Transformations in the Translation of Hard and Soft News Reports into Arabic

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Abstract: This study examines local transformations as a translation strategy of the news report genre from English into Arabic. It analyzes the frequency of deletion, substitution, addition, and reorganization to identify any relation between applying these transformations and news topics. This is achieved via a textual analysis of a parallel corpus of 60 texts of hard and soft news reports in English and Arabic derived from two sources: the Reuters (news agency) and BBC (news broadcaster) websites. Results show that deletion is by far the most frequently used transformation in both soft and hard news. Transformation frequencies are discussed in relation to the structural elements of news reports.

Keywords: hard news, news translation, soft news, transformations

1. Introduction

Describing the nature of news translation, Bielsa and Bassnett (2009:63) note that news translation "entails a considerable amount of transformation of the source text which results in the significantly different content of the target text." To account for these "special" modifications, the mechanisms used in news translation have often been referred to as trans-editing (Schaffner 2012:867). Schaffner (2012:881), however, considered such labeling to be unnecessary, as all forms of translation "involve transformations." She observed that "it is the amount and the nature of the transformations involved in these processes which make researchers reflect about the applicability of the label translation to news translation" (Schaffner 2012:876). Bielsa and Bassnett (2009:64) acknowledged that any form of translation involves editing, and thus, they see no need to adopt the label "trans-editing," but they also acknowledge that the transformations that occur when translating news involve a "particular combination between editing and translating." Therefore, they use the term "news translation" to refer to "the form that translation takes when it has become integrated in news production within the journalistic field" (64). Building on their definition, the present research investigates this special form of translation in Arabic. It aims to conduct a quantitative analysis of the transformations that occur in a parallel corpus of translated news reports and identify any patterns by which such transformations are applied in relation to news topics.

This research fills a gap in the study of Arabic news translation. Most previous studies in this area identify transformations as mismatches or instances of unfaithfulness with little consideration of the norms of news production or journalistic writing conventions (see Kadhim and Kader 2010; Al-Harahsheh and

Obeidat 2014; S̲a:lih̲ 2017; ?Abu: Al-Qa:sim and Jabba:r 2019). Alternatively, such transformations are discussed mainly as strategies to serve ideological ends (see Al-Ra:shid 2013; Khilfi: 2015; Hamdan, Naser and Hamdan 2021). Few studies have examined the transformations applied in Arabic news translation as a strategy for producing all types of news, whether political or not. Although the ideological manipulation in news and the boundaries of translation and journalistic editing are significant topics that demand attention, it is equally important to examine how these transformations are applied as a strategy to produce news reports in Arabic. A descriptive study of these transformations in the news report genre will help to develop a better understanding of Arabic news translation and ultimately advance translation education and training.

2. Literature review

Van Dijk (1988:115-117) identified four main strategies of news production: selection, reproduction, summarization, and local transformations. The selection strategy allows journalists to use one or various sources in producing a news report. Once the sources are selected, literal reproduction is used to transfer texts in whole or in fragments. This strategy is primarily used in translating sources from news agencies. Summarization involves "deletion, generalization and construction" according to the journalist's interpretation of which information is relevant or important. Unlike summarization, local transformation affects only the microstructure of the text, and it includes deletion, addition, permutation, and substitution. Deletion is determined by internal criteria such as "relative irrelevance of details" and external criteria such as "space limitations" (117). Addition occurs mainly to insert relevant new information such as "context or historical background" (117). Permutation reorganizes information according to its importance (117). Through substitution, "clauses, sentences or whole paragraphs of a given source text may be replaced by comparable fragments of another source text" (118). Throughout Van Dijk's discussion, translation is not treated as a distinctive part of the news production process, as the strategies mentioned are considered means for producing news from source texts (STs) in the same language and in another language.

Van Dijk's attitude toward translation in journalism represents one of three typical attitudes identified by Vuorinen (1994:62): translation is (1) "taken for granted," (2) perceived as affecting style, and (3) perceived as "a source of inaccuracy and errors." These attitudes result from the misconception that news is not affected by cultural differences, when in fact, "changes in content, style, perspective, focus" are certain to occur when news is translated (64). Such changes can occur in three dimensions of cultural specificity: information, ideology, and style (Vuorinen 1994: 69-70). To study the strategies used by translators to overcome cultural differences in news production, Vuorinen (1994) stated that "gatekeeping functions, such as message controlling, transforming, supplementing and reorganization, are considered to be part and parcel of the normal textual operations performed in translation to produce a functionally adequate target text for a given use" (75). For example, if analysis reveals patterns in how direct quotes

in news are translated into a certain language, these patterns could help identify culture-specific norms related to the translation of that specific news element in that specific language (77).

To investigate how the strategies used by news translators affect the Finnish language, Hursti (2001) analyzed 14 news reports to identify the transformations of reorganization, deletion, addition, and substitution. Hursti's definitions of all of these terms are similar to Van Dijk's, except for substitution. For Hursti (2001), substitution includes deletion, addition, making details less specific, refocusing information, and depersonalization. Hursti's study reveals that despite such gatekeeping procedures, other procedures such as borrowing are used and consequently influence the language.

