

PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING NOUN PHRASES IN ENGLISH LITERARY TEXTS INTO ARABIC

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Abstract

This study investigates how syntactic and structural disparities between English and Arabic noun phrases (NPs) affect translation fidelity, particularly in literary contexts. Drawing on Nida's model of formal and dynamic equivalence, it examines six complex English NPs from *Wuthering Heights*, each rendered by three Arabic translators, totaling eighteen translations. Through qualitative and statistical analysis, the research evaluates how translators manage morpho-syntactic features such as adjective stacking, definiteness, possessive constructions, and relative clauses. The study aims to identify recurring translation obstacles and assess whether hybrid equivalence strategies can effectively bridge linguistic gaps. Findings reveal distinct translator preferences: one inclined to formal equivalence, another toward dynamic rendering, and a third balancing both in a mixed approach. Eleven recurrent translation problems were identified- chiefly relative clause misrendering, lexical shifts, and structural reordering. The results support the hypothesis that a hybrid application of equivalence offers a more adaptable and context-sensitive solution in literary NP translation.

Keywords: Noun phrases, literary translation, formal equivalence, dynamic equivalence, English- Arabic, Eugene Nida.

1.INTRODUCTION

Equivalence is central in translation theory, especially in literary texts that demand structural accuracy and stylistic expression. Nida's model- distinguishing formal from dynamic equivalence- offers a framework for addressing the syntactic and functional challenges of rendering English NPs into Arabic. Given the significant structural asymmetries between the two languages, especially regarding adjective order, definiteness, and relative clauses, this study investigates how translators apply equivalence strategies to preserve meaning and form. Six NPs from *Wuthering Heights* were each translated by three Arabic translators (Al-Hanawi, Adwan, and an anonymous translator), resulting in 18 renderings. The study analyzes these using qualitative contrastive methods supported by statistics, identifying eleven recurring translation problems. It aims to examine syntactic and linguistic challenges in NP translation, assess strategic translator behavior, and provide practical and theoretical insights into Arabic literary translation. It hypothesizes that structural divergence complicates NP translation, that no fixed equivalence exists between English and Arabic NP forms, and that Nida's model- especially in hybrid application- can help mitigate structural and lexical issues, as confirmed through comparative analysis.

2.METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative contrastive method with statistical support to analyze the translation of six complex noun phrases (NPs) from 'Wuthering Heights' into Arabic. Based on Nida's equivalence theory- formal, dynamic, and mixed- the research examines 18 Arabic renderings (three per NP) by Anwar Al- Hanawi, Abdullah Adwan, and an anonymous translator. Analysis involves mapping NP structures; examining Arabic versions for definiteness, modifiers, possessive forms, apposition, and relative clauses; classifying applied equivalence types; and identifying 11 translation problems (lexical shifts, syntactic restructuring, register variation). Statistical tables and diagrams compare frequencies across translators, ensuring a precise, comparative evaluation of fidelity, fluency, and stylistic integrity.

3.The Noun Phrases in English

A noun phrase (NP) according to Quirk et al. (1985:1339) is a syntactic structure centered around a noun or pronoun that serves as the head. A noun phrase is a phrase with a noun or pronoun as its head, which may be preceded by pre- modifiers (such as determiners, adjectives, and participles) and followed by

post- modifiers (such as prepositional phrases and relative clauses) Crystal, 2003: 214). This view is echoed by Hirtle (2009: 252- 253), who explains that a NP consists of a substantive as its principal component, along with additional words that modify or complete it . Cook and Sutter (1980: 35) similarly describe the NP as incorporating a noun or pronoun with relevant modifiers . From this, it follows that noun phrases serve grammatical functions as subjects, objects, or complements within sentences (Quirk et al., 1985: 1341). Based on structural patterns observed in English literary texts and their Arabic translations, a noun phrase can be defined as a syntactic and semantic unit built around a noun or pronoun, which serves as a referential anchor in the sentence and may be expanded by a range of modifiers to express specificity, quantity, description, or relation. Its structure reflects the linguistic flexibility of English and poses significant translational challenges due to cross-linguistic differences in phrase construction.

4.Modification in English Noun Phrases

Simple NPs in one hand consist of a head noun with or without a determiner, as illustrated in the example: *A boy, flowers, the teacher*. Complex NPs, on the other hand, include pre- modifiers and/or post-modifiers, for example, *the tall boy with curly hair* Modification in English noun phrases is classified into two main types: pre- modification and post- modification, both of which enrich the meaning and structure of the noun phrase. The pre- modifiers are placed before the head noun and typically include determiners, adjectives, participles, and noun modifiers (Quirk et al., 1985). For instance, in the phrase *those two lovely old carved chairs*, the NP contains multiple pre- modifiers in a fixed order: Determiner + numeral + evaluative adjective + size/shape adjective + participle + noun modifier + head noun,(Quirk et al., 1985: 1340; ; Huddleston & Pullum, 2005:65). Pre- modification can be adjectival, participial, or nominal. Adjectival pre- modifiers describe qualities like, *a beautiful day*, participial modifiers as -ed participle as *carved*, or -ing participle as, *burning* which add action or description as in, (a burning candle), and nominal pre- modifiers act like compound nouns for example , *stone wall*. Post-modification, on the other hand, consists of elements placed after the head noun and is usually realized through prepositional phrases, as in, *the book on the table*, relative clauses, such as, (the man who arrived late), or non- finite verb forms as in *the book to read*. These post- modifiers as for (Biber et al., 1999: 589) carry important semantic roles, and are essential for clarifying or specifying the referent and are more flexible in structure than pre- modifiers.Quirk et al. (1985:1341) also note that post- modifiers are more flexible in structure than pre- modifiers, which follow a stricter syntactic order. This flexibility gives post- modification a broader range of expression but can introduce ambiguity in translation if not carefully managed. Minor postmodifiers may include, appositive phrases: Mr. Smith, the manager. Adverbials: The city nearby, a place down the road. These elements, though optional, contribute to stylistic tone and literary depth, and are common in fictional prose,(Baker, 1992: 42).

