



An-Najah National University
Faculty of Graduate Studies

**A STUDY IN THE STRATEGIES AND
INACCURACIES OF TRANSLATING
PASSIVE FORMS FROM ENGLISH INTO
ARABIC**

By

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ب

Dedication

To my great mother, who give me support and unconditional love while working on my thesis. To my father, who has meant and continue to mean so much to me. Although he is no longer of this world, his memory continues to regulate my life. Their love knew no bounds and, they taught me the value of hard work.

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Declaration

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A STUDY IN THE STRATEGIES AND INACCURACIES OF TRANSLATING PASSIVE FORMS FROM ENGLISH INTO ARABIC

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Abstract

This thesis studies the challenges Arab translators confront when encountering English passive forms. Although the different syntactic tendencies in Arabic and English drew much attention, no comprehensive investigation of the different passive formations and the way they impact translation has been offered yet. Therefore, this study analyzes various English media texts collected from multiple news websites, which include instances of passive forms used in different tenses. It first provides a full and comprehensive comparison between the passive voice across English and Arabic, and then identifies the strategy used for translating every passive form and investigates its conditioning factors. Relying basically on Systemic Functional Linguistics, the study also outlines the problematic areas where translators fail to convey the semantic meaning due to syntactic inconsistencies.

The study finds that translators employ different strategies when dealing with passive forms. However, there is no systematic approach to follow when translating such structures. These strategies mainly include nominalization, actives, passives and adjectivals.

Chapter One

1.1 Introduction

Translation is the best attempt at producing a text which fully adapts the grammar and the lexicon of the source language. It is a well-planned task that mainly transfers the message of the SL in terms of meaning, function and style. This task is determined by certain aspects and considerations that control it. The different grammatical features and structures are two examples of such restrains. Languages have distinct grammatical features that render the act of translation across languages tricky and problematic. Take the translation between English and Arabic as an example; each language has its own lexicon and grammar, but they share some syntactic features and realizations. Voice is one of these features that exists in both languages as a separate category. Yet, it is dissimilar in structure and formation, which makes the conventions of using this feature vary across the two languages. With regards to the disparities in the translation of the active and especially the passive voice between English and Arabic, they are neither superficial nor marginal. In fact, they are deep and major, which is why they should be taken into account.

This thesis highlights the cases of passive voice found in translations from English into Arabic. The study is based on the analysis and examination of a selected media material that is collected from different media websites. The analysis presents the strategies used in translating passive forms and the motivations behind using such strategies. Besides, the analysis shows common pitfalls translators make during translating passives from English to Arabic. The contrasts within the passive voice across English and Arabic are not only in terms of formation, but partly also in terms of function, rhetoric and stylistic value. These dissimilarities result in a difference in the frequency of using this form across the two languages. In English, the passive voice is used more commonly than in Arabic. Therefore, tracing the different use of the passive voice across English and Arabic will eventually lead to the discovery of noticeable differences in its translation.

The thesis comprises two main parts –theoretical and practical. The theoretical part discusses the formation system of the passive voice in English and Arabic. Moreover, it refers to the theoretical schools and approaches that concern the translation of the

passive voice across languages. Systemic Functional Linguistics is one of these schools on which the study principally depends as it is interested in the relationship between structure and meaning. Basically, it holds that implied meanings can be served through the structure of a language. This section has also a thorough discussion of the differences and similarities of the passive voice between English and Arabic with regard to form and function. This theoretical background is the basis on which the study counts for conducting the practical analysis whose main objective is to investigate the extent of efficiency of the passive voice translations carried out by translators in media contexts. In addition, it studies how linguistic differences between English and Arabic affect the selection of a certain translation strategy over another. The chapter of data analysis includes two sections. Each presents some of the translation strategies used for the passive voice, coupled with the percentages and conditions of their use while referring to some special tenses of the passive. Finally, the analysis finds that English passive verbs can be translated using different strategies- nominalization, passives, actives and adjectivals, provided by the presence of certain conditions that restrict the use of each strategy.

1.2 Statement of the problem

English and Arabic belong to two remote linguistic families. Thus, it is expected to have widely atypical syntactic structures through which each language would use distinct ways to express passivization. This divergence will eventually lead to problems and challenges in the translation from English into Arabic. These challenges are mainly structural and morphological which govern how both languages use passive forms. By way of example, there are certain verbs in English whose morphological patterns do not appear in the passive form in Arabic, which poses a problem while translating. Even more, there are commonly-used grammatically incorrect expressions while translating passive forms such as the phrase *من قبل*. In fact, the main problem is the lack of a consistent guideline that directs translators to dealing with English passive forms and their translations into Arabic systematically. The existing studies are attempts at translating passives without providing an ordered road-map that shows how to translate these forms in detail.

1.3 Research questions

The study is an attempt at answering the following questions:

1. What are the strategies used in translating English passives into Arabic?
2. What are the factors that dictate the use of each strategy?
3. Is there a preference for a certain strategy over another?
4. To what extent can the translator's strategic decisions be politically and personally motivated?
5. What are the translational criteria that a translator can depend on while translating?

1.4 Significance of the study

This study aims at investigating the strategies translators use when translating passives from English into Arabic. Thus, this research is an attempt at constructing a fully comprehensive argument that can be used when encountering such forms. Besides, it examines the problems and pitfalls that translators make during the process of translation. These challenges affect the meaning of the sentence, which in turn is reflected in the quality of the translation. Hence, this study explores these challenges and suggests some solutions or alternatives to overcome them. In fact, this research will ease the process of translating passives as it provides clear and organized rules that govern this process. These suggested insights can be considered as translational criteria to be employed in evaluating any further external data. In light of what has been said, this study has an educational outcome that can effortlessly be used by translators and translation students.

Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Concept of the study: A Contrastive overview between Arabic and English voice

There are many theories that have scrutinized language grammatical features and categories. One of these features that was and still under scope is voice. Voice is that category which draws the links between the lexical components of sentences. Trask (2008, p.299) defines it as “the grammatical category expressing the relationship between, on the one hand, the participant roles of the NP argument of a verb and, on the other hand, the grammatical relations born by those same NPs”. These links pertain to the action of a clause, its doer and its recipient. Additionally, it connects these parts to form an overall view of actions that leads to understanding the narration of incidents. Quirk et al. (1985) define voice as a grammatical category that perceives the action of a sentence in two ways, without making a change in the facts reported. These two ways are either active or passive forms which can be changed from one into another for certain reasons and in particular contexts.

Traditionally, Structuralism views grammar as components that organize the sentence without contributing to its semantic meaning. The structuralist paradigm ignores the semantic values of grammatical parts and treats grammar in general terms and descriptions. Thus, this school does not deal with voice as a contributor to the construction of the functional meaning of the clause, but rather as a formal supporter that builds the surface meaning of it. (Bielak & Pawlak, 2013). As a result, converting from active to passive or vice versa does not create a big difference in meaning since they are considered as two sides of the same coin.

Functional Sentence Perspective (FSP), however, disagrees for it perceives the matter differently. It studies the clause from a thematic point of view, in that it examines how speech elements play a functional role in communication. FSP considers that utterances are “determined by the use to which they are put and the communicative context in which they occur” (Lyons, 1981, p. 227). Thus, the two voices are not identical, but

they carry the same core meaning. They can be seen as reflections of each other. Jabbari & Kafipour (2011) argued that they cannot be ‘interchangeably used’ despite that they are ‘identical in the basic meaning’. Based on this, changing the voice of the verb will lead, in one way or another, to a change in meaning that affects the discourse of communication. FSP also proposes a model relating to voice that contains two kinds of knowledge; these are ‘theme’ and ‘rheme’. Jabbari & Kafipour (2011) define theme as the presupposition that represents the point of departure of the clause, being already given in the context. Rheme is the new information that is reached after the departure point. Anderson (1989) regards that changing from active to passive is a ‘markedness process’ by which the theme-rheme structure is altered. He explains that passivization is a process of great specificity because it does not include the ordinary word order. Put differently, the difference in theme-rheme distribution is what distinguishes an active clause from its corresponding passive clause.

Cognitive Grammar (CG) is another theory related to voice. It perceives voice from a cognitive point of view that searches for the meaning of each grammatical structure. It presents a model that is called ‘reference point model’. CG builds relations between participants in conversations and categorizes them. Langacker (1991) divides them to: the conceptualizer (C; the speaker, the listener) who achieves ‘mental contact’ with the target of conception (T), which generally means that the speaker/listener’s attention is being turned to the target. The central point in this model is the goal that the conceptualizer seeks to achieve; ‘the reference point’. This point is found in ‘dominion’ that provides a background of knowledge that eases the mission for the conceptualizer. Langacker connects this theory to voice supposing that the latter depends on various positions of ‘salience’. In other words, the agent would be the subject if it was the most salient participant with great topicality, giving rise to an active voice. However, if the object was more salient and topical than the agent, it would take the place of the subject, resulting in a passive construction.

Another theory which examines the issue of voice is Case Theory. Richards & Schmidt (2002) define case as a grammatical classification that provides the function and role of the noun or noun phrase in a clause. It stresses the importance of the semantic value that grammatical parts have. So, case is a category related to nouns which function as the major components of sentences. These are the subject and the object. Case theory meets

with voice in that both emphasize the thematic roles of the nouns in sentences. Additionally, knowing the case of the subject and the object is essential in the process of changing from active to passive or vice versa. Jabbari & Kafipour (2011) name these cases as; the nominative, accusative and dative cases which are respectively attributed to the subject, the direct object and the indirect object or object of preposition. Concerning voice, changing from English active into passive means transferring the agent of the active, being the nominative case, to the end of the clause; and the object that is assigned to the accusative case becomes the head of the sentence as its subject. In this theory, there is a substantial element called the abstract case. This case is used when a particular noun (subject/ object) does not exist overtly. Cook and Newson (2005, p.223) consider abstract case as a necessary syntactic component, despite being absent from the surface, since it is beneficial when encountering objectless active sentences.

All these theories examine voice and propose models to explain it since investigating it has become a substantial matter in languages. It provides the thematic relations within sentences. Voice is what establishes various thematic patterns through which the dominant parts acting the event and the attached ones which are acted upon are identified. Maldonado (2012, p.1) describes voice as a category having ‘different prominence’ for the verb arguments. Hence, changing voice leads to a change in meaning due to the change it brings to the dominance scales in a sentence. Each type of passive has its own form and meaning, which creates different narration of events. Here, I will consider the Arabic and English types of voice which are found in both languages as distinctive grammatical categories and will explore the two voices found in each linguistic system respectively.

