

Translating Idioms from English into Arabic: Appointment with Death as a Case Study

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Abstract

This study aimed at identifying the English idioms as well as fixed expressions used by Agatha Christie in her novel, Appointment with Death, and how they were translated into Arabic by Omar Abdulaziz Ameen. The study principally aimed to highlight the strategies used by the translator to overcome the problem of no equivalence in the target language. Baker's strategies for translating idioms (1992) formed the basis of the theoretical part of the study. The analytical part comprised Agatha Christie's novel, Appointment with Death (2001) and the translation of the novel by Ameen from English into Arabic. The study concentrated on the most dominant translation solutions when translating idioms from English into Arabic. A lack of equivalent idioms in the Arabic language was one of the outcomes of this study. Further investigations showed that the most prevailing translation strategy used by the translator encompassed paraphrasing. The translated version highlighted the challenges of switching between different cultural, conceptual and linguistic frames of reference.

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