THINKING

ARABIC

TRANSLATION

TUTOR'S HANDBOOK

A course in translation method: Arabic to English

James Dickins
Sándor Hervey
Ian Higgins
Thinking Arabic Translation is a comprehensive practical course in translation for advanced students of Arabic.

The course offers a challenging practical approach to the acquisition of translation skills whilst giving clear explanations of the theoretical issues involved. This Tutor’s Handbook complements the coursebook for students, containing class handouts and guidance on teaching methods and assessment.

Based on detailed analysis of translation problems, Thinking Arabic Translation features original material taken from a wide range of sources, including:

* Journalism and politics
* Legal and technical texts
* Literary and consumer-oriented texts

A variety of translation issues are addressed, including:

* Cultural differences
* Register and dialect
* Genre
* Metaphor
* Revision and editing

Thinking Arabic Translation will prove an invaluable resource for teachers of advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students, and has been fully and successfully piloted at the University of Durham. It is also an excellent foundation for those considering a career in translation.

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TUTOR’S HANDBOOK
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Contents

Introduction page 1

Practical 1
Tutor notes 10
1.2 Class handout: Commentary on gist translation of تغيير الحكومة المصرية 12

Practical 2
Tutor notes 14
2.1 Class handout: Commentary on وتمييز حكم المحافظين ST, and balanced TT 15
2.2 Class handout: Commentary on ماذا ستعقول أمك TT 18

Practical 3
Tutor notes 22
3.1 Class handout: Commentary on وحين كان يستمر انفاسه TT 23
3.2 Class handout: Commentary on وليس هناك إحصائي TT 26

Practical 4
Tutor notes 32
4.1 Class handout: Commentary on كنت داشما ضد الرئيسين TT 33
4.2 Class handout: Commentary on أن ترى واحدا يجري TT 36

Practical 5
Tutor notes 41
5.1 Class handout: Commentary on تقف البشرية اليوم TT 42
5.2 Class handout: Commentary on وبدا الأسلوب البازار TT 47

Practical 6
Tutor notes 51
6.1 Class handout: Collocation 52
6.2 Class handout: Collocation 52
6.3 Class handout: Commentary on الرحلة TT 53
Practical 7
Tutor notes
7.1 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT اطمئن فعلا ما تشاء"
7.2 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT تابعت الأعوام"
57
63

Practical 8
Tutor notes
8.1 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT حوارات الثقافات"
and analysis of lexical item repetition in ST
67
68

Practical 9
Tutor notes
9.1 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT لقد دفعت السعودية"
73
9.2 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT وكان القدر"
75
80

Practical 10
Tutor notes
10.1 Class handout: Cohesive-device revision of "TT RT ولكن هذه النماذج"
84
10.2 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT من شارع الستين"
86
87

Practical 11
Tutor notes
11.1 Class handout: Comparison between categories of metaphor
used in "TT RT ومن ثم اللحظة"
91
11.2 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT قال صابر مخاطباً نفسه"
92
93

Practical 12
Tutor notes
12.1 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT سيادة الآخ العزيز"
96
12.2 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT الاشتراكية زي ما قال الميثاق"
97
101

Practical 13
Tutor notes
13.1 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT اختلاف الطائرة .. اختلاف العقل"
105
13.2 Class handout: Commentary on "TT RT الشيخ شيخة"
107
111
Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to suggest ways of teaching and assessing the course, both in general and in respect of specific practicals. There is no need to elaborate on the aims and rationale of *Thinking Arabic Translation*, which are explained in the coursebook. We simply reiterate that the objective is to enable students to produce good translations. The expository material and the practicals are all means to this end, not an end in themselves. Students should be repeatedly reminded that they do need to master the concepts and terminology, but never to parade them just to prove they have learnt some big words. In doing a translation assignment, their sole aims should be these: analyse the ST and identify its salient features, including its purpose; use this analysis to devise a strategy; and apply the skills they have acquired to producing an appropriate TT and explaining clearly why it is appropriate.

SEMINARS

How the course is taught will depend on local conditions – timetabling, available contact hours, whether the course is being taken by undergraduates or postgraduates, etc. The optimum use of time is to allocate three hours a week to it. In this scheme, the first hour is devoted to detailed discussion of the issues and examples in a given chapter. Then, later in the week, the corresponding practical is allotted a two-hour seminar. However, in most curricula, this would be a utopian arrangement. The following notes assume that there will be one two-hour seminar a week, with marked work generally being done once a fortnight.

On pp. 6–9 below we give one possible schema for the course, purely to illustrate how seminars might be organized. The schema is based on two semesters each containing eleven teaching weeks, but it is easily adaptable for two or three terms. If fewer than twenty weeks are available, or two-hour seminars are not possible, the course may need to be pruned. If this is necessary, we suggest the following: Chapters 1–13 and Chapter 17 are
essential. Of the others, Chapters 14–16 and Chapter 18 may be omitted; Chapter 14 is the most important of these chapters, since it provides an introduction to technical translation.

Each practical is based on a chapter. It is essential that students prepare for it, even when they have not been given a written assignment to do at home and hand in for marking. This preparation involves reading the chapter carefully, making sure they understand the new concepts introduced, analysing the examples and drafting translations for those where none is given. There are bound to be things in the chapter that they disagree with or are not clear about: all these should be raised and discussed in the first part of the seminar. The tutor will sometimes need to intervene to direct discussion towards an issue which the students have not raised, but which experience shows can be problematic. This initial stage of the seminar may take anything between five and twenty minutes, depending on the topic, and on student ability.

If students have done a home exercise for marking, the next part of the seminar is devoted to discussion of it. Going through the strategic issues, the problems encountered and the solutions found can easily occupy the rest of the seminar. Sometimes, this is unavoidable and desirable. Often, though, discussion has to be guillotined and directed by the tutor, who will steer it towards what marking has revealed to be the commonest difficulties. The most economical use of time for returning work requires the seminar to be timetabled for late in the week. Suppose the class is on a Thursday. Students hand their exercise in by a stipulated time on late Monday or Tuesday, the tutor annotates it as necessary (and if necessary grades it) and makes the marked exercise – together with any handout – available for students to collect late on Wednesday. This ensures that students have time to digest all the tutor’s annotations, and the handout, in preparation for class discussion on Thursday. If timetabling makes it impossible to return work before the seminar, then at least the handout should be available to students one or two days in advance (as long as it is after they have handed their work in).

If the recommended arrangement is put in place, the discussion is more focused and more useful than if the marked work is not handed back until the seminar itself. This part of the practical can be concluded more briskly, leaving adequate time for any in-class exercise that is scheduled for the final part.

Exercises done in class are often better done in groups than individually. The size of the groups depends on the assignment and on how big the class is. Groups of three or four seem to work best. Students learn a lot from each other in terms of flexibility of approach. In particular, the less self-confident can learn from the more linguistically adventurous. The latter, in turn, often learn the value of reflection and rigour from their group-mates. Another advantage of group work is that the reporting stage of the exercise takes up less class time than if students report individually on their own work. This reporting, and discussion of the reports, is vital. Thinking translation is the

watchword, and a crucial aim in all class work is for students to formulate their thoughts on the exercise and discuss them with the whole class. When class work is done in groups, therefore, it is important that each group nominate a spokesperson at the outset. If, as often happens, the group remains the same week by week, this office can rotate; in translation studies, as in anything else, articulating a view in front of the class concentrates the mind wonderfully.

A useful and enjoyable aspect of group work is the tutor’s role. Once students have had a few minutes to read the text and started to discuss it with one another, the tutor can circulate from group to group, joining in the discussion, helping out with obscurities, asking leading questions and discreetly ensuring that attention is being paid to the important issues.

We even suggest working in groups or in pairs for some of the exercises that are best done at home. How feasible this is depends on how much of the syllabus needs to be formally assessed: different institutions have different requirements. Recommendations on group vs individual work are given below, in the notes on each practical. The pedagogic advantages of group work at home are the same as for work done in class. An extra advantage for the tutor is that for the more unusual exercises (e.g. Practicals 11.1, 16.1), which take longer to mark than the orthodox translation assignments, the marking load is reduced. It is important that students have adequate reference works with them in practicals, as discussed on pp. 3–4 of the Introduction to the coursebook.

HANDOUTS

Most of the assignments in the practicals are more complex and time-consuming than traditional language or translation exercises, for students and tutor alike. For many practicals, we have found it very helpful to distribute specimen answers as class handouts. These are emphatically not ‘the right answers’: the coursebook makes it very clear that there is no such thing. The first function of the handouts is to be examples of how to tackle the tasks set. In particular, they show what kinds of issue to address in formulating a strategy, in deciding translation solutions and in formulating decisions of detail. As such, they are very effective – but there is plenty in them to disagree with, as there is in the coursebook itself. Their other function is indeed to provide a piece of work by a ‘third party’, for the whole class to discuss and criticize – this is easier to organize and less invidious than using individual students’ work. Some of the most helpful moments in a seminar are when something in the tutor’s handout is (rationally) demolished.

A number of such specimens are included in this handbook. (Not all are simply specimen answers, however. Sometimes, for pedagogic reasons, we do go into a number of significant decisions of detail that go beyond the strict remit of the assignment – the handouts are often a bit more than simply models.) Also included, in Chapters 15 and 16 of the handbook, are a couple
of published TTs, for analysis and discussion in class. If the handbook is opened out flat, a two-page spread will photocopy onto an A-4 sheet.

ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINING

Most institutions now practise some form of continuous assessment. However, many of the practical assignments in this course are not really suitable for continuous assessment. This is because they are sui generis and sometimes quirkily demanding, being designed only to raise awareness of one particular translation issue. The student’s attention needs to be focused on exploration, refinement and experiment, not on worrying about how to ensure a good grade. In other words, if continuous assessment is a requirement, we strongly suggest that only a few of these exercises are used for it – one or at most two of the straightforward translation assignments is enough. Better still is to take an ST from outside the coursebook for translation and commentary. This has three advantages. It ensures that, when working for the practicals, students focus single-mindedly on learning. In addition, as long as a new ST is chosen each year, it reduces the risk of cheating in the second and subsequent years in which the course is taught. Finally, all or most of a seminar can be set aside for the return and discussion of the assignments without interfering with syllabus work (assuming that more than twenty weeks are available over the year).

If an end-of-course examination is required, certain constraints applying to this particular subject need to be borne in mind. Assuming a three-hour examination, if students are to formulate a strategy and write notes on their main decisions of detail, they simply do not have enough time to translate as much Arabic as in the traditional ‘unseen’ translation paper. Experience from this course, as well as its French, German, Spanish and Italian predecessors, leads us to suggest a one-question paper in which students are asked to translate no more than 100–120 words of ST in three hours; the TT is preceded by a strategic analysis and followed by decisions of detail. The general rule is: the shorter the better – if the ST is well chosen, 100 words are enough to test students’ ability in most of the areas covered by the course.

If institutional practice and conditions permit, another attractive alternative is a five- or six-hour exam, with a longer ST (and a lunch break in the middle), or a 24-hour ‘take-away’ exam.

In setting an exam, we always specify a brief, as in the practicals, and also give as much contextual information as is needed for the major translation problems to be clear. We assume that students will have with them the reference books they have used for practicals. Any references or meanings not found in these are explained either in the contextual information or in a footnote. Sometimes a good way of supplying essential information is to print the immediate context along with the ST (making it absolutely clear in the instruction which part of the text is to be translated). Given that students will be consulting five bulky reference books in the exam, each student should sit at a small table (or two traditional exam desks pushed together), or share a large table with a student sitting diagonally opposite. These arrangements need to be sorted out with the examinations officer well before the day.

This kind of test is new to most students, and they can find it difficult to pace themselves. It is therefore a good idea to give them a practice exam if there is a spare week in the summer. This also provides a useful revision class.

With both undergraduates and postgraduates at the University of Durham, we have used a rather different approach to examining, which has proved successful over a number of years. This is to get students to choose their own roughly 2,000-word Arabic ST, with the proviso that this has not been previously translated into English. The ST is subject to the approval of the tutor. This allows for the elimination of rare potential STs which are unsuitable – something which normally only occurs because the ST is either too easy, or much too difficult for the student to translate. Students then have between six and eight weeks to translate the ST into English, and write their own introduction to the text, strategic analysis and decisions of detail in 8,000–10,000 words. During this period they each are entitled to up to two hours consultation with their tutor.

Students are very often extremely enthusiastic about this translation project; the element of personal choice often motivates them to produce pieces of work significantly better than those produced during the rest of the year. In institutions where students do a final-year undergraduate research-based dissertation (in English), they may also profitably link the subject of the dissertation with that of the translation project (e.g. a dissertation on problems of water-management in Tunisia, together with a translation of an academic article in Arabic on the same topic). This gives students the opportunity to get experience of translation in technical areas where they have they acquired some real specialist knowledge.

The translation project approach is suitable for relatively small classes. However, each project may take the tutor, as first marker, six hours to assess; and – in the British university system at least – the project will then need to be second-marked by another internal examiner. With large classes, the marking burden is likely to be unacceptably large. There are also potential problems with course organization. The last date on which students can be reasonably required to start their translation projects is six weeks before the final examination period (assuming they hand in the projects on the last day before the start of the exam period). This means that the taught course has to be completed significantly before the end of the academic year. In practice, this can only be done if students are given at least three hours per week of seminars during the period of the taught course.

Whatever kind of examination is used for the course, we suggest the
following weighting of marks: strategic decisions are weighted x 1; the TT is weighted x 6; decisions of detail are weighted x 2. (Where students do a translation project with an introduction to the text, this can also be weighted x 1). This means that a student who does a brilliant First-class TT but writes no notes may just scrape a 2.ii: they are warned not to skimp the notes! We apply these weightings in both continuous assessment and exams.

