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Risks in Arabic News Translation of Trump's Offensive Expressions against Presidents

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1. Introduction

Despite the sociocultural differences among nations, globalization has successfully become a new reality to be acknowledged and coped with. Globalization calls for a multicultural world where people of different languages can easily share a conversation. Therefore, bridging cultures require translators who can accurately convey meanings and messages across cultural boundaries while ensuring faithfulness and cultural appropriateness. Azodi (2016) confirms that translation importantly plays the role of fulfilling effective communication in the target text that might be distinct from the original one. It also has a significant influence in shaping peoples' identities through transferring knowledge, traditions, and cultures among nations for the sake of formulating a common ground where people can meet. Translation has contributed to the ease of dissemination of information among individuals, facilitating life and contributing to the interrelationship between knowledge.

TANWĪR: A Journal of Arts and Humanities

Online ISSN: 3062-4789

Print ISSN: 3062-4797

<https://tanwir.journals.ekb.eg/>

May 2025, Issue (2)

1.1 Translation Challenges

Nevertheless, translation constraints vary based on the difficulty of the text, the purpose of the text, and the purpose of translation. Translation is defined as “a process that is driven by many constraints at different levels of text—that is, lexical, semantic, syntactic, pragmatic, functional and semiotic—and at various stages of development and production” (Darwish, 2009, p.166). Despite these constraints, the primary objective in any translation act remains to be attaining effective communication, along with achieving equivalence in both meaning and lexis. Hence, Baker (2011) highlights the significant interrelation between the word, meaning and approach where equivalence could be achieved. However, Darwish (2009) claims that “absolute equivalence” is impossible to occur in translation. Baker (2011) affirms that any forms of non-equivalence among languages could be impossibily addressed by providing a set of guidelines. That is the reason of considering translation as a “process of disturbance, dislocation, and violation of the original signs in order to put the reconstructed forms of meaning in another language and culture for another reader or viewer in a closer equivalent text” (Darwish, 2009, p.31). This confrms the numerous risks and limitations in the traslation practice in order to attain a set of objctives in the target text. That is why a tradeoff is the translator’s way out to reach the ultimate purpose- maintaining the message of the source text. Darwish (2009) stresses that these tradeoffs affect the degree of approximation between the source and the translation.

1.2 News Translation

In the midst of the digital revolution, the rapid increase in the availability of satellites has enabled media players to embark their reach on a wider scale, fueling the desire to leave an influence. Therefore, international networks have tailored multi-language and multicultural editions of their news outlets in an effort to globalize the news agenda while remaining relevant for regional and occasionally national audiences. Matsushita (2015) confirms this challenge stating that “the internet allows news to be distributed anytime, anywhere, which shortens the time allowed for news production, let alone translation” (p.52). Consequently, ensuring that news providers meet their audience expectations imposes some risks represented in cultural limitations, appreciating readers' interests, and maintaining their cultural characteristics. In addition, Matsushita (2015) explains that “the combination of high political/social pressure and the strictly time-bound nature

of news translation becomes a significant obstacle when trying to manage risks” (p. 52). Accordingly, there is no room for risk management strategies where the deadline is the biggest concern. This illustrates the variance of translation strategies adopted by the news outlets in which they may reframe news to tailor the appropriateness of diverse cultural insensitivity. This will determine whether the translation adheres to the norms of the source text or those of the target culture that ultimately result in different translation products. According to Schäffner’s (2008) comparisons made between a number of political speeches delivered by different world presidents, it is found that institutional policies and ideologies play a critical role on the end-result products of translation (as cited in Matsushita, 2015). In addition, Matsushita (2015) summarizes different cases of news reporting to political events that result in variance in translation results; stemmed from the different language appropriateness and cultural norms. This proves that political ties or cultural nuances may impose news reframing on the target audience. Consequently, the employment of translation strategies differs due to the influence of how media content is received and potentially adapted across linguistic or cultural contexts.

1.3 Offensive Language in the News

Translation of taboos, profanities or offensive expressions imposes special challenges and constraints on any translation act. This holds, in turn, a riskier challenge during the translation process. Translation of offensive-loaded news requires special attention in translation to avoid any critical consequences or diplomatic issues among nations. In other cases, offensively charged news is critical in translation in order to curb any cultural sensitivities that may occur from an incidence of misquoting of offensive expressions in press context. According to Hjort (2017), finding potential equivalents to the offensive language in the target text may steer the translator to set off emotional responses or take certain or uncertain decisions. For example, a translator may take a decision to use less or highly threatening words or refer to a taboo in a certain culture (Hjort, 2017). This explains the different levels of influence which profanities may cause across languages and cultures (Hjort, 2017). Particularly, the responsibility of translation becomes riskier when insults or derogatory language in news are directed against world presidents. Hence, striking a balance between time-bound news coverage and handling challenges of rendering offensive attacks on a president creates special risks. Melina (2017) summarizes different types of offensive language into taboo terms, profane swearing or profane oaths, comparisons people with animals,

dysphemistic epithets, imprecations, and epithets, adding to and terms of insult or disrespect. These types are profoundly evident in the offensive language which Trump uses against presidents. Therefore, Trump imposes different levels of risks in news translation due to his use of a derogatory language loaded with offensive insults to his counterparts of world presidents.