Bielsa and Bassnett (2009:64) identified the types and purposes of "textual interventions" that may be applied by a news translator in terms of two criteria: "news relevance and background knowledge of the target reader." Four of their five textual interventions correspond to Hursti's (2001) local transformations:

• Change of title and lead (substitution/reorganization)
• Elimination of unnecessary information (deletion)
• Addition of important background information (addition)
• Change in the order of paragraphs according to the relevance of information in a new context (reorganization)

The fifth intervention is summarizing information to fit within the space available, which is a separate strategy of news production, as identified by Van Dijk.

2.1 Strategies in news translation in Arabic

Kadhim (2010) examined the procedures followed in news translation into Arabic on the morphological level. Stylistic changes in prepositional, noun, adverbial, adjectival, and verb phrases were examined using Vinay and Darbelnet's (1995) procedure of transposition. Kadhim (2010:234) concluded that many stylistic modifications were related to syntactical and morphological functions, but "the translator's main concern seems to be to transfer the general content or to convey only the gist of the ST message to the Arabic reading public, taking cognisance more of their cultural, sociolinguistic and social backgrounds." Kadhim's (2010) approach to describing procedures does not consider the functions and conventions of journalistic translation, but the conclusion shows that the aim of news translation affects its overall strategy. Following a linguistic approach, Kadhim and Kader (2010, in Schaffner 2012:870) investigated the syntactic and stylistic differences between political news in English and their translations in Arabic, and found them to be characterized by "overtranslation, undertranslation, replacement translation, incorrect translation or ambiguous translation." The causes of such differences were primarily considered to be grammatical, although ideological, political, cultural, and sociolinguistic influences were also mentioned. Al-Harahsheh and Obeidat (2014) examined the challenges posed by news translation by comparing STs and target texts (TTs) produced by translation students to identify semantic and syntactic mismatches. The study neither examined the real-life practice of journalistic translation nor considered this practice in the instructions given to

student participants.

Sa:liḥ (2017:214) identified two types of media translation: literal (translating articles as they are) and editing (selecting parts of the ST as the translator sees fit). The study maintained that during times of conflict, translators may feel pressured to apply overtones or undertones, or even to alter meanings altogether, and called for quality control to prevent such alterations. However, the study did not elaborate on who would apply such control nor did it consider how or when it might be applied. Moreover, transformations in media translation are not only used in wartime. ?Abu: Al-Qa:sim and Jabba:r (2019) examined the need for legislation to hold media translators liable for translation errors. Various genres were mentioned, but there was no distinction between translation and interpreting, and the roles of journalists, translators, and editors in the complex process of text production were not discussed.

With translators' training in mind, Halimi (2014) performed a comparative analysis of a press release by the International Criminal Court and its translations into Arabic by the UN News Center and the BBC to explore the relationship between translation and editing in news discourse. The study identified examples of how deletion and addition affected the accuracy of the ST message as well as how word-for-word renditions resulted in calques, affecting the target language style. Halimi (2014:249) recognized the importance of being aware of "institutional and popular contexts in news translation," as they affect how the translator will formulate the TT. The study emphasized the need to familiarize students with ways in which translation strategies and politics are related, and highlighted the need for students to realize that "the translator is not a journalist" and should preserve the ST message while adhering to the target language rules (249). Although Halimi's (2014:243-244) work raises important issues to be considered in translator training on news translation, the case studies provide only limited examples of transformations, which are then discussed as instances of unfaithfulness despite the acknowledgment that addition and deletion are widely used in news production to adapt the STs to a new audience and to the institution's internal editorial guidelines.

Mellor (2005), in *The Making of Arabic News*, examined the factors and values that affect the writing of news in Arabic media by drawing comparisons between English and Arabic news writing, but the book did not discuss how these factors are reflected in local transformations in news translation. In their book on the principles of media translation, ?Abu: Yu:sif and Musᶜad (2005), both of whom are scholars of mass communication, listed the steps for news translation in Arabic: (1) selection of sources, (2) literal reproduction, and (3) editing by means of local transformations such as deletion and reorganization. These steps are similar to Van Dijk's (1988) news production strategies, but here, they are explicitly labelled as a translation process. ?Abu: Yu:sif and Musᶜad (2005), however, did not provide insight on the transformations that lead to the finalized translations of their samples or why they were deemed necessary. Quṭub (2008:18-20), building on his experience as an assistant editor-in-chief, identified three approaches to media translation: (1) style-oriented (focusing on form rather than accuracy of meaning), (2) editing-oriented (following editorial policies), and (3) literal translation

(followed mostly by news agencies). The differences between the first two approaches are unclear, but the second was considered to be the most prevalent, although no description was provided of what is covered by editorial policies or how they affect translation. Samples showing literal and edited translations were provided; it was stated that the translator may add or rearrange information to help readers understand the news or to improve the style. Quṭub (2008:65) distinguished this "editing translation" from a "selective" translation process that editors use, but the latter was not explained or illustrated with examples.

Cheesman and Nohl (2011:218) distinguished between the selection and reorganization of texts (gatekeeping) and changes made within the selected texts that occur during translation (trans-editing) in news translation. The study examined the trans-editing strategies applied to a sample BBC news report in English and its translations into five languages, including Arabic. Although the BBC editorial guidelines were the same for all languages, each language version presented the same content differently. Although Cheesman and Nohl (2011) discuss some textual modifications in Arabic news translation, their one-sample case study and multiple language comparisons do not provide a comprehensive picture of how local transformations are used in English–Arabic news translation.

