

## Practical Approach in Teaching News Translation: a Case Study on the Libyan Crisis 2011

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### Abstract

To explore the relationship between translation and editing in media discourse for the purpose of a news translation class, a comparative analysis was carried out on three press releases from the ICC, UN and BBC, and their translated versions in Arabic on the same event: the 27th June ICC arrest warrant against Libyan officials. From a qualitative angle, the comparative examination at the micro-level was aimed at describing differences in communication styles in terms of lexical choices in English news texts, then between English texts and their Arabic translated versions issued by the same institutions (ICC, UN and BBC). Results show that the English texts are well-marked by their selective choice of lexical items, and translated versions obey this line.

**Keywords:** Arabic translation, news translation, news analysis, lexical choices, translation teaching

## Introduction

The inherent relation between language and ideology is not to be proven any more, especially in media discourse as attested to by Fowler (1991), "news is not just a value-free reflection of facts. Anything that is said or written about the world is articulated from a particular ideological position" (Fowler, 1991, p. 101). Linguistic choices in texts such as the use of specific vocabulary or syntactic structures, deletion or addition of particular phrases can carry underlying assumptions encoded in texts with specific purposes (Fowler, 1991). For Blackledge (2005), transformations, such as information selection, addition, omission and reformulation occur in political media reports as long as communicative events move along the political and media chain. Van Dijk (1998) sees media in general as ideological institutions where events and institutional arrangements in news making are distorted in a way to establish dominant ideologies.

From a socio-political viewpoint, translation is a form of regulated transformation (Venuti, 1995) and, in the specific case of media, it is a form of socio-political practice where it undeniably results in transformations because "reports about political events are always forms of recontextualization, and any recontextualization involves transformations" (Schäffner and Bassnett, 2010, p. 2). These transformations are not solely related to stylistic considerations; they mainly draw on external contexts and extra-verbal factors to explain the variation in text meanings. In news reporting, it can be noticed that such external factors vary from the selection of the material to be translated to the delivery of the translation, taking into account interest, power and knowledge relationships. In the extreme form of ideologies' struggle materialized through global conflicts, Baker (2006) observed that "translation and interpreting are essential for circulating and resisting the narratives that create the intellectual and moral environment for violent conflict" (2006, p. 2). Thus, the positioning of media translators in internationally sensitive settings can help in circulating the information that creates the intellectual environment sensitive to sources of information agendas.

## News Reporting and Translation

The 'translator is invisible'. It is a phrase that constitutes the core of any translation training. Translation students are taught, since the initial phase of their training, to observe elementary ethical principles, such as loyalty towards the original text, impartiality and accuracy. However, in postmodern theories of media translation (Tymoczko and Gentzler, 2002; Baker, 2006; Biesla and Bassnett, 2009), it is presumed that the translator's role is no more limited to a faithful and discrete transfer of contents but exceeds it to an intentional intervention with particular political, ideological or institutional persuasion for the simple reason that the translator is not acting alone. For Biesla and Bassnett (2009), the notion of fidelity itself is no longer an issue in journalism. Therefore, a translator working for a newspaper is dependent upon its editorial line and orientation. In functionalist terms, the intended purpose of the delivered news would be then determined at the editing stage. What is considered as source text from a translation viewpoint is in fact the target text produced by the newspaper that will orient the choices for translation strategies.

Boundaries between the translator's duties and the journalist's work become ambiguous when the translator takes over the role of a journalist by editing the text through strategies of information selection, re-expression, addition or deletion depending on goals and interests of his/her newspaper. The journalist too is more and more involved in the translation process. In fact, the high demand for instant information has put the journalist in a twin-track practice of

reporting the news and reproducing it in another language. Most of the time, the journalist turns the news text to his/her own production with evasiveness in evoking the translation part of work. It is now attested that attitudes towards translation are extremely ambiguous in the world of news reporting (Biesla and Bassnett, 2009). Against the background of overlapping roles, subsists a problematic uncertainty in determining the place and significance of translation in journalists' work and training, and in addressing "the absence of translator training in and for news media" (Schäffner and Bassnett, 2010, p. 9). So what is the impact of extra-linguistic parameters on translation teaching methodology in the news field?

### **Training in News Translation: Translator vs. Journalist**

It has been shown that the market needs for the translation of media texts are inferior to many other discourse types such as brochures, reports, contracts (Gouadec, 2002). In spite of that, many manuals and compilations of press articles with annotated translations are used in media translation training at the university level. Practical exercises on press material involving different stages of linguistic analysis and bringing into use many translation techniques, explain the profusion of publications in that field (Chartier, 2000; Sergeant, 2012). Indeed, the teaching of news translation is very popular for it offers an interesting training in terms of the use of translation procedures (borrowing, transposition, modulation or adaptation), processing of lively texts and observation of parameters beyond the boundaries of translation process, that is to say external politics of translation. However, the language of a journalist is not the language of a writer. The former is a vivid language with a frenzy style, shock phrases and layout requirements. Thus, the student/translator should be aware of the fact that the journalist's mission is defined not only by his/her intention to relay information but mainly by the impact the information leaves on the reader with minimum words. The intended purpose of the journalist is not to reach an equation between the original news text and its translation. By contrast, a translator is not supposed to intervene directly and unilaterally on the text unless he/she works as a newsperson with several hats, taking part in the journalistic editing task. It is the first principle to be introduced to translation students. The priority in the process of news translation should be placed on the pertinent choice of lexical items and language correctness in order to avoid falling into calques, omissions and wrongful addition, common errors in Arabic media language (see *Translated Versions*, below). A concrete example that applies to this rule is the translation of institutional news material for diffusion. In this particular context, important and urgent events are generally communicated through press releases that guarantee accurate information and wide dissemination. International Organizations, for instance, ensure that their press releases are published in their working languages and no discrepancies with the initial news material are permitted except for slight adaptations to make the text linguistically and stylistically appropriate for the receiving audience.

