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EXPLORING SHIFTS IN ATTITUDINAL MEANINGS IN THE TRANSLATION OF DISASTER NEWS HEADLINES: A PARATEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF TURKISH MEDIA DISCOURSE

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to uncover how a disaster in a neighbouring country, namely, Greece, is represented in Turkish online media through translation. To this end, analysis was conducted on 12 selected pairs of news articles in English and Turkish from 4 different media outlets- BBC News, Euronews, CNN, and The Independent. Headlines, as paratextual instruments, were examined quantitatively and qualitatively based on an attitudinal perspective of the Appraisal Theory (Martin & White, 2005). Shifts in attitudinal meanings in both languages were analysed under three subsystems of *Attitude- affect, judgement, and appreciation*. The quantitative analysis revealed only a slight difference between the two languages, but the comparative qualitative analysis disclosed much greater shifts in attitudinal meanings. The translated news headlines intensified the emotional response under the category of *affect*, and the cultural and aesthetic value was observed to be mitigated in *appreciation*. *Judgement*, on the other hand, was observed to be triggered by ideological motivations. Furthermore, consistency was detected across the two languages, as governmental power was given intensified emphasis. The results show that the shifts in meanings are not always designed to support objectivity; rather, their impact might depend on the broader socio-political and economic context in which the translation occurs.

Keywords: news translation, paratextual analysis, appraisal theory, attitudinal meaning

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AFET HABERİ BAŞLIKLARININ ÇEVİRİSİNDE TUTUMSAL ANLAM KAYMALARI: TÜRK MEDYASINDAKİ SÖYLEMİN YANMETİNSEL ANALİZİ

ÖZ

Bu çalışma, komşu ülke Yunanistan’da meydana gelen bir afetin, Türk medyasında çeviri yoluyla nasıl temsil edildiğini ortaya koymayı amaçlamaktadır. Bu amaç doğrultusunda, BBC News, Euronews, CNN ve The Independent adlı dört farklı medya kuruluşundan seçilen 12 İngilizce ve Türkçe haber başlığı analiz edilmiştir. Haber başlıkları yanmetinsel unsurlar olarak, Değerlendirme Kuramı’nın (Appraisal Theory) (Martin & White, 2005) Tutum (Attitude) dizgesi çerçevesinde nicel ve nitel yöntemlerle incelenmiştir. Her iki dildeki haber başlıklarının tutumsal anlam kaymaları, Tutum dizgesinin üç alt ulamı olan *duygulanım* (affect), *yargı* (judgement) ve *takdir* (appreciation) bağlamında analiz edilmiştir. Nicel analiz, iki dil arasında anlam kaymaları açısından sınırlı bir fark olduğunu gösterirken; karşılaştırmalı nitel analiz ise, tutumsal anlamlarda daha belirgin kaymalar olduğunu ortaya koymuştur. Özellikle haber başlığı çevirilerinin *duygulanım* (affect) kategorisinde duygusal tepkileri yoğunlaştırdığı; *takdir* (appreciation) kategorisinde ise kültürel-estetik değerleri zayıflatığı gözlemlenmiştir. Öte yandan, *yargı* (judgement) kategorisinin ideolojik motivasyonlarla şekillendiği gözlemlenmiştir. Ayrıca, her iki dilde de hükümet gücüne yapılan vurgunun artırılması açısından bir tutarlılık saptanmıştır. Bulgular, anlam kaymalarının her zaman tarafsızlık hedefiyle gerçekleşmediğini; bu kaymaların etkisinin, çevirinin üretildiği sosyo-politik ve ekonomik bağlamla ilişkili olabileceğini göstermektedir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: haber çevirisi, yanmetinsel analiz, değerlendirme kuramı, tutumsal anlam

1. INTRODUCTION

In the process of news for the globalised world today, translation has become a significant, though frequently unnoticed, component of news production (Davies et al., 2018, p. 156). In today’s digital world, news companies increasingly use translation not only to produce news for their local readers but also to extend their reach to international markets. This is the one possible way that news agencies can have an impact on audiences from different cultures speaking other languages (Valdeon, 2022, p. 118). Therefore, translation is conceived as an integral part of the journalistic process, such as editing and writing. Yet, news agencies themselves do not usually hire professional translators; these duties are generally carried out by news editors who edit and translate news reports before submitting them to a specific newswire. Both editing and translation include processes such as “selection, correction, verification, completion, development or reduction”, shaping the final version of the news (Bielsa, 2007, p. 136). During the translation process of news, events are recontextualised; therefore, the source text’s ideologies and sociopolitical perspectives might not align with those of the target text reader (Kang, 2007). Thus, translation would entail reshaping the original

message for the new audience (Bielsa & Bassnett, 2009), implying that the news translation is a manipulative act, as news agencies are required to suppress the “voice of the source” by filtering some information (Xia & Wang, 2020, p. 72). Among all the elements of a news text, headlines particularly need close attention during the translation process. These are regarded as one of the most crucial aspects, as they summarise the news articles, underline their importance, catch readers’ attention, and convey the message contained within. Thus, translators should carefully address pragmatic and semantic differences between the languages (Xi, 2019, p.37). Given these influential functions, it is almost inevitable that headlines are also subject to some sort of manipulation during the translation process.

