Translation as a Diplomatic Negotiation: Insights on Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit Declaration (2021)

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Abstract: This paper delves into how translation functions as a discursive instrument in shaping Türkiye-Africa relations addressing the 2021 partnership summit declaration as a case study. Specifically, the study sheds light on the translation of ideological underpinnings and lexical choices in the declaration texts to reveal the vision and engagement of Türkiye towards the African continent through translation-based discourse analysis. In order to analyze recurrent discursive and lexical patterns, a corpus software program called *Antconc (2022)* was benefitted and frequency and concordance analyses across Turkish, English and French texts were uncovered. In addition to corpus-oriented analysis, Fairclough's (1992) three-dimensional model was applied as a tool for critical discourse analysis at micro, meso and macro levels through the integration of translation strategies. According to the results of lexical and discursive patterns of analysis, diplomatic discourse could be strategically reproduced for diverse target groups through translation within the context of Türkiye-Africa relations. More specifically, the findings illustrate that translation strategies are adopted either to reinforce the presence of Türkiye in Africa or to soften the discourse by avoiding politically sensitive terms and concepts corresponding with the purpose of declaration for different target audiences. As a result, this study reveals how translation can operate as an effective form of diplomatic negotiation which shapes the image of Türkiye as a "key player" in South-South Cooperation across Africa. This research holds significant potential to contribute to the fields of Translation Studies, Discourse Analysis and International Studies by revealing the interaction between translation and discourse in Türkiye-Africa relations.

Keywords: *Translation, diplomatic discourse, Türkiye, Africa, international relations*

INTRODUCTION

Recently, translation studies (TS) have undergone a paradigmatic shift towards mediation of discursive and political perspectives. In this sense, diplomatic texts such as summit declarations and their discourses have emerged as significant objects of inquiry to examine how translation reframes and transmits the power relations and diplomatic discourse across cultures and languages. As a part of this discursive and political shift in TS, the role of translation could also be reconceptualized as a political action shaping how diplomatic discourse is reframed and disseminated strategically according to the expectations of various target audiences. Consequently, the changing role of translation in forming power relations and ideology has positioned the scope of TS from micro level textual analysis to macro-level socio-political analysis, particularly, in multicultural contexts to create various political or diplomatic effects (Basnett and Lefevere, 1990; Dimitriu, 2002; Tymoczko, 2007; Schäffner, 2007; Schäffner, 1999; Baker, 2006).

Within the case of Türkiye-Africa relations, diplomatic discourse largely focuses on security, economy, cooperation, partnership and cultural diplomacy (Davutoğlu, 2008; Salamah, 2025; Sıradağ, 2025; Wais & Mohamed, 2024; Rugutt, Nzomo, & Okoth, 2023; African Business, 2021; Özkan & Akgün, 2010). However, it is the diplomatic discourse that fundamentally reforms bilateral relations

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playing a key role either to reinforce the cooperation or, contrarily, to weaken and even impair these relations, as exemplified in the evolving dynamics of Türkiye and Africa relations from a historical perspective (Kavas, 2005; Kaya, 2021; Özkan & Akgün, 2010; Republique de Türkiye & Union Africaine, 2008, 2014, 2021). This is where translation becomes pivotal, since it is through the discourse of translation that meanings are reproduced, reframed and disseminated across cultures and languages.

Translation is an act of negotiation that might reshape political narratives. This means that translators and interpreters do more than transferring the political discourse into another language but rather "participate in circulating as well as resisting the narratives" (Baker, 2019, n.p.). Within the translation of political discourse, translators could be seen as the mediators of power relations. In this sense, they may recontextualize the discourse through the use of diplomatic strategies and practices. Yet, despite the various studies (Kavas, 2005; Davutoğlu, 2008; Özkan & Akgün, 2010; Özkan, 2018; Wais & Mohamed, 2024; Salamah, 2025) regarding the relations of Türkiye and Africa, the role of translation and discourse on these relations have been rarely focused on. From this perspective, the research aims to investigate how the discourse of diplomatic texts such as 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit Declaration shape and reframe the relations between Türkiye and Africa through translation. In this respect, the study pursues two main research questions to investigate:

- What are the key concepts that shape the discourse of 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit Declaration?
- How does translation represent the discourse of 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit Declaration?
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The questions above shed light on a less examined dimension of literature through the lens of Translation Studies framework and Discourse Analysis of Turkish, English and French versions of 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit Declaration. Thus, the research offers a comprehensive analysis on how micro-level lexical choices and translation strategies accumulate into meso-level institutional coordination between Türkiye and Africa and, finally, into macro-level ideological positioning of Türkiye within African context. In this regard, this study adopts an interdisciplinary framework through the lens of diplomatic discourse which aims to reveal how translation functions as a form of political action. The following sections outline the theoretical foundations regarding translation of diplomacy, the discourse of Africa- Türkiye relations from a historical point of view, methodology and key findings of the research.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Diplomatic Discourse within the Context of Türkiye-Africa Relations

Diplomatic discourse legitimizes policies among states to frame international relations as one of the oldest means of bilateral or multilateral narrative. Within the case of Türkiye- Africa partnership (2021), the diplomatic discourse contributes to framing Türkiye particularly as one of the key actors across Africa. Through examination of summit declarations and policy documents Türkiye's diplomatic initiatives across Africa, it could be stated that Türkiye's diplomatic discourse has shifted from "humanitarian diplomacy" (Devecioğlu, 2024) which means human-centered aid at the beginning of the relations with African states to an "equal partnership" that prioritize "mutual benefit" and "development" today (Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs, n.d.). From a discursive perspective, this diplomatic shift could be divided into four main interrelated phases.

