

Misrepresentation of TL Collocations

An Analytical Study of the TL Ambiguous Equivalents with Special Reference to Badawi's Six Miscellaneous Dictionaries

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□ ABSTRACT □

This piece of research is an attempt to disclose the two-tiered significance of the chosen subject-matter: first, collocations are important to translate and at the same time their translation is not so simple as such. Second, collocations can be badly transplanted into TL text in what is known as MISREPRESENTATION due to the problems that translators may encounter, which if not skillfully handled, will result in disrupting the essence of their equivalents originally intended in the SL text. However, analysis shows us the possibility of subclassifying the problems of misrepresenting TL collocations into major problems relating to accuracy, data restrictions, redundancy, inconsistency and incoherency, and their acceptability; and minor problems relating to printing and spelling, independency, and grammatical shortcomings. This is providing that all of these problems have been discussed with special reference to six chosen miscellaneous dictionaries of Ahmad Zaki Badawi since appropriate and relevant examples could easily be extracted.

Keywords: Collocation; Misrepresentation of Collocations; Equivalence; Dictionary Compilation and Dictionary Entries; Consistency Vs Inconsistency of transference.

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سوء تقديم مقابلات رصف الكلام في اللغة الهدف دراسة تحليلية لضبابية المقابلات في اللغة الهدف تطبيقاً على ستة معاجم لـ أحمد زكي البدوي

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□ الملخص □

يأتي هذا البحث محاولةً لتبيان الأهمية ثنائية الجوانب للموضوع المعالج: أولاً إن رصف أو نظم الكلام موضوع حيوي للترجمة وبالوقت نفسه فإن ترجمته ليست بالسهولة المتوقعة. وثانياً قد يترجم رصف أو نظم للكلام بشكل سيء إلى النص الهدف فيما يُعرف بسوء التقديم أو النقل ومرد ذلك إلى المشاكل التي قد يواجهها المترجمون والتي تخلص إلى تخريب جوهر مقابلاتها التي يبغى النص الأصلي نقلها، فيما لو لم يوظف المترجمون كفاءاتهم في عملية النقل. حيث أظهر تحليل المشاكل هذه إمكانية تصنيفها إلى مجموعتين: المشاكل الرئيسية وهي مجموعة المشاكل التي تتعلق بالوضوح وحجم المعلومات والتكرار المقيت وضعف الترابط والجزالة بين مركبات نظم الكلام إلى جانب مدى تقبل القارئ الهدف لها. والمشاكل الثانوية التي يمكن حصرها في مسألة الأخطاء المطبعية والهجائية المتعددة، والاستقلالية، والجانب القواعدي النحوي. وهذا التحليل برمته قد اتخذ من ستة معاجم لـ أحمد زكي البدوي مرتعاً خصباً لينهل منها الأمثلة المناسبة ووثيقة الصلة بالموضوع.

كلمات مفتاحية: رصف/نظم الكلام؛ سوء تقديم رصف/نظم الكلام؛ التكافؤ؛ تصنيف القواميس ومفاتيح المفردات؛ تناغم وتناظر النقل/الترجمة.

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1. Introduction:

Unequivocally, a translation-that is transplanting the linguistico-cultural items of one language (often encoded and referred to as SL [Source Language]) into another language (often encoded and referred to as Target Language))-often witnesses multifarious difficulties that may conclusively end up with what is known as MISREPRESENTATION. However, because of the wide scope of this phenomenon, it is limited in this paper into the *misrepresentation of TL collocations*. By definition, *collocation* is the habitual co-occurrence of the lexical items that share remarkable features of semantic and syntactic dependencies (1). In translation, misrepresenting collocations in the target language will undoubtedly cause a semantic instability; this is so because, according to Larson (1984: 141), “knowing which words go together is an important part of understanding the meaning of a text and translating it well”. The dissimilarity of the ways in which English and Arabic lexical items are co-occurring results in collocational clashes; that is the TL extraordinary juxtaposition of the SL lexical items.

The main tenet of translating a text is to provide acceptable TL equivalents in the sense that the best translation is that which does not sound like a translation. Translation theoreticians are always obsessed with the determination to achieve this goal during the process of transference from the SL text to the TL text, in which linguistic and cultural aspects are mutually intermingled. In this paper, however, I have considered Badawi’s dictionaries (2) as the main corpus from which almost all examples have been systematically extracted. The reasons for choosing these dictionaries and not allotting to other references or dictionaries are many. First, there are enough examples to display, analyse and argue on. Second, to consult more references will lead to more space than is allowed thus avoiding tumultuous debatability.

Third, Badawi’s perspicacious contribution to the Arabic library in particular and to lexicography in general seems sufficient to consider and exemplify. The richness of Badawi’s dictionaries is manifested in the wide scope of subject matter, and in the extraneous efforts he has exerted to overcome translation obstacles that are often encountered whenever bilingual or multilingual transference is undertaken. However, this paper attempts to highlight the representation of TL collocations in the following six dictionaries among those compiled by Badawi, [see bibliography for details]:

- A. (1984) معجم مصطلحات العلوم الإدارية
- B. *Dictionary of Labour* (1988).
- C. *Dictionary of Occupations*. (1989).
- D. *Dictionary of Politics and International Relations*. (1989).
- E. *Dictionnaire des Termes Juridiques*. (1989).
- F. *Dictionary of Humanities, Fine Arts and Plastic Arts*. (1991).

