



Reconstructing Meaning in Political Discourse: A Comparative Communicative Approach

إعادة بناء المعنى في الخطاب السياسي: مقارنة تواصلية مقارنة

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Abstract:

This research paper casts light on political translation, particularly the translation of political discourse. With reference to previous research, it was asserted that political speeches should not be altered when translated for they belong to authoritative texts. Other than this, it was argued that it is the function of the source text in the target language community that has to be taken into account when translating a political speech. This paper, however, adopted a different perspective. Therefore, it sought to demonstrate the validity of the communicative approach to translation in the political field, particularly when it comes to translating political speeches. To achieve the purpose of this study, extracts taken from three of His Majesty King Mohammed VI's speeches were selected for translation while applying the principles of the aforementioned approach so as to either confirm its validity in efficiently and accurately rendering the intended messages of these texts, especially that they are considered to be amongst the most challenging to translate, or disconfirm it. Most importantly, it was essential to conduct a comparative study between two different translation versions of the same speeches: the previous one provided by the "Moroccan Agency of Press" and my suggested translation. The study's findings revealed that the communicative approach is the most valid approach to be adopted by a translator during the translation process of a political speech. Through its use, not only syntactic naturalness was achieved in the target texts, but most importantly, opting for lexical clarity led to a better understanding of these texts' messages. In contrast to the communicative approach, the use of the cognitive approach proved to be invalid both syntactically and semantically. This is attributed to the fact that, many times, it resulted in syntactic distortion, meaning loss, and led to blocking the communicative function of the target texts through the use of a sophisticated language style.

Keywords: political translation, communicative approach, fidelity, syntactic naturalness, lexical clarity





ملخص

تسلط هذه الورقة البحثية الضوء على الترجمة السياسية، ولا سيما ترجمة الخطاب السياسي. واستنادًا إلى دراسات سابقة، ذهب بعض الباحثين إلى أن الخطابات السياسية لا ينبغي تعديلها عند ترجمتها، لأنها تُعدّ من النصوص ذات الطابع السلطوي. ومن ناحية أخرى، رأى باحثون آخرون أن ما ينبغي أخذه بعين الاعتبار عند ترجمة الخطاب السياسي هو الوظيفة التي يؤديها النص الأصلي داخل مجتمع اللغة الهدف.

غير أن هذه الدراسة تبنت منظورًا مختلفًا، إذ سعت إلى إثبات مدى صلاحية المنهج التواصلي في الترجمة في المجال السياسي، ولا سيما عند ترجمة الخطابات السياسية. ولتحقيق هذا الهدف، تم اختيار مقتطفات من ثلاث خطب لصاحب الجلالة الملك محمد السادس وترجمتها وفقًا لمبادئ المنهج التواصلي، وذلك للتحقق مما إذا كان هذا المنهج قادرًا على نقل الرسائل المقصودة في هذه النصوص بكفاءة ودقة، خاصةً أنها تُعدّ من أكثر النصوص تحديًا في مجال الترجمة، أو إثبات عدم صلاحيتها. والأهم من ذلك، كان من الضروري إجراء دراسة مقارنة بين نسختين مختلفتين لترجمة الخطابات نفسها: الأولى هي الترجمة الصادرة عن وكالة المغرب العربي للأنباء، والثانية هي الترجمة المقترحة من قبل الباحثة.

أما فيما يخص نتائج الدراسة، فقد أبانت هذه الأخيرة أن "المقاربة التواصلية" هي الأفضل. ونظرًا لاعتمادها، تم الحفاظ على البنية النحوية السليمة للغة الهدف عن طريق استخدام تركيبات لغوية صحيحة. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، فإن استخدام مفردات لغوية واضحة المعنى - عند ترجمة هذه النصوص - نتج عنه فهم أفضل لمحتواها. وعلى خلاف هذه المقاربة، فقد أثبتت النتائج عدم نجاعة "المقاربة المعرفية" في ترجمة الخطاب السياسي، لا على المستوى الدلالي ولا على المستوى التركيبي. ويرجع ذلك إلى تشويه التركيبات اللغوية الذي نتج عن اتباعها في الترجمة السابقة، فضلًا عن أنها أدت إلى ضياع بعض المعاني، وبالتالي عرقلة الوظيفة التواصلية للنص نظرًا لتوظيف أسلوب لغوي أكثر تعقيدًا.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الترجمة السياسية، المنهج التواصلي، الأمانة في الترجمة، وضوح المعنى، الإيجاز اللغوي