The first phase is between 1998-2005 when "1998 Africa Action Plan" advances "Turkish African cooperation in political, economic and humanitarian spheres" (Hrytsenko, 2025, p. 2). This plan constructs a discursive narrative of Africa with notions such as "opening", and "support" as a donor of aid (Öztürk & Duman, 2023) since Türkiye had a limited presence in Africa with a small

number of embassies at that time (Sıradağ, 2022). However, the discourse towards Africa has moved beyond when the year of 2005 was declared as "year of Africa" and African Union (AU) recognized Türkiye as "strategic partner" (Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2018).

The second phase between 2005 and 2013 reflects an institutional partnership with the opening of numerous embassies of Türkiye and launching of development programs via Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) across Africa. Thus, it could be stated that Türkiye and Africa relations has evolved from uniliteral to co-owned with the terms such as "win-win", "cooperation", "sustainable development" (Bashir, 2024, p. 1). It could be argued that the tone of discourse in Africa-Türkiye relations during this phase has turned into a reciprocal development and Africa has been positioned as a participant of joint growth rather than being only a recipient (Arpa & Bayar, 2019; Melis, 2024; Özkan & Orakçı, 2022).

The third phase between 2013 and 2021 embodies a new and different policy as the relations between Türkiye and Africa projects a long-term framework with 2014 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit in Malabo. The theme of summit which is "a new model for partnership for strengthening of sustainable development and integration" states a structure mechanism of joint governance by announcing discursive notions such as, "mutual solidarity" (p. 1), "sustainable development" (p.1) and "Agenda 2063" (p. 4) (African Union & Republic of Turkey, 2014). Through this reframing, the politic discourse of Türkiye towards Africa has shifted to an equal partner paradigm. Thus, Türkiye differing itself from former colonial powers has constructed its own discourse framework of "African issues require African solutions" (Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022).

The last and ongoing phase between 2021 and present introduces a discourse narration that puts emphasis on a "joint action plan" which "strengthen Africa's collaboration with Türkiye for the next five years" (Kagame, 2021) during the third Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit in 2021. The 2021 Summit Declaration represents a critical agency-driven discourse in terms of Türkiye's policy towards African states since it redefines the entire African diplomacy framework whereas the 2008 Istanbul Declaration and 2014 Malabo Declaration establish institutional foundations of the partnership. Therefore, the 2021 Istanbul Summit has been identified as the case for this research to encapsulate the discursive narration of Turkey's two-decade long engagement with Africa.

Translation as a Political and Ideological Action within Diplomatic Discourse

Translation is an ideological and political mediation tool in terms of shaping power relations in diplomatic texts. Particularly in multilingual texts where the ideology of a state is transferred, translation might either reinforce the meaning directly or reshape it delicately through translation decisions. This phenomenon could be observed in multilingual summit texts such as Türkiye-Africa Partnership Declaration in which ideological aims are embedded into the texts with specific translation strategies.

Translation could be regarded as a form of diplomacy and a political activity facilitating the international relations through linguistic framework. As Schäffner (2004) argues, "political discourse relies on translation" (p. 120) and language cannot be processed thoroughly without understanding textual features, the process of how meaning is transferred across cultures. Thus, translation decisions could generate "political effects" (p. 117) in multilingual texts since these are "equally valid texts in their respective cultures" (p. 121).

Translation and political discourse are inseparable because "once produced, translation as texts lead a life of their own and are the basis on which people acquire information and knowledge" (Schäffner, 2004, p. 125). This perspective is also compatible with the principles of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and particularly with three-dimensional model of Norman Fairclough (1992). According to Fairclough, any discourse could be analyzed with "a piece of text, an instance of discursive practice, and instance of social practice" (1992, p. 4). In this sense, the text dimension as

micro level targets feature such as vocabulary, grammar, modality, text structure, cohesion, transitivity and voice (Fairclough, 1992). Discursive practice dimension attributed to meso-level is regarding "the process of production, distribution and consumption of the text" (Fairclough, p. 71) while the dimension of social practice which is often associated with macro level of discourse frames the texts within broader sociopolitical and sociocultural structures in order to analyze how texts are shaped and shape by power relations, ideology, social structures or institutions (Fairclough, 1992).

Building on Fairclough's three-dimensional model (1992), the translation of political texts such as Türkiye-Africa Partnership Declarations could be analyzed at micro, meso and macro dimensions of the discourse. As Shaffner (2004) argues, even though political discourse is grounded in translation, political discourse analysis "has yet taken full account of the phenomenon of translation" (2004, p. 117). In this sense, three-dimensional model of Fairclough (1992) could reveal how "textual shifts" shape and are shaped by "discursive practices" at meso-level and "social practices" at macro level. Within the three-dimensional framework of Fairclough (1992), translation strategies, as a crucial component of translation of discourse, could also be analyzed as a part of textual level.

From the perspective of translation strategies (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995) such as *literal translation* (word for word transfer), *calque* (loan translation), *borrowing* (direct importation of a source language terms), *modulation* (semantic reorientation or conceptual shift), *omission* (the intentional removal or strategic deletion of source text elements), or *adaptation* (replacement with a functional cultural equivalent) may function as concrete translation choices that carry political and diplomatic implications. For instance, the translation strategy *omission* could be utilized at micro level in which all the elements of source text could be intentionally left out in the target text. Even though it is a strategy that has an impact at the textual level, it could be also interpreted as a deliberate choice shaped by expectations of target audience at the meso-level of discourse and reflecting ideological pressure at the macro level of discourse due to conflicting or sensitive issues in target text. Therefore, what disappears in the translation of political texts could be a diplomatic reconfiguration at the text level indicating how translation strategies at micro level are embedded into larger ideology.

