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## Translation Quality Assessment of Literary Texts: A Critical Analysis of Two Recent Arabic Translations of Orwell's *Animal Farm* (1945)\*

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## تقييم جودة ترجمة النصوص الأدبية: تحليل نقدي لترجمتين عربيتين حديثتين لرواية مزرعة الحيوان لجورج أورويل (1945)

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### الملخص

هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى تقييم جودة ترجمتين عربيتين حديثتين لرواية (مزرعة الحيوان) لجورج أورويل (1945)، الترجمة الأولى لمحمد حسن علاوي (2019) والثانية لهبة فتحي (2020) وذلك باعتماد نموذج هاوس (2015) لتقييم جودة الترجمة، والدمج بين المنهجين (النوعي والكمي). وجرى الاعتماد على المنهج النوعي في إجراء تحليل مقارنة بين خصائص النص المصدر والترجمتين باستخدام نموذج هاوس (2015)؛ وذلك لتحديد التباينات في سجل السمات اللغوية للنصين، في حين جرى الاعتماد على المنهج الكمي في رصد الأخطاء اللغوية الظاهرة، وتحديد ما إذا كانت هناك فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية في متوسط عدد هذه الأخطاء بين التريجتين أم لا؟

هذا وقد أظهرت نتائج الدراسة وجود العديد من التباينات، خاصة على مستوى الأبعاد الثلاثة للسجل اللغوي وهي (مجال النص، شكل النص، الطريقة) التي أثرت إلى حد ما على العناصر الفكرية والتبادلية الوظيفية للنص في كلتا التريجتين. وقد أوضحت النتائج وجود فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية بين التريجتين من حيث تواتر الأخطاء، إذ احتوت الترجمة الثانية على عدد كبير من هذه الأخطاء مقارنة بالترجمة الأولى مما أدى إلى ظهور خلل في صياغة بعض التراكيب اللغوية في اللغة الهدف، في حين عدت الترجمة الثانية أقل ملائمة للنص الأصلي من الترجمة الأولى.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** تقييم جودة الترجمة، نموذج هاوس، الترجمة الأدبية، مزرعة الحيوان، الأخطاء الظاهرة.



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### Abstract

This article aims to assess and evaluate the quality of two recent Arabic translations of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (1945), the first one by Mohammed Hasan Alawi (2019) and the second one by Hiba Fathi (2020) using House's (2015) Translation Quality Assessment model. A mixed approach of qualitative and quantitative methods was employed. The qualitative method involved conducting a comparative analysis between the profiles of the source text and the two translations employing House's model (2015) to identify mismatches at the register parameter. The quantitative method was employed to quantify the overtly erroneous errors and determine whether statistically significant differences exist in the mean number of these errors between the two translations. The findings of the study show numerous mismatches, particularly at the three dimensions of register (field, tenor, and mode) which to some extent affected the ideational and interpersonal components of the textual function in both translations. The findings also indicate statistically significant differences between the two translations in terms of the frequency of overtly erroneous errors. The second translation exhibited a higher number of such errors compared to the first translation, primarily resulting from the breach of the target language system. The study concluded that the second translation was less adequate compared to the first translation.

**Keywords:** Animal Farm, House's model, literary translation, mixed methods translation quality assessment, overtly erroneous errors



## Introduction

Literary translation, as highlighted by Venuti (1995), has the distinction of being the most widely translated genre in the world. It plays a remarkable role in bridging cultural gaps between nations, enabling the dissemination of literary works across different languages and thus enriching the target language with new cultural experiences and perspectives. Within the realm of literary translation, the phenomenon of retranslation has gained much interest in the field of Translation Studies, sparking extensive discussions and investigations over the years (Feng, 2014). Retranslation refers to the process of translating a particular literary work several times over a period of time. This occurs when a previously translated work is translated again, often by different translators. In the Arab world, the retranslation phenomenon is prevalent in literary genres, driven by a rising trend of retranslating foreign language classics into Arabic, as evidenced by numerous examples including the Waste Land, Lord of the Flies, Wuthering Heights, Great Expectations, the Old Man and the Sea, and Animal Farm (Al-Naabi, 2021). In Arabic literature views on retranslation vary, with proponents seeing it as a way to improve translation quality and opponents considering it redundant and exploitative. This phenomenon allows for comparative analysis and highlights the evolution of translation practices over time.

The growing interest in the retranslation phenomenon of literary works emphasizes the need to assess the quality of these translations and provide recommendations for improvement (Al-Sowaidi, 2019, 2023). This demonstrates the significance of Translation Quality Assessment (TQA) as a promising sub-field within Translation Studies. TQA is used in academic research and translation practice to assess translation quality, identify problems, and suggest improvements. Scholars in the field of Translation Studies (e.g., Al-Qinai, 2000; House, 1997 and 2015; Nord, 1997; Reiss, 2014; Williams, 2009) have made efforts to develop robust models of TQA to establish a systematic approach to evaluating translations. Among these models, House's functional-pragmatic model of TQA has gained wide recognition among translation scholars and researchers (e.g., Al-Haddad, 2018; Anari & Varmazyari, 2016; Askari & Rahim, 2015; Bittner, 2020) for its reliability, established nature, comprehensive scope, and well-defined framework.

## Problem of the Study

The research problem of this study revolves around the retranslation of George Orwell's novel, *Animal Farm*, into Arabic. Surprisingly, this novel has been translated into Arabic sixteen times, with six recent translations in 2019 and 2020, making it the most translated novel in the Arab world (Wazen, 2021). Arab literary critics such as Al-Naabi (2021), Wazen (2021), and Najm (2019), have shown great interest in the multiple translations of this novel, especially the six recent ones. They raised concerns about the quality and effectiveness of these translations, highlighting a potential gap in their quality and standards. Additionally, they argued that the Arab reader gets confused by the production of several translations for the same source text and finds it difficult to choose an adequately reliable translation. These concerns about the quality and standards of recent translations of *Animal Farm* have motivated the researchers to assess the quality of a selection of these translations, using House's (2015) model of TQA.