Using Chesterman's (2000) causal model, Al-Ra:shid (2013) examined how deletion and addition as transformation strategies reflect ideological preferences, especially in relation to headlines and quotations. The study concluded that knowingly or unknowingly, a writer–translator of news is always affected by the sociopolitical context in which they operate. Although Al-Ra:shid acknowledged that not all transformations are politically motivated, neither nonpolitical motivations nor how they operate on the textual level were discussed. Hamdan et al. (2021) applied House's (2015) model of translation quality assessment to analyze a corpus of news stories translated from Arabic into English. The study identified three covert translation strategies used: substitution, omission, and addition. However, they focused primarily on ideologically motivated "mismatches" that aim "to influence the recipient's perception of certain political and social matters" (93).

Chaal (2019) identified domestication and foreignization as macrostrategies used in journalistic translation. Domestication, on the one hand, enables the TT to be culturally acceptable for the target audience and includes the microstrategies of omission, addition, explication, naturalization, and substitution with cultural equivalents. Foreignization, on the other hand, is needed because "globalization of information allows societies to become familiar with terms and expressions that are internationally recognized" (22). The study, however, does not provide insight on what determines the use of one microstrategy over others. Moreover, according to Chaal (2019:23), whereas the functions of news (to provide accessible information about the world) necessitate resorting to domestication and foreignization, these strategies should be used together with "literal translation of meaning in order to render the news faithful, efficient and successful." Other factors that may influence the application of these strategies were not discussed.

According to Khilfi: (2016), news translation involves reformulation that is

constrained by (1) translation constraints of language and accuracy, (2) social and cultural constraints related to the target reader, and (3) ideological constraints related to the news producer. Through selected samples of news reports, the study illustrated how each of these constraints involves reformulation using various strategies. The selection criteria of the analyzed texts are unclear and many discussions of samples focus mainly on errors. Nonetheless, the study provides valuable insight into the complex factors that influence the news translator's choices on the microlevel of the text.

3. Method

A corpus of 60 English news reports (26,067 words) and their 60 Arabic counterparts (18,896 words) was analyzed to answer the following questions:
(1) What is the frequency of transformations used in translating English news reports into Arabic, and are these choices related to news topics?
(2) What is the relationship between the transformations applied and the elements of the news report genre that are affected?

   The texts in the corpus are online news reports from Reuters and the BBC. These two organizations were selected for two reasons. The first was to examine any differences related to the news producers whose different functions, audience, ideologies, and editorial guidelines may influence the transformations applied in news production. Reuters is a large international news agency that disseminates news in 16 languages, including Arabic. The BBC, conversely, is a public service broadcaster that may use news wires from agencies, but it also has its own reporters who gather and write news. It provides news in 44 languages, including Arabic. Both organizations are known for their high professional standards. The second reason was the ability to trace "versions" of the same news report on their English and Arabic websites. One of the challenges of applying corpus analysis to news translation has always been the difficulty of tracing STs because news reports depend on various sources. Because not all English reports on their websites were also produced in Arabic, the Arabic texts were selected first, and then, their English counterparts were traced. This was accomplished by comparing the news story content of the Arabic against the English reports and by checking the publication dates (the translations were published on the same or the following day) and the images (both reports often used the same photographs). Moreover, in the Reuters corpus, all the English texts stated the names of the reporters, and each text was written by a different reporter. Their Arabic counterparts, on the other hand, stated that they were "prepared for the Arabic news page" (30 texts were prepared by 21 journalists). In the BBC corpus, however, only eight out of 30 texts stated the reporters' names in the English texts. The BBC Arabic website states that it depends on BBC international reporters around the world as sources, besides their own (BBC Arabic). The only text about an Arab country in the corpus stated the name of a non-Arab writer. As English is the language of international news, and because all the texts—except the one mentioned above—report on events in countries outside the Arab World, it was deemed highly unlikely that the Arabic counterparts of these articles would be the STs.

To examine any relationship between the news report topic and transformation use, two sets of texts were selected: one for hard news and another for soft news. The Reuters Digital News Report (Newman et al. 2016:97) defines hard and soft news as follows: "'Hard' news is typically used to refer to topics that are usually timely, important and consequential, such as politics, international affairs and business news. Conversely, soft news topics include entertainment, celebrity and lifestyle news." Cohen (2008:30) used similar definitions based on the content of the news: hard news comprises "stories about government, its leaders, public issues and significant disruptions to daily life," whereas soft news "concerns celebrities, sports, entertainment, fashion, lifestyle." Accordingly, 15 hard news texts from the Reuters Arabic website were chosen, primarily from the World, Middle East, and Business sections, and 15 soft news texts came from its Entertainment section. Similarly, for the texts taken from the BBC Arabic website, 15 hard news texts were selected from the Middle East, World, and Economy sections, and 15 soft news reports were taken mainly from the Arts section. All texts were published between June 2015 and December 2019. Image captions, links to other stories, and blurbs (if any) were not included in the analysis.

To examine the use of transformations with all the structural components of the news report genre, the textual data were subdivided into the following categories, which correspond to the elements of a basic news story, as described by Rich (2005:37-43):

(1) The headline "is the line on top of the story that tells the reader what the story is about" (37).

(2) The lead is the "beginning of a story" that "entices the reader to continue reading" (37). In hard news, the lead is usually one sentence that summarizes the story and tells the reader who, what, where, and when something happened. It may also include why and how but not necessarily (38).