5. The Noun Phrases in Arabic

In Arabic, a noun phrase (الجملة الاسمية) is a group of words with a noun as its nucleus, accompanied by dependent elements that describe, limit, or specify it. The Arabic noun phrase also plays syntactic roles such as subject (مبتدأ), predicate (خير), and object (مفعول به),(Al-Dijwi, 1997: 73). Based on structure and function, Arabic noun phrases can be classified as: Simple NPs is a single noun or noun with a definite article, or determiner as illustrated in the examples respectively: *الرجل, هذا الرجل, رجل*, whereas, complex NPs involve Structures that involve description, possession, or further explanation ,as in the examples: *كتابه, كتابه, الكتاب الجديد على الطاولة, كتابه* (Al-Dijwi, 1997: 74- 75). Modification is strictly post- nominal in Arabic, and the elements must match the noun in gender, definiteness, and number. These grammatical constraints often necessitate reordering and reformulation when translating from English ,(Quirk et al., 1985: 1341; Ibrahim, 1990, p. 113).

6.Modification in Arabic Noun Phrases

Modifiers in Arabic always follow the noun, forming what is commonly referred to as post- modification. The two primary structures for noun phrases in Arabic are the idafa construction (التركيب الاضافي) such as *كتاب الطالب* Here, *كتاب* is modified by *الطالب* through a genitive relationship (Al-Dijwi, 1997: 74). In the descriptive construction (التركيب الوصفي) like *الرجل الطويل*, a noun is followed by an adjective that agrees with it in gender, number, definiteness, and case. Examples include: The Main Types of Post-modification in Arabic noun phrases are: 1. Adjectival Modifiers: These come directly after the noun and must agree in definiteness and grammatical features, *الطالب النكيه, البيئ الجميل*. Adjectives may be coordinated using the conjunction (و) in cases involving multiple modifiers, like, (Al-Rajhi, 2001:142) *السيارة السريعة والمريحة*. 2. Relative Clauses: Introduced by *الذي* and its variants, relative clauses are common post- modifiers: *الكتاب الذي قرأته, الرجل الذي جاء متأخراً*. Relative clauses function to restrict or describe the referent and are structurally bound to follow the noun,(Al-Rajhi, 2001:144). 3. Prepositional Phrases and Adverbials: Prepositional phrases such as *في المكتبة* or *تحت الشجرة* also serve as post-modifiers: *المدينة في الجنوب المقعد تحت الشجرة* (Al- Dijwi, 1997:78). These post-modifiers can occur alongside

adjectives and relative clauses in more elaborate noun phrases. Pre- modification is not structurally allowed in Arabic. Attempting to place adjectives or modifiers before the noun breaks syntactic rules and semantic clarity. This makes the translation of English noun phrases with heavy pre- modification , look at the example, (a beautiful old carved wooden box) particularly challenging, often requiring syntactic restructuring in Arabic, (Al-Dijwi, 1997: 78; Baker, 1992: 78).

7. Data Analysis/ Syntactic and Functional Comparison

1.NP → a visit to my landlord, the only neighbor I shall have for many miles

NP St. [Det. + N + PP + App. NP + RC]

لقد عدت الساعة من زيارة مالك الأرض التي أسكنها، وهو جاري B/ زيارة مالك بيتي، ذلك الجار الوحيد الذي سيكدر صفو وحدتي A/
عدت للتو من زيارة لصاحب المنزل الذي أقطنه والذي يعد الجار الوحيد C/. المنعزل عن الناس الذي يسبب لي المشاكل في المستقبل
لي على بعد أميال

1.Definiteness and Determination: In the source NP, *a visit* begins with an indefinite article, indicating a non-specific event, which Arabic conveys by omitting *ال* and using nunation, rendering it as *زيارة*. This transitions into definiteness with *the only neighbor I shall have for many miles*. A employs ذلك, resulting in *ذلك الجار الوحيد* emphasizing exclusivity. B uses a possessive phrase with *وهو جاري*, prioritizing context over brevity. C utilizes an idafa construction, *إصاحب المنزل*, followed by *الجار الوحيد*, where *ال* indicates definiteness.

2. Apposition and Modification: *The appositive phrase the only neighbor I shall have for many miles*, clarifies *my landlord*, integrating *only* with a relative clause. Each Arabic rendition interprets the apposition differently. Version A mirrors the format with *ذلك الجار الوحيد*. Version B uses a circumstantial clause, *وهو جاري المنعزل* while Version C employs nested relative clauses, *الذي أقطنه والذي يعد الجار الوحيد لي*, على بعد أميال.

3. Adjectival Use & Mod. Placement: In English, adjectival pre- modification, as in *only neighbor*, translates into Arabic as post-nominal modification. A places *الجار* after *الوحيد*, following Arabic adjective order. B substitutes *only* with *المنعزل*, altering the implied meaning to social isolation. C uses *الوحيد* within a relative clause, preserving semantic correspondence.

4. Possession via Idafa Construction: The possessive pronoun *my* in *my landlord* is expressed through idafa constructions: A/ *مالك بيتي*, B/ *مالك الأرض*, C/ *المنزل صاحب*. All maintain the possessive relationship, with varying lexical choices. A and B emphasize ownership with *مالك*, while C uses a more idiomatic expression. Definiteness is preserved in all cases.

5. Relative Cause Strategies : The relative clause *I shall have for many miles* delineates *neighbor*, and clarifies its meaning. A employs a direct relative clause, *الذي سيكدر صفو وحدتي*, ensuring semantic clarity. B integrates the clause into a circumstantial construction with another relative clause, *الذي يسبب لي المشاكل*, C uses a dual relative clause structure, *الذي يعد الجار الوحيد لي والذي أقطنه*, illustrating complexity.

6. Formal & Dynamic Equivalence in CA: This analysis examines syntactic strategies in English and Arabic regarding complex noun phrases. The English sentence exemplifies structural density, while the Arabic employs post-nominal modification, idafa constructions, and embedded relative clauses.

A shows formal equivalence with an idafa phrase and an appositive. B adopts dynamic equivalence via a circumstantial clause and an embedded relative clause. C combines both strategies with an idiomatic idafa and dual relative clauses, preserving complexity.

