# Analyzing and Evaluating the Translation of the Book: Yemen Conflict:

# Key Strategic Transformations 2021

**Muaad Farid Asgher Ahmed[1]**

Abduallah Fadhel Centre for English
Studies & Translation, University of Aden
www.alhaji@gmail.com

**Lamis Abdulrahman Hasan Abdullah[2]**

English Department, Faculty of Education
University of Aden, Yemen
lamishassan2009@gmail.com

**Abstract:** This study analyzes and evaluates the translation of the book: "Yemen Conflict: Key Strategic Transformations 2021". The study classified the data of the text into three categories: (political, military, and economic texts), 60 examples were randomly selected i.e. 20 examples for each category. The study investigated the translation strategies adopted by the translator, and then the results identified whether the translation was appropriate or not, in order to suggest alternation translations as solutions for the mistranslation in the line of objectives of the study. The results of the study indicated that translator nearly encountered no difficulties in this work. In addition, the findings showed that the translator resorted three different procedures (literal translation, modulation, translation by addition etc.). The researcher suggested that the translator must produce a target text (TT) that has similar effects to that of the source text (ST) when rendering the texts of the three categories and vary translation strategies in the same text. Moreover, the researcher believes that there are no specific methods in translating political, military, and economic texts due to the fact that translation is not only a practical process that employs translation techniques, but also an issue of comprehending cultural, historical and Yemeni situations and overtones.

**Keywords:** Political Texts, Military Tests, Economic Texts, Strategies.

**Introduction:** According to Ilyas (1989:19) "translation is an operation that is performed on languages (two or more) in which the ST is replaced by the TT on the basis of equivalence between both texts (lexis and grammar of the ST are replaced by equivalent lexis and grammar of the TL)".

Lastly, from the perspective of the functionalist approaches to translation, "translations are generally seen as fulfilling functions quite different to those of STs, since they are for a fundamentally different audience, in a new culture situation" According to Venuti (2004) "Translation is the forcible replacement of the linguistic and cultural difference of the foreign text with a text that will be intelligible to the target-language reader". This study examines English translation of the book "Yemen Conflict: Key Strategic Transformations" and how the translator translated the book; so, it is going to discover the techniques the translator used, and suggest alternative translation as solutions if need be.

This study utilizes qualitative approach in which contextual analysis for the significant data is to be followed in both the original and translated book. The study also may benefit from the quantitative approach in interpreting the results of the study.

**Background of the Study:** This study is with the domain of analysis and evaluation the English translation of the book: "Yemen Conflict: Key Strategic Transformations (2021)" and its counterpart the Arabic version: "بوصلة الصِراع في اليمن: دراسة لاهم التحولات الاستراتيجية 2020", and how the translator translated this book. Also, it aims to find out what procedures the translator used in translating the book, and to discover the unsuitable translation. Furthermore, it gives or suggests the suitable translation by using different theories, techniques, and strategies adopted in this study. Moreover, this study presents the original book to the author's point of view. Besides it deals with the English version of the book to analyze and evaluate it to check out the drawbacks and gaps with regard to some aspects of translating lexical terms to find both solutions and some recommending strategies and techniques.

**Statement of the Problem:** This study deals with presenting the idea of the English version of the Arabic book i.e. "Yemen Conflict: Key Strategic Transformations" which was translated into English language by Abdulrahman Abdullah. Moreover, the study analyzes and evaluates the translation difficulties in the aspects of (Political texts, military texts, and economy texts).

This diversity of expressions surely imposes many translation problems that need a careful tackling and processing. And then to figure out the procedures the translator used, and to find the suitable procedures that may be suitable to provide an appropriate translation.

**Objectives of the Study:** The study attempts to achieve the following:

1. To classify and categorize the expressions that have been chosen from the original book and     the translated version of the book.

2. To identify the strategies\ procedures used by the translator.

3. To suggest the appropriate translation as solutions for the mistranslation where it is necessary.

**Questions of the Study:** The study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What could be the classification and categorization of the expression chosen for the study?

2. What are the translation procedures the translator used in translating: (Political texts, military texts, economics texts)?

