

Google Translation and the Question of Ideology
in Political News Headlines

ترجمة جوجل ومسألة الأيديولوجيا في عناوين الأخبار السياسية

Dr. Dalia Ibrahim Ahmed
Assistant Professor of Translation and Linguistics
Faculty of Languages, MSA University

د. داليا إبراهيم أحمد
مدرس - قسم اللغة الإنجليزية
كلية اللغات - جامعة أكتوبر للعلوم الحديثة والآداب

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Abstract

Machine translation (MT) is becoming more involved in the translation field for its quick translation and less cost compared to human. News Translation can make use of MT to speed up the translation and minimize its cost. However, the outcome of MT still suffers from some pitfalls on the micro and macro level. This research investigates how google translation (GT), as one type of MT, translates the ideologically loaded lexical items in political news headlines from English into Arabic and vice versa while examining its effect on the ST ideology. It shows that GT relies on the most frequently used translation of the ideological lexical item in the TT available online. The International Corpus of Arabic is used to investigate the Arabic ideological lexical item, while News on Web Corpus is used to examine the English ones. The results show that GT can empower, impose or obliterate the ST ideology.

Keywords: Machine Translation, Google Translation, Ideology, News Translation, News Headlines

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مستخلص البحث

يتزايد استخدام الآلة في حقل الترجمة نظرًا لسرعتها وقلة تكلفتها مقارنة بما يتقاضاه المترجم البشري. ويمكن لوكالات الأنباء أن تستفيد من ترجمة الآلة لتسريع وتيرة عملية الترجمة وتقليل تكلفتها. ومع ذلك، لا تزال الترجمة باستخدام الآلة تعاني من بعض الأخطاء على المستويين الجزئي والكلي. يهدف البحث الحالي إلى دراسة كيفية قيام ترجمة جوجل بترجمة المفردات المحملة بالأيديولوجيا في عناوين الأخبار السياسية من الإنجليزية إلى العربية والعكس؛ كما يفحص تأثير ترجمة جوجل على الأيديولوجيا في النص المصدر. تخلص الدراسة إلى أن جوجل يعتمد في ترجمته على ما يشيع استخدامه من الترجمات في النص المستهدف الموجود على صفحات الأخبار الإلكترونية. ولقد أثبت ذلك من خلال التحقق من تواتر الكلمات الأيديولوجيا للغة العربية باستخدام موقع المدونة اللغوية العربية العالمية لمكتبة الإسكندرية، بينما يُستخدم موقع NOW Corpus لفحص مدى تواتر الكلمات الإنجليزية. وتشير النتائج إلى أن ترجمة جوجل لعناوين الأخبار التي تحمل مصطلحات أيديولوجية قد تساعد على طمس أو فرض الأيديولوجيا الخاصة بالنص المصدر.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الترجمة باستخدام الآلة، ترجمة جوجل، الأيديولوجيا، الترجمة الاخبارية، ترجمة عناوين الأخبار

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Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been growing since 1950s, while it has thrived in 2020 after COVID-19. Calls for more advanced technologies and automation have increased to bridge the gap that was imposed because of the pandemic. The whole world is seeking to find solutions through AI to facilitate communication and at the same time to keep safe. Accordingly, AI has progressively developed the field of Machine translation (MT) or automated translation. This field is grossly demanding in the economically driven labour market as well in the Information Age because companies, agencies and other businesses are seeking to minimize the translation costs. They are seeking to rely more on MT and less on human translation where the latter costs more compared to the former. Moreover, MT saves time that companies or agencies spend looking for a qualified translator who in turn spends time to translate, edit and deliver the translated text. Thus, MT increases productivity and reduces translation costs (Argos, 2017).

The most accessible and widespread type of MT is Google MT (GT) which was first launched in 2006. GT “now boasts more than 500m users daily worldwide, offering 103 languages” with the shift to Neural MT (NMT) in 2016 (Sommerlad, n.d., para.2). Relying on the context and not on translating isolated sentences, NMT in Google relies on a wide range of linguistic sources available online and compares the already available and recurring translation in a wide range of sources (Sommerlad, n.d.). Furthermore, the fact that MT relies on the “pre-existing translations ... [based on] recursive statistical co-occurrences” (Pym, 2019, 2) can lead to the unification and stabilization of the translated text on the micro level; it improves terminology consistency (Argos, 2017). Accordingly, the field of translation studies has increasingly been interested in MT.

