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EFFAT COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING



Culture-related Challenges in Translating Nawal El Saadawi's *Two Women in One*

A thesis submitted to meet the Requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Translation and Interpreting in Accordance with the requirements of Effat University

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis titled **Culture-related Challenges in Translating Nawal El Saadawi's *Two Women in One*** has been written by myself and has not been submitted before for obtaining any degree qualifications.

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June 2023



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Abstract

The importance of culture in translation is significant, where culture provides a language with its value and enriches the translated context. This study aims to identify the translation challenges faced by the translator in translating culture-bound expressions taken from the novel *Two Women in One* from Arabic into English. This thesis investigates the strategies the Sudanese translator, Osman Alnusairi, applies to translate the culture-specific items, assuring that the novel's intended meaning and cultural flavor are preserved. This study employs a qualitative methodology and provides a detailed analysis of the translated cultural expressions from Arabic into English to identify cultural-related challenges faced based on Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000) of translating culture-specific concepts and the procedures of Newmark (1988). The findings of this thesis revealed that the translator faced barriers related to cultural expressions in translating the novel. Therefore, the translator applied some of the suggested procedures of Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000), and Newmark (1988) to deal with these cultural expressions. This study concludes that culture and translation are inseparable, and that culture plays a considerable role in linguistics, affecting both the source text ST and target text TT.

Keywords— cultural translation, culture-related challenges, culture-specific items, translation strategies.

المستخلص

تعد الثقافة عاملاً مهماً في مجال الترجمة، حيث تمد اللغة قيمة للثقافة بقيمتها وتثري السياق المترجم عند الترجمة. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التعرف على تحديات الترجمة التي يواجهها المترجم في ترجمة التعبيرات الثقافية المأخوذة من رواية "امراتان في واحدة" من العربية إلى الإنجليزية. تبحث هذه الدراسة في الاستراتيجيات التي يطبقها المترجم السوداني عثمان النصيري لترجمة السياق الخاص بالثقافة، والتأكد من الحفاظ على المعنى المقصود للرواية بالحفاظ على ثقافة اللغة الأخرى. تستخدم هذه الدراسة منهجية نوعية وتقدم تحليل مفصلاً لأشكال التعبير الثقافي المترجمة من العربية إلى الإنجليزية لتحديد التحديات ذات الصلة بالثقافة التي تواجهها بنا على نموذج فيناي وداربلنت (2000/1958) لترجمة المفاهيم الخاصة بالثقافة ونموذج نيو مارك في العام (1988). كشفت نتائج هذه الدراسة أن المترجم واجه مشاكل أثناء ترجمته للتعبيرات الثقافية في الرواية. لذلك، طبق المترجم بعض الإجراءات التي اقترحها فيناي وداربلنت (2000/1958) ونيومارك (1988) للتعامل مع أشكال التعبير الثقافي هذه. تلخص هذه الدراسة أن الثقافة والترجمة أمران لا ينفصلان، وأن الثقافة تلعب دوراً كبيراً في علم اللغة حيث تؤثر على كل من النص المصدر ST والنص الهدف

.TT

الكلمات المفتاحية: الترجمة الثقافية، العناصر الخاصة بالثقافة، استراتيجيات الترجمة، أشكال التعبير الثقافي.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
ST	Source Text
TT	Target Text
SL	Source Language
TL	Target Language
CSI	Culture-Specific Item

Introduction

Culture has a strong bond with translation; it can help develop the connection between different cultures and religions in English and Arabic. It could be challenging to translate the source text ST to the target text due to the differences that the source text ST holds in terms of culture. For instance, the meaning of some words in the ST can vary from one language to another, with different colloquial expressions, and slang words. Therefore, having a deep knowledge of the source language in the translation process is required for translators to achieve a successful translation to some extent where the reader can understand the culture.

This research aims to identify procedures and methods applied to translate the novel *Two Women in One*. This study investigates how the translator used cultural procedures to translate the novel from Arabic into English, as culture plays a significant role in conveying and delivering the meaning from different languages and cultures.

This thesis has helped in assuming the challenges in translating cultural expressions and how one translator uses his ideology to deal with them as a translator. The main argument of this study is how a native Arab translator deals with translating culture-related procedures from Arabic into English.

1. The writer of *Two Women in One* novel

Nawal El Saadawi is an Egyptian feminist writer, thinker, and physician. Most of her writings were dedicated to women in her country and other Arab countries. Besides her discussion about Arab women, she discussed social issues such as poverty, patriarchy, and Islam in her novel الوجه العاري للمرأة or *The Hidden Face of Eve* (1977) in English. She reflected on eight decades of Arab

society and Arab. She wrote nearly fifty books in Arabic, most of which were translated into English. This study aims to discuss one of her famous novels concerning women in Arab society. *Two Women in One* is a novel written in 1975 and translated into English in 1985 and 2020 by the translator Osman Al Nusairi. This study aims to discuss how the translator translated the novel and what strategies he used to overcome the cultural barrier in such a novel.

2. The translator of *Two Women in One* novel

Osman Al Nunsiri is a Sudanese translator, a writer, and a former staff member at King's London College. He has translated some novels from Arabic into English like *The Pistachio of Sellerby* Reem Bassiouney, and books translated from English into Arabic such as *The Rule of Law, Lord* by Thomas Bingham. He also translated the book *An Index to the Complete Works of Imam al-Mahdi* which was published in 2009.