(3) Backup for the lead: this part offers a statement or quote that substantiates the information given in the lead (38).

(4) The nut graph is a paragraph that contains the focus of the story and "why it is newsworthy" (38). It can be part of the summary lead for hard news, but if the lead does not contain the focus or why, the nut graph must be a separate paragraph (39). Usually, the nut graph comes in the third to fifth paragraph unless the lead is "very compelling" (39).

(5) The lead quote is "the first quote that backs up the lead" (39). It supports the lead without repeating its wordings. It is not required but favorable (39).

(6) Impact: a news story should include the reason for a story or why it is significant for readers. Sometimes this is included in the lead or nut graph, and sometimes in a separate paragraph later. It may be direct, or it could be implied in some stories, such as crime (40).

(7) Attribution refers to the sources of information and direct quotations (41).

(8) Background refers to any history or background information that readers need to know to understand a story (41).

(9) Elaboration refers to the details that support the focus of a news report; it reports on the reason an action or event happened, how it happened, and the reactions

to it (42).

(10)   The ending should include one of three elements: "future action, a statement or quote that summarizes but does not repeat the previous information, or more elaboration" (42-43).

The additional subcategory of "Quotations" was also created to cover instances of direct quotations (not the whole paragraph or attributions, for example) that undergo a transformation.

The transformations of deletion, omission, substitution, and addition identified by Hursti (2001) were selected because they correspond to Bielsa and Bassnett's (2009) textual interventions based on the structural content of news reports. For each set of texts in the corpus, instances of the four transformations were identified and subcategorized according to the structural element in which they were used. Each instance is a part of an ST that may range from one word to a whole paragraph but not several paragraphs together. Splitting one paragraph into two consecutive paragraphs and merging two consecutive paragraphs into one were not counted as instances of reorganization. NVivo Pro 12 software was used to store, analyze, and categorize texts and prepare statistical data.

4. Results

Deletion was the most frequently used transformation in the corpus, although it was applied slightly more in soft news than in hard news relative to other transformations (Table 1).

Table 1: Frequency of transformations used in hard and soft news

Transformations	Hard news	Soft news	Total frequency
Deletion	179 (60.68%)	153 (63.23%)	332 (61.82%)
Substitution	33 (11.2%)	51 (21.1%)	84 (15.64%)
Addition	56 (19%)	21 (7.19%)	77 (14.34%)
Reorganization	27 (9.15%)	17 (7.03%)	44 (8.19%)
Total	295	242	537

Reorganization was the least frequently used transformation in both soft and hard news, but it was slightly more frequent in hard news. Addition was used with a considerably higher frequency in hard news, whereas substitution was higher in soft news. These results show that there is a strong preference for deletion over all other transformations regardless of the news topic. This is further confirmed by examining the distribution of deletion throughout the corpus. Out of the 60 news reports in the corpus, only six texts did not use deletion, indicating that this transformation was widely used as a strategy in Arabic news translation (see Table 2). However, the distribution of the other three transformations shows a distinctive difference between Reuters and BBC texts. Although the BBC texts frequently used various transformations, the Reuters texts did not apply many transformations in the same text. Notably, the only text in the corpus that was translated fully with no

transformations was from Reuters. This difference could be attributed to the differences in the aims of each news producer and their editorial policies. Moreover, these observations support Van Dijk's (1988) and Qutub's (2008) descriptions of the prevalence of literal translation in news agencies.

Table 2: Number of texts in which transformations occurred

	Hard news			Soft news			Total in corpus
	BBC	**Reuters**	**Total rate**	**BBC**	**Reuters**	**Total rate**	
Deletion	12	12	86.66%	15	15	100%	54 (90%)
Substitution	12	8	66.66%	12	15	90%	47 (78.33%)
Addition	14	8	73.33%	12	7	63.33%	41 (68.33%)
Reorganization	9	7	53.33%	10	4	46.66%	30 (50%)

Table 3 shows the frequency of transformations as applied by each news producer. Both Reuters and BBC used deletion more frequently than they used other transformations, whereas reorganization was the least frequently used transformation in both. Substitution was used at a higher frequency by Reuters, whereas addition was used more often by the BBC. Despite these variations, it is evident that local transformations were applied in the corpus regardless of the news producer (and consequently, regardless of the translator/editor and any restrictions imposed by each organization's editorial policies and reader demographics). Frequencies of transformations in relation to textual elements of news are discussed in detail below.

Table 3: Frequency of transformations by news producer

Transformations	Reuters	BBC
Deletion	137 (63.13%)	195 (61%)
Addition	26 (12%)	51 (16%)
Substitution	42 (19.35%)	42 (13%)
Reorganization	12 (5.53%)	32 (10%)
Total frequency	217 (100%)	320 (100%)
Total word count	10,066	16,001

4.1 Deletion

The highest frequency of deletion occurred in elaborative parts of news stories in both soft and hard news (see Table 4). Quotations came second, followed by background information. The omitted details were mostly irrelevant to the target reader, and the direct quotations simply repeated the same information already

mentioned in the report. Here is an example from a soft news BBC report entitled "Miss Jamaica crowned Miss World for 2019." The sentence "Toni-Ann was crowned by the Previous Miss World, Vanessa Ponce de Leon" was deleted, likely because it was deemed unnecessary, and its omission would not have affected the flow of the story in the target language. In hard news, the following underlined part in a BBC report about a home row at British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's apartment in London was deleted in the Arabic version.

