

## The Syntactic and Semantic Changes Associated with the Use of Modulation in English-Arabic Translation

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How to cite:

Alwazna, R. Y.. (2022). The Syntactic and Semantic Changes Associated with the Use of Modulation in English-Arabic Translation. *International Journal of Linguistics and Translation Studies* 3(3).1-14.  
<https://doi.org/10.36892/ijlts.v3i3.245>

### ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: 12/07/2022

Accepted: 10/08/2022

### KEYWORDS

Syntactic changes; semantic changes; modulation; translation; naturalness

### Abstract

*Modulation is a procedure categorized under oblique translation method. The present paper addresses the semantic and syntactic changes associated with the use of modulation in English-Arabic translation. It seeks to present all the ten types of modulation, devoting an example for each type, to elucidate the semantic and syntactic changes made on the modulated Arabic target text as compared to the literal Arabic translation. Based on the data used, the paper argues that both obligatory and optional modulations are employed in English-Arabic translation. Semantically, obligatory modulations are adopted when the literal meaning is not intended, when English and Arabic use different figurative words to express the same notion or when they use different symbols to indicate the same concept. Optional modulations are employed to serve stylistic purposes, keep the words collocate with one another, produce naturalness, adopt preferred structures and specify space or time. Syntactically, the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text are similar whenever Arabic starts with a noun and are different otherwise. Finally, the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation are identical whenever they both either start with a noun or a verb and are different when they possess different structures.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Every text imparts a specific ideology and a particular opinion that represents the views of the original writer about the world (Heylen, 1993, p. 5; Delzendeirooy & Karimnia, 2013, p. 28). Translators create relations between particular manifestations of two divergent linguistic and cultural systems; one has already been provided, whilst the other is still subject to adaptation (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 30). Hence translators confront the same starting point; they specify the type of audience they intend to target as they receive and comprehend the source text message (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 30). They follow preliminary steps as they proceed. One of such steps is to pinpoint the translation units. Other steps lie chiefly in examining the source text, recreating the situation that leads to the intended message as well as assessing the stylistic effects (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 30).

Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) divide translation methods into two main methods: direct translation and oblique translation. In certain translation work, it is possible to render the source language message content into the receptor language by substituting source language constituents with those of the target language. Such a translation situation may take place if there is structural parallelism between the two languages concerned, i.e., the source and target languages possess parallel categories. Alternatively, the translation situation in question can be witnessed if there is metalinguistic parallelism between the languages concerned, i.e., the source and receptor languages have parallel concepts (p. 31). Conversely, translators may find gaps between the source language and the target language that need to be filled by target language textual elements so that the final result will be identical in both messages. Structural or metalinguistic differences between the source and receptor languages may give rise to grammatical transposition or a change in lexis to accomplish certain stylistic effects. In such a situation, more sophisticated and complicated methods are utilised, which may at the outset seem strange, but which, nonetheless, enable translators to enjoy complete control over their translations. These procedures are termed 'oblique translation methods' (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 31).

The present paper addresses the semantic and syntactic changes associated with the use of modulation when translating from English into Arabic. It, at the outset, provides a definition of the concept of modulation. The differences between fixed or obligatory modulations, as opposed to free or optional modulations, will then be uncovered, indicating that the main difference between the two lies in the fact that the former is listed in target language dictionaries and grammar books whilst the latter is not. The paper then presents the ten types of modulation, as classified by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), which are: abstract for concrete (metonymy), explicative modulation, the part for the whole (synecdoche), one part for another (metonymy), reversal of terms, the negation of the opposite (litotes), active to passive and vice versa, space for time (metalepsis), exchange of intervals for limits (in space and time) as well as change of symbol. Each type is exemplified by a translation example from English into Arabic, followed by a relatively succinct analysis to elucidate the semantic changes made to the modulated Arabic target text as compared to the literal Arabic translation. This is followed by a syntactic description of the English source text, the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation to pinpoint the similarities and differences associated with the use of modulation from the syntactic perspective.

Based on the data used, the present paper argues that both fixed or obligatory and free or optional modulations are employed in rendering texts from English into Arabic. Obligatory modulation has been used in four types, these are explicative modulation, the part for the whole (synecdoche), one part for another (metonymy) and change of symbol. Conversely, optional modulation has been employed in six types; these are abstract for concrete (metonymy), reversal of terms, the negation of the opposite (litotes), active to passive and vice versa, space for time (metalepsis) as well as the exchange of intervals for limits (in space and time). From the semantic perspective, the paper claims that obligatory modulations are adopted when the literal meaning is not intended, as in types two and three, when English and Arabic make use of different figurative words to express the same notion, as in type four or when they use different symbols to indicate the same concept, as in type ten. Contrariwise, optional modulations are employed to serve stylistic purposes, as in types one and eight, keep the words collocate with one another in the target text, as in type five, produce naturalness, as in type six, adopt preferred structures in the target text, as in type seven and specify space or time, as in type nine. Syntactically, the present paper argues that the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text have similar syntactic structures when Arabic starts with a nominal sentence, as in types one, five and ten. However, when Arabic starts with a verbal sentence, it will possess a different syntactic structure from the English source text, as in types two, three, four, six, seven, eight and nine. Finally, the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation

are syntactically identical whenever they start with a nominal sentence, as in types one, five as well as ten and whenever they both begin with a verbal sentence, as in types three, four, six and nine. They differ syntactically when they possess different structures, as in types two, seven and eight.