## Objectives of the Study

The overall aim of this study is to assess and evaluate the quality of two recent Arabic translations of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (1945), one by Mohammed Hasan Alawi (2019) and the other by Hiba Fathi (2020), using House's TQA model (2015). More specifically, this study seeks to accomplish the following objectives:

- 1- Identifying the mismatches along the register parameter between the original text and the two translations.
- 2- Categorizing the overtly erroneous errors identified in the two translations into four categories:
  - 1) Omission; 2) Addition; 3) Substitution and 4) Breach of the TL system.
- 3- Examining whether there is a significant difference in the mean number of overtly erroneous errors between the two Arabic translations of Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

## Research Hypothesis

In order to test the null hypothesis of this study, it is hypothesized that there is no statistically significant difference in the mean number of overtly erroneous errors between the two Arabic translations of Orwell's *Animal Farm*.



## Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The scope of this study is limited to the assessment and evaluation of the quality of two of the latest Arabic translations of Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Out of the six translations published in 2019 and 2020, the focus is on two specific translations by Mohammed Hasan Alawi from Iraq and Hiba Fathi from Egypt. The study employs House's TQA model in its most recent version (2015) as a framework for analysis, focusing on the parameter of register. The study opts to analyze specific excerpts from the ST and TTs rather than conducting an analysis of entire texts.

## Significance of the Study

This study is significant as it contributes to addressing the gap in the field regarding the quality of the recent translations of Orwell's *Animal Farm* by providing a comprehensive assessment and evaluation of the quality of two of these translations. Besides, the study can serve as a valuable source of guidance for the target audience, allowing them to choose good-quality translations in a market with varying standards. In addition, the study helps the translators and editors of the two specific translations of *Animal Farm* under investigation to become acquainted with the detected errors in these translations, enabling them to review and edit these translations in future editions. The study also provides valuable insights for practitioners in the field including trainers and translators by raising their awareness of the difficulties encountered in literary translations and suggesting effective strategies to mitigate these challenges. Furthermore, the study can serve as a valuable reference for researchers conducting similar studies and pave the way for further research and investigation in this area.

## Literature Review

A significant number of studies were conducted in the field of TQA, using House's (2015) model as their framework. Within this context, many researchers applied House's TQA model to assess the translation quality of literary works, including poetry and novels.

In their recent study, Esfahani and Younesi (2022) employed House's TQA model (2015) to evaluate two distinct translations of Persian poetry by Hafez, an outstanding Iranian poet. The study focused on style differences between a prose translation and a rhymed prose translation. As a sample for



the study, fourteen translated poems from Hafez's *Ghazaliyat* were selected for analysis, using Hamidian's book *Sharh-e Shoq* (2011) for interpretations. Covert and overt errors were identified, with significant mismatches observed in genre, author's provenance, and writing styles. Overt errors were categorized into seven groups, and their frequency in the translations was calculated. The study concluded that neither translation effectively conveyed the intended meanings to the audience, with the first translation being closer to covert translation due to the absence of additional rhyme.

In a similar study, Hassan (2015) used House's TQA model to evaluate the translation quality of *Hilali Epic* into English. The study examined the differences between the ST and the TT in terms of register, genre, and textual function. It also explored how cultural aspects of identity in the original text were rendered in the translation. The findings indicated a shift in genre and some mismatches in ideational and interpersonal functions. The translator attempted to preserve elements of the source culture but did not fully adapt the text to the target cultural context, resulting in difficulties in capturing the cultural identity and achieving functional equivalence.

In the context of novels, Mozaheb, et al.'s study provides a noteworthy example of investigating the translation quality assessment. The study used House's TQA model in its most recent version (2015), as well as Venuti's (1995) theory of domestication and foreignization to assess the quality of two Persian translations by Hejazi and Jafari of Paulo Coelho's English novel, *Alchemist*. The study identified covert and overt errors in each translation and examined the strategies of domestication and foreignization used by the translators. The findings showed changes in register between the author's provenance and stance and that of the translators. Both translations had a similar percentage of covert and overt errors, with mistranslation being the most common error. Hejazi's translation was considered more covert and domesticated, prioritizing the target culture, while Jafari's translation was more overt and foreignized, prioritizing the source culture.

Another similar study employing House's TQA model in its newly revised version (2015) was conducted by Al-Haddad (2018) to assess and evaluate the translation quality of Morrison's *Beloved* (1987) from English into Arabic. The study compared the original text and the translation in terms of register and genre, identifying mismatches and overt errors. The



analysis revealed mismatches in the field, tenor, and mode dimensions, resulting in a shift in the interpersonal function. The study concluded that the translation failed to match the original linguistically and preserve the cultural features as proposed by House's model for overt translation.

### Theoretical framework

House's model is a prominent and influential framework in the field of TQA, specifically designed to assess the quality of various types of texts. House's functional–pragmatic model of TQA is described as "the only fully worked out, research-based, theoretically informed and interdisciplinary conceived approach" (House, 2015, p.1). The model, developed in 1977 and revised in 1997, 1981 and 2015, is based on Halliday's systemic functional theory, theories of pragmatics, register theory, stylistics and discourse analysis (House, 2015). This model involves conducting a thoroughly comparative analysis of the source text (ST) and target text (TT) at the level of language/text, register and genre. Therefore, the model is mainly based on the text context analysis. The register analysis captures three dimensions, namely field, tenor, and mode. The field covers the subject matter and social action of the text. Tenor refers to the nature of the participants, i.e., the sender and the receiver, and the relationship between them and encapsulates the sender's social, temporal and geographical provenances and also emotional and intellectual stances (House, 2015). Further, tenor includes "social attitude", i.e., type of style as formal, informal and consultative. The last dimension, mode, refers to the channel of communication, i.e., spoken or written and the connectivity, i.e., textual coherence and cohesion. The genre parameter helps assessors relate a text to its broader category of texts that serve a similar purpose. Genre connects texts to the larger linguistic and cultural community, unlike register categories that focus on individual linguistic features.