> Defending his actions, Tom Penn told the Guardian he was worried about his neighbours' safety, adding: "I hope that anybody would have done the same thing." <u>He said he began recording from inside his flat in Camberwell, south London, after he heard "slamming and banging" in the early hours on Friday."</u>

The underlined segment adds further detail about why the neighbour recorded the incident. It may have been important for the British audience to know that this neighbour was not acting with ill will to harm Johnson's reputation (who was running for office at the time). The emphasis on why the neighbour interfered, however, was considered unnecessary for the target audience.

Reuters did not use deletion of elaborations as frequently as did the BBC, likely because as a news agency, it is a primary news producer, and its main function is to provide details for other news media. Nonetheless, when deletion was used, it concerned elaborations irrelevant to the target audience. For example, in the Reuter's report entitled "11 dead as plane crashes in Hawaii, believed during skydiving trip," the report says that the Federal Aviation Administration has been investigating the crash, which was translated literally into Arabic. The ST then elaborates that "The HDOT [Hawaii Department of Transportation] said Federal inspectors are continuing to investigate the cause of the crash." This part was deleted in Arabic because it was redundant to the target reader. In another example, the Reuters soft news report titled "Harry Potter play to hit London stage next year, says Rowling" elaborates on when and where the play tickets will be available for sale in London. This elaboration was deleted, as this information was irrelevant to the Arab audience.

There were, however, a few instances of deleted elaborations that were difficult to describe as irrelevant or unimportant information. Instead, they reflected a choice by the translator/editor to focus on certain angles of the story more than others. For example, in a BBC report on an oil pipeline project in Canada that was facing objections from environmentalists, a paragraph elaborating on how Canada's native tribes oppose the project was deleted. A previous reference to First Nations peoples in the report was also omitted, hence leaving this angle of the story out of the Arabic version. Such deletions also occurred in soft news. For example, in a report on the singer Taylor Swift and her dispute with Apple Incorporated, the Arabic story focused on the conflict angle and how it was resolved by Apple's surrendering to Swift's pressures. The story omitted the one paragraph that mentioned how Swift supported one of Apple's solutions to pay the artists.

Table 4: Deletion frequency of news elements in hard and soft news

News element	Soft news	Hard news	Total corpus
Headline	3 (2.19%)	4 (2.72%)	7 (2.46%)
Lead	9 (6.57%)	2 (1.36%)	11 (3.87%)
Backup for lead	–	4 (2.72%)	4 (1.41%)
Nut graph and impact	2 (1.46%)	3 (2.04%)	5 (1.76%)
Elaboration	65 (47.45%)	60 (40.82%)	125 (44.01%)
Quotations	33 (24.1%)	34 (23.13%)	67 (23.59%)
Background	18 (13.14%)	29 (19.73%)	47 (16.55%)
Attributions	4 (2.92%)	2 (1.36%)	6 (2.11%)
Subheading	1 (0.73%)	7 (4.76%)	8 (2.82%)
Ending	2 (1.46%)	2 (1.36%)	4 (1.41%)
Total frequency	137	147	284

Out of 284 instances of deletion in the corpus, 32 (11%) were related to cultural content such as proper names of political or historical figures not well known in the target culture; names of organizations; geographical information such as names of districts, cities, provinces, mountains, and terrains; political labels such as names of political movements, parties, or certain groups; and titles and positions. An example is the deletion of the name "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," a province in Pakistan mentioned in a report about a political activist who comes from this area and who fled the country. In the same report, the political labels "Pashtun Tahaffuz (Protection) Movement" (a social movement) and "Aware Girls" (a non-governmental organization) were also deleted. These names are unfamiliar to Arab readers, and instead of introducing them into the Arabic text (and adding clarifications of what they are), they were simply deleted without affecting the coherence of the news story. Other examples of deletion include information already well known to Arab readers, such as the facts that parts of the UAE oversee the "strategically vital Strait of Hormuz" and that Istanbul is "the cultural and economic centre of Turkey."

Moreover, 9% of deletions included references to days, dates, and time; imperial measurement units, which are not used in Arab countries; local foreign currencies; and deletion for cohesion purposes. For example, the amount in sterling pounds provided in a BBC news report about a YouTuber was omitted: "Ryan, of Ryan's World, earned \$26m (£20m) in 2019, up from \$22m in 2018." While deleting the extra information related to measurements and currencies is justified, analysis shows that all instances of deleting references to days and time were unnecessary, as retaining them would not have affected the target readers' perception of the story timeline. Nonetheless, they occurred in the Reuters and BBC texts, and in both hard and soft news. For example, the following sentence was

deleted from a BBC report on Turkish elections, although both the ST and TT were published on the same date: "Polls closed at 17:00 local time (14:00 GMT) and results are expected later on Sunday." Similarly, in a Reuters report on a beaver attack on a man, the day of the attack was omitted, although the TT was published two days later, and the TT could have easily said "last Friday." Although they are not highly frequent (3% of all deletions), investigating such occurrences in a larger, more focused study may help identify if this is a tendency in Arabic news translation.

