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Problems of Translating English Tautology into Arabic

A B S T R A C T

Tautology is a linguistic and pragmatic phenomenon in which an expression repeats the same or semantically equivalent elements without apparently adding new information. However, tautological expressions often convey important implied meanings and pragmatic functions, including acceptance, resignation, obligation, criticism, refusal, and emphasis. This study investigates the types, structures, and functions of English tautologies and examines the problems involved in translating them into Arabic. It also explores the role of context in interpreting and translating their implied meanings and examines the applicability of Nida's model of equivalence to their translation. The study analyzes ten English tautological sentences selected from different English sources and examines their Arabic translations produced by ten MA students in the Department of Translation, College of Arts, University of Mosul. The translations are analyzed structurally and pragmatically in terms of the preservation of repetition, structure, implied meaning, and translation strategy. The findings indicate that English tautologies constitute a challenging area for translators, particularly when their pragmatic functions are not recognized. The analysis also shows that contextualized tautologies are generally translated more appropriately than isolated ones, highlighting the importance of context in identifying their intended meanings. Furthermore, the findings indicate that formal equivalence can be effectively applied to the translation of tautological expressions by preserving their repetitive structure and pragmatic implications in Arabic.

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مشاكل ترجمة التكرار من الإنجليزية إلى العربية

الباحثة: آيه علي حسن آغا أ.م.د أنوار عبد الوهاب الجنابي
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المستخلص

يُعدّ التكرار ظاهرة لغوية وتداولية تتضمن إعادة العناصر نفسها أو المتقاربة دلاليًا في التعبير من دون إضافة معلومات جديدة على نحو ظاهر، إلا أن التعبيرات التكرارية غالبًا ما تؤدي معاني ضمنية ووظائف تداولية مهمة، منها القبول والاستسلام والالتزام والنقد والرفض والتأكيد. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى بحث أنواع التكرار في اللغة الإنجليزية وتراكيبه ووظائفه، والكشف عن المشكلات التي تواجه المترجمين عند نقله إلى اللغة العربية. كما تبحث الدراسة دور السياق في تفسير المعاني الضمنية للتعبيرات التكرارية وترجمتها، ومدى قابلية تطبيق نموذج نيدا للتكافؤ في ترجمتها. وتحلل الدراسة عشر جمل إنجليزية تكرارية مختارة من مصادر إنجليزية مختلفة، وترجمات قدمها عشرة من طلبة الماجستير في قسم الترجمة، كلية الآداب، جامعة الموصل. وقد حُللت الترجمات من الناحيتين التركيبية والتداولية، ولا سيما من حيث الحفاظ على التكرار والبنية والمعنى الضمني واستراتيجية الترجمة المتبعة. وتبين النتائج أن ترجمة التكرار الإنجليزي تمثل تحديًا للمترجمين، ولا سيما عند عدم إدراك وظائفه التداولية. كما أظهرت النتائج أن ترجمة التعبيرات التكرارية الواقعة ضمن سياق أكثر ملاءمة بصورة عامة من ترجمتها خارج السياق، مما يؤكد أهمية السياق في تحديد المعنى المقصود. وأظهرت الدراسة كذلك إمكانية تطبيق التكافؤ الشكلي في ترجمة التعبيرات التكرارية من خلال الحفاظ على بنيتها التكرارية ودلالاتها التداولية في اللغة العربية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التكرار، المعنى الضمني، التداولية، الترجمة إلى العربية، السياق، التكافؤ.

1. Introduction

English uses indirectness to convey ideas or implied meanings in content and propositions. Tautology, a phenomenon where words have similar meanings or are used to define another, is often used in everyday speech but is not recommended in formal writing. Scholars generally agree that tautological expressions can convey non-trivial content and have significant communicative and conceptual import. However, they are non-informative and require an informative interpretation. This study aims to systematize studying tautological expressions in English, demonstrating that they express various functions and are dealt with from various disciplines, including syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

1.1 Definition of tautology

Tautology, derived from the Greek words "tauto" and "logos," refers to the repeated and repetitive use of expressions to convey the same idea in different ways. "A tautology means saying the same thing twice in slightly different words, or adding unnecessary or redundant words," according to Szymanek (2015:144). Traugott (1980:206) thinks negatively of tautology due to the fact that it is self-evidently true, reckoning that it is a case

of redundancy, with its semantic form presenting no new information at all. As a result, it's semantic from is always problematic. Therefore, there is no content to what is said other than that content which is previously mentioned (Searle, J,1979:161)

Tautology is defined as the repeated and repetitive use of expressions to convey the same idea in different ways. Either a specific meaning must always be communicated, or the notion that was briefly introduced earlier must always be reinforced (Pomorska, 1987). Yule (1996:135) is of the opinion that the concept of tautology is merely an apparent meaningless expression which is self-defined in itself and by itself

Tautologies are types of self-identification in which the qualities and attributes commonly assumed about an object are identified through evocation, based on the referenced noun phrase. Evocation, then, is a reference to commonly held and shared beliefs that are then reiterated within the specific context of the utterance in question (Miki, 1996:635).

The importance of shared metalinguistic knowledge is highlighted by Bulhof and Gimbel (2001:285) for a subclass of deep tautologies that contain expressions with both non-vague and vague uses. 'Tyranny is tyranny' is a tautology that the speaker uses to instruct the addressee to understand how the speaker uses the term. The speaker assumes that the addressee is familiar with both uses. "Tyranny" is defined as "non-vague," meaning that "tyranny" is any act, regardless of who committed it, at any given time or location, and regardless of whether it was committed by us or not.

1.2 Tautology and Other Disciplines:

The present study endeavors to resolve the question of whether the concept of tautology belongs to the fields of linguistics, syntax, semantics, or pragmatics. In the following sections, a full account of the connection between the concept of tautology in connection with other disciplines is going to be presented and a full description is to be given. Concept of tautology, as a matter of fact, has to do with all the previously mentioned disciplines.

As previously stated, tautology can be used to make things clearer, prevent overemphasis, and aid in understanding when something is unclear, irrelevant, or involves complex ideas. And before choosing how to transfer it to the target language (TL), the translator's job is to identify the tautology.