In the illustrative schema given at the end of this Introduction, please note two things. First, the term ‘marked’ implies detailed comments on work handed in before the class, regardless of whether the work is actually given a mark or grade. Second, the term ‘set’ implies (1) explaining the point of the home exercise and what is required in terms of presentation and attention to detail, and (2), where appropriate, making clear the arrangements for handing in the work and collecting the handout on it.

POSSIBLE TEACHING SCHEMA

Week 1: Practical 1
[Set home assignment (Practical 1.1) in presessional week, e.g. via noticeboard.] Return and discuss marked home assignment (Practical 1.1).
Discuss Chapter 1.
Do Practical 1.2.
Set home assignment: Practical 2.2.

Week 2: Practical 2
Discuss Chapter 2.
Do Practical 2.1.
Discuss marked and returned home assignment (Practical 2.2).
Set home assignment: Practical 3.2 (not handed in).

Week 3: Practical 3
Discuss Chapter 3.
Do Practical 3.1.
Do Practical 3.2.
Set home assignment: Practical 4.2.

Week 4: Practical 4
Discuss Chapter 4.
Do Practical 4.1 (down to كَانَ الجَنِي عَلَيْهِ مَثَلُ قَمَّةٌ مَعَ خَصِصَةٍ if time is limited).
Discuss marked and returned home assignment (Practical 4.2).
Set home assignment: Preliminary work on Practical 5.1 (not handed in); Practical 5.2.

Introduction

Week 5: Practical 5
Discuss Chapter 5.
Do Practical 5.1.
Discuss marked and returned work (Practical 5.2).
Set home assignment: Practical 6.3.
Set Practice Assessed Translation (not from coursebook; hand in in Week 7).

Week 6: Practical 6
Discuss Chapter 6.
Do Practicals 6.1, 6.2.
Discuss marked and returned home assignment (Practical 6.3).
Set home assignment: Practical 7.2 (not handed in).
Set Assessed Translation (not from coursebook; hand in in Week 10).

[Week 7: Reading Week, no class]

Week 8: return of Practice Assessed Translation; Practical 7
Discussed marked and returned Practice Assessed Translation.
Discuss Chapter 7.
Do some of Practical 7.2.
Set home assignment: Practical 7.1 (not handed in).

Week 9: Practical 7
Do rest of Practical 7.2.
Do Practical 7.1.
Set home assignment: Practical 8.1.

Week 10: Practical 8
Discuss Chapter 8.
Discuss marked and returned home assignment (Practical 8.1).
Do analysis of lexical repetition in Practical 8.1.
Set home assignment: Practical 9.2.

Week 11: return of Assessed Translation; Practical 9
Discuss marked and returned Assessed Translation.
Discuss Chapter 9.
Do preliminary translation of Practical 9.1 in class, with subsequent class discussion.
Set home assignment: Practical 9.1 (not handed in).

Week 12: Practical 9
Do final version of Practical 9.1.
Discuss marked and assessed home assignment (Practical 9.2).
Set home assignment: preparation of Practical 10.1, 10.2 (not handed in).
[Vacation/exam diet]

Week 13: Practical 10
Discuss Chapter 10.
Do Practical 10.1.
Do Practical 10.2.
Set home assignment: Practical 11.2.

Week 14: Practical 11
Discuss Chapter 11.
Do Practical 11.1.
Discuss marked and returned home assignment (Practical 11.2).
Set home assignment: Practical 12.1 or 12.2 (not handed in).

Week 15: Practical 12
Discuss Chapter 12.
Do Practical 12.1 or 12.2.
Set Practice Assessed Translation (not from coursebook; hand in in Week 17).
Set home assignment: Practical 13.1 or 13.2.

Week 16: Practical 13
Discuss Chapter 13.
Discuss marked and returned home assignment (Practical 13.1 or 13.2).
Set home assignment: Practical 14.2 (not handed in).

Week 17: Practical 14
Discuss Chapter 14.
Do Practical 14.1.
Do Practical 14.2.

Week 18: return of Practice Assessed Translation
Discussed marked and returned Practice Assessed Translation.
Set home assignment: Preparation of Practicals 15.1 and 15.2 (not handed in).

Week 19: Practical 15
Discuss Chapter 15.
Do Practical 15.1.
Do Practical 15.2.
Set home assignment: Practical 16.1.
Set Assessed Translation (not from coursebook; hand in in Week 23).

[Week 20: Reading week/vacation, no class]

Week 21: Practical 16
Discuss Chapter 16.
Discuss marked and returned work (Practical 16.1).
Do Practical 16.2.
Set home assignment: preparation of Practical 17.1 or 17.2 (not handed in).

Week 22: Practical 17
Discuss Chapter 17.
Do Practical 17.1 or 17.2.
Set home assignment: any two of previously unused Practicals from Chapters 12, 13 or 17 (not handed in).

Week 23: Practicals 12/13/17
Do any two of previously unused Practicals (from Chapters 12, 13 or 17).

Week 24: return of Assessed Translation; recapitulation
Discuss marked and returned Assessed Translation.
Recapitulation: discuss Chapter 18.

FURTHER MATERIALS

Further materials relating to practicals can be obtained directly from James Dickins at the following address: Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Durham, South End House, South Road, Durham DH1 3TG, United Kingdom (e-mail: james.dickins@durham.ac.uk). Any comments on this handbook are also welcome, and can be sent direct to James Dickins at the above address.
Practical 1 Tutor notes

Discussion of the chapter is straightforward. There is no need to labour the definitions in § 1.1; students can refer back to these if in doubt about them at later points in the course. It is, however, worth making sure that students properly understand the system of superscripts and notes which is introduced in (iii) under Assignment for Practical 1.1, since this will be used throughout the course in discussion of decisions of detail for translation assignments.

1.1 Intra lingual translation

Students generally find Practical 1.1 an entertaining exercise. It is best prepared at home, since students will need up to two hours to complete the exercise. For Assignment element (ii) (rubric: ‘Recast the text in different words, adapting it for a specific purpose and a specific public. Define carefully what the purpose and the public are.’) tutors may want to assign a particular character, purpose and audience to individual students. The following characters, purposes and audiences have worked well for us:

a. Official statement by Sir Humphrey regarding the discussion between the two men, designed to thwart reorganization plan.

b. Official statement by Jim Hacker regarding the discussion between the two men.

c. Version presented by one of Jim Hacker’s biographers in his book Hacker: A Study in Political Failure (assumed to have access to the Hacker diaries).

d. Version presented by one of Jim Hacker’s biographers in his somewhat hagiographic book Hacker and the Triumph of Common Sense (assumed to have access to the Hacker diaries).

e. Account by Jim Hacker’s cleaning lady Beryl to her best friend Ethel in the pub that evening, after she has happened to read the diary entry. Beryl is relatively uneducated, but not stupid.

An alternative is to spend some time in class, before students do the assignment at home, drawing up a joint list with students of possible characters, purposes and audiences. Students can then choose which of the various possibilities to make use of in their home assignments.

Following completion of the home assignment and its marking by the tutor, individual students could be asked to read out their versions in class for comment by themselves and other students. It may be useful to tape-record students reading out their versions; the recordings can be played back and stopped at points where the tutor wants to elicit comments, or where students want to make them.

1.2 Gist translation

Practical 1.2 can be done as a class exercise, students working individually or in groups, as the tutor prefers. It will take about 40 minutes unless students are unusually proficient readers of Arabic. The exercise is likely to give rise to quite different versions, students prioritizing different elements of the text. In post-assignment discussion, it is worth stressing that this is a typical feature of gist translation. If two student versions are markedly different from one another (but are both of at least reasonably good quality), it might be worthwhile comparing them. This can be facilitated by copying both versions onto acetates and displaying both simultaneously using two OHPs.
PRACTICAL 1.2 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON GIST TRANSLATION OF تغيير الحكومة المصرية

(i) TT (gist translation)

Change in Egyptian government imminent
Ubayd tipped as PM

The PM, Dr. Sidqi and his cabinet are set to resign in the next few days, after failing to solve the country’s internal economic problems. President Mubarak had previously held a meeting with various ministers and demanded solutions to the problems of inflation and food shortages by next March. The present government has failed to provide these. There have also been disagreements between members of the cabinet, and accusations have been levelled against the Minister of Oil. (86 words)

(ii) Decisions of detail

1 No gist elements in title; but use of concise phrasing such as ‘tipped’, ‘PM’, to reduce length.
2 القائمة - مكتب الوطن is not translated; relatively unimportant background information.
3 No need to state that he is the Egyptian Prime Minister, since this is in the headline. No translation of since the fact that this is the first name of the Prime Minister will be well known to any follower of the Egyptian political scene.
4 إلى الرئيس المصري حسب سي مبارك is not translated, since this phrase merely indicates standard protocol.
5 في تنفيذ توجيهات مبارك الأخيرة بضرورة إيجاد حلول عاجلة is not translated, since this gives background to the nature of the failure, and is therefore less important than the fact of the failure itself.
6 مثل الإجراءات والأسعار وتعيين الخريجين والأسكان وغيرها is not translated, since this is exemplification of the types of economic problems faced by the country, and is therefore less important than the general fact of economic problems.
7 بعد عودته من جولته الخليجية والأوروبية is not translated, since this is not directly relevant to the central information about the meeting.
8 is not translated, since this conveys no additional information in English.
9 بالعمل على رفع المعاناة عن المواطنين is not translated, since this is relatively unimportant information, and it can be inferred that economic problems are a burden on citizens.
10 وخاصة فيما يتعلق بمشكلات is not translated, since the problems of inflation and food shortages are the only two economic problems presented in the gist translation.
11 الارتفاع الجنوبي للأثر is gisted as ‘inflation’; If this were felt to be too weak, one might use ‘hyperinflation’; or if this is too technical ‘runaway inflation’.
12 ونقص عدد كبير من السلع الغذائية والتموينية has been gisted as ‘food shortages’, with some loss in message content but maintenance of main elements.
13 مهلة لا تتجاوز شهر مارس is omitted. It adds no more essential information than what is expressed in the phrase ‘by next March’.
14 وهو ما تغيير المؤشرات إلى is omitted, since it supplies non-essential comment on the main information.
15 التي استثناها [...] في الفترة الأخيرة is omitted, since the reader could infer from the context that these are ongoing serious disagreements.
16 Omission of names of various members of the cabinet (see under Assignment in coursebook).
17 وما زالت معلقة حتى الآن، بدون تحقيق is omitted, since the reader should be able to infer that the accusations are current from the fact that they are mentioned in the text.
Practical 2 Tutor notes

Discussion of the chapter is straightforward; it is worth stressing, however, that faithful, balanced, idiomizing and free translations are all deviations from literal translation. It is also worth making sure that students understand the distinction between idiomizing translation and idiomatic translation, and that, depending on circumstances, any of literal, faithful, balanced, idiomizing and free translations has the potential to be idiomatic.

2.1 Literal vs balanced translation

Practical 2.1 provides a good opportunity for students to consider technical terms and clichés in political writing in English. The phrase ‘council-house tenants’ should be well known in Britain, but is unlikely to be known to students in some other countries. The translation element of this Practical could be profitably done in groups in class, the more cautious students gaining confidence in making changes to the literal TT from the more adventurous ones. It should be possible to produce a basic version of the balanced TT in 30 minutes. This approach will also allow the tutor to monitor activities, encouraging over-cautious groups which are tending to produce a faithful translation to go beyond this, and restraining any over-enthusiastic groups whose translation seems too free. It is worth discussing in class a couple of the balanced TTs, possibly putting them onto acetates on separate OHPs for easy cross-comparison. Students can polish their balanced translations as a home assignment, adding also decisions of detail.

2.2 Degrees of freedom in translation

Practical 2.2 is probably better done as an individual exercise at home, the whole exercise taking up to 2 hours. Students should be encouraged to think about the language of informal dialogues in modern English-language fictional writing, and to look at examples of this which they have to hand. It is also worth getting them to think about ways in which the relationship between Fawaz and Ilham might at various times motivate the use of language in the TT which is not entirely unconsidered and natural-sounding. This assignment provides very good opportunities for legitimate translation by addition.

PRACTICAL 2.1 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON ST, AND BALANCED TT

(ii) Strategic decisions

The translation should sound like an English magazine article on this subject. It is therefore important not only to mirror general structural features of political magazine articles in English, but also to attempt to use vocabulary which is typical of writing about the British political scene. One feature of political magazine writing in English is the combination of specialist political terms with a degree of informality of expression (designed in part to keep the reader personally involved). The translator should therefore look for opportunities to use fairly informal phrases where appropriate. There is also a tendency for English political magazine articles to utilize fairly strongly emotive vocabulary (something which often correlates with informality). The translator should also look out for appropriate opportunities to do this.

(iii) Balanced TT (Conduit 1998: 20–1)

The period of Conservative rule was most clearly characterized by the party’s ardent desire to promote Western capitalist values and by the gradual setting up of a comprehensive programme intended to separate state and society, slowly but surely taking the burden of community care away from the state, and encouraging investment and capital through a reduction in taxes.

Thatcher then proceeded to wage a relentless war on the Unions, a policy which significantly curbed their power, after which she disposed of a number of large state-owned utilities by transferring them to the private sector, allowing citizens to purchase shares. She privatized more than twenty major companies including the iron and steel industry, gas, electricity, the telephone company, oil, and the airports authority. Council-house tenants were given the right to buy their own homes, and other policies were implemented which forced the state to surrender its holdings to the benefit of the citizen. The result of this was that during the 1980s Britain witnessed something of an economic recovery with foreign capital pouring in, persuading the electorate of the obvious advantages of Conservative rule.
Decisions of detail

1. ‘The rule of the Conservatives’ sounds like the rule they lived by. The balanced TT is clearer and more idiomatic.