Consequently, the current paper draws attention to the strategies adopted by the news outlets in handling the risks associated with offensive words. The paper aims to investigate the risks corresponding with six different news agencies' translations of offensive language from English into Arabic. The paper adopts the Risk Management Model introduced by Pym (2015), complemented with the translation techniques proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet's model (1995). The integration of both models aims at identifying the risks in translating offensive language, prompting the researcher to investigate the strategies employed by agencies, exploring the influence on the agency-audience relationship. Consequently, the adopted strategies reveal the contextual and lexical shifts witnessed in the end product.

1.4 Research Questions

Therefore, the paper aims to answer the research questions: 1- What is the most frequent risk type in the translation of Trump's offensive language? 2-What is/are the most frequent strategy/strategies adopted by the news agencies to produce Arabic translations in response to each risk? 3-How is offensive language equivalently transferred to the lexical and contextual levels?

2 Theoretical Framework

Risk management is an established prominent concept in the world of business; however, it has not been put in full application in the discipline of translation studies. But first, what is Risk? Pym (2005) defines it as, "risk is the possibility of not fulfilling the translator's purpose" (p.71). A decade ago, Pym developed this concept to be adopted in the translation domain. He started in 2004 with the idea of the distribution of the translator's effort in terms of risks exposure during the translation process. To illustrate, the extent of effort a translator exerts comes from the degree of risk s/he deals with. Based on this idea, he develops the concept of "Risk Management" to be applied in the translation specialty. In his recent article about his concept, Pym (2015) explains the reason behind his devoted efforts in applying risk analysis to translation saying, "I propose that

some of the theoretical tensions and occasional deadlocks can be resolved by drawing on the rich array of ideas offered by risk analysis, particularly when the translator's decision-making is seen in terms of risk management" (p.67). Hence, a translator decides to exert a high effort to manage a high-risk s/he confronts in a lexical item to sound understandable and acceptable in the target text. While a low effort is exerted when a translator finds a minimal degree of risk that could barely lead to a misunderstanding in the target.

Pym (2015) introduces in his model three types of risks which are: **Credibility risk**, **Uncertainty risk** and **Communicative risk**. Credibility Risk is defined as "the probability of losing a translation-specific kind credibility and it concerns relations between people" (Pym, 2015, p.67). In other words, this kind of risk focuses on the trust between the translator and the client (the target reader). Pym (2015) argues that this risk is concerned with how the translation credibility is evaluated socially by the target reader. Secondly, Uncertainty risk embraces the decision-making process; it discusses translator's uncertainties while transferring an item from one language to another. Pym (2015) demonstrates that this type of risk is "correlative of text difficulty" (p.71). Thirdly, the Communicative risk has to do with the way texts are used in contexts. Pym (2015) categorizes communicative risks into high-risks and low-risks. When some elements in the texts are of high-risk, they need considerable effort from the translator, unlike other elements that are of low risk as they will not severely affect the context if the translator miscommunicates their meaning. Pym (2015) explains that social contexts are the criteria by which it is decided whether an element is to be considered of high risk or of low risk. Accordingly, based on the level of the risk the translation problems entail, the solutions can be of both levels of risk (high risk or low risk). This illustrates the interrelation between the three primary factors of the Risk Management Model which centers on the degree of risk, effort and strategies.

Pym (2021) further introduces four strategies for managing these three risks. First, **Risk Reduction strategy** accounts for pre-editing and post-editing processes that omit some words to avoid risk and make the target more appealing to its audience. It is conducted to avoid the risk by the translator while revising and checking the final product. Second, **Risk Transfer strategy** is implemented when the translator decides to share the risk with the client (the target reader) considering his/her understanding or interpretation of the meaning, so the risk is transferred to the target text. Third, **Risk-Taking strategy** is adopted when the translator decides to take the risk of

guessing the word on his/her own, despite any critical consequences that may occur based on the translator's decisions. Fourthly, **Risk Mitigation strategy** is a combination strategy in which a minor risk is taken in the target text to reduce a major one in the source text. That is why Pym (2021) believes that this strategy depends on the interpretation of the reader, "although at the hopefully lower risk of confusing some readers" (p.450). Notably, a translator can resort to combine all these strategies together to solve problems that include abundant types of risks. Hence, strategies themselves do not represent risk values; however, they can lead to low-risk or high-risk consequences based on the translator's selection of the strategies.

The researcher complements the Risk Management Model by adopting Vinay and Darbelnet's model (1995) which proposes seven translation techniques. Vinay and Darbelnet develop different translation strategies under the framework of a comparative stylistic analysis to identify the differences in translation among languages. They categorize the translation techniques into two main categories: Direct translation and Oblique translation. Direct translation is subdivided into three main translation techniques: Borrowing, Calque and Literal Translation. In a summary of their definitions, first, Borrowing revolves around borrowing a word from the SL and is used in the TL as it is, maintaining its textual meanings. Second, Calque, according to Vinay and Darbelnet, "is a 'special kind of borrowing' where the SL expression or structure is transferred in a literal translation." (as cited in Munday, 2008, p.56). Third, Literal translation, although they consider this technique as the most common between languages of the same family and culture, they highlight that sometimes translators find that literal translation may lead to unacceptable texts.