1.3 Linguistics and Tautology

Tautology, a concept in linguistics, refers to sentences that hold true in every scenario, such as "war is war." However, it depends on context and can be argued that there is no such thing or that the entire universe is a tautology. Tautology occurs when different words are used to convey the same idea, and its meanings extend beyond repetition (Meibauer, 2008:441). This phenomenon occurs when language encounters limitations in its own figurative language, but it also points out language's limitations and its potential to overcome them. Linguists have long studied tautology in language, as it occurs when languages are used differently, potentially causing miscommunication and misinterpretation of the message (Keach, 2004: 27–35).

1.4 Types of Tautology:

As far as syntax is concerned, tautology is classified according to the grammatical structure. There is a comprehensive account concerning the construction of this phenomenon written by Ward and Hirschberg (1991). This account distinguishes between the different types of tautological expressions depending on the grammatical way according to which they are placed. This classification is mainly based on what structure the type has. The account could be presented as follows:

1- Equative :

Equative tautologies are overused by writers because they are straightforward in their structure and can convey a specific meaning, such as accepting a viewpoint or attitude, avoiding direct contact, bringing readers into reality, laying out a kind of obligation, adjusting someone to a certain level of knowledge or to circumstances in life, or downplaying the significance of something. Equatives represent approximately two-thirds of the total tautologies (67.5%). Ward, and Hirschberg (1991:512)

A + (will) + be + A:

Girls will be girls.

A loss is a loss.

That is just Tom will be Tom.

When women were women.

2- Disjunction:

Disjunctions are also used to convey meanings associated with the context that is associated with the text, such as the absence of or the unavailability of something. (Hussein, and Said, (2017: 210). These aren't meant to be informational, to highlight views, or to demonstrate acceptance.

(either) A + or + not + A

Either he will get it or he won’t.

She will like it or she won’t.

3- Conditional:

Conditionals are also used to express meanings related to something not being available, convincing readers to adopt a particular viewpoint, emphasizing a particular facet of life, and declaring and confirming defiance. (Hussein, and Said, (2017: 210).

if A + , + (then) + A

If I am late, I am late.

4- **Subordinate conjunction:** Subordinate conjunction can also convey meanings about something not being available, highlight a specific aspect of life, and indicate and validate disobedience. (Hussein, and Said, (2017: 197).

conjunction + A + , + A.

or A + conjunction + A.

When she gets mad, she gets mad.

They will get there, when they get there.

5- **Headless Relative Sentences:** In order to avoid repetition and to reflect the writers' tendency toward petty writing, headless relatives are used. (Hussein, and Said, (2017: 210). These sentences are not intended to highlight opinions, show acceptance, or present information.

A +relative pronoun (e.g., who (ever) / what (ever)) + A.

or Relative pronoun + A + , + A

There is no point in arguing. They are who they are and they will do what they like.

6- **Coordination or coordinated tautologies:** Coordination or coordinated tautologies can also convey meanings about something, and persuade readers to embrace a specific point of view. (Hussein, and Said, (2017: 210).

A + is + A + and + B + is + B

Work is work and holiday is holiday.

The types mentioned above are organized in accordance with the grammatical constructions, which are self-explanatory. They are alluded to, Sakai (2012:38), as logical tautology.

Functions of Tautology

As far as semantics is concerned, the concept of tautology is introduced so as to carry out some semantic functions. In order to make these functions clear, Wierzbicka's (1987), and Brown and Levinson (1987), explain the following:

1- **Acceptance – Resignation, or Approval - Disapproval:** Tautological expressions are employed so as to mirror the need to resign or to accept oneself to something or to communicate that someone has resigned or accepted themselves to something. According to this function of tautology, all types of English tautology can be seen. Mind the following examples:

If he is insane, he is insane. You can do nothing about it.

2- **Denial of difference within category:** Tautological expressions are employed so as to deny any importance related to the differences that can be seen with regard to members of a category. This function can sometimes show that all members of a certain category are identical to each other. This function can be seen in many syntactic categories, such as equatives, conditionals, and disjunctions; the following example demonstrates the full idea:

You do it or you don’t. Nobody cares about the reason why you couldn’t do it. They only care if you succeed in doing it.

3- **Distinctness of categories**: Tautological expressions can be employed in order to shed light on the clarity and distinctness of a certain category or individual and make this category or individual distinguished from other categories or individuals. This function can only be seen with equatives. You may have a look at the following example:

I promise that I will never ask you to make your brother have an interview with me - he is him and you are you, and I came here because you caught my attention.

4- **Obligation:** Tautological expressions can also be employed so as to impart that a person must carry out his obligations. Only equatives can be used in this function, as in the following example:

A deal is ideal.

A bet is a bet.

5- **Highlighting 'wysiwyg' nature:** Tautological expressions can also be used to stress that 'what you see is what you get' regarding something or someone. Generally speaking, this can be done by comparison with somebody or by comparison to something that is considered more complicated. It is possible that the comparison may be implicit. One may have a look at the following example:

A rat will be a rat, an ant an ant.

6- **Evoking idealized stereotype or extreme example**: Tautological expressions can also be employed so as to reflect extreme examples. Extreme examples of such, can sometimes be looked at as idealized stereotypes. This function can only be used with equatives as well as in subordinate conjunction.

7- Excuse: Tautological expressions can be used as an excuse to justify some unfavorable means or actions that are most often employed in wars. The following example explains the idea.

War is war.

8- **Criticism:** Tautological expressions are sometimes employed when the speaker is angry about something or when he wants to criticize the state-of-affair that is associated with what the hearer is doing. Pay attention to the following example:

Your stuffs belong to where your stuffs belong. My stuffs belong to where my stuffs belong. Look somewhere else.

9- Refusal: Tautological expressions are employed in conditional sentences where they are used to refuse a request. Have a look at the following example:

If I won't listen to you , I won't.

10- Complaint: Tautological expressions are used to provide an informative interpretation that shows that the speaker is not satisfied or even complaining about something. The following example explains things:

Tyranny is tyranny.

11- Assumption: Tautological expressions are exploited when we want to show that the receivers are supposed to do something regarding the proposition given in the sentence. The following example explains things:

You are men, why don't you do something about that.