## 2. MODULATION: DEFINITION AND CONCEPT

Modulation can be defined as a type of variation of the message mode accomplished through a change in attitude (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 36; Newmark, 1988, p. 88; Płońska, 2014, p. 68; Tardzenyuy, 2016, p. 52; Salum, 2019, p. 131). Such change is deemed justifiable on the condition that the translation, albeit grammatically well-formed, turns out to be unidiomatic in the receptor language (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 36; Vinay & Darbelnet, 2000, p. 89; Azar, 2018, p. 88; Putranti, 2018, p. 99; El Ghazi & Bnini, 2019, p. 127). Modulation can be viewed as a type of shift in ‘cognitive category’ (Molina & Albir, 2002, p. 499), which can take place at a word, phrase, clause and sentence level (Barth, 1971, p. 41; Delzendehrooy & Karimnia, 2013, p. 33). Having considered transposition, Pym and Torres-Simón (2014) report in their study conducted on Vinay and Darbelnet’s model that transposition and modulation need to be merged as it is difficult to figure out the difference between the two (p. 97). It is possible to differentiate between fixed or obligatory modulations and those which are free or optional (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 37; Salum, 2019, p. 131). The difference between fixed or obligatory modulations and those that are free or optional resides chiefly in the degree of variation. Encountered by obligatory modulation, translators who possess sufficient control of both the source and receptor languages largely exploit this procedure owing to the fact that they are well-informed of its overall acceptance, its use rate as well as the confirmed use of the expression concerned by an appropriate language dictionary (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 37; Salum, 2019, p. 131). On the other hand, instances of optional modulation have not been sanctioned by language dictionary usage. However, when employed in the appropriate situation, the resulting target text will unequivocally fit the source language situation. In other words, the optional modulation result should give rise to a solution that excites the target audience. Hence optional modulation is considered an appropriate solution which lies mainly in a series of well-connected ideas that seem necessary rather than optional (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 37; Salum, 2019, p. 131). Based on the foregoing, there is a varying degree between obligatory modulation and the optional one, and the latter may become obligatory if employed sufficiently or if it is the only solution for a particular translation problem. Indeed, optional modulation cannot be obligatory until it is listed in target language dictionaries and grammar books and is routinely taught (Salum, 2019, p. 131). If so, such modulation is required, and the lack of such use in specific target language texts would seem inappropriate (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 37). In his MA dissertation, in which the term ‘modulation’ was first mentioned, Panneton (1946) claims that modulation offers an appropriate solution for certain translation situations as it corresponds to a particular second-degree equation, which would then turn out to be an equivalence.

It can be argued that modulation is founded on realising extralinguistic differences (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 246). Modulation is said to be motivated by metalinguistic detail. The breakdown of the modulation’s operation to present its suitability and accuracy is deemed a culturally instructive practice within translation procedures for students studying translation (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 246). Modulation is also motivated by syntactic considerations and thoughts. Indeed, modulation demonstrates the variation between two particular languages in the same situation, albeit two different thoughts, through expressing such variation in words (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, pp. 247-248).

Regarding the frequency of use, modulation is deemed among the translation techniques that translators largely employ. This is advocated by the study conducted by Simpson (1975) of Samuel Beckett’s translation of his own play entitled: ‘*En attendant Godot*’ from French

into English. The study confirms that Beckett has made use of modulation more than any other translation technique throughout his translation.

### **3. TYPES OF MODULATION**

The categorisation of modulation proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) is primarily grounded in the nature of the operations taking place in mind when classifying each type of modulation. Below are the different types of modulation proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995). Each type comprises a translation example from English into Arabic, followed by an analysis to clarify the semantic changes that have taken place between the modulated Arabic target texts and the literal Arabic translation alongside the syntactic description of the English source text, the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation.

#### **3.1. Abstract for Concrete (Metonymy)**

The first type of modulation proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) lies in changing abstract nouns to concrete ones. Abstract refers to “disassociated from any specific instance <entity>” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 1993, p. 5). On the contrary, concrete means “naming a real thing or class of things” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 1993, p. 239). An example of this type of modulation in English-Arabic translation is found in the translation of the English source text: ‘reading is useful’ into Arabic as: “**الكتب مفيدة**” literally: ‘the books are useful’.

Having considered the example above from the semantic point of view, it is clear that the English abstract noun: ‘reading’ has been translated into Arabic as a concrete noun: “**الكتب**” literally: ‘the books’. Here, the purpose: ‘reading’ is represented by the item: ‘the books’ used to serve it. Other items can also be used to serve the same purpose and fulfil the same function, such as journals, magazines, articles, etc. The target reader can figure out the intended meaning of the word: “**الكتب**” literally: ‘the books’ through its neighbouring word: “**مفيدة**” literally: ‘useful’ as the person can only derive a real benefit from ‘the books’ through reading them. This type of modulation is optional as the literal Arabic translation: “**القراءة مفيدة**” literally: ‘reading is useful’ does work properly. It is worth noting that the target reader may not expect that the word: “**الكتب**” literally: ‘the books’ is the rendering of the English source text word: ‘reading’. Hence in this particular instance, the use of such modulation in English-Arabic translation may seem superfluous as the translation can literally be achieved unless there is a stylistic purpose the translator needs to serve. There may also be other reasons for which the translator uses such modulation, such as creating intentional ambiguity in the target text by placing linguistic elements indicating the terms stated in the source text and not translating them literally.

