

## **The Delicate Balance Between Fidelity to the Text and Linguistic Dynamism in Translation<sup>1</sup>**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Translation today is one of the most important bridges connecting languages and cultures, representing a fundamental means of exchanging knowledge, ideas, and human values. However, the translator always faces a delicate dilemma: striking a balance between fidelity to the original text and the linguistic dynamism of the target language. Fidelity to the text imposes restrictions that preserve meaning and form, while dynamism calls for flexibility and creativity to ensure smooth reception in the new culture. Hence the importance of this research, which seeks to examine this delicate balance from a theoretical and applied perspective through two main axes: the first deals with the concept of fidelity to the original text, its controls and limits, and the second discusses linguistic dynamics and its role in making translation a living communicative act that keeps pace with the spirit of the target language and culture. In conclusion, we will try together to explore practical ways to achieve this harmony between fidelity and creativity in modern translation practice.

**Keywords:** Translation Science, Fidelity to the Text, Linguistic Dynamics, Cultural Identity, Translational Fidelity, Textual Analysis.

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## **Çeviride Metne Sadakat ile Dilsel Dinamizm Arasındaki Hassas Denge**

### **ÖZ**

Çeviri, günümüzde dilleri ve kültürleri birbirine bağlayan en önemli köprülerden biri olup bilgi, fikir ve insani değerlerin paylaşımında temel bir araç niteliğindedir. Ancak çevirmen her zaman hassas bir iğlemle karşı karşıyadır: orijinal metne sadakat ile hedef dilin dilsel dinamizmi arasında bir denge kurmak. Metne sadakat, anlam ve biçimini koruyan kısıtlamalar getirirken, dinamizm yeni kültürde sorunsuz bir kabullenmeyi sağlamak için esneklik ve yaratıcılık gerektirir. Dolayısıyla bu hassas dengeyi teorik ve uygulamalı bir bakış açısıyla iki ana eksen üzerinden incelemeyi amaçlayan bu araştırmmanın önemi ortaya çıkmaktadır: Birincisi, özgün metne sadakat kavramını, kurallarını ve sınırlarını ele alırken, ikincisi dilsel dinamikleri ve bunların çeviriyi hedef dilin ve kültürün ruhuna ayak uyduran, yaşayan bir iletişim eylemi haline getirmedeki rolünü tartışmaktadır. Sonuç olarak, modern çeviri pratığında sadakat ve yaratıcılık arasındaki bu uyumu sağlananın pratik yollarını birlikte keşfetmeye çalışacağız.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** *Çeviri Bilimi, Metne Sadakat, Dil Dinamikleri, Kültürel Kimlik, Çeviri Sadakati, Metin Analizi.*

## التوازن الدقيق بين الوفاء للنص والдинامية اللغوية في الترجمة

### الملخص

تُعد الترجمة اليوم أحد أهم الجسور التي تربط بين اللغات والثقافات، إذ تمثل وسيلةً أساسية لتبادل المعرف والأفكار والقيم الإنسانية. غير أن المترجم يواجه دائمًا إشكالية دقيقة تتمثل في تحقيق التوازن بين الوفاء للنص الأصلي من جهة، والдинامية اللغوية في اللغة المهدف من جهة أخرى. فالأمانة للنص تفرض قيودًا تحافظ على المعنى والشكل، بينما تدعو الдинامية إلى المرونة والإبداع لضمان سلاسة التلقى في الثقافة الجديدة. ومن هنا تبع أهمية هذا البحث الذي يسعى إلى بحث هذا التوازن الدقيق من منظور نظري وتطبيقي، عبر محورين رئисين الأول يتناول مفهوم الوفاء للنص الأصلي وضوابطه وحدوده، والثاني يناقش الдинامية اللغوية ودورها في جعل الترجمة عملاً تواصلياً حيًّا يواكب روح اللغة والثقافة المهدف. وفي ختام البحث، سنحاول معًا استكشاف السبل العملية لتحقيق هذا الانسجام بين الأمانة والإبداع في الممارسة الترجمية الحديثة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** علم الترجمة، الوفاء للنص، الдинامية اللغوية، الهوية الثقافية، الأمانة الترجمية، التحليل النصي.