Active voice is the voice that clearly states or performs the agent of the action. It is a direct, clear and simple style that is preferable to use for speakers. Sinurat (2016) affirms that most of our daily communication is constructed in the active voice by using active verbs. Hence, both languages have the active voice as their primary type since it is more straightforward and emphatic or ‘more basic and unmarked’ as Freeborn describes it (1995, p. 175). In Arabic, it has this pattern: Verb (action) + Agent (doer) + recipient (object). Whereas in English, it follows this pattern: Agent (doer) + action (verb) + recipient (object). Thus, the difference in the active voice across the two languages is one related to order, but both languages indicate the same meaning; the

emphasis is on an agent that acts the action. Moreover, the tendency towards using the active form in Arabic and English is attributed to the easy and explicit flow of meaning it clarifies for readers. Joshi (2014) describes writing in the active voice as being vivid and effortless, which makes comprehending a clause in active simpler and more accessible than the same clause written in passive.

On the other hand, the passive voice is that kind of verb whose subject is affected by an agent (object) that may or may not be mentioned in the clause. This means that the subject is being acted upon and the focus is centered on the action rather than on its doer. Passive verbs cause a shift in the thematic relations of the lexical parts. Leech (2006) defines the passive form as a tool by which the ordinary relation between the doer of the action and the receiver is reversed. In other words, Leech considers that the agent in an active construction is the doer of the action which corresponds to the subject. In a passive construction however, the agent is not the doer of the action, and it does not correspond to the subject.

This complexity and markedness in structure makes the passive voice less frequent than the active voice. FSP, as way of exemplification, considers the passive as ‘marked’, ‘less central or less natural’ because it does not comply with the traditional word order. This gives the passive a quality of ‘lower frequency’ and ‘more limited distribution’ (Trask, 2006, p.167). Passive forms are resorted to when the agent is unknown or valueless. Ahmed & Abdulkadir (2013) suggest that passive verbs are employed to demote the agent from preeminent position and downgrade it to an unremarkable grammatical structure. Furthermore, there are certain contexts where passive forms are used. For instance, M. Unvar (2017) mentions academic writings as an example, for its findings are more valuable than the scholars who found them. She explains how the passive voice leads the writer by default to avoid using personal pronouns and to sustain a ‘neutral/impersonal tone’. Additionally, news reports use this style frequently to avoid responsibility or due to a lack of knowledge of news resources. In such contexts, hiding the agent is an attempt at creating a distance between the action and the actor, which results in producing a different reality of incidents.

Both English and Arabic use passive constructions, but English uses these forms more constantly than Arabic. Al-Raba’a (2013) attributes this tendency to the fact that Arabic

language cannot signify agentive passive constructions. Apparently, there are notable differences in the formation and usage of passive forms between Arabic and English as will be explained below.

2.1.1 Arabic Passive verbs

Arabic uses passive verbs to perform various functions and roles. Firstly, they are used for glorification of God. This is exemplified by the fact that many verses of the Holy Qur'an do not mention Allah. Secondly, these verbs are chosen when we want to obscure the agent out of fear and lack of courage. Thirdly, they are used for the sake of brevity and concise. (Mohammad,2006). On the level of formation, Arabic forms passives via a vocal process in which an active becomes a passive by changing and/or inserting vowels. Alhussain (2016) describes this process as a 'free mechanism' that modifies the vowels of a transitive verb to produce a passive counterpart. The resulting pattern of this process is (فُعِلَ)/ /fu3ila/. (Alzamakshari,1144, as cited in Alhussain, 2016). So Arabic, as a high inflectional language, forms passive verbs by the case of inflection. Alhussain considers passivization in Arabic as a 'highly productive' process which produces passive verbs without phonological, morphological or semantic limitations that prevent its formation. He names this process as 'melodic overwriting'. It includes inserting 'pophonic vowels' to form passive forms. This process comprises three techniques. (p.22)

1. Adding [u-i] to the perfective forms. Such as: حَمَلَ، حُمِلَ /hamal, humil/
2. Adding [u-a] to the imperfective forms. Such as: يُحْمَلُ، يَحْمِلُ /yahmil, yuhmal/
3. Adding the prefix (in). Such as: كَسَرَ /Kasar/ 'it broke' انْكَسَرَ / inkasar/ ' it was broken.'

Another issue which must be taken into account during the formation is the matter of gender. Arabic passives are gendered, in that the verb shows agreement with the subject. Rhazi et al. (2017) categorize passive forms into masculine forms فُعِلَ، يُفْعَلُ and feminine ones فُعِلَتْ، تُفْعَلُ. As for the agent, Arabic has agentless passives since mentioning the agent is considered to be unnatural. Jabbari & Kafipour (2011, p.196) emphasize this:

“There is almost a consensus among Arabic grammarians, Arab and non-Arab, that in (standard) Arabic a passive or /mæʔhul/ (literally meaning unknown) sentence is only formed when the doer of the action is not aimed to be known, for any reason. Arab grammarians have always described the passive in Classical Arabic as an agent-less construction”.

2.1.2 English Passive verbs

In English, using passives is a way of expressing either uncertainty about the doer of the action or emphasis of the action over the agent. It forms passive verbs depending on clear rules and detected order. The English pattern includes (recipient (object) + finite form of to be /get + Past Participle + (by + agent). Leech (2006) describes the pattern of the passive as a verb that consists of a form of **be**, followed by the **–ed form** (past participle) of the main verb. The agent in English is mentioned via the preposition *by*. This format makes the use of English passives wider than Arabic ones because they appear in agentive and agentless clauses. Unlike Arabic, English is genderless since it has no gender distinctive variation (Rhazi, 2017). The finite form *be* is used for both masculine and feminine nouns. Furthermore, Parrott (2000) & Siewierska (1984) observe that English passives have three types which are personal, impersonal and causative passives.

Personal passives are those verbs having the ordinary structure and form. In other words, this type of passives brings the object of the active clause to the beginning of the passive clause and moves the agent to the end. On the contrary, impersonal passives lack an object in their active counterparts. This group is initially begun with *it*, as in *it is believed*, *it is said* and *it is thought*. The speaker of this type is being neutral and general by using impersonal pronouns like “*It*”. In addition, this type is used when encountering an intransitive verb that does not have an object. The last group is causative passives which lack a subject and are used when a person makes another do something or when a person is exposed to a harmful experience. (Parrott, 2000). In this group, the object is the recipient of the action, not the subject as it comes in an ordinary or standard passive verb. The subject in the causative case causes the action to happen, but it is not chargeable of the action. The common causative verbs are *get*, *have*, and *make*.

To conclude, Arabic and English have wealthy linguistic systems that include voice as one of their sub-systems. The concept of voice describes verbs and categorizes them into two main groups; active and passive. Both languages consider active as the primary category and passive as the secondary one. Passivization is a process of change done to create passive forms and is linguistically different from language to another. Arabic forms passive voice by means of phones and affixation while English does so depending on grammar and rules.

2.2 Translation and Passive voice

2.2.1 Translation linguistic definition

Miscommunications in speech are inevitable since humans speak different linguistic systems that represent varied cultures and ideologies. This highlights the importance of translation to reconcile this communicational gap. Thus, experts constantly propose multiple definitions for this term from different orientations and scopes since translation is interrelated with different fields such as (language, culture, politics, law, etc.). Nida (1964) defines translation from a linguistic point of view, as the process of transferring a text's message from one language to another. He explicates that translation is an exercise of replacing the words of a language with words from another to convey the intended meaning, which consequently makes communication successfully maintained. Following this definition, Catford (1965) defines translation as replacing a textual material in a certain language (SL) with another corresponding one in a different language (TL). Also, Newmark (1981) emphasizes that translation should deliver the intended message into the target language. He perceives this process of transference as a skill and a craft that involves a deep understanding of the source language components and its intended messages and then converting these items into words in the target language. The skill lies in how much the result of the translation is natural, congenial and performative. Hatim & Munday (2004, p.330) deal with the scope of translation extensively for they define it as a “complex linguistic, socio-cultural and ideological practice”. Similar to them is Toury (1995) who rejects the idea of translation being only a reproduction of texts. He sees the translator as a choice maker and the choices made as strategic and intentional. Larson (1984) believes that the process of translation should

depend on theory since he defines it as a theory-based activity. He explains that this activity can abstract the meaning of the source text and transfer it into the target text.

One of the significant theories related to translation is the Linguistic Theory. Linguistic-oriented scholars provide plenty of definitions for translation since they consider language as the basic factor influencing translation practice as it aids in the understanding of texts. They stress that in translation, the language of the text is the starting point to begin with and then move outward.

Bassnett (1980), for example, defines translation as a process centered around finding meaning through language. According to her, it is a linguistic act by which a text is switched into another in conformity with the linguistic systems of the SL and TL. Also, Jakobson (1959) considers that translation should be defined under ‘constant scrutiny’ by linguists and scientists. In addition, Catford (1965) believes that translation must heavily depend on language; and since translation has to do with language, the description of the translation process and its outcome should be established from a linguistic scope. Furthermore, Baker & Saldanha (1998) observe that the reason for the misunderstanding of conceptions across languages through translation is the lack of a comprehensive, guiding and surveying linguistic tool. They suggest that whatever dimension translators deal with in translation, they sooner or later will find themselves looking at linguistic and language-related aspects.

Systemic Functional linguistics (SFL) is one of the principal linguistic approaches presented by Halliday (1978) to investigate texts in contexts and languages in uses. SFL defines translation as dynamic communication and language as ‘social semiotic’. Baker & Saldanha (1998) argue that such approaches perceive translation as an activity exercised across cultures to carry out particular purposes. They argue that the target text formation depends on the purpose that the text wants to fulfill. Furthermore, Catford (1965) explains how SFL works in translation activity; it divides translation shifts between levels, structures, word classes, units and systems. He clarifies that this approach achieves equivalence in translation through maintaining the linguistic aspects of discourse and its function. Each structure has a function the changing of which will unavoidably lead to a difference in meaning. So, SFL pays great attention to syntax and considers it a source of meaning. In other words, the delivery of meaning through

translation is essentially achieved by grammar. The reason for this is that the grammatical components, by which translators have to abide while translating are functional, meaningful and indicative. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) stress that Syntax performs a textual-analysis function that helps in comprehending the ST, and grammatical components are devoted to this task. Thus, a translator is in need to deeply and thoroughly understand the syntactic rules of the two languages in terms of their parts of speech, verb formation systems and compounding rules.

SFL considers language as a tool for expressing an experience, embedded in a full comprehensive context. It defines language as a system composed of multi-layers or phases that are related to the context of a clause. According to Halliday (1978), these levels represent functions which people intentionally use language for. He names them as the 'ideational', the 'interpersonal' and the 'textual' meta-functions. The three phases include meanings which coincidentally exist in the text where each meaning is motivated by certain variables of the context. The ideational function is formed to express experiences, either to describe them or to present the relationships that connect these experiences. This layer relates to the field or to the subject matter which covers the process, the participants in these processes, and the circumstances in which the activity occurs. In addition, the ideational metafunction in a clause is represented in transitivity systems. Transitivity is a principal component, for it deals with how the clause transmits ideas, actions and processes into a coherent text. In SFL, transitivity plays a role, not only in differentiating between transitive and intransitive verbs, but also in being interested in "the type of process involved in a clause, the participants implicated in it, and, if there are any, the attendant circumstances". (Banks, 2002, p.10). Hence, transitivity is about establishing the relationships between the actions, the participants and the circumstances encoded in the clause. Second, the interpersonal function is realized by the tenor which is concerned with the attitudes of the participants and how personal relationships between them are constructed. Miller (2005) explains that the interpersonal function is formed by the "the systems of Mood, Modality and Appraisal". Finally, there is the textual function, which is activated by "structural cohesive devices, such as thematic structure and non-structural ones, like cohesion" (p.27). The three layers combined together produce a metalinguistic meaning in the clause in which these

variables are considered to be the basis for translators, enabling them to construct the overall meaning.