Within the light of intersection of diplomatic discourse and translation, it could be concluded that translation of diplomacy could be operated as a tool of political action. In this sense, translation may function at the text level through lexical choices, grammar, modality and translation strategies such as omission, modulation, adaptation or literal translation. At the meso-level, translation may operate according to expectations of the target audience while performing as power relations at the macro level of discourse.

METHODOLOGY

This study aims to explore how the discourse of the 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit Declaration is represented across Turkish, French and English languages. In this sense, the study seeks to identify the key concepts that shape the diplomatic orientation of the declaration text and to investigate how translation represent the discourse across Turkish, French and English.

Context of the Study

The 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit, carried out in Istanbul under the theme of "Enhanced Partnership for Commun Development and Prosperity" serves as a crucial diplomatic text reflecting the vision and engagement of Türkiye towards African continent. The fact that the declaration text is across Turkish, French and English serve as a compelling case in understanding how international discourse of Türkiye is represented through translation.

In this study, the summit declaration text is situated between Critical Discourse Analysis and Translation Studies to reveal the key concepts and discursive narrative across Turkish, French and

English. Thus, the research provides a deep foundation to explain the interplay between translation of discourse and diplomacy in forming Türkiye-Africa relations.

Research Design

The research adopts a qualitative case study approach that combines corpus-based discourse analysis with translation-based discourse analysis. Qualitative case study approach provides a holistic method for clarifying how discursive phenomena unfold in real life settings. This approach is the most suitable for the research as it allows to investigate in-depth analysis of translation-based discursive structure of Africa-Türkiye relations within the context of 2021 declaration text.

Corpus of the Study

The corpus of this study consists of the official 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit Declaration text in Turkish, English and French prepared by Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Union. Although the declaration was disseminated simultaneously in three languages, publicly accessible documentation does not specify any translation sequence among Turkish, French and English or a drafting language. Therefore, within the scope of this research, the Turkish text is treated as the analytical source text (ST) since it more directly reflects Türkiye's diplomatic voice through its discourse patterns and lexical choices. Accordingly, the French and English texts are analyzed as target texts (TTs) addressing international audiences.

Data Analysis

Discursive patterns of 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Declaration were evaluated and compared through frequency and concordance analyses using *Antconc* (2022) in Turkish, English and French. This corpus-based approach was applied to reveal recurrent concepts, lexical and collocational patterns that form overall discourse of the declaration text. In the study, translation is considered as a part of discursive narrative and accordingly, the analysis examines how diplomatic discourse of the declaration text is represented in ST and reproduced in TTs through translation. In this regard, both text-level and sentence-level comparative analysis is grounded in a deductive coding framework which is supported by Fairclough's three-dimensional critical discourse analysis. Within the framework of deductive coding, the thematic codes were developed based on key concepts identified in the 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Declaration. Four main themes were identified: "Peace, security and justice", "human focused development", "energy and sustainability" and "monitoring and evaluation mechanisms" (Republic of Türkiye & African Union, 2021). For each theme, representative sentences were selected through purposive sampling from the corpus and analyzed through Fairclough's discourse analysis model (1992).

Discursive Analysis Model of Fairclough (1992) is based on three interrelated dimensions which are micro, meso and macro dimensions. At the micro level, Fairclough's linguistic analysis is integrated with translation strategies. In this regard, linguistic features such as lexical choice, grammar, modality and translation strategies such as omission, literal translation, modulation, calques and transposition are analyzed at the micro level. The meso-level examines the discursive practices such as production, dissemination and reception of the declaration for the target audience to shed light on how discourse in declarative texts is shaped by communicative contexts. The macro level analysis focuses on ideological and socio-politic structure of the declaration text. At this level, intertextual connections and socio-political norms impacting diplomatic discourse of Türkiye is explored within broader sense of context. In this sense, analyzing translation strategies especially for multilingual political texts such as Türkiye-Africa Partnership Declarations could be useful to reveal how translation may soften or reinforce the main political message for different audiences.

Limitations

This research is limited to the 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Document in Turkish, English and French. Thus, the findings cannot be generalized to other summits, declarations or policy documents regarding Türkiye-Africa relations.

Reliability of Study

The reliability for this study is provided through the application of pre-defined thematic coding scheme across the ST in Turkish and TTs in English and French. Besides, the use of corpus-based software called Antconc (2022) ensures a systematic identification for recurrent patterns of 2021 Africa-Türkiye Summit Declaration Text.

FINDINGS

Discursive Patterns Analysis (Research question 1)

The lexical analysis of Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit declaration across English, Turkish and French demonstrate a mutual discourse while revealing different ideological tendencies shaped by target language and the expectations of different target audiences. The Table 1 below presents the comparative analysis of frequency and concordance of Turkish, English and French according to software analysis program, *Antconc* (2022).

