



Est.1994

# JCL

**Journal of the College of Languages**  
Open Free Access, Peer Reviewed Research Journal

<http://jcolang.uobaghdad.edu.iq>

P-ISSN: 2074-9279  
E-ISSN: 2520-3517  
2023, No.(48)  
Pg.17-41

## **Translators Across Languages: Meta-Linguistic, Psychological, Social and Hermeneutic Study with Reference to Audio-Visual Translation**

**Asst. Prof. Ismail Abdulwahhab Ismail, Ph.D.**

**E-mail:** [ismail.a.ismail@alnoor.edu.iq](mailto:ismail.a.ismail@alnoor.edu.iq)

**Al-Noor University College, Department of English, Baghdad, Iraq**

**(Received on 24/10/2022 - Accepted on 5/12/2022 - Published on 1/6/2023)**

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.36586/jcl.2.2023.0.48.0017>



**This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).**

### **Abstract**

The widely-held ideology that language is the reflection of its speakers is the hypothesis upon which this study is based. To verify this hypothesis, a fifty-one second clipped video broadcasted by Euronews agency, along with the realization of this footage in four languages (English, French, Arabic and Persian) are subjected to linguistic –metalinguistic analysis. The footage is differently envisaged, thus putting 'the journalistic code of ethics' and the notion of neutrality under scrutiny. The investigation first showed varying lengths in the realization of the footage across the four languages under investigation, with English being, by far, the most condensed language and Arabic being the least, with French and Persian intermediating between them. Other differences point to political-ideological differences where English manifests itself to be highly indicative due to its early tradition in the field of politics. French has, on the other hand, highlighted key values pertinent to the French society such as focus on democracy while Arabic dictates clearly the Arab's predictive-assertive build up of their mentality of the Arabs through the heavy use of future "س – will". Finally, Persian language has hermeneutically reflected the Persian mentality of being focusable on minute details and extra-explanations of surrounding details.

**Keywords:** Social Representation, Hermeneutic Interpretation, Visual material, Meta-Linguistics.

## 1) Introduction

It is well known that social representation implies the use of language in representing, identifying and referring to things by means of linguistic codes which are either written or spoken. This involves a hermeneutic fact of meta-linguistic study with socio-cultural perspectives. Thus, meta-linguistic hermeneutics is a broad field which needs some elaborations.

According to Merriam-Webster "Hermeneutics is defined as the study of the methodological principles of interpretation" (merriam-webster.com). Metalinguistics studies language and its relationship to other cultural behaviors. It is the study of relationships among units of linguistic communication. The linguistic representation is a manifestation of the society and culture in the original language. (Mey, 2015:51)

Linguists use the term "meta-linguistics" to refer to activities associated with "metalanguage"; a language having components of syntax, semantics, phonology, lexies as well as terms related to the contextual usage such as: word, sentence, letter, etc. Meta-linguistics refers to the language itself used to speak about the society and culture. The sole function of language is to describe an event. Beceren (2010:31) argues that "*The language itself must be the only area of application for the whole world*".

Therefore, the scope of metalinguistic and hermeneutic investigation embraces all the levels of linguistic analysis starting from phonetics, phonology to psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics. In other words, it is a holistic frame of analysis.

## 2 Theoretical Framework

Language researchers and theorists are required to focus on the point at which meaning can be grasped; the behavioral acts through cognitive context. The meta-consciousness is necessary from the observer's point of view, that it does not only refer to the reality, but to the intelligibility of that reality.

## 2.1 Metalinguistic Function of Language

For several reasons and from a theoretical point of view, Roman Jakobson (1960: 350-377) suggests some ways to a potential analytical device. Analyzing the function of language for a given entity such as a morpheme, word or a text identifies which class or type it belongs to (a text /or image), and refers to whether those functions are existent or absent in addition to the features associated with those functions (Hébert, 2011:6).

## 2.2 Factors of Communication and Functions of Language

According to Jakobson (1960:357), every act of verbal communication consists of six elements or factors: (1) a context (non- verbal and verbal signs), (2) an addresser (a sender), (3) an addressee (4) a common code (6) a message.

Each factor is a focal point to an oriented relationship which has a particular function interacted between the message and the factor.

FACTOR	FUNCTION
Addresser	Emotive/ Expressive
Addressee	Conative/Directive
Context	Referential/Informative
Contact	Phatic
<b>CODE</b>	<b>METALINGUISTIC</b>
Message	poetic/aesthetic

From a meta-linguistic and hermeneutic point of view, language is used to explain itself (e.g. what do you mean by "cleft structure"?). More generally, "metacode" (or "metasemic") is applied to non-linguistic messages. Every standardized system is a code, not only the language system; a socio-cultural conceptualization of the topic is also a sort of coding (Herrmann, 2013:43).

Rastier (1997: 27-29) believes that any text is the result of the interaction among three systems:

1. **The dialect** (language system).
2. **The sociolect** (the particular use of a specific language system in the social practice).
3. **The Idiolect** (the individual use of a language).

This study adopts and re-words these metalinguistic functions as follows:-

- 1) Dialect (the language: English, French, Arabic and Persian)
- 2) Sociolect (the poly system; the culture, society).
- 3) Idiolect" the stylistic use and individual journalist's style of a particular language.

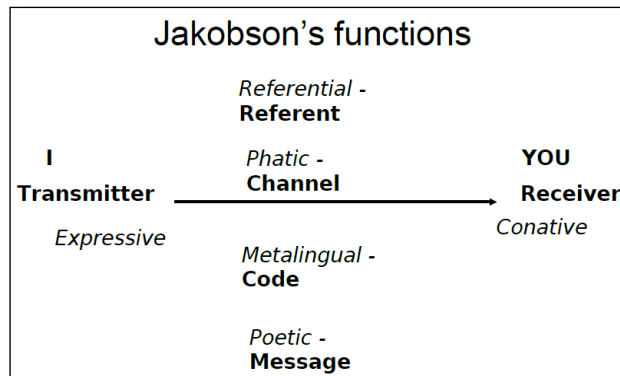
Jakobson (1960) and Newmark (1988:42) put the metalingual function within other secondary functions. This is due to the fact that the meta-lingual function has a descriptive function for a particular language tackling the linguistic unit linguistically and extra-linguistically:

- The primary functions which conduct an "Informative, Expressive and Directive Function". The "**what of the message**" , it is the semantic content conveyed by the rules of the given language.
- The secondary functions which conduct a "Poetic, Metalinguistic, and Phatic function". The "**how the message**" which is the relationships between the speakers and the code.

