Basics of Translation
Basics of Translation:

A Textbook for Arab University Students

By

Mahmoud Altarabin

Cambridge Scholars Publishing
Dedication
In loving memory of Dr Sadek Firwana
Contents

Dedication ................................................................................................. v

Contents .................................................................................................. vii

List of Tables .......................................................................................... xi

Book Endorsement .................................................................................. xii

Preface ..................................................................................................... xiii

Acknowledgments ................................................................................... xv

Chapter I: Introduction .......................................................................... 1

1.1 What is translation? .......................................................................... 2

1.2 Translation methods & procedures: ................................................. 4

1.2.1 Roman Jakobson categories: ..................................................... 5

1.2.2 Literal translation ........................................................................ 7

1.2.3 Semantic and Communicative Translation ............................... 10

1.2.4 Adaptation .................................................................................. 11

1.2.5 Free translation ........................................................................... 12

1.2.6 Idiomatic translation .................................................................. 13

1.2.7 Metaphorical Translation ............................................................ 14

1.2.8 Translation by addition ............................................................... 15

1.2.9 Translation by deletion ............................................................... 16

1.2.10 Translating using a general word ............................................. 17

1.2.11 Paraphrase ................................................................................ 18

1.2.12 Two techniques ......................................................................... 20

1.3. Other translation methods by Newmark ...................................... 20

1.4 Which strategy? .............................................................................. 21

1.5 Equivalence: .................................................................................... 22

1.5.1 Scholarly views: ......................................................................... 22

1.5.2 Equivalent effect: ....................................................................... 24

1.5.3 Equivalence typology ................................................................. 25

1.5.4 Non-equivalence ....................................................................... 30

1.6 Translation Shifts ........................................................................... 32
1.7 Language variation .......................................................... 35
1.8 Criteria for a good translation: ......................................... 37

Chapter II Translation Problems at Word Level ................. 39

2.1 Introduction: .......................................................................... 40
  2.1.1 What is a word? ............................................................... 41
  2.1.2 Classification of meaning ............................................. 41
  2.1.3 Meaning and context: .................................................... 45
2.2 Dictionaries ...................................................................... 45
2.3 Lexical gaps ................................................................... 47
  2.3.1 Cultural Domain: ......................................................... 47
  2.3.2 Economic domain ....................................................... 52
  2.3.3 Technological domain ................................................ 53
2.4 Synonymy ...................................................................... 55
2.5 Polysemy ....................................................................... 61
2.6 Semantically complex words ........................................... 69

Chapter III Translating Collocations and Phrases ............ 71

3.1 Introduction ................................................................. 72
3.2 What is collocation? ....................................................... 72
3.3 Types of collocation ....................................................... 74
3.4 Collocational meaning .................................................... 78
3.5 Collocations in Arabic ..................................................... 78
3.6 Problems of translating collocations ............................... 82
3.7 Translation strategies ...................................................... 87
3.8 Translation of Idioms ....................................................... 94
3.9 Translating noun phrases ................................................ 98
  3.9.1 Number: ..................................................................... 100
  3.9.2 Gender ........................................................................ 104
  3.9.3 Titles, modes of address ............................................. 106
  3.9.4 Organizations .............................................................. 110
3.10 Translating adjective phrases ......................................... 113
  3.10.1 Classification of adjectives ......................................... 114
Chapter IV Translation at Grammatical Level ............... 117

4.1 Introduction ................................................................. 118
4.2 Translating ‘Be’ ............................................................. 118
4.3 Translating the ‘Tenses’ ................................................. 120
4.4 Negation: ................................................................. 132
4.5 Aspect: .............................................................................. 134
   4.5.1 Simple aspect: ......................................................... 134
   4.5.2 Complex aspect: ......................................................... 136
4.6 Non-finite into finite: ......................................................... 136
4.7 Translating the ‘Articles’ ............................................... 139
4.8 Translating *it* ............................................................. 146
4.9 Existential *There* .......................................................... 148