House (2015) defined translation as the "replacement of a text in the source language by a semantically and pragmatically equivalent text in the target language" (p. 23). Accordingly, this means that an adequately translated text should match the original at pragmatic and semantic levels. In this regard, House's model emphasizes the concept of equivalence as a basic criterion for ensuring translation quality, stipulating that the TT must fulfill a function equivalent to that of the ST. The textual function here means the



use that a text has in a particular situation, and it consists of ideational and interpersonal functional components.

## Research Methodology

### Study Design

The study incorporated both qualitative and quantitative methods to thoroughly assess and evaluate translations. The qualitative aspect of this study is based primarily on conducting a content analysis of the materials of the study. The original text and two translations were thoroughly examined using House's model (2015). This involved a comparative analysis of selected passages from the ST with their equivalents from the two TTs to determine mismatches at the register level (field, tenor, and mode) and identify overtly erroneous errors as proposed by House's model (2015). The overtly erroneous errors were categorized into (omission, addition, substitution, and breach of the TL system). Three raters were involved in categorizing and evaluating these errors.

The quantitative method was employed to measure and compare the frequency of overtly erroneous errors in the TTs using SPSS software. The analysis also measured the agreement among the raters involved in evaluating and classifying errors using STATA software. Additionally, ANOVA was employed to test the null hypothesis regarding the mean number of overt errors in the two translations.

### Materials of the Study

The materials of this study consisted of Orwell's *Animal Farm* and two of its recent translations into Arabic. *Animal Farm* served as the ST whereas the Arabic translations represented the TTs. *Animal Farm* is an allegorical novel by George Orwell that tells the story of a group of animals that revolted against their human master, who mistreated them, in the hopes of establishing a new society free from human oppression in which all animals live equally and happily. However, their hope does not come true as their revolution is eventually crushed by some of their fellow animals, i.e., the pigs, and the farm is returned to its previous state. *Animal Farm* can be read at multiple reading levels since it has skillfully mixed the features of three literary genres: fable, satire, and allegory (Juana, 2017). In this study, *Animal Farm*, was discussed under the genre of political satire which touches on a variety of political themes including language manipulation,



abuse of power, and exploitation of the working class. Regarding the TTs, this study used two recent translations of Orwell's *Animal Farm*. The first translation is by Mohammed Hasan Alawi (2019) from Iraq, and the second is by Hiba Fathi (2020) from Egypt.

### Procedures of the Study

First, both the ST and the TTs underwent thorough reading to gain more insightful penetrations that helped in comparing and assessing the quality of the TTs. The study employed a purposive sampling method to carefully select 122 excerpts that focus on major themes and cultural references, rhetorical devices, and emotional impact. Second, the following steps of House's model (2015) were applied.

- 1- A register analysis along the register dimensions of field, tenor, and mode was performed to create the ST's profile.
- 2- The same process of register analysis in the above step was used for the TTs.
- 3- The profiles of ST and TTs were compared.
- 4- Mismatches between the ST and TTs were identified along the register parameter (field, tenor, and mode).
- 5- Overtly erroneous errors were identified in the two translations and categorized into four categories: omission, addition, substitutions and breach of the TL system. The researchers involved three raters experienced in English-Arabic translation in the categorization and evaluation of these errors. The raters' responses were assessed for agreement using statistical analysis with STATA software. The frequency of overt errors in the two TTs was calculated using SPSS software to identify any statistically significant differences between them.
- 6- Based on the results of the preceding steps, a statement of translation quality was provided.

### Results and Discussion

#### Qualitative Analysis: Comparison of the ST and TTs

To address the first objective of the study which seeks to identify mismatches in the register parameter, the ST and the TTs underwent comparative analysis based on House's model (2015) along the register dimensions, namely field, tenor, and mode. The analysis contained 122 excerpts from the ST along with their corresponding equivalents from the

TTs. However, due to the research limited scope, only a representative sample of 12 excerpts was included in the discussion. It is worth mentioning that the ST version used in this study for the analysis and comparison with the TTs was George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (1945). Specifically, the web edition published by ebook@Adelaide, which is available through University of Adelaide Library, South Australia. It is also important to note that the excerpts from TTs, especially TT2, contain spelling errors such as misspellings, missing or misplaced words, lack of punctuation, and spacing or formatting problems. These errors are inherent to the original version of the translation. The researchers faithfully transferred the excerpts from the original TT2, including any errors, without any interventions or corrections.

### 1- Field

The field dimension examines how the subject matter and social action were expressed in the ST and rendered in the TTs. The analysis focuses on the linguistic representation of the ST central themes (abuse of power, propaganda, and exploitation of the working class) in the TTs. The following excerpts show how the depiction of the ST major themes is affected in the TTs.