## 1. Introduction

Translation is an important means of achieving communication between one society and another, and the Almighty says in His Holy Book: «O, people! We created you from a male and a female, and We made you races and tribes, so that you may come to know one another. The best among you before Allah is the most righteous».<sup>3</sup>

Translation plays a vital role in bringing people closer together and enriching the scientific, social, and cultural life of nations. Without multilingualism, people would not need a multilingual intermediary to facilitate communication.<sup>4</sup>

Translation is not merely a crossing between two languages; it is a crossing between two worlds, a meeting of two souls, and a silent dialogue between two cultures, each searching for the other in the mirror of words. It is an act of understanding and re-creation simultaneously, in which the translator assumes the roles of both mediator and artist; safeguarding the original meaning with one hand and giving it new life with the other.

But this dual role presents him with an eternal dilemma: how to be faithful to the text without shackling it, and how to be creative without betraying it? Herein lies the problem of balancing fidelity to the text and linguistic dynamism, an issue that occupies the minds of contemporary scholars and translators alike.

This research will explore this delicate balance by analyzing the concept of translational fidelity, discussing the limits of linguistic flexibility, and revealing the challenges faced by the contemporary

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<sup>3</sup> Al-Hujurāt 49/ 13.

<sup>4</sup> Asiya Arus, *al-Tarjama al-Shafahiyya: min Dirasat al-Tarjama ila Dirasat al-Tarjama al-Shafahiyya* (*Majallat Maalim*, Year 5, Vol. 14, no. 01, 2023), p. 72.

translator in a time when technology, culture, and language intersect, leading to professional and academic recommendations that illuminate the path of translation as an art, knowledge, and responsibility all at once.

## 2. The Concept of Translation

Translation is an applied art; it is the transfer of meaning from one language to another, while fully preserving its connotations and intentions. This can only be achieved through training, practice, and experience, based on innate talent.<sup>5</sup>

Some researchers have defined it as the transfer of text from one language to another, progressing from understanding individual words to comprehending complete sentences and meanings.<sup>6</sup>

## 3. The Concept of Translator

A translator is a writer, but differs from the original writer in that the ideas they express are not their own, but rather borrowed from others.<sup>7</sup>

Although some see this as belittling him, translation is no less difficult than original writing, and may even be more complex, because it requires transferring a living thought from one language to another, with all the cultural and historical particularities that each language carries.

Unlike the writer, who enjoys freedom of expression and can mold language to their ideas, the translator is bound by the original text and must craft something resembling an original text in the target language. This task demands a high level of writing proficiency, a deep understanding of

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<sup>5</sup> Muhammad Anani, *Fan al-Tarjama* (Cairo: al-Sharika al-Misriyya al-Alamiyya lil-Nashr Longman, 5th ed., 2000), 10.

<sup>6</sup> Abd al-Wakil al-Darubi, *Tarjamat al-Qur'an wa-Kayfa Nadu al-Arab ila al-Islam* (Himş:Maktabat Dar al-Irshad, 1st ed.), 19.

<sup>7</sup>Anan, *Fan al-Tarjama*, 13.

texts, and a broad knowledge of contemporary culture, making translation a complex creative and intellectual endeavor no less significant than authorship.

#### **4. Fidelity to the Original Text**

##### **4.1. Definition and Purpose**

Fidelity to the text means striving to preserve, as much as possible, the essential, structural, and stylistic meaning of the source text. Its aim is to convey the intent, semantic markers, tone, and cultural meaning without substantial distortion.<sup>8</sup>

##### **4.2. Theoretical Dimensions**

1. Semantic fidelity: This refers to preserving the intended meaning, not the linguistic form.<sup>9</sup>
2. Stylistic fidelity: Style is the identity of the text, and fidelity requires maintaining tone, linguistic level, rhythm, and stylistic features (such as irony, formality).<sup>10</sup>
3. Functional/Communicative Fulfillment: Maintaining the text's function within its context (informational, medical, literary text).
4. Cultural fidelity means respecting the cultural distinctiveness of the source text without assimilating it into the target culture. (Historical references, terminology, symbols...)<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Peter Newmark, *A Textbook of Translation* (New York: London, 1988), 45-46.

<sup>9</sup> Eugene Nida & Charles Taber, *The Theory and Practice of Translation* (Leiden: Brill, 2003), 22-23.

<sup>10</sup> George Steiner, *After Babel: Aspects of Language and Translation* (Oxford University Press, 1975), 267-269.

<sup>11</sup> Lawrence Venuti, *The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation* (1995), 19-21.