One or more - or even all – of the functions of the language may be missing in long units whereas short units can activate all the functions (Hébert, 2011:6).

"Few texts are purely expressive, informative, or vocative, with an emphasis on one of the three." (Newmark,1988:42). A text can hardly be purely informative, or objective because there is always some kinds of expression of personal views and vocative function.

In order to construct a new conceptual framework made up of Newmark's theory of the text type and Jakobson's theory of language functions, the hermeneutic metalingual function seems to be the most important function in a given communication unit . A linguistic code cannot be activated as being expressive, unless there is a meta-code that conceptualizes the expressive intention of the speaker or the writer. In the same sense, an informative linguistic entity is considered so if the reader understands the idea meta-linguistically. Thus, Jakobson (1960:357) depicts the metalingual function as a form of communication channel.



Jakobson's (1960) functions of language

### 2.3 Formalism and Metalingualism

Formalism is a school of literary criticism and literary theory that is primarily concerned with the structural purposes of a particular text. It is the study of a text without taking into account any external factors. Formalism rejects (or simply ignores) the analysis of the notions pertained to culture or social influence. It focuses, instead, on modes, genres, discourses and forms (Thelin, 2000:8).

According to Hansen (2004:36), formalism in literary theory refers to critical approaches that analyze, interpret or evaluate the inherent features of a text. These functions include not only grammar and syntax, but also literary tools such as meters and tropics. The formalistic approach reduces the significance of the historical, biographical and cultural context of the text. Cain (1999: 90-96) writes that "formalism asserts that the text stands alone, as a complete entity, apart from the author who produced it".

In investigating the linguistic structure, the metalingual approach seems to be somehow formal in focusing on the text only, yet hermeneutic approaches explore extra-linguistic conclusions from the linguistic texts or visual sets of photos. In this case, meta-linguistics is in the same boat of Russian formalism which relates the social context to the interpretation of the text.

Trotsky (1957:171,180) does not entirely reject the formalist approach, yet insists that "the methods of formal analysis are inadequate because they neglect the social world with which people produce the linguistic work". The form of art is independent to a certain degree, but the artist who creates that

form, and the viewer who likes it, are not senseless machines to create the form. They are living people who have a particular kind of integration. Psychology is thus the result of societal conditioning (ibid:182). This argument has been applied to this study; An editor or writer of the linguistic representing a visual material in a particular language is not living in an isolated world, but in a social environment. The listeners/ spectators are not empty machine , yet have their own socio-cultural and political experiences reflected in the process of conceptualizing the world.

## 2.4 Functionalism

The metalinguistic approach to representing a visual object or a visual reality is strongly related to the "functionalism" of the Prague language school. The approach focuses on how elements in different languages perform grammatical and phonological functions.

Functionalism deals with the functions of language especially in relation to cognition (related information), expression (suggestion of moods) and conation (influence) ([www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com))<sup>(1)</sup>.

Such a linguistic approach may refer to a variety of approaches to study grammatical descriptions and processes that take into account the purposes of the language and the contexts in which speech occurs (Thelin,2000). It seems that the relationship between the metalingual approach and functionalism is based on the semantic-syntactic level. Metalingual is broader and includes all linguistic and extra-linguistic levels as Christopher (2005:32) argues.

The theory of language by the functionalist Halliday is part of an overall theory of social interaction, and from such a perspective it is obvious that a language must be seen more than a set of sentences, as Chomsky proposes. Rather, language is seen as a text or discourse to exchange the meanings in an interpersonal context. The creativity of language is therefore a grammar of meaningful choices; not formal rules (Malmkjær,1995) which is the essence of metalingualism.

In particular, Systemic Linguistics is interested in studying the structure of a large linguistic entity - a text or a discourse – and it attempts to integrate some structural information with other information (such as social information) into a coherent content on what speakers are doing (ibid.).

---

<sup>(1)</sup> - <https://www.britannica.com/science/functionalism-linguistics>

Although functionalist approaches have been proven fruitful for the metalingual approach, they still work with "patterns", "preferences" , "tendencies" and "decisions" rather than the explicit rules favored by non-functional linguists" (Trask & Stockwell,2007). Therefore, the scope of functionalism seems limited if compared to the metalingual representation.

## **2.5 Stylistics**

Stylistics, as a branch of Applied Linguistics, is the study and interpretation of texts in terms of their linguistic choices (Simpson, 2004). As a discipline, it combines literary criticism with linguistics (Attenborough, 2014). Stylistics, as a conceptual discipline, may seek to establish principles that can explain certain choices of individuals and social groups in language use such as the literary production and reception of genres (ibid). Thus, both the metalingual approach and stylistic approach seem to have parallel goals. Common style features go along with metalinguistics which includes the use of grammar like active and passive voice observation, sentence length distribution, the use of certain voice registers, and so on.

Moreover, stylistics is a distinguishable term that can be used to determine the connections between the form and the content of a particular language. It looks at what's going on in the language. i.e. What the style of language reveals is the linguistic associations (Jeffries, 2010). Thus, at this point, the metalingual approach is the other face of the same coin; it is a synonymous term having the same principle and aim.

## **2.6 Linguistic Awareness**

Metalinguistic awareness refers to the understanding that language is a system of communication bound to certain rules. It forms the basis for the ability to discuss different ways during the use of language (Baten, Hofman, & Loeys,2011). In other words, it is the ability to consciously analyze language and its sub-parts, to know how they operate and how they are incorporated into a wider language system (Beceran,2010). An individual with such an ability is aware that linguistic forms can interact and be manipulated to produce a vast variety of meanings because language is hermeneutically related to wider systems ; culture , politics , society and history.