4.2 Substitution
The highest frequency of substitution in the corpus occurred in headlines, followed by leads and elaborations. In hard news, most substitutions occurred in the headlines, whereas in soft news, substitution was most frequently applied to elaborations (see Table 5). Over 70% of the headlines modified in both hard and soft news came from BBC texts. In both hard and soft news, the substituted headlines were mostly more explicit than were their STs and/or more relevant to the target reader. In some cases, a headline was modified due to linguistic or stylistic differences between the source and target languages. Examples are given below to illustrate.

Example 1
ST: Uber takes its flying taxi ambitions to Australia
TT: أوبر تختار استراليا كأول سوق دولية لخدمة التاكسي الطائر "أوبر إير"
BT (Back Translation): Uber chooses Australia as the first international market for its flying taxi service "Uber Air"

In example 1, the Arabic version is more explicit, as "ambitions" is replaced with "first international market," and the name of the new service "Uber Air" is added.

Example 2
ST: Tamara Ecclestone: "£50m worth" of jewellery stolen from heiress
TT: "سرقة مجوهرات قيمتها 66 مليون دولار" من منزل ابنة مدير فورمولا وان السابق
BT: "Theft [of] jewellery worth 66 million dollars" from the house [of the] daughter [of] the former Formula One manager

As the target readers are expected to be more familiar with the name of the race than with the names of the former manager and his daughter, the name of the race was considered more relevant and capable of drawing readers' attention. The jewellery value was also converted to dollars for the readers' benefit.

Table 5: Substitution frequency of news elements in hard and soft new

News element	Soft news	Hard news	Total corpus
Headline	7 (18.42%)	11 (57.89%)	18 (31.58%)
Lead	8 (21.05%)	2 (10.53%)	10 (17.54%)
Backup for lead	–	–	–
Nut graph and impact	4 (10.53%)	–	4 (7.02%)
Elaboration	9 (23.68%)	1 (5.26%)	10 (17.54%)
Quotations	7 (18.42%)	1 (5.26%)	8 (14.04%)
Background	2 (5.26%)	3 (15.79%)	5 (8.77%)
Attributions	1 (2.63%)	1 (5.26%)	2 (3.51%)
Subheading	–	–	–
Ending	–	–	–
Total	38	19	57

Example 3
ST: One million Christmas lights man ends display over safety fears
TT: زين منزله بمليون مصباح في أعياد الميلاد وزحمة الزوار دفعته لإطفائها
BT: [He] decorated his house with a million lights for Christmas celebrations and the crowding visitors caused him to switch them off

A close rendering of the compound pre-modifier in the ST would have been lengthy and tedious in Arabic and would have more likely deterred readers rather than enticed them to read further, counter to a headline's intended function.

In most cases of substitution in the elaborative elements in soft news, only parts of sentences were substituted. If the TTs were to preserve the full ST message, they would have resulted in a lengthy or awkward translation, as in Example 4.

Example 4
ST: The first full-length trailer for No Time To Die has been released, <u>giving fans a flavour of what to expect from</u> Daniel Craig's final outing as James Bond.
TT:
صدر أول إعلان ترويجي كامل لفيلم No Time To Die ، أو "لا وقت للموت" <u>الذي يجسد فيه الممثل الإنجليزي</u>، دانيال كريغ، دور العميل جيمس بوند للمرة الأخيرة.

BT: The first full promoting commercial for No Time To Die or 'no time for death' <u>in which the English actor</u> Daniel Craig <u>embodies</u> Agent Bond for the last time has been issued.

Preserving the underlined part of the ST while maintaining cohesion and good style in Arabic would have resulted in a longer translation, and news translators are often constrained by space limits. Meanwhile, the loss of this part of

the ST meaning is not detrimental to the overall message, especially given that fans are not the focus of this news story.

Seventeen out of 57 instances of substitution (almost 30%) occurred with culture-related content such as names of people or geographical areas and political labels. In most cases, the names were not well known or not considered of high relevance to the target audience, such as names of victims of violence or accidents. There were four instances of substituted political labels, the most significant examples of which are the replacement of "Islamists" with مسلحين متشددين [hard-line armed (men)] and "jihadists" with المتشددين [hardliners]. In these two examples, if the ST words were translated as *?isla:miyu:n* and *jiha:diyu:n*, which derive from the Arabic words *?Isla:m* and *jiha:d*, respectively, and which carry positive religious connotations for the target readers, the terms would have seemed to glorify such groups. Instead, these terms were replaced with their functional equivalents: words that represent what these groups stand for. Because of their ideological and political implications, such political and religious labels would normally follow the editorial policy of the news producer rather than be left to the discretion of the individual translator/journalist.

4.3 Addition

The highest frequency of addition occurred in the background element, followed by elaboration, and then both headlines and quotations (see Table 6). Overall, additions appeared in BBC texts more than they did in Reuters. Most instances of additions were only a few words, rather than a whole sentence or a paragraph. Analysis shows that 10 instances (24%) of these additions were related to cohesion, and 16 (39%) were related to cultural content. The instances of adding a whole sentence or paragraph were additions of background information necessary for the target reader to understand the context of the news.

Example 5 shows an added paragraph in soft news; it is from a BBC report entitled "Anna Karina: French New Wave cinema legend dies aged 79." To appreciate the significance of this news, Arab readers need the added information about the actress, New Wave cinema, and the status of Godard as a director.

