

Cross-Linguistic Dynamics: Adaptations in Translating English-Specific Structures into Kurdish

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Abstract:

This study deals with the dynamics of translating language-specific elements, which are conventionally labeled as the "untranslatable", from one language into another. It specifically investigates the adaptation strategies used for translating certain compound adjectives specific to English with unique cognitive and cultural inferences into Kurdish. The investigation aims to discover whether those English-specific structures are translated adaptively or creatively. The study attempts to identify and categorizes the translation patterns and strategies used in adapting the English compound adjectives in Kurdish. To achieve these aims, 20 Kurdish-speaking university instructors who are specialized in teaching English as a foreign language were purposively selected as the study's participants to fulfill the translation task. Having received relevant instructions regarding task objectives and the required translation method, the participants constructed their responses accordingly. The Kurdish translations were back-translated into English to facilitate and understand the analysis. One of the outstanding findings of the study was that such English-specific structures can be handled differently in the Kurdish language. This has resulted in the discovery of various adaptation strategies (or linguistic reconstruction patterns) not only for translating different examples, but also for the same example of the structure.

Key Words: Adaptive Translation, Compound adjectives, Kurdish language, English-specific structure, , Translation Strategies.

1. Introduction

Research on translation has so far covered a wide range of linguistic and cultural aspects and issues when translating a language into another. Studies are available on following a specific translation method or strategy for conveying the meaning effectively or solving certain translation problems efficiently. However, this current study is dedicated to explore a peculiar cross-linguistic dynamics phenomenon in translation. This study observes whether language-specific grammatical constructions or culturally specific references of the source language can be creatively translated into the target language. That is, language-specific features that have ever been considered untranslatable due to equivalence absence in the target language are viewed and investigated as a productivity factor by this study. Thus, the present literature experiments how variously research subjects conceptualize and formulate these language-specific structures in their own language. In other words, this study is an attempt to verify the hypothesis that these language-specific elements serve as source of productivity in the target language as the study's sample subjects might resort to 'dynamic equivalence' to communicatively translate such unique linguistic elements.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The phenomenon of having certain linguistic features, grammatical structures, or lexical items unique to a particular language is referred to as 'language specificity'. These language-specific components are the reflection of speakers' cultural, social, and cognitive nuances of that particular language's community (Crystal, 2010). Studying linguistic specifications has been of significant concentration in multiple fields of knowledge, such as cross-cultural communication, cognitive science, linguistics and translation studies. This interdisciplinary nature of language specificity phenomenon belongs to the fact that it helps researchers of these fields understand how meaning is encoded in a given language in ways that is cannot be directly translated into another language (Goddard, 2015). To explain, studying language-specific lexical items, particularly, tackles the issue of target language's lack of equivalent words or phrases for the direct translation of those linguistically specific elements in the source language. This equivalency mismatch between two languages is commonly attributed to discrepancies of cultural practices or conceptual formation (Wierzbicka, 1997). For instance, "tsundoku" is a Japanese-specific term that encapsulates a unique cultural concept (the act of acquiring books and letting them pile up without reading them). Similarly, the German word

“Schadenfreude” meaning (pleasure derived from another's misfortune) is another example of language-specific lexical items which does not have a direct equivalence in other language (Crystal, 2010). These examples are explained through paraphrastic translation due to their uniqueness to a particular language and missing counterparts in target languages.

The study of language specificity has a number of theoretical underpinnings. One of them is the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis which views that the speakers' worldview and cognitive processes is determined by the structure of their language (Hill & Mannheim, 1992; Everett, 2013). This idea is the strong version of their hypothesis which, despite the criticisms, highlights the significance of language-specific elements in dictating or molding the ways speakers perceive and schematize their experiences (Pavlenko, 2014). Another crucial theoretical foundation underlying the concept of language specificity is ‘linguistic relativity’ which underscores the connection between language and cognition. Studies have shown that language specificity can discover how life experiences and phenomena are prioritized and conceptualized differently by different cultures (Evans & Levinson, 2009). For instance, the existence of multiple words for snow in Inuit languages reflects the importance of distinguishing between different types of snow in their environment (Pullum, 1991). Moreover, language-specific features or lexical items are addressed in the field of ‘lexical semantics’ as well. Lexical semantics has tools which explore how meaning is constructed within a language. In lexical semantics, words are not regarded as labels for concepts and objects only; they are rather interpreted within a semantically-related network of words (Goddard & Wierzbicka, 2014). For example, the English word "river" and the French word "fleuve" both refer to bodies of water, but "fleuve" specifically denotes a river that flows into the sea, highlighting a distinction that is not lexicalized in English (Wierzbicka, 1997; Goddard, 2015).