Much research has been conducted on the nature, development and the effect of MT on the translation process and product. Research in such field can be categorized in three main areas. The first area traces the

development as well as the different types of MT (Wilks, 2009; Olive et al, 2011). The second area discusses the challenges translators might face, and the skills they need to learn and acquire with the introduction and the application of MT (Pym, 2013, 2019). The third area highlights the efficacy of MT on the quality of translation; that is to say, how MT addresses translation problems on the micro and macro level (Wilks, 2009; Peng, 2018; Vardaro et al. 2019). To this latter area, this present research is trying to contribute.

The results of the research that has been studying the effect of using MT on translating varied texts on the micro and the macro levels show how MT even fails to address some linguistic issues on the micro level like connotation and polysemy. On the macro level, it fails to address cultural and pragmatics issues (Peng, 2018; Wu et al., 2016; Wilks, 2009).

However, little research has explored the impact of using MT on News translation which is the focus of this research. MT translation, if employed in News Translation, can be a very helpful tool due to its speed in translation compared to human translation as time factor is an essential element in News making; the faster the news is translated and broadcast, the more successful the news agency is in achieving its target.

The present study examines the effect of using GT in news, not on the micro level but on the macro level, especially the ideological aspect of news. The corpus of this study consists of political informative news headlines from varied English and Arabic sources. The choice of the news under investigation depends on the occurrences of the ideological differences between the ST and the TT in political news headlines. The research compares the GT of ideological lexical items found in the ST of selected political news headlines from English into Arabic and vice versa to those of the TT.

The research examines how google translates these ideological lexical items. It shows the ideological constraints that google as a machine can still have during the translation process. Being a machine with no conscious realization of ideological differences and with no free

choice, the research investigates the logic that governs the choice of an ideological lexical item in a certain way and not in another by Google.

This research raises two main questions. The first question this study addresses is that which ideology MT imposes on the TT; is it the ideology of the ST, or the ideology of the TT, or the prevailing ideology in the translations available online? Will it neutralize the ST ideology? The other question investigates the effect of GT on the ideology of the ST. It further examines whether or not there will be a new definition of a hegemonizing ideology by using GT. It also discusses the effect of the imposed ideology, if any, on the ST and the TT. The research speculates that the use of GT in translating news can either obliterate the ideological barriers between cultures, or unify one rhetoric through all news, or impose or empower a hegemonizing ideology.

The importance of this study lies in highlighting how machine translation or Google's translation can open up a new perspective or type of ideology domination. A kind of domination that is entailed by the frequent presence of ideological lexical items in online news which in turn is predetermined by the number of subscribers and readers of the online news.

1. Review of Literature

This review explores the development that has taken place in MT and how this development has been driven by the pressing need for quick and reliable automated translations. The review goes further to explore how news is translated and what features highlight the process of translation. This section ends with the concept of ideology in news and how it plays an important role in directing audience consciousness and shaping their ideology.

1.1 Development in MT

According to New York Times, GT serves about 500 million users monthly and translates about a hundred forty billion words per day, and the number is inflating (Zoitos, 2017). Thus, a great deal of investment in translation engines is being directed to enhance the performance of MT. Tracing the development of google machine translation shows how GT has undergone quite progress in the field of translation.

When first appeared, GT has relied on Rule-Based Machine Translation (RBMT). As its name suggests, it relies on or is based on the linguistic rules- on the lexical or syntactic level which are being fed by linguists to the machine (Brownlee, 2017). The machine resorts to these embedded rules to translate the ST. However, this type of machine translation finds it difficult to deal with more complicated and high levels of linguistic and structure.