Table 1. Comparative analysis of frequency and concordance of Turkish, English and French

Concepts	Frequency and concordance in Turkish	Frequency and concordance in English	Frequency and concordance in French
Partnership	"İşbirliği (18), "ortak" (20), "ortaklık" (8)	"Partnership" (13)	"Partnerait" (12) "Cooperation" (47)
	"işbirliğimizi artırmayı planlıyoruz" (p.)	"Enhanced partnership for common development and prosperity"	"renforce le partenarait et la cooperation avec l'Afrique"
Development	"Kalkınma" (14) "Geliştirme" (6)	"Development" (29)	"Développement" (33) "Croissance" (12)
Sustainability	"Sürdürülebilir" (10) "sürdürülebilir kalkınma"	"Sustainable" (10) "Sustainable growth"	"Durable" (10) "développement durable"
Security	Güvenlik (8) "barış ve güvenlik alanında işbirliği"	"Security" (11) "Peace, security and justice"	"Sécurité" (13), paix (11)

The table above highlights that the discourse of Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit Declaration is constructed on four main themes: Partnership, development, sustainability and security. With regards to partnership, the Turkish text has semantic fields such as *"işbirliği"* (18), *"ortak"* (20), "*ortaklık"* (8). In the English version, the discourse is provided through the term of "partnership" (13). This term is also reinforced with the discursive patterns such as "*partnership summit", "partnership joint action plan*" and "*partnership opportunities*". On the other hand, the French text relies on terms such as "*cooperation*" (47), and "*partnerait*" (12). The terms also are supported by the verbs such as "*convenons*", "*reconnaissons*" and "*engageons*". This demonstrate that the French version has an emphasis on collaboration and diplomatic institutionalized tone.

With regards to the concept of development, The Turkish version emphasizes economic progress with the terms such as "*kalkınm*a" (14) and "*geliştirme*" (6) with a pragmatic manner. The English version, on the other hand, highlights sustainable development through the usage of the term of development twenty-nine times throughout the text with a more international neutral tone. The French version stresses both development and growth with the usage of "*développemenat*" (33) and

"*croissanse*" (12). Besides these examples, it could be stated that the concept of sustainability has the same frequency (10 Turkish, 10 English and 10 French) for all languages.

For the concept of peace, it could be emphasized that all languages have different ideological resonances. For example, the Turkish text foregrounds the agency of Türkiye as a guarantor with the discursive patterns such as "*barış ve güvenlik alanında işbirliği*" (cooperation in the field of peace and security) with usage of expression "*güvenlik*" (8). Yet, the discourse regarding "*security*" (11) in the English version is highlighted with "*peace*", "*security and justice*", "*security cooperation*" which express a cooperative partener and diplomatic tone. The expression "*securité*" (13) in French version is strengthened with "*paix and séccurite en Afrique*" producing a discourse on Africa and peace together as a reflection of African Union discourse.

In the light of the findings presented above, the discourse of 2021 Türkiye-Africa Summit Declaration focus on four core concepts: Partnership, development, sustainability and security. Based on the concordance examples and frequency counts presented in Table 1, these concepts are encoded through various lexical choices across Turkish, French and English. For instance, the Turkish text demonstrates a higher degree of lexical variation in the articulation of the concept of partnership including the terms such as "ortaklık", "ortak" and "işbirliği" as well as a verb-based construction as seen in "işbirliğimizi artırmayı planlıyoruz". However, the English text largely relies on the lexical items such as "security", "development" and "partnership" in recurrent lexical patterns. Besides, the French text could be characterized by predominant use of patterns and lexical items such as "coopération", "partenerait" as well as expressions such as "paix et securité" and "développemant durable". As a result, the differences in concordance and lexical frequency across Turkish, English and French illustrate that translation plays a role in shaping how the summit declaration is strategically and linguistically presented to Turkish-, English- and French-speaking audiences.

Comparative Analysis of Turkish, English and French of Türkiye-Africa Partnership Declaration Text (Research question 2)

This section presents a comparative discourse analysis of the Turkish, English and French versions of the declaration text. The findings are displayed under four thematic categories. Furthermore, the examples reflecting each theme with critical expressions in terms of translation strategies are examined by comparing with their Turkish, English and French. Then the examples are evaluated within the framework of Fairclough's CDA at micro, meso and macro levels. Within this framework, four thematic domains of declaration text were identified: "Human focused development", "peace, security and justice", "energy and sustainability", "monitoring and evaluation mechanisms" (Republic of Türkiye & African Union, 2021).

Theme 1. Human Focused Development

This theme highlights mutual efforts between African partners and Türkiye. In this sense, human-centered partnership is emphasized through subthemes such as education, health, gender equality and cultural cooperation. Relevant examples regarding this theme are below.

Table 2. Comparison of ST and TTs according to three-dimensional model

ST	"**Türkiye bursları** program çerçevesinde burs verilmesi ve Afrika'da **Maarif okulları** dahil ilk ve orta öğretimde işbirliğimizi geliştirmeye, genç istihdamın artırılması için iki taraf arasında bilim ve teknoloji, teknik ve mesleki eğitim dahil yüksek öğretim alanlarındaki işbirliğini güçlendirmeye devam edeceğiz" (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti & Afrika Birliği, 2021, p. 5)
TT	"We will continue developing our cooperation in primary and secondary education and strengthening the collaboration in the fields of science and technology; technical and vocational training to enhance youth employment, and in higher education between the two sides including through the provision of scholarships through **Türkiyescholarships program** and **Maarif schools** in Africa" (Republic of Türkiye & African Union, 2021, p. 6).
TT	"Nous continuerons a developer notre cooperation dans l'enseignemeant primaire et secondaire et a renforcer la cooperation dans les domaines de la science et de la technologie, de la formation professionelle et de l'enseignement superieur entre les deux parties, notamment par l'octroi de bourses dans le cadre du **programme de bourses de Türkiye** et des **écoles Maarif** en Afrique" (République de Türkiye & Union Africaine, 2021, p. 6).