Concerning the Oblique translation techniques, Vinay and Darbelnet subdivide this type of translation into four techniques represented as follows: Transposition, Modulation, Equivalence, and Adaptation. In a brief overview of their definitions, Transposition is summarized as "a change of one part of speech for another without changing the sense" (as cited in Munday, 2008, p.57). Secondly, Modulation means any change in the semantic level and viewpoint of the SL. As for Equivalence, it centers on transferring the same situation from the SL to the TL but in different stylistic or structural means. Finally, Adaptation, it is defined as "changing the cultural reference when a situation in the source culture does not exist in the target culture." (as cited in Munday, 2008, p.58). In short, Vinay and Darbelnet's translation model centers on seven direct and oblique

techniques. Munday (2008) summarizes their techniques as applied across three key levels: lexicon, syntactic structure, and message.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This study employs an interdisciplinary approach in an attempt to bring together dual theoretical lenses. The study combines between the “Risk Management Model” introduced by Pym (2015) which focuses on the types of risks and risks strategies associated with the decision-making process of the news production and translation, along with the translation techniques of Vinay and Darbelnet’s model (1995) which is rooted in linguistic comparison and stylistic shifts between languages. Thus, the study focuses on identifying the risks and the translation strategies involved in the transfer of offensive quotes from English into Arabic considering linguistic and cultural boundaries. The combination of both models enforces the research to carry out a more comprehensible analysis to the data of how the risks in the offensive quotes of Trump are managed in the Arabic editions.

3.2 Sampling

The data under investigation comprises a corpus collected from news agencies publish both Arabic and English editions. The selected news agencies are purposefully chosen to reflect various agencies’ profiles and political orientations. The analysis reflects 5 examples of offensive quotes used by Trump against presidents in his first presidency term from 2017 to 2021. The present sample is a purposive one drawn from the offensive quotes embedded in the news articles.

3.3 Data Collection Procedures:

The first step taken in the data collection involves extracting the offensive quotes of Trump against other presidents from the Arabic news articles provided by the selected news agencies while ensuring the correspondence of the quote in the original English. These offensive quotes are embedded within the news articles that either report the whole incident of the offensive quote, or cover the news about the different reactions, or consequences that are relevant to the incident. Then comes the step of tracing and identifying the types of risks manifested in the Arabic translations

of each quote according to the “Risk Management Model”. The following step aims to examine and analyze the translation strategies adopted by the selected news agencies in their Arabic translations as manifested in Pym’s “Risk Management Model” to handle the risks, combined with the translation techniques of Vinay and Darbelnet.

4. Literature Review

Many studies have been conducted on the challenges which news translation faces. These studies have provided insights into the challenges, strategies and theoretical frameworks that have shaped different perspectives. To start with the study entitled “Translation and News Making: A Study of Contemporary Arabic Television Aljazeera Case Study”, Darwish (2009) examines news broadcasts with special interest in Aljazeera. He focuses on the role translation of Arabic satellite television plays in reformation of reality and the socio-cultural impact of translation mediation on news making. Based on the multimodal theoretical framework of critical linguistic analysis, social semiotics and translation theory, a qualitative analysis is carried out to examine the translation. The findings reveal that several intentional or unintentional alternations in translation occur due to linguistic and cultural constraints between both languages, which in turn shapes the context represented in the target text.

The translation of the offensive language in media impose some challenges. Many studies are conducted and highlight comparable findings in the strategies adopted of translating offensive language. The following are two examples; however, each adopts different theoretical framework, distinct language pair and data. Krouglov’s (2018) study entitled “Translating Taboo Words in Political Media Discourse - Challenges for Translators” focuses on the translation of taboos in the political media discourse field from English into Russian from April 2017 to March 2018. Following the theoretical framework of Baker (1992), BBC and Euronews are the selected news agencies in the study. In parallel, Abudayeh and Dubbati’s (2020) study entitled “Politeness strategies in translating Donald Trump's offensive language into Arabic” examines the strategies adopted by six Arabic news agencies in translating Trump’s offensive language. The Abudayeh divides the comments into two categories: offensive and inappropriate. The results of both studies reveal that the most common taboos used in the political media discourse during the selected period are used by Donald Trump. In addition, the findings display that in the translation of taboos in

political media discourse, there are comparable translation techniques including omission, replacement, or translation with explanation. In other times, agencies resort to the face-saving strategies such as softening the language, as an attempt to protect Arab audience from Trump's offensive comments. However, some agencies focus on defending Trump's personality, rather than on preserving their own image or even their audience.

