

The crisis of translating the term in the social sciences

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Received: 25/05/2023

Published: 29/10/2023

Abstract

Translation is a transfer of the meaning of a term from the mother tongue or source to the equivalent meaning in another language, or the target language. Each science, whether in the social, legal, medical, economic or other fields, is based on a bank of terms that allow the specialist to use and employ them technically, for example, psychology is witnessing a great development and an explosion of information and modern terminology, which has become important to find the equivalent term in the Arabic language, and the translation of the term in various sciences is an important tributary of its sciences, and an important factor for the transfer of information, as well as the expansion and spread of these sciences and the Arabic language in itself, because it will transmit modern information.

But the problem of translation to be addressed through this article is related to scientific translation in particular, where lies the problem of unifying the scientific term in general and psychology in particular, we may find a psychological, scientific or technical term in a foreign language that is synonymous with several terms in the Arabic language, especially in Arabic writings, this is what we really faced from difficulties related to this aspect during the preparation of the master's and doctoral theses, hence this article, through which we will try to highlight the crisis of translating the term in the social sciences in general and psychology in particular.

Keywords

Crisis, translation, terminology, psychology.

Introduction

Science advances and develops through the knowledge it provides to society, each of these sciences is also based on a card of concepts and terminology or so-called technical terms, which distinguishes it from other sciences, Science also develops through its transmission from one generation to another and from one culture to another, This is the role of translation, which plays the role of a carrier of knowledge throughout history, This is done by transferring the concept of the term from its source language to the recipient's language, especially in the social sciences, which is characterized by several difficulties, both at the cognitive and even methodological level, due to its overlap with other fields of knowledge, this also poses the problem of translating social concepts from foreign languages into the mother tongue, especially since this type of science, especially the branch of psychology, is based a lot on concepts and terminology often derived from schools and ideologies of foreign origin.

Based on the above, the scientific paper came under the title "The crisis of translating the term in the social sciences - psychology as a model - through which we will try to address some of the elements that we have seen important, perhaps the most important of which are: The concept of the term and its characteristics in psychology, as well as the importance of translating the social term in general and psychological in particular from a foreign language into Arabic, especially since this science is witnessing a continuous development and richness of new scientific terminology related to it.

Before going into the topic of the article, we decided to introduce some basic and basic inputs, including:

Scientific research: which is defined as a sequential and sequential process, aimed at investigating information about a specific problem, provided that the researcher follows scientifically specific methods and approaches, based on possible and temporary assumptions, determine the relationship between the variables to finally reach to reveal the truth of this relationship through the interpretation and analysis of the results.

While the concept of social research lies in the collection and investigation of information and knowledge according to specific scientific and methodological procedures and the researcher follows a specific approach, quantitatively, which depends on measurable evidence and statistical analysis, or the descriptive approach, which depends on the study of the social phenomenon through careful observation, in

order to collect data about it, and exploration of their causes according to the questions posed and the development of hypotheses to reach results, which allow in the end either to describe or explain these phenomena or events and identify the factors and possible causes of their appearance.

Accordingly, psychological research is defined as the process that includes a set of procedures adopted by the psychological researcher through planning, analysis and systematic interpretation of data in order to reach solutions and alternatives that help to understand the different problem or disorder (Rahali, 2012, p. 26).

Scientific research in the social field poses a number of difficulties, the latter of which are related to:

A - The cognitive aspect: as the social phenomenon, a relatively fixed phenomenon, variable and unstable as long as it is related to humans, and it is overlapping variables unlike the scientific phenomenon.

The social material is also affected by the researcher's cultural and social background, his interests and values may interfere with what he researches and observes and thus affect the results and judgments reached through his observations, in natural phenomena, the researcher is less influential in his subjectivity, values and background in preparing any step of the scientific method in research (Hamid, 2016, p. 28), the natural phenomenon is characterized by the absence of a personal, cultural and heritage component, they are without personality or culture, and they are devoid of time and space, while we find that these components are essential in building the human phenomenon (Al-Zoubi, 1997, p. 93).

Add to all of the above, the difficulty of accurately measuring the social phenomenon in the laboratory, because it is taught in a spacious and open place, and it cannot be created, but we wait for it to happen.

B- As for the methodological level: One of the difficulties that the social researcher receives, is firstly the abstract nature of some social concepts, and secondly the problem of translating social terms from the source language into Arabic, we may find a term in a foreign language translated into several vocabulary or words in the Arabic language, this is the core of the problem that we want to discuss through this article and before that we will address the concept of translating the term, finally, let us review the most

important difficulties related to translating the term in the social sciences in general and psychology in particular.