Despite the fact that linguistic reformulation is necessary, the limits of possibilities for interpretation are emphasized. Students are trained not to stand naïve in front of news texts and to pay attention to different communication styles and situations that can shift the balance in favor of information at the expense of other pieces of information. One particular approach is to make them aware of how to depict discrepancies between news texts on the same event and determine socio-politico-cultural safeguards in each different communication situation. Translation competence can then be reinforced by raising awareness about the reality of news transformation and recontextualization processes that are dependent on 'the goals, values and

interests of the context into which the discursive practice is being ‘recontextualized’ (Blackledge 2005, p. 122).

In practice, this exercise opens up possibilities to understand the importance of every word, to measure the impact of every lexical and syntactic choice and to highlight the actual agents involved in different translation processes. This is a way to stimulate thinking on the responsibility involved in translating news. The ultimate objective of the exercise is to acquaint students with the relationship between translation behavior and politics of news translation. Thus, training in news translation would benefit from addressing not only internal structures of texts for translation, but also from focusing on communicative and ideological determinants in news texts and translations.

The current comparative work is part of news translation training. It introduces students to the specificities of news writing and the significance of lexical choices. In order to acquire translator competence, it is not enough to rely on linguistic information but students ‘have to be taught how to locate and evaluate information for themselves’ (Pym 2009, p. 7). The training activity is based on a text-analysis-approach with the objective of developing automatisms such as competencies that enhance students’ reflective attitude towards texts and ethical rules governing the relevant field.

### **Case Study**

As shown above, many reflections have been conducted in relation to the analysis of ideology in the news and its impact on translation. In the present contribution, focus is on the extent of intervention in news editing. It should be emphasized that the critical discourse approach that emerged from works of Fowler (1991) and van Dijk (1995, 1998) is not to be applied in the following analysis. It can only serve for the analysis of text editing to highlight deletions and lexical variations.

In news texts to be analyzed, the reported event is hard news of international significance. The enunciation strategy is expected to be a factual retransmission of the event due to the type of news; a press release. The reference text is a press release from the International Criminal Court (ICC) announcing the issuing of arrest warrants against Libyan officials. The comparable texts are two online press releases: UN News Center and BBC reporting on the same event. On this basis, the comparative analysis aims at describing writing strategies used to report the event in three news materials. In the following, we first compare the news texts with a focus on aspects of text editing, then we examine the translated versions to check the extent of conformity with the initial news material.

### **News Texts**

The study texts are press releases with variable lengths. Two texts, one from the UN News Center and the other from BBC online, are technically comparable; both are press releases, they address the same event and they draw on the same source of information, the International Criminal Court (ICC). The third text is the reference text. It is a press release announcing the ICC’s decision to issue arrest warrants against Libyan officials.

### ***Text type***

As mentioned above, the three news texts are press releases. Press or news releases are brief announcements reported instantly by news agencies or communication services of a given institution and dispatched to news channels to be published (Heid and Marty, 2012). In some

cases, they are translated to the languages of the targeted public before they reach journalists for diffusion to guarantee relevance with the original text. International institutions have generally their own translation services and send their dispatches with their translations to news professionals. Therefore, the translation of such material of information is ordinarily carried out by professional translators who pay special attention to factual conformity and language quality. They do not take part in the editing of news and have no justification to introduce any alteration of meaning.

## Analysis

### *Text Editing: Deletion*

In the news production process, deletion is a standard procedure (Van Dijk, 1988). If not for size constraints, information is deleted when there is no way to verify its authenticity. In that case, the detail is not taken into account. Information is also omitted when it does not fit in a planned framework (Van Dijk, 1988) or, in other words, it is not consistent with the internal practice or orientation of the newspaper or the readers' expectations.