Metalinguistic awareness is the ability to objectively function outside one language system and to objectify languages' rules, structures and functions. Code-switching and translation are examples of metalinguistic awareness because each linguistic representation means using a particular meta-linguistic representation. Metalinguistic awareness is a theme that has frequently appeared in the study of bilingualism pertained to different languages. It concerns with four subcategories, namely: phonological, lexical, syntactic and pragmatic awareness of certain languages (Tunmer, Herriman & Nesdale, 1988).

Therefore, the translators have to be aware of the socio-cultural context associated with the systems of the targeted languages.

### 3. Practical Framework

#### 3.1 Data and Methodology

A 51-second clipped video has been broadcasted on Euronews T.V. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Nov. 2017 in 10 languages <sup>(2)</sup>. The content of that clipped video concerns with " *Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has announced a new minority government*". The study restricts itself to only four languages representing two world cultures:

- **Western Culture**

- 1- **English** : Editing and Representation (mono-task)

- 2- **French** : Translation, Editing and Representation (double task)

- **Oriental Culture**

- 3- **Arabic** : Editing ,Translation and Representation (double task)

- 4- **Persian** : Editing ,Translation and Representation (double task)

The purpose of such comparison among these four languages is to know how different languages represent the same visual material (reality) differently at different levels of analysis: stylistics, socio-culture, literature and rhetoric.

#### 3.2. The Model of Analysis

---

<sup>(2)</sup> - Euronews T.V. website : **Spain /Cabinet shake-up in Spain as period of minority government begins**, available at : <http://www.euronews.com/2016/11/03/cabinet-shake-up-in-spain-as-period-of-minority-government-begins> , retrieved on : (03/11/2016)



As the methodology shows, this study is descriptive in nature; therefore, it includes descriptive translation studies<sup>(3)</sup>. It is important to study not only texts, but also the range of factors and elements that determine their production, advertising and reception. The advantages of this approach, as suggested by Diaz-Cintas (2004), blur the boundaries between different cultures and to reinforce the marginalized social activities in AVT.

This research describes and investigates the influence of some cultural and social factors (macro-textual elements)- see Diaz-Cintas (1998, 2004, 2007) on the choice of strategies for representing the same news video in four different languages; English, French, Arabic and Persian. Thus, the descriptive approach used in this study fits the theoretical framework.

Even-Zohar (1990: 51) argues:

*"Translation is no longer a phenomenon whose nature and limits are given once and for all, but an activity that depends on the relationships within a particular cultural system"*

As a first step towards such methodology, Toury (1995: 13) focuses on the "position of translated works within the literary system of the target culture." He (ibid) relies on the concept of the poly-system, developed by Even-Zohar (1978,1990), and proposes his own methodology which consists of three steps as summarized by Munday(2008:111) :

- 1- Associate the text within the target culture system and consider it in terms of meaning (semantics) or acceptance (Pragmatics).
- 2- Compare the ST and TT<sup>(4)</sup> and identify the relationships between "coupled pairs" of the ST and TT segments.
- 3- Try to generalize and reconstruct the implied translation process regarding those (ST-TT pairs).

This means that the structure of the poly-system requires the researcher to associate the translation with its source text and other translations in the target culture and observe the broader "social factor" or ideologies that influence these texts.

From another perspective, Diaz-Cintas (2004:23) argues that poly-system deals with the relationships that are established between all systems.

---

(3) - (henceforth DTS)

(4) - SL, Source Language ; TL , Target Language

This new approach to translation allows the translated work to be "studied as a product in itself, integrated into the target poly-system" (Ibid).

For the purpose of this study, it is necessary to relate the represented visual material to its original poly-system and to other original English, French, Arabic and Persian audiovisual productions in order to examine the cultural impact of translation strategies on translating, editing and representing SL visual material.

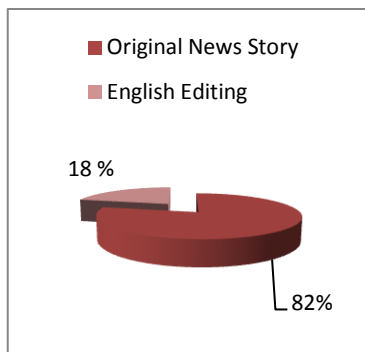
### 3.3. Data Analysis

#### 1) English Version

The English version is restricted to only LR (Linguistic Representation) & MLR (Meta-Linguistic Representation). This part of analysis is a mono-task process; the editor summarizes and plots original news-event into the same language. While



the  
the



original news story contains more than (640) words, the translation contains only (117) words which statistically represents only (18 %) of the origin.

This percentage gives an idea that the English editing is very condense and rhetorical. Another interpretation lies in the coincidence between the linguistic representation and the images in the footage.

It also means that (82%), which is the rest of the original text, has been compensated meta-linguistically.

The initiator of the video is a team work "*By Euronews*"; a group of editors rather than individual editor who thinks in this intensive way of packing information rhetorically. This is so apparent in the topic of their linguistic representation "*Cabinet shake-up*" which employs a figure of speech (exaggeration). In other words, it overstates the description of this new cabinet which included only six new faces. Meta-linguistically speaking, the English culture tends towards suspension as a means of attraction, so this rhetorical headline was a pure English depiction of the reality. The original

news story, which is quoted from Reuters News Agency <sup>(5)</sup>, mentions the word "*refreshed*" having a sign of life and a process of re-flourishing political status quo, and replaced it by the stronger connotation of "*shake-up*".

Another sign of expressing intensity and effectiveness is in understating strategy used to convert "*13 young members*" into only "*six new faces*". This substitution was made for rhetorical purpose which is intended to be economic and more powerful to represent a sort of exaggeration to depict the context of situation.

An instance of rhetorical and economic expression lies in the deletion of the information "*draws strong opposition criticism*", deleted because the content of the representation would guarantee that watchers can infer such information logically as indicated in the coming paragraph.