News translation has been largely analysed in terms of “domestication” (Venuti, 2012), frequently referred to by scholars with terms such as “gatekeeping, editing, recontextualising, rewriting, acculturating, localising, adapting, transforming” (Boeri & Fattah, 2020, p.75). There has also been a growing academic interest in news translation in Türkiye. Various studies have addressed the topic from different perspectives, including, to name just a few, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in news translation (Özcan Dost, 2024; Türkmen & Koçlu Maman, 2024), activities of news translation during the Covid-19 period (Dindar, 2022; Tekgül Akın, 2023), news translation in translator training (Yetkin Karakoç, 2020). However, to the best knowledge of the author, there has been no attempt to address attitudinal meanings that refer to the emotional impact and the evaluative language used in the news discourse in the Turkish context. This study aims to fill this gap by examining the shifts in attitudinal meanings in the translations of disaster news headlines through the lens of three main semantic subsystems of Attitude- affect, judgement, and appreciation. Attitude is one of the three sub-categories of Appraisal Theory proposed by Martin and White (2005), which provides a systemic analysis of evaluative meanings in texts. To this end, 12 pairs of English and Turkish news headlines reporting on the ongoing earthquake disaster in Santorini were examined. The data analysed consists of headlines, examined as paratextual¹ instruments, selected from four different media outlets: BBC News, Euronews, CNN, and The Independent. In this study, the term ‘shift’ refers to the “departures from formal correspondence in the progress of going from the SL to the TL” (Catford, 1965, p.73). It is of great importance to analyse evaluative formulations that trigger emotions in news headlines, as such expressions can “trigger contextually-determined positive or negative response” (Boeri & Fattah, 2020, p. 83). When it comes to disaster news, such negative or positive

¹ The term “paratext” is defined as verbal and visual materials surrounding a text (Tahir Gürçağlar, 2011). Examples of paratexts include “titles and subtitles, pseudonyms, forewords, dedications, epigraphs, prefaces, intertitles, notes, epilogues, and afterwords” (Macksey, 1997, p. xviii).

response might even serve to intensify or mitigate the perceived urgency of the event and introduce “counter-expectation” (ibid). Thus, by analysing attitudinal shifts in the headlines, this study aims to contribute to our deeper understanding of both translator’s and the author’s stance, along with the role of news translation in shaping public perception.

The article is structured as follows: First, there will be a discussion of appraisal theory as a theoretical framework and the related studies in the field. This is followed by a description of the methodology of the study, and then the results and discussion of the findings.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1. Appraisal Theory in Translation Studies

The Appraisal Theory (AT) emerged within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), which expands the scope of the interpersonal meaning at the semantic level, specifically concerning vocabulary use (Yixuan, 2023, p. 66). Interpersonal meaning focuses on the interaction between parties, especially a speaker/writer and a listener/reader, and a speaker/writer’s personal attitudes. In other words, it centres on how the speaker’s or author’s subjective attitudes are reflected in language (Dong & Lin, 2018). Appraisal Theory is concerned with the semantic analysis of feelings and behaviours, which are classified into three sub-categories: Attitude, Engagement, and Graduation, each of which contains its own set of sub-systems (Seo, 2012, p.265) (see Tables 1 and 2):

APPRAISAL THEORY		
Attitude	Engagement	Graduation

Table 1. Appraisal resources
Source: Martin & White, 2005

ATTITUDE		
Affect	Judgement	Appreciation

Table 2. Attitudinal resources
Source: Martin & White, 2005

Attitude is the core part of the appraisal system and refers to “values by which speakers pass judgements and associate emotional/affectual responses with participants and processes” (White, 2001a). Attitudinal meaning is composed of three main semantic domains in discourse, which are affect, judgement, and appreciation. Affect refers to positive and negative emotional responses and

dispositions, such as the feelings ‘Do we feel happy or sad, safe, anxious, bored’ (White, 2001b; Martin & White, 2008, p. 42). This domain can be analysed under three major variables: un/happiness, in/security, and dis/satisfaction. The un/happiness variable refers to emotions such as “sadness, anger, happiness and love”, in/security, to “anxiety, fear, confidence, and trust” (Qian, 2017, p. 189), and finally, dis/satisfaction, to emotions such as “ennui, displeasure, curiosity and respect” (ibid). Affect can be also conceived as qualities in the form of adjectives as in the example “‘I am happy about that’, as processes in the form of verbs, such as “this pleases me”, or as comment adjuncts, such as ‘happily...’, which might also be “realized as virtual entities (nouns) via nominalization- ‘happiness’” (White, 2011, p. 21). Whereas affect in Appraisal Theory emerges at the discourse level, focusing on how texts convey positive or negative evaluations (Tajvidi & Arjani, 2017, p.6), Koskinen (2020) broadens the concept in translation studies by underlining its role during the translation process, exploring how the translators’ and interpreters’ *affect*² shape their work. Nevertheless, affect was analyzed at the linguistic level in this study, without considering the translators’ affect.

Judgement, on the other hand, refers to moral evaluations of behaviour, such as whether ethical, brave, reliable or not (Jin, 2019). To put it another way, human behaviour is approved or disapproved under the social norms, a person’s character or “how they ‘measure up’ to social requirements of expectations” (White, 2011, pp. 22-23). This aspect is categorised into two major groups: social esteem and social sanction. Social esteem deals with normality, i.e. “how unusual someone is”, capacity, i.e. “how capable they are”, and tenacity, i.e. “how resolute they are”. In contrast, social sanction concerns veracity, i.e. “how truthful someone is”, and propriety, i.e. “how ethical someone is” (White, 2011, p.23).