3. Aims of the study

This study focuses on (1) identifying the cultural challenges in translating the novel *Two Women in One*, and (2) the procedures and methodologies used to render culture-specific items from Arabic into English.

4. Research questions

The main aim of investigating the culture-related challenges in the novel *Two Women in One* and what approach the translator has taken to overcome the challenges.

Q1: What are the possible challenges faced by the translator in translating culture-specific items in the novel *Two Women in One* from Arabic into English?

Q2: What are the procedures used to translate these expressions?

The first question focuses on exploring the culture-related barriers that are faced by the translator and assures an explanation behind the challenge. The following question intends to explore what procedures the translator would think of throughout his translation process in translating the novel from Arabic into English.

5. Significance of the study

This study sheds light on the cultural difficulties translators encounter in dealing with a text rich in cultural context. *Two Women in One* is an Egyptian novel translated from Arabic to English. The importance of this study is that it discusses cultural problems that arise from cultural differences.

This thesis is important because it addresses the challenges the translators faced during the translation process of the cultural expressions in the novel. These challenges might include barriers to comprehending the cultural items and their accurate meaning. The study provides a comprehensive insight into the obstacles of translating culture-related terms in different categories, such as religious and cultural expressions, in which it presents the complexity of the translations of the translator.

In addition, this study examines the procedures used by the translator and the intended purpose of applying them. Translators' overviews in translating culture-related expressions can be completely

different and might not always be as accurate. Therefore, highlighting these procedures may give translators a better understanding of when to employ such strategies in a cultural term.

The significance of this study lies in highlighting the importance of using culture-related procedures in translation to understand other cultures. By examining the culture-related challenges encountered by the translators and implementing the procedures for the translation piece, the quality of future cultural references could be improved. It may focus on cultural diversity in translation.

6. Rationale behind the study

Translators play a significant role in delivering the meaning of the message with keeping the cultural aspects in the target language. Translating culture-related expressions in a more understood way forces translators to have at least a good level of access to the cultures of both the ST and the TT. As this study analyzes the novel *Two Women in One* by Nawal El Saadawi, the rationale behind choosing this study is that this novel consists of different cultural expressions. The novel *Two Women in One* discusses different topics in the Arab culture, such as feminism, gender, and sexuality. Hence, as the translator Osman Alnusairi is from an Arab country, the researcher is curious to identify how the culture-related items were translated from one culture to the writer's culture.

7. Research Methodology:

This descriptive study focuses on identifying culture-related challenges in the Egyptian novel *Two Women in One*, written by Nawal El Saadawi. This thesis is conducted through the application of the qualitative approach. An in-depth analysis is made of the culture-related challenges based on Vinay and Darbelnet's (1958/2000) procedures of translating culture-specific concepts and through the methods of the scholar Newmark (1988). Also, this study identifies the methods applied by the translator of *Two Women in One* and evaluates the appropriateness of these procedures' usage.

The novel was originally written in Arabic, forwarded by Deeyah Khan, and translated into English by the translator Osman Alnusairi. This thesis gives a thorough literature review related to culture, translation, and culture-related expressions. The study's findings will capture the current culture-related challenges in cultural work and suggest procedures to fix the cultural barrier.

Chapter 1: Literature Review

1.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the various studies conducted on the culture-related challenges translators face and the tools used to overcome them. Different scholars have developed a translation strategy that would help to overcome translation challenges. This chapter reviews translation and culture, which gives an overview of the connection between translation and culture, as it presents the most relevant studies regarding this section. In the following section, culture-bound expressions are discussed, and some studies on the topic are presented. After that, cultural translation strategies were highlighted, and different cultural expressions were explained. By the end of this chapter, there are the empirical studies that present various studies related to this research study.

2.1. Translation and Culture

The process of translating the cultural context from the source text (ST) to the target text (TT) can be challenging for some translators. Such obstacles lie in that some ST rich with cultural meaning might not be fully rendered well in the TT. In translating cultural texts, translators must take into consideration the meaning behind the culture of the translated language. Culture in one language might be understood differently in another language. Culture has been defined differently; Taylor (1871) stated that "culture includes beliefs, arts, skills, moralities, laws, traditions, and behaviors that an individual gets from his own society." Culture is also defined as "culture, in any of its meanings, is a property of a human group. If one cannot define the group, then one cannot define the culture of that group." This explains that culture is mainly associated with language, which defines language as a system of communication that consists of sound, words, and grammar. On

the other hand, translation is explained by Akbari (2013) as “Translation, involving the transposition of thoughts expressed in one language by one social group into the appropriate expression of another group, entails a process of cultural de-coding, re-coding, and en-coding.” Therefore, in any text being translated, translators must consider the culture to avoid errors in meaning. Many research papers have discussed overcoming cultural texts by applying different strategies. Al-Hassan (2013) argues that the translation concept can be problematic: What meaning is intended? Is it semantic or pragmatic or social? he asked. His paper explained the importance of culture in translation by analyzing some literary works. He explored various examples to explain the proper techniques used for readers to understand the significance of the texts. After the analysis of the collected cultural expressions exported from Shakespeare’s famous play Hamlet, he claimed that balancing the strategies of domestication and foreignization will make the recent community readers understand some cultural and literary texts easily. His finding suggested that translating cultural expressions with specific strategies can keep the value of the ST into consideration and that it is important to render culture properly in the translation process. Hence, Translation is considered as “an act of communication across cultures.” According to House (2009). This explains that translation is a bridge between two different languages and societies which advocates the translator to have at least a mere knowledge about two cultures when translating text that evolves different cultural implications. Shmasnh (2022) investigated how the translator’s comprehension of the cultural context affects rendering the ST. In detail, this study has analyzed two versions of cultural texts from Arabic into English. After comparing the two versions of the contexts using qualitative methodology, results showed that translators who had full awareness of the cultural background of the texts achieved sufficient translation of the ST, unlike translators with less knowledge of the texts’ culture, which allow them to conduct translations less flavor in