A more advanced approach to MT is the Statistical Machine Translation (SMT). It depends on a large corpus that acts as examples to translate from the ST to the TT. This approach does not depend on the work of linguists, rather on the existence of similar ST and its translation which act as a model for further translation (Brownlee, 2017); it requires a large volume of bilingual corpus. Such approach works on the phrase level; that is why it is sometimes referred to as Phrase-based Machine Translation (PBMT). It is based on the cooccurrences of structures and phrases in similar corpus or date. Despite being effective for quite a long time, SMT still faces problems concerning the naturalness of the TT (Brownlee, 2017).

In order to address the shortcomings of the RBMT and the SMT, Neural Machine Translation (NMT) has recently been introduced as a promising engine (Wu et al., 2016). It uses a large neural network that depends on encoding the ST entire structure or sentences and decoding them in the TT without breaking them down into words and phrases keeping the context as it is (Zoitos, 2017). It uses the same mechanism that human brain uses in processing language.

Despite being a breakthrough in MT, NMT still suffers from some drawbacks and weaknesses. Wu et al. (2016) mention that NMT lacks the ability to translate rare or unfamiliar words and structures. They add that NMT sometimes omit parts of the input-ST- which results in an incomplete translation. To address these problems, many techniques are still being developed to enhance the performance of NMT on the lexical, structural and semantic level. However, the question is still raised; whether NMT will be able to deal with News Translation with its salient features and nature that distinguishes it from any genre of Translation.

1.2 Features of News Translation

News reaches wide audience with different level of educations. Some of this news is local, while other is globally translated. Besides, the globalized nature of news, due to its widespread electronic presence on the Internet, allows it to address a wide range of audience with multiple backgrounds. The selection and the translation of news are done according to many criteria, constraints and conventions. Of these constraints are the ideology and the culture of the agency and audience. As for the conventions, they are concerned with news style embedded in each language which are conventionally known and expected by its audience.

Accordingly, news translation may not be considered an ideal model of translation that can embody the traditional ST-TT binarism that is inherited in the field of translation. Achieving equivalence between the ST and the TT is sceptical or hard to achieve due to the nature of news translation with all the alternations and editing that take place during the process of translation.

News style has its own distinguishing features as a genre. This style is governed by the nature of the target language. The way sentences, phrases and quotations are structured, arranged and punctuated in news differs from one language to another (Fowler, 1991). ST news undergoes some alterations and transformations to conform to the target language news conventions. In Arabic news translation, for example, some translation techniques are used such as deletion or addition to conform to the Arabic news genre (Hassan, 2014).

One of the prominent features of News is creating new terminologies and imposing translations on its receivers who accept them by time. In so doing, news translations rely on techniques like calque and borrowing of different words, expression and phrases which might sound foreign or unfamiliar at first but with the frequent use and repetition, they are normalized, integrated and become familiarized to receivers (Hassan, 2015). They become part and parcel of news terminologies and what used to be unfamiliar or less frequent becomes familiar to audience. They become part of the language system and the cognition of the reader.

Another feature of news is preferability of some structures over others. For example, in Arabic news translation, it is preferable to use negative structure to convince audience; “clean environment” is preferably translated as “بيئة غير ملوثة” – unpolluted environment- which is widely used in news if compared to “بيئة نظيفة”- clean environment- because the former has greater impact and is more effective on the audience if compared to the latter (Hassan, 2015, 150).

News translation became known as news transediting, a term coined by Stetting in 1989 to refer to the changes done to news during its production or translation. According to Bielsa and Bassnett (2009), the role of the translator has changed with news translation because it entails a kind of “rewriting” where the translator has to do a lot of modifications and editing (2009, 57). They further add that the translator’s role in news translation is visible and “laudable” as s/he tailors the news to suit the needs and expectations of the readers (٢٠٠٩,10). Translator’s visibility and mediation in news translation are further explained by Scammell (2018) where he proposes two types of mediation: first mediation starts with the selection of the news to be translated, and second mediation involves the translation itself. Translators of news go beyond the ST; they go through a process of “gathering, translating, selecting, reinterpreting, contextualizing and editing” (Van Doorslaer, 2010,181). Accordingly, translators of news are strongly present and visible in the TT as they are expected to tailor the news to suit the target reader’s “expectations”, “needs” and comprehension (Bielsa & Bassnett, 2009,10).