From a meta-linguistic perspective, this version also avoids the ideological bias in mentioning the criticism quoted from the opposition leader... "*It is a government that is not qualified for dialogue,*" *Socialist spokesman Mario Jimenez told reporters.*

The team of the English version tries to be neutral; it avoids adopting the attitude written by the original writer in the original news agency "*showed no sign of being open to the dialogue, his minority government will need to survive*", and rhetorically summarizes that into only "*minority government*" as an effective method of linguistic representation which synchronizes the available visual material.

The English editing has mentioned and repeated the phrase "*minority government*" which has an ideological reference; this government is not a government of the majority. Thus, understanding the democracy aspect is supposed to be attached to such government. A style of linguistic representation such as "*The Conservative leader*" where the modifier "*Conservative*" has a specific connotation (Meta-Linguistic) in the English culture - mostly tending towards democracy and left-wing policy and the letter "C" in this modifier has been capitalized to keep on the neutrality within the editing.

---

(5) - Reuters News Agency : **Cabinet reshaped by Spain's Rajoy draws strong opposition criticism**, available at  
: [http://www.reuters.com/article/us-spain-politics-cabinet/cabinet-reshaped-by-spains-rajoy-draws-strong-opposition-criticism-idUSKBN12Y2FS?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-spain-politics-cabinet/cabinet-reshaped-by-spains-rajoy-draws-strong-opposition-criticism-idUSKBN12Y2FS?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29), retrieved on : 3/ 11/2017

The English version in this LR & MLR of the visual material has a rhetorical value or economy of expression that lies in the word "*deadlock*" which is mentioned in the original text as a "*political paralysis*". "*Deadlock*" is a stressed rhetorical and metaphorical expression representing meta-linguistically the concepts of "death" and "the depth of crisis" which has lasted for 10 months.

The English version gives a more pessimistic view of the political situation in Spain through using strong metaphoric expressions like "*deadlock*" instead of "*Political paralysis*".

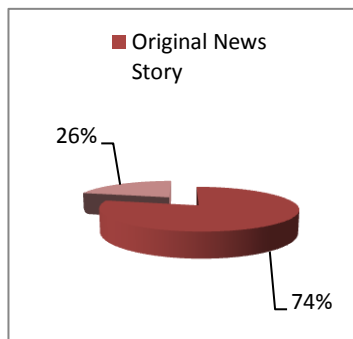
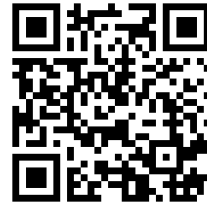
At second (00:20) of the video, the editor changes "*minority government*" - which has been repeated twice in this representation- into "*The new cabinet*". This substitution is ascribed to the coincidence that happened within (second 0:20) as the footage shows a set of photos belonging to the new cabinet members.

The English version is oriented towards English-speaking communities such as UK, USA, Canada, South Africa, and India which have mutual economic interests with the European Union and Spain in addition to military ties. Therefore, the editor focuses on the two important figures in this cabinet which are "*The Deputy Prime Minister*" and "*The new defense Minister*" where the spectators do care for these two figures and realize their essential roles within the relationship between Europe and the English – speaking communities.

In spite of some silent seconds/ a space which is left for linguistic representing in different languages, the economy in expressing and representing the visual material either linguistically or meta-linguistically leads the English editor to omit some information like "*at a time when the wealthy northeastern Catalonia region plans an independence referendum*" which might have given another political and meta-linguistic interpretation, that Catalonia is seeking independence due to its wealth; its calling for independence is not based on national sense.

## 2) French Version (Version Française) <sup>(6)</sup>

This part of analysis is not restricted to only LR & MLR as in the case of the English version. It is a double-task process in which the French editor firstly summarizes and plots the original news-event which includes more than (640) words, then translates that event into French through (169) words , statistically corresponding to (26.2 %) of the origin. At the face of it, this higher percentage of words in French suggests that more details had been taken care of - if compared with the English version.



Meta-linguistically speaking, the representation here has been dealt with by a group of specialists (i.e. translators from English into French, editors, linguists, technicians, etc.) and this is clear in "*Par Euronews – by Euronews*". So, this representation does not reflect the way of individuals' thinking; rather it is a collective mental thinking of French – speaking communities.

From the very beginning, it seems that the French language structure tends towards active voice rather than passive voice as in the topic "*Mariano Rajoy présente son nouveau gouvernement- Rajoy presents his new government*" which gives a priority and a thematic meaning to the initiator (subject) of the action who is PM "Rajoy". On the other hand, the English original news story is written in the passive voice which draws the attention to the cabinet or the goal of the initiator rather than the subject itself "*Cabinet reshaped by Spain's Rajoy*"

The French title is neutral , this is very clear in reporting the news without mentioning the word "*minority – minorité*" , yet the reader can infer a sort of subjectivity , particularly in the use of " *son nouveau gouvernement- his new government*" where the possessive pronoun gives an indication that this government is a result of his own efforts i.e. it is not comprehensive or a government of the majority ; it is an individual – centered government.

<sup>(6)</sup> - The researcher consulted *Mr. Saif Adnan Shafiq* , M.A. in French Language and Literature , University of Mosul.

From a meta-linguistic perspective, the French people is one of the oldest democratic peoples who support the human rights and liberation of woman and combat slavery. This is apparently reflected in the team's focus on the role and number of the women in this cabinet "*La nouvelle équipe a été remaniée et compte cinq femmes – The new team has been remodeled and has five women.*". The number of women "*cinq femmes*" is very essential to have a sense of gender equality.

Returning to the original English news, the content mentions "*six new faces*" and "*13 young members*" but the French version focused on the number of women "*cinq femmes*".

