A Stylistic Analysis of News English-Arabic Translation

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ABSTRACT

Leech and Short (1981, p.74) argues that every analysis of style is an attempt to find the artistic principles behind an author’s choice of language. Hence, this article focuses on the stylistic that exist in English-Arabic translation texts of the British Broadcasting Corporation’s (BBC) political news. It attempts to find the nature of the stylistic changes as proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) and also to show how the differences in the order of sentence constituents and the points of grammars of the Source Texts (ST) and Target Texts (TT) contribute to the stylistic and the semantic changes. This paper deals with the sequences of the sentence constituents, some elements of grammar such as tenses, prepositions and adverbs, and the semantic changes that have consequently taken place in the Arabic translation. The paper makes use of the stylistic ideas of Ghazala (1995) as well as X’ Theory by Culicover (1997) to capture the syntactic changes. The analysis of the data shows the following:

(a) The semantic changes are attributable to the differences on points of grammar (tenses, prepositions and adverbs) the differences in the weltanschauung (world-view) of the speakers of the ST and the TT arising from different cultural emphasis and differences in some socio-linguistics elements; and

(b) The stylistic changes are essentially arising from differing language structures.

Keywords: Grammar, syntax, semantics, changes, style and translation

INTRODUCTION

Some scholars may find the terms literary stylistics and linguistics stylistics confusing due to their somehow similarities. But any such study that leans heavily on external correlates with none or just a smattering of
attention to the ‘rules guiding the operation of the language’ can be regarded as literary stylistics. Unlike linguistics stylistics which relies heavily on the rules of language in the explication of a literary text, we call it here linguistics stylistics, Nnadi (2010, p.23). According to Enkvist (1973, p.92), linguistics stylistics is referred to as stylolinguistics. This paper is a stylolinguistics study that intends to explore the translation problems and the solutions on an extended dimension of linguistics stylistics. The analysis includes the realm of styles. The study analyzes the translation of English political news-texts (source text = ST) into Arabic news-texts (target text = TT). It pays more attention to style as well as looking at the changes of the whole message. Mainly, it is a comparative study that examines the linguistics stylistic differences between the English ST and their corresponding Arabic texts. However, linguistics stylistic and message analysis have yet to receive due attention and the specific study of style in the translation of English News texts into Arabic is even less common. Underpinning the above is the assumption that translating a language into another language creates many stylistic problems. These problems may affect the message of the source texts through the processes of translation. In addition, the cultural and sociolinguistic differences between both languages (source and target languages) play a big role in producing a good translation output. All these differences may compel the translator to make some changes in style when translating one language to another. These changes may in turn affect the messages, contributing to a disparity in some cases between the content of the ST and the content of the TT.

A linguistics stylistic approach to translation involves assessing the style of the source text and its effects, including the inferences it permits (Gutt, 2000, pp.24-25), the gaps it manifests, thorough ambiguity, compression, or incompleteness. These allow the reader to ‘climb aboard’ the text (Iser, 1974, p.275) and become involved in it. The stylistics in England has been applied largely to literary texts (Leech & Short 2007, p.10). It is here that I find the most interesting interactions with translation. One of the main tasks of stylistics in literary translation is to consider the kind of dynamic, creative reading that many literary translation scholars, especially those influenced by the poststructuralist view of the reader as ‘producer of the text’, consider to be essential (cf. Scott, 2000, p.183-185) and to assess the facilitation of the linguistic stylistic detail of the text. However, beyond this, a linguistics stylistic approach needs to explain how ‘reading for translation’ (based on Slobin’s ‘thinking for translation’ 2003, p.164; see Boase-Beier, 2006, p.24) takes place. Specifically, it needs to account for the close reading which translation scholars such as Bell (1998, p.186) deem to be a prerequisite for translation.

According to Wales (2001, p.373) and (Stockwell, 2002, pp.1-8), “Style refers to the perceived manner of expression in writing or speaking”. In this case, the style
of writing can be radical, tragic, comic, and so on, depending on the ultimate intentions of the writer. Based on the definition, style is glimpsed as the way writer expresses his/her feelings to the outer world. Literature is not written in a vacuum, there must be a message the writer has in mind to convey, the way he/she uses language to convey his/her message to the world is referred to as the style of the writer. To strengthen this definition, Malic (1971) as cited in Lawal (1997, p.34) says, “the style of an author has a consistency due to the habitual nature of the writing process and this consistency can be determined, measured and used to determine consanguinity between an unknown and a set of authenticate text”. Furthermore, Ibrahim (2000, p.57) says, “style is the verbal coating or dressing of one’s thoughts, ideas and feelings in a method that is peculiar or unique to a particular author”. The perception of authors differs; therefore, they tend to use different style in their works. As mentioned earlier, we have been able to showcase the true nature of styles and we have come to understand that style is the way authors convey their messages through the use of language which may differ and may also give recognition to an author in terms of his/her style. Crystal (1992, p.34) opines that “stylistics is the study of aesthetic use of language in all linguistic domains”. In this definition, linguistics stylistics is showcased as the survey of the beauty in the use of language in all the scopes of linguistics. Contrary to Crystal’s “all linguistic domain”, Short (1996, p.1) asserts that “stylistics is an approach to the analysis of (literary) text using linguistic descriptions”. Short sees stylistics as the scrutiny of fictitious text in accordance with linguistic guidelines; he limits the scopes of stylistics to literary text neglecting the non-literary aspect of it. Malmjear (1991, p.438) in his contribution sees stylistics as “the style in spoken and written text”. Malmjear’s contribution agrees with Crystal’s by extending the scope of stylistics beyond the literary text. He sees stylistics as the surveys of language used in oral and written text. Stylistics studies do not only involve literary, but also non-literary texts. Haynes (1989, p.135) mentions some kind of texts that can be studied and analyzed in stylistics that include conversational narratives, recipes, geometrical - theorem, songs, short stories, maps, children stories and script. In the words of Chapman; (1983, p.135), “Stylistics studies the language adopted to meet peculiarities of situations, attitudes and relationships in specific linguistic acts”. Chapman is of the opinion that stylistics deals with different dimensions in which a language can be used to meet relation in a certain discourse. Furthermore, Widdowson (1973, p.3) defines stylistics “as the study of literary discourse from linguistic orientation”.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

