The Impact of Ideological and Non-Ideological Factors on the Quality and Quantity of Error in the Simultaneous Interpreting of Contemporary American Political Discourse

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Abstract

The present study attempts to investigate the factors attributed to error in English into Arabic media simultaneous interpreting of contemporary American political discourse. It suggests that, regardless of their alleged professionalism, well-known Arabic-speaking satellite channels provide the audience with relatively erroneous renditions. Various ideological and/or non-ideological factors may contribute to errors committed. In order to examine the validity of such hypothesis, it analyses four Arabic renditions of Donald Trump's speech in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2017. The target texts are the simultaneous interpreting broadcast live by Al-Arabiya, Al-Jazeera, France 24, and Russia Today. These texts are analyzed and classified according to Jassem Ali Jassem's (2000; 2009) model of Error Analysis. With the help of Daniel Gile's (2009) Effort Model and Mona Baker's (2005;2006) Narrative Theory, the study outlines the most important factors attributed to errors. These errors can either be ideologically or non-ideologically motivated. The study ends up with a number of conclusions and recommendations that may be adopted to reduce the impact of the above-mentioned factors on simultaneous interpreters.

Keywords

Media Simultaneous Interpreting, American Political Discourse, Error Analysis, Efforts Model , Narrative Theory

1. Introduction

As is well-known, simultaneous interpreting plays a pivotal role in the foreign policies of countries, as it can deepen friendships or destroy diplomatic relations. As countries do not speak one language, the password for all this is 'interpretation'. Errors in the interpreting of media and news agencies may, however, lead to catastrophic events, for example, to strain diplomatic relations. This study focuses on the factors that may contribute to such errors. It suggests that professional media simultaneous interpreters commit a significant number of errors in the rendering of contemporary American political discourse. These errors vary in quality and quantity. Such errors may have a negative impact on the target audience's understanding of messages. It is expected that interpreters commit linguistic errors on three different levels (syntactic, lexical and phonetic). In addition, interpreters" rendering could also be accompanied by deletions, additions and inappropriate substitutions. Factors behind such errors vary as some could be ideologically-motivated while others are not.

2. Literature Review

There are many studies that have approached the factors influencing simultaneous interpreters' performance from different perspectives and with reference to different pair of languages. For economy of space, the focus here will be on some studies whose data are either English or Arabic. To begin with, Saleh Al-Salman and Raja'i Al-Khanji (2002) attempts to provide evidence on either support or refute the claim that simultaneous interpreters are more efficient when decoding/interpreting oral discourse from a foreign language into their mother tongue. The data were collected by means of a questionnaire which elicited the responses of a number of professional interpreters who participated in national, regional, and international conferences, and an analysis of the actual performance of some professional interpreters in actual interpretation tasks conducted in both

languages (ibid: 15). The findings showed that the majority of respondents seem to be more comfortable when interpreting from Arabic into English than vice versa. Therefore, it is inclined to conclude that it may not always be the case that people generally perform the same task (in speaking or in interpreting) less well in a second language than in a first (ibid:19).

Issa (2018:30) discusses the impact of knowledge and linguistic variety that the interpreter may be exposed to while interpreting. He further discovers that socially related expressions and work environment are among the most influential factors. But, a variety of coping strategies may be followed to overcome or reduce the impact of such difficulties (ibid: 150).

Moreover, Farhan (2010 :7-10) elaborates on the influence of delivery speech rate on simultaneous interpreter's performance by conducting an experiment on 20 interpreters. He finds out that successful interpretation is strongly related to SL speech delivery rates: when made rather slow, there was a notable reduction in omission.

Another important study is conducted by Mzeil(2017). She (ibid) declares that media interpreting is influenced by many factors such as ideologies, policies and propagandas adopted by the executive management or the sponsors. Therefore, she discovers that professional interpreters in Arabic satellite channels manipulate SL utterances.

It is true that the contribution of the above-mentioned studies to the field is intolerable, but there is a need to conduct a more comprehensive and thorough research on the nature of errors and the possible factors attributed to them. This will be covered in the present study.

3. Efforts Model in Interpreting

Gile (2009:158) proposes a set of models referred to as the Efforts Model in interpreting. These set out to explain the difficulties inherent to the task of interpreting with the aim of facilitating and expediting interpreters' choices

regarding the tactics and strategies adapted to enhance interpreting performance. According to Gile (ibid: 161), the underlying basic ideas are mainly two:

- 1. Interpretation demands some kind of mental 'energy' that is only available in limited supply.
- 2. Interpretation takes up almost all of this mental energy, and sometimes entails more than is available, at which times performance deteriorates.

However, the key notions of the Effort Models are the Processing Capacity and "the fact that some mental operations in interpreting require" a considerable amount of it (ibid: 159). Due to that, each interpreting phase implies an effort, the interpreter must therefore be capable of finding a balance among them in terms of energy. In this respect, Gile (ibid:162) presents a model that is based on four Efforts, namely, the Listening and Analysis Effort (L), the Memory Effort (M), the Production Effort (P), plus a Coordination Effort (C). Each of these is summarized below as follows:

- 1. **Listening and Analysis Effort**: This effort entails 'all understanding and comprehension oriented operations, starting from the analysis of the sound waves ... through the identification of words, to the final decisions about the 'meaning' of the utterance (ibid).
- 2. Memory Effort: Short-term memory or working memory, as it is sometimes known, plays an important role in interpreting. Its operations arise for two reasons: because of the lag between the expression of an utterance in the source language and the expression of an utterance relaying that concept in the target language or the specificity speech (ibid: 165). Gile notices (ibid: 169) that the Memory Effort is non-automatic in nature because it entails the storage of information for later use.

3. **Production Effort**: It is defined as 'the arrangement of tasks stretching out from

the psychological portrayal (mental representation) of the message to be conveyed

to discourse arranging and execution of the discourse plan (ibid).

4. Coordination Effort: It is required to coordinate the Listening and Analysis

Effort (L), the Memory Effort (M) and the speech Production Effort (P) (Eysenck

& Keane 1995; Gile 2009). Even if sometimes these Efforts overlap, coordination

really finds the harmony between every one of the elements (Kriston, 2012: 81).

Simultaneous interpretation can be viewed as a set of four Efforts, namely the

Listening and Analysis Effort, the Production Effort, the short-term Memory

Effort, and the coordination effort, each of which takes up part of a limited supply

of processing capacity. Only in this order can simultaneous interpretation proceed

smoothly. Gile (2009:175) presents the models as follows:

SI=L+P+M+C

TR=LR+MR+PR+CR

TR<TA LR<LA MR<MA PR<PA CR<CA

SI: Simultaneous Interpretation

L: Listening and Analysis Effort

P: Production Effort

M: Memory Effort

C: Coordination Effort

R: The Capacity Requirement for T, L, M, P, and C

A: The Capacity Available for T, L, M, P, and C

At each point in time, every effort has specific processing capacity

requirements that based on the task(s) it is engaged in, namely the particular

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understanding, short-term memory, or production operations being performed on speech segments. Any failure or delay will lead to an overlap and unbalance among the different efforts (Gile, 2009:175). This will definitely contribute to an increase in the quality and/or quantity of error in simultaneous mode as we are going to show.

4. Narrative Theory

According to Baker, the concept of narrative has pulled in much consideration in a variety of disciplines, and has accordingly been defined in a variety of ways. Approaches which considers narrative as an optional mode of communication resort to focus on the internal structure (phases, episodes, and plot) of orally delivered narratives, and to confirm the advantages of using narrative, instead of other modes of communication, to secure the audience's commitment and involvement(Baker, 2005:4).

Somers & Gibson (1994, cited in Baker 2006:29) distinguish between ontological, public, conceptual and meta-narratives. They define ontological narratives as 'personal stories we tell ourselves regarding our place on the planet and about our very own history'. On the other hand, public narratives are 'stories explained by and spread among social and institutional structures larger than the individual, such as the family, religious or pedagogical institution, a political or activist group, the media, and the nation (ibid:33). As far as conceptual narratives are concerned, they refer to 'ideas and clarifications that we develop as social analysts'.

Finally, Meta (or master) narratives are 'stories in which we are installed as contemporary on-screen characters in history ... Our sociological hypotheses and ideas are encoded with parts of these master–narratives '(ibid: 44).

According to Baker, Selective appropriation of textual material is acknowledged in examples of omission and addition intended to suppress,

complement or elaborate specific parts of a narrative encoded in the source content or expression, or parts of the larger narrative(s) in which it is established (Baker, 2006:114).

Selective appropriation, whether conscious or subconscious, has an immediate impact on the world. For example, selecting texts that help examine a certain narrative of an 'enemy' culture is a well-documented practice that often depends intensely on the administrations of interpreters. The stories that these interpreters and translators help weave together, depending basically on the component of selective appropriation, are a long way from honest. In any case, intentional selective appropriation is obviously a component that the two sides can abuse pretty much viable, depending to a great extent on the assets they have access available to them (Baker, 2006:75-76).