From the syntactic perspective, the English source text: ‘reading is useful’ is composed of the subject: ‘reading’ and predicate: ‘is useful’, which is further composed of verb: ‘is’ and complement: ‘useful’. Likewise, the modulated Arabic target text: “**الكتب مفيدة**” literally: ‘the books are useful’ consists of the subject “**مبتداً**”: “**خبر**” and predicate “**مفيدة**”. Thus, there is a clear similarity between the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text, with the exception of the verb ‘to be’, which exists in the former and is not present in the latter. The literal Arabic translation: “**القراءة مفيدة**” literally: ‘reading is useful’ consists of the subject :”**مبتداً**” “**خبر**”: “**مفيدة**” literally: ‘reading’ and the predicate “**خبر**”: “**مفيدة**” literally: ‘useful’. It is noteworthy that both the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation possess identical syntactic components.

#### **3.2. Explicative Modulation**

The second type of modulation proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) is known as explicative modulation. Explicative refers to “serving to explicate; specifically: serving to explain logically what is contained in the subject” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 1993, p. 409). As Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) indicate, this type of modulation possesses

various forms, giving the means for the result and the cause for the effect of the substance for the object. It is commonly employed across languages. As the name suggests, explicative modulation seeks to explain, explicate and analyse the content of the source text. According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), this type of modulation aims at supposing a particular analysis of the current situation and making a judgment. For instance, the English source text: 'you are quite a stranger' can be rendered into Arabic as: "طال غيابك" literally: 'your absence prolonged'.

Having closely studied the example above semantically, evidence suggests that the literal meaning of the word: 'stranger', which lies in "a person or thing that is unknown or with whom one is unacquainted" (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 1993, p. 1158), is not intended. This is owing to the fact that the statement in question is usually used to address a person who has been away for some time, absent and unseen by the addresser. Consequently, the statement indicates that the person concerned has become, due to his/her long absence, like a stranger unknown to the addresser, although the person in question is indeed known to him/her. Based on the foregoing, explicative modulation is obligatory as the literal translation does not seem appropriate in this situation. Brini (2000, p. 494) contends that languages describe different situations using different ways. Disagreement in languages is inevitable, which leads to the difference in information processing (Alwazna, 2014a, p.182). Hanna (1969, p. 141) asserts that since people who belong to different linguistic repertoires do not think in the same way, their minds work differently. Hence the English source text: 'you are quite a stranger' has been rendered into Arabic as: "طال غيابك" literally: 'your absence prolonged'.

Syntactically, the English source text: 'you are quite a stranger' consists of subject 'detached pronoun': 'you' and predicate: 'are quite a stranger', which is further divided into verb: 'are', adverb: 'quite', indefinite article: 'a' and complement: 'stranger'. Conversely, the modulated Arabic target text: "طال غيابك" literally: 'your absence prolonged' is composed of verb: "طال" literally: 'prolonged', subject: "غياب" literally: 'absence' and genitive 'attached pronoun': "ك" literally: 'your'. Hence clear syntactic differences arise between the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text. Syntactic differences do also exist between the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation: "أنت جداً غريب" literally: 'you are quite a stranger', which consists of subject "أنت" "متداً", detached pronoun: "ك" literally: 'you', adverb: "جداً" literally: 'quite' and predicate "غريب": "غريب" literally: 'stranger'.

### 3.3. The Part for The Whole (synecdoche)

According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), this type of modulation involves translating a source text that is characterised by a specific feature into a target text that contains the aforementioned feature as part of its features. Such a modulation type is used to clarify the content of the source text to the target reader as he/she might not be aware of a such specific feature that typifies the intended element. So, the translator, using the part for the whole modulation, renders that feature to the element that possesses such feature in order to get through to the target reader. An example of this type of modulation is the translation of the English source text: 'I visited the Windy City' into Arabic as: "ورت شيكاغو" literally: 'I visited Chicago'.

Having had a close look at the example above from the semantic point of view, it is evident that the noun phrase: 'the Windy City' cannot be rendered verbatim into Arabic as: "مدينة الرياح" literally: 'windy city' as the literal meaning here is not intended. However, the such attribute is particularly ascribed to the city of Chicago and has become one of its names as Chicago is known for its strong wind. Hence the use of 'the part for the whole' modulation is obligatory in this particular instance to inform the target reader that the noun phrase: 'the Windy City' does not refer to any windy city; rather it points to a specific city known by such attribute. Such obligatory modulation is also known as 'servitude' in the sense that the translator has no choice but to resort thereto (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995; Munday, 2008).

Consequently: the English source text: 'I visited the Windy City' has been rendered into Arabic as: "زرت شيكاغو" Literally: 'I visited Chicago'.