1. Definition of the term

The term is defined as a language, as it is derived from the verb "reconciliation" and as stated in "Lisan Al-Arab" that righteousness against corruption, the people termed: the disagreement between them is still and on the matter they got to know it and agreed (Ibn Manzur , 2005, p. 267), the term is referred to by two words, namely the convention or term, the first of them is a source of the verb(the term), while the other is the noun of an object from it, he used the infinitive to denote what is meant by the name of the object, the verb came idiomatically, so we say "I make up people", meaning: there was no disagreement between them, as for the term of some people on something, we mean that they got to know it and agreed on it (Academy of the Arabic Language, 2004, p. 520).

As for the terminology, the word term was derived from the verb reconciliation, and its connotation is clear on agreement and non-disagreement, conventions or terms are the words agreed upon to be used among the owners of the same specialization to express the scientific concepts of that specialization (Al-Saeed , p. 42).

Terms are one of the most important keys to science in various fields of specialization, and language is a set of terms, the difference between language and term lies in the fact that language is common among the general public, while terms are words circulating among a group of people or specialists, for example, the term "neurosis" or "psychosis" are terms for specialists or researchers in the field of negation, others cannot recognize it, so scientists are said to have agreed on the symbols of chemistry, that is, they agreed on them, and these symbols are the terms of any term on them (Shehabi , 1995, p. 5), here, Dr. Ezzedine Bouchikhi points out that there is a difference between the term and the word, the word in the language is launched arbitrarily, meaning when it is called a door or a window so they are names that cannot be interpreted or know their source, but the term is related to a property, for example: a calculator, it is called so, because it is a machine that performs different calculations, the meaning of the word may vary according to its position in the sentence, but the term has a fixed concept and is related to the field of specialization to which it belongs, this does not mean that this term cannot be found in other fields or disciplines, for example,

the term "value" is frequently used in the field of mathematical, physical and also economic sciences to denote quantity, and is determined by a number, We also find it in the field or specialization of philosophy, as well as psychology to express a characteristic of personality: and therefore the concepts of terms may be multiplied by the multiplicity of fields that employ them, that is, a term can be transferred from one discipline to another.

Here, (Bouchikhi, 2011) points out that the term has one specific concept in its field of specialization, that is, it is related to the conceptual field, this may result in the problem of translating the term, as it is not wise and logical to deal with the term as if it is singular and independent, but as it falls within a conceptual field related to the field of specialization, and the term can only be translated under the schools and ideologies to which it belongs according to our use as researchers or translators of special dictionaries and not ordinary, i will explain our idea by giving an example of the term "erotica zone" or "pleasure", which can only be understood or translated by referring to a dictionary of psychoanalytic terms and not even a dictionary of general psychology, this does not mean that some terms of specialization may not be understood by another group, for example, diabetes, Covid-19, are medical scientific terms, but they have become general because they have become common among the general public.

Also, the special terms indicate the competence of the owner or speaker, for example, the participation of a number of researchers in the forum of our language is characterized by terms, and psychological models and examples, and this is my scientific identity, which is reinforced by a set of technical terms, which may not be understood by a colleague or another researcher in the field of linguistics or others, and this indicates that the term has a very important function is the function of communication between specialists, for example: Our intervention is understood by psychologists more than others, or even among specialists in itself, and this confirms our previous idea about the problem of standardizing the translation of the term in the Arabic language, of course, this is not related to some scientific and internationally known terms, as they have the same meaning and sometimes often maintain the same word or symbol in all societies with different mother tongues, for example: CO₂, O₂, SIDA.

The term remains an important factor in the richness of the language, and the importance of the terms is highlighted in the following (El Didaoui , 2002, p. 275):

- Organization of knowledge based on relationships between concepts (description of phenomena).
- Transfer of knowledge, skills and technology.
- Formulation and dissemination of scientific and technical information.
- Translation of scientific and technical texts -Extraction and brevity of scientific and technical information.

2. Definition of translation

Translation is a tributary of science, as it is a carrier of the terminological heritage from the mother tongue or source to the target language or the language of the forum, and therefore it is defined as: "Expressing in another language or in the target language what is expressed in another, the source language, while retaining semantic and stylistic equivalences" (Robert, 2001, p. 42).

Translation may include all disciplines and sciences, but one of the most difficult terms to translate is the scientific terms, which are called specialized translation, which is characterized by a number of characteristics, the most important of which are the following (Karzabi, 2014, p. 32):

- Distance from aesthetics.
- Commitment to objectivity.
- Commitment to accuracy and honesty in translation.

