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Translating Military Slang Terms from English into Formal Arabic

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Abstract

Translating military slang terminologies is a demanding and a challenging task for the translators who work in this field. In most cases translators find them hard to translate due to the implications of these. This paper endeavors to investigate the proper translation techniques and strategies used to translate military slang terms which have only partial or no equivalents in the target language into formal Arabic. Newmark's translation methods namely the Semantic, Communicative and his translation procedures model will be used as the theoretical framework of the study. The data of the study is taken from the glossary of US and UK Army Slang: Acronyms and Terms. The results show that military slang terms is specific a language therefore special techniques should be used in order to translate it properly. Translators should be culturally and linguistically competent in languages. A previous military experience with good knowledge of military terminology. The following Strategies were employed by the translators: borrowing, compensation, cultural equivalence and paraphrasing.

Key words:

Military slang terms, borrowing, compensation, cultural equivalence, paraphrasing.

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1. Introduction

English military slang terms are considered to be a major challenge in the translation process, since it is not just a matter of rendering words, but rather a transforming of other's culture. A problematic task for translators because of the linguistic and cultural differences between TL and SL. Translator needs to decide whether, taking into consideration cultural aspects of the target language and possible recipients. Transferring the meaning or conveying the same message to the TL which has a different culture will not be easy, especially if the translator insisted on finding slang term used in the TL which has the same meaning or impact. E. Mattiello says that "most difficulties arise because this action cross-linguistically requires a lot of effort to find similar modes of expression and cross culturally demand for parallel social sets" (Mattiello, 2007). Hamaida says that translators should be very careful when translating a slang word/expression into a potentially equivalent term Hamaida (2007:7).

Before starting to investigate the proper translation techniques and strategies used to translate military slang terms it is important to define the concept slang. Leech & Svartvik (1981, 26) say "Slang is language which is very familiar in style, and is usually restricted to the members of a particular social group, for example 'teenage slang', 'army slang', 'theatre slang'. Slang is not usually fully understood by people outside a particular social group, and so has a value of showing the intimacy and solidarity of its members".

Hence the purpose of this paper is to investigate the translation strategies or techniques which are adopted by professional translators in rendering these terms from English into formal Arabic. To achieve the study goal Newmark's translation methods namely the Semantic and Communicative in addition to his translation procedures model will be used as a theoretical framework of the study. The choice of subject was motivated by the fact that as a professor of teaching translation at a university level and as a professional translator I came to realize that the translation of English military slang terms into Arabic is a challenging area which needs to be addressed in order to improve the quality of such translation. The data of the present study is taken from the glossary of US and UK Army Slang: Acronyms and Terms. It consists of a number of slang words, phrases, and clauses and its Arabic translation taken from the Jordanian Armed Forces Doctrine. The researcher aim is to examine the data thoroughly using qualitative method in order to find meaningful general patterns and themes. This will then lead to the findings that will be derived from the data. In qualitative research, as suggested by Lincoln & Guba (1985, p.36) "social phenomena are investigated with minimal a priori expectations in order to develop explanations of these phenomena".

2. Literature Review

2.1. Language and Culture

2.1.1. Language

Language and culture are closely related, interactive and influenced by each other. Language is the verbal expression of culture and a way by which people express themselves and their culture (Bajnaid et al., 2018). According to Kramersch (1998, p. 3) "Language is a system of signs that is seen as having itself a cultural value". Speakers identify themselves and others through their use of language: they view their language

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as a symbol of their social identity. The prohibition of its use is often perceived by its speakers as a rejection of their social group and their culture. Thus we can say that language symbolizes cultural reality". People communicate with each other through language and they also describe and share their experience and culture by using language. Hantrais (1989, p.17) believes that "culture is the beliefs and practices governing the life of a society for which a particular language is the vehicle of expression". Edward Sapir in his book *Language An Introduction to the Study of Speech* states that "Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols" Edward (1993, p. 7).