Thus, news translation goes through a lot of adaptations to reach efficiency and to meet the needs and expectations of the target audience to avoid any kind of communication blockage for receivers who are seldom aware of any translation of the news (Hassan, 2015). Therefore, modifications are to be done by using linguistic and syntactic structures that are familiar to news receivers (Hassan, 2015). These transformations can be due to the nature of the target language, the nature of news style, expectations of the audience, or ideological or cultural constraints. Furthermore, news as a genre has its own features and nature especially on the stylistic and ideological level. In addition to meeting the target

reader's expectations, news translation is expected to abide by or conform to the ideological constraints entailed by news agencies.

1.3 Ideology in News Translation

News translation does not only undergo changes due to the requirements of the nature of the genre but also due to the ideology imposed by either the news agency or its audience. The term ideology as an operative parameter has permeated the translation studies with the advent of the term of 'cultural turn' by Bassnett and Lefevere (1990) and the introduction of the term 'rewriting' by Lefevere (1992). They both have worked on the cultural constraints on the literary works. Translation according to them goes beyond text and language; translation focuses on the interaction between translation and any constraints such as culture, politics, and others.

Schaffner (2003) argues that any type of translation is ideological and constitutes a kind of constraint. She further explains that ideological interference starts from the act of selecting the ST to be translated and then the way it is translated by selecting the strategies and tools of translation. These restrictions or ideological constraints are entailed by different social agents as detailed by Lefevere (1992). In Translation studies, ideology entails the translation strategies to be adopted by the translator; this is due to many ideological constraints like that of the audience, political institutions, society, news agency and so on (Chung-ling, 2010).

This argument is very much applicable to news translation and news agencies. News undergoes a lot of alterations, deletion or addition when translated due to ideological considerations (Ethelb, 2016). According to Fowler (1991), language of the news is not "neutral" but rather a "highly constructive mediator" (1991,1). The way a journalist collects and presents a piece of news in an agreeable and acceptable way to the readers is per se an ideological consideration. The choice of a specific word, expression, or structure is deliberately done by the translator for ideological reasons, as well. For example, when referring to the Palestinian case, Arab news translator would rather choose "استشهاد" (*martyrdom*), when translating the word "death" or "shot dead"; this

choice is done consciously to abide by the ideology of the Arab audience as well as to reflect the political and social stance of the Arab world towards the Palestinian-Israeli case. According to Fowler (1991), “news is a representation of the world in language” (1991,4); thus, language in news is meticulously manipulated to construct a reality that reflects certain values. Nord (2003) further claims that during the translation process, ideological criteria play a clear or hidden rule in determining the translator’s choice starting from the text to strategies used in translation.

This conscious manipulation of news for the sake of ideological considerations is an important and a prominent feature in news making and news translation. Thus, it cannot be ignored or disregarded. Accordingly, the following section tests how GT deals with ideological items in News headlines.

2. Methodology

This study employs quantitative method of analysis to investigate how Google translates ideological lexical items in political news headlines. It tries to prove that GT retrieves the translation of the ideological lexical item under investigation from translations or TT already available online. The results of statistical analysis are analysed to show the effect of GT in translating the ST ideology. That is, it discusses how far GT manages to translate the ST ideology and how this explains the translation of ideology by machine. The following subsections include the data collection and tools of analysis.

2.1 Data Collection

The present study is based on analysing the translation of ideologically loaded news headlines from English into Arabic and vice versa from different online news. The analysis includes 4 Arabic political news headlines and 4 English political news headlines. These headlines are carefully selected based on the presence of ideological lexical items in the ST which when translated by different news agencies, the headlines witness alterations due to ideological considerations. The analysis is limited to political news headlines because they are full of ideological considerations.

2.2 Procedures of Analysis

The selected political news headlines (ST) are first translated via google (GTT-google target text). In order to validate the assumption that GT relies on retrieving these ideological items from available online news, the frequency of these ideological lexical items is statistically measured. The frequency of the English lexical items under investigation is examined using online NOW Corpus (News on Web Corpus). The frequency of the Arabic lexical items under examination is examined using the International Corpus of Arabic website of Bibliotheca Alexandrina (ICA) which is available online for free. For the sake of this research, the ICA search is confined to the press source, namely electronic newspapers.