3. What are the appropriate strategies\ procedures could be used as solutions for the mistranslation?

**Significance of the Study:** The study draws its significance of the Arabic book "Yemen Conflict: Key Strategic Transformations" which was written by Ateq Garallah 2020. In fact, this book helps the reader to better understand the conflict in Yemen and its causes and consequences.

This study concentrates on analyzing and evaluating of the translated book and how it was translated, and to find out the procedures used. Furthermore, it attempts to shed lights on some problems and difficulties the translator face, and to provide a suitable solution.

**Limitations of the Study:** This study concentrates on analyzing and evaluating Abdulrahman Abdullah's English translation of the Arabic book (Yemen Conflict: Key Strategic Transformations), which was written by the Yemeni author Ataq Garallah, which was published in 2020. Therefore, this study aims to analyze and evaluate how the translator transfer the intended meanings of the (Political texts, Military texts, and Economy texts), and what are the strategies\ procedures used in translating the work.

**Theories of Translation**

**Vinay and Darbelnet's Model:** The following procedures or methods for translation are quoted from Vinay and Darbelnet (1995, pp. 31-39), they are as follows:

**Direct Translation:**

**- Literal translation (1995: 33–5; 2004: 130–2):** This is 'word-for-word' translation, which Vinay and Darbelnet describe as being most common between languages of the same family and culture.

**- Borrowing:** The SL word is transferred directly to the TL. This category (1995: 31–2; 2004: 129) covers words such as the Russian *rouble, datcha*, the later *glasnost* and *perestroika*, that are used in English and other languages to fill a semantic gap in the TL.

**- Calque:** This is 'a special kind of borrowing' (1995: 32–3; 2004: 129–30) where the SL expression or structure is transferred in a literal translation. For example, the French calque *science-fiction* for the English.

**Oblique Translation:**

**- Transposition:** This is a change of one part of speech for another (e.g. noun for verb) without changing the sense.

**- Modulation:** This changes the semantics and point of view of the SL. It

can be:

*obligatory:* e.g. the time when translate as le moment ou [lit. 'the moment where'];

*optional,* though linked to preferred structures of the two languages: e.g. the reversal of point of view in it is not difficult to show > il est facilede demontrer [lit. 'it is easy to show'].

**- Equivalence**, or **idiomatic translation:** Vinay and Darbelnet use this term (1995: 38–9; 2004: 134) to refer to cases where languages describe the same situation by different stylistic or structural means.

- **Adaptation** (1995: 39-40; 2004: 134-6): This involves changing the cultural reference when a situation in the source culture does not exist in the target culture.

**Newmark's Semantic and Communicative Translations:** Newmark (2001) suggests two approaches or methods of translation, namely, semantic and communicative translations. "Communicative translation attempts to produce on its readers an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original". e.g. (*blood and bone meal* > وجبة دسمة). "Semantic translation attempts to render, as closely as the semantic and syntactic structures of the second language allow, the exact contextual meaning of the original." e.g. (*Are you comfortable here?* > أتشعر في الراحة هُنا؟ أو أمرتاح هُنا؟)

**Translation and Culture:** Newmark's twelve cultural procedures are discussed in ghazala (2008): The following definitions are quoted from Ghazala (ibid. pp 196- 207), they are as follows:

1. Transference
2. Literal Translation
3. Naturalization
4. Cultural Equivalence
5. Neutralization
6. Deletion

**Translation by Addition** (الترجمة بواسطة الإضافة): The translation scholars (Nida, 1964; Newmark, 1988, Sharma, 2015; Dickins) see addition as a necessary translation strategy or procedure, especially when translation is carried out between languages belonging to different families such as English and Arabic.

The translation by addition is the translation in which something is added to the TT which is not present on the ST. (Dickins, et al, 2006: p24). e.g.

*Dublin*  →  <u>مدينة</u> دبلن     The added word

**Political Translation:** Political translation, one of the most important translation areas, is important due to its sensitivity and specificity, as well as the national ideology.

During the process of translation, translators are often required to use highly skilled translation techniques to proceed with words and sentences in text to achieve a high degree of precision in political texts and to convey the exact meaning of the speaker.