the ST. For this reason, cultural differences are considered a crucial element in the translation process and affect the translated product. Baker (2018) points out that “The source-language word may express a concept which is unknown in the target culture. The concept in question may be abstract or concrete; it may relate to a religious belief, a social custom, or even a type of food.” Hence, translation challenges can arise not only from the lack of equivalence but also from the grammatical level. Some researchers investigated the impact of cultural awareness on Indonesian advanced English female learners’ grammar knowledge. They divided the participant into two groups, an experimental and a control group. One group took a grammar pre-test to assess their level of grammar. After the pre-test, instructors taught grammar to one group using cultural material and applied the traditional method of teaching to the other group. The findings showed that the first group scored high on the test, unlike the second group. This explains that language and culture are connected. Therefore, the relationship between culture and language may cause issues for translators when translating cultural contexts.

2.2. Culture-bound expressions

Cultural expressions can be defined as a set of utterances that involves idioms, slang, taboos, metaphors, proverbs, and collocations. Translating culture-bound expressions recommends having the presence of both exposures to the culture and engagement with the SL surrounding. Many scholars have defined culture-bound expression differently. According to Baker (2018), culture-bound expressions are, in fact, culture-specific items. She views ‘culture-specific’ as the concepts of anything related to a social group or religious belief. An example of such a culture-specific item is the word ‘privacy’ in the English Language. She claims that such a word is purely English-related and is impossible to be understood by other cultures. Al-Yasin (2022) investigated culture-bound expressions in the field of dubbing. The researcher has investigated the translation

procedure of culture-bound expressions in the Egyptian vernacular dubbed versions of three Disney animated movies. The data were from three animated movies, *The Lion King*, *Toy Story 2*, and *Finding Nemo*. The methodology applied to analyze the dubbed culture-bound expressions was Tomszkiewicz's procedure of both dubbing and subtitling. Findings revealed that the most frequent method applied by translators is adaptation. Translating culture-bound expressions recommends using different strategies, unlike the literal approach in which it loses the meaning of the cultural implication.

2.3. Strategies and procedures of Vinay and Darbelnet

Vinay and Darbelnet, the French scholars, have created a translation approach called "Stylistic Procedures," which was first introduced in 1958 in the French language. These seven procedures are divided into two strategies. These methodologies are direct translation and indirect or oblique translation. Direct translation involves three procedures, borrowing or transliteration, calque, and literal translation. There are four procedures for indirect translation: modulation, equivalence, transportation, and adaptation. These procedures were translated by the scholars Sager and Hamel in the year 1990 and were documented in the book *A Practical Course in Terminology Processing*. After translating these procedures from French into English, the scholar Ghazala applied these procedures to Arabic examples mentioned in the republished textbook *Translation As Problems and Solutions* in the year 2008. The first procedure is called borrowing or transliteration and is defined as when there is no corresponding term in the target language; a word or phrase from the SL is directly employed in the TL. Calque is a translation procedure replicating the grammar and word order of the original language word for word or phrase for phrase. For the literal translation, this procedure entails translating a text word-for-word without considering the context of the

original text. The transposition procedure entails modifying a word's part of speech without altering its meaning, for example, turning a noun into a verb. The modulation procedure changes the text's perspective or point of view while maintaining its meaning. Equivalence is defined as the translation process that replaces a phrase in the source language with a phrase in the target language that has the same meaning but is more idiomatic or culturally acceptable. The sixth procedure, which is called adaptation, takes into consideration the cultural variations between the source language and the destination language. The last procedure is synthesis which is the process of translating a text by combining several techniques. These procedures are used to translate a text from one language to another more accurately while preserving its tone, style, and meaning.

2.4. Newmark's translation model

To find a suitable way to translate culture-related expressions, Newmark has developed a set of methodologies that help translators render cultural references in other cultures. A total of 17 procedures were developed, and they are transference procedures, which means translating the SL word into a TL text. Naturalization is a procedure that adapts the SL word to the usual pronunciation before doing the same for the TL's typical morphology (word forms). The method of cultural equivalence is the process of approximating the translation of an SL cultural term using a TL term. Functional equivalence is a procedure that is applied to cultural words and requires the use of a culture-free word. This method is used with a new specific term; it therefore neutralizes or generalizes the SL word. A descriptive equivalent is a way of explaining the ST expression in various words to the TL. It focuses on describing the culture-related expression. For the following method, which is the synonym in which it refers to an approximate TL equivalent of the SL word in the absence of an equivalent in the TL. This procedure is used when there is no equivalent in the SL. According to Newmark (1988), the procedure of Through translation or loan translation is