All languages change through time at different rates at different times because all languages have the ability to coin new words to describe new situations and objects. Languages as the most important component in translation change in response to new social, cultural, and environmental situations. It consists of words grammar, syntax etc. This is known as the structure of the language or structural linguistics. Since language and culture are linked with each other, then learning a language cannot be separated from learning its culture. The translated message is transferred not only to another language but also to another culture. Hongwei who believes in language as a depiction of culture says "language mirrors other parts of culture, supports them, spreads them and helps to develop others".

He also believes that "language is the life-blood of culture and that culture is the track along which language forms and develops" Hongwei (1999, p.121). The researcher believes that when the translators learn the culture of the language, they are actually learning how to be in a better position to understand the language and use it in communication like native speakers. House shares the same idea when she states "translation is not only a linguistic act it is also a cultural one, an act of communication across cultures. Translation always involves both language and culture simply because the two cannot really be separated". She adds "language is culturally embedded: it both expresses and shapes cultural reality, and the meanings of linguistic items, be they words or larger segments of text, can only be understood when considered together with the cultural context in which these linguistic items are used" House (2009, p. 11). She also states that "in the process of translation, therefore, not only the two languages but also the two cultures come into contact. In this sense translating is a form of intercultural communication" (ibid: 12). Translators need to overcome the linguistic barriers as well as the cultural barriers in order to make sure that the receptors of the target text are provided with the presuppositions required to understand the intended message. Armstrong (2005, p.3) believes that "just a bilingual and bicultural translator is able to carry out a complete translation". The researcher totally agrees with this statement therefore when we talk about cultural translation we mean that the translator has change the content of the message to suit the audience culture.

Nida & Taber (1982, p. 199) states that "a translation in which the content of the message is changed to conform to the receptor culture in some way, and/or in which information is introduced which is not linguistically implicit in the original". The

relationship between translation and culture is strong and obvious. Leppihalme (1997, p.3) states that "Culturally oriented translation studies, then, do not see the source text (ST) and the target text (TT) simply as samples of linguistic material. The texts occur in a given situation in a given culture in the world, and each has a specific function and an audience of its own". He adds "instead of studying specimens of language under laboratory conditions as it were, the more translation scholar - and the translator – thus approaches a text as if from a helicopter: seeing first the cultural context, then the situational context, and finally the text itself".

2.1.2. Culture

"Human being is a social creature. In fact, man is a receiver and sender of messages who assembles and distributes information" Greimas (1970, p.35). Culture has been defined as "system of rules of communication and interaction that allows a society occurs, preserved, and preserved". "Culture that gives meaning to all business and human movements" Nababan (1984, p.49). People learn and transfer their culture to the next generations through language therefore language does not exist apart from culture." Words only have meaning in terms of the culture in which they are used" Homeidi (2004, p.14). Since language and culture are closely connected to each other and since language is so important in communication then translation is an important factor in communicating, exchanging cultures, and knowledge. From this we can say that translation is a way to exchange cultures, ideas and knowledge.

According to Toury translation consists of language and culture. "Translation is a kind of activity which inevitably involves at least two languages and two cultural traditions" Toury (1978, p.200). In this regard translators need to bear in mind the differences between cultures and languages. They should know how language is used in another culture and to see through the culturally specific patterns of communication. Lotman states that "no language can exist unless it is steeped in the context of culture; and no culture can exist which does not have at its center, the structure of natural language" Lotman (1978, p.87). One of the main problems a translator can face is the deeply rooted terms in their source culture. This is when these terms are specific and exclusive to the culture that produced them and when they have no equivalent in the target culture. According to Larson (1998, p.149) "Different cultures have different focuses. When cultures are similar, there is less difficulty in translating. This is because both languages will probably have terms that are more or less equivalent for various aspects of the culture. He also states "When the cultures are very different, it is often very difficult to find equivalent lexical items" Larson (1998, p.150).

