

Research paper

Ideological Manipulation in Political Power Relationships: A Case Study of English Translation of Political News in MEMRI Website Based on CDA Model

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Abstract

The present study aimed at analyzing the ideological manipulations in the English translation of Persian news articles. To this end, fifteen Persian political articles, classified into 90 short paragraphs, were extracted from the online Fars, Tasnim, Yjc, Kayhan, Mehr, Ilna, Isna, and Mashregh news agencies, as well as their corresponding English translation from Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) News Website. Fairclough's (1989) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) model was selected to extract and analyze the ideological manipulations at three descriptive, interpretive, and explanatory dimensions. The results at the micro level revealed that from the whole 184 experiential values found for vocabulary items, synonyms and antonyms were the most and least frequent strategies with 32% and 3%, respectively. Indeed, negative sentences (47%) were the most frequent grammatical strategy at the experiential values, compared to active sentences (11%) as the least frequent one. Data analysis showed the same frequency of formal words in 90 Persian sections and the English translations, and no manipulation in rendering formal words occurred. Moreover, analyzing the experiential, relational, and expressive values of vocabulary and grammatical items as translation strategies revealed various examples of ideological shifts in rendering. It was concluded that the MEMRI news website selectively and purposefully translated the Persian political news articles according to the social necessities and the political and power struggles between Iran and U.S. Indeed, MEMRI shifted many vocabulary and grammar values,

resulting in the occurrence of different ideological manipulations in the translation of political discourse in Iran. Consequently, the claimed loyal and faithful translation of news articles proposed by the MEMRI team was rejected.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, Ideology, Power

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Introduction

The place of translation politically sensitive contexts has long been identified as a point where linguistic choices are merged in ideological positioning (Calzada-Pérez, 2014; Venuti, 2018). Therefore, reaching the intended meaning of the original author in addition to maintaining conformity to the source ideology is a concern in translation. Some researchers (e.g., Allababneh, 2021; Li & Wang, 2023; Pym, 2023; Venuti, 2017) have shown that translators often confront dilemmas related to structural differences between languages, institutional pressures, and the translator's own beliefs while translating political texts. All these points can impact how ideological content is represented in the target text. Researchers have indicated that political discourse bears concepts embedded in culture and evaluative meanings that often resist neutral transfer, making such texts particularly vulnerable to ideological reframing during translation (Al-Mushawwat, 2025; Amiri & Baradaran, 2015; Bazayar et al., 2019; Li & Wang, 2023; Sun & Subramaniam, 2023). These studies signal that translation is never a purely linguistic act but a socially situated practice influenced by political interests and institutional agendas.

While there has been an increasing interest in the ideological manipulation in translation, most studies produced so far have engaged with literary texts, theoretical discussions, or Persian-Persian ideological rewriting. Relatively few studies have explored how international media institutions translate Iranian political news for the benefit of global audiences, despite the major role that such institutions have in both public and governmental receptions of Iran. A player in this regard is

MEMRI. This organization provides English translations of political texts from Iran and other Middle Eastern countries. These translations are widely used in Western countries by politicians, journalists, analysts, and different research institutions. While MEMRI describes its mission as the provision of accurate and faithful translations, it has equally been described in both public and academic debates as being politically positioned, in particular with regard to the representations of Iranian political figures. In its dual role as a popular source of information and as a politically invested institution, MEMRI thus provides a critical site for the examination of ideological manipulation in translated political discourse.

The study operates within the framework of Fairclough's CDA and thus uses it as the theoretical and analytical basis to explain how ideological meanings might change during the translation of Persian political news into English for Anglophone readers. CDA views discourse as a textual product, an interpretative process, and a socially embedded practice; therefore, it apparently holds much relevance for translation studies. Fairclough's model seems very suitable because it connects small linguistic features, like vocabulary and polarity, to larger issues of power relations. In this model, the lexical and grammatical choices made during translation can change or reshape these meanings at the macro level.

Although later developments within CDA, for example Van Dijk's (2008) sociocognitive approach or Wodak's (2001) Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA), offer important additional sociological insights, Fairclough's (1993) tripartite model presents the most systematic linguistic categories for comparing Source Texts (ST) and Target Texts (TT), a necessary foundation for analyzing political translations in a corpus-based study.

Although a number of ideological interventions in translation have been documented, the mechanisms of ideological shifts in the English translation of Iranian political news are

insufficiently explored. Very few indeed combine CDA with a bilingual, corpus-based approach to specific media institutions and still fewer do as a means of exploring the role of translation choices, both intentional and structural in nature, in shaping the global circulation of Iranian political narratives. This represents a particularly significant gap given the geopolitical tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear negotiations, its regional policies, and its relations with the U.S., which amplifies the ideological stakes of political reporting and its translation.

The present study seeks to fill this gap by examining ideological manipulations in MEMRI's English translations of Persian political news about Iran's nuclear and regional policies. Employing Fairclough's (1989) CDA model, including the experiential, relational, and expressive linguistic dimensions, the study examines (a) the type and frequency of micro-level linguistic shifts; (b) the translation strategies that can lead to ideological reframing; and (c) the broader socio-political power relations within which these shifts occur. With this approach, the study is not only aimed at rendering judgment about MEMRI's claim of faithful translation but also attempts to contribute to broader discussions of translation ethics, media literacy, and the construction of political realities across languages and international institutions.