Appreciation is related to the evaluation of processes, performances, objects, and events by reference to aesthetics, rather than human behaviour (Seo, 2012). It is made up of three sub-systems, namely, reaction, composition and valuation. Reaction, consisting of two subcategories —impact and quality —concerns, respectively, attracting people’s attention and pleasing them (Gong, 2020, p. 277). Valuation is used to assess the social significance of things, determining whether they are worthwhile (Mirzaaghabeyk, 2022, p. 2). Composition deals with the complexity and balance, taking into account how easy it is to understand and use an object (ibid).

² Koskinen (2020) prefers the term “affect” over “emotion” used by Hubscher-Davidson (2018, pp.11-12) and defines the term as a “bridge concept, crossing over the various orientations in translation studies and also cutting through different contexts and modes of translatorial action” (Koskinen, 2020, p.3).

The other two sub-categories of AT are Engagement, which is described as “the choice of speakers/writers whether they use their own voices (monogloss) or quote others’ voices (heterogloss) to express their opinions” (Yixuan, 2023, p. 68) and Graduation, which is “a set of resources for turning up or turning down the volume of lexical item in either positive or negative appraisal” (ibid: 71). This study mainly adopts the domain of Attitude as an analytical framework, and the analysis will be discussed in line with the attitudinal meanings, namely *affect*, *judgement*, and *appreciation*.

AT has been applied in different branches of linguistics. It was first used in the analysis of media discourse, and then extended to academic and political discourse, as well as daily conversations and public speeches, to analyse the author’s/ reader’s stance towards the texts (Dong & Lin, 2018; Yixuan, 2023). Jeremy Munday was one of the pioneers in applying appraisal theory in translation studies, particularly in his examination of the simultaneous interpreting of Barack Obama's inauguration speech, thereby validating the feasibility of the theory in the field (Yixuan, 2023). Since then, the theory has been applied in the analysis of translations across different text types. A review of the literature shows that it is most commonly applied in the analysis of news and literary text translations, followed by research on the translations of political discourse, advertising, audiovisual materials, business, legal, and pedagogical texts (Liu et al., 2022; Firouzi & Farahzad, 2025). Furthermore, Attitude has been identified as the most frequently analyzed domain (40%) in studies employing AT (Liu et al., 2022, p.1596). Within the context of news translation, which has been extensively conducted in China, the focus has been primarily on the political discourse (Pan, 2015; Boeri & Fattah, 2020; Pan & Liao, 2021). These studies scrutinised how evaluative meanings are constructed to make judgements and imply attitudes, often resulting in a deviation from objectivity (Pan, 2015) or shifts in the speaker’s positioning due to linguistic differences to achieve semantic coherence (Qian, 2012).

Over time, research findings have led to a shift in focus, toward an understanding of how attitudinal meanings function in translated news. Although translators play a significant role in shaping the public view, there has been found to be a “reverse effect” on readers (Pan & Liao, 2020, p. 736), who have become increasingly aware of the manipulative strategies applied in this area. Research has revealed similar results in literary text translations. To maintain semantic coherence across cultures, translators tend to use attitudinal meanings of affect and judgement, although these resources are sometimes reduced when there is a desire to retain poetic rhythm and conciseness (Dong & Lin, 2018). The findings in the translation of advertising texts are no exception. To ensure cultural coherence between ST and TT, new appraisal meanings are included in the translated texts (Yan & Tian, 2019). In a broader sense, Tajvidi and Arjani (2017) provide an overview of research on AT in

translation studies and conclude that appraisal resources tend to shifts in translation and interpretation through the omission, intensification, or softening the Attitude due to “ideational content or ideological differences” (Tajvidi & Arjani, 2017, p.21).

Despite numerous studies employing AT in translation studies, there still remains a gap in the literature. Most research on the AT use addresses political news translation; in contrast, this study focuses specifically on non-political texts, investigating how appraisal resources can shape the meaning in disaster news.

3. Methodology

3.1. Material

To extract data for the current paper, BBC News, Euronews, CNN, and The Independent were singled out due to their global reach, their high standards in journalism, and their widespread popularity among both English and Turkish readers. It is also of great significance to examine the same disaster news stories across different media discourses to compare and contrast their attitudes. In this regard, the frequency and the distribution of the three main subsystems of Attitude, drawing on the Appraisal Theory, were examined to detect the systematic shifts in evaluative meanings across these four media outlets. With this aim in mind, 12 news headlines on the ongoing Santorini earthquake and volcano eruption, which started on January 31, 2025³, were selected for data analysis as paratextual instruments. The headlines, published between February 3, 2025, and March 1, 2025, were included in the analysis, and accessibility to the news was the primary selection criterion for the analysis. As neighbouring countries, Greece and Türkiye have a common history and border, and are commonly affected by earthquakes. They, on the other hand, are in full competition, especially in the tourism sector. Therefore, it seems relevant to explore how the disaster news headlines occurring in Greece are represented in Turkish media discourse, given the two countries' geopolitical affinity. The list of the paratextual components, i.e. titles of the headlines chosen and examined in this study, is shown in Table 1 below:

Media Outlet	English Title	Turkish Title
BBC news	State of emergency declared for Santorini after quakes	Ege Denizi'nde 'deprem fırtınası': Santorini'de olağanüstü hâl ilan edildi

³ [https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/santorini-ongoing-earthquake-swarm#:~:text=Since%20January%2031%2C%202025%2C%20seismic,2024\)%2C%20raising%20further%20alarm](https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/santorini-ongoing-earthquake-swarm#:~:text=Since%20January%2031%2C%202025%2C%20seismic,2024)%2C%20raising%20further%20alarm) (Retrieved April 20, 2025)

Euronews	Hundreds of tourists flee Santorini after powerful earthquake warning	Deprem uyarısının ardından yüzlerce turist Santorini'den ayrıldı
Euronews	Santorini earthquakes: What to know if you have a holiday booked to the popular Greek island	Ege depremleri: Popüler Yunan adasını seyahat etmek güvenli mi?
Euronews	Illegal hotels, pools and hot tubs: Santorini's 'building crimes' are a disaster waiting to happen	Turist ve müteahhit cenneti: Santorini'nin kaçak yapı krizi
Euronews	Greek PM visits Santorini as high seismic activity continues	Yunanistan Başbakanı Miçotakis sismik aktivitenin devam ettiği Santorini'yi ziyaret etti
Euronews	Mayor of Santorini says recent earthquakes are part of a 'seismic swarm' that could last weeks	Santorini Belediye Başkanı: Son depremler haftalar sürebilecek 'sismik sürünün' parçası
Euronews	Santorini targeted by fake volcano eruption videos	Santorini'de deprem paniği sürerken sahte yanardağ patlaması videoları yayılıyor
The Independent	Thousands flee Santorini as hundreds of earthquakes rattle deserted Greek island	Santorini'den kaçış: 4 soruda Ege'deki depremler
CNN	'The whole island has emptied:' Thousands flee Santorini as quakes rattle Greek tourist haven	Santorini Adası'ndan' deprem' göçü! 9 binden fazla kişi terk etti
CNN	Schools shut as tremors shake Greece's 'Instagram island'	Okullar tatil edildi! Ege Denizi'nde peş peşe depremler! Yunanistan Başbakanı acil durum ilan etti!

BBC	Tremors hitting Santorini reach new strength	Santorini'de deprem fırtınası 5'in üzerinde sarsıntılarla sürüyor
BBC	Santorini fears for summer tourist season as earthquakes hit island	Santorini: Ege'de deprem fırtınası turizmi nasıl etkileyebilir?

Table 3. List of headlines used in the analysis

The study adopts a two-stage analysis. In the first stage, the attitudinal meanings of both source text (ST) (English) and target text (TT) (Turkish), based on three sub-systems of Attitude- affect, judgement, and appreciation- were examined qualitatively. In the second stage, these identified meanings were then manually counted and expressed as numerical data. The Results and Discussion part below presents the shifts identified in attitudinal meanings in both languages, providing statistical data in numbers along with illustrative examples discussed in detail.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Comparative Analysis of Attitudinal Resources in English and Turkish online news outlets

12 news headlines were examined and categorized according to the attitudinal domains, as illustrated in Table 4 below:

Media Outlet	English Title	Turkish Title
BBC news	State of emergency declared for Santorini after quakes Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect	Ege Denizi'nde 'deprem fırtınası': Santorini'de olağanüstü hâl ilan edildi Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Appreciation
Euronews	Hundreds of tourists flee Santorini after powerful earthquake warning Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect	Deprem uyarısının ardından yüzlerce turist Santorini'den ayrıldı Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect

	Judgement Appreciation	Judgement
Euronews	Santorini earthquakes: What to know if you have a holiday booked to the popular Greek island Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Appreciation	Ege depremleri: Popüler Yunan adasını seyahat etmek güvenli mi? Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Appreciation
Euronews	Illegal hotels, pools and hot tubs: Santorini's 'building crimes' are a disaster waiting to happen Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Judgement Appreciation	Turist ve müteahhit cenneti: Santorini'nin kaçak yapı krizi Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Judgement Appreciation
Euronews	Greek PM visits Santorini as high seismic activity continues Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Judgement Appreciation	Yunanistan Başbakanı Miçotakis sismik aktivitenin devam ettiği Santorini'yi ziyaret etti Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Judgement
Euronews	Mayor of Santorini says recent earthquakes are part of a 'seismic swarm' that could last weeks Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Judgement Appreciation	Santorini Belediye Başkanı: Son depremler haftalar sürebilecek 'sismik sürünün' parçası Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Judgement Appreciation
Euronews	Santorini targeted by fake volcano eruption videos Domain(s) of Appraisal: Judgement	Santorini'de deprem paniği sürerken sahte yanardağ patlaması videoları yayılıyor Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Judgement
	Thousands flee Santorini as hundreds of earthquakes rattle deserted Greek island	Santorini'den kaçış: 4 soruda Ege'deki depremler Domain(s) of Appraisal:

The Independent	Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Appreciation	Affect
CNN	‘The whole island has emptied.’ Thousands flee Santorini as quakes rattle Greek tourist haven Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Appreciation	Santorini Adası’ndan’ deprem’ göçü! 9 binden fazla kişi terk etti Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect
CNN	Schools shut as tremors shake Greece’s ‘Instagram island’ Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Judgement Appreciation	Okullar tatil edildi! Ege Denizi’nde peş peşe depremler! Yunanistan Başbakanı acil durum ilan etti! Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect Judgement
BBC	Tremors hitting Santorini reach new strength Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect	Santorini’de deprem fırtınası 5’in üzerinde sarsıntılarla sürüyor Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect
BBC	Santorini fears for summer tourist season as earthquakes hit island Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect	Santorini: Ege’de deprem fırtınası turizmi nasıl etkileyebilir? Domain(s) of Appraisal: Affect

Table 4. List of headlines used in the analysis

The attitudinal resources were comparatively examined in English and Turkish online news outlets. The results revealed a slight difference in the distribution of attitudinal resources across languages (see Tables 5 and 6):

Attitude Type	Frequency in English (in number)
Affect	11
Judgement	6
Appreciation	8

Table 5. Distribution of attitudinal resources in English news headlines

Attitude Type	Frequency in Turkish (in number)
Affect	12
Judgement	6
Appreciation	4

Table 6. Distribution of attitudinal resources in Turkish news headlines

The comparative quantitative data indicated a slight increase in the use of affect (from 11 to 12), along with a significant decrease in the use of appreciation (from 8 to 4). However, the frequency of judgement resources seemed to remain consistent in both languages. Following the definitions of these categories, this finding suggests that Turkish headlines tended to convey emotional responses (affect) more predominantly than English ones, while there were considerably fewer evaluative comments on processes, objects, events, etc., in terms of aesthetics. The qualitative analysis, on the other hand, revealed more substantial shifts in meaning. There follows a detailed discussion of the implications of these shifts observed between the two languages.

4.2. Shifts in *Affect*

In contrast to the quantitative data illustrated in Tables 5 and 6 above, the qualitative analysis disclosed more strongly pronounced shifts in meaning. Within the category of *affect*, evaluative meaning was sharpened in five Turkish headlines, attenuated in three, while there was no shift observed in the remaining three. Additionally, in one headline, a major shift was found between affectual resources from ‘insecurity’ to ‘dissatisfaction’. The example below demonstrates one of those intensified meanings of *affect*:

EX1: ST: State of emergency declared for Santorini after quakes (BBC News)

TT: Ege Denizi'nde 'deprem fırtınası': Santorini'de olağanüstü hâl ilan edildi

Back Translation: ‘Earthquake swarm’ in the Aegean Sea: State of Emergency declared in Santorini

The English headline “State of emergency declared for Santorini after quake” adopts a more objective stance, abstaining from an explicit emotion of

‘insecurity’. In contrast, the Turkish headline “Ege Denizi’nde ‘deprem fırtınası’: Santorini’de olağanüstü hâl ilan edildi” (“‘Earthquake swarm’ in the Aegean Sea: State of Emergency declared in Santorini”) contains an increased feeling of ‘insecurity’ through the use of the metaphor ‘deprem fırtınası’ (“earthquake swarm”). This metaphor constructs a more chaotic situation than is portrayed in the ST. Another headline from Euronews in Turkish shares a similar approach:

EX2: ST: Santorini earthquakes: What to know if you have a holiday booked to the popular Greek island (Euronews)

TT: Ege depremleri: Popüler Yunan adasına seyahat etmek güvenli mi?

Back Translation: Aegean Earthquakes: Is travelling to a popular Greek island safe?

In the example above, the English headline, “Santorini earthquakes: What to know if you have a holiday booked to the popular Greek island”, provides information regarding the situation, addressing the concerns of possible tourists who are planning to visit Santorini without spreading the emotions of fear or insecurity. In contrast, the Turkish translation “Ege depremleri: Popüler Yunan adasını seyahat etmek güvenli mi?” (“Aegean Earthquakes: Is it safe to travel to a popular Greek island?”) directly underlines the question of safety, triggering feelings of anxiety. In the following example, the emotion of insecurity is highlighted even more in the Turkish headline:

EX3: ST: Santorini targeted by fake volcano eruption videos (Euronews)

TT: Santorini’de deprem paniği sürerken sahte yanardağ patlaması videoları yayılıyor

Back translation: As the earthquake panic continues, fake volcano eruption videos are spreading

The ST “Santorini targeted by fake volcano eruption videos” has a neutral tone, informing the reader about the fake volcano eruption videos, devoid of any emotional response. Yet, the Turkish headline “Santorini’de deprem paniği sürerken sahte yanardağ patlaması videoları yayılıyor” (“As the earthquake panic continues, fake volcano eruption videos are spreading”) gives additional information, highlighting once again the occurrence of the earthquake, and creating a seemingly chaotic atmosphere. In other words, the emotion of ‘insecurity’, absent in the English headline, was added. In contrast to these examples, which heighten the emotional response in the Turkish news headlines, there are also instances encountered in the corpus in which the Turkish headlines show a softer emotional tone. Example 4 below demonstrates a softening of the emotional meaning through the use of the verb “flee” in Euronews:

EX4: ST: Hundreds of tourists flee Santorini after powerful earthquake warning (Euronews)

TT: Deprem uyarısının ardından yüzlerce turist Santorini'den ayrıldı

Back Translation: Thousands of tourists have left Santorini after the earthquake warning