In this case translators should consider not only the lexical impact on the TL reader, but also the way the cultural aspects are perceived. Their job is to do a cross-cultural translation whose success will depend on their understanding of the culture they are dealing with. Bassnett states that "the translator must tackle the SL text in such a way that the TL version will correspond to the SL version. She also added to attempt to impose the value system of the SL culture onto the TL culture is dangerous ground" Bassnett (1980, p. 23). She also highlights the importance of this double consideration when translating by stating that language is "the heart within the body of culture," the

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survival of both aspects being interdependent. Linguistic notions of transferring meaning are seen as being only part of the translation process; "a whole set of extra-linguistic criteria" must also be considered" (ibid: 13).

2.1.3 Military Language

Military sphere has developed tremendously over the last period of time. Military terminology is constantly changing and growing day by day. Military Language is very productive and very flexible and it has influenced the English language in the sense that it has been a source of new words. According to Thomas E. Murray, "The study of English in [the twentieth] century has shown that members of the armed services...are especially prone to linguistic creativity," whether soldiers, sailors, or flyers Murray (1986, p. 126). It is very productive because "each crisis creates its own vocabulary" (John Mason in Murray.126). Military language is occupied with technical terms, internal jargon, acronyms abbreviations and specialized terminology. "Few specialized vocabularies have been as similarly borrowed, copied, and altered as has the military vocabulary" Silkett (1985, p. 13). It covers technical manuals, catalogs of aircrafts, warships, armored fighting vehicle and radars. It also covers brochures, contracts, sensitive correspondences, power point presentations, electronic database files etc. It has developed tremendously over the last years for a number of reasons such as: the rapid changing of the military technology. "New terms are rapidly being created and different factions within the military no longer simply adopt the same older terminology" Murray (1986, p. 127).

The technology involved in this field is very complex and the terminology is updated constantly. That is why it is very important for the military translator to use the up-to-date terminology of the field to get a top quality translation i.e. one that is accurate and consistent, because military translations are among the most time-consuming and challenging tasks. The military create special terms "to identify their users as members of a specific group (and, conversely their nonusers as nonmembers), thus creating or intensifying psychological and social unity among the group's members" Murray (1986,p.127). Another reason is the "relief of psychological tension through humor" Murray (1986, p.128) like wargasm for excessive patriotic emotional reaction to war, and unwelcome visit for invasion, and sparrow for an air-to-air missile Algeo (1991, p.88).

2.1.4. Newmark Communicative and Semantic Translation Methods

Selection of the appropriate translation procedure and method plays an important role in making a good translation. Newmark proposed two translation methods namely the semantic translation and communicative translation. Communicative translation is similar to Eugene Nida's dynamic equivalence in the effect it is trying to create on the target text reader, while semantic translation is similar to Nida's formal equivalence. These two methods are considered to be Newmark's main contribution to general translation theory. Newmark (1988, p.62) states that "The concepts of communicative and semantic translation represent my main contribution to general translation theory and, I return to them as I have to modify and clarify both concepts".

Communicative translation normally attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership. The semantic translation is more than communicative translation. Semantic and communicative translation treats the following items similarly: stock and dead metaphor, normal collocations, technical terms, slang, colloquialisms, standard notes, phaticisms, ordinary language. In communicative translation the literal word-for-word translation is not only the best; it is the only valid method of translation. Badly and/or inaccurately written passages must remain so in translation if they are expressive, although the translator should comment on any mistakes of factual or moral truth, if appropriate.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Introduction

The researcher conducted a comprehensive survey of the related materials, provided a concise overview of what has been studied, established, and argued in the field of the study. The researcher aim is to examine the data thoroughly using qualitative method in order to find meaningful general patterns and themes, which will then lead to the findings that will be derived from the data.