Language specificity is also central concern in translation studies, especially when finding equivalent linguistic elements between two language becomes a challenge. This phenomenon has been labeled by Catford (1965) as “untranslatability”. He used this term to interpret for the concept when a word or phrase in the source language has no direct equivalent in the target language. Modern research has expanded on Catford’s concept by underscoring adaptive translation strategies and their role in cross-linguistic communication (Venuti, 2008; Baker, 2018). This “untranslatability” issue is usually addressed by “adaptive translation”. Adaptive translation (or paraphrastic

translation) is an approach involving the translation of a grammatical construction, concept or culturally specific reference from a language into another through inferring the underlying meaning rather than implementing word-for-word translation. Since the target language may lack an equivalent structure or concept, the translator rephrases or adapts the idea to convey the same meaning in a way that is natural and understandable in the target language (Munday, 2016). In translation studies, this mechanism is also known as ‘dynamic translation’ – a term coined by Eugene Nida in 1964 to explain the process of communicating the meaning and conveying the effect of source language’s specific elements without adhering strictly to its forms.

Now, it has been explained that language specificity intersects with each the theoretical frameworks of Sapir-Whorf Hypotheses, Linguistic Relativity, Lexical Semantics and Translation Studies. Although, the central concern of the current study falls in translation studies field, the rest of the three linguistic theories and fields will be of crucial significance for study’s analysis and interpretation of the phenomenon. The overall theoretical foundations all together explain the importance of language specificity in understanding speaker’s cognition, conceptualization, linguistic formulation, and cross-cultural communication.

3. SCOPE AND FOCUS

The present study is devoted to investigate the aforementioned phenomenon of language specificity between two languages, English and Kurdish. The main focus of the study is on certain grammatical constructions (including their conceptual inferences) that are specific to English language and that are absent in Kurish language, be it by construction or by the structured implied concept. The study considers whether the targeted English-specific grammatical components are translated into Kurdish in a way that entails productivity (creativity), through communicating the meaning, concept or cultural inferences faithfully. For this purpose, two typical English-specific grammatical constructions with unique conceptualized meanings, particular to English-speaking cultures, have been selected for investigation. The first one is the ‘compound adjectives’ formed with (noun + past participle), as in ‘evidence-based practice’ and ‘technology-enhanced learning’. The other one is the ‘compound adjectives’ resulted from the combination of (noun + present participle), such as ‘problem-solving skills’ and ‘knowledge-sharing platform’.

The rationale behind the selection of these grammatical structures is, firstly, their prevalence in English language across various disciplines and in different contexts. Secondly, these structures are completely absent in Kurdish language. That is, the ideas held in these grammatical constructions are expressed either absent or expressed differently in Kurdish language. In support of this claim, the list of all possible compound adjective constructions in the Kurdish language has been reviewed and compared, none of which match the targeted English compound adjective constructions, either in form or meaning. For the Kurdish language related literature, the researcher has consulted the book of ‘Word Formation’ by Prof. Nariman Khoshnaw (2023), which is a reliable reference covering a synthesis of popular linguists’ literature on Kurish morphology and word formation processes. This factual information or situation verifies the validity of the present study’s objectives and the reliability of its results.

4. PURPOSE

This study presents an original research idea and approach, aiming to explore the dynamics between the English and Kurdish languages in the translation of language-specific elements. Specifically, it investigates how the selected English-specific grammatical constructions—compound adjectives formed by combining a noun with a present or past participle—are translated into Kurdish. The primary objectives are to examine whether these language-specific elements, traditionally considered “untranslatable,” are translated paraphrastically by research participants, employing adaptive translations to interpret and convey the intended meaning from the source language (English); or are a source of productivity in the target language (Kurdish), as participants engage cognitive processes to comprehend the nuances of the intended concepts and represent them through creatively structured language.

In light of these aims, the study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1. How are the selected English-specific compound adjectives translated into Kurdish, adaptively (paraphrastically) or creatively?
2. What adaptation strategies are used in translating the selected English-specific compound adjectives?
3. Are there any mistranslations as by-products of the adaptations?
4. How do selected English-specific compound adjectives pose challenges for Kurdish translators?

5. METHODOLOGY

This study is an empirical translation research of mixed-methods type. That is, the study tests a hypothesis about a translation phenomenon to examine whether or not the expected results are the case. The analysis of the results, however, involves both qualitative and quantitative types of data, as it concerns how naturally and creatively the selected English-specific structures are adapted into Kurdish translation.

