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Al-Quds University**



**(Re)framing in News Translation:  
The Case of the 'Times of Israel'**

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**(Re)framing in News Translation:  
The Case of the 'Times of Israel'**

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Al-Quds University  
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**Thesis Approval**


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**Jerusalem, Occupied Palestine**


**May 2019**

## **Dedication**

To my father. May he rest in peace.

## Declaration

I hereby certify that this thesis, entitled *(Re)framing in News Translation: The Case of the 'Times of Israel'*, is bona fide and genuine research work that I have carried out under the supervision of Dr. Ahmad Ayyad, and that this study has not been submitted as a higher degree to any other university or institution.

Signed:  .....

Nour Abdus-Salam Yousef Ismail

Date: 21 May 2019

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## **Abstract**

This thesis examines re-framing as a news translation strategy in the English and Arabic editions of the ‘Times of Israel’ online newspaper during times of contemporary conflict from an ideological and socio-political perspective.

In modern Translation Studies, although research exists on (re)framing in news translation, (re)framing is still an under-researched news translation strategy. Operating within the framework of Product-Oriented Descriptive Translation Studies (Lambert and Van Gorp, 1985), Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough 1992), and Narrative Theory (Baker 2006), the thesis examines selected news items related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict between the years 2017-2018.

This thesis offers various examples of (re)framing devices; used in the English and Arabic editions of the ‘Times of Israel’ within their historical and socio-political conditions that surrounds the ‘Times of Israel’. The thesis investigates how translation of the ‘Times of Israel’ reflects ideological and political positions at the macro and micro structural levels, with special emphasis on the macro level. The analysis shows how Arabic translations of news items reflect institutional patterns and guidelines linked to the socio-political and institutional contexts of the TT production.

To summarize, this thesis investigates (re)framing in news translation as a distinctive strategy of media translation, which can be the object of further research in the discipline of Translation Studies. The main findings of the thesis stress the need to investigate the translation of online newspapers in their respective historical, socio-political and institutional setting.

The thesis contributes to the discipline of Translation Studies by providing insights about the role of re-framing news translation in times of contemporary conflict, namely, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

**Keywords:** ‘Times of Israel’, Translation Studies, political ideology, (re)framing news, Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

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## Arabic Transliteration System

Arabic Transliteration System <sup>1</sup>			
Romanization	Arabic Character	Romanization	Arabic Character
'	همزة ء	GH	غ
Ā	ا	F	ف
B	ب	Q	ق
T	ت	K	ك
TH	ث	L	ل
J	ج	M	م
<u>H</u>	ح	N	ن
KH	خ	H	هـ والتاء المربوطة في نهاية الكلمة
D	د	W, Ū	و
DH	ذ	Y, Ī	ي
R	ر	a	Short Opener
Z	ز	ā	Long Opener
S	س	ā	Maddah
SH	ش	à	Alif Maqsurah
<u>S</u>	ص	u	Short Closer
<u>D</u>	ض	ū	Long Closer
<u>T</u>	ط	i	Short Breaker
<u>DH</u>	ظ	ī	Long Breaker
'	ع	Doubling the letter	شدة

<sup>1</sup>This Arabic transliteration System table is based on the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Retrieved from: [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/11th-uncsgn-docs/E\\_Conf.105\\_137\\_CRP.137\\_14\\_Romanization%20System%20from%20Arabic%20%20letters%20to%20Latinized%20%20%20letters%202007%20-%20ENGLISH.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/11th-uncsgn-docs/E_Conf.105_137_CRP.137_14_Romanization%20System%20from%20Arabic%20%20letters%20to%20Latinized%20%20%20letters%202007%20-%20ENGLISH.pdf) (last accessed, 8/3/2018)

# Chapter I

## Introduction

Translation studies is an academic inter-discipline that has developed enormously in recent years. Extensive research is currently being undertaken in the field (Munday, 2010, p. 8). Translation formerly was perceived as a part of comparative literature, contrastive linguistics and a language-learning activity (Munday, 2010, p. 4). Holmes (1988) made a name and structure for Translation Studies in which he described the discipline as being concerned with “the complex of problems clustered round the phenomenon of translating and translation” (Holmes, 1988, p. 181). Later on, translation has been connected to culture, human behavior and society as a whole. In (1990, pp. 79-86), Marry Snell-Hornby coined the term “cultural turn”, i.e. the movement from translation as text to translation as culture and politics.

