

Critical discourse analysis of the French translation of certain political information related to Iran in the French media *Le Figaro*

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Original Article Main Object: Interdisciplinary Scope: Iran and French</p> <p>Received: 25 November 2023 Revised: 21 December 2023 Accepted: 01 January 2024 Published online: 13 January 2024</p> <p>Keywords: critical discourse analysis, Farahzad's three-dimensional model, ideology, <i>Le Figaro</i>, translation.</p>	<p>Critical discourse analysis as an interdisciplinary approach seeks to decipher the ideology hidden in the text. Today, translators consciously or unconsciously change the ideology governing the original text by choosing their own equivalents and structures in the translation. The aim of this research is to examine some political news related to Iran which were reported in French newspaper <i>Le Figaro</i> according to Farahzad's three-dimensional model. To achieve this objective, the political news cited in the national media of Iran and the translation of these news in <i>Le Figaro</i> are examined and analyzed from the point of view of intertextuality, discourse analysis and selection of translations, according to Farahzad's three-dimensional model, to decipher the ideology and hidden thoughts of this French newspaper. The results obtained show that the positions of this media against Iran indicate that this media has a specific ideology to publish information related to Iran and follows a specific policy.</p>

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the political relations between Iran and France have always had ups and downs, and the media has played a significant role in creating tension. Iranian and French politicians have spoken a lot about recent political events. The messages of each power holder express the ideology and politics of that country. On the other hand, the press is considered one of the most important factors in shaping public opinion. In the meantime, translators follow their own translation policies in order to deliver the message and convey the goals of the speakers, and most of the time they convey the news according to the thoughts and ideology of their country. It is crucial to select appropriate expressions when conveying political and religious concepts. Choosing the right words can either downplay or emphasize an incident in the minds of the target language audience. This reflects the exercise of power and the imposition of one's ideology on them.

Aims

The purpose of this research is to investigate the translation of some political news related to Iran and also to investigate the hidden thoughts and politics of *Le Figaro* media towards Iran. For this purpose, since translational and interdisciplinary skills from the socio-political field are needed at the same time, Farahzad's three-dimensional model is used to understand the function and socio-political results of the changes and reforms that the translator has applied to adapt the news to the target society. The choice of Farahzad's approach is also based on the premise of the research that discourse is one of the ways of knowing the political views of those in power. In addition, the third dimension of this approach is based on how the translator chooses translation equivalents, which leads us more precisely to our goal. It should be noted that the discourse itself has a political aspect, and therefore, in the analysis of the discourse, it is expected that individual and group interests will come into play. Translators of media texts usually highlight the part of reality that best serves their ideological interests. Therefore, by analyzing these discourses according to the framework of scientific approaches in this field, it is possible to understand the arrangement of the group interests of a country in the media, and this work is undoubtedly one of the necessities of this research. Therefore, by resorting to Farahzad's three-dimensional model, we are looking for answers to these questions that, from the point of view of critical discourse analysis, what points are important in the content of domestic media news about political events? Has the translator recreated this news in the target language by keeping the main lines of discourse governing it? What methods has the translator used to induce ideologies to the audience?

Materials and Methods

The theoretical framework of this research is based on Farahzad's three-dimensional model, which aims to reveal hidden power relations and ideological processes in language and texts. Farahzad's three-dimensional model includes critical discourse analysis, intertextuality and translation choices, which is recently used as an approach in translation studies and translation criticism (Farahzad, 2003: 30). In Farahzad's three-dimensional model, the translation choices are first analyzed and then they are ideologically explained according to the social, political and historical components related to the time of production of the source and destination texts.

Intertextuality. This concept was created by the French theorist, Julia Kristeva. When examining the characteristics of literary types (genre types), he came to the conclusion that all texts belonging to a genre have common linguistic components and structures. For example, all the novels that are written in Persian language, in terms of plot, characterization and many other technical components, have commonalities that allow us to put them in the category of novels (Farahzad, 2011: 36).

Critical discourse analysis. Critical discourse analysis is an interdisciplinary branch that connects linguistics and critical thinking. The discourse here refers to the relationship between the text and the society, and the critical analysis of the discourse deals with issues such as inequality and discrimination that exist in the society and show themselves in the text in the dominant language.

Translation choices. This category includes lexical and grammatical choices and translator's choice of translation strategies in three levels of vocabulary, grammar and translation strategies.

Conclusions

In the process of examining the translation and analysis of ideologies in this research, we used three political news related to Iran that happened between 2022 and 2023, and then we examined its reflection in the *Le Figaro* news media. This newspaper is available to millions of French-speakers as an authoritative international multilingual media, and many also use this media to learn the language; so, any news published in it is read by millions of people and naturally affects the public mind. By analyzing the critical discourse of three news articles published in the Persian language media of *Tasnim*, *Mizan* and *Fars* in accordance with the three-faceted model of Farahzad. Comparing it with the translated version, we found that the translators of the *Le Figaro* media did not impartially translate the news related to the important political events of Iran. It should be noted that in two cases of the news, one related to the deployment of police cars in order to protect the safety of women and the other related to the punishment of people who assaulted and

assaulted women, they related the issue of Mahsa Amini's death and Iran's protests to the audience's mind. They take the news away from the truth and make it their own. In this way, the purpose of *Le Figaro's* media is not to reflect the real events that happened in Iran, but to induce the ruling ideology of France and to show a more or less negative image of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Conflict of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Authors' contributions

All authors contributed to the original idea, study design.

Ethical considerations

The author has completely considered ethical issues, including informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc.

Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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