With the syntactic structures in mind, the English source text: 'I visited the Windy City' consists of subject 'detached pronoun': 'I' and predicate: 'visited the Windy City', which is further split into verb: 'visited' and object: 'the Windy City', which is further divided into definite article: 'the', adjective: 'windy' and noun: 'city'. On the other hand, the modulated Arabic target text: "زرت شيكاغو" literally: 'I visited Chicago' is made up of verb: "زرت" literally: 'visited', subject 'attached pronoun': "أنا" literally: 'I' and object: "شيكاغو" literally: 'Chicago'. Thus, there are syntactic differences between the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text as the former starts with the subject, whilst the latter begins with the verb. The literal Arabic translation: "زرت مدينة الرياح" literally: 'I visited the windy city' is composed of verb: "زرت" literally: 'visited', subject 'attached pronoun': "أنا" literally: 'I', object: "مدينة" literally: 'city' and genitive: "الرياح" literally: 'wind'. Based on the foregoing, the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation are syntactically alike, with the exception of the genitive that exists at the end of the latter, but has no presence in the former.

### **3.4. One Part for Another (metonymy)**

Another type of modulation suggested by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) is known as one part for another. This means that the source language makes use of a particular element which is replaced by the target language with a different element to convey the same message content. An example of this type of modulation is the translation of the English source text: 'I put my finger on the problem' into Arabic as: "وضعت يدي على المشكلة" literally: 'I put my hand on the problem'.

Having looked at the example above closely, it is clear that the word: 'finger' has been rendered into Arabic as: "يد" literally: 'hand'. This change in parts is obligatory as the word: 'finger' is used here figuratively to mean 'understanding/addressing'. Contrariwise, Arabic expresses the same notion with the use of a different figurative device. Indeed, Arabic employs the word: "يد" literally: 'hand' to refer to the concept of 'understanding/addressing'. Literal translation of the word: 'finger' would produce unnatural and exotic text which would lead to the incomprehensibility of the target reader. This is lent credence by Putranti (2018, p. 99), who argues over the merits of the incomprehensibility of the translation to the target reader if it sounds unnatural to him/her. Hence the use of 'one part for another' modulation is obligatory in this particular instance to avoid exoticism. Dickins, Hervey and Higgins (2002) assert that exoticism is deemed an extreme option that indicates cultural foreignness in the translated text. Consequently: the English source text: 'I put my finger on the problem' has been translated into Arabic as: "وضعت يدي على المشكلة" literally: 'I put my hand on the problem'.

From the syntactic perspective, the English source text: 'I put my finger on the problem' consists of subject 'detached pronoun': 'I' and predicate: 'put my finger on the problem', which is further divided into verb: 'put' Object: 'my finger', which is further divided into possessive pronoun 'my' and noun 'finger' and prepositional phrase 'on the problem', which is composed of preposition: 'on', definite article: 'the' and noun 'problem'. On the other hand, the modulated Arabic target text: "وضعت يدي على المشكلة" literally: 'I put my hand on the problem' is made up of verb: "وضعت" literally: 'put', subject 'attached pronoun': "أنا" literally: 'I', object: "يد" literally: 'hand' and genitive 'attached pronoun': "ي" literally: 'my' and prepositional phrase: "على" literally: 'on the problem', which is divided into preposition: "على" literally: 'on' and noun: "المشكلة" literally: 'the problem'. Clearly, the elements with which each text starts are different, though the following elements are similar. It is worth noting that the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation are similarly structured. This springs from the fact that the literal Arabic translation: "وضعت أصبعي على المشكلة" literally: 'I put my finger on the problem' is composed of verb: "وضعت" literally: 'put', subject 'attached

pronoun': "ت" literally: 'I', object: "أصبع" literally: 'finger', genitive 'attached pronoun': "ي" literally: 'my' and prepositional phrase: "على المشكلة" literally: 'on the problem', which is divided into preposition: "على" literally: 'on' and noun: "المشكلة" literally: 'the problem'.

### 3.5. Reversal of Terms

This is the fifth type of modulation proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995). It demands the use of a particular word in the source text and the use of the opposite thereof in the target text. This, of course, may entail a change of the style when producing the target text. For instance, if the source text makes use of positive informative sentence including the word that will be modulated in the receptor language, the target text shall employ negative sentence including the reversed word. An example of this type of modulation is the translation of the English source text: 'your argument is not strong' into Arabic as: "حجتك واهية" literally: 'your argument is weak'.

Semantically, it is evident that the word: 'strong' has been given the reversed word in the target language. This, as indicated above, has demanded a change in the style; while the source text adopts negative style, using 'is not', the target text exploits positive style to be able to utilise the contrary word. The word: 'strong' has been rendered into Arabic with the use of the reversed word: "واهية" literally: 'weak', thus producing an idiomatic target text by ensuring the use of appropriate Arabic collocation: "حجتك واهية" literally: 'your argument is weak'. This type of modulation is considered optional in this particular instance as the literal Arabic translation: "حجتك ليست قوية" literally: 'your argument is not strong' can properly convey the intended meaning as that relayed by the English source text, albeit with less idiomatic Arabic text. Conversely, the modulated Arabic target text: "حجتك واهية" literally: 'your argument is weak' reads naturally to the target reader and keeps the Arabic collocation intact. It is claimed that free or optional modulation is deemed free translation that may be exercised for non-linguistic reasons, such as disambiguating meaning, producing correspondence in the receptor language, producing lexical items that read naturally to the target reader, etc. (Rahmatillah, 2017, p. 72). Hence the English source text: 'your argument is not strong' has been rendered into Arabic as: "حجتك واهية" literally: 'your argument is weak'.

