**Degree of Strength as a Distinctive Feature in Translating Directives of Similar Illocutionary Point**

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& Luqman A.N. AL-Sanjary(**)

**Abstract**

Among different approaches to translation is the pragmatic one. This approach attempts to explain translation from the point of view of what is potentially done by the original author in the text and what is potentially done in the translation as a response to the original text. Adopting such an approach in which speech act functions as a unit of translation, translators continuously face the problem of translating certain speech acts of similar illocutionary point. The present paper is an attempt to solve such a problem by using the degree of strength of the illocutionary force as a distinctive feature in translating illocutionary forces of speech acts of similar illocutionary point. A brief theoretical background of the terms used in this paper is submitted with examples. Practically directives of similar illocutionary point have been chosen to be the data of analysis. So, this paper helps translators to overcome the difficulties of translating directives of similar illocutionary point by providing a method by which such acts can be distinguished.

**Keywords**: Translation, English, Arabic, Degree of Strength,

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**1. Degree of Strength**

The term 'Degree of Strength' has been used in pragmatics as one of the components of the illocutionary Force to express the amount of intensity of the mental states of the speaker (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 15). The importance of such a degree lies in comparing those illocutionary forces which have the same illocutionary point (Vanderveken, 1990: 120 and Searle, 1998. 102) For example, the
Illocutionary forces of supplication and requesting have the same illocutionary point in that the speaker wants the hearer to do something for him. However, to distinguish between these two forces, it can be said that the degree of strength of supplication is greater than that of requesting because a speaker who supplicates expresses a stronger desire than a speaker who requests (Ballmer and Brennenstuhl, 1981: 67 and Vanderveken, 1990: 119) Strength of sincerity conditions is the strength of the psychological state that the speaker commits to in employing a particular illocutionary force. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) cite requesting and ordering as illocutionary acts that show a distinction between the two strengths.

Ordering in their analysis, has a greater degree of strength of illocutionary point than requesting, due, at least in part, to the institutional authority of the orderer. But they add that ordering does not necessarily express a commitment to a stronger accompanying psychological state of desire; that is, requesting and ordering need not have a different degree of strength of sincerity conditions. despite their different degree of strength of illocutionary point Thus, they distinguish the two terms. Here are some speech acts that illustrate strength of sincerity conditions.

Suggesting and swearing

Promising and vowing

Requesting and demanding

Approving and endorsing (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 98)

The second act in each pair has a greater degree of strength of sincerity conditions than the first.
2. Increment of the Degree of Strength

The degree of strength of an illocutionary force can be increased by different means. For example, adverbs like 'sincerely, frankly' can be used to strengthen the degree of strength. When a speaker says "frankly, he is dead" the degree of force is greater than that when he says "he is dead". The mode of achievement of the force can also increase the degree of the force. For example, commanding has a greater degree of strength than requesting because of the special mode of achievement of the directive point that increases the degree of strength of the illocutionary force (Vanderveken, 1990: 120, Al-Sulaimaan, 2001. 18 and 2002. 105) The intensity of the desire can be another source of increasing the degree of strength. For example, pleading has a greater degree of strength than requesting because of the intensity of desire expressed in pleading (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985 15) Another example is that of blaming and accusation. The public mode of achievement of an accusation increases its degree of strength more than that of blaming (Vanderveken, 1990. 179).

3. Degree of Strength as a Distinctive Feature

The term Distinctive Feature' has been mainly used in phonology. The purpose of using this term is to enable us to make a contrast between different linguistic units that share many features but differ in only one feature which distinguishes one unit from the other (Crystal, 1985: 98 and Poole, 1999. 56) For instance, the two phonemes of /p/ and /b/ are distinguished by the feature of voiceness. Thus, /p/is voiceless, whereas /b/ is voiced. In this paper, the concept of distinctiveness will be adopted and applied to the degree of strength to be used in translating the illocutionary forces of speech acts of similar illocutionary point. For
example, the following English verbs differ only in their degree of strength. A scale of integers (0-4) can be used to indicate the degree of strength as in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Degree of strength</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Illocutionary Force</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Directives</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Suggest</td>
<td>Direct</td>
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<td>Suggest</td>
<td>Tell</td>
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<td>Suggest</td>
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<td>Suggest</td>
<td>Warn</td>
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<td>Declaratives</td>
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<td>Declare</td>
<td>Pardon</td>
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<td>Declare</td>
<td>Enact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Declare</td>
<td>Approve</td>
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<td>Commissives</td>
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<td>Pledge</td>
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<td>Commit</td>
<td>Accept</td>
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<td>Commit</td>
<td>Pledge</td>
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<td>assertives</td>
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<td>Tell</td>
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<td>Assert</td>
<td>Tell</td>
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<td>Assert</td>
<td>Criticize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Approve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Greet</td>
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<td>Express</td>
<td>Complain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Complain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Complain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (1) Degree of Strength of Some English Speech Act Verbs
4. Degree of strength of Directives