1. Introduction

1.1. Setting the Context

The internationalization of politics has led to the universality of political discourse. In other words, today, political discourse is no longer of paramount significance for the source culture community, but is meant for a wider audience; an audience beyond the national borders. In this regard, translation has become tremendously essential not only during political affairs and events, but, most importantly, has the immense power of conveying politicians' messages, intentions and thoughts, through their text and talk, to an audience in other sides of the world. To highlight the significance of translation in the political field, Neubert (as cited in Thiele, Shwend and Todenhausen, 2005) asserted that:

The universality of political discourse also refers to translation. There is no doubt that political affairs are now almost never dealt with only in one language. Politics no longer heeds borders, for all institutions, persons, events and processes involved in political matters that find expression in language are almost immediately mediated by several if not many languages. (p. 149)

The above quote highlights the very fact that the role of translation is central in the field of politics for through it, information related to political matters is internationally disseminated.

So, this article more specifically casts light on the translation of political speeches. It therefore investigates the effectiveness of two major, but totally different, translation approaches in the field of political translation in order to determine the most valid one to be adopted by translators when rendering the content of political speeches into the target language, especially given the fact that these text types are characterized by a certain linguistic complexity and are regarded as "sensitive" texts as Schäffner (1997) portrayed them.





1.2. Purpose of the Research Paper

The major purpose of this paper is to prove the validity of the communicative approach in the field of political translation, particularly when it comes to the translation of political speeches. Although this particular approach tends not to be used when dealing with political texts, this paper argues that it is the most valid one a translator has to adopt during the translation process of a political speech for the sake of efficiently conveying its intended meanings to the target audience while keeping the translation sound natural in the target language.

For this purpose, extracts taken from three speeches delivered by His Majesty King Mohammed VI are selected to be translated using the principles of the communicative approach. Besides this, a comparative study was conducted between two different translation versions of these extracts: the previous translation provided by the “Moroccan Agency of Press” and my suggested translation. In this context, it is to be noted that the MAP’s translation is based on the cognitive approach, through which adhering to the exact form and syntactic structures of the original is essential in the target language, while it was opted, throughout this translation, for the communicative approach which attaches great importance to both syntactic as well as semantic naturalness and acceptability in the target text while rendering the messages of the source text into the target language.

Therefore, as this paper draws on the linguistic model of translation, the study concentrates on the following concepts: fidelity, form adherence, syntactic naturalness, semantic naturalness, language economy, literal translation, lexical clarity and sophisticated language use, with the aim of uncovering the most effective translation approach in the political domain.

1.3. Research Questions

This study seeks to answer the following questions:

- Among the various approaches which exist in the field of translation, what would be the most effective approach which a translator has to follow so as to successfully complete the translation task and to efficiently render the intended meanings of a political speech?





- Given the various problems which are posed by political speeches, particularly the linguistic complexity which characterizes them, and given the fact that these texts are regarded as “sensitive” texts, what would be the most effective approach which has to be used during the translation process of political speeches? Which approach would enable the translator to solve these
- problems and therefore achieve comprehensibility and naturalness in the target text while reproducing the same impact of the original text on the target language readers?
- While rendering the messages of a political speech into the target language, is the translator required to adopt a style which conforms to the stylistic features of the original for the sake of “fidelity” or it is favoured to opt for less sophisticated equivalents and less complex structures in order to achieve lexical clarity and, thus, semantic naturalness in the target text?

2. Methodology

In order to find reliable and persuasive answers for the questions raised during the research process and thus achieve the purpose of this research, conducting a comparative study will be crucial for the results of this paper will be based on it.

So, in this research, the comparative analysis method is employed. The aim of this study is to make comparisons between the cognitive approach and the communicative one at both the syntactic and semantic levels, and to explore the different aspects associated with their use during the translation process of the selected speeches for the sake of investigating their validity when it comes to the translation of political discourse.