The political translation is considered an essential link in the international community, which is full of symbols that can only be decoded through translation. It is one of the ways to see what the other produces and what is happening in other regions of the globe. (Meals and Sarah. 2014)

"The translation of political discourses can be studied from a linguistic perspective, but it can also be viewed from a broader perspective, based on the theory of political discourse, and on research related to the study of special languages. All the information about a particular topic in one complete unit, in order to reduce the ambiguity that may arise if it is put in different sentences, and the other advantage is the flexible or ambiguous language". (Meals, 2014)

"A feature of political discourse is that it consists of strongly interconnected texts, so when creating a new text "such as translations", we must pay attention to its interrelationship with the rest of the political texts and this coherence is ensured by political terms "party to contract, death penalty, etc.", and non-terminological elements e.g., in relation to, the termination of the contract, moreover. The imitation of the political text also contributes to this consistency, which is why non-legislators may find a political text impossible to understand. This is because the judicial system is a logical system, whose texts try to avoid complex and heavy descriptions that are beyond the comprehension of the average pequires further study and analysis in order to be understood". (Mangono, 2015).

**Military Translation:** Military translation has become since the beginning of the 20th century and the invention of new weapons such as tanks and aircrafts one of the major translation fields. The reliance of countries on importing weapons from other countries made it impossible to ignore the increasing significance of this type of translation.

Asserting the importance of military translation, Al Ali (2017) contends that military translation is the most important in the translation field. For him, this type of translation may be the threshold between life and death for may officers working in military fields. He also believes that its increasing importance may be a logical result of the huge advancements in the use of weapons depending on technological devices, and this signifies that the users of these weapons (soldiers and military officers) must be well informed about how to operate a specific weapon. Otherwise, the misuse of these weapons may not only mean the death of the user, but also, the death of other military officers. "It may be the turning point in the life of those using weapons and military tactics, the fine line between victory and defeat, and thus, it may be the marker gaining wars; especially for third world countries that import their weapons from developed countries" (Al Ali, 2017, p.24).

**Economic Translation:** Translating economic texts represents a major type of translation as it deals with specialized issues that have to do with finance, commerce, banking, business and the like. Such type of translation is one of the most meticulous and time-consuming translations that requires extreme attention and concentration.

According to Meloyan (2015), translating texts on economics and finance may be considered as a subfield within the field of business translation. It includes translation of documents such as accounting reports; balance sheets, statistical data, bank statements, warranties agreements, reports, bills, invoices, tenders, letters of guarantee, credit applications, technical economic statements, etc.

**Methodology Design and Analysis**

**Data of the Stud:** The data of the study was taken from the Arabic book (Yemen Conflict: Key Strategic Transformations 2021), Therefore, the study focuses on the English translation for the book. The study provides 2 examples for each of the following: (Political texts, military texts, and economy texts), each one will be analyzed and evaluated and corrected if need be.

**Analysis Procedures:** The study follows a number of steps for analyzing the data collected:
1. Reading carefully the original book and the translated version.
2. Decide a diversity of expressions as data of the study.
3. Designate the translation problems.
4. Identify the strategies used by the translator in solving these confronted problems.
5. Suggest appropriate translations/ strategies where it is needed.

**Analyzing and Evaluating the "Political Texts":**

**Example No: 1**

| *ST:* | *TT*: |
|---|---|
| " بعد اجتياح الحوثيين للعاصمة صنعاء في سبتمبر 2014 مع الرئيس السابق علي عبد الله صالح، **وبدعم دولي** **غير معلن.** "،ص 13 (مقدمة الكتاب) | *"On September 21st, 2014, the Houthis, allied with former president Ali Abdullah Saleh along **with unspoken international support**, seized Sanaa, the capital of Yemen."* ^Pg. 12 (Introduction) |

**Comment:** The ST term "بدعم دولي غير معلن" was translated into "unspoken international support". As noticed, the translator has chosen the 'literal translation' procedure by (Newmark: 1998) to convey the meaning of the target text.

