretical background draws from various translation scholars, including Baker (1992) and Chesterman's (2002) classifications of translation strategies, as well as concepts like notes, additions, and omissions. The process involved the careful application of various methods, techniques, strategies, and procedures to transfer the original English text (SL) to Arabic (TL), with close attention to the inherent differences between the two languages.

• **Data Collection and Analysis:** Data collection was systematically integrated into the translation process. The researcher documented and recorded specific translation problems as they arose during the rendering of the source text. Upon completion of the translation, this collected data underwent systematic categorization and classification, guided by established translation theories to facilitate rigorous analysis. The translation process itself, along with the subsequent analysis, aimed to identify translation challenges, particularly lexical problems (e.g., cultural equivalence, idioms, metaphors, similes, proper names, abbreviations, military terms, semantic meaning, and connotation) and stylistic problems (e.g., redundancy, expressive style, and passive vs. active voice).The analysis also involved selecting and classifying samples according to these lexical and stylistic issues, as well as instances where addition and deletion procedures were employed. This systematic approach aimed to illustrate solutions with sentence examples, explaining the reasoning behind specific lexical choices, stylistic adjustments, and semantic interpretations. It also sought to identify broader patterns and insights into which linguistic features or cultural references posed more significant difficulties.

3. Main Findings and Discussion: The **Precise** annotated Arabic translation of *THE GAYSH* revealed a range of significant challenges and demonstrated the effectiveness of diverse translation strategies. The research provided comprehensive answers to the stipulated research questions, highlighting critical insights into the translation of historical military texts.

▪ **Challenges Encountered (Answer to Research Question 3):** The primary difficulties anticipated and encountered by the researcher involved both lexical and stylistic problems.

3..1 Lexical Problems: These were pervasive and included:

▪ **Cultural Equivalence (Culture-Bound Words):** Translating concepts deeply embedded in one culture but lacking direct equivalents in another. For example, rendering "Ayb" (denoting deep cultural shame) or "Bedouin sense" (traditional wisdom from desert life) required careful cultural contextualization. Similarly, religious practices like "Began the short idd" (referring to Eid al-Fitr) posed challenges requiring detailed explanation to convey their significance to an Arabic audience.

▪ **Idioms:** Expressions whose meaning cannot be deduced from their literal words often demand creative solutions. For instance, the English idiom "lost face" was translated using culturally appropriate Arabic expressions denoting shame or loss of social standing, such as "فقدوا مكانتهم" (they lost their standing). Another

example is translating "He felt like a fish out of water" to "شعر وكأنه غريب بين قوم" (He felt like a stranger among people), as a literal translation would be ineffective.

▪ **Metaphors and Similes:** Figurative language required careful consideration to convey both meaning and stylistic effect. For example, the simile "Making progress as slow and ambush as easy as possible for any stranger" (P.10) was translated as "بقدر الإمكان ونصب الكمائن" (as much as possible and setting ambushes), conveying the treacherous nature described.

▪ **Proper Names:** Especially geographical names and personal names, which needed clarity and accuracy for the Arabic reader. This often-involved careful transliteration or contextual explanation.

▪ **Abbreviations:** Military and organizational abbreviations required careful handling to ensure comprehensibility, often by providing the full form or a descriptive equivalent.

▪ **Military Terms:** Specialized jargon that often lacks direct Arabic equivalents, demanding specific strategies to convey precise military concepts accurately.

▪ **Semantic Meaning and Connotation:** Ensuring that not only the denotative (literal) meaning but also the connotative (associated) meaning is accurately conveyed.

3.1.2 Stylistic Problems: Significant stylistic discrepancies were identified, particularly concerning:

▪ **Passive Voice vs. Active Voice:** English often uses passive voice, whereas Arabic frequently prefers active constructions for clarity and naturalness. The study strategically employed modulation to shift the point of view.

▪ **Expressivity:** Maintaining the expressive quality of the original text, ensuring that the emotional and rhetorical impact is preserved.

