Literary Translation

الترجمة الادبية

University of Mustansiriyah

College of Arts

Translation Department

Asst. Lecturer: Farah Abbas Abo Al-Timen

4th stage/ Evening classes

Lecture 3: Prose Translation

**What is Literary Translation**

Translation of literature is fundamentally different from other categories. This is because the main principle of literary translation is the dominance of poetic communicative function. It means that in addition to rendering information to the reader, literary translation also has aesthetic functions. The artistic image created in the particular literary work will certainly have an impact on the reader. For this reason the literary translator should take into account specific features of the text such as equivalence:

*A leopard never changes its spots*

Literal Translation: *الفهد لا يغير بقعه أبدا.*

Literary Translation (equivalence): من شب على شيء شاب عليه, الطبع غلب التطبع

It is the poetic focus of the text that makes this type of translation different from, say, texts of an informative type. When reading a story, poem or any other type of literary work translated from a foreign language, we observe the text itself with its meaning, emotions and characters. It is quite a challenging task to achieve the main goal of the translation - creating a particular image for the reader as that found in the original text. Therefore, literary translation might involve some deviations from the standard rules:

*Patience is virtue*

Literal Translation: الصبر فضيلة

Literary Translation: الصبر مفتاح الفرج

A literal translation cannot reflect the depth and meaning of the literary work. A literary translator reproduces a non-literal rendition of the original text. It is all about how the translator perceives it. He/she rewrites the text from the beginning to the very end. This applies, for example, when an obvious expression is replaced by synonyms or the structure of sentences is changed.