This paper also relies on qualitative content analysis. The latter was chosen as a methodology for analyzing the selected extracts and their different translations. That is, in order to reach valid conclusions in the field of political translation and to evaluate the study’s findings, syntactically and semantically analyzing excerpts taken from the source and target texts belonging to both translation versions is inescapable.





3. Comparative Study and Analysis

3.1. "Naturalness" vs. "Fidelity"

Example 1

"لقد شكلت المبادرة الوجيهة بتحويل الصحراء المغربية حكما ذاتيا، في إطار سيادة المملكة ووحدتها الوطنية والترابية منعظا هاما في مسار التسوية النهائية لهذا النزاع الإقليمي المفتعل تقديرا لانسجامها مع الشرعية الدولية ولما تتيحه لجميع أهالي المنطقة من تدبير واسع لشؤونهم المحلية واحترام لخصوصياتهم الثقافية."

MAP's translation:

- The tabling of the pertinent initiative designed to give the Moroccan Sahara autonomous status within the framework of the Kingdom's sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity was a watershed in the search for a final settlement to this regional artificial dispute, all the more so as the initiative is consistent with international legitimacy, grants all the region's populations extensive management of their local affairs and respects the said populations' specific cultural features.

In this example, we notice the use of word-for-word translation in the whole paragraph. Besides this, based on the cognitive approach, the translator rendered the same syntactic structures of the original into the TL. As a result of this, the meaning was lost. It is worth mentioning that, in English, a paragraph cannot be composed of one long sentence through which too much information is conveyed. This is not the case with the Arabic language in which a paragraph can be written using just one sentence. The problem here is that this syntactic form is inappropriate in the TL and is therefore unnatural.





Here is my suggested translation for the same paragraph:

The significant initiative that is designed to grant Moroccan Sahara autonomy, within the framework of the Kingdom's sovereignty, its national unity and territorial integrity represented an important milestone in the process of settling the artificial regional dispute. This is due to the fact that the initiative fully complies with international legitimacy and offers all the Sahara's populations extensive management of local affairs in addition to respecting their cultural specificities.

In order for the translation to sound more natural in the TL, the paragraph was divided into two sentences through the use of **the sentence splitting** strategy. Therefore, "this" was added here as a linking word to connect the two sentences and "due to" was added for the sake of explanation. This helped the translator produce a paragraph which is syntactically acceptable in the receptor language and which conforms more closely to the thought processes of the TL readers, as well. This will therefore enable them to fully understand the intended message of the paragraph.

Example 2

"وهي مبادرة خيرة تجسد ما هو مشهود له به من حكمة وتبصر وشهامة وغيره صادقة على وحدة الأمة الإسلامية ونصرة قضاياها العادلة وتطلع لبناء مستقبل أفضل لأمتنا."

MAP's translation:

- **This commendable initiative attests to his wisdom, foresight, high-mindedness and sincere keenness to preserve the unity of the Muslim Ummah, defend its just causes and build a better future for our countries.**

If we compare the original paragraph with its translated version, we notice that the translator rendered the same syntactic structure of the ST into the TT. Therefore, the original's message is conveyed through a paragraph which is composed of one sentence the thing that is unacceptable in the structure of the English language which is totally different from the structure of the Arabic language.





To solve this problem posed by structural differences between the two languages, “**cohesion change**” is allowed for it enables the translator to produce a coherent translation which is syntactically acceptable for the TL audience. My suggested rendering is therefore the following:

This is a laudable initiative that reflects his wisdom, foresight and magnanimity. Moreover, it not only reflects his willingness to preserve the unity of the Islamic Ummah and to defend its just causes, but it also shows his aspiration to build a better future for it.

Example 3

"إن المملكة المغربية لتؤكد من جديد دعمها لكل المبادرات الجادة التي تسعى إلى النهوض بالعمل الإسلامي المشترك في جميع المجالات وتأهيل منظمة التعاون الإسلامي لتقوم بدور مؤثر وفاعل على الساحة الدولية تنفيذاً لبرنامج العمل العشري الذي أقرته القمة الإسلامية الثالثة المنعقدة هنا بمكة المكرمة والتي تهدف إلى تقوية آليات المنظمة وتفعيل هياكلها."

