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How Are The Idioms In 'The Murder On The Links' Translated Into Arabic?

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Abstract

Idioms are difficult to translate because of their unpredictable meaning and grammar. This study focuses on the strategies of translating idioms in Christie's novel 'The Murder on the Links' into Arabic. The aim of this study is to examine the strategies used by the translator when translating idioms into Arabic and examine the impacts of using these strategies when deducing the meanings of the idioms translated into Arabic. The theoretical part is based on Baker's strategies for translating idioms. In this study, a qualitative-analytical approach is adopted to analyse the strategies used in translating idioms. The analytical part is based on the novel 'The Murder on The Links' by Christie and the Arabic translation by Elbaradei. The data of the study consists of 90 idioms from the novel 'The Murder on The Links'. The results of the study showed that the translator adopted four strategies in translating idioms from English into Arabic, namely using an idiom with an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, using an idiom with an idiom of similar meaning and form, paraphrasing and omission. Although previous studies have shown that paraphrasing was the most common strategy, this study showed that the strategy of translating an idiom with an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form was the most commonly used strategy when translating idioms from English into Arabic. The results also showed that when deducing the meaning of idioms translated into Arabic, most idioms were explicitly rendered.

Keywords: Idioms, translation, strategies for translating idioms, meaning of idioms, Arabic.

Bagaimanakah idiom dalam 'The Murder on the Links' diterjemahkan kepada Bahasa Arab?

Abstrak

Penterjemahan idiom adalah sukar disebabkan oleh makna dan tatabahasanya yang tidak dapat diramalkan. Kajian ini memberikan tumpuan pada strategi penterjemahan idiom dalam novel oleh Christie berjudul 'The Murder on the Links' kepada bahasa Arab. Kajian ini menyasarkan objektif untuk meneliti strategi yang digunakan oleh penterjemah apabila menterjemahkan idiom kepada bahasa Arab dan melihat impak penggunaan strategi ini apabila menyimpulkan makna idiom yang diterjemahkan kepada bahasa Arab. Perspektif teoretikal dibuat berdasarkan strategi penterjemahan idiom yang dikemukakan oleh Baker. Dalam kajian ini, pendekatan kualitatif-analitis digunakan untuk menganalisis strategi yang digunakan untuk menterjemahkan idiom. Manakala perspektif analitis dibuat berdasarkan novel oleh Christie berjudul 'The Murder on The Links' dan terjemahannya dalam bahasa Arab oleh Elbaradei. Data kajian ini mengandungi sebanyak 90 idiom yang dipetik

daripada novel 'The Murder on The Links'. Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa dalam penterjemahan idiom daripada bahasa Arab kepada bahasa Inggeris, penterjemah menggunakan empat strategi. Strategi tersebut ialah penterjemahan idiom dengan suatu idiom yang sama maknanya tetapi berbeza bentuknya, penterjemahan idiom dengan idiom yang sama makna dan bentuknya, parafrasa, dan peninggalan (omission). Meskipun kajian-kajian sebelum membuktikan bahawa parafrasa merupakan strategi yang paling lazim, kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa strategi penterjemahan idiom menggunakan idiom yang sama maknanya tetapi berbeza bentuknya merupakan strategi yang paling lazim ketika penterjemahan idiom daripada bahasa Inggeris kepada bahasa Arab. Hasil dapatan juga menunjukkan bahawa ketika menyimpulkan makna idiom yang diterjemahkan kepada bahasa Arab, kebanyakan idiom diterjemahkan secara eksplisit.

Kata kunci:Idiom, terjemahan, strategi penterjemahan idiom, makna idiom, bahasa Arab.

1. Introduction

Translation is the process of transforming a written language into another language by rendering textual elements (Baker, 1992). The importance of translation is clearly reflected in the amount of research and translation work that has been done over the years, and in the fact that translation is a broad field and an important discipline for the advancement of human knowledge and civilisation as a whole (Muhammad Luqman Ibnul Hakim et al., 2014). However, a translation can only be successful if the translator understands the cultural meaning of the source language. The reason behind this is the fact that every language always has a cultural and regional meaning, and every culture has its own peculiarities when it comes to the way it is written (Lihua, 2014).

If a translator does not have the background knowledge of the source language, the translation would not be able to reflect the intended message. As a result, the original language loses its uniqueness and individuality, and it would appear as if the author had merely portrayed his intentions. This is the reason why translators have the difficult task of understanding, interpreting and transposing idioms. Idiom, the core of every language, is a characteristic that makes it difficult for us to understand and translate. Idioms can only be understood by people who are native speakers of the language. According to Baker (2011), idioms are speech patterns that are inseparable from the original language, where the actual meaning of a word can neither be derived nor separated from the original language.

One of the most difficult tasks in translation is the translation of books and novels, as the languages are usually characterised by cultural, social and regional differences. The books and novels carry the charm of their culture in the form of texts, and readers must be aware of this, otherwise it becomes difficult to understand the context. Not to mention that the novels contain many grammatical components, such as metaphors, hyperboles, similes, personifications and idioms, which are sometimes difficult to interpret. The most difficult part is undoubtedly the idioms. As mentioned earlier, they carry a cultural meaning and sense that cannot be changed and is untranslatable. Idioms are most complicated when someone tries to understand only the meaning of a word. Therefore, it is important to understand the context before interpreting the phrase or expression. According to Strakšiene (2009), one of the difficulties translators face when translating texts is the lack of equivalence in the target language

'The Murder on the Links' is one of Christie's masterpieces. It is a detective fiction that takes place in northern France. The author's linguistic style in the use of words and phrases has caught the attention of readers. This 274-page novel contains a lot of manipulating words and various idioms that enrich the work and make it meaningful. Of course, literary writing is usually a product of the author's knowledge, background and life experience, as well as his or her imagination and creativity. There are certain elements at the core of a literary work, such as theme, character, plot, setting, timeline, as well as the message the author wishes to convey, which define the work as a whole (Pabiayah Toklubok et al., 2021). However, there is another reason for selecting this novel in this study. It is the only version fully translated into Arabic, which has received critical acclaim and deeply impressed a wide range of

readers. The translation is refined enough to convey the same meaning in the Arabic version as it does in English (Elbaradei, 1995).

