



The Study of English-Arabic Simultaneous Interpreting Analysis of Culture-Specific Terms: US Presidential Debates as a Case Study

(1) **Ibrahim Talaat Ibrahim** | (2) **Umniah Abdunnasser Khalid**

^{1,2} College of Arts, Al-Iraqia University, Baghdad, Iraq

Email: 1Ibrahim_al-bayati@aliraqia.edu.iq, 2wishnasser29@gmail.com

Received: April 20, 2025

Reviewed: May 08, 2025

Accepted: May 22, 2025

Published: June 07, 2025

KEYWORDS

Simultaneous Interpreting; Culture-Specific Terms; US Presidential Debates.

ABSTRACT

This paper explores the issues and strategies involved in the simultaneous interpretation of culturally specific terms from English into Arabic in U.S. presidential debates. Qualitative and descriptive in nature, this study explores the interpretations of ten culturally embedded terms in two debates: the 2008 debate between Barack Obama and John McCain, and the 2016 debate between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. It implements Vinay and Darbelnet's (1958) strategies of translation, Newmark's (1988) taxonomy of cultural words, and Baker's (1992) strategies for dealing with non-equivalence. The results show the appropriate balance between linguistic and cultural comprehensibility where interpreters used literal translation, paraphrasing, adaptation, and clarification to different extents. While direct translations tend to retain rhetorical values, they might alienate audiences not familiar with U.S. socio-political contexts. While paraphrased and adapted interpretations are more accessible, they can also be distorting. This study shows the complexity of maintaining the balance among cultural sensitivity, linguistic accuracy, and real-time constraints during high-stakes political discourse. The findings in this paper add to Translation Studies the emphasis on the interpreter as a cultural mediator who needs to make dynamic choices of strategy in view of the needs of the intended audience and the communicative context. Future research could be done on audience reception and expand the analysis to diverse interpreting contexts.

Introduction

Simultaneous interpreting is one of the methods of oral interpreting; it occurs by transferring the utterance from the speaker's language directly at the same moment to the target language. It requires a highly skilled interpreter in both the source language and the target language. Simultaneous interpreting at U.S. presidential debates presents a significant challenge for interpreting culturally specific terms that have no equivalence in the target language. These terms often reflect deep cultural, historical, or societal connotations unique to the source language. For instance, phrases like "the American Dream," "Second Amendment rights," or culturally rooted idioms might carry meaning familiar to a U.S. audience but may be incomprehensible or misinterpreted by non-native speakers. This research seeks to address this issue by finding methods to interpret these culturally specific terms effectively, facilitating the interpreting process and seeking a deeper comprehension of the speaker's intentions. In many cases, the interpreter might face tension, pressure, and a lack of information about the cultural background and the usage of such terms.

This could lead to severe misunderstandings, with potentially grave consequences, such as distorting the speaker's message or even escalating international conflicts. Misinterpreting critical culturally specific terms in a political context, such as debates, can influence perceptions, diplomatic relations, and global media narratives. On the other hand, successfully interpreting these terms will significantly enhance audience understanding, preserve contextual meaning, support debates' dynamics, and contribute to media framing, policy implications, civic engagement, and many other crucial aspects.

Questions of Research

1. Are simultaneous interpreter assumed to interpret cultures specific terms found in presidential debates successful rendering them in US Presidential debates?
2. What are the strategies used by simultaneous interpreter?

Limits of Study

The study limited to the following points:

- The current translation study is from English to Arabic.
- It deals with culture-specific terms only.
- The case study is about US presidential debates.

Significance of Study

This study is of great importance for translation students, researchers in the field of simultaneous interpreting MAM, PHD candidates that can help them facilitate the process of reaching out the perfect answer for the culturally specific problem in interpreting or translating for the US presidential debates and try to reach out an appropriate solution to these challenges. This research helps interpreters and simultaneous interpreters in particular. The results of this

research will help to develop the capabilities of interpreters in how to deal with culturally specific terms, and possibly this research will be a reference for many future students to work in the field of interpreting.

Introduction

Simultaneous interpreting is considered one of the oral interpreting. It accrues by transferring the utterance immediately from one language to another at the same moment. It requires high skills in both the Source Language and the Target Language.