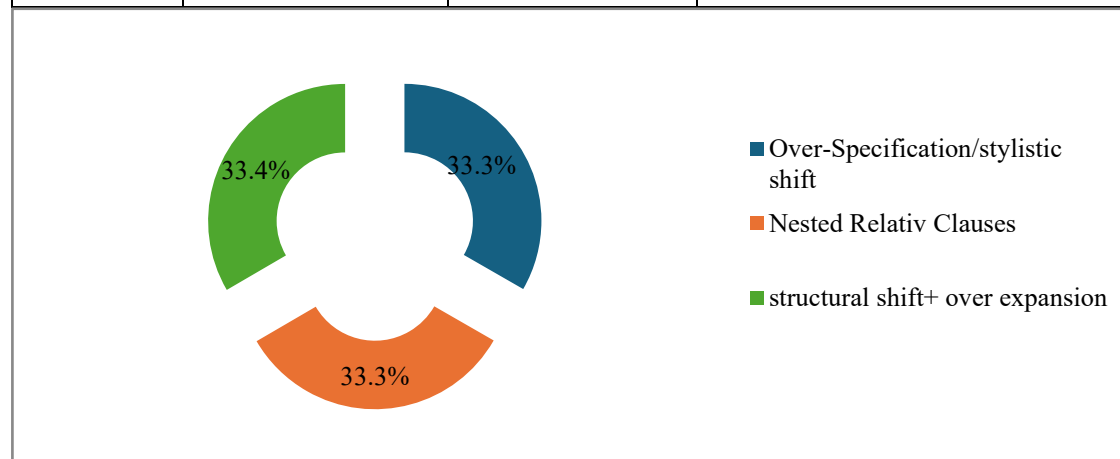
Table (1) Syntactic Structures & Nida's Equive. Evaluation of Arabic NPs

Trans.	Arabic NP St.	Appropriateness	
		F. equival.	D. equival.
A	NP → [N + Id + App + Adj + RC]	+	-
B	NP → [N + Id + Circ Cl + Descr Cl + RC]	-	+
C	NP → [N + PP + RC + App + PP]	-	+

Table (2) Translation Problems

Version	Trans.	Problem	discussion
A	زيارة مالك بيتي ذلك الجار الوحيد الذي سيكدر صفو وحدتي	Over-specification / Stylistic shift	Appositive is preserved but elaborated/ interpretation with emotional content. This interpretation is not found in the source.

B	زيارة مالك الارض وهو جاري المنعزل عن الناس الذي يسبب لي المشاكل في المستقبل	Structural shift and over expansion	appositive is replaced with circumstantial clause and speculative detail, altering tone and narrative scope.
C	لصاحب المنزل الذي أقطنه والذي يعد الجار الوحيد لي على بعد أميال	Nested Relative Clauses	Structurally mirrors the original NP with embedded RCs; optimal formal equivalence and syntactic fidelity.



Diagram(1) translation problems samples (1)

2. NP → people who touch nothing

3. NP st. → [N + RC] This sentence features a head noun individuals, followed by a restrictive relative clause who refrain from interaction, which refines the reference group. The phrase is indefinite and pragmatically neutral. The Arabic renderings vary in their treatment of definiteness and scope.

1. Determination and Definiteness: The noun "individuals" is indefinite, crucial to the warning's nature.

A. *يمس شيئاً* uses an indefinite subject, aligning with the original. B. *لا يمسون شيئاً في الغرفة الأشخاص الذين لا* shifts to a definite reference, enhancing specificity. C. *لا يلمس أغراضه* personalizes the referent. Only A retains the indefinite scope; B and C restrict it. 2. Relative Clause Realization: The English noun phrase includes a restrictive relative clause 'who refrain from interaction. A, *بمن لا يمس شيئاً*, employs a concise negative relative clause. B expands the clause with *في الغرفة*, modifying the referent's domain. C alters the focus. A remains the closest structural equivalent, while B expands unnecessarily and C shifts tone.

3. NP Structural Comparison: A mirrors the original form, preserving generality. B offers a functionally accurate yet divergent version. C sacrifices neutrality for personalization.

4. Equivalence and Evaluation: A exemplifies functional and dynamic equivalence, capturing the indefinite reference while maintaining neutrality. B shows dynamic equivalence with definiteness, while C displays personalization but deviates from the original expression. The English noun phrase "individuals who refrain from interaction" exemplifies syntactic economy and semantic neutrality. Among the Arabic translations, A replicates structure and intent, achieving equivalence. B provides a contextually enriched paraphrase, and C prioritizes style over fidelity. A stands out for its precision and alignment.

Table (3): Syntactic Structures & Equive. Evaluation of Arabic NP Ts

T	Arabic NP Structure	Appropriateness	
		F Equive.	D Equive.
T A	NP → [Rel Pronoun + Neg Verb + N]	+	+
T B	NP → [Def + N + Rel Clause + PP]	-	+
T C	NP → [Exception Marker + Rel Pronoun + Poss NP]	-	+

Table(4) Types of problems & discussion

Version	Trans.	Type of Problem	Discussion
A	من لا يمس شيئاً	Implicit subject + concise RC	Maintains indefiniteness and restrictive clause; structurally minimal and accurate.

B	الأشخاص الذين لا يمسون شيئاً في الغرفة	Definiteness shift + contextual expansion	Adds a locative mod., altering the original's general scope.
C	إلا من يلمس أغراضه	Exception Personalization +	Shifts focus through exception structure and adds possession, deviating from the generic tone.

Issue Type	Percentage
Addition	10%
omission	20%
Structural	30%
lexical	20%
Register	20%

Diagram(2) translation problems samples (2)

Cases, followed by omissions, additions, and shifts in register. The percentages reflect the prominence of each issue type.

3. NP→ the prettiest eyes, smile, and sweetest smile and tightest foot in our part of the country

NP st.→ [Det + Superlative Adj + N] + [Coordination] + [PP] This noun phrase is a coordinated compound structure of superlative expressions, each beginning with *the* followed by a superlative adjective modifying concrete nouns. The entire NP is post-modified by ‘in our region,’ emphasizing cumulative traits. A/ كانت أجمل فتيات الناحية أعينا وأحلاهن ابتساماً وأرشقهن خطوة C/ صوت وأرشق قوام في الأبرشية كان لها أجمل عيون وأعذب ابتساماً وطالما كانت أخف قدم في القرية/

1. Definiteness and Determiners: The definite article "the" emphasizes exclusivity. A uses superlative forms with pronouns, B introduces attributes through →, and C outlines definitive qualities via superlative phrases.