One particular aspect of discourse functions is modality. Based on SFL, modality is “a resource which sets up a semantic space between yes and no”. Language speakers can use this resource to express various functions, attitudes and evaluations (Martin & Rose 2007, p. 53). It deals with how the speaker of the utterance commits to the truth values in terms of their semantics and pragmatics (Palmer, 2001). SFL combines between mood and modality where the former refers to the type of mood of the sentence, whether it is indicative or imperative, and the latter is the category which provides operators (e.g., can, must) for measuring the extent of probability, certainty and obligation of information in a proposition. Both terms fall under the interpersonal system which measures the power relations between interlocutors and assigns their thematic roles in discourse. Halliday (1970) attributes modality to the validity of information where he defines modality as a tool whose modal forms of frequency or obligation assess the credibility of information in conversations. He considers modality as the speaker's contribution to the speech event which provides various degrees that are “between the categorical extremes of unqualified positive and negative”. Modals are expressed either by modal verbs, auxiliaries or clauses. Croft (1994) explains how modality constructs the relationship between speakers in discourse, asserting that the more confident the speaker is in a conversation, the greater the value of obligation is found in speech. Additionally, the speaker will have high expectations from the hearer to incline and respond actively. In other words, modality is the degree of initiative and obligation of the participants in speech. Finally, every modal form has a value and a certain degree of indication which makes awareness to such forms during translation demanding. In this study, passive modal verbs, which are frequently used in English media texts, are closely investigated to see how modality can affect the translation activity of passive forms.

2.2.2 Translation and Grammar

Grammar is a cornerstone of languages which participates in the process of meaning formation. In translation, translators often encounter languages which have distinct grammatical systems, including particular lexical order and marked syntactic rules that

affect meaning transference. Nida (1964) describes grammatical components as ‘meaningful mouthfuls’ of language. According to Nida, the primary reason for information loss and gain in translation is the disparity of grammatical and lexical classifications between languages. Moreover, Baker (1992) claims that without grammatical guidelines, the process of translation becomes very challenging, which makes grammar the roadmap that translators should follow to prevent translational mistakes.

Hatim & Munday (2004) take notice of the grammar of languages and how it delivers a message through translation. They define grammar not only as being a group of separate words, but also as meaningful constructions that form sentences in language. They comment that syntax produces its own communicative indications, and that syntactic features are means for expressing the wide range of pragmatic meanings. However, each language has its own syntactic rules, which poses problems while translating. For instance, Hatim & Munday (2004) mention some syntactic differences between English and French that affect translation. They provide an example of an English poster located at the underground ticket office at Heathrow Airport London, (p.20). The title of the poster says: Travelling from Heathrow. It was translated into French as: Vous partez de Heathrow? /You leave from Heathrow? The translation includes a change in the grammatical category of the gerund traveling into a pronoun Vous/you and adding a new verb partez/leave. Modifying the grammatical category in translation has led to the changing of the title’s function which became like a personal question.

2.2.3 Translation and Passive voice

Passive voice is one of the grammatical features that is considered to be problematic in translation. It is a language-specific phenomenon whose formation and use vary across languages. Hence, translational shifts are expected to occur while translating. Munif (2008) interprets that the reason for applying translational shifts is the existence of non-corresponding grammatical features between languages, which leads to challenges in translation. Also, Hatim and Mason (1990) agree with Munif that the cause of translation drawbacks is the lack of agreement between certain formal categories across languages. For example, English has passive voice as a formal category, which is not

true for Korean. This asymmetry in structure between the two languages inevitably gives rise to having problems while translating from English into Korean.

Baker (1992) discusses the diversity of grammatical categories across languages. She comments that differences in the syntactic structures and aspects of the SL and TL create a change in the content of meaning during the process of translation. In the case of passive, Baker explains that a translator should respect the “stylistic value in different text types and the most important of all the functions of the passive and the similar structure in each language”. (p.103) She expects some ‘potential change in content’ and pushes translators to weigh this change despite the fact that they try hard to produce a reasonable natural translation. In other words, translating a passive form by creating a change in its structure entails a change in meaning. This weight of change includes measuring the change of the source passive function, and the load of information provided in the passive form. For example, Baker (p.86) classifies this change as being additive in which the translator adds information to the TL that is not mentioned in the SL. The translator may mention the agent of the passive affecting the role that the passive plays in discourse. Particularly, additive changes occur, as Baker searches, in languages that conflict in grammatical categories. In other words, either the source or the target lacks a particular grammatical aspect, which causes a mismatch. However, the change may not only be additive, but can also come in different forms like deletion or transferring into a different meaning. (Baker, 1992). Concerning passives, languages differ from each other in having passive as a category. For instance, English has agentive passive as a category whereas Arabic lacks this one despite the fact that both meet in having voice as a category.

On the other hand, Catford (1965) discusses the concept of shifts as being changes that occur when transferring from the SL into the TL. He divides shifts into two types; level shifts and category shifts. For example, translating a passive voice into an active voice includes a level shift that belongs to a structural shift. A structural shift occurs when two languages contain different elements of structures and have formal correspondence. Thus, these shifts happen in translation to suffice and compensate for the mismatches of the passive transformation from the SL into TL.

One major theory that explains the nature and structure of the passive voice is Lexical Decomposition Grammar. This theory connects conceptual knowledge with syntax, for it perceives syntax as one source of constructing the semantic meaning. This theory is concerned with the representation of semantic forms via fixed syntactic structures. It perceives passivization as a process that affects the arguments of a structure. Kiparsky (2008, p.8) explains that “Verbs are represented by expressions in which Theta-roles are λ -abstractors over the variables in the function they denote. The semantic role of the variable over which the λ -operator abstracts fixes the Theta-role’s semantic content, and its depth of embedding fixes its place in the thematic hierarchy”. This theory considers passivization as a ‘relation-changing’ process on the level of semantics. According to this theory, passivization is one layer of demotion by which a passive verb is an affix which downgrades the most salient parts (having the greater Theta-role) and assigns this role to the parts having the lesser Theta-role. Kiparsky (2008, p.8) categorizes passive forms into five types: passive, anti-passive, causative, applicative and impersonal. Passive is the type of verb which demotes the highest Theta-role. This type reduces ‘valency’ between the participants of the clause. On the contrary, anti-passive is the verb which demotes all but the highest Theta-role. Intransitivization is one example of this kind. Causative is the verb which adds the highest Theta-role making ‘valency’ increase for one participant over another. Applicative verb adds the non-highest Theta-role such as transitivization. The final type is impersonal passives which are intransitive subjectless verbs. Tsunoda (1988) believes that passives demote the highest Th-role, while anti-passives demote all non-highest Th-roles, grasping an important difference between these two types. As long as there are impersonal subjectless passives, there are no impersonal anti-passives.

Based on this theory, the asymmetry between passives and actives is that the former have a degraded logical subject which is either implicit, explicit (by using prepositional phrase), or not expressed but can be easily referred to. Kiparsky (2002) explains that even if subjects are not mentioned, they are visible using construal and anaphora processes in the same way as other demoted logical subjects, such as event-expressing nominals. Kiparsky predicts that the typical passive, having no Theta-role, cannot be employed in ‘expletive improper’ arguments, since passivation is an operation based on

Theta-roles. For example, *it rains* and *there came a war* are examples of improper arguments.

Ackema & Neeleman (1998) compose the typology of passives and construct the conditions that must be found in any passive form. These conditions belong to the markedness theory and faithfulness principles.

- a. EPP: A sentence must have a thematic subject.
- b. STAY: The subject bears the most prominent Theta-role.
- c. PARSE (PASSIVE): The input must be realized (no null parse is allowed).

Moreover, these constraints construct the correspondence between the semantic form and the ‘morphosyntactic output’, and control this relationship. Ackema & Neeleman (1998, p.9) explain that sentences which have nominative subjects “can be active even in languages that have sentences without nominative subjects, either by triggering promotion of objects to subjects where available, or by forcing replacement of the oblique case by the nominative case in subjects”. As a consequence, All passives are ‘harmonically bounded’ with their corresponding active forms and the ‘null candidates’. So, when forming a passive form, it has to be governed by these conditions, especially the condition of PARSE, which demands that the passive input must be expressed and realized.

To conclude, translation and language are interdependent, in that the translation activity relies on the source and target languages and their systems. Grammar is an essential part of the linguistic system that needs to be carefully analyzed. To a great extent, SFL deals with grammatical components and assigns them a functional role that contributes to the translation activity. The passive voice is one of these grammatical components having asymmetrical semantic, syntactic and morphological considerations across languages. Consequently, this will pose a problem while translating this form. In my research, I will investigate the challenges and strategies used in translating such verbs from English into Arabic. These two languages are characterized as having syntactic diversity and sentential disparity since they belong to different language families. Baseel & Naser Albzour (2015) attribute this disparity to the fact that English follows the SVO order while Arabic has both VSO and SVO orders. They add that the difference in the wording systems of Arabic and English leads to translational drawbacks. Concerning

passivization, both languages use the passive voice, yet they differ in the process of forming it and in the frequency of its usage. Each has a marked system of formation as mentioned in Section 1, and English uses passives more frequently than Arabic does. This difference will definitely lead to translational complications that shall be discussed in the ensuing section. In addition to that, the strategies resorted to in the translation of such forms shall be extensively explained.

2.3 Challenges and strategies of translating passives from English into Arabic

Translating the passive voice from English into Arabic is problematic due to the disparities between the two languages at the linguistic level. Khafaji (1996) states that English passive verbs constitute a major challenge for the English-Arabic translators. He considers this task as complex since translators have to “convert a large number of passive verbs found in the English source text into other linguistic forms if [s/he] were to produce a normal Arabic text, free of translation interference”. (p. 19). Besides, having the passive voice as a category differs from one language to another. English has agentive and agentless passive categories whereas Arabic has only agentless passives. Another point to add here is that the passive form is complex in formation and particularly in function, which poses an obstacle for translators. Abbasi & Arjenan (2014) affirm that due to the divergence in the roles and uses of the passive voice across languages, the translator has to know how to deal with such forms and translate them with reasonable usage and proper function. These complexities are linguistically based, in that they involve the syntax and morphology of a language. They mainly are: (word order, agency-role, morphological patterns and diacritics). It must be pointed here that studies dealing with the problems faced when translating English passives into Arabic have provided different strategies for translating this form. However, these strategies are given with neither a systemic reliable scope nor with a justification for choosing a certain strategy over another. The suggested strategies are: passives, actives, nominalized infinitives and nominalized participles.