The research material used in this study consists of ten authentic examples of compound adjectives contextualized in short texts or sentences. These compound adjectives belong to the targeted types formed by noun + past participle and noun + present participle, which are characteristic of the English language. The authentic materials were extracted from various sources within the academic writing genre. This approach is supported by Biber et al. (1999), who state that compound adjectives formed by combining a noun with a past or present participle are prevalent in academic writing, as they provide concise descriptions. Moreover, as they explain, such grammatical constructions succinctly convey complex ideas in academic contexts.

Regarding the research participants, 20 Kurdish university EFL instructors were selected for the empirical translation task using purposive sampling procedures. First, they were chosen as university instructors, as they were expected to have a high level of literacy. Additionally, they were instructors in the English Department, given that the study required Kurdish speakers who were also proficient in English at both social and academic levels. Finally, the instructors were selected from various universities across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) to examine whether regional dialects—varieties of a language spoken in specific geographical areas—serve as variables influencing productivity in Kurdish translation.

The selected contextualized examples of the target compound adjectives were provided to the sample participants (instructors) for the practical implementation of the study. After obtaining their consent to participate, the instructors were assured of the anonymity of their identities and the confidentiality of their responses to ensure the integrity of the data analysis. Before completing the translation task, the participants received prerequisite guidelines. They were instructed to use the faithful translation method, which, as described by Newmark (1988), seeks to preserve the original meaning, structure, and nuances while allowing slight adaptations for readability. This method was chosen over others because it best serves the study's objective by excluding interpretive and paraphrastic translations.

Additionally, faithful translation facilitates the development of translation patterns in Kurdish for English-specific constructions. Thus, a Google Form was created to explain the main objectives of the study, the translation task items, and the guidelines for responding to them (translating sentences). The decision to use an online form for data collection was based on two reasons. First, an online form is versatile and dynamic, allowing all participants to access it in real-time with ease. Second, participants' responses can be stored and anonymously forwarded to the second evaluator for inter-rater reliability.

6. DATA ANALYSIS

The data analysis in this study is multifaceted, combining both descriptive and explanatory approaches. It documents the translation strategies participants use to render English-specific structures in Kurdish and explains their effects on Kurdish linguistic productivity. Additionally, the analysis follows a cognitive linguistic approach, examining how translators process and adapt English structures. As a result, it generates both quantitative and qualitative data, from which the study derives its results and implications.

The collected data are first divided into two categories to separately address the two targeted English-specific grammatical constructions. As previously explained, each category consists of five sentences translated by 20 participants. Instead of analyzing each participant's overall responses, the study examines how all 20 participants translate each sentence across both categories. This approach enables a clear classification of the strategies used and facilitates the analysis of translation patterns.

Analysis Category I – *Compound Adjectives* formed by a *Noun and Past Participle*

In this category, the first five sentences containing *compound adjectives* formed by a *noun + past participle* are analyzed. The analysis primarily focuses on the targeted English-specific structures; however, references are also made to the overall sentence quality in support of the main structural translation analysis. Furthermore, the analysis examines mistranslation cases in which the intended meaning of the source language sentences is lost due to literal translation, 'false friend' translation, semantic shift, translation errors, or cultural misinterpretation.

The first sentence in the translation task completed by the participants was "*The findings suggest that **evidence-based policies** lead to more effective governance in public administration.*" This particular compound adjective has been translated literally into

Kurdish by more than half of the responders. Yet, their translations, which have followed the source language structure closely, are meaningful and communicative. It seems that literal translation might produce a structure in the target language which are almost out of the ordinary. Other responders have followed different strategies for rendering the meaning of this adjective in Kurish, such using a single-word adjective or reconstructing the whole adjectival phrase with different grammatical structure. The complete list of the Kurdish translations for this specific example is presented below, along with their English back-translations for comparison purposes.

TABLE 1

Translation Patters Analysis of the First Sentence Responses

Original structure	Kurdish translation	Frequency	Back-translation	Strategy
Evidence-based policies	سیاسەتی پشتبەستوو بە بەلگە	12	‘Based on evidence’ Policies (<i>communicative</i>)	Literal
	سیاسەتە بەلگەدارەکان	6	Evidential Policies (<i>communicative</i>)	One-word adjective
	رێکاری لەسەر بەلگە بنیادنراو	2	Policies that are developed on evidence (<i>communicative</i>)	Adaptive Tr. <i>relative clause</i>

The second sentence in this category, which read “*The newly developed computer-assisted methodology enhances efficiency in large-scale linguistic corpus analysis*”, has caused difficulties for a number of the responders. The errors they have committed include the wrong word choice and semantic deviation. One prevailing feature found in the overall translators’ responses is the use of relative clauses (full or reduced) to communicate the semantic features of the compound adjective. This adaptive translation strategy (also known as *paraphrastic translation*) has resulted in varying degrees of translations’ quality. That is, some have been successful in conveying the intended meaning, whereas some others have failed. In addition to the translation strategies, the mistranslation cases have been identified and stated at the end of each back-translation sentences when applicable.