In the light of these preliminaries of translation process and the relevant and inherent significance of collocation, we shall investigate the representation of TL (Arabic) collocations in Badawi’s dictionaries which, by and large, tackles issues relevant to *labour, occupations, politics and international relations, jurisdiction, humanities, fine arts and plastic arts*. This encompasses the *where, why and how* TL collocations are eventually suggested and introduced to recipients in the ways they appeared in Badawi’s dictionaries. Badawi admits in his introductions to these dictionaries that he did his best to provide TL

(Arabic) equivalents to SL (English) terms. As an important remark, This paper crucially intends to assess ONLY the TL equivalents that can be considered as collocations, and not all the recorded TL equivalents. This assessment is from a purely linguistico-translational perspective and not from the point of view of an exclusively restricted subject-matter, leaving space for other would-be-conducted-researches to pursue with other aspectual matters. In brief, it highlights the incentives behind Badawi's rendition of such collocations like: *free will* (F) as حرية الإرادة (1991: 150), (1991: 149) *free thinkers* (F) as أحرار الفكر (ibid: 149), *additional clause* (F) as ملحق الوثيقة (1989: 37), though they can be rendered as وثيقة ملحقة/ مرفقة/ مذيلة/ الخ and الإرادة الحرة، المفكرون الأحرار (3). The bracketed capital letter appearing and accompanying the SL and TL collocations refers directly to the dictionary that this collocation has been recorded among the above-mentioned six dictionaries.

2. Essentiality of This Research:

The essentiality of conducting this piece of research initially springs from a multi-directional view that will hopefully fill in the gap that can be summarized as follows: misrepresenting the TL collocations is a phenomenon that is the result of many succinctly noticeable faults. These are said to be noticeable due to their being unnoticed or ignored by the translator on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the skilful competent translator will simply recognise them because the otherwise would have drawn the first translator-that is, the author himself or the dictionary compiler, to rectify the occurring mishaps. To reiterate, this piece of research discloses evidences on the possible technicalities that will allow translators to overcome these stumbling blocks during TL rewording of the originally SL collocations.

The second element of essentiality of conducting this research lies in the act of enriching of the availability of TL collocations, represented in a way that will greatly help the translator in every relevant field. The third element of essentiality embodies the excessive need to update the changes occurring to the traditional methods of proposing TL collocations. At the same time this updating of the changes is occurring to the TL equivalents, it is, however, neutrally analysing and debating the various possibilities of encouraging the effectiveness of handling and adopting the well-represented TL collocations. Last but not least is affirming coherency and consistency upon introducing TL collocations.

By and large, these suggested elements of essentiality will be discussed in full below, especially when we practically divide the problems into two distinguishable categories as we shall soon see.

3. Problems of Misrepresentation of TL Collocations:

Due to the diversity of the problems of rendering collocations into TL text, it transpires that it is necessary to subclassify them into two divisions. The basis that this subclassification depends on, as it will be soon demonstrated when defining each of them, is *How optimal or minimal is the scale of misrepresentation, thematically and systematically.*

Accordingly, this piece of research tackles two-tiered problems: major problems and minor problems:

3.1. Major Problems:

By definition, major problems outline the principal and essential instances during which TL collocations are disclosing abnormal features that influence the acceptability and naturalness of their TL equivalents, thus, if left unresolved, they will indubitably belittle their quality; or even they may be considered unacceptable equivalents. Under the division of major problems, the following problems have been recognized; providing that excessive examples have been extracted in an attempt to help clarify the nuances of each of these problems.

3.1.1. Inaccuracy of TL Collocations:

TL collocations are inaccurate, at least from a purely translational point of view, if they fail to convey the same semantic message already intended in SL text. However, Hatim and Mason (1990: 62) have confirmed the need for the translator to be accurate when they quoted and explained the *cooperative principle* and one of *Gricean maxims*; they state "Manner: be perspicuous, avoid obscurity of expression, avoid ambiguity, be brief, be orderly". On the other hand, in their discussion of Savory's (1968: 54) *principles of translation*, Gutknecht and Rolle (1996: 296) reveal the goal of the translator to achieve either the transference of the 'words of the original' or the 'ideas of the original'. There are many apparent instances in Badawi's dictionaries where TL collocations are redeemed inaccurate, and even ambiguous, as in the following examples (although he sometimes expresses the intended meaning in the explanation that follows the TL equivalents):

Hired clappers (F): مجموعة المصفقين (1991: 166). The SL collocation *hired clappers* means (مجموعة) المصفقين المأجورين. If we scrutinise the proposed rendition, we find out that TL equivalent carries out the meaning of the SL collocate *clappers* only. However, *Hired*, i.e. المأجورين, is ignored in TL equivalent. Thus it is incorrect and inaccurate.

Camera script (F): نصّ الكاميرا (1991: 54). The introduced TL equivalent نصّ الكاميرا refers to either *the camera wrote the script* or *the script is written on the (frame of) camera*. However, SL collocation originally means the script is illustrated by camera shots, i.e. النصّ المزوّد بلقطات الكاميرا/المشروح بالصّور.

Communication, satellite (F): الاتصال بالأقمار الصناعية (1991: 75). The TL equivalent implies that communication is held *with* the satellite as the second party, whereas the SL intended collocation indicates that communication is held *with the help of*, or *by means of*, satellite, i.e. الاتصال عبر/عن طريق/بواسطة الأقمار الصناعية.

Erotic literature (F): الأدب المكشوف (1991: 125). The TL equivalent الأدب المكشوف does not necessarily, as well as straightforwardly, imply *erotic literature* simply because it does not specify the intended kind of literature as can be opposed to the الأدب المغلق/المغطى, i.e. literally *closed/covered literature*. In either suggested equivalent, there is no clear

indication to the implied meaning. However, *erotic literature* can be rendered as أدب الإثارة/الأدب الجنسي/الأدب العاطفي، or even أدب الغري.

