

Ain Shams University.

Faculty of Arts.

**A Sociological Study of the Translator's Role in Translating
Bahaa Taher's *Sunset Oasis* and *Love in Exile* into English.**

A Thesis submitted in Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree
of Master of Arts in English Linguistics

By

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رنا عيد رجب حسين عليوة

إلى

قسم اللغة الانجليزية و آدابها

كلية الآداب

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Transliteration Symbols

Arabic

Letters of the Alphabet

Initial	Medial	Final	Alone	Romanization
ا	ا	ا	ا	omit (see Note 1)
ب	ب	ب	ب	b
ت	ت	ت	ت	t
ث	ث	ث	ث	th
ج	ج	ج	ج	j
ح	ح	ح	ح	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	kh
د	د	د	د	d
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	dh

ر	ر	ر	ر	r
ز	ز	ز	ز	z
س	س	س	س	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	sh
ص	ص	ص	ص	ṣ
ض	ض	ض	ض	ḍ
ط	ط	ط	ط	ṭ
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ẓ
ع	ع	ع	ع	‘ (ayn)
غ	غ	غ	غ	gh
ف	ف	ف	ف	f (see Note 2)
ق	ق	ق	ق	q (see Note 2)
ك	ك	ك	ك	k

ج	ل	ح	خ	ل
م	م	م	م	m
ن	ن	ن	ن	n
ه	ه	ه , ء	ه , ء	h (see Note 3)
و	و	و	و	w
ي	ي	ي	ي	y

Vowels and Diphthongs

ā	a	ā	ā (see Rule 5)	ī	ī
ū	u	ū	ū (see Rule 6(a))	aw	aw
ī	i	ī	ī	ay	ay

Note: all the translations of the quotations from the author-Bahaa Taher, Alalem, Asfour, Bayoumy, El Badry, Fadl, Mahgoub, Mamkagh, Maziad, along with Dr. Abd El Wahhab's are the researcher's.

Abbreviations:

ST: Source text

TT: Target text

Chapter One: Introduction and Theoretical Foundations

The present chapter sets down the theoretical framework that the thesis utilises to investigate the role of the translator as an active agent in translating Arabic literature, along with the role of the editor and the publisher. Drawing on Bourdieu's theory of social practice (1992), brought together by Loic Wacquant by compiling the transcripts of talks given by Bourdieu, the thesis examines the sociological background (the macro-level) against which the translators select particular linguistic choices that ensue in either "foreignization" or "domestication" (Venuti, 1995, pp. 23-24) and accordingly which of Berman's negative analytic strategies (1985) are triggered (the micro-level). To that end, the chapter is divided into three sections. The first is the introduction, the second is the historical survey of the battle between free and literal translation, and the third sets down the theoretical foundation.

I. Introduction:

1. 1.1. Abstract:

The present thesis explores the role of the translator as an active agent in translating Bahaa Taher's *Sunset Oasis* and *Love in Exile* into English. Drawing on Pierre Bourdieu's theory of social practice (1992), the thesis inspects the influence of the sociological background of both translators and the role of their agents on their linguistic choices and whether these linguistic choices ensue in Venuti's (1995) "foreignization" or "domestication" (pp. 23-24), and accordingly which of Berman's negative analytic strategies (1985) are triggered. To that effect, the thesis analyses the sociological impact on the translators' linguistic choices on the lexico-semantic level, the grammatical level, the phonological level, along with the

level of register perceptible in both the ST and the TT. The selected examples for analysis from the translation of both novels reflect the themes, character portrayals, along with the setting of both novels. The thesis concludes that the sociological background of each translator affected differently on his linguistic choices, accordingly his visibility or “invisibility” (Venuti, 1995, p. 1) in the translated text. It has been found that the sociological background of *Love in Exile’s* translator, Dr. Farouk Abd El Wahhab, has substantially affected his linguistic choices resulting in a “foreignizing” (Venuti, 1995, p. 20) technique in translation. This technique, accordingly, has led him to be visible in the translated text. In contrast, the sociological background of *Sunset Oasis’s* translator, Dr. Humphrey Davies, did not produce the same strong effect on his linguistic choices. His linguistic choices resulted in a “domesticating” (Venuti, 1995, p. 20) translation which has made him “invisible” (Venuti, 1995, p. 2) in the translated text.

Key Words: Cultural studies, Linguistics, Literary translation, Translation studies.

1.1.2. Introductory Paragraph:

This thesis aims to investigate the role of the translator as an agent in translating Arabic literature into English. Along with the role of the translator, the role of other agents in the process of translation is investigated; like, the editor and the publisher. The impact of the translators’ sociological background on their linguistic choices and whether these choices ensue in “foreignization” or “domestication” (Venuti, 1995, pp. 23-24), and accordingly which of Berman’s negative analytic strategies

are triggered are explored in the present thesis. The thesis poses a number of research questions and tries to answer them drawing on Bourdieu's notions of "field", "habitus", and "capital" (Bourdieu & Wacquant, 1992, pp. 18-262). To undertake the aim of the thesis, it is divided into six chapters.

1.1.3. Rationale for Study:

This thesis is a contribution to "Translator Studies" (Chesterman, 2009, p. 13). It tackles a research area which has not been sufficiently tackled in Translation Studies. The problem as viewed by Chesterman (2009) is that the translator has not been considered as "the primary and explicit focus, the starting point, the central concept of the research question" (p. 14). The same problem is identified by the former head of the National Center for Translation, Dr. Kamilia Sobhy, who explains that translation is always considered as "if it had been made by itself and as if the translated book had got through without any effort or hard labour" (2012). Hence, the significance of the present thesis lies in its inspection not only to the role of the translator as an active agent in translating Arabic literature into English but also to the role of the other agents involved in the process of translation which are the editor, the publisher, as well as the reader. As such, the thesis provides the students of translation along with the translators themselves with a sufficient approach to literary translation quality assessment; it helps them arrive at certain norms of literary translation.

1.1.4. Research Questions:

The current study attempts to find answers for a number of questions which are:

1. How does the sociological background of the translators (education, their mother tongue, and political affiliations) impact their linguistic choices?
2. To what extent does the political setting of the countries of both the ST and the TT influence the translators' linguistic choices?
3. To what extent do the stylistic features of the author in question as well as the type of the ST, a literary text, influence the translators' linguistic choices?
4. How far do the expectations of the TT's readers affect the translators' linguistic choices?
5. What is the effect of the literary agent, and/or publisher, and the editor upon the translation made by the translators?
6. What is the effect of the above mentioned factors on the ensuing translation technique- whether the translators' linguistic choices ensue in "foreignization" or "domestication" (Venuti, 1995, pp. 23-24), and accordingly which of Berman's negative analytic strategies (1985) are triggered by "domestication" (Venuti, 1995, p. 23)?

1.1.5. Introduction to the Theoretical Foundations:

The thesis employs Bourdieu's theory of social practice (1992) to inspect the impact of the translators' sociological background and the role