No.	ST	TT1	TT2
1	When they had finished their confession, the dogs promptly tore their throats out, and in a terrible voice Napoleon demanded whether any other animal had anything to confess. [p.64]	وعندما انتهوا من اعترافهم، سرعان ما صدحت حناجر الكلاب، وطالب نابليون بصوت مجلجل ما إذا كان هناك أي حيوان آخر لديه ما يعترف به. [p.68] <i>Wa 'endma anthw men a'etrafhm, sor'ean ma şadht hanajr al-kelab, wa talb Nablywn bşwt mojljl ma edha kan honak ay hywan akhr ldyh ma y'etrf bh.</i>	وعندما انتهت من اعترافها مزقت الكلاب اعناقها في الحال وتسال نابليون بصوت مرعب إن كان هناك حيوان آخر في لديه أي شيء ليعترف به. [p.96] <i>Wa 'endma antht men a'etrafha mżqt al-kelab a'naqha fy al-hal wa tsael Nablywn bşwt mor'eb an kan honak hywan akhr fy ldyh ay shy<sup>2</sup> ly'etrf bh.</i>

The ST author in excerpt 1 employs the phrase "tore their throats out" to describe a terrifying scene of abusing power in which Napoleon executes his fellow animals who oppose his regime. In TT1 the translator misunderstands the meaning of "tore their throats out" and incorrectly renders it into " صدحت

الكلاب "sadht hanajr al-kelab/حناجر الكلاب" while the TT2 translates it correctly as "مزقت الكلاب اعناقها/mzqt al-kelab a'naqha". Rendition in TT1 distorts the theme of power abuse and deprives it out of its content. In the ST, the author employs "demanded" in a forceful manner within a material process to reinforce the representation of the underlying theme. However, TT1 translates this verb as "طالب" which is an adequate translation while TT2 renders it as "تسال/tsael" which does not correspond to the ST. The word "تسال/tsael" is misspelled and it should be "تساءل/tsa'el" which means wondering or asking oneself with curiosity (Al-Fayrouzabadi, 2008). This meaning is unrelated to the authoritative manner of asking for something that the verb "demand" denotes.

No.	ST	TT1	TT2
2	All the same, there were days when they felt that they would sooner have had less figures and more food. [p.70]	وعلى الرغم من ذلك، كانت هناك أيام شعرت أن عددها سيتناقص وسيقدم المزيد من الطعام. [p.74] <i>Wa 'ela al-rghm men dhalk kant honak ayam sh'ert an 'eddha sytnaqş wa syqdm al-mzyd men al-t'eam</i>	ومع ذلك، فكانت تأتي أيام تتمنى الحصول على ارقام اقل واطعام أكثر. [p.103] <i>Wa m'a dhalkk fkant taty ayam tatmna al-ḥşwl 'ela arqam aql wa eṭ'eam akthr.</i>

Excerpt 2 conveys the theme of propaganda by highlighting the starvation condition of the animals, while Squealer, acting as a propagandist, deceives them by displaying a list of numbers that seem to indicate the prosperity of the farm. This leads the animals to desire a reduction in numbers and an increase in food. The translations of this excerpt show some lexical mismatches. In TT1 the verb "felt" is rendered as "شعرت/sh'ert" which might be considered less acceptable in this context to convey the intended message. This verb is rendered in TT2 as "تتمنى/tatmna" (wish) in its present form. This rendition is lexically acceptable in this context, but it does not match the tense, which is the past in the ST, thus distorting the meaning and creating confusion for the reader. Another mismatch is seen in TT1 rendition of the phrase "had less figures" into "عددها سيتناقص/eddha sytnaqş" which completely differs from the meaning intended by the ST. The addition of the possessive pronoun "ها/ha" to the noun "عدد/'edd" (number) refers to the animals, giving the sentence a distorted meaning.

No	ST	TT1	TT2
3	the lower animals on Animal Farm did more work and received less food than any animals in the county. [p.102]	إن الحيوانات الأدنى في مزرعة الحيوان تؤدي عملاً أكثر وتحصل على طعام أقل من أي حيوان في المقاطعة. [p.106] <i>En al-hywanat aladna fy mzr'et al-hywan tw'edy 'emlan akthr wa thsl 'ela t'eaman aql men ay hywan fy al-mqat'eh.</i>	إن الحيوانات الأولى في المزرعة تعمل أكثر، وتحصل على طعام أقل من أي حيوان في البلاد. [p.147] <i>En al-hywanat al-uwla fy al-mzr'et t'eml akthr wa thsl 'ela t'eaman aql men ay hywan fy al-blad.</i>

Thematically, excerpt 3 depicts the exploitation of animals as a lower class and employs allegory to represent the exploitation of working classes under totalitarian regimes, typically situated at the bottom of the social hierarchy. In the translation of this excerpt, the lexical choices made by the translators influence how the theme of exploitation is portrayed in the two TTs. In TT1, the collocation "lower animals" is translated as "الحيوانات الأدنى/*al-hywanat aladna*". This rendering maintains the formal correspondence of the collocation in Arabic which is (noun+ adjective) but does not express the sociopolitical connotation of the collocation in this context, resulting in an awkward meaning. This collocation is rendered in TT2 as "الحيوانات الأولى/*al-hywanat al-uwla*" that conveys a sense completely opposed to that of the ST, resulting in a different image from that established by the ST author. The suggested translation in such a context could be "الحيوانات من الطبقة الدنيا والطبقة العاملة"*al-hywanat mn al-tbqh al-dnya aw al-tbqh al-'eamlh*".

It is concluded from the previous discussion along the filed dimension that the major themes of the ST (power abuse, propaganda, and exploitation of the working class) are presented less accurately and expressively in the two TTs than intended in the ST. The depiction of the major themes in the two TTs is affected due to the incorrect selection of lexical items in the TL, resulting in a deviation from the intended meaning and significantly influencing the presentation of these themes in the TL.

## 2- Tenor

The comparison made at the tenor dimension level focuses on examining the mismatches between the ST and the TTs in terms of the author's personal stance, social role relationship, social attitude, and participation.

The comparison illustrates how these variables were affected at the lexical and syntactic level during the translation process. The analysis of the following excerpts aims to determine if the translators effectively conveyed the emotional tone and personal attitude of the ST in the TL.