The events of the novel revolve around a distress call made by a French millionaire to the detective Poirot in order to rescue him. Arriving too late, Poirot found the millionaire's body untended in an open tomb. Poirot begins to solve this heinous crime, only to discover that the identity of the murderer is linked to a twenty-year-old-crime.

This study is conducted based on two significant gaps in the available literature. Firstly, there are issues with translating idioms. In Arabic, there are many special and unique idioms. Nevertheless, idioms have not been discussed or researched extensively in terms of translation strategies. According to the results of available studies, paraphrasing and omission were the most commonly used strategies (Agoes, 2016). Despite numerous studies that have investigated translation strategies for idioms from many languages, more research is needed on the translation of Arabic idioms. Arabic has many idioms and is one of the oldest languages in the world (Watson, 2011). Secondly, there are issues related to meaning in the translation of idioms. Translation strategies play a crucial role in conveying meaning, especially during the translation process. According to the literature review, studies have mainly defined translation strategies without addressing their impact on the translated language" (Ingo, 1990). As a result, the aim of this study is to investigate the strategies used by the translator in translating idioms into Arabic and the impact of using these strategies when deducing the meanings of the idioms translated into Arabic.

2. Literature Review

Idioms are widely regarded as an essential part of spoken and written language. They strike a chord with listeners and paint a vivid picture of expressions and writings in the minds of listeners (Smithback et al., 1991). Some of the studies that have been conducted in relation to idiom translation strategies are as follows:

Zakaria (2019) investigated how idioms in Mahfūz's works were translated from English into Arabic: Al-Thulāthīyah, Al-Liss 'waal-kilāb and Mīrāmār. Based on Baker's (2011) idiom translation strategies, the study recommended the best techniques for idiom translation from Arabic into English. In addition, the author attempted to categorise the most commonly used techniques and the main differences in their use. The most common techniques were "use of an idiom with similar meaning but dissimilar form" and "paraphrasing". This study recommends that translators should develop a good command of the target language idioms and acquire a broad knowledge of the theoretical challenges of translation and the translation techniques offered by different linguists.

Bahumaid (2010) investigated the strategies of translating English idioms into Arabic using Baker's (1992) idiom translation techniques based on three of the most commonly used English-Arabic dictionaries. Using nearly a hundred English-Arabic idioms from numerous translation studies, three linguistics and translation professors selected 50 idioms for operational definition. The most common technique for translating idioms is paraphrasing, followed by equivalent idioms that are different in words and structure form from their English equivalents, and finally, 'calquing'. In addition, Khosravi (2012) examined the translation strategies of idioms from English into Persian in Harper Lee's 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men', using Baker's (1992) strategies. In the end, paraphrasing was the most common strategy, while using an idiom with similar meaning and form was the least common strategy.

In addition, Hartono (2019) examined the idioms used in Kevin Kwan's novel, *Crazy Rich Asians* and Baker's (1992) strategies for translating English idioms from Bahasa Indonesia. Data were collected on the basis of the idioms in the *Crazy Rich Asians*. A total of 325 idioms were used to analyse the types of idioms and the techniques used. It was found that paraphrasing was the most common translation method as there are no equivalents for Indonesian idioms. Another study by Unja (2019) examined the techniques used when translating Indonesian idioms in the novel 'Ziarah' into the English

version 'Pilgrims' and how the Indonesian idioms were successfully conveyed. Using the paraphrase technique, 14 of the 28 Indonesian idioms in the source text were translated into English; eight idioms with similar meaning but with a dissimilar form were translated into English; five idioms with similar meaning and form were translated; and one idiom was omitted from the translation into English.

After analysing numerous studies on the translation of idioms, it was found that there were few studies that addressed the translation of idioms in English-Arabic literary works such as novels, including the works of Christie. According to Marjolijn (2016), Christie is one of the most popular and translated writers of all time. However, there seems to be lack of academic research on her work. One such study is by Al-assaf (2019), who aimed to classify both the English idioms and the set idiomatic terms used in Christie's 'Appointment with Death' and to examine how Omar Abdulaziz Ameen translated it into Arabic. The aim of the analysis was to illustrate the techniques used by the translator to overcome the lack of equivalence in the target language. The study relied on Baker's (1992) idiom translation technique. The results showed that the translator used all the forms of idiom translation techniques to explain the meaning of the text to the reader. There is no doubt that Arabic language has attracted the attention of academics and translators alike.

In conclusion, there are not many studies on the translation of idioms, especially in the context of Christie's works, not only from English into Arabic, but also into other languages. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by examining the strategies used when deducing the meanings of idioms translated into Arabic in Christie's 'The Murder on the Links'.

3. Methodology

Based on the objectives of this study, the qualitative analytical approach has been adopted to identify the strategies used by Elbaradei as well as to examine the impacts of using those strategies when deducing the meanings of the idioms translated into Arabic. This approach is suitable for the study as it describes and interprets the events instead of controlling them (Higgs et al., 2009). According to Neill (2007), this approach involves analysing data such as words, pictures, or objects. Since the data of this study are in the form of words, and understanding the words is essential for this study, this approach is appropriate to be used.