For the purpose of this article, we employ a few ideas from different writers but will use them compositely and interactively.
Ghazala’s ideas on Arabic Writing Style (1995)

In Arabic prose, (Ghazala, 1995, p.242) notes that style of short sentences has an important function as he opines that such a style does heighten the tempo of action in a text. It is written in the form of a story apart from the fact that such a style accelerates events and creates suspense. He adds that it is the only type of style which reflects a function of acceleration that can be sensed by reading the text aloud and quickly. Hence, he suggests that short sentences be re-echoed in the Arabic translation in order to keep this function (Ghazala, 1995, p.242). Ghazala further remarks that the style of long sentences, in English-Arabic translation, is better to be imitated in Arabic because it has important stylistic functions which are a part of the meaning of the text. He adds that translating an English long sentence into Arabic long sentence might be less problematic than breaking it into short sentences, (Ghazala, 1995, p.245). Ghazala also observes that there is a common mistake of changing the passive sentence into the active counterparts made by some English-Arabic translators who claim that Arabic is an active language, while English is passive, (Ghazala, 1995, p.246). In any case, he adds that this aspect of the Arabic language is by no means settled as both passive and active styles that are used in all types of Arabic texts. As a consequence, both styles, active and passive, have to be reflected in the English-Arabic translations to reflect their important functions in the message (Ghazala, 1995, p.246).

Culicover (1997)

According to (Culicover, 1997, p.134), X’-Theory is a theory of phrase structure; a theory which constitutes a possible phrase in natural language. He adds that within this theory phrase structure affects the hierarchical and left-to-right relationships between syntactic categories. As in Fig.1, he further mentions that every phrase has a head; certain heads take complements. Informally, the relationship between a head and its complements is characterized by the fact that they are sisters. Each c-commands the other and the same node dominate them, (Culicover, 1997, p.135), as illustrated in...
the diagram below where V' (verb phrase), V (verb) is the head while NP (noun phrase) is the complement. As shown in below diagram, within this theory, the V', V and NP are all nodes, while the V and NP nodes are sisters. The V' and NP command the other. Some grammatical relationships exist between them.

He also contends that, “An important principle of X’ Theory is that across syntactic categories, complements, specifiers, and adjunct bear the same configurational relationship to the head.” (Culicover, 1997, p.135). Furthermore, “In English...the complement of the head appears adjacent to it and to the right, while the specifier appears to the left” (Culicover, 1997, p. 136). In other languages the sequence may be the reverse. Instead of V-NP as in Fig.1 like in the case of eat cake for English, it may be V-...-NP for Arabic akal –Ali- cake ‘Ali ate cake’. In the theory that he proposes, all phrases have the following structure, called the X’schema, (Culicover, 1997, p.137) as in Fig.2.

According to the X’schema, or X’-theory, a complement is the sister of X(zero), while an adjunct is adjoined to X’. It is an open question whether or not adjuncts can appear at the X(max) level as well. In addition, all branches are binary (i.e., dual branching) (Culicover, 1997, p.137). The structure in Fig.2, is universal for all categories and across all languages.

**VINAY AND DARBELNET (1995)**

Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) consider comparative analysis as an essential applied linguistic approach to translation as it is a more direct approach. They focus on the pragmatic stratum which determines the choice of lexical and grammatical devices in the text. They offer two strategies in their approach: direct translation and oblique translation. The former strategy comprises three procedures: (a) borrowing
calque, and (c) literal translation. They employ direct translation whenever a structural and conception parallelism exists between both languages. The latter strategy, oblique translation, has four procedures: (a) transposition, (b) modulation, (c) equivalence, and (d) adaptation which are used whenever grammatical, lexical, structural or conceptual divergences are due to certain stylistic effects in the source text.

The Data

The data presented in this article is collected from the BBC news online from January 2005 to April 2006. One hundred samples are collected as part of our study. However, for the purpose of this article, we have included only eleven political news articles and their corresponding Arabic translation. The BBC’s news texts are chosen because they are documents for public consumption whereby many readers are not language experts, mostly laypeople. These newspaper articles are not of general nature instead they are news on political events and happenings. All these articles have been taken from the BBC’s website as parallel versions in Arabic can be accessed easily. Finally, each data in the analysis is given the ST, the TT, its Arabic transliteration and the meaning of the structure in issue. The maximal projection in overall the analysis is omitted for shorthand purpose.

Stylistic Changes Due to Borrowing

In this section, we are concerned with the borrowing of Arabic terms in English and how they are retranslated into Arabic in relation to style. Consider the English example in (1) (a) and its corresponding Arabic translation especially the underlined constituents in (1) (b) and its transliteration in (1) (c):

1. (a). ST: ‘Bin Laden call falls on deaf ears’
   BBC: Monday, 24th April 2006
   US intelligence believes the audio tape aired by an Arab TV channel is genuine, making it the fugitive al-Qaeda leader’s first message since January. US opposition politicians said it only showed up the Bush administration’s failure to capture Bin Laden.

   (b). TT: “بن لا دن” حرب صليبيه غربيه ضد لا سلام
   قال إسمة بن لادن زعيم تنظيم القاعدة في تسجيل صوتي منسوبي اليه ان تحرك الغرب لعزل الحكومة الفلسطينية “يلي دة حماس يعني انه في حرب ضد لا سلام”

   (c). Trs: (ben laden: hareb salebleeyyah ded al eslam...)

   Qala osama ben laden z’eeem tandeem al qa’eda fi tasjeel sawti mansub eleih ena taharuk alghrb l ’zel al hukuma al filisteenyh biqeyadat hamas y’ni enahu fi harb ded al eslm)

The underlined constituents of the ST in (1) (a), the fugitive al-Qaeda leader’s, is given a syntactic structure in (a), its corresponding Arabic translation, زعيم تنظيم القاعدة (z’eeem tandeem al qa’eeda), is given the structure in (b), as illustrated:
In the above phrase markers, the non-branching node like *Adjunct* is retained. In the subsequent representation, following a representation in linguistic convention that non-branching node deletes itself, only when it is necessary that the *Adjunct* node will be represented.