Literature Review

The concept of ideology has received extensive attention across the social sciences, particularly concerning the way discourse reflects and sustains relations of power (Beetz et al., 2021). Indeed, a number of scholars, including Thompson (1982) and Van Dijk (1988), proposed that ideology can be viewed in terms of its articulation with social practices, discursive forms, and processes of dominance rather than as a system of ideas or beliefs per se. In this view, ideology operates not merely through explicit assertions but more subtly through lexical and grammatical choices,

perhaps, and through ways of framing events and actors (Flusberg et al., 2024; Mehawesh & Abu Al-Roub, 2025). Translation, according to Calzada-Perez (2007), necessarily proceeds ideologically since it selects, reorganizes, and reformulates meaning through language, and such operations are inevitably tied to the translator's position, the institutional context, or the expectations of the target audience. According to some researchers (e.g., Fawcett, 1998; Grek, 2023; Haroun, 2024; Wang & Li, 2023), translation has been used instrumentally by institutions across history in efforts to shape political narrative. Therefore, translation neutrality is questioned.

CDA thus provides a useful framework through which to examine such ideological operations since it brings together textual analysis, social theory, and interpretive strategies. According to researchers, working in the CDA tradition, linguistic structures, including lexical choice, patterns of transitivity, modality, and thematic organization, can carry ideological meaning (Fairclough, 1989; Farhadytooli, 2025; Fowler, 1991; Lukin, 2024; Yang, 2023). More recent exponents of this approach broaden its theoretical and methodological focus beyond the early preoccupation with the contribution of discourse to social inequality. The sociocognitive model elaborated by Van Dijk (1988) gives significance to the cognitive processes functioning as intervening variable between discourse and social structure. DHA developed by Wodak embeds the analyses of intertextual, contextual, and historical dimensions to demonstrate how political narratives get altered over time. Further, more recent discussions also point out that exploring how discourses spread globally, even via translation, has become important. These approaches together suggest that CDA can provide a sound basis for research into how translated texts may reposition ideological meaning.

Within this larger area, media translation has gained attention, especially with regard to the ways in which news institutions frame events across languages. Investigation (e.g., Al-

Mushawwat, 2025; Li & Wang, 2023; Songaila, 2024; Valdeón, 2020; Valdeón, 2024) have shown that journalistic translation is guided by factors such as editorial norms and geopolitical interests about target audiences. This becomes particularly relevant within politically sensitive contexts in which competing narratives of national identity or international relations take center stage. Despite such translations have significant roles in shaping Western perceptions of Iran, little work has investigated how English-language institutions translate Persian political discourse. MEMRI is especially significant in this context. MEMRI is widely used both by policymakers and journalists. Its translations frequently appear in political reports and media commentary (Abualada, 2024). At the same time, MEMRI has been criticized for some reasons such as it selects certain texts, highlights specific ideological angles, gives a narrow picture of Iran, and may help create negative or adversarial narratives about the country. MEMRI therefore represents an important site for studying how translation practices contribute to ideological positioning in international political communication.

Given the complexity of political discourse and the need for a systematic linguistic analysis, this study adopts Fairclough's (1989) three-dimensional CDA model. Although more recent CDA frameworks have emerged, Fairclough's model offers a uniquely structured tool for examining cross-linguistic textual transformations (Kim, 2025). The micro-level linguistic categories of experiential, relational, and expressive values give precise analytic tools for locating semantic shifts, relexicalization, and syntactic restructuring, those very points at which ideological reframing most readily takes place. Meanwhile, its interpretive and explanatory dimensions draw attention to the institutional motivations and broader power relations that impacts translation outcomes. More recent CDA models, such as DHA or sociocognitive approach, add to the macro understanding of discourse but do not give the same operational detail for a systematic comparative

analysis of vocabulary and grammar across languages. Fairclough's earlier model thus has remained highly appropriate for the primary analytical framework of this study, supplementing insights from the contemporary CDA studies.

Notwithstanding the contributions of existing studies, a number of gaps still remain. Most of the literature about ideology in translation examines literary works, doctrinal texts, or monolingual critical readings rather than mediated political discourse that has been presented to international audiences. Those studies which do focus on political journalism seldom conduct systematic category-based comparisons between ST and their translations. Even fewer consider how institutional actors such as MEMRI, with explicit geopolitical influence, may reconfigure narratives about Iran through selective linguistic or discursive strategies. Consequently, there is an insufficient understanding of the mechanisms through which ideological repositioning occurs when Persian political news is transformed into English for Western consumption.

In response to these gaps, this article examines ideological repositioning in MEMRI's English translations of Persian political news regarding Iran's nuclear program and regional policies. This study which is grounded in Fairclough's CDA model, examines (1) micro-level linguistic patterns, (2) translation strategies involving ideological reframing, and (3) the underlying macro-level socio-political forces that condition these translational choices. Specific research questions which will be addressed are:

RQ1. What are the most and least frequent descriptive ideological manipulations in the experiential, relational, and expressive values of vocabulary and grammar levels of the English translation of political news articles based on Fairclough's (1989) CDA model?

RQ2. Which translation strategies interpretively result in the ideological manipulation of the political news articles based on Fairclough's (1989) CDA model?

RQ3. Which social struggles and power relations influence the ideological translation of political news articles based on Fairclough's (1989) CDA model?

Methodology

Research Design

A corpus-based, descriptive analytical design was adopted for this study on ideological repositioning in the English translation of Persian political news. This design is appropriate for studies based on CDA, where comparison across languages through systematic linguistic means is central to the identification of subtle discursive shifts.