Collision (E): (اصطدام السفن) (1989: 8). It is astonishing how SL zero collocation (4) is translated into the full TL collocation. *Collision* implies an accident when two or more people or vehicles hit each other while moving in different directions, and does not particularly specify the accident taking place by ships. The TL collocation تصادم السفن can be back-translated as *ship collision* which is the accurate and appropriate equivalent.

Chamber of Commerce (A): غرفة تجارية (1984: 87). The back-translation of the suggested TL equivalent is *a commercial chamber* which indicates any common chamber that is specified for commercial (marketing and purchasing) purposes. This is different from the essence of SL collocation which denotes the country's highest administrative commercial entity (5). Badawi is translating a term of an administrative science nature and not merely a specific collocational construction. Furthermore, this common collocation can be found in almost all other general purpose dictionaries.

Socio-technical system (A): النظام الاجتماعي و المادي (1984: 371). The technical element of SL collocation is missed in the TL equivalent which should be النظام الاجتماعي التكنولوجي; or it might be النظام السوسيوثقني/السوسيوكنولوجي (6). Back-translation strategy proves to be the best technique to reveal the disturbance caused through translation.

Life, after (F): الحياة الأخرى (1991: 16). The TL collocate الأخرى means *different, dissimilar, (an)other*, etc. *Afterlife* stands for الحياة الآخرة، الحياة بعد الموت... الخ، i.e. *life after death*. which is definitely unlike the adopted TL equivalent الأخرى.

Accelerated motion (F): الحركة السريعة (1991:12). The TL equivalent الحركة السريعة means *quick/fast motion*, whereas SL collocation *accelerated motion* means الحركة المتسارعة/المتسارعة/الآخذة في السرعة/التسارع، i.e. *the movement that is gradually gaining speed*.

Foreign minister (D): وزير الخارجية (1989: 59). This is almost an inaccurate TL equivalent because it generally stands for *Foreign Secretary* (UK) or *Secretary of State* (USA), whereas *Foreign Minister* stands for an official in the *Foreign Office*, i.e. موظف في وزارة الخارجية which can also be found in almost all other dictionaries. Other titles may include: *Junior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs*, and *the Parliamentary under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs*. However, they are all MPs (members of the Parliament); but *the Secretary of State* is an MP, and a member of the Cabinet.

3.1.2. Lexicographical Data Limitation:

The translator will be glad to realise that the information, he is seeking in order to provide acceptable and natural equivalents to TL receptors, can be found sometimes ready-made to handle from different sources, of which the lexicon/dictionary is one essential tool. However, since the translator is left with a wide scope of TL collocations to introduce the closest equivalent, this requires the consultation of many dictionaries whether specialised or general -purpose. The reality of not consulting many different dictionaries would undoubtedly fall the translator in the trap of *lexicographical data limitation* as the term may designate. That is, many TL equivalents could have been found ready as stated by other dictionaries, the thing that could have saved strenuous efforts seeking and formulating appropriate TL equivalents individually on the one hand [7]; that is formulating TL collocations by the dictionary compiler himself without recourse to other ready-formulated equivalents. And on the other hand, it avails a spectrum of equivalents by different lexicographers that will enrich the possibility, before the translator, of choosing the required TL equivalents. The following examples will demonstrate this lexicographical phenomenon:

Policy of austerity (D): سياسة التقشف (1989: 309). This is a perfect TL equivalent, but the questionable point of focus is that this is the only collocation that Badawi mentions under the node (8) *policy*. Whereas under the same node *policy*, Abdallah (1982: 216-219) mentions 215 collocations, which is comparably quite lucrative in the TL text.

International waters which can be rendered as المياه الدولية is a significant and recurrent collocation that is widely used in the world of politics and diplomacy and still not found in Badawi's *Dictionary of Politics and international Relations*. On the other hand, Badawi mentions *international rivers* and renders it as نهور دولية, but this does not cover *high seas*, i.e. أعالي البحار, or بحر عام i.e. literally *international sea*. Therefore, this poses a kind of lexicographical data limitation to Badawi's dictionaries.

Supreme Court (E) is rendered by Badawi (1989: 73) as محكمة النقض أو التمييز, whereas Baalbaki and Baalbaki (1998: 932) render it as المحكمة العليا. This latter translation is apparently much more recommended than the former simply because the former might indicate that it is not the *highest legal entity*, thus hierarchically speaking, there is some higher institution above it. Whereas the latter straightforwardly designates its supremacy.

Badawi (1989: 38) renders *solicitor-general* (E) as المحامي العام. There are two points to raise here: first, according to Baalbaki and Baalbaki (1998: 876) *solicitor general* stands for النائب العام المساعد or مساعد النائب العام. Second, according to Baalbaki and Baalbaki (ibid: 73) *attorney general* stands for النائب العام. Comparing these two suggestive equivalents to that introduced by Badawi, we find out that Badawi's TL equivalent is mixing them together and does not differentiate between *solicitor-general* النائب/المحامي العام and his *deputy solicitor-general* مساعده. In other words, Badawi seems to be more literal in providing TL equivalents.