defined as "the literal translation of common collocations, names of organizations, the components of compounds" (p. 84). Shift or Transportation, on the other hand, is also a method that is classified into four types of shifting. The first type is the change in grammar which occurs from the differences in the grammatical between the ST and the TT. The second type is the grammatical structure in both languages. The third type of shifting is when the ST is acceptable in terms of grammar. However, the translation might sound strange in the TL. The last type is the replacement of the ST's grammatical structure with a lexical structure in the TL. As for the procedure of modulation, it explains the change of a message of the ST in the TL text due to the different perspectives that occur in both the SL and TL. The method of recognized translation refers to the official or authorized translation of an ST. like the term 'Ministry of Health' translated as 'وزارة الصحة'. The procedure translation label relates to the provisional translation and can be done via the method of a literal translation. According to Newmark (1988), the method of compensation refers to "when loss of meaning, sound- effect, metaphor or pragmatic effect in one part of a sentence is compensated in another part of a contiguous sentence" (p. 90). This method helps in adding the formality of the language to the other language. For componential analysis procedure, it is a translation method created by Newmark in 1988 to pinpoint the essential elements or characteristics of a word's meaning to comprehend its semantic structure. It entails dissecting a word's meaning into more manageable semantic units or components to enable a more thorough investigation of its meaning. As for the procedure of reduction and expansion, it explains that expansion is a tool applied to use more words in the TT to express the meaning of the SL lexical. However, the reduction is the omission of unnecessary elements of the ST. The method of paraphrasing, as it was defined by Newmark in 1988, entails rephrasing a sentence or phrase while preserving its original meaning. This approach can be used to help readers comprehend the

subtleties of a certain language. The couplets method is used by the translator to deal with one issue. In other words, it helps translators retain important vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in the source language and discover acceptable translations in the target language; Newmark, in 1988, coined the term "couplets method" for translation. The sound and flow of the language are crucial in creative texts like poetry. The last procedure created by Newmark (1988) is the method of notes which explains the use of notes or annotations during the translation process. This can include annotations to clarify idiomatic terms, cultural references, or other parts of the source material that the target audience might not be familiar with. Hence, Ghazala (2000) has developed the methodologies of Newmark (1988) and provided an Arabic example in his book *Translation as Problems and Solutions*, which was republished in the year (2008).

2.5. Application of Vinay and Darbelnet procedures

Delivering the meaning behind the cultural context can encounter a dilemma for some translators. Hence, it can be challenging to translate the ST to the TT due to the differences that the ST holds in terms of culture. In other words, the meaning of some words in the ST can vary from one language to another; it also can have different colloquial expressions and slang words. Therefore, having a deep knowledge of the ST in the translation process is required for translators to achieve a successful translation where the reader can understand and feel the target language in their own culture. Different scholars have developed some strategies to overcome the cultural barriers among translators. Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000) believe that translating an equivalent of a cultural expression in the SL in a dictionary might not produce a good, translated text. Therefore, according to them, each method has a different concept in which it can be employed in translating complex to simplified cultural expressions. For instance, the borrowing strategy is used in texts that are different in the meta-linguistics and considered a straightforward method. In other

words, it employs SL terminologies in the TT. The purpose of this technique is to naturalize the text and make it fit the TT. Abudawood (2017) states that “Borrowing strategy is usually the best strategy to follow when it comes to the cultural names or fixed terms.” Al-Agha (2006) proposed an example of the usage of a borrowing strategy in food advertisements from English to Arabic. He explains that one translator has translated the term ‘Chillie Chicken’ into ‘تشلي الدجاج,’ which contradicts the original and literal meaning of (hot spicy chicken). However, using this type of procedure confused Arab stakeholders. Elmira (2021) explains the equivalence procedure as if it is applied in the translation process; it can maintain the stylistic impact of the SL text in the TL text. This procedure renders two texts with different styles and structures. Kashgary (2010) argues that “equivalence is the essence of translation; non-equivalence constitutes an equally legitimate concept in the translation process.” A paper conducted by Zayed., Sulong, Husain & Yahya (2021) where they find that most translators use the method of paraphrasing when translating idiomatic expressions, along with a literal translation approach. The results of translating the novel *Men in the Sun* in their research revealed that a total of 21 idiomatic expressions were translated by paraphrasing strategy. An example of this strategy is the translation of ‘كفناك دالال’ translated into ‘stop making difficulties’ in which they believe that the SL conveys a clear meaning of the SL idiom and shows the main idea of the SL. The adaptation procedure, on the other hand, is where the SL and the TL happen to have a complete cultural difference between them. Al-Yasin (2022) explains the definition of Tomaszekiewicz’s (1996) adaptation procedure as “Adaptation, where the translation is adjusted to the target language and culture in an attempt to evoke similar connotations to the original. Strictly speaking, this can be considered a form of equivalence.” In research conducted by Al-Rubaii and Saeed (2021), they investigated the effect of culture in the translation of selected advertisements between English and Arabic. They discussed how tourist

advertisements in Petra, Jordan, had been translated using an adaptation procedure. One of the terms they have discussed is the word 'البترا: مدينة وردية، عمرها من عمر الزمن' that is rendered as 'Petra: a rose-red city, half as old as time.' They explained that this method applied has "the extent that one can infer the loose translation it implies, and this is permissible." The modulation procedure, on the other hand, shares a different concept to the adaptation approach. As explained above, Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000) viewed the modulation procedure as the idea of "a variation through a change of viewpoint, of perspective, and very often of the category of thought." This interprets that the modulation procedure mainly changes the perspective of the ST to avoid losing the sense of meaning in the TL. Furthermore, there are two types of modulation: free and fixed modulation. The free modulation type is when the TL allows the translator to apply different expressions while assuring full accuracy of the meaning. On the other hand, fixed modulation is where the translator has less access to a variety of expressions in the translation process. An example is exported from a thesis conducted by Abudawood (2017) that explains the modulation. The word 'walnut' has been translated into 'عين الجمل' in Arabic and not translated literally into 'ثمرة الجوز.' This expression is rendered through the free translation approach, which shows that the translator reached the highest degree of finding the best equivalence and concentrated on the norms of the TL. Calque translation is classified as a literal translation approach. It is an effective procedure used to adapt phrases or compound words, literally and in the same order. Meanwhile, calque translation considers delivering the literal meaning of the TL without adding any sense of flavor to the text. Metwally (2022) has explained that the calque translation is best used to translate culture-specific items, particularly color items. Like the example 'give the green light' that is translated into 'يعطي الضوء الأخضر.' Therefore, the translator has preserved some aspects of the TT culture.