3. Data Analysis

The political news headlines are selected carefully from different news available online. These headlines include ideologically-loaded lexical item. These lexical items are considered ideological because when they are translated in different target news, they are altered using different lexical item for political or social ideological considerations. The analysis includes explanation of the ideological differences between the ST lexical item and its translation in GTT. After that, the reason behind translating the lexical item by Google in such way is investigated using NOW Corpus for English lexical items and ICA for the Arabic ones. The analysis starts with the Arabic news headlines.

Example 1

ST: استشهاد ٥ مواطنين فلسطينيين في غارة اسرائيلية (Al-Ahram, Al-Youm Al-Sabea, Alsharq 2014)

(Back Translation: *The Martyrdom of 5 Palestinian Citizens by Israeli Raid*)

GTT: 5 Palestinian citizens were killed in an Israeli raid

In Example 1, the Arabic lexical item “استشهاد” (*martyrdom*) is a politically and religiously ideologically loaded word. The Arab world considers those who die in Palestine fighting the Israeli occupation as martyrs. Google changes and replaces the lexical item “استشهاد” (*martyrdom*) with “killed”. GTT translates the lexical item “استشهاد” as

“killed” and does not translate it literally as “martyrdom”. GTT does not translate the ideological bearings present in the ST lexical item “استشهاد”. Both “استشهاد” and “killed” have different connotations in the sense that the latter is a neutral word, while the former has a positive connotation to the Arabic reader. As a machine, GT does not differentiate between what is ideological and what is not, what to translate and what not. It is worth adding that if the same GTT is used as a ST, the lexical item “killed” is translated as “مقتل” by Google as seen in Example 2.

Example 2

ST: 5 Palestinian killed in an Israeli raid (BBC)

GTT: مقتل ٥ فلسطينيين بغارة اسرائيلية

(Back Translation: 5 Palestinian killed in Israeli Raid)

Based on this assumption, GTT does not neutralize the lexical item on purpose, but it relies on how the Arabic ST is translated and retrieved in equivalent English online news sources. This is evident when examining the frequency of the English and the Arabic lexical item in both NOW and ICA respectively, as shown in Table 1.

The analysis shows that the Arabic lexical item “مقتل” (*killed*) is frequently used in Arabic web-based press (1094 times) compared to the term “استشهاد” (*martyrdom*) (480 times). This proves that GT when translating relies on the frequently used terms in the target language which according to Table 1 is “مقتل” (*killed*). The same applies to the English lexical term “killed” which is mentioned 246 times in different English web news compared to the term “martyr or martyrdom” which is mentioned only 10 times.

Table 1

Arabic Lexical item	ICA frequency	English Lexical Item	NOW Corpus frequency
مقتل	١٠٩٤	Killed	246
استشهاد	480	Martyr/ martyrdom	10

In Example 3, the Arabic news headline includes the term “الجيش الإسرائيلي” (*Israeli Forces*) which is frequently used in Arabic news. Table 2 shows that the frequency of the Arabic lexical item “الجيش الإسرائيلي” (*Israeli Forces*) is 187 compared to 3 occurrences of the lexical item “جيش الدفاع الإسرائيلي” or “IDF”.

Example 3:

ST: الجيش الإسرائيلي في بيان له أنه أطلق النار من مروحية ودبابة باتجاه "مسلمين مشبوهين
(Al Arabiya May 20, 2020)

(Back Translation: *Israeli Forces* in a statement state it fired “suspected militants” by a helicopter and a tank.)

GTT: IDF said in a statement that it had fired from a helicopter and a tank towards “suspected militants”.

GTT translates the Arabic lexical item "الجيش الإسرائيلي" (*Israeli Forces*) as “IDF” "جيش الدفاع الإسرائيلي" (*Israeli Defence Forces*) instead of the literal translation “Israeli Army or Forces”. “IDF” is an ideologically negative word to the Arabic speaking culture which does not recognize Israel as a state with a legitimate army or forces that defends it. That is the reason why “IDF” is translated in most Arab news as "الجيش الإسرائيلي" or “Israeli Army/force” (187 times) and not "جيش الدفاع الإسرائيلي" (3 times) or “IDF” as seen in Table 2. GTT uses the lexical item IDF because the English lexical item “IDF” is repeated 2076 times compared to 804 times of the terms “The Israeli Forces or Army” (68 and 736 times) as seen in Table 2.

