

**University of Al-Mustansiriya
College of Arts
Department of Translation**

***FUNCTIONAL SENTENCE
PERSPECTIVE IN
TRANSLATION***

**A Ph.D. Dissertation Submitted to the Council of the College
Arts University of Al-Mustansiriya in Partial Fulfillment for the
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics and Translation.**

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November 2006

1427A.H.

ABSTRACT

The main concern of this study is to show the role played by FSP within English and Arabic when applied to translation. The study is divided into six chapters. The motivation for using the FSP theory to analyze translated texts in the two languages is of two values. First of all, while there exists different studies at the grammatical and phonological levels within the two languages, very little functional analysis has been carried out in comparison at the level of text, beyond that of comparing L1/L2 texts. Secondly, thematic considerations allow the analyst to highlight areas of textual organization in a systematic way for purposes of comparison. The basic hypothesis tested here rests on the informational function of the texts results in similar functional choice and thematic patterning across languages. The corpus for this study consists of thirty verses from the Holy Quran, regarding it as a literary text, with eight translations of different translators into English for each one of them. The texts chosen represent a variety of translators in order to control for author style or preference. Firbsian theory is followed for the analysis because it looks more applicable to Arabic than that of Halliday. Arabic is viewed as originally existing from nominal structure according to the concept of Sebaweih. Some reference is

made representing Halliday's (1994) approach to function. The analysis shows similarities across the translators in trying to approach the suitable means to reflect the same function presented by the original but this seems unattainable goal because of the difference in culture and author style. This proves the hypothesis suggested by the researcher. The results presented in tables which the way translators try to approach the original but still there is a great gap between the two. No analysis is made on the level of phonology because it needs a separate study.