### 4.3. Decision-making Criteria

Decision-making in translation cannot be done in isolation from context, because meaning is not fixed in the words themselves but is formed within the communicative situation in which it arises.<sup>12</sup>

These are the contextual criteria that a translator should consider during their work:

1. How sensitive is the information? (Legal/religious texts require greater fidelity.)
2. Is the goal understanding, persuasion, or updating?
3. Who is the target reader? (General reader, specialist, children)
4. Does the text require memorization of the form (poetry/verse) or only the meaning?

### 4.4. Translation Techniques and Practices Related to Fidelity

Translation techniques represent the roadmap a translator follows when transferring texts between languages, guiding them in handling sentences, structures, and vocabulary in light of the structural and cultural differences between the two languages. These techniques include the following:<sup>13</sup>

1. Borrowing technique: This involves transferring a foreign word as is, without translation, in order to preserve its original character and cultural significance. It is used when the target language lacks

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<sup>12</sup> Mona Baker, *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation* (3rd ed.). (2018), 115-117.

<sup>13</sup> Rosemary Mitchell, Translated by Fadiyya bint Abd Allah al-Shahri. *Taqaniyyat al-Tarjama* (Jeddah: Dar Madarik lil-Nashr, 1st ed., 2024).

a precise equivalent or when the borrowed word is part of the text's identity.

2. Transcription technique: This involves translating the term literally from the source language to the target language. The translator creates a new word during the translation process, but is careful to maintain the linguistic structure. This technique is used more extensively in translating terms that are difficult to translate accurately into another language.
3. Literal translation technique: This is achieved when there is a grammatical and semantic balance between the two languages that allows for direct word-for-word translation, while maintaining structural integrity in the target language.<sup>14</sup>

#### **4.5. The Dangers of Excessive Fidelity to the Text**

In the world of translation, the balance between fidelity to the source text and flexibility of the target language lies at the heart of translation practice. Fidelity is an indispensable value, but it can become a constraint if the translator adheres too strictly to the literal text. In such cases, the translation becomes rigid, hindering the spirit of the text and undermining its vitality. Excessive fidelity threatens to distort the meaning and leaves the reader captive to a style alien to their language and culture. Among the most significant risks are the following:<sup>15</sup>

1. The translated text becomes unnatural: A literal adherence to the structure makes the text in the target language sound artificial or incomprehensible.

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<sup>14</sup> *A Textbook of Translation*. 68-70.

<sup>15</sup> Normatov, Khusan. The Ethics of Translation: Navigating Fidelity and Cultural Adaptation. (*Pedagogs International Research Journal*, 2025), 100-103.

2. Loss of the target audience: Linguistic jargon or unusual constructions may alienate the reader or render the message unacceptable.
3. Functional conflict: Advertising or journalistic text may fail to fulfill its purpose if translated verbatim without considering the audience's expectations.
4. Weakening the stylistic intent: Sometimes, a strong adherence to the original style reduces the effectiveness of the tone for the recipient of the target language (e.g., humor based on a linguistic structure that does not exist in the other language).

#### **4.6. Limits of Deviation from the Text**

Limits of deviation in translation refer to the extent or degree to which a translator is permitted to modify or alter the original text without compromising its core message.

Systematic modifications to the original text become justified when strict adherence to the literal meaning leads to:<sup>16</sup>

1. Loss of comprehension among the target language audience.
2. Failure of the communicative function (the text does not achieve the same purpose as the original text with its reader).
3. Legal or medical risks (such as translating medical instructions that require clarity and simplification).

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<sup>16</sup> Bu Khalaf Fayiza. Tatawwur Mafhum al-Amana fi Nażariyyat al-Tarjama: min al-Ihtimam bi-l-Naşş al-Maşdar ila Mutalaqqi al-Naşş al-Mutarjam. (Algeria: *Majallat al-Lughat wa-l-Tarjama*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2020), 22–24.

- When there is a cultural difference that cannot be conveyed literally without distorting the meaning (e.g., proverbs, jokes that rely on wordplay, names of local rituals).

The essential requirement: The deviation must be functionally and textually justified, not merely a matter of personal preference. Ideally, the justification should be documented in a translation note or footnote where necessary.

#### **4.7. Illustrative Examples Show the Challenges of Adhering to the Text.**

##### **4.7.1. From a Literary Text**

- Original English Sentence:

"The old house stood silent, holding memories in its broken walls."

- Turkish Translation:

"Eski ev sessiz duruyordu, kırık duvarlarında anıları saklıyordu."