2. تغيير is a favourite verb of Arab writers to describe the salient features of a stable situation. ‘Distinguished’ is potentially misleading: it could imply approval. ‘Characterized’ is less commonly used than تغيير, but is the appropriate word for this context.

3. The balanced TT has nothing corresponding to ST ميزات، which would sound rather inelegant in English. Transferring ‘clearer’ to ‘characterized’ and converting it to ‘most clearly’ loses the ST’s direct comparison with the nature of the previous Labour administration but is more idiomatic than the literal TT. Including ‘the party’s’ in the balanced TT is necessary for clarity, because ‘Conservative’ is used as an adjective (as opposed to the noun ‘Conservatives’ in the literal TT). ‘Ardent desire’ is a common collocation, and much more idiomatic than ‘principled striving for’. ‘To promote [values]’ is a standard phrase in English.

4. ‘Setting up of a comprehensive programme’ is more informal than ‘adoption’ and slightly alters the meaning; but it allows ‘gradual’ to be placed before ‘setting up’, avoiding the very odd ‘gradual total/comprehensive’ programme.

5. ‘State and society’ is a more usual phrase than the literal ‘the state and the society’.

6. ‘Slowly but surely’ introduces an informal touch to the TT, and avoids the literal TT’s repetition of ‘gradual’. ‘Burden’ seems stronger than ‘task’, because it is metaphorical, but it is a standard collocation with ‘care’ in contexts like this one. ‘Take away’ is again more informal than ‘withdraw’. ‘Community care’ is an unnecessary departure from the ST الرعاية الاجتماعية, which the literal TT accurately renders as ‘social care’.

7. ‘The clearing of the way in front of’ is not a standard phrase in English, and ‘movement of capital and investment’ is misleading – movement to where? ‘A reduction in taxes’ is more usual than ‘the reduction of taxes’. The balanced TT is altogether more idiomatic and accurate than the literal one.

8. The balanced TT begins a new paragraph here, reflecting the fact that the text moves on from the Conservatives in general to Thatcher in particular. There is no mention of ‘philosophical’ or ‘ideological’, which are implied in ‘policy’. (One might argue that the TT here is less a balanced translation than a free gist translation.) The idea of انتقلت is relayed by the punchy idiomizing translation ‘then proceeded’. ST متصلب is transferred and made to define ‘war’; ‘wage a relentless war’ is both idiomatic and emotionally powerful. Interestingly, ‘a policy which significantly curbed their power’ is less direct and more cautious than the literal ‘and broke their power’: ‘significantly curbed’ may reflect an assumption of greater knowledge of the particulars of British politics among English-speaking readers than among Arab readers – though greatly weakened, the unions did continue to function.

9. ‘Disposed of’ cleverly gets round the apparent repetition of ideas in حلولات لغلق wages – repeating the verb ‘to transfer’ in so short a space would be awkward in English. ‘Public property of the state’ sounds like a tautology in English, and ‘great companies’ is not a standard collocation. ‘Great state-owned utilities’ is far more idiomatic, although less comprehensive than ‘state properties’. Note also the use of subordinate clauses, as opposed to the main clauses in the ST and literal TT: subordination is more common in English than in Arabic.

10. ‘To open the door in front of someone to do something’ is not idiomatic; and ‘the citizens’ is rarely used to refer to the general public. The balanced TT deals with these problems.

11. Personalizing the subject (‘She’, rather than ‘policy’ or ‘privatization’) is more a free translation than a balanced one, but it reads more convincingly than ‘The policy of privatization covered [...]’. ST lexical repetition is avoided in the more varied balanced TT: ‘the iron and steel industry’; ‘gas’, ‘electricity’, ‘oil’; ‘the telephone company’; ‘the airports authority’.

12. The balanced TT uses the standard British term ‘council-house tenants’. The shift to the passive (after ‘Thatcher [...] proceeded’, ‘she disposed’, etc.) is probably to maintain reader interest through stylistic variation.

13. ‘Other measures were implemented’ is more appropriate in this context than the literal ‘[she undertook] other measures’.

14. ‘Holdings’ is an appropriate term here, suggesting a stake in an enterprise, while the literal ‘properties’ suggests buildings. The balanced TT ‘the citizen’ mirrors its previous use of ‘the state’, perhaps suggesting that these are two corresponding parties in this respect.

15. In the literal TT, it is not clear what difference there is between ‘movement’ and ‘revival’ – ‘movement’ is not typically used in an economic sense, and is obscure. The balanced TT is accurate and idiomatic. ‘The result of this’ perhaps provides a stronger link with what has gone before than ‘The result’, but is not really necessary.

16. This is more idiomatic than the literal TT (especially ‘conviction [...] came into being’ and ‘the rule of the Conservatives’). ‘Capital pouring in’ is more idiomizing than balanced – contrast the more accurate and acceptably idiomatic ‘an influx of capital’. Exegetically substituting the abstract ‘electorate’ for ‘British voter’ is unnecessarily free, and incurs regrettable translation loss; so does the substitution of ‘obvious’ for ‘tangible, direct’.
PRACTICAL 2.2 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON لماذا ستقول أملك TT

(i) Strategic decisions

This text consists almost entirely of dialogue, most of which is not attributed to a particular speaker through the use of ‘he said’ or similar devices. Although the language used throughout is Standard Arabic, the brevity and relative simplicity of the exchanges, as well as the infrequent use of forms such as ‘he said’ are suggestive of informal spoken language. This points to a strategic decision to translate the text into conversationally natural spoken English. This strategic decision is supported by the fact that such an informal style is the norm for dialogue in modern short stories in English (and in fact any attempt to adopt a more formal English style is likely to result in a rather incongruous-sounding TT). In much of the text, however, the two characters are flirting with one another; accordingly, at appropriate points in the TT one would expect language which is not entirely unconsidered and natural-sounding, but somewhat mannered.

When Standard Arabic is translated into informal conversational English, it is typically necessary to add additional elements to the English version, both in order to achieve natural-sounding cohesion (Ch. 10.2.1) in dialogue, and to produce an appropriate emotional tone.

(ii) TT (St John 1999: 22–4, with some amendments)

‘What will your mother say when she sees me with you?’
‘She’ll ululate, of course.
‘But people ululate at weddings.’
‘Precisely. There’s going to be a wedding.’
‘Who’s getting married?’
‘The groom’s a boy called Fawaz.’
‘And who’s the bride?’
‘She’s a girl by the name of Ilham.’
Ilham let out a shy, joyous laugh.
‘I’m going to ask you to do something for me,’ said Fawaz.
‘Go ahead.’
‘I want to see your face.’
‘Then look at it,’ she said, ‘Who’s stopping you?’

‘I want to see it without that black thing over it,’ he replied, gesturing towards the veil with his index finger.
‘No,’ said Ilham.
‘You’re far away from your neighbourhood now and no-one knows us here, so why are you scared?’
Ilham lifted the veil away from her pale face and dark eyes. Fawaz gasped with amazement and delight.
‘Have you just heard a song you like, or something?’ asked Ilham coyly.
‘I want you to do something else for me.’
‘That’s a bit greedy.’
‘I want to hold your hand.’
‘If you do, I’ll scream until the police come.’
‘Go on then, scream.’
‘The police will come.’
‘Let them come. I’ll tell them: “This girl is my fiancée, and you’ve no right to be poking your noses into people’s private lives.”’
‘Well said.’
‘They’ll realize their mistake, apologize, and go away terribly embarrassed.’

(iii) Decisions of detail (based on St John 1999: 22–4)

1 The technical term ‘ululate’ has been used to provide a literal translation of زقرد – the assumption being that in the context the reader will be able to guess that this is some culturally-specific vocal sound (cf. the next TT sentence). An alternative strategy would be to adopt a freer rendering, e.g. ‘cry out in joy’.
2 ‘People ululate at weddings’ is a balanced translation; the more literal ‘Ululation is at weddings’ is highly unidiomatic. The addition of ‘but’ gives the reader a sense of where the argument is going, and sounds more idiomatic than a version without ‘but’.
3 Rather than a more literal ‘Of course there’s going to be a wedding’, the TT here splits the single ST sentence into two English sentences. This points up the direction of the discussion, by giving the TT equivalent of ST تما辰م greater emphasis. ‘Precisely’ is frequently used in English in this kind of context.
4 ‘Wedding’ has already been used twice in the previous two sentences. The balanced ‘who’s getting married?’ avoids further lexical item repetition (Ch. 8.2.4.1).
5 Avoidance of lexical item repetition of ‘bride’.
6 Avoidance of repetition of the word ‘called’. The slightly mannered ‘by the name of’ also reflects the flirtatious nature of Fawaz’s proposal of
interpret Ilham’s question in the ironic way intended.

20 The literal ‘she said questioningly’ is unidiomatic in English. ‘Asked’ is an obvious verb here, and accords with the tendency in English to vary verbs of speaking (cf. Note 12).

21 ‘Slyly’, ‘craftily’, or ‘cunningly’ would be acceptable more literal translations of مكر ‘Coyly’, however, is less negative than these alternatives, and more associated with coquettish behaviour.

22 ‘I want you to do something else for me’ is more idiomatic than the more literal ‘I want another thing from you.’

23 The literal ‘you’re greedy’ sounds too direct here, inviting an interpretation which is serious rather than playful. ‘A bit’ is fairly frequently used in phrases of this kind where the speaker does not want their statement to be taken too seriously (cf. ‘That was a bit daft of him’ vs ‘That was daft of him’).

24 The phrase ‘If you do’ has been added in the TT to make the conversation more cohesive and natural.

25 Literally: ‘policemen’. English more frequently uses the collective noun in this kind of context.

26 ‘Scream’ on its own seems a bit abrupt and unnatural. The addition of ‘go on then’ provides an appropriately idiomatic cohesive element.

27 The demonstrative adjective is more idiomatic than the definite article in this context. ‘This’ suggests a greater degree of emotional solidarity between Fawaz and Ilham than does the neutral ‘the’.

28 The metaphorical ‘poking your noses’ is more colloquial than ‘interfering’, and also has stronger negative connotations because of the physical image which it conjures up.

29 The more literal ‘citizens’ private lives’ sounds slightly odd because of the somewhat technical associations of ‘citizen’ in English. ‘People’s private lives’ is more idiomatic and involves a degree of assonance and alienation which reinforce Fawaz’s message of defiance to the police.

30 A more literal translation such as ‘nice words’ would be rather unidiomatic here. ‘Well said’ nicely captures Ilham’s tone of slightly mock admiration.

31 ‘Terribly’ is an addition in the TT. The more literal ‘go away embarrassed’ sounds slightly weak in this context. ‘Terribly’ gives a greater sense of Fawaz’s triumph over the police, and is a suitably colloquial word.
Practical 3 Tutor notes

The discussion of this chapter is straightforward. However, it is worth making sure that students understand the differences between exoticism, calque and cultural borrowing in particular.

3.1 Cultural transposition

Practical 3.1 could be done in groups in class; the text is fairly short and the Egyptian colloquial material in the first paragraph is already glossed under Contextual information for the practical. It is worth making sure that students consider carefully their overall strategy for this ST; different strategies will obviously lead to very different TTs – some of which would be quite inappropriate. It will probably take students about 15 minutes to define a translation strategy, at least another 30 minutes to produce a translation, and 30 minutes to produce decisions of detail. If there is not enough time for all of this in class, writing up the decisions of detail can be assigned to students as a home exercise, along with personal revision of the translation which their group has produced in class.

3.2 Cultural transposition

Practical 3.2 involves a long ST, and time considerations mean that it is better done as a home exercise. It might be interesting to compare in class differences of translation strategy between Practical 3.1 and Practical 3.2.

PRACTICAL 3.1 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON وحين كان يستدرد انفسه TT

(i) Strategic decisions

This text contains a large number of culturally specific terms. Given the non-specialist nature of the audience and the presumption that they are reading for pleasure, the most obvious strategy is to go for communicative translation wherever possible. The more radical strategy of cultural transplantation seems unacceptable at least in part because the readership is going to expect, and presumably want, to read a story about Egypt with recognizably Egyptian features. Similarly, a radical exoticizing strategy seems unwarranted, because the readership is unlikely to understand all the exotic cultural terms, and may not be able to follow the storyline. (In specific translation instances, however, both cultural transplantation and exoticism may be justified.)

(ii) TT

Note: words and phrases corresponding to culturally specific material in the original Arabic are underlined.

While he was getting his breath back, it occurred to him to go to a hotel. But he dismissed the idea straight away. There were two of them, and Zubeida was a woman – and dangerous. It would also cost at least fifty or sixty piastres, and he didn’t have the money anyway.

Al-Shabrawi had only gone a short distance before he sat down, cross-legged, in front of the Sayyida Zeinab mosque. He tugged at Zubeida and she collapsed beside him. Al-Shabrawi didn’t believe that there was anybody else in the world who was as wretched or miserable as himself; shame alone prevented him from bursting into tears. The devotees of the saint seemed around them like ants; and when Zubeida let out a ululation, her voice was lost in the pious murmuring of the old men, the high-pitched cries of the women, and the ceaseless communal invocations of the name of God.
(iii) Decisions of detail

1. This is an interpretation; from the context it is fairly clear that what occurred to Shabrawi was to go to a hotel. 'Hotel' is the obvious translation of لوكاّنة. The word is essentially a colloquial Egyptian form, and suggests something more downmarket than the Standard Arabic. However, given the colloquial nature of this word, this is again probably best rendered in the TT by a fairly informal form in English.

