



The Role of Translators & Interpreters in Reporting the News; Comparing of News Based on Baker's Model

Maryam JAHANSHAHI^{1,*}, Parvaneh PEDRAM²

¹MA Student in Translation Studies- Islamic Azad University (Science and Research Branch- Marvdasht)

²MA in Translation Studies- Instructor at Islamic Azad University of Evaz (Fars)

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Abstract. This paper outlines the different aspects of Baker's renarrative model of translation (2006). The purpose is to apply this model on different Middle East news. Narration, renarration and translation are complicated processes that bring about new and creative ideas for translators and interpreters. The translators and interpreters have major role in reporting the news and changing them to other languages. They can change the view point of addressees. As Baker (2006) said, "Translation is essentially subversive and raises suspicion; this is what translation as renarration means". So when a translator or interpreter changes a text into another language he actually renarrates or reconstructs that event. To collect and analyze the data, the following steps were taken: first a number of news agency websites were identified and then some pieces of Middle East news were randomly selected and finally this model was discussed on them. Four core features were taken into consideration for this news if a piece of news wants to be considered as narrative it should have these four features. They are temporality, relationality, causal employment and selective appropriation.

Keywords: Narrative, Renarrative, Baker's Model, Translation, Middle East News

1. INTRODUCTION

In the world today everywhere you step there are some types of conflicts. There are some extremely violent conflicts going on in the countries such as Palestine, Kosovo, Bosnia, etc (Baker, 2006). Translators and interpreters have significant roles in the case of telling the story of these conflicts. They renarrate the event in other languages. There are many interpreters and translators who have been killed or put in jail by different organization such as FBI or CIA (ibid). According to US Ministry of Labour, between 2003 and 2006, there were 199 translators and interpreters killed and 499 injured in American Army only in relation to Iraq (ibid). According to Footitt (2006), language is a part of global politics and he concluded that in international events the languages have hidden history.

Narratives

We have had narratives in many fields such as history, geography, science and now in translation studies. Narratives are stories we tell each other every day or in a larger sense, such as the history of Arab World. It doesn't reflect reality, it constructs reality. For example, two people see the same event, but come up with different stories (Baker, 2006).

Everything that happens in the world is a narrative, they are stories we make sense of the world. People haven't experienced every story of the world but they believe them. The world consists of the different stories; they construct the world (Baker, 2009).

Somers and Gibson (1994) took four dimensions of narrativity into account: ontological, public, conceptual, and Meta narrative. They also came up with four features for narrative. They called them "Reframing Narrativity". Historians believed narrative is a mode of representation, which is discursive not quantitative, non-explanatory, not conditionally propositional and finally not

* Corresponding author. Email address: Jahanshahimaryam@yahoo.com.au

theoretical rather than theoretically-driven social sciences. But they didn't agree how to evaluate it (Somers and Gibson, 1994).

Four features were identified of this reframed narrativity: 1- relationality of parts, 2- causal emplotment, 3- selective appropriation, 4- temporality, sequence and place. Besides, it can be said simply that narratives are constellations of relationships embedded in time & space, constituted by causal emplotment (ibid).

Narratology

There is another term related to narratives called narratology. Narratology is a way of understanding narrative; it is the analysis of narrative. "It can't be separated from narrative because fictions are not just reflections of reality but constructions of reality", Baldo said (2011). It was developed out of structuralism (Bal, 1987). In the past, narratology was used only for pieces of literature work such as novel, film, etc., but in this research, the aim is to analyze pieces of news and reports using the narrative features.

Translation as renarration

As Baker (2006) said, "Translation is essentially subversive and raises suspicion; this is what translation as renarration means." So when a translator or interpreter changes a text into another language he actually renarrates or reconstructs that event.

Translation in this sense is a holistic approach (Baker, 2009). It is more of a macro view to the text than micro.

There are many people who accompany you in translation, your publisher, your editor, your designer, etc, so you as translator can't disconnect from these people (ibid).

Baker, who for the first time mentioned translation as renarration, doesn't believe in prescriptive approach in translation, to say what is correct in translation but rather in ethical approach that says about the consequences of translation in the society (ibid).