- Arabic Translation:

"كان المنزل القديم واقعاً في صمت، يحتفظ بالذكريات في جدرانه المكسورة".

Importance of Faithfulness:

Preserving the meaning and literary imagery as they are. Every word and image is translated exactly as in the original text, to maintain the reader's atmosphere and literary experience. Fidelity prohibits adding or omitting any emotional or descriptive element.

##### **4.7.2. Journalistic Article**

- Original English Sentence:

"The city council approved the new transport plan after weeks of debate."

- Turkish Translation:

"Şehir meclisi, haftalar süren tartışmaların ardından yeni ulaşım planını onayladı."

- Arabic Translation:

"وافق مجلس المدينة على خطة النقل الجديدة بعد أساييع من النقاش".

Importance of Faithfulness:

Translation conveys the news accurately and objectively, without adding opinions or exaggeration. It maintains the tone and professionalism of official journalism. Fidelity to the original text is essential in journalism to ensure credibility and accurate information.

#### 4.7.3. Religious Text

Original English Sentence:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."<sup>17</sup>

- Turkish Translation:

"Barış yapanlar kutsudur, çünkü onlar Tanrı'nın çocukları olarak adlandırılacaklar."

- Arabic Translation:

"طوبى لصانعي السلام، لأنهم سيدعون أبناء الله".

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<sup>17</sup> The Holy Bible, Matthew 5:9.

Importance of Faithfulness:

Religious texts require utmost precision in meaning and wording. Any alteration could lead to a change in the message or belief. Fidelity preserves the original text and its spiritual sanctity.

#### **4.7.4. Realistic Novel**

- Original English Sentence:

"She waited at the bus stop, hoping he would appear like every other morning."

- Turkish Translation:

"Her sabah olduğu gibi, otobüs durağında bekledi, onun gelmesini umuyordu."

- Arabic Translation:

"انتظرت عند موقف الحافلة، على أمل أن يظهر مثل كل صباح."

Importance of Faithfulness:

Preserving the time, the event, and the character's personal feelings. Fidelity ensures that the reader's experience in the target language accurately reflects the original text.

#### **4.7.5. Official Speech**

- Original English Sentence:

"We reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation and mutual understanding."

- Turkish Translation:

"Uluslararası iş birliği ve karşılıklı anlayış konusundaki taahhüdümüzü yeniden teyit ediyoruz."

- Arabic Translation:

"نُؤكِدُ مجدداً التزامنا بالتعاون الدولي والتفاهم المتبادل".

Importance of Faithfulness:

Formal speeches require precision and clarity while maintaining a formal tone. Any change in wording or tone could cause confusion or weaken the message. Adhering to the text preserves credibility and formality.

### **Methodological Note:**

Except for the religious text, the examples used in this section are constructed sentences created for illustrative and analytical purposes. They aim to demonstrate the concept of fidelity in translation across different text types.

## **5. Linguistic Dynamics in Translation**

### **5.1. Definition and Purpose**

Linguistic dynamics refers to the flexible and creative use of the target language so that the translated text becomes vibrant, natural, and accessible to the target language audience, without distorting the meaning of the original text.<sup>18</sup>

Its goal is to make translation work within its own culture, and to make translation "alive" and contextually relevant — that is, to perform the same purpose as the original text (persuading, entertaining, guiding, etc.) for a linguistically and culturally different audience.

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<sup>18</sup> Uthman Malawi, *Dinamiyyat al-Lughat: Muqaraba li-Wad al-Lugha al-Arabiyya fi al-Jazair*. (Algeria: *Majallat al-Mumarasat al-Lughawiyya*, Volume 7, Issue 4, 2016), 154.

## 5.2. Theoretical Dimensions

1. Functional Dimension: Focuses on the practical outcome and the necessity of preserving the function and impact of the original text on the recipient.<sup>19</sup>
2. Stylistic/Rhythmic Dimension: Focuses on reformulation that respects rhythm, maintains tone, flow, language level, and rhetoric in the target language.<sup>20</sup>
3. The cultural dimension: This depends on adapting symbols, references, and proverbs to ensure understanding and engagement from the target reader.<sup>21</sup>
4. The receptive/utilitarian dimension: taking into account the reader's expectations, linguistic habits, and level of prior knowledge.