12- Other Functions: Tautological expressions can sometimes be used for humorous or comic reasons. They are sometimes also used intentionally to add vagueness and mystery to the text. As far as semantics is concerned, tautological expressions can have certain emphatic reasons, which are always mirrored through the use of compounds.

As far as terminology is concerned, there is no 100% correspondence between the names of functions employed by different scholars . The above terms that are used to designate the semantic functions are selected by the scholars mentioned above; however, other terms are used by other scholars to designate the same semantic functions. Farghal (1992), for instance, is in favour of using ‘admiring and condemning’ and not ‘approval and disapproval’ and employs ‘indifference’, ‘tolerance’, and ‘a fatalistic viewpoint; instead of ‘Denial of difference within category’, ‘complaint’, and ‘a wysiwyg nature’ respectively.

Pragmatics and Tautology:

Pragmatics is more closely related to tautological expressions than semantics and syntax, making tautological expressions less favored by linguists. Wierzbicka's (1987:95) mentions that radical pragmatics and radical semantics represent the continuum of these opposing streams, with both including tautology as long as they have immediate and instantaneous implications. In political discourse, pragmatics focuses on the significance of words and how speakers convey more than the words they use. Politicians often use techniques to reveal hidden truths and gain public favor. This study examines the concept of "tautology" in political speeches and how it conveys meaning pragmatically.

Tautologies are commonly used to convey non-trivial content, and two types of analyses have been proposed in the literature: the radical pragmatic approach and the radical semantic approach. "Tautology" is a rhetorical and manipulative device that politicians often use to mislead their constituents, and this study encounters a challenge when attempting to analyze this rhetorical device through the lens of pragmatics Sakai, T, (2012: 38).

In conclusion, pragmatics plays a crucial role in political discourse, particularly in the context of political speeches, where tautologies are often used to convey non-trivial content.

Tautology and Context's Relationship:

Tautological expressions are context-dependent and pragmatic, requiring careful presentation and generation. The study examines the role of context in understanding tautologies, focusing on subjects' ratings of acceptability and the lexical content and syntactic structure of these expressions. The results highlight the importance of speakers' and listeners' stereotypical perceptions of individuals, events, and tangible objects in their usage and comprehension of tautological expressions Levinson (2013:159).

Tautology and Translation

This study investigates the feasibility of translating English tautology into Arabic. Translators face challenges in accurately conveying the meaning in the target language while determining the intended meaning by the original speaker. Translators must consider the author's personality and stylistic norms, making slight concessions for different languages. In authoritative texts, translators make concessions to the readership.

Pragmatic considerations are crucial when translating typological expressions, as they provide additional information. Translation requires deciphering the subtext and considering the surrounding linguistic context, especially in political contexts. Tautology is a strategy that

leads to conversational implicature, and translators should focus on communicating pragmatic significance through various techniques. Interpreting an utterance is ultimately a matter of guess work, and analyzing every statement in the context is essential to determine the exact implications. Tautologies, such as phrases like "business is business" and "boys will be boys," convey more information than just what is said. They are often used in conversations to emphasize the speaker's intentions and to convey an implicature, which is an extra meaning communicated. Common knowledge or beliefs are a foundational standard for understanding how tautological statements should be interpreted. For example, phrases like "a donkey is a donkey" and "a lion is a lion" convey their meaning only if the speaker and the addressee share similar cultural beliefs. Translators should pay more attention to complete context-dependent tautologies, as partial tautologies can often be translated. When translating complete tautologies, translators must consider the context in which they are used to accurately convey the implied meaning. For example, "I wash my hands off you!" and "lots of men!" can be translated into "I wash my hands off you!" and "lots of men!" respectively (Shehab, 2004:692).

2.1 Data collection and procedures:

This chapter is entirely devoted to the practical part of the study. Before starting, the following section is prepared to show the method followed in tackling and interpreting the data, discuss the translations and make a comparison between out-of-context and in-context tautological translations. Finally, a set of statistical results is mentioned that summarize all the relevant values that have been achieved for the selected sentences.

2.2 Nida`s Equivalence: Formal and Dynamic Equivalence

In general, accurate translations are thought to convey meaning just as effectively as the source language text. Nida (1964: 159) is in favour of 'two basic orientations' or 'types of equivalence': formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence. Nida (ibid:165–6) makes a distinction between dynamic and formal equivalence, defining them as follows:

1. Formal equivalence: refers to the process where the target language's message closely resembles the source language's components, ensuring accuracy and correctness. It is closely focused on the structure (ST) of the target language (TT), which is crucial for a deeper understanding of the original culture. This type of translation is often used in scholarly or legal contexts, providing a more intimate access to the language and traditions of the original culture. Formal correspondence, a type of translation, is essential for TT readers to fully comprehend the original text.
2. Dynamic equivalence: The principle of equivalent effect, as defined by Nida, states that the association between the receptor and message should be substantially the same as between the original receptors and the message. Dynamic equivalence aims to pinpoint the closest natural equivalent to the source-language message, requiring modifications to vocabulary, grammar, and cultural connotations. This receptor-oriented approach requires making modifications to vocabulary, grammar, and cultural connotations to achieve naturalness. The second type of equivalence, response equivalence, emphasizes the importance of context in dynamic translation, going beyond simply conveying

information correctly. It is more comprehensive in handling all linguistic and non-linguistic components of the source-language text. Dynamic equivalence allows the translator to enable the target reader to understand the text with the same equivalent response, even if the reader's response is not always prompted by what is said.

SL (1): war is war

Interpretation :

"War is war" expresses tautology because it contains repeated words with uninformative utterances (Erlinda,R.:2019:59). Tautology conveys what it wants to convey without relying on the context (Levinson:1989:127). In the text , the word "war" is repeated to indicate that war is not just a war between two armies, but rather death, destruction, displacement, and financial and human depletion for both parties. The repetition of the word here has an implicit meaning for a purpose that the speaker wants the reader to infer according to his understanding. The sentence "war is war" is regarded as an equative tautology (A+be+A) and its function is disapproval or resignation .

