

## The Role of Translation Efforts In Creating Mutual Understanding of Cultures: King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Award for Translation as A Model



### Literature

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### ABSTRACT

*Translation from one culture into another contributing in narrowing the gap between the different world cultures in addition to promoting the level of translation process and provide the mutual understanding of cultures. Translation Efforts play a vital role in supporting libraries with a number of amazing works in different fields of knowledge, which promotes to mutually introduce the cultural and scientific components of the human civilizations.*

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Translation and culture are among the most important factors in human communication. So the task of translation must be work to look for the similarities between language and culture, particularly similar messages. Translation in its broadest sense is not only a linguistic act, but it is also a cultural one and it's an act of mutual understanding across cultures. In translation, language and culture cannot be separated so, they express and shape the cultural reality. Salehi, M. (2012, p.82) explains that "in the process of translation, therefore, not only the two languages but also the two cultures come into contact. In this sense, translation is a form of intercultural communication"

#### OBJECTIVES

The aim of this paper is to investigate the role of translation efforts in enhancing the peaceful coexistence of cultures introducing King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Award for Translation as a model.

It also introduces how translation efforts can play a significance role in presenting the different cultures to different world readers and have enhanced the cross-cultural communication between the world cultures.

#### 2. THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Translation efforts play a very important role in creating mutual understanding of human cultures; it also leads to the promotion of dialogues among civilizations which are open toward more understanding to the translation efforts in achieving a real interaction between cultures. James, k. (2002) explains "when translating, it is important to consider not only the lexical impact on the TL reader, but also the manner in which cultural aspects may be perceived and make translating decisions accordingly"

#### 2.1 KING ABDULLAH BIN ABDULAZIZ INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR TRANSLATION

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Award for Translation is global award for amazing works of translation and pioneer institutions which contributed significantly to the field of translation from and into Arabic. The award which is located in King Abdulaziz Public Library in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was established on 31 October, 2005 upon the approval of the King Abdul-Aziz Public Library Council. (Wikipedia, 2012) defines the prize as:

The shared prize of \$ 1 million dollars has been called the richest translation award in the world. Prizes of \$ 200,000 each are awarded in four categories for translation in the fields of humanities, religion, literature and natural science, into and out of Arabic, with a fifth special prize for institutions that promote translation

Many researchers agreed that building bridges between the mainstreams of global cultures need values and behavioral patterns that obtain in these societies. So, King Abdullah bin Ab-

dulaziz International Award for Translation is one of the most important efforts that have been done in the recent years to create cultural rapprochement among people. (Mummar, 2012) said in a statement to the Saudi Press Agency:

The prize opens broad prospects for comprehensive and meaningful dialogue between the Arab-Islamic culture and other cultures in all areas of human knowledge and paves the way to the meeting of followers of religions on common denominators that achieve the interests and happiness for humankind and avoid the scourges of conflicts and confrontation

The importance of this award comes from different reasons. First, the award recognizes excellence in works translated to or from Arabic, acknowledges translators' accomplishments, and encourages efforts exerted in the translation industry. Second, this translation award advocates ideological, intellectual, and cultural dialogue among civilizations and narrows the gap separating nations as translation is a prominent tool in vitalizing cross-cultural communication. (Al-Seghayer, 2013) states that:

The global literary translation award is part of king Abdullah's vision for promoting dialogue among followers of religions and cultures, advancing intellectual interaction among civilizations, and encouraging dialogue among civilizations in an effort to develop a culture of peace that emanates from a complete belief in the importance of translation in achieving rapprochement among people

Third, the award promoting mutual transfer of knowledge, which is an immediate product of translation, will help nations satisfy this fundamental human necessity of communication and create the ideal environment for understanding, cooperation, and coexistence. Fourth, the award crosses all linguistic and geographical barriers to deliver a message of human understanding and brotherhood among nations. Finally, the award stimulates the movement of translation, enhancing opportunities for cultural dialogue and interaction among cultures. (Al-Khotani, 2013) states that "translation opens windows to other cultures and civilizations"

The award in its broadest concept has acquired worldwide recognition as a channel for global expansion of beneficial knowledge, bridging the language barriers in the quest of assisting lifelong learning.

Some translations were made from Arabic into Latin during the middle Ages, chiefly at Cordoba, Spain. Arabic translators tried to do a good job in fact, the very best that could be done in those days. These contributions serve as a bridge of communication and understanding between the West and the Arabic culture. (Al-Seghayer, 2013) states that:

It is a very well-established fact that the translation process in the Arab world today suffers from stagnation, although the im-

portance of translation as a contributing factor to knowledge and its direct link to the development of civilization in a rapidly globalized world is very much emphasized and acknowledged.

### 2.1.1 KING ABDULLAH BIN ABDULAZIZ INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR TRANSLATION ASSIGNED TO FIVE CATEGORIES , NAMELY:

1. Translation award for institutions.
2. Translation award in the Humanities from Arabic into other languages.
3. Translation in the Humanities from other languages into Arabic.
4. Translation award in the Natural Sciences from Arabic into other languages.
5. Translation award in the Natural Sciences from other languages into Arabic.