3.2. Theoretical Framework

Scholars and translation theorists have attempted to describe and explain the process of translation. In line with this many procedures and methods of translation have been proposed in order to be used in the translation process. Toury suggests a new perspective on translation, which gave rise to what is known now as "Descriptive Translation Studies DTS" Toury (1995, p.59). The DTS is target text-oriented aims to describe rather than prescribe how translations should be done. Toury states that DTS is "target-(rather than source-), solution-(rather than problem-) oriented", and its main aim is to "describe and explain empirical phenomena about translation, and come up with a pure theory of translation" Toury's (1980, p.6). Nord provides a functionalist approach to translation. She focuses on the functions of texts and translations. She points out that the functionalist approaches to translation evaluate translations "with regard to their functionality in a given situation-in-culture" Nord (1997, p.2). Nida distinguishes between formal and dynamic equivalence in translation. He says "formal equivalence" refers to a faithful reproduction of source-text form elements whereas a "dynamic equivalence" refers to equivalence of extra linguistic communicative effect" Nida 1964, p.32). While Newmark's suggested two translation methods namely the semantic and communicative translation methods and a translation procedures model. Based on a combination of the aforementioned theoretical concepts the researcher aims at examining the translation and the strategies used to translate military slang terms. This is going to be conducted by using Newmark's translation methods in addition to his translation procedures model as the basis for the analysis of the translation of military slang terms. After collecting the data it will be analyzed and categorized with the aim of making a sort of a theoretical or logical construct of translation and to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of the process of translation of military slang terms. The data will be chosen based on how best to answer the research question which was mentioned earlier. The data which will be selected whether it was idiomatic expressions, cultural bond expression, etc. will be

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chosen to support the idea under discussion. It also reduced the conflict of loyalty or fidelity between the source text and target text. According to Newmark (1981, p.p38-39) " the conflict of loyalties, the gap between emphasis on source and target language will always remain as the overriding problem in translation theory and practice. However, the gap could perhaps be narrowed if the previous terms were replaced as follows":

Communicative and semantic translation	
Source Language Bias	Target language Bias
Literal	Free
Faithful	Idiomatic
Semantic / Communicative	

Adapted from Newmark (1988:39)

3.3. Method of Collecting Samples

The research will be utilizing the Maximum Variation Sampling strategy which is defined according to Gay (2003, p. 139) "as a purposeful sampling strategy samples chosen for a particular purpose". It is sometimes called a maximum diversity sample or a maximum heterogeneity sample and it is a special kind of purposive sample. In this study the researcher is going to select study units which represent a wide range of variation in dimensions that maximizes the diversity relevant to the research questions. The main aim of the researcher is to capture a wide range of perspective relating to the study under discussion, and to gain greater insights of the phenomenon by looking at it from all available angles, thereby achieving a greater understanding which leads to identifying common emerging themes, trends and important common patterns that share the same or very similar characteristic.

3.4. Method of Analysis

This study was based on a specified problem and that is the translation of military slang terms. To answer the research question and achieve the research objective a qualitative method is used. The qualitative method will be used to analyze the data in order to transform the data into findings. Patton states that "Qualitative analysis transforms data into findings. No formula exists for that transformation. Guidance, yes. But no recipe. Direction can and will be offered, but the final destination remains unique for each inquirer, known only when—and if—arrived at" Patton (2002, p. 432).

3.5. Data Collection Method

In order for the researcher to derive conclusions from data, enables him to answer stated research question, and evaluate outcomes. The method of collecting data in this research was conducted through documentary method which means examining records and documents include reviewing archival material; and conducting document and content analysis. According to Stone content analysis refers to "any procedure for assessing the relative extent to which specified references, attitudes, or themes permeate a given message or document" Stone (1993, p.123).