This paper studies the degree of strength of Directive acts. In order to be more specific, only the act of suggestion with two of its different sequences of forces will be investigated. As table (1) indicates, the act of 'suggest' can be considered as the origin of four may be more, different sequence of subacts. The difference between these acts lies in the fact that in each force what is strengthened differs from what is strengthened in another force. For instance, in the sequence "Suggest, Direct, Request, Beg, Supplicate", what is strengthened here is the degree to which the speaker wants the hearer to do something though the speaker is not in a position (Mode of achievement) to ask so. while in the sequence "Suggest, Tell, Demand, Order, Command", what is strengthened is the degree to which the speaker wants the hearer to do something and the speaker is in a position (Mode of achievement) to ask so.

5. Determining the Illocutionary Force of Directives

For Directives, certain features of speech act have to be specified to determine the Illocutionary force. The most important ones needed for this purpose are

1. The speaker wants the hearer to do the state of affair (+).
2. The state of affairs is a future event (+) or not (-).
3. The state of affairs involves an agent (+) (the hearer)
4. The speaker is in a position to ask the hearer to do the state of affair (+), if not (-).
5. Degree of strength as given above (0-4).

The following table shows the criteria to be adopted to determine the Illocutionary Force of Directives.
Table (2): Shows the Criteria for Determining the Illocutionary Force of Directives

### 6. Directives in Arabic

Directives in Arabic include, among others, "م- VI" (imperative) (الإلتئاس) (request) (الرجاء) (supplication). The 'imperative' is defined as the request of doing something from a higher rank to a lower one. There are different forms of imperative in Arabic. The basic ones include: the imperative verb, the imperfect verb with "لـ" as in "لـذهب", verbal imperative noun as in "عليكم انفسكم", and the infinitive as in "فضب ضرب الرباب" (Haroun, 1979: 14). Requests in Arabic include Al-Iltaas' (request) between similar ranks. Finally, 'Al- raja" (supplication) as in "لـغ" (Matloub, 1980:117)

### 7. Data Analystis and Translation with Reference to Degree of Strength

**SL Text (I)**

Brutus to Cassius

"I will come home to you, if you will, come home to me, and I will wait for you". (Julius Caesar I, ii, line 310)

**Interpretation**

Brutus politely asks Cassius to come to his (Brutus) house using "if" to give Cassius a choice to accept or to refuse his suggestion
Text IF analysis

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>IF</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Request</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TL Texts

1. Jamal: "سأني لراك في بيتك أو إذا تفضل ان تأتي إلى منزلك فسأنتظرك" (ص53)

2. Fadhil: "ان الحبيبي جنتك في دارك وان شئت جنتني في داري وسأنتظرك" (ص44)

3. Hamdi: "وإذا رغبت غدا ان اتحدت معلك بشأن هذه الأمور فسأني لراك في منزلك فانا انت وسأكون بانتظارك" (ص28)

4. Beirut: فذا كنت تفضل ان تأتي إلى منزلك فانا فانا بانتظارك "(ص56)

Discussion

Three translators have given the IF of requesting. Yet, the degree of strength of the force differs. Jamal and Beirut have used "إذا تفضل، إذا كنت تفضل" whereas Fadhil has used "أو تعال". The linguistic device is more polite than because it gives more chance to the hearer whether to accept or to refuse the request. However, Fadhil has expressed the IF with almost similar degree of strength. As for Hamdi, he used the imperative form "تعال" which gives so higher degree of strength that it reaches the force of an order not a request. He should have taken into consideration that ad Hamdi has the speaker is not in a position to give an order.