Hence, the simultaneous interpreters under scrutiny may consciously or unconsciously use selective appropriation to feed their people's or their institutions' ideologies into the utterances they are processing. Deviations, such as omission, addition or substitution, may simply be viewed as interpreting errors, which is misleading. Therefore errors need to be classified and accounted for not only from a technical perspective, but from an ideological one as well. Let's first present a systemic model that can help in the identification and classification of errors.

5. Error Analysis

As we have already hinted, the simultaneous interpreting of contemporary American political discourse may have errors that disturb the audience's understanding. In this respect, the present study will adopt one of the most important models of Error Analysis which is developed by Jassem Ali Jassem (2000, 2009). Generally speaking, Error Analysis (EA) is described as the process of identifying, classifying and systematically interpreting the appropriate forms produced via someone learning a foreign language using any of the rules and steps provided by linguistics (Crystal, 2008:165). It emerged in the 1960s as a response

to contrastive analysis interference hypothesis; the newness of EA, recognizing it from the contrastive analysis, was that the mother tongue was not supposed to enter the picture.

The claim was made that errors may be fully described in terms of the (TL), without the need to refer to the L1 of the learners (James, 2013:5). The shift from contrastive analysis to EA was inevitable, which have taken place as a result of advances in psychology and linguistics(Jassem, 2000:40). On the other hand, Corder suggests that EA can be distinguished from 'performance analysis' in that sense that 'performance analysis is the study of the whole performance data from individual learners, whereas the term EA is reserved for the study of erroneous utterances produced by groups of learners' (Corder, 1975: 207 cited in Khalifa 2017: 16). Different scholars have made use of Error Analysis.

El-Farhaty (2017), for example, applies EA to show common writing errors in the summative assessments of Arabic as a foreign language at an advanced level. Also, Ainon Jariah Muhamad et al (2013) use EA to investigate the errors that foreign language students made in their oral presentations. In general, EA consist of six important procedures. These are summarized in the figure below(Jassem, 2009):

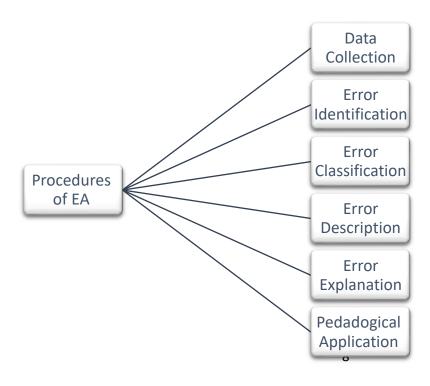


Figure (5.1) Procedures of Error Analysis (EA) (adopted from Jassem (2009))

The first procedure of EA is to collect the products of language learners, i.e. to collect a set of utterances produced by an L2 learner. EA data might be either spoken or written. The size of the sample might be massive, specific or incidental. In respect of massive sample, it is an accumulation of samples of language use from a countless number of learners in order to collect an inclusive list of errors as a representative of the entire population. While a specific sample consists of one sample of language use compiled from a limited number of learners. An incidental sample is one sample of language use produced by a single learner.

The second step is the identification of errors. Many linguists (Corder 1974; Bell 1981; Taylor 1986) agree that identification of errors is a very difficult task as it demands an understanding of the language system to be analyzed.

The third step- the classification of errors, which refers to categorization of errors. In general, errors can be classified into different categories, or subcategories, such as semantic or lexical errors (wrong word, wrong form, poor choice of word, slang or colloquialism), syntactic errors (e.g. tense, preposition, article, spelling, word order, subject-verb agreement), discourse errors, pronunciation errors, etc. Errors can also be classified as global errors or local errors (Jassem, 2000:51)

In the fourth step – the description of errors, the focus is on discovering which errors are the same and which are different (Jassem, 2000:52)

The fifth stage -explanation of errors, traces the reasons and sources of errors. The description of errors differs from their explanation in the sense that the former is a linguistic activity, whereas the latter is a psycholinguistic one (Jassem, 2000:53). According to Corder (1974), it attempts to reasonably explain how and

why errors are made and try to follow the sources of errors. Corder (1981:24) believes that error explanation is a very crucial and critical step since it is the "final object of error analysis".

The result of the final step should be pedagogically motivated to choose better instruction and learning materials which will assist teachers to improve and enhance their teaching and learners to learn successfully. In this manner, the pedagogical application is vital for EA. It is implemented to decrease errors committed by learners.

In the next section, the study will adopt the EA procedures developed by Jassem (2000) in order to be systematic in analyzing and classifying errors committed in the rendering of Trump's speech.

6. Data Analysis

This section is devoted to investigate and classify errors committed by professional media simultaneous interpreters in the rendering of contemporary American political discourse. Of course, it is very significant to analyze the renderings of more than one speech. Economy of space, however, heavily restricts this paper. That is why, it will focus only on one speech, but with four renderings into Arabic. The speech chosen is the one by American president Donald Trump delivered during the Arab Islamic American Summit held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on May 21, 2017. The renderings under scrutiny are the ones broadcast live by four Arabic-speaking channels, namely Al Arabiya, Al Jazeera, Russia Today and France 24. This speech is very important because it is delivered by the newly-elected American president to both the leaders of Muslim majority countries who are at the summit and Muslims around the world, especially Arabs whose access to the speech will be through the live simultaneous interpreting provided by the media. In what follows, therefore, errors committed by the four interpreters will be identified and classified according to the model of error analysis presented in the

previous above. These errors are classified into three main types: lexical, syntactic and phonetic.

1. Lexical Errors

A lexical error takes place when the interpreter uses a wrong word or expression as an equivalent to another. Such inappropriate lexical selection will lead, as mentioned above, to the misunderstanding of transferred message. These errors are classified into six sub-categories: (1) wrong use of word (2) poor choice of word (3) misinterpretation (4) addition (5) omission (6) Redundancy. The overall numbers of this kind of errors committed by the four interpreters is summarized below:

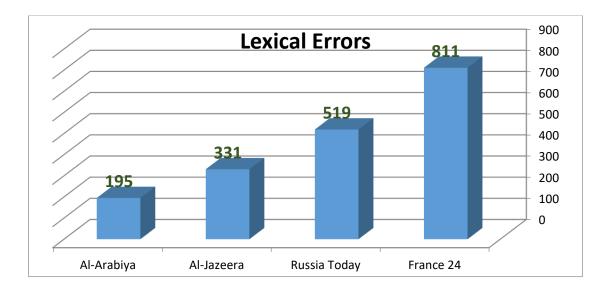


Figure (6.1): Lexical Errors Committed by the Four Interpreters

Let's examine one of these errors:

A- Al-Arabiya Interpreter's inappropriate selection is clear, i.e. wrong use of word.

- **Source Text:** Saudi Arabia's Vision for <u>2030</u> is an important and encouraging statement of tolerance, respect, empowering women, and economic development.

- Target Text:

رؤية المملكة العربية السعودية عشرين ثلاثين هي بيان هام جدا للتسامح والاحترام وتمكين النساء والنمو الاقتصادي.

In this example, Al-Arabiya Interpreter failed to render 2030 as he uses 'عشرین as an equivalent. He should have used 'ثلاثين' or 'لسنة الفين وثلاثين' or 'لسنة الفين وثلاثين'. Therefore, the audience might think that the speaker is referring to certain number rather than a year which is misleading.

B- Let's have a look on the example below:

- Source Text: Bolstered by Iran, Assad has committed unspeakable crimes, and the United States has taken firm action in response to the use of banned chemical weapons by the Assad Regime – <u>launching 59 missiles</u> at the Syrian air base from where that murderous attack originated.

- Target Text:

و هكذا الاسد اقترف جرائم يندى لها الجبين بدعم ايراني والولايات المتحدة الامريكية ترفض استخدام الاسلحة الكيمياوية وقد اطلق59 صاروخا وقع على قاعدة سورية.

As is clear, Al-Jazeera interpreter attaches launching missiles to Assad ' 59 وقد اطلق (he has launched 59 missiles). This rendering totally shifts the speaker's intended meaning because it is the US who has launched not Assad, in other words, the interpreter changes the doer of action ,i.e. interpreter has misinterpreted the SL utterance .So, he should have interpreted into ' 59 اطلقت الولايات المتحدة '59 صاروخا'.

C- Russia Today interpreter also has committed this type of errors. Here is an example:

- **Source Text:** At the same time, we <u>pray</u> this special gathering may someday be remembered as the beginning of peace in the Middle east and maybe, even all over the world.
- Target Text:

Here, the speaker uses 'pray' to wish or hope that the gathering at the summit may someday be remembered as an initiative of peace in the Middle East and all over the world, so its contextual equivalent would be 'نأمل او نتمنى'. However, the interpreter's use of the literal equivalent (i.e. 'نصلي') is inappropriate and provide audience with poor choice of word.