Chapter V Translation of Sentences ................................. 149

5.1 Translating English sentences: ..................................... 150
5.2 Translating passive sentences: ..................................... 155
5.3 Translating conditional sentences: ................................. 157
5.4 Translation problems at sentence level.......................... 159
5.5 Repetition: ................................................................. 162
5.6 Ambiguity ................................................................. 167
5.7 Sentence connectors ...................................................... 170

Chapter VI: Text Cohesion ................................................. 175

6.1 Cohesion and Coherence ............................................... 176
6.2 Cohesive devices in English ......................................... 177
   6.2.1 Reference: ............................................................... 177
   6.2.2 Substitution ............................................................. 179
   6.2.3 Ellipsis ................................................................. 180
   6.2.4 Conjunction: ........................................................... 181
6.3 Cohesive devices in Arabic ........................................... 183
   6.3.1 Reference ............................................................... 183
   6.3.2 Substitution: ........................................................... 185
   6.3.3 Ellipsis: ................................................................. 185
6.3.4 Conjunctions ................................................................. 187
6.4 Avoid such mistakes....................................................... 190
6.5 Bad translations: ............................................................. 191

References ............................................................................. 195

Name & subject index: .............................................................. 201
List of Tables

Table 1: Examples of technical vocabulary ............................................. 31
Table 2: Examples of English & Arabic cultural terms ......................... 31
Table 3: Examples of Islamic economic domain .................................. 32
Table 4: Language variation in Arabic .................................................. 36
Table 5: Language variation in English ................................................. 36
Table 6: Collocational meaning ......................................................... 78
Table 7: Transparent idioms ................................................................ 95
Table 8: Opaque idioms: ...................................................................... 95
Table 9: Gender in Arabic nouns ......................................................... 104
Table 10: English titles ....................................................................... 106
Table 11: Arabic titles ......................................................................... 106
Table 12: Forms of address .................................................................. 107
Table 13: Academic titles ................................................................. 109
Table 14: Names of organizations ...................................................... 110
Table 15: Adjectives functioning as nouns ......................................... 116
Book Endorsement

*Basics of Translation*, by Dr Mahmoud Altarabin, a promising writer on translation, is a well-organized textbook in terms of the translation students’ level and requirements (Arabic-English). After the general introduction on translation, chapters are arranged from the smaller to the larger units of language, starting with translating words, phrases, grammar, sentences and finally, texts. Indeed, this bottom-up methodology makes follow-up and comprehension easier to readers in general and Arab University students of translation in particular. A mine of illustrative examples and exercises are provided throughout. I do believe that the book is a good textbook that responds to Arab students’ translational needs satisfactorily, though not perfectly for Perfection is God’s. So I recommend it to students of translation of Arab Universities, Colleges and Institutes in the Arabic-English direction at the first two levels of their study.

Hasan Ghazala
Preface

This book is an introductory textbook for students of translation at Arab universities seeking to develop their understanding of translation issues between Arabic and English. The importance of the manuscript lies in adopting a bottom-up approach to translation issues which does not primarily address translation topics as problems and solutions but rather as critical issues to translation students. The book features practical exercises following each topic to test students’ understanding of the topic presented earlier. This enables students to apply their understanding of the topics discussed earlier to translate lexical units between Arabic and English. Furthermore, this textbook presents six chapters each discusses translation issues at a different language level.

Chapter I introduces the concept of translation in English and Arabic and highlights the main translation methods and procedures. These include literal translation, free translation, adaptation, idiomatic translation, paraphrase and use of two techniques. The chapter presents the concept of equivalence and provides some examples of non-equivalence in different domains, a unique feature of this book. Additionally, Chapter I familiarizes students with translation shifts, language variation and criteria for quality translation.

Chapter II discusses certain issues of translating words between Arabic and English. It begins with defining the concept of word, meaning, and meaning in context. The chapter later reviews translation problems related to dictionaries and lexical gaps within the cultural, economic, and technical domains. Synonymy and polysemy are two major translation issues dealt with at this level. The chapter concludes with a brief discussion on semantically complex words and the possible procedures followed to address such a thorny phenomenon.
Chapter III reviews translation topics at the phrase and collocation levels. It begins with an introduction on collocations in English and Arabic and then discusses some problems of translating collocations. It then presents the strategies adopted to address such problems. Afterwards, the chapter discusses the translation of idioms. Translating noun phrases with a particular focus on translation issues like number and gender is dealt with in another section of Chapter III. The last section of the chapter discusses the translation of adjective phrases and highlights significant issues related to the structure and order of adjectives in Arabic and English.