From the syntactic angle, the English source text: 'your argument is not strong' consists of Subject: 'your argument', which is further split into possessive pronoun: 'your' and noun: 'argument' and predicate: 'is not strong', which is divided into verb: 'is', negative device: 'not' and complement: 'strong'. Likewise, the modulated Arabic target text: "حجتك واهية" literally: 'your argument is weak' is composed of subject: "حج" literally: 'argument', genitive 'attached pronoun': "ك" literally: 'your' and predicate: "خبر" literally: 'weak'. Clearly, there are syntactic similarities between the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text, with the exception that the former comprises a negative device that does not exist in the latter. The literal Arabic translation: "حجتك غير قوية" literally: 'your argument is not strong' is composed of subject: "حج" literally: 'argument', genitive 'attached pronoun': "ك" literally: 'your' and predicate: "غير" literally: 'not' and genitive: "قوية" literally: 'strong'. It is evident that there are similar syntactic structures between the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation, with the exception that the former has one genitive, whilst the latter has two genitives.

### 3.6. Negation of The Opposite (litotes)

This type of modulation propounded by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) deals with the negative form of the opposite word. It confirms the relation between the negation of the opposite word and the positiveness of the reversed word. In other words, double negation is

equal to positiveness. An example of this type of modulation is the translation of the English source text: 'the place does not seem untidy' into Arabic as: "يبدو المكان مرتبًا" literally: 'the place seems tidy'.

Having had a close look at the example above, it seems evident that the English negative verbal form and the negative adjectival form have been given positive forms in Arabic based on the linguistic rule that states that double negation is equal to positiveness. The negative verbal form: 'does not seem' and the negative adjectival form: 'untidy' have been rendered into Arabic as: "يبدو" literally: 'seem' and "مرتب" literally: 'tidy' respectively. Again, as the previous type of modulation, the modulation of 'negation of the opposite' is deemed optional in this particular instance as the literal Arabic translation: "لا يبدو المكان غير مرتب" literally: 'the place does not seem untidy' does work properly. According to Hatim and Munday (2004, p. 240), optional modulations are said to demonstrate particular options made by translators to fit specific translation situations. Indeed, the use of modulation here, i.e., reducing the number of words in the sentence by dispensing with the negative devices makes it clearer and more eloquent. Moreover, positive structures are more expected in languages than negative structures, particularly when two negative forms of different parts of speech are used successively. Such use of successive negative forms of different parts of speech in a single sentence unquestionably affects the idiomticity of the text and renders it unnatural to the target reader. Hence the English source text: 'the place does not seem untidy' has been translated into Arabic as: "يبدو المكان مرتبًا" literally: 'the place seems tidy'.

Syntactically, the English source text: 'the place does not seem untidy' consists of subject: 'the place', which is further divided into definite article: 'the' and noun: 'place' and predicate: 'does not seem untidy', which is further split into verb phrase: 'does not seem', which is divided into negative device 'does not' and verb: 'seem' and complement: 'untidy'. On the contrary, the modulated Arabic target text: "يبدو المكان مرتبًا" literally: 'the place seems tidy' is composed of verb: "يبدو" literally: 'seem' subject: "المكان" literally: 'the place' and adverb: "مرتبًا" literally: 'tidy'. Evidently, there are syntactic differences between the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text. The literal Arabic translation: "لا يبدو المكان غير مرتب" literally: 'the place does not seem untidy' consists of negative device: "لا" literally: 'not', verb: "يبدو" literally: 'seem', subject: "المكان" literally: 'the place', adverb: "غير" literally: 'un' and genitive: "مرتب" literally: 'tidy'. The modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation are syntactically alike, with the exception that there are a negative device and a single genitive that are present in the latter, but do not exist in the former.

### **3.7.Active to Passive and Vice Versa**

This is the seventh type of modulation proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) that deals with active and passive voices. According to language norms, Arabic generally prefers the use of active voice, whilst English predominantly favours hiding the identity of the writer/speaker and adopting passive voice. Since the present paper addresses the use of modulation in English-Arabic translation, the example in question will be related to the translation of the passive English construction into active Arabic structure. An example of this type of modulation is the translation of the English source text: 'the criminal was arrested' into Arabic as: "اعتقلت الشرطة المجرم" literally: 'the police arrested the criminal'.