The verb “flee” contains a strong emotional reaction, implying not only physical movement, but also ‘panic’ and ‘fear’, which the verb “ayrıldı” (“have left”), a neutral statement, does not. Moreover, there is an emphasis on the earthquake warning, signalling its potential intensity. This emphasis was completely deleted in the Turkish headline. It might be translated into Turkish as “Deprem uyarısının ardından yüzlerce turist Santorini’den kaçtı” (“Hundreds of tourists flee Santorini after powerful earthquake warning”), which emphasises the earthquake warning. Even though the same verb “flee” was translated as “kaçmak” (“to flee”) into Turkish by the Independent in another headline, a tendency to soften the message can still be observed in the following example:

EX5: ST: Thousands flee Santorini as hundreds of earthquakes rattle deserted Greek island (The Independent)

TT: Santorini’den kaçış: 4 soruda Ege’deki depremler

Back Translation: Escape from Santorini: Aegean earthquakes in 4 questions

The English headline “Thousands flee Santorini as hundreds of earthquakes rattle deserted Greek island” has a strong emotional resonance, using the verbs “flee” and “rattle”, and the phrase “deserted Greek island”. Furthermore, it highlights the seriousness of the situation by giving numerical data as “hundreds of earthquakes”, which all refer to a high level of *affect* in the form of ‘insecurity’. However, in comparison, the Turkish headline “Santorini’den kaçış: 4 soruda Ege’deki depremler” (“Escape from Santorini: Aegean earthquakes in 4 questions”) clearly has a considerably lower level of *affect*. Even though the emotion of ‘insecurity’ was partly conveyed with “kaçış” (“escape”), there was an omission of the numerical data and the other attitudinal resources such as “rattle” and “deserted Greek island”. Moreover, while the headline in the ST is limited to Santorini Island, the Turkish translation expands the scope of the event to the entire Aegean region, thereby implicitly including Türkiye. The last example in this category is a shift from one *affect* resource to another, namely from ‘insecurity’ to ‘dissatisfaction’ in Example 6 below:

EX6: ST: Illegal hotels, pools and hot tubs: Santorini’s ‘building crimes’ are a disaster waiting to happen (Euronews)

TT: Turist ve müteahhit cenneti: Santorini’nin kaçak yapı krizi

Back Translation: Heaven for tourists and building contractors: Santorini's unlicensed construction crisis

In the English headline “Illegal hotels, pools and hot tubs: Santorini's ‘building crimes’ are a disaster waiting to happen”, there is an explicit ‘insecurity’ with the word ‘disaster’, causing fear for the English-speaking reader. There is no such emotional reaction in the Turkish headline: “Turist ve müteahhit cenneti: Santorini'nin kaçak yapı krizi” (“Heaven for tourists and building contractors: Santorini's unlicensed construction crisis”). Instead, it contains an ironic combination of “turist ve müteahhit cenneti” (“Heaven for tourists and building contractors”). Therefore, it is safe to assume that there is a sharp shift from the emotion of ‘insecurity’ to ‘dissatisfaction’.

4.3. Shifts in *Judgement*

Under the judgement system, a language is concerned with the moral behaviour, either to praise or to criticise (Yixuan, 2023). According to the data, in the category of *judgement*, no shift was observed in terms of numerical data (see Tables 5 and 6). In other words, translated Turkish headlines mainly conserved the same moral behaviour reflected in the originals. However, upon closer examination, a single instance was observed to have applied subtle shifts in the meaning of the *judgement* resource. The example from CNN is illustrated below:

EX7: ST: Schools shut as tremors shake Greece's ‘Instagram island’. (CNN)

TT: Okullar tatil edildi! Ege Denizi'nde peş peşe depremler! Yunanistan Başbakanı acil durum ilan etti!

Back Translation: Schools shut down! Consecutive earthquakes in the Aegean Sea! The Greek Prime Minister declared a state of emergency!

As seen in Example 7 above, the headlines in both languages include the *judgement* resource both in the form of ‘propriety’ as a subcategory of ‘social sanction’, and ‘tenacity’ as a subcategory of ‘social esteem’, referring to “resoluteness” and “ethical behaviour”, respectively. Yet, there is a slight shift from an implicit to an explicit ‘propriety’. The English headline implied that the earthquakes caused the schools to shut, while the Turkish headline, however, made it an explicit statement that directly said that the schools were shut by the Greek Prime Minister. This example clearly shows the authority of the government, underlined by attributing the action to “the Greek Prime Minister”. The remaining examples show similar tendencies. One such example is illustrated below:

EX8: ST: Mayor of Santorini says recent earthquakes are part of a 'seismic swarm' that could last weeks (Euronews)

TT: Santorini Belediye Başkanı: Son depremler haftalar sürebilecek 'sismik sürünün' parçası

Back Translation: Mayor of Santorini: Recent earthquakes are a part of a ‘seismic swarm’ that could last weeks

Despite a shift from indirect, reported speech to direct speech, both headlines convey the same moral behaviours. The statement of the Mayor of Santorini, “Recent earthquakes are a part of a ‘seismic swarm’ that could last weeks”, can be considered both in terms of promoting ‘social esteem’ in the form of ‘veracity’, and also, ‘social sanction’ in the form of ‘capacity’. Due to the alarming nature of the information, the mayor’s explanation indicates both his ‘capability’ and ‘truthfulness’. Both *judgement* resources can be found in the English and Turkish headlines.