“Simultaneous Interpreting” first saw the light of day in the early 1920s when Edward Filene and Gordon-Finlay introduced the concept of developing equipment based on telephonic technology to enable real-time interpretation. The method gained international recognition in the fall of 1945, during the Nuremberg Trials, marking its televised debut. Simultaneous interpreting is defined as the process of instantly conveying a speaker's words from one language to another in real-time. US presidential debates are formal dissections between candidates that seek US presidency. It provides a platform for candidates to view their policies, points of view, and qualifications, which might affect the final presidential. (Ibrahim, 2022)

Simultaneous interpreting at US presidential debates or any political speeches or conferences has become very essential nowadays. It Attracts a global audience, diverse population, immediate communication, facilitating dialogue, media coverage, professional standards, public engagement, legal and ethical considerations.

Interpreting cultural specific terms enhanced understanding and cultural awareness, avoid miscommunication, engagement and connection representation of diversity support for effective communication, facilitate learning, build trust, and preserve cultural heritage.

In this case study, we will address the issue of the lack of terms that equal some cultural specific terms, and the techniques of handling the situation while facing this issue. We will seek more comprehension of cultural understanding and transferring it into the Target language.

Literature Review

Research in the field of translation and interpreting continues to grow, with numerous studies addressing various challenges and proposing strategies for improvement. This review focuses on three recent studies that offer insights relevant to the translation of culturally specific terms and the intercultural complications inherent in translation and interpretation.

Study 1: Translating Cultural Specific Terms and Concepts

The first study, titled "Translating Cultural Specific Terms and Concepts", was authored by Sarah Abdulsallam Ali and published in the Social Science Journal (November 2022 issue) within *Res Militaris*, Vol. 12, No. 3. This research investigates the challenges associated with translating culturally specific terms (CSTs). It highlights the need for translators to interpret cultural meanings beyond the literal sense of phrases, acknowledging that languages often contain words and expressions unique to their respective cultures.

The study identifies four techniques proposed by Graedler (2000, p. 3) to address these challenges:

1. Coining new words to align with the target culture.
2. Explaining the meaning of the source language (SL) expression rather than translating it literally.
3. Retaining the SL term without alteration.
4. Finding a target language (TL) word that closely matches the relevance of the SL term.

Additionally, Harvey (2000, p. 2) outlines four approaches to translating CSTs:

Functional Equivalence: Translating based on function rather than form. Formal Equivalence: Maintaining the original form as closely as possible.

Transcription/Borrowing: Directly incorporating the SL term into the TL. Descriptive Translation: Elaborating on the meaning of the term.

This study is particularly relevant to the current research as it provides detailed methods for handling CSTs and emphasizes the cultural dimensions of translation, which align closely with the objectives of the current study.

Study 2: Cognitive Processes in Simultaneous Interpreting

The second study, "Cognitive Processes in Simultaneous Interpreting From English

Into Arabic and From Arabic Into English: A Study of Problems and Interpreter

Strategies", was conducted by Mohammed Jasim Aal-Hajiahmed and published in July 2022 by Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. This research focuses on the cognitive challenges interpreters face when rendering proper names, numbers, collocations, passive voice, CSTs, and terms with religious content.

The study identifies several strategies employed by interpreters to address these challenges, including:

- Inferring meaning from context.
- Generalization and approximation.
- Skipping problematic elements when necessary.

These strategies were shown to enhance interpreting performance and ensure the accurate rendering of cultural elements. The live experimental approach adopted in this research offers valuable insights for the current study by providing practical strategies to address the interpretation of CSTs effectively.

Study 3: The Impact of Intercultural Complications on Interpreting

The third study, "The Impact of Intercultural Complications on Interpreting", authored by Saadaoui Majda and Azmi Nourredine, was published in the Arabic Journal for Translation Studies on July 30, 2022. This research explores the effects of intercultural differences on interpreting processes and outcomes.

The study emphasizes the concept of cultural equivalence, highlighting divergent views on whether source speech can be fully replicated in the target culture. It identifies alternative strategies for addressing the absence of cultural equivalence, including:

- Omission.
- Domestication and foreignization.
- Calque or globalization.

Moreover, the findings stress the importance of the interpreter's understanding of the target culture in determining equivalence. The study also notes the limitations of machine interpreting in simultaneous contexts, particularly when dealing with cultural differences, though it acknowledges its utility in consecutive interpretation.