Chapter IV highlights translation issues at the grammatical level which are of immense significance to beginner translation students. The topics included in this chapter are: translating ‘be,’ tenses, negation, aspect, non-finite into finite, articles, as well as *it* and existential *there*.

Chapter V moves to a higher level, the sentence. It discusses the translation of different types of English sentences such as passive sentences and conditional sentences into Arabic. The chapter also highlights some translation problems which students of translation face at this language level. Chapter V concludes with a discussion on repetition and sentence connectors.

Chapter VI discusses textual cohesion at the sentence level. It highlights the difference between cohesion and coherence and gives background information on cohesion in English depending on Halliday and Hasan’s book *Cohesion in English*. Framed within a translational point of view, this chapter introduces Arabic and English cohesive devices such as reference, substitution, and conjunctions.
Acknowledgments

This book has benefited from the works of many well-known scholars in the field of translation. I would like to thank Professor Hasan Ghazala, a professor of translation at Umm Al-Qura University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for his support and encouragement.

My thanks are also extended to Mouad Hussein for designing the book cover.
Chapter I
Introduction
Chapter I

1.1 What is translation?

Translation comes from Latin translātus meaning ‘to transfer’ (Simpson and Weiner 1989, p. 410). They define translation as:

1. the … process of turning from one language into another;
2. the rendering of something in another medium or form.

Hornby (2010, p. 1646) defines the verb translate as:

1. to express the meaning of speech or writing in a different language.
2. to be changed from one language into another.

Translation is further defined as:

1. “reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style” (Nida and Taber 1969, p. 12);
2. “the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL)” (Catford 1965, p. 20);
3. “the interpretation of verbal signs in one language by means of verbal signs in another” (Steiner, 1975, p. 414);
4. “to produce a text in the target setting for a target purpose and a target addressee in the target circumstances” (Vermeer, 1987, p. 29);
5. “rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text” (Newmark, 1988, p. 5);
6. “a process by which the chain of signifiers that constitutes the source-language text is replaced by a chain of signifiers in the target language which the translator provides on the strength of an interpretation” (Venuti, 1995, p. 17);
Introduction

7. “the process of transferring a written text from SL to TL, conducted by a translator, or translators, in a specific socio-cultural context” (Hatim and Munday, 2004, p. 6); and
8. “a kind of activity which inevitably involves at least two languages and two cultural traditions” (Toury, 1995, p. 56).

In Arabic, the word ترجم means (1) “to explain speech into another language”¹ (Al Bustani, 1998, p. 69) and (2) “transfer speech into another language” (Al-Basha, 1992, p. 253). Rida (1958, p. 391) says that ترجم كلمة means “explained it” and that الترجمان refers to “the person who transfers speech from one language into another.” The word أولاً means “explain” (Rida, 1958, p. 224).

Generally speaking, translation can be defined as the process of transferring, reproducing, replacing, or interpreting source text (ST) message, material, text, or meaning into another language focusing on meaning and style respectively. The key word in the above definitions is ‘reproduce’ which means that translators analyse the components of ST units in terms of meaning and structure and then render such units into target texts (TTs). The differences between English and Arabic, be they linguistic or cultural, must be taken into consideration when translating. To exemplify grammatical and cultural differences between English and Arabic, consider the following:

1. She was saddened by his departure.
أحزنها رحيله.

Was saddened in the English sentence is part of a passive structure rendered into Arabic as an active verb. This is an example of structural shift: was + past participle turns into a past simple, أحزن. Note that this may not apply to other passive constructions.

¹ The translations in this paragraph are by the author.
Chapter I

Zakat is a pillar of Islam.
English does not provide a cultural equivalent for Islamic terms such as زکاة which is often borrowed into English. A description of the word accounts for the meaning.

Exercise 1: A. Translate the following into Arabic.