No.	ST	TT1	TT2
4	But the pigs seemed comfortable enough, and in fact were putting on weight if anything. [p.85]	ولكن بدت الخنازير مرتاحة بما فيه الكفاية بعد أن خففت من وزنها. [p.89] <i>Wa laken bdt al-khnazyr mrtahh bma fyh al-kfayh b'ed an khafft men wznha.</i>	لكن الخنازير بدت في ارتياح كاف وفي الحقيقة كان وزنها يزداد. [p.125] <i>Laken al-khnazyr bdt fy artyah kaf wa fy al-hqyqh kan wznha yzdad.</i>

In excerpt 4, the ST author conveys his personal stance satirically and humorously using situational irony, which occurs when a situation or event has a different result from what was wanted or expected (Bowers, 2010). The ST phrase "were putting on weight" suggests that the pigs were indeed gaining weight despite the lower rations and difficult living conditions. This creates situational irony because the pigs benefit from the suffering of the other animals. However, in TT1 as in contrast to TT2, the phrase "were putting on weight" is rendered as "بعد أن خففت من وزنها/b'ed an khafft men wznha" which means "were losing weight". This translation conveys the opposite of the intended meaning, thereby making the irony of the situation unclear to the TL readers.

No.	ST	TT1	TT2
5	To see him toiling up the slope inch by inch, his breath coming fast, the tips of his hoofs clawing at the ground, and his great sides, matted with sweat, filled everyone with admiration. [p. 52]	وتتقطع أنفاسه وهو يضرب الأرض بجوافره، وتتعرق جوانبه من شدة العمل، مما أثار إعجاب كل من شاهده. [p.52] <i>Wa tatqt'e anfash wa hwa yqrb al-arḍ bhwafrh, wa tt'erq jwanbh men shdh al-'eml, mma athar a'ejab kol men shahdh.</i>	ورؤيته وهو يجتهد صاعداً إلى أعلى المنحدر بوصة وراء بوصة، وأنفاسه لاهثة، وأطراف حوافره تخمش في الأرض، وجسمه يقطر عرقاً، وكان الجميع معجبين به. [p.73-74] <i>Wa r'eyth wa hwa yjthd ṣa'eda ela a'ela al-monhḍr bwaṣh wraḥ bwṣh, wa anfash lahthh, wa aṭraf ḥwafrh tkhmsh fy al-arḍ, wa jsmh yqtr 'erqa, wa kan al-jmy'e mo'ejbyn bh.</i>

In excerpt 5, the ST author uses the idiom "inch by inch" to describe the character of Boxer as making very slow but steady progress with determination despite the difficulty of the task (Lafta, 2015). Lexically, the word "inch" refers to a unit of measurement while the idiomatic meaning of this expression refers to moving slowly, carefully and resolutely regardless of challenges. In translating this idiom into Arabic, TT1 resorts to omission which leads to a loss of meaning and nuance in the TT. TT2, on the other hand, renders this idiomatic expression as "بوصة وراء بوصة/bwāsh wraʿ bwāsh" using word-for-word translation i.e., translating each single word in the SL idiom into its corresponding word in the TL. This rendering distorts the meaning of the idiomatic expression in the TT since the intended reader would interpret the expression as referring to measuring a distance inch by inch rather than doing something with great difficulty. Baker (2018) described such idioms as "misleading" and suggested translating them using an idiom with a similar meaning but a different form. Thus, both TT1 and TT2 fail to capture the idiomatic meaning of the ST idiom "inch by inch".

No.	ST	TT1	TT2
6	The early apples were now ripening, and the grass of the orchard was littered with windfalls. [p.28]	أن أرض البستان ملئت بالنفاح الناضج مبكراً وسقط جراء الرياح. [p.33] <i>En arḍ al-bostan mlʿet baltfah al-naḍj mobkran wa saqt jraʿ al-ryaḥ.</i>	وبدا التفاح المبكر ينضج واكتسى عشب البستان بسقط الرياح. [p.44] <i>Wa bdaʿ al-tfah al-mobkr yndj waktsa 'eshb al-bstan besaqt al-ryaḥ</i>

Excerpt 6 exemplifies the translation of the ST culture-specific items. The word "windfalls" refers to "something (such as a tree or fruit) blown down by the wind" (Merriam-Webster, 2022). In the ST, "windfalls" describes apples that the wind has caused to fall from apple trees in the orchard. T1 renders "windfalls" as "سقط جراء الرياح/saqt jraʿ al-ryaḥ" which means "fallen due to the wind". This translation describes only the action of falling as a result of the wind without referring to the fruit that the wind caused to fall. As a result, the translation fails to provide an appropriate equivalent to 'windfalls' in TL. TT2 renders "windfalls" as "يسقط الرياح/besaqt al-ryaḥ" which means "fallen by the wind". This literal translation does not convey the specific meaning of "windfalls".

The following excerpts assess whether the translators are able to maintain the same level of ST informality in their translations.

No.	ST	TT1	TT2
7	I am old and my voice is hoarse [p.10]	إني بلغت من الكبر عتياً، وصوتي أصبح أجش. [p.13] <i>Eny blght men al-kbr 'etya wa şwty aşbh ajsh.</i>	إني عجوز وصوتي أجش. [p.16] <i>Enny 'ejwz wa swty ajsh.</i>
8	the fruit of all their struggles, levelled to its foundations. [p. 54]	وباءت ثمرة جهودهم هباءً منثوراً. [p.58] <i>Wbaʿt thmrh jhwddhm habaʿan mnthwran.</i>	ها هي ثمرة جهادها تنهار في مستوى أساساتها. [p. 82] <i>Ha hy thmrh jhadha tnhar fy mostwa asasatha.</i>
9	the stones they had broken and carried so laboriously scattered all around. [p. 54]	وقد تناثرت الأحجار تذروها الرياح بعد أن بذلوا جهوداً مضنية في تكسيرها ونقلها من كل مكان. [p.58] <i>Wa qd tanathrt al-ahjar tadhrrwha al-ryah b'ed an bdhlwa jhdan mđnyh fy tksyrha wa nqlha men kol mkan.</i>	والحجارة التي عملت على تكسيرها ونقلها أن تتكلم في البداية، وأخذت تحدق بحزن في الحجارة المتناثرة. [p.82] <i>Wa al-hjarh al-laty 'emlt 'ela tksyrha wa nqlha an tklm fy al-bdayh wa akhdh tohdq bhzn fy al-hjar al-motnathrh.</i>