(M.A.S.H, season 5,episode20 The General`s Practitioner 1972-1983)

TTs. :

1. **الحرب الحرب**
2. **الحرب هي الحرب**
3. **الحرب هي الحرب**
4. **انها الحرب**
5. **الحرب الحرب**
6. **الحرب صراع**
7. **الحربُ حربٌ**
8. **الحرب هي المطامع**
9. **الحرب دائماً صعبة.**
10. **لا تبين جدية الموقف**

Discussion:

Translators (2,3and7) translate the sentence correctly and appropriately, as they repeat the same word to suggest that the speaker has a purpose by repeating the word twice. Translator (4) translates the sentence inappropriately because he omits the word (الحرب) from the sentence and does not show the tautology. The sentence (انها الحرب) when it is read, it seems to refer to a war, that will start. But the speaker does not mean that at all, rather it means that "war is war" with its circumstances, its difficulty, its sorrows, its intensity, its fear, etc. Although the translators (1and5) repeat the word twice (الحرب الحرب) but in a way that completely changes the meaning of SL tautology sentence because as if it is a

motivational sentence to inspire the people to go to the war. So their translations are inappropriate. Translators (6, 8, 9 and 10) failed in conveying tautology and its effect into Arabic, as they misunderstand the use of tautology and its meaning. Thus they are inappropriate translation.

Table (1): ST.(1) and TTs. Analysis :

TTs. Analysis :		**De-contextualized tautology**				**Contextualized tautology**			
ST.	***War is war***	***TTs. number***	***Formal equivalence***	***Dynamic equivalence***	***appropriateness***	***TTs. number***	***Formal equivalence***	***Dynamic equivalence***	***appropriateness***
Type of tautology	**Equative**	1	-	+	-	1	+	-	+
		2	+	-	+	2	+	-	+
		3	+	-	+	3	+	-	+
		4	-	+	-	4	-	+	-
		5	-	+	-	5	+	-	+
Function Of tautology	**Acceptance – Resignation, or Approval – Dis approval**	6	-	+	-	6	+	-	+
		7	+	-	+	7	+	-	+
		8	-	+	-	8	+	-	+
		9	-	+	-	9	-	+	-
		10	-	+	-	10	+	-	+

SL (1) within context :

A-Everybody knows war is hell , remember you heard it here last war .

B- War is not hell. **War is war** and hell is hell and of the two war is a lot worse**.**

TTs.:

١. أ- يعلم الجميع ان الحرب هي الجحيم، تذكر انك سمعت ذلك هنا في الحرب السابقة.
ب- الحرب ليست جحيم، **الحرب هي الحرب** والجحيم هو الجحيم ومن بين الاثنين الحرب هي الاسوء.
٢. أ-الجميع يعرف ان الحرب جحيم، تذكر ما سمعته في الحرب السابقة هنا.
ب- الحرب ليست كالجحيم **فالحرب حرب** والجحيم جحيم ومن بين الاثنين فالحرب هي الاسوء.
٣. أ- يعلم الجميع ان الحرب كالجحيم تذكر انك قد سمعت ذلك في الحرب الفائتة
ب- ليست الحرب كالجحيم **فالحرب هي حرب** والجحيم جحيم ومن بين الاثنين فالحرب تعتبر اسوء.
٤. أ- ان الجميع يعلم بان الحرب والجحيم في نفس الكفة وهذا ماسمعته في الحرب السابقة تذكر ذلك.
ب- ان الحرب تختلف عن الجحيم **فالحرب موت** والجحيم عذاب وان اختار بينهما فالحرب اسوء.
٥. أ- الحرب مثل الجحيم تذكر ماسمعته في الحرب السابقة وهذا مايعلمه الجميع
ب- **الحرب حرب** والجحيم جحيم هما ليستا متشابهتان وانما الحرب تعتبر الاسوء
٦. أ-كل شخص يعرف بان الحرب مثلها كمثل الجحيم تذكر ماسمعت في الحرب السابقة
ب- الحرب ليست جحيم، **الحرب هي الحرب** والجحيم ايضاً هو الجحيم وانما الحرب هي الاسوء.
٧. أ-كل شخص يعرف بان الحرب جحيم تذكر هذا في الحرب السابقة
ب- الحرب ليست كالجحيم، **الحرب هي الحرب** والجحيم هو الجحيم وانما الحرب هي الاسوء.
٨. أ-كل انسان يعرف بان الحرب هي جحيم تذكر ماسمعت في الحرب السابقة
ب- الحرب ليست جحيم، انما **الحرب هي الحرب** والجحيم هو الجحيم وبالنسبة لي الحرب هي الاسوء.
٩. أ- الكل يعرف بان الحرب هي الجحيم تذكر هذا ماسمعت في الحرب السابقة
ب- ان الحرب تختلف عن الجحيم **فالحرب دمار للشعوب في الدنيا** والجحيم عذاب في الاخرة وان اختار بينهما فالحرب اسوء.
١٠. أ- ان الجميع يدرك بان الحرب والجحيم متشابهان وهذا ماسمعت في الحرب السابقة تذكر ذلك.
ب- ان الحرب لاتشبه الجحيم **فالحربُ حربٌ** والجحيمُ جحيمٌ وان اختار بينهما فالحرب اسوء.

Discussion:

Translators (1,2,3,5,6,7,8 and 10) translate the text appropriately . It seems that the translators have been affected by the context in that they provide proper translation. Translator (4) conveys the text inappropriately, as he does not repeat the word in order to show tautology, but rather gives an explanation for the other word (war). Translator (9) also does not express tautology appropriately because he gives an explanation for the word (war). As a result of his misunderstanding of tautology and the reason behind the repetition of word, he makes inappropriate translation.

It is obvious that the translations with context are more accurate than those without context.

SL(2): If it`s crowded it`s crowded

Interpretation:

The speaker here is indicating that something is crowded. If it is crowded, then it is crowded. Here the tautology is of a **conditional** type (if+A+,+(then)+A) and its function is **obligation.**

(CBS ***Evening News***, ***2*** February 1986)

TTs. :

1. اذا كان المكان مزدحما ، فهو مزدحم
2. اذا كانت مزدحمة، فهي مزدحمة
3. ان كان المكان مزدحما فهو مزدحم
4. اذا كان المكان مزدحما فان هناك اناس كثيرون في المكان
5. اذا كان مزدحم ، فهو مزدحم
6. ان كان المكان مزدحما فهو مزدحم
7. اذا كان مزدحما، فهو مزدحم
8. اذا كان مزدحم فهو مزدحم
9. مزدحم يعني مزدحم
10. ان كان المكان مزدحم فهو مزدحم.