2.6. Empirical Studies

Generally, translation is a field that has different translation theories proposed by many scholars and scientists to get the best out of the translations that arise from different languages and cultures, in particular, cultural translation. Ghazala (2018) explained that translators differ in their translation style and level of creativity. Therefore, there have been studies that examined how translators used different stylistic choices that enabled them to translate rich cultural texts. Habtoor and Al-Qahtani (2018) explore the translation of cultural children's literature from English into Arabic. They conclude that the most proper translation strategies that are used to render the intercultural content of children's literature are domestication and foreignization. They also believe that the foreignization method is ideal for translators to keep the flavor of the ST. Qin (2023) investigates the strategies used to translate Chinese colloquial expressions to English in science fiction. This research finds that to avoid cultural misunderstanding in idioms, the domestication strategy is suitable for such content. Kardiansyah and Salam (2020) discuss translators' strategies for translating cultural Indonesian novels into English. As this novel is filled with cultural terms, their finding reveals that the foreignization method is one of the most used strategies applied by the translator. It explains that the foreignization mode can make readers realize the work they read is not rendered. In a research paper conducted by Mustafa (2018), the aim of it was to develop a model to identify areas of relevance and translate culture-specific terms between English and Sorani Kurdish. It was based on Nord's (1997) multi-level functional approach to translation and Dickins' (2012) grid of distinctions in translation procedures. The model was applied to an English-Kurdish parallel corpus, which included 4 texts chosen for their potentially culture-specific content. The analysis was divided into four aspects: culture-specific terms, the proportion of primary, secondary, and other terms, the proportion of different translation

techniques used, and the commissioners' apparent priorities. This study examined the success of translation about formality, foreignization/domestication, synonymy, ST hypernymy – TT hyponymy, ST hyponymy – TT hypernymy, semantic overlap, and others. The sixth section examined the translation procedures used to translate culture-specific terms. Another study conducted by Maboke (2021), investigates effective translation strategies and procedures used in the translation of culture-specific lexical items from English to Sepedi. It employs a qualitative approach and interpretive paradigm, which originates from hermeneutics, and seven translation procedures proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000). The results of this research reveal that translation strategies and methods coincide with the theories from which they originate, that the efficacy of translation strategies and procedures is influenced by the translator's lexical choice, that linguistic and cultural competence is important, and that the effective application of translation methods and procedures depends on the translator's adherence to principles of translation. However, different research papers investigated the cultural problems in subtitling. One research aims to identify the subtitling strategies employed in subtitling the Bedouin Jordanian Arabic dialect used in the movie "Theeb". The data is collected from the movie and analyzed, showing that not all the subtitling procedures were used, such as dislocation, condensation, decimation, and resignation. This article critically evaluates this subtitling, exposing pitfalls and offering more efficient renderings in a practical context.

2.7. Conclusion

This chapter provides a summary of the relationship between translation and culture and discusses the importance of culture in translation. It concludes that translation is important and is considered a bridge that connects different cultures. Therefore, both culture and translation cannot be separated. This part also outlined different approaches translators tend to apply to their culture-

related expressions. Some translators preferred to apply the strategies of domestication and foreignization instead. This part explored the history behind the translation procedures of Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000) and Newmark's (1988) methodologies. It also explained the application of the procedures of Vinay and Darbelnet and Ghazala's usage of Newmark's methods. It also presents different research papers that discuss cultural translations in different fields. This section summarizes previous studies that are relevant to this study.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

The previous chapter gave an informative discussion on different topics that relate to translation and culture. It discussed the translation strategies used by different translators. However, in the research methodology chapter, both the culture-specific items in Arabic and English are analyzed through the application of the procedures adopted by the scholars Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000) and Newmark (1988) which are used by the translator to overcome cultural challenges. The analysis shows that there were 25 cultural expressions in the novel *Two Women in One*.

The translator has applied some procedures to translate this novel. The researcher read the original novel first (in Arabic) and then the translated version (in English) thoroughly and extracted the culture-specific items in both versions and then analyzed them.

Translators can determine what procedure is applicable to use on a specific culture-bound expression. Hence, translators have a different point of view in using these procedures in which there is no clear order that needs to be followed when applying the procedures of culture-specific items translation. Each example of the cultural expression exported in the novel is mentioned along with the strategy used to translate it into both languages according to different scholars' strategies. Qualitative methodology was adopted by the researcher to be able to analyze the culture-related challenges of cultural expressions.

3.1. List of procedures

Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000)
1. Borrowing or transliteration
2. Calque
3. Literal translation
4. Modulation
5. Adaptation
6. Equivalence
7. Transposition

Newmark (1988)
1. Cultural equivalent
2. Naturalization
3. Compensation
4. Paraphrase

Chapter 4: Analysis and Discussion

4.1. Introduction

This part is designed to explain the cultural challenges faced by the translators and the approaches applied to overcome such cultural barriers from the ST to the TT. In this chapter, an explanation of the culture-specific items has been provided, and both procedures of translation developed by the scholars Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000) and Newmark (1988). The analysis has concluded that the translator faced cultural issues in translating the novel *Two Women in One*.