TABLE 3

Translation Patters Analysis of the Third Sentence Responses

Original structure	Kurdish translation	Freq.	Back-translation	Strategy
theory-informed framework	چار چۆه ی زانبار بییدراو	2	Information-given framework (<i>semantic shift</i>)	Literal.
	چار چۆه یه کی تیۆری	2	A theoretical framework (<i>communicative</i>)	Single-word adj.
	چار چۆه یه کی پشتبهست به تیۆر	6	A 'based-on theory' framework (<i>communicative</i>)	Adaptive
	چار چۆه یه کی پالپشتیکراو به تیۆری	4	A 'backed-by theory' framework (<i>communicative</i>)	Adaptive
	چار چۆه یه کی تیۆری-ناگادار کراو	2	A briefed theoretical framework (<i>false-friends translation</i>)	Double adjective
	چار چۆه یه کی تیۆری دهوله مه ند	4	An enriched theoretical framework (<i>communicative</i>)	Double adjective

Another sentence containing a new instance of compound adjectives of the same construction type was “*A student-centered curriculum fosters engagement and deeper learning in higher education settings.*” Almost half of the participants have resorted to the literal translation strategy by coping the structure of the target English phrase. Although following this strategy has resulted in strained or forced phrasing in Kurdish, their translations are still easily understandable and are communicative of the intended source meaning. On the other hand, half of them have paraphrastically translated the sentence using relative clauses to communicate the idea successfully. A few others have altered the compound adjective into a stringy explanatory construction to handle the implied notion in Kurdish.

TABLE 4

Translation Patters Analysis of the Fourth Sentence Responses

Original structure	Kurdish translation	Freq.	Back-translation	Strategy
student-centered curriculum	پرۆگرامی خویندنی خویندکار (تهوهری/ناو هندی ریبازی قوتابی سهنتهر	8	A student-center curriculum (<i>Forced Phrasing - Communicative</i>)	Literal
	مه نه ه جیک که قوتابی تنبیدا چه ق بیت	10	A curriculum where students are the center. (<i>communicative</i>)	Adaptive Relative Clause
	پرۆگرامی خویندن تایبهت به فیر خواز و مک چه فی فیربون	2	A curriculum special to students as the center. (<i>communicative</i>)	Explanator y

The responses to the last compound adjective example in the category contain the most diversified translations in terms of construction. The authentic sentence within which the compound adjective was embedded was “*A government-funded initiative has expanded access to renewable energy in rural communities.*”. It is apparent that all the participants have used the same grammatical structure as that of English in their translations. That is, the English noun phrase that holds the target compound adjective has been translated a matchable structural label (a Kurdish noun phrase). Nonetheless, the Kurdish noun phrases used to translate the intended meaning are constructed differently containing varying components or structures, namely simple (one-word) adjectives, full relative clause and reduced clause. Below are the complete translation responses given by the participants showing how adaptively one particular example of English compound adjective is handled in Kurdish using diverse strategies.

TABLE 5
Translation Patters Analysis of the Fifth Sentence Responses

Original structure	Kurdish translation	Freq.	Back-translation	Strategy
government-funded initiative	دهسپیشخه‌ریه‌یه‌کی پیتاکراوی حکومت	2	An assisted initiative of government	One-word Adj. NP (<i>Communicative</i>)
	دهسپیشخه‌ریه‌یه‌ک به - یار مه‌تی دارایی حکومت دهسپیشخه‌ریه‌یه‌ک به - پالشتی دارایی میری	4	An initiative with the government's financial support	One-word Adj. NP (<i>Communicative</i>)
	دهسپیشخه‌ریه‌یه‌کی دارایی حکومت	2	A government's financial initiative	One-word Adj. NP (<i>Communicative</i>)
	دهسپیشخه‌ریه‌یه‌کی که له‌لایهن حکومتوه پارهدار دهکریت	2	An initiative financed by the government	Reduced Clause NP (<i>Communicative</i>)
	دهسپیشخه‌ریه‌یه‌کی پالشتیکراو له‌لایهن حکومتوه	6	A supported initiative by the government	One-word Adj. NP (<i>Communicative</i>)
	دهسپیشخه‌ریه‌یه‌کی حکومت له رووی داراییه‌وه	2	Government's initiative in terms of finance	One-word Adj. NP (<i>Communicative</i>)
	به‌رنامه‌یه‌کی که له‌لایهن حکومتوه پشتگیری دارایی دهکریت	2	An initiative that is financially supported by the government	Full Clause NP (<i>Communicative</i>)

The aggregate adaptive strategies used for translating all five contextualized compound adjectives in this category are illustrated in the following pie chart for ease of understanding. This statistical calculation is fulfilled out of a total of 100 responses given by the 20 participants.

