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Thesis Title	An Analysis of Problems In The Translation Of An Arabic Political-Legal Text On The Western Sahara With reference to Semantics, Syntax and Textuality		
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Abstract	<p>Unlike the ad hoc traditional approach to translation, the systematic approach is based on a theory of translation. It is concerned with defining a wide range of rules and methods for dealing with problems most likely to be encountered in transferring a message from a source language to a target language. Thus, a systematic translator is required first to study the text he wants to translate, to analyse it and then to make a decision about which method to use in approaching a given text. It is particularly interesting to note that the traditional approach tends not to go beyond vocabulary and grammar, thus ignoring the environment in which a given text operates, that is 'context'. Context is the most important factor in translation since it defines the meaning of a text. The element of context is so important that even the choice of equivalent words for those in the source language should be correlated to the text in which they occur. This can be shown in the following example:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ان محاولة رصد التأثيرات الدولية وتأريخها</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Any attempt to weigh up international influences And their historical development</p> <p>The word (رصد) in isolation means to 'observe' but when correlated to the text in which it occurs, it means to 'weigh up'.</p> <p>Now, having adopted the systematic approach and taking into account the significance of context, my aim is to produce a translation along the theoretical lines available. The topic of my translation is a political one. It deals with the Sahara issue; a brief coverage of its historical development with specific reference to international decisions and how far they have gone in solving the problem.</p> <p>Context can be defined in terms of 'field of discourse', 'mode of discourse' and 'tenor of discourse'. Field of discourse can be defined as the subject matter of a discourse. It is an important variable which is related mainly to the semantics of a text. Hence, it has particular importance in the semantic rendition. In this translation, language functions in three areas: politics, law</p>		

And history. In every area the language activity has certain properties. The following is an example of political field:
The development in the Sahara issue has been accompanied by international intervention which has led in turn to a conflict of a different kind. This has been used by all the parties involved who are seeking a way out of a crisis which has been rendered even more complex by international interference. In this example the words 'intervention', 'interference' and 'conflict' proclaim this text as political. This is because such words are usually associated with political jargon.

The historical field can be shown in the following example:
The first revolution in the Rif which broke out in the 1920s under the leadership of Abdul-Karim-al-Khattabi was mainly against the Spanish occupation in the north. To contain this revolution, France proposed to al-Khattabi the establishment of a Republic in the Rif, independent from the rest of Morocco.

In this example, the writer talks about the revolution in the Rif when it first started in the 1920s. He goes on to recall more than one event which has taken place since then. Hence, it is the element of narration which gives this stretch of text its historical character.

Compared to field of discourse, tenor and mode of discourse are less important features of context. Yet, they have their own degree of importance. Tenor of discourse can be defined as the degree of formality of style. Tenor is reflected in the syntactics. This text is written primarily in a formal style. The following example illustrates this:

Any attempt to weigh up international influences and their historical development must take into account a complex array of international diplomatic factors.

There are, however, occasions in the text where the writer uses less formal style, e.g.:

Of course exhaustion has limits. When this reaches a point at which it threatens one of the countries, France will not hesitate to interfere politically or militarily to protect it.

The third feature of context is 'mode'. The structure of a text which is written to be spoken differs from that written to be read. In contrast to the first, the structure of the second is more complicated. The text is characterized by the introduction of a lot of information in a long string of sentences constituting an unbroken stretch of text. This makes it rather difficult to grasp the main idea. The following may stand as a good example:

For, while the Maghrib countries are seeking the support of European and countries, on the assumption that they have economic and political relations with them, European countries are seeking participation in regional politics on the grounds that they need to safeguard their strategic and economic interests, their bilateral relations and the balance of power in Africa and the world.

Systematic translating also involves making decisions about the text-type. That is to say, what is the purpose of a given text? Is it argumentative in which we might expect to find elements of contrast, reason and substantiation in order to convince the reader? Or is it instructive, where language tends to be repetitious to avoid any element of ambiguity? In every text-type a different language is used. Hence, the importance of deciding the text-type cannot be overemphasized. To mistake an argumentative text for an expository one would distort the rendition to the effect that the produced translation would be a non-text. This text is mainly expository and instructive. The following is an example of expository discourse:

France succeeded in achieving two-thirds of its scheme by establishing Morocco in 1956 and Mauritania in 1956-1960.

The text is also instructive:

The General Assembly shall request the Special Committee to examine the situation in Ifni and to submit a report in this regard to the General Assembly in its XXIII session.

My dissertation s in four chapters. Chapter one is the Introduction. Chapter Two is the translation of the text. Chapter Three is the commentary on the problems encountered in the translation. I shall deal with these problems under three main categories: semantic, syntactic and textual. Each one of these categories is subdivided into further specific categories so that those problems encountered and hopefully mastered in the translation can be carefully diagnosed. Chapter four is the conclusion.