2. Coordination and Superlative Adjective Structure: The English phrase features triadic coordination of superlative noun phrases. A combines superlative adjectives with plural forms, B uses verbal possession, and C maintains direct coordination with noun–adjective pairs. C preserves the original structure faithfully.

3. Lexical Accuracy and Semantic Alignment: C shows the highest semantic precision. A employs metaphorical substitutions, while B shifts lexical fields.

4. Equivalence and Evaluation: A highlights stylistic elegance, B restructures into a verbal possessive clause, and C maintains clarity. The English noun phrase exemplifies coordinated superlative structure. The Arabic renderings vary: A is expressive, B is fluent, and C is precise for academic contexts, recommended for research and comparative studies.

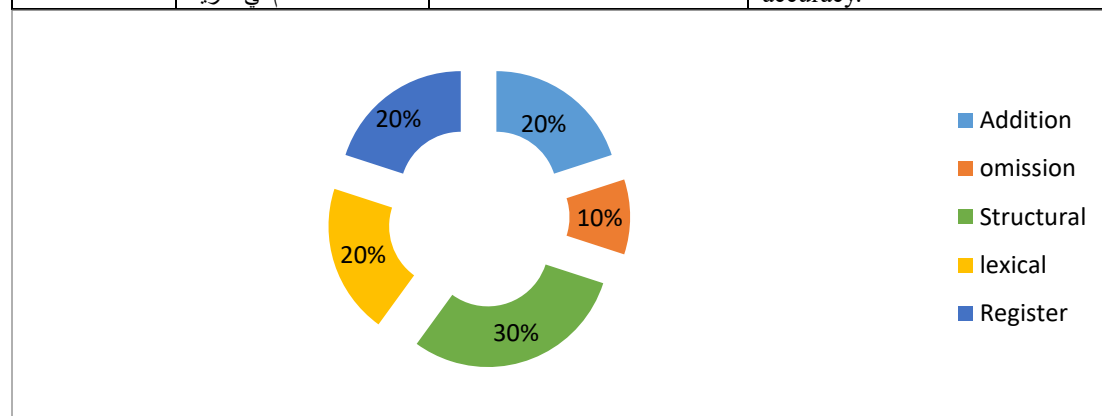
Table (5): Syntactic Structures & Equive. Evaluation of Arabic NPs

T	Arabic NP Structure	Appropriateness	
		F Equive.	D Equive.
T A	NP → [Superl + N (pl) + Coord + Superl + N + Coord + Superl + N]	–	+
T B	NP → [Prep Phrase + Superl + N + Coord + Superl + N + PP]	–	+
T C	NP → [Prep Phrase + Superl + N + Coord + Superl + N + Clause]	+	–

Table(6) Types of problems & discussion

Version	Trans.	Type of Problem	Discussion
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A	أجمل فتيات الناحية أعينا وأحلاهن ابتساماً وأرشقهن خطوة	Stylistic restructuring / Pronoun substitution	Uses pronouns and superlatives creatively; departs from noun-based coordination but maintains poetic tone.
B	تمتاز بأجمل عين وأعذب صوت وأرشق قوام في الأبرشية	Lexical shift / Partial mismatch	Substitutes 'smile' with 'voice' and 'foot' with 'physique', compromising semantic alignment.
C	لها أجمل عيون وأعذب ابتساماً وطالما كانت أخف قدم في القرية	High syntactic and lexical fidelity	Preserves the coordinated superlative structure and semantic accuracy.



Diagram(3) translation problems samples (3)

This diagram illustrates the distribution of translation problem types identified in Sample 3, Lexical and structural issues were the most common, followed by omission, addition, and shifts in register. The percentages indicate the prominence of each issue type within the translations.

4. NP→ Mrs. Dean, my housekeeper, who is beginning to believe that I had perished on the moor
NP st. → [Proper Noun + Appositive NP + RC] Expanded, NP → [PN + NP Poss Pron + N + RC] . This complex NP comprises a proper noun, Mrs. Dean, and an appositive NP, my housekeeper, adding non-restrictive information. A non-restrictive RC, who is beginning to believe..., provides supplementary background. Collectively, the phrase forms a cohesive NP with embedded identifying and descriptive information. A أنني أسرعت الخادمة للترحيب بي وهي تجهش بالبكاء وقالت أنهم كانوا قد قطعوا الأمل في نجاتي، وكان كل منهم حيث C. اندفعت مدبرة بيتي لاستقبالي مرحبة، وهي تقول إنهم كانوا قد ينسوا من عودتي، فقد ظنوا إنني هلكت B. يعتقد قضيت نجبي استقبالا حاراً، بعد أن بدأت تعتقد أنني لقيت حتفي في المستنقعات - مدبرة المنزل - السيدة دين استقبلتني

1. Definiteness and Referential Identity: The English NP combines a proper noun, Mrs. Dean, with a possessive NP, my housekeeper, enhancing clarity. A uses الخادمة, omitting the proper noun, leading to a loss of referential identity. B employs مدبرة بيتي, preserving possession but omitting the name. C includes both, maintaining referential integrity.

2. Appositive Structure: English features a non-restrictive apposition marked by commas. A omits the apposition for a narrative presentation. B integrates the role in the main clause but separates it. C uses hyphenated apposition, accurately reflecting the English structure.

3. Relative Clause Integration: The English clause, who is beginning to believe, is non-restrictive and provides context. A and B divide the clause into separate sentences, while C employs بعد أن بدأت تعتقد, preserving continuity and embedding. C retains the RC structure, while A and B reduce cohesion.

4. Equivalence and Evaluation: A offers a natural rendering but omits key elements. B enhances clarity but loses the proper noun. C retains the proper noun, appositive structure, and RC, making it the most faithful rendering. A prioritizes fluency over accuracy, while B provides relevance but lacks cohesion. C reconstructs the NP, ensuring clarity and coherence, ideal for academic analysis and literary fidelity. C is the preferred rendering for advanced translation research.