U.S.A Slang Expressions

Table 1. Examples of Air Force Personnel Military Slang Expressions

Slang Expression	Meaning	Arabic translation	Country
Fly-boy	A pilot.	طيار	U.S.
Jet jockey (pilot)	An Air Force fighter pilot.	طيار حربي	U.S., Aus. N.Z.
Fighter jock	An Air Force fighter pilot.	طيار حربي في سلاح الجو	U.S.
Throttle-jockey	A jet aircraft pilot, particularly one with a penchant for speed.	طيار حربي مولع بالسرعة	U.S.
Steely eyed killer of women and children	Helicopter pilot. It also applies to the Airborne and Special Forces. Derogatory	طيار مروحية ويمكن استخدامها للقوات المحمولة و الخاصة	U.S., Aus. N.Z.
Space cadet	A young show-off pilot.	طيار شاب يحب التباهي	U.S.
Sprog	A student pilot. Derogatory	طالب طيران مستجد	U.S.
Grease monkey	A mechanic, especially one who works on motor vehicles or aircraft (current, used in all Services, also civilian term).	ميكانيكي طيران او اليات	U.S.
Pigeon	A member of the Air Force. derogative	فرد من سلاح الجو	U.S.
Zoomie	An expression of other Services for Air Force personnel. Derogatory	فرد من سلاح الجو حسن المظهر	U.S.
Wing wiper	In the Navy and Marine Corps, slang expression for an enlisted aviation crewmember.	مجنّد طيران	U.S.
Wing wipe	Army slang for a jet aircraft pilot.	طيار طائرته حربية	U.S.
Gunny / Gunny	1. An aviator who pilots a gunship. 2. A person who fires the guns and weapon systems on a tank, ship or aircraft.	مدفعي او رامي سواء كان في طائرة او دبابة او سفينة حربية	U.S.

Table 2. Personnel Military Slang Expressions (Navy)

Slang Expression	Meaning	Arabic translation	Country
Grunt	Mainly Infantry or a Marine soldier. Derogatory.	جندي مشاة او بحرية	U.S.
Swab jockey	A sailor in the US Navy. In the Navy a mop is called a swab. Derogatory.	بحار في البحرية الامريكيه	U.S.
Bullet sponge	A marine. It is used for other Services as well. A sponge gets water. A bullet sponge is a kind of a stupid person, who serves as a target for bullets	جندي بحرية	U.S.
Squid	Naval personnel.	فرد من البحرية	U.S. / N.Z.

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USMC	Uncle Sam's misguided children – any marine.	جندي مشاة بحرية	U.S.
Frog	NAVY SEAL.	قوات العمليات الخاصة	U.S.
Leatherneck	A Marine.	جندي مشاة بحرية	U.S.
Grease pot	A cook.	طاهي/ طباخ	U.S.
Crotch	Marine slang for the Marine Corps.	سلاح البحرية	U.S.

U.S.A Military Personnel

Table 3. Military Slang Expressions for Officers

Slang Expression	Meaning	Arabic translation	Country
The brass	Officers as a class. Higher-ranking officers were usually called 'the big brass.' The term derives from the fact that officers' insignias are usually made of brass.	ضباط	U.S.
Brass hat	A higher-ranking officer – especially one with gold braid on his cap visor.	ضابط برتبه كبيره	U.S.
Top brass	The highest-ranking officer.	اعلى رتبة	U.S.
Scrambled egg	Naval officer. The term is derived from the gold embroidery on the visor of the cap. It starts from the rank of Major.	ضابط بحرية يبداء من رتبة رائد	U.S.
Lifer	Usually NCOs, sometimes a career service member. It is a draft Army term as opposed to a draftee	ضابط صف	U.S. / U.K.

Table 4. Slang Expressions for Young Soldiers and Recruits

Slang Expression	Meaning	Arabic translation	Country
Joe	A new army recruit.	مجنّد جديد	U.S.
F.N.G.	1. A new army recruit. Extremely derogative 2. Anyone just coming to a new unit.	عسكري جديد	U.S.
Rookie	A newcomer, the term originated in Britain in the armed forces. It is said to be a deformation of 'recruit.	عنصر او فرد جديد	U.S., U.K.
Boot	A new recruit in the Navy or Marine Corps. U.S. armed forces (boot camp – recruit training camp.	مجنّد جديد في البحرية او مشاة البحرية	U.S.
Ring knocker	A graduate of a military academy. Refers to the ring worn by graduates.	خريج كلية عسكرية	U.S.
Cherry	A fresh trooper who has yet to be 'blooded' in combat (current).	جندي حديث	U.S.
Buck Private	A Private who is 'bucking for' promotion as opposed to a PFC (Private First Class). A Private does not have a stripe insignia while a PFC has a stripe.	جندي يكافح من اجل الترفيع	U.S.