D- For instance, France 24 interpreter:

- **Source Text**: <u>It</u> should increasingly become one of the great global centres of commerce and opportunity.
- Target Text:

Here, the speaker's pronoun 'it' stands for the Middle East (الشرق الأوسط), so the interpreter's 'وهذه المنطقة بالخصوص' (this region in particular) may be an acceptable equivalent as Trump is delivering his speech from that region. But, the interpreter decides to insert 'العالم الإسلامي' (Islamic World) into the rendering though there is neither implicit nor explicit reference to this entity. Such insertion will impede the target audience's understanding.

2. Syntactic Errors

A Syntactic error may result from violating certain syntactic structure. More specifically, it can be an error in the arrangement of words, inappropriate, additions or deletions that affect the meaning of utterances. These errors occurred at different

levels so that are classified into ten sub-categories: (1)wrong use of tense (2)improper preposition (3)misuse of article (4) non-agreement gender (5)misuse of demonstrative(6)inappropriate structure (7) incorrect conjunction (8) misuse of numerals (9)wrong use of number (10) improper pronoun. The following example illustrate this issue:

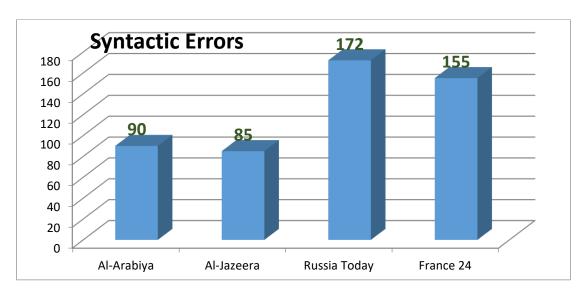


Figure (6.2): Syntactic Errors Committed by the Four Interpreters

A- Al Arabiya interpreter, for example:

- Source Text: King Salman: your father would be very very proud to see that you are continuing his legacy and just as he opened the first chapter of our partnership, today we begin a new chapter that will bring lasting benefits to all of our citizens.
- Target Text:

الملك سلمان والدك سيكون فخور جدا لن يعرف بانك استمريت بإرثه و مع انطلاق الفصل الاول من شراكتنا اليوم نبدأ فصلاً جديداً سوف يقدم الفوائد الدائمية والمصالح المستمرة لكافة مواطنينا.

As can be noticed above, Al-Arabiya interpreter renders the speaker's 'would be very proud' into 'سيكون فخورا' (will be proud) using the simple future tense which is incorrect. By using such tense, he treats King Salman's father as alive, but actually

he is dead. Such error is misleading. He should have suggested ' كان سيفخر ' as an equivalent.

B- Al-Jazeera interpreter:

- Source Text: The Iranian regime's longest-suffering victims are its own people.
- Target Text:

Here, the interpreter incorrectly renders 'Iranian regime's longest-suffering victims' because Al-Jazeera interpreter inserts the conjunction 'النواو' (and) between 'النظام الايراني' (Iranian regime) and 'وضحاياه' (victims). That is to say, he uses two noun phrases instead of one. This will probably lead to some misunderstanding.

C- Russia Today:

- Source Text: The birthplace of civilization is waiting <u>to</u> begin a new renaissance.
- Target Text:

In this example, Russia Today interpreter uses the preposition 'الى' (to) after the verb 'الى' (waiting) which is incorrect. In Arabic, the verb 'يتنظر' (waiting) does not belong to motion verbs such as 'يزكف' (go) or 'يزهب' (run) ,etc. So, it must not be followed by a preposition.

D- France 24

In the following example, France 24 interpreter inappropriately uses 'الثلاث' (feminine three) instead of 'الثلاث' (masculine three), so he misuse the numeral system in Arabic:

- Source Text: I will travel to Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and then to the Vatican visiting many of the holiest places in the three Abrahamic Faiths.
- Target Text:

3. Phonetic Errors

Phonetic errors are also referred to as slips of the tongue. They take places at phonetic level, i.e. when the speech sounds are produced through the different organs of speech. Of course, such errors may impede the target audience's understanding. These errors are classified into three sub-categories: (1) substitution (2) addition (3) omission.

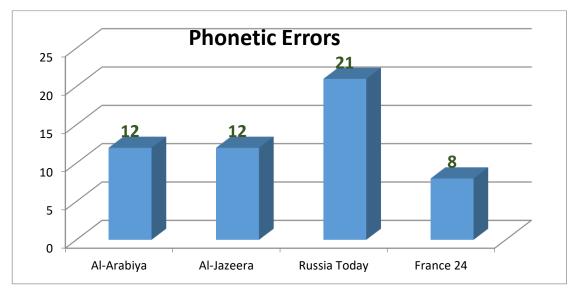


Figure (6.3): Phonetic Errors Committed by the Four Interpreters

A- Al-Arabiya Interpreter:

For instance:

- **Source Text**: Starving terrorists of their territory, their funding, and the false allure of their craven ideology, will be the basis for easily defeating them.
- Target Text:

As can be clearly noticed, the interpreter substitutes the sound 'اللام' (/l/) with (/m/) changing the word into the meaningless 'التمويل' rather than 'التمويل'

B- Al –Jazeera Interpreter:

- **Source Text**: With God's help, this summit will mark the beginning of the end for those who practice terror and spread its vile creed.
- Target Text:

- C- Russia Today Interpreter .Examine the following example; you can see that the interpreter's 'الدال' is problematic because the sound 'الدال' (/d/) is used instead of 'الضاد' (/dh/).
- **Source Text:** If we do not confront this deadly terror, we know what the future will bring—more suffering more death and more despair.
- Target Text:

لو لم نجابه ونكافح هذا الشر وهذا الارهاب نحن نعرف ما سيحضره المستقبل لنا المزيد من المعاناة المزيد من المعاناة المزيد من اليأس.

D- France 24 interpreter:

- Source Text: If these three faiths can join together in cooperation, then

 peace in this world is possible including peace between Israelis and

 Palestinians.
- Target Text:

واذا ماتمكنا من التحقيق التعايش السلبي بين هذه الديانات الثلاثة الحنيفة الثلاثة فاننا سنحقق السلام عبر العالم

The interpreter's phonetic error here is exemplified by the word 'السلبي' (negative) where the sound 'الميم' (/m/) is inappropriately changed into 'الباء' (/b/). Consequently, the speaker's meaning is totally shifted.

Type of	Sub-category	Ara.	POG	PWG	Jaz.	POG	PWG	рт	POG	PWG	Fra.	POG	PWG
errors			%	%		%	%	K1	%	%	24	%	%

Table (6-1) Distribution of Errors

PWG = Percentage within Group POG = Percentage of Group

	Wrong use of	41	21%	13%	46	14%	11%	79	15%	11%	65	8%	7%
	word Poor choice of												
	word	20	10%	7%	34	10%	8%	51	10%	7%	52	6%	5%
Lexical	Misinterpretation	14	7%	5%	27	8%	6%	55	11%	8%	59	7%	6%
	Addition	22	11%	7%	31	9%	7%	53	10%	7%	60	7%	6%
	Omission	79	41%	27%	160	48%	37%	225	43%	32%	531	65%	55%
	Redundancy	19	10%	6%	33	10%	8%	56	11%	8%	44	5%	5%
Total		195	100%	65%	331	100 %	77%	519	100 %	73%	811	100%	83%
											ı		
	Wrong use of Tense	5	6%	2%	4	5%	1%	16	9%	2%	14	9%	%1
	Improper Prepositions	14	16%	4%	12	14%	3%	21	12%	3%	20	13%	%2
	Misuse of Article	14	16%	5%	13	15%	4%	19	11%	3%	26	17%	%3
	Non-agreement of Gender	4	4%	1%	5	6%	1%	12	7%	2%	8	5%	%1
	Misuse of Demonstrative	0	0%	0%	2	2%	0%	7	4%	1%	3	2%	%0
	Inappropriate structure	20	22%	7%	6	7%	1%	25	15%	4%	15	10%	%2
Syntactic	Incorrect Conjunction	11	12%	4%	10	12%	2%	19	11%	3%	25	16%	%3
	Misuse of Numeral	2	2%	1%	1	1%	0%	4	2%	1%	3	2%	%0
	Wrong use of Number	15	17%	5%	22	26%	5%	30	17%	4%	24	15%	%2
	Improper Pronoun	5	6%	2%	10	12%	2%	19	11%	3%	17	9%	%2
Total		90	100%	31%	85	100 %	20%	172	100 %	24%	155	100%	16%
	Substitution	6	50%	2%	4	33%	1%	16	76%	2%	7	88%	1%
	Addition	2	17%	1%	4	33%	1%	2	10%	0%	0	0%	%0
Phonetic	Omission	4	33%	1%	4	33%	1%	3	14%	1%	1	13%	%0
Total		12	100%	4%	12	100 %	3%	21	100 %	3%	8	100%	%1
Overall Number		297		100%	428	/0	100%	712	/0	100%	974		100%