Having considered the example above, evidence suggests that the emphasis and stress of the English source text is placed on the word: 'the criminal'. This is the main reason behind the use thereof at the beginning of the sentence. Hence the emphasis of the English source text is placed on the element on which the action takes place, though it occupies the position of the subject of the text concerned. Conversely, the modulated Arabic target text has placed its emphasis on the doer of the action: "الشرطة" literally: 'the police' and has placed it at the position

of the subject. It is worth noting that the doer of the action: 'the police' is not stated in the English source text though it is implied therein. This type of modulation is optional in this particular instance as the passive English source text: 'the criminal was arrested' could acceptably be rendered into a passive Arabic target text: "اعتقل المجرم" literally: 'the criminal was arrested'. It is argued that optional modulations are related to the structures each language in question prefers (Munday, 2008, p. 57). In the present situation, the source language prefers the passive voice, whilst the receptor language favours the active voice. Thus, the target reader would find it somewhat unnatural if literal translation was used as he/she is used to read/hear active Arabic construction unless there is a stylistic reason to adopt the passive voice. This is supported by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), who point out that it is justifiable for translators to adopt modulation for the purpose of idiomacity and naturalness. Hence the English source text: 'the police was arrested' has been rendered into Arabic as: "اعتقلت الشرطة المجرم" literally: 'the police arrested the criminal'.

From the syntactic point of view, the English source text: 'the criminal was arrested' is composed of subject: 'the criminal', which is further split into definite article: 'the' and noun: 'criminal' and predicate: 'was arrested', which is divided into verb: 'was' and complement: 'arrested'. On the other hand, the modulated Arabic target text: "اعتقلت الشرطة المجرم" literally: 'the police arrested the criminal' consists of verb: "اعتقلت" literally: 'arrested', subject: "الشرطة" literally: 'the police' and object: "المجرم" literally: 'the criminal'. Needless to say, the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text are syntactically different as the former starts with a noun, whilst the latter begins with a verb, in addition to the different components that make up each text. The literal Arabic translation: "اعتقل المجرم" literally: 'the criminal was arrested' is made up of a verb in the passive voice: "اعتقل" literally: 'was arrested' subject of the passive (deputy doer): "المجرم" literally: 'the criminal'. Again, there are syntactic differences between the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation, as the former is composed of an active verb, subject and object, while the latter consists of the passive verb and subject of the passive (deputy doer).

### 3.8.Space for Time (metalepsis)

Another type of modulation discussed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) is known as space for time. It refers to the replacement of a particular space for what indicates time. It may point to a specific place which is substituted by what indicates the period in which such place was visited. An example of this type of modulation is the translation of the English source text: 'in primary school, Sami was bashful' into Arabic as: "حينما كان صغيراً، كان سامي خجولاً" literally: 'when he was young, Sami was bashful'.

Having studied the example above closely, it is clear that the prepositional phrase which indicates a particular place: 'in primary school' is replaced by an adverbial clause indicating time: "حينما كان صغيراً" literally: 'when he was young'. Such replacement is exercised based on the fact that the adverbial clause: "حينما كان صغيراً" literally: 'when he was young' points to the period in which Sami was visiting the place indicated by the replaced prepositional phrase: 'in primary school'. Hence instead of stating the place in which Sami was visiting when he was young, the translator indicates the time period, i.e., the period of Sami's age during which he was going to primary school. Clearly, this modulation of replacing space for time is optional in this particular instance as the literal Arabic translation: "في المدرسة الابتدائية، كان سامي خجولاً" literally: 'in primary school, Sami was bashful' works well. Translators who work between English and Arabic may resort to this modulation type for stylistic purposes. For instance, adopting the modulation of 'space for time' may, to a great extent, fit the story-telling style. Mahajma Agung (2016, p. 202) believes that the decision concerning the use of modulation in rendering a particular term becomes momentous if it leads to better readability of the term in question in the receptor language and conveys the intended meaning. Hence the English source

text: 'in primary school, Sami was bashful' has been rendered into Arabic as: "حينما كان صغيراً، كان سامي خجولاً" literally: 'when he was young, Sami was bashful'.

From the syntactic perspective, the English source text: 'in primary school, Sami was bashful' consists of the prepositional phrase: 'in primary school', which is further divided into preposition: 'in', adjective: 'primary' and noun: 'school', subject: 'Sami' and predicate: 'was bashful', which is further split into verb: 'was' and complement: 'bashful'. By contrast, the modulated Arabic target text: "حينما كان صغيراً، كان سامي خجولاً" literally: 'when he was young, Sami was bashful' is composed of adverb: "حين" additional device: "ما" literally: 'when', verb: "كان" literally: 'was', its noun: 'tacit pronoun', its predicate: "صغيراً" literally: 'young', verb: "كان" literally: 'was', its noun: "سامي" literally: 'Sami' and its predicate: "خجولاً" literally: 'bashful'. Evidently, there are syntactic differences between the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text as the former consists of prepositional phrase, subject and predicate, whilst the latter is composed of adverb and the repeated construction of the verb: "كان" literally: 'was' with its noun and its predicate. The literal Arabic translation: "في المدرسة الابتدائية، كان سامي خجولاً" literally: 'in primary school, Sami was bashful' is made up of prepositional phrase: "في المدرسة الابتدائية" literally: 'in primary school', which is further split into preposition: "في" literally: 'in', noun: "المدرسة الابتدائية" literally: 'school', adjective: "ابتدائية" literally: 'primary', verb: "كان" literally: 'was', its noun: "سامي" literally: 'Sami' and its predicate: "خجولاً" literally: 'bashful'. Again, syntactic differences between the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation arise as the former contains adverb and the repeated construction of the verb: "كان" literally: 'was' with its noun and its predicate, whilst the latter comprises a prepositional phrase alongside a single use of the verb: "كان" literally: 'was' with its noun and its predicate.