Example 5

ST: Karina rose to prominence as the muse of her director ex-husband Jean-Luc Godard in the 1960s.
TT:

وصعد اسم آنا كارينا خلال الفترة الذهبية للسينما الفرنسية، وكانت من أبرز نجماتها خلال فترة الستينات.
ولعبت بطولة أفلام لعدد من أشهر مخرجي ما يعرف بالموجة الجديدة في السينما الفرنسية الذين تأثروا
بسينما الواقعية الجديدة الإيطالية وتمردوا على القوالب المعهودة في صناعة السينما الفرنسية، ومن أشهرهم
جان لوك غودار وفرانسوا تروفو وجاك ريفيت.

BT: Anna Karina's name rose during the golden age of French cinema, and she was one of its prominent stars in the sixties.

She played lead roles in movies [made] by a number of the most famous directors of what is known as the new wave in French cinema; [they] were influenced by

Italian neorealism cinema and rebelled against the traditional forms of the French cinema industry[;] the most famous of these [were] Jean-Luc Godard, Francois Truffaut and Jacques Rivette.

Table 6: Addition frequency of news elements in hard and soft news

News element	Soft news	Hard news	Total corpus
Headline	3 (23.1%)	3 (10.71%)	6 (14.63%)
Lead	1 (7.69%)	4 (14.29%)	5 (12.19%)
Backup for lead	–	–	–
Nut graph and impact	1 (7.69%)	1 (3.57%)	2 (4.88%)
Elaboration	2 (15.38%)	5 (17.86%)	7 (17.07%)
Quotations	2 (15.38%)	4 (14.29%)	6 (14.63%)
Background	4 (30.76%)	6 (21.43%)	10 (24.4%)
Attributions	–	1 (3.57%)	1 (2.44%)
Subheading	–	1 (3.57%)	1 (2.44%)
Ending	–	3 (10.71%)	3 (7.32%)
Total	13	28	41

An example of hard news comes from a BBC story about the oil pipeline project in Canada (4.1). In this report, the following paragraph of background information about the project was added.

اشترت الحكومة الكندية خط الأنابيب من شركة "كيندر مورغان" الأمريكية للبنية التحتية في العام الماضي، بعد أن قررت الشركة التخلي عن المشروع بسبب المعارضة السياسية له.

BT: The Canadian government purchased the pipeline from the American company Kinder Morgan for infrastructure last year, after the company had decided to relinquish the project because of the political opposition.

All additions for cohesion purposes occurred in hard news and were added to make referents explicit and avoid ambiguity. No similar additions were used in soft news, which may indicate that clarity of information (especially quotations) is prioritized in hard news, as illustrated in the following example.

Example 6
ST: "Under any peace agreement our position will be that Israel's presence should continue here, for Israel's security and for the security of all," Netanyahu said.

TT:
وأضاف" موقفنا في ظل أي اتفاق سلام سيكون ضرورة استمرار وجود إسرائيل هنا (في غور الأردن)، من أجل أمن إسرائيل وأمن الجميع."

BT: He added "our position under any peace agreement will be the necessity of Israel continuing to be here (in the Jordan Valley) for the security of Israel and the

security of everyone."

This quotation appeared in the Reuters report "Israel will consider U.S. Mideast plan, Palestinians to boycott." Two paragraphs before this quotation, it was mentioned that the Israeli Prime Minister had repeated his firm position on retaining presence in the Jordan Valley. This was followed by two quotations in which references to the Jordan Valley were made in English by using words like "the area" and "here." To leave no doubt in the target reader's mind what "here" in the quotation referred to, the location was added in parentheses.

Example 7
ST: The Kremlin spokesman added: "If one assumes that some government agencies do this without informing the head of state...."
TT:

وأضاف المتحدث باسم الكرملين: "إذا افترض المرء أن بعض الوكالات الحكومية (الأمريكية) تفعل ذلك دون
إبلاغ رئيس الدولة...."

BT: The Kremlin spokesman added: "if one assumes that some (American) government agencies do that without informing the state president …."

The quotation in Example 7 appears in the BBC report "US and Russia clash over power grid 'hack attacks'." The reference to "government agencies" is clarified in the TT by adding the adjective "American" between parentheses to show that this is an addition and not part of the quotation.

4.4 Reorganization
The highest frequency of reorganization in the corpus occurred in the elaboration element of the news report (see Table 7). Reorganization occurred in the BBC texts in 23 instances compared with only nine occurrences in the Reuters texts. In hard news, the highest frequency of reorganization occurred in the background parts, whereas in soft news, it occurred in the elaboration parts.

Reorganization was mainly used not only to enhance cohesion, especially after deleting parts of the ST but also to refocus the stories. For example, in the BBC report about the singer Taylor Swift, the lead in the English version focused on Swift's feud with a record company just before receiving five American Music Awards, whereas the fact that she won five awards, beating Michael Jackson's record, came as an elaboration on the story. In Arabic, the story focus became the five awards, not the feud, likely because this was considered more interesting to Arab fans.