4.2. Culture-specific items:

Both Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000) and Newmark (1988) have discussed translation procedures to deal with the translation of cultural expressions. These procedures were used by the translator in the novel *Two Women in One*. These approaches are borrowing or transliteration, calque, literal translation, modulation, equivalence, transportation, and adaptation. In addition, this part discusses the procedures explained by the scholar, Newmark (1988) cultural equivalent, naturalization, synonym, recognized translation, compensation, and paraphrase.

4.2.1. Borrowing or transliteration:

This procedure is the process of transferring the SL word into the TL text in the original form of the item. In other words, the letters of a word in one language are pronounced in another language's letters as it is. The below table is the cultural items exported from the novel *Two Women in One*. The translator used the procedure of borrowing or transliteration developed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000) in translating culture-specific items in the novel as shown in the table above. As an example, the term 'جالليب' was transliterated as 'gallabiabs'. This term is, in fact, the plural of 'جالبية' and is defined as a loose cloth that is mostly worn in Arab culture. Therefore, the

translator has used this procedure to naturalize the term as suggested by Ghazala (2008). He suggests that the transliteration procedure compensates for untranslatable expressions. Another example is the expression ‘الترام’ which was translated into ‘Tram’ this term means a rail vehicle that is like a bus. Egyptians call it Tram or Cairo Tram. The following example is the widely used term in the Egyptian culture, ‘التوبيس’ which hold the meaning of ‘Bus’. The translator translated this term as ‘bus’ which leads the reader to the meaning without confusion.

Arabic ST	English TT
جاليب سوداء	Black <i>gallabiabs</i>
الترام	Tram
التوبيس	Bus

Table (1)

4.2.2. Calque:

The calque translation procedure defines as the procedure where the translator uses a direct translation of a term from the ST to the target language. This procedure involves retrieving a word or phrase from the ST and inventing a new equivalent in the target language by translating all components of the original text. As most translators apply this use in translating cultural terms, an outcome to this is that the target language always remains away from speech awkwardness, and shares the same meaning of the ST. An example of this strategy is in the below table.

Arabic ST	English TT
باب السالم	Gate of Peace

Table (2)

The first term is 'باب السالم' which was translated as 'Gate of Peace'. This term holds the meaning of religious contexts that refers to the main entrance to a mosque or a holy place in Islam. Therefore, the translator applied the strategy of loan or calque to avoid confusion for the Arab readers. In another example, the term 'القدر' is translated to the term 'destiny'. This term holds the approximate meaning in both cultures, Arabic and English. It refers to God's plan for an individual's own life despite their eternal damnation. The translator used this strategy to apply it to such a cultural text to convey the original meaning through this term.

4.2.3. Literal translation:

The literal translation is a procedure that involves a word-for-word type of translation of an ST in the TL ignoring the cultural differences among the two languages. These procedures take into consideration the structure of the sentence itself. This procedure is widely applied in different fields. Such as the religious context. In the novel, a couple of cultural expressions were translated using the literal procedure shown in the below table. The first term that was translated is the religious term 'ما شاء للا' which was translated literally as 'Mashallah' The second term is 'سالم' which was translated into 'Salam' which indicates peace. It is noticed that this procedure is applied in a religious context only.

Arabic ST	English TT
ما شاء للا	Mashallah
سالم	Salam

Table (3)

4.2.4. Modulation:

The procedure of modulation refers to the change of point of view which means the change in the part of speech of the term. It deals with converting the form of the message of the ST by changing the perspective of the message. Modulation is essential when it comes to translating culture-specific expressions because it avoids the awkward syntactic structure of the TT. The below table shows the application of the culture-specific lexical items used by the translator. The term ‘وزارة الصحة’ is modeled into English as ‘The Ministry of Health and Population’. This explains that the term ‘وزارة الصحة’ is a general word used in most cultures that refers to a health organization. Since the novel is originally written by an Egyptian writer, the term ‘The Ministry of Health and Population’ is appointed in Egypt. Therefore, the translator overcame this cultural barrier by trying to fit into the Egyptian culture through the translation of this term. In addition, the translator aimed to produce a target culture-oriented translation that suited the Arab readers.

Arabic ST	English TT
وزارة الصحة	The Ministry of Health and Population

Table (4)

4.2.5. Equivalence:

In translating cultural expressions, the equivalence procedure is considered one of the most approaches that translators use to provide the most accurate meaning of the ST. In other words, it allows the translator to apply a variety of terms and expressions with the same functional effect in the TT. Examples are shown in the below table exported from the novel. For instance, Given the Arabic ST ‘أهال’ and its English TL equivalent ‘Hello’ which illustrates the translated used the method of equivalence in a greeting context. ‘أهال’ in Arabic is used often to greet people in the Arab culture. The term ‘Hello’ is as well a way to greet people. The translator translated other cultural expressions using equivalence methodology. The novel mentioned the term ‘بيت الطاعة’

which means the system that a man can force his wife to live under the same roof. This concept originated from the Islamic culture, and in the Christian culture as well. This term is translated into its equivalent to English as ‘House of Obedience’. In another example, the translator translated the cultural term ‘شد حيلك’ into ‘Pull yourself together!’ which shows that the translator applied the equivalence strategy to overcome the cultural barrier. It is observed the translated did not apply this procedure much in the novel.