This research contributes to the current study by offering strategies and techniques for overcoming intercultural complications, enhancing the understanding of challenges in interpreting across cultures.

Concluding remarks

These studies collectively provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges and strategies involved in translating and interpreting culturally specific terms and addressing intercultural complications. Their findings are directly applicable to the current research, offering theoretical and practical frameworks that can inform the analysis and resolution of culturally rooted translation challenges.

Background of Study

The study of English-Arabic simultaneous interpreting of cultural specific terms and particularly at US presidential debate, critically analyses strategies and methodologies associated with interpreting cross-cultural terms and distinct concepts like political, historical, socially embedded references that lack of direct Arabic equivalence. The research explores the techniques appropriate for handling the problem, like paraphrasing, substitution, and explanation, and assesses their influence on the precision of rendering the exact meaning of the interpreted discourse; the study sheds light on the effectiveness of cross-cultural communication.

The study aims to :

- Examine the techniques
- Analyze the impact
- Investigate the role of cultural competence
- Evaluate the reception

The born of simultaneous interpreting first was in 1920s, on the hands of Edward Filene and Gordon-Finlay. They started the notion of devolving equipment, using telephonic technology, and equipment of the telephonic interpreting. In fall 1945, was the rise of televised international debut on the hands of simultaneous interpreting, during the Nuremberg. So, it was defined as a proses of transferring the utterance from the speaker's language directly at the same moment to the target language. (Ibrahim, 2022).

The study represented from English to Arabic simultaneous interpreting, and particularly in US presidential debates. So, what are the US presidential debates?

Us presidential debates are discussions between candidates that are seeking for the presidency of United Nations, held on the general election campaign. It allows the candidates to show their promises and views and to prof their perspectives.

Interpreting in US presidential debates plays a critical role on effecting public opinion and influencing votes and determining the course of presidential campaigns. U.S. presidential debates are formal discussions between candidates vying for the presidency of the United States, typically held during the general election campaign. These debates provide a platform for candidates to present their policy proposals, articulate their political views, and demonstrate their leadership capabilities.

Through these debates, candidates aim to influence public opinion and sway voters by showcasing their positions on key national and international issues. The role of interpreting in U.S. presidential debates is crucial, as it facilitates communication between candidates and a diverse audience, thus impacting voter perceptions and potentially shaping the outcome of the election. The effectiveness of interpretation in these debates plays a significant role in determining the direction of presidential campaigns by Analyzing candidates' responses, understanding non-verbal communication, interpreting debate dynamics.

Methodology

This research is going to study the simultaneous interpreting of CSTs from English into Arabic in US presidential debates, strategies adopted by interpreters, and

challenges in the delivery of meanings embedded in culture. This analysis will cover two sets of debates involving Barack Obama and Donald Trump, for both of them represent the typical features of different political and rhetorical styles.

Research Design

The research design adopted is qualitative and descriptive. It, therefore, comfortably falls within the framework of Translation Studies. Theoretically, this paper relies on Peter Newmark's 1988 taxonomy of cultural terms, and Mona Baker's 1992 strategies for dealing with cultural and linguistic non-equivalence. The translation model by Vinay and Darbelnet 1958 also informs the present analysis, particularly in the identification of the translation techniques.

Data Selection

Two debates were randomly selected for analysis:

Debate 1: Third 2008 presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain.

Debate 2: First 2016 presidential debate between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

Ten culturally specific terms have been chosen from each debate, making a total of 10 terms that have been subjected to detailed analysis. Selection has been done in a way that more cultural loaded terms, potential ambiguous or relevant terms related to the socio-political context of the debate have precedence in selection.

Simultaneous Interpreting Samples

For each term, two Arabic simultaneous interpretations were analyzed:

- Interpreter A: A professional interpreter from an official Arabic-language broadcasting agency.
- Interpreter B: A professional interpreter from an alternative media source or a freelancer.

This dual-interpretation approach allows for a comparative evaluation of different interpreting strategies.