If it is to discuss translation as renarration, first the researcher needs to clarify the narratives, the theory of that and the typology. Then the research will continue with the application of this model on some pieces of news.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Narratives are stories we tell ourselves or each other about the environment we live in. we can use the both term narrative and story in this sense. (Baker, 2006). Ewick & Silbey (1995) define narratives as sequence of statements connected by both a temporal and a moral ordering.

The type of narratives here is not restricted and it covers the whole media. Kennedy (2003) shows the event of Sep. 11 through a photography exhibition (Baker, 2006).

Typology of narratives

1- Ontological Narratives (personal narratives, narrative of self)

In this type the narrating self is the core. Everyone has a narrative of himself which tells about where he comes from, about his family, his relationship with others, his job, his attitude, etc. (Bake, 2006).

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By *Christine Heim*

My knees were shaking, my heart was racing, and my breathing was rapid. Why was I so nervous!? I have received plenty of awards, why should this one be any different! I looked over to my mom, and gave her a nervous smile. She tried to comfort me by returning my smile. I returned my attention to my English teacher at the podium. How did I get here? I could only think of one reason.

"For your semester project you will have to write a report and make a presentation. The presentations should be unique and original. Good luck"

2- Public narrative

Public narratives are shared narratives. They are shared among different groups (Baker, 2006). What you and the people of your country know about the history of that country is shared narrative; it is a shared story known by each one of you.

Religious narratives are shared among the people of the religion (Baker, 2006). Public narratives are stories shared among social and institutional groups (Somers & Gibson, 1992).

The story of Muslim females in France is an example of public narrative. It is shared among a female religious group.

Studies of advertising offer numerous examples of the subtle ways in which public narratives are adopted and mediated across cultural boundaries (Baker, 2006).

3- Conceptual (disciplinary) narrative

They are narratives of scholarly work and related to the scientific circles. Such as in biology the life organism is a conceptual work. The theory of evolution is a conceptual narrative.

Homeostasis. Homeostasis is the maintenance of a constant (yet also dynamic) internal environment in terms of temperature, pH, water concentrations, etc. Much of our own metabolic energy goes toward keeping within our own homeostatic limits. If you run a high fever for long enough, the increased temperature will damage certain organs and impair your proper functioning. Swallowing of common household chemicals, many of which are outside the pH (acid/base) levels we can tolerate, will likewise negatively impact the human body's homeostatic regime. Muscular activity generates heat as a waste product. This heat is removed from our bodies by sweating. Some of this heat is used by warm-blooded animals, mammals and birds, to maintain their internal temperatures.

4- Meta narrative

The Meta narratives are public narratives. They are powerful over a long period of time and influence all people. They are shared by all people not only a special group (Baker, 2006).

In literal terms, a Meta narrative means a "big story". It represents, in short, an explanation for everything that happens in a society. In Sociology, the concept of a Meta narrative is sometimes referred to as a "high level theory" or, more-usually, a perspective/ ideology.

Sociological perspectives such as Functionalism, Marxism, Interactionism and Feminism are all examples of what post-modernists call Meta narratives, precisely because they attempt to account for all aspects of a society in terms of the perspective and the various theories it proposes (called "mid-range" or "mid-level theories" in technical terms. This type of theory will be used to explain one aspect of a particular sociological problem— for example, the mid-level

theory of "cultural deprivation" has been used by Functionalist sociologists to explain differential educational achievement).

The Enlightenment theorists believed that rational thought, allied to scientific reasoning, would lead inevitably toward moral, social and ethical progress.

Features of Narrativity:

According to Baker (2006) narrativity has four core features and four secondary features. The four core features are temporality, relationality, causal employment, selective appropriation and the secondary ones are particularity, genericness, normativeness and narrative accrual.

First, we discuss the core features with some examples.

Temporality

Temporality or diachronicity refers to the same concepts of Somer & Gibson (1994) and Bruner (1991) mentioned. Temporality constitute narrativity, it is not something separate (Baker, 2006). It means narratives happen during the time or as Baker said, "narrative is irreducibly durative." And temporality means that sequence is an organizing principle in interpreting experience."

In the self narratives, such as autobiography, some types of interviews temporal organization is rarely strictly chorological (Mc Cormick, 2005). Similarly Bourdieu (2000) believes those who write the story of their lives may lose the track of chronological order. If you are writing for an organization normally they ask you to keep the strict chronological order in a way that it suits the norms of the institution (Baker2006). Here is an example Barsky (1993) gave of the refugee court in Canada: The refugee were asked to keep the chronological order of happenings and be very precise about the date.