Table 2

Arabic Lexical item	ICA frequency	English Lexical Item	NOW Corpus frequency
الجيش الإسرائيلي	١٨٧	IDF	2076
جيش الدفاع الإسرائيلي	٣	The Israeli Forces	68
		The Israeli Army	736

In Example 4, the ST Arabic news headline uses the term “احتلال” or “occupied” to describe Israel as an occupier of the Palestinian land.

The Arabic term is used more frequently, according to ICA, in Arabic news headlines as seen in Table 3.

Example 4

ST: (القدس ١٤ مايو ٢٠٢٠) استشهاد فلسطيني برصاص الاحتلال في الضفة الغربية بزعيم محاولة دهس جنود إسرائيليين

(Back Translation: The martyrdom of a Palestinian by the occupied bullets in the West Bank, for allegedly trying to run over Israeli soldiers.)

GTT: A Palestinian killed by the Israeli army bullets in the West Bank, for allegedly trying to run over Israeli soldiers

The Arabic news uses “الاحتلال” (6 times) to describe the Israeli army expressing their political stance against the Israeli existence on the Palestinian lands. GTT replaces the term “الاحتلال” with the lexical item “Israeli army”. This alteration and replacement in GTT have obliterated the political ideological stance loaded in the ST lexical item “الاحتلال”. As seen in Table 3, the term “occupied bullets” does not exist in English news headlines (0 times). Rather, the lexical item “Israeli army” used in GTT is frequently used (31 time) in news.

Table 3

Arabic Lexical item	ICA frequency	English Lexical Item	NOW Corpus frequency
رصاص الاحتلال	٦	Occupied bullets	0
رصاص الجيش الإسرائيلي	٥	Israeli bullets	31

The following examples- Examples 5 and 6- are ideologically-driven English political news headlines. The first example- Example 5- includes the term “militant” to describe the “Islamic jihad”. According to NOW Corpus frequency, the lexical item “Islamic Jihad militant” is frequently used in English (129 times) compared to “Islamic Jihad leader” (68 times) as seen in Table 4. In English, the term “militant” has a negative connotation. In Arabic, the term means “مقاتل أو محارب”; that is to say, someone who struggles or fights using force. Thus, the lexical term in English has a negative connotation; whereas it has neutral connotations

in Arabic. The lexical term is translated in GTT as “قيادياً” or “leader” which is not the exact translation of the ST term. GTT translation changed the connotation of the term from being negative to being positive using the term “قيادياً” or “leader”.

Example 5

ST: Israel kills top Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant in Gaza (BBC News Nov. 12, 2019)

GTT: إسرائيل تقتل قيادياً في حركة الجهاد الإسلامي في غزة

(Back translation: Israel kills Islamic Jihad leader in Gaza)

On tracing the frequency of the “قيادياً في حركة الجهاد الإسلامي” or “Islamic Jihad leader” in ICA, it is noticeable that the term is repeated 7 times compared to the term “مقاتلاً في حركة الجهاد الإسلامي” or “مسلحاً في حركة الجهاد الإسلامي” “Islamic Jihad militant” which are never used in any Arabic news headlines (Table 4).

Table 4

Arabic Lexical item	ICA frequency	English Lexical Item	NOW Corpus frequency
قيادياً في حركة الجهاد الإسلامي	٧	Islamic Jihad militant	129
مقاتلاً في حركة الجهاد الإسلامي	٠	Islamic Jihad leader	68
مسلحاً في حركة الجهاد الإسلامي	٠		

Example 6 includes the ideological lexical item “insurgent” which, according to Lesan AlArab Dictionary (2007) , means in Arabic “متمرد” or a “rebel” or “revolutionary”. The term has a neutral connotation in Arabic. In English, likewise, the lexical item has a neutral connotation which means in Cambridge online dictionary “someone who is fighting against the government in their own country”. However, GTT translates the lexical item as “مسلحين” or “armed” which has a negative connotation in Arabic. GTT translates the term as such because it is frequently used (11920 times) according to ICA in Arabic newspapers more than the lexical item “متمرد” (1632) as seen in Table 5.