2.3.1 Word order & Agency-role

When translating English passive verbs into Arabic, word order is surely to be considered since it deals with how both languages arrange their main parts of speech (agent, verb, recipient, ...etc.) in a sentence. Rhazi & Ben Ali & Aouini (2017) consider word order as one of the ‘transformational difficulties’ that occur while translating passives. This is due to the fact that the formation of a passive clause demands a central restructuring of the active clause. As James (1983) explains, it reorders two basic semantic parts which are the agent and the goal. Moreover, Sullivan (1976) sees that the essence of the passive is how it deals with the patient as ‘obligatory’ and the agent as ‘optional’. This change in word order is challenging in translation since the grammatical subject in the passive clause is not the agent, but rather the patient or the affected. Hence, this diversion of roles has to be functionally maintained in translation in order not to violate the semantic roles of the NPs affecting the contextual meaning as a result. Jacek (1996) describes the Arabic language as having a rich, flexible morphology and a quite free word order. These traits make Arabic able to translate passives with various options expressing passivity other than rendering them into equivalent passive forms. Thus, Jacek considers word order as more than just a ‘stylistic variation’; it indicates a syntactic assignment and function.

The problem lies in dealing with the agent in Arabic constructions when encountering English agentive passive clauses. There is no natural way to mention the agent in Arabic because this language silences it. M.Al-Raba' (2013) emphasizes that Arabic is unable to produce agentive passive constructions. Consequently, translational mistakes occur when the agent is mentioned. The common mistake is mentioning the agent by adding the prepositional phrase *من قبل*. This prepositional phrase is grammatically unacceptable in Arabic syntax since Arabic grammar contains only agentless passive constructions. Khalil (1988) asserts that the reason behind using this phrase is the influence of literal translation for the English phrase (by+agent) which is a foreign expression for Arab native speakers. He comments that Arab translators may resort to translating the English by-agentive phrases literally into equivalent Arabic agentive phrases which are unacceptable and foreign in the Classical variety of Arabic. To solve this problem of word wording, Rhazi & Ben Ali & Aouini (2017) view that a translator should make some structural modifications and use ‘natural equivalence’. Natural equivalences include various

options which are; either to translate the English agentive passives into Arabic agentless ones (by omitting the agent) or to translate the English passive into an Arabic active form and preserve the agent. Another alternative is to translate passive forms into nominalized constructions. However, any alternative would entail some change in the meaning of the SL and its perspective since the form is altered. Consider this example:

English passive form: The ball was hit by the boy

Translation (1): ضُرِبَتِ الكُرَّةُ

Translation (2): ضُرِبَتِ الكُرَّةُ مِنْ قِبَلِ الْوَلَدِ

Translation (3): ضَرَبَ الْوَلَدُ الكُرَّةَ

Both translations (1) and (3) are grammatically acceptable. However, the passivity is deleted and the agency is revealed in translation (3). Here, there is a change of form which consequently leads to a change in content that the translator should weigh a translator should weigh. (Baker, 2014). Thus, translators find themselves in the middle of providing a smooth translation or adhering to the TL syntactic rules. Since translations (1) and (3) are grammatically acceptable, an important question presents itself here: to what extent can translators be free when choosing between these two alternatives. The studies previously discussed have provided these strategies as options to translate passives, but they did not dictate any conditions on whether to translate into passive forms or into active ones. However, these studies agree that choosing the suitable strategy must be in light of the TL and particularly its morphology.

2.3.2 Morphological patterns

Choosing a strategy for translating passive forms must be within the scope of the morphological restrictions of the Arabic language. There are certain morphological patterns that do not exist in Arabic resulting in a translational problem. For example, Jacek points out that “passive verbs of Pattern VIII ifta9ala require special explanation since such verbs do not normally appear in the passive form in Arabic”. (1996, p.8). In other words, this pattern cannot be transferred to the formal passive verb in Arabic فُعِلَ. Thus, the pattern افْعُلَ is unacceptable or inadmissible in Arabic. However, this pattern remains active in form but indicates passivity in function. Lyons (1968) calls this group of

verbs ‘pseudo-intransitive’ verbs and compares them to passive verbs since both sets have the grammatical subject as their patients rather than their agents. This explains the reason why the active form of these verbs have an implied sense of passivity. The following is a set of examples to examine this group of verbs more thoroughly.

- 1) The place is filled
T: امتلأ المكان
- 2) The family was met
T: اجتمعت العائلة
- 3) The factory is burnt
T: احترق المصنع
- 4) The job was finished
T: انتهى العمل

The verbs: is filled, was met, is burnt, and was finished are pseudo-passives in English; they have an active form at the surface with an implied passive meaning. In other words, in sentence (1), there are people who make the place full. In sentence (3), there is someone who burns the factory. Similarly, in sentence (4), there is someone who declares that the job has stopped. However, in sentence (2), the members of the family itself met with one another. The above sentences have NPs belonging to different semantic categories. In sentences (1) (3) and (4), the NPs are not the agents who perform the actions of filling, burning, finishing, but they are the patients or the affected by these actions. Whereas in sentence (2), the NP family is the agent. Now, the translations of (1), (3) and (4) include Arabic ‘pseudo-intransitive’ verbs that belong to the pattern of ifta9ala. As a result, translating these forms into: اُنْتُهِيَ, اُمْتُلِيَ, اِحْتَرَقَ is incorrect. Whereas in sentence (2), translating the passive form to اُجْتِمِعَتْ is grammatically correct since the grammatical subject is the agent and does seem to be odd in rhetoric. Farghal & Al-Shorafat (2015) discuss such unnatural verbs whose morphological status is uncommon and heavy on the tongue of the target language speakers. They give the verb غُزِيَ - has been invaded as an example.

Jacek (1996) gives a guideline for this group of verbs. He advises translators to translate English pseudo-passives or notional passives that include intransitive verbs into passive forms as a first option. If the target passivized form does not appear in Arabic, the active

form of the verb may be used provided it maintains the same semantic meaning found in the source text. This is achieved by using the active form of such Arabic verbs in sentences where the position of their grammatical subjects is the patient, rather than the agent. To put it differently, when encountering English pseudo passives, translators opt to translate them either into active forms or into Arabic pseudo-passive forms that are active in form but passive in meaning like the abovementioned examples.

Baker (1994) attributes this category of pseudo-intransitive verbs to the value of [+/- Human]. She notes that when the surface grammatical subjects are referring to non-human agents like in sentences (1) and (3), verbs following the pattern *افتعل* appear only in the active form since it is not acceptable for them to be in the formal passive form. In other words, pseudo-intransitive verbs occur in the sentences whose subjects are non-human patients or recipients, treated as verbs in the active voice. However, formal passives of the pattern *افتعل*; that is *أفُعِلَ* are acceptable when they are not used pseudo-intransitively. Put differently, these verbs are acceptable provided that their agents are humans. However, this acceptability should be in parallel with rhetoric issues, meaning that translators have to check whether or not these forms are circulated and currently used by the native speakers of Arabic.

For example: More than 400 new planets have been discovered.

Translation (1): وقد اكتُشِفَ أكثر من 400 نبتة جديدة

Translation (2): اكتشف العلماء أكثر من 400 نبتة جديدة

In translation (1), it seems that the deleted agent is [+ Human] who obviously is Scientists, which makes the verb *أُكْتُشِفَ* acceptable. As seen earlier, this is only possible when such verbs are not used pseudo-intransitively. Besides, the rhetoric of the verb *أُكْتُشِفَ* is admissible. Further, translation (2) which transfers the passive form into active is acceptable, especially that the agent is widely known and does not have any kind of markedness. So, the sentential semantic roles of the NPs have been preserved; the subject remained the agent. On this account, changing from passive into active or other forms is not as free as translators may think. There are restrictions and boundaries that control this choice since passivity is a central element of the semantic structure of any passive form. Hence, any replacement of the passive with other forms must be justified, motivated and rationally chosen.

Nominalization is another famous strategy which translators opt for when translating English passive voice into Arabic. Jacek (1996) shows two types of nominalized constructions which are employed in the translation of passives. These are nominalized constructions with infinitives as the nominal complements, and nominalized constructions with passive participles as their complements. However, Farghal and Al-Shorafat (2015) disagree with this division, for they do not consider passive participles as a type of nominalization; they regard it as separate category called ‘adjectivals’. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), nominalization is a process which produces nouns, and it is not frequently found in spontaneous speech. It is one realization of a word that has the position of a noun. They see nominalization as a ‘grammatical metaphor’ that differs among languages at the level of type, register and frequency. On the other hand, Leech (2006) describes nominalization as a condensing process that forms new words corresponding to the main verb of a clause. This strategy involves making rearrangements to the components of the sentence, giving priority to the action rather than the agent. This function is similar to that of the passive since both conceal agency. Hinchings (2013) describes nominalization as having a ‘Dark Side’. He justifies using nominalization to translate passive forms because this strategy eliminates and conceals agency. It abstracts the action and ‘sap the vitality of one’s speech or prose’. Thus, the shared function between passive forms and nominalized forms make the latter an alternative option in translation. In addition, languages deal with this strategy differently; some languages accept it while others do not. In particular, Arabic is a rich language in its morphology and syntax and is flexible when it comes to making arrangements to a given sentence. It has some sort of free word order and is characterized as having less rigidity than English. Although Arabic accepts nominalization, it still has some control over which is more suitable to choose, whether nominalization or other options, as will be discussed in chapter three.

The first type of nominalization is nominalized constructions with the infinitive. Jacek (1996) defines it as having an initial verbal element followed by an infinitive. He also lists some examples of this group like جرى / took place, and تم / completed. These verbs function as dummy verbs that do not have a particularly specific meaning but carry a grammatical function. Crystal (2008) defines the dummy verb as a linguistic means indicating a grammatical element introduced into a clause to maintain that the clause's syntax is produced properly. So, using تم or other dummy verbs is a way to compensate an empty syntactic

category resulting from transferring the original passive to a new form. This form is a gerund derived from the source English passive verb. (Leech, 2008).

Now, Arabic accepts nominalized infinitive forms provided that they serve the same function of the source passives. Halliday (1970) asserts that in any language, the choice between translation alternatives and the acceptability of such options depends on textual functions. In other words, the semantic role of the nominalized constructions should be investigated first. Additionally, the source semantic role of the passive must be maintained across translation. Jacek (1996) gives examples for explaining this condition (p.14):

(43) waqad tamma tatwi:r ha:dha nnumu:dhaj

"That model was developed."

(44) jara: ba'da da:lika tashwi:shu ha:dihi ssuhub

"The cloud was then disturbed."

