

Book Review of Muhammed Farghal's *Advanced Issues in Arabic-English Translation Studies**

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In a field that suffers from a dearth of materials for professional translators, instructors and advanced students of translation in the Arab world, this book, which contains a wealth of thought-provoking issues, makes a long-awaited contribution to the profession. The author, highly experienced in the field, has produced a book that is a practical and informative reference to what Translation Studies is, and how other disciplines are related to it.

All those who teach, study or conduct research on translation will welcome Farghal's new book, with its emphasis on theories and applications, contrastive textology, related aspects of linguistics, pragmatics, semiotics, and discourse analysis. The book is wide-ranging in its coverage and stimulates thought in all these areas related to Translatology or Translation Studies.

The forward by Yasir Suleiman and the introduction by Ali AL-Manna provide some information about the book. Suleiman, for example, sheds light on the subject of Translation Studies embodied in the book's title, whereas AL-Manna introduces some parts of the book from his perspective although his 15-page introduction appears to be quite unsuitable and irrelevant in this place.

The strength of this book lies in the provocative issues it raises. Such issues seem to be addressed in an appropriately clear and straightforward way. One of these issues, among many, is the problem of translation training programs at Arab universities: whether bilingual academics specialized in literature or linguistics are competent enough to teach translation without being adequately familiar with translations studies or with some theoretical background in the field.

A second related issue is whether translation majoring students in these programs possess adequate language competence in both English and even Arabic. Another issue is why many Arab translators still insist on prescriptive terms (without borrowing from English) when translating lexis and phraseology, for example, in expressions such as "play a role", "high quality", "build bridges from confidence", "under arms", "break the ice", etc (يلعب دورا، عالي الجودة، يبني جسورا من الثقة، تحت السلاح، يكسر الجليد).

Still another issue is whether translation is a combination of a skill, an art, or a science. One whole chapter was devoted to the issue of euphemism in Arabic: how to deal with the attitudinal mismatch between what appears to be a euphemistic use in English and what may happen to be a dysphemistic one in

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Arabic. The final issue to mention here deals with literary translation, particularly the issue of how to deal with the tug of war between verse and prose translation of poetry in existing translation practice: Whether aesthetic features should be given priority to fidelity.

In addition to the valuable discussions and the explanations of these provocative issues, some of which are mentioned above, each chapter of the book ends with a wide variety of challenging exercises. Some of these exercises include non-traditional practice on translation criticism dealing with different levels of analysis. Other exercises are designed to give practice on intrinsic and extrinsic managing. The distinction between the two types of managing is that in intrinsic managing, the translator intervenes in a neutral way to make alterations due to mismatches between the source and the target languages at various linguistic levels. On the other hand, extrinsic managing involves an intervention in which translation is manipulated according to the ideology of the translator. For example, there are exercises in the book that require changing neutral or unbiased expressions into ideology-loaded renditions in the target language, such as in those found in political news discourse. The exercises are meant to provide the competent translation trainee critic with an opportunity to tackle various translation issues, and to "consolidate and elaborate on the material with an eye to generating translational argumentation among students as well as between the students and their instructor", as the author says in his short, one-page note.

The organizational scheme of the book is clear and simple. Its six major chapters are 1) Basic Concepts, 2) Intrinsic Managing: Naturalizing the Text, 3) Extrinsic Managing: An Epitaph to Translational Ideological Moves, 4) Decoding and Encoding in Translation: A Schema-Theoretical Perspective, 5) Arabic Euphemism: The Question of Politeness in Translation, 6) Concluding Remarks, and a Glossary of Key Terms.

The first chapter is a well-documented tour through familiar territory for sophisticated readers of translation. It provides an inviting panorama of basic concepts. The chapter explains, defines and illustrates such concepts as contemporary translation dichotomies, translation equivalence, translation programs, theory of translating vs. theory of translation, translation as a question of relevance, as an act of communicating, and as a multi-stage process.

The next two chapters offer detailed insight into both intrinsic and extrinsic managing at various levels of syntax, lexis and phraseology, pragmatics and textuality. These two chapters, like the others, are brimming with information, analysis, and concrete illustration of examples in Arabic-English translation. Such an illustration enables readers to go straight to any of the sub-domains of interest. Moreover, the author incorporates presentation and analysis with data obtained by empirical studies in a convincing way.

The fourth chapter deals mainly with schema in relation to lexis, discourse, and a model of literary translation. The author makes an attempt to formalize this model which is based on 4 types of schema made up of culture-free, culture-bound, culture-sensitive and language bound schema.

The fifth chapter is devoted to Arabic Euphemism and why translators should consider it seriously when translating from Arabic into English . Failure to do so, according to the author, may create an inappropriate rendition of the corresponding English euphemistic expressions.

The glossary of the key terms in chapter six explains a large number of important concepts which both teachers and students will encounter time and again in their reading of other books and articles in the field. Moreover, the end of the book is capped off by a 25-page bibliography (spanning from 1930-2011). However, missing at the end of the book are an author index, concepts and key words, which can be a useful guide for readers to find specific information when they need to look for it quickly. Perhaps in a second edition, the author could provide this helpful index.

I strongly recommend the book to anyone in our profession wishing to gain insights into some hot issues in translation studies especially competent translation trainers and trainees who like to keep abreast and even slightly ahead of the impact of developments in the field.

Perhaps the greatest strength of this book is the way in which the author has managed to provide a balance between theory, research, and practice. For this reason, it has something to offer for translation instructors, trainers, material developers, and researchers . In fact, I used it as a course textbook twice both at the University of Jordan and at the Balamand university in Lebanon for students taking M.A. courses on translation theories, and contrastive textology. Student reaction has been favorable. They all reported feeling at ease with understanding the advanced issues and tackling some sophisticated and provocative concepts embodied in the book. Moreover, they came out of it feeling also that they had been given a sense of professional self-development which rewarded effort and stimulated further study. Therefore, I warmly recommend adding it to the shelf of resource books as it reflects the highly elaborate theoretical state of the art. Finally, it is a welcome addition to the growing body of scholarship in the field of Translation Studies, and its publication is long overdue. Perhaps all those who will use it are likely to benefit from its clear and coherent presentation.

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