In our texts, the deletion of information in the BBC press release relates to some major facts. First of all, the omission of the phrase of 'alleged crimes' appears in two occurrences. In the 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence (BBC\_1), it is simply deleted. Whereas in the 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence (BBC\_2), it is substituted by a quotation asserting, in an affirmative sentence, that the suspects are 'criminally responsible as indirect co-perpetrators' of crimes.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence:

(ICC\_1) Pre-Trial Chamber I of the (ICC) issued three warrants of arrest respectively for ... for crimes against humanity (murder and persecution) *allegedly committed* across Libya  
 (UN\_1) the ICC issued arrest warrants for... for crimes against humanity *allegedly* committed  
 (BBC\_1) the court *had accused* him of *crimes against humanity* and of *ordering attacks* on civilians

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence:

(ICC\_2) the Chamber composed of... considered that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the three *suspects* committed the *alleged crimes*  
 (UN\_2) the Court's Pre-Trial Chamber considered that there are 'reasonable grounds to believe' that the three *suspects* committed the *alleged crimes*  
 (BBC\_2) ... there were 'reasonable grounds to believe' that Col Gaddafi and his son were '*criminally responsible as indirect co-perpetrators*' for the *persecution and murder of civilians*

The qualification "alleged" describing crimes against humanity that have been "allegedly" committed (in the Court's words) refers to acts that are 'said to have happened but not yet proven, or persons asserted of having done something wrong or illegal but not yet proven guilty' (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). Despite this fact, the qualification designates a real and not an alleged suspect in that 'his or her status as a suspect is not in doubt' (TheFreeDictionary). This qualifying term is very important in the vocabulary of International Criminal Law. Therefore, the omission derails the information from its legal framework. On the other hand, the UN press release preserved the ICC's wording. UN language alertness and awareness for legal aspects of issues it addresses consolidates the neutral tone of its communications.



Secondly, the reference to the Rome Statute and the fact that Libya is not a State party to the Statute was also not included in the BBC news release, as shown in (BBC\_3) compared to (UN\_3):

**(ICC\_3)** ... while recognizing that *States not party to the Rome Statute have no obligations under the Statute*, the Security Council urged all States and concerned regional and other international organisations to cooperate fully with the Court and the Prosecutor.

(UN\_3) *Libya is not a State party* to the Rome Statutes that established the ICC.

(BBC\_3) The Libyan authorities have previously said they *do not recognise* the court and *were not concerned by the threat of a warrant*.

In fact, the Rome Statute establishes the International Court of Justice and consequently, the Court's decisions are not binding on States that are not parties to the Statute. Libya has not signed the Statute which entails the risk that it will not cooperate with the Court in implementing its decisions. The fact that Libya is not Party to the Statute is reported in (UN\_3) without further information. It supposes that the reader has minimum background knowledge of international law to understand the implications of such status. However, (BBC\_3) ignores that piece of information and quotes instead the challenging statement of the government spokesman asserting that the government does not recognize the Court. News presented in this way might respond to the expectations of the targeted audience; it could be an acceptable form that makes the news attractive to the general public.

Thirdly, (BBC\_4) does not include the phrase related to the legal mechanism leading to the Court's decision to issue the arrest warrant in accordance with UN resolutions, as follows:

**(ICC\_4)** The situation in Libya was referred to the ICC Prosecutor by the United Nations Security Council, through the unanimous adoption of *Resolution 1970* on 26 February 2011.

(UN\_4) *UN political chief* B. Lynn Pascoe said *resolutions* 1970 (February) and 1973 (March) *are clear*.

(BBC\_4) the arrest warrant was welcomed by *UK Foreign Secretary* William Hague, who said it further demonstrated 'why Gaddafi has lost all legitimacy and why he should go immediately'.

In fact, the Resolutions were adopted by the Security Council to urge Libya to cooperate and provide any necessary assistance to the Court. The instruments initiate the Court's warrant as clearly illustrated in (ICC\_4). While (UN\_4) refers to the relevant resolutions through UN political chief explaining the urgency of such a measure according to these instruments, (BBC\_4) brings forward UK Foreign Minister's declaration welcoming the warrant that will delegitimize the Libyan leader. It makes no mention of the Resolutions, an important compelling legal mechanism in international law.

By quoting political actors (Libyan authorities, government spokesman, UK foreign minister) BBC news text provides information on political context. Whereas UN text covers only the content of the arrest warrant without reference to political background. Newspapers have greater flexibility in selecting the pieces of information to be translated and to develop on that basis their stories in line with their political views. The journalistic perspective is focused on reformulating and adapting source texts for a target audience. By contrast, the communication in the UN international setting places constraints on translators requiring them to be extremely cautious in dealing with information and translating it. The inherent nature of the UN system also requires a high degree of precision in reporting news in order to avoid any ambiguity that may

lead to conflicting interests. Therefore, reporting sensitive issues is limited to designated officials who provide only facts and not opinions or comments.

### ***Text Editing: Lexical Choices***

Newspapers use a variety of linguistic tools to refer to news actors, some of which are first names, titles, social roles or positions. The choice of a label instead of another may reveal the newspaper stance and viewpoint toward the news actors (Fowler 1991). Numbers in parenthesis are *n* times where referring forms are used in texts as follows:

(ICC\_5) Muammar Mohammed Abu Minyar Gaddafi (1)

(UN\_5) Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhafi (1) / Mr. Qadhafi (2)

(BBC\_5) Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi (1) / Col Gaddafi (3)

The identification of the Libyan leader through his full name (family and first names) appears only once in (ICC\_5). The name is not attached to any referring expression (title, social role, etc.) exactly as it is announced in the Court's arrest warrant. The designation devoid of any title is a common way to refer to persons in court decisions. On the other hand, the form of address used in (UN\_5) is the formal appellation (Mr.) that is attached to any man's name. As for (BBC\_5), the Libyan leader is designated by only one label: his rank of colonel in the army. This linguistic choice illustrates well the importance given by the BBC news text to his military position. Some other lexical variations were found in the texts. The most important example is the following:

(ICC\_6) ... to prevent them from using their powers continue the commission of crimes

(UN\_6) Hundreds of people are confirmed to have been killed since the opposition forces rose up

(BBC\_6) Thousands of people are believed to have been killed in the conflict

As illustrated in (UN\_6) and (BBC\_6), the mention of the resulting loss of lives is presented differently. Even though the number of victims is estimated in an aggregate figure (hundreds) in (UN\_6), the death toll is confirmed. Whereas, (BBC\_6) presents a much more important figure (thousands) though it seems not to corroborate the number (are believed). This linguistic choice can be seen as an attempt to maximize the information value for it might regard the consequent loss of human lives as being of great significance. These are some examples highlighting linguistic disparities in conveying news about the same subject and provided by different sources.

### **Translated Versions**

Despite the inaccuracies of the translated versions, they obey the line of the English versions. As can be noticed in the ICC translation, the priority is to achieve the greatest interlingual concordance in order to prevent any ambiguity.

In the UN text too, there are no meaning alterations but slight adaptations that are to be mentioned. When the English text refers to the 'pro-democracy movements in North Africa and the Middle East', the Arabic text omits this reference and evokes instead the popular uprising in Libya (اندلاع الانتفاضة الشعبية). This may be interpreted by the fact that Arabic text places greater emphasis on Libya crisis and that the issue of unrest in North Africa and the Middle East is much

more important to the target receiver than a mere reference to it. It can then be considered as a matter of coherence with the receiver's situation.

The second adaptation relates to the reference to Col Qadhafi when the English text uses Mr. Qadhafi. It would have appeared unnatural to use the form of address (Mr.) in Arabic (السيد) (القذافي) when the common expression used to identify him is his title Col (العقيد القذافي). As for the BBC Arabic version, the text provides the same data as in the English text but in a more substantive and detailed way. It is a completion of the English version that appears to be based on various sources of information other than its English version. There are sometimes pointless repetitions too, for example: استجابة لطلب مدعيها العام لويس مورينو-اوكامبو (in response to its Prosecutor's request), تستجيب لطلب المدعي العام إصدار أمر اعتقال (the court has responded to the Prosecutor's request).

Having being that, the three Arabic versions under consideration present translation inaccuracies and linguistic inadequacies. One of the major problems that could be noticed along the three versions is calque – a translation problem that is frequent in Arabic journalese. The phenomenon of calque in translation refers to the act of imitating the structure or manner of expression of the source language in transferring the text to the target language (Newmark, 1988). In other words, calque consists of transferring foreign forms, whether forms of words or phrases, into Arabic syntax. That entails basic grammatical mistakes and alterations in the standard Arabic syntax. The following are some examples of many instances of calque from the present translated versions.

#### Ex (1) from text (1)

Today, 27 June 2011, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued three warrants of arrest...

اليوم، الموافق 27 حزيران/يونيو 2011، أصدرت الدائرة التمهيدية الأولى للمحكمة الجنائية الدولية ثلاثة أوامر بالقبض...

The sentence could be rendered according to the canonical verbal sentence in Arabic. Indeed, when a verbal sentence consists of many words, the verb occurs at the beginning of the sentence followed by the subject, object, preposition, noun phrase, adverb, etc. (Alhawary, 2011, p.78). This appropriate structure does not alter in no case the emphasis put in English text on the word "today" as may be seen below:

أصدرت الدائرة التمهيدية الأولى للمحكمة الجنائية الدولية اليوم، 27 حزيران/يونيو 2011، ثلاثة أوامر بالقبض بحق...

In the initial stage of training, students' attention should be paid to the basic structure of a sentence in Arabic to avoid calque structures.

#### Ex (2) from text (1)

... to ensure that they do not continue to obstruct and endanger the Court's investigations of the arrest warrants

ولضمان عدم استمرارهم في عرقلة التحقيق أو تعريضه للخطر

The result of the above word-for-word translation appears awkward. This is a typical example of calque where the main focus is put on the structural concordance and not the meaning. The resulting translation is not idiomatic in the target language. Some may argue that the Arabic translation corresponds exactly to the text of Article 58 of the Rome Statute (ICJ, 2002); the translator must, therefore, abide by the official translation. That is true if the passage were an



extract quoted directly. But this is not the case; the student has to formulate the sentence correctly, according to the basics of grammar and phraseology. The use of the official translation wording is not compulsory in this case. Thus, the translated version may be modified in Arabic as the following:

للحؤول دون مواصلة عرفلتهم للتحقيق أو الإضرار بمصلحة التحقيق  
أو  
من أجل تفادي استمرارهم في عرقلة التحقيق أو التأثير في صحة إجراءاته

Ex (3) from text (2)

that the three suspects committed the alleged crimes

بأن الثلاثة متهمين ارتكبوا الجرائم المزعومة

Transposition modality should have been operated in this example to avoid any possibility of calque. The shift that should have occurred is elementary and simple:

بأن المتهمين الثلاثة ارتكبوا الجرائم المزعومة

Ex (4) from text (2)

... the situation in the North African nation was referred to the Court in February by the Security Council, which adopted a resolution the following month calling on Member States  
قد تم تحويل الوضع في البلاد إلى المحكمة في شباط/فبراير من قبل مجلس الأمن الذي اعتمد قرارا دعا فيه الدول الأعضاء...