By examining the function of the source passive and its nominalized construction, it is noticeable that the NPs coming after the gerunds function as the (affected). They are impacted by the actions that the gerunds represent and stand for. Hence, it is a gerund-patient semantic relation. The gerund is a derivation from the verb which can go in a parallel line with a verb-patient relation. So, both forms serve the same function. The NPs (the model, the cloud) function as patients in the source passive sentence and remain so in the target translation. This maintenance of the semantic relations inside sentences makes this option acceptable to use in the above two examples.

The second type of nominalization is Arabic nominalized constructions with the passive participle or, as Farghla and Alshorafat name it, adjectival. This process is used to deal with the passives that include stative verbs. A stative verb underlies a minimal action. Farghal and Al-Shorafat (2015) agree that this strategy is sufficient and capable of transferring the meaning of an English passive form that includes a non-dynamic verb and changing it into a suitable Arabic adjective. This strategy is marked for the special use it serves. It makes translating passive verbs of this kind easier, clearer and more consistent.

For instance, verbs like *is made up of*, *is attached*, *is bound*, *is concentrated* are stative verbs in origin. Thus, it is expected to have a semantic relation of a state rather than a process or action, which the passive participle expresses, with a patient, which the NP preceding the passive participle expresses. Jacek (1996) accepts such strategy in translating passives since it “exists between the verbal element and the NP assuming the grammatical subject position in sentences with overtly marked passive verbs in both English and Arabic”. (p.15). Additionally, Ghalaayini (1982) describes this connection between the passive participle and the passive verb in Arabic as having ‘semantic affinity’ which is based on the fact that the passive participle is a realization derived from the passive verb and performs its function.

However, this strategy does not work if the source passive indicates or refers to a sense of continuity or process. For example, *the house is being stolen* includes the verb (being) which makes the whole clause dynamic since it represents a continuous process. Hence, translating this clause to *بات المنزل مسروقاً* is incorrect because *مسروق* is a state. However, it can be either: *لقد سُرِقَ المنزل* or *تمت سرقة المنزل*. Both options indicate a process of stealing. Hence, a difference in the semantic relations of patient-state and patient-process can be easily drawn. This difference facilitates the process of choosing a certain strategy for passives since those strategies must be carefully selected.

2.3.3 Morphological tools in Arabic language: Diacritics

Diacritics pose a problem in the translation of passives into Arabic since they are fundamental distinctive marks between the active and the passive voice in Arabic. Therefore, translation mistakes occur if the target passive forms lack diacritics because they become ambiguous and complex to understand. For example, Arab readers will be confused about the nature of the verb *is arrested* *اعتقل* /o3tuqela/ or *اعتُقل* /e3taqala/ whether it is a passive or an active form. Hence, diacritics should not be neglected as they are a major part of the surface form of passives and ease understanding for readers. Al Midhwah (2018) sees diacritics other than the context as an essential means that eliminates any sense of ambiguity and confusion from words. He emphasizes their role in deciding the phonological and semantic aspects of Arabic words.

To conclude, there is no one consistent way to translate passives. All the previous studies were merely attempts to translate the passive form, but they were set without a

full comprehensive theory for translating them. However, Systemic Functional linguistics combined with Baker's notion of 'weight of change' can represent a well-constructed framework to translate passives from English into Arabic. The above discussion shows that translating this form should not be haphazard or free but rather strategic and bound. Further, strategic decisions to translate passive forms should abide by the morphology of the Arabic language and the semantic function of the text. This function entails how the semantic relations between participants were maintained through translation. The following section will investigate the strategies used to translate the passive voice and the extent to which these strategies provide a functional rendering of such verbs.

Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Research Approach

This study adopts a descriptive and comparative approach that provides a description and an interpretation of the different strategies used in the translation of the English passive voice into Arabic. It initially employs a quantitative analysis of 179 various instances of passive verbs collected from 21 journalistic articles. Then, it discusses some of the errors and challenges that translators confront during the translation of passives by employing a qualitative analysis. Thus, the study combines both kinds of methods in analyzing the data collected. This is due to the fact that some of the findings needed personal evaluation, while other conclusions were reached after doing simple mathematical computations such as percentages and tabulations. The discussion and evaluation of the data are based on SFL School of Linguistics and Translation with regard to the relevant notions and the norms of the Arabic language. SFL is a theory of language concerned with the function of language and accounts for the syntactic structures and their modifications within a language. I chose this theory since I am interested in investigating the syntactic and semantic changes that happen during the translation of passives from English into Arabic, and the effects of these changes on the translation as a product. The basic tool in my research is observation through which some media texts with their Arabic translations were observed and analyzed. Observation here involves scanning these texts in order to find examples of passive clauses and examining the strategies used in translating every instance.

3.2 Data collection

Media genre was justifiably selected since it frequently uses the passive voice. Thus, the analysis of data becomes more comprehensive, illustrative and fruitful. The data was collected from ten different famous media English websites with emphasis on the most obvious and rich examples related to the case of passive voice translation. These websites are: **The WASHINGTON INSTITUTE for Near East Policy**, The National Interest newspaper, AL-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies, **The Times of Israel**,

The Guardian, **Al- Monitor**, **Fanack website**, **The International Committee of the Red Cross** and Qantara.de website. The translations were taken either from the source websites as they have been published or from other news websites such as al-Mayadeen news channel website or Aljazeera channel website. In a study of this kind, the core interest is about how the translation of passives affects or maintains the successfulness of communication.

3.3 Data analysis

In this stage, the data collected from various sources was processed for discussion. Each text has a separate table into which passive verbs are added in a way that shows the tense of the verb, its translation, the strategy used in its translation and an evaluation of the process. By way of illustration, see this exemplary table:

S.P	Tense	T.P	Strategy	Evaluation
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Then, based on the tabulations and percentages of each translation strategy used for passives, the analysis was built. These percentages show which strategies are most frequently used in translating this form and which are the least. Each technique is explained in connection to the tense of the source passive and to its context to see whether there are common denominators that push translators to use a certain strategy over another. At this phase of analysis, the data is brought under scope to investigate the extent to which the translations of the source English passives are intelligible and successful. The evaluation of the translation depends on translational criteria that are discussed in detail in the literature review. The criteria are basically centered on the ability of the translator to choose the suitable equivalence that corresponds to the thematic function of the source form. The outcome of this assessment is the extent to which the message of the text was maintained through the translation. Besides, giving general rules or justifications that comply with the criteria is another outcome of the assessment process.

Evaluating the data entails examining every translation of the passive verbs and checking its efficiency by answering these questions:

1. Does the translated passive form have the same thematic function of the source verb or a close one?
2. Can the target passive be understood easily?
3. Does the target passive respect the linguistic rules of Arabic?
4. Does the target passive bear any ambiguity that is different from the source one?
5. Does the translator use the suitable strategy for translating the passive form?
6. Are there any syntactic or semantic rules that control the translator's decision?

Fundamentally, answering these criteria-questions has led to giving a comprehensible description of the English passive form and drawing up conclusions that ease the translating of such forms into Arabic.

Chapter Four

Data Analysis

This chapter deals with the analysis of different examples of English passive clauses taken from newspaper articles and their translations into Arabic. It sheds light on the strategies employed to translate passive verbs. The analysis classifies the collected examples based on three criteria: structural, morphological and semantic rules of the Arabic language. The analysis, yet, found that there are four strategies used in translating English passive forms. The first and mostly-used strategy is nominalization. Actives strategy, which involves translating English passive verbs into equivalent Arabic forms, is the second one. The third is passives which involves rendering English passive verbs into Arabic passive ones. The last one is adjectivals which entails transferring passive forms into Arabic passive participles. The total number of passive verbs was found to be 179 cases, translated into Arabic using these strategies as the table shows.

TABLE ONE:

English	Arabic			
	Nominalization	Actives	Passives	A djectivals
179	77 (43%)	64 (35.7%)	26 (14.5%)	12 (6.8%)

4.1 English passive verbs translated using Nominalization

The above table shows that nominalization occupies the first place as the most used strategy in translating passives from English into Arabic with a percentage of (43%). About (77) instances of the passive verbs collected were transformed into nouns which become the heads of the noun phrases. According to Halliday (1985), nominalization is a category shift that includes changing verbs into noun phrases that function as subjects. As observed from the data, translators, to a large extent, opt for nominalization when translating passives, for it is a common and an easy strategy to use. In an English typical passive clause, the semantic relation between the passive form and the noun following it is a relation of a verb and its agent, whereas in the majority of the Arabic seventy-seven nominalized instances, the nominalized structure of the passive verb followed by the NP has

the semantic relation of a verb that has changed to become a process (noun) and its patient. In other words, these NPs play the role of actions but in the form of abstract processes. This relation reshapes, reframes and re-modifies the intra-semantic relations of the source passive clause. Liesbet (2003) as cited in Gibova (2006) emphasizes that nominalizations categorize events as abstract things. Put differently, nominalizations are re-classifications of verbal predicates which get turned into nominal constructions. This strategy changes the action that is represented in a verb form to a process whose agent is deleted or condensed in the light of the process. Also, Folwer (1979) suggests that the process of nominalization is a syntactic-reduction that transforms actions into states. See the example below.

1.S) Commercial complexes have been closed in most Iraq's governorates.

Commercial complexes: Goal (subject)

Have been closed: action (verb)

1.T) فتم إغلاق المطاعم والمقاهي والمجمعات التجارية في أغلب محافظات العراق

فتم إغلاق: process/state (subject)

المطاعم والمقاهي والمجمعات التجارية: Goal (object)

The source passive verb have been closed is transferred to the noun 'iighlaq which becomes the subject in the Arabic sentence. Besides, the action of closing is condensed to a state of being closed. This shift from verb to noun and the reordering of the sentence elements modify the meaning found in the translated text in a way that perspectives the reporting of the news as will be explained below.

After analyzing the translated material, two categories of nominalization were found, and each has a different syntactic realization. The first is dummy-nominalized constructions and the second is dummy-less nominalized constructions. Dummy constructions are those that function as tense markers and as the controller of the nominalization in the sentences. R. Khafaji (1996) emphasizes their role in carrying the tense marker and in framing the nominalizations. As for the dummy-less constructions, they only include a noun phrase without a dummy construction preceding it. Around 19 cases of the collected data are dummy-less nominalized structures. For instance:

2.S) before it is transferred to the Treasury Department.

2.T) قبل نقلها إلى وزارة الخزانة

Notice here that the nominalized pattern of the verb transferred is not preceded by a dummy structure, and thus it does not perform a significant change in the clause. The change is a structural shift, precisely, a category shift. The verb transferred was changed into نقلها which is a noun. As mentioned earlier, any modification at the surface structure leads to a change in meaning according to SFL. However, this shift does not create a marked change since there is no violation of the syntactic or semantic rules of the target language, and the overall meaning of the clause is still intelligible.