MAP's translation:

- **The Kingdom of Morocco reaffirms its support for all well-meaning initiatives which are aimed at promoting joint Islamic action in all sectors, and revamping the Organization of Islamic Cooperation so that it may play an active, influential role in the international**

arena, while implementing the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action adopted by the Third Islamic Summit held here in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, and which seeks to bolster the Organization's structures and mechanisms.

As it is the case with the previous example, we notice that the translator faithfully rendered not only the messages of the ST, but also its form into the TL. Therefore, the ST meaning was transferred into the TL according to its syntactic structure in the SL. Here, fidelity to the SL paragraph resulted in producing a translation which does not conform to the thought processes of the TT audience, for there is a load of information which needed to be rendered into short ideas in the TT.





So, to produce a translation which is syntactically correct and which reads more easily for the TL audience, we suggest the following rendering for the same ST paragraph:

The Moroccan Kingdom does reaffirm its support for all the serious initiatives seeking to promote the joint Islamic action in all fields and to empower the Organization of Islamic Cooperation so that it plays an influential and active role on the international stage. This will be achieved by implementing the Ten-Year Programme of Action which was adopted by the Third Islamic Summit. The latter was held here in Makkah and aimed at reinforcing the organization's mechanisms and reactivating its bodies.

As we are faced with a dense paragraph, it was preferable to opt for the communicative approach for it enables the translator to render the exact meaning of the ST while preserving syntactic naturalness in the TT. Therefore, by making adjustments to the TT, the translator is able to produce a translated version which the TL reader can easily follow.

So, in order to produce a translation which fits the thought processes of the target audience, the use of **the “sentence splitting” strategy** was required since it enabled the translator to divide the paragraph into short ideas. This makes it easy for the TT reader to fully grasp the intended meanings of the ST.

Another translation strategy which was used in this example is that of **addition**. Thus, the phrase **“this will be achieved by”** and **“the latter”** were added for the sake of establishing harmony between the TT paragraph sentences and, therefore, conveying the messages of the ST paragraph in a natural style. In contrast to the first translation, this version aimed at making the TT accessible for its readership.





3.2. Word-for-word or Language Economy?

Example 1

"وفاء بالقسم الخالد للمسيرة نواصل بكل ثقة وعزم مسارها المتجدد على درب **توطيد** نموذجنا الوطني الذي ارتضاه المغاربة جميعا."

TT 1 (MAP's version)

- True to the eternal oath of the Green March, we have resolutely and confidently pursued our efforts in order to **further expand and strengthen** the national model the Moroccan people have chosen for themselves.

Concerning example 1, we notice that the term "توطيد" was rendered into the TL using two equivalents: "expand" and "strengthen". In Arabic, "توطيد" is defined as "تقوية" and "تثبيت" according to "Alma'any" dictionary. In the TT, the translator added the verb "expand" to reinforce the meaning of the sentence. The verb "to expand" can be defined as "increasing the extent of something". Accordingly, in this context, both verbs tend to convey the same meaning; that's why, it was preferable to employ only one equivalent "strengthen" which seems to be the most correct equivalent for "توطيد", for the use of both terms would result in repetition which normally has to be avoided within the structure of the English language.

TT 2 (My suggested translation)

- So, true to the eternal oath of the Green March, we are confidently pursuing our efforts so as to **reinforce** the national model chosen by all Moroccans.

We notice in this version that "توطيد" was rendered as "to reinforce" in the TL. Taking into consideration that "توطيد" is defined as "تقوية" and "تثبيت", I found that the verb "to reinforce", meaning "to strengthen and to give support to", was the most suitable equivalent in this context. Here, an economy of language was allowed for the meaning of the ST is conveyed using one equivalent instead of two the thing that results, most of the time, in repetition and redundancy.





Example 2

"فالمنتخب يجب أن يكون في خدمة المواطن وأن يرقى الى مستوى الثقة التي وضعها فيه بعيدا عن أي اعتبارات شخصية أو فئوية ضيقة."

TT 1 (MAP's version)

- Elected officials **must serve the citizens and be worthy of their trust**, avoiding any personal or narrow-minded considerations.