When the data presented above is examined in terms of translation strategies between the ST and TTs at the micro level, it is observed that the translation strategy (borrowing Türkiyescholorship programme de bourses de Türkiye) and transliteration (Türkiye bursları and Maarif okulları) are employed to convey "Türkiye Bursları" and "Maarif okulları" in ST. These findings indicate that Turkish institutions are steadily represented in English and French by preserving the original names of the institutions. At the meso-level this could be interpreted as a deliberate effort to demonstrate global recognizability of these institutions. Besides, the use of modality of future commitment such as "we will continue" and "nous continuerons" reinforces the presence of Türkiye as an indicator of international agreements. At the macro level with regards to socio-cultural context, it can be argued that translation serves as a contribution of South-South Cooperation discourse between Türkiye and the states of Africa through Maarif schools in Africa and Türkiye scholarships that are offered to students across Africa (Bayram, 2020; Özkan, 2018). This discourse might be interpreted as a soft-power policy of Türkiye which applied through education diplomacy towards the continent of Africa. Schäffner (2004) argues that "political discourse relies on translation; translation is in fact part of the development of discourse, and a bridge between various discourses" (p. 120). This perspective supports that translation recontextualize the presence of Türkiye on the African continent through the translated political discourse enshrined in TTs.

Table 3. Comparison of ST and TTs within Fairclough's three-dimensional model

ST	"**Kültür ve turizm** alanındaki işbirliğimizi **gelişterecek,** ortak kültürel mirasın korunmasını **koordine edecek,** ulusal uzmanların etkileşimini, eğitim programlarının düzenlenmesini ve tarihi mirasın yasadışı ticaretinin restorasyonu ve önlenmesi ile sömürgeliştirme sırasında **yağmalanan mirasın** belirlenmesinde UNESCO ile işbirliği yapma ve **menşe ülkeye iadesi** için çalışma konusunda uzmanlığın paylaşılmasını **teşvik edeceğiz**" (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti & Afrika Birliği, 2021, p. 6)
TT	"**We will develop** our cooperation in the area of culture and tourism, **coordinate** the protection of commun cultural heritage, **promore** the interaction of national experts, the organization of training programs and the sharing expertise on the restoration and the prevention of illicit trafficking of historical heritage and to cooperate with UNESCO in identifying the **looted heritage** during colonization and to work on its **restitution to the country of origin**" (Republic of Türkiye & African Union, 2021, p. 6).
TT	"**Nous développerons** notre cooperation dans le domaine de la culture et du tourisme, **coordonnerons** la protection du patrimoine culturel commun, **favoriserons** l'interaction des experts nationaux, l'organisation de programmes de formations et le partege de l'expertise sur la restouration et la prevention du traffic illicite du patrimoine historique" (République de Türkiye & Union Africaine, 2021, p. 7).

The Table 3 above reveals distinctive micro-level strategies. For instance, the English text preserves structural features of ST through employing *calque* (looted heritage for yağmalanan miras) and literal translation *(restitution to the country of origin* corresponding to *menşe ülkeye iadesi)* which aligns with postcolonial framework of discourse (Butt, 2015). In contrast to English and Turkish, the

French version employs the *omission* strategy by avoiding ideologically sensitive terms such as "looted" and "restitution". This is a strategy often used to mitigate the diplomatic tension (Baker, 1992; Schäffner, 2004; Valdéon, 2021). These kinds of translators' decisions align with the usage of translation to downplay or reinforce the legacy of colonialism (Bassnet & Trivedi, 1999).

At the meso-level, such a translation choice might suggest a pragmatic adaptation to meet the expectations of target audience to avoid political tension (Baker, 1992; Schäffner, 2004; Valdéon, 2021). At the macro level, on the other hand, these kinds of translators' decisions suggest that the usage of translation could be seen as a tool either for reinforcement for legacy of colonialism as observed in English declaration text or mitigation for colonialism discourse as seen in French text to adapt the source text to the communicative demands of target diplomatic context (Bassnet & Trivedi, 1999).

Table 4. Comparison of ST and TTs within Fairclough's three-dimensional model

ST	"Özellikle sağlık, genel ve yüksek öğrenim, mesleki eğitim, **gençlerin güçlendirilmesi**, kadın ve erkek arasındaki eşitliğin teşvik edilmesi, bilim, yönetişim, teknoloji ve sanayi, imalatın teşviki, madencilik, kültür ve turizm, tarım, kırsal kalkınma, çevre koruma ve ormancılık alanlarındaki ortak faaliyetler yoluyla, insani kalkınmada iş birliğine devam etmek konusunda güçlü bir arzuyu paylaşıyoruz. Başta gençlerimiz, kadınlarımız, sanatçılarımız, sporcularımız ve gazetecilerimiz olmak üzere **milletlerimiz arasındaki bağları güçlendirmeyi** de taahhüt ediyoruz" (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti & Afrika Birliği, 2021, p. 4)
TT	"We share a strong desire to continue cooperating in human development, notably by joint activities in the area of health, general and tertiary education, vocational training, **youth empowerment**, promoting equality between women and men, science, governance, technology and industry, manufacturing promotion, mining, culture and tourism, agriculture, rural development, environmental protection and forestry. We also undertake to **strengthen the bonds between our nations**, particularly through our youth, women, artists, athletes and journalists" (Republic of Türkiye & African Union, 2021, p. 4)
TT	"Nous partageons un profond désir de continuer à coopérer au développement humain, notamment par des activités conjointes dans le domaine de la santé, de l'enseignement général et supérieur, de la formation professionnelle, de **l'autonomisation des jeunes**, de la promotion de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, de la science, de la gouvernance, de la technologie et de l'industrie, de la promotion de l'industrie manufacturière, de l'exploitation minière, de la culture et du tourisme, de l'agriculture, du développement rural, de la protection de l'environnement et de la sylviculture. Nous nous engageons également à **renforcer les liens entre nos nations**, notamment à travers nos jeunes, nos femmes, nos artistes, nos sportifs et nos journalistes" (République de Türkiye & Union Africaine, 2021, p. 4)