Corpus and Sampling Procedure

The corpus comprised 15 Persian political news articles and their English translations that appeared on the MEMRI News Website. The Persian texts were sourced from leading Iranian news agencies such as Fars, Tasnim, YJC, Kayhan, Mehr, ILNA, ISNA, and Mashregh. These agencies regularly report on national and international political issues. All selected articles dealt with highly politicized themes, including Iran's nuclear program, JCPOA negotiations, Iran–U.S. relations, and regional geopolitical tensions. The English translations were published between January 20, 2017, the date of the inauguration of Donald J. Trump, and January 20, 2019, a period when dramatic political changes took place, influencing Iran's international status. The 15 articles represent the complete set of Persian political reports translated by MEMRI on the specified subjects within the two-year period. Thus, the sampling was purposive and exhaustive, and the corpus truly represents MEMRI translational representations of Iranian political discourse. In CDA-oriented corpus

studies, sample size is considered adequate when depth of linguistic analysis rather than numerical representativeness; thus, the sample size is appropriate for a close micro- and macro-level analysis.

Units of Analysis and Data Segmentation

Since the articles were of different lengths, each text was divided based on its natural paragraphing. Each Persian paragraph along with its English translation was considered as one unit of analysis. This process resulted in 90 units of analysis that could systematically investigate the linguistic patterns at micro (textual) and macro (discursive) levels. The resultant units then provided the basis for coding experiential, relational, and expressive linguistic features.

Coding Procedure and Intercoder Reliability

A coding scheme was developed based on Fairclough's, (1989) CDA framework, focusing on: (1) Experiential values: synonymy, hyponymy, polarity shifts, active/passive transformations, addition/omission, (2) Relational values: formality, sentence modes, and finally, (3) Expressive values: evaluative shifts, contrastive lexical choices, logical connectors.

Coder Training and Reliability Testing

Two coders with a background in translation studies and discourse analysis independently coded 20% of the corpus following a calibration meeting. Intercoder reliability was computed using Cohen's Kappa. It yielded $\kappa = 0.81$, which indicates significant agreement. Disagreements were solved through discussion, where revisions were incorporated into the final coding manual. Then, the full dataset was analyzed by the first coder, while a further 10% of randomly selected units were cross-checked by the second coder for consistency.

Analytical Framework: Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model

Thus, Fairclough (1989) CDA model guided the study's analytical process through three interrelated stages of (1) description (textual level): The formal linguistic properties of each unit, vocabulary, grammar, transitivity patterns, and syntactic structures, were studied at this level. Their experiential, relational, and expressive values were coded in order to trace the points of convergence or deviation between ST and TT, (2) interpretation (discursive processing level): This level explored the ways in which translators might have elaborated meanings and recontextualized them. Thus, it examined possible motivational forces of linguistic moves, such as explicitation, omission or shifts for target audience comprehension. Discursive cues that may reflect ideological repositioning were identified here, and (3) explanation (social and ideological level): This final level contextualizes the findings in the larger sociopolitical context. The analysis considered the institutional position of MEMRI, geopolitical tensions between Iran and Western actors, and the potential ideological effects of translational options for international audiences.

Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis

Once the coding was complete, frequency counts for each linguistic category were calculated to highlight recurrent patterns in the corpus. The quantitative results were complemented by qualitative interpretations using Fairclough's framework. This helped an integrated understanding of how micro-level textual transformations contribute to macro-level ideological positioning.

Data Analysis and Results

Fairclough's (1989) CDA model was employed to analyze the trace of ideology in both Persian and English texts. The micro-level analysis of the extracted data included investigating the

descriptive dimension of the text. To this end, the experiential, relational, and expressive values of vocabulary and grammar were analyzed separately at each level.

Micro-Level Analysis

Experiential Value of Vocabulary Analysis

Based on Fairclough's (1989) CDA model, the experiential value of vocabulary analysis consisted of four classifications: overwording, synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy. The researcher intended to find the presentation of vocabulary value manipulation at four mentioned items in the English text. In overwording, the researcher observed many examples of adding one word in parenthesis because it was necessary to add the information due to either linguistic differences between two languages, or English readers' unfamiliarity with the original cultural and social-based word. For example, the word Khamenei was followed by the Persian word, leader, in parenthesis because many English readers are not familiar with political officials and their authorities in Iran.

Thus, as an overall agreement, the overwording was only highlighted and extended to the examples where two or more two extra words are added to the English translation. The synonym also had a different meaning in Fairclough's model; he refers to the synonym as not the exact equivalence of the vocabularies in dictionaries. Therefore, the frequencies of each classification in the English translation of all Persian news headlines were presented in Table 1.

Table 1

The Frequency of Four Experiential Values of Vocabulary in English Translation

Experiential Value	Frequency	Percentage
Over wording	48	26%
Hyponymy	59	32%
Synonymy	72	39%
Antonymy	5	3%
Total	184	100%

As Table 1 revealed, from the whole 184 experiential values found for vocabulary items, synonyms, and antonymy were the most and least frequent values with 32% and 3%, respectively. Hyponymy (32%) value ranked as the second most frequent value, followed by over wording (26%) as the third most frequent experiential value. In other words, the translator could not correctly replace 32% of the words with close and similar equivalences in rendering news articles. Although the meaning of equivalents was similar in meaning, they could not be assumed as perfect translations. Indeed, the antonymy samples showed that the translator replaced a few vocabularies with the opposite English equivalences in translation.