Croot	Short for recruit. Derogatory.	اختصار لكلمة تجنيد	U.S.
Selectee	Draftee.	مجنّد	U.S.
Trainee	Slightly derogatory term used for a new soldier.	جندي جديد	U.S.

British Military Slang

Table 5. Military Slang Expressions for Officers and NCOs

Slang Expression	Meaning	Arabic translation	Country
Half Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	مقدم (رتبه) عسكرية	UK
Four ringer	Captain	نقيب	UK
Brocky (current)	Company Sergeant Major	وكيل سرية	UK
Full screw	Corporal	عريف (رتبه)	UK
Lance Jade	Lance Corporal	جندي اول	UK

Table 6. UK Army Slang for Soldiers

Slang Expression	Meaning	Arabic translation	Country
Tom	A British soldier.	جندي بريطاني	UK
Tommy (Atkins)	A typical private in the British Army.	جندي في الجيش البريطاني	UK
Squaddy	Soldier.	جندي	UK
Galoot	A soldier or a marine.	عسكري او جندي مشاة بحرية	UK
Ticker	Soldier who owned his own personal watch .	جندي يملك ساعة	UK
Flag-flasher	A soldier who wears his uniform despite being off duty and in civilian surroundings.	جندي يلبس اللباس العسكري طول الوقت	UK
Kiltie / kilty	A Scottish soldier.	جندي سكوتلندي	UK
Her / His Majesty's bad / hard bargain	A worthless soldier, i.e. his service does not justify his pay.	جندي عديم الفائدة (خدماته لا تساوي راتبه)	UK
Gum-chum	An American soldier stationed in the U.K., from his plentiful supplies of chewing-gum.	جندي امريكي يخدم في بريطانيا	UK
Brown job	Soldier.	جندي	UK
Rooinek	British soldier.	جندي بريطاني	UK
Sweat	Experienced soldier.	جندي خبير	UK
Wrinklies	Old soldier.	جندي كبير السن	UK
Woodentop	Guardsmen.	حارس	UK
Taff	Welsh Infantry (Taff – river in Cardiff).	جندي مشاة من ويلز (نسبة الى نهر في كارديف)	UK

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Jock	Scots Infantry (John – Jock)	مشاة اسكتلندي	UK
Scarse	Liverpool Infantry	مشاة ليفربول	UK

Table 7. UK Marinal Slang Expressions

Slang Expression	Meaning	Arabic translation	Country
Scaly fish	A rough, blunt sailor	بحار قاسي او جلف	UK
Swab	A naval officer, from the rag used to clean the decks.	ضابط بحرية	UK
Salt	A veteran sailor.	بحار محارب قديم	UK
Pongoes	Soldiers when leaving a ship.	جندي غادر السفينة	UK
Wavy Navy	The Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, from the wavy braid worn by its officers on their uniform sleeves.	احتياط متطوع	UK
Bootie	Royal marine	جندي مشاة بحرية ملكية	UK
Bootneck	Royal marine		UK
Snotty	Midshipman - Royal Navy.	ضابط او مرشح بحرية	UK
Gobby	Loud-mouthed (from their tendency to expectorate).	صخاب	UK

Table 8. Air Force Personnel Slang Expressions

Slang Expression	Meaning	Arabic translation	country
Airy- Fairy	Fleet Air (Royal Navy Aircraft - current).	اسطول جوي (طائرات البحرية الملكية)	UK
Crabs	Air Force personnel (Army / Royal Navy)	فرد من سلاح الجو	UK

Table 9. UK Slang Expressions for Officers and NCO's

Slang Expression	Meaning	Arabic translation	Country
Curled darlings	Army officers, esp. those who had returned from fighting in the Crimean War, from their long beards and curled moustaches	ضابط جيش خصوصا الذين شاركوا في حرب القرم. كانت لحاهم طويلة وشعورهم مجعد	U.K.