As for the dummy-nominalized structures, they are of two types; prepositional nominalized structures and verbal nominalized structures. The former includes a preposition added before the noun like ma3/with, min/ from, 3'ala/ should, month/ since, ela/ to, bi/ via, ba3'd/ after. This type neither changes the semantic load of the source passive verb nor modifies the speaker's tonality. These constructions map out how the nominalization pattern starts and ends in an event. For instance:

3.S) Income countries are expected to increase by 2.6 percent

3.T) ومع توقع انتعاش الدخل العالمي بنسبة 2.6 %

Here, the preposition ma3, مع is added for aesthetic reasons. It introduces and governs the nominalization without interfering in the core meaning of the source passive form.

The second type is verbal nominalized structures that comprises two sub-categories; passive nominalized verbs and active nominalized verbs. The former consists of an initial verbal element that is neutral and idle. The major verb of this type is the verb تم, happened which has only a regulatory role in organizing the nominalization. About 34 cases of nominalizations use this verb, which indicates its smooth structure and its current usage in media texts. For example:

4.S) Today's everything bubble has been inflated by the extraordinarily low interest rates

4.T) لقد تم تضخيم فقاعة كل شيء اليوم بسبب أسعار الفائدة المنخفضة

The dummy passive verb تم is used to govern the nominalization in the clause in a way that adds no additional semantic meaning to the clause. This dummy verb serves grammatical functions, such as pointing out the tense and adding very little to the semantic load of the clause. It is passive in role and neutral in tone. However, the action inflated has changed to become an abstract process inflation/تضخيم. This category shift as discussed above, is one of the characteristics that nominalization strategy has. It is undeniable that using تم will lead to a shift in category. However, it is a structural shift whose semantic significance is little. As a result, using تم neither adds to nor subtracts from the idea that low interest rates have inflated everything around us.

On the other hand, active nominalized verbs are of value and concern due to the additional meaning they add to the clause. These dummy verbs are active in meaning, in that they insert new information to the source meaning of the passive clause and change the modality of the passive verb. As a result, using such verbs manages the event and perspectives it. These verbs include, ta3' yana/should, ta3arada/ exposed, satowajeh /face, yajeb/ must, talauqo/ received. In addition, using nominalized verbal constructions leads to producing abstract processes that involve a semantic detachment and a social distance between the participants of the discourse. The idea of detachment has its value particularly in media discourse since it can be used to disclaim the agent's responsibility for the action and reframe the semantic relations of the incidence. The following example shall clarify this idea.

5.S) When the Palestinians in East Jerusalem were forcibly evicted and terrorized by settlers.

5.T) فعندما تم إجلاء الفلسطينيين قسراً من منازلهم في القدس الشرقية وتعرضوا لإرهاب المستوطنين

In general, using nominalization to translate were forcibly evicted to تم إجلاء الفلسطينيين قسراً encompasses a disclaim of the settlers' responsibility for evicting Palestinians from their lands despite using a passive nominalized structure. This translation differs from this alternative example: A.T) عندما أجلى المستوطنون الفلسطينيون قسراً

Here, As Folwer (1991) sees, nominalization implies an agency-disguise that can conceal and change the facts in the clause. He asserts that nominalization should be treated as an entity rather than an activity that includes 'ideological functions' such as 'deleting agency', 'reification' and 'mystification'.

In specific, the second part of the sentence is translated by adding an active nominalized dummy verb that is تعرّضَ. Such verb as Alwan(2018) describes, is performing a fundamental role in reframing the overall semantic structure of clauses. These active dummy verbs enrich the sentence, and they are chosen in line with the discussed topics. As a result, the power relations and the directness of the speech of the source and target clauses are asymmetric although they should not be so. This is due to the fact that using active nominalized constructions reformulates the events from a different perspective. The verb تعرّضَ entails a distance between the action terrorized/ لإرهاب and the agent settlers/المستوطنون. This distance creates a reification of the agency as if there was an external agent responsible for the action. Consequently, a new narration of the event is reformed.

Moreover, using nominalization as a strategy to translate passive forms leads to a change in the modality scales. See these examples.

6.S) These efforts will need to be pursued at the same time that Washington grapples with great-power competition

6.T) يجب متابعة هذه الجهود بالتزامن مع المناقشة التي تخوضها واشنطن مع القوى العظمى

The phrase will need to be pursued has a different semantic indication from يجب متابعة. The modality of the word يجب is of high obligation, which is not mentioned in the source passive form. The translator used يجب to strongly urge the American government to rethink its new foreign policy after the 11th of September attacks. Hence, using an active nominalized verb manages the text in a way that the translator's voice is interfering in the text.

In sentence (7) below, adding the dummy verb yata3yan has different denotations and connotations from the modality that the word must has. Here, the translator's addition may be understood as an interference in the text exemplified by the use of the active dummy verb must.

7.S) So existing capacities must be increased to support any such mitigation strategy.

7.T) لذلك يتعين تعزيز القدرات الحالية لدعم أي استراتيجية تخفيف من هذا القليل

In sentence (8) below, the translator has added a sense of certainty which is not found in the source text concerning the confrontations by adding the active dummy verb face, satouajeh. Adding such verbs reframes the power relations in a sentence in a way that the discourse becomes managed. Alwan (2018) emphasizes that using such active dummy verbs contributes to the direction of the semantic denotations of the clause as a whole.

8.S) A move that will inevitably be opposed by other aspirants

8.T) وهي خطوة ستواجه حتماً معارضة من الطامحين الآخرين

Even more, using nominalization as a strategy for translating passives leads to a change in the meaning of the source passive form. In example (9), the meaning changes from possibility or probability to negative certainty.

9.S) No security assistance may be provided to any country the government of which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationality recognized human rights.

9.T) لا يجوز تقديم أي مساعدة أمنية إلى أي دولة تشارك حكومتها في نمط ثابت من الانتهاكات الجسيمة لحقوق الإنسان المعترف بها دولياً.

Very often, translators add nominalized structures as a way of emphasis in order to give priority to certain ideas. In sentence (10) below, the translator has added the verb harasa, (keen) to in order to emphasize the American government's efforts and its administrative roles. Alwan (2018) comments on adding such verbs, saying that it is a way of focusing on new ideas and prioritizing them. Nominalized verbs are employed in a marked way to get into the heart of matters.

10.S) For such operations were pushed down the chain

10.T) حرصت الحكومة الأمريكية على دفع الصلاحيات الخاصة بتلك العمليات إلى أسفل سلسلة القيادة

Using nominalization does not work all the time. Sometimes, it causes semantic violations. For instance:

11.S) That had been scheduled for Jerusalem Day.

11.T) التي كان من المزمع عقدها في يوم القدس

In this sentence, the passive form has a totally different meaning from the target equivalent. The verb scheduled has a neutral connotation that is remote from the nominalized subjective form من المزمع. Here, the passive form and its target nominalized structure are used to deliver the translator's ideology and beliefs.

Although nominalization is widely used as a strategy when translating passive forms in media discourse, it should remain under close scrutiny for the reduction it creates to the sentence, which may in turn reduce the reader's ability to understand the social roles of the actors. Lingle (2017) explains that the consistent use of nominalization in a text can be explained with an “ideological motivation of the author”. (p.19). Put differently, using nominalization may lead to translational pitfalls during translation. See the example below.

12.S) In the Gaza Strip, which is being constantly bombarded by Israel

12.T) في قطاع غزة المعرض لقصف متواصل من قِبَل إسرائيل

Translators usually use nominalization to avoid mentioning the agent, especially when it is not allowed to name the agent in Arabic as mentioned in section 2. However, translators may become confused when employing nominalization in agentive passive sentences, which leads them to mention the agent using incorrect phrases such as من قِبَل. In sentence (12), the translator has made a translational mistake, for he used nominalization and mentioned the agent by using the phrase من قِبَل - A phrase that is grammatically incorrect in Arabic. Besides, using the nominalized structure المعرض للقصف does not present a direct reference or reclaim to the agent and the affected participants of the action.

Lingle (2017) interprets that expressing information through a concise grammatical feature such as nominalization is a form of deletion. He explains that the absence of the original information and replacing it by a nominalized form is perceived as a deletion of a sentence that should have been there. He adds that nominalization even serves as a good and easy strategy in translation, but still there are some meanings lost through the process. As a consequence, the translator fails at transferring the original meaning as it is into the target text. The sentence above would directly indicate the agent of the action and infer the facts that would have been represented clearer had the translator used the

strategy of actives. Lingle (2017, p.20) agrees that actives strategy is a direct alternative and asserts that: “To remedy this situation is to rewrite the existing sentence much more explicitly in order to account for many more details of the situation”.

4.1.2 Nominalization and tense of passives

From the collected data, the tense of the verb was found to be a factor that dictates the strategy of translating passives. The first tense is the infinitive tense with eight cases belonging to it. Seven out of these eight cases were nominalized and one was translated using the strategy of passives. This may be due to the fact that infinitives and nominalization share the idea of expressing a quality or entity apart from an object. Here are some of these cases.

13.S) The Conventions and their Protocols call for measures to be taken to prevent or put an end.

13.T) تدعو الاتفاقيات وبروتوكولاتها إلى الإجراءات التي يتعين اتخاذها منعًا لحدوث كافة الانتهاكات أو وضع حد لها

14.S) The movement continues to demand that the entire political class be replaced.

14.T) تواصل الحركة المطالبة باستبدال الطبقة السياسية بأكملها

15.S) These efforts will need to be pursued at the same time that Washington grapples with great-power competition

15.T) يجب متابعة هذه الجهود بالتزامن مع المنافسة التي تخوضها واشنطن مع القوى العظمى

The three infinitive verbs to be taken, replaced and pursued have been changed into abstract processes متابعة، باستبدال، اتخاذها that are abstracted from these infinitive verbs. It can be noticed that both infinitive passives and their nominalized translated counterparts refer to neutral abstract nouns that represent the events in general aspects. Eckersley (1960) asserts that the infinitive form is a grammatical term that neither refers to a time reference nor comes with a specific subject. It expresses the verb in a broad-ranging sense and inexact manner. As a result, the three translators have achieved the original meaning by using nominalized constructions since they express the same manner as that of the infinitives and refer to the events from similar perspectives.

The second tense is modals. 18 modal passive verbs out of 27 were nominalized, which constitutes a percentage of 67%. The modals vary from should, must, have to and could, As will be mentioned in the examples below.

16.S) CT efforts should not be characterized in terms of victory or defeat.

16.T) إذ لا ينبغي تصنيف جهود مكافحة الإرهاب من حيث الانتصار أو الهزيمة

17.S) So that decisions could be made swiftly in dynamic environments

17.T) للسماح باتخاذ القرارات بسرعة في البيئات الديناميكية

18.S) Those responsible for grave breaches must be sought, tried or extradited, whatever nationality they may hold.