In the above example, it is noticed that the Arabic term *(al-Qaeda)* is borrowed from Arabic to be used in the English political news in (1)(a). The translator uses the same determiner phrase in the TT in (1)(b) as evidenced from its transliteration in (1)(c). Syntactically, it is also noticed that the same determiner phrase is sandwiched between two constituents, *the fugitive* and *leader*. As *(al-qa’eda)* is an Arabic determiner phrase. The translator retains it in the Arabic news as in (1)(b). As for the phrase *(al-Qaeda leader’s)* which has the structure *[D’-N’]* as in (a’) above has changed to *(زعيم تنضيم القاعدة)* *(z’eem tandeem ‘al qa’eda)* which stylistically is *[N-N-D’]* sequence as in (b’) above. The structural difference is that the political terms *(al-Qaeda)* is written after two nouns, namely *(زعيم (z’eem) ‘leader’ and تنضيم (tandem) ‘organizing’)*. In addition, it is noticed that the translator has uses the definite article *(al)* ‘the’ to make the noun definite in both the ST and the TT texts.

In terms of Ghazala’s (1995) ideas on styles, the above syntactic change can be termed as a formal style as the complex and long sentences have been retained. In other words, in terms of style in Ghazala’s sense the sequential syntactic change from “…the fugitive al-Qaeda leader’s…” *(D’-D’-N’)* in English to Arabic “…زعيم تنضيم القاعدة…” *(N-N-D’)* has been kept to a minimum as it only involves a change in the syntactic position of the noun
leader (Arabic زعيم (z’eem). In addition, the English phrase the fugitive al-Qaeda leader’s is expressed in the possessive (genitive) case, while the Arabic translation زعيم تنضيم القاعدة (z’eem tandem al-qa’eda) is an adjectival constituents in an adjective position.

2. (a) ST: Iraqi Shias state coalition terms

BBC: Saturday, 21st January 2006

The Shias bloc which took the most voters in Iraq’s election says it will form a coalition with Sunni groups but only if they do more to combat the insurgency.

(b) TT: احزاب الشيعية العراقية تضع شروطًا للائتلاف مع السنة

اعلن زعيم الاتحاد العراقي الشيعي الموحد الذين يترأسهم أكبر كثير في البرلمان العراقي الجديد أنهم سيشكلون ائتلافاً حكومياً تشارك فيه الا حزاب السنة ، لكنهم اشترطوا لتحقيق ذلك قيام هذه الا حزاب ببذل جهد أكبر في المواجه مع المسلحين


The following tree diagrams in (a’) to (b’) in (2) below demonstrate the syntactical difference:

In the English ST as in (2)(a), the terms sunni and shia are borrowed from Arabic.

The Arabic translation retains them. However, there is a change of grammatical category. The word shia is a noun in the ST but is used as an adjective (الشيعي al-shee’ee) in the TT. Besides, in the ST The sunni bloc is a global determiner phrase referring to the whole group while in the Arabic TT the determiner phrase الشيعي al-shee’ee has a more definite reference. As for the determiner phrase السنيه (as- Sunni), it is an adjective in the ST but it has been translated as a definite noun in the TT text.

Based on Ghazala’s (1995) views of styles, it is quite apparent that the long
sentence style of the ST has been transferred to the TT. In addition the formal style of the original has been maintained. The determiner phrase the Shias bloc which in the ST is a subject of the main clause has shifted its position in the subordinate clause in the Arabic TT. This is similar to the movement of words (namely fronting) in Ghazala’s (1995) sense.

3. (a) ST: Bin Laden’s call falls on deaf ears …
BBC Monday, 24th April 2006.
‘we are not concerned with any mujahideen or any crusade or any war with the International community.’

(b) TT: “و قال "ادعو المجاهدين و مسانديهم , خاصة في السودان و شبه الجزيرة العربية للا ستعداد لحرب طويلة " ضد الصليبيين في غرب السودان

(c) Trs: (Wa qala “ ada’u al mujahideen wa musaneedehum……)

The labeled bracketing in (a-b) below shows the syntactic difference between the sequential arrangement of the words in the ST and the TT:

(a’) ST: We are not concerned with any Mujahideen or any crusade…
[[we] [ are not [concerned] [with [any Mujahideen or any crusade…]…]]].

(b’) TT: ادعا المجاهدين و مسانديهم … ad’u al mujahideen wa musaneedehum…

First, English has borrowed the word Majahideen (mujahideen) and the Arabic translation has retained this. In addition, the word Majahideen (mujahideen) is a noun in both the ST and TT, but its position in the TT text has been shifted, that is in Ghazala’s (1995) view of movement of elements in a sentence (i.e., fronting). In this case, the English S-V-O (subject-verb-object) sequence in the ST has been changed to V-S-Comp (verb-subject-complement) in which the subject is recorded as a suffix bound-morpheme of the Arabic verb. In addition, the word مجاهدين (mujahideen) in the ST text is conjoined with another noun by the conjunction.
Stylistic Changes Due to Calque.

This section examines a special kind of borrowing of an expression from another language but translating it literally either as (a) a lexical calque introducing a new mode of expression or (b) a structural calque which introducing a new construction into the language (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p.32). After a period of time, some calques become an integral part of the language, while some others undergo a semantic change, turning them into faux amis ‘false friends’ which are words that seem quite familiar to a speaker of a receptor’s language but actually mean different things in the foreign language.

4. (a) ST: ‘Maliki endorsed as new Iraqi PM’

They also gave the post of parliament speaker to Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, a Sunni Arab.

(b) TT: الوازمي: أريد تشكيل حكومة تمثل أطياف المجتمع العراقي كما اختير محمود المشهداني، وهو سني رئيسا للجمعية الوطنية

(c) Trs: ( al maleki :ureed tashkeel hukuma tuamathel atyaf al mujtm’ al ‘raqi)( kama agra al barlaman entekhab jalala al talabani , wa huwa kurdi, raesan lil bilad lifra welayah thaneyah. Kama ukhteera mahnud almashhadani , wa huwa suni raesan li-l jam’eejah al wataneeyah.)

We are concerned with the English noun phrase …the post of Parliamentary Speaker…. which has a structure in (a’) and its corresponding Arabic structure in (b’) as illustrated below:

(a’) ST: …the post of Parliamentary Speaker…

(b’) TT: الوطنية رئيسا للجمعية: (…raeesan li-l jam’eejah al wataneeyah…).

