

Shifting from Formal to Dynamic Equivalence in Raheem's *Murder of the Bookseller*: A Descriptive Qualitative Study

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Abstract

Translating cultural and figurative expressions necessitates deep awareness of both the source and target cultures, therefore facilitating cross-communication and fostering mutual understanding across various communities. The objective of this research is to analyze the dynamic equivalence of cultural expressions and terminologies in translation of the Iraqi novel *Murder of the Bookseller*. It seeks to identify and categorize various cultural phrases and terms within the text, employing theory outlined by Nida in 2001 to examine the specific forms of equivalence used in translation. The research approach adopted in this investigation relies on a descriptive qualitative analysis that provides thorough insights into the analyzed data. The findings reveal that translating cultural expressions in the novel can be classified into two clear-cut groups: dynamic equivalence and formal correspondence, indicating that dynamic equivalence, a key principle in translation theory, emerges as a pragmatic and efficient approach to be considered the most appropriate and authentic for accurately conveying the core concepts of the original text.

Keywords: Dynamic equivalence, formal correspondence, cultural expressions, figurative expressions.

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