In an exploration to the underlying reasons behind Trump's use of offensive language, Špago et al (2019) conduct a study about the insults of Trump against his political opponents via the social media platform X, previously known as Twitter, under the title of "Insults speak louder than words: Trump's tweets through the lens of the speech act of insulting". The aim of the study is to investigate whether Trump's "insults are random rants meant to vent his anger and frustration with his critics and political adversaries, or rather a part of a calculated strategy aimed at political gain" (p.139). Based on the theoretical framework of the speech act hand in hand with the cognitive linguistics framework, a quantitative and qualitative methodology is adopted to analyze 915 tweets through four months. Based on the findings, Trump's insults are divided into three patterns: derogatory nicknaming, conventional and indirect insults, and the pattern most used by Trump is the derogatory nicknaming. The results manifest that Trump's insults are not random or based on impulsiveness. This unveils a strong agenda aimed at discrediting his opponents, which, in turn, may provoke a similar response within political discourse.

Following Pym's (2015) "Risk Management Model" and its application to news translation, Matsushita's (2015) conducts a bilingual study between English and Japanese entitled "Risk Management in the Decision-Making Process of English Japanese News Translation". The selected data are the Japanese translation of the English direct quotes in the news articles of President Obama in his victory and inauguration speeches. The findings show that omission strategy is adopted in Obama's quotes in the Japanese news coverage of the 2 speeches under. The reasons behind this manipulation are analyzed, and the findings clarify that omission is employed to avoid misunderstandings that may arise between both parties. If the translators render Obama's quote word-for-word for the Japanese target readers, Matsushita argues that this may lead to critical consequences between the two countries due to the cultural differences and distinct language norms. Matsushita's study highlights the significance of using "Risk Management

Model” on news context that spotlight on the language and cultural boundaries for news readers, which is similar to the line of thought to the current study.

Despite these contributions, a key gap still remains in adopting the Risk Management Model to identify the types of risks in news translation of the offensive language of Trump against the presidents. In addition, the current study highlights the contextual and lexical shifts between the language pair- English and Arabic- in this type of data shedding light on the acceptance of the conservative Arab readers to read profanities in news.

5. Analysis

This part of the focuses on examining and analyzing the data under investigation. It is represented in the Arabic translations of the most widely circulated offensive expressions of Trump during his first election term from 2017-2021 against his counterparts of presidents in the world. The quotes are extracted from the news articles of six multilingual news agencies. The researcher also attempts to balance between the selection of the new agencies to display variable perspectives and ideologies in Arabic translations. The examples are displayed in chronological order. In case the translation is not provided by an agency or is unavailable due to the limited availability of online data, a dash is inserted in the corresponding agency’s row.

Example 1:

2017			
Why would Kim Jong-un insult me by calling me "old," when I would NEVER call him "short and fat?"			
Agency	Translations	Translation Strategies	
BBC Arabic	"لم أصف كيم بأنه قصير وبدين"	Risk Transfer+ Risk Reduction	Literal
Russia Today Arabic	لماذا يُقدم كيم جونج أون على إهانتني، من خلال نعتي بـ"العجوز"، في حين أنني لن أقدم يوما على نعته بالقصير والبدين؟	Risk Transfer	Literal
Euro news Arabic	لماذا وجه كيم جونج-أون إهانة لي بوصفي عجوزا في الوقت الذي لن أصفه يوما بأنه قصير وسمين؟	Risk Transfer	Literal
Sky News Arabia	لماذا يُقدم كيم جونج أون على إهانتني من خلال نعتي "بـ"العجوز" في حين أنني لن أقدم يوما على نعته بالقصير والبدين؟	Risk Transfer	Literal

CNN Arabic	_____		
Al Arabiya	لماذا يهينني كيم يونغ أون بوصفي بالعجوز، في حين أنني لم أصفه مطلقاً بالقصير والسمين؟"	Risk Transfer	Literal
Type of Risk Communicative			

On an escalating dispute between Kim (North Korean President) and Trump, they exchange insults on media sphere across the most common widely used social media platform for politicians, X (previously known as Twitter). Insulting political figures across the world in media political discourse shapes a communicative risk in translation. In the translation of the above quote, most of the agencies opt for a risk transfer strategy.

BBC follows two translations strategies in translating the offensive quote directed at Kim, risk transfer strategy intertwined with risk reduction strategy. It shares the risk with their target readers by transferring the ridicule Trump directs at Kim represented in “short and fat”. It provides an exact literal translation of the insult in Arabic through calque translation. However, while it transfers the second part of the quote that includes the insult, it omits the rest of the original quote in its Arabic edition through risk reduction strategy. This omission formulates a loss in the overall meaning, giving emphasis only in the second part of the quote: the direct attack.