▪ **Redundancy:** Managing instances where English might be concise but Arabic requires more expansive phrasing for clarity, or vice-versa. For example, in the phrase "The guns and the heavy guns were firing, but because of the noise of the great crowed no one could hear them" (P.49), "Heavy guns" is a specific category of "guns," making the original phrasing redundant. The translation addressed this to ensure natural flow in Arabic while conveying the complete meaning without unnecessary repetition.

3.2 Strategies and Techniques Employed (Answer to Research Question 4): To resolve the identified problems, the researcher employed a diverse array of translation strategies and techniques, drawing significantly from established theoretical frameworks such as Baker's (1992) and Chesterman's (2002) classifications. These included:

• **Direct Equivalents:** Used when a clear, unambiguous lexical or structural equivalent existed in Arabic, allowing for a straightforward transfer of meaning.

• **Transcription (Transliteration):** Employed for proper nouns (e.g., geographical locations, personal names) and specific terms with no direct Arabic equivalent, to maintain authenticity while ensuring phonetic accuracy and readability for Arabic speakers.

• **Descriptive Translation:** Providing a fuller explanation or description of a term or concept when a direct equivalent is absent, particularly useful for cultural or specific historical items that are unfamiliar to the target audience. For example, "up-country" was paraphrased as " المناطق الداخلية أو الريفية، أي الأراضي البعيدة عن السواحل أو المدن الرئيسية" (inland or rural areas, i.e., lands far from coasts or main cities).

• **Quotation with Explanation:** Retaining the original term or phrase and providing an explanatory note or gloss, especially for culturally or historically sensitive terms that require precise contextualization to avoid misinterpretation.

• **Functional Equivalents:** Finding a target language equivalent that serves the same function or achieves the same effect as the source language element, even if not a direct lexical match. This ensures that the communicative purpose is preserved.

• **Adaptation:** Modifying the message form by shifting point of view, cultural references, or expressions to make the translation more culturally relevant and natural for the target audience. This was often seen in converting passive English constructions to active Arabic ones for better flow and clarity.

• **Addition:** Adding information not explicitly present in the source text but deemed necessary for clarity, cultural context, or to compensate for linguistic differences in the target text. This was particularly evident in clarifying cultural nuances related to tribal customs or historical events.

• **Borrowing (Loanwords):** Directly incorporating source language words into the target text, often for specialized terms for which no suitable Arabic equivalent exists or is commonly used.

• **Paraphrasing:** Restating the meaning of a passage in different words to improve clarity, naturalness, or to elaborate on a condensed idea in the target language.

• **Naturalization:** Adapting a source language term phonologically and morphologically to fit the patterns of the target language, making it feel more integrated into Arabic.

• **Arabicization:** The broader process of making a foreign term conform to Arabic linguistic norms, often involving the creation of new Arabic terms or the adaptation of existing ones.

• **Annotations (Footnotes/Glosses):** Crucially, extensive annotations were used throughout the translation to clarify complex cultural and historical contexts, justify specific translation choices, and provide supplementary information essential for the target reader's comprehensive understanding. These notes helped readers engage deeply with the source text's content and the translator's decisions.

4. Recommendations: Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Using Annotated Translation: Researchers are advised to use the annotated translation methodology as a primary research tool. It's a great way to study translation problems and show exactly how you solved them.

2. Understand Both Cultures: Translators should learn about both the original and target cultures. This helps them understand and translate subtle cultural details correctly.

3. Form Specialized Teams: It's smart to create research teams with translators and subject experts, like historians or military specialists. This makes the translation more accurate.

4. using flexible translation strategies: When a direct translation doesn't work, a Researchers are advised to use the annotated and add extra words to make the meaning clear. Just put these words in square brackets [ ] so readers know they're not in the original text.

5. Brief explanatory notes: Only use annotations (explanatory notes) when they are truly necessary. Use them to explain a difficult word, provide key background info, or show a change you made.

6. Teamwork with Experts: We need to encourage teamwork between translators, historians, and military experts. This will make sure that translations of old military texts are more accurate and have a deeper meaning.