1. I study English at the Islamic University of Gaza.
   ١. أشترك في القرآن وله将继续

2. Translation is an important subject for students.
   ٢. ترجمة هي موضوع مهم للطلاب

3. My mother searched for the car key but did not find it.
   ٣. والدتي قامت بالبحث عن مفتاح السيارة لكن لم تتمكن من العثور عليه

4. I waited for my friend at the train station for one hour.
   ٤. ونتتظر في محطة القطار لمدة ساعة

5. Al-Aqsa Mosque is located in Palestine.
   ٥. المسجد الأقصى موجود في فلسطين

B. Translate into English:

1. صديقي غني ولكنه ليس سعيداً.
   ١. صديقي غني ولكنه ليس سعيداً.

2. هطلت أمطار غزيرة الليلة الماضية على مدينة مكة.
   ٢. هطلت أمطار غزيرة الليلة الماضية على مدينة مكة.

3. يجب أن أدرس بجد حتى التحق بالجامعة.
   ٣. يجب أن أدرس بجد حتى التحق بالجامعة.

4. مدينة عمان هي عاصمة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية.
   ٤. مدينة عمان هي عاصمة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية.

5. قضية فلسطين قضية هامة لكافة المسلمين.
   ٥. قضية فلسطين قضية هامة لكافة المسلمين.

1.2 Translation methods & procedures:
Newmark (1988, p. 81) says “While translation methods relate to whole texts, translation procedures are used for sentences and the
smaller units of language.” The following is an analysis of the translation types, methods and strategies.

1.2.1 Roman Jakobson categories:
Jakobson (1959, as quoted in Venuti 2000, p. 114) proposed the following translation categories:

1. **Intralingual translation** or ‘rewording’: “an interpretation of verbal signs by means of other signs of the same language.” Intralingual translation refers to rephrasing, summarizing or rewriting a text in the same language. An example from English: *Facepalm*: means pressing the hand against the head to show frustration or embarrassment. An example from Arabic:

اًرتَأي الْذِّهَاب عَلَى الْبَقَاء: فَضَّل الْذِّهَاب.

**Exercise 2:** Translate the following using intralingual method.
1. Do not stick your nose into my business. (Give the ordinary English meaning).

…………………………………………………………………
…………………………………………………………………
(Explain the meaning in Arabic)

2. رِجْعُ صَدِيقِي بِخُفْيِ حَينِ.

2. **Interlingual translation** or ‘translation proper’: ‘an interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language’; Interlingual translation is the translation between two different languages. An example of this type can be translating the English word *night* into Arabic as لَيْل, or translating the Arabic word امرأة into woman.

3. **Intersemiotic translation**, or ‘transmutation’: ‘an interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of non-verbal sign systems.’ Intersemiotic translation occurs when a written text, for example, is turned into a film. Acting one of Shakespeare plays can be one example of this type of
Chapter I

translation. An example from Arabic is turning One Thousand and One Night ألف ليلة وليلة into a TV show.

Exercise 3: Translate the following sentences interlingually (from English into Arabic).

1. This is the doctor who treated my mother in the hospital.
   …………………………………………………………………………………

2. I did not know that Maryam wanted to come to dinner.
   …………………………………………………………………………………

   …………………………………………………………………………………

4. A large number of tourists visit the pyramids in Egypt every year.
   …………………………………………………………………………………

5. The Arab countries provide continuous support for the Palestinians to help relieve their human suffering.
   …………………………………………………………………………………

Translate the following into English:

1. ﯾﺘﻤﮑﻦ طﺎرق ﻣﻦ اﻟﺴﻔﺮ ﺑﺴﺒﺐ اﻷوﺿﺎع اﻟﺴﺎﺋﺪة ﻓﻲ ﻗﻄﺎع ﻏﺰة.
   …………………………………………………………………………………

2. ﯾﺘﻜﻮن ﻣﺠﻠﺲ اﻟﺘﻌﺎون اﻟﺨﻠﯿﺠﻲ ﻣﻦ 6 دول.
   …………………………………………………………………………………

3. ﻓﺎم رﺋﯿﺲ اﻟﻮزراء ﺑﺰﯾﺎرة رﺳﻤﯿﺔ إﻟﻰ اﻟﻘﺎھﺮة، وعﻤﺎن وبيروت.
   …………………………………………………………………………………