2. ‘Piastre’ is the standard translation of شروش. There seems no need for any cultural transplantation here (‘pence’, etc.). The context makes plain that, for Al-Shabrawi, the sum is large.

3. We have used a fairly informal formulation ‘He didn’t have the money anyway’ to translate the colloquial والحكاله على الله, an exegetical translation in that it makes explicit the implication in context of the ST fixed phrase.

4. Our rendering perhaps sounds more idiomatic than the literal ‘Before he had gone far, Shabrawi sat down’ or ‘After going a little way, Shabrawi sat down’. English makes greater use of subordination than Arabic.

5. The obvious choice here is whether to include the information about crossing the legs in the TT or not. ‘Cross-legged’ makes the TT more faithful to the ST, and also provides a slightly exotic element, which seems appropriate to the general context of this section of the text.

6. We have simply given the full name of the mosque – even a reader who does not know what this mosque is will infer that it is some important Islamic religious place. The context hardly justifies giving further information.

7. The new sentence within a new paragraph justifies reintroducing the name Zubeida into the English text.

8. A more literal translation would be ‘He pulled Zubeida until she fell down beside him’. But this seems to stress the deliberativeness of Al-Shabrawi’s action more than the ST does: English typically uses ‘and’, as here, to imply cause and effect.

9. The word order ممتعه hmaci matnhd in Arabic can be contrasted with ممتعه hmaci matnhd. One reason for putting a subject (or other noun) first in a clause before the verb is to suggest ‘this – and nothing else’. We have used the phrase ‘Shame alone’ to express this idea. We have also reversed the order of the phrases, which is more logical in the English translation.

10. In a Sufi context, a م و ج ذ ب is a religious devotee who is ‘possessed’ by a spiritual force, and is a ‘holy madman’. We have downplayed the ‘mad’ aspects in our translation, which might give the wrong impression to the English-speaking reader.
vertical scarification marks in this region lead us to reject this analysis. Although the term 'Ja’alyyin' basically refers to the three vertical scars, other forms of scarification were also found among the Ja’alyyin. The most famous of these is the single-stepped ‘ladder’, which looks like the letter H in Latin script. This is referred to by some people as the ‘ladder of Sheikh El Tayyib El Bashir El Jumuj’ (1824–1874), the founder of the Sammaniyya Islamic religious order in the Sudan.

(iii) Decisions of detail

1. There is a tense problem in this text. It would sound odd in English to start with the present tense, and then shift to the past (with استنثemia). Since the custom of scarification has virtually died out, a simpler technique is used for the past tense from the start of the TT.

2. The literal translation 'no known specialist' sounds odd (cf. 'There are no known viruses which can survive these kinds of temperature'). The otherwise reasonable 'specific specialist' has been avoided here because of inelegant alliteration.

3. انفرد means to be solely involved in doing something. The meaning of this is partly relayed by 'particular', partly by the use of the phrase 'whose job it was'.

4. These عمليات are not really operations in the medical sense. The term عمليات is often used in Arabic to describe a technical physical process, and can often be omitted in English.

5. 'Scarification' seems reasonable here. The verb 'scarify' is perhaps better avoided; although it is given in roughly the appropriate sense in Collins English Dictionary, readers might tend to associate it more with the notion of 'to wound with harsh criticism' (also given in Collins English Dictionary), or even as a joke word meaning to scare or frighten.

6. We have introduced 'task' as a near-synonym of 'job' (used in the first sentence of the TT), in order to provide a link with what has gone before. The English sentence is put in the passive, to maintain the ST order of ideas.

7. 'Performed' avoids repetition of 'carry out': English is less tolerant of lexical repetition than Arabic.

8. We have used a general term 'blood-letter' and glossed it with the more specific and technical 'cupper' in brackets, on the basis that the English readership might not know what a cupper is.

9. The رمزين was, and is, a man. زمرين is therefore perhaps better translated as 'barber' than 'hairdresser', which tends to imply a woman.

10. 'Traditional healer' has become quite a common term, replacing more pejorative terms such as 'witch doctor'.
'indigenous' (i.e. non-foreign, non-Western).

11 'A number of people' sounds better as a translation of 'وهناك من' than 'There were those who', perhaps because 'There are/were those who' is often followed by a counterbalancing negative; e.g. 'and there are/were those who do/did not'. In this context it is sensible to avoid the expectation of such a following negative.

12 حسن أدائهم : literally, 'goodness/excellence at performing'. 'Skill at' is a more concise way of expressing this idea, and also incorporates the notion إجراء which is used earlier.

13 Since 'scarification' is not technically an operation, and 'job' and 'task' have already been used in the text, a reasonable way to translate هذـه العملية here is to reuse 'scarification', previously used two sentences earlier.

14 It would be possible to use something like 'their skill at scarification, among them [...]', but this would give rise to a very long sentence in English. Hence a new sentence starting 'These included'.

15 بنت المزایین (more properly in Sudanese Arabic بنت المزایین (لبیت المزایین) is a nickname. The person concerned would have been a barber's daughter. Such nicknames beginning with بنت/لبیت normally indicate in Sudan that the actual name of the person concerned is فاطمة.

16 It would be reasonable for a museum-going public to be made aware that بنت المزایین is not simply a personal name, hence the added translation in brackets, with inverted commas to indicate that this is a translation.

17 Here too, it would be appropriate for a museum-going public to have additional contextual information. Hence the addition of 'the town of [...] to the north of Khartoum'.

18 'In the mid-twentieth century' would probably be a better translation following the year 2000.

19 The normal phrase in Arabic is قيمة الأنظار 'focus of attention, target of all eyes, ideal, goal sought after and aspired to' (Wehr). 'Sought out' here is appropriately formal, without sounding archaic.

20 Scarification was performed on girls around the age of ten. Presumably, therefore, it was the mothers who sought out the scarifier. An exegetic addition.

21 Assuming that 'scarify' is to be avoided, an alternative is needed here to the passive 'be scarified'. Hence 'undergo scarification'.

22 'We sum up' in English is not a standard phrase. 'We can/may sum up by saying' would be more normal, but seems a little informal. 'To sum up' is a fairly standard usage in academic writing, without anything corresponding to من هذا كله.

23 'Shaygiyya' is the standard TL form. If it were felt necessary to make plain that are a tribe, one could put 'the Shaygiyya tribe' (cultural borrowing plus explanation).

24 There is no explanation in the TT of what the Ja'aliiyin are, because the subsequent 'groups' suggest the Ja'aliiyin must be some kind of tribal or ethnic grouping. If it were felt necessary to be more explicit here, one could say something like 'those tribes of the Ja'aliiyin grouping who'. We give an exegetic translation of the word المبايضة 'who claim descent from the Prophet's uncle Al-Abbas Bin Abd al-Mutallib'. Even this translation, however, assumes that the reader has sufficient background knowledge of Islam to know that it is the Islamic Prophet who is being referred to here.

25 'Tribal' is added to explain what kind of distinguishing mark this was.

26 The reordering of the ST material is simply in order to keep the sentence ending 'as a distinguishing tribal mark' to an acceptable length.

27 يقول is fairly frequently idiomatically translated as 'According to'.

28 There seems no need to repeat 'three' in the TT, since it is clear what is being referred to from the context. But 'these' is more idiomatic than 'the' here.

29 It seems necessary in English to add the phrase 'which form the shape' in order to make plain the relationship between the phrase 'these three vertical marks' and the representation of the marks themselves: i.e. III.

30 'In Arabic numerals' is added, because it might otherwise not be clear why III forms the shape one hundred and eleven. The fact that the scarification marks are signified by III provides enough of a context for this to make it plain that what is intended are the numerals used in Arabic, rather than those used in the West (and in some parts of the Arab world), which derive from Arabic.

31 'The most beautiful names' are the ninety-nine traditionally recognized names of God in Islam, which are derived from the Quran. We have used the exegetic 'the Islamic name of God' to translate اسم الله الحسني.

32 الكافي is slightly problematic, since the full form should be کافی. However, assuming that the target readership will not be aware of this, one seems safe to translate کافی as 'Kafi' ('The Protector'). The combination of cultural borrowing plus explanation is sensible here. Clearly, what is needed is something which allows the reader to identify what in Arabic has the numerical value one hundred and eleven; this implies inclusion of a form such as Kafi, which relays the Arabic word involved. However, in order not to leave the reader entirely in the dark about what this is, some additional explanation of the meaning of this word is also required. (Interestingly, the اسماء الحسني lists which we have consulted do not contain the word الكافي as one of the names of God in Islam. However, it seems reasonable to assume that this is an issue which will not be of concern to the average reader of this TT.)
34 So-called من... ـphrases in Arabic rarely translate idiomatically as ‘What [...] regarding’ (or similar). Normally, a more idiomatic translation is achieved by using a phrase involving an abstract noun, like ‘our previous conclusions’ here.

35 A more literal version would be possible, e.g. ‘In the light of our previous conclusions regarding the antiquity of the three vertical scarification marks in this region this analysis is not acceptable.’ But it is odd in English to have a long section which consists of relatively predictable information followed by a short section which consists of relatively unpredictable information. Our version presents all this information in a single clause; the distinction between what is less predictable and what is more predictable does not seem as stark within a single clause as when there are two clauses.

36 Although the Arabic كلمتان literally means ‘two words’, it is more idiomatic in English to regard the subsequent مشكل جعلية as a ‘term’.

37 A more accurate translation would be ‘Ja’ali’ scarification’. However, this would introduce the singular ‘Ja’ali’ to the reader, in addition to the previously encountered plural ‘Ja’aliyyin’. Without further explanation in the translation to indicate that this was a singular, the typical reader might regard it as a different word altogether. Assuming that nothing hangs on relaying the specific grammatical form in the translation here, the use of the plural ‘Ja’aliyyin’ seems preferable.

38 ‘The Ja’aliyyin knew other scarification marks’ is not idiomatic. ‘Used’ might be possible instead of ‘knew’. A more idiomatic alternative, however, is to use the passive ‘were found’. ‘Other forms of scarification’ seems better as a translation of علامات تمييز أخرى than ‘other identifying marks’, which could imply marks other than scarification marks.

39 ‘The most famous of these’ avoids lexical item repetition in the English TT. The Arabic literally means ‘among the most famous of these marks’, but this is less idiomatic than ‘the most famous of these’, and the loss in message content is small.

40 In this context it is more idiomatic to say ‘looks like’ than the literal ‘is like’.

41 The explanatory phrase بالحروف اللاتينية can be carried over into the TT without problems. The term ‘Latin script’ is more formal, and therefore probably better in this context, than ‘Latin letters’.

42 We rejected the more literal ‘some people call this scarification [...]’ partly to avoid further repetition of ‘scarification’, and partly because ‘refer to’ or ‘term’ are more appropriate than ‘call’ in this context. The passive is used here to get the most predictable element ‘this’ to the start of the sentence and put the less predictable elements towards the end (‘referred to by some people as [etc.]’).
Practical 4 Tutor notes

Students can find the notion of compensation difficult to understand, and it is worth going through the material relating to the extract from مشوار، in order to make sure that the distinction between compensation and constraint is properly understood. The various categories of compensation discussed in § 4.2 are useful. However, it should be stressed that the identification of the need for compensation in a TT and the precise form which that compensation takes are more important than the assignment of compensation to one or more of the categories which we have given, such as compensation in place.

4.1 Compensation

Practical 4.1 contains a number of interesting translation problems, but not many requiring compensation. It is generally not too difficult. It might be worthwhile doing the first few lines, down to كان المجني عليه صديقاً أم خصمًا, as a group-based exercise in class. The whole of this section including the decisions of detail could probably be completed in an hour. Subsequent class discussion will provide an opportunity to focus on whether and why compensation is required in the TT, reinforcing previous reading and discussion of the notions of compensation and constraint. The remainder of Practical 4.1 could be done as an individual exercise by students at home.

4.2 Compensation

Practical 4.2 involves a longer and somewhat more challenging ST. This is better tackled by students individually at home.

PRACTICAL 4.1 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON كنت دائمًا حاملا ١٤ رئيس رابين

(i) Strategic decisions

The key strategic problem in this text is to maintain a proper balance between the fact that on the one hand the writer does not wish to suggest he supported or admired Rabin, but on the other that he has a certain grudging respect for him — and that ultimately even enemies must learn to live in peace. The Arabic text works by maintaining this balance, and it is vital to do the same in the English translation.

The general style of the English TT should be relatively similar to that of 'opinion' columns in the more up-market English-language newspapers; it is important to maintain the personal tone of the Arabic, without producing a TT which is over-colloquial.

(ii) TT

Comment
Mustafa Amin

I was always against Rabin.¹ I hated his violent actions against the Arabs,² and opposed him in whatever ways I could.³ However, I was sad when he died. I felt that we had lost a powerful adversary, who, while he may have⁴ hampered negotiations and adopted an extreme attitude⁵ towards the Arabs, nonetheless loved his country. He fought and defeated us in 1967;⁶ then in 1973⁷ we fought and defeated him. I felt revulsion⁸ at his death, because one must be⁹ against assassinations regardless of whether the victim¹⁰ is a friend or an enemy.¹¹

The most important aspect of this sad incident is that it showed that the Arabs are not the only people who go in for¹² assassinations. Israel is also afflicted by the same disease.¹³ I thank God¹⁴ that Rabin was killed by a Jew. If the assassin had been an Arab, accusations would have been flung at us from all directions.¹⁵ There wouldn't have been¹⁶ a single Arab who hadn't been accused of killing the Israeli Prime Minister. Now, however,¹⁷ it's clear that¹⁸ the killer was a single person, not millions of Arabs who find themselves accused¹⁹ of everything that happens in the world.
(iii) Decisions of detail

NB Most of the decisions discussed below are not instances of compensation, even where they involve addition, omission or major grammatical transposition. They are intended to illustrate the differences between compensation proper and changes forced on the translator by the constraints of grammar, idiomaticness or context.