3.1.3. Excessive Repetition of Dictionary Entries:

Dictionary entries are common to be repeated in different places (or references) in a dictionary, especially when this matter touches upon the arrangement of constituents within one construction as the case with collocations. A collocation consists of a core word called *node* and other co-occurring words called *collocates*. It may happen that, within one dictionary, a collocation may appear firstly under the node (or under one of its collocates) and later reappears under its collocates (or under its node) in different places. In this case, there emerges no need to repeat the explanation and detailed information every time a collocation reappears in the same dictionary; because this will create redundancy and unnecessary gross lexicographical data that can be replaced by extra relevant dictionary entries. In the following examples, however,

Cinematographic fade-in (F): الظهور أو البزوغ السينمائي (1991: 67)

Cinematographic fade-out (F): الإختفاء أو الأفتول السينمائي (1991: 67)

Badawi illustrates each TL equivalent in detail (9), and elsewhere mentions them again as follows:

Fade-in, cinematographic (F): الظهور أو البزوغ السينمائي (1991: 133)

Fade-out, cinematographic (F): الإختفاء أو الأفتول السينمائي (1991: 134)

As it is obvious in these two groups of examples, the latter group reiterates literally the same wording TL equivalents with a slight difference that is the rearrangement of collocates within SL collocations. It suffices to hint out to the reappearing of a TL equivalent with a comment that refers to a previous version and its relevant explanation.

3.1.4. Inconsistency and Incoherency of TL Collocations:

Disharmony and lack of agreement characterise the essence of the two features upon proposing TL equivalents to SL collocations: *inconsistency and incoherency*. The following pairs of examples extracted from Badawi's dictionaries reveal the multi-layered disharmony of the proposed TL equivalents:

Example 1:

a. *Graveyard shift* (B): مناوبة منتصف الليل (1988: 161)

b. *Shift, graveyard* (B): مناوبة ليلية صباحية (1988: 334)

As it is clear in (a) and (b), Badawi renders the same SL collocation differently, *graveyard* (i.e. مقبرة، مدفن، جبانة) is rendered as منتصف الليل and ليلية صباحية though it does not mean الليل but metaphorically denotes *darkness*. To add, he mentions different *kinds* of shifts: *night shift* (B): مناوبة ليلية (1988: 250), *day shift* (B): مناوبة نهائية (1988: 334), *night work* (B): عمل ليلي (1988: 425), *work, round-the-clock* (B): عمل مستمر (1988: 427), etc.

Example 2:

a. *Across-the-board increase* (B): علاوة عامة (1988: 13)

b. *Across-the-board settlement* (B): تسوية تشمل جميع العمال (1988: 13)

SL collocate *across-the-board* should be consistently rendered into Arabic as either *تشمل جميع العمال* or *عامّة*.

Example 3:

- a. *Peak listening time* (F): *وقت ذروة الاستماع* (1991: 276)
- b. *Peak viewing hours* (F): *ساعات الذروة للمشاهدة* (ibid)

These two examples reveal that the same SL collocational pattern (*adjective + gerund* used *adjectively + noun*) is rendered differently. The problem of incoherency lies in the TL equivalents where *ساعات الذروة للمشاهدة*, i.e. *peak viewing hours*, should be modelled after *وقت ذروة الاستماع*, i.e. *peak listening time*. Thus, for coherency reasons, *peak viewing hours* should be translated as *ساعات ذروة المشاهدة*, which suits the TL collocational pattern ((المبتدأ + الخبر (شبه جملة المضاف و المضاف إليه)).

Example 4:

- a. *National character* (F): *الطابع القومي للشخصية* (1991: 252)
- b. *National dance* (F): *الرقصة الوطنية* (ibid)

In order to be coherent in rendering these two collocations, TL equivalents should have the same collocational pattern as follows: either to say *الشخصية الوطنية* for collocation (a), or say *الطابع القومي للرقصة* for collocation (b).

Example 5:

- a. *Ballet opera* (F): *باليه أوبرا* (1991: 42)
- b. *Ballet pantomime* (F): *باليه البانتوميم* (ibid)

Badawi has transliterated these SL collocations though they can be translated as follows: (a) *المسرحية الغنائية الراقصة*, (b) *المسرحية الإيمائية الراقصة*. On the other hand, Badawi renders the following collocations rather differently:

Example 6:

- a. *Ballet music* (F): *موسيقى الباليه* (1991: 42)
- b. *Ballet clubs* (F): *أندية الباليه* (1991: 41)
- c. *Ballet film* (F): *فيلم الباليه* (1991: 41)

It is astonishing to find incongruous TL collocational patterns to the same SL collocational pattern despite having the same collocate/node *ballet* occupying the same position in this group of examples as well as the above one.

Example 7:

- a. *Promotion by selection* (B): *الترقية بالأقدمية* (1988: 299)
- b. *Promotion by seniority* (B): *الترقية بالاستحقاق* (ibid)

These two examples show that TL equivalents are mixed up, that is, الترقية بالاستحقاق should be allocated for (a), and الترقية بالأقدمية should be allocated for (b). Badawi has explained each TL equivalent appropriately but assigned the TL equivalent differently.

Example 8:

Payment by results (A): الأجر بالإنتاج (1984: 301). SL collocate *results* means النتائج, whereas the proposed TL equivalent الإنتاج means *product*. Therefore, TL equivalent should be الأجر اعتماداً على النتائج. This is so though, contextually speaking, *results* here by implication means *production*.

Example 9:

- a. *Work ecology* (B): أيكولوجية العمل (1988: 416)
- b. *Work physiology* (B): فسيولوجية العمل (ibid: 419)
- c. *Work psychology* (B): علم النفس الصناعي (ibid: 419)

It is obvious in these three examples that Badawi has not rendered SL collocational pattern harmoniously, especially by providing different TL collocational patterns. More specifically, he assigns TL equivalents that still carry the ‘foreign’ sense though it is not difficult to provide the ‘domestic’ sense. *Foreign* in the sense that there exists no TL equivalent and thus there emerges the need to transliterate or invent a supposedly suitable equivalent; and *domestic* in the sense that an appropriate equivalent already exists. Following example (c), examples (a) and (b) can be rendered as follows: علم التبيؤ الصناعي, and علم وظائف الأعضاء الصناعي. Again, it is mostly recommended that these entries need a kind of paraphrasing translation, i.e. an explanation of the Arabic terms to be clearer and more expressive.