Analytical Framework

The study employs Vinay and Darbelnet's (1958) model of translation strategies, focusing on direct methods (e.g., borrowing, calque) and oblique methods (e.g., modulation, adaptation). The analysis also incorporates:

- **Equivalence:** Assessing how accurately the interpretation reflects the original meaning and intent.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Evaluating how well the interpretation conveys cultural nuances to an Arabic-speaking audience.
- **Audience Reception:** Analyzing whether the Arabic interpretation is comprehensible and contextually appropriate for its target audience.

Data Analysis Procedure

1. **Transcription:** Both debates' CSTs were transcribed in their original English context, followed by their respective Arabic simultaneous interpretations.
2. **Categorization:** Each term was categorized into Newmark's cultural categories; for example, political, social, and historical.
3. **Comparison:** The strategy employed in the interpretation of each term was compared in both interpretations and the effectiveness in conveying the cultural meaning.
4. **Evaluation:** To evaluate the success of the interpretations, Baker's strategies for dealing with cultural and linguistic non-equivalence were employed, such as cultural substitution and paraphrasing.

Limitations

This study will exclusively deal with CSTs from two presidential debates and their Arabic SI. The scope is also limited to two interpreters per term, which cannot be representative of the complete spectrum of interpreting strategies. The results obtained concern the political and cultural contexts of the debates and may not generalize to other contexts.

Concluding remarks

The given methodology allows for the development of an orderly procedure regarding the complex problems that simultaneous interpreting presents to a Community Social Translator (CST) within the politically and culturally enriched setting of US presidential debates.

Data collection

The following texts are the selected English samples and their two Arabic interpretations based on two selected debates. The samples highlight the culture specific terms (CSTs) from the context of U.S. politics, history, and cultural references. The interpretations are presented as examples of how these terms are rendered into Arabic by two professional interpreters.

Barack Obama vs. John McCain (Third 2008 Presidential Debate)

Sample 1

English: "The American Dream"

Interpreter A: Interpreter B: "الحلم الأمريكي"
"الطموح الأمريكي لتحقيق النجاح الشخصي"

Sample 2

English: "Wall Street and Main Street"

Interpreter B: "الشركات الكبرى مقابل المواطن العادي" Interpreter A: "وول ستريت والشارع الرئيسي"

Sample 3

English: "Joe the Plumber"

Interpreter B: "جو العامل البسيط الذي يمثل المواطن العادي"
Interpreter A: "جو السباك"

Sample 4

English: "Bipartisan cooperation"

Interpreter A: "التعاون بين الحزبين"

Interpreter B: "التعاون المشترك بين الجمهوريين والديمقراطيين"

Sample 5

English: "Health care reform"

Interpreter A: "إصلاح نظام الرعاية الصحية"

Interpreter B: "تغيير شامل في نظام"

التأمين الصحي"

Donald Trump vs. Hillary Clinton (First 2016 Presidential Debate)

Sample 6

English: "Make America Great Again"

Interpreter A: "جعل أمريكا عظيمة مجدد أ"

Interpreter B: "إعادة أمريكا إلى عظمتها السابقة"

Sample 7

English: "The Second Amendment"

Interpreter A: "التعديل الثاني للدستور"

Interpreter B:

"حق حمل السلاح وفقاً للتعديل الثاني للدستور"

الأمريكي"

Sample 8

English: "NAFTA"

Interpreter A: "اتفاقية التجارة الحرة لأمريكا الشمالية"

Interpreter B:

"اتفاقية التجارة بين الولايات المتحدة وكندا والمكسيك"

Sample 9

English: "Swing states"

Interpreter A: "الولايات المتأرجحة"

Interpreter B: "الولايات التي تتغير أصواتها بين الجمهوريين والديمقراطيين"

Sample 10

English: "Rigged system"

Interpreter A: "نظام مزور"

Interpreter B:

"نظام فاسد وموجه ضد الشعب"

Analysis approaches

For each sample, the study compares the interpretations based on their strategies:

- Literal Translation (e.g., Interpreter A for "The American Dream").
- Paraphrasing/Elaboration (e.g., Interpreter B for "Joe the Plumber").
- Adaptation to cultural context (e.g., Interpreter B for "Swing states").

These samples reflect variations in how interpreters handle the challenges of cultural specificity high-pressure contexts.

