

Literary Translation

الترجمة الادبية

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College of Arts
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4th stage/ Morning & Evening classes

Lecture 1: Prose Translation

Time: 11:50

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- Texts Classification

First of all, a translator should be able to distinguish between the two general classifications of a text, which are:

1- **Informational Texts:** the emphasis is on information (content) of a text. The main function is descriptive on which these texts aim at conveying information to the reader such as a historical, geographical texts, etc.

2- **Literary Texts:** these texts aim at achieving artistic or aesthetic effect rather than conveying information. The main emphasis is on the form of the text and it is as important as its information such as a poem, novel, story, etc.

Also there is the **Religious Texts** which typically regarded as both informational and literary texts since the message or the content they bear and the shape of the content are at the same level of importance such as the biblical and Qur'anic texts.

- Figurative Language

Let us assume that your colleague has come in to the class room out of a rainy day and you say to him/her, "Well, you are a **pretty sight**, got **slightly wet**", and he/she replies, "Wet? I'm **drowned! It's raining cats and dogs.**"

If you examine the conversation literally you will find that it is nonsense:

Pretty sight

الترجمة الحرفية: منظر جميل

الترجمة الأدبية: منظر بائس/ مظهر يُرثى له

Slightly wet

الترجمة الحرفية: مُبتل قليلاً

الترجمة الأدبية: مُبتل جداً

Drowned

الترجمة الحرفية: غارق

الترجمة الأدبية: مُبتل تماماً

Raining cats and dogs

الترجمة الحرفية: إنها تمطر قططاً وكلاباً

الترجمة الأدبية: إنها تمطر بغزارة

You didn't mean that your colleague is a “pretty sight” but that he was a “wretched sight”. He is not “slightly wet” but “very wet”. Your colleague did not mean that he/she is actually got “drowned” but he/she got “drenched”. It was not raining “cats and dogs”; it was raining water “heavily”.

From this simple conversation we will all be surprised to know that we speak figuratively every day. Broadly defined, a figure of speech is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way. Figurative language uses **figures of speech** that cannot be taken literally only. Figures like **metaphor** and **simile** which both are used as a means of comparing things that are

essentially unlike. The only distinction between them is that in simile the comparison is expressed by the use of "**like**", "**as**", "**similar to**", "**resembles**", or "**seems**"; while in metaphor the comparison is **implied**, i.e., the figurative term is substituted for or identified with the literal term.

Examples:

1- King Arthur: God uses people like you, Lancelot. Because your heart is open. You hold nothing back. You give all of yourself.

الرب يستخدم من هم مثلك لأن قلبك صافٍ لا يخفي شيء، و تعطي ذاتك كلها.

2- I lived most of my life in the open.

عشت معظم حياتي في العراء.

Quotes from: The First Knight
اقتباسات من فيلم: الفارس الأول

3- Her lashes are like the feathery plumes of moths on her colorless cheeks.

الترجمة الحرفية: رموشها كريش العثة على خديها عديمي اللون.
الترجمة الأدبية: رموشها كريش الفراشات الناعم (تحط/ترتمي/ترقد) على خديها (الذابلين/ الباهتتين/ الشاحبين). (كناية عن أنها اهداب رقيقة كريش الفراش)

Quote from: Possession
A. S. Byatt اقتباس من رواية التملك لـ: أي أس بيات