In the above translated passage, the calque is most notable in the use of 'tamma', 'min qibal' and 'tahweel al wadh'. The verb 'tamma' is frequently used in combination with the masdr (verbal noun) of another verb (تم إحالة). This use is most of the time not justified because there is no obstacle to use the simple active verb (أحال) if the subject is known or the passive verb (أحيل) if the subject is not known. The phrase 'min qibal' is a prepositional phrase equivalent to the preposition 'by' in English. Since the subject is known in Arabic, there is no difficulty to use the verb+subject construction instead of imitating the English construction. Finally, using the word 'tahweel' (transform) entails simply a false and misleading information. The translation may be modified as the following:

وأحال مجلس الأمن موضوع الوضع في شمال أفريقيا إلى المحكمة في شباط/فبراير واعتمد قرارا دعا فيه الدول الأعضاء...

Ex (6) from text (2)

The Court's Pre-Trial Chamber considered that there are "reasonable grounds" to believe that the three suspects committed the alleged crimes...

واعترت الدائرة الابتدائية بالمحكمة أن هناك أسسا معقولة للاعتقاد بأن الثلاثة متهمين ارتكبوا الجرائم المزعومة...

There are also some predictable structures, such as uniform terminology or specialized phraseology that should be learnt by students to avoid any linguistic incongruities caused by calque. For the above case, the most commonly used expression in legal texts is (أسباب مقبولة تدعو) (إلى الاعتقاد بأن/تحمّل على الاعتقاد بأن). The literal translation of such a rigid expression may produce an equivocal phrase. Thus, it can be translated as follows:

وترى الدائرة الابتدائية بالمحكمة أن هناك أسبابا مقبولة تدعو إلى الاعتقاد بأن المتهمين الثلاثة ارتكبوا الجرائم المزعومة...

Ex (7) from text (3)

The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi. The court had accused him of crimes against humanity and of ordering

attacks on civilians after an uprising against him began in mid-February.

أصدرت المحكمة الجنائية الدولية الاثنتين مذكرة بتوقيف العقيد الليبي معمر القذافي بتهمة ارتكاب جرائم ضد الانسانية في ليبيا (case of deletion)

The meaning of news text is partially expressed in the above Arabic paragraph due to failure to translate the second part of the source text. At this point, the question of faithfulness is raised: to which extent source information is preserved? To remedy that deficiency, the revised paragraph may be as follow:

... بتهمة ارتكاب جرائم ضد الانسانية في ليبيا وتنظيم هجمات ضد المدنيين على إثر الانتفاضة التي اندلعت في منتصف شهر شباط/فبراير للإطاحة به.

#### Ex (8) from text (3)

The Hague-based court also issued warrants for two of Col Gaddafi's top aides - his son Saif al-Islam and intelligence chief Abdullah al-Sanussi.

وتشمل مذكرة الاعتقال أيضا سيف الإسلام نجل الزعيم الليبي وعبد الله السنوسي رئيس جهاز الاستخبارات الليبي. قال قضاة المحكمة إن القذافي مطلوب لتخطيطه وإشرافه على قتل وجرح واعتقال واحتجاز مئات من المدنيين في أثناء الـ12 يوما الأولى من الانتفاضة التي ترمي إلى الإطاحة به من السلطة. وتتهم المحكمة القذافي أيضا بمحاولة التغطية على الجرائم المتهم بها. (case of addition)

Addition in translation obviously affects the meaning of the source text. This inaccuracy is worse when the added segment does not seem natural to the native speaker. Indeed, the added paragraph, in the above example, does not match with the lexical and grammatical structures of Arabic. The first improper use of grammar concerns the relation between prepositions and their principal verbs (يخطط-) and (يشرف على). In the above example (يخطط ويشرف على), the preposition of the first verb should not be omitted. We can notice in many examples in Arabic journalese a juxtaposition of prepositional verbs separated from their dependent prepositions. For example, (نظر وعلق على المقترح), (أوصى وأكد على ضرورة الاحتفاظ بوحدة البلاد), (يتطلع ويتفاعل بمستقبل زاهر ...), etc. Whereas, these phrases should be read, respectively, as follows: (يتطلع إلى مستقبل زاهر ويتفاعل به), (نظر في المقترح وعلق عليه) and (أوصى بضرورة الاحتفاظ بوحدة البلاد وأكد عليها). The second grammatical problem in the above paragraph is a frequent mistake in Arabic journalese and relates to *Al Idhafa* structure (الإضافة). The two constituents of *Al Idhafa*, (Mudhaf) and (Mudhaf Ilayh), have a possession relationship (الاسناد) and represent a rigid word combination. In other words, they cannot be separated from each other by anything (Mubarek, 1982, p.257). Consequently, the corrected version may be read as follows:

... مطلوب بتهمة التخطيط لقتل مئات المدنيين وجرحهم واعتقالهم واحتجازهم والإشراف على ذلك خلال الاثني عشر يوما الأولى للانتفاضة التي ترمي إلى الإطاحة به.