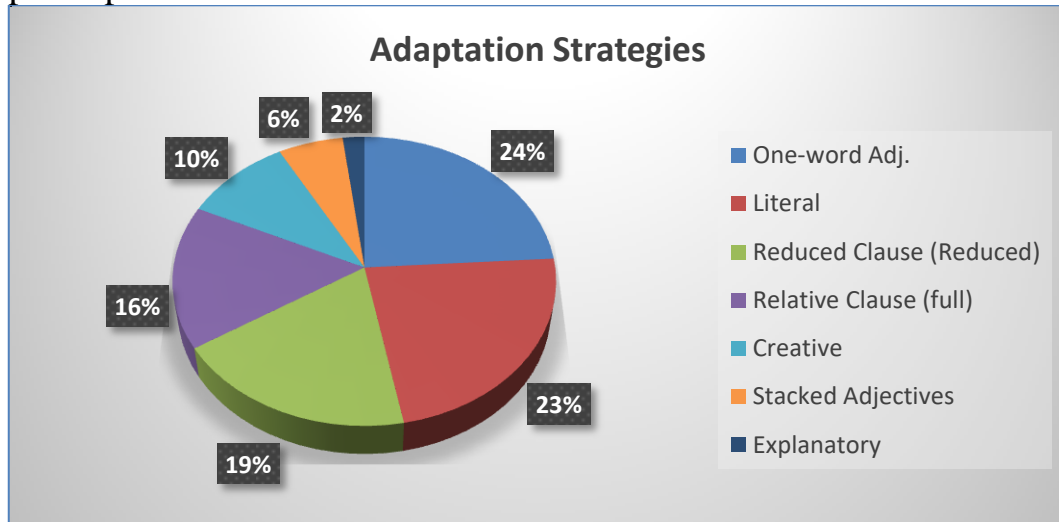


Fig. 1. Strategies used in Translating English-Specific Compound Adjectives (1st Cat.) into Kurdish

This figure is explanatory of how challenging the compound adjectives have been for the participants to translate into Kurdish. The use of seven different strategies for adapting such an English structure into their mother tongue is a confirmatory indication of that structure's absence in their language. Moreover, these observable results prove the dynamic and creative nature of the participants responses.

Analysis Category II - Compound Adjectives formed by a Noun and Present Participle

Translating compound adjectives that fall into this category seems to have been easier for the responders, presenting higher rate of uniformity and almost no errors. Due to absence of direct equivalence in Kurdish language, this type of adjective has been translated paraphrastically through different strategies, such as using simple adjectives, relative clauses, longer noun phrases containing independent gerunds (not compounded with other elements). However, the responses also contain creatively translated examples of the structure that can stand as its equivalence in meaning and are almost alike in construction. The observable instances of this case are using the structure of 'compound agent nouns' constructed by (*noun* + *noun* (, as in 'income-producer'. The second *noun* in the construction is found to be always an 'agent noun', which appears to have been used to compensate for the agentive semantic feature (doer of the action) expressed by the present participle component in the original

English structure, as in “income-generating”. Using such kind of construction by the participant translators can be regarded as a creative act with regard to linguistic productivity.

Regarding the translation of the first sentence, more than half of the responders (participant translators) have uses the ‘*compound agent noun*’ structure to convey the meaning of the ‘*compound adjective*’. However, the second part of the compound adjective has not always been the same in terms of semantic features componential analysis. For instance, ‘-user’ has been used to mean ‘-consumer’. Other common translations have been conducted through paraphrasing using relative clauses.