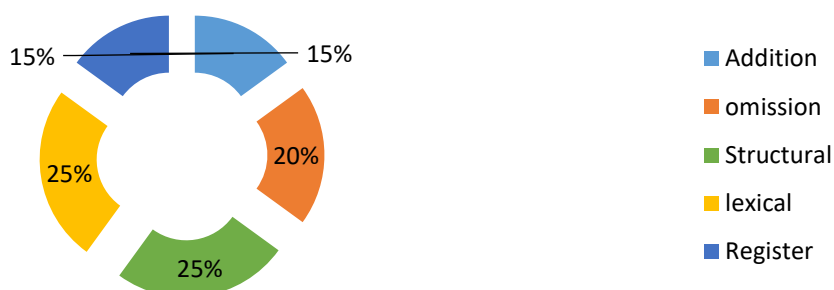
Table (7): Syntactic Structures & Equive. Evaluation of Arabic NPs

T	Arabic NP Structure	Appropriateness	
		F Equive.	D Equive.
TA	NP → [Det + N], followed by independent VP clauses	-	+

T B	NP → [Poss Const + N], followed by clause (VP + RC paraphrase)	-	+
T C	NP → [PN + Hyphenated Apposition (N + Det)] + PP/VP (Semantic RC)	+	+

Table(8) Translation Problems

Version	Trans.	Type of Problem	Discussion
A	أسرعت الخادمة للترحيب بي وهي تجهش بالبكاء...	Omission of proper noun + fragmented RC	Misses 'Mrs. Dean' and appositive structure, opting for emotional elaboration.
B	اندفعت مدبرة بيتي لاستقبالي مرحبة، وهي تقول...	Proper noun omitted / Possessive shift	Uses 'مدبرة بيتي' without naming 'Mrs. Dean', breaking structural alignment.
C	استقبالأ حاراً، -مدبرة المنزل -السيدة دين بعد أن بدأت تعتقد...	Apposition and RC well preserved	Captures full appositive and RC structure, optimal formal equivalence.



Diagram(4) translation problems samples (4)

This diagram illustrates the distribution of translation problem types identified in Sample 4, Lexical and structural challenges were the most prevalent, followed by omission, addition, and register shifts.

5.NP → the shelf on which I placed my candle

NP st. → [Det + N + RC on which + Clause]. This NP is composed of a definite head noun *shelf* modified by a restrictive RC *on which I placed my candle*, introduced by a prepositional relative pronoun. The function of the clause is locative and specifying, identifying a particular referent within the discourse. *A* وضعت الشمعة على المكتبة حيث *B* كان على قاعدة النافذة التي وضعت عليها شمعتي بضعة كتب بالية كُذِّست في ركن منها/*A* كان الرف الذي وضعت الشمعة عليه يحتوي على كتب قديمة وُضعت فوق *C* وجدت داخلها بعض الكتب/ الموضوع في إحدى الزوايا بعضها البعض في أحد الأركان.

1. Definiteness and Det. Structure: The noun *shelf* is definite, presupposed by the article *the*, and further specified by the RC. uses *قاعدة النافذة*, a lexical substitution, yet retains definiteness via *ال*. *B* Employs *المكتبة*, a general noun, definite, but broader in meaning. *C* Uses *الرف*, a direct and lexically faithful rendering. All maintain definiteness; *C* is the most accurate in lexical fidelity and referential alignment.

2. Relative Clause Realization: *A* *وضعت الشمعة عليها شمعتي* mirrors the English prepositional clause structure and conveys the locative function accurately. *B* Replaces the RC with a locative connector, *حيث* *وجدت داخلها* Danamically equivalent but structurally altered. *C* *الذي وضعت الشمعة عليه* is a grammatical and functional match, directly preserving prepositional placement and RC structure. *C* achieves the closest structural match to the English NP. *A* is functionally valid but conceptually shifts the noun. *B* diverges syntactically. **3. Lexical Accuracy, 'Shelf':** *A*. *قاعدة النافذة*, contextually plausible, but conceptually

different. B المكتبة/bookcase- denotes a different referent, semantically broader. C الرف, the exact lexical equivalent. C exhibits precise lexical fidelity, critical for formal academic equive.

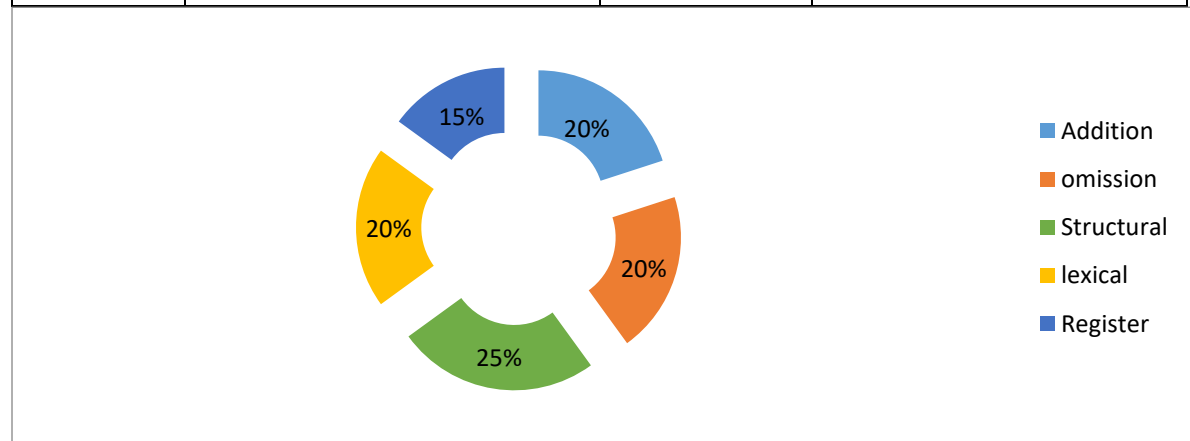
4.Equivalence and Evaluation: The English noun phrase "the shelf on which I placed my candle" exemplifies a locative relative clause structure. Among the Arabic renderings, A captures the semantics but alters the head noun, while B emphasizes narrative fluidity. C accurately reflects the lexical identity and structure, making it the most suitable translation. C should be used in academic contexts requiring fidelity and precision.