Example 6

ST: 2 insurgents dead in Israeli raid in West Bank (DailyNews Egypt, October 8, 2010)

GTT: مقتل مسلحين اثنين في غارة اسرائيلية في الضفة الغربية

(Back Translation: 2 Gunmen killed in Israeli Raid in West Bank)

However, if the lexical item “مسلحين”, which has a negative connotation, is mentioned in an Arabic headline as seen in Example 7, GTT translates it as “gunmen”- a lexical item with negative connotation as well in English. The lexical term “مسلحين” is not translated as “insurgents” because the former is mentioned more in news (70621) compared to the latter (65982) according to NOW Corpus, as seen in Table 5 below.

Example 7

ST: مقتل مسلحين في غارة على قوات تابعة لإيران " قرب حدود سوريا مع العراق (BBC Sep. 9, 2019)

GTT: Gunmen killed in a raid on Iranian forces "near Syria's border with Iraq

Table 5

<i>Arabic Lexical item</i>	<i>ICA frequency</i>	<i>English Lexical Item</i>	<i>NOW Corpus frequency</i>
مسلحاً	١١٩٢٠	insurgents	65982
متمرداً	١٦٣٢	Gunmen	70621

4. Results and Discussion

This research analyses the translation of ideologically loaded lexical items in political news headlines by Google. The analysis shows that there are differences and alterations between GTT and ST when translating ideological lexical items in political news headlines. The research demonstrates that GTT relies on equivalent available online texts when translating political news. During translation, GTT retrieves similar news from different available news. This retrieval is not done haphazardly. Google chooses the equivalent TT lexical item that is statistically more used than other equivalent translations. This is validated

by testing the frequency of the lexical items under examination via NOW Corpus for the English lexical items and ICA for the Arabic lexical items. The tables along with the examples illustrate that GT retrieves lexical items from available online newspapers. It further shows that the more frequently used the lexical item is in news, the more likely it is to be retrieved and used by GT.

The Arabic ST examples provided above demonstrates that the ideologically loaded Arabic lexical items as in "استشهاد" or "martyrdom", "رصاص الاحتلال" or "the occupied bullets", and "الجيش الإسرائيلي" or "Israeli Army" are neutralized as "killed", "Israeli bullets" and "IDF" respectively when translated into English by GT. The connotations of the Arabic lexical items change as well when translated. According to the Arab readers or audience, these words have positive connotations because they reflect their ideology towards the Israeli-Palestinian case. When they are examined in NOW corpus, the translation of these Arabic lexical items with their positive connotations is not frequently used in English online news. Rather, GT resorted to equivalent translations already available in online news which happen to degrade or disempower the ideology underlying the Arabic lexical items as well as its connotation. This further empowers the ideology of the TT where the "martyr" or "martyrdom" in Palestine is considered a "killer" or "killed" in western culture. Thus, the western culture as represented in the TT available online is adopted and imposed by GTT.

Likewise, when the ideologically negative connotated English lexical items such as "insurgent" and "militant" are translated by GT into Arabic, they are neutralized to the target reader because these English lexical items are used in Arabic news with neutral connotations. Accordingly, GT has manipulated the ST ideology because it has relied on the already available Arabic translations in equivalent Arabic online news. As shown and explained in the analysis, GT relies on retrieving the translation of these English ideological lexical items from available Arabic online news respectively as seen in the tables that trace the frequency of the Arabic lexical items in ICA. This process of manipulating the English ST as well as the Arabic ST ideological lexical items is not done intentionally by GT; that is to say, Google does not try

to obliterate the ideology of the ST. After all, it is a machine that does not have free will or a free decision to take and work accordingly. However, GT has manipulated the ST and produced a TT that reflects the target reader's ideology while obliterating or disregarding the ST's.

One question this research has tried to answer is that what ideology GT is adopting and how this affects the concept of the translation of ideology in the machine age. The analysis shows that GT adopts the ideology of the prevailing online translated news of the target language. Ideologically loaded lexical items are not manipulated intentionally by GT. Rather, they are manipulated unintentionally by retrieving their translations from equivalent online news. Another question this research has attempted to answer is the effect of GT on translating the ST ideology. Depending on retrieving the prevailing or the frequently used lexical items in the available online news, GT can either create a stereotype ideology or it can neutralize one; disempowering of lexical items while empowering others plays a vital role in creating, shaping, imposing, and negating ideology.

GT does not follow the footsteps long exercised on translation, where the more powerful the language is, the more chance its ideology hegemonizes translation. Rather, GT creates a new relationship where the more read and widespread online news is, the more hegemonizing its ideology is. With the widespread use of MT, the long-lasting struggle between the ST and TT hegemony has always been in the favour of the majority language at the expense of the minority languages. Minority-majority relationship represented in language is mentioned by Baker (2014) where minority are languages spoken by "politically and economically marginalized populations" (p.17). Majority, which represents the English language, is spoken by the economically powerful colonizer. However, the analysis shows that this majority-minority relationship gains a new meaning with the introduction of machine translation or GT. In digital MT age, Majority-Minority relations is related to the credibility, favouritism as well as the widespread of online news among readers or viewers. Numbers of subscribers, readers and followers determine the marginalized or the powerful online news agency. The more viewers or readers of a news agency, the more it is

widespread and the more its lexical items get circulated and adopted by GT. The more highly ranked the online news is, the more its ideology is imposed and adopted by its readers, subscribers or viewers.

The long-lasting struggle between ideology imposition and translation will continue with the extensive use of and more reliance on machine translation, namely google translation. However, this struggle gains different meaning with the introduction of MT where the hegemony and the imposition of ideology and the exercising of power is governed by the number of subscribers and readers. That is the race to ideology imposition is determined by the rank of online news.

5. Conclusion

The aim of this research is twofold. Firstly, it investigates how GT translates ideologically loaded lexical items or what governs the process of translating these ideological lexical items from English into Arabic and vice versa. Secondly, it discusses the effect of GT or machine translation on translating the ST ideology to the TT. That is, it analyses the effect of GT dependence or reliance on frequently used translations of available online news on the concept of ideology. The research has proven that GT relies on retrieving the translation of ideologically lexical items from available online news; thus, this either neutralizes or changes the ideological bearings in the lexical items of the ST.

In order to examine these aims, the research has adopted a quantitative analysis. This has been used to prove that GT relies on the frequently used translation of the lexical item under investigation from the available online TT news. The analysis demonstrates that the process of choice of the translation of these ideological lexical items is governed by the frequency of the translations among online news. The more frequently used lexical item in online news, the more likely it is used by GT. Accordingly the analysis proves that GT can disempower or normalize the ST ideology, while empowering that of the TT.

GT takes the long-debated struggle between ideology and translation to a new perspective. It is no more a struggle between a hegemonizing and economically driven language over another language. It is no more the struggle between the ideology of the ST to that of the

TT, especially if the former is hegemonizing the latter. With GT, the upper hand is for the target language, and the hegemonizing ideology is that of the target language whatever the source language is. If the target language, as presented in available online news, chooses to neutralize the ST ideology, GT does the same. On the same token, if the target language chooses to impose its ideology while disregarding or degrading the ST ideology, GT does the same too.

To conclude, machine translation has opened a new perspective of ideology hegemony; the hegemony is in the hand of the TT which in turn is governed by the number of subscribers or followers; it is the number of TT followers or subscribers who dictate or determine how to translate an ideological lexical item and what ideology to be imposed on the target reader. The more subscribers and followers to online news, the more it is likely that GT relies on during the process of translation.

6. Suggestions for Future Research

The present study has limited its scope on the macro level of translation, namely ideology and how competent Machine translation is while dealing with such level. Further research can be conducted on other components at the macro level to help overcome the drawbacks of machine translation. Besides, further research is required to address the effect and the competence of machine translation on different genre of translation like literary, legal, scientific and others. The findings of such research can help in enhancing the fairness and transparency of machine translation.

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