## 5.3. Standards for Applying Linguistic Dynamics

1. The main goal of dynamics is to make the text understandable and clear to the recipient. Any linguistic or cultural modification should facilitate reading and explain the idea, not confuse the reader or change the basic message.
2. Preserving the original meaning of the text, so that the translation does not turn into a new text different from the source text.
3. The translator must assess the target audience: how accustomed they are to a particular style or cultural reference; changes may be

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<sup>19</sup> Tohirova, U. A. Translation Equivalence: The Key to Accurate Cross-Cultural Communication. (*Ethiopian International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 2024), 172–175.

<sup>20</sup> Boase-Beier, J. Translation and Style (2nd ed.), (2020).

<sup>21</sup> Al-Sofi, B. B. M. A., & Abouabdulqader, H. Bridging the Gap between Translation and Culture: Towards a Cultural Dimension of Translation. (*International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Culture*, 2020), 1–13.

acceptable in literary or promotional texts, but may be sensitive in scientific or religious texts.<sup>22</sup>

#### 5.4. Practical Dynamic Tools and Techniques

The practical dynamic tools and techniques in translation refer to the methods and means used by the translator to apply dynamic equivalence, or functional adaptation, to the text so that it becomes understandable and fluid for the recipient in the target language, while preserving the meaning and spirit of the original text. These include:

1. Dynamic equivalence: This technique aims to find a formula that evokes the same reaction from the original reader. The idea is for the target reader to experience the same feeling as the original recipient of the text.
2. Cultural substitution: Replacing a cultural reference with one that is equivalent in its effect on the target audience, while preserving the meaning or impact.
3. Stylistic adaptation: Changing the language level, sentence length, and rhythm to suit the reading habits of the target language.
4. Explication: Inserting short explanatory words when a phrase loses its meaning without explanation.
5. Transcreation: Especially in advertising and creative content—a complete rewriting that works toward the same marketing/emotional goal.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Fatima al-Zahra Diyaf, al-Bud al-Thaqafī fi al-Tarjama (Algeria: *Majallat al-Ishra*, vol. 3, no. 7, 2016), 162.

<sup>23</sup> Bashir al-iswi, *al-Tarjama ila al-Arabiyya* (Cairo: Dar al-Fikr al-Arabi, 1st ed., 1996), 72.

## **5.5. The Relationship Between Creativity and Translation**

The relationship between creativity and translation is fundamental, based on a balance between fidelity to the original text and the expressive freedom of the translator. Translation, especially in literary and intellectual texts, is not merely the transfer of words from one language to another, but rather a process of artistic and cultural re-creation within the boundaries of the target language.<sup>24</sup>

### **5.5.1. In theory**

Creativity in translation means the translator's ability to find innovative linguistic and stylistic solutions that preserve the spirit, beauty, and impact of the text on the new reader, without losing the original meaning or purpose. In other words, the translator reproduces the text in a way that makes it natural, fluid, and expressive within another culture.

### **5.5.2. In practical terms**

The greater the distance between the two languages and cultures, the more creativity the translator needs to bridge the cultural and semantic gap. This can be achieved through:

- Rephrasing sentences in a style appropriate to the target language.
- Choosing imagery and metaphors that are relevant to the new culture.
- Adapting phrases or proverbs to maintain the original impact.

Therefore, creativity is not a deviation from the text, but rather a tool for deep fidelity to it, because it reconstructs the aesthetic and intellectual experience that the author intended in a way that makes it understandable and impactful for the new recipient.

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<sup>24</sup> az-Zawsh Yamina, al-Tarjama wa-l-Ibdaa – Tahlil Ishkaliyat al-Ibdaa al-Tarjami al-Arabi al-Muasir (Algeria: *Majallat Abaad*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2015), 198–213.

## 5.6. Illustrative Examples of Linguistic Dynamics

### 5.6.1. Proverb

- Original English Sentence:

"Don't count your chickens before they hatch."<sup>25</sup>

- Turkish Translation:

"Dereyi görmeden paçaları sıvama."

- Arabic Translation:

"لا تقل فول حتى يصير في المكيول".

(معناه لا تستبق النتائج قبل تحقّقها)

The Linguistic Dynamism:

In this example, the translator didn't translate the words but conveyed the idea through a local equivalent. They used a cultural dynamic that made the meaning familiar and natural to both Turkish and Arabic audiences, preserving the same wisdom in a way that resonated with the audience's mindset.

### 5.6.2. Advertisement

- Original English Sentence:

"Taste the joy of life – with every sip!"