3.1.5. Favourite/Acceptable TL Equivalents:

As proposed by Badawi in the dictionaries above-listed, many TL equivalents designate various *degrees of acceptability*. However, they can be upgraded to be the *favourite TL equivalents* according to certain collocational criteria. The acceptability and unacceptability of particular TL collocations, Lyons (1966: 297) propounds, is determined by many factors such as “logical consistency, material motivation, social convention, and so on”. Such factors will help acknowledge the conditions of determining why a TL equivalent can be held *acceptable*, and why at another stage, it can be the *favourite*. In the following examples, light is cast on the TL equivalents as suggested by Badawi; an analysis, with relevant examples, of the reasons that make them more favourable is then followed:

Application form (B): طلب استخدام (1988: 30). Usually in Arabic, it is said استمارة توظيف أو عمل, when referring to the process of filling in the information sheet/s about personal qualifications and other related issues *upon applying for a job*. Badawi’s proposed TL equivalent طلب استخدام is relatively acceptable but might cause a semantic ambiguity of whether or not it refers to some formal written or spoken (piece of) information. This is because an applicant may, in one way or another, apply for a job orally without filling in

an application form; whereas *عمل* أو *استمارة توظيف* denotatively imply an engagement in specific written process. To add, Badawi (ibid) mentions the same TL equivalent for the SL collocation *application blank* (10).

Autobiography (F): *تاريخ الذات، تاريخ شخصي* (1991: 36). The SL zero collocation is rendered into Arabic as if it were referring to one whole nation, because *تاريخ* is usually co-occurring with collocates like *تاريخ أمة/حضارة/شعب...الخ*. When it comes to the story of a person's life written by person himself, it is *السيرة الذاتية* or sometimes it is circulated as *الترجمة الذاتية*.

Certified copy (E): *النسخة الثانية من الأصل* (1989: 28). This TL equivalent, as chosen by Badawi, may jeopardise the intended meaning of the SL collocation. This equivalent *النسخة الثانية من الأصل*, which means *the second copy of the original*, may carry the inclination that there is the first copy of the original, and this is the second. Therefore, the first copy may deeply indicate that it is far better than the second one. By contrast, *نسخة طبق الأصل* disambiguates the first possibility, and stresses the implication of its being the copy that exactly resembles the original. Baalbaki and Baalbaki (1998: 164) render *certified copy* by providing a zero TL equivalent as *المصدقة: نسخة مصدق عليها رسمياً*.

In the following examples, Badawi provides different TL equivalents to SL collocations as follow:

- a. *Maternity leave* (B): *اجازة الحمل* (1988: 291)
- b. *Confinement leave* (B): *اجازة الوضع* (1988: 86)
- c. *Maternity leave* (B): *اجازة الحمل و الوضع* (1988: 239), and again as *leave, maternity* (B) *اجازة الوضع و الحمل* (ibid: 226).

It is obvious that semantic implication may differ in one TL equivalent from others, thus *الحمل*, which literally means *pregnancy*, that is the period preceding *delivery* is different from *الوضع*, which literally means *delivery*, that is the stage when a child is delivered. When Badawi juxtaposes *الحمل* with *الوضع*, that is *pregnancy* with *delivery*, he extends the period during which pregnant women are *granted leave*. As far as the denotational sense of the word, these two proposed TL collocates do not directly refer to the after-delivery period (or post-natal), i.e. *بعد الوضع أو الولادة*. However, there is a possibility to encompass the various stages of pre-natal and post-natal periods in one TL equivalent. This is so by suggesting *إجازة الأمومة* as a famous TL equivalent. The TL collocate *الأمومة* engulfs all the stages that relate the process of child-delivery.

3.1.6. Expanded/Contracted TL Collocations:

Many a time, it happens that Badawi has used many words to transfer the semantic message of TL collocation, though there is a possibility of transferring it in more or less fewer words and still expressing it clearly and denotatively. This is known as the *expansion* of TL equivalent. On the other hand, Badawi resorts to the strategy of affording fewer words in the TL as equivalents to SL collocation but, in doing so, he creates a kind of ambiguity as a result of not providing enough TL collocates that deliver the appropriate message. This is also known as *contraction*. The following examples will illuminate these two translation phenomena as implemented by Badawi in his dictionaries:

Plant rules (B): لائحة نظام العمل بالمنشأة (1988: 288). The elongation of this TL equivalent does not actually add up to the accuracy of SL collocation. لائحة نظام العمل (group or list of) regulations/laws/ institutions/ rules, etc. Therefore, *plant rules* can be rendered as قانون المنشأة, in which قانون replaces لائحة نظام العمل; or bluntly, it can be rendered as قواعد المنشأة.

Computer programmer (C): واضع البرامج للأجهزة الحاسبة الإلكترونية (1989: 59). It seems that Badawi has rendered this SL collocation by explaining each of its constituents. That is, *computer* is rendered as الأجهزة الحاسبة الإلكترونية, which can be easily rendered as a shorter form مبرمج الحاسوب (أو الكمبيوتر). واضع البرامج can also be rendered as a shorter form مبرمج. Collectively, *computer programmer* is equivalent to مبرمج الحاسوب.

Career training (B): التدريب للنمو الوظيفي (1988: 70). We do not say in Arabic التدريب, rather we say التدريب بغية/ بهدف/ سعياً وراء/ على. الخ النمو الوظيفي. This can be expressed in fewer words such as التدريب الوظيفي, thus providing the intended message and, at the same time, avoiding the fall in the trap of misrepresenting TL collocation.