In hard news, no reorganization occurred in the lead, and so there was no major refocusing of stories. However, reorganization in the elaboration and background parts helped create secondary refocusing. An example from hard news is the BBC report entitled "Israel: Amir Ohana becomes first openly gay minister." In the ST, the fifth paragraph provided background information about the government changes that led to the selection of new ministers. In the Arabic version, this paragraph was moved up to immediately follow the lead. Meanwhile,

all the information about Ohana was gathered under a newly added subheading: "Who is Amir Ohana?" Another example is from the BBC report "Trans Mountain: Canada approves $5.5bn oil pipeline project." In the ST, a paragraph providing details about the history of a business deal that the Liberal party struck with a company intercepted two paragraphs: one about how the deal posed a challenge to the Canadian Prime Minister and the other containing his arguments for supporting the deal. This background paragraph was moved in the TT to follow the supportive quotations, thus grouping all the paragraphs about Trudeau's challenges and arguments together.

Table 7: Reorganization frequency of news elements in hard and soft news

News element	Soft news	Hard news	Total corpus
Headline	–	–	–
Lead	2 (13.33%)	–	2 (6.67%)
Backup for lead	–	1 (6.67%)	1 (3.33%)
Nut graph and impact	–	1 (6.67%)	1 (3.33%)
Elaboration	5 (33.33%)	4 (26.67%)	9 (30%)
Quotations	3 (20%)	4 (26.67%)	7 (23.33%)
Background	3 (20%)	5 (33.33%)	8 (26.67%)
Attributions	–	–	–
Subheading	1 (6.67%)	–	1 (3.33%)
Ending	1 (6.67%)	–	1 (3.33%)
Total	15	15	30

5. Conclusion

There was a strong tendency to use deletion considerably more often as compared with other transformations, regardless of the news topic or producer. Deletion is in fact used at a frequency of 61%, compared with 39% for the other three transformations together. Deleted content in both types of news is mostly an elaboration of story details and supporting quotations, and in many cases, deleted parts include whole paragraphs. Substitution, which comes second in frequency in the overall corpus results, shows differences according to news topic. In hard news, it is mostly used with headlines, whereas in soft news, it is used in headlines, leads, and elaborative parts. This suggests that publishers are more liberal in translating soft news, as substitution is the most complex of the transformations (it involves simultaneous omission and addition). Addition was third in frequency, but it is used less frequently in soft news than it is in hard news. Nonetheless, it mostly occurs in the background in both hard and soft news. Notably, it is widely used to enhance cohesion and clarity, as opposed to adding new information, and this was especially the case in hard news. Finally, reorganization has the lowest frequency in both hard and soft news, occurring primarily in the elaboration and background details to enhance cohesion. When it occurs in the lead, it changes the focus of the news story,

but this is rare in the corpus.

These results can be interpreted in light of interwoven external and internal criteria that affect a translator's choices. For example, the prevalence of deletion could be interpreted in relation to the external factor of time constraints. Compared with other transformations, deletion takes the least time and effort to apply. Therefore, it is speculated that the need to produce news rapidly may be a major reason for this tendency. Speed is, in fact, identified by Bielsa and Bassnett (2009:91) as "an intrinsic part of the process of news translation [and] an element of journalistic quality." Ultimately, comparisons with corpora in other languages and other news producers could confirm whether the preference for deletion is a norm in news translation. Furthermore, the contrast between substitution in hard and soft news may lie in external factors. Given that the STs and TTs in the corpus are produced for the same organizations, the editorial policies that are influenced by ideology and politics are the same for both texts, and therefore, the need for such substitutions does not occur frequently. This should be further investigated in a corpus where STs from different organizations are used. Conversely, the preference for using substitution with headlines could be attributed to the internal criterion related to headline function. In the news report genre, the headline is used to attract readers' attention, a function that often could not be fulfilled by literal translation due to linguistic and/or sociocultural differences.

Textual competence, considered by Baer and Mellinger (2020:6) as "the mother of all translation competences," requires knowledge based on corpus studies that "allow for the systematic investigation of text types or genres as a whole" (Baer and Mellinger 2020:1). By examining microlevel strategies in relation to the basic structural elements or "moves" of the news report genre, the present study contributes to such knowledge. Clearly, the corpus is not large enough to generalize the findings, but the results constitute a strong starting point for further research into the practice of Arabic news translation. This genre was first introduced into Arabic from the West in the 19th century, and therefore, Arabic news translation has had a long time to develop its own patterns, even when influenced by the Western conventions of news production. Many Arabic news agencies and media institutions provide news in Arabic and English, so larger studies that cover such organizations could be designed to identify any patterns of news translation in Arabic whether in relation to the text as a whole or to particular elements such as direct quotations or references to time. Moreover, studies that include news producers that use English sources to write news only in Arabic are also necessary. Future studies must investigate in greater depth the influences of extralinguistic factors such as time, editorial policies, and the individual translator's personal choices on the use of local transformations. Such studies will help develop student training programs based on real-life data and practice.

Bielsa and Bassnett (2009:132) remarked that "although we may use the word 'translation' when referring to news translation, it is clear that what happens during the process of transfer is not translation as generally understood." When translation is understood to mean literal or faithful rendition of a text from one language into another, this remark is certainly accurate. News translation would perhaps then be

better understood as a form of "instrumental translation" that "aims at producing in the target language an instrument for a new communicative interaction between the source-culture sender and a target-culture audience, using (certain aspects of) the source text as a model" (Nord 1992:47). This approach to translation could provide a broader theoretical framework for future studies to understand the mechanisms of local transformations in news translation and explain the internal and external factors that influence their use. The active role that this functionalist approach permits for the translator could also be used to better understand and describe the position of the translator/journalist as a mediator between different languages, cultures, and societies.

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