**Example No: 2**

| ST: | TT: |
|---|---|
| " وبعد أشهر من العمليات العسكرية الكبيرة، حقق هذا **التحالف** والمقامة اليمنية عدة انتصارات عسكرية خلال عامي (2015-2016)، تم فيها اخراج محافظة عدن ومحافظات الجنوب وبعض المناطق في المحافظات نطاق سيطرة الحوثيين. "،ص 13 (مقدمة الكتاب) | "**The Arab Alliance**, along with the Yemeni resistance, achieved key victories in 2015 and 2016. They were able to liberate main cities from the Houthis' grasp such as Aden in the south and other northern governorates." ^Pg. 12 (Introduction) |

**Comment:**

As the example illustrates, the ST noun "التحالف" has been transmitted into "the Arab alliance" in the target text. Here as it is observed, the translator added the noun "Arab" to clarify and specify that it is "an Arab Alliance" by applying the 'addition' procedure (Dickins, J, et al, 2006).

### Analyzing and evaluating the "Military Texts":

**Example No:** 1

| **ST:** | **TT:** |
|---|---|
| " أطلقت المملكة العربية السعودية **عمليات عسكرية واسعة** حتى مسمى «عاصفة الحزم» التي تولت قيادتها بمعية الإمارات العربية المتحدة في إطار تحالف ضم عدة دول عربية أطلق عليه اسم «التحالف العربي لدعم الشرعية». "ص 13 (مقدمة الكتاب) | "Causing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to launch **extensive military operations** under the name of "Operation Decisive Storm" in March 2015. Saudi Arabia formed "the Arab Alliance to Support Legitimacy" which included the United Arab Emirates and several other Arab countries." Pg. 12 (Introduction) |

**Comment:**

The translator has transferred the meaning of the ST expression "عمليات عسكرية واسعة" into "extensive military operations" as the previous example illustrates by using the direct translation as known as the 'literal translation' (Newmark: 1988).

**Example No:** 2

| **ST:** | **TT:** |
|---|---|
| " والذي انتهى **بإسقاط** العاصمة المؤقتة عدن **واجتياح** محافظتي لحج وأبين وصولاً إلى مشارف مدينة «عتق» عاصمة محافظة شبوة. "ص 125 (التطورات العسكرية) | "The STC eventually **took control** of the interim capital of Aden and **invaded** the governorates of Lahj and Abyan, expanding to the outskirts of the city of Ataq, the capital of the Shabwa governorate." Pg. 124 (Military Developments) |

**Comment:**

The ST noun "بإسقاط" has been converted into a verb collocation "took control" as it is elaborated above, the translation procedure that has been applied here is the 'transposition' (Vinay and Darbelnet: 1995). Moreover, the ST noun "اجتياح" has been translated as a past verb "invaded" in the TT, which also indicates that the TT translator has employed the 'transposition' method (Vinay and Darbelnet: 1995).

### Analyzing and evaluating the "Economic Texts":

**Example No:** 1

| *ST:* | *TT:* |
|---|---|
| " اتجهت *الأوضاع الاقتصادية* في اليمن خلال عام 2018 نحو المزيد من التدهور وربما الانهيار. "ص٩٣ (التطورات الاقتصادية) | "*In 2018, **the economic situation** in Yemen was deteriorating and nearing collapse.*" Pg. 99 (Economic Developments) |

**Comment:**

The ST phrase "الأوضاع الاقتصادية" has been translated into "economic situations." The translator used the 'modulation' process to convert the plural noun "الأوضاع" into a singular word "situation" rather than '*situations*' (Vinay and Darbelbet: 1995).

*Example No:* 2

| ST: | TT: |
|---|---|
| ” وبعد الإعلان السعودي **ارتفعت قيمة الريال في السوق بسرعة ليصل** سعر الصرف إلى 430 ريالا للدولار الواحد، ويعزى هذا الارتفاع إلى التأثير النفسي الذي تركه الإعلان عن الوديعة السعودية. ص94 (التطورات الاقتصادية)“ | "*After the Saudi announcement, **the value of the Rial rose rapidly** in the market, bringing the exchange rate to 430 Rials per USD, due to the psychological impact that the announcement on the Saudi deposit had left.*" Pg. 100 (Economic Developments) |

**Comment:** As it could be seen in the previous example, the ST clause "ارتفعت قيمة سعر الريال بسرعة" was immediately translated into "the value of the Rial rose rapidly" using the 'literal translation' process. Such a translation, although it is literal, is acceptable, makes sense and does not change the meaning of the message. This is in line with Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/ 1995), who hold that a literal translation, which is a type of direct translation.