SL Text (2)

Cassius to Casca

Shall we sound him" (Julius Caesar: II, i, line 141)

Interpretation

Cassius asks the conspirators whether to try to find Cicero's opinion about the Conspiracy or not.
Text IF analysis

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>IF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Request</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TL Texts

1. Jamal: "هل سنحاول أن ننسى نبضه؟" (72)
2. Fadhil: "افنسير غوره؟" (ص 66)
3. Hamdi: "هل نسبر غوره (ص 28)
4. Beirut: "هل نذهب اليه ونسى نبضه" (ص 79)

Discussion

All translators have given the IF with the required degree of strength. Yet, three of them have used the interrogative هل and the second translator has used أ. In Arabic both particles can be used to indicate a degree of strength that gives the hearer a chance to refuse or accept the suggestion. All the translators have taken into consideration the view that the speaker is not in a position to give an order. However, In Beirut translation the interrogation has been falsely given to نذهب and not ننسى as it is required.

The Proposed Rendering

SL Text (3)

Brutus to the Conspirators

"Count the clock" (Julius Caesar Li, line 193)

Interpretation

Brutus asks the rest of the conspirators to count the clock in order to know the time to make their preparations for the conspiracy.
Text IF analysis

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<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>IF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Demand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TL Texts**

1. Jamal : "لنصغ الى دقائقها ونعلم الوقت" (75) "ندعو الساعة "(ص 64)
2. Fadhil : "عند الساعة "(ص 47)
3. Hamdi: "عند الساعة "(ص 47)
4. Beirut : دعونا نصغي الى دقائق الساعة "(ص 82)

**Discussion**

In this example, it is obvious that there are two directions Jamal and Beirut have given the force of requesting by using the Arabic particle لـ and the verb دعونا. They, in fact, have regarded Brutus as only one member of the conspirators. Yet, he is not only a member, but the head of the conspiracy. That is, he is in a position to demand, order, or command his followers. Hence, the degree of strength should be higher than requesting. Fadhil and Hamdi, on the other hand, have taken into consideration the fact that Brutus is in a position (mode of achievement) to demand, order, or command his followers. Therefore, they have used the imperative verb عدوا. However, the increment of the degree of strength is not so high to use a command.

The Proposed Rendering

Cassius to Brutus

"Nay, we -will all of us be there to fetch him" (Julius Caesar IL,i, line 212)

**Interpretation**

Cassius suggests that the whole conspirators should go to get Caesar out in order to kill him in the Capital.
Text IF analysis

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Request</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TL Texts**

1. Jamal : "ربما كان خيرا لنا لو زرناه واخرجناه" (76)
2. fadhil : "بل نكون كلنا هناك لمرافقته" (ص 72)
3. Hamdi : "بل نذهب جميعا لنخرجه (ص 48)
4. Beirut : "بل نذهب جميعا الى منزله ونرافقه الى دار الحكومة " (ص 82)

**Discussion**

All translators have given the literal meaning without referring to the illocutionary force of requesting. They should have used the Arabic particle لـ to indicate that the speaker is requesting his followers to go to Caesar's house.

The proposed rendering بل نذهب جميعا ونخرجه

**SL Text (5)**

Decius to Caesar

"Most mighty Caesar, let me know some cause ". (Julius Caesar: II,ii, line 69)

**Interpretation**

Decius begs Caesar to tell him a sound reason for not going to the Capital. He is, in fact, trying to persuade him to go.
Text IF analysis

<table>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Beg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TL Texts**

1. Jamal:

"يا قيصر العظيم! اضنعي عزرا اخرا" (88)

2. fadhil:

"يا قيصر المعظم القادر فلا اعرف سبيما ما" (ص 84)

3. Hamdi:

"قيصر مولاي -رب القدرة والعظمة، ابتني ببض سبب" (ص 57)

4. Beirut:

مولاي قيصر العظيم، اعطني سبيبا اذن عبه "(ص 97)

**Discussion**

In this example the degree of strength of request is high because the requester is far distant from the position of the requestee. So the force, here, is the one of begging. Only Jamal has indicated the same degree of strength by using the verb اضنعي Other translators have used the imperative form اعطني alone neglecting the fact that the speaker is not in a position to give orders. So, the degree of force is higher than that of the original text.

The Proposed Rendering

مولاي قيصر العظيم: اتواصل ان تعطني سبيبا

**SL (Text 6)**

Artemidorus to Caesar

"O Caesar, read mine first" (Julius Caesar III, i, Line 6)

"Hail, Caesar! read this schedule Julius Caesar III, i, Line 9)

**Interpretation**

Artemidorus begs Caesar to read his letter twice. Yet, in the first request his voice is lower and more polite than the second Shakespeare
intentionally used the imperative form though the speaker is not in a position to give an order to indicate that the speaker is angry and to show Caesar's snobbery when he refuses the request because of the imperative form.