According to Table 4 above, one of the findings is that the expression of "gençlerin güçlendirilmesi" in ST is translated as "youth empowerment" in English and "l'autonomisation des jeunes" in French with the translation strategy of *modulation.* Likewise, the expression "milletlerimiz arasındaki bağı güçlendirmek" in Turkish is translated with *literal translation* as seen "strengthen the bonds between our nations" in English and "renforcer les liens entre nos nations" in French.

With regards to lexical choice and modality, the discursive tone of Turkish text including value-laden and ideological expressions such as "güçlendirilmesi" and "taahhüt ediyoruz" is preserved in target culture with the similar expression such as "empowerment", "we share a strong desire", in English and "l'autonimization", "nous partageons un profonde desir" in French. At the micro-level, the translation strategies and lexical choices reflect that the ideological tone of discourse is preserved through translation in TTs.

At the meso-level, these findings demonstrate that the TTs project the vision of Türkiye to wider audiences using translation as a tool. Macro discourse, in this regard, reflects a clear alignment with UN Sustainability Development plan in terms of health, gender equality and education (United Nations, 2015). In this sense, it seems reasonable to suggest that this intertextuality among the declaration texts supports the image of Türkiye as South-South Cooperation actor at the macro level.

Theme 2. Peace, Security and Justice
This theme emphasizes the role of Türkiye as a cooperative peace, security and justice partner for African states. Relevant examples regarding this theme are below.

Table 5. Comparison of ST and TTs within Fairclough's three-dimensional model

ST	"Barış ve güvenliğin, demokrasinin insan haklarına uyumun, iyi yönetişimin adaletin ve hukukun üstünlüğünün güçlendirilmesinin hem Afrika hem Türkiye için **ortak amaçlar** olduğunu vurguluyoruz" (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti & Afrika Birliği, 2021,p. 3).
TT	"We emphasize that the strengthening of peace and security, democracy, respect for human rights, good governance, justice and the rule of law are **common aspirations** for both Africa and Türkiye" (Republic of Türkiye & African Union, 2021, p. 3).
TT	"Nous soulignons que le renforcement de la paix et de la sécurité, la démocratie, le respect des drois de l'homme, la bonne goouvernance, la justice et l'Etat de droit sont des **aspirations communes** a l'Afrique et a la Türkiye" (République de Türkiye & Union Africaine, 2021, p. 3).

At the micro level, it is observed that there are slightly different connotations across three languages as demonstrated on the Table 5. For instance, the lexical choice for "ortak amaçlar" in Turkish is translated as "common aspirations" into English and "aspirations communes" into French. This kind of lexical *modulation* strategy example (Vinay & Darbalnet, 1995) highlights that the expression of "amaçlar" demonstrate as more concrete and pragmatic objective in ST, its translations as "aspirations" in English and French indicates a more normative discursive tone.

At the meso-level, the example illustrate that Turkish text adopts a discourse oriented towards regional partners with concrete commitments as observed in the expression "hem Afrika hem Türkiye için ortak amaçlar olduğunu vurguluyoruz". On the other hand, TTs adopt a broader and more global context that align with institutional discourse of and African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) where the term "aspiration" is frequently used to convey the idealistic and normative values (United Nations, 1945, Article 73). Considering this framing, Türkiye is positioned as an actor of "peace, security and justice" at the macro level of discourse. Thus, translation serves as an ideological tool through which Türkiye is reconceptualized from a regional actor to a global one (Schäffner, 2004; Fairclough, 1992).

Table 6. Comparison of ST and TTs within Fairclough's three-dimensional model

ST	"Türkiye ve Afrika arasında barış ve güvenlikle ilgili birçok alanda süregelen işbirliğini, özellikle Türkiye'nin Afrika Birliğinin barışa destek harekatları bütçesine ve G5 Sahel Ortak Gücüne katkılarını ve Afrika ülkelerinin asker ve polislerine, ayrıca diplomatlarına eğitim sağlama konusundaki **kaydadeğer performansını** takdir ediyoruz" (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti & Afrika Birliği, 2021, p. 3).
TT	"We commend the ongoing cooperation between Türkiye and African many areas pertaining to peace and security particularly Türkiye's contribution to the African union's peace and support operations budget… together with **the remarkable record** in providing training for the military and police, as well as diplomats from African countries" (Republic of Türkiye & African Union, 2021, p. 3).
TT	"Nous saluons la coopération permanente ente la Türkiye et l'Afrique dans de nombreux domaines à la paix et à la sécurité, en particulier la contribution de la Türkiye au budget des operations de soutien de la paix de l'Union africane dans les domaines susmentionnés et à la force conjointe du G5 Sahel ainsi que **les resultats remarquables** obtenus en matière de formation des militaires er des policiers, ainsi que des diplomates des pays africains" (République de Türkiye & Union Africaine, 2021, p. 3).