Excerpts 7, 8 and 9 show that, in contrast to TT2, TT1 uses expressions relevant to the Holy Quran in rendering several passages in the ST. To highlight a few examples, TT1 uses in excerpt 7 "إني بلغت من الكبر عتياً"/*blght men al-kbr 'etya*" in rendering "I am old", in excerpt 8 "هباءً منثوراً"/*habaʿan mnthwran*" in translating "levelled to its foundations", in excerpt 9 "تذروها الرياح"/*tadhrrwha al-ryah*" for "scattered all around". Arab readers who are familiar with the Holy Quran can identify the Quranic-relevant expressions used in TT1. This familiarity with the Quranic text, according to (Giaber, 2015), creates an intertextual relationship between the TT readers and the Holy Quran. The Quranic-relevant expressions used in TT1 are considered a very high register of Arabic which does not align with the style employed by Orwell in *Animal Farm*. Accordingly, this Quranic expression-based translation shifts the level of discourse in the TT1 from informal to highly formal and gives a flavor of Arab-Islamic culture to the TT. By integrating Quranic-associated phrases, TT1 gains an Arabic cultural flavor and reads more like an original work by an Arab author rather than a translation. This application of cultural filters is not recommended in House's model (2015) for translating literary works.

In summary, the analysis of the ST and the two TTs reveals mismatches in the tenor dimension. Firstly, there is an alteration of the ST author's stance, with both translations failing to convey the critical and satirical voice present in the ST. This leads to a reduction in the level of irony and satire portrayed in the texts. Secondly, the social attitude variable in TT1 is affected by the loss of the informal style used by the ST author, replaced by formal words and Quranic expressions.

### 3- Mode

The comparison at the mode level focuses on presenting the differences between the ST and the TTs in terms of medium and connectivity. Like the ST, the medium in the TTs is simple, i.e., written to be read. Connectivity according to House (2015) involves cohesion and coherence. While the issue of cohesion and coherence is broad and challenging to fully address within the scope of this study, the focus has been narrowed to specific aspects of cohesion examined in excerpts 10, 11 and 12.

No.	ST	TT1	TT2
10	But somehow neither the words nor the tune ever seemed to the animals to come up to 'Beasts of England' [p. 68]	لكن بطريقة أو بأخرى لم تكن تضاهي لا كلمات ولا نغمة نشيد "يا وحوش إنجلترا". [p.72] <i>Lakn btryqh aw bakhry lm tkn idahy la klmat wa la nghmh nshyd "ya whwsh enjltra"</i>	لكن إلى حد ما لم يكن كلماتها الحانها عند الحيوانات في مستوى أغنية (وحوش إنجلترا). [p.100] <i>Lakn ela hđma lam ykn klmatha al-ħanha 'end al-hywanat fy mstwa aghnyh "whwsh enjltra"</i>
11	By this time the weather had broken and the spring ploughing had begun. The shed where Snowball had drawn his plans of the windmill had been shut up and it was assumed that the plans had been rubbed off the floor. [p.44]	وبحلول هذا الوقت، تغير الطقس وبدأت حراثة الربيع، وقد أغلقت السقيفة حيث رسم سنوبول خطه الخاصة بالطاحونة، وكان من المفترض أن الخط قد مُسحت من الأرض. [p.49] <i>Wa bhłwl hdha al-wqt, tghyr al-tqs wa bdat ħrathh al-rby'e, wa qd aghlqt al-sqyfh hyth rsm Snwbwl khřřh al-khash al-bal-řahwnh, wa kan men al-mftrđ an alkhřř qd msħt men al-arđ.</i>	وفي هذا الوقت بدء الطقس يتحسن، وحلت حراثة الربيع السقيفة التي خطط فيها سنوبول تصميماته لبناء الطاحونة فقد أغلقت وأزيلت الرسومات من على الأرضية. [p.67] <i>Wa fy hdha al-wqt bda al-tqs yħsn wa ħalt ħrathh al-rby'e al-sqyfh al-laty khřř fya snwbwl řřmymath lebna al- řahwnh fqd aghlqt wa azyłt al-rswmat men 'ela al-arđyh.</i>

Looking at excerpts 10 and 11, it is evident that, unlike TT1, TT2 lacks conjunction as seen in the highlighted parts of each excerpt. In excerpt 10, the phrase "neither the words nor the tune" in the ST is a negative construction that shows the poor quality of the song in terms of lyrics and tune. This phrase is translated in TT2 as "لَمْ يَكُنْ كَلِمَاتُهَا أَلْحَانَهَا" /*lam ykn klmatha al-ḥanha*". This translation lacks connector "و" (and) and negative particle "لا" (or) between the lexical items "كلماتها" and "ألحانها". The accurate translation should be read "لكن إلى حد ما لم تكن كلماتها ولا ألحانها عند الحيوانات في مستوى أغنية وحوش إنجلترا". Similarly, the rendition of excerpt 11 by TT2 lacks connection particularly, the two successive phrases "حلت حراثة الربيع" /*ḥalt ḥrathh al-rby'e*" and "السقيفة التي خطط فيها سنوبول تصميماته فقد أغلقت" /*al-sqyfh al-laty khṭṭ fya snwbwl ṭsmymath fqd aghlqt*". The accurate translation should include the conjunction "و" /*wa*" and read as follows: "وحلت حراثة الربيع وأغلقت السقيفة التي خطط فيها سنوبول تصميماته".