French tends to use adverbs of time and place intensively. For instance, in the following sentences:

*"Quatre jours après avoir prêté serment devant le roi d'Espagne, et après 300 jours de paralysie politique, le conservateur Mariano Rajoy a présenté jeudi son nouveau cabinet".*

The repetitions of the time adverbs (*Quatre jours, après, après, 300 jours and jeudi*) refer to the French temporal mentality of conceptualizing the reality. The "*300jours*" gives an exaggerative expression about the French dissatisfaction of this political paralysis. The French edition and translation did not manage the original text "*le conservateur Mariano Rajoy*"; they kept on the modifier "*conservateur- conservative*" in spite of their desire to describe this government as a government of social equality.

The mentioning of "minority government" came so late, or the French translator might be obligated to refer to such a fact when the coincidence happened at second 00:20 between the French linguistic representation "*ce gouvernement minoritaire*" and the display of the cabinet members' photos.

As for the translation of "*13- young members*" it has been converted into a mathematic equation "*Une équipe remaniée à 50% mais sans grande surprise- A team reshaped to 50% but not much surprise*". Thus, it seems that the French mentality is so mathematic and financially oriented.

The French version seems also so feminist; the editor or the translator repeats the number of women in this cabinet and defines their role as in:

*"La nouvelle équipe compte treize ministres et dont cinq femmes et parmi elles Soraya Sáez de Santamaría la vice-première ministre qui conserve son poste et qui hérite du portefeuille des administrations publiques et des relations avec les collectivités autonomes".*

The above French paragraph shows that the French version focused and repeated the issue of woman and her crucial role in the government in a way that she is entrusted with the responsibility of " *la vice-première ministre - the deputy prime minister*" as well as the administrative public relation coordinator with the autonomous regions in Spain.

This repetition signifies the great role of the minister of economy who recovered the industry in Spain. France has a lot of economic ties with Spain . Another repetition is assigned to the minister of defense who is also a woman, as in:

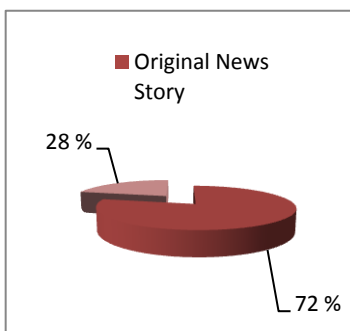
*"Luis de Guindos, l'incontournable ministre l'économie voit son poste renforcé : il récupère aussi l'industrie. Le ministre de la Défense est une femme : Maria Dolores de Cospedal est aussi la puissante secrétaire générale du Parti Populaire espagnol".*

The linguistic representation above gives an extra – metalinguistic representation for the synchronies with the visual material at second (00:47) where the photo of the female minister of defense appears. At that time, the commentator gives extra information that such a qualified minister belongs to the Party of Spanish People. This political reference gives the impression that French People care much about democracy and human rights standards.

### 3) Arabic Version (النسخة العربية)

Contrary to (English and French version), the Arabic version leads to individual results. i.e. there is a subjective Arabic style counting to (72%).

The editor is a known writer whose name has been mentioned in this edition as " *عادل دلال – by Adel Dalal*". Therefore, the discussion in this part cannot be generalized because it is not the result of a team-work efforts.



From the very beginning, the title in the Arabic translation uses " *يتمكن - could*" which , in Arabic, does not include a sort of modality; rather it is a sign of past capability (fulfillment) that the prime minister " *راخوي – Rajoy*" was able to present his minority government.

The neutrality measure in this edition seems to be violated because mentioning "*Minority Government* – حكومة أقلية" in the topic means that Arabs prefer results and final judgment. The Arabic edition uses futurity and mostly has sings of prediction as in:

"التوصل إلى تشكيل حكومة سيضع حداً للجمود السياسي الذي تشهده اسبانيا منذ أكثر من عشرة أشهر"

Here, the Arabic version predicts something the original news story didn't mention "سيضع حداً – will put an end to". Logically speaking, if the political paralyze is the cause of the delay of forming the cabinet, using future time is not appropriate at all. To put it differently, the political paralysis which had lasted ten months is over; therefore, putting an end to it in the future is really misconceiving.

Another instance of prediction and incompatibility in the Arabic edited text is in:

"وعلى ما يبدو ستعمل الحكومة الجديدة في ظروف مختلفة تماماً عما ساد أثناء حكومة ماريانو راخوي الأولى"

Subjectivity seems at its highest level in this part of the text as it cannot be proved that such government will work in different conditions.

The repetition of "will - س" and the sense of being ambitious in this editing gives a meta-linguistic interpretation: this Arab writer lives out of the cycle of the current time "time of being" and he is mostly optimistic as in :

■ سيضع حداً للجمود السياسي

*To put an end to the political deadlock -*

■ ستعمل الحكومة الجديدة في ظروف مختلفة تماماً

*The new Government will work in totally different conditions*

The only sign of neutral reporting in this edition appears in:

"حكومة راخوي تضم ثلاثة عشر وزيراً بينهم ستة وجوه جديدة"

*Lit: Rajavi's government consists of 13 ministers, including six new faces.*

This information is the core of the original event story, but the Arabic version unfortunately delayed such information which is preceded by subjective analyses and a lot of future speculations. However, it is possible to say that this transition from future to the current point (as in the case of reporting the number of this cabinet members) is attributed to some synchronies encountering the Arab editor who is obligated to state such



information when the visual material at second (00: 20) shows the photos of the cabinet members.

The following two examples of future time reference are also unjustified as in:

"ماريانو راخوي اختار صورايا ساينز دي سانتاماريا لمنصب نائب رئيس الحكومة والتي ستولي مهام العلاقات مع المناطق، التي تتمتع بحكم ذاتي في وقت تخطط فيه منطقة كاتالونيا لاجراء استفتاء على الاستقلال".

Here, the Arabic edition uses future time to express a current political issue; the vice prime minister [(is) not (\*will be)] the responsible of the public relations with the autonomous regions in Spain. Stylistically speaking, the present time is the unmarked reference in media discourse. So, stating a real fact by virtue of future time seems incoherent. Moreover, Arabic is more explicit and explanatory than the English and French versions.