Training, remedial (B): تدريب تصويب الخطأ (1988: 374). There is a straightforward TL equivalent to *remedial*, which is علاجي whereas تصويب الخطأ, as suggested by Badawi, is an explanation of *remedial*. Therefore, we can implement the direct TL equivalent as تدريب علاجي.

Training, versatile (B): تدريب فني متنوع (1988: 377). In this example, it suffices to provide TL equivalent as تدريب متنوع, because the inclusion of the unnecessary TL collocate فني, i.e. *technical/professional/ vocational*, is redundant. It is not clear on what basis this TL collocate is included; it is as if it were taken in granted that any training is *technical* i.e. مهني in nature. But this is not always true, simply because not every training is technical and it is as versatile as are the branches of knowledge. Likewise, Badawi's translation of *government administrators* (C) as المديرون الإداريون في الحكومة (1989: 115) is

expanding TL equivalent *administrators* as *المديرون الإداريون*, although not every *administrator* is necessarily *مدير*, but definitely *إداري*. In brief, *government administrators* can be rendered as *إداريو الحكومة*.

The following examples demonstrate Badawi's implementation of contraction, as opposed to expansion, in the sense that he uses fewer words as equivalents, but creates insufficient TL equivalents, because of the inaccuracy they cause or due to their emerged ambiguity:

Book binders (C): *عمال التجليد* (1989: 34). This TL equivalent is not making clear what is meant by *التجليد*. On the other hand, it may cause ambiguity with something relating to *icing* and *ice services*. Therefore, it would be much clearer if this TL equivalent is extended to refer to *book binding (workers)* as *عمال تجليد الكتب*.

Able-bodied labour (B): *عمال أكفاء* (1988: 7). It is obvious that the SL collocation significantly refers to the physical ability of workers, whereas TL equivalent designates a quite general reference to workers' ability, but does not specify the physical one, as does the SL collocation. Therefore, this contracted equivalent should be expanded by providing some additional collocate or collocates to make it more accurate and indicative, as for instance, *عمال ذوو القدرة البدنية*.

So far, we have debated the kind of problems that, in essence, touch upon the reasons that lead to mistranslating the SL collocations perfectly into Arabic. This is akin to thematic elements such as those discussed so far. But in the remaining discussion, we shall promulgate issues that are secondary in effect towards the above-debated points. The former have been prescribed Major Problems whereas these belonging to the latter classification are named Minor Problems.

3.2. Minor Problems:

The following issues have been monitored and given the title *minor problems* because they are second in importance to the first part of *major problems* of this paper. They are issues relating to *printing and spelling*, *grammatical mishaps*, *stylistic presentation*, and finally *translational methodology*. Although this paper highlights TL equivalents in the first place, it cannot go without co-referring to SL collocations in the sense that the translator is always engaged in the process outlined as Source Language – Transference – Target Language. This should remind all those engaged in the field of translation theory and practice that the translator is three characters in one. First, he is the *reader* of the SL text. Second, he is the *analyst* and expert in handling the text in detail. Third, he is the *writer* of the resulting TL Text:

3.2.1. printing and Spelling:

It may seem, as an initial impression, a ridiculous idea to trace *printing and spelling* in such dictionaries. But when it becomes a relatively recurring matter, it is necessary to

spotlight it so that rectifying procedures can be undertaken in order to upgrade and avoid them. Examples of printing and spelling mistakes are too much to mention, here are some, for illustration:

Decoration desing (F): التصميم الزخرفي (1991: 100); [*Design*].

Cost writer (F): الكاتب الظل (1991:153); [*Ghost*].

Qualitative indicisulaism (F): فردية كيفية (1991: 303); [*individualism*].

Casual explanation (F): تفسير علقى (1991: 59); [*causal*].

Factor comparaiison (B): طريقة مقارنة العوامل (1988: 142); [*comparison*].

Outside broadcast (F): إذاعة خارجية (1991: 50); [*broadcast*].

Cerificate of competency (B): شهادة المقدرة الفنية (الصلاحية) (1988: 71); [*certificate*].

Certificate of fitness (B): شهادة القُدوة على العمل (ibid); [*القُدرة*].

Absentesim (B): ظاهرة الغياب (1988: 9); [*Absenteeism*].

Base time (B): الوقت الأساسي (1988: 45); [*basic*].

Legitimate sususpicion (E): التشكك الشرعي (1989: 222); [*suspicion*].

Chemicals engineers (C): المهندسون الكيميائيون (1989: 48), [*chemical*].

Fiannce clerk (C): كاتب شؤون مالية (1989: 99), [*finance*].

Gain charing (A): المشاركة في الربح (1984: 186), [*sharing*].

Athlets (C): الرياضيون المحترفون (1989: 19), [*athletes*].

Godd neighbourhood (E): معاهدة حسن الجوار (1989: 64), [*good*].

3.2.2. Dependency of TL Collocations:

By *dependency of TL collocations*, it is meant the extent Badawi has reached in conglomerating specialised terms as dictionary-entries in one single specialised volume (or dictionary); and whether or not he has intermingled them with other terms that supposedly belong to other field/s of specialisation. That is, for example, Badawi (1984: 6) states in the introduction to his *Dictionary of Administrative Sciences Terms* معجم مصطلحات العلوم الإدارية (1984) :

This dictionary does not mention terms that relate to financial matters such as financial administration and trade operation, due to the fact that they demand special efforts, and this is often handled by other specialised dictionaries....