From (a-b) above, the concept behind the phrase …the post of Parliamentary Speaker... with a structure of [D’-P-N’] has been translated into Arabic as رئيسا للجمعية الوطنية (…raeesan li-l jam’eejah al wataneeyah…) with a structure [N’-P’-D’]. In particular, two sequential words Parliamentary Speaker in English have become a sequence of a noun, a prepositional phrase and a determiner phrase, namely رئيسا (raeesan) ‘president’, للجمعية (lil-jam’eejah) ‘for the association’ and الوطنية (al-wataneeyah) ‘the nationalism’. They are different not only syntactically but also in terms of words. Morphologically, the Arabic translation has added the definite
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article ال (al) ‘the’ for both جمعية (jam‘eeyah) ‘association’ and وطنية (wataneeyah) ‘nationalism’. The English-Arabic translator has used the nunation (or tanween) appended to Arabic nouns to indicate that the word is indefinite for رئيسا (raeesan) ‘president’. The syntactic and the lexical changes in both (a) and (b) above are in line with Ghazala’s (1995) view of formal style of language.

5. (a) ST: ‘US warns Russia over aid to Iran’
BBC: Wednesday, 19th April 2006.
…said Mr. Burns, the US undersecretary of State…
(b) TT: مطالبة أمريكية لموسكو بوقف مساعدة إيران نووية وقال برنز نائب وزيرة الخارجية الأ美ريكية …
(c) Trs: …washington tad‘u rusyah le elgha safqat al sawareegh ela eran wa hatha nikulas bireez na’eb wazeerat al khareejeyah al amreekiyah ...

We are interested in the text …the US undersecretary of State… which has a structure in (a) and the structure of its corresponding Arabic translation is in (b) below:

(a’) ST: …the US undersecretary of State

naaeb wazeerat al khareejeyah al amreekiyah
It is observed that the English phrase the undersecretary of state is a sequence of a determiner phrase, a noun and a prepositional phrase: [D’-N-P’]. In the Arabic translation, this has changed into نائب وزيرة الخارجية الا مريكية (naeb wazeerat al khareejeyah al-amreekiyah), a sequence of words containing an adjective, a noun and two determiner phrases: [A-N-D’-D’]. The translator does not literally translate each element, but has used structural and stylistic changes to create a syntactical and structural equivalence between the ST text and the TT. The definite article ال in الخارجية (al- kharejeeya) ‘the exterior, foreign’ and الامريكية ‘the American’ are used in determiner phrases (D’) to define the nouns and to express a shared knowledge about certain entities. The same corresponding expressions in the ST text are undefined. In terms of Ghazala’s (1995) views on style, the structural change in the Arabic TT is in keeping with a formal style of the ST.

6. (a) ST: ‘Iraq Shia alliance to vote on PM’
   BBC: Friday, 21st April 2006

   Iraq’s largest parliamentary bloc, the United Iraq Alliance (UIA), is to vote on a candidate for prime minister. The Shia Muslim coalition’s vote could see Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari retain power or introduce a new leader

   (b) TT: الجمعية الوطنية العراقية تندرس في ترشيح المالكي

   (c) Trs: ( …. al jam’yah al wataneeyah al ‘raqeeyah tandur fi tarsheeh al maliki t’qeed al jam’yah al wataneeyah al ‘raqeeyah (al barlaman) ejtema’n al youm al sabt lil musadaqa ‘la’ dad min al manaseb al seyaseyah fi al dawla bima fiha akhtar hadhehe al manaseb ethara lil jadal wa huwa mansab raees al hukuma.)

   We are concerned with the English genitive noun phrase Iraq’s largest Parliamentary bloc in (6)(a), its corresponding Arabic translation in (b) and its transliteration in (c) above. Compare the English structure in (a’) in labeled bracketing with its Arabic counterpart in a phrase marker configuration in (b’) below:

   (a’) ST: …Iraq’s largest Parliamentary bloc…
   [ [ Iraq’s [ largest ]] [ Parliamentary [ bloc]]…]
   N’ N’ A’ A’ N

   (b’) TT: الجمعية الوطنية العراقية (البرلمان)

   al jam’eeyah al wataneeyah al ‘raqeeyah (al barlaman)
Obviously, there is a *calque* in the Arabic term جِلْدُ الْرَّاجِبِ (jil’d al-rājib) ‘parliament’ with an adaptation in its original spelling *parliament*. However, there is no change in the grammatical category from a noun in the English word *parliament* to the Arabic word *barlaman*. The overall structure of the English genitive compound noun phrase of [N’-A’-[A’-[N]] has been changed drastically into a series of determiner phrases [D’-D’-D’-D’] where each one contains a definite determiner phrase with a definite article *ال* (al) ‘the’ in the Arabic translation. With respect to the English adjectival phrase *parliamentary bloc*, the consecutive adjective-noun sequence, [A’-N], has changed too; it now occurs after three determiner phrases الجَمِيعَةِ (al-jam’eeyah) ‘the association’, الْوَطَنِيَّةِ (al-wataneeyah) ‘the nationalism’, and الْوَلَايَةِ الْعَرَابِيَّةِ (al-‘rqeeyah) ‘the Iraq’. The English word *largest* is left untranslated. In terms of Ghazala’s (1995) view, the Arabic translation such as the one here which contains a series of determiner phrases in (b) is a form of Arabic formal writing style where the noun is properly identified with its respective definite article. Consequently, the sentences remain long. 

**Stylistic Changes Due to Literal Translation.**

In this section we present a few cases of stylistic changes due to literal translation.

7. (a) ST: ‘Maliki endorsed as new Iraqi PM’.

US president George W Bush said the “historic achievement by determined Iraqis will make America more secure…”

BBC: Saturday, 22nd April 2006

(b) TT: المالكي : أريد تشكيل حكومة تمثل أطياف المجتمع العراقي ورحب الرئيس الأمريكي جورج بوش با لتفاق الذي توصلت إليه الكتل السياسية في العراق وا اعتبر ان “هذه الخطوة” ستجعل الولايات المتحدة أكثر أمنا

(c) Trs : wa rahaba al-raees al-amriki jourj bush bi-alitifaq alathi tawasalat elihi al-kutal al-seyaseeyah fi al-‘raq wa a‘abar ana hathih al-khitua “ sataja‘l al-wilayat al-mutahida akthar amanan”

We are concerned with the verb phrase …will make America more secure. It has a sequential structure in (a’). The structure of the corresponding Arabic translation is as in (b’) below:

(a’) ST: …will make America more secure…

[ [... [ will [ make [ America [... [more secure]]]]]]

IP I’ I V’ N’ COMP A’
8. (a) ST: Iran fears drive oil to new high.