Considering the micro level on the Table, the lexical shift from "kaydadeğer performans" in ST to "remarkable record" in English and "les resultats remarquables" in French is the example of translation strategy of modulation (Vinay & Darbalnet, 1995). This lexical shift in ST demonstrates that the role of Türkiye from being process oriented to outcome-oriented with the expression "record" in English and "resultats" in French. At the meso-level of discourse, this shows that translation choices in TTs legitimize the actions of Türkiye for different audiences. For the macro level, translation reframes the efforts of Türkiye into a global rhetoric through references such as "Türkiye's contribution to the African union's peace and support operations budget", "training for the military, police and diplomats from African countries".

Theme 3. Energy and Sustainability

This theme is related to sustainability, energy and development. Relevant examples regarding this theme are presented below.

Table 7. Comparison of ST and TTs within Fairclough's three-dimensional model

ST	"**Büyümenin lokomotifi** ve istihdamın itici gücü olması için ekonominin tüm **sektörlerinde güçlü özel girişimciliğin** ortaya çıkması gerektiğinin **bilincindeyiz.** Özellikle iki yılda bir düzenlenen Türkiye-Afrika Ekonomi ve İş Forumları, sektörel faaliyetler ve BET'lerve Afrika Birliği'nin kurumları ile işbirliği içinde, özellikle kadın girişimciliğini desteklemeye odaklanan eylemler aracılığıyla, mümkün olan en fazla sayıda fırsatı yaratmak için birlikte çalışmayı taahhüt ediyoruz. Mevcut **girişimcilik ekosistemini** kadınları ve genç girişimcileri güçlendirecek şekilde geliştirmek için işbirliğimizi artıracağız" (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti & Afrika Birliği, 2021, p. 7).
TT	"**We are conscious** that **strong private entrepreneurship** needs to emerge in all sectors of the economy to be an **engine of growth** and a driver for employment. We commit to work together to create the greatest possible number of such opportunities, particularly through the biennial Türkiye-Africa Economic and Business forums, sectoral activities,and actions in cooperation with RECs and organs of the African Union, with a particular focus on supporting women's entrepreneurship. We will enhance our cooperation to develop the existing **entrepreneurship ecosystem** in a manner to strengthen women and young entrepreneurs" (Republic of Türkiye & African Union, 2021, p. 7).
TT	"**Nous sommes conscients** qu'un **entrepreneuriat privé fort** doit émerger dans tous les secteurs de l'économie pour être un **moteur de la croissance** et de l'emploi. Nous nous engageons à travailler ensemble pour créer le plus grand nombre possible de ces opportunités, notamment par le biais des forums économiques et commerciaux biennaux Türkiye-Afrique, des activités sectorielles et des actions en coopération avec les CER, en mettant particulièrement l'accent sur le soutien à l'entrepreneuriat féminin. Nous renforcerons notre coopération pour développer **l'écosystème entrepreneurial** existant de manière à renforcer les femmes et les jeunes entrepreneurs" (République de Türkiye & Union Africaine, 2021, p. 8).

According to Table 7 above, textual analysis reveals that the similarity between ST and TTs is preserved through literal translation (güçlü girişimcilik" as "strong private enterpreneurship" in English and "entrepreneuriat privé fort" in French). Besides, the use of the expressions "entrpreneurship ecosystem" in English and "l'écosytéme entrepreneurial" in French corresponding to the Turkish term "girşimcilik ekosistemi" reflects the use of internationally shared conceptual structure across in English, French and Turkish. In addition to these, the strategy of modulation is employed the expression "büyümünin lokomotifi" as "engine of growth" in English and "moteur de la croissance" in French. At the micro level, the Turkish text adopts a motivational way through the expressions such as "büyümenin lokomotifi" or "istihdamın itici gücü" while the English and French versions reflect a shift from emotive to institutional discourse with the translations such as "engine of growth" and "moteur de la croissance".

At the meso-level, the translation of Turkish ST into English and French demonstrate that translation could be structured strategically to disseminate the vision of Türkiye's towards Africa through diplomatic legitimacy and economic cooperation while the emphasis on women and youth entrepreneurship highlights the inclusivity of the development discourse of Türkiye in African continent. At the macro level, translation could be considered discursive reproduction of ideology reshaping the ST according to economic, political and discursive nature of target culture. Thus, it could be stated that the text in target culture act as a soft power tool projecting the economic ambition of Türkiye through discourse of partnership and shared prosperity between the states of Africa and Türkiye.

Theme 4. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

The last theme focuses on institutional dimension of Türkiye-Africa relations. The related example concerning this theme is below.