In this example, we see that the phrase "يجب أن يكون في خدمة المواطن" was rendered into the TL as "**must serve the citizens**". Here, the word-for-word translation method was employed. This resulted in producing a source-text oriented translation. The translator could have conveyed the exact meaning of the phrase while rendering the sense to make the TT phrase sound semantically more natural. Similarly, the phrase

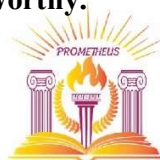
" أن يرقى الى مستوى الثقة التي وضعها فيه " was rendered as "**be worthy of their trust.**"

TT 2 (My suggested translation)

- Thus, the elected members **should be reliable and trust-worthy**. They must put aside any narrow personal or partisan considerations, as well.

In this version, however, the same phrases were rendered into the TL using a certain concision of language. Therefore, the phrase "يجب أن يكون في خدمة المواطن" was translated as "should be reliable" since, logically speaking; the elected officials who can serve citizens must be reliable. That's why, "reliable" was employed as an equivalent for the aforementioned phrase for through it, the exact meaning of the ST phrase is conveyed. In the same context, the phrase:

" أن يرقى الى مستوى الثقة التي وضعها فيه " was rendered as "**trust-worthy**". That is, the whole sentence: "فالمنتخب يجب أن يكون في خدمة المواطن, و أن يرقى الى مستوى الثقة التي وضعها فيه" was rendered as: "the elected members **should be reliable and trust-worthy.**"





Certainly, the TT version is shorter than the ST one, but it is an acceptable translation for the intended meaning of the ST was accurately rendered into the TL.

Example 3

"وفي نفس السياق نود الإشادة بأهمية الأوراش التنموية المتعددة, التي تم إطلاقها لفائدة سكان المنطقة في مختلف المجالات مؤكداً على ضرورة تعزيزها وإضفاء دينامية جديدة عليها على أساس الآفاق الطموحة التي تفتحها المشاريع المهيكلّة التي هي في طور الإنجاز أو قيد البرمجة أو التقييم."

TT 1 (MAP's version)

- Furthermore, I would like to commend the important and varied development projects launched in numerous sectors for the benefit of the region's inhabitants. These projects **must be further enhanced**, and **fresh impetus should be given to our endeavours in this area**. Indeed, the major projects that have been implemented, those that are being assessed and those that are in the pipeline open up vast, promising prospects.

In this example, we are concerned with the phrase "تعزيزها وإضفاء دينامية جديدة عليها". In this version, the whole phrase was rendered as: "**must be further enhanced and fresh impetus should be given to our endeavours in this area**". Therefore, the phrase "إضفاء دينامية جديدة عليها" was rendered in the TL as "**fresh impetus should be given to our endeavours in this area**" which is a longer version of the ST phrase. Here, the translator used expansion as a translation technique to render the intended meaning of the phrase.

TT 2 (My suggested translation)

- In the same context, we wish to commend the multiple important development projects that were launched for the benefit of the population of the region. Therefore, we would like to underline the need **to promote** and **dynamize them**. The projects that are under implementation in addition to the ones that are being planned and those that are being assessed open up promising prospects.





In this version, through which the communicative translation approach was adopted, economy of language was allowed while translating the same phrase for its intended meaning was not altered in the TL. Accordingly, “تعزيزها وإضفاء دينامية جديدة عليها” was rendered in English as: “**to promote and dynamize them**”. “Them” here refers to the development projects that were launched. So, “تعزيزها” was translated as “**to promote**” in the TL. “**Promote**” in this context is the exact equivalent for the verb “عَزَزَ”. Besides this, the phrase “إضفاء دينامية جديدة” was simply rendered as “**dynamize**” which is the exact equivalent for the phrase “إضفاء دينامية”. According to “Alma'any” dictionary the word “دينامية” is defined as “طاقة” and “قوة”. In the same context, “**to dynamize**” is defined according to “Oxford dictionary” as: “to give power and energy to something” and “to make dynamic”. Other than this, the adjective “جديدة” was omitted since its deletion did not alter the intended meaning of the ST.