Translation by omission. ‘Prime Minister Rabin’ in English sounds rather too respectful for this context.

It makes better sense to reverse the order of the phrases ‘كتبت أصراً عليه’ and ‘أنا أستطيع’ since the first element can reasonably be regarded as a logical consequence of the second. This reversal also avoids an awkward semi-repetition in English.

is problematic in English. The words ‘أنا أستطيع’ and ‘كتبت أصراً عليه’ involve two forms of repetition simultaneously in Arabic: pattern repetition (Ch. 8.2.3.1) and semantic repetition (Ch. 5.2). Pattern repetition is inherently unrepeatable in English while semantic repetition is frequently translated by a single term or by two words in construction (e.g. noun + adjective or verb + adverb). Our TT loses the semantic repetition, with its connotation of emphasis, but ‘in whatever ways I could’ compensates for this by replacing the ST connotations of emphasis with a phrase denotatively stating degrees of effort.

Translation by addition to ensure idiomaticness: ‘may’ is sometimes used in English where the speaker/writer is acknowledging something (often something bad), but then going on to say something else which contrasts with the first acknowledgment; e.g. ‘I may be stupid, but at least I’m not a liar’.

In English, it is not normal to use ‘attitudes’ in the plural in this kind of context. Nor is it normal to say, ‘to take an attitude against’. Our TT is the simplest idiomatic rendering.

Our TT has an exegetical element; ‘1967’ is added to make the reference clear to English speakers, and to allow for contrast with ‘1973’ later.

The Arab-Israeli war of 1973 is often referred to in Arabic as حرب '67: here the month and date are enough to make plain what war is being referred to. For most TL readers these would not be adequate, whereas mention of the year is. Thus the loss of ‘6 October’ is compensated for with ‘1973’. (This war is sometimes known in English as the Yom Kippur War, from the Hebrew, but this would be inappropriate in a translation of this Arabic text.)

It would be odd to say in English ‘I loathed/hated his death’, because it seems to suggest the way in which he died rather than the fact that he died.

The ST uses the first person plural form لأنّنا to suggest not only the writer but also his readers, or all reasonable people, or perhaps Arabs in general. The implication of solidarity in ‘لّنّا’ is lost in the TT, because English cannot use the first person plural in this way. The loss is compensated for with the generalizing ‘one’ and the moral commitment implied in ‘must’.

Wehr gives جنّي على as meaning ‘to commit a crime on’, ‘to offend against’. The easiest idiomatic way of translating الجنّي عليّه is to use a simple noun which gives the general sense intended; ‘victim’ is an obvious choice.

Journalistic English is characterized by short paragraphs, and there is a fairly clear change of subject (or focus) at this point. Hence the new paragraph.

Rather than the passive geographical metaphor ‘arena’, ‘field’, ‘sphere’, it is more idiomatic in English to use a more active form such as ‘go in for’. ‘The only ones’ would be a more informal alternative to ‘the only people’.

There is no need to translate يلّ into English; the sense of contrast is sufficiently relayed by juxtaposing the two contrasting sentences. The ST here translates literally as ‘Israel also shares this misfortune/affliction/plague with us’; ‘to suffer from/be afflicted with the same disease’ is more idiomatic.

It is also possible in English to say ‘Praise be to God’, or less idiomatically, ‘I/We praise God’. However, the phrase ‘Thank God’ is much more common (e.g. ‘Thank God you’re all right’). ‘I thank God’ is also more idiomatic than ‘We thank God’.

The informality of ‘to fling’ (contrast, e.g. ‘to level accusations’) corresponds to the tone of the ST; and in English accusations are flung ‘from every direction’, rather than ‘from every place’.

The ST reads ‘not a single Arab would have remained’, but the noun would be better after the verb in English, as in Arabic, because the key information is conveyed by the noun phrase. It is possible to say ‘There wouldn’t have remained a single Arab’, but the use of ‘there’ with a verb such as ‘to remain’ is relatively unusual. The intended sense is reasonably conveyed by the more normal usage, ‘there wouldn’t have been a single Arab’.

is translatable in many different ways, depending on context. Here the intended contrast makes ‘however’ a reasonable choice.

‘It is clear that’ is added to the English in order to improve the logic of the English version. A rendering of the type, ‘Now, however, the killer is a single person’ would suggest that at one time he was more than one person.

‘Who find themselves accused’ accords with the emotive context better than ‘who are accused’, focusing more on the subject as victim and therefore giving a greater sense of outrage.
had shot past. So they stood up to try and find out why, but of course to no avail; then their curiosity got the better of them, and they began to walk; then one of them suggested that they go a little quicker. Finally they found themselves running, but they did not forget to greet other groups of sitters, who themselves stood up and before long found that they too were running.

(iii) Decisions of detail

NB Many of the decisions discussed below are not instances of compensation, even where they involve addition, omission or major grammatical transposition. They are intended to illustrate the differences between compensation proper and changes forced on the translator by the constraints of grammar, idiomaticness or context.

1 Grammatically this clause is nominal. That is to say, the first clause means something like ‘The fact that you see someone running in Munyat El Nasr’. This English formulation gives a slightly different emphasis from the ST; it the ‘incident’ is the seeing of someone running. An idiomatic way of conveying this focus is to use an if-clause, as in our TT, although, grammatically, it is still the seeing that is the event. A more coherent alternative would be something like ‘Seeing someone running in Munyat El Nasr is a most unusual experience’; but this entails a wholesale switch of focus from the runner to the watcher probably a greater loss than the slight change of emphasis in our TT.

2 It seems difficult to link the translation of كأنه صوت سرينة what has gone before and what comes afterwards. The Arabic كأنه could be considered to refer back either to أن ترى واحدًا يجري في حادثة النصر or to منبه النصر. A literal translation would be obscure: ‘as if it’s the sound of the siren […], and so there must be behind his running an exciting incident’. Our TT is longer and more explicit than the ST, but there seems no alternative. We have also dropped the second mention of جري and replaced this by the vaguer English ‘it’, which could refer to the running, but is more likely to be interpreted as referring to the police siren in the TT, and thus introduces a degree of distortion in the TT message content.

3 ‘Police rescue-car’ is unidiomatic in English. ‘Police-car siren’ would be possible, but ‘police siren’ seems the most common usage. Wehr gives بلوس النجدة as approximately equivalent to ‘riot squad’ in Egyptian usage.

4 The motif of ‘calm’ is important in the ST. Ideally, one wants related words to translate the occurrence of هدوء here, and the two occurrences of هدوء in paragraph 2. But ‘this calm, slow village’ perhaps sounds
odd. A feasible alternative is to use 'calm' as a noun; but this sounds just as odd if collocated with 'happen': 'when something happens in the calm of this slow village'. It is more idiomatic to use a transitive verb, e.g. 'when something disrupts the calm', but this is much more violent than the ST: ٧٧٧٧ We have used 'ripples' because it accords with the extended water motif of 'floating in their perpetual calm', 'stagnation' and 'this calm was disturbed' (in paragraph 2); as such, by adding an explicit water-image it helps to compensate for the loss of explicit water imagery in our rendering of جمعة (see Note 13).

The obvious translations here are 'The fact is/was', and 'In fact'. 'The fact is/was' corresponds grammatically most closely to the Arabic, but seems too strong in this context (perhaps because 'The fact' appears as the subject of the sentence); it might be taken to suggest a complete contradiction of what has been stated before, rather than an extension and amendment of it. 'In fact' would be possible here, but again is perhaps slightly too contradictory. We have gone for a dash, which gives the intended sense in English.

6 The Arabic has the word order Verb-Subject, i.e. يتعكر واسعة النطاق حركة and واسعة النطاق حركة also is a rather formal phrase, which might be found, for instance, in academic writing. The ST's playful manipulation of register cannot be copied in the TL. This loss is compensated for in our TT with 'mass movement', which uses a different denotative meaning from the same semantic field in the same register and in the same register, and a different, but related, pun in 'movement'.

7 يتعكر and ٧٧٧٧ The continuation of the ST with a relative clause makes it desirable to maintain the noun at the end of this phrase. But this is hard to do idiomatically with any of the standard translations of انتِ 'afflict', 'befall', 'afflict'), which are in any case too negative here. We have omitted the verb in the TT, and conjoined 'stagnation' with 'calm' through the use of 'and'.

A literal translation 'mixed with foam' is peculiar and misleading: it suggests two separate substances that have been actively mixed together. Our TT is more idiomatic, but it loses the explicit reference to energetic action ('mixed'). It compensates for this loss with the adjective: washing water is only made 'foamy' by energetic action.

8 يتعكر بناء ذلك الروكود and is a blueing agent sold in cubes and added to water to counteract yellowing. المخاطب ٧٧٧٧ could be introduced here ('mixed with blueing agent'), but this is more technical and cumbersome than the ST. Our TT loses reference to the blueing agent; but, although the adjective does not compensate for the loss, it does at least avoid cumbersomeness. Another possibility is 'foamy-blue', which is inspecific, but does suggest that the foaminess and blueness are a single consequence of the same activity (washing): this implication would compensate slightly for the loss of explicit reference to blueing agent.

10 The grammatical transposition 'scented with' (instead of 'the scent of') is necessitated by the decision not to translate المخاطب ب. ٧٧٧٧

11 'Loiter and loaf' is too repetitive in English - obtrusive and over-emphatic. 'Loaf around' is idiomatic and conveys just the right degree of emphasis, 'Around' thus compensates for the loss of semantic repetition and pattern repetition in the ST.

12 'Until the preparation of lunch is finished' would be clumsy; above all it would be unacceptably repetitious, coming so soon after 'busy themselves preparing lunch'. Luckily, 'food' can replace 'lunch' without significant loss here. Our TT is idiomatic in context; it loses تيتمت and isواد, but it compensates for the loss with the grammatical transpositions to 'finally' and 'ready'.

13 It seems difficult to maintain the strength of the Arabic metaphor يتعكر 'become/be made turbid'. We have used 'disturbed' partly because it is acceptable in the context, but also because it at least maintains the -turb element of 'turbid'. The presence of a water motif is more strongly preserved by the introduction of 'ripples' in the first paragraph - see Note 4.

14 The longer phrase 'running along' seems better balanced - since it is heavier - with the phrase 'shaking the houses' than does the shorter 'running'. English makes wide use of phrasal verbs. Since verbs of this type do not exist in Arabic, it is worth being alert to the possibilities of their use in Arabic-English translation.

15 It seems necessary in English to specify what kind of group, especially as 'sitters' is not a plausible option in the next sentence. 'People' is a possibility, but we have already been told that the women are indoors. 'Men' seems the least intrusive word in this context.

16 It would seem odd in English to repeat 'while he was running' so soon after 'the runner'. Our TT incurs semantic loss, but it does so to avoid the greater stylistic loss that would be entailed by the unnatural repetition of 'run[ning]'. An alternative to 'turn and greet them' might be 'slow down and greet them', but this would contradict the subsequent 'shot past'.

17 The complex verb usage يتعكر قد نفذ suggests a resulting state. In many contexts, a form such as 'he would have/had passed through' would suffice, but this would be a real loss here: it does not put enough emphasis on his hurry, a clear implication of the emphatic aspect of يتعكر (and قد) in this case. Adding 'by that time', before the verb, compensates for the grammatical loss of the ST emphatic aspect, and 'shot past' (rather than 'passed through') compensates for the semantic loss of the implication of 'hurry'.

18 The Arabic uses a time-expression حينئن, but 'by that time' or even 'then' seems less idiomatic here than to use a connector with a greater
Practical 5 Tutor notes

Students generally do not have problems understanding the notion of synonymy. Hyperonymy and hyponymy may prove a little more difficult, and partially overlapping translation more difficult still. In this latter case, students need to be aware that partial overlap does not simply involve the use of any denotatively related meaning in the TT. In order to demonstrate partial overlap one needs to be able to show: (i) what is retained of the core meaning; (ii) what aspect of meaning is added; (iii) what aspect of meaning is lost.

Both semantic repetition and other forms of parallelism are notions which need to be applied judiciously. The notion of words or phrases used in closely-related but distinguishable meanings is obviously somewhat elastic, but should not be stretched too far. The same is true of other semantic relationships, and particularly membership of a given semantic field. The crucial thing is that these notions are applied in contexts where they help provide insights into real translation problems and proposed solutions. Where they are of no particular practical value, there is little purpose in using them.

5.1 Denotative meaning

Practical 5.1 is a fairly challenging piece, and would repay at least preparatory work outside the class. It might be useful to get students to do a preliminary individual version of paragraph 1 of Practical 5.1 at home, and then in class produce more polished group versions in groups, for subsequent class discussion and analysis. Using this approach, groups should be able to produce versions for class discussion in about half an hour, including decisions of detail discussing key issues of relevance to Chapter 5. This approach will allow the tutor to check that students have understood and are able to apply the key notions introduced in Chapter 5. Students can produce a final complete individual version of Practical 5.1 at home.