4.4. Shifts in *Appreciation*

While the numerical data demonstrated a higher frequency of *appreciation* resources in English (8 headlines) than in Turkish (4 headlines), a closer examination of the qualitative analysis revealed even more pronounced shifts in meaning. The majority of the shifts in evaluative meaning in the Turkish news occurred under the sub-systems of ‘valuation’ and ‘reaction’. Most of the instances of omissions in the Turkish headlines softened the tone of the situation. The following example illustrates the softening of the ‘reaction’ given in the ST:

EX9: ST: Hundreds of tourists flee Santorini after powerful earthquake warning (Euronews)

TT: Deprem uyarısının ardından yüzlerce turist Santorini'den ayrıldı

Back Translation: Thousands of tourists have left Santorini after the earthquake warning

Example 9 above shows an intensified appreciation resource in the form of ‘reaction’ shown by the phrase “powerful earthquake”. The use of the adjective “powerful” in this sentence served as a negative intensifier of the *appreciation*, referring to the strength of the threat, which was omitted in the Turkish version. This attitudinally important omission directly transformed the dramatic, urgent, and dangerous situation into a calmer and more neutral instance. The same strategy was adopted in the following example, with the omission of another adjective, ‘high’, in the ST:

EX10: ST: Greek PM visits Santorini as high seismic activity continues (Euronews)

TT: Yunanistan Başbakanı Miçotakis sismik aktivitenin devam ettiği Santorini'yi ziyaret etti

Back Translation: Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis visited Santorini, where seismic activity continues

Similarly, the phrase “high seismic activity” denotes a negative appreciative meaning, increasing the salience of the situation under the sub-systems of ‘valuation’ and ‘reaction’. This evaluative adjective (“high”) implies danger, serving as a warning for the reader. In contrast, the Turkish version seemingly lacks such urgency, reducing the *appreciation* value of the news. This, in turn, presents a neutral report rather than underlining the political significance.

The omissions in this category also contain positive valuations. In what follows, the positive evaluative resource regarding Greece was omitted in the TT:

EX11: ST: ‘The whole island has emptied:’ Thousands flee Santorini as quakes rattle Greek tourist haven (CNN)

TT: Santorini Adası’ndan’ deprem’ göçü! 9 binden fazla kişi terk etti

Back Translation: ‘Earthquake’ migration from Santorini Island! More than 9,000 people have left the island

Notably, the English headline above uses a positive valuation, “tourist haven,” to emphasise the importance of the evacuation. “Haven” means a safe place (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, n.d.), and by thus describing Santorini Island, the goal seems to be to dramatise the incident’s effect. The Turkish translation strives to convey the sense of threat via the phrase ‘deprem göçü’ (“earthquake migration”); however, there is no mention of Santorini Island as a desirable tourist destination. This omission leads to a decrease in the critical situation of the crisis. In the same vein, the missing positive appreciative meaning in the Turkish news headline again softens the tone:

EX12: ST: Schools shut as tremors shake Greece’s ‘Instagram Island’ (CNN)

TT: Okullar tatil edildi! Ege Denizi’nde peş peşe depremler! Yunanistan Başbakanı acil durum ilan etti!

Back Translation: Schools shut down! Consecutive earthquakes in the Aegean Sea! The Greek Prime Minister declared a state of emergency!

The English headline “Schools shut as tremors shake Greece’s ‘Instagram Island’” carries a positive evaluative language. The expression ‘Instagram Island’ seems to be used as a cultural centre of attraction for tourists, underlining that this aesthetic island is popular on social media. By combining this positive meaning with the use of a negative language, “schools shut”, the news headline aimed to illustrate the disruption to a place of cultural value. The positive evaluation “Instagram Island” was deleted in the Turkish headline: “Okullar tatil edildi! Ege Denizi’nde peş peşe depremler! Yunanistan Başbakanı acil durum ilan etti!” (“Schools shut down! Consecutive earthquakes in the Aegean Sea! The Greek Prime Minister declared a state of

emergency!”). Without the positive valuation, the Turkish headline adopted a more informative and factual stance, softening the message.

The comparative analysis of Turkish and English news headlines through the lens of Appraisal Theory, based on the attitudinal perspective, demonstrated salient patterns in the representation of natural disasters in both languages. Drawing on the three main subsystems of Attitude—*affect*, *judgement*, and *appreciation*, the central concepts of Appraisal Theory, this study disclosed major shifts in meaning in the translation process. This, in return, points to a broader picture regarding media discourse and the strategies utilised to transfer information across languages.