It is also important to draw students' attention to some examples of differences in some terminological uses depending on institutional jargons or specific legal systems. The term 'warrant arrest' is the most significant example in the present translated versions. Indeed, the terms (مذكرة توقيف) and (أمر بالقبض) have no distinctive semantic connotation. They have the same legal function. The two words are used interchangeably depending on the enunciator and the

practice in the target audience. There is not confusion resulting from that interchangeable use. Students, at the end, should be confident to assess the quality of their translations and make sure that both source and translated texts convey the same message. They should be aware that the translator is not a journalist. It is clear too that the translated text should correspond to the canons of the target language.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the type of texts and their conciseness, the analysis highlighted noticeable differences at the lexical and stylistic levels. The current analysis shows that the enunciator's position can change the information following the intended effect. Overall, the results show the cautious nature of the ICC press release content by the UN News Center against some stylistic changes in the BBC report that may be politically oriented (quoting statements made by politicians).

The UN news center may, as a matter of principle, address the press within limits and provide facts, not opinions or comments. Whereas, the BBC news expressive style seems to suggest that the newspaper adopts a more proactive stance in disseminating and publicizing information. As noticed in the analysis, undermining the legal rhetoric of the ICC news text and substituting it by political background information and quotations from political figures suggests that the newspaper policy is oriented towards dissemination and popularization of news.

For the student, it is important to be aware of both institutional and popular contexts in news translation. The special nature of the UN institution and its agencies (ex. ICC), places additional pressure on the translator to proceed with extreme caution in formulating the text. The student is made sensitive to conflicting interests at stake in this specific framework of news translation and is asked to carefully weigh each and every word avoiding any ambiguity that could lead to misinterpretation. While in news translation for mass media structures, as in BBC news text, priority is given to the popularization of news by explaining it through added output and making it in a largely understandable form. Attention is also placed on the impact to be produced by the published information.

Lastly, even though the current analysis results are based on a concise case study and could not be generalized, they can show that subtle changes may offer opportunities to shape public opinion. The present axes of comparison will be the basis for a broader study to be conducted in an attempt to assert any generalization.

### **About the Author**

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ANNEXES

**Text (1) : International Court of Justice Press Release**  
 Press Release : 27 June 2011, ICC-CPI-20110627-PR689

Retrieved June 2011 from <http://www.icc-cpi.int>

**Pre-Trial Chamber I issues three warrants of arrest for Muammar Gaddafi, Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdulla Al-Senussi**

Today, 27 June 2011, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued three warrants of arrest respectively for Muammar Mohammed Abu Minyar Gaddafi, Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi for crimes against humanity (murder and persecution) allegedly committed across Libya from 15 February 2011 until at least 28 February 2011, through the State apparatus and Security Forces.

The Chamber, composed of Judges Sanji Mmasenono Monageng (Presiding), Sylvia Steiner and Cuno Tarfusser, considered that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the three suspects committed the alleged crimes and that their arrests appear necessary in order to ensure their appearances before the Court; to ensure that they do not continue to obstruct and endanger the Court's investigations; and to prevent them from using their powers to continue the commission of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court.

The situation in Libya was referred to the ICC Prosecutor by the United Nations Security Council, through the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1970 on 26 February 2011. The Security Council decided, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, that "the Libyan authorities shall cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the Court and the Prosecutor pursuant to this resolution" and, while recognizing that States not party to the Rome Statute have no obligations under the Statute, the Security Council urged all States and concerned regional and other international organizations to cooperate fully with the Court and the Prosecutor.

الدائرة التمهيدية الأولى تصدر ثلاثة أوامر بالقبض بحق معمر القذافي، سيف الإسلام القذافي وعبد الله السنوسي

اليوم، الموافق 27 حزيران/يونيو 2011، أصدرت الدائرة التمهيدية الأولى للمحكمة الجنائية الدولية ثلاثة أوامر بالقبض بحق معمر محمد أبو منيار القذافي، سيف الإسلام القذافي وعبد الله السنوسي بتهم تتعلق بجرائم ضد الإنسانية (القتل العمد والاضطهاد) يُدعى بارتكابها في ليبيا بدءاً من 15 شباط/فبراير 2011 إلى 28 شباط/فبراير 2011 على الأقل، باستخدام جهاز الدولة الليبية وقوى الأمن.

رأت الدائرة، المولفة من القضاة سانجي مماسينونو موناغينغ (رئيسة) وسيلفيا ستاينر وكونو تارفوسير، أن هنالك أسباباً معقولة للاعتقاد بأن الأشخاص الثلاثة المشتبه بهم قد ارتكبوا الجرائم المنسوبة إليهم وبأن اعتقالهم يبدو ضرورياً لضمان حضورهم أمام المحكمة، ولضمان عدم استمرارهم في عرقلة التحقيق أو تعريضه للخطر، ولمنعهم من استخدام سلطاتهم في مواصلة ارتكاب جرائم تخضع لاختصاص المحكمة.