As for the rest of the agencies, they provide a literal translation to the original English quote in the Arabic editions. Neither does the structure change, nor does the meaning to the Arabic audience. The communicative risk in the insult is transferred as it is to the Arabic reader. Nevertheless, there are some slight changes observed between the Arabic translations of the agencies. Notably, all agencies, except BBC, delivers the same level of emphasis made through capitalization in “NEVER”. Arabic equivalence of emphasis is made through translating the capitalization of “NEVER” into more than one lexical term in Arabic to deliver the same level of emphasis represented in “لم أصفه مطلقاً” and “أنني لن أقدم يوماً” and “الذي لن أصفه يوماً”. The English orthography system enclose the capitalization style to highlight the meaning of a certain message. However, in the Arabic orthography system, there is no capitalization style used for emphasis. Adding to this, the translation of the modal verb “would” in English does not align the Arabic translation provided. To illustrate, on the one hand, “الذي لن أصفه يوماً” and “أنني لن أقدم يوماً” (I will never describe him) is

"لن" is time reference to future negation. On the other hand, "لم أصفه مطلقاً" (I have never described him) "لم" here refers to negation in the past. Overall, the different choices of “would” in Arabic might change the interpretation of the original sentence. However, it will not leave a drastic change in meaning.

Example 2:

2017 “Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself.”			
Translations		Translation Strategies	
BBC Arabic	رجل الصواريخ في مهمة انتحارية	Risk Transfer	Literal
Russia Today Arabic	حيث وصف أون بـ"رجل الصواريخ" محذرا من أن "تصرفاته انتحار له."	Risk Taking+ Risk Transfer	Literal
Euro news Arabic	رجل صواريخ في مهمة انتحارية	Risk Transfer	Literal
Sky News Arabia	"رجل الصواريخ الصغير في مهمة انتحارية"	Risk Taking+Risk Transfer	Literal
CNN Arabic	"رجل الصواريخ في مهمة انتحارية"	Risk Transfer	Literal
Al Arabiya	"قزم الصواريخ في مهمة انتحارية"	Risk Transfer+ Risk Taking	Literal
Type of Risk Communicative			

In an unrelenting barrage of derogatory remarks over nuclear-armed North Korea, Trump coined the nickname “Rocket man” for Kim, the North Korean President, Trump ridicules Kim publicly in his speech in front of the U.N. General Assembly. According to CNN (2017), “the issues at the United Nations are broader and the geographic spread of Trump’s audience wider”. Thus, the mockery Trump makes to Kim portrays Korea as a global threat.

Through the employment of calque translation, the agencies transfer the risk of symbolizing Kim as a “Rocket man”. In addition, a literal translation technique is provided to the rest of the quote. Thus, transferring the risk through applying direct translation techniques renders the same degree of risk, and conveys an impactful message of ridicule in the target text. However, a more idiomatic or culturally adapted translation of the metaphor “rocket man” might have sounded more natural to the Arabic reader to accommodate with the naturalness of the language. Furthermore, all agencies omit the rest of the quote represented in “for himself” except RT. Also, RT takes the risk

of adding a special context to the quote which renders a clarified message to the reader. This context includes an additional lexical item represents in “محررا”, which does not exist in the original quote. Nonetheless, the addition made does not render distant message from the intended purpose nor the threatening tone.

However, Sky News Arabia and Al-Arabiya take the risks of adding a new descriptor to the quote in their translations. Firstly, Sky news takes the risk of adding the description “small” along with “rocket man” represented in "رجل الصواريخ الصغير", which does not exist in the English quote. Nevertheless, the use of the description “small” resonates with Trump’s previous insults of Kim where he describes him as “short and fat”. Therefore, Sky News Arabia merges both insults into one Arabic rendering, which adds a level of risk. Al-Arabiya renders the quote as “قزم الصواريخ”, which is back translated as “Rocket Dwarf”, instead of using “Rocket man”. It does not give a literal translation to the word “short”; instead, it translates it as “dwarf”. Thus, both agencies merge two offensive quotes into one piece of news coverage. They take a higher level of risk by adding a new semantic meaning which is not originally used by Trump. These semantic additions do not dramatically affect the meaning since they echo Trump’s insults against Kim, but the Arabic reader perceives the message with a different impact because the quote here refers to the nuclear missiles, rather it is rendered in a different meaning due to the merge between “short” and “rocket man” in one quote.

Example 3

2018 "This is an animal"			
Agency	Translations	Translation Strategies	
BBC Arabic	ترامب يصف الأسد بالحيوان	Risk Transfer+ Risk Taking	Literal
Russia Today Arabic	وصف الأسد بـ"حيوان"	Risk Transfer+ Risk Taking	Literal
Euro news Arabic	ترامب يتوعد الأسد بسبب الهجوم الكيماوي ويصفه بالحيوان	Risk Taking+ Risk Transfer	Literal
Sky News Arabiaهذا حيوان"	Risk Transfer	Literal

CNN Arabic	وصف الرئيس الأمريكي دونالد ترامب للرئيس السوري بشار الأسد بـ "الحيوان"	Risk Transfer+ Risk Taking	Literal
Al Arabiya	"فهذا حيوان"	Risk Transfer	Literal
Type of Risk Communicative			

The above-mentioned offensive quote comes in the context of accusing Al-Assad, the former Syrian President, of using internationally prohibited weapons in an attempt to hold onto power at the expense of a civil war in Syria (Merica & Liptak, 2017). Here, the curse word used by Trump against Al-Assad forms a huge risk in communication to be delivered to the Arab readers as straightforward insults against presidents are not normally and publicly disclosed in the news. In terms of Arabic translations, the agencies here mostly adopt the risk transfer strategy which entails sharing the risk with the target reader by giving a literal translation of the insult “animal” in the Arabic language without any manipulation or mitigation. However, several changes are evident in the structure of Arabic translations.