Table (9): Syntactic Structures & Equive. Evaluation of Arabic NPs

T	Arabic NP Structure	Appropriateness	
		F Equive.	D Equive.
T A	NP → [Det + N + Rel Clause (PP + Poss + N)]	-	+
T B	NP → [Det + N], followed by PP + contextual clause	-	+
T C	NP → [Det + N + Rel Clause (PP + Poss + N)]	+	+

Table(10) Types of problems & discussion

Version	Trans.	Type of Problem	Clarification
A	كان على قاعدة النافذة التي وضعت عليها شمعتي	Lexical substitution	Replaces 'shelf' with 'window ledge', altering spatial and functional meaning.
B	وضعت الشمعة على المكتبة حيث وجدت داخلها بعض الكتب	Locative shift	Substitutes RC with a locative clause, breaking NP unity and changing reference.
C	كان الرف الذي وضعت الشمعة عليه يحتوي على كتب قديمة	Formal equivalence	Maintains RC, noun choice, and syntactic alignment with the source NP.



Diagram(5) translation problems samples (5)

This diagram shows the distribution of translation problem types in Sample 5. Lexical and structural issues were the most common, followed by omissions, additions, and shifts in register, with percentages reflecting their prominence in the translations.

6. NP → a dirty, black-haired child in torn clothes

NP st. → [Det + Adj + Compound Adj + N + PP in + Adj + N]. This noun phrase is complex, featuring modifiers and a prepositional phrase. The article *a* introduces an unspecified referent. It combines description with attire, enhancing visual imagery and character portrayal. A/ وإذا بي أرى طفلاً، ذا شعر أسود، مهلهل الثياب. B/ قذراً، مهلهل الثياب. C/ رأيت طفلاً متسخاً أسود الشعر، وإذا بي أرى طفلاً، ذا شعر أسود، قذراً، مهلهل الثياب. *يرتدي ملابس ممزقة.*

1. Definiteness and Determination: In English, the indefinite article "a" marks the noun phrase (NP) as non-specific. A/B طفل reflects this indefiniteness. C/ طفلاً maintains syntactic alignment and definiteness. All translations convey the intended indefiniteness of the original NP.

2. Modification Strategy: English Components, dirty- Simple adjective black-haired -Compound adjective in torn clothes - Post-modifying pp **3. Arabic Strategies:** A/B *ذا شعر أسود* Translates *black-haired* using an idāfa possessive structure, قذراً (dirty) as a post-nominal adjective, مهلهل الثياب rendered as a nominal phrase. These Ts present a list-like series of mods. separated by commas, which sacrifices cohesion and syntactic integration. C/ *طفلاً متسخاً أسود* Compact adjectival phrase reflecting *dirty child*. *أسود الشعر* accurate post-nominal compound adjective. A, the RC using a finite verb, replacing the English pp. This structure maintains syntactic unity and stylistic fluency in Arabic, while preserving semantic layers. C provides a cohesive syntactic flow and superior integration of all mods.

3. Lexical and Structural Cohesion: A/B, while accurate, employs a fragmented structure that undermines fluency. C demonstrates precision and fluidity, with the verb *يرتدي* replacing *in torn clothes* through a more idiomatic construction. The phrase *يرتدي ملابس ممزقة* captures the intended meaning effectively.

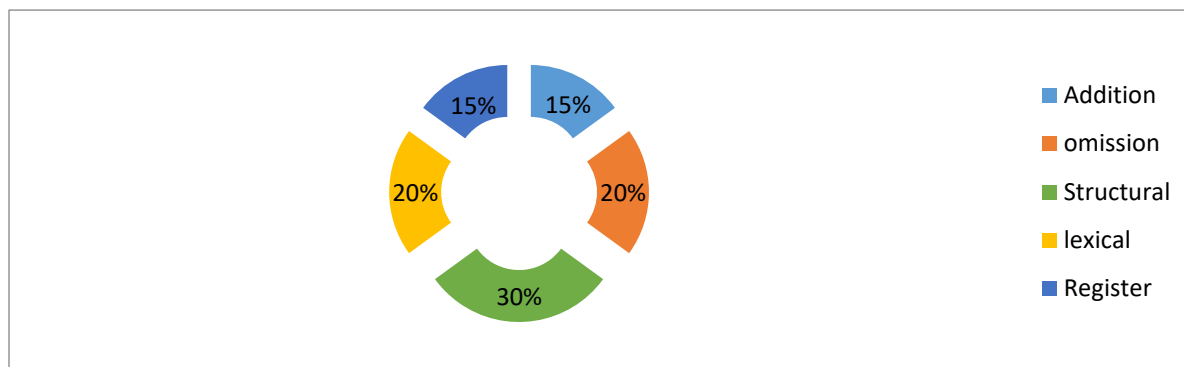
4. Fidelity of Arabic NP Structure, NP → [Noun indefinite + Adj + Compound Adj (idafa) or post-nominal + Clause] as in: *طفلاً متسخاً أسود الشعر يرتدي ملابس ممزقة*. **5. Equivalence and Evaluation:** The phrase *a dirty, black-haired child in torn clothes* is syntactically complex. Effective Arabic translation requires careful rendering of adjective order and modification. Translations A and B maintain meaning but lack cohesion, while Translation C achieves integration and fluency, making it the most accurate for academic and literary contexts. Translation C excels in equivalence and semantic depth.

Table (11): Syntactic Structures & Equive. Evaluation of Arabic NPs

T	Arabic NP Structure	Appropriateness	
		F Equive.	D Equive.
T A	NP → [Indef N + Idāfa + Adj + App Adj + N + Adj Phrase]	-	+
T B	NP → [Indef N + Idāfa + Adj + App Adj + N + Adj Phrase]	-	+
T C	NP → [Indef N + Adj + Postmod Compound Adj + Rel Clause (Verb + N + Adj)]	+	+

Table (12) Types of problems & discussion

Version	Trans.	Type of Problem	Discussion
A	طفل، ذا شعر أسود، قذراً، مهلهل الثياب	Disjointed structure	Presents mods. in a list-like, fragmented structure, reducing cohesion.
B	Same as A	-	Repeats A's issues of mod. segmentation without syntactic cohesion.
C	طفلاً متسخاً أسود الشعر يرتدي ملابس ممزقة	Omission and addition	Integrates all mods. fluently, maintains NP unity, and replaces PP with an idiomatic verbal clause.



Diagram(6) translation problems samples (6)

This diagram shows the distribution of translation challenges in Sample 6. Lexical and structural issues were the most common, followed by omissions, additions, and register shifts. Percentages reflect the prominence of each issue in the translations.