### 2.1.2 THE VISION OF THE AWARD

The vision of the award is to promote cultural exchange among peoples of the world and to advance intellectual interaction among civilizations.

### 2.1.3 The Mission of the Award

The award recognizes excellence in works of translation, acknowledges translators' accomplishments, and encourages efforts exerted in the translation industry. The award advocates ideological, intellectual, and cultural dialogue among civilizations and narrows the gap separating nations, in addition to promoting mutual transfer of knowledge that create the ideal environment for understanding, cooperation and coexistence (Ross et al., 1997).

### 2.1.4 The goals of the Award

1. Enriching the movement of translation as well as enhancing the dialogue of cultures.
2. Attracting the major universities, scientific and academic institutions and best translators throughout the world.
3. Opening doors of dialogue and knowledge and cultural communication among the Arab Islamic civilization on one hand and different world civilizations on the other.

### 2.1.5 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE AWARD

The award aims to support the Arab library by publishing the most intellectual works and by contributing to the transfer of knowledge from other languages and encouraging translation in the scientific fields.

### 2.1.6 THE AWARD AIMS TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

1. To contribute to the transfer of knowledge from and into Arabic.
2. To promote translation into Arabic in the various fields of science.
3. To enrich the Arab archive by publishing distinguished works of translation.
4. To recognize the achievements of institutions with outstanding contributions in the field of scientific translations from and into Arabic.
5. To establish standards of excellence in translation with regard to originality, scientific value, and text quality.

### 2.1.7 WINNERS OF THE AWARD

The King Abdullah International Award for Translation is designed to honor distinguished translation works and organizations that have contributed significantly to the field of translation from and into Arabic. The award in its broadest sense attracts many audiences regardless of their nationalities or religion. So, the winners of the award are of different

nationalities and religions. Prizes are awarded to 50 winners in four categories of translation in the fields of the humanities, religion, literature, and natural sciences, into and out of Arabic with a fifth special prize for institutions that promote translation. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Award for Translation is one of the richest translation awards in the world.

### 2.2 BORROWING

The most important aspect which is related to translation and lead to promoting the mutual understanding among cultures is borrowing. (Yule, 1985:65) states that "one of the most common sources of new words... is the process simply labeled as borrowing, that is, the taking over of words from other languages". A special type of borrowing is described as loan-translation. In this type of translation, there is a direct translation of the elements of a word into the borrowing language. An example of this is the French term *gratteciel*, which literally translates as 'a scrape-sky'. The English word *superman* is thought to be a loan-translation of the German *Übermensch*. The English word *banana* is a direct translation of the Arabic word 'banan' which means 'finger'. So, languages can borrow from each other to fill the lexical gap among them. Words can travel from one culture to another crossing the linguistic barriers to exist peacefully, examples of these words, including *financé*, *attaché*, *café* borrowed from French to English. *Alcohol*, *admiral*, *halal*, *jihad* (Arabic) *piano*, *opera*, *pizza* (Italian), *safari* and *Sahara* (Swahili).

### 3. RESULTS

1. The Award succeeded in attracting the major universities, scientific and academic institutions and best translators throughout the world.
2. The Award succeeded in opening channels of cultural interaction, enriching the movement of translation and enhancing the dialogue of cultures between Arabic and different world cultures.
3. The award serves as an intercultural bridge that enhanced the cross-cultural communication between the Arab culture and the West.
4. The award has gained worldwide recognition within just a short time of its establishment and it enhances the great interaction among institutions, cultural and scientific foundations, and individuals when nominating the best translated works in the human and applied sciences to compete for the award.
5. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Award for Translation creates ideological, intellectual and cultural dialogue between Arabic and other human cultures.
6. The Award can enrich the movement of translation by introducing different types of works to readers translated from and into Arabic.
7. The Award can open doors of dialogue, knowledge and cultural communication between the Arabic Islamic culture and different world cultures.
8. The Award promotes mutual transfer of knowledge as an immediate product of translation.
9. The Award can cross all linguistic and geographical barriers to deliver a message of human understanding and brotherhood among nations.
10. The Award in its broadest concept has acquired worldwide recognition as a channel of global expansion of knowledge.
11. The award encourages distinguished translation works and organizations that have contributed significantly to the field of translation from and into Arabic.
12. The award program attracts outstanding figures in the translation field.
13. The Award has been succeeded in achieving its objectives in promoting a high standard cultural exchange and intellectual interaction among civilizations.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Translation awards can play a vital role in encouraging the movement of translation which can reinforce the exchange of human values that minimize the opportunities for conflict among cultures and promote the mutual understanding of cultures.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. World institutions work in the field of translation has to encourage the international awards for translations.
2. International awards for translation have to work to encourage the mutual understanding of cultures, the unity and cultural cooperation among people of the world.

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