Discussion:

Translators (1,3,6 and 10) translate the sentence somehow properly. They repeat the words twice. They convey the idea of repetition, regardless adding the word (المكان). Translator (2) also translates it correctly, despite of the changing of the gender to feminine. Translator (4) translates it by adding wrong information (هناك اناس كثيرون) that are not already present in the original sentence. The speaker might mean a street crowded with cars, a house crowded with furniture, a party crowded with people, etc. How can the translator be sure that the place is crowded with people? Here lies the importance of context in the sentence, but in the absence of context, the sentence must be translated as it is, without addition by the translator, because it may then give unintended information. The translators (5,7 and 8) are the ones who translate the sentence correctly by conveying the tautological structure and meaning by repeating the word twice, conveying the speaker's message and leaving the interpretation to the reader, however, this is certainly what the speaker intends. As for translator (9), his translation appears as if he asserts and confirms the sentence by saying (مزدحم يعني مزدحم). This translation is inappropriate because he does not convey the tautology structure of conditional type.

Table (2): ST.(2) and TTs. Analysis:

TTs. Analysis :		**De-contextualized tautology**				**Contextualized tautology**			
ST.	***If it`s crowded it`s crowded***	***TTs. number***	***Formal equivalence***	***Dynamic equivalence***	***appropriateness***	***TTs. number***	***Formal equivalence***	***Dynamic equivalence***	***appropriateness***
Type of tautology	**conditional**	1	-	+	-	1	+	-	+
		2	-	+	-	2	+	-	+
		3	-	+	-	3	-	+	-
		4	-	+	-	4	+	-	+
		5	+	-	+	5	+	-	+
Function Of tautology	**obligation**	6	-	+	-	6	+	-	+
		7	+	-	+	7	+	-	+
		8	+	-	+	8	+	-	+
		9	-	+	-	9	-	+	-
		10	-	+	-	10	+	-	+

SL (2) within context:

A: I really should learn how to find the other entrance [to the Holland Tunnel].

B: What good will that do? **If it's crowded, it's crowded.**

TTs. :

١. أ- ينبغي عليّ ان أتعلم كيفية ايجاد المدخل الاخر (لنفق هولاند)

ب- ما الفائدة من ذلك؟ اذا كان **مزدحماً فهو مزدحماً**

٢. س: يجب علي حقًا أن أتعلم كيفية العثور على المدخل الآخر [لنفق هولندا].

ج: ما الفائدة من ذلك؟ **إذا كان مزدحمًا، فهو مزدحم.**

٣. يجب عليّ حقاً ان اتعلم كيفية ايجاد مدخل اخر الى نفق هولاند. ما الفائدة من ذلك **ان كان مزدحماً فهو مزدحم.**

٤. يجب عليّ حقاً ان اتعلم كيفية ايجاد مدخل اخر الى نفق هولاند. ما الفائدة من ذلك **ان يكون مزدحما فهو مزدحم.**

٥. س: يجب علي حقًا أن أتعلم كيفية العثور على المدخل الآخر [لنفق هولندا].

ج: ما الفائدة من ذلك؟ **إذا كان مزدحمًا، فهو مزدحم.**

٦. - انا حقا يجب ان اتعلم ايجاد المدخل الآخر الى نفق هولندا.

- بماذا سينفع هذا؟ **اذا كان مزدحم فهو مزدحم.**

٧. أ:ينبغي عليه ان اتعلم كيفية إيجاد مدخل اخر.

ب: ما الذي ستجنيه بذلك؟ **فان كان هناك ازدحام فهناك ازدحام**

٨. –يجب ان اتعلم كيف اجد مدخل اخر بجد[الى نفق هولاند]

– ما الذي ينفع ؟ **ان كان مزدحم فهو مزدحم**

٩. أ–يجب ان اتعلم كيف اجد مدخل اخر بجد[الى نفق هولاند]

ب– ما الفائدة من ذلك **ان كان مزدحماً فهو بالفعل مزدحم**

١٠. يجب ان اتعلم حقاً كيفية ايجاد مدخل اخر لقناة هولاند

- ما فائدة ذلك **اذا كان مزدحم فهو مزدحم.**

Discussion:

Translators are obviously influenced by context, and the effect is usually positive for the translator, except in rare cases, as it is noted in the example above. The translators (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 10) translate the sentence properly. Although translator (9) adds the word (بالفعل) to the sentence, the effect of tautology is rendered also properly by repeating the word twice.

SL(3): You are either a member of OPEC , or not.

Interpretation:

This type of tautology is **disjunction** and its function is **Denial of difference within category** . Here the speaker means that you are either a member of OPEC or not, and there is no middle ground between them. As said previously the rule of this type is that (Either (A) or not (A)), the alternatives between (p1) and (p2) are not interchangeable allowing no equivocation (‘Setback raises doubt about creating “Super-OPEC”‘, AP News, 3 May 1988).

TTs. :

١. انت اما عضو في اوبك او لست كذلك

٢. اما انك عضو في اوبك او لا

٣. اما انك عضو في منظمة البلدان المصدرة للنفط او لا

٤. اما انك تكون عضواً في منظمة الاوبك او لا

٥. ربما تكون عضو في منظمة الاقطار المنتجة للنفط وربما لاتكون

٦. انت اما تكون عضواً في منظمة اوبك او لا

٧. اما انك عضو في منظمة الدول المصدرة للنفط او انك لاتنتمي اليها

٨. ان تكون من منظمة اوبك او لاتكون

٩. قد تكون اما عضو او لا في منظمة اوبك

١٠. قد تكون عضو في منظمة النفط العالمية او لا تكون

Discussion:

Translators (1,2,3,4 and 6) translate the sentence appropriately since they convey the meaning and structure of tautology. Translator (5) translates the word (either) into (ربما) inappropriately because it has reference of possibility. Translators (9 and 10) are like the translator (5) because they use the word (قد) which it refers also to possibility, and It indicates doubt or the possibility of the occurrence of the action. Translator (7) provides inaccurate translation by adding (لا تنتمي اليها) to the TLT, which reflects the lack of knowledge behind using such structure of tautology to express denial. Translator (8) ignores the word (either) and does not adhere to the SLT structure of tautology.