وكان مجلس الأمن التابع للأمم المتحدة قد أحال، بموجب القرار 1970 المتخذ في 26 شباط/فبراير 2011، الحالة في ليبيا إلى المدعي العام للمحكمة. وقرر مجلس الأمن، وفقاً للفصل السابع من شريعة الأمم المتحدة، "أن تتعاون السلطات الليبية تعاوناً كاملاً مع المحكمة ومع المدعي العام وتقدم لهما ما يلزم من مساعدة". وإذ سلم بأن الدول غير الأطراف في نظام روما الأساسي لا يقع عليها أي التزام بموجب ذلك النظام، فقد حث جميع الدول والمنظمات الإقليمية وسائر المنظمات الدولية المهتمة بالأمر على التعاون التام مع المحكمة والمدعي العام.

**Text (2): United Nations News Press Release**

Press Release : 27 June 2011, Retrieved June 2011 from

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?storyID=38855&Cr=Libya&Cr1=#.Uyqwn6NkzW4>



<p><b>ICC issues arrest warrants for Libyan officials for alleged crimes against humanity</b></p> <p>The International Criminal Court (ICC) today issued arrest warrants for Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhafi, one of his sons and the country's intelligence chief for crimes against humanity allegedly committed since the pro-democracy movement began in February.</p> <p>Hundreds of people are confirmed to have been killed since opposition forces rose up against the regime of Mr. Qadhafi in February as part of a wider pro-democracy movement across North Africa and the Middle East.</p> <p>Earlier this month, the Court's Prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, told reporters that his office had gathered direct evidence detailing the orders issued by Mr. Qadhafi, the role of his son Saif al-Islam Qadhafi in recruiting mercenaries, and the participation of the head of the Libya's intelligence forces, Abdullah Al Sanousi, in attacks against protesters.</p> <p>The Court's Pre-Trial Chamber considered that there are "reasonable grounds" to believe that the three suspects committed the alleged crimes and that their arrests appear necessary to ensure their appearances before the ICC, it stated in a news release.</p> <p>Their arrests are also necessary to ensure that they do not continue to obstruct and endanger the Court's investigations, and to prevent them from using their powers to continue the commission of crimes within its jurisdiction, the Court added.</p> <p>Libya is not a State party to the Rome Statute that established the ICC. However, the situation in the North African nation was referred to the Court in February by the Security Council, which adopted a resolution the following month calling on Member States to take "all necessary measures" to protect civilians amid the regime's violent crackdown against its own people.</p> <p>Updating the Council on the current situation in Libya, UN political chief B. Lynn Pascoe said resolutions 1970 (February) and 1973 (March) are clear.</p> <p>"We have an obligation to protect the people of Libya and that is the goal of the current international efforts. We must ensure that the basic rights and freedoms of the Libyan people are fully respected and protected and that their legitimate aspirations are met," he stated.</p>	<p>المحكمة الجنائية الدولية تصدر مذكرة توقيف بحق العقيد القذافي واثنين آخرين بتهم ارتكاب جرائم ضد الإنسانية</p> <p>أصدرت المحكمة الجنائية الدولية مذكرة توقيف بحق العقيد الليبي معمر القذافي وابنه سيف الإسلام القذافي ورئيس الاستخبارات، عبد الله السنوسي، بتهم ارتكاب جرائم ضد الإنسانية المرتكبة منذ اندلاع الانتفاضة الشعبية في البلاد في شباط/فبراير الماضي.</p> <p>وقتل مئات الأشخاص منذ بدء القتال بين القوات الحكومية والمعارضة بينما اعتقل آلاف آخرون.</p> <p>وكان مدعي عام المحكمة، لويس مورينو أوكامبو، قد أخبر الصحفيين بداية الشهر الحالي أن مكتبه يجمع أدلة مباشرة بشأن الأوامر التي أصدرها العقيد القذافي ودور ابنه سيف الإسلام في تجنيد المرتزقة ومشاركة رئيس الاستخبارات، عبد الله السنوسي، في الاعتداءات ضد المتظاهرين.</p> <p>واعتبرت الدائرة الابتدائية بالمحكمة أن هناك أسما معقولة للاعتقاد بأن الثلاثة متهمين ارتكبوا الجرائم المزعومة وأن القبض عليهم ضروري لضمان مثولهم أمام المحكمة.</p> <p>وأضافت الدائرة أن اعتقالهم ضروري أيضا لضمان عدم مواصلة إعاقتهم لتحقيق المحكمة وتعرّضه للخطر ومنعهم من استخدام نفوذهم لمواصلة ارتكاب الجرائم التي تقع في اختصاص المحكمة.</p> <p>يشار إلى أن ليبيا ليست طرفا في ميثاق روما المؤسس للمحكمة الجنائية، إلا أنه قد تم تحويل الوضع في البلاد إلى المحكمة في شباط/فبراير من قبل مجلس الأمن الذي اعتمد قرارا دعا فيه الدول الأعضاء إلى اتخاذ كل التدابير اللازمة لحماية المدنيين وسط قمع النظام العنيف للمواطنين.</p> <p>في إحاطة أمام مجلس الأمن اليوم بشأن الوضع في ليبيا، أكد وكيل الأمين العام للشؤون السياسية، لين باسكو، أن قرار مجلس الأمن 1970 و1973 واضحا.</p> <p>وقال باسكو "لدينا التزام بحماية الشعب الليبي وذلك هو هدف الجهود الدولية الراهنة، وعلينا ضمان الاحترام الكامل لحقوق وحريات الشعب الليبي وتلبية تطلعاته المشروعة."</p>
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**Text (3) : BBC Press Release**