No.	ST	TT1	TT2
12	Mr. Pilkington once again congratulated the pigs on the low rations, [P.103]	وقام السيد ويلنجتون مرة أخرى بتهنئة الخنازير على الحصص الغذائية المنخفضة. [P.107] <i>Wa qam al-syd wylnjtwn marh akhra bthn'eh al-khnazyr 'ela alhṣṣ al-ghda'eyh al-mnkhfdh</i>	وهنا مستر بلكيتجتون الخنازير مرة أخرى على حصصهم المتدنية. [p.148] <i>Wa hna mstr blkytjtw al-khnazyr mrh akhra 'ela hṣṣhm al-mtdnyh</i>

In excerpt 12, the ST clause "Mr. Pilkington once again congratulated the pigs on the low rations" suggests that Mr. Pilkington is congratulating the pigs on the low rations of other animals rather than the pigs. The phrase "low rations" suggests that the animals are not receiving enough food under the pigs' regime. In rendering this phrase to Arabic, TT1 uses the phrase "الحصص الغذائية المنخفضة" /*alhṣṣ al-ghda'eyh al-mnkhfdh*" which correctly conveys the meaning whereas TT2 uses "الحصص المتدنية" /*hṣṣhm al-mtdnyh*" which includes the attached possessive pronoun "هم" in "الحصص" /*hṣṣhm*". This addition of the pronoun in the TT2 suggests that Mr. Pilkington is congratulating the pigs for their own inadequate food, which is not the case in the ST.

To sum up, TT2 in contrast to TT1 fails to maintain cohesion as seen in excerpts 10, 11 and 12. This lack of connectivity is mainly attributed to the breach of the TL system as evident by the presence of numerous printing

and punctuation errors. The regular occurrence of these errors disrupted the smooth flow and logical connection between ideas, making the text appear disjointed and confusing.

### Quantitative Analysis of the Overtly Erroneous Errors

To address the second objective of the study regarding the categorization of overtly erroneous errors into four categories, namely omission, addition, substitution, and breach of the target language system (BTLS), the researchers involved three raters in the classification and evaluation process. The raters, who were experienced in English–Arabic translation, were provided with a questionnaire containing all identified errors and instructed to examine and categorize each error accordingly. The software package STATA (version 17) was used to analyze the responses of the raters and measure the level of agreement among them. Tables 1 and 2 show the kappa statistics to measure the agreement level among the raters regarding TT1 and TT2 respectively.

**Table (1) Kappa-Statistic of Raters Agreement Regarding TT1**

TT	Types of overt errors	Holsti (Percent Agreement)	Cohen/Conger's Kappa	t	P>t
TT1	Unclassified	97%	88%	83.64	0.000
	BTLS	96%	87%	70.5	0.000
	Substitution	94%	87%	53.5	0.000
	Addition	96%	78%	65.86	0.000
	Omission	97%	86%	83.64	0.000
<b>Total</b>		<b>96%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>153.74</b>	<b>0.000</b>

**Table (2) Kappa-Statistic of Raters Agreement Regarding TT2**

TT	Types of overt errors	Holsti (Percent Agreement)	Cohen/Conger's Kappa	t	P>t
TT2	Unclassified	97%	41%	83.89	0.000
	BTLS	79%	57%	70.5	0.000
	Substitution	77%	53%	53.5	0.000
	Addition	94%	5%	63.03	0.000
	Omission	92%	68%	52.43	0.000
<b>Total</b>		<b>88%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>95.73</b>	<b>0.000</b>

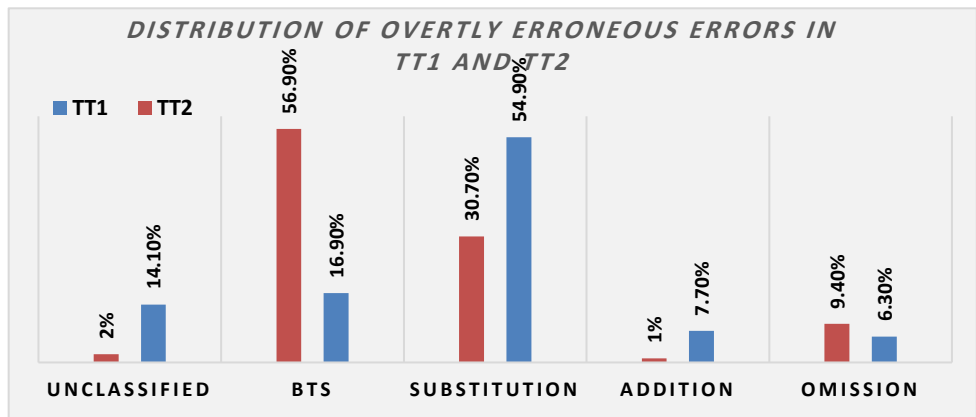
The results in Tables (1) and (2) reveal a significant level of agreement among the raters, with a substantial agreement rate of 96% for TT1 and 88% for TT2. This high level of agreement greatly enhances the validity and

reliability of the error analysis conducted in this study. After identifying and classifying the overtly erroneous errors, their frequency at the level of each TT was computed by SPSS software package (version 27) as shown in Table (3).

**Table (3) Frequencies of Overtly Erroneous Errors in the Two Translations**

			Classification of Overtly Erroneous Errors					Total
			Unclassified	BTLS	Substitution	Addition	Omission	
TT	TT1	N	20	24	78	11	9	142
		Percent	14.1%	16.9%	54.9%	7.7%	6.30%	100 %
	TT2	N	4	115	62	2	19	202
		Percent	2 %	56.9%	30.7%	1%	9.4%	100 %
Different test	Kruskal-Wallis H		16.341	78.473	15.071	9.058	1.725	
	p-value		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.003	0.189	
Related test	chi-square		73.6					
	p-value		0.000					
	Coefficient of Contingency		0.42					

Table (3) demonstrates statistically significant differences between TT1 and TT2 in terms of error type frequency, with a high level of significance indicated by a chi-square test score of 73.6 ( $p$ -value = 0.000). The contingency coefficient of 0.42 further supports these results. TT1 has 142 overt errors, while TT2 contains 202 errors, representing a difference of 60 errors in favor of TT1, which accounts for approximately 17.44% and highlights a notable difference between the two translations.