Data Analysis

The analysis of the simultaneous interpretation of the CSTs is conducted in line with the outlined methodology. Each sample will be assessed using Vinay and Darbelnet's 1958 translation strategies, Baker's 1992 strategies to deal with non-equivalence, and principles of cultural sensitivity.

Barack Obama vs. John McCain (2008)

Sample 1: "The American Dream"

Interpreter A: " (الحلم الأمريكي Literal translation)"

Interpreter B: " (الطموح الأمريكي لتحقيق النجاح الشخصي) Paraphrasing)"

Analysis:

The interpreter A translates the term literally, keeping its original form, assuming that the audience will know the cultural meaning of this expression. Interpreter B paraphrased the expression to make clear what it means to those Arabic speakers who do not know the meaning of this expression. The latter version is culturally sensitive but lacks brevity.

Sample 2: "Wall Street and Main Street"

Interpreter A: " (ول ستريت والشارع الرئيسي) Calque)"

Interpreter B: " (الشركات الكبرى مقابل المواطن العادي) Adaptation)"

Analysis:

The interpreter uses a calque, which saves the source phrasing and might, however be confusing for Arabic listeners who are not used to the metaphor. Interpreter B adapts the term into an equivalent in Arabic of the contrast between the corporations and the ordinary citizens. Adaptation is easier for the target audience to understand.

Sample 3: "Joe the Plumber"

Interpreter A: "(جو السباك Literal translation) "

Interpreter B: "(جو العامل البسيط الذي يمثل المواطن العادي) explanation)"

Analysis:

This is a literal translation by Interpreter A, which maintains the character but has no cultural context. Interpreter B explains the term so its metaphorical meaning is understood, which would help an Arabic audience who may not be familiar with the cultural reference.

Sample 4: "Bipartisan cooperation"

Interpreter A: "(التعاون بين الحزبين Literal translation)"

Interpreter B: "(التعاون المشترك بين الجمهوريين والديمقراطيين) Clarification)"

Analysis:

Interpreter A's literal translation is correct but would be vague for those who don't have prior knowledge about the U.S. two-party system. Interpreter B contextualizes the term by detailing the parties, hence furthering cultural access.

Sample 5: "Health care reform"

Interpreter A: "(إصلاح نظام الرعاية الصحية) Literal translation) "

Interpreter B: "(تغيير شامل في نظام التأمين) Both are correct translations, but Interpreter B's adaptation adds scope to the reform, and this gives Arabic listeners greater context.

(Adaptation) الصحي

Analysis:

Donald Trump vs. Hillary Clinton (2016)**Sample 6: "Make America Great Again"**

Interpreter A: "(جعل أمريكا عظيمة مجدداً) Literal translation) "

Interpreter B: "(إعادة أمريكا إلى عظمتها السابقة) Paraphrasing) "

Analysis:

Both interpreters capture the meaning, but Interpreter B adds nuance, implying a return to a perceived past greatness, aligning with Trump's intended nostalgia.

Sample 7: "The Second Amendment"

Interpreter A: "(التعديل الثاني للدستور) Literal translation)"

Interpreter B: "(حق حمل السلاح وفقاً للتعديل الثاني للدستور الأمريكي) Expansion)"

Analysis:

Whereas Interpreter A provides a literal translation of the amendment, Interpreter B expands the interpretation by explaining what is meant by the amendment, thus making it more informative to an Arabic audience who are not familiar with U.S. constitutional terms.

Sample 8: "NAFTA"

Interpreter A: " (اتفاقية التجارة الحرة لأمریکا الشمالية) Calque) "

Interpreter B: " (اتفاقية التجارة بين الولايات المتحدة وكندا والمكسيك) Clarification) "

Analysis:

Interpreter A uses a direct calque, which assumes prior knowledge of the acronym.

Interpreter B clarifies the term, ensuring accessibility for a broader audience.

Sample 9: "Swing states"

Interpreter A: " (الولايات المتأرجحة) Literal translation) "

Interpreter B: " (الولايات التي تتغير أصواتها بين الجمهوريين والديمقراطيين) Paraphrasing) "

Analysis:

Interpreter A's literal translation gives the basic meaning, but Interpreter B's paraphrasing adds necessary context for Arabic audiences unfamiliar with the U.S. electoral system.