**Findings of the Study:** As the text is considered as an informative text, that is free of cultural, literary, and religious items, its rendering goes smoothly by using simple strategies (literal translation, modulation, transposition, and addition). The study has revealed this translation is highly appropriate, and no difficulties have confronted the translator.

Draghmeh (2010), and Jaradat (2010) studied the political speeches of figure Arab leaders and examined the sensitivity of political speeches amongst Arab nations. They did not state the strategies used in translating such political texts. The concentration only was on the effect caused against imperialism and colonization. The political expressions of the above studies are of the type of figurative images such as irony, satire, and metaphors. While the political text in the present study is full of plain expressions that are simply translated from the ST to the TT.

In the category of military translation, the studies of AL Shehab (2009) and AL Ali (2017), have investigated the translation of military terms by university students of translation and military officials. They found that university students of translation less capable than military men. It was commented on that conduct by the two researchers which they used pure technical specific military terms with which military men are more experienced, in contrast to university students who process sample of different texts for practice. Therefore, these studies are not related to academic context. The reason is that students of translation, when working in specific domain of translation. For example: medicine, they need only some practice and experience in dealing with this field, and they will be the most competent ones. This study does not tackle the translation of such pure technical specific military terms. The data investigated by this study includes more different types of texts. These are general information, and the military expressions are less specific, and therefore, their translation is simple and can be rendered literally or by finding the equivalent in the TT.

The previous studies in the category of economic translation are those of Karmedi (2015), Gonzalez (2015), and Falco (2016) who examined the translation of purely Business Language, and consequently, they found that students of business are somewhat competent than university students of translation, because of their long contact and experience in business language only. Again, this study is different from those studies as it is concerned with economic expectations in their general sense, and no way in this study for more specific economic terms. To conclude, this study dealt with more general terms in the categories studied, and sought for the procedures and theories used in rendering them, but not competency between different translators, while the above previous studies each of them tackled more technical specific terms of each category.

**Recommendations:** This study provides the following recommendations:

1. Translator must produce a TT that has similar effects to that of the ST when rendering the texts of the three categories.

2. The translator should be competent of the terminologies and expressions of the SL and the TL for each category.

3. Translator should vary his/ her translation strategies in the same text.

4. Professional translators are known to have advanced research skills; thus, they usually search for the exact meanings.

5. A professional political translator should understand the political systems, ideologies, and current events is essential. This knowledge will help the translator accurately render the context and implications of the message.

6. The translator should be familiarized with the economic terms of the source and target languages to be able to recognize the concept which does not have equivalence in the target language to be able to deal with it appropriately.

7. The military translation requires an understanding of the source and target languages' cultures to avoid ambiguity and misinterpretation in the translated text .

## References

1.  Al Ali, F. (2017). *The translatability of military expressions and texts from English into Arabic and vice versa by translation students at Jadara University in Jordan.* Unpublished M.A thesis, Jadara University, Irbid.

2.  Al-Shehab, M. (2009). *"Issues in translating military expressions and texts between English and Arabic".* Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, University of Science and Technology, Malaysia.

3.  Al-Shehab, M. (2014).*"The translatability of military expressions by M.A.SS in translation at Yarmouk University in Jordan".* *International Journal of Comparative Literature & Translation Studies,* 2, 6-13.

4.  Dickins, j. Sandra, Harvey, and Lan Higgins. (2006). *Thinking Arabic translation*. London and New York: Routledge.

5.  Ghazala, H., (2008 ). Translation as problems and solutions: *A text Book for university students and trainee translators: Lebanon.* Dar El -Ilm Lilmalayin.

6.  Ilyas, A. (1989). Theories of Translation. Mousil*: University of Mousil.*

7.  Falco G. 2016. Economics: teaching translation of economic and financial texts through comics. Translation and Comics 8/2: 105-127. Available at https://ejournals.library. ualberta.ca/.