**Figure (1) Distribution of Overtly Erroneous Errors in TT1 and TT2**

Figure (1) depicts significant differences in overtly erroneous error frequency between the two TTs across various error types. The most

significant difference is observed in BTLS errors, with TT1 scoring 16.90% and TT2 scoring 56.90%. Substitution errors also exhibit a notable disparity, with TT1 scoring 30.70% and TT2 scoring 54.90%. In the unclassified error category, TT1 scores 2% and TT2 scores 14%. Another difference is shown in the addition category where TT1 scores 7.70% while TT2 scores 1%.

### Testing the Null Hypothesis

In order to address the third objective of the study which investigates whether there is a significant difference in the mean number of overtly erroneous between TT1 and TT2, the null hypothesis of the study was examined using an ANOVA test. The results of the ANOVA test are presented in Table (4).

**Table (4) Results of the ANOVA Test Regarding the Null Hypothesis**

			Error types					F-Ratio	P-Value	
			Unclassified	BTS	Substitution	Addition	Omission			All
TT	TT1	Mean	16.75	22.5	69	13	12.25	26.7	14.09	0.003
		Std	2.22	1.73	6.63	1.63	2.22	22.23		
	TT2	Mean	4.5	83.25	64.75	4.25	23.25	36		
		Std	1	21.2	6.29	4.03	5.97	34.42		
All	Mean	10.63	52.88	66.88	8.63	17.75				
	Std	1.61	11.47	6.46	2.83	4.09				
F-Ratio			93.09						29.53	
P-Value			0.000							0.000

Table (4) shows that the  $p$ -value for the TT variable is less than 0.05. This suggests that the TT variable has a statistically significant impact on the number of errors with 95.0% confidence level. From this result, it can be drawn that there is a statistically significant difference between the mean number of errors attributed to the TT variable (TT1, TT2). Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected indicating that there is a statistically significant difference in the mean number of overtly erroneous errors between the two Arabic translations of *Animal Farm*.

### Statement of Quality

The comparison of the ST and the two TTs along the register parameter showed mismatches along the three dimensions of filed, tenor, and mode which affected both ideational and interpersonal functions in both TTs, though to different extents. The ideational function was affected to some extent in both translations as evidenced by the mismatches in the field



dimension, which affected the conveyance of the ST major themes. Both translations could not effectively capture all nuances of the ST major themes due to some factors such as misunderstanding of the ST and wrong selection of lexical items, as evident in TT1, and using word-for-word translation and the presence of printing errors, as observed in TT2. The interpersonal function was affected in both TTs, particularly in the tenor dimension, resulting in a diminished conveyance of the ST author's critical and satirical voice, leading to a reduction in the level of irony and satire. In TT1, changes occurred due to a shift from informal to formal language, incorporating Quranic-based expressions to create the impression of an Arabic author writing the ST. In TT2, numerous errors in the mode dimension disrupted text cohesion and coherence, impeding effective communication and hindering the establishment of a meaningful connection between the text and the reader, impacting both the ideational and interpersonal functions.

Based on House's (1997) suggestion, a translation is considered more adequate and overt when it contains a lower number of covert and overt errors. Upon analysis, it was observed that TT2 has more mismatches at the register parameter than TT1 and the number of overt errors in TT2 was higher (17.44%) compared to TT1. Therefore, TT2 is considered to be less adequate and overt than TT1.

## Conclusion

This study shed light on the quality of two recent Arabic translations of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (1945) using House's TQA model (2015) as a framework for the evaluation process. The study employed a mixed approach of qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative methods involved employing qualitative content analysis to systematically examine and analyze the ST and the TTs based on House's TQA model (2015). Quantitative methods were used to determine overt error frequencies, compare translations in terms of error frequencies, and evaluate inter-rater agreement. The findings showed mismatches in both TTs across the register dimensions (filed, tenor and mode) which affected the ideational and interpersonal functional elements of textual function. The ideational function was affected in both translations, thereby influencing the effective presentation of the ST major themes. The interpersonal function was also affected in both TTs resulting in a reduction in the tone and voice of the ST.



The interpersonal function was affected as well in TT1 due to the reduction in the level of informality that characterizes the ST. The findings of the quantitative analysis showed statistically significant differences between TT1 and TT2 in terms of overt error type frequency. TT1 has 142 errors, while TT2 contains 202 errors, indicating that TT2 is less adequate compared to TT1.

This study not only identified specific problem areas and errors in the analyzed translations but also provided valuable insights into the process of translating literary works. It shed light on the challenges faced by literary translators and the strategies employed. One common challenge identified was finding the right balance between preserving cultural references from the ST while ensuring acceptability in the target language, as well as maintaining the author's voice and style. The strategies employed in the analyzed translations included literal translation and the application of cultural filters. However, it is important to note that these strategies may not be suitable for all genres that require a more overt translation approach. Analyzing the register of the original text before translation is suggested as a strategy to overcome these challenges. This analysis provides insights into the cultural, linguistic, and artistic features of the ST, enabling translators to make informed choices and effectively maintain the cultural references in the target language. Additionally, it assists translators in accurately conveying the author's unique voice, style, and tone.

Based on the findings of the study, the researchers suggest two directions for future research on evaluating *Animal Farm* translations. Firstly, employing corpus tools for detailed linguistic analysis can offer insights into specific translation choices by comparing the English source text with the Arabic translations. Secondly, it is suggested to explore machine translation systems to generate initial translations, enabling a comparative analysis with human translations. This analysis can provide valuable insights into the strengths and challenges faced by human translators in contrast to automated systems.



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