Crude oil prices have risen still higher amid fears about continuing tensions between Iran, a key exporter, and the International community.

BBC: Tuesday, 18th April 2006

(b) TT: ازمة الملف النووي الايراني ترفع اسعار النفط والذهب

و يرى محللون ان استمرار التوتر سيدفع اسعار في اتجاه المزيد من ارتفاع بشكل تتجاوز معه قريبا سعر دولار للبرميل.

(c) Trs: …Azmat al malaf al nuwaui al erani tarf’ as ’ar al naft wa al thahab

The following structure of (8)(a) and the tree diagrams of the corresponding Arabic translation in (b) show the syntactic difference between the SL and the TL:

(a) ST: Iran fears drive oil to new high…

[a [Iran fears] [drive [oil [to [new high]]]].

(b) TT: ازمة الملف النووي الايراني ترفع اسعار النفط والذهب

(Azmat al malaf al nuwaui al erani tarf’ as ’ar al naft wa al thahab…)
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The syntactic structure of the ST is a complex noun phrase as a subject followed by predicate consisting of a verb, a noun and a complex prepositional phrase. The English word order of \([N'\{}[V-N-P'-A']\)] becomes a sentence comprising a complex noun-phrase-subject consisting of a noun and three determiner phrases in Arabic: \([N-D'-D'-D']\) followed by a predicate \([V-N'-D']\). In general, the order in both cases is S-V-O/ (complement). In Ghazala's (1995) terms, the apparent similarity of S-V-O word order in both cases makes the Arabic translation somewhat literal in nature. This is so because the S-V-O word order is basic for English while it is not normal in the Arabic translation neither in keeping with the norm of Arabic syntax which is basically a VSO word order. In addition, although the object (complement) of the verb in the English ST is merely a simple noun oil, its counterpart in the Arabic translation is a conjoined noun phrase the النفط و الذهب (al naft wa al thahab) ‘oil and the gold’. It has been added a new element the gold in it. Apart from that, the Arabic sentence still keeps the formal nature of the original English ST.

9. (a) ST: “Bin Laden call falls on deaf ears’

‘Our goal is not defending the khartum government but to defend Islam its land and its people’, he said.

BBC Monday, 24th April 2006

(b) TT: "بن لا دن " حرب صليبيه غربيه ضد لا: سلام

و اضاف " ان هدفنا ليس الدفاع عن حكومة الخرطوم و انما الدفاع عن الاسلام و ارضه و شعبه

(c) Trs: (bin laden: hareb salebeebyah gharabiyah ded al e’slam)

wa adafa ena hadafana leis al defa’ ‘an hukumat al khartum wa enama al defa’ ‘an al eslam wa ardeh wa sh’bih.)

We are concerned with the underlined constituents of the texts in (a-c) above. Sentence (9)(a) above has the structure as the phrase marker (tree diagram) in (a) below, while its Arabic counterpart has the structure in the phrase marker (b’):

(a) ‘Our goal is not defending the khartum government but to defend Islam its land and its people’,
It is noticed that the translator has respected most of the words when translating the ST into Arabic text. It is also observed that there is some structural stylistic correspondence between the ST text and the TT text. Basically, both are similar: one principal clause followed by a series of conjoined clauses. Hence, it is in keeping with a literal translation discussed under this heading. The only difference is that the Arabic sentence is introduced by a complementizer ‘that’. In addition, there is an obvious introduction of the definite article ‘ال’ ‘the’ in some of the Arabic words such as ‘الخرطوم’ (al-Khartum) ‘the Khartum’, ‘الدفاع’ (al-defa’), ‘the defence’, ‘الإسلام’ (al eslam) ‘The Islam’ when these definite articles do not exist in the corresponding ST text. This is in keeping with Hatim’s (1997) view that it is culturally inherent in Arabic to begin a sentence with a clause introducer, ‘a complementizer’ and to use a definite article when the content discoursally calls for the use of the definite article such as in the case of ‘الدفاع’ (al defa’) ‘the defence’ to show the sharing of knowledge about entities.

In Ghazala’s (1995) terms, both languages keep the formal style. For example, the subject of the repeated clauses is truncated in both English and Arabic. The idea behind the use of conjunctions and the deletion of the repeated ‘common’ subject noun phrases is to achieve better cohesion between the clauses.

**Stylistic Changes due to Adaptation.**

In this section, we will examine three cases of lexico-political terms found in the English ST; however, they do not have their one-to-one equivalence in the TT. These are *anti-Semitism*, *parliamentary speaker* and *democracy*. We will look at the way they are adapted in the Arabic texts. They are adapted as in the data in (10) through (10) below:

10. (a) **ST:** Mr. Sharon has now praised France’s efforts in combating *anti-Semitism*.

(b) **TT:** شارون في باريس لا جراء محادثات مع شيراك ويتوقع ان يستخدم شارون الزيارة لامتداح الحكومة الفرنسية للخطوات التي اتخذتها لكافحة معاداة السامية

(c) **Trs:** sharun fi barees li ejra muhadathat m’sherak
wa yatawaq’an yastakhdem sharun al zeyara li mtedah al hukumah al faranseeyah lil khetwat al lati etakhadhatha li mukafahat mu’adat al sameeyah.

11. (a) ST: Other posts due to be endorsed on Saturday include the president and parliamentary speaker and their deputies.

(b’) TT: الجمعية الوطنية العراقية تنضر في ترشيح المالكي و من المقرر أن يبحث البرلمان منصب رئيس الجمهورية و رئيس البرلمان

(c) Trs: jam’eeyah al wataneeyah al ’raqeeya tandur fi tarsheeh al maliki Wa min al muqarar an yabhath al barlaman aeydan mansebei raees al jamhureeyah wa raees al-barlaman

12. (a) ST: He offered his congratulations to the Iraqi people and said the day was a milestone on Iraq’s path to democracy.