8.  Mangono, Dominide (2015): Key Terms for Discourse Analysis, 1st Edition, translated by: Mohamed Bahayatne, Algeria.

9.  Meals, Sarah (2014): Al-Khattab, translated by: *Youssef Baghul, Mentouri University, Constantine.*

10. Meloyan, S. (2015). *Translation Peculiarities of Economic Texts* (On the Basis of Economic Texts Translation Form English into Ukrainian)", *International Letters of Social and Humanistic Sciences, Vol. 64, pp. 162-165.*

11. Munday. J. (2016). *"Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications"*. London and New York: Routledge.

12. New Mark, P., (1988 ). A textbook of Translation. Hemel Hempstead: Prentice Hall.

13. Newmark, p., (2001). An approach to translation. *Oxford and New York: Pergamon press.*

14. Nida, E., (1964). Towards a Science of Translation. *Leiden, E.J Brill.*

15. Sharma, V. K. (2015). *The Relevance of Addition, Omission and Deletion (AOD) in* Translation. International Journal of Translation, 27(1-2).

16. González (2015) "*Obstacles in Economic Translation: common, frequent mistakes made by undergraduates*" conducted at Universidad de Vigo.

17. Karnedi. (2015). *Translating Economics Textbooks:* A Case Study of Epistemicide, TEFLIN Journal, 26.

18. Jaradat, S. (2010). *Culture and Simultaneous Interpreting of Political Discourse: Obama's Speech in Cairo*. Unpublished MA Thesis, American University of Sharjah: UAE.

19. Venuti, L. (1995). *The Translator's Invisibility,* London, New York: Routledge.

20. Vinay, J.-P. and J. Darbelnet (1958/1995) Comparative Stylistics of French and English: A Methodology for Translation, translated and edited by Juan Sager and Marie-Jo Hamel, Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins. *Original French published 1958 as Stylistique comparee du francais et de l'anglais: Methode de traduction, Paris: Didier.*

# تحليل وتقييم ترجمة كتاب: بوصلة الصراع في اليمن: دراسة لاهم التحولات الاستراتيجية 2021

# للمترجم الدكتور عبد الرحمن عبد الله

لميس عبدالرحمن حسن عبد الله[2]

قسم اللغة الإنجليزية ـ كلية التربية عدن ـ جامعة عدن

معاذ فريد أصغر أحمد[1]

مركز عبدالله فاضل للدراسات الانجليزية والترجمة ـ جامعة عدن

**الملخص:** تتناول هذه الدراسة تحليل وتقييم ترجمة كتاب «بوصل الصراع في اليمن: دراسة لأهم التحولات الاستراتيجية .»(2021) وقد صنّف الباحث النصوص إلى ثلاث فئات رئيسة: النصوص السياسية، والعسكرية، والاقتصادية. وتم اختيار (60) مثالًا عشوائيًا بواقع (20) مثالًا لكل فئة. تركّزت الدراسة على تقصّي استراتيجيات الترجمة التي اعتمدها المترجم أثناء نقله للنصوص، وتحديد مدى ملاءمة هذه الترجمات للنص الأصلي، مع الإشارة إلى ترجمات التناوب بوصفها حلولًا لمشكلات الخلل في التنظيم وتحقيق أهداف الدراسة.

وأظهرت نتائج الدراسة أن المترجم واجه عددًا محدودًا من الصعوبات في هذا العمل. كما بيّنت النتائج أنه لجأ إلى ثلاث إجراءات ترجميّة رئيسة، وهي: الترجمة الحرفية، والتعديل، والترجمة بالإضافة، وغيرها من الإجراءات.

واقترح الباحث ضرورة أن يحرص المترجم على نقل النص الهدف بما يُحدث أثرًا مماثلًا لأثر النص المصدر عند ترجمة النصوص ضمن الفئات الثلاث، مع مراعاة اختلاف استراتيجيات الترجمة داخل النص الواحد.

وعلاوة على ذلك، يرى الباحث أنه لا توجد طرق محددة وثابتة لترجمة النصوص السياسية والعسكرية والاقتصادية؛ إذ إن الترجمة ليست مجرد عملية توظيف لطرائق وأساليب، بل هي أيضًا عملية تستلزم فهم الأوضاع الثقافية والتاريخية لليمن.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** النصوص السياسية ـ الاختبارات العسكرية ـ النصوص الاقتصادية ـ الاستراتيجيات.