7. Discussion

This section attempts to relate the errors identified in the previous section to their possible causes. It is true that different technical and non-technical factors may play role in determining the quality of interpreting provided, but what is important here is not only to systematically and comprehensively offer these factors, but, moreover, to try to justify the forces that drive each of them. That is why it seems logical to begin by differentiating between two main groups: ideologically-motivated and non-ideologically-motivated. These groups may also be subdivided as can be noticed in the following figure:

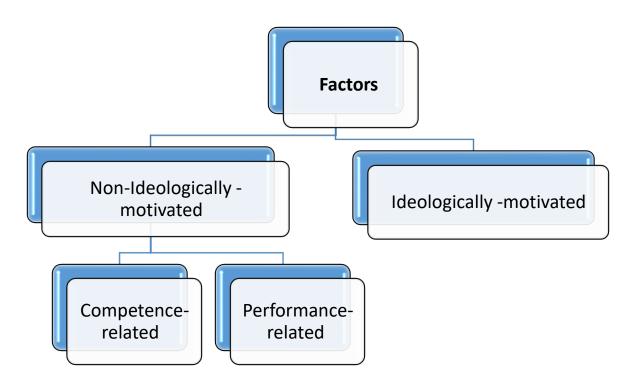


Figure (7-1) Types of Factors Influencing the Simultaneous Interpreting of Contemporary American Political Discourse

7.1. Ideologically-Motivated Factors

Ideologically-motivated interpreting (conscious or unconscious) decisions may have an influential impact on interpreting products provided. An examination of renditions of Trump's speech provided by the four Arabic news channels under scrutiny can, therefore, provide insightful evidence on the different individual or institutional social, political or cultural ideologies manipulated by the different interpreters. In this respect, the interpreters may play a decisive role in both articulating and contesting the full range of public narratives circulating within and around any society at any moment in time.

Depending on Baker's (2006) model of narrative theory introduced in section four, we can now present the locations in which the interpreters ideologically manipulate the SL utterance and try to justify the reasons behind such violations or interventions. That is to say, the interpreters may take part in disseminating public narratives within their own communities because they become 'loyal to dissident ideologies internal to a culture, or to affiliations and agendas external to a culture (Baker 2006:36)'. They may use different strategies such as omission, addition and improper substitutions. Below is an in-depth investigation of these strategies and their possible ideological motifs.

7.1.1.Omission

Omission here is considered a deliberate act that is employed to divert the audience's understating. All of the four interpreters have omitted for different ideological reasons. Let's assess the outcome of each of the four interpreters:

1- Al -Arabiya Interpreter

- Source Text: The Iranian regime's longest-suffering victims are its own people. Iran has a rich history and culture, but the people of Iran have endured hardship and despair under their leaders' reckless pursuit of conflict and terror.

- Target Text:

No rendition

Al-Arabiya TV channel has its own stand towards events, conflicts and struggles taken place at Middle East and Arab world. Such stand may have an impact on its interpreter. This could be noticed in the way its interpreter deals with the above utterance. Among the four, only his interpretation does not provide an equivalence, i.e. he deletes the speaker's evaluation of Iran and its people. This could be attributed to sectarian or social factors as Al-Arabiya's sponsor is Saudi and there

is a cold conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The SL utterance could be translated as:

وأكبر ضحايا النظام الإيراني هو شعبه. لدى إيران تاريخ وثقافة غنية، ولكن الشعب الإيراني عانى من المشقة واليأس في ظل سعى قادته بتهور للصراع والإرهاب.

2. Al-Jazeera Interpreter

- Source Text: Bolstered by Iran, Assad has committed unspeakable crimes, and the United States has taken firm action in response to the use of banned chemical weapons by the Assad Regime – launching 59 missiles at the Syrian air base from where that murderous attack originated.

- Target Text:

و هكذا الاسد اقترف جرائم يندى لها الجبين بدعم ايراني والولايات المتحدة الامريكية ترفض استخدام الاسلحة الكيمياوية وقد اطلق 59 صاروخا وقع على قاعدة سورية.

In the example above, Al-Jazeera Interpreter omits the party responsible of launching 59 missiles, i.e. the United States of America, diverting attention towards Al- Assad 'وقد اطلق 59 (he has launched 59 missiles). This act may be attributed to the impact of Al-Jazeera's coverage of the Syrian conflict on its interpreter. Following is a suggested rendition of the whole SL utterance:

إذ ارتكب (الرئيس السوري، بشار) الأسد، بدعم من إيران، جرائم لا توصف، واتخذت الولايات المتحدة إجراءات حازمة رداً على استخدام نظام الأسد للأسلحة الكيماوية المحظورة، حيث أطلقت 59 صاروخا على القاعدة الجوية السورية (الشعيرات) حيث نشأ هذا الهجوم القاتل.

3. France 24 Interpreter

- Source Text: Instead of depriving this region of so much human potential, <u>Middle Eastern countries</u> can give young people hope for a brighter future in their home nations and regions.
- Target Text:

وعوض ان نحرم هذه المنطقة من هذه القدرات البشرية الهائلةيجب ان نوفر لمن قد يتحول الى لاجئ افاقا لمستقبل مشرق وهذا يعنى تشجيع وتحقيق امال كل من يريد حياة افضل.

As can be seen, the interpreter does not interpret 'Middle Eastern countries', i.e. 'بلدان الشرق الاوسط'. This decision may be influenced by the channel's friendly ties with the Middle East. In other words, because the transference of the speaker's criticism may influence the relationship between the channel and the intended countries, the interpreter decides to intervene preserving the friendly atmosphere. A better translation would be as follows:

4. Russia Today (RT) Interpreter

- **Source Text:** And political leaders must speak out to affirm the same idea: heroes don't kill innocents; they save them.

- Target Text:

It can be noticed that the interpreter shifts the speaker's utterance 'heroes don't kill innocents; they save them' because the Arabic rendition 'لا نقتلوا المدنيين فنحن سنحميهم' (Don't kill citizens, we will save them) conveys a completely different meaning. In this example, RT Interpreter has omitted 'heroes' 'الابطال' and put 'الابطال'. Through this omission, the interpreter orients the speaker's utterance towards the political leaders who attend the summit not to other people. The reason behind such rendering might be attributed to the impact of the agency's political stand towards those leaders on the interpreter. A better rendition might be as the following:

7.1.2. Addition

Interpreter's may sometimes rely on this strategy to orient the utterances they render towards certain agendas. In the following, it will be obvious that the insertion of words, phrases or full sentences is not accidental, but ideologically motivated:

1. Al -Arabiya Interpreter

- **Source Text:** I want to thank King Salman for his extraordinary words, and the magnificent Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting today's summit.

- Target Text:

The interpreter here adds the (suffixed) personal pronoun 'الهاء' into the equivalent noun of 'kingdom' to be as 'مملكته' (his kingdom). The speaker presents his gratitude to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the summit, i.e. he thanks all organizers, but the interpreter confines the kingdom to King Salman. This act may be influenced by the channels continuous glorification of the King. However, A better translation could be as follows:

أود أن أشكر الملك سلمان على كلماته الاستثنائية، والمملكة العربية السعودية الرائعة لاستضافتها قمة اليوم

2. Al-Jazeera Interpreter

- Source Text: I also applaud the Gulf Cooperation Council for blocking funders from using their countries as a financial base for terror, and designating Hezbollah as a terrorist organization last year.

- Target Text:

انا اثني طبعا على مجلس التعاون الخليجي لمنع الممولين من استخدام اراضيهم كمراكز للإرهاب وايضا وضع حزب الله على لائحة المنظمات الارهابية وحزب الله طبعا منظمة ارهابية وقد فعلوا ذلك في السنة الماضية.

In this example, it is obvious that the interpreter adds 'وحزب الله طبعا منظمة ارهابية' (Hezbollah, of course, a terrorist organization). Such added confirmation may be

resulted from Al-Jazeera's view of Hezbollah. The SL utterance might be rendered as:

3. France 24 Interpreter

- **Source Text:** I will be meeting with both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

- Target Text:

As is clear, the interpreter adds 'وهذا ضمن جهودنا لإيجاد حل القضية الفلسطينية الاسرائيلية' (it is within our efforts to find a solution for the Israeli –Palestinian case). That is to say, he predicts an effort to a solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This insertion could be because he is emotionally influenced by the conflict and hopes it will end soon so that this feeling motivated him to intervene. A better rendition could be as:

4. RT Interpreter

- **Source Text:** For many centuries the Middle East has been home to Christians, Muslims and Jews living side-by-side.

- Target Text:

The speaker demonstrates that Middle East was the home to Christians, Muslims and Jews in the past not at present, but the interpreter adds 'ولايزالون' 'to remain or to continue to be'. This shift of time may by a sign of the interpreter's belief in the

continuance of good relations among these three religions. The translation of the whole utterance might be as:

7.1.3. Improper Substitutions

Improper substitutions take place when the interpreter uses lexical items that are unrelated to the present context of the utterance. Therefore, the outcome may not only confuse and distort the audience's understanding, but also divert his/her reaction towards certain ideologies. These are exemplified below.