4. ﺳﺮق اﻟﻠﺼﻮص ثﻼﺛﺔ ﺳﯿﺎرات ﻓﺒﻞ أﺳﺒﻮع وﻟﻢ ﺗﻠﻘﻲ اﻟﺸﺮطﺔ اﻟﻘﺒﺾ ﻋﻠﻰ أي مشتبھ به.
   …………………………………………………………………………………

5. ﯾﮭﺪف ھﺬا اﻟﻤﺸﺮوع اﻹﺳﺘﺮاﺗﯿﺠﻲ إﻟﻰ دﻋﻢ اﻻﻗﺘﺼﺎد اﻟﻮطﻨﻲ.
   …………………………………………………………………………………

Glossary:

- ﻣﺠﻠﺲ اﻟﺘﻌﺎون اﻟﺨﻠﯿﺠﻲ: Gulf Cooperation Council,
- رﺋﯿﺲ اﻟﻮزراء: Prime Minister,
- زﯾﺎرة رﺳﻤﯿﺔ: official visit,
- ﻋﻠﻰ أي مشتبھ به: in any case of suspect.
1.2.2 Literal translation

Literal translation is also called word-for-word translation (Munday, 2016, p. 31). Translators basically translate one word at a time and follow ST word order when translating into the target language. Let us examine some possible problems of literal translation from English into Arabic:

Problem 1: No respect for TL grammar or idiomatic expressions

1. Sami is a student.
   
   سامي طالب

2. He is a chicken.
   
   هو دجاجة

The above examples reflect that literal translation can result in (1) grammatical problems and (2) loss of the idiomatic meaning of the sentence where he is a chicken means that he is a coward. This can be addressed by producing acceptable Arabic sentences corresponding to the ST sentences as follows:

1. سامي طالب.
2. إنه جبان.

Problem 2: Loss of collocational meanings

3. Hand a friend a letter
   
   يد صديق رسالة

4. The court passed a new law.
   
   المحكمة مرت قانون جديد

The collocational meanings are lost in (3) and (4). To overcome such a problem, hand in (3) should be rendered into Arabic as سلم (delivered) and pass in (4) as يسنى. The resulting Arabic sentences will

---

1 Sinclair (2004, p. 10) defines collocation as “the co-occurrence of two items in a text within a specified environment.”
then read: يسلم صديقاً رسالة for (3) and (4) respectively.

Problem 3: Loss of idiomatic meanings

5. sitting duck.

6. beat about the bush.

The idiomatic meanings are completely lost in (5) and (6) above. The actual meaning of the two idioms cannot be derived from the meanings of the individual words. Sitting duck refers to a person or a thing which is not protected against attacks. Beat about the bush means that someone is discussing a matter without coming to the main point. These can be translated into Arabic as هدف سهل and يراوغ بِطَهَة. Literal translation is not always a bad choice. Certain SL textual materials can be literally and accurately translated between English and Arabic. Telephone\(^3\) can only be literally translated into Arabic as هاتف, heavy industries as صناعات ثقيلة, black list as قائمة سوداء and an eye for an eye as العين بالعين.

More examples on literal translation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Inaccurate Arabic translation</th>
<th>Accurate translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. rain cats and dogs</td>
<td>تَمْطَر قَطَّات وَكَلَاباً</td>
<td>تَمْطَر بَغَزَارة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. look after</td>
<td>يَنْظَر بَعْد</td>
<td>يَتَنَتَّخ فِي لا يَعْتَيِك</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. stick your nose into sth</td>
<td>تَغَرَّس أَنفْك فِي شَيْء</td>
<td>يَلْقَى خِطَاباً</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. deliver speech</td>
<td>يَسْلِم كِلَامَة</td>
<td>يَسْلِم عَالَيٌ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. on a high horse</td>
<td>عَلَى حَصَائِن عَالَٰٓٓٓ</td>
<td>مَتَكَبَر</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 4: Given the previous table, translate the following:

1. It rained cats and dogs and all flights were cancelled.

2. King Abdullah II of Jordan delivered a speech at the European Parliament.

---

\(^3\) Telephone is only translated into Arabic as هاتف. The word has no other renderings except the verb form which means يَتَصل بالِهَاتِف.
Constraints on literal translation:
Despite its usefulness in certain contexts, literal translation can be subject to some restrictions. Newmark (1988, p. 75) suggested that if words are context free, they must be translated literally into their ‘usual’ TL equivalents. This means that we must translate chicken as دجاجة and fat as سمين. In addition, we need to provide all possible meanings listed in a dictionary entry for a certain lexical item. Newmark pointed out that there are some constraints on the SL word. These include (1) more frequent usage (within register) and (2) a wider semantic range compared to the corresponding TL word.

Consider the following examples:
1. more frequent usage in register: depression in There is a depression moving in from the Atlantic cannot be literally translated into Arabic as اكتئاب. The word here is register-bound (weather forecast) and refers to the type of weather which brings rain. Therefore, it can be translated into Arabic as منخفض جوي or منخفض جوي. Depression can also mean كساد in the economic domain.
2. a wider semantic range compared to the corresponding TL word: semantic range refers to the varying uses of a word (the different senses a word can have in different contexts). Some possible senses of the word bank include:

\[
\text{bank} \begin{cases} \\
\text{financial institution} \quad \text{مصرف} \\
\text{side of river} \quad \text{ضفة النهر} \\
\text{bank on (v.)} \quad \text{يعتمد على} \\
\text{of fog} \quad \text{كتلة ضباب} 
\end{cases}
\]

Newmark notes that if a natural SL unit translates into an awkward TL unit, the translation would be wrong.
Exercise 5: Translate the following into Arabic:

1. There is a depression moving in from the Atlantic.

2. I opened an account at the Arab Islamic Bank to deposit my savings.

3. The Great Depression of 2006 affected the economy of many countries.

4. ٣. ﻷ ﻣﺎ ﻛداد ﻣﺎ ﻣن ﻗد ﺷا ﻋا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا 

5. ﻷ ﻗدا ﺳا ﻣن ﻜا ﻣا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا ﺳا 

Glossary: Great Depression

1.2.3 Semantic and Communicative Translation

Newmark (1981, p. 39) proposed two types of translation and defined them as follows:

Communicative translation attempts to produce on its readers an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original. Semantic translation attempts to render, as closely as the semantic and syntactic structures of the second language allow, the exact contextual meaning of the original.

Dickins, Hervey and Higgins (2017, p. 14) explain that communicative translation is a type of free translation. They add that communicative translation takes place when the ST uses an SL expression in a specific situation, and the TT uses a TL expression in an equivalent target situation. The authors provide the following examples of communicative translation (pp. 14-15):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ST</th>
<th>TT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Let bygones be bygones</td>
<td>ﻓﺎت ﻣﺎ ﻣن ﺷا ﻋا ﺳا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ممنو ﺑد اذ ﻣا ﺷا ﻋا ﺳا</td>
<td>No smoking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>لا ﺷا ﻗد ﻣا ﺷا ﻋا ﺳا</td>
<td>Don’t mention it</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 6: Attempt to provide a communicative translation of the following.

1. She said to him “enough is enough.”

2. Prevention is better than cure.


4. وﻗﻊ ﺻﺪﯾﻘﻲ ﺑﯿﻦ اﻟﻤِﻄْﺮَﻗَﺔِ واﻟﺴِﻨْﺪان.

5. ﻣﺮت اﻟﺴﯿﺎرة ﻛﻠﻤﺢ اﻟﺒﺼﺮ.

1.2.4 Adaptation

Newmark (1988, p. 46) says that adaptation is the 'freest' type of translation which is mainly used in translating plays. In this type of translation, “the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture converted to the TL culture and the text rewritten.” An example of adaptation is the translation of Shakespeare’s Hamlet into Arabic by Khalil Mutran. Consider the following example from Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*:

**BERNARDO**

'Tis now struck twelve; get thee to bed, Francisco.

**FRANCISCO**

For this relief much thanks: 'tis bitter cold, And I am sick at heart.