In this study, a content analysis method was used in order to analyse the data. According to Ary (2010), content analysis is a research strategy used to analyse textual or visual materials with the goal of discovering specific characteristics. The materials analysed can be textbooks, newspaper, web pages, speeches, movie, novels, advertisements, musical compositions, or any other types of documents. Content analysis is appropriate for this study to discuss the idioms in the novel 'The Murder on The Links' and the strategies of their translation into Arabic جريمة في ملعب الجولف *Jarimah fi mal'ab algolf*.

The main focus of this study is idioms. The idioms were collected directly from both the original text novel i.e. 'The Murder on The Links' written by Christie in 1923 in English and its Arabic translation جريمة في ملعب الجولف *Jarimah fi mal`ab algolf* translated by Elbaradei (1995). The source language text 'The Murder on The Links' was published in 1923 by *The Bodley Head*. The novel consists of 169 pages which are divided into 28 chapters. The target language text جريمة في ملعب الجولف *Jarimah fi mal`ab algolf* was published in 1995 by *Ajyal Publishers* and it has 5 editions. The last translated edition was in 2006. The translated version consists of 28 chapters which are divided into 290 pages.

Elbaradei was born in Syria in 1955 and is one of the best-known translators in the Middle East. He completed his high school studies in Syria and earned his degree in English from Baghdad University in 1973. In 1981, he received his Master's degree in English Literature from Baghdad University. As a student of famous translation professors such as Abdul-Qadir Bitar, Abdul-Qadir Lu'lu, and Chomsky, Elbaradei learned different languages and the art of translation. Eventually, Elbaradei established "Linguist House Translation & Linguistic Services", which became his translation office,

and worked diligently to make a name for himself in the world of translators in the UAE. He has translated 50 works, including Johann Burckhardt's Travels in Arabia.

The reasons for the authors to select the novel 'The Murder on The Links' and its Arabic translation جريمة في ملعب الجولف *Jarimah fi mal'ab algolf* as the main focus in this study are because: (1) there is a lack of studies focus on semantics and translation and this has driven the authors to choose this topic, (2) this novel incorporates a variety of English idioms that even native speakers find them difficult to comprehend, and (3) the Arabic translation is the only legal version in the Arab world, and whoever translated this work can be considered as one of the most professional translators in the Arab world. The translator of this novel is Elbaradei, and he translated 23 novels for Christie in addition to reviewing 15 Christie's novels translated by other translators in *Ajyal Publisher*.

The data consists of 90 English idioms taken from the novel 'The Murder on The Links' by Christie, while the Arabic idiom equivalents were extracted from the Arabic translation جريمة في ملعب الغولف *Jarimah fi mal'ab algolf* translated by Elbaradei in 1995. For the English idiom verification in this study, the authors refer to The Farlex Dictionary (2017) to identify the selected idioms and explain their meanings. During the process, the following dictionaries were also referred:

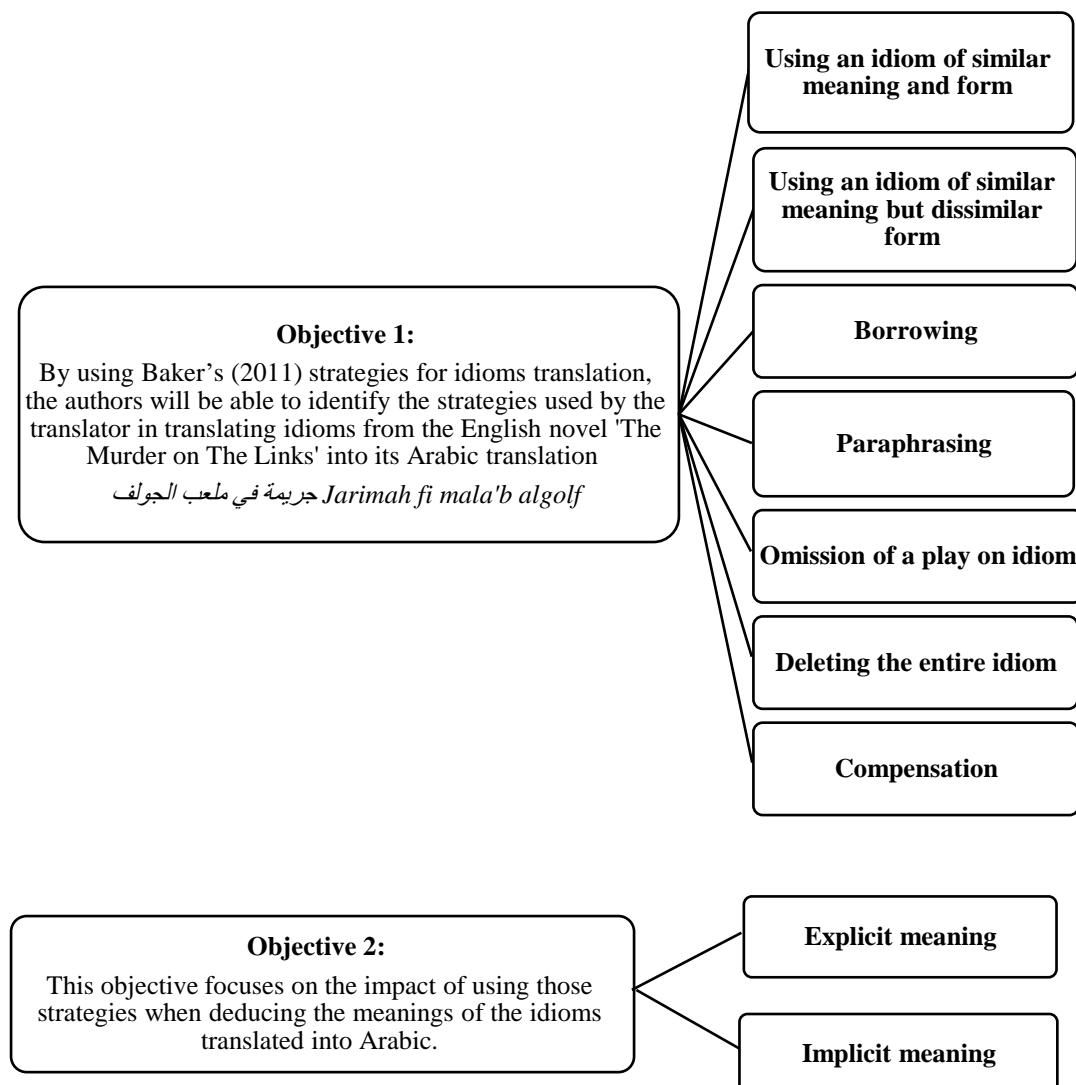
Oxford Idioms Dictionary for learners of English. (2020). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Cobuild (2012) – Collins Cobuild dictionary of idioms (Moon, R., ed.). London: HarperCollins.
Spears, R. A. (2000). NTC's American Idioms Dictionary. Lincoln: National Textbook Company.
Spears Richard. (2005). Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs. New York: McGraw-Hill's.