5.2 Denotative meaning and semantic repetition

Both structurally and stylistically, Practical 5.2 repays close thought; the metaphors are an obviously difficult area. This practical is probably better done by students as an individual home exercise.
PRACTICAL 5.1 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON تخفّ البشريّة اليوم TT

(i) Strategic decisions

This ST throws up a number of general problems. Firstly, there is a need to maintain a slightly elevated, formal style in the TT, and in particular to find appropriate ways of relaying the numerous metaphors which occur in the ST. Related to this is the need to produce sentence structures in the TT which are both appropriate to the formality of the text and which read fairly naturally.

With regard to denotative meaning, the ST contains a number of examples of polysemy (i.e. the same word used in different senses, and particularly the word أنظمة/نظام). It also contains examples where the translator needs to distinguish between two words occurring in close proximity which appear from the dictionary to have roughly the same denotative meaning, but which are clearly being used to mean something rather different from each other in the context in which they occur.

(ii) TT

Man today stands on the edge of the abyss — not by virtue of the threat of annihilation which hangs over his head, for this is a symptom of the disease rather than the disease itself, but by virtue of his bankruptcy with respect to those values which alone permit the genuine growth and development of human life. This is particularly clear in the West, which not only no longer has any values to give to mankind, but is also no longer able to convince itself of its own right to exist. For Western democracy has reached a state of virtual collapse, and under the guise of socialism, the West has begun to take its ideas, however slowly, from the regimes of the communist world, particularly in the sphere of economics.

The same is true of the communist world itself. Because it is a theory which has the form of a belief system, Marxism, like other collectivist theories, initially attracted a high level of support not only in Eastern Europe but also in the West. More recently, however, Marxism too has made a visible intellectual retreat, and is now virtually confined to the state apparatus — albeit that this is something which is far removed from the original thinking of the ideology. Marxism also stands opposed to the demands of human nature, and only flourishes in an environment which has been utterly devastated, or where people have long been accustomed to dictatorial regimes.

(iii) Decisions of detail

1. The obvious translation choice here is between 'Man' and 'Mankind'. However, using 'mankind' would lead to a grammatical anomaly, with the use of 'our heads/bankruptcy' instead of 'his head/bankruptcy' — it would sound odd to use 'its', or even 'his', when referring to mankind. Unfortunately, 'our' would destroy the objectivity of the opening sentence; this seems too great a loss, so there is little option but to use 'Man' and 'his'.

2. 'Edge' is a particularization of حافة (cf. 'border', 'brink', 'verge', 'edge'), and 'abyss' a particularization of هاوية (cf. 'chasm', 'gulf', 'abyss', 'infernal depth', 'bottomless pit'). Together, however, they form a fixed expression which corresponds closely to the one in the ST.

3. 'Because of', 'by reason of', and 'by virtue of' are all regular options for the Arabic بسب. We have chosen 'by virtue of' because it is most appropriate to this particular context, hinting at mankind's own responsibility for the situation, whereas 'because of' and 'by reason of' are dispassionate indicators of cause and effect.

4. 'Extinction' is closer in denotative meaning to فناء than 'annihilation'. 'Annihilation' is a hypernym of فناء, meaning 'extinction/obliteration through aggressive destruction', rather than just 'extinction/obliteration'. However, 'annihilation' collocates better with 'hangs over his head', and the sense of aggressive destruction in 'annihilation' accords better with the implication in the ST as a whole that the obliteration is self-inflicted.

5. 'Disease' is more often used in this metaphorical sense than 'illness'; it also collocates better with 'symptom', perhaps because it is a hypernym of 'illness' ('illness' denotes either 'disease' or 'disposition').

6. 'Bankruptcy' and 'the world of values' are fairly standard stock-metaphorical expressions in English. However, 'bankruptcy in the world of values' sounds like an unidiomatic calque, almost a mixed metaphor. We have substituted the innocuous non-metaphor 'with respect to' for 'in the world of'. An alternative is to use 'moral bankruptcy', a stock TL metaphor which conflates the two SL ones. The change in grammatical subject would entail finding a different verb, as e.g. in 'by virtue of the moral bankruptcy which is inhibiting/preventing the genuine growth'.

7. في ظلالها literally means 'in the shades of', and metaphorically 'under the protection of'. 'Which alone permit' is a partial overlap: it keeps the core sense of 'propitiousness', but adds the implication of positively
permitting, while losing that of ‘shielding against attack’. We have chosen it because it is more idiomatic than a more literal version such as ‘under the protection of which human life could [...]’. The phrase ‘alone permit’ is better than simply ‘permit’, suggesting that the values which the writer is describing are not currently present in the West. ‘Alone allow’ is better avoided because its assonance and alliteration make it sound vaguely comic.

8 ST: ان تنمو ... نمو سليمٍ وتتردق قرية صحیحًا TT: ‘the genuine growth and development of human life’. There is semantic repetition and structural parallelism in نمو سليمٍ and نمو سليمٍ and root repetition of نمو and نمو. The effect is to produce an emphatic structure, but English cannot idiomatically accommodate repetition of this complexity or on this scale. We have tried to relay this emphasis by retaining a degree of semantic repetition ‘growth and development’. However, in order to make the phrase more idiomatic, we have merged the ST نمو سليمٍ and نمو سليمٍ into a single adjective ‘genuine’ defining both ‘growth’ and ‘development’.

9 واضح كل الوضوح is a stock phrase, involving root repetition and meaning ‘absolutely clear’. The cliché ‘crystal clear’ is rather too informal for the context. ‘Absolutely clear’ would give the text less coherence than واضح كل الوضوح: the first sentence provides a general statement of the problem, then the second specifies where this problem is most clearly seen. ‘Particularly clear’ is a partial overlap: it preserves the notion of ‘very’, loses that of ‘totally’ and adds that of ‘comparatively’; but it relays the essential sense of the ST, while preserving the link between the first and second sentences.

A more literal translation would be ‘no longer possesses that which convinces its conscience of its right to exist’. Our TT avoids the use of ‘that which’ as a subject; non-specific subjects of this kind are much rarer in English than in Arabic. ‘Convince one’s conscience’ is so unidiomatic that ‘convince oneself’ almost amounts to a (mandatory) communicative translation; the loss of denotative meaning seems insignificant in the context. It is also more idiomatic here to add the emphatic ‘own’ before ‘right’. ‘Right to exist’ is a standard phrase in English. Although استحقاق the denotative meaning of ‘worthiness, deservingness, merit’, the loss of denotative meaning here is outweighed by the advantage of maintaining idiomaticness.

The literal ‘democracy in it’ is not English ‘Democracy there’ is too informal in this context; hence ‘Western democracy’.

A literal translation ‘has finished up in quasi-bankruptcy’ is an unconvincing collocation. ‘To reach a state of’ suggests a degree of finality, and is often used with negative notions. ‘Virtual collapse’ is a fairly common expression, collocates well with ‘reach a state of’, and avoids the use of an over-technical sounding form with ‘quasi-’ or ‘semi-’.

13 If left at the end in the TT, the English equivalent of تحت اسم الاستثنائية would sound unacceptably disconnected from the rest of the sentence. We have moved it to the beginning of this clause, since it seems to provide information which is almost parenthetical in nature. If ‘under the name of’ is felt not to be a convincing collocation, it could be replaced with ‘in the guise of’. ‘In the name of’ is denotatively wrong here, corresponding to the Arabic باسم. The important thing is to suggest a degree of deceit on the part of Western socialists.

14 Since قياس and استعار are synonyms, this is an example of semantic repetition, used here for emphasis. We have used the fairly standard ‘to take its ideas’, since in English it is usual to specify what has been borrowed. The relative length of the phrase also provides a degree of emphasis, compensating for the loss of the emphatic repetition.

15 In this sentence, انفطة is used in two different senses in close proximity. The meaning here is the specifically political sense of ‘regime’.

16 ‘The Eastern camp’ is not standard usage in English. ‘The Eastern bloc’ would be possible, but implies neighbouring states, whereas المعسكر الشرقي does not. ‘The communist world’ seems the most obvious and standard English equivalent.

17 Here انفطة is being used in a fairly general sense of ‘methods’, ‘systems’. However, ‘in the sphere of economics’ seems more idiomatic than something like ‘in its economic system[s]’; the loss of denotative meaning here is not significant.

18 The ST sentence beginning فالنظريات الاجتماعية is difficult to translate idiomatically. The real focus of the sentence is the nature of Marxism, but this is presented grammatically as a subordinate element (introduced by وفي مقدمة...), while the grammatical subject is النظريات الاجتماعية. In English, subordinate elements are not used to introduce foreground information. We have solved this problem by making ‘Marxism’ the grammatical subject of the TT sentence, and rendering النظريات الاجتماعية as ‘like other collectivist theories’. Although there is some denotative loss, this is not significant compared with the advantages of keeping the correct sentence focus in the TT. Similarly, ‘because it is a theory which has the form of a belief system’ is better placed at the beginning of the TT sentence than at the end because the information it provides is relatively predictable. Although ‘theory’ is not a standard translation of نظريات مذهب...، in this context it is necessary to have a clear denotative difference in the TT between the rendering of مذهب and that of معتقد. Hence the non-committal ‘theory’ for مذهب... and ‘belief system’, which implies commitment on the part of its followers, for معتقد. The generalization ‘initially’ is chosen for its concision, an important consideration given the relative length of the TT sentence.

19 The exegetic ‘a high level of support’ is more appropriate in this context than ‘a large number of/many [people]’. Denotative accuracy is sacrificed
to the demands of register, but the essential message is preserved.

20 ‘The East’ seems too vague in English here, taking in e.g. India and Japan as well as China and Eastern Europe. The particularization ‘Eastern Europe’ is probably the most accurate possible in this text.

21 The metaphorical ‘visible’ is somewhat incongruent with the abstract ‘intellectual’, but thereby gains an impact, compensating for the lost root repetition of و تراجع and تراجع.

22 أنظمة is used here in a different sense from those discussed in notes 15 and 17. ‘State apparatus’ is a fairly standard phrase in English.

23 in the phrase والتي تكون signals that the relative clause in Arabic is non-restrictive (describing). There is also, however, a contrastive element in the meaning of the Arabic here. We have tried to relay both these aspects with ‘albeit that this is something which’. There is major syntactic and denotative translation loss, but the overall meaning is almost completely recovered.

24 ‘Far removed’ is an idiomatic rendering of the emphatic root repetition in تبعد جدا كبيرا.

25 has strong religious connotations in Arabic (cf. أصول الدين, أصول اللغة). Here the intended meaning seems closer to ‘original thinking’ than the hyperonymic ‘origins’. ‘Ideology’ is used here in order to provide lexical variation in English.

26 The use of ضرورة طبيعة here is a kind of semantic repetition, and is best eliminated in the English TT. ‘Demands’ is at best a partially overlapping translation of مقتضيات, retaining a notion of ‘unarguable with essence’, but adding the active ‘demands’ and losing the passive ‘nature’; but the TT is more idiomatic than ‘the nature/constitution of human nature/constitution and its requirements’, and it preserves the essential idea that ‘you can’t change human nature’.

27 ‘Flourishes’ in this stock metaphorical sense is a particularization of نثر (all flourishing is growth, but not all growth is flourishing). It is not idiomatic to talk about an ideology ‘growing’.

28 is quite strong here (perhaps stronger than the first form محضومة). ‘Utterly devastated’ is a partial overlap: it retains the core sense of total destruction, but loses the exclusive focus on physical destruction, and adds an abstract element of the subjective reaction to it.

The TT expression is more appropriate in this context.

29 Repeating ‘environment’ would be obtrusive in English. It also sounds odd to talk about ‘[an environment] which has long been accustomed [...]’. Hence the addition of ‘people’ as the subject of this relative clause. النظام here is used in what may be the same sense as that discussed in Note 15. We have used the form ‘dictatorial regimes’, the use of the definite article the in the ST giving a generic sense. A more abstract translation of النظام الدكتاتوري would be ‘dictatorial rule’.

PRACTICAL 5.2 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON وبهذا الاسلوب البارز TT

(i) Strategic decisions

It is necessary to find an overall form for the TT which adequately reflects the contents of the ST while maintaining a style which is appropriate to literary critical writing in English. Many of the individual problems of denotative meaning and semantic repetition, as well as other problems such as those relating to metaphor, reflect this more general strategic issue.

(ii) TT

Both1 in his autobiography,2 The Days, and in all his other books, fiction and non-fiction alike,3 Taha Hussein makes use of this extraordinary4 style, whose elegance and dramatic imagery5 is able to stir the emotions of his readers.6 The Days itself has been translated into English, French, Russian, Chinese, and Hebrew.

One of the most important features of Taha Hussein's style,7 both in The Days and elsewhere,8 is its rhythmic and melodic quality.9 As soon as one begins to listen to something he has written, one is affected by40 the beauty of its complex forms,11 each of which unfolds upon the other12 in a sublime musical composition.13

Taha Hussein seems to appreciate that any literature worthy of the name appeals not only to the heart, but also to the ear. He therefore makes the sound of what he writes as attractive as possible.14 Strikingly, he never alters what he has dictated,16 nor does he prepare his lectures before giving them. This style has become part of his very way of thinking,17 it is the only one he uses.18 It is a style which makes frequent and deliberate use of lexical repetition, in order to achieve those rhythms and melodies which will have the profoundest effect on his readers and hearers.20

(iii) Decisions of detail

1 This first sentence is difficult to translate for structural reasons. The initial Arabic phrase, from التصور إلى وبهذا الاسلوب البارز والتوين, describes how Taha Hussein wrote أيام, and is therefore...
structurally dependent on the verb كتب، which occurs later twice in the sentence. The initial phrase has been placed at the beginning of the sentence for emotive purposes. Copying the ST structure would just result in a non-emotive form of emphasis on the initial element. Here is an English version that restores the emotive element: ‘It was in this extraordinary style, whose elegance and dramatic imagery is able to stir the emotions of his readers, that Taha Hussein wrote not only his autobiography The Days but all his other works, both fiction and non-fiction.’ This version might be felt too emotive, however. Our restructuring keeps the required focus on ‘extraordinary style’, but avoids over-emphasis. ‘Makes use of’ is more formal than ‘uses’, and therefore more appropriate to this context.