Prancer	A cavalry officer	ضابط فرسان (مدفعيه)	U.K.
Brass button	An officer.	ضابط	U.K.
Tin hat	A senior officer.	ضابط كبير	U.K.
Gold braid	Senior military or prison officer.	ضابط كبير او ضابط سجون	U.K.
Pongo	Army officer (used by RAF).	ضابط جيش	U.K.
Rodney	Officer.	ضابط	U.K.
Blimp	Army officer of 'the old school	ضابط جيش	U.K.
Zobbit	Officer (from Arabic - dabat or zabat).	ضابط (ماخوذه من العربية ضابط او زابط)	U.K.
Skin-merchant	A military recruiting officer	ضابط تجنيد	U.K.
Desk Jockey	Staff officer.	ضابط ركن	U.K.
Grease monkey	Mechanic.	ميكانيكي	U.K. / U.S.
Subaltern / Subby	A junior officer in the British army.	ضابط حديث في الجيش البريطاني	U.K.
Rupert	Young officer.	ضابط شاب	U.K.

Table 10. Slang Expressions for Part-Timers

Slang Expression	Meaning	Arabic translation	Country
Saturday soldier	A military volunteer.	متطوع جيش	U.K.
STABs	Stupid Territorial Army Bastards.	اغبياء جيش شعبي	U.K.
Saturday night soldier	A member of the British Territorial Army,	احد افراد الجيش الشعبي البريطاني	U.K.
Dad's Army	The Local Defence Volunteers, latterly the Home Guard.	متطوعين الدفاع المحلي / المدافعين عن الوطن	U.K.
Weekend soldier / warrior	A member of the British Territorial Army.	احد افراد الجيش الشعبي البريطاني	U.K.
Whitehall warrior	An officer seconded to administrative duties; <i>Whitehall</i> , the home of the UK government.	ضابط يقوم بواجبات ادارية/اوبت هول هي مقر الحكومة البريطانية	U.K.

4. Analysis and Research Discussion and Findings

It was mentioned earlier that the study will attempt to answer which translation strategies or techniques are used and adopted by professional translators in rendering military slang terms into formal Arabic?. After analyzing the data it was found that there

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are no standardized solutions, no standard translation guidance, guidelines or principle standards for the translation of military slang terms that the translators can follow, which leads to weak translation or different translation versions of the same term. Military slang terms are bound to a culture under specific conditions which lead to a semantic gap between both languages and cultures. Translators often fail to convey all the nuances and the subtleties of military slang terms due to lack of culture awareness and being unaware of the cultural implications and differences in norms and conventions between languages, in this case between Arabic and English. The difficulty of overcoming the problem of translating culture specific terms is a major problem as some of these terms may not be translatable. According to Newmark (1988, p.167) "a word denoting an object, an institution, or if such exists, a psychological characteristic peculiar to the source language culture is always more or less untranslatable".

In many cases, these military slang terms do not have identical equivalents or corresponding lexical items in the target language, and even if they have, the corresponding items may not have the actual required meaning. The result of the structural differences in the features, vocabulary, syntax of the two languages involved is a linguistic translation problems. In many cases dictionaries are of limited use, even the newest specialized dictionaries, and the most influential Arabic -English dictionaries can hardly keep up with the pace of advance and development in science and technology and offer sound translations. Many military slang terms are so recent that they are not listed or included in dictionaries. Translating military slang terms is rather difficult, as there is often a lack of equivalents in ordinary dictionaries therefore dictionaries covering current language must be updated to reflect new words, and new senses of existing word. Some military slang terms require more than one translation strategy which the translator is not aware of. That is, many of them have to be transferred and explained at the same time. Military language is highly practical, loaded with technical terms and unique in its use of long sentences, declarative sentence, passive voice, that requires accurate and concise use of language.