Text IF analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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<th>5</th>
<th>IF</th>
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<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Beg</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>&quot;order&quot; function</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TL Texts**

1. Jamal :

"يا قيصر العظيم، اضرع الملك ان تقرأ رسالتتي" (ص 97)

"احبيبك يا قيصر العظيم، اقرأ هذه الرسالة" (ص 84)

2. fadhil :

"أي قيصر اقرأ رقعتي اولاً

سلام على قيصر، اقرأ هذه الرقعة" (ص 72)

3. Hamdi:

"حبيبك الله، ثابث قيصر، اقرأ هذه الرقعة" (ص 52)

4. Beirut :

"قيصر اسألك ان تقرأ رسالتتي اولاً

احبيبك يا مولاي قيصر ارجوك ان تطلع على هذه الرقعة" (ص 112)

**Discussion**

In this example, there are two apparently similar requests said by a lower ranked person to a higher one. Yet, in the second request Shakespeare intentionally used the imperative form, though the speaker is not in a position to give an order, to indicate that the speaker is angry. Translators should keep the dramatic function of imperative form in the second quotation. As for the first example only Jamal has given the force of begging by using the verb "اضرع" whereas the other translators have used the imperative verb "اقرأ" which indicates the force of an order. In the second example, three translators have given the force of an order by using whereas Beirut has used which indicates the force of begging.
The Proposed Rendering

"يا قيصر العظيم
اضرع اليك ان تقرأ رسالتي اولا
"حياك الله يا قيصر , اقرأ هذه الرسالة

Conclusion

Translating certain speech acts of similar illocutionary point constitutes a problem for translators who have given different translations for such acts. In (5) out of (6) examples, the translators failed to give the IF of the utterance. To solve such a problem, the degree of strength can be adopted to be a distinctive feature to find aid the specific force. In this regard, the translator has to specify the increment of the degree of strength. Such criteria involve certain steps regarding the degree of the IF of directives:

1. The translator should determine the speaker and the hearer.
2. He should determine the rank of both speaker and hearer.
   a. If speaker is in a higher rank, he is in a position to give orders and commands. The higher rank he is, the higher degree of strength of IF he gives in the sequence of "Suggest, Tell, Demand, Order, Command"
   b. If both speaker and hearer are of the same rank, the degree of strength is limited to low degrees of both directions 1. "Suggest, Tell, Demand, Order, Command" and 2. "Suggest Direct, Request, Beg, Supplicate" the speaker may Suggest Tell, Direct, and Request.
   c. If speaker is in a lower rank than hearer, The lower rank he is the higher degree of strength of IF he gives in the sequence of "Suggest, Direct, Request, Beg, Supplicate"

For "a". translators who translate from English into Arabic should use one form of imperatives, as for 'b', they have to use one form of request, whereas for 'c', they have to use one form of Al-Rajaa".
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المستخلص

درجة القوة العبرية كسمة مميزة في ترجمة افعال التوجه ذات الهدف المتشابه

أ. د. مصباح محمود داود

أ.م.د. لقمان عبد الكريم ناصر

يعتبر المنهج التدالو من المناهج المختلفة في حقل الترجمة. إذ يحاول تفسير الترجمة من منظور ما ضمه الكاتب في النص وما تم تضمينه في ترجمة النص استجابة للنص الاصلي. وعند تبني هذا المنهج الذي يعمل فيه فعل القول كوحدة للترجمة، يواجه المترجمون باستمرار مشكلة ترجمة الافعال ذات الهدف الواحد. يحاول هذا البحث تقديم حلول لهذه المشكلة باستخدام درجة القوة التعبيرية كسمة مميزة في ترجمة معاني افعال القول ذات الهدف المتشابه. وقد قدم الباحث خلفية نظرية موجزة للمصطلحات المستخدمة فيه بالامثلة. اما فيما يتعلق بالجانب العملي فقد تم اختيار افعال التوجه ذات الهدف المتشابه كمعطيات للتحليل. لذا فأن هذا البحث يساعد المترجمين في تجاوز صعوبات ترجمة الافعال في النقاش من خلال تقديم طريقة يتم من خلالها تمييز هذه الافعال.

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