3.3.Lexical Clarity vs. Sophisticated Language Use

It stands to reason that the language used in political discourse is a distinguished one which is characterized by the use of a very formal language as well as sophisticated syntactic structures, let alone the presence of argumentative structures. This language style is mainly used in political speeches owing to its stylistic power. So, given this fact, a decisive question needs to be answered:

- While rendering the messages of a political speech into the target language, is the translator required to adopt a style which conforms to the stylistic features of the original for the sake of “fidelity” or is it preferable to use less sophisticated equivalents and less complex structures in order to achieve lexical clarity and, thus, semantic naturalness in the TL?

Example 1

"وإنما باعتبارها أيضا إنجازا تاريخيا بامتياز لم نفتأ نستلهم منه قيم الوطنية والتلاحم الوثيق بين العرش والشعب والإجماع الراسخ حول ثوابت الأمة ومقدساتها."





TT 1 (MAP's version)

- This truly historic achievement has provided an invaluable source of inspiration, nurturing the lofty patriotic values **underpinning the symbiosis** between the throne and the people, as well as the nation's unanimous, **unwavering commitment** to its sacred values.

TT 2 (My translation)

- ... Therefore, it has been a source of patriotic values which **reflects the deep harmony** between the throne and the people as well as the **lasting consensus** on the nation's sacred values.

Example 2

"يتميز الواقع الدولي الراهن بتحويلات هامة ومتسارعة تتجلى أهم معالمها في استمرارية الأزمة الاقتصادية العالمية بأبعادها وتداعياتها وبتزايد **مواطن التوتر** والنزاعات السياسية والصراعات المسلحة."

TT 1 (Map's version)

- Sweeping changes are affecting today's international arena. They include, in particular, a protracted global economic crisis - which has various implications and consequences - and a growing number of **hotbeds of tension**, political disputes and armed conflicts.

TT 2 (My translation)

- The current international situation is characterized by significant changes, some of which are the ongoing global financial crisis as well as **the growing tensions**, political

Example 3

"إن انشغالنا بالأزمات السياسية التي تعرفها بعض البلدان الإسلامية على أهميتها **لا ينبغي أن يحجب عنا** **ضرورة إبقاء** القضية الفلسطينية في مقدمة اهتماماتنا."





TT 1 (Map's version)

- Our preoccupation with the political crises affecting some Muslim countries - as serious as they may be - **should not obscure the need to keep** the Palestinian question at the forefront of our concerns and priorities.

TT 2 (My translation)

- Although we have been preoccupied with the political crises through which certain Muslim countries are going, the Palestinian issue **must remain** at the forefront of our concerns and priorities.

Concerning the first example, we notice that the translator rendered the phrase “التلاحم الوثيق” as “the symbiosis” and that the phrase “الإجماع الراسخ” was translated as “unwavering commitment”. We see that the two phrases were rendered using advanced equivalents. Moreover, we can say that the translator tried to reproduce the exact style of the ST paragraph through the use of a complex syntactic structure:

“This truly historic achievement has provided an invaluable source of inspiration, nurturing the lofty patriotic values underpinning the symbiosis between the throne and the people, as well as the nation's unanimous, unwavering commitment to its sacred values.”

However, in the second version, the phrase “التلاحم الوثيق” was rendered as “the deep harmony” and “الإجماع الراسخ” was translated as “the lasting consensus”. Therefore, both TT phrases convey the exact meaning of the ST ones, but in a more natural style of language. Furthermore, we notice that the TT paragraph was rendered into the TL using a less complex syntactic structure. The translation is as follows:

“Therefore, it has been a source of patriotic values which reflects the deep harmony between the throne and the people as well as the lasting consensus on the nation's sacred values.”

As for the second example, we see that the phrase “مواطن التوتر” was translated in the MAP's version as “hotbeds of tension” which tends to be a sophisticated equivalent for the ST expression. Yet,





the same phrase was rendered as “the growing tensions” in the second translation through which the intended meaning of the phrase was conveyed using clear language for the sake of achieving semantic naturalness in the TL.