In linguistics, hyponymy is a semantic relation between a hyponym denoting a subtype. Thus, the cultural and linguistic differences can result in replacing the Persian words with more general equivalences. Although the lexical items were somehow translatable, the exact equivalence of such words would result in target readers' confusion, and the translator replaced them with general words to make the target readers understanding somehow easier. Finally, overwording, defined as uncommon usage of wording in translation, was found in many examples. Unlike hyponymy, here the translator intended to explain the words in Persian through several near-synonym words. Based on the descriptive dimension, the differences between ST and TT in utilizing each of the four experiential values in vocabulary can result in ideological struggle and shifts in rendering.

Experiential Value of Grammar Analysis

The grammar value of the present study at the experiential level was restricted to negative, positive, active, and passive sentences. There were some pre-defined agreements on extracting the data in this section; firstly, sentences with the same positive and negative structures in both ST and TT were not selected because no shift occurred in rendering. The same rule was designed for the active and passive sentences, too.

In other words, only the sentence change in the target language was considered as the presentation of an ideological shift in rendering the experiential value of grammar in the English language. To this end, the frequency of each grammar value in the English translation was shown in Table 2.

Table 2

The Frequency of Four Experiential Values of Grammar in English Translation

Experiential Value	Frequency	Percentage
Negative	21	47%
Positive	13	29%
Passive	6	13%
Active	5	11%
Total	45	100%

According to Table 2, a total number of 45 grammar shifts in four values were found. Negative sentences (47%) were the most frequent grammar values in the experiential level of translating news articles, compared to active sentences (11%) as the least frequent values in rendering. Indeed, 29% of grammar values were allocated to positive sentences, and the frequency of active sentences was found 13% the third most frequent value.

Relational Value of Vocabulary Analysis

Fairclough's (1989) CDA model proposed three relational values for vocabulary named formality, informality, and euphemistic expression. The present study selected political news

articles; thus, all words within sentences are written in a formal style. Table 3 showed the frequency of relational values of vocabulary in rendering.

Table 3

The Frequency of Three Relational Values of Vocabulary in English Translation

Relational Value	Frequency	Percentage
Formal	88	98%
Informal	0	0%
Euphemism	2	2%
Total	90	100%

The news articles consisted of many sentences. Therefore, they were divided into 90 separate sections in data analysis. Data analysis revealed that almost all formal words (98%) in 90 Persian sections were translated into the same formal equivalences in the English text. No example of informal vocabulary in both text was observed. Besides, the researcher only found two examples of euphemisms in the ST that were translated with the same style in rendering.

Relational Value of Grammar Analysis

Here, all 90 sections of the Persian text and English translation were analyzed to find examples of declarative, imperative, and question sentences as the relational values of grammar in rendering. The nature of news articles is declarative to deliver news and political analysis for their addresses. Thus, it was natural not to find any example of imperative sentences in TT and ST. The frequency of three relational values of grammar in the English text was presented in Table 4.

Table 4

The Frequency of Three Relational Values of Grammar in English Translation

Relational Value	Frequency	Percentage
Declarative	84	94%
Imperative	0	0%
Question	6	6%
Total	90	100%

As Table 4 presented, the researcher found no imperative sentence in both ST or TT. Indeed, only 6% of sentences in all 90 sections were written in question form. Finally, almost all sentences in all sections were declarative (94%).

Expressive Value of Vocabulary Analysis

Ideologically Contrastive Classification Schemes (ICCS) refer to the fundamental manipulations in rendering, resulting in the presentation of ideology at vocabulary value with completely contrastive equivalence. This manipulation in the expressive value of vocabulary is interrelated with the existence of antonyms in rendering. The frequency of ICCS expressive value in vocabulary items was illustrated in the following table.

Table 5

The Frequency of Expressive Value of Vocabulary in English Translation

Expressive Value	Frequency	Percentage
ICCS	3	3%
Total	90	100%

As Table 5 revealed, only three sections (3%) out of 90 sections of data analysis tables contained obvious fundamental manipulations in ideology through employing the contrast equivalences in rendering. These three sections included five examples of antonyms, and the authors' meaning was shifted into incorrect equivalences in English.

Expressive Value of Grammar Analysis

The last grammar item was related to the expressive value where the coordinative conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs are used to join or merge two or more two sentences. Here, it was agreed on the existence/ nonexistence of the logical connectors in the Persian section and their overall representations, less or more, in rendering. Thus, each data analysis section was considered a

general unit containing logical connectors. The frequency of logical connectors as the only item in the expressive grammar value was shown in Table 6.

Table 6

The Frequency of Expressive Value of Grammar in English Translation

Expressive Value	Frequency	Percentage
Logical connector	45	50%
Total	90	100%

As Table 6 revealed, the translator was able to employ logical connectors in 50% of the data analysis sections. In other words, logical connectors are connectors that link the semantical unit of language. Logical connectors are used to join or connect two ideas that have a particular relationship. Within each category of connections such as addition, cause & effect, contrast, etc., the separate clauses or sentences conveying ideas are connected as complex sentences. Therefore, it can be concluded that logical connectors in half of the Persian news articles were manipulated in the English text.