Table (3): ST.(3) and TTs. Analysis:

TTs. Analysis :		**De-contextualized tautology**				**Contextualized tautology**			
ST.	***You are either a member of OPEC, or not***	***TTs. number***	***Formal equivalence***	***Dynamic equivalence***	***appropriateness***	***TTs. number***	***Formal equivalence***	***Dynamic equivalence***	***appropriateness***
Type of tautology	**Disjunction**	1	+	-	+	1	+	-	+
		2	+	-	+	2	+	-	+
		3	+	-	+	3	+	-	+
		4	+	-	+	4	+	-	+
		5	-	+	-	5	+	-	+
Function Of tautology		6	+	-	+	6	+	-	+
		7	-	+	-	7	+	-	+
		8	-	+	-	8	+	-	+
		9	-	+	-	9	-	+	-
		10	-	+	-	10	+	-	+

SL(3) within context:

“There just isn’t a community of interest between them,” said Paul McDonald, a London-based oil consultant. ’ **You are either a member of OPEC or not**; nobody’s knocking down the door to join OPEC.”

TTs. :

١. ليس هناك مجتمع مصالح بينهم قال بول ماكدونالد ، مستشار نفطي مقيم في لندن " **اما ان تكون عضوا في اوبك او لا** ، لاحد يحاول الانضمام الى اوبك

٢. قال بول ماكدونالد، مستشار النفط المقيم في لندن: "ليس هناك مجتمع مصالح بينهم. **إما أن تكون عضوًا في أوبك أو لا**، وليس هناك أحد يطرق الباب للانضمام إلى أوبك"

٣. يقول المستشار النفطي المقيم في لندن بول ماكدونالد: يوجد مصالح مشتركة بينهم ،**اما ان تكون عضواً في منظمة اوبك او لاتكون.** لاحد يطرق الباب للانضمام الى اوبك.

٤. يزعم المستشار النفطي المقيم في لندن بول ماكدونالد: انه يوجد مصالح مشتركة بينهم، **اما ان تكون عضواً في اوبك او لاتكون**. لاحد يطرق الباب للانضمام اليها

٥. قال بول ماكدونالد، الخبير النفطي المقيم في لندن: "ليس هناك اهتمام مشترك بينهم. **أنت إما عضو في أوبك أو لست كذلك**، وليس هناك أحد يحاول بشدة الانضمام إلى أوبك"

٦. قال باول ماكدونالد استشاري المؤسسة النفطية في لندن "ليس هنالك مصالح مشتركة بينهم. **انت إمّا أن تكون عضوا في منظمة اوبك او لا تكون**. فليس كل من يطرق الباب ينضم الى منظمة اوبك

٧. صرح بول ماك دونالد وهو مستشار نفطي في لندن "ببساطة فانه لايوجد تبادل مصالح فيما بينهم" **فانك اما تكن عضوا في منظمة الأوبك او لا تكون** ولا يوجد مايجبرك على ذلك.

٨. "لايوجد مصالح مشتركة بينهم" قاله بول ماكدونالد، مستشار النفط في لندن. **اما انك عضو في منظمة أوبك او لا** لا احد يطرق باب الانضمام الى اوبك

٩. يقول بول ماكدونالد استشاري النفطي في لندن "ليس هنالك مصالح مشتركة بينهم. **انت إمّا أن تكون جزءاً في منظمة اوبك** او لا تكون. فليس كل من يطرق الباب ينضم الى منظمة اوبك

١٠. قال بول ماكدونالد، الاستشاري النفطي في لندن: "ليس هناك مصالح مشتركة بينهم. **أنك إما عضو في أوبك أو لست كذلك**، وليس هناك أحد يطرق باب الانضمام إلى أوبك"

Discussion:

Translators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6,7, 8, and 10) have provided appropriate translation. Translator (9) adds the word (جزءاً) , it is true that in the original text there is no such word, but he adds the word to clarify that OPEC is a public institution to which many people belong and are part of this institution. Translator (9) renders the function and meaning of tautology appropriately , although he adds the word (جزءاً).

SL(4): When you eat in a Chinese restaurant , you eat in a Chinese restaurant

Interpretation:

It is a **subordinate conjunction** (conjunction+A+,+A) or (A+conjunction+A) with an **evoking idealized stereotype or extreme example**. This example shows that alternatives are rejected. When you enter a Chinese restaurant, you should expect that the menu is mostly all Chinese food. Here is a clear example of tautology by repeating the sentence twice.

TTs:

١. عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني فانت تاكل في مطعم صيني
٢. عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني ، تاكل في مطعم صيني
٣. عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني ، فانك تاكل طعاما صينيا
٤. عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني ، فانك تاكل طعاما صينيا
٥. عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني ، فانك تاكل في مطعم صيني
٦. عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني فهذا يعني انك تاكل في مطعم صيني
٧. عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني فانك تاكل في مطعم صيني
٨. عندما تاكل الطعام في المطعم الصيني فانت تاكل الطعام الصيني
٩. عندما تاكل الطعام في المطعم الصيني فانك تاكل في الطعام الصيني
١٠. عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني فانك تاكل في مطعم صيني

Discussion:

Translators (1, 2, 5, 7 and 10) convey the main feature of tautology structure appropriately and they convey the idea of tautology by repeating words to make the reader infer the intended meaning. They do not add or explain any words. In tautology this is what is required. Translators (3,4,8 and 9) translate the words (Chinese restaurant) into (طعاماً صينياً);thus their renditions are inappropriate because they change the word (restaurant) into (طعام) in TLTs (i.e) there is no repetition . Translator (6) translates tautology correctly, even if he adds the words (هذا يعني) which do not affects the function and meaning of tautology.