1. Al-Arabiya Interpreter

Source Text: This landmark agreement includes the announcement of a \$110 billion Saudi-funded defense purchase — and we will be sure to help our Saudi friends to get a good deal from our great American defense companies.

- Target Text:

هذه الاتفاقية شملت الاعلان عن مئة وعشرة مليار دولار تمويل للسعودي للمشتريات الاغراض الدفاعية وسوف نتاكد من مساعدة اصدقاءنا السعوديين لتحقيق صفقة جيدة من شركات المعدات الدفاعية في الولايات المتحدة وهي الافضل في العالم.

The rendition above clearly reveals the interpreters' intervention. Trump here declares that this agreement will help Saudi Military to take wider role in security operations 'Saudi-funded defense purchase' ('مبيعات دفاعية للسعودية'). Obviously, the interpreter provides the audience with the opposite meaning by his unsuitable equivalence 'تمويل' ('funding'). Following is the suggested rendition:

وتشمل هذه الاتفاقية التاريخية الإعلان عن مبيعات دفاعية للسعودية بقيمة 110 مليار دولار، وسنتأكد من مساعدة أصدقائنا السعوديين للحصول على صفقة جيدة من شركات الدفاع الأمريكية الكبرى

2. Al-Jazeera Interpreter

- Source Text: <u>Until the Iranian regime is willing to be a partner for peace</u>, all nations of conscience must work together to isolate Iran, deny it funding for terrorism, and pray for the day when the Iranian people have the just and righteous government they deserve.

- Target Text:

اذا لم تصبح ايران شريكا للسلام فان جميع الدول التي تتمتع بضمير يجب ان تعزل ايران يجب ان تحرمها من تمويل الارهابيين ويجب ان نصلي لليوم الذي يأتي فيه الشعب الايراني ويحصل على حكومة عادلة هم خليقون بها

The speaker intends above to accuse Iran, in this summit, as the country responsible of what has recently happened in the Middle East and the world. But the interpreter's rendition of 'until' as the conditional phrase 'اذا لم' ('if does not') shifts the message as the use 'اذا لم' may reflect threatening Iran which is inadequate. To do so, the interpreter may seem influenced by the tension between the United States and Iran. A better rendition could be:

وحتى يرغب النظام الإيراني في أن يكون شريكاً في السلام، يجب على جميع الدول أن تعمل معاً لعزل إيران، ومنعها من تمويل الإرهاب، وأن تدعو أن يأتي اليوم الذي يتمتع فيه الشعب الإيراني بالحكومة العادلة الصالحة التي يستحقها

3. France 24 Interpreter

- **Source Text**: Saudi Arabia and a regional coalition have taken strong action against *Houthi militants* in Yemen.
- Target Text:

والعربية السعودية اتخذت خطوات لمكافحة المتطرفين في اليمن

The said example shows that the interpreter fails to render the utterance appropriately. What the speaker wants to tell is that Saudi Arabia along with a regional coalition have played a major role in combatting Houthi militants, but the interpreter completely misinterprets the utterance by marking Saudi Arabia 'والعربية السعودية' the only entity that is responsible of taking strong actions against

Houthi militants without taking into account the role of 'والتحالف الأقليمي' (regional coalition) in this matter. Moreover, the interpreter misinterpreted 'militants' as he renders into 'المتطرفين' (extremists) rather than 'المسلحين الحوثيين' (Houthi militants). To view Houthi militants as extremists seems to be politically-motivated. A suggested translation could be:

4. RT Interpreter

- **Source Text:** Saudi Arabia also <u>joined us</u> this week in placing sanctions on one of the most senior leaders of Hezbollah.
- Target Text:

This example shows the interpreter diverts the SL message by using 'دعمنا' (supported us) as an equivalent to the speaker's 'joined us' which is inadequate. There is, of course, difference between the word'دعمنا' (support) and 'انضمام' (joined). The speaker refers to Saudi Arabia as an important member in this efforts of placing sanctions to take this part with United States of America. But the interpreter doesn't demonstrate this important part and may deliberately make Saudi Arabia seem less important and valuable. The SL utterance could be translated as:

7.2. Non Ideologically-Motivated Factors

In this part, the errors pointed out above could be interpreted in relation to factors such as lack of knowledge, directionality, dialect, stress, etc. Therefore, these factors will be classified into two main categories: competence- and performance –related factors:

7.2.1. Competence-Related Factors

Competence here is used to refer to the typical language system that allows speakers to produce and understand an unlimited number of sentences in their language, and to differentiate grammatical sentences from ungrammatical sentences (Chomsky, 1965:10). In the same sense, it could be used to refer to interpreters' knowledge of native and foreign languages. Professional interpreters, such as media interpreters under scrutiny, therefore, need to be competent in two or more languages. In an attempt to theoretically define the competence of professional conference interpreters, Kalina (2000:4) states that competence "refers to the ability to perform cognitive tasks of mediation within a bi/multilingual communication situation at an extremely high level of expectations and quality, often in a team of several interpreters". However, "psychologists have suggested a continuum ranging from abilities to competences to expertise. Interest is then focused on how competence, defined as a set of skills needed for high performance in a certain field, is acquired and how it can be developed to the level of expertise (Sternberg 2005:69) ".

The following factors may possibly have driven all of the four interpreters rendering Trump's speech into Arabic to commit errors:

7.2.1.1. Lack of Linguistic Knowledge

The interpreter's linguistic competence includes the ability to comprehend the source language and apply this knowledge to render the message as accurately as possible to the target language. That is to say, the interpreter shall have an extensive knowledge and understanding of his/her working languages and the required range of language registers. Moreover, s/he must have knowledge on subject areas and relevant terminology. The interpreter must be aware of syntax, idioms, word order, use and function of tense and other language specific terms which should be modified to suit the target language. In the following excerpts, we are going to see the impact of the above-mentioned factor on the interpreter's

output. Syntactic errors, namely, improper preposition, misuse of tense, inappropriate structure, incorrect conjunction, etc., committed by the four interpreters are closely attributed to this factor.

1. Al-Arabiya Interpreter

- Source Text: King Salman: <u>your father would be very very proud</u> to see that you are continuing his legacy – and just as he opened the first chapter of our partnership, today we begin a new chapter that will bring lasting benefits to all of our citizens.

- Target Text:

الملك سلمان والدك سيكون فخورا جدا لن يعرف بانك استمريت بارثه و مع انطلاق الفصل الاول من شراكتنا اليوم نبدأ فصلاً جديداً سوف يقدم الفوائد الدائمة والمصالح المستمرة لكافة مواطنينا.

As it is mentioned above, the interpreter must be aware of the uses and functions of tenses. Notably, Al-Arabiya interpreter renders 'would be very proud' as 'سيكون' (will be very proud) into simple future tense while the speaker uses the past future tense indicated by the modal auxiliary "would". Such error could be due to the interpreter's lack of knowledge in tense system. An alternative rendition could be as:

أيها الملك سلمان، والدك كان سيفخر جداً برؤية أنك تواصل إرثه - وكما فتح هو الصفحة الأولى في شر اكتنا، نبدأ اليوم فصلاً جديداً بحقق فو ائد دائمة لمو اطنينا

2. Al-Jazeera Interpreter

- Source Text: My meetings with King Salman, the Crown Prince, and the Deputy Crown Prince, have been filled with great warmth, good will, and tremendous cooperation.

- Target Text:

ان لقائي مع جلالة الملك وولي العهد وولي ولي العهد كانت ريانة بالحفاوة والنوايا الحسنة والمساعي الحميدة والتعاون الرائع.

As can be seen, the interpreter renders 'goodwill' into 'نوايا'. That is to say, he uses the plural to stand for the speaker's singular. The major problem is, however, with the grammaticality of the plural form of 'نوايا' which is 'نوايا'. Such form is incorrect because the acceptable plural form is 'نيات'. In this example, we can say that the reason behind this error might be attributed to the interpreter's lack of knowledge of plural system in Arabic. However, the SL utterance could be as:

3. RT Interpreter

- Source Text: The birthplace of civilization is <u>waiting to</u> begin a new renaissance
- Target Text:

In this example, the interpreter unsuccessfully renders 'waiting to' into 'تنتظر الى', that is to say he is follows word-for-word approach while he should have used the verb without the proposition. The reason behind such error could be ascribed to the interpreter's lack of knowledge on Arabic preposition and verbs, especially motion verbs. A better translation would be:

4. France 24 Interpreter

- **Source Text**: I will travel to Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and then to the Vatican visiting many of the holiest places in *the three* Abrahamic Faiths.
- Target Text:

Here, the interpreter commits an error in using Arabic numeral system, because he uses 'וובעב'' rather than 'וובעב'' to stand for the speaker's 'three'. He could be incompetent in using Arabic numeral system. A better translation might be as:

سأسافر إلى القدس وبيت لحم، ثم إلى الفاتيكان، حيث سأزور العديد من أقدس الأماكن في الأديان الابر اهبمية الثلاث.