The results of descriptive dimensions in various experiential, relational, and expressive values for vocabulary and grammar items were presented in this section. The descriptive dimension results and the examples of data analysis were employed to run the micro-level dimensions to interpret and explain the data analysis in the second sub-section in chapter four,

Macro-Level Analysis

Interpretation: Processing Analysis

The interpretation dimension serves as a processing analysis of the translator's judgment and translation strategies. In the case of translation judgment, footnotes, endnotes, and prefaces are suitable sections to find the trace of ideological shifts. However, the present study did not analyze novels or any form of books. Here, the researcher only aimed to analyze the Persian news articles

and their corresponding English translations. Therefore, the translator strategy level was selected to interpret the texts.

Translator's Strategies

Analyzing the experiential, relational, and expressive values of vocabulary and grammar items as the translation strategies in the descriptive dimension revealed various examples of ideological shifts in rendering. This stage was employed to determine the discourses of the text as well as interpret the findings of the description stage. According to (Fairclough, 1989, p. 129) “the interpretation stage revealed the hidden power relations and the purpose of this stage were to establish whether the verbal cues in the text contain certain assumptions or other hidden elements that were not obvious at first glance”. Therefore, several examples of ideological manipulation in vocabulary and grammar were interpreted here. It must be mentioned that the data of the present study consisted of long news articles.

As mentioned in the descriptive section, ideological shifts were rarely observed in the relational value, and several logical connectors were the only presentation of ideology shifts in the expressive value of vocabulary and grammar. Thus, most of the following examples were mainly interpreted through the experiential value in grammar and vocabulary. Thus, several selective sections with the most presentation of ideological shifts were interpreted at vocabulary and grammar levels.

a. Interpreting Translation Strategies For Vocabulary

Table 7

Example of Experiential Value (Overwording & Hyponymy) in Translation

<p>IRGC commander Mohammad Ali Jafari said that: “We want to increase the range of the IRGC's missiles, but despite this, the Leader [Khamenei] has restricted us to a range of 2,000 km. We have the capability to increase the range of our missiles, and our missiles should obviously reach Israel...”</p>	<p>فرمانده کل سپاه با بیان اینکه ما به دنبال افزودن برد موشکی سپاه هستیم، خاطر نشان کرد: با این وجود رهبری ما را در برد 2000 کیلومتر محدود کردند، اما ما توان افزایش برد موشک‌ها را داریم و موشک‌های ما حتما باید به اسرائیل برسد....</p>
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The first example showed the over wording and hyponym strategies at the experiential value of vocabulary. The Persian vocabulary, سپاه, was over worded in the English text as IRGC. Therefore, the simple word in Persian was explained in detail to the target readers, and the translator aimed to make the target readers familiar with the non-governmental aspect of this religious organization. Such over wording did not make any ideological shifts at the macro level, and only explicated the words not familiar to target readers. No ideological shifts in the two other values were observed.

Table 8

Lexical and Relational Values in Rendering of Titles and Religious Terms

<p>1. E. Value of words ✓✓✓Over wording Hyponymy Antonymy Synonymy 2. R. Value of words ✓Formal words Informal words Eu.Expression 3. E. Value of words ICCS</p>	<p>Gen. Nosrat Allah Hosseini Pour, an IRGC commander, acknowledged, at an October 25, 2019 event of appreciation for one of the martyrs killed in Syria held in the city of Lamrad in southern Iran.</p>	<p><u>سردار</u> نصرت الله حسینی پور پنجشنبه شب در مراسم دومین سالگرد <u>شهید</u> <u>مدافع حرم</u> شهرستان لامرد، شهید حبیب ریاضی پور</p>
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Here, the Persian سردار as a nickname for IRGC top commanders was replaced with General in synonym value; the Persian words had a religious background relating to the third Imam of Shiah followers. The translator neglected the religious nature of IRGC and utilizing General as a word in army rankings was an attempt to introduce the IRGC as an official and international military entity. Indeed, the Persian سردار was over worded in the second sentence as IRGC commander. The third over wording was observed in rendering شهید مدافع حرم as a newly created concept in Islamic Republic's dictionary. This phrase refers to the IRGC members who are interfering in proxy wars in various countries such as Iraq and Syria. The so-called holy places in these countries were a justification for IRGC interventions in these countries. Soldiers who are killed in these proxy wars are called martyrs by the Islamic Republic. Therefore, such a newly

created concept was over worded for the English readers as appreciation for one of the martyrs killed in Syria. Here, the translator changed the holy aspects of the martyrdom concept in English, aiming to replace it with a simple kill within regional war while the ST's intention to highlight the holy aspect was neglected in rendering.

b. Interpreting Translation Strategies For Grammar

As mentioned earlier, the relational value of grammar faced no ideological manipulation due to the formal nature of news articles. The expressive values also contained the usage of logical connectors in rendering.