(b) TT: مما الكي: اريد تشكيل حكومة تمثل اطياف المجتمع العراقي و قال بوش في خطابه بساكرامنتو بولاية كاليفورنيا أن الاتفاق يعتبر "انجازا هاما" في الطريق نحو "الديمقراطية و أنه يجسد التوافق والإجماع

(c) Trs: al maleki : ureed tashkeel hukuma tumathel atyaf al mujtam’al ’raqi wa qala bush fi khetab alqah bisakra mintu biweelayat kalefoormeyah ena al eteqaq yatabur “enjazan haman” fi al tareeq nahwa al demuqrateeyah wa enahu yujassal al tawafiq wa al ejma’.

From (10-12) above, it is noticed that only the term democracy in (12) (a) is adapted entirely in Arabic with an adaptation in terms of its spelling. The only difference is that in Arabic it appears with the definite article لـ(al) ‘the’ in قيطرد( al demuqrateeyah) ‘the democracy’. In the case of the term parliamentary speaker in (11)(a), a cluster of adjective and a noun of the structure [A’-N’], the ST is perceived by the Arab translator in Arabic as a series of a noun and a determiner phrase: [ N’-D’]. Hence, stylistically they are different. With respect to the term anti-semitic in (10)(a) above, the term in the English ST has a simple structure of [ Neg-N]. It does not seem to be translatable easily as in Arabic it appears as a cluster of two prepositional phrases: [ P’-P’], قيم أسدًا إعداد حلف الفكيل (li mukafahat mu’adat al sameeyah) ‘for fighting against the Semitism’. So it is expressed in different style.

Stylistic Changes Due to Modulation.

In this section, we will examine three English political terms of the ST and how they are translated in the corresponding Arabic TT. It is shown that due to their inability to be adapted, the translator has resorted to express the above political terms according to the purpose of the TT. These political terms are deputy speaker, parliamentary speaker and undersecretary of state.

The differences in style are noticeable from the structures (13) through (15) below:
13. *deputy speaker*, [N’-N’] ‘deputy head the parliament’, [A’-N’-D’]. It is observed that whether it is a nominal compound, an adjectival phrase or a series of determiner phrases, the styles in the TT texts are different.

Stylistic Changes due to Equivalence (Paraphrases).

16. (a) ST: Maliki endorsed as new Iraqi PM.

BBC: Saturday, 22nd April 200.

But he added that there would be strong competition among the various movements for key posts such as the interior, defense, foreign and oil Ministers.

(b) TT: المبعوث الامريكي

لا أنه يرى أن التنافس سيكون شديدا بين مختلف الكتل السياسية على الحقائب الوزارية الهامة كالداخلية والخارجية والدفاع والنفط.

(c) Trs: ala enahu yara ana al tanafus sayakun shadeedan beina mukhtalef al kutal al seyaseeyah ’la al haqaeb al wezareeyah al hama kaal khabeeleyah wa al kharejeyah wa al defa’ wa al naft.

The underlined constituents in the English ST in (16)(a), among the various movements for key posts, is a series of prepositional phrase, an adjective and a prepositional phrase of the structure [P’- [A’-P’] ]. Unable to translate the sense by using the same structure, the translator has used a suitable paraphrase to reflect the same idea in Arabic as بين مختلف الكتل السياسية (beina mukhtalef al kutal al seyaseeyah) ‘between different the bodies the politics’
A Stylistic Analysis of News English-Arabic Translation

of the structure [P-A’-D’-D’]. Here, there is apparently a change of syntactic style.

17. (a) ST: US troops on Iraq abuse charges.
    BBC: Wednesday, 27th July 2005
    TT: اتهام جنود أمريكيين بسوء معاملة سجناء عراقيين

    (d) etaham junud amreekeyeen bi sua mu’amalat sujana a’raqeyen

The English ST in (17)(a) and its Arabic translation in (17)(b) have the structures in (a’) and (b’) respectively below:

(a’) ST: US troops on Iraq abuse charges.
[ [ [ US [troops] [on Iraq]]] [abuse [charges]].
IP’ IP Spec A’ N P V’ N’

(b’)
اتهام جنود امريكيين بسوء معاملة سجناء عراقيين
[ …[ etaham [junud [amereekeyeen]] [bi [sua] ] [mu’a’malat]]
V’ N’ A’ P’ A’ N’
‘charging’ ‘soldiers’ ‘American’ ‘by bad treatment’
[ sujana [‘raqeyen]]
A’ N
‘prisoners’ ‘Iraqian’

The English headline in (a’) above is a complex sentence containing a relative clause as subject [A’-N’]- [V’-N’].

[[sentential-subject] structure of the ST has been changed stylistically in Arabic to a nominal clause of the structure [N’-A’]-[P [A’-N]- [A’-N]]. The two examples examined here show that translators may resort to a paraphrase as an alternative equivalence.

Stylistics due to Passive Sentences

In this section we consider two cases of the English ST that need to be rephrased to their suitable equivalence in the TT. We consider (18) and (19) below:

18. (a) ST: US warns Russia over aid to Iran
    Enriched uranium can be used as fuel in a nuclear activity, or, when highly refined, in a nuclear weapon.
    (b) TT: مطالبة امريكية لموسكو بوقف مساعدة ايران
    ‘charging’ ‘soldiers’ ‘American’ ‘by bad treatment’

    (c) Trs: mutalaba ameekiya li mosko biwaqf musa’at eran nuwawiyan

    Wa yumkin ann yustaikhdam al-yuranium al-mukhasab fi mafa’lat tawlid al-taqa, aw fi sun’a al-asliha al-nuwawiya wa en kana hatha al-akhir yahtaj ela daraja ‘aliya min al-takhsib.

The English ST in (19)(a) and its Arabic translation in (19)(b) have the structures in (a’) and (b’) respectively below:

(a) ST: Enriched uranium can be used as fuel in a nuclear activity…

[enriched uranium][can [be [[[ used [as ....]]]]]

IP’ Spec I’ Modal Aux V’ Conj

(b) TT: و يمكن أن يستخدم البورانيوم المخصب في:

Wa yumkin ann yustaikhdam al-yuranium al-mukhasab...

Conj I’ Modal Comp A’ D’
‘and’ ‘might’ ‘that’ ‘used’ ‘Uranium’

From the above analysis, it is noticed that the ST contains the passive form can be used whose structure is [ I’-[Mod-Aux]-[V’]]. Consequently, the Arabic version is translated as [-Conj’ [I’ [Modal [Comp-[V’]]]]]. The style of the passive sentence is to concentrate on the action/patient while suppressing or ignoring the agent of the action. The translator has reflected a similar function, when he/she concentrates only on the action of the sentence during the translation. Thus, the passive form of can be used is translated as it is along with a complementizer نا (anna) ‘that’.