7.2.1.2. Lack of Cultural Knowledge

The correlation between culture and language is undeniable. The impact of incomprehensive cultural knowledge in source and target language on interpreting process is, therefore, influential. Such importance is underlined by Baker (2011:29) when describing cultural substitution as a strategy that is not confined to replacing "culture-specific item or expression with a target language item which does not have the same propositional meaning, but is likely to have a similar impact on the target reader, for instance by evoking a similar context in the target culture". In the following examples, we are going to see how lack of cultural knowledge influences the four interpreters' output.

1- Al-Arabiya Interpreter

- **Source Text:** Saudi Arabia's Vision for <u>2030</u> is an important and encouraging statement of tolerance, respect, empowering women, and economic development.
- Target Text:

رؤية المملكة العربية السعودية عشرين ثلاثين هي بيان هام جدا للتسامح والاحترام وتمكين النساء والنمو الاقتصادي.

In this example, the interpreter misinterprets the year '2030' as he renders it into 'عشرين ثلاثين (Twenty thirty). Such error might be because he is unaware of this English cultural-specific style of reading dates. A better rendition might be as:

إن رؤية السعودية لعام 2030 يُعد تصريحاً هاماً ومشجعاً حول التسامح والاحترام وتمكين المرأة والتنمية الاقتصادية

2- Al-Jazeera Interpreter

- **Source Text:** When we look upon the streams of innocent blood soaked into the ancient ground, we cannot see the faith or sect or tribe of the victims — we see only that they were <u>Children of God</u> whose deaths are an insult to all that is holy.

- Target Text

عندما ننظر في اراقة الدماء في هذه الاراضي لا يمكننا ان ننظر الى قبيلة او طائفة انتمى اليها هذا الضحي هذه الضحي هذه الضحية او تلك ولكن لهم اطفال الله هؤلاء هم الضحايا وهذا منافى لكل مقدس.

As can be seen, 'Children of God' is poorly interpreted into 'اطفال الله' rather than 'البناء الله'. This error could be ascribed to the interpreter's insufficient understanding of the social contexts in which 'Children of God' is used. A better rendition could be as:

3- France 24 Interpreter

Source Text: My meetings with King Salman, the Crown Prince, and <u>the</u>
 <u>Deputy Crown Prince</u>, have been filled with great warmth, good will, and tremendous cooperation.

- Target Text:

According to the legislative rules of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 'the Deputy Crown Prince' position it is granted to one of the royal family and should be translated or interpreted into 'ولي ولي العهد'. But, the interpreter above fails to successfully render it into its Arabic equivalent because 'نائب ولي العهد' is culturally unacceptable. Following could be a better rendition:

إن اجتماعاتي مع الملك سلمان، وولي العهد، وولي ولي العهد، قد ملأها الدفء وحسن نية والتعاون الهائل

4- RT Interpreter

- Source Text: That is why I chose to make my first foreign visit a trip to the heart of the Muslim world, to the nation that serves as custodian of the two holiest sites in the Islamic Faith.

- Target Text:

فلذلك انا اخترت ان تكون السعودية نقطةً اولى لجولتي الخارجية والسعودية هي دولةٌ حيث تكون هناك المكاتان المقدسان للعالم الاسلامي.

As can be noticed, the speaker uses the culturally-specific title usually attached to the king of Saudi Arabia, which is 'custodian of the two holiest sites'. This title must be rendered into 'خادم الحرمين الشريفين'. If we examine the interpreter's version, however, we can see that he omits 'custodian'(i.e. 'خادم') and mistakenly renders 'the two holiest sites' into 'المكانان المقدسان'. A better translation could be as:

7.2.2. Performance-related Factors

Chomsky (1965) treats performance as "a speaker's actual use of language in real situations; what the speaker actually says, including grammatical errors and other non-linguistic features such as hesitations, slips of tongue and other disfluencies". Hence, interpreters can be regarded as speakers who may commit one or more of these errors. Let's examine the types discovered in the four renditions.

7.2.2.1. The Impact of the Interpreter's Native Dialect

As referred to by Mazraani (1997:31), dialect, "being the first, natively learnt form of the language, is the natural one compared to the learned, literary MSA(i.e. Modern Standard Arabic); it is used in ordinary conversational situations...." This native dialect may, however, influence the speaker's use of the phonology, morphology and syntax of standard Arabic in formal situations. As it is well-known, interpreters (rendering into Arabic) are supposed to use Standard Arabic. It has been noticed that both Russia Today (RT) and France 24 interpreters have either used or influenced by Algerian (Arabic) dialect (known as Darja or Dziria in Algeria) (Khalil, 2002:249 cited in Fatimah Dawood 2006:4) .See the following examples:

1- RT Interpreter

- **Source Text:** If we do not confront this deadly terror, we know what the future will bring—more suffering more **death** and more despair.
- Target Text:

لو لم نجابه ونكافح هذا الشر وهذا الارهاب نحن نعرف ما سيحضره المستقبل لنا المزيد من المعاناة المزيد من العرب المربد من البأس.

In this example, the interpreter's error lies in his pronunciation of the underlined Arabic noun with 'الخال' (/d/) instead of 'الضاد' (/dh/) . The reason behind such error, as we have hinted above, could be ascribed to using Algerian dialect. A better translation could be as:

2- France 24 Interpreter

- **Source Text:** I ask you to <u>join</u> me, to join together, to work together, and to FIGHT together—BECAUSE UNITED, WE WILL NOT FAIL.
- Target Text:

واطلب منكم ان تُندِّموا الي وان نعمل معا وان نكافح معا لانه بفضل اتحادنا لن نفشل

If we examine the interpreter's rendition of 'join', we can see that he sound 'الخال' (/d/) is used instead of 'الضاد' (/dh/). As we have hinted above, the reason behind such error could be attributed to using Algerian dialect. The SL utterance might be rendered as:

7.2.2.2. Stress

Previous studies of interpreting focus on the process itself, while the physical and psychological conditions of interpreters at work have been comparatively ignored (Riccardi, 1989). One of these conditions is stress. Stress, is a term 'coined' by Hans Selye in the 1930s in a biomedical context (Selye 1956), is generally defined as "a psychological reaction experienced when an individual feels an imbalance between task requirements and the resources available for coping with them (Riccardi 1996, as cited in Pöchhacker et al., 2015:405) ". Moreover, job-related stress has been investigated with particular reference to conference interpreting, especially simultaneous interpreting. Stress endurance (Longley,1989), including ability to cope with speed stress (Gerver et al., 1989), is regarded as a pivotal part of the interpreter's task and included among the features to be taken into account in aptitude testing .Stress seems to be one of the influential factors leading to errors committed by the four interpreters under scrutiny. Let's examine their output:

1- Al-Arabiya Interpreter

- **Source Text:** But no discussion of stamping out this threat would be complete without mentioning the government that gives terrorists all three—safe harbor, financial backing, and the social standing needed for recruitment.

- Target Text:

لكن لا نقاش حول القضاء على هذا الارهاب والحكومات يجب ان تمنع الملاذ الامن والدعم المالي والمواقف الاجتماعية التي هم بحاجة اليها لعمليات التجنيد.

Due to the long SL utterance, the interpreter seems to be under stress. This may have driven him to be unable to arrive at an appropriate TL rendering. One case that shows his lack of concentration is when he decides to offer a plural equivalent, which is, 'الحكومة' (governments) rather than the singular form 'الحكومة' (government). A better rendition of the Whole SL utterance could be as:

2- Al-Jazeera Interpreter

- **Source Text**: With God's help, this summit will mark the beginning of the end for those who practice terror and spread its vile creed.
- Target Text:

An examination of this rendering reveals that it is full of errors. The reason behind such bad rendering does not lie in the interpreter's incompetency, but might be attributed to his lack of concentration resulted from stress. As can be seen, the interpreter's insertion of the sound 'الياء' (/i:/) into the equivalent of the speaker's 'summit' (i.e. قمة) distorts the message. Such phonetic mistake will have serious consequences on the target audience's perception. Another example is when he misinterprets the last part of the utterance as mistakenly renders into 'كأساس لما ' سيتلو (as the ground for what follows). A better rendition could be as :

3- France 24 Interpreter

- **Source Text:** Our partnerships will advance security through stability, not through radical disruption.
- Target Text:
- No rendition

Stress may be the main reason behind the interpreter's inability to produce an equivalent utterance in the above example. A better rendition might be as:

4- RT Interpreter

- **Source Text:** This agreement will help the Saudi military to take a greater role in security operations.
- Target Text:

As can be seen, the interpreter's version does not provide an equivalent to the speaker's 'the Saudi military to take a greater role ' (الجيش السعودي على قيام بدور اكبر). The fast flow of utterances may have driven the interpreter to be stressful, consequently, he omits this part. The rendition of SL utterance could be as:

7.2.2.3. The Effect of Fatigue

Long speeches (i.e. exceeding 30 minutes) have a very passive impact on interpreter's performance as they face difficulty in concentration. This point has been thoroughly investigated by many researchers such as Moser-Mercer (2005:92) who demonstrates that "fatigue clearly influences the participants' performance, i.e. the more tired the interpreter, the worse the quality of their interpretation". Therefore, it could be argued that interpreting errors, such as slips of the tongue, misinterpretation or omission, committed by the present four interpreters at the end of Trump's speech may be resulted from fatigue.