Arabic ST	English TT
أهال	Hello
بيت الطاعة	House of Obedience
شد حيلك!	Pull yourself together!

Table (5)

4.2.5. Transposition:

The transportation method involves moving one-word class with another without changing the intended meaning of the message. This procedure is developed to achieve a natural translation. In the novel *Two Women in One*, there was the application of this procedure in the below examples. The translation of the Arabic ST ‘فإذا حضرت الصلاة’ translated into ‘when is due prayer’ which shows the application of the shifting procedure.

Arabic ST	English TT
فإذا حضرت الصلاة	When is due prayer

Table (6)

4.2.6. Adaptation:

This procedure is called the adaptation method. The translator must acquire both cultures to achieve the best application of the ST. As this approach relies on the cultural background of the cultural contexts. This is explained further in the following examples. The term 'الصعيدة' was adopted into 'Upper Egypt'. The original meaning of this term is a region of the Nile Valley originated in Egypt country. Since the translator is from an Arab country, he demonstrated a good use of the free translation approach, adaptation. In the novel, the translator was explaining the term in two brackets (especially the peasants and the ones from Upper Egypt). The translator chose to apply the adaptation strategy rather than the transliteration strategy. Another cultural expression mentioned in the below table is the term 'زنجية' which was translated as 'Black'. According to the Almaany dictionary, the meaning of the word زنج is a nickname that is named after the Africans, and Sudanese. The term was translated as 'black' rather than 'nigga' this is because the term 'nigga' is offensive to the other culture. However, this term was translated as 'nigger' according to the Almaany dictionary. Therefore, the translator avoided translating the term as 'nigger'. One more example of this strategy is the term 'كالغاللة' that was translated as 'Veil-like'. The terminology 'غاللة' means a simple piece of cloth worn under a dress. The translator chose to apply adaptation in translating this term rather than 'Tunic' or 'Thawb' in Arabic. Instead, the translator translated the term into 'veil-like' which showed a change in the content, and for of the ST of the word without losing the meaning of the same meaning.

Arabic ST	English TT
الصعيدة	Upper Egypt
زنجية	Black
كالغاللة	Veil-like

Table (6)

4.2.7. Cultural equivalent strategy:

Newmark (1988) suggests that the cultural equivalent procedure is a way to maintain the same connotation of the cultural terms between two cultures in different languages. In the novel, the term 'آيات الحمد' was rendered as 'Prayers of thanksgiving'. This shows that the translator applied this procedure instead of using the cultural correspondence procedure that is suggested as a procedure for translating cultural expression. The term 'Thanksgiving' may confuse Arab readers due to its history of it. Thanksgiving is an annual national holiday in the United States and Canada. For this reason, in the following sentence, the translator has translated the term 'للا' into 'Allah'. Therefore, the reader cannot determine if the novel is written in the culture of Islam or Christianity.

Arabic ST	English TT
آيات الحمد	Prayers of thanksgiving

Table (7)

4.2.8. Naturalization:

Naturalization is a translation procedure that adapts the SL word to its pronunciation and converts it to the morphology of the TL for familiarity for the readers. Such an application is the example taken from the novel in the below table. The term 'الجهاد' naturalized into 'Al Jihad' which means striving in the way of God which involves spiritual effort and material resources. Therefore, the translator applied this procedure to naturalize the pronunciation of the term and make it a part of the target language. Through this procedure, the translator solves the issue of the global terms that are difficult to be understood by readers.

Arabic ST	English TT
الجهاد	Al-Jihad

Table (8)

4.2.9. Compensation:

The compensation procedure is applied to different cultural expressions in this novel. The purpose of this approach is to transfer the meaning of the culture-specific expression. The translator used this method to translate some of the religious expressions mentioned in the novel. For example, the first term that is 'للا' translated as 'god', and the term 'بعيد الشر' was rendered as 'God forbid'. However, in terms of religious context, the translator chose to compensate for the religious text by using compensation like the example in the cultural equivalence, 'للا' to 'Allah'. Another example in Table (4) is the term 'الشيطانة' translated as 'Devil' which shows that the translator used the method of compensation and achieved the near approximate meaning of this term.

Arabic ST	English TT
بعيد الشر	God forbid!
ياخبر!	Goodness
الشيطانة	Devil

Table (9)

4.2.10. Paraphrase procedure:

Using the procedure of paraphrasing in translating the cultural terms is the key to clarifying the meaning of TL to the target readers. This procedure is defined as a process that rewards the ST in the TL. The below table shows terms paraphrased from Arabic into English. In the novel, the term 'ف ّكي الأسد' has been paraphrased into 'Lion's jaw'. According to the Almaany dictionary, this term indicates being in danger or getting in trouble, in Arabic, 'في خطر أو في مأزق'. Therefore, the translator preferred to apply the paraphrase procedure in this term. The expression 'lion's jaw' is not easily