4. Results

4.1. The Study's Main Results

1. After conducting a short comparative study between extracts taken from Royal speeches for the sake of comparing between the different aspects of the communicative approach and the cognitive approach to translation, in the light of His Majesty's speeches, I assert that the communicative approach is the most valid approach to be adopted when dealing with a political speech.
2. The use of the cognitive approach in the translation of political speeches proved to be inefficient, both semantically and syntactically, when rendering the source text's messages.

4.2. Findings of the Study

The comparative study revealed the following findings:

1. **The use of the cognitive approach resulted, in many cases, in syntactic distortion as well as meaning loss.**
2. **Through the use of the communicative approach, not only syntactic naturalness is achieved in the TL, but most importantly, comprehensibility.**
3. **Language economy is allowed even when dealing with political speeches, in case the intended meaning is not altered in the TL.**
4. **Lexical clarity leads to better and efficient understanding of these texts' messages especially given the fact that political texts are regarded as “sensitive” texts.**
5. **Seeking to conform to the stylistic features of political speeches through the use of a sophisticated language style and complex syntactic structures does block the communicative function of the TT.**





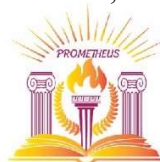
5. Discussion

As regards the translation of His Majesty's speeches' extracts, when they were cognitively translated, contrastive analysis demonstrated that adopting this particular approach not only resulted in a more or less distortion of the syntactic structures of the TT, but also in meaning loss. That is to say, syntactically speaking, this notion of "form adherence" compelled the translator(s) to follow a word-for-word translation method to render the messages of the original into the TL and evidently conform to its exact form in the TT.

At the syntactic level, these texts are characterized by the use of very long sentences. Not only this, the selected extracts consist of paragraphs which are composed of run-on sentences. This is attributed to the fact that composing a whole paragraph of one long sentence is totally natural and acceptable in the Arabic language system. In contrast, in the English language system, such a syntactic form is completely unnatural and is therefore rejected by the TL audience.

Besides syntactic distortion, adopting the cognitive approach when dealing with political texts resulted in meaning loss. It is obvious that political speeches are composed of dense paragraphs through which loads of information need to be conveyed. So, form adherence, in this regard, led to producing TT paragraphs which are composed of run-on sentences or rather one long sentence through which too much information was conveyed to the TT reader. When the latter is faced with dense paragraphs through which too much information is being conveyed through the medium of one long sentence, it becomes challenging for him/her to fully understand the content of the ST paragraphs and follow their intended messages. This is attributed to the fact that the TT is written in a style which does not conform to the thought-processes of the TL reader the thing that results in meaning loss.

In contrast to the cognitive approach, when the communicative one was adopted during the translation process of His Majesty's speeches, it resulted in achieving both syntactic naturalness and comprehensibility in the TT. This is attributed to the fact that through this approach, the translator aims at achieving naturalness, be it syntactic or semantic, in the TT. Therefore, the translator is allowed to restructure the TT by reordering information and by opting for adjustment techniques which not only allow him/her to render the exact contextual meaning of the ST, but does so in a style through which syntactic naturalness is preserved in the TL, and the ST intended messages are clarified in the





TT and are thus easily understood by the TL readership.

So, given the fact that what distinguishes the source texts is the syntactic structure of their paragraphs through which too much information was conveyed through the medium of long sentences, and in order to handle this challenge which structural differences between Arabic and English pose for the translator and therefore produce a TT through which natural syntactic structures are preserved, diverse strategies were used during the translation process.

The main strategy, in this context, is that of “**sentence-splitting**”. This syntactic strategy enables the translator to divide The ST paragraph into at least two sentences depending on the amount of information which needs to be transferred to the TT. Another syntactic strategy which was used during the translation process of the selected speeches has to do with “**cohesion change**”. Through this strategy, connectors were added for the sake of making explicit connections between ST messages, with the aim of creating TT paragraphs through which information is organized in a style that conforms to the thought- processes of the TL reader.

Regarding the notion of comprehensibility, it was previously mentioned that adopting the communicative approach to the translation of political discourse led to achieving comprehensibility and, therefore, producing a translated version which is accessible to the TL audience. That is, by choosing to restructure the ST in order to achieve naturalness and comprehensibility in the TT, the translator is given the opportunity to use **adjustment techniques**. These involve **reorganizing information** into a different order so that it sounds natural in the TL, **cohesion change** throughout TT paragraphs and **sentence-splitting** which enables the translator to divide ST paragraphs into short ideas. Opting for these strategies, amongst others, allows the translator to produce a TT which paragraphs are written in a natural style that conforms more closely to the thought-processes of the target readers.