18.T) إذ يتعين البحث عن الأشخاص المسؤولين عن "الانتهاكات الخطيرة"، وتقديمهم إلى

العدالة، أو تسليمهم، بغض النظر عن جنسيتهم

Modals and nominalization can be interrelated. Moltmann (2015, p.2) describes modals as having: “a deontic sort on a par with laws – the abstract artifacts that result from acts of declaring or passing them”. Nominalization changes the action from a mobile activity into an abstract process which is perceived as a regulation. It can be noted from the examples that the modals should not be characterized, could be made, must be sought, tried or extradited express rules that are generally perspectivised. The translators have been successful in choosing nominalization strategy since it denotes a like meaning to the source one, with some reservations on the form that has been changed. Meaning remains the first priority because it aids in comprehending the overall context even though it comes at the expense of form.

To conclude, choosing nominalization to translate passives is not as easy as it is often thought. It should be chosen carefully on the condition of preserving the semantic meanings and the syntactic rules of the source passive clause. The translator should maintain the modality scales of the source passive as much as possible. In addition, employing nominalization is preferred when encountering agentless passive constructions. If a translator has chosen to employ nominalization in agentive passive

clauses, he/she should avoid choosing ungrammatical phrases such as من قبل to mention the agent.

4.2 English passive verbs translated using Passivation

Passivization strategy ranks third in translating English passive verbs into Arabic. The analysis shows that twenty-six verbs were rendered into Arabic passive ones. Typically, Arabic uses the passive voice when the agent is unknown, or when the agent is obvious, which makes mentioning it worthless. In both cases, the passive is meant to draw the reader's attention to the person/entity affected by the action rather than its doer (Wright, 1975). Translators prefer to use this strategy because it maintains the form and the function of the source passive verb when translated into the target language. However, as the following sections show, there are syntactic, morphological and semantic restrictions on the use of passives in Arabic.

4.2.1 Syntactic restrictions on forming passives in Arabic

Arabic is a Semitic language that is rich in grammar and has a flexible word order. However, translators are restricted by certain grammatical norms when it comes to translating English passive verbs. One of these restrictions is that agentive passive is not allowed in Arabic. Only 'agentless constructions' (Khalil, 1993), which refer to passives and do not include the agent, are possible in Arabic. Yet, the analysis shows that agentive passivation is used by some translators, leading to grammatical mistakes in the TL. The following clause exemplifies an inaccurate rendering of an English agentive passive verb.

19.S) Oppressors are almost always confronted and challenged by those under their rule.

19.T) لأن الظالمين دائماً ما يُواجهون من قبل أولئك الذين يخضعون لحكمهم.

In the sentence above, the translation of the passive into an agentive passive in Arabic is inaccurate because using من قبل is grammatically unacceptable. This mistake could be resulting from the translator's tendency to translate literally, supposedly showing a higher degree of faithfulness to the ST. In contrast, using passivization strategy works successfully in translating English agentless passive verbs. Since the agent is not

mentioned due to different reasons, the problem of the inaccurate phrasing من قبل is avoided.

The different word order across English and Arabic is another restriction for translators. English sentences start with a subject. In other words, English has an SVO order; the sentence starts with the subject followed by the verb and then an object. Word order in Arabic, however, is mostly VSO. In fact, most Arabic sentences have this order and start with the verb, followed by the subject and then the object. The following sentence shows an inaccurate translation resulting from different word orders.

20.S) The Leahy Laws, which were designed to prevent US security assistance.

20.T) قوانين ليهي، التي صُممت لمنع تقديم المساعدات الأمنية الأمريكية.

The translator did not abide by the Arabic word order in the target sentence. The sentence should start with the passive form صُممت showing correspondence to the TL. The translation looks closer to the SL, for the translator has kept the same word order, maintaining the focus of ideas at the expense of the naturalness of translation.

Diacritics (Harkat) are another requirement that translators have to consider when translating English passives into Arabic passives. Arabic includes diacritics as parsing tools that indicate words and dictate their syntactical position. In the case of passive verbs, Arabic equivalent passive verbs have to be diacriticized because this is the main distinctive mark between the active and the passive voice. As mentioned previously, Arabic basic passive verbs are formed with a dammah on the first letter, a kasrah on the second and a fathah on the last. The pattern resulted is: فُعِلَ. Thus, the cornerstone of the process of forming passive verbs in Arabic is diacritics which play a role in the understanding of the meaning of sentences and distinguishing between voices. For example,

21.S) According to Order 55 on February 3, which seeks to reduce the spread of the virus, preventing its transmission in other regions where no cases of infection were recorded.

21.T) بموجب الأمر الديواني 55 في 3 شباط الماضي بتشكيل خلية أزمة بمتابعة الحد من انتشار هذا الفيروس ومنع انتقاله قدر الإمكان في المناطق الأخرى التي لم تسجل أي إصابة فيها.

Diacritic marks do not appear on the verb لم تسجل leaving it ambiguous to decide whether this verb is meant in the active voice or in the passive. From the rest of the sentence, the reader can figure out that this verb is passive and that there is an unknown agent who records the cases of infection. Hence, the role of diacritics (Al Midhwah, 2018), is to remove ambiguity and facilitate effortless word recognition.

4.2.2 Morphological restrictions on forming passives in Arabic

The morphological pattern of the Arabic passive verb restricts the translator since there are certain patterns in Arabic that do not appear in the passive form, as the pattern ifta9ala (Raso, 1996). However, if this pattern of verbs was accompanied with [human+] agents, its occurrence would become possible (Bakir, 1994). See the example below.

22.S) The true size of remittances, which includes formal and informal flows, is believed to be larger than officially reported data.

22.T) ويُعتقد أن الحجم الحقيقي للتحويلات التي تتضمن التدفقات الرسمية وغير الرسمية أكبر مما تشير إليه "البيانات المُسجَّلة رسمياً."

The present verb يُعتقد belongs to the category of اعتَقَدَ verb that has the pattern of ifta9ala. However, this verb is accurately rendered into a passive form because its agent is clear and refers to a [human+] agent.

4.3 English passive verbs translated using Actives

Sixty-four cases of English passive verbs were translated into Arabic active voice. This group is the second most used strategy in translating English passives after nominalization. Obviously, the active voice in the TT requires the agent to be in the subject position, thus foregrounded as the focus of the sentence. However, this replacement of English passive verbs by Arabic active verbs is subject to certain restrictions since actives strategy eliminates the passivity component in a passive clause, and deforms its internal semantic structure. The analysis, yet, has found that translating the English passives into actives in Arabic is motivated by a set of linguistic and stylistic preferences. First, there is a general tendency amongst translators to use the active form in Arabic because the passive is not a favored structural choice

(Rosenhouse, 1988). Using actives makes the text more natural as it avoids the abundance use of passives in English, especially in journalistic discourse. Second, the translation of the passive into active is preferable “in sentences where the grammatical subject is not the semantic agent but rather the goal or the patient, i.e., the recipient affected by the action of the verb”. (Raso, 2016, p.12). See the following examples.

23.S) All of these deficits are accentuated in the south

23.T) وتتفاقم جميع حالات العجز هذه في الجنوب

24.S) Taken together, individual and collective actions by an Arab Peace Coalition would have multiple benefits: ... counteracting the two-faced role currently played by Qatar, whose financial support to Hamas was shortsightedly okayed by Israel in recent years as a way to buy (or, more accurately, rent) calm.

24.T) يمكن للأعمال الفردية والجماعية التي يتخذها "تحالف سلام عربي" أن تكون لها فوائد متعددة، وهي: ... التصدي للدور المزدوج الذي تلعبه قطر حالياً، والتي وافقت إسرائيل بقصر نظر على دعمها المالي لـ «حماس» في السنوات الأخيرة كوسيلة للحفاظ على الهدوء (أو تأجيله بشكل أكثر دقة).

25.S) Vehicle imports were halted

25.T) الذي توقف فيه استيراد المركبات

In the above sentences, we notice that the use of actives is motivated by two preferences; the morphological pattern of the Arabic target verb, its intransitive mood, and its agent. Actives strategy is preferred in cases where the Arabic passive form has an unnatural morphological pattern. The verbs *توقف*، *وافقت*، *تتفاقم* are intransitive Arabic verbs which are not accompanied by an object. Hence, using equivalent Arabic passive verbs does not work. Even though Arabic syntax allows the occurrence of intransitive verbs provided that they are followed by a preposition to compensate the absence of complement, and that they occur in agentless passive clauses, not in agentive ones, these verbs remain morphologically odd and have unnatural rhetoric. As a consequence, using actives is preferred in these cases to maintain the naturalness of the TL and its morphological system.

On the other hand, when translators encounter agentive passives, they tend to use actives instead of using passives strategy, mentioning the agent, which is grammatically incorrect. Notice that in example (24) above, the agent is mentioned, which makes using actives preferable over passives. Khalil (1993) emphasizes this idea by assuming that English-Arabic translators have a tendency towards transposing English passive verbs into Arabic active ones as long as English agentive passive sentences occur in a text.

4.3.1 Shift of focus

Applying actives strategy creates basic structural changes in the passive clause. It reorders the NPs and moves the focus back to the agent. This shift may be unwanted by the author because it brings emphasis back to elements that were neglected in the source clause. See the following example.

26.S) The agenda item was slammed by UN Watch, a nonprofit that tracks alleged incidents of anti-Israel bias in the United Nations and its bodies, where pro-Israel critics say there is an automatic majority against the Jewish state.

26.T)

وانتقدت "UN Watch"، وهي منظمة غير ربحية تتعقب الحوادث المزعومة للتحيز ضد إسرائيل في الأمم المتحدة وهيئاتها، جدول أعمال الهيئة الأممية، حيث يقول منتقدون مؤيدون لإسرائيل أن هناك أغلبية تلقائية ضد إسرائيل

The focus in the source passive sentence was on the agenda item which was backgrounded in the target clause when actives strategy was employed whereas the focus in the target sentence was on the UN Watch, having the highest emphasis. This shift of focus is a part of the contextual meaning of the clause, and changing it leads to modifying the contextual meaning as a whole and narrates the events of the clause from a different perception.

4.3.2 Word order

Actives strategy changes the word order of the passive clause. When using actives, the sentence returns to its regular basic form (agent + verb). Usually, Arabic language starts the sentences with the verb followed by the agent. Thus, translators have to respect the word order of the TL and adhere to it in order to produce a natural translation. Consider the following examples.

27.S) It was submitted by the Palestinian delegation and co-sponsored by 26 countries.

27.T) وقد قدم مشروع القرار الوفد الفلسطيني بمشاركة 26 دولة.

28.S) Hamas is poised to enter the election unified and disciplined.

28.T) حماس تستعد لخوض الانتخابات بشكل منظم وموحد.

The above two sentences are examples of how the translator has applied actives strategy without respecting the Arabic sentence word order. Hence, the two translations seem unnatural for Arab readers. In sentence (27), the translator has started with the verb, followed by the object, not the agent. Instead, the translator should have begun like this *مشروع القرار* to make the translation sound natural. Changing the word order leads to a change in the semantic relations of the NPs, making *مشروع القرار* become the agent and *الوفد الفلسطيني* the object, which is semantically incorrect and does not correspond to the meaning of the source passive clause. In sentence (28), the translator should have begun the sentence with the verb instead of the agent. Thus, the sentence should be *تستعد حماس لخوض الانتخابات*. Both translations seem closer to the English construction rather than the Arabic one. Hence, word order is a crucial issue that needs to be respected through translation, especially in the case of passive verbs due to the different arrangements of word-order it makes in a sentence.