"كاتالونيا التي تتمتع بحكم ذاتي في وقت تخطط فيه منطقة كاتالونيا لاجراء استفتاء على الاستقلال".  
*"Catalonia is an autonomous region planning to have an independence referendum"*

This explanation of Catalonian's desire for independence is due to a fact that the Arab audience has no idea about the rebellion in this region of Spain. So, the Arabic version here is so loyal to its audience and tries to explain issues out of the Arab society's knowledge. The Arabic version is oriented to Arabic-speaking countries.

Owing to the mutual historical conflict between Arabs and Spaniards since the Arabs and Muslims conquered the southern part of Spain "Al-Andalus" in the Iberian Peninsula, it is very essential to know the policy of the new government. This is necessary due to the political coordination between Arabs in North Africa and Spain nowadays concerning issues like migration, exporting oil and gas, and fighting extremists. Consequently, among these four languages of the present study, Arabic is the only version which has - in spite of the absence of this name in the original text- mentioned the name of the minister of foreign affairs as in:

"أما حقيبة الشؤون الخارجية فألت إلى الدبلوماسي ألفونسو داستيس"  
*"The diplomat Alfonso Dastis gets the portfolio of foreign affairs"*

Another sign of the explanatory nature of the Arabic version is the definitions and analyses attached to the mentioned figures; persons, places or cases which are mostly referred to by the future time as in:

" يشار إلى أن راخوي زعيم الحزب الشعبي المحافظ يعود للسلطة بعد خسارته الأغلبية المطلقة وسيحتتم عليه التوصل لاتفاقات مع أحزاب المعارضة لإقرار التشريعات في برلمان متشردم".

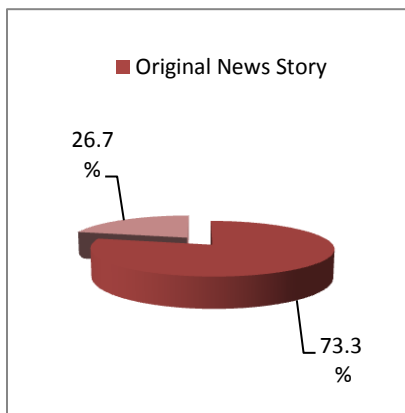
The given figure is the prime minister "Rajoy" and the provided definition is "the leader of the conservative Popular Party" and the second subjective explanation associating the definition is "who has come to power after losing an absolute majority". This definition is annexed with a political elaboration which is "will have to negotiate with opposition parties to pass legislation in a fragmented parliament"

At the level of linguistic representation – taking into account the model of poly-system theory- the Arabic version which represents the translation and editing into Arabic seems so explanatory and highly subjective in writing. Redundancy is very common in the Arabic language where the core of the message is mostly delayed. Meta-linguistically speaking, Arabs want to live in a brilliant future and a good example is the repetition of (س – will). The meta-linguistic representation of the visual material signifies that the Arabic Euronews T.V. version is purely Arab-culture oriented; it reflects the Arabs' explicit mentality in depicting the detailed reality in order to have an effective and powerful acceptability to the Arab audience.

#### 4) Persian Version (نسخه فارسی) <sup>(7)</sup>

In this Persian news (73.3%), which is the rest of the original text, has been compensated meta-linguistically.

The initiator of the video is a team work "بوسیله" - by Euronews", not an individual editor. It is a group of editors, linguists, politicians as well as translators.



Farsi فارسی (Persian Language) is very important and widely spread; it is mainly spoken in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan by an estimated 110 million people worldwide.

The Persian translation for the topic of the linguistic presentation is very condensed and unbiased

Alha Musawi , Ph.D. in Persian Language and Literature ,  
University of Baghdad.

"ماریانو راجوی اعضای دولت جدید اسپانیا را معرفی کرد"

"Mariano Rajoy introduced the new Spanish government"

The Persian version here is very neutral because the editors and the translators did not mention the phrase "Minority Government - دولت اقلیت". The topic is written in the past time "معرفی کرد" - presented" in spite of the preference of present tense in journalistic discourse. So, the Persian version here deviates the journalistic style.

The Persian word order is (subject + object + verb) ; therefore , it seems that the action , indicated in the "verb" , is put finally in the Persian sentence; this makes the Persian sentence totally different from the Arabic and English counterparts ordered (VSO) and (SVO) respectively. This frame or syntax - which is a structural frame of language - is definitely reflected in the meta-linguistic conceptualization. Arab readers do expect the action at the beginning to understand the theme. The French and English recipients on the other hand require the agent before the verb while Persian listeners who give low value to the action have a meta-linguistic conceptualization which is noun-oriented.

It seems that Farsi gives priority to the results and conclusions as in: "سرانجام - eventually" which comes at the beginning, then the duration which is "۱۰ ماه بن بست سیاسی" - *after 10 months of the political deadlock*" as a subordination to the main verb, the time (*Thursday - روز پنجشنبه*) and finally the core of the news (coordination) which is:

"دولت جدیدی در اسپانیا تشکیل و آماده کار شد"

"A new Spanish government is presented and ready to work"

Instead of choosing "*political paralysis - فلج سیاسی*" as mentioned in the original news event in Reuters, this edition has been affected by the English version and used "*political deadlock - بن بست سیاسی*". This choice has a connotation of death and impossibility of presenting the new government. Thus, it is a sort of exaggeration and metaphoric expression which resembles the political crisis to death. This is clear in mentioning the duration "*10 months - ۱۰ ماه*" which gives an impression about the prolonged period spent by the Spanish political party.

The Persian language seems much intensive in the use of "Complex Sentences"; the use of subordination and post-modification as in the following examples:

- اریانو راخوی نخست وزیر اسپانیا، در زمانی کمتر از یک هفته پس از ادای سوگند، اعضای دولت جدید این کشور را معرفی کرد

In this quotation, the writer inserts a dependent clause "در زمانی کمتر از" - *In less than a week after swearing* to give detailed information about the duration. Therefore, the purpose of the subordinated clause is to provide further information about the theme of the news story.