(my translation)

However, scrutinising this specialised *Dictionary of Administrative Sciences Terms*, we simultaneously discover that the following TL collocations are fundamentally affiliated to *financial matters* such as *financial administration* and *trade operation* (all these examples are extracted from the same dictionary that we have referred to as (A)):

Capital-labour ratio: النسبة بين رأس المال و العمال (1984: 82)

Chamber of Commerce: غرفة تجارية (ibid: 87)

Emerson efficient plan: خطة اميرسون للأجور التشجيعية (ibid: 159)

Earnings, spendable: صافي الأجر (ibid: 154)

Loans for employees: قروض العاملين (ibid: 248)

Loan, interest-free: قرض بدون فائدة (ibid)

Wage surveys: الدراسات الميدانية للأجور (ibid: 424)

Public finance: المالية العامة (ibid: 329)

Trade mark: العلامة التجارية (ibid: 394)

Trade register: السجل التجاري (ibid: 395)

Badawi (1984: 299-301), however, mentions 17 TL collocations of which *pay*—or one of its compounds—is the node. The following are but few to mention:

Pay, biweekly: صرف الأجور كل أسبوعين (ibid: 299)

Pay, deadheading: أجر الانتقال الإضافي (ibid)

Pay, downtime: الأجر أثناء وقف العمل (ibid)

Payroll tax: ضريبة كسب العمل (ibid: 301).

From these examples, as quoted from one of Badawi's dictionaries, it seems that they significantly relate to *financial matters*. Henceforward, TL collocations are not as independent as it has been claimed in the introduction.

3.2.3. Disorientated Translation Methodology:

Badawi explains his methodology at the beginning of each of his dictionaries. He claims that the flow of translation is from English into French into Arabic (i.e. انكليزي - فرنسي - عربي). However, what we see in many cases is that he is transferring from French into English into Arabic (see endnote 6). In the following example, Badawi has copied the French collocation *blocus pacifique* into English then he renders it into Arabic:

Pacific blockade (D): حصار سلمي (1989: 101).

It is obvious that what Badawi has done is re-ordering of the collocates of the French collocational pattern *noun + adjective* into the English collocational pattern *adjective + noun*.

There is no need to copy the French collocation since indubitably there is a ready-made English equivalent which is *peaceful siege*, i.e. الحصار السلمي. As far as translation theory is concerned, this is known as *dynamic equivalence*, which is different from the *formal equivalence* that suggests the copying of the flow of constituents of SL structure (this is not to mention the ambiguity that may arise from allocating *pacific* instead of *peaceful* because the former often denotes المحيط الهادئ) [for more information about the extended definitions of *formal* and *dynamic* types of *equivalence*, see Nida 1964: 171-177]. However, one interpretation of the implementation of the dynamic equivalence is that

when there is a ready-made equivalent, it is mandatory to use it (Newmark 1996: 1-5). Here follows another example:

Coexistence pacifique (French)

Pacific or peaceful co-existence (D): التعايش السلمي (ibid).

The same argument can be run on this example with the difference that Badawi suggests the either/or of *pacific* or *peaceful* collocates. To add, the following example also demonstrates the above-explained phenomenon:

Force publique (French)

Armed and police forces (E): قوة عامة (1989: 115)

The TL equivalent obviously reflects the literal message of the French collocation whereas Badawi's proposed equivalent does not reflect the message of the English collocation, which should be قوات الجيش و الشرطة).

3.2.4. Grammatical Mishaps:

Another noticeable problem in Badawi's dictionaries which can be best classified under minor problems is the *grammatical mishaps*. This problem is grammatical in nature, touches upon the syntactic cohesion of the collocational constituents, and hence disturbs the flow of collocational pattern or TL equivalents. The following examples explain the implication of the phenomenon of *grammatical mishaps*:

Audio-visual teaching, aids specialist (C): وسائل الإيضاح التعليمية (وسائل الإيضاح (1989: 21). This TL equivalent reveals that there is no need for the *conjunction* expressed in Arabic by الواو in البصرية و السمعية و التعليمية. In fact, the two collocates السمعية والبصرية, i.e. *audio-visual*, are adjectives that qualify the phrase وسائل الإيضاح التعليمية, i.e. *teaching aids*. Hence, it is usually said in Arabic وسائل الإيضاح التعليمية, irrespective of the need for the conjunction الواو after التعليمية, otherwise the demonstrative adjectives السمعية والبصرية will be, thematically speaking, expressing things quite different from التعليمية and this is not what is initially proposed by SL collocation.

Another example is:

Religion, evolutionary theory (F): النظرية التطورية للدين (1991: 312). The grammatical mishap in this example touches upon firstly the SL collocation which should take one of the following possibilities:

- A. Religious evolutionary theory
- B. Religion, evolutionary theory of

This is so because SL collocation does not run smoothly, from a collocational point of view. If we want to translate it literally, it stands for النظرية التطورية للدين which inconsistently collocates النظرية التطورية, i.e. *evolutionary theory*, with الدين, i.e. *religion*. To

have the acceptable semantic and grammatical TL equivalent *النظرية التطورية للدين*, we should resort to either possibility already referred to as (a) or (b). However, (b) is more recommended because Badawi mentions a similar example in which he implements *of religion* rather than *religious* as in:

Religion, functional theory of (F): النظرية الوظيفية للدين (ibid: 313).

These are some of the main points that can be categorised under minor problems (although there can be raised other issues relating to *stylistic presentation* and other relevant areas such as the layout, but since this piece of research concentrates on, analytically speaking, the collocational perspective, they are left for other future analyses of such dictionaries).