TABLE 6
Translation Patters Analysis of the First Sentence Responses
(Cat. II)

Sentence: Energy-consuming industries play a significant role in global carbon emissions and climate change.		
Kurdish Translation	Freq.	Back-translation
پیشه‌سازی به‌کاره‌ی وزه به‌کاره‌ی نه‌کاره‌کان	4	Energy-user industries
پیشه‌سازی به‌کاره‌ی وزه به‌کاره‌ی نه‌کاره‌کان	8	Energy-consumer industries
پیشه‌سازی کارکردن به‌کاره‌ی وزه	2	Industries working by energy
نه‌کاره‌ی وزه به‌کاره‌ی نه‌کاره‌کان	6	Industries that use energy

Half of the responders have translated the second example of the English-specific structure decomposing and reconstructing. That is, they have separated the compound adjective components and reused them as independent elements within prepositional phrases, for example “income-generating activities” has been changed to “activities of creating [generating] income”.

TABLE 7 Translation Patters Analysis of the Second Sentence Responses (Cat. II)

Sentence: Income-generating activities in rural communities contribute to economic sustainability.		
Kurdish Translation	Freq.	Back-translation
چالاکییه دهرامه‌ت به‌کاره‌ی نه‌کاره‌کان	6	Income-producer activities
چالاکییه داهات دروست‌کاره‌کان	4	Income-creator activities
چالاکییه‌کانی دروست‌کردنی داهات	4	Activities of creating income
چالاکییه‌کانی به‌کاره‌ی نه‌کاره‌کان (په‌پێدانی) داهات	2	Activities of developing income
کار و چالاکییه‌کانی به‌ده‌سته‌پێدانی داهات	2	Activities of yielding income
نه‌کاره‌ی چالاکییه‌کانی که داهات دروست ده‌کات	2	Activities that create income

Much like the second example, the third example has been translated by ‘compound noun agent’ and ‘reconstruction’ strategies. But the latter one outnumbers the former by large.

TABLE 8

**Translation Patters Analysis of the Third Sentence Responses
(Cat. II)**

Sentence: The research focuses on problem-solving strategies employed by multilingual students in mathematics education.		
Kurdish Translation	Freq.	Back-translation
تهکنیکه کیشه چارهسهرکرههکان	4	Problem-Solver strategies
تراتیژهکانی چارهسهرکردنی کیشه	16	Strategies of solving problems

The translation of the fourth sentence has received responses uncommon compared to the previous ones. Half of the participants have used a simple adjective (one-word adjective) to interpret the meaning of the compound adjective within the sentence. However, this ‘altered word-choice’ strategy has induced semantic shifts. For instance, the word ‘*dangerous*’ does not seem to be exactly representative of ‘*risk-taking*’. Nonetheless, there are successful trials of the same kind where translator have used the one word ‘*adventurous*’ suggesting a willingness to take risks in a positive way. The other half of responses consist of translations fulfilled by different strategies.

TABLE 9 Translation Patters Analysis of the Fourth Sentence Responses (Cat. II)

Sentence: The study explores how risk-taking behavior varies across different cultural contexts.		
Kurdish Translation	Freq.	Back-translation
رهفتاری سههچلانه/سههکهشانه	8	Adventurous behavior
رهفتاری مهترسیگر	2	Risk-embracer behavior
رهفتاری سههکیشیکردن	4	Behavior of adventure (Semantic shift)
رهفتاری مهترسیدار	2	Dangerous behavior (Semantic shift)
ههلسوکهوتی مهترسی گرتنهههه	4	Behavior of taking risk

In translating the last example sentence, only two of the participants have attempted to replace the target English structure with a Kurdish equivalence element. To explain, they have used ‘*compound agent nouns*’ as a corresponding equivalence in function and structure for the ‘*compound adjective*’. All the other remaining participants have utilized the ‘*decomposing and reconstruction*’ strategy by which they have rephrased the English structure. That is, same original linguistic elements have been used adaptively to express

the intended meaning and idea. For instance, “time-saving techniques” has been paraphrastically translated into “techniques of saving time”. However, not all of them have been successful in the word choice that interprets nuances of the word “save” within its context; some have made semantic shifts in their translation as shown in the back-translations below.

TABLE 10 Translation Patters Analysis of the Fifth Sentence Responses (Cat. II)

Sentence: Time-saving techniques in machine learning allow for faster and more efficient model training.		
Kurdish Translation	Freq.	Back-translation
تهکنیکی کاتگیر مهوه	2	Time-saver techniques
تهکنیکهکانی گیرانهوهی کات	6	Techniques of saving time
تهکنیکهکانی پاشهکوهتکردنی/ گلدانهوهی کات	8	Techniques of hoarding time (Semantic shift)
تهکنیکهکانی پاراستنی کات	2	Techniques of protecting time (Semantic shift)
تهنیکهکانی بهفیر و نادانی کات	2	Techniques of not wasting time

The following figure visually explains the percentage of different strategies used for adapting the intended meaning of the compound adjectives in the second category in the Kurdish language.