After extracting idioms from the original text, the authors read the translated text to identify the translation strategies regarding those idioms and to see if they were translated appropriately or otherwise. In order to carry out this important step, it is necessary to rely on dictionaries of idioms for the Arabic language. The dictionaries of Arabic idioms are listed as follows:

Dawood, M. (2014). *Al-Mujam almusuei litlaebir alaistilahiah fi allughah alarabiah* (4th ed.). Cairo: Dar Nahdat Misr li al Tabaat wa al-Nasher.
Rizq, W. (2003). *Alsraj aloujiz ma'jm lilmtradfat wala'barat alastlahiah wala'dhdad ala'rabiah*. (2nd ed.). Cairo: Maktabat Lobnan Abo Alhoul.

The following conceptual framework (Figure 3.1) shows how the authors carry out the study in accordance with the research objectives. The main focus of this study is to investigate the strategies of translating idioms in the novel 'The Murder on The Links'.

The conceptual framework is illustrated in Figure 1:



3.1 Strategies of Idiom Translation

The first research question of this study focuses on the strategies Elbaradei adopted when translating idioms applied in the novel 'The Murder on The Links' into Arabic. However, to answer this question, the authors choose Baker's (2011) methods related to strategies for translating idioms to find out the most strategies applied in translating idioms from English into Arabic. These strategies enabled the authors to collect the most common idioms in the novel and to divide their translation strategies to find out the most prominent strategy of Elbaradei, and to ensure that they were rendered in an appropriate manner that helps the Arabic readers to fully understand the text.

These strategies are applicable for this study because:

- 1- This strategy has been updated by Baker, since her strategy in 1992 contains only four strategies, while the theory used in this study contains seven strategies.
- 2- The strategies as suggested by Baker (2011) are characterised by being applicable to English-Arabic analysis.

The strategies of translating idioms are illustrated below:

- 1- **Using an idiom of similar meaning and form:** the idiom is translated equivalently both in the meaning and in the lexical items.
- 2- **Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form:** this strategy allows the translator to use the idioms for the target text which has different lexical items as long as the meanings remain the same.
- 3- **Borrowing:** This approach tackles a kind of idiom that does not exist in the target language or has a clear context in which the idiom must be preserved in its original form.
- 4- **Paraphrase:** This strategy is often used when no equivalent idiom can be used in the target language.
- 5- **Omission of a play on idiom:** This technique only requires translating the literal meaning of an idiom into a context that makes it easy to understand fundamentally, despite it being a playful word play in essence.
- 6- **Deleting the entire idiom:** This strategy is often used when there is no equivalent idiom can be found in the target language.
- 7- **Compensation:** This strategy involves omitting or downplaying a source text idiom at its point of occurrence in the source text and bringing it up elsewhere in the target text.

3.2 The Impact of Using those Strategies when Deducing the Meanings of the Idioms Translated into Arabic

The second question of this study discusses the impact of using those strategies when deducing the meanings of the idioms translated into Arabic. Idioms are one of the methods where meanings are difficult to understand from the meanings of the vocabulary that compose them. However, the recipients understand their meanings through the connotations of the overall structure. These expressions acquire their strengths through their use in the community. This is because their meanings are not limited. Moreover, they are not indicated by their initial meanings in the sentence but are formed according to the contexts in which they are performed.

In addition, two experts skilled in both English and Arabic were employed to validate the analysis of the idioms and their translation from English into Arabic.

3.3 Trustworthiness

According to Lincoln and Guba (1985), since there can be no validity without reliability (and thus no credibility without dependability), a demonstration of the former is sufficient to establish the latter. Credibility is concerned with the accuracy of the data. In this study, trustworthiness is gained by using credibility and dependability. To confirm the research data, the authors performed deep and detailed observation of the data and applied theories from experts of translation. The authors examined both the process and the product of the research for consistency to achieve the degree of dependability.

To ensure the data's trustworthiness, the authors needed to examine both of the process and the product of the study. Therefore, the authors needed two experts to confirm the results of the research. The first expert has a PhD in translation studies from IIUM University. The second expert has a Master's degree in literary translation and a PhD in criticism and literature from Ain Shams University.