Sample 10: "Rigged system"

Interpreter A: " (نظام مزور) Literal translation) "

Interpreter B: " (نظام فاسد وموجه ضد الشعب) Elaboration) "

Analysis:

Interpreter A uses a straightforward literal translation, while Interpreter B elaborates to emphasize the term's connotations of corruption and bias, enhancing comprehension.

Findings

Direct Translation vs. Paraphrasing:

Literal translations, such as Interpreter A for "The American Dream," often retain brevity but can lack cultural context, whereas paraphrasing, such as Interpreter B for "Joe the Plumber," enhances understanding but may sacrifice conciseness.

Adaptation and Clarification:

Terminology heavily linked to culture, like "Wall Street and Main Street," is better adapted-as in the version of Interpreter B-to make the utterances more accessible to an audience.

Cultural Sensitivity:

The interpretations of Interpreter B are often more culturally sensitive, as this interpreter adds context to make the source terms more understandable for Arabic audiences.

Challenges in Interpretation:

High-pressure environments like debates demand quick decisions, leading interpreters to prioritize either fidelity to the source or audience accessibility, depending on their strategy.

Concluding remarks

Whereas Interpreter A is more into fidelity and brevity, Interpreter B has a more increased tendency to adapt and elaborate for cultural accessibility. These findings suggest that, while interpreting simultaneously, much consideration should be given to balancing cultural sensitivity and linguistic precision.

Discussion

This study focused on a certain kind of discourse, culturally specific terms in two successive US presidential debates--Obama versus McCain in 2008, and Trump versus Clinton in 2016. The study entailed close observation of 10 culturally embedded terms and their translations, presenting how the task of maintaining fidelity, being culturally sensitive, and achieving audience accessibility can be truly challenging to an interpreter.

Embeddedness and Interpretation Strategy

CSTs have generally been encumbered with sociopolitical and historical overtones that turn interpretation particularly problematic. Terms like "The American Dream" or "Make America Great Again" are saturated with the cultural narratives of America. As the analysis showed, literal translation-which in this case would be Interpreter A's "الحلم الأمريكي" can maintain linguistic fidelity but often leaves the target audience without enough context.

On the other hand, paraphrasing or elaboration-such as Interpreter B's "الطموح الأمريكي لتحقيق النجاح الشخصي" can bridge cultural gaps but at the cost of brevity and the rhetorical impact of the original term.

By contrast, the strategies employed by Interpreter A and Interpreter B reveal a trade-off between linguistic fidelity and cultural comprehensibility. Throughout the interpreting, Interpreter A often relied on direct translation techniques such as borrowing or calque, assuming the audience's prior knowledge of the source culture. In contrast, Interpreter B preferred to use oblique translation strategies such as modulation or adaptation with the intention of making the terms more accessible to Arabic audiences.

The Role of Context in Interpretation

Another strong determining factor of the strategies followed in interpreting presidential debates is the political context. For example, "Swing states" itself is an American electoral phenomenon. While "الولايات المتأرجحة" by Interpreter A was linguistically correct, "الولايات التي تتغير أصواتها بين الجمهوريين والديمقراطيين" by Interpreter B added essential contextual information to make sense for the Arabic listeners who were not familiar with U.S. elections.

Meanwhile, "NAFTA" was rendered as " (اتفاقية التجارة الحرة لأمريكا الشمالية) Interpreter A)" and " (اتفاقية التجارة بين الولايات المتحدة وكندا والمكسيك) Interpreter B)". The first one kept the formal title, while the latter explicated the member countries and emphasized the aspect of accessibility. These findings highlight the necessity for interpreters to take into consideration the audiences' level of knowledge as well as their cultural familiarity.

Issues in Cultural Non-Existence

This study demonstrated the embedded problems of cultural non-equivalence in simultaneous interpretation. Phrases such as "Joe the Plumber" and "Rigged system" are culturally burdened and carry no literal Arabic equivalents.

For instance, when Interpreter A stayed more often literally with the original meaning, as in "جو السباك" interpreter B paraphrased and elaborated on the utterances to put the terms in context and thus create a culturally appropriate rendition of the phrases. This pattern is consistent with Baker's (1992) strategies for dealing with nonequivalence, especially paraphrasing using unrelated words and cultural substitution. Interpreter B's strategy underscores the need for audience-centeredness in interpreting, especially for culturally embedded terms.