1- Al-Arabiya Interpreter

- **Source Text:** But if we act—if we leave this magnificent room <u>unified</u> and determined to do what it takes to destroy the terror that threatens the world.
- Target Text:

اما اذا تصرفنا واذا غادرنا هذه القاعة المذهلة عازمين ومحادين للقيام بما هو ضروري لتدمير الارهاب الذي يهدد العالم.

In this rendition, there is a slip of the tongue represented by rendering 'unified' (i.e. متحدین) into 'الألف' where the sound 'الثاء' '(/t/) is omitted and 'المحادین' (/a/) is inserted. As hinted above, such error might be attributed to the interpreter's fatigue. The rendition of the whole SL utterance could be:

ولكن إذا تصرفنا - إذا تركنا هذه الغرفة الرائعة متحدين وعازمين على القيام بما يلزم لتدمير الإرهاب الذي يهدد العالم

2- Al-Jazeera Interpreter:

- **Source Text**: *Great cities built on the ruins of shattered towns.*
- Target Text:

As is clear, the interpreter inappropriately uses the masculine relative pronoun 'الذي' instead of the feminine relative pronoun 'الذي' to stand for المدن' (cities). In other words, there is an obvious inconsistency in using masculine and feminine pronouns at the same utterance. This apparent misconception of the SL utterance might be ascribed to the interpreter's fatigue. Following is a suggested rendition:

3- France 24 Interpreter

- **Source Text:** Will we protect our citizens from its violent ideology? Will we let <u>its venom</u> spread through our societies?
- Target Text:

Because of fatigue, the interpreter may have been unable to provide an equivalent to the pronoun 'its' attached to 'venom'. Such omission may create a gap in the audience's understanding because ' السم ' is indefinite. The utterance might be translated as:

هل سنكون غير مبالين في وجود الشر؟ هل سنحمي مواطنينا من أيديولوجيته العنيفة؟ هل سنترك سمّه بنتشر عير مجتمعاتنا؟

4- RT Interpreter

- **Source Text:** If we do not stand in uniform condemnation of this <u>killing</u>—then not only will we be <u>judged</u> by our people....
- Target Text:

Obviously, the interpreter commits two phonetic mistakes: he replaces the sound 'الباء' (/b/) with 'الباء' (/h/) in الحاء' and deletes the sound 'الباء' (/h/) from the suggested equivalent of 'judge' (i.e. تكم). A better rendition of the SL utterance could be as:

إذا لم نقف في إدانة موّحدة لهذا القتل، فلن تحاسبنا شعوبنا فحسب، ولن يحاسبنا التاريخ فحسب، وإنما سيحاسبنا الله

7.2.2.4. The Impact of the Speaker's Register

Donald Trump's language, facial expressions and style are difficult, and have been investigated by different researchers. In the article entitled "Translating Trump's English into Arabic is Giving Professional Translators a Headache", Mahmud el-Shafey (2017), for example, sheds light on the difficulties encountered by professional translators. He (ibid.) states that "one of the key issues facing Arabic language translators is that Trump speaks in a very particular way; a simple way that can very difficult to translate into a language known for its subtle complexities". Trump's language, choice of words, tone of voice, his accent and verbal habits are, undoubtedly, unique and have a direct impact on the present simultaneous interpreters. Let's examine the following examples:

1- Al-Arabiya Interpreter

- **Source Text:** Until the Iranian regime is willing to be a partner for peace, all nations of conscience must work together to isolate Iran, deny it funding for terrorism <u>cannot do it.</u>
- Target Text:

والى ان يكون النظام الايراني مستعدا لان يكون شريكا في السلام فكل الامم ذات الضمير يجب ان تعمل معا لعزل ايران وحرمانها على تمويل الارهاب لن يحقق ذلك

It could be noticed that the interpreter renders 'cannot do it' into 'لن يحقق ذلك' (will never achieve it). That is to say, he shifts modality into future. He could have used the more acceptable rendering 'لا يمكن ان يحقق ذلك' . The influence of Trump's difficult language on the interpreter could be clear here. However, the SL utterance might be rendered into:

وحتى يرغب النظام الإيراني في أن يكون شريكاً في السلام، يجب على جميع الدول أن تعمل معاً لعزل إيران، ومنعها من تمويل الإرهاب، وأن تدعو أن يأتي اليوم الذي يتمتع فيه الشعب الإيراني بالحكومة العادلة الصالحة التي يستحقها

2- Al-Jazeera Interpreter

- **Source Text:** The Iranian regime's longest-suffering victims are its own people.
- Target Text:

In this example, the interpreter misinterprets 'Iranian regime's longest-suffering victims' because his ان النظام الايراني وضحايا' (the Iranian regime and its victims' reflects a totally different meaning. In other words, the style Trump uses may have led the interpreter not only to delete 'longest-suffering'. but change the utterance's word order as well. A better rendition could be as:

وأكبر ضحايا النظام الإيراني هو شعبه.

3- France 24 Interpreter

- **Source Text:** In that spirit, after concluding my visit in Riyadh, I will travel to Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and then to the Vatican – visiting many of the holiest places in the three Abrahamic Faiths.

- Target Text:

...وهذه العاصمة التي زرتها هذا المكان الرائع سيكون منطق رحلتي في هذه المنطقة لأنني سأزور بعد ذلك اسرائيل ثم الفاتيكان لكي ازور الديانات الثلاثة.

The complex structure that Trump uses here could have led the interpreter to misinterpret the whole utterance. The interpreter's version is full of deletions, insertions and inappropriate substitutions. As can be seen, he does not provide the equivalence of, for example, 'In that spirit, after concluding my visit in Riyadh'. Moreover, Trump does not describe Al-Riyadh as ' هذا المكان الرائع ' (this magnificent place). The rendition of the SL utterance could be as:

وبهذه الروح، في ختام زيارتي للرياض، سأسافر إلى القدس وبيت لحم، ثم إلى الفاتيكان، حيث سأزور العديد من أقدس الأماكن في الأديان الإبر اهيمية الثلاثة.

4- RT Interpreter

- **Source Text:** America has suffered repeated barbaric attacks from the atrocities of September 11th to the devastation of the Boston Bombing, to the horrible killings in **San Bernardino** and **Orlando**.
- Target Text:

الولايات المتحدة كانت تعاني من الهجمات الارهابية بدءاً من الهجمات الحادي عشرة من سبتمبر مرورا بهجمات بوسطن وحتى اعمال القتل في ساتبردينا وايرلندا

As is the case with the other three, Trump's language may be problematic to RT interpreter. This could be noticed in his wrong rendering of 'San Bernardino and Orlando' into سانبر دینا وایر لندا' (i.e. Sanberdina and Ireland). A better interpretation might be as:

عانت أميركا من هجمات بربرية متكررة - من الفظائع التي وقعت في 11 سبتمبر إلى دمار تفجير بوسطن، إلى عمليات القتل الرهيبة في سان برناردينو وأور لاندو

7.2.2.5. Poor Preparation

Simultaneous interpreting requires careful preparation. The interpreter should collect previous speeches, talks and interviews of speaker. Moreover, special words or expression used by the speaker are also gathered. Poor preparation may, therefore, result in failure in the interpreting of not only single words but complete utterances. In this regard, there are a number of occasions in which the four interpreters fail to provide appropriate renditions. This could be attributed to the present factor:

1- Al-Arabiya Interpreter

- Source Text: Yesterday, we signed historic agreements with the Kingdom that will invest almost <u>\$400 billion</u> in our two countries and create <u>many</u> thousands of jobs in America and Saudi Arabia.
- Target Text:

يوم امس وقعنا اتفاقية تاريخية مع المملكة والتي سيكون فيها استثمارات **حوالي اربعمئة ترليون دولار** في بلدينا وتوفير مئات الالاف من الوظائف في الولايات المتحدة والمملكة العربية السعودية.

On the first day of Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia, it has been announced that the deals to be signed between Untied States of America and Saudi Arabia will be about \$400 billion and will create many thousands of jobs. If examine the rendering, we can see that the interpreter mistakenly renders the speaker's '\$400 billion' into 'حوالي اربعمئة ترليون دولار' (400 \$ trillion) and 'many thousands of

jobs' into مئات الالاف من الوظائف ' (hundreds of thousands of jobs). The interpreter could have avoided such errors if he has paid attention to media coverage of the agreement. Following is a suggested rendition:

لقد وقعنا أمس اتفاقيات تاريخية مع المملكة تستثمر ما يقرب من 400 مليار دولار في بلدينا وتخلق آلافاً من فرص العمل في أمريكا والسعودية

2- Al-Jazeera Interpreter

- **Source Text**: In my inaugural address to the American People, I pledged to strengthen America's oldest friendships, and to build new partnerships in pursuit of peace.