- Turkish Translation:

"Hayatın tadını çıkar – her yudumda mutluluk!"

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<sup>25</sup> Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs.

- Arabic Translation:

"عيش متعة الحياة... في كل لحظة!"

The Linguistic Dynamism:

The translator here activated the emotional and rhythmic style of the target language, not adhering to a literal translation, but using words that evoke emotions and resonate with the tone of the advertisement.

This stylistic and persuasive dynamic makes the text vibrant and responsive to consumer culture.

### 5.6.3. Journalistic / Breaking News

- Original English Sentence:

"The hurricane left the city in ruins, with streets submerged under water."

- Turkish Translation:

"Kasırga, şehri adeta bir felakete dönüştürdü; sokaklar sular altında kaldı."

- Arabic Translation:

"حولت العاصفة المدينة إلى مشهد كارثي، حيث غمر الماء كل شارع ونفق."

The Linguistic Dynamism:

The translation was not literal but focused on bringing the scene and the drama of the event to life. In both Turkish and Arabic, words and phrases were used that make the reader feel the devastation as if they were witnessing it firsthand. Here, the dynamic is stylistic, descriptive, and aesthetic, enhancing the journalistic impact.

### 5.6.4. Poetic Text

- Original English Sentence:

"The wind whispered secrets through the autumn leaves."

- Turkish Translation:

"Rüzgâr, sonbahar yapraklarına fisıldayan sırlarla şehri sarıyordu."

- Arabic Translation:

"الريح تهمس بأسارها بين أوراق الخريف، وكأنها تنشر الحكايات في كل زاوية."

The Linguistic Dynamism:

The translator did not adhere to a literal translation, but rather reconstructed the poetic imagery to preserve its musicality and metaphorical quality.

The dynamism here is stylistic and aesthetic: maintaining the rhythm, simile, and emotional tone of the original text.

The aim: for the reader to experience the same emotional and metaphorical atmosphere as in the original language.

#### **Methodological Note:**

The examples in this section are constructed sentences created for illustrative and analytical purposes. They aim to demonstrate the concept of linguistic dynamism in translation across different text types, rather than to analyze specific source texts.

#### **5.7. The Dangers of Excessive Dynamics (and an Example of Each Danger)**

Linguistic dynamics are an important tool in translation for achieving smooth and appropriate understanding by the recipient. However, their excessive application can lead to distortion of the original meaning of the text and loss of its style and cultural identity. Therefore,

balancing adaptation with fidelity to the text is one of the most important challenges facing the translator.<sup>26</sup>

Among the most significant risks are the following:

1. Distortion of intent—altering the purpose of the text (such as transforming literary criticism into praise).

Example: Adapting a harsh social critique into a pleasant text that loses its critical message.

2. Loss of authenticity/author's voice—the translation becomes a "new text" that no longer reflects the original author.

Example: Transforming a sophisticated and elaborate writing style into simple, propagandistic language that loses its identity.

3. Introducing cultural/value bias—replacing a reference with a target culture in a way that alters the meaning.

Example: Replacing a Turkish religious or social symbol with an inappropriate Arabic equivalent will change the meaning.

4. Media or legal misinformation—reframing can convey false information in sensitive texts (law/medicine).

Example: Simplifying medical instructions may omit a crucial requirement and negatively impact health.

5. A negative reaction from the audience or the author — the source audience may see the translation as a betrayal of the text.

## **5.8. Practical Criteria for Dynamic/Fidelity Decision-Making**

The translator faces a constant challenge between adhering to the original text or adapting it to the target language in a dynamic way that

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<sup>26</sup> Bin Hudi Zayn al-Abidin, al-Kafaa al-Taawiliyya fi al-Tarjama bayna al-Ífrat wal Tafrit (Algeria: *Majallat Ishkalat fi al-Lughah wa-l-Adab*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2021), 193.

ensures clarity of meaning and smooth readability. Decision-making depends on several practical criteria, the most important of which are the following:<sup>27</sup>

1. The type of text and its function: If the text is literary, there is greater flexibility, but with respect for the author's voice; but if the text is legal/medical, the dynamism is limited.
2. The effect of the change on the meaning: Does the modification change the author's intention? If yes, then no change is made.
3. Audience expectations: How familiar are they with the source culture? The less familiar the audience is, the greater the need for adaptation or clarification.
4. Aesthetic vs. informational value: Which takes precedence? Literary aesthetics; technical accuracy.
5. Documentation and justification: Any significant change must be explained in a footnote or translator's note.