### **3.9 Exchange of Intervals for Limits (in space and time)**

The ninth type of modulation proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) is known as exchange of intervals for limits in space and time, though only exchange of intervals for limits in time will be addressed here for space restrictions. Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) point out that in the case of exchanging intervals for limits in time, the translator specifies the limit in time by providing a fixed time period. In ethnological matters, such type of modulation is deemed crucial. An example of this type of modulation is the translation of the English source text: 'I will see you later' into Arabic as: "لأراك بعد أسبوع" literally: 'I will see you in a week'.

Having had a close look at the example above, it is clear that the word: 'later' has been given the Arabic phrase: "بعد أسبوع" literally: 'in a week'. It is noteworthy that the word: 'later' is an adverb indicating a time period at the future, albeit unspecified. What the translator has done here is that he/she has specified the time period of the action of seeing to take place in a week, rather than leaving it unspecified, thus informing the target reader of a specified time period that has not been mentioned in the source text. This is deemed in the field of translation studies over-translation or what is known as 'translation gain' (Dickins et al., 2002; Alwazna, 2014b, p. 246). This type of modulation is considered optional in this particular instance as the literal Arabic translation: "لأراك فيما بعد" literally: 'I will see you later' works properly. However, adopting such modulation in this particular instance may disambiguate the intended meaning to the target reader and make the text clearer and more informative. Hence the English source text: 'I will see you later' has been rendered into Arabic as: "لأراك بعد أسبوع" literally: 'I will see you in a week'.

From the syntactic point of view, the English source text: 'I will see you later' consists of subject 'detached pronoun': 'I' and predicate: 'will see you later', which is further divided into modal: 'will', verb: 'see', object 'detached pronoun': 'you' and adverb: 'later'. On the other hand, the modulated Arabic target text: "لأراك بعد أسبوع" literally: 'I will see you in a week' is composed of future letter: "س" literally: 'will', verb: "أرى" literally: 'see', subject: 'tacit

pronoun', object 'attached pronoun': "كَ" literally: 'you', adverb: "بَعْدَ" literally: 'in' and genitive: "أَسْبَعْ" literally: 'weak'. Obviously, there are syntactic differences between the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text as the former comprises subject, modal, verb, object and adverb, whilst the latter encompasses future letter, verb, tacit pronoun as a subject, object, adverb and genitive. The literal Arabic translation: "سَأَرَكُ فِيهَا بَعْدَ" literally: 'I will see you later' consists of future letter: "سَ" literally: 'will', verb: "أَرَى" literally: 'see', subject: 'tacit pronoun', object 'attached pronoun': "كَ" literally: 'you', preposition: "فِي" literally: 'in', prepositional phrase: "مَا" and adverb: "بَعْدَ" literally: 'later'. Evidence suggests that the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation are syntactically alike, with the exception that the former has genitive that does not exist in the latter, whilst the latter contains a preposition and a prepositional phrase that are not present in the former.

### 3.10. Change of Symbol

The last type of modulation suggested by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) is known as change of symbol. It refers to the replacement of a particular symbol by another when translating between languages as a result of the differences in symbolism, images, metaphors and cultures amongst languages. In their comparison between French and English, Vinay and Darbelnet point out that the symbolism used in both English and French is primarily built on different images. They go on to claim that certain metaphors hinge upon distinguished images that are not in line with literal translation. They further add that translators may need to employ modulation of 'change of symbol' to avoid incomprehensibility. Keeping the original metaphor intact in the target text may cause exoticism and make the text alien to the target reader. An example of this type of modulation is the translation of the English source text: 'you are beautiful as a rose' into Arabic as: "أَنْتَ جَمِيلَةٌ كَالْأَرْضِ" literally: 'you are beautiful as the moon'.

Having considered the example above, it is evident that an English simile has been rendered into Arabic with the use of an equivalent Arabic simile. Indeed, simile can be defined as "a figure of speech comparing two unlike things that is often introduced by like or as" (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 1993, p. 1090). The English source text has made use of the word: 'rose' as a symbol of beauty to describe the beauty of women. By contrast, the modulated Arabic target text has utilised the term: "الْأَرْضِ" literally: 'the moon' as a symbol of beauty to address the same notion. Evidently, both languages possess different symbols which are grounded on divergent images to express specific notions and concepts. Such asymmetry in symbolism between languages springs from the different cultures each language belongs (Alwazna, 2014a). Based on the foregoing, the use of this type of modulation in this particular instance is obligatory to avoid producing an exotic, foreign and alien target text. In other words, if the English source text: 'you are beautiful as a rose' is rendered literally into Arabic as: "أَنْتَ جَمِيلَةٌ كَوْرَدِيَّةٍ" literally: 'you are beautiful as a rose', the target text will read unnaturally to the target reader as it is not the rose but rather the moon that is used for the description of the beauty of women in Arabic. Indeed, applying such obligatory modulation can be regarded as the touchstone of professional translators who possess complete control over both the original and the receptor language (Espunya, 2001, p. 547; Bahramy & Aidinlou, 2014, p. 10). This type of modulation may be categorised under communicative translation, which is concerned with the translation of a standard expression in the source language by a standard expression in the target language (Dickins et al., 2002). Hence the English source text: 'you are beautiful as a rose' has been rendered into Arabic as: "أَنْتَ جَمِيلَةٌ كَالْأَرْضِ" literally: 'you are beautiful as the moon'.