Media translation has been examined widely by many scholars, e.g. Schäffner and Bassnett (2010), Bielsa and Bassnett (2009). Translation of media discourse is considered as powerful as media itself. Both translation and media reflect aspects of cultural identities. It was not until the cultural and descriptive Translation Studies in the 1980s and 1990s that the role of agents including institutions i.e. online newspapers was paid attention to. Therefore, scholars started to investigate the questions of how, when, what and why translations were produced.

This thesis compares the English edition of the ‘Times of Israel’ with Arabic one of the ‘Times of Israel’ online newspaper. It explores news translation by applying Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough 1992), Descriptive Translation Studies (Lambert and van Gorp 1985) and Narrative Theory (Baker 2006) in the analysis of selected news items. Translational and institutional intervention can be noticed in media translations, in which translators and institutions aim to deliver their own voice, based on their own ideological tendencies to influence the target culture and contribute in shaping readers minds. These translations define who the translators are and reflect their ideological tendencies, even though sometimes the translators are literally invisible (not identified)

but through their translation we can obtain a certain amount of knowledge on their character and political views. However, this thesis is mainly focusing on the institution and the translation itself rather than the translators.

The data analyzed in this Thesis comprise a two-year (2017-2018) collection of English news items published on the ‘Times of Israel’<sup>2</sup> website, concerning the Palestinian - Israeli conflict. The website claims to have no partisan political affiliation, and this thesis aims at proving otherwise because “Unmediated, intervention-free translation is simply impossible, even when the translator is convinced that they should be totally neutral” (Baker, 2008, p. 8). Journalists write stories, and translators rewrite these stories based on their own ideologies or the ideologies of the institution following certain guidelines. This thesis shows how “language is not neutral but a highly constructive mediator” (Fowler, 1991, p. 1). The use of Critical Discourse Analysis, Descriptive Translation Studies, and Narrative theory, helps us understand how the Palestinian –Israeli conflict is framed and re-framed through paratexts by the ‘Times of Israel’ and explore how “the power of a frame can be as great as that of language itself” (Entman, 1993, p. 55).

## **1.1 Purpose of the Study**

This thesis examines the English and Arabic editions of the ‘Times of Israel’ online newspaper in their respective socio-political and ideological contexts. The aim of this Thesis is to compare the ‘Times of Israel’ English and Arabic editions, looking at translational and editorial choices.

The thesis analyzes the ‘Times of Israel’ online newspaper in terms of the English text and its Arabic translation and how the ‘Times of Israel’ portrays the Palestinian - Israeli conflict. It also, examines the translation strategies used by the institution. The analysis of the conditions of the source text (**ST**) and target text (**TT**) production will help unfold political and ideological positions of agents<sup>3</sup>. In addition, the thesis examines the effect of these strategies on the **TT** itself, and to what extent they affect the translation.

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<sup>3</sup>Agents include the individual translator and the institution of the ‘Times of Israel’ involved in translating the Arabic edition of the website.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict has two different narratives, “The Palestinians and Israelis have contradictory and intertwined narratives about the conflict, generally and in every single detail” (Ayyad, 2011, p. 16). By applying methods of CDA (Fairclough 1992), product-oriented DTS (Lambert and van Gorp 1985) and Narrative Theory (Baker 2006), data analysis attempts to examine the framing and re-framing of the ‘Times of Israel’ and its role in creating and circulating the Israeli narrative and undermining the Palestinian narrative.

The analysis of these aspects of the online newspaper shows how the **ST** translations go through intervention and manipulation processes, which are ideologically and politically motivated. This challenges the claim of ‘Times of Israel’ of having no partisan political affiliation (cf. **Chapter IV**), and proves that “translators and interpreters are not apolitical - that many hold strong beliefs about the rights and wrongs of (political) events in which they find themselves involved professionally” (Baker, 2013, p. 1). The thesis also examines the role of ideology, and the reasons that motivates agents to manipulate and intervene in the translated texts.

## **1.2 Significance of the Study**

This thesis examines the ‘Times of Israel’ online newspaper and its English and Arabic editions from a Translation Studies point of view, focusing on an under-investigated strategy of re-framing in news translation. This textual and paratextual<sup>4</sup> analysis show how institutions “participate in the construction of social and political reality” (Baker, 2007, p. 151) through re-framing. Such an intervention is made by the agents involved in order to directly contribute to the narrative that shapes our social world (Baker, 2007, p. 156). In this sense, this thesis attempts to uncover how the textual and paratextual profiles of the Arabic editions of the ‘Times of Israel’ reflects aspects of ideological and political affiliation.