## 5.9. Practical Steps for Implementing Dynamics Safely and Effectively

1. Pre-translation analysis: Define objectives, target audience, and non-negotiable boundaries.
2. Two-stage translation: A first draft faithful to the text, followed by an adaptive revision with explanatory notes.
3. External review: Consult a cultural expert or subject matter specialist (especially for sensitive texts).
4. Reception testing: If possible, show a sample text to a target reader to get their impression.

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<sup>27</sup> Muhammad Anani, *al-Tarjama al-Adabiyya bayna al-Nazariya wa-l-Tatbiq* (Egypt: Muassasat Hindawi, 2023), 7.

5. Documentation of significant changes: A translated footnote or appendix justifying the substitution or deletion.

Linguistic dynamism is therefore an essential tool for successful translation in the contemporary world—it transforms the translated text into a genuine message that functions within a new culture. However, it requires a critical sense, clear boundaries, and functional justifications. Balancing creativity with textual respect is a skill acquired through practice and experience in reading both the source and target texts.

## **6. The Challenges Facing the Contemporary Translator in Achieving Balance**

The contemporary translator is surrounded by complex challenges ranging from the cultural gap between the source text and the target language, to the demands of accuracy in technical and legal translation, and the need to adapt to technological developments such as machine translation. Recent studies indicate that addressing these challenges requires a combination of linguistic and cultural awareness and modern technical skills.<sup>28</sup>

Among the most important challenges are the following:

### **6.1. The Challenge of Reconciling Fidelity and Creativity.**

- The contemporary translator is required to be both "fidel" and "creative."
- Excess in either direction leads either to a rigid text (when the translation is literal) or to a loss of meaning (when it is overly imaginative).
- The difficulty lies in defining the dividing line that ensures both accuracy of meaning and flexibility of style.

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<sup>28</sup> Shawqi Jalal, *al-Tarjama fi al-Alam al-Arabi: al-Waqi wa-l-Tahaddi* (Cairo: al Markaz al-Qawmi lil-Tarjama, 1st ed., 2010), 215

## 6.2. The Challenge of Cultural and Communicative Transformations

- In the age of globalization, texts have become imbued with local cultural references and complex contexts (religious, political, artistic).
- Translators face the challenge of conveying this cultural weight without misinterpreting or distorting the original.
- Translation is no longer merely linguistic; it has become a form of communication between diverse cultural systems.

## 6.3. The Challenge of Technological Development and Artificial Intelligence.

- Machine translation tools have become faster and more linguistically accurate, but they are unable to grasp tone, context, and cultural dynamics.
- The human translator finds themselves caught between the pressure of "technical proficiency" and "stylistic sensibility."
- The challenge here is to leverage technology without losing the human touch in understanding meaning and tone.

## 6.4. The Challenge of Textual and Field-Based Translation

- The contemporary translator works across diverse fields (literature, media, law, marketing, diplomacy).
- Each text type has different standards of fidelity and dynamism; literary texts require flexibility, while legal texts demand rigor.
- The challenge: balancing the level of flexibility to suit the textual purpose.

## **6.5. The Challenge of Market Pressures and Rapid Production**

- Translators today are required to be fast and productive, which reduces the time available for review and analysis. Maintaining aesthetic and semantic balance becomes a complex task under these pressures.
- The solution requires careful time and skillful planning to maintain translation quality.

## **6.6. The Challenge of the Lack of Comprehensive Theoretical Framework**

- Many practitioners lack a theoretical foundation in the concepts of fidelity and dynamism.
- Treating translation as merely "linguistic transfer" leads to a loss of the interpretive depth required by modern translation.
- The lack of academic qualifications creates a gap between professional practice and theoretical vision.

## **6.7. The Challenge of Translating Self-Interference (Personal Stance)**

- Sometimes, translators hold views or intellectual positions that subconsciously influence their choice of style or vocabulary.
- Controlling one's own translational self requires ethical awareness and, as much as possible, the neutralization of personal bias.

## **7. Professional and Academic Recommendations**

### **First: Academic Recommendations**

1. Incorporate specialized university courses on "Balancing Fidelity and Dynamism," combining theory and practice.

2. Encourage comparative studies between different languages (such as Turkish and Arabic) to highlight the cultural diversity in translation methods.
3. To promote research in cultural and communicative translation to understand the non-linguistic dimensions of text transfer.
4. To conduct practical workshops for translation students on analyzing texts that demonstrate varying levels of fidelity and dynamism.
5. To develop scientific evaluation criteria for translation that consider the aesthetic and semantic dimensions, not just the linguistic ones.