Table 9
Grammatical Experiential, Relational, and Expressive Values

<p>1. E. Value of grammar ✓Negative sentence Positive sentence Passive ✓<u>Active</u></p> <p>2. R. Value of grammar Modes of sentences ✓Declarative Imperative Question</p> <p>3. E. Value of grammar ✓Logical connector</p>	<p>Therefore, reason and logic dictate that we should avoid taking any steps that will place us back in America's and Europe's crosshairs and make us the world's number one issue again. From these people's perspective, Iran has gradually ceased being [a target of] hostility on the part of America, Europe, and their followers... [But] if we ask these people what evidence [they have] for this... they will have nothing to present... except interpretations...</p>	<p>و از این رو عقل و منطق حکم می‌کند که ما کاری نکنیم که دوباره در رادار آمریکا و اروپا دیده شده و به مسئله اول جهان تبدیل شویم. از منظر این افراد در چند سال اخیر به مرور موضوع ایران از دستور کار دشمنی آمریکا و اروپا و توابع آنها خارج شده <u>اگر از این افراد پرسیده شود</u> که نشانه یا نشانه‌های اینکه ما از رادار آمریکا و اروپا خارج شده‌ایم چیست؟ <u>قادر نیستند</u> بجز یک دسته حرف‌ها و تحلیل‌ها پاسخی بدهند</p>
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Thus, the experiential value was considered the most frequent level resulting in ideological shifts. Here, *اگر از این افراد پرسیده شود* is a passive sentence in the Persian text; the author intended to ideologically employ the passive structure and tries not to put themselves in front of the government that tends to negotiate. The author also aimed to say that the agent is the Iranian people who, in his viewpoint as an obvious lie, never accept nuclear talks. On the contrary, the agent in the English sentence is given. There were also logical connectors in both languages that may change the meaning. However, the same ideology was represented through logical connectors and no shift in the expressive value was observed.

Explanation: Social Analysis

As Fairclough (1989) states, two values can be considered for the explanation dimension; struggle process or power relations. Discourse can be widely conceptualized in terms of broader (non-discoursal) social struggles. Therefore, the explanation emphasizes mainly the social impacts of discourse, creativity, and the future. To this end, power struggles define the aspects of discourse. In this vein, the emphasis will be on the determinants of social struggles and power relations in the political discourse.

To this end, the first step in social explanation dimensions and the existing power relations was to introduce the corpus of the study. The researcher aimed at analyzing the ideological manipulations in the political discourse. Therefore, bilingual Persian news agencies with political news articles were selected. The corpus of the present study consisted of 15 political news articles in Persian from the online versions of Fars, Tasnim, Yjc, Kayhan, Mehr, Ilna, Isna, and Mashregh news agencies in Iran along with their corresponding English translation on the MEMRI news website. All the articles were related to the topic of Iran's Nuclear Issues, Iran-US relations, and the challenges between the two countries. Consequently, the power struggles in Iran and extremists' radical reactions to the nuclear negotiations and JCPOA were the places of power struggles in the context.

Table 10

Ideological Naming Strategies in Political News Translation

<p>“Regime officials stressed to the Iranian foreign minister that the public must be kept up to date regarding such letters and JCPOA violations. In any case, even Zarif’s fourth letter, [which was] to [Iran’s] National Security Committee, mentioned no such JCPOA violations. “In light of the increasing severity of the sanctions, which keeps rising, the government, and especially [President] Rohani and [Foreign Minister] Zarif, must be more transparent with public opinion on nuclear matters.”</p>	<p>قدوسی همچنین گفت : از طرف مسئولین نظام به وزیر امور خارجه ایران تأکید شده است که این نامه ها به اطلاع مردم رسانده شود تا مردم نیز از موارد نقض برجام آگاهی یابند با این وجود حتی در نامه شماره 4 ظریف به کمیسیون امنیت ملی این موارد نقض برجام ذکر نشده است. کریمی قدوسی خاطرنشان کرد: با توجه به تشدید تحریم هایی که همچنان روند صعودی آن طی می شود لازم به شفاف سازی بیشتر در میان افکار عمومی از سوی دولت به ویژه روحانی و وزیر امور خارجه در خصوص مسائل هسته ای هستیم.</p>
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Analyzing the selected Persian news articles and their English translations revealed several aspects of power struggles between Iran’s political tendencies and interests with the West. In other words, several sentences were translated with ideological manipulation in rendering. For example in the following news article.

As mentioned in the above example, one of the challenging issues was related to employing various names for Iran such as Islamic regime, regime, Iran’s regime, etc. In the Persian language, the word Islamic was used to address the nature of Iran’s political system. The translators employed the word regime to translate Iran, an Islamic republic, or Islamic official to create ideological shifts in rendering. According to the published Persian political news articles, the Islamic nature of Iran was selected during a referendum, and people voted Islamic republic as the political system. However, the word regime only refers to the dictatorial systems where people have no right for participating in Congress or presidential elections. The Persian authors always emphasized the republic aspect of Islamic Iran while it was repeatedly neglected and replaced with a regime to make the distinction between the official governors and people.

Table 11

Lexical Values and Ideological Framing in Institutional Attribution

<p>1. E. Value of words ✓ Overwording Hyponymy Antonymy ✓ Synonymy</p> <p>2. R. Value of words ✓ Formal words Informal words Eu.Expression</p> <p>3. E. Value of words ICCS</p>	<p>The IRGC-affiliated Tasnim news agency posted a diagram explaining that: “On the Firing Line – The commanders of the army of the Islamic Republic [of Iran] have said several times that with its attainment of long-range missiles with a range of up to 2,000 km, Iran has arrived at the range ceiling that it considers desirable, and that 'in the meantime' there is no need to increase this range.</p>	<p>به گزارش خبرگزاری تسنیم، فرماندهان نظامی جمهوری اسلامی ایران بارها اعلام کرده‌اند که با دستیابی به موشک‌های دوربرد 2 هزار کیلومتری، ایران در حوزه بُرد به سقف خواسته‌های خود رسیده و فعلا نیازی به افزایش برد نیست.</p>
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Tasnim is claimed to be an independent news agency in Iran, not following the stances and interests of any political party or military branch. Whether or not this claim is acceptable, in the above example, the translator intended to link Tasnim as a dependent news agency with stances completely close to the IRGC. Thus, the translator ideologically intervened in the translation process and did not keep its independence in the Persian text, resulting in obvious ideological manipulation. The rationale behind adding this information was to inform the ideological stance and the expected views of the Tasnim Newsagency for the TL readers.