From the syntactic perspective, the English source text: 'you are beautiful as a rose' consists of subject: 'detached pronoun': 'you', and predicate: 'are beautiful as a rose', which is further split into verb: 'are', complement: 'beautiful' and prepositional phrase: 'as a rose', which is further divided into preposition: 'as', indefinite article: 'a' and noun: 'rose'. Likewise, the modulated Arabic target text: "أَنْتَ جَمِيلَةٌ كَالْأَرْضِ" literally: 'you are beautiful as the moon' is

composed of subject: "جُبَيْلَةَ" (جُبَيْلَةَ) 'detached pronoun': "أَنْتَ" (أَنْتَ) literally: 'you', predicate "مُبْتَدَأ" (مُبْتَدَأ) 'literally: 'beautiful' and prepositional phrase: "كَالْقَمَرِ" (كَالْقَمَرِ) literally: 'as the moon', which is further composed of preposition: "كَ" (كَ) literally: 'as' and noun: "الْقَمَرِ" (الْقَمَرِ) literally: 'the moon'. It goes without saying that the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text have similar syntactic structures, with the exception that the former contains verb 'to be', which does not exist in the latter. The literal Arabic translation: "أَنْتَ جُبَيْلَةَ كُوْرَدَةَ" (أَنْتَ جُبَيْلَةَ كُوْرَدَةَ) literally: 'you are beautiful as a rose' consists of subject: "أَنْتَ" (أَنْتَ) 'detached pronoun': "أَنْتَ" (أَنْتَ) literally: 'you', predicate: "جُبَيْلَةَ" (جُبَيْلَةَ) 'literally: 'beautiful' and prepositional phrase: "كُوْرَدَةَ" (كُوْرَدَةَ) literally: 'as a rose', which is further composed of preposition: "كَ" (كَ) literally: 'as' and noun: "كُوْرَدَةَ" (كُوْرَدَةَ) literally: 'a rose'. Needless to say, the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation possess identical syntactic structures.

#### **4. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Evidence suggests that translators establish links between specific manifestations of two different linguistic and cultural systems, one of which has already been given, whilst the other is subject to change. During the translation process, translators need to specify the type of the target audience, determine translation units, examine the source text, reproduce the situation that gives rise to the intended message and evaluate the stylistic effects. According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), translation methods can be divided into direct and oblique. Within the last category falls modulation.

Modulation can be defined as a variation of the message mode achieved through a change in the point of view. There are fixed or obligatory modulations and free or optional ones. The former is used in language dictionaries and grammar books. It should have overall acceptance and use rate. On the other hand, the latter serves as a solution for producing a target text that runs in line with the source text situation. The optional modulation will only be obligatory if it is recognised by target language dictionaries and grammar books, even if it is employed sufficiently.

There are ten types of modulation proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), these are: abstract for concrete (metonymy), explicative modulation, the part for the whole (synecdoche), one part for another (metonymy), reversal of terms, negation of the opposite (litotes), active to passive and vice versa, space for time (metalepsis), exchange of intervals for limits (in space and time) as well as change of symbol. Based on the data used, the present paper argues that both fixed or obligatory and free or optional modulations are employed in rendering texts from English into Arabic. Obligatory modulation has been used in four types, these are: explicative modulation, the part for the whole (synecdoche), one part for another (metonymy) and change of symbol. Conversely, optional modulation has been employed in six types, these are: abstract for concrete (metonymy), reversal of terms, negation of the opposite (litotes), active to passive and vice versa, space for time (metalepsis) as well as exchange of intervals for limits (in space and time). From the semantic perspective, the paper claims that obligatory modulations are adopted when the literal meaning is not intended, as in types two and three, when English and Arabic make use of different figurative words to express the same notion, as in type four or when they use different symbols to indicate the same concept, as in type ten. Contrariwise, optional modulations are employed to serve stylistic purposes, as in types one and eight, keep the words collocate with one another in the target text, as in type five, produce naturalness, as in type six, adopt preferred structures in the target text, as in type seven and specify space or time, as in type nine. Syntactically, the present paper argues that the English source text and the modulated Arabic target text have to some extent similar syntactic structures whenever Arabic starts with a nominal sentence, as in types one, five and ten. However, when Arabic starts with a verbal sentence, it will possess a different syntactic structure from that of the English source text, as in types two, three, four, six, seven, eight and nine. Finally, the modulated Arabic target text and the literal Arabic translation are syntactically identical

whenever they start with a nominal sentence, as in types one, five as well as ten and whenever they both begin with a verbal sentence, as in types three, four, six and nine. They differ syntactically when they possess different structures, as in types two, seven and eight. This paper is limited to the discussion and succinct analysis of the semantic and syntactic changes associated with the use of the ten types of modulation propounded by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) concerning the translation from English into Arabic. Further research is required to address the semantic and syntactic changes related to the use of modulation concerning the translation from Arabic into English and compare them with the current research results. Similar research is needed to identify the semantic and syntactic changes related to the use of modulation in translating between other originally unrelated languages.

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