5. Conclusion: This study successfully achieved its primary objective of producing an annotated Arabic translation of Frank Edwards' *THE GAYSH*, a significant historical military text concerning Aden and South Arabia from 1927-1967. Beyond fulfilling academic requirements, this endeavor served to bridge a crucial knowledge gap in Arabic historical scholarship by making an important Western perspective accessible to a wider Arabic-speaking audience. The research systematically identified and addressed a wide array of translation challenges, predominantly lexical and stylistic in nature, as anticipated. Lexical difficulties arose from cultural equivalence, idioms, metaphors, proper nouns, abbreviations, military terms, and the nuanced semantic and connotative meanings. Stylistic challenges included managing passive versus active voice, maintaining expressivity, and addressing redundancy. The study demonstrated that no single solution suffices; rather, a judicious application of diverse translation strategies—including direct equivalents, transcription, descriptive translation, quotation with explanation, and functional equivalents—was paramount. The extensive use of annotations proved indispensable in clarifying cultural and historical contexts, thereby enriching the target text and enhancing reader comprehension. Ultimately, this research provides valuable insights into the complexities inherent in translating specialized historical and military texts. It offers a transparent, practical framework for translators by meticulously documenting problems and their resolutions, thereby contributing significantly to both translation practice and theory within the English-Arabic linguistic pair, particularly for sensitive historical documents related to the Yemeni context.

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تاريخ جيش محمية عدن (1927-1961) وجيش الاتحاد النظامي للجنوب العربي (1961-1967)

أحمد مقبل ناصر علي الحنش

مركز عبد الله فاضل للدراسات الإنجليزية والترجمة، جامعة عدن

Email: aburabieaahmed2015@gmail.com

الملخص: تستعرض هذه الدراسة العملية المعقدة لترجمة النصوص التاريخية والعسكرية المتخصصة من الإنجليزية إلى العربية، وترتكز الدراسة على عمل فرانك إدواردز، "الجيش: تاريخ قوات محمية عدن 1927-61 وجيش الاتحاد لنظامي للجنوب العربي 1961-67". وتقدم الدراسة ترجمة عربية مشروحة للجزأين الأولين وثلاثة فصول من الجزء الثالث من هذا الكتاب. ويعتبر هذا الكتاب، الذي ألفه الرائد فرانك إدواردز عام 1968 ونُشر في 2004، مرجعا تاريخيا مهما لبلادنا، حيث يقدم رؤى حاسمة حول فترة محورية. وتبحث الدراسة بشكل منهجي في الأهداف وراء هذه الترجمة، والتحديات المتأصلة في نقل الأثر المقصود من النص الأصلي، والصعوبات المحددة التي واجهت المترجم، ومجموعة الاستراتيجيات المستخدمة للتغلب على هذه العقبات. من خلال ترجمة مشروحة بدقة لـ 466 عنصرًا توضيحيًا تم اختيارها عشوائيًا من أول 130 صفحة من النص الأصلي، تحدد الدراسة وتصنف المشاكل اللغوية والأسلوبية المتنوعة في الترجمة. تشمل هذه المشاكل قضايا تتعلق بالمصطلحات العسكرية المتخصصة، والأسماء العلم، والتعابير الاصطلاحية، والفروق الثقافية، والتعقيدات البنيوية. تُبرز النتائج بوضوح فعالية النهج متعدد الأوجه الذي يدمج استراتيجيات مثل المقابلات المباشرة، والنقل الصوتي، والترجمة الوصفية، والاقتباس مع الشرح، والمقابلات الوظيفية، والتوظيف (naturalization)، والتعريب لضمان توصيل المعنى المقصود. هذه الاستراتيجيات تُكمَّل بملاحظات وشروح موسعة لتوضيح السياقات الثقافية والتاريخية الصعبة. بناء على ذلك، تنصح الدراسة المترجمين باستخدام مجموعة متنوعة من الاستراتيجيات للتعامل مع النصوص المعقدة، وتؤكد على أهمية إضافة ملاحظات تفصيلية لشرح السياقات الثقافية والتاريخية. كما تدعو إلى إجراء المزيد من الأبحاث حول ترجمة النصوص العسكرية، خاصةً من خلال الترجمات المشروحة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: ترجمة مشروحة، التاريخ العسكري، التكافؤ الثقافي، استراتيجيات الترجمة.