In the next example, we consider English ST, was kidnapped several weeks ago in (20)(a) and its Arabic translation in (20)(b) below:

20. (a) ST: US soldiers in Baghdad fighting Taha al-Mutlaq, a businessman, was kidnapped several weeks ago, and found shot in the head.

(b) TT: قتال عنف في الرمادي و بغداد

وا كان طه المطلق- و هو رجل اعمال- قد اخطف
 قبل عدة اسابيع ثم عثر على جثته بعد إطلاق
 الرصاص على رأسه.

(c) Trs: qital ‘nif fi al-rumadi wa Baghdad

Wa kana taha al-mtlaq- wa huwa rajul a’mal –qad aukhtutifa qabla ‘dat asabee’ thuma ‘uthira ‘la guthathihi b’ada itlaq al-risas ‘ala rasih.

The English ST in (20)(a) and its Arabic translation in (20)(b) have the structures in (a’) and (b’) respectively below:

(a) ST: Taha al-Mutlaq, a businessman, was kidnapped several weeks ago...

[ [Taha al-Mutlaq [ [a businessman]]] [ was [ kidnapped [ several weeks ago ...]]]]

IP’ Spec IP’ IP D’ I’ V’ Adjunct

(b) و كان طه المطلق- و هو رجل اعمال- قد
 اخطف قبل عدة اسابيع

[ wa[ [kana [ [taha al-mtlaq wa huwa rajul]] [a’mal [ qad [aukhtutifa ‘dat asabee’.]]]]]

Conj IP’ ‘past’ N’IP’ Conjunction V Adjunct
‘and’ ‘was’ ‘Taha al-mutlaq - and he man might arrested several weeks…’

From the above analysis in (a), it is noticed that the ST is a complex sentence. It has an appositive relative clause as its subject. The main clause is in the passive form with the verb phrase was kidnapped followed by an adjunct, (several weeks ago). The overall structure is [ Subject
(Relative clause) –Predicate (Passive-adjunct]). Consequently, the Arabic version is translated as [Conj’-IP’ (+past)-N’ (IP’)] –Conj [V’-adjunct]]. The style of passive is to concentrate on the action and suppress the agent of the action. The translator has reflected similar functions in Arabic in his/her translation.

21. (a) ST: Maliki endorsed as new Iraqi PM.

They also gave the post of Parliament speaker to Mahmood al Mashhadani, a sunni Arab …

(b) TT: كما اختير محمود المشهداني وهو سني رئيس للجمعية الوطنية

(c) Trs. Kama ukhteera mahmood al mashadani wa hua suni raees lil jam eeeyah alwataneeyah.

The English ST in (21)(a) and its Arabic translation in (21)(b) have the structures in (a’) and (b’) respectively below:

(a) They also gave the post of…..

[ … [ also [gave]the post of….] 

IP Adv V D N P

(b) كما اختير محمود المشهداني وهو سني رئيس للجمعية الوطنية

[Kama ukhteera mahmood al mashadani…] 

CONJ V N

also chosen Mahmood al-mashadani…. (passive)

From the above analysis, it is noticed that the SL text is a simple sentence, the main clause contains the active form gave ... the structured [V’]. Consequently, the Arabic version is translated as [Conj’-passive V’]. The style of active is changed into passive form ریتخا امک (Kama ukhteera), literally: also chosen’ in the Arabic version. The translator has reflected a similar idea of election, but in different grammatical style, because the translator has ignored the agent of the action in the Arabic version.

Stylistics due to Long Sentences

In terms of long sentences, we will only show the structure of the complex sentences in terms of how they are connected to each other without detailing the internal structures.

22. (a) ST: Bolton appointed US envoy to UN

Confirmation hearings hit headlines during the spring but became mired in debate as the Senate readied itself to consider the nomination of John Reboots to the US Supreme Court.

(b) TT: تعيين بولتن مبعوثا لواشنطن لدى الامم المتحدة

و كانت الجلسات الخاصة بتاكيد الترشيح قد تصدرت عناوين الأخبار خلال الربيع، ولكن الأمر غاص في ساحة من الجدل في الوقت الذي اخذ مجلس الشيوخ تتأهب للنظر في ترشيح جون روبرتس للمحكمة الأمريكية العليا.

(c) Trs: t’yeen bultin mab’uthan li-washintun lada al-umam al-mutahida Wa kanat al-jalasat al-khasa bi takeed al-tarshih qad tasadarat ’anween al-akbar khilal al-rabee’, wa lakin...
Now, we will consider an example of a long sentence of the English ST in (a) and its Arabic version in (b) below:

(a) [Confirmation hearings hit headlines during the spring]

but [became mired in debate]

Conj IP’ Comp IP’

[to consider the nomination of John Reborgs to the US Supreme Court]]

(b) COMP’

From (22)(a-b) above, it is noticed that the ST is a conjoined sentence in which the subordinate clause is a series of three verb phrase complements. The corresponding Arabic translation is also a conjoined sentence, but the subordinate sentence is a relative clause. The ST and the TT are different in terms of the way the sentences are connected. In Arabic, the conjunction comes in a clause initial position: و (wa) ‘and’, و لكن الامر (wa laken al amr) ‘but the matter’. In the ST, the conjunction joins two clauses somewhere in the middle of the long sentence. Based on Ghazala (1995) view, the long sentence is a normal style that is often used in Arabic language.

**Stylistics due to Repetitions and Variation.**

In this section we will consider two cases of repetitions. We consider the first case in (23) through (25):

23. (a) ST: Sharon arrives in Paris for talks

He is expected to discuss the forthcoming pullout from the Gaza Strip with President Jacques Chirac. Mr. Chirac has described the withdrawal as courageous, and is expected to urge more Israeli moves to keep momentum towards peace in the Middle East. Mr. Sharon, for his part, is expected to use the visit to praise the French government for its action against anti-Semitism in France.