understandable in the (TL) culture. However, in the novel, the target readers could understand it by reading the following sentence that is ‘She was sure that someday the jaws would inevitably close’. The context can help readers to realize the meaning of such cultural expression. Hence, the translator chooses to use the procedure of paraphrasing instead of explaining the term in other words like ‘getting in trouble’ or ‘trapped’. The following example from the novel is the term ‘السمعة الشريفة’ which was translated into ‘honorable reputation’. The concept of honor or شرف is different in Western and Eastern cultures. Dirweesh (2020) has conducted an article that explains the concept of ‘honor’ or ‘شرف’ in both cultures. He claims that in Eastern culture, honor is strongly connected with women’s bodies. If an Eastern woman were touched by a male other than her husband willingly or unwillingly, her future is sabotaged, and society discriminates against her. On the other hand, he explains that ‘honor’ in Western culture is completely different. This concept is irrelative to women’s bodies, and sexual acts are considered personal freedom. Western culture links this concept to good people who work hard to avoid poverty. Therefore, western people use the term ‘good’ to define ‘شرف’ in Arabic. The translator chose to paraphrase this item into ‘honorable’ instead of ‘good’ to make the reader understand that in Eastern culture, the concept of ‘honor’ is related to women’s bodies. This case is also applied to the term ‘الأزواج المحترمة’ which translated into ‘Honorable husbands’.

Arabic ST	English TT
فكِّي الأسد	Lion’s jaw
الأزواج الشرفاء	Honorable husbands
السمعة الشريفة	Honorable reputation

Table (10)

4.3. Conclusion

This part of the study discusses the translation procedures applied by the translator to overcome the cultural translation challenges. This thesis relies on the procedures of the two scholars Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000) and Ghazala's application of it. It also uses Newmark's (1988) methods. The translator Osman Alnusairi has applied some procedures of the scholars but not all. In chapter five, all examples are explained in detail.

Chapter 5: Findings

Since the analysis is applied to the cultural expressions that are from the novel, the study showed what procedure and methods the translator used to overcome the cultural challenges. The core concern is to present the reasons behind the translator's intentions of directing some strategies to certain cultural items.

The translation findings of the first procedure of borrowing or transliteration in **Table (1)** revealed that the translator may have implemented this procedure for the practice of representing the lexical of one language with the corresponding letters of another language's letters. It is also applied for the reason of undirect equivalency to some expressions from a specific culture. The translator preferred to go along with this procedure in certain expressions, however, it was possible to apply other procedures in the examples mentioned.

In **Table (2)**, the translator overcame the cultural barriers in other expressions by using the calque procedure. The results showed that the translator used this procedure to some extent. From the examples, it is shown that the translator dynamically preserved this procedure to give straight and easy access to readers to the cultural terms. As some cultures do not hold the same equivalent in the other cultures, terms with complex meanings took the approach of calque approach. As allowing the reader to be able to relate the cultural term to their own culture.

In **Table (3)** the translator applied to method of literal translation. This procedure is widely used by translations. The finding reveals that the translator applied this method in some religious contexts to avoid confusion about the meaning to the readers.

In **Table (4)** the modulation strategy is applied in translating cultural-related strategies in the novel. As this method intends to change the form or structure of the expression, the translator has used it

to achieve delivering the correct meaning along with the changes. The translator used the modulation strategy for the cultural context to be not only correct but also culturally influencing.

In **table (5)** the equivalent strategy was applied to different cultural expressions in the novel. As this method tries to find an equivalent of the cultural term in the target language. The translator's application of this method is shown through the tone of the translated expressions.

In **Table (6)**, the adaptation strategy is used in some cultural terms in the novel. The use of this method allows the reader to widely understand the cultural term. The translator applied this strategy to keep the tone of the cultural item. He was cautious when it came to a sensitive term in the target language and translated it without offending any reader.

In **Table (7)**, the translator applied the procedure of cultural equivalence in one example in the novel. Even though the translator delivered the appropriate meaning of the term, the term caused a piece of misleading information to the target readers.

In **Table (8)**, the translator applied the procedure of naturalization to make the text sounds more natural to the reader and solve the issue of global terms.

In **table (9)**, the procedure of compensation is used to compensate for some religious contexts in the novel.

In **Table (10)**, the translator used the procedure of paraphrasing to rewords the ST in the TL.

5.4. Suggestions for further research

While providing an overview and discussing this study, it is suggested to discuss not only the culture-related challenges but also explore issues of gender in translation. For example, (3) what are the issues in the translations of gender in the novel? and, (2) what are the procedures applied

to translate these issues? These are proposed questions that might be considered in further investigations.

Conclusion

To conclude, the process of translating such a culturally rich novel among translators is a challenge. This thesis has explored the culture-related challenges faced by the translator and what procedures and methodologies were taken to overcome them. This study explained some procedures applied in the novel. Approaching the method of qualitative in this study for the analysis of cultural expressions through the procedures of Vinay & Darbelnet (1958/2000) and Newmark (1988). Findings section aimed to give a detailed explanation of each procedure used by the translator in his translation process.

The research questions of the study were (1) What are the challenges faced by the translator in translating culture-specific items in the novel *Two Women in One* from Arabic into English? and (2) What procedures are used to translate these expressions? which were answered by identifying culture-related challenges and analyzing them thoroughly.

The procedures used by the translator were developed by the scholars Vinay & Darbelnet (1958/2000) and the translation model of Newmark (1988). These procedures are the following: borrowing or transliteration, calque, literal translation, modulation, equivalence, transposition, and adaptation. As for Newmark's procedures, they are cultural equivalent, naturalization, compensation, and paraphrasing.

The researcher's perspective towards the translations of the novel concludes that it was to some extent successful. In other words, Arab readers can understand most of the terms in the translated

novel. however, some terms were not as obvious. This is as well applied to English readers who might be able to transfer some words to their culture.

The limitation of this study is that it only focused on one aspect which is the culture-related factor, instead of including the literary aspect of the novel as well.

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