The quantitative data revealed a slight difference between the two languages (see Tables 5 and 6), but the deeper qualitative analysis uncovered much more significant shifts in attitudinal meanings. It can be argued that ideological and economic motivations might trigger these shifts in attitudinal meanings. One of the most conspicuous results is the intensification of affect in Turkish news headlines, which tend to heighten the emotional response through lexical choices aimed at evoking fear in the target reader—an effect that might be ideologically motivated. For instance, in Example 5, expanding the earthquake’s scope from a local incident in Santorini to a regional threat happening in the Aegean Sea might convey an implicit message of a “shared faith” between the two countries. Additionally, the Turkish translation guides the Turkish reader emotionally, raising concern and fear about a possible earthquake occurring in Türkiye, while simultaneously expanding awareness regarding the significance of preparedness for a disaster. On the other hand, the appreciation resources, which deal with the aesthetic valuation of objects, events, and phenomena, showed an inverse trend. In the six Turkish headlines, the ‘reaction’ and ‘valuation’ subsystems were either found to be minimised or entirely omitted, resulting in mitigating the perceived importance or seriousness of the situation. However, the Turkish headlines also ignored positive appreciation values regarding both the island and the country, which might be driven by economic reasons. For example, English headlines frequently describe Santorini as a ‘Greek touristic haven’ (see EX11) or ‘Instagram Island’ (EX12), framing the island and the country as a desirable destination. Turkish headlines, however, were observed to describe the incidents in a more neutral tone, focusing on factual objectivity at the expense of cultural and touristic values. One possible explanation for this strategy might be the competition between the two countries in the tourism sector. Foregrounding Santorini and Greece as an appealing tourist destination might be interpreted as indirect promotion of tourism, and thus a potential financial loss for Türkiye in the tourism sector. Hence, the Turkish media might have intentionally overlooked these positive appreciative valuations. Instead, they seemed to prefer to focus on the phenomenon itself. As such, the Turkish news’ neutral tone might preserve the objectivity on the surface; however, it

decreases the aesthetic value of Greece's image in terms of tourism. This appreciative shift seems to suggest that financial considerations regarding national interests might influence the media discourse involving such purposive strategies.

It was further revealed that the ideological motivations were mostly visible in the judgement subsystem, which is concerned with the normality, capacity, tenacity, veracity, and propriety. The subsystem judgement has been found to be largely consistent across both languages. Headlines defining political authorities' actions and decisions, such as the Greek Prime Minister's decision of a state of emergency (see EX7) and the statements of the Mayor of Santorini (see EX8), tended to be translated into Turkish with a minimum shift in meaning. This suggests that people in authority were represented similarly across languages, presumably sharing a similar stance towards the power of the authority during crises. In addition to this consistency observed between the two languages, an example of intensified emphasis on government power was identified in one Turkish headline. While the English headline simply stated that the "schools shut because of the tremor in Greece" (see EX7), the Turkish headline added that it was "the Greek Prime Minister" who "declared a state of emergency". By foregrounding the Prime Minister's action and decision, the aim seems to be to represent the situation as a matter of national security, thereby reinforcing the impact of the power of authority on the Turkish reader. This, in turn, highlights the way in which ideological considerations can subtly interfere with the translation process. This finding further suggests that the translations of disaster news are more shaped by ideological and economic motivations, rather than the cultural and linguistic factors primarily involved in ensuring semantic coherence in the translations of literary texts or advertising texts (Alsina et al., 2017; Dong & Yin, 2018).

5. CONCLUSION

This study examines the frequency and distribution of the three main subsystems of the attitudinal resources in the translations of disaster news across four different media outlets, namely, BBC News, Euronews, CNN and The Independent. The analysis uncovered systematic and significant shifts, particularly in two attitudinal resources, *affect* and *appreciation*. These shifts reiterate the well-known fact that the news translation is more than a mere linguistic transfer. Application of the Appraisal Theory to news translation analysis, as in this study, even though based on the investigations of a small data set, might nevertheless provide practical and theoretical insights into the news translation activities, media outlets' stance and positioning in Türkiye. It also expands the scope of the existing literature by revealing that, unlike the use of attitudinal resources in literary and commercial translations, which serve to prioritise semantic coherence, translations of disaster news are instead driven by ideological and economic motivations. This finding is in line with

Mona Baker's (2013, p.24) statement that news translation reproduces text and constructs a new world for the reader. As pointed out by Allawzi et al. (2022, p.2), news translators do not simply transfer messages in a fully neutral manner; rather, they act as "agents occupying a liminal space between cultures and political powers". Thus, this research provides an understanding of the complex relationship between the translations, ideology, and the media discourse. The results are also mostly in agreement with the existing body of literature, indicating that the news translation is far from a neutral endeavour (Al-Rikabi & Kadhim, 2020, p.711; Pan, 2015, p.233; Yixuan, 2023, p. 72). An exception can be seen in Seo's (2020) research, where the attitudinal shifts in meaning were observed to enhance the objectivity of the ST in the news translation. Yet, this trend was not seen in the results in the current study; rather, the opposite was the case. The attitudinal shifts identified in the Turkish news did not serve objectivity, but rather, intensified the emotional response, mitigating the salience of the crisis, and in some cases, the cultural value of the country. This divergence, therefore, suggests that the attitudinal shifts in meaning do not always guarantee objectivity. Rather, their impact might depend on the broader socio-political and economic context in which the translation occurs.

It is important to acknowledge that this paper also has some limitations. Firstly, this research encompassed a small data set, which made it difficult to generalise the findings. Secondly, this paper only focused on one component of the Appraisal Theory, which is Attitude, and it would be possible to include other main components, Engagement and Graduation, to broaden the findings. Thirdly, this paper analyzed a single paratextual instrument, headlines, about the disaster news unfolding in Greece at the time of writing, whereas future research can consider examining leads and bylines. Finally, this study was not conducted with any participant group and is therefore based solely on the author's subjective evaluation of the news. Consequently, the study could be expanded and strengthened by incorporating readers' responses to the news.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL / PARTICIPANT CONSENT

Ethics committee approval is not required for this study, as there are no participants in this study.

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This research and all related stages were conducted by the author.

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