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### ABSTRACT

#### **Assessing the Level of Efficiency of Translating Intertextuality in Mahmoud Darwish's Poetry: A Translation from Arabic to English**

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**Background:** Translators constantly face the problem of preserving meanings when translating any text, let alone a text filled with intertextual references and underlying messages. This is because the process of translation is not only translating a text into another but also a process of translating cultures and religions and a process of decontextualization and recontextualization.

**Objectives:** This research addresses the complexity of translating intertextuality, specifically allusions, and proposes a solution that targets its underlying issue which is the loss of meaning that occurs when translating intertextuality. The problem that translators face when translating intertextuality is whether they can compensate for that loss and how. This paper argues that using the strategy of visibility change can aid in the compensation of the loss of the intended meaning that the author was trying to communicate.

**Methods:** In order to prove our point, we first extracted religious and literary allusions from Mahmoud Darwish's *the Butterfly's Burden*. We explained how the allusions, which gained their connotative meaning from the pre-text, were utilized in the source language host-text in order to

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identify the intended meaning of the poet. Finally, we classified what strategies the translator Fady Joudah used in the target language host-text when translating the allusion from Arabic to English in order to evaluate the translator's efficiency of communicating the poet's intended meaning on the basis of whether he retained the intentional, semiotic, and informational status.

**Results:** Our claim, that using the pragmatic strategy of visibility change in addition to the use of either syntactic or semantic strategies has a higher degree of compensation for the loss of the intended meaning, was proved correct because in the cases where the visibility change was used by Joudah, the compensation for the loss of the intended meaning was higher.

**Conclusion:** Future researchers are encouraged to analyze other types of intertextuality and to compare the translation of intertextuality of various translators.

**Research Keywords:** Intertextuality, allusions, translation strategies, translation assessments, pre-text, source language host-text, target language host-text, Mahmoud Darwish, Fady Joudah.