- «کابینه ای با حضور پنج وزیر زن، از جمله «ثریا سائز د سانتاماریا»، معاون نخست وزیر و «ماریا دولورس د کسپدال»، وزیر دفاع»

Another reason for using subordination and complex sentences is to specify and to give specification ; this government contains five female ministers "با حضور پنج وزیر زن" i.e. a specific reference which is implied in "including Deputy Prime Minister Thoria Sades de Santamaria" ..

This version is oriented towards Persian- speaking communities, so the focus of this version is on certain influential members.

The relation between Iran and the European Union is economically based due to some considerations: The European Union is one of the purchasers of the Iranian gas by the potential gas pipeline project to Europe from Central Asia where Dari accent/ of Persian is the main language.

For the aforementioned politic-economic issues, Persian editors focused on the minister of economy as in:

- در این دولت برای معاون نخست وزیر و همچنین وزیر اقتصاد نقش های ویژه ای تعریف شده است
- Lit: In this government, the Deputy Prime Minister has the role of the Minister of Economy.*

But what is prominent here is that this version – in contrary to the French one- had not mentioned that the deputy prime minister is a female. This is probably due to the ideology of the oriental nature of Persian communities which is basically man- oriented.

- «از جمله وظایف «ثریا سائز د سانتاماریا» معاون نخست وزیر، ارتباط با مناطق خودمختار اسپانیا بویژه منطقه کاتالونیا است که خواهان برگزاری همه پرسی استقلال هستند و «لوئیس د گیندوس» وزیر اقتصاد نیز مسئول هماهنگی بودجه با اتحادیه اروپا است»

The post modifier of Catalonia: "بویژه منطقه کاتالونیا است که خواهان برگزاری" - *in particular the Catalan region, which calls for an*

*independence referendum*" is necessary to the Persian audience who have no idea about Spain and its autonomous regions.

It is worth mentioning that this version is free of future time usage; there are no auxiliary or futurity verbs like "*will be* خواهد بود" or "*will شد* خواهد شد". Stylistically speaking, such usage gives a meta-linguistic interpretation that the Persian mentality is very realistic and rational; they do not visualize future events. Instead the preference of detailed descriptions of the current situations has a priority in the process of conceptualizing reality (Ranji,2022:518).

## 5) Concluding Remarks

Language does not work in vacuum; it rather works in contexts determined by socio-cultural aspects of the speech community of that language. It follows that language is an authentic reflection of the socio-cultural setting of its speakers. This argument represents the essence of the poly- system theory of language study.

In regard to the four languages investigated in this paper, the following points represent the gist of the discussion:

- The four languages adopted different techniques, focuses and ideologies in depicting the same visual material for the news story made by Euronews.
- These differences reflect the different ideological orientations of the different language services of the same media agency, thus putting media objectivity and code of ethics at scrutiny. These different ideological orientations, however, reflect the differences of the reader's appeals.
- Concerning the four versions under investigation, the following sums up the major conclusions pertinent to them :
  - a) English extensively uses exaggeration and condensed expression as indicated by the percentage of words is in this version.
  - b) The French version is a bit more detailed than the English version as manifested in the higher percentage of words used here 26% vs. 18%. The French version apparently reflects the deeply-rooted democratic ideology in France through focusing in the headline on the action of forming a new cabinet without mentioning the initiator. This aspect is further enhanced through mentioning the number of women in the newly formed cabinet and the frequent repetition of women's role in this government, a piece of

information which is not mentioned elsewhere (i.e. in the other three versions) . French shows itself to be keener about time reference; this is clear from the heavy use of time adverbials. This bias manifests itself through minimizing the description of this government being "minority" through the delay of mentioning this aspect to be final in the text.

c) The Arabic version reflects clearly the Arabic mentality through jumping into conclusions. This is apparent in foregrounding (حكومة أقلية – minority government) in the headline. It is further enhanced by the repetitive use of the future assertive / predictive nature of future "س – will" in many instances. The Arabic mentality is explicit in nature, and this is evident in the explanatory aspects of some political events.

d) The Persian headline shows entire neutrality than in the previously three mentioned versions. Metalinguistically, Persians assign little value to the action; a fact linguistically realized by the (SOV) word order.

## References

- Arcand, R. and N. Bourbeau. (1995). *La Communication Efficace. De l'intention aux moyens d'expression*, Anjou (Québec): CEC.
- Attenborough, F. (2014b). *Words, contexts, politics*, Gender and Language, 8: 137–145.
- Ranji, B. (2022). *Journalistic illuio in a restrictive context: Role conceptions and perceptions of role enactment among Iranian journalists*. Journalism, 23(2), 517-532.
- Baten, K., Hofman, F., & Loeys, T. (2011). *Cross-linguistic activation in bilingual sentence processing: The role of word class meaning*. Bilingualism: Language and Cognition, 14, 351–359.
- Beceren, S.(2010). *Comparison of metalinguistic development in sequential bilinguals and monolinguals*. The International Journal of Educational Researchers 2010, 1(1), 28-40.
- Cain, Mary Ann. (1999). *Problematizing Formalism: A Double-Cross of Genre Boundaries*. College Composition and Communication. 51:1 Sept 1999. 89-95.
- Christopher S. Butler. (2005). *Structure and Function: Approaches to the Simplex Clause*. John Benjamins.