#### **Second: Professional Recommendations (for Translators and Practitioners)**

1. Analyze the text before translation to determine its purpose, audience, function, and the possible level of stylistic freedom.
2. Document key translation decisions (in footnotes or comments) to justify modifications or adaptations.
3. Review the text twice: first for semantic accuracy, and second for stylistic dynamism.
4. Consult cultural or linguistic experts when dealing with sensitive texts (religious, political, medical).
5. Use technical translation tools to aid accuracy, but do not rely on them to construct tone and style.
6. Openness to scholarly criticism and discussion of translation options in academic and professional forums.
7. Continuous development of literary and linguistic taste, as aesthetic sensibility is what gives a translated text its natural vitality.

8. Adherence to professional ethics: transparency in translation, respect for the original text, and recognition of the limits of interpretation.

## **Research Findings and Academic Contribution**

This study has demonstrated that the dichotomy between fidelity and linguistic dynamism should not be approached as a rigid opposition, but rather as a flexible continuum governed by text type, communicative function, and cultural context. Through the analysis of diverse textual genres—including literary, religious, journalistic, and persuasive texts—the research has shown that neither absolute literalism nor unrestricted dynamism can guarantee successful translation. Instead, effective translation emerges from the translator's ability to make informed, context-sensitive decisions that respond to the functional and cultural demands of each text.

One of the key findings of this research is that fidelity is not a static or uniform principle, but a dynamic concept that varies according to the nature of the source text. In sacred and official texts, fidelity tends to prioritize semantic precision and stability, whereas in literary, poetic, and advertising discourse, fidelity is more closely linked to preserving aesthetic impact, emotional resonance, and pragmatic effect. Linguistic dynamism, therefore, appears not as a deviation from fidelity, but as one of its possible manifestations when the communicative purpose of the text so requires.

Moreover, the study highlights the central role of the translator as an active cultural mediator rather than a passive linguistic transmitter. The translator's choices reflect not only linguistic competence, but also cultural awareness, interpretive ability, and ethical responsibility toward both the source and target audiences. This reinforces the view that translation is an intellectually creative act grounded in critical judgment, rather than a mechanical process governed solely by equivalence at the lexical or syntactic level.

By integrating theoretical perspectives with applied examples, this research contributes to translation studies by offering a practical framework for evaluating translation strategies based on functional adequacy rather than rigid formal correspondence. It also provides pedagogical value by clarifying how fidelity and dynamism can be taught as complementary principles in translator training. Ultimately, this study

affirms that successful translation lies in the translator's capacity to negotiate meaning, culture, and style in a balanced and responsible manner, thereby enhancing cross-cultural communication and mutual understanding.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this research makes it clear that the issue of balancing fidelity to the text and linguistic dynamism is not merely a linguistic problem, but rather the very essence of the act of translation itself, and a mirror that embodies the cultural and cognitive awareness of the translator. Fidelity to the text is not a literal commitment as much as it is respect for the author's intention and purposes, while linguistic dynamics represents the translator's endeavor to reproduce the text in a way that is appropriate to the spirit and culture of the target language without compromising the original meaning.

It has become clear that the contemporary translator faces increasing challenges as a result of the overlap between languages and cultures, the emergence of machine translation, and the development of artificial intelligence tools, which requires him to possess a keen linguistic sense and a critical awareness that enables him to reconcile accuracy and creativity. A successful translation is not one that matches the original verbatim, nor one that exceeds its limits without restraint, but rather one that achieves functional equivalence between the two texts, preserving the meaning and breathing life into the style.

Hence, achieving this delicate balance requires researchers and translators to adopt multiple critical approaches that combine theory and practice, and to benefit from modern translation schools that view the translated text as a process of cultural and cognitive interaction rather than merely a linguistic transfer.

This study recommends the need to enhance the academic and professional training of translators in the fields of language, culture and literary criticism, and to develop their ability to think interpretively in a way that balances fidelity and freedom. It is also advisable to integrate this

topic into translation education curricula to qualify translators capable of practicing translation as an art and a cultural responsibility that contributes to building bridges of human understanding between peoples.

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