Discussion

Considering the research gap and the objectives of the study, the following research questions were designed. Here, the researcher answered each question and concluded the final results.

Ideological Manipulation in Experiential, Relational, and Expressive Values

According to Fairclough’s (1989) CDA model, the set of formal features found in a specific text can be regarded as particular choices (options of vocabulary and grammar) available in the

discursive types. Therefore, the vocabulary and grammar levels in three interrelated categories named experiential, relational, and expressive values were investigated.

Restricting the experiential value of vocabulary into overwording, hyponymy, antonymy, and synonym categories, and the analysis revealed that the synonym and antonymy were the most and least frequent values, respectively. Then, the Hyponymy value is the second most frequent value, followed by overwording as the third most frequent experiential value.

The synonym value reveals that most of the vocabularies was replaced with far-English meanings in rendering. A few vocabularies were also translated into the opposite words as the antonymy category. The hyponymy means replacing vocabularies in St with the more general equivalence in TT; assisting the target reader to understand the meaning derived from cultural backgrounds. Finally, many examples of overwording as uncommon usage of wording in translation were found in TT. It was concluded that synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy resulted in various ideological manipulation in rendering. In other words, the exact meaning of the Persian vocabulary was not represented in the English text because of employing far meaning, opposite meaning, or a general substitution of vocabulary with semantics lost in rendering. Thus, the ideology beyond almost all vocabularies in the ST was manipulated in TT. However, the issue in overwording was different where the utilization of several words to explain or explicit a vocabulary assisted the target readers to understand the meanings.

Indeed, the researcher selected formal and informal, euphemisms as the sub-categories of the relational value of vocabulary. To be formal means to be more polite; on the contrary, an informal style sometimes can show offensive intentions or even treat friendly with addresses. Furthermore, euphemism proved to enjoy much of the speaker's preference. The researcher concluded no ideological shifts in the rendering of the vocabularies in formal, informal, and euphemism

relational values because the same style and also the same number of frequencies were observed in TT.

Ideologically Contrastive Classification Scheme (ICCS) was the expressive value for vocabulary. Analyzing all 90 sections of political news articles showed a few examples of overall shifts in rendering. It was concluded that the translators attempted not to manipulate the ideological meaning of vocabularies in the English translation, and the usage of antonyms in three sections resulted in evoking the opposite and wrong meaning in TT, not loyal to the ideology of ST.

The experiential value of grammar was narrowed down into positive/negative and passive/active structures. Negative sentences were the most frequent grammar values in the experiential level of translating news articles, compared to active sentences as the least frequent values in rendering. Indeed, positive sentences ranked second and active sentences ranked the third most frequent grammar values in the translation of political news articles.

The usage of more negative sentences in the case of either shifting a positive sentence in TT into a negative one or employing an additional negative sentence led to the translation of an ideological shift. Positive and negative manipulations mainly don't change the general meaning because of differences between the grammatical structures in Persian and English languages; however, the sense of the target reader to receive content with different negative/positive forms can result in shifting ideology. Moreover, passive voices were employed where it was aimed to hide the name of the agent intentionally, or the agent is not as important as the action, or even when the speaker/writer doesn't know the agent's identity. Consequently, shifts from passive to active and vice versa resulted in ideological manipulation in rendering grammar levels in the experiential value of the descriptive dimension.

The declarative, imperative, and question values were classified as the relational values of grammar. An imperative sentence is a grammatical structure that forms a command or request. Thus, no example of the imperative sentences was found. A declarative sentence is a sentence that makes a statement; any statement, from vitally important information to minor detail. The analysis revealed that all Persian declarative sentences were replaced with the same style in the English text. Indeed, all the Persian sentences in question form were translated into English. Consequently, no ideological manipulation of relational values of grammar was observed in rendering Persian news articles into English.

The expressive value for grammar was the existence of logical connectors. Here, the researcher considered any presentation of the logical connectors, either with an equal number in ST or not, as the representation of ideology through sentence connectors. The findings revealed that among 90 sections, half of the English sections had no ideological connectors, compared to the Persian sections. Thus, it was concluded that the English translations were not loyal to the logical connectors as the tools to join sentences with different ideological contents.

In the descriptive dimension, it can be concluded that translators did not perform well in conveying the ideology in the experiential value of vocabulary and grammar. Indeed, no important ideological shifts were found in relational values for vocabulary and grammar. Moreover, very few, but fundamental, shifts were observed in the expressive value of vocabulary, compared to the high amount of shifts in the expressive value of vocabulary of grammar. Despite MEMRI news websites' claim to be loyal to the original news, the number of existing manipulations in rendering the political news articles rejects their claims.

Translation Strategies and Interpretive Ideological Manipulation

Analyzing the experiential, relational, and expressive values of vocabulary and grammar items as the translation strategies were employed to determine and interpret the English translation. The findings in the interpretive dimension of Fairclough's (1989) CDA model revealed that the manipulation of ideology in different values of vocabulary and grammar levels resulted in various manipulations of ideology in the conveying of the Persian news articles' message into the English language. For example, replacing one separate vocabulary with a far meaning cannot be considered a sort of manipulation in ideology; however, when considering the vocabulary within a context, here news article, the intended message of the authors was lost in rendering. The same context-based shifts of grammatical structures such as passive/active and negative/positive interchanges between Persian and English languages shifted the interpretation of the news articles by target readers.