- Díaz Cintas, J. (1998). "La labor subtituladora en tanto que instancia de traducción subordinada". In Orero, Pilar (ed.) *Actes del III Congrés Internacional sobre Traducció*. Bellaterra: Servei de Publicacions de la Universitat Autònoma: 83—89.
- Díaz-Cintas, J. (2004). "In Search of a Theoretical Framework for the Study of Audiovisual Translation." In: *Topics in Audiovisual Translation*, edited by P. Orero, 21–34. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Díaz Cintas, J. (2007). "Back to the future in subtitling". In H. Gerzymisch-Arbogast and S. Nauert (eds) *MuTra 2005 – Challenges of Multidimensional Translation: Conference Proceedings*. Available at [www.euroconferences.info/proceedings/2005\\_Proceedings/2005\\_DiazCintas\\_Jorge.pdf](http://www.euroconferences.info/proceedings/2005_Proceedings/2005_DiazCintas_Jorge.pdf) Accessed 25.12.08.
- Even-Zohar, I. (1978). *Papers in Historical Poetics*. Tel Aviv: Porter Institute for Poetics and Semiotics.
- Even-Zohar, I.(1990). "The Literary System". *Poetics Today* 11:1 [Special issue on Poly system Studies]. 27-54.
- Gombert, J.(1992). *Metalinguistic Development*. The University of Chicago Press. Retrieved 2015-02-22.
- Hansen, M. (2004). *New Philosophy for New Media: A New Philosophy for a New Media*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Hébert, L.(2011). "The Functions of Language". in Louis Hébert (dir.), *Signo* [online], Rimouski (Quebec),  
<http://www.signosemio.com/jakobson/functions-of-language.asp>
- Herrmann, J. B. (2013). *Metaphor in academic discourse. Linguistic forms, conceptual structures, communicative functions and cognitive representations*. Utrecht: LOT dissertation series.
- Ismail, I. A. (2018). *The Role of Informativity in Translating Poetry (A Case Study of Emily Dickinson's Slant of Light)*. *Journal of the College of Languages (JCL)*, (37), 90-104.
- Ismail, I. A., & Ibraheem, A. K.(2017). *A Proposed Pedagogical–Stylistic Approach to Literary Translation (A Model for Poetic Translation)*. *AL-ADAB JOURNAL*, (121 Supplement).

- Jakobson, R., (1960). *"Linguistics and Poetics"*, in T. Sebeok, ed., *Style in Language*, Cambridge, MA: M.I.T. Press, pp. 350-377.
- Jeffries, L. (2010). *Critical Stylistics: The Power of English*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, p 202.
- Malmkjær, K. (1995). "Functional Linguistics." *The Linguistics Encyclopedia*, ed. by Kirsten Malmkjær. Routledge,
- Mey, Jacob L. (2000). *When voices clash. A study in literary pragmatics*. Berlin & New York Mouton de Gruyter .
- Munday, J. (2008). *Style and Ideology in Translation: Latin American writing in English*, London and New York: Routledge.
- Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. Hemel Hempstead: Prentice-Hall International.
- Rastier, F., (1997). *Meaning and Textuality*, trans. Frank Collins and Paul Perron, Toronto: University of Toronto Press,
- Simpson, P. (2004). *Stylistics: A Resource Book for Students*. London: Routledge
- Thelin, William H. (2000). *"Advocating Language: An Ethical Approach to Politics in the Classroom"*. *The Ethics of Writing Instruction*. Michael Pemberton, ed. Stamford: Ablex Publishing,.
- Thornbury, Scott. (2006). **An A-Z of ELT (Methodology)**. Oxford: Macmillan Education. p. 130.
- Trask. R.L. and Stockwell, P. (2007). *Language and linguistics: the key concepts* (2nd edition). London: Routledge.
- Toury, G. (1995). *Descriptive Translation Studies and Beyond*, Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Trotsky, L.(1957). *Literature and Revolution*. New York: Russell and Russell.
- Tunmer, W. E., Herriman, M. L., & Nesdale, A. R. (1988). *"Metalinguistic abilities and beginning reading"*. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 23(2), 134-158.



**Websites**

Britannica Encyclopedia: *Functionalism and Linguistics* , retrieved on: (3/12/2017).

Euronews T.V.: *Spain /Cabinet shake-up in Spain as period of minority government begins* , retrieved on: (03/11/2017).

Merriam-Webster: *Metalinguistics*, retrieved on : (03/11/2017).

Reuters News Agency: *Cabinet reshaped by Spain's Rajoy draws strong opposition criticism* , retrieved on : 3/ 11/2017

### المترجمون عبر اللغات: دراسة ميتا- لغوية ونفسية واجتماعية تفسيرية (مع الإشارة إلى الترجمة السمعية والبصرية)

ا.م.د. اسماعيل عبدالوهاب اسماعيل  
كلية النور الجامعة/ الموصل / العراق  
[ismail.a.ismail@alnoor.edu.iq](mailto:ismail.a.ismail@alnoor.edu.iq)

**المستخلص**

الفرضية التي تستند إليها هذه الدراسة هي ان "الايديولوجية الصحفية السائدة هي أن اللغة غالباً ما تكون انعكاساً لمحدثيها". وللتحقق من هذه الفرضية ، تم تحليل مقطع فيديو بمدة (51 ثانية) بثته وكالة يورونيوز بأربع لغات (الإنجليزية والفرنسية والعربية والفارسية). خضع هذا الفيديو للتحليل اللغوي ومابعد اللغوي، حيث استنتج البحث أن وصف الصور الفيديوية تم بشكل مختلف في كل لغة ، وبالتالي وضع "مفهوم الحباد الصحفي في اللغة قيد التدقيق".

أظهرت نتائج الدراسة بان اللغة الإنجليزية هي ، إلى حد بعيد ، اللغة الأكثر تكتيفاً ومبالغة والعربية هي الأقل في هذا المجال ، مع توسط الفرنسية والفارسية بينهما.

الفروق الأخرى بين اللغات الاربع تعزى إلى الاختلافات الأيديولوجية السياسية ، حيث اثبتت اللغة الإنجليزية كونها لغة صحفية احترافية في مجال السياسة. بينما يسلط الفرنسيون الضوء على القيم الأساسية ذات الصلة بالمجتمع الفرنسي مثل التركيز على الديمقراطية وقيم المرأة والمجتمع. تميل العقلية العربية إلى استباق الحدث والاستدلال المستقبلي من خلال الاستخدام المكثف للصيغ المستقبلية "س - سوف". أخيراً ، عكست اللغة الفارسية من الناحية التأويلية العقلية الفارسية كونها تميل الى التركيز على التفاصيل الدقيقة والتفسيرات الإضافية للحدث الصحفي.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** التمثيل الاجتماعي ؛ تفسير هيرمينوطيقي ، مادة بصرية ، اللسانيات الفوقية