In brief, actives strategy is preferable for translating English passive verbs, and it can be employed when encountering agentive passive forms or verbs whose morphological pattern is odd. Further, it can be used as long as the semantic relations among the participants of NPs are preserved, which is achieved by respecting the word order of the TL.

4.4 English passive verbs translated using Adjectivals

Arabic passive participles or adjectivals are those verbs that entail minimum action. According to Farghal (1994), they fall under the category of “stative or non-dynamic verbs that involve minimal action”. (p.109). He conditions that this strategy is used only to describe states rather than actions. In other words, this strategy does not work in sentences that include a sense of continuity or contain expressions that refer to it as being. Twelve cases out of 179 were rendered into Arabic passive participles. Ghalaayini (1982) justifies using adjectivals as a strategy for translating English passives as long as the passive participle is derived from the passive verb and performs the same function. Based on this, there is a ‘semantic affinity’ between the passive verb and its participle. Consider the examples below.

29.S) Unaware that microphones had not been muted.

29.T) ودون أن يعرف أن الميكروفونات لا تزال مفتوحة

30.S) A country influenced by Saudi-inspired extremist beliefs.

30.T) وهي دولة متأثرة بالمعتقدات المحافظة المتطرفة المستلهمة من السعودية

31.S) Rebuilding Gaza should be conditioned on intrusive monitoring measures.

31.T) يجب أن تكون إعادة إعمار غزة مشروطة بإجراءات مراقبة تدخلية

32.S) What is also new is that the protests in East Jerusalem are being associated with the old Palestinian politician.

32.T) الجديد أيضًا أن الاحتجاجات في القدس الشرقية مرتبطة بالفصائل الفلسطينية القديمة.

The first three passive verbs above (had not been muted, is influenced, should be conditioned) express the state of the NPs (microphones, a country, and rebuilding Gaza). They have been rendered into Arabic adjectivals (مفتوحة, متأثرة, مشروطة) which provide a description for the preceding NPs. However, there is a shift of form from an action in the source text to a state in the target text. This shift is to befit the norms of the Arabic language that sacrifice the form of the source passive in order to avoid using unaccepted or odd Arabic target passive verbs. It can be added here that despite the fact

that there is a shift of form between the English source verb and the Arabic participle, they remain derivatives of the passive verbs and have the same function found in the source sentences. For example, in sentence (30), the translated passive form of the verb is influenced is 'ثُوِّرَ' which seems unnatural in rhetoric and infrequent in usage. Thus, using adjectivals works when translating passive verbs whose morphological pattern does not come in the passive form.

Sometimes, translators make changes on the semantic level within clauses that enable them to easily use the strategy they want. Notice in sentence (29), the translator has translated had not been muted to 'مفتوحة'. It is an adjective resulting from using a double negative relation. This change of form from a verb to an adjective, and adding an antonym entail a change in meaning whose significance is minor though. The translator has chosen to offer an accessible functional translation at the expense of preserving the form of the source passive verb.

On the other hand, the translator has made a mistake in using adjectivals for translating the passive verb in sentence (32). The verb are being associated expresses a continuous action in which the protests keep going on. The passive verb does not express a state or even a description of the protests. Hence, the adjectival 'مرتبطة' does not provide the same meaning intended in the source text. Instead, the translator could have chosen actives strategy using the verb 'ترتبط' and restructuring the elements of the clause in order to put the verb in the first position.

In summary, this chapter deals with the strategies used in translating English passive verbs into Arabic. It discusses four strategies, namely normalization, passives, actives and adjectivals. Each strategy demands certain requirements and is bound to different restrictions in order for it to be acceptable. A translator needs to choose the suitable strategy based on the syntax, morphology and contextual meaning of the source passive. Any preference of one strategy over the other should be justified based on the criteria previously mentioned.

Chapter Five

Conclusion

English and Arabic employ distinct linguistic tools to express passivization. This diversity across the two languages results in some challenges during translating passive forms from English into Arabic. This study is an attempt at constructing guidelines for how to translate passives, taking into consideration the syntactic and semantic rules of the two languages. The analysis of the English-Arabic media texts arrives to the following conclusions.

First, four strategies for translating passives are employed with this order of frequency: nominalization (43%), actives (35.7%), passives (14.5) and adjectivals (6.8%). Nominalization is the most common used strategy even though it is a foreign strategy for Arabic and is closer to the English syntax. However, it is frequently used in media texts for its ease and simplicity given the influence of literal translation that is found in translators' minds. Nominalization is a category shift that includes changing verbs into noun phrases that function as subjects. It changes events into abstract processes. In the translated material, it has been found that there are two categories of nominalization where each has a different syntactic realization. The first is dummy-nominalized constructions and the second is dummy-less nominalized constructions. Dummy constructions are those that function as tense markers and as the controller of the nominalization in sentences. These constructions consist of two types; prepositional nominalized structures and verbal nominalized structures. Prepositional nominalized structures neither do change the semantic load of the source passive verb nor do they modify the speaker's tonality. Verbal nominalized structures, however, comprise two sub-categories; passive nominalized verbs and active nominalized verbs. The former has only a regulatory role in forming passives. The latter adds additional meaning to the clause. As for the dummy-less constructions, they only include the noun phrase without a dummy construction preceding it. Using nominalization strategy leads to a change in the modality scale sometimes by employing active verbal nominalized constructions. Hence, the translators' role is to maintain the modality scale of the English source passive and render it to an equivalent Arabic passive verb. Otherwise, the meaning desired will be affected during the translation. Furthermore, using nominalization is preferred in the

case of agentless passive constructions. If a translator has chosen to employ nominalization on agentive passives, he/she can use it on the condition of avoiding ungrammatical phrases such as *من قبل* to mention the agent. On the other hand, verb tense is found to be a factor that dictates using nominalization in translating passives. The first tense is the infinitive with eight cases belonging to it. Out of these eight cases, seven were nominalized and one was translated using the strategy of passives. Nominalization is employed due to the fact that infinitives and nominalization share the idea of expressing a quality or entity apart from an object. The second tense is modals. 18 modal passives verbs out of 27 were nominalized constituting a percentage of 67%. Using nominalization changes the action from a mobile activity into an abstract process which is perceived as a regulation. This encourages the use of nominalization in translating English passive modals because they both have a similar semantic function. To conclude, loss of form and meaning when translating passive voice form English into Arabic using nominalization strategy is inevitable.

The second strategy for translating passives is actives. The use of actives is motivated by two preferences; the morphological pattern of the Arabic target verb, its intransitive mood, and its agent. Actives strategy is preferred in cases where the Arabic passive form has an unnatural morphological pattern. In addition, when translators encounter agentive passives, they tend to use actives instead of using passives strategy and including the agent, which is grammatically incorrect. However, since there is a change in form from the passive voice into active, there will be some change in meaning. First, using actives makes a shift of focus in the clause. This shift of focus is a part of the contextual meaning of the clause and changing it leads to modifying the contextual meaning as a whole and narrates the events of the clause from a different perspective. Second, actives strategy changes the word order of the source passive clause. Thus, translators have to respect the word order of the Arabic language and adhere to its system of word order to produce natural translations.

The third strategy is passivization. Translators prefer to use this strategy because it maintains the form and function of the source passive verb in the target language. However, the analysis shows that there are syntactic and morphological restrictions on the use of passives in Arabic. Diacritics are one of these syntactic norms that should be followed during translation. They are the main distinctive mark between the active and

the passive voice in Arabic. Thus, these marks play a role in comprehending the meaning of the sentence. As for the morphological limitations, there are certain patterns in Arabic that do not appear in the passive form, as the pattern ifta9ala. However, its occurrence is correct provided that it is accompanied with [human+] agents.

The final strategy is adjectivals. This strategy entails a minimum action that is only used to describe states rather than actions. In other words, this strategy does not work in sentences that include a sense of continuity or contain expressions that refer to it as being. The use of this strategy is conditioned upon the fact that the passive participle is derived from the passive verb have the same function.

In closing, English and Arabic are rich in their syntax and morphology. Thus, translational problems are certain and unavoidable. However, a translator needs first to fully understand the systems of the two languages and investigate their syntactic, morphological and semantic norms in order to construct meaning easily. Passive voice has its own worth; it also attracts attention since it is a syntactic phenomenon in both languages that cannot be ignored. Instead, it needs to be carefully investigated and translated based on the linguistic norms of the two languages. Each strategy for translating passives has special usages and marked conditions. As a result, translators should translate the passive voice attentively, and their translational decisions have to be strategically-motivated to produce the best translations. Any preference of one strategy over another should be justified based on the syntactic and morphological restrictions of the two languages.

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الملخص

تدرس هذه الأطروحة التحديات التي يواجهها المترجمون العرب عند ترجمة صيغة الفعل المبني للمجهول من اللغة الإنجليزية للعربية في المقالات الإخبارية. تشكل مثل هذه الاختلافات صعوبات للترجمة بين اللغتين والتي ستؤثر على الترجمة؛ حيث أن هذه الاختلافات تأتي على الصعيدين النحوي والصوتي. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل نصوص إخبارية إنجليزية والتي قد جمعت من مواقع إخبارية متعددة، كما تهدف أيضاً إلى تحديد استراتيجيات الترجمة المستخدمة في ترجمة صيغة المبني للمجهول بأشكاله المختلفة. ويقدم هذا البحث بعضاً من الأخطاء النحوية الشائعة في ترجمة هذه الصيغة واقتراح حلول ممكنة لتفادي مثل تلك الأخطاء. يعتمد تحليل النصوص على إجراء مقارنة شاملة بين الفعل المبني للمجهول في اللغة الإنجليزية ونظيره في العربية. وترتكز هذه المقارنة على مجموعة من المدارس اللغوية الإنجليزية في الترجمة والقواعد النحوية العربية والتي تُعتبر معايير للترجمة يوجبُ الامتثال بها.

توصلت الدراسة إلى أن المترجمين يستخدمون أربع استراتيجيات مختلفة عند ترجمة صيغة الفعل المبني للمجهول، حيث أن لكل استراتيجية شروطاً واستخدامات وتفضيلات معينة تميزها عن الأخرى. كما وجدت الدراسة أن على المترجم أن يحدد استراتيجية الترجمة المناسبة بعقلانية ولدوافع وجيهة. فأي قرار غير مبني على أسس لغوية صحيحة سوف يؤثر على جودة الترجمة وعلى نقل المعلومات بصورة سليمة وصحيحة. وأخيراً، تسعى هذه الدراسة إلى تحقيق هدف تربوي وهو تكوين نموذج بسيط ومنظم يسهل على المترجمين ترجمة الفعل المبني للمجهول ويرشدهم إلى طرق متنوعة لترجمة مثل هذه الصيغة.