BBC and Russia Today follow the same approach as they change the direct insult into a descriptive statement via indirect speech. Secondly, in the source sentence, the demonstrative "this" refers to something that is implied or previously mentioned. However, they take the risk of adding a context to the quote to clarify the message in the target language by using the verb “describe”, which produces "Trump describes Bashar as an animal", omitting the demonstrative in the Arabic translation. This shift involves a change in the structure of the sentence, where the addition provides a concrete subject and adds clarity. Notably, another slight change is evident in Russia Today, as it omits the mention of “Trump” relying on the previous context stated in its article. The changes made by both agencies involve a grammatical and lexical change that aligns with the norms of the target language.

Similarly, CNN follows the same approach adopted by BBC and Sky news whereby the descriptor “animal” is transferred in Arabic. However, a risk-taking strategy is evident here in the inclusion of certain additions. The modulated shift from direct speech in the SL to the indirect mode in the TL involves additions of the explicit reference to the addresser, addressee and the action main

verb. The translation explicitly links the derogatory remark to Trump and al-Assad providing their full titles. The original English phrase "This is an animal" is neutral and lacks context.

As for Sky News and Al-Arabiya, they provide a literal translation of the quote as it is. They transfer the offensive insult “animal” into Arabic. In addition, they keep the emphasis made in the use of the demonstrative “This” in the Arabic translation by referring to its Arabic equivalent “هذا”. No change occurred in their translations; however, the message is maintained and the risk transferred.

Conversely, Euro News takes the risk of adding extra information to the original quote. It gives an explicit context to the quote via an addition in order to render a clear message. The addition takes place through providing the reason of this insult to the Arabic reader, which is represented in “بسبب الهجوم الكيميائي”, literally “due to the chemical attack”, as an explanation of the context of using the derogatory insult “animal”. More importantly, another layer of risk is taken in Euro News’ translation through adding another level of meaning represented in the verb, يتوعد literally “threatens”. Euro News’s use of the verb يتوعد adds a context that is not explicitly used in English, unlike the other agencies that render the insult using the verb “describes”. An addition of the verbal clause, يتوعد, including the main verb and the implicit third person pronoun co-referential to Trump, adds a layer of risk in Arabic over the insult itself and aggravates the impact generated in the target.

Example 4:

2019 “King! We are losing our a** defending you”			
Agency	Translations	Translation Strategies	
BBC Arabic			
Russia Today Arabic	أيها الملك نحن نخسر كثيرا في الدفاع عنكم	Risk Mitigation	Adaptation
Euro news Arabic	”أيها الملك نحن نحميك“	Risk Reduction+ Risk Mitigation	Adaptation
Sky News Arabia			
CNN Arabic	أيها الملك نحن نخسر الكثير في الدفاع عنكم	Risk Mitigation	Adaptation

Al Arabiya	
<p style="text-align: center;">Type of Risk Communicative and Uncertainty risks</p>	

In April 2019, Trump held a political rally in Wisconsin in the presence of a mass of his supporters. He referred to a phone call with the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, stating that Saudi Arabia is a very rich country, and so it has to pay in return for defending its military. He recounts the phone call to his supporters saying “King! We are losing our ass defending you”. Trump bluntly insults King of Saudi Arabia by using a very expletive profanity, and direct degradation, imposing two risks: communicative and uncertainty. A huge communicative risk in translation is shaped particularly when engaging with Arab audiences due to their conservative values and culture. Thus, this may prompt translators to navigate appropriate and acceptable lexical choices to ensure a respectful communication and maintain the agencies trust with the Arab audience. This explains the uncertainty risk that takes place along with the communicative one. This incident of using an explicit profanity against a well-known respectable political figure in the Arab world, the Saudi King, adds extra layers of risks since the context is more sensitive to the target recipient.

In terms of their Arabic translations, BCC and CNN Arabic adopt the risk mitigation strategy through adapting the expletive word into a mitigated word in Arabic. They mitigated the risk of the profanity into a more acceptable and appropriate adapted translation for the intended meaning, back translated as “a lot”, literally “we are losing a lot defending you”, but without referring to the literal meaning of the expletive word “ass”. Adaptation translation technique adopted adhere to cultural sensitivities regarding politeness and formality, especially in a political or public context-news. However, softening and mitigating the profanity results in a less impactful message and loss in the original meaning.

Notably, Euro news intertwines risk reduction strategy with risk mitigation strategy. Not only does it adopt an adaptation technique to provide a softener and mitigated expression in Arabic, but it also reduces and summarizes the meaning of the quote to be “we defend you” “نحن نحميك”. No reference is given to the huge amount of money as indicated in the meaning of the original quote. This, in turn, leads to a huge loss in meaning and lowers the level of Trump’s offensive tone in the

target text. Notably, the three translations transfer the vocative style represented in “King” into an equivalent aligned structure in Arabic represented in “أيها الملك”.