7.1 Statistics on Equivalence Types in Translation

The comparative evaluation of equivalence strategies- Formal, Dynamic, and Mixed- based on Nida’s model, highlights distinct preferences among the three translators. The results from six complex noun phrases show varied strategic applications. Table (13) presents the detailed use of strategies across each noun phrase, while the percentage breakdown below summarizes the translators’ overall tendencies:

Table (13): Strategies Use per NP and Translations

NP No.	English NP (Shortened)	TA (F)	TA (D)	TA (M)	TB (F)	TB (D)	TB (M)	TC (F)	TC (D)	TC (M)
1	A visit to my landlord	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
2	People who touch nothing	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
3	Prettiest eyes...	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
4	Mrs. Dean, my housekeeper	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
5	The shelf on which...	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
6	A dirty, black-haired child	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

Legend:

✓ = Used | ✗ = Not Used

F = Formal | D = Dynamic | M = Mixed Equivalence

Equivalence Strategy Usage Percentages(14)

Strategy	TA (%)	TB (%)	TC (%)
Formal	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%
Dynamic	28.6%	35.7%	35.7%
Mixed	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%

Translator A demonstrated a clear preference for formal equivalence, employing it in half of the applicable cases. Translator B leaned toward dynamic equivalence, using it most frequently and avoiding formal strategies entirely. Translator C showed a balanced yet flexible approach, using all three strategies but favoring mixed equivalence—the highest proportionally among the three.

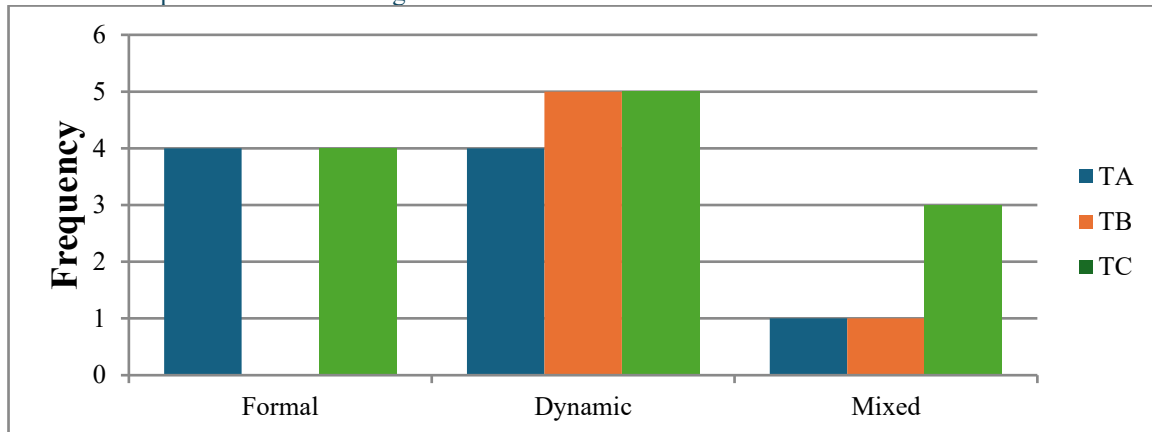
7.2 Combined Strategy Distribution Analysis

The statistical overview of the six noun phrase translations reveals a spectrum of equivalence strategies across translators:

TA tends toward literal and structure-preserving translations, relying heavily on formal equivalence but employing dynamic strategies when required. TB exhibits a functional, meaning-oriented approach, privileging naturalness and fluidity through dynamic equivalence. TC strikes a strategic balance, combining formal precision with flexible adaptation, most notably using mixed strategies in 60% of the instances.

Overall, these findings suggest that translator choices reflect not only individual style but also varying levels of sensitivity to syntactic form, semantic load, and target-language fluency. The comparative

evaluation of equivalence types- Formal, Dynamic, and Mixed- based on Nida’s model, revealed translator preferences and strategic variations.



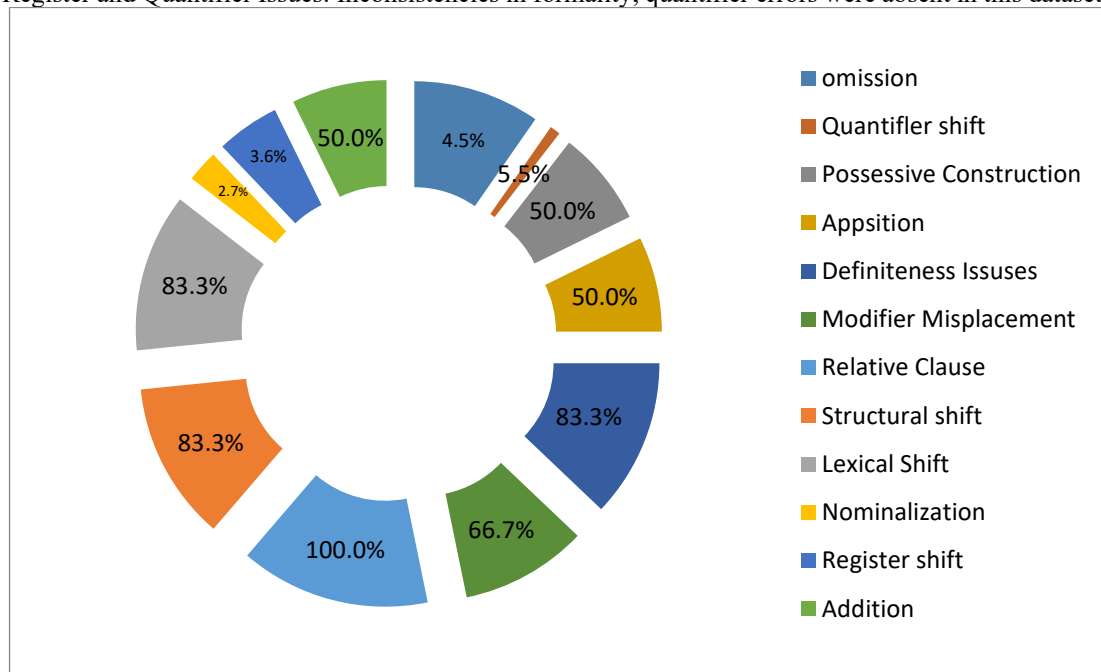
Diagram(7) Comparative Distribution of Equivalence Types by Translation

This chart visualizes the proportional use of each equivalence type by the three translators, confirming their strategic tendencies.