It was concluded that similar to the descriptive values as the basis of translation strategies in the interpretive dimension, different manipulations of ideology through employing different replacements in the textual layer of the text make the faithful translation policy of the MEMRI news website critical challenges. In other words, considering the context of political news discourse, many ideology-conveying structures in the vocabulary and grammar levels were not replaced with the exact equivalences in the English text, and such manipulations affected the final interpretation of the political news not similar to the original text.

Social Struggles, Power Relations, and Ideological Translation

Social struggle and power relations were two main values for the explanation dimension of Fairclough's (1989) CDA model. In this dimension, the social, political, and power relation aspects

of the context, and their impacts on the manipulation of ideology in translation were investigated. Considering JCPOA as the framework for missile and nuclear negotiations, the translation of such news was affected by various domestic and international interests. Indeed, the role of IRGC in controlling the political tendencies inside the country, its presence in many proxy wars in the region, directly threatening Israel and the U.S. bases around the country, all were important issues in publishing the domestic and international news in the middle of the nuclear negotiations. It was found that the selection of Persian news and its translation by the MEMRI news website was an important issue; reflecting only the extremists' viewpoints at the international level and refusing to reflect the moderate reformist parties' support of negotiations were the example of affecting the translation of political news through social struggles and power relations.

Therefore, it was concluded that the MEMRI news website selectively and purposefully publishes the English translation of Persian news articles according to the social necessities and the political and power struggles. Considering three descriptive, interpretative, and explanatory dimensions of CDA as one model, the researcher aimed to analyze the English translation of Persian political news articles to observe the examples of manipulations in ideology. Following the main objective, the researcher attempted to verify the MEMRI's claim of the faithful translation of the Persian political articles. This news website also claimed on its site to be loyal to the reflection of all voices inside the country, as well as being loyal to translating the correct message and ideology beyond words into English.

Based on the findings, MEMRI tended to reword or transform official 'voices' to common sense easily accepted by the public reader. The total number of reported speech employed in English translation exceeds that of the original text. The above findings demonstrated that the news reports were not value-free but highly ideologically invested. Generally, Persian news described

the Islamic Republic and its people on one side and put the U.S. as *The Great Satan*, in Iran's terminology, and its main ally in the region, the Israeli government, in a negative light.

MEMRI emphasizes the bad behaviors and qualities of Iranian officials. The choices of vocabulary and grammatical structures on the MEMRI news website were not compatible with its initial claim of being loyal to the ST. Most of the descriptive and interpretive dimensions of the analysis confirm the manipulation of ideology in rendering. Indeed, concerning the social issues and power relation struggles between Iran and Western countries, the MEMRI attempted to reflect the IRGC's viewpoint as the top extremist military wing of the Islamic Republic, and as the main opponent of the nuclear negotiations in rendering political news articles. The United States and Israel see Iran as a serious threat to their regional interests. Consequently, the selection and reflection of political news mainly related to IRGC interferences in the negotiation process, as well as the manipulation of ideology in grammar and vocabulary levels, as the translation strategies, raises questions about the extent to which these translations fully align with MEMRI's stated commitment to faithful rendering of the STs.

A balanced CDA interpretation need to consider the linguistic structure since this may be related to translation shifts. Moreover, not every difference between the Persian ST and the English translation is a sign of intentional ideological manipulation. Some changes might happen due to natural structural differences between Persian and English such as necessary changes in grammatical voice or the need to make some ideas more explicit. At times, these differences are due to the absence of direct lexical equivalents for culture-specific terms.

When these natural structural shifts are separated from deliberate strategic ones, the analysis becomes more fair and balanced within the CDA framework. Although the structural adjustments arise naturally from linguistic constraints, the repeated directional tendencies noticed throughout

the corpus, especially in vocabulary relexicalization and changes of agency, point to larger discursive framing, not confined to single mistranslations. This is where the distinction makes certain that findings are interpreted with proper caution and analytic rigor.

Conclusion

The major conclusions can be summarized as follows: News discourse just as any other type of discourse is not value-free but ideologically invested. Political news articles are not merely a representation or mirror, but largely an active and subjective construction of social reality on the part of journalists driven by particular ideological positions. Political news articles and their translations are manipulated by the dominant ideologies of the powerful master of the press. The linguistic differences involving such areas as vocabulary and grammar classifications, process types, discourse representation, and news sources between the original news and the translation can be traced back to individual ideological orientations. That is to say, all these differences cannot be adequately explained without taking the different ideological orientations and power relations into consideration.

This study is not only about where the translation changes happen, but it also adds to the larger discussion about ethics in translating political texts. The results showed that translators and media groups have an important ethical duty to be clear and honest when working with political content, because even small language choices can change the ideological meaning of a text. This research also helps improve media literacy, as it shows journalists and policymakers how both structural and intentional changes in translation can affect the way political stories are presented. Understanding the mechanism through which meaning is reshaped will further help audiences to more critically perceive translated news and interpret political messages more properly.

By necessity, therefore, the value of this study does not lie in proving manipulation outright but in providing analytical tools that allow for the translation process to be more transparent and promote an informed engagement with cross-linguistic political discourse.

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