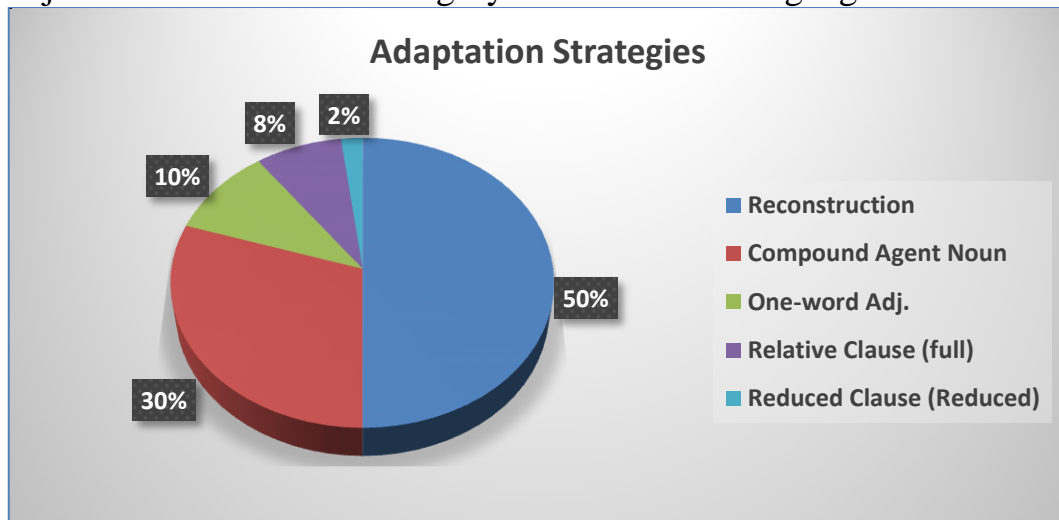


Fig. 2.: Strategies used in Translating English-Specific Compound Adjectives (2nd Cat.) into Kurdish

Comparing the two figures, remarkable differences in the responses are noticed in translating the two distinct type of compound adjectives. The use of unique adaptation strategies and the disproportionate rates of the shared type of adaptations are the two significant distinguishing features between the translations of the adjective categories. These observable phenomena in the responses are discussed in more detail in the next section.

7. DISCUSSIONS

This study was centered around investigating the dynamics of translating certain compound adjectives unique to English language into Kurdish. It was an attempt to discover whether these English-specific structures are translated into Kurdish through adaptation or through creativity. In addition, this study aimed to identify and categorize the strategies used by translator participants to adapt the selected English structures (adjectives formed a noun and a past participle / a present participle) into Kurdish, as well as the challenging areas highlighted by mistranslation examples found in the responses.

In general, the translations rendered in Kurdish language for the selected English-specific linguistic constructions communicative of the intended meanings. However, the participants have been able to present such successful responses by using varying translation strategies ranging from literal translation to creative construction. Nonetheless, all these strategies have been used by the research participants as different forms of adaptation. This reconfirms the absence of the one-to-one equivalence in the Kurdish language for the selected English-specific structures.

As summarized in the visual representations of the first analysis category, one of the common strategies used is literal translation, where the translators have attempted to copy the original structure of the English linguistic element. Despite of being communicative of the general ideas or meanings, this kind of translation have caused structural unnaturalness in Kurdish, such as *forced phrasing*. Another common type of strategy found in the translations is labeled ‘*one-word adjective*’ by this study as opposing to the notion of ‘compound adjective’. A number of translator participants have been able to dynamically employ a simple adjective in compensation of the whole compound adjective, for example, *evidential* is used for *evidence-based*. Yet, this dynamic has occasionally resulted in semantic shifts, although slightly. One evident instance is turning ‘*government-funded initiative*’ into ‘*financial initiative of the government*’ where the adjective *financial* is used for combined adjective ‘*-funded*’. The use of *relative clauses*, be it full or reduced, is not less frequent than other adaptive translations. They have been used as a complete structural transformation strategy by which the intended meaning has been interpreted and implied. On the other hand, some participants, albeit fewer, have used ‘*stacked adjectives*’ instead only one in their translations. That is, they have stacked two adjectives sequentially to convey the meaning the compound adjective components fully. This

can be regarded as a smart solution close to linguistic creativity for translating such unique English structures. A good example of this strategy can be translating “*a theory-informed framework*” into “An enriched theoretical framework”. The least common translation strategy found in the responses is ‘*explanatory*’. By this type, have just tried communicate minute semantic nuances resulting in producing stringy expression. They have simply explained what the English compound adjective implies in Kurdish. Changing “*A student-centered curriculum*” into “*A curriculum special to students as the center*” is a typical instance of explanatory tremulation.