---

4 Translated by Jabra Jabra
1.2.5 Free translation

Newmark (1988, p. 46) says that this type of translation renders the content rather than the form of the ST. It is a type of paraphrase which can be much longer than the original text. Consider the following examples:

1. **Cartel** is a term which has no direct equivalent in Arabic. Hornby (2010, p. 223) defines *cartel* as “a group of different companies that agree to increase profits by fixing prices and not competing with each other.” Baalbaki (1970, p. 155) paraphrases the term as "اتحاد المنتجين للتخفيض من وطأة التنافس بينهم". This definition lacks one of the basic components of the meaning of the ST term which refers to the increase of profits. The term can be accurately rendered in Arabic as "اتحاد الشركات لزيادة الأرباح من خلال تحديد الأسعار ووقف التنافس بينها".

   **Note:** It is not natural to translate *cartel* into "اتحاد الشركات لزيادة الأرباح من خلال تحديد الأسعار ووقف التنافس بينها" because such a lengthy rendering may distract TL readers. Translators are thus advised to adopt a general translation as "اتحاد المنتجين".

2. **زكاة:** This is an Islamic term which has ‘no equivalence’ in any other language or culture. It can however be transliterated and paraphrased into English in a way which reflects its Arabic meaning. Therefore, زكاة can be translated as *zakat* (sane and adult Muslims make an annual systematic giving which is customarily 2.5% of their total savings and wealth above a minimum amount known as nisab). It is crucial to note here that the term cannot be rendered as *obligatory/compulsory charity/alms/tax*.

---

5 Note that the examples here can be used in other translation methods such as paraphrase or description.
Exercise 7: Translate the following sentences:
1. A cartel is a group of independent producers whose goal is to increase their profits by means of price fixing.

2. الزكاة ركن من أركان الإسلام الخمسة.

1.2.6 Idiomatic translation
Idiomatic translation, as Newmark (1988, p. 47) defines it, “reproduces the 'message' of the original.” It prefers colloquialisms and idioms which do not exist in the original. Consider the following table showing English source text expressions and their translation into Arabic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples from English into Arabic:</th>
<th>ST</th>
<th>Idiomatic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He did not get a thing.</td>
<td>عاد خالي الوفاض/يخفي حنين</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cool down</td>
<td>هدى من روعك</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swearing is bad.</td>
<td>سباب المسلم فسوق</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His departure saddened her deeply.</td>
<td>نفطر قلبيا حزنا على فراقه</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I loved her and accepted everything about her.</td>
<td>وأحبها وتحديبي وحب ناقتها بعبري</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the English source text terms are not idiomatic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples from Arabic into English:</th>
<th>ST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He returned empty handed.</td>
<td>عاد ولم يحصل على شيء.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He acted out in the classroom.</td>
<td>أساء الأدب في الصف.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He stuck to his guns.</td>
<td>تعصّب لآرائه.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East, west home is best</td>
<td>الوطن أكثر مكان يشعرك بالراحة.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel under the weather today.</td>
<td>أشعر بوعكة صحية اليوم.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 8: Translate the following:

1. One of the students acted out in the classroom today and the teacher ordered him to respect the school rules.

2. I could not come to class today because I felt under the weather.

3. My friend promised us that he would bring good news but he came back empty handed.

4. تفطر فوادها حزناً على فراقه فغادرت المدينة بعد ثلاثة أشهر.

5. عاد مدير الشركة من المفاوضات خالي الوفاض.

Exercise 9: Translate the following into idiomatic English:

1. حاولت مراراً إقناعه بتغيير رأيه لكنه تعصب لأرائه.

2. شعرت بوعكة صحية وذهبت لإجراء بعض الفحوصات الطبية في المشفى.

3. زعم الفرزدق أن سيقتل مربعاً أبشر بطول سلامة يا مربع.

Glossary: 
وعكة صحية: under the weather/feel sick

1.2.7 Metaphorical Translation
Robinson (1991, p. 160) says that “metaphor ….. equates two things” as in “He is a lion. She is a rose.” Thus, he is equated to a lion and she is equated to a rose. Metaphors include implied comparison where a word or phrase used for one thing is applied to another.