



University Centre of Abdelhafid Bousouf - Mila
2022-2023 Semestre 3

English 2nd Year (G: 4,5 & 6)

– Lesson 03 – Catford's Translation Shifts



Image

Staff pédagogique

Nom	Grade	Institut	Adresse e-mail
Aissa DJEHICHE	Ph.D Holder	Literatures & Foreign Languages	aissadjehiche82@gmail.com

Etudiants concernés

Institut	Département	Année	Spécialité
Literatures and Foreign Languages	Foreign Languages	2 nd Year	English Language

Lesson's Objectives : By the the end of this lesson, students will be aware of many translation shifts that occur when translating between English and Arabic as well as they will raise their awareness of :

- Some lexical and grammatical differences between English and Arabic.
- Techniques to translate words/items; and
- Techniques to translate phrases and sentences.

1. John. C. Catford 1965 :

He is a Scottish linguist and phonetician¹. As he was interested in linguistics, he approached translation from a linguistic perspective. His book on translation is entitled as '*A Linguistic Theory of Translation 1965*' in which he introduced the concept of « Translation Shifts ». He defines these shifts as « departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL»² i.e. they are deviations from word-for-word translation. He categorized these shifts into two types : **Level shifts** and **Category shifts**³. Most of these shifts are concerned with syntax, morphology and semantics.

A. Level shifts : are changes that occur on the grammatical and lexical levels when expressing a situation in another language.

1. **From grammatical level into lexical level** : moving from different past tenses into one lexis that refers to them.

e.g. : I have been writing/ I was writing/ I will have been writing = كنت أكتب/ كتبت =

2. **From lexical level into grammatical level** : moving from one lexical item into a phrase or a sentence.

e.g. : WOW = هذا مذهل/ يا لها من معجزة/ سبحان الله =

B. Category shifts : are changes that occur on many linguistic levels. They are divided into four categories.

1. **Structure shifts** : when moving from one language to another, the sequence of grammatical items changed especially between passive and active forms.

e.g. : **Active**_ لقد قمت بإزالة رسالة

Passive_ The message was removed/ unsent message.

2. **Class shifts** : when moving from one language to another, the word class (noun, verb, Adj., Adv., ...etc) changed. For instance the noun in an Arabic sentence can be turned into a verb in an English sentence.

e.g. : أنا سعيد بمساعدتك -

- I am happy to help you

3. **Unit shifts** : when moving from one language to another, a phrase or an expression can be changed with only one unit/item of a language, usually a verb or a noun.

e.g. : - أتركك في رعاية الله وحفظه

- Farewell !

4. **Intra-system shifts** : when moving from one language to another, a change within the same language occur particularly at the level of numbers and type of nouns.

A. At the level of numbers : when translating these examples into English

e.g. : - كتابان، نصائح، تصفيقات، مقص، بنطلون

- Two books, Advice, applause, scissors, trousers

B. Abstract nouns : in Arabic, they are defined with (أل) of definition, whereas in English they have no definite or indefinite articles.

e.g. : - الكرامة، المسؤولية، الحرية، الحب، الكراهية

Dignity, Responsibility, Freedom, Love, Hate

C. Peter Newmark 1988 :

D. Lawrence Venuti 1995 :

'As far as translation theory is concerned, I believe nothing can be done randomly and everything is systematic. As we speak we do mean something by what we are saying. Even nonsense words that we throw are expressions of a situation that we experience this experience is what stands for a theory'

A. D.

¹ See, John C. (Ian) Catford published in Linguistics University of Michigan retrieved from www.lsa.umich.edu

² See, A Linguistic Theory of Translation, J. C. Catford, Oxford University Press, Oxford & Glasgow, 1965.

³ See, Introducing Translation Studies, Jeremy Munday, 2nd ed., Routledge, London & New York 2008.