According to Williams and Chesterman (2002, p. 2), Translation Studies research aims to “make a contribution to the field which increases the sum of our knowledge”. This thesis offers a genuine set of data from the ‘Times of Israel’ English and Arabic editions,

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<sup>4</sup>Gerard Genette introduced the term ‘paratext’ in 1988. Genette refers to ‘paratextual materials’ as the supplementary information to the text like prefaces, titles and illustrations (Genette, 1991, p. 263). And Genette describes paratexts as “a message that has taken on material form” (Genette, 2001, p. 4).

and it is the first to investigate the ‘Times of Israel’ website in terms of its translation and re-framing strategies, in which it bridges a gap in news translation

The second half of the twentieth century witnessed the emergence of a considerable theoretical output that laid the foundation of translation studies (Khalifa, 2014, p. 9). Different theoretical frameworks and methodologies have been used to examine news translation, i.e. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS), and Narrative Theory, in addition to linguistic and sociological frameworks. However, in order to provide an integrated analysis, this study is the first to combine Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough 1992), Descriptive Translation Studies (Lambert and van Gorp 1985) with Narrative Theory (Baker 2006) approach. Using narrative theory as a theoretical framework “steadily gained ground throughout the twentieth century, and is now firmly established in a range of academic disciplines” (Harding, 2013, p. 105), the use of narrative theory in this thesis would provide an integrated data analysis.

This thesis also contributes to the understanding of framing devices used in news translation. Furthermore, it explains how these framing devices “draw attention to some aspects of reality while obscuring other elements” (Entman, 1993, p. 55). In addition, there are only few studies that investigate re-framing from a translation point of view e.g. Baker (2012), Vis (2016), and Feinauer (2016). Most of the other studies only investigate re-framing from the media, news and editorial point of view, leaving out translational and institutional choices, e.g. Entman (1993), Norris, Kern & Just (2004), Johnson-Cartee (2005), this thesis tackles the subject of framing and re-framing by combining both Translation Studies and News Studies.

The text production is affected by the political and ideological positions of agents “their positions emanate from their ideologies” (Ayyad, 2011, p. 36). This thesis explains how the Arabic translations of the ‘Times of Israel’ are politically and ideologically motivated.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Although aspects of framing are tackled within the discipline of Translation Studies, reframing news in online newspapers remains an under-investigated topic. Demonstrating an under-investigated topic, this thesis focuses on the re-framing process of the ‘Times of Israel’ online newspaper in its Arabic and English editions. Using an authentic set of data, this thesis bridges a gap in the analysis of re-framing news in online newspapers from the perspective of Translation Studies.

The manipulation degree and the ideological impact of the translator and institution on political **TTs** creates sensitive issues in news translations than in any other field. Schäffner (1997, p. 131) notes that "sensitivity in the context of translation is only partly determined by linguistic aspects". This is why the focus of this thesis is to analyze the English and Arabic editions of the website with special emphasis on the re-framing devices used by translators and editors. The website and its translation are analyzed in their relevant socio-political, historical and ideological settings.

The analysis of the ‘Times of Israel’ website shows translations of carefully selected texts that elaborate a narrative that portray Palestinians as extremists, terrorists, anti-Semites, and a threat. While the actual Arabic translations are kept very similar to the English original text, the ‘Times of Israel’ uses re-framing of titles, headings, images and videos (cf. **Chapter IV**). These re-framing strategies can leave a huge impact on the reader, and steer the receiver towards the direction that is best for the text producers, therefore, strengthening the Israeli narrative and undermining the Palestinian narrative. After all, it is the translators whom, "strengthen or undermine particular aspects of the narrative they mediate" (Baker, 2006, p. 105), in addition to the institution’s role itself, as shown in this thesis.

### **1.4 Limitation of the Study**

A number of studies has been conducted on news translation, but there has been a lack of research on re-framing in news translation from a political and ideological perspective, which is considered a key limitation of this thesis.

The fact that the ‘Times of Israel’ does not provide details about its translation policy makes it hard to obtain the institutional translation guidelines or any information on the