Besides the previous findings, the comparative study confirmed the fact that “language economy” is allowed in the case of political translation. In the literature, Newmark argued that speeches by politicians should not be changed when translated for they belong to authoritative texts. That is, the translator should be as faithful to the form and syntactic structures of the source text as possible. However, analysis of examples taken from both translation versions demonstrated that when





it comes to rendering political speeches' content, **language concision** is tolerable for it allows the translator to efficiently render the intended meanings of the ST compared with the use of literal translation.

In contrast to language economy, the use of literal translation through the MAP's version resulted in producing a source text- oriented translation which led to producing dense texts. As it was previously mentioned, a dense translation results in meaning loss. Besides this, word-for-word translation results in producing longer versions of the original which are characterized by the presence of unnecessary repetitions and details which do not contribute to rendering the Intended messages of the ST.

As regards the translation of political speeches, the comparative study also revealed the fact that lexical clarity leads to better and efficient understanding of these texts' intended messages, especially that they are regarded as "sensitive" texts.

That is, when the translator adopts the communicative approach when translating a political speech, he/she seeks to render its messages in the most natural style in the TL, for this notion of naturalness should be the dominant feature of the TT. This allows the translator to render the messages of the original using clear lexical equivalents, in a style which is less complex than the one through which the source texts are written. In other words, the translator not only employs less sophisticated equivalents, but also syntactic structures which are simpler than the ST ones for the sake of achieving naturalness in the TL.

Lexical clarity results in clearly and efficiently communicating the intended meanings of the ST and, most importantly, smoothing the communication process through the TT. This makes it easy for the TL readers to get the intended messages of the ST owing to the fact that they are not facing any linguistic blocks throughout the TT.

That's why, when dealing with a political speech and attempting to efficiently render its messages into the TL, lexical clarity proved to be of paramount importance. That is, through the use of less sophisticated equivalents, which are combined into simple structures, the intended messages of the original are conveyed in the most natural style, but are not altered in the TL. Lexical clarity, therefore, makes it uncomplicated for the TL readers to grasp the messages that the speech's producer





intended to convey for they are not confronted by any linguistic barriers which block the communicative function of the TT. What is more is that through lexical clarity semantic naturalness is achieved in the TT.

6. Conclusion

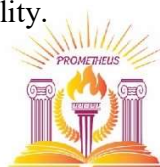
This research paper essentially aimed at demonstrating the effectiveness of the communicative approach to translation and thus proving its validity in the political domain, particularly when it comes to translating political speeches which are considered to be amongst the most challenging text types to translate. In this regard, translation scholars portrayed them as “sensitive” texts because of their translation process which is not only elaborate, but usually a complex one.

The very essential question, in this regard, is whether political speeches should be translated “as they are” while opting for a literal translation method and thus adhering to the exact form, syntactic structures and sentence order for they belong to authoritative texts as Newmark argued, or it is possible for the translator (as an expert) to adopt a target-text oriented approach and aim at communicating the messages of the speech in a more natural style without necessarily sticking to its form.

As it was already stated in the discussion section, the comparative study and analysis of excerpts taken from the STs and TTs not only demonstrated that the communicative approach is the most valid approach to be adopted by translators when it comes to translating political discourse, but also indicated that the use of the cognitive approach proved to be inefficient, both semantically and syntactically, when rendering their messages into the TL.

Essentially, it was argued that trying to conform to the stylistic features of a political speech through the use of a sophisticated language style as well as complex syntactic structures does block the communicative function of the TT. However, opting for lexical clarity leads to better understanding of these texts’ messages for it results in clearly communicating the intended meanings of the ST and most importantly smoothing the communication process through the TT.

So, taking into consideration the study’s findings which were highlighted through the previous section, I assert the validity of the communicative approach in the field of political translation and confirm its effectiveness in conveying the messages of a political speech to the target audience while achieving naturalness and comprehensibility.





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