This type of language makes it hard for the translators to understand and master the connotation and denotation of these terms. Inability to comprehend the language due to lack of knowledge of the source language or lack of proficiency which leads to misunderstanding of the intended meaning of the slang terms, idioms, technical terms, culture specific, etc which also leads to inaccurate translation. Lack of subject matter knowledge can be a serious problem in the translation process. The translation strategies or techniques which were used and adopted by professional Translators in rendering military slang terms into formal Arabic are: functional equivalent, cultural equivalent, modulation, compensation, and paraphrase. These strategies were used to convey the most important elements included in English military slang terms into their Arabic equivalents and to provide the readers of the target text with a better understanding.

5. Recommendations

The findings of this study indicate a number of recommendations for practice that are useful and needed to be used by translators when translating military slang terms.

i. Translating military slang terms should be done by translators who are acquainted and familiar with both the SL and TT culture, because understanding the cultural context helps translators in conveying the right message. Language is an integral part of culture therefore, translating these military slang terms cannot be accurately achieved without considering the culture.

ii. Translators are recommended to do some research about the military slang terms they are going to translate before doing their translations. It is important for translators to have the background information relating to subject matter of these military slang terms to help them understand the concepts in order to render the messages properly. When translators understand the background of the original, it provides them with some hints about the meaning and helps them better choose the precise wording to convey the sense that the author intended to convey.

iii. Before starting the process of translation translators should read, study and analyze the text comprehensively from a translator point of view, because this is the only way of ensuring that the source text has been completely and correctly understood. "You have to study the text not for itself but as something that may have to be reconstituted for a different readership in a different culture" Newmark (1988, p. 18). He also states "there are two approaches to translating (and many compromises between them): (1) you start translating sentence by sentence ...; (2) you read the whole text two or three times. ... You may think the first method more suitable for a literary and the second for a technical or an institutional text. ..." (ibid: 19).

iv. Understanding what is meant is of course only a first step towards the translation of military slang terms. The translator must first try to understand as clearly as possible the writer's intent, and then compose a text in the target language that expresses that intent as clearly as possible. Otherwise, one ends up with a text in the target language that is quite unintelligible. Understanding the main point in the source text or the intention of the writer would provide a natural and accurate translation. "Understanding the text requires both general and close reading. ... Close reading is required, in any challenging text, of the words both out of and in context. In principle, everything has to be looked up that does not make good sense in its context" Newmark (1988, p. 11).

v. It is worth mentioning here that achieving a translational equivalent of the military slang terms without considering its contextual use is hard to achieve. Therefore translators must skillfully grasp the overall style of the original text and properly apply translation techniques, in order to achieve the most appropriate equivalence.

vi. Translators of these military slang terms are recommended to keep up with current these military slang terms, and the development of technology and try to think about target language correspondences to replace them when needed. Extensive reading of various references and having good background knowledge of the subject will compensate for the scarcity of dictionaries and glossaries.

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vii. Dictionaries are not the only source to resort to in dealing with the meanings of military slang expressions. In this case, translators have to consider the contextual meaning, or the user's meaning in their attempt to choose the appropriate rendition for that type of neologisms. They must rely exclusively on their understanding of the context. They should also consider the internet which has become another useful source for looking for possible definitions.

6. Conclusion

A translator should be knowledgeable and intelligent enough to grasp the meaning accurately. Moreover, the text type and target readership should be taken into account. The translator has to find out the meaning of military slang terms mainly based on the context in which these terms are used. To translate these terms one should first understand those terms accurately, which is not necessarily an easy job. Being proficient in the source language means understanding the intended meaning of a linguistic utterance, and being proficient in the target language requires the translator to be able to express the intended messages in ways that are equally acceptable to prospective target audiences. The translator has to be well-versed in both source and target cultures to bridge the gap in communication, as cultural meanings are intricately woven into the texture of the language. A previous military experience with good knowledge of military terminology such as: names of weapons, meaning of orders and commands is needed. Using the proper techniques of translating military terms will elevate the level of translation. Translation is therefore not simply a matter of seeking other words with similar meaning but of finding appropriate ways of saying things in another language. A translator of new English neologisms into Arabic needs good knowledge of the two languages and a good knowledge of both cultures.

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