4. Analysis and Discussion

The authors analysed the data based on Baker's (2011) strategies in translating idioms. After the analysis, it was found that four strategies based on Baker's (2011) model were used to translate the idioms in the novel 'The Murder on the Links' from English into Arabic. Baker's (2011) model includes translating an idiom by an idiom with similar meaning and form, translating an idiom by an idiom with

similar meaning but dissimilar form, paraphrasing and omission. To help the non-native readers who sometimes find it difficult to understand some of the idioms, the authors provide a back translation to clarify the meaning. Having analysed and identified the strategies most frequently used by Elbaradei, the impact on the Arabic when translating idioms become clear. The table below shows the most commonly used strategies in translating idioms into Arabic:

Table 1: Common Strategies Used when Translating Idioms into Arabic

No.	Strategies	Frequency
.1	Idiom by an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form	36
.2	Idiom by an idiom of similar meaning and form	31
.3	Paraphrasing	22
.4	Omission	2
	Total	90

4.1 Translation of Idiom by an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

This strategy as proposed by Baker (2011), requires the use of idioms that have similar meanings in the source language and the target language, but it uses more or less different lexical items to provide the translation. After analysing the Arabic translation of 'The Murder on the Links', the authors found this strategy in several examples such as the following:

Table 2: Example 1, Chapter 2

English Idiom	Arabic Idiom	Back Translation	Transliteration
He also has had his worries. One could see that he was <u>on the brink</u> of a crisis of the nerves.	كان لديه هو الآخر قلقه. كان بوسع المرأة أن يرى أنه على شفا أزمة عصبية.	He, too, was anxious. One could have known that he was on the verge of a nervous crisis.	`ala shafa

When Poirot reached Mr. Rino's home, he was shocked by his passing away. This led the detective Poirot to start investigating it immediately without hesitation. What saddened Poirot the most was that his presence was to save Mr. Rino's life and not to investigate his murder. The first person to initiate an important investigation is the maid Lawrence, who has been working in Mr. Reno's house for a long time, and knows very well what is happening in the house and who are visiting Mr. Reno. Poirot summoned the maid, Lawrence, to investigate her, and she began to become confused by the presence of the police, but Poirot told her that her testimony was to help apprehend the killer. The maid said that Mr. Rino had not been doing well for a while and "one could see that he was *on the brink* of a crisis of the nerves."

According to Fernando's (1996) classification of idioms, the idiom "*on the brink*" is a pure one because the meaning of the idiom cannot be comprehended from its lexical components. Therefore, the word "brink" which means the extreme edge of land before a steep slope or a body of water does not reflect the actual meaning of the idiom. The idiom "*on the brink*" refers to being on the verge of doing something or having some imminent event happen, especially that which is bad or disastrous (Farlex, 2015).

The strategy of using an idiom with a similar meaning but dissimilar form proposed by Baker (2011) is applied here in rendering the English idiom "*on the brink*" into "^{على}شفا" `ala shafa in Arabic. This is because the word "on" translated as "^{على}" `ala which means "on" and the word "brink" is the exact match for the Arabic word "^{شفا}" shafa which means the edge of something. The translator has rendered the idiom effectively and conveyed the exact meaning in the source text. Moreover, the idiom "^{على}شفا" `ala shafa is an

expression used in modern Arabic to refer a danger that is about to happen. It is a Quranic expression that has been used for thousands of years, specifically in Surat Al-Imran (Dawood, 2014).

The impact of using this strategy when translating the idiom from English to Arabic made the meaning explicit. The meaning is clear and explicit, and the Arabic readers can understand it directly without the need to refer to dictionaries of idioms.

Table 3: Example 2, Chapter 8

English Idiom	Arabic Idiom	Back Translation	Transliteration
"Come off your high horse," said the lady suddenly. And don't give yourself airs."	انزل من برجك العاجي، ولا تبد كل هذا الزهو.	Stop being arrogant and don't show off all that pride.	<i>enzil min burjak al'aji</i>

The author used the idiom "come off your high horse" when Hastings went to the golf course to explore the crime scene and met the mysterious girl he had seen on the train. Cinderella was curious about stories of crimes, corpses, and fingerprints, and wanted to see the events up close. Hastings did not like it and said, "What were women coming to nowadays?" which provoked Cinderella as she replied, "*Come off your high horse*". The idiom "Come off your high horse" means an attitude of moral superiority or to behave arrogantly. As long ago as the fourteenth century, persons of high rank rode very tall horses, a custom that came to symbolise superiority and arrogance. By 1800 or so, to be or to get on one's high horse meant to act superior, with or without justification.

According to Fernando's (1996) classification, the idiom "*Get off your high horse*" is a pure idiom because the meaning of the expression cannot be understood from its lexical components. "Get off" as a phrasal verb, "high" as an adjective and "horse" as an objective do not reflect the whole meaning of the idiom.

The translator utilised the strategy of using a similar meaning of the idiom but with a dissimilar form in the target language proposed by Baker (2011) when rendering the English idiom "Get off your high horse" into Arabic as "انزل من برجك العاجي" "*enzil min burjak al'aji*" in Arabic. The meaning delivered effectively to the Arabic readers because the idiom is common in the Arabic and has the same meaning of the English idiom, but with a different form. However, both cannot be understood from their lexical components because the meanings are implied. From the viewpoint of the experts, the Arabic idiom "انزل من برجك العاجي" "*enzil min burjak al'aji*" does not deliver a clear intended meaning, because what is meant is to live the moment or be yourself and do not be arrogant. However, the translation preserved the literary meaning by choosing the closest translation to the Arabic rhetoric.