ترجمة الأدامات here is clearly the hyponymous ‘autobiography’. The partial overlap ‘his’ is more idiomatic than ‘this’ in this context.

قصصه وكتبه in Arabic might seem to involve a denotative semantic anomaly, in that ‘[written] story’ is a virtual hyponym of ‘book’. In fact, what is meant here is ‘stories, and other non-story books/works’. The generalizing translation ‘works, fiction and non-fiction alike’ is the closest idiomatic translation.

‘Extraordinary’ is a partially overlapping translation of بارز: it keeps the notion of ‘prominent’, but loses the element of approbatory ‘excellent’ and adds an element of potentially disapprobatory ‘surprising’. However, we preferred it to ‘outstanding’ because it collocates better with ‘style’.

The triplet سلاسة وعذوبة وصفاء is summed up as ‘elegance’: there is considerable loss in denotative meaning, but English is less tolerant than Arabic of rhetorical lists of semantically related terms; similarly the typical Arabic semantic repetition of التصور والتدوير is reduced to ‘dramatic imagery’, and there is no rendering of the الفترة على القوة. These losses in denotative meaning were deemed less important than the production of an idiomatic translation appropriate for the context and genre.

Here too, there seems no reason to reproduce the ST semantic repetition of يثير العواطف and يمس القلوب: ‘stir the emotions’ is sufficient in English. We have added ‘of his readers’ because ‘stir the emotions’ on its own may seem too abstract. The addition of ‘is able to’ reflects a general tendency of English to make use of modal elements (e.g. ‘can’, ‘would’, ‘should’), possibly reflecting a greater tendency in English than Arabic towards understatement or hesitancy.

English does sometimes metonymically use the names of writers to denote their work (e.g. ‘There’s a lot of metaphor in Taha Hussein’s work’); to that extent ‘Taha Hussein’s style’ is a particularization of ST طريقة: But in this context, it would be odd just to say ‘Taha Hussein’: it would sound like a reference to the man himself rather than to his writing.

8 In context, ‘elsewhere’ is virtually synonymous with غير الأماكن. Repeating ‘The Days’ would be unthinkable.

9 A literal translation, e.g. ‘undulating and abounding in melody’ or ‘which undulates and abounds in melody’, would be unidiomatic. ‘Rhythmic’ and ‘melodic’ are commonly found in descriptions of literary language. These are particularizations, and less forceful than the ST expressions, but ‘quality’ implies that both features are found in abundance in Taha Hussein’s work, and thus compensates somewhat for the loss of forcefulness in ‘rhythmic and melodic’.

10 يعثر on means ‘recognize’, ‘acknowledge’. Both these are a little too emotionally detached for this context, where the meaning is something like ‘acknowledge the superiority of’, ‘concede best to’. ‘Affected by’ is at best a partial overlap, but it is a pretty close idiomatic rendering of تعرف ب in context.

We have simplified طريقة إلى ‘beauty’. Although there is significant loss in denotative meaning, the English is more idiomatically acceptable than a literal translation such as ‘its adorned characteristics’. Literal translations of ملوف as such as ‘coiled’, ‘wound (up)’, ‘wrapped’, ‘rolled (up/together)’ would barely be comprehensible here. ‘Complex’ is a partial overlap: it keeps the element of ‘complications’, loses that of ‘twists and turns’ and adds that of ‘multiple components’, but it is a widely used term in literary criticism, and conveys the intended meaning adequately. In a literary-critical context, ‘forms’ is a hyperonym of ‘expressions’ and is thus a generalizing translation of مبانيات; but in this context it corresponds more closely to the sense of the ST term.

12 ‘Unfolds upon the other’ is appropriate to a formal literary style. ‘Unfolds’ also compensates somewhat for the loss of the coil metaphor in translating ملوف as ‘complex’.

13 Denotative meaning is completely changed, but ‘musical composition’ provides a more powerful and coherent metaphor here than ‘musical tone/sound’. ‘Sublime’ is an attempt to relay the intensity of the Arabic, which would be lost to some extent in the cliché ‘wonderful/marvellous’.

14 ‘As beautiful as possible’ would be denotatively closer to the ST, but might imply a beauty for which there are objective criteria. ‘Appealing’ would echo ‘appeals’ in the previous sentence and make clear the logical relationship between the two sentences; but it would sound rather lame, as if Taha Hussein accepted second best: ‘Attractive’ is at best a partial overlap, but at least it avoids these two pitfalls.

A literal translation such as ‘It is strange that’ is much too forceful, suggesting that the subsequent section of the text is going to focus on this strangeness. Starting the sentence with ‘strangely’ would get round this, but ‘strangely’ is too negative a word here. ‘Strikingly’ is a partial overlap: it keeps the notion of ‘unusualness’, loses that of ‘outlandishness’, and adds that of ‘impact’, but it accords better than ‘strangely’ with the
context.

16 ‘An expression which he has dictated’ would leave the possibility of altering single words. Clearly, what is meant is that he never alters anything which he has dictated – hence our generalizing translation ‘what he has dictated’.

17 There is virtual semantic repetition in the ST, although clearly there is some difference in meaning between نفس عقل and emphasized ‘very’ together relay the ST emphasis.

18 Something like ‘it is the only style/one he uses when he dictates or lectures’ would be unacceptably repetitive in English. ‘It is the only one which he uses’ is a generalizing translation, but the context makes it plain that the reference is to Taha Hussein’s dictating and lecturing.

19 ‘Make use of’ produces a concise English structure, allowing and is to be translated as adjectives defining ‘use’. The emphatic element relayed by the root repetition in وهو يعمد إلى ذلك عمداً is essentially lost in the TT, although the length of the adjective phrase ‘frequent and deliberate’ does give it a degree of emphasis.

20 Norms of English style require that the passive-like استتبع be rendered by something more active. There is some loss in denotative meaning in rendering ‘is determined’ as ‘achieve’. This is, however, warranted by the idiomaticness of the phrase in this context.

21 The problem here is to find an appropriate English word to translate وقدان, the literal equivalents offered by Wehr, such as ‘sentiment’, and ‘feeling’ clearly do not fit. ‘Have the profoundest effect on’ is a reasonably idiomatic translation of the entire phrase ‘يتفق إلى وقدان’. We preferred ‘profoundest’ to ‘profound’ because ‘profound’ would sound anti-climatic in this context, far weaker than the ST image of penetration; it also gives the forcefulness appropriate to the culminating sentence of a text of this type. ‘Will have’ is better than simply ‘has’ in this context, because it is a reminder that, although Taha Hussein is not mentioned by name in this sentence, it is his intention that the ‘profoundest effect’ be produced.

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Practical 6 Tutor notes

The major conceptual problems which students encounter in this chapter are the differentiation in practical analysis of different kinds of connotative meaning, and, in certain cases, the distinction between connotative meaning and denotative meaning. Where problematic cases arise, the tutor should avoid getting bogged down in over-complex theoretical discussion. If, for example, it is not clear whether a particular connotative meaning is an example of attitudinal or affective meaning (or both), it is likely to be enough to analyse the meaning in question as attitudinal/affective meaning. Similarly, no practical harm is done if one acknowledges that in borderline cases it may be equally reasonable to analyse a particular example either as denotative meaning or as connotative meaning. As always, the categories introduced here are designed to facilitate practical analysis and therefore effective translation, rather than to provide a watertight abstract theoretical framework.

6.1, 6.2 Collocation

Practicals 6.1 and 6.2 are simple and should not require much time; they are probably most quickly done individually by students in class, with subsequent class discussion of the relative merits of different possible translations.

6.3 Connotative meaning

Practical 6.3 is much more challenging, and presents numerous other translation problems in addition to those involving connotative meaning. This exercise is best done at home, by students working individually. It is worth reminding students before doing this exercise that examples of connotative meaning may fall into more than one of the categories discussed in Chapter 6, and that finding the right labels for particular examples of connotative meaning is a means, not an end.
PRACTICAL 6.1 CLASS HANDOUT

(a) There is a sharp division between social classes in these societies, mirrored by the {yawning gap} between the military elite and the masses, and by the aloofness of this elite towards the public at large.

(b) A number of centres for Arabization and education in the Arab world deserve acknowledgment for their efforts to restore the Arabic language to its {rightful place} as a language of scholarship and education.

PRACTICAL 6.2 CLASS HANDOUT

(a) [...] that war is always a declaration by means of {fire and steel} of both {life and death}.

(b) I may have lost the election, but I have won the {hearts and minds} of the Kataeb.

PRACTICAL 6.3 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON TT

(i) Strategic decisions

A major problem in this text is to capture the oral feel of the original (short sentences, generally fairly simple syntax, staccato style), while at least in places maintaining a degree of formality which is consistent with the elegance of much of the original. Thus we have, for instance, used contracted forms of the verb 'to be' ('We'll', 'here's', etc.) where these were appropriate to give a sense of spoken language. But the key repeated phrase تخفف is translated as 'Do not be afraid' (rather than 'Don't be afraid') in order to give the phrase a greater sense of formality and importance. Given the close relationship between the two men, it is quite important that the overall impression in terms of affective meaning is one of intimacy and affection. The ST also contains a number of examples of unusual word order, which need careful consideration in the TT.

(ii) TT

The journey

You and I, and after us the deluge.¹ Do not be afraid. We'll go now − far, far away.² We'll go to where no-one can get at either of us,³ where we'll be absolutely free. We'll live just as we are able, just as we desire − without fear. Do not be afraid. I have taken every precaution.⁴ Do not be afraid. Everything will turn out fine.⁵ I know that your favourite colour is navy blue.⁶ So, here are your⁷ trousers and your jacket − and you'll definitely need your maroon necktie.⁸ You see, I understand you very well⁹ − you're not that elegant,¹⁰ but you always wear what's right for the occasion,¹¹ what's appropriate. Let me¹² help you arrange your hair. You don't realize it,¹³ but I love your hair − light and flowing,¹⁴ as if it was specially designed¹⁵ to cover your bald patch, but white all over¹⁶ and easy to comb. Let me comb it with my own hands.¹⁷ After that − and with the same brush¹⁸ − I'll do your moustache. I love this kind of moustache as well.¹⁹ This is something I've seen you do hundreds of times; everything you do I've come to love²⁰ − the things you do by force of habit, even the things you do on a whim. Are you aware how overjoyed I am?²¹ The joy of
embarking on a venture which is known only to us. You are not ill this
time. I'm not taking you to the doctor's once again. We're not going to
visit boring relatives. So let it just be a secret between you and me.

(iii) Decisions of detail

1. Allusion initially to saying of Mme de Pompadour (mistress of the
French King Louis XV), 'Après nous le délude' ('After us the deluge').
The translation 'After us the deluge' (rather than 'After us the flood')
ensures that the allusion, which should be familiar to English-speaking
readers, is maintained. The ultimate allusion, and the allusion which
Mme de Pompadour was making, is to the Biblical Flood (also mentioned
in the Quran).

2. Maintenance of some aspects of Arabic repetition in English (بعيش
(بيض), while other aspects (سنرحل ... سنرحل) are dropped in order to
maintain idiomaticity and rhythmic flow of the English. The translation
'far, far away' might for some readers seem allusive to the style of
nursery rhymes or other children's songs. If this were felt to trivialize
the TT too much, an alternative might be 'We'll go now - go far away'.

3. The repetition of ينالك أو ينالني is not copied because it would seem
ponderous in English.

4. Singular 'precaution' for plural احتمالات permits the use of the
idomatic phrase 'take every precaution'. In terms of affective meaning,
'take every precaution' involves a degree of formality and respect.

5. علي ما يرام is a common cliché in Standard Arabic. 'Everything will
turn out fine' is rather less formal, but maintains the cliché aspect and is
idiotic. In terms of affective meaning, 'Everything will turn out fine'
involves less formality and respect than كل شيء سيتم علي ما يرام. An
alternative would be 'Everything will go according to plan', which
maintains a greater degree of formality, but involves some loss in
denotative meaning.

6. A more literal translation of 'you prefer', would imply a
comparison between two known things (even if the second is not
mentioned). In this case, no comparison is implied فضل in Arabic
functions more like a superlative, implying that this is what you most
like). We have therefore used the word 'favourite' in this context.

7. 'Your' sounds more acceptable in English than 'the', which implies
some kind of compulsory uniform.

8. The full stops and disconnected structures in the Arabic give a staccato
feel to the original. The problem if this is reproduced in the English is to
integrate the phrase بالانتماء إلى رتبة العنق الحمراء (which cannot
plausibly be put with the translation of the following
although this is how it is presented in the ST). We have managed to
keep a slight element of orality with the dash; the main thing was not to
lose the focus on jacket and tie. Jackets and ties probably have greater
associations of formality, power and prestige in Egyptian society than
they do in the West. The slightly archaic 'necktie' perhaps conveys
some of these associative meanings.

9. A literal translation such as 'I know your nature' has too strong a
connotative meaning of 'fixed character', 'rigidity', or even 'obstinacy'
- associative meanings absent from the ST. 'I understand you very well'
is idiomatic. تهم would be odd if translated here into English as 'yes' or
something similar. The introduction of 'you see' into the TT compensates
somewhat for the omission of تهم, retaining the connotation of intimacy
implied in the ST.