Table 8. Comparison of ST and TTs within Fairclough's three-dimensional model

ST	"Türkiye, Afrika Birliği ve üye ülkelerinin ortaklaşa uygulaması gereken **somut eylemleri** içeren ilişikteki "2022-2026 Türkiye-Afrika Ortaklığı Ek Eylem Planı"nı **kabul ediyoruz**. Afrika Birliği Komisyonu ve Türkiye Hükümeti arasında bir istişare süreci yoluyla, Afrika - Türkiye ortaklığında mutabık kalınan işbirliği alanlarının düzenli olarak **izlenmesi ve değerlendirilmesini** sağlamak için uygun **takip mekanizmaları** oluşturmaya **karar verdik**" (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti & Afrika Birliği, 2021, p. 9).
TT	"**We have adopted** the attached "Africa-Türkiye Partnership Joint Action Plan 2022-2026", which contains **concrete actions** to be implemented jointly by Türkiye, the African Union and its Member States. **We have decided** to establish appropriate **followup mechanisms** to ensure a regular **Monitoring and Evaluation** of the Africa – Türkiye partnership agreed areas of cooperation, through a consultative process between the African Union Commission and the Government of Türkiye" (Republic of Türkiye & African Union, 2021, p. 9).
TT	"**Nous adoptons** le « Plan d'action conjoint du partenariat Türkiye-Afrique 2022-2026 » ci-joint, qui contient des **actions concrètes** à mettre en oeuvre conjointement par la Türkiye, l'Union africaine et ses États membres. **Nous avons décidé** d'établir des **mécanismes de suivi** appropriés pour assurer **un suivi et une évaluation** réguliers des domaines de coopération convenus par le partenariat Afrique-Türkiye, à travers un processus consultatif entre la Commission de l'Union africaine et le Gouvernement turc" (République de Türkiye & Union Africaine, 2021, p. 10).

Upon examining last theme, it is observed that translation strategies such as *literal translation* and *calque* are employed through formal expression such as "somut eylemler" , "izleme ve değerlendirme" or "takip mekanizmaları" which are translated as "concrete actions" "followup mechanisms" and "monitoring an evaluations" into English and "actions concrétes", "mécanismes de suivi" and "suivi et une évaluation" in French. These translation decisions reflect bureaucratic tone of ST is preserved in English and French. Besides, the expressions demonstrating modality such as "kabul ediyoruz", "karar verdik" in ST are observed that they are transferred into target culture through parallel structures such as "we have adopted", "we have decided" in English and "nous adoptons" and "nous avons decidé" in French. Syntactically, it is observed that English and French texts adopt formal structure of policy discourse while Turkish text employs long structures with clause-rich sentences.

At the meso-level analysis, this text is intended for not only declarative but also operational aims since the text references to "Africa-Türkiye Partnership Joint Action Plan 2022-2026" in three languages. This demonstrates that all texts have a similar discourse that reflects international legitimacy. At the macro level, this could be evaluated as legitimization of Türkiye's presence as an equal and a proactive partner within the international development of the relations between Türkiye and Africa via monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

In conclusion, the findings of comparative discourse analysis reveal that the discourse of 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit Declaration focuses on key concepts such as peace, security, partnership, development and cultural heritage. Translation strategies, in this regard, can function as vehicles through which diplomatic texts are aligned with an international and institutional discourse or strategically softened to mitigate politically sensitive notions in TTs as widely discussed in studies on political and diplomatic translation

Translation strategies, in this sense, could serve as vehicles to reinforce the presence of Türkiye with an international and institutional discourse or soften the discourse to avoid politically sensitive notions in TTs. Thus, translation operates as a diplomatic tool that could project Türkiye as a global actor within the discourse of Türkiye-Africa relations.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This research devotes attention to 2021 Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit Declaration as a case study to examine how translation mediates the diplomatic reproduction of political discourse across Turkish, French and English. Through an approach integrating translation and critical discourse analysis, the research reveals that translation could operate as a means of diplomatic discourse in terms of projecting the vision of Türkiye towards African continent by positioning itself as a leading actor within the discourse of Africa and Türkiye relations.

The results of the study illustrate that translation strategies such as *omission, calque, literal translation* or *modulation* could play a crucial role in either strengthening or softening the tone of Türkiye's diplomatic discourse for various audiences. Accordingly, the results highlight that the discourse in Turkish declaration text reflects a symmetrical partnership rhetoric infused with the elements of reassurance and commitment whereas the English declaration text is consistent with international diplomatic discourse which constructs Türkiye as a global actor within the context of Africa-Türkiye relations. This contrast becomes more evident when the English text preserves ideologically significant expressions through translation strategies such as literal translation and calque (e.g. "looted heritage" and "restitution to the country of origin"), whereas the French text omits such expressions and terms resulting in a more cautious diplomatic formulation that mitigates potentially sensitive meanings. On this basis, it may be concluded that the French version has an institutional tone in line with Francophone discourse conventions and is sometimes softened with translation strategies such as omission or modulation to maintain the balance towards African Francophone diplomatic norms.

Micro level analysis of the research reveals that translation mediates the discourse through lexical choices in English and French to balance the ideological nuance for different audiences. This suggests that translation could serve as a multilayered discursive practice and reshape the diplomatic voice of Türkiye within international discourse norms. The results regarding the meso-level of analysis highlight that the diplomatic rhetoric of Türkiye is adapted to discourse of international institutions such as African Union and United Nations. Thus, these results reveal that translation could be considered an act of diplomatic discourse that might recontextualize the role of Türkiye as a key actor within South-South Cooperation at the macro level.

As a result, the study underscores that translation is a strategic tool that could redefine the engagement of Türkiye with African states discursively and linguistically in line with the diplomatic objectives of the text considering the target audience. In this sense, even though the research offers significant insights in understanding the interrelated relations in line with translation, discourse and Africa-Türkiye relations, its scope remains limited in terms of corpus size since it examines a single summit declaration. Thus, further research could broaden the scope with other summit documents in terms of deepening the relations between Africa and Türkiye through the lens of discourse, diplomacy and translation.

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