Table 4: Example 3, Chapter 24

English Idiom	Arabic Idiom	Back Translation	Transliteration
It is love that has come—not as you imagined it, all cock-a-hoop with <u>fine feathers</u> .	إنه الحب الذي أنتي... ليس كما تصورته أنت، لم ياتك منتشرًا فخورًا <u>نافشأ ريشه</u> .	This love that came, did not come to you as you imagined it, was not in excellent form and proud of itself.	<i>nafishan rishah</i>

Hastings was not only in love with Bella, but was willing to sacrifice himself and his job in order to save Bella from the police. Poirot was doing the impossible in order to catch her, and one day Hastings and Poirot went to the theater where Bella and her sister Cinderella were performing. After the show ended, Bella went to the dressing room and found Hastings there warning her about Poirot and that she would be arrested if she didn't run away. While they were talking, Poirot walked in and

Hastings reacted strangely. He jumped on Poirot and grabbed his hands yelling at Bella to run away. Poirot was not angry, but was calm and smiling. After that, Poirot sat down and said to Hastings "It is love that has come—not as you imagined it, all cock-a-hoop with *fine feathers*". The idiom means that an eye-catching appearance makes a person seem beautiful or impressive. It has been known in England since the late 19th century (Farlex, 2015).

According to Fernando (1996), the idiom "fine feathers" is a pure one as there's no relationship between its elements and the actual meaning. Literally, "fine feathers" refers to any of the flat appendages growing from a bird's skin and forming its plumage, which is not the implied meaning.

Elbaradei applied the strategy of using an idiom that has the similar meaning but dissimilar form proposed by Baker (2011) when rendering "fine feathers" from English into "نافشاً ريشه" "nafishan rishah" in Arabic. In fact, the two words "feathers" and "ريشه" "reshah" share the same meaning, but the word "fine" has been translated in a different form. The word "fine" rendered as "نافشاً" "nafishan" which means pride and arrogance in Arabic. The translation of the idiom was effective and accurate.

The impact of using this strategy in the idiom "نافشاً ريشه" "nafishan reshah" made the meaning implicit and impeded the understanding of this idiom from its elements. According to Dawood (2014), the idiom means arrogance and vanity, and this analogy came from the peacock when it fluffs its feathers and flaunts its beauty. From the viewpoint of the experts, there is no relationship between the words of the idiom and this hidden meaning. Furthermore, the characteristic of fluffing feathers is limited to birds only and cannot be attributed to humans. However, the hidden meaning of this Arabic idiom indicates vanity and ostentation, thus making the meaning implicit.

This shows that Elbaradei, when translating English idioms into Arabic, was mainly looking for idioms with similar meanings in the language but with dissimilar forms to translate into Arabic. There were 36 idioms translated using this strategy, which accounted for 40% of all idioms translated.

4.2 Translating an Idiom by Idiom with Similar Meaning and Form

This strategy uses an idiom in the target language that has the same meaning as the idiom in the source language, which has equivalent lexical elements (Baker, 2011). The idiom in the target language should express a similar or very similar meaning to the idiom used in the source language, using a similar or lexically similar object (Lafta, 2015). A number of idioms have been translated using this strategy, such as the following:

Table 5: Example 4, Chapter 2

English Idiom	Arabic Idiom	Back Translation	Transliteration
Nonsense. <u>At any rate</u> , you do not share my feelings.	هراء. أنت على كل حال لا تشاركتني مشاعري.	Nonsense. However, you don't know my feelings.	`ala kul hal

Poirot and Hastings reacted differently when they read Mr. Reno's letter asking them to rescue him. Poirot has more experience with crime cases and knows very well how important and serious this case is, while Hastings acted completely differently. While they were going to Mr. Reno's house, Poirot turned to Hastings to tell him that you remind me of a Scottish saying, which means that extreme enthusiasm foreshadows great misfortune. Hastings got upset and said, "Nonsense. At any rate, you do not share my feelings". This idiom is used to clarify or emphasise a statement.

According to Fernando's (1996) classification of idioms, the idiom "at any rate" is a semi idiom because it has literal and non-literal elements. For more clarification, "at any" is literal and "rate" is non-literal which refers to the speed at which something happens or changes. It is clear that the meaning

of the lexical component of the word “rate” does not reflect the hidden meaning of the idiom spoken by Hastings.

In the process of rendering the above example into Arabic, the strategy of translating an idiom with similar meaning and form in target text as proposed by Baker (2011) was applied. The English idiom “at any rate” is translated into Arabic as “على أي حال” “`ala ayy hal” as the two words “at any” is the exact match for the two Arabic words “`ala ayy” and the word “rate” stands for the Arabic word “حال” hal. The idiom has been effectively rendered as it is common in both spoken and written Arabic.

The impact of using the Baker's (2011) strategy when translating the idiom into Arabic using an idiom that has the same form and meaning makes the phrase “على أي حال” “`ala ayy hal” completely explicit as it cannot be explained by other interpretations. In fact, the word “حال” hal has different dictionary meanings such as situation, conditions and solvent. However, its meaning depends entirely on the words before it. The idiom “على أي حال” “`ala ayy hal” has one direct meaning and cannot be explained for another purpose. From the viewpoint of the experts, the message was rendered clearly into Arabic using the same meaning and form. Moreover, the experts opine that the meaning is clear and easy to understand as it is commonly used in various fields not only in literature.