10. 'That elegant' has a somewhat more negative attitudinal meaning than
بالالتزام. However, the more positive 'the height of elegance' sounds
over-formal here, and therefore perhaps risks sounding sarcastic, with a
proportionally more negative attitudinal meaning ('you really are a
scruff').

11. 'What's necessary' (or similar) would have an associative
meaning of 'you comply with the rules, more or less unwillingly'. 'What's
right for the occasion, what's appropriate' is a particularizing exegetical
translation, but has more suitable associative and attitudinal meanings in
this context ('you're admirably sensitive to social situations and happy
not to give offence').

12. The less pushy, more respectful affective meaning of 'let me' seems
closer to the intention of the ST than the more obvious 'I will'.

13. The literal 'You don't know that I love your hair' seems disjointed,
partly because it has to be read with strong emphasis on 'love', and
partly because the affectionate affective tone of the ST is largely lost.
The informality of 'You don't realize it, but I love your hair' restores
the affectionate tone and provides a natural-sounding run-in to the
following phrase 'light and flowing' (see also Note 15). In various
places, as here, the staccato effect of the Arabic (connected often to the
use of full stops) has been relayed by the use of dashes.

14. The standard word order in Arabic would be خفيف [و] متناثر. Putting
the adjective خفيف first puts the clause-stress on the initial
adjective and gives it an emotive charge. In the TT, this is done by
putting the adjectives after the noun (reversing the normal TL order)
and inserting a slight pause before them: 'your hair - light and flowing'.

15. 'Specially designed' has a narrower meaning than the Arabic
صنع خصيصا, but makes use of a well-known cliché. In terms of affective
meaning, it introduces a note of affectionate humour, which may go
further than the literal 'made especially', but is perhaps more idiomatic
in context.

16. The more obvious 'all white' for أبيض كله is perhaps better avoided,
Practical 7 Tutor notes

The Introduction to the Formal Properties of Texts should not be skipped. It is vital that students understand the point of Chapters 7–10, which is to give them tools for picking out the salient features of a text; they cannot decide which features are relevant unless they can see them in the first place. They must also grasp that any expression can be analysed on more than one of the levels of variables. This is why we refer to the two lines of Keats in each of Chapters 7–10. The ultimate objective of these chapters is to help the student learn to ask the questions listed in the Formal Matrix in the Introduction to the coursebook – ‘Are there significant features on the phonetic/graphic level, prosodic level, etc.?’ It is worth reassuring students that, although they will at first work hesitantly through these issues, they will soon learn to ask the pertinent questions quickly, almost automatically. A final thing to remind them of is that asking the questions of a text does not necessarily mean that the answer has to be ‘yes’: there may, for example, be no notable phonetic features in a text; or, if there are, they may not be significant (e.g. the alliteration in the coal-mining example). But the question has to be asked before this conclusion can be reached.

The degree of attention given to versification in Chapter 7 will depend on the tutor’s and students’ priorities. There is little verse material in this course, but apprentice translators should have an idea of the rudiments. They should certainly be made aware of the whole range of textual constraints that translators may have to contend with, audio-visual as well as grammatical.

7.1 Phonic/graphic and prosodic issues

This is a challenging and time-consuming exercise, which raises numerous issues regarding the relative merits and feasibility of different approaches to the translation of Classical Arabic verse in particular: adoption of a TT verse form which is close to that of the ST vs adoption of a more indigenous TT verse form; use of a rhyme scheme which mirrors that of the ST vs adoption of a rhyme scheme more typical of TT verse, vs abandonment of rhyme in the TT; use of fairly literal vs fairly free translation, etc.

This practical is best done at home, but it need not be done individually; students could work in pairs, the first student attempting to complete TT 1 and the second TT 2, then editing and revising each other’s initial attempts.
Given typical time constraints, it may be that there is not enough time to ask students to complete both TT 1 and TT 2. In this case, students could be given the complete version of TT 1 prior to doing Practical 7.1, and told to complete TT 2, using TT 1 as a translation aid and a point of comparison following completion of their own TT 2.

We have not included decisions of detail for Practical 7.1, nor are students required to produce decisions of detail in their assignments. From the student’s point of view, this is an attempt to keep time demands of the Practical within reasonable bounds. The decision not to include decisions of detail in the Tutor’s Handbook partly reflects pressures of space, and partly reflects the fact that student translations, particularly of TT 2, are likely to differ quite dramatically both from one another and from the translation which we have produced. There is probably not going to be enough time in class discussion to deal with all aspects of students’ translations; if not, the tutor could choose aspects of the ST which have proved particularly interesting and challenging for students in their home assignments.

In Practical 7.1 we have not attempted to provide guidance for element (v); different people may well have quite different views on this question. This element can be very usefully discussed at the end of the class in which student translations of the ST have been dealt with.

7.2 Phonie/graphic and prosodic issues

The ST is not difficult to understand. However, the various poetic features of the ST are hard to deal with effectively in the English, and less competent students are liable to ignore some or all of them, with the result that their TTs fail to relay the effect of the ST and possibly sound quite ugly.

It is worthwhile discussing the ST initially as a single class group. Students can then be asked to produce an initial translation strategy for the ST working in smaller groups in class, the ideas which emerge from this being subject to further general class discussion. The translation itself is best done as an individual exercise at home.

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**PRACTICAL 7.1 CLASS HANDOUT**

**COMMENTARY ON**

**TT**

(i) **Consideration of TTs (first three lines)**

*TT 1*

TT 1 makes use of a stanza structure which mirrors that of the Arabic ST. However, no attempt is made to reproduce the monorhyme of the Arabic ST. While the rhythms of the TT are reminiscent of those of the ST, the TT does not attempt to reproduce the precise metre of the ST or to substitute a specific English metre. This approach has the advantage that it gives the reader of the TT a sense of the general stanza form of the ST without imposing metrical or rhyming schemes on the TT which would be alien to the traditional forms of English poetry. The decision not to use a specific metrical form (whether Arabic-based or English-based) in the TT also gives the translator greater freedom of manoeuvre to relay both denotative and connotative aspects of the ST in the TT.

*TT 2*

TT 2 makes use of a stanza and rhyme structure which is similar to traditional forms of English poetry. *Quatrains* (i.e. four-line stanzas) with a rhyming scheme in which the second and fourth lines rhyme are extremely common in English poetry. Rhyming *dittichs* (i.e. two-line stanzas) are not so common, but are reminiscent of the refrain which is a feature of some traditional English poetry and song. Each line in the ST is relayed as two lines in the TT, the ST hemistich-break corresponding roughly to a TT line-break. This has the disadvantage of somewhat altering the form of the poem (assuming one regards maintenance of form in the TT as an advantage). However, it has the advantage of maintaining a break in the TT roughly where the ST has a hemistich-break, in a form which accords with the traditional conventions of English poetry.

Metrically, the English quatrains mainly make use of iambic tetrameters (i.e. with four iambic feet in each line). Thus:

*Let night’s events cause no concern/*
*The world’s events will cease/*

This gives the TT a familiar feel to the English reader. It also has the advantage that it is moderately similar to the metre of the ST. And there is
enough rhythmic variation for the quatrains not to become completely rigid.

However, the fact that the ST has thirteen lines makes it impossible to
relay the entire poem in quatrains (at least without sacrificing one of the ST
lines or merging two together). Introducing the English distichs is an attempt
to deal with this problem. Apart from the trochaic line 6, these are essentially
iambic, but with enough variation for them not to become wooden. The
decision to use metrical and rhyming features reminiscent of traditional forms
of English poetry has the disadvantage that it imposes on the translator
severe constraints in terms of vocabulary and structure. This almost inevitably
leads to various forms of loss in the TT, such as loss of denotative and
connotative meaning. An example is the translation of
فُتُومُ السَّلْيَاءِ الْخَيْرِيَّة
in TT2 as ‘The world’s events will cease to be’. Here the TT introduces
a virtual oxymoron ‘events [...] cease to be’. Events in English typically
‘happen’, or ‘take place’. The concept of an event ‘being’ is, at the very
least, extremely odd. The English TT thus distorts the denotative meaning, in
order to maintain both rhyme and metre. The TT word manipulation also
introduces a somewhat playful attitudinal meaning which is entirely absent
from the simple and dignified ST formulation. TT 2 here can be compared
with the more literal and restrained translation of TT 1 ‘the events of this
world have no permanence’.

(ii) Complete version of TT 1

Let the days do what they will,
Nor be troubled by the night’s event;
Be steadfast in the face of terrors;
And if your faults be many in the eyes of men,
Wrap yourself in magnanimity.

Do not abase yourself before your enemies,
Nor hope for generosity from a miser:
Your daily bread will not be lessened if you wait;
Neither sadness endures long, nor pleasure,
But if you have a contented heart
He whose abode is visited by destiny.

God’s earth is vast, but when fate falls
Let the days betray throughout all time:
and be of good cheer when fate utters its decree.
the events of this world have no permanence.
let your mark be generosity and trust.
and you wish to have a cover for yourself,
which covers every fault, as men have said.
for the gloating of one’s enemies is a scourge:
there is no water for the thirsty in the Fire.
nor will it be increased by anxious care.
nor misfortune, nor a state of ease.
you are the equal of the owner of the world.
finds no shield on earth or in the heavens.
the vastness of space can offer no escape.
there is no cure can avail against death.

Sadness and joy do not endure,
And neither case, nor times of death;
But he whose soul may rest content
Is as the owner of the earth.

He whose house is touched by doom,
Heaven and earth will not relieve.
God’s earth is vast, but at fate’s fall
The whole of space gives no reprieve.

Then let the days betray at every breath;
There is no cure can cure man of death.

(iv) Organization of stanzas in TT 2

Since the distichs are intended to be refrain-like, they should ideally appear
at regular intervals in the TT, for example after every second quatrains.
Unfortunately, this is not possible, because the ST consists of thirteen lines,
giving twenty-six lines in the TT. The distichs will necessarily therefore be
somewhat irregularly spaced in the TT.
From the point of view of meaning, some of the lines of the ST constitute clear or fairly clear two-line units of meaning. This is the case with lines 1 and 2, where there is a strong parallelism between the theme of ‘days’ and accepting one’s destiny in life in line 1, and ‘nights’ and the impermanence of the world in line 2. These two lines have accordingly been translated as a single quatrains. The link between line 4 [وَانَّكُمُ الْخَيْرَةُ (‘you are the best’)] and line 5 [يَسْتَثْرَ (‘it stirs’)] is even stronger; line 4 is completed grammatically by line 5, which contains the main clause of this sentence. These two lines have accordingly also been translated as a single quatrains. The decision to translate ST lines 1 and 2, and ST lines 4 and 5 as quatrains necessitates the translation of ST line 3 as a distich.

Lines 6 and 7 display significant gramatical and phonric parallelism. The first hemistich in both cases begins with يَا. line 6 then continues with the verb تَرَجَّم while line 7 continues with the verb تَرَجَّم. The second hemistich in both cases starts with the particle فَ. These two lines have accordingly been translated as a single quatrains.

Lines 11 and 12 [وَلَا يَرَى الْحَقَّ (‘and he does not see the truth’)] form a fairly coherent pair both lexically and semantically. Line 11 has نَزَّلَتْ in the first hemistich followed by أَرَضَ in the second; while line 12 has أَرَضَ in the first hemistich followed by نَزَّلَتْ in the second. There is also virtual semantic repetition between أَرَضَ in line 11 and أَرَضَ in line 12, and between سَمَأَ in line 11 and سَمَأَ in line 12. These two ST lines have been translated as a quatrains. Lines 11 and 12 of the ST are followed by the closing line, which strongly echoes the opening one: as a rather stark conclusion to the entire piece, line 13 merits being placed as a single distich in the TT.

The remaining lines of the ST (lines 8–10) are somewhat more problematic. However, there is a stronger conceptual relationship between lines 9 [وَلَا يَرَى الْحَقَّ (‘and he does not see the truth’)] and 10 [يَكُونُ (‘it will be’)] than between lines 8 [يَا (‘O’)] and 9. Line 10 can be regarded as providing a solution to the problem of the constancy of life raised in line 9. The decision to translate ST lines 9 and 10 as a quatrains has two other positive effects. Firstly, it leaves the TT equivalent of ST line 8 as a single distich. This gives an overall fairly regular pattern in the TT – with the exception of the first two stanzas, a distich follows two quatrains. Secondly, it yields an elegant parallelism between the penultimate and antepenultimate stanza of the TT, thus giving the TT a greater sense of unity and cohesion; the antepenultimate stanza ends ‘But he whose soul may rest content / Is as the owner of the earth’, while the penultimate stanza begins ‘He whose house is touched by doom / Heaven and earth will not relieve’.

### PRACTICAL 7.2 CLASS HANDBOUT

**COMMENTARY ON تتابعت الاعموام TT**

(i) **Strategic decisions**

This passage makes use of typical features of language which are poetic in the broad sense, notably parallelism and repetition of various kinds. Some instances of Arabic repetition cannot be translated literally into English, but require rephrasing. Issues of this kind which are dealt with more fully in other chapters of this book are: semantic repetition (Ch. 5), pattern repetition, root repetition, and lexical item repetition (Ch. 8). In the ST, these poetic features serve to mark out this section of text from the main line of the narrative, as does the use of the imperfect for all verbs except the very first one; the information given here focuses intensely on recurrent features of the natural world rather than on a narrative storyline. In the TT, poetic features can be used to achieve much the same