4. Eliminating Misrepresentation of TL Collocations:

Having analysed the major and minor problems that lead to misrepresenting TL collocations, the translator should be after all obsessed with the idea adopting the suitable mechanisms to help eliminate the resulting misrepresentation. A challenging procedure for the translator in such cases is *creativity*. "Creativity in translation starts where imitation stops", says Peter Newmark (1996: 9). Creativity is then blocking imitation and opening the way in front of the translator to reveal his competence in solving the most daunting problems in translation, and in translating collocations in particular. A translator is not confined to follow a specific streamline through the process of rendering, whether finalised by his predecessors or lately invented—since this makes him entrapped by literal translation. On the contrary, he is free to select what he sees suitable and functionable during the process of translation. Collocations, however, possess the cohesive and coherent characteristics that potentially characterise collocations make their translation a fertile land for translator's talent and skilfulness.

Tyler's *laws of translation* (16) also serve as a starting point for the translator to bear in mind the importance of transferring the *idea* and *style* of the original text, but at the same time, "having all the ease of the original composition" (Tytler 1791). Accordingly, in order to eliminate the misrepresentation of TL collocations in translation, special attention is due to the subclassified groups of problems: the major and the minor. First, the translator should concentrate on: adopting accuracy, providing wide range of deeper data analyses, avoiding redundancy, aiming at achieving coherency and consistency, and seeking the most-would-be acceptable TL equivalents. Second, all types of problems cause unparallel conclusion including the minor problems. To overcome these nuances of minor problems, the translator is supposed to check, whatever it may cost, the possible methods to stop these minor problems be blockade to TL receptors of the SL collocations.

5. Conclusion:

Eventually, in this piece of research, we have endeavoured to cast light on important and practical deficiencies throughout the process of rendering TL collocations as presented in Badawi's six dictionaries. This is in the hope that by spotlighting these weaknesses, and yet suggesting possible technicalities to amending them, the outcome proves to be an attempt to complete what Badawi has started. On the other hand, it highlights the significance of Badawi's contribution to the field of translation, to translators,

lexicographers and to enriching the Arabic library in general, from the perspective of the different mechanisms he has implemented in rendering TL collocations.

Areas that are crucial to the acceptability and naturalness of TL equivalents have been stressed and carefully exemplified in order to widen the scope of assessing and re-adjusting what we have called deficiencies of rendering TL collocations. Many equivalents are considered inaccurate because they do not provide the essence of SL collocations. Many TL collocations have not been recorded in these dictionaries although they can be found in other general-purpose and specialised dictionaries. We have called this type of shortcoming lexicographical data limitation. Many TL collocations have also been excessively repeated in detail, or incoherently and inconsistently treated, thus creating a sense of redundancy. Among other recognised problems are the fluctuation between the acceptable and favourite TL equivalents, and the implementation of extended equivalent where a shorter one stands efficient, or using shorter equivalent where other extended collocates are needed to utterly provide the intended SL message. These are the major problems, whereas others relating to printing or spelling, dependency of TL collocations, disorientated translational methodology, and grammatical mishaps are hierarchically considered minor problems.

However, this research analyses the problems of committing considerable mistakes upon the rendition of collocations, and exclusively focuses on six of Badawi's dictionaries (although there are other dictionaries not mentioned here) from the collocational perspective which opens the window for other analytical projects to debate other TL equivalents assessing, where possible, the areas that would improve the overall outcome of the underlying process of translation thus compilation of such beneficial dictionaries.

Endnotes:

1. For more information on the definition of collocation, see Firth (1969: 194-195), Mitchell (1971: 52), Halliday (1961: 276), and Palmer (1995: 75-76) among others.
2. Ahmad Zaki Badawi is a professor at the Institute of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University, Egypt. He has worked as a member of many Arab League Committees like the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (المنظمة العربية للثقافة والعلوم), Arab Labour Organisation (منظمة العمل العربية), etc. It is quite amazing that Badawi has compiled these specialised dictionaries of different branches of knowledge since on the one hand he is not originally a lexicographer, and on the other, his field of speciality applies to social sciences more than it does to politics, international relations or jurisdiction.
3. The bracketed capital letter following SL (English) collocation refers directly to Badawi's dictionary from which it has been quoted. This is providing that I have numbered Badawi's six dictionaries as A, B, C, D, E and F. It is necessary to refer to these dictionaries in this way because sometimes more than one dictionary was published in the same year, as for example dictionaries B, C and E which were published in 1989.
4. See Mitchell (1971: 52) for the definition of zero collocation.
5. Fawq el-Adah (1979: 62), Henni (1985: 57), and Khatib (2000: 122) translate *Chamber of Commerce* as *غرفة التجارة*.
6. The Arabic Language Academy in Cairo (Al-Khatib 2000: 999) permits the use of clipping (i.e. النحت) when necessary as in *electro-magnetic*, i.e. *كهرومغناطيسي* which implies *كهربائي-مغناطيسي*, etc.
7. In the introduction to his (1989: 6) *Dictionnaire Des Termes Juridiques*, Badawi states "the legal system in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Northern-African Arab countries borrows rules from the French legal system, which mostly differs from the laws of British legal system to the extent that there exist no English equivalents to French legal terms. This leads us to formulate English sentences as equivalents to these French terms" (my translation).
8. Jones and Sinclair (1974: 16) define the node as "an item whose total pattern of co-occurrence with other words is under examination". They define the collocate as "any item which appears with the node within a specified environment" (ibid).
9. For more information on the details provided on these TL equivalents, see Badawi (1991: 67).
10. See Sahhaf (1997: 13) who renders *application blank* as *طلب العمل*.
11. A.F. Tytler, whose *Essay on the Principles of Translation*, first published in 1791, was the first book in English devoted to translation studies, propounds three 'laws of translation':
 - i. That the translator should give a complete transcript of the ideas of the original work.
 - ii. That the style and manner of writing should be of the same character with that of the original.
 - iii. That the translator should have all the ease of original composition.

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