Time and space are not objective realities. Temporality is about past, present and also future.

Relationality of parts

In a narrative every part is linked to the other. If you take out one part, that special part doesn't have the same meaning as when it was in the context (Baker, 2006). Relationality has direct implication for translation & interpreting as Baker (2006) mentioned in his book Translation and Conflict. Translators and interpreters also avoid using the exact semantic meaning of a word in the source language when this equivalent is embedded in a different potentially negative set of narratives in the target culture. As it is impossible to take that item out from the narrative and treat it as an independent semantic unit it is a function of relationality.

«لسه بندور شهدا من تحت الارض»

"Back Translation"

We are still pulling martyrs from underneath the ground.

"English subtitle"

We are still pulling victims out of rubble. (Baker, 2006)

Causal employment

You relate different parts of narratives in a way to express blame, cause & effect, responsibility. It allows you to make moral sense of narrative. For instance: in a Israel-Palestine conflict two groups of their fans agree on the event, the date, the number of people killed and so on (Baker,2006).

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Emplotment allows us to weigh & explain events rather than only listing them. It is often signaled merely through sequence & ordering of events. Finally reconfiguring patterns of causal emplotment is not simply a function of translator/interpreter choices in the most cases.

Selective Appropriation

You have been ordered to put the narrative together. It is not possible to include all the detail in a narrative so you choose only some aspects. For example MEMRI has chosen some pieces of news – and not all of them based on the need and translated them and send them to different organization in Europe.

Methodology

A piece of news was chosen randomly from two news agencies, namely Aljazeera, BBC, IRIB NEWS and PRESS TV. They were compared and contrasted. Baker's renarration model was used in order to analyze and interpret the news.

Samples

Press TV:

At least 11 people have been killed and 40 others wounded in a car bomb attack that targeted a gas station in Damascus.

People were queuing up for much-needed fuel when booby trap attached to a car went off at the station in the Barzeh al-Balad district of the Syrian capital on Thursday, Reuters reported.

Syria's semi-official al-Ikhbariya television network aired footage of 10 burnt bodies with Red Crescent workers searching for victims of the blast.

"There are lots of people who sleep there overnight, waiting for early morning fuel consignments," a witness was quoted as saying.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

On Monday, militants blew up a section of a gas pipeline near the city of Deir el-Zour in the oil-rich eastern region of Syria, which resulted in the loss of some 1.5 million cubic meters of natural gas.

The militants fighting the Syrian government have repeatedly attacked the country's oil infrastructure. Last week, the militants said they had seized the al-Tanak oilfield also located in eastern Syria.

Syria has been experiencing unrest since mid-March 2011. Many people, including large numbers of Army and security personnel, have been killed in the violence.

The Syrian government says that the chaos is being orchestrated from outside the country, and there are reports that a very large number of the militants fighting the Syrian government are foreign nationals.

Several international human rights organizations have accused foreign-sponsored militants of committing war crimes.

BBC:

Syria petrol station hit by deadly car bomb

At least nine people have been killed by a car bomb at a petrol station in the Syrian capital, Damascus, say activists.

The bomb reportedly hit the Barzeh al-Balad district, as large numbers of people were queuing for fuel.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights activist group said the death toll from Thursday's attack was likely to rise.

The bombing comes a day after dozens of people were killed in an air strike on a petrol station south of the city.

Syria is in the grip of chronic fuel shortages, and motorists often wait for hours in queues at petrol stations.

On Tuesday, dozens of people were killed by an air strike on a petrol station in the outskirts of the capital.

Aljazeera:

Deadly car bomb strikes northern Damascus

Activists report at least nine people killed in capital's Masakin Barzeh neighborhood and death toll expected to rise

At least nine people have been killed when a car bomb exploded in the Syrian capital Damascus, a Syrian activist group has said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Friday the death toll in the blast, which occurred late on Thursday in the capital's Masakin Barzeh neighborhood, is expected to rise because many of the wounded were in critical condition.

The Observatory, which relies on a network of fighters and doctors to monitor the conflict in Syria, said the attack occurred in a neighbourhood with a large population of Alawites, an offshoot of Shia Islam and the minority community of President Bashar al-Assad.