Table 6: Example 5, Chapter 7

English Idiom	Arabic Idiom	Back Translation	Transliteration
One pities her for, though she may know nothing of the past, a man who wants <u>to ask her hand</u> in marriage must necessarily inform himself, and then—The commissary shrugged his shoulders cynically.	فرغم أنها قد لا تعرف شيئاً عن الماضي إلا أن أي رجل يريد طلب يدها للزواج لا بد أن يطلب معلومات عنها.	Although she may not know anything about the past, any man who wants to marry her must ask for information about her.	<i>talab yadaha</i>

One of the initial suspects was Miss Daubreuil as the investigations revealed that she had a relationship with Mr. Rino. She had a very beautiful daughter, and was admired. However, after her mother became a suspect, the investigator lamented her condition and said to his friend "she may know nothing of the past, a man who wants to *ask her hand* in marriage must necessarily inform himself". The idiom means to ask for or get the permission to marry somebody (Farlex, 2017).

According to Fernando (1996), the idiom is classified as semi idiom because it has both literal and non-literal elements. The word “ask” is literal as it means waiting for an answer and the word “hand” is non-literal because it refers to marriage. By translating the English idiom “ask for her hand” into “طلب يدها” “talab yadaha” in Arabic, the translator applied the strategy of using an idiom in the target language with a similar meaning and form as proposed by Baker (2011). The Arabic word “ask” is the exact match and translation for the word in the target text “طلب” talab and the two words “her hand” are the exact match for the Arabic word yadaha. Thus, “طلب يدها” “talab yadaha” implies both meaning and message of the source text, giving the Arabic readers the same impact which the source text idiom provides.

Based on the opinions of the experts consulted in this research, it is clear that the impact of using this strategy in translating the previous example was effective and implicit. Even after translating it using an idiom with a similar meaning and form strategy, the idiom remains implicit.

The second strategy used in “جريمة في ملعب الجولف” *Jarimah fi mal'ab algolf* was based on the translator using another idiom with a similar meaning and form to the idiom being translated. A total of 31 idioms followed this strategy, which corresponds to 34.4% of all idioms.

4.3 Paraphrasing

The idiom paraphrasing strategy is widely used among translators because the target text lacks equivalent idioms. Since the target language does not have an equivalent phrase like the one in the original text, the translator must rely on this strategy in order to convey the full meaning to the reader. In this case, the translator can replace the idiom with words that convey the same meaning. Note that the words used are idioms in the target language. Sometimes, the use of this strategy loses the sense of the whole meaning or part of it. The translator will play their roles in choosing the appropriate words. After reading the translated novel into Arabic, "جريمة في ملعب الجولف", the authors found the use of paraphrasing strategy in 24 idioms, and below are some examples to illustrate this.

Table 7: Example 6, Chapter 1

English Idiom	Arabic Idiom	Back Translation	Transliteration
He's really a very marvellous little man. <u>Time and again</u> he has proved to be right where the official police have failed.	إنه حفّار جلّ عجيب. لقد برهن أكثر من مرة بأنه على صواب وان الشرطة الرسمية على خطأ.	He is a smart man. He has proven more than once that he is smarter than the police, and that the police always make their decisions wrong.	akthar min marrah

The idiom "Time and again" was used when Hastings first met Bella Duveen on a train bound for London. The train was almost empty, but Hastings was surprised to find a girl who was staring at him, which made Hastings curious. Hastings began talking to her, and she asked him whether or not he lives alone? He said that he lives with a very marvellous little man. "Time and again" he has proved to be right where the official police have failed.

The above idiom refers to the process of doing a particular thing repeatedly (The Farlex, 2017). According to Fernando's (1996) types of idioms, the example is classified as a literal idiom due to the fact that the expression can be understood from its lexical components.

The translator applied strategy to render the idiom "*Time and again*" based on the strategy of paraphrasing as proposed by Baker (2011), using a phrase that conveyed the same meaning but without using an equivalent idiom. The Arabic phrase "أكثر من مرة" "akthar min marrah" delivered the meaning to Arabic readers, but the translator must applied the equivalent idiom such as the expression "مارأاً و تكراراً" "miraran wa tikraran" as proposed by Dawood (2014). The idiom "miraran wa tikraran" is an old contemporary expression for exaggerating in repeating something many times.

The paraphrasing strategy in this idiom is less effective. This is because there is an equivalent idiom in the Arabic. Although the Arabic expression "مارأاً و تكراراً" "miraran wa tikraran" is an idiom, it also contains rhyming in the Arabic, which attracts the readers' attention and increases the quality of the translation. From the viewpoint of the experts, the translated idiom is explicit due the fact that the meaning can be easily understood from its lexical components.

Table 8: Example 7, Chapter 2

English Idiom	Arabic Idiom	Back Translation	Transliteration
And so, mon ami, since that postscript was added, not on impulse, but soberly, in cold blood, the urgency is very great, and we must reach him <u>as soon as possible</u> .	طالما أن تلك الحاشية لم تتم إضافتها عرضاً ومن وحي اللحظة، بل بكل تعلق وهدوء، فإن قضيته ملحة وعاجلة جداً، وينبغي أن تصل إليه في أسرع وقت ممكن.	As long as this footnote was not added by chance, but rather calmly, this means that his case is very important and we should reach him soon.	<i>fi asra' waqt mumkin</i>

When Mr. Reno felt in danger and about to die at any moment, he wrote a letter to the detective Poirot inviting him to come to investigate. The detective read the letter and went to Mr. Reno to save his life. On the way, Poirot was talking to his friend and telling him that the letter was a cause for concern and we must get to him "as soon as possible". Unfortunately, upon the arrival of Poirot to the house of Mr. Reno, he found that the thing that the Mr. Reno feared had happened and that he had already been murdered and buried on the golf course. The idiom "as soon as possible" means at the earliest opportunity or in other words, as quickly, much and soon (The Farlex, 2017).

According to Fernando's (1996) classification of idioms, the idiom "*as soon as possible*" is literal because the meaning is direct and can be understood from its lexical components and it reflects the actual meaning.