Example 5:

2021			
"He was very early — like, earlier than most. I haven't spoken to him since. F**k him"			
Translations		Translation Strategies	
BBC Arabic	شن الرئيس الأمريكي السابق دونالد ترامب هجوما لاذعا على رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي السابق بنيامين نتنياهو وقال ترامب "لقد كان سريعا جدا. أسرع من معظم الناس. لم أتحدث معه منذ ذلك الحين"	Risk Mitigation+ Risk Taking	Adaptation
Russia Today Arabic	"لم أتحدث معه منذ ذلك الحين.. اللعنة عليه F**k him"	Risk Reduction+ Risk Mitigation	Adaptation
Euro news Arabic	"تبا له، لم أكلمه منذ أن هنا بايدن بالفوز بالانتخابات"	Risk Mitigation+ Risk Taking	Adaptation
Sky news Arabia	استخدم الرئيس الأمريكي السابق دونالد ترامب "لفظا بذيئا" بحق رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي السابق بنيامين نتنياهو، "لم أتحدث معه منذ ذلك الحين"	Risk Mitigation+ Risk Taking	Adaptation
CNN Arabic	كان الوقت مبكرا. حسنا؟ لنضع الأمر على هذا النحو - لقد استقبله " مبكرا جدا. في وقت سابق من معظم قادة العالم. لم أتحدث معه منذ ذلك الحين. تبا له	Risk Transfer+ Risk Mitigation	Literal+ Adaptation
Al Arabiya	"تبا له"	Risk Mitigation+ Risk Reduction	Adaptation
Type of Risk			
Communicative and Credibility			

During an interview with an Israeli journalist, Trump launched an offensive attack on Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, using an expletive F word. Trump is shocked by Netanyahu's disloyalty as the latter congratulated the former American President Biden for his election victory (Ravid, 2021). Using an F word in political discourse is not the context in which such face-threatening words are used, which constitutes risks for the news agencies in translating the offensive F word for the Arab reader. Through the employment of the adaptation technique, the agencies chose a close mitigated and less-offensive word in Arabic instead of delivering the literal face-threatening word of the original news. Depending on the interpretation of the Arab audience, an implicit

swearword of an equal meaning is conveyed. This proves an attempt to strike a balance between covering the news and respecting the Arab reader's culture at the same time.

BBC and Sky News take the risks through the addition of context to the offensive incident without an explicit state to the F word. This makes their article context emphasize concrete subject and direct object in this offensive attack. However, both refer to the use of unacceptable profanity represented in "لفظا بذيئاً" and "هجوماً لاذعاً". This adaptation does not even render a similar expletive like the one used "تبا له". Therefore, this may lead to misinterpretation in the TL because there is no special reference to what level of offensive word is used by Trump. Then, the agencies transfer the rest of the quote without any further changes, employing literal translation technique. But Sky news only transfers the last part of the quote represented in "لم أتحدث معه منذ ذلك الحين". Meanwhile, it omits the first half of the quote which highlights Netanyahu's fast response in congratulating Biden on his election. This omission leads to loss in the meaning of the context in the target text.

Respecting the cultural sensitivities of the Arabic-speaking conservative countries employing a literal translation to the expletive in the news, RT mitigates the F word in the translation by a softener term that gives an equal meaning in the Arab context. Despite RT providing a mitigated profanity in Arabic, it takes the risk of including the English F-word as it is integrated into the Arabic quote with asterisk. Following the same lead, Euro news employs a mitigated word of "تبا له" as the translation of the F word. However, some modifications are added to the quote represented in "لم أكلمه منذ أن هنا بايدن بالفوز بالانتخابات". This addition refers to the embedded context of the whole incident illustrated in the news article in detail; referring to early congratulation Netanyahu makes to Biden. Thus, the target reader does not feel distracted or distant by reading this added part inside the quote. As for Al-Arabiya, it opts for risk reduction strategy, it covers the news and the details of the incident in its article, referring to the conflict raised between Trump and Netanyahu. However, in the article context, it refers to the F word by using a mitigated lexical term represented in "تبا له", without giving an indication to the context of the quote mentioned above in the table. This omission does not affect the intended message because the incident of the quotes is reported in detail in the article.

6. Discussion

6.1 The Frequent Risk Types

By the frequent use of the derogatory language in the news contexts, Trump creates uncommon political language in news context which Arab conservative readers are not used to. This generates a new form of political discourse, that in turn poses risks to news translation. Offensive expressions and insults laden with derogatory indications or mockery against political figures impose a burden on the news agencies. This might lead to critical consequences among nations through the news provider as a mediator. Maintaining a balance between competitive news coverage in the media sphere and the risks of translating insults influences decision-making, as it may expose the agency to crucial situations with political regimes or with target readers.