Interpreter Style and Audience Reception

Interpreter A's literalist approach provides brevity and fidelity to the source text, which may be appropriate for audiences already familiar with such terms.

Conclusions

The paper explored the consecutive interpretation of CSTs from English into Arabic in the US presidential debates between Barak Obama and John McCain in 2008 and that between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton in 2016. The study came up with a deep look at the complications encountered during attempts to render culturally loaded terms in extreme pressurized interpreting environments by closely examining 10 culturally embedded terms and their respective Arabic interpretations.

Cultural Sensitivity and Translation Strategies

The results indicated that sets of CSTs usually resist direct translation because of their deep cultural and rhetorical embedding. Interpreters have to walk a tightrope between literal translation and contextual adjustment for effective communication. The literal translations, such as "الحلم الأمريكي" for "The American Dream," are linguistically faithful but may be inaccessible to readers who are not familiar with the source culture. In contrast, paraphrased or elaborated interpretations-as is the case with "الطموح الأمريكي لتحقيق النجاح الشخصي" - may be legible but distort the original rhetorical impact.

Accessibility to the Audience and Context

This study underlined the importance of the knowledge of the audience in adopting certain interpreting strategies. Terms such as "Swing states" and "Joe the Plumber", for example, needed an explanation to adapt them culturally to Arabic-speaking audiences. Interpreter B often used the paraphrasing, clarification and adaptation strategies which made the source text

intelligible yet conveyed its intended cultural meaning, thus applying Mona Baker's (1992) strategies of dealing with cultural non-equivalence.

Political Rhetoric and Interpretation

In presidential debates, the rhetorical context itself was a challenge. The emotive and ideological loads of terms like "Make America Great Again" and "Rigged system" were unique. For Interpreter A, the surface meaning was usually there; in the case of Interpreter B, expanded or paraphrased versions often captured the rhetorical intent, thus making better sense to the audience. This finding points out the necessity for interpreters to consider socio-political information conveyed by the source text if an accurate yet culturally sensitive rendition is to be produced.

Implications for Simultaneous Interpreting

The study underlined the interpreters' need to balance fidelity, cultural sensitivity, and brevity in simultaneous interpretation. While literal approaches may be sufficient in informed audiences, they prove inadequate in culturally diverse situations. Adaptation strategies ensure audience appeal but risk changing the tone or meaning of the source text. Interpreters should follow a dynamic approach; strategy choice should be done in view of the communicative context and expectations of the audience.

Contributions to Translation Studies

This research contributes to Translation Studies by pointing out the complexity of interpreting CSTs in a simultaneous setting and, more importantly, in politically charged contexts. The research verified the applicability of Vinay and Darbelnet's translation model and Baker's strategies to analyze the interplay between linguistic fidelity and cultural adaptation. It also identified the role of the interpreter as a cultural mediator who bridges the linguistic and cultural gaps.

Limitations and Future Research

The study focused on two debates and 10 samples, limiting its generalizability. Future research could expand the dataset to include more interpreters, debates, and contexts, such as media interviews or international conferences. Additionally, examining audience reception of interpreted content could provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of different strategies.

Final Remark

In conclusion, the interpreting of CSTs in US presidential debates is at once peculiarly challenging and peculiarly enabling. To interpret well, one needs not only linguistic competence but also cultural awareness and rhetorical sensitivity.

References

- Aal-Hajjahmed, M. J. (2022). *Cognitive processes in simultaneous interpreting from English into Arabic and from Arabic into English: A study of problems and interpreter strategies*. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

- Ali, S. A. (2022). Translating cultural specific terms and concepts. *Social Science Journal, Res Militaris*, 12(3).
- Baker, M. (1992). *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. Routledge.
- Ibrahim, I. T. (2022). The use of quadro-interpreting strategy in teaching 4th grade students/College of Arts/Al-Iraqia University: Simultaneous interpreting subject as a model (Unpublished manuscript). Al-Iraqia University.
- Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. Prentice Hall.
- Saadaoui, M., & Azmi, N. (2022). The impact of intercultural complications on interpreting. *Arabic Journal for Translation Studies*.
- Vinay, J. P., & Darbelnet, J. (1958). *Comparative Stylistics of French and English: A Methodology for Translation*.