As for the second analysis category, the compound adjectives seem to have been easier for the participants to translate for a few observable reasons. First, fewer adaptive strategies, compared to the first category examples, have been used in translating the English structures into Kurdish. Second, the majority of translation responses have uniform structures. Two of the most frequent and unique adaptation strategies used in translating the compound adjectives of the second category (formed by ‘*noun + present participle*’) are ‘*reconstruction*’ and ‘*compound agent noun*’.

Half of the translations have been conducted through reconstruction which is simply paraphrasing the phrases containing compound adjectives using their exact constituent components. Participants have found it viable and easily communicative to translate examples like ‘time-saving techniques’ into ‘strategies of solving problems’; and ‘problem-solving strategies’ into ‘techniques of saving time’. The second most common translations are rendered using ‘*compound agent nouns*’ – a generative structure of Kurdish language formed by ‘*a noun*’ and ‘*an agent noun*’. Compound agent noun is one of the most helpful constructions for linguistic productivity as it allows generating any semantic components carrying agentive features. By this adaptive dynamic, ‘energy-consuming industries’ has become ‘energy-user industries’; ‘income-generating activities’ has changed to ‘income-producer activities’; and ‘problem-saving techniques’ to ‘problem-saver techniques’. In this analysis category, the translations share only two of the least frequent adaptation strategies with the first analysis category, namely *relative clauses* (full and reduced) and *one-word adjective*. This last finding explains how different the two selected compound adjectives are to be approached when translated due to their distinctive semantic features, one implying the doer of the action (present participle), the other carrying the characteristics of the receiver of the action (past participle).

The findings of this particular translation study can be useful for Kurdish readers in different contexts. Schools and universities can make use of these adaptation strategies in teaching and learning English, especially when translating such language specific constructions into Kurdish. The prevalent use of such kind of translations in academic and social contexts makes it easier for the coming generations to understand such concepts with ease and enriches the Kurdish language.

8. CONCLUSIONS

This study concludes that the language-specific structures which are conventionally regarded “untranslatable” can actually be translated. This concluding statement, at least, works for translating the selected English-specific compound adjectives into Kurdish. Moreover, due to their uniqueness to English language and having no direct or paralleled equivalence in Kurdish language, the selected compound adjectives can be communicatively converted into Kurdish through a range of strategies. Last but not least, translating such English structures not only allows for various linguistic adaptations but is also a remarkable factor for creativity in the target language.

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الديناميكيات اللغوية: التكيفات في ترجمة التركيبات الخاصة باللغة الإنجليزية إلى اللغة الكردية

مستخلص البحث

تتناول هذه الدراسة ديناميكيات ترجمة العناصر اللغوية، والتي تُوصف عادةً بأنها "غير قابلة للترجمة"، من لغة إلى أخرى. وتبحث الدراسة تحديداً في استراتيجيات التكيف المستخدمة لترجمة بعض الصفات المركبة الخاصة باللغة الإنجليزية، ذات الاستدلالات المعرفية والثقافية الفريدة، إلى اللغة الكردية. هدفت الدراسة إلى معرفة ما إذا كانت هذه التراكيب الخاصة باللغة الإنجليزية تُترجم تكيفياً أم إبداعياً. كما سعت الدراسة إلى تحديد وتصنيف أنماط واستراتيجيات الترجمة المستخدمة في تكيف الصفات المركبة الإنجليزية إلى اللغة الكردية. ولتحقيق هذه الأهداف، تم اختيار 20 أستاذاً جامعياً ناطقاً باللغة الكردية، متخصصين في تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية كلغة أجنبية، للمشاركة في الدراسة. بعد تلقيهم التعليمات ذات الصلة بأهداف المهمة وطريقة الترجمة المطلوبة، بنى المشاركون إجاباتهم وفقاً لذلك. تمت إعادة ترجمة الترجمات الكردية إلى الإنجليزية لتسهيل التحليل وفهمه. ومن أبرز نتائج الدراسة إمكانية التعامل مع هذه التراكيب الخاصة باللغة الإنجليزية بشكل مختلف في اللغة الكردية. أدى ذلك إلى اكتشاف استراتيجيات تكيف متنوعة (أو أنماط إعادة بناء لغوية) ليس فقط لترجمة أمثلة مختلفة، بل أيضاً لنفس البنية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التركيبات خاصة باللغة الإنجليزية، الصفات المركبة، اللغة الكردية، الترجمة التكيفية، استراتيجيات الترجمة.