NAGUIB MAHFOUZ’S METAPHORS IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION

FATIMA MUHAIDAT & SHADI NEIMNEH
Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, The Hashemite University, Zarqa, Jordan

ABSTRACT

Due to linguistic and cultural differences, translating metaphors poses various challenges. Differences in the way languages employ imagery to convey human experience add further complexities. This paper discusses the strategies translators adopt to render metaphors from Arabic into English. To achieve this goal, examples of metaphors in Naguib Mahfouz’s Palace of Desire are singled out, analyzed, and compared with their counterparts in a published English translation. Discussion illustrates that metaphors in Palace of Desire are functional. For example, they illuminate readers about characters, events, and themes. Analysis also reveals that different types of equivalence are employed. Translators use ideational equivalence to give the meaning without imagery. Functional equivalence appears when English has a metaphor that expresses the idea in the ST using a different image. Formal equivalence is sometimes opted for when contextual factors make the message clear. A fourth method is changing the metaphor into a simile. Thus, the image is kept in English and made more accessible. A fifth method is keeping some elements of the metaphor and changing others depending on translators’ judgment. In conclusion, translators’ efforts to bring about a representative rendering of the author’s language and messages are highlighted.

KEYWORDS: Metaphors, Imagery, Translation, Naguib Mahfouz, World Literature, Palace of Desire, Arabic Literature