7.3 Translation Problems

The analysis revealed eleven recurrent translation problems in the Arabic renderings of six complex English noun phrases. These issues varied in frequency and severity, influencing both syntactic accuracy and semantic clarity. Key problems included:

- Relative Clause Issues: Misrendering of relative clauses, often disrupting syntactic flow.
- Lexical and Structural Shifts: Changes in word choice or grammatical structure that weaken meaning.
- Definiteness and Modifier Errors: Misuse of articles and misplacement of modifiers leading to ambiguity.
- Omissions and Additions: Inconsistent omission or insertion of content, affecting coherence.
- Apposition and Possessive Shifts: Errors in expressing appositive or possessive relationships.
- Register and Quantifier Issues: Inconsistencies in formality; quantifier errors were absent in this dataset.



Diagram(8) Translation problem types distribution

The frequency and percentage distribution of translation problems were derived from the systematic analysis of 18 Arabic renditions of six complex English noun phrases, following a qualitative descriptive model integrated with basic statistical quantification.

7.4 DISCUSSION

7.1 Equivalence Strategies

The comparative analysis of six complex noun phrase (NP) samples revealed significant variation in the use of Nida’s three equivalence strategies, Formal, Dynamic, and Mixed, across the three Arabic

translators. Translator A consistently leaned toward formal equivalence, evident in the structural fidelity and literal renderings. This strategy preserved the original NP architecture, particularly in modifier placement and syntactic integrity, but sometimes led to rigid or awkward phrasing in Arabic. Translator B, by contrast, favored dynamic equivalence, prioritizing meaning and readability over structure. This resulted in fluent and idiomatic translations but often at the cost of syntactic precision and semantic accuracy. Translator C demonstrated a balanced application of all three equivalence types, with a noticeable emphasis on mixed equivalence, particularly in samples involving relative clauses and heavy modifier stacking. C's translations often retained syntactic complexity while maintaining naturalness, making them the most stylistically and structurally faithful.

7.2 Translation Problems

The statistical breakdown of translation challenges across all samples highlighted eleven recurring problem types, each affecting the equivalence and integrity of the Arabic renderings:

1. Relative Clause Errors (100%): Most prevalent; issues in preserving restrictive vs. non-restrictive meanings and clause positioning.
2. Lexical Shifts (83.3%): Inconsistent or broadened word choices led to semantic drift.
3. Structural Shifts (83.3%): Altered NP structure, often fragmenting cohesive noun phrases.
4. Definiteness Issues (83.3%): Problems with translating "a" vs. "the" and the Arabic use of ال or its omission.
5. Modifier Misplacement (66.7%): Violations of Arabic post-nominal adjective ordering caused loss of clarity or emphasis.
6. Omission (66.7%): Skipping essential elements, such as names or descriptive clauses, reduced narrative richness.
7. Apposition Shifts (50%): Appositive structures were often merged, reduced, or misinterpreted.
8. Possessive Construction Problems (50%): Idafa structures were inconsistently applied, affecting ownership clarity.
9. Additions (50%): Inserting extra, interpretive content compromised semantic fidelity.
10. Register Shift (33.3%): Altering the tone from literary to colloquial disrupted stylistic alignment.
11. Nominalization & Quantifier Shifts (minor): Though less frequent, these affected verb-noun balance and numerical precision.

7.3 Strategic Translator Behavior

The translators demonstrated distinct behaviors shaped by their orientation toward equivalence strategies: Translation A preferred syntactic alignment with the source text, leading to high formal equivalence but lower fluency. Translation B prioritized meaning and readability, frequently restructuring noun phrases, often losing syntactic fidelity. Translation C exhibited a strategic blend of both formal and dynamic techniques, adjusting based on the syntactic weight of each NP, particularly when relative clauses or appositions were involved. This behavior suggests not only individual translator style but also a conscious balancing act between accuracy and accessibility, especially in complex literary texts.

7.4 The Functional Role of Mixed Equivalence

Mixed equivalence emerged as the most effective strategy in handling densely structured noun phrases involving embedded relative clauses, appositions, and adjectival chains. Translation C use of mixed equivalence allowed for the preservation of: Structural complexity as in (dual relative clauses) Lexical precision and (retaining NP heads and pre- modifiers).

7.5 Natural fluency in Arabic syntax and register

This approach bridged the gap between formal mirroring and dynamic readability, ensuring that the literary and narrative functions of the original noun phrases were sustained in Arabic. In academic or literary translation, where both structural integrity and reader engagement are crucial, mixed equivalence serves as a functionally adaptive strategy that upholds both fidelity and fluency.

8. CONCLUSIONS

1. Translating English noun phrases (NPs) into Arabic presents significant challenges due to deep syntactic differences especially in relative clause integration, modifier sequencing, and possessive structures.
2. Relative clauses were the most problematic (100%), underscoring the structural gap between English embedded clauses and Arabic post-nominal constructions.
3. Lexical, structural, and definiteness shifts (each at 83.3%) were among the most frequent issues, suggesting that literal rendering often failed to preserve nuanced meaning.
4. Dynamic equivalence, especially in Translator B's work, enhanced fluency but often resulted in omissions, additions, or register shifts (33.3%).
5. Mixed equivalence, used consistently by Translator C (50% dynamic, 35% formal, 35% mixed), proved most effective in balancing accuracy and readability- preserving relative clauses, semantic integrity, and stylistic tone.

6. Formal equivalence, while syntactically faithful (notably used by Translator A), often led to rigid, less idiomatic expressions.
7. Strategic translator behavior reveals that preference for dynamic or formal strategies is not solely a linguistic decision but reflects individual priorities: fluency vs. fidelity.
8. The functional role of mixed equivalence is central in literary translation- it allows translators to retain structural depth without compromising the target language's natural flow.
9. In literary contexts such as 'Wuthering Heights', the successful translation of complex NPs hinges on the translator's ability to integrate grammatical fidelity with expressive clarity.
10. These insights advocate for translator training that emphasizes syntactic equivalence, awareness of NP components, and informed flexibility in applying mixed strategies.

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