- Target Text:

In this example, the interpreter omits 'in my inaugural address to the American People' (i.e. في خطاب تنصيبي امام الشعب الامريكي) and 'strengthen America's oldest friendships' (i.e. بتعزيز أقدم الصداقات الأمريكية). These failures could be attached to the interpreter's insufficient knowledge of Trump's previous speeches. The following might be a better translation of the SL utterance:

في خطاب تنصيبي أمام الشعب الأمريكي، تعهدت بتعزيز أقدم الصداقات الأمريكية، وبناء شراكات جديدة سعياً لتحقيق السلام.

3- France 24 Interpreter

- Source Text: I also applaud Jordan, <u>Turkey</u> and Lebanon for their role in hosting refugees.

- Target Text:

It is obvious that 'Turkey' (ترکیا) is deleted by the interpreter. To do so, he could be unaware of the role played by this country. Following could be better rendition of the SL:

4- RT Interpreter

- **Source Text:** Later today, we will make history again with the opening of a new Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology – located right here, in this central part of the Islamic World.

- Target Text:

فان التاريخ ينقَتِحُ امامنا اذ اننا قد افتتحنا المركز لمكافحة الايدلوجيا المتطرفة في هذا المكان تحديدا وهذا المكان هو مركز العالم الاسلامي.

After the time of the speech, Trump and Saudi King were supposed to open a center at Riyadh devoted to combating extremism. But the interpreter seems ignorant of such information. That is why he provides the audience with erroneous rendering in 'اذ اننا قد افتتحنا' (we have opened), shifting the speaker's from future into present perfect. A better translation would be:

7.2.2.6. Failure of Memory

As is well-known, interpreters, like any other human, rely on the two kinds of memory: short- and long-term. Though they might need retaining recently-stored information, they also need recalling formation stored at longer periods such as months or even years. For different reasons, such as fatigue or stress, their memory might fail them. Such failure has a very negative impact on the quality of their output as we can see below.

1- Al-Arabiya Interpreter

- **Source Text:** That means <u>promoting</u> the aspirations and dreams of all citizens who seek a better life – including women, children, and followers of all faiths.

- Target Text:

وهذا يعني ترويج طموحات واحلام كافة المواطنين الذين يسعون لحياة افضل من ضمنهم النساء والاطفال واتباع كافة الديانات.

In this example, the interpreter renders 'promoting' into 'ترويح', which is unacceptable. He should have interpreted into 'تشجيع' '(encourage), because the suggested equivalent is acceptable at other contexts, not the present one. That is to say, because he was unable to remember the reset of the meanings of 'promote' in Arabic, he provides the audience with this acceptable rendering. Following is suggested translation of the whole utterance:

وهذا يعني تعزيز تطلعات وأحلام جميع المواطنين الذين يسعون إلى حياة أفضل - بمن فيهم النساء والأطفال وأتباع جميع الديانات.

2- Al-Jazeera Interpreter

- Source Text: Qatar, which hosts the U.S. Central Command, is a crucial strategic partner.
- Target Text:

'US Central Command' is a very popular unit that is usually translated and interpreted into 'القيادة المركزية للولايات المتحدة'. But, the interpreter here does not provide this equivalence and suggests ' هيأة الاركان الوسطى (Central Staff Committee) instead. In other words, his unsuccessful rendering might be resulted from his inability to remember the exact equivalent. The SL utterance might be rendered as:

3- France 24 Interpreter

- Source Text: <u>Our partnerships will advance security through stability, not</u> through radical disruption.
- Target Text:

No rendition

Due to cognitive load placed on working or short-term memory in terms of storage and information processing, the interpreter omits the whole utterance. Such omission will negatively influence the audience's understanding of the message conveyed by the speaker. The SL utterance could be translated as:

4- RT Interpreter:

- **Source Text:** In addition to ancient wonders, this country is also home to modern ones—including soaring achievements in architecture.
- Target Text:

If we examine the interpreter's version, we can see that he completely misinterprets the SL utterance as his ' كما ان هذه السعودية بيت المعتدلين' (also Saudi Arabia is the home of moderate people) has neither implicit nor explicit relationship with what the speaker says. Failure of memory may be the main factor behind such performance. A better translation for the whole SL utterance could be as:

وبالإضافة إلى العجائب العتيقة، هذه الدولة هي أيضاً موطن لعجائب حديثة - بما في ذلك الإنجازات المذهلة في الهندسة المعمارية

8. Conclusion

In the light of the foregoing results, the study suggests the following conclusions:

- 1- Despite their supposed professionalism, the four simultaneous interpreters committed a recognizable number of errors. These errors are classified, according to EA procedures, into three main categories: syntactic, lexical and phonetic, which are also classified into sub-categories as we have seen in Section Five. Moreover, the quality and quantity of these errors vary from one interpreter into another.
- 2- It was very difficult to distinguish between intentional and unintentional errors as there was no objective mechanism and clear-cut line that could be followed in the classification.
- 3- As it has been shown in Section Five , both France 24 Interpreter and Russia Today Interpreter have committed the highest numbers of the lexical, syntactic and phonetic, while Al Arabiya Interpreter and Al Jazeera Interpreter have committed the least numbers. In this respect, it has been notice that, unlike France 24 and Russia Today, Al Arabiya and Al Jazeera Interpreters provide the audience with the appropriate and meaningful Arabic structures. This could be attributed to the fact that the latter are native speakers of Arabic who still live in the Arab world. As for France 24 and Russia Today Interpreters,

- their life and work environment could be in a foreign country, this may have a negative impact on their mastery of Arabic.
- 4- The identified errors could be ideologically or non-ideologically motivated. Ideologically-motivated factors could have been behind the (consciously or unconsciously) manipulation of social, political, and sectarian trends. Non-ideologically-motivated, on the other hand, could include the interpreters' lack of competence and poor performance.
- 5- Interpreters' subjective agency could be very clear in the target texts. It is materialized throughout three important interpreting strategies, namely, omission, addition or improper substitution. In this respect, Baker's adopted model of Narrative Theory played a crucial role in the investigation and justification of the violations.

9. Recommendations

The following recommendations can reduce error in media simultaneous interpreting of American political discourse. First of all, interpreters are advised to undergo annual intensive training in order to improve their competence and skills. They should also be well-prepared and aware of language-specific lexical items and structures in order not to allow the source language patterns impact their renditions of the target language. On the other hand, monitoring institutions or authorities should be established to identify errors in the broadcasted renditions and work to reduce or eliminate these errors.

Suggestions for Further Studies

The present study suggests the following topics to be investigated:

- 1- Studying factors attributed to errors in (into Arabic) interpreting of contemporary British political discourse.
- 1- Studying factors attributed to error in (into English) interpreting of contemporary Arabic political discourse.

2- It will be useful to follow the adopted models in order to investigate factors influencing consecutive and sight interpreting (English/Arabic).

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أثر العوامل الايديولوجية وغير الايديولوجية على كمية ونوعية الخطأ في الترجمة الفورية للخطاب السياسي الامريكي المعاصر

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على احمد شهاب

المستخلص

تحاول الدراسة الحالية تقصي العوامل المسببة الى الأخطاء في الترجمة الفورية للخطاب السياسي الامريكي المعاصر في يؤكد على ان بعض القنوات الفضائية المعروفة التي تذيع للجمهور تراجم خاطئة نسبيا. وقد تلعب العوامل الايديولوجية و/او غير الايديولوجية المختلفة دورا في ارتكاب تلك الاخطاء ومن اجل اثبات صحة هذه الفرضية ، جرى تحليل أربع تراجم الى اللغة العربية لخطاب دونالد ترامب الذي القاه اثناء زيارته الى المملكة العربية السعودية في عام 2017. لذا فان النصوص المستهدفة هي الترجمة الفورية لكل من قناة العربية والجزيرة وفرنسا 24 وروسيا اليوم . حُللت تلك النصوص وصنفت حسب انموذج جاسم علي العربية والجزيرة وفرنسا الإضافة الى انموذج الجهد Effort Model لدانيل جايل (2009) والنظرية السردية السردية المعودية المعودية كلى من في بكر . وقد ذكرت الدراسة اهم العوامل التي تعزى لها

الاخطاء. وبهذا الصدد فان الاخطاء يمكن ان تكون ذوات دوافع ايديولوجية او غير ايديولوجية. وانتهت الدراسة بعدد من الاستنتاجات والتوصيات التي يمكن اعتمادها لتقليل أثر العوامل المذكورة آنفا على المترجمين الفوريين.