Table (4) : ST.(4) and TTs. Analysis:

TTs. Analysis :		**De-contextualized tautology**				**Contextualized tautology**			
ST.	***When you eat in a Chinese restaurant , you eat in a Chinese restaurant***	***TTs. number***	***Formal equivalence***	***Dynamic equivalence***	***appropriateness***	***TTs. number***	***Formal equivalence***	***Dynamic equivalence***	***appropriateness***
Type of tautology	**subordinate conjunction**	1	+	-	+	1	+	-	+
		2	+	-	+	2	+	-	+
		3	-	+	-	3	+	-	+
		4	-	+	-	4	+	-	+
		5	+	-	+	5	+	-	+
Function Of tautology	**evoking idealized stereotype or extreme example**	6	-	+	-	6	-	+	-
		7	+	-	+	7	+	-	+
		8	-	+	-	8	+	-	+
		9	-	+	-	9	-	+	-
		10	+	-	+	10	-	+	-

SL(4) within context:

A: you get to try lots of different things :

B: But I don't want to try lots of different things - that's the problem. In France, **when you eat in a Chinese restaurant, you eat in a Chinese restaurant.**

TTs. :

١. أ–يمكنك تجربة العديد من الاشياء المختلفة.

ب–لكنني لااريد تجربة العديد من الاشياء المختلفة–هذه هي المشكلة. في فرنسا، **عندما تأكل في مطعم صيني فأنك تأكل في مطعم صيني**

٢. س: أنت تحصل على تجربة العديد من الأشياء المختلفة:

ج: لكن لا أريد تجربة الكثير من الأشياء المختلفة – هذه هي المشكلة. في فرنسا، **عندما تأكل في مطعم صيني، فأنت تأكل في مطعم صيني**

٣. يجب عليك ان تجرب الاشياء المختلفة

لكنني لااريد تجربة المزيد من الاشياء وهذه هي المشكلة. في فرنسا **عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني فانت تاكل في مطعم صيني**

٤. س: إنك تحصل على فرصة لتجربة الكثير من الأشياء المختلفة:

ج: لكن لا أريد تجربة الكثير من الأشياء المختلفة – وهذا هو المشكل. في فرنسا، **عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني فانك تاكل في مطعم صيني**

٥. انت تريد ان تجرب الكثير من الأشياء المختلفة:

لكنني لا اريد ان اجرب الكثير من الأشياء المختلفة– تلك هي المشكلة. في فرنسا, **عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني فانت تاكل في مطعم صيني**

٦. أ:لديك الفرصة في تجربة العديد من الأشياء المختلفة:

لكنني لا اريد تجربة الكثير من الأشياء المختلفة هذه هي المشكلة .في فرنسا **ان تعتاد على شي فانك تعتاد فعله**

٧. يمكنك تجربة العديد من الأشياء المختلفة

لكن انا لا اريد تجربة الأشياء المختلفة هذه هي المشكلة في فرنسا **عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني فانت تاكل في مطعم صيني**

٨. انت تريد ان تجرب الكثير من الأشياء المختلفة:

لكنني لا اريد ان اجرب الكثير من الأشياء – تلك هي المشكلة. في فرنسا, **عندما تاكل في مطعم صيني فانك تاكل في مطعم صيني**

٩. أ:لديك الفرصة في تجربة العديد من الأشياء المختلفة:

لكنني لا اريد تجربة الكثير من الأشياء المختلفة هذه هي المشكلة .في فرنسا **ان تفعل شي فعليك ان تعتاد فعله**

١٠. بامكانك تجربة الاشياء العديدة

المشكلة انني لار ارغب بتجربة الاشياء العديدة. حيث انه في فرنسا **عندما تأكل في مطعم صيني فكأنك تأكل في مطعم صيني**

Discussion:

Translators (1,2,3,4,5,7 and 8) do not violate the tautological structure of SLT. As for translators (6 and 9), they translate tautology inappropriately by giving wrong interpretation and explanation for the sentence. Thus failure in conveying the structure and meaning of tautology leads to the lack of its effect on the reader. This confirms that they are not affected by the context. Translator (10) translates the tautological sentence improperly , since he changes the meaning by adding (كأنك) , which implies (might be eating in a Chinese restaurant). Thus, there is a failure in conveying the meaning of tautology by adding this information.

SL(5): It means what it means

Interpretation

This is example of **headless relative sentence** (relative pronoun+A+,+A) type and its function is **acceptance – resignation, or approval - disapproval** . It expresses frustration in that the speaker is unable to give more explination and he feels the discussion is useless, which correspondence move to disapproval. (Trevanian, ***The A4ain,*** pp. 170-l 71).

TTs.

١. انه يعني ما يعني

٢. انه يعني ما يعنيه

٣. انها تعني ما لمقصود به

٤. انه يعني ما يعنيه

٥. تعني ما تعنيه

٦. انه يعني ما يعنيه

٧. تعني ما تقول

٨. سواء كان ما تعنيه هو ما تعنيه

٩. المعنى واضح وواحد

١٠. يعني ما يعني

Discussion:

Translators (1,2,4,5,6 and 10) translate the tautological sentence appropriately. Translator (3) renders the meaning of sentence but provides inappropriate tautology, in that the repetition in the SLT does not appear in the TLT, he translates the word (means) into (يعني) and the second word (means) into (المقصود به). Translator (7) translates the first word (means) into (تعني) while he translates the second word (means) into (تقول). This is inappropriate translation because he does not repeat the words as the speaker does and he also provides wrong meaning. As for translator (8), he adds the word(سواء) to the sentence which affects wrongly the meaning of the sentence although he provides the repetition of the words correctly, so his translation is considered inappropriate concerning the tautology. Translator (9) translates the sentence inappropriate because he does not show the tautology meaning and repetition. Thus, he misinterprets tautology meaning and structure.