(b) TT: شارون في باريس لإجراء محادثات مع شيراك

ومن المتوقع ان يتم مناقشة الانسحاب المرتقب من قطاع غزة. ووصف شيراك الانسحاب بأنه خطوة شجاعة. ومن المتوقع أن يبحث شيراك للاسرائيليين على القيام المزيد من الخطوات للحفاظ على الدفع باتجاه السلام في الشرق الأوسط. ويتوقع ان يستخدم شارون الزيارة لمناداة الحكومة الفرنسية للخطوات التي اتخذتها لمكافحة معاедة السامية.
in an attempt to defeat al-Qaeda. They set the salvation Council for Anbar and claim to have reduced the numbers of weapons and foreign fighters coming into the area.

In the English ST, the verb expected is repeated three times while the sense of ‘retreat’ is expressed three times using three different lexical items: pullout, withdrawal and moves. Apparently, the repetition is a discourse strategy adopted by the writer of the ST. A similar kind of repetition is found in the Arabic TT: زعماء العشائر السنية "تتصدى للقاعدة" (b) قالت مجموعة من زعماء العشائر السنية في العراق انهم القوا القبض على أكثر من 1000 من عضاء القاعدة في الأشهر الأخيرة. وكان زعماء العشائر في محافظة الانبار قد ضموا قوا تهم في سبتمبر/أيلول الماضي في محاولة للقضاء على تنظيم القاعدة. واسست هذه العشائر مجلس افتاق الابنبو زعمت انها. ساهمت في خفض عدد الاسلحة والمقاتلين الأجانب في هذه المنطقة.

Now, we will consider the next example (24) and its Arabic version with transliteration below:

24. (a) ST: Iraq tribes ‘taking on al-Qaeda’

A group of Sunni tribal chiefs in Iraq say they have caught more than 100 al-Qaeda members in recent months. The tribal chiefs in the Iraqi province of Anbar joined forces in September in an attempt to defeat al-Qaeda. They set the salvation Council for Anbar and claim to have reduced the numbers of weapons and foreign fighters coming into the area.

In the English ST, the noun phrase tribal chiefs are repeated twice; so is the pronominal they. A similar repetitive strategy is observed in the Arabic TT: زعماء العشائر السنية (zu’amaa al-‘ashaer al-suneeya) ‘Sunni tribal chiefs’ and زعماء العشائر السنية (zu’amaa al-‘ashaer al-suneeya) ‘tribal chiefs’. In Ghazala’s (1995) view, some of
these phrases which are used as discourse strategies are sometimes unnecessarily repeated in the TT.

**Stylistics due to Punctuation Marks.**

Ghazala (1995) notes that punctuation marks have important stylistic functions and caution English-Arabic translators to pay attention to them as they may have some semantic implications. In this section we will consider the punctuation marks written in two cases of the English ST and the TT using data in (25) and (26):

25. (a) ST Maliki endorsed as new Iraqi PM.

They also gave the post of Parliament speaker to Mahmood al Mashhadani, a Sunni Arab . . .

(b) كما اختير محمود المشهداني وهو سني رئيس للجمعية الوطنية

(c) Trs: Kama ukhteera mahmood al mashadani wa hua suni raees lil jam`eeeyah al wataneeyah.

26. (a) ST: Gaza settlers face tough decision

Leader Ismail Haniya said: “Hamas confirms it is committed to armed resistance, it is our strategic choice until the end of the occupation of our land.”

(b) و قال القيادي في حماس اسماعيل هنية: “حماس تؤكد التزامها بالقتال المسلح. هذا خيارنا الاستراتيجي حتى نهاية احتلال أراضينا.

(c) taahub amni fi gaza qubeil al-insihib al-israeli

Wa qala al-queyadi fi hamas esma’eel haneeya: “hamas tuakid eltzamah bi al-qital al-musalah, hatha khyarana al-estitratigi hata nihayat ehtilal aradeeina”

In (25)(a) a comma has been used in the ST to mark a following clause without using a syntactic connective. Without the comma in place, a relative pronoun is necessary. Its corresponding Arab text in (25)(b) ignores the comma. As for (25)(a), the ST contains a colon and two inverted commas. As found in the data in (25)(b), the translator has respected the ST punctuation marks in his/her translation into Arabic. Hence, it is observed that punctuation marks are used inconsistently in the TT.

**CONCLUSION**

This paper examines 25 English ST. The structures of the English texts and their corresponding Arab translations are compared using various techniques: phrase markers in tree configuration, in linear structures (label-bracketing) and some narrative descriptions. To facilitate our description, I choose to work within several headings such as borrowing, calque, literal, transposition, adaptation, modulation and equivalence (paraphrase). In summary, in the process of translation, significantly there have been many stylistic changes. Most of these changes are within the realm of syntax such as sentences, clauses and phrases. Some other stylistic changes are due to morphological functions such as tenses and verb morphology. Still other changes are due to discourse strategies such as repetition of
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lexical elements, clausal connectives and punctuation marks. English terms that are found unable to be adopted (or restated in a transliterated form) or for reason of the absence of any suitable equivalence in Arabic are found to be changed into different styles according to the purposes of the TT and expressed in ways that are appropriate with Arabic grammar, cultural and sociolinguistic situations. They are expressed as a modulation, a variation of the form of a message that is obtained by a change in point of view; an adaptation, involving changing the cultural reference when a situation in the source culture does not exist in the target culture; a paraphrase, providing meaning through simplification; or as a literal translation.

Finally, there seems to be no syntactic borrowing from English to Arabic. In the area of morphology, there seems to be some evidence of stylistic change that are prompted by lexical borrowing from Arabic to English and then re-borrowing to Arabic. Absence of parallel patterns in the tenses, different uses of the articles as well as differences in the nature of verb morphology contribute greatly to the style of the TT. In addition, discourse elements such as the metaphors, the direct/indirect expressions and the connectives are found to have some influence in the style of the TT. Whenever there is an absence of linguistic equivalence, the translator seems to want to circumvent it by way of either modulation, adaptation, paraphrase or even literal translation yielding various stylistic changes in the TT.

Overall, in expressing the political news from English BBC texts, the translator favors expressing them in a style that is in keeping with MSA. Informal or vulgar style of the translated messages is not found. My presentation of linguistic stylistic changes has employed the X’ Theory of Culicover (1997). Another approach to a linguistics stylistic study is a narrative descriptive approach or perhaps using a different syntactic notation. Such study will certainly complement the findings of this paper.

REFERENCES


APPENDIX

List of Abbreviations used in the Analysis

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<td>A'</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Adjective</td>
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<td>Auxilliary</td>
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<td>British Broadcasting</td>
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