Therefore, when we talk in our topic about the term in the social sciences in general and psychology in particular, the conversation necessarily drags us to the specialized term, by which we mean every term belonging to a specific scientific field, which in turn belongs to the so-called technical language or the language of specialization, which is defined as: "A sub-linguistic system, belonging to the mother tongue system, but it carries specialized information, and targets a specialized audience, as the need to achieve easy and effective communication, makes specialists deliberately exploit a linguistic system that corresponds to the requirements of their field and needs, hence the concept of the language of specialization (Jaffal, 2015, p. 80) ", and thus it is characterized by special dictionaries, and this is what we mentioned earlier.

All of the above inevitably leads us to talk about specialized translation, which is defined as: "the process of transferring texts belonging to specialized scientific fields, as this process requires special requirements for this field" (Jaffal, 2015, p. 83).

Based on the information and knowledge gains mentioned earlier, which dealt with the definition of the basic elements of this article, we will try below to move to the basic element of it.

3. The crisis of translating the term in the social sciences - psychology as a model –

It is known that there is a strong relationship between the term and translation, as the latter is working to find a counterpart to the term in other languages, and because the science of translation is special in itself, and many factors overlap, especially related, to the cultural framework that characterizes the text or the original word, as the word in society has its construction and social perceptions, for example, when Freud focuses in analytical psychology on "sex", it carries the meaning of "pleasure", in his explanation of mental disorders, especially gangs, he focuses on "infantile sexuality", which has a cultural meaning, as we said, linked to love and finding pleasure and gratification, but in our ordinary society, the term "sex" is associated with the sexual relationship between a man and a woman, and Freud's ideas have often been rejected by this logic.

Here we conclude that the process of understanding the translated term is mainly related to understanding the scientific premise and the social situation from which it started in the original language, so that the translation process is realized, or rather the translated word, because random interpretations misunderstand those terms transferred or translated, and here it is clear that the translation is for the specialist and not for the general public, in the sense that the specialist has a scientific base in his field, from which he started, and a literary heritage about this science so that he can later understand its meaning.

The problem of translating terms in the social sciences and psychology is not only related to understanding the meaning of the source term, but also about the difference between translators per se, in finding a single term that reflects its meaning and concept, especially if the target language, such as our Arabic language, is distinguished by the richness of its vocabulary, in addition to the competence of the translator, as it is one of

the basic criteria, according to what we mentioned earlier, that the translator must be a specialist in the material he wants to translate, so that he is familiar with the main concepts and theoretical background. From which the term proceeds in the mother tongue, he must adhere to accuracy and clarity, which enables him to explain and translate it correctly in the target language.

And here (Al-Jabri, p. 348) refers the researcher should avoid three common mistakes:

- Give a new translation of terms with known translations.
- Use of terms from the target language that are very local in nature.
- Literal translation (word for word).

Based on that, as researchers in psychology and supervisors of a number of graduation notes in this specialty, we faced many difficulties related to the translation aspect, or especially the Arabization of the psychological term, and this difficulty is accurate and we faced on a subjective basis, especially when we completed our doctoral thesis, which came under the title "Psychological burnout among teachers of the final departments", and here came "burnout" in French or English foreign language, and here we faced a list of terms such as: overheating, exhaustion, psychological attrition and even professional fatigue, and this difference is due to the translation of the term, as many researchers, especially in the field of psychology, preferred to use the direct translation of it from the English language in terms of meaning, which is "burnout".

The difference also occurred in the translation of this term according to the field of its use in research and studies, and we mean the work environment, for example, researchers used the term "occupational fatigue" in the field of studies related to, for example, the social services sector, meaning that the nature of the profession determined the singular that suits it literarily.

All this made us put forward the idea of participating in the activities of this forum, which raised the reality of a problem that may hinder the development of research and university studies, because as we know that the specialization of psychology is taught in our universities in Arabic, but its theoretical base is the Arabic language, as it requires a specialized language and translation.

4. Conclusion

Science develops as a result of the activity of translating terms from source languages to target languages, but the social sciences face a set of problems starting from the different research methods to the problem or crisis of translating terms, as the latter is the founder of science, if we strip psychology, for example, psychology of its terms disappeared and did not understand, then in terms science determines and understands, because psychology, like others, was born in another foreign environment, it is a product other than our language, and it had to be imported or translation was and still is the means Therefore, the requirement to standardize the translation of the term in our Arab world has become necessary in order to ensure the development of knowledge in it.

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