Table (5): ST.(5) and TTs. Analysis:

TTs. Analysis :		**De-contextualized tautology**				**Contextualized tautology**			
ST.	***It means what it means***	***TTs. number***	***Formal equivalence***	***Dynamic equivalence***	***appropriateness***	***TTs. number***	***Formal equivalence***	***Dynamic equivalence***	***appropriateness***
Type of tautology	**headless relative sentence**	1	+	-	+	1	+	-	+
		2	+	-	+	2	+	-	+
		3	-	+	-	3	+	-	+
		4	+	-	+	4	+	-	+
		5	+	-	+	5	+	-	+
Function Of tautology	**Acceptance – Resignation, or Approval – Dis approval**	6	+	-	+	6	+	-	+
		7	-	+	-	7	+	-	+
		8	-	+	-	8	+	-	+
		9	-	+	-	9	+	-	+
		10	+	-	+	10	+	-	+

SL(5) within context:

'A sauteux de clotures. It's an old-fashioned term. The concierge probably comes from downriver. It means a sort of a man who runs after women, but there's a sense that he chases young women more than others. Something like a cherry-picker. Oh, I don't know! **It means what it means.' (Trevanian, *The A4ain,* pp. 170-l 71).**

TTs.:

١. " A sauteux de clotures" هو مصطلح قديم الطراز. ربما يكون مصطلح البواب قد جاء من مناطق أسفل النهر. يعني نوعاً من الرجال الذين يلاحقون النساء، لكن هناك شعور بانه يطارد الشابات أكثر من غيرهن مثل "جامع الكرز". نعم لااعرف! **انه يعني مايعنيه.**

٢. "سوتو دي كلوتور". إنها عبارة قديمة. ربما يأتي البواب من أسفل النهر. وتعني نوعًا من الرجل الذي يطارد النساء، ولكن هناك إحساس بأنه يطارد النساء الشابات أكثر من غيرهن. شيء كالمتسلق. أوه، لا أعلم! **إنه يعني ما يعنيه.**

٣. عبارة(A sauteux de clotures) هي مصطلح قديم يشار به الى نوع من الرجال الذين يلاحقون النساء لكن مايميزهم عن الاخرين انهم يلاحقون الشابات مثل قاطف الكرز . اووه لا اعلم . **انه يعني مايعني**

٤. A sauteux de clotures: مصطلح قديم يرمز الى نوع من الرجال الذين يلاحقون النساء او الشابات مثل قاطفي الكرز, اه .. لا اعلم **انه يعني مايعني**

٥. "سوتو دي كلوتور". إنها عبارة قديمة الطراز. ربما ينحدر البواب من أسفل النهر. وتعني نوعًا من الرجل الذي يطارد النساء، ولكن هناك إحساس بأنه يطارد النساء الشابات أكثر من غيرهن. شيء كالمتسلق. أوه، لا أعرف! **إنها تعني ما تعنيه.**

٦. "A sauteux de clotures" هو مصطلح قديم الطراز. ربما يأتي الناطور من أسفل النهر. هذا يعني انه نوع من الرجال يجري خلف النساء، لكن هنالك احساس بأنه يتبع الشابات أكثر من غيرهن. شيء ما مثل منتقي الكرز. اوه، لا اعرف! **انها تعني ما تعنيه**

٧. ا سوتو دو كلوتوغ هو مصطلح عتيق. لربما يأتي الحارس الشخصي من حيث يأتي النهر. ان ذلك يعني نوع من الرجال الذي يطارد النساء الا ان هنالك شعور بانه يسعى وراء النساء اليافعات أكثر من غيرهن ويمكنني تشبيه ذلك بمنتقي الكرز. اوه لا اعرف. ليعني **ذلك مايعنيه.**

٨. "الذي لايصيبه الجلطات" مصطلح قديم ربما يأتي من أسفل النهر وهذا يعني انه نوع من الرجال الذي يلاحق النساء ولكن هناك إحساس انه يختار النساء الشابات أكثر من غيرهم شيء يشبه منتقي الكرز لا اعلم , **انه يعني مايعني**

٩. "سوتو دي كلوتور". إنها عبارة قديمة الطراز. ربما قد ينحدر البواب من أسفل النهر. وتعني نوعًا من الرجال الذين يطاردون النساء، ولكن هناك إحساس بأنهم يطاردون النساء الشابات أكثر من غيرهم. شيء كقاطف الكرز. أوه، لا أعرف! **إنها تعني ما تعنيه.**

١٠. "A sauteux de clotures" هو مصطلح قديم. قد يأتي الحارس الشخصي من حيث ما يأتي النهر. ان ذلك يعني نوع من الرجال الذين يطاردون النساء الا ان هنالك شعور بأنهم يسعون وراء الشابات أكثر من غيرهن ويمكن تشبيه ذلك بجامع الكرز. اوه لا اعرف. ليعني **ذلك مايعنيه**

Discussion:

Clearly, all translators have been affected by the context and they have provided appropriate structure and meaning of tautology.

Findings:

The study arrives at the following findings:

1. For the translation of tautology in isolation, on the one hand only 28% of the translators are inappropriate, they fail in transferring the repetition of structure or meaning of the SLT and sometimes by neglecting the repetition or omitting information. On the other hand 22%of the translators are appropriate because the repetition of meaning and structure of tautology are taking into consideration by the translators.
2. For the translation of tautology within context, on the one hand 42% of the translations are appropriate as a result of the translators` awareness of this essential feature of SLT. Being appropriate is attributed to the influence of the context, which leads to appropriately to the understanding of the translation role.
3. Accordingly, the appropriateness percentage of the tautology within context is higher than of the tautology in isolation.

Appropriateness of Overall Tautology Translations

Tautology text type	Appropriateness	Inappropriate
De-contextualized	**22%**	**28%**
Contextualized	**42%**	**8%**

4. Conclusion:

The study has come up with the following conclusions:

1. Tautology sentences is problematic for translators when translating them into Arabic as a result of the lack of recognition of this essential pragmatic aspect of tautology. Translators commit errors when dealing with these types of tautology because some of them neglect the repetition of words, some of them omit words, and some of them add words.

2. In general, the rate of failure of the tautology semantically and pragmatically is higher than the rate of success. The reason is due to the fact that the translation of tautology is a difficult task and its aspect and its function might not be recognized by most of the translators.

3. Regarding the translation strategy used in translating English tautology sentences into Arabic, Nida`s model of translation strategies is applicable to translating such sentences by adopting formal translation procedure subsumed under direct translation strategy which preserves the same SL repetition, structure, and implied meaning in the TL.
4. The context is of a great importance in understanding and translation the structure and types of tautology.

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