Syria's state news service also reported the blast but did not give a number of dead or wounded. It said the bomb targeted cars that were lined up to get gas and blamed the attack on "terrorists", the government's shorthand for rebels seeking to topple Assad.

The pro-regime Ikhbariyeh TV station said some 30 civilians were killed or wounded in the blast.

Despite gains in other parts of Syria by rebels seeking to topple Assad, he has largely kept his grip on the capital.

But Damascus has been targeted by a number of large bombings, many of which appear to target government buildings. Some have been claimed by the jihadist group Jabhat al-Nusra, which the US has designated a terrorist organization.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Thursday's blast.

Masakin Barzeh is a middle-class neighborhood northeast of downtown that is home to many government employees.

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The UN says more than 60,000 people have been killed in Syria since the start of the uprising in March 2011. The conflict has since evolved into a civil war.

IRIB NEWS:

بر اثر انفجار در منطقه النبک در حومه دمشق شماری کشته و زخمی شدند

بر اثر انفجار خودروی بمب گذاری شده در منطقه النبک در حومه دمشق پایتخت سوریه شماری کشته و زخمی شدند. به گزارش شبکه تلویزیونی المیادین، خبرنگار این شبکه در دمشق گفت امروز انفجاری در منطقه النبک در حومه دمشق رخ داد. در این انفجار، شماری کشته و زخمی شدند. اطلاعات بدست آمده نشان می‌دهد خودرویی بمب گذاری شده در نزدیکی یک مرکز ایست و بازرسی در این منطقه منفجر شده است. از سوی دیگر عملیات ارتش سوریه در منطقه داربا در حومه دمشق ادامه دارد.

3. DATA ANALYSIS

Four pieces of news were analyzed from Iranian and non-Iranian news agencies. The longest one is from Aljazeera followed by Press TV, BBC and IRIB NEWS. According to press TV, 11 people have been killed and 40 wounded, and this was stated in the headline. In the "lead", BBC and Aljazeera said 9 have been killed but they didn't mention the wounded. IRIB didn't say anything about the casualties.

The specific place of bombing (petrol station) was stated in the title of Press TV and BBC, however; in the title of Aljazeera Northern Damascus was mentioned and in IRIB the name of area.

Press TV reported from Reuters, BBC and Aljazeera from a group called activist and IRIB from Al-Mayadin.

Press TV and Aljazeera are too long, relating this event to other events in Syria but the other two are brief only saying the gist.

4. RESULTS

The news were analyzed and compared in three parts: length, title and content. When the news is short containing the major ideas attracts the reader more. If the title includes some details, it's better for the reader in case he doesn't want to read the whole part and about the content, some news agencies delete some parts for their own benefit and they don't report it completely. News is different in stating place, the number of casualties, details, commentary and so on. Four core features of Narrativity are seen in the *Press TV*, *Aljazeera*, *BBC*, and *IRIB NEWS* in different ways. These features are similar to some extent in *Press TV* and *Aljazeera*. For example, in the former, Temporality is clear in headline, lead and three last paragraphs where it is about past, present and future as well as time and place. Ideas are linked in the event and news is not about something different or independent. Causal emplotment gives significance to unrest in Syria, the number of casualties in Army and security personnel, orchestrating the chaos from outside the country, militants who are foreign nationals and so on which have been narrated in *Aljazeera* and *BBC* in different point of views and in favor of activists that is more obvious in *Aljazeera* news. Selective appropriation in *Press TV* and *Aljazeera* is by addition and in *BBC* and *IRIB News* by omission. After all, these features are restricted in *IRIB News* and are not very clear and expressive.

5. CONCLUSION

The translators and interpreters have major role in reporting the news and changing them to other languages. They can change the view point of addressees. According to Baker (2006) the

narrative has four main features if a piece of news wants to be considered as narrative it should have these four features. News agency uses different kinds of narrating with regard to their policies and news sources. Then, translators and interpreters will have more difficulties if they want to be faithful. Ethics can also be considered here. In this research, every News agency reflected an event in various formats. It is very important to have enough knowledge about the structure of journalistic texts, such as, headline, lead, orientation, evaluation, action, etc. All of them help translators and interpreters communicate the meaning as better as possible. They are helpful for determining features of Narrativity. It is not unexpected that news has different narration and translation; it only needs the awareness, creativity and cleverness of translators and interpreters for communicating meaning according to their objectives and policies.

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