Based on the three types of risks displayed in the “Risk Management Model” of Pym, it is significant that the most challenging risk which the news translation face regarding the contexts of offensive language is the communicative risk. The Arab readers form a wide scale of reading rates for the news agencies in their Arabic news editions. Accordingly, balancing news coverage while respecting the cultural norms of Arab readers, who are unaccustomed to insults in news contexts, presents a significant risk within the news discourse. Misquoting or mistranslating one of Trump’s offensive quotes in the Arabic version might lead to critical consequences, on top of which is the mistrust between the news agencies and their readers. Additionally, any translation act should be thought of twice in advance to avoid any upcoming repercussions among world leaders.

6.2 The Frequent Risk Translation Strategies

The data analysis reveals two scenarios of translation strategies for Trump's offensive quotes: risk transfer and mitigation/omission, often accompanied by additions. The employment of direct translation techniques is the choice taken by agencies. Especially, when offensive expressions could be transferred to the Arab conservative readers without sounding overly inappropriate, such words do not carry an extreme level of profanity. In this case, news agencies decide to share the risk with their readers by transferring Trump’s insults as they are. On the contrary, when the offensive quotes are loaded with high level of offensiveness- such as the use of F-words, the agencies resort to combined translation techniques. They opt either to mitigate the insult by

replacing it with a milder term for the Arab audience, or they reduce the risk by omitting the insult. However, this occurs by providing an addition to the context of the quote, allowing readers to interpret the meaning without the direct delivery of the derogatory language.

6.3 Contextual and Lexical Changes

The variance in the adoption of the selected risk translation strategies demonstrates the contextual and lexical changes between the original English quotes and their Arabic translations. This spots light on the varying levels of acceptance between the western and Arab cultures. While the resonance of the use of the heavily loaded derogatory language might sound less severe in the English context, it is less tolerated for the Arab conservative readers. This difference stems from the nature religious cultural and preservative social environment in which most of the Arab countries adopt. Consequently, this explains the adoption of risk mitigation and risk reduction strategies in the quotes where the F-words are used. For example, some offensive expressions are toned down in order to align with cultural norms and conservative values in Arab societies. In other words, contextual shifts are adopted due to the cultural adaptation, political sensitivity, or Arab audience perception. In other cases, some of these profanities are omitted or replaced to maintain journalistic professionalism and respect for Arab audiences. Meanwhile, in some other quotes, other lexical choices are just altered in order to align with the Arabic language norms and its grammatical and syntactic system. Accordingly, these lexical alterations sound more natural and communicative for the Arab readers. According to Richardson (2007), newspaper discourse serves specific purposes; it is produced in certain institutional settings and with unique production techniques. It is distinguished by special interactions between the author and reader, and how the news is read, understood, and enjoyed in particular ways. Additionally, it is distinguished by remarkable connections among other institutions of political, judicial, and economic power. Therefore, this leads to contextual and lexical variations in the target texts.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper discusses the risks of news translation to Trump's offensive language against his counterparts. The selected data are offensive quotes used by Trump against presidents during his first presidency term from the year 2017 to 2021. The Arabic translations of these offensive quotes are extracted from the Arabic editions of six multiple-language news agencies,

with considering the availability of these online data. Under the theoretical framework of Risk Management Model proposed by Pym in 2015, different types of risks and strategies are examined and analyzed. To complement the theoretical framework in the analysis, the seven translation techniques introduced by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) are employed.

The derogatory language of Trump and his loaded lexical terms with profanities imposes different levels of risks to the translators concerned in order to be conveyed to the Arab reader. The results reveal that the most frequent risk in the selected data is the communicative risk. Traditionally, Arab readers prefer conservative language and culture generally within society, let alone preserving respect and maintaining formal speech while addressing people in authority. Meanwhile, news agencies pay special attention to the selection of linguistic terms used in political discourse or in the press language. Therefore, Trump's loaded language with offensive attacks against other presidents poses high-level of communicative risk to be translated into Arabic.

Concerning the translation strategies adopted to manage risks, the results demonstrate that the selected agencies vary in the strategies adopted in translation. Some agencies opt to transfer the risk to the Arab audience sharing the offensiveness with their target readers. Nevertheless, it can be noticed that when Trump's obscene language is loaded with political and cultural sensitivity, the agencies opt to reduce the risk by omitting the offensive terms and providing milder terms that might be culturally accepted by the reader- risk mitigation strategy. This stems from the fact that the Arab countries are known for their conservative culture and religious-rooted societies. Consequently, contextual changes are observed in the translation to maintain journalistic professionalism and respect for Arab audiences. In addition, some lexical changes are manifested in the translations to align with the language norms and to sound more natural in Arabic.

This paper attempts to provide some insights into the risks accompanying news translation of offensive language from English into Arabic. However, some limitations can still be identified in the study. Considering the unfamiliar style of political discourse and obscenity that Trump has adopted, the accessibility and availability of the data in Arabic is restricted. More importantly, the archiving system of the news agencies websites do not store the outdated data, as the data under investigation is considered old given the rapid pace of up-to-date news. Therefore, based on the aforementioned limitations found in the current study, facilitating access and availability to

outdated news paves the way for a richer news corpus. This broadens the scope of the research area to shed light on different angles of news translation challenges and examine new strategies adopted by news agencies.

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