Press Release : 27 June 2011, Retrieved June 2011 from  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13927208>

<p><b>Libya: ICC issues arrest warrant for Gaddafi</b></p> <p>The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi. The court had accused him of crimes against humanity and of ordering attacks on civilians after an uprising against him began in mid-February.</p> <p>The Hague-based court also issued warrants for two of Col Gaddafi's top aides - his son Saif al-Islam and intelligence chief Abdullah al-Sanussi.</p> <p>Thousands of people are believed to have been killed in the conflict. ICC presiding judge Sanji Monageng said there were "reasonable grounds to believe" that Col Gaddafi and his son were "criminally responsible as indirect co-perpetrators" for the persecution and murder of civilians in Libya.</p> <p>The warrants had been requested by chief ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo in May, who said the three men bore responsibility for "widespread and systematic attacks" on civilians.</p> <p>Mr. Moreno-Ocampo said the court had evidence that Col Gaddafi had "personally ordered attacks on unarmed Libyan civilians and was behind the arrest and torture of his political opponents.</p> <p>The Libyan authorities have previously said they do not recognize the court and were not concerned by the threat of a warrant.</p> <p>On Sunday, government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim said the court was overly preoccupied with pursuing African leaders and had "no legitimacy whatsoever".</p> <p>The arrest warrant was welcomed by UK Foreign Secretary William Hague, who said it further demonstrated "why Gaddafi has lost all legitimacy and why he should go immediately".</p> <p>Mr. Hague called on people within the Libyan regime to abandon Gaddafi and said those responsible for "atrocities" must be held to account.</p>	<p><b>المحكمة الجنائية الدولية تطلب اعتقال القذافي</b></p> <p>أصدرت المحكمة الجنائية الدولية الاثنين مذكرة بتوقيف العقيد الليبي معمر القذافي بتهمة ارتكاب جرائم ضد الإنسانية في ليبيا.</p> <p><b>Muammar</b></p> <p>وتشمل مذكرة الاعتقال أيضا سيف الإسلام نجل الزعيم الليبي وعبد الله السنوسي رئيس جهاز الاستخبارات الليبي.</p> <p>قال قضاة المحكمة إن القذافي مطلوب لتخطيطه وإشرافه على قتل وجرح واعتقال واحتجاز مئات من المدنيين في أثناء الـ12 يوما الأولى من الانتفاضة التي ترمي إلى الإطاحة به من السلطة. وتتهم المحكمة القذافي أيضا بمحاولة التغطية على الجرائم المتهم بها.</p> <p>جاء قرار المحكمة استجابة لطلب مدعيها العام لويس مورينو-أوكامبو في السادس عشر من الشهر الماضي. وينهم أوكامبو القذافي وسيف الإسلام والسنوسي بارتكاب جرائم حرب وجرائم ضد الإنسانية في ليبيا منذ منتصف شهر فبراير/شباط الماضي.</p> <p>المحكمة الجنائية تستجيب لطلب المدعي العام إصدار أمر اعتقال القذافي ومن بين الاتهامات ارتكاب عمليات قتل واضطهاد ترقى إلى جرائم ضد الإنسانية من جانب قوات الأمن الليبية بحق المدنيين خصوصا في العاصمة طرابلس ومدينتي بنغازي ومصراتة.</p> <p>ويتهم المدعي العام القذافي بأنه "أعد خطة لقمع التظاهرات الشعبية في شباط/فبراير بشتى الوسائل ومنها استخدام العنف المفرط والدامي." وتشير تحقيقات أوكامبو إلى أن "قوات الأمن انتهجت سياسة معمة وممنهجة لشن هجمات على مدنيين يعتبرون منشقين بهدف بقاء سلطة القذافي."</p> <p>كما اتهم سيف الإسلام بتجنيد مرتزقة للمساهمة في مواجهة الانتفاضة التي اندلعت ضد نظام والده.</p> <p>أما السنوسي أهم مساعدي القذافي وصهره ، فيتهم المدعي العام بتنظيم هجمات استهدفت متظاهرين.</p> <p>وقبل إعلان القرار ، رفضه المسؤولون الليبيون. واتهموا المحكمة بأنها تستهدف بشكل ظالم الأفارقة بينما تتجاهل ما وصفوه بالجرائم التي يقولون إن حلف شمال الأطلسي نيتو ارتكبها في أفغانستان والعراق وفي ليبيا.</p> <p>وكان موسى إبراهيم، المتحدث باسم الحكومة الليبية، قد قال الأحد إن "المحكمة الجنائية الدولية ليس لها أي شرعية على الإطلاق. وكل أنشطتها موجهة ضد الزعماء الأفارقة."</p> <p>ورحب ويليام هيغ وزير الخارجية البريطاني بقرار المحكمة. ووصفه بأنه يظهر أن الزعيم الليبي "فقد كل شرعيته."</p>
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