The applied strategy to translate the above example is by paraphrasing as proposed by Baker (2011). Although the paraphrasing strategy fully conveyed the meaning to the Arabic readers, the search for the equivalent idiom in the target language remains necessary to convey the meaning of the source text. It was better to use the idiom "علي الفور" *"`ala al-fawr"* for two reasons. Firstly, because it is an old idiom and was used in the Holy Quran in Surat Al-Umran, verse 120. Secondly, the term "الفور" *"al-fawr"* has an indirect meaning, because the word 'means speed, and it is taken from the boiling water in the pot (Dawood, 2014). The use of this idiom becomes more appropriate and conveys the same message as the source text. However, the paraphrased idiom is explicit and conveyed the meaning of the source text effectively. From the viewpoint of the experts, although the translated idiom conveyed the desired meaning to the Arabic readers, it would have been better to replace it with another phrase that fits the literary context.

It can be concluded from this that the translator also used paraphrasing when translating the idioms into Arabic. Among the idioms found in the Arabic translation of 'The Murder on Links' were 22, accounting for 24.4% of all idioms. The overall percentage of paraphrasing seems to contradict the findings of several previous studies, including (Bahumaid 2010; Khorsavi 2012; Unja 2019), which indicate that paraphrasing seems to be the most popular strategy among translators.

4.4 Translating Idiom by Omission

This strategy means removing the idiom completely from the target text. This action happens because the target language does not contain an equivalent idiom or is even difficult to paraphrase. According to the authors' reading of the Arabic translation "جريمة في ملعب الغolf", an idiom was found, and the example reads as follows:

Table 9: Example 8, Chapter 6

English Idiom	Arabic Idiom	Back Translation	Transliteration
"I, on the contrary, find it very interesting," said Poirot sweetly"	أما أنا فأجدها مهمة جداً	"I find it very important," Poirot said kindly.	amma ana fa ajiduha muhimah jiddan

When Poirot arrives at the crime scene, he is surprised to find another detective named Giroud. Investigators Poirot and Giroud have a previous enmity in other cases, and this made the assassination of Mr. Reno another victim of their rivalry. Poirot found some belongings believed to be relating to Mr. Reno, so he asked the detective Giroud if it belonged to Mr. Reno. Giroud replied sarcastically that this matter did not interest him. "I, *on the contrary*, find it very interesting,"" said Poirot. The English idiom "*on the contrary*" means opposite to what someone has just said (The Farlex, 2015).

This idiom belongs to the categories of literal idioms as proposed by Fernando's (1996), because the idiom's meaning can be understood from its lexical components. Semantically, idioms such as "on the contrary" are less complex than pure and semi idioms, because the meaning is easy to understand even if the reader is not familiar with it (Fernando, 1996).

The translator removed the whole idiom in the Arabic translation, applying Baker's (2011) strategy of omission for stylistic reasons despite the fact that the idiom "on the contrary" has an equivalent idiom in the Arabic language such as "على العكس" `ala al-`aks which means the opposite of something. To clarify more, the word "على" `ala is the exact match for the English word "on" and the word "العكس" al-`aks is the best match for Arabic word "contrary". By applying this strategy, the idiom would be translated with an idiom that have the same meaning and form. According to Baker (1992), the idiom omission strategy is used in only three cases. First, when there is no idiom equivalent in the target language. Second, when the idiom is difficult to translate or paraphrase. Finally, if an idiom may be removed for style-related reasons. Based on that, it can be said that the translator was not successful in using the idiom deletion strategy because the target language has an equivalent idiom. This means that deleting the idiom has become less effective and did not convey the meaning. However, this strategy has not been approved by many scholars (Strakšiene, 2009).

The fourth strategy adopted by Elbaradei in translating idioms into Arabic is omission. This strategy was least used by the translator when translating idioms from English into Arabic, since only two idioms of this category occurred in the novel and the percentage of these idioms was 2.2%, although more occurrences could have been translated with an idiom of the same meaning and form or, in the worst case, with a paraphrase.

5. Conclusion

After analysing the idioms found in the English novel 'The Murder on The Links', several results were discovered. The first question of this paper relates to the main strategies used by the translator in rendering the idioms. In this regard, Elbaradei was found to have used four strategies proposed by Baker (2011). First, translating an idiom by idiom with similar meaning but dissimilar form. Second, translating an idiom by idioms that have similar meaning and form. Third, paraphrasing, and fourth, omission. The results revealed that the strategy of translating an idiom by an idiom with similar meaning and dissimilar form is the most frequently used strategy by the translator. Finally, the fourth strategy applied by Elbaradei when translating idioms into Arabic was by omission. This strategy was considered the least used by the translator when rendering idioms from English into Arabic, because the authors found only two idioms in the novel, although he could have translated them using an idiom with the same meaning and form, or in the worst case, paraphrasing them. The second question of this paper focuses on the impact of using these strategies on Arabic and the results revealed that most of the idioms translated are explicit.

This study suggests that accuracy and care should be taken when translating idioms, as idioms are often used for specific purposes in the source text, e.g. to describe the general atmosphere or as a sign of dissatisfaction. Poor translation compromises the quality of the translation and hinders the communication of the intended meaning to the readers. This is because literature relies on the strength of the language used to enable readers to navigate between events as if they were reading the original novel. Furthermore, this study recommends that translators first determine the type of idioms found in the source text and then choose the appropriate strategy for their translation. Choosing the right strategy helps to convey meaning to readers. Therefore, the translator must give priority to idiom translation strategies and look for an equivalent in the target language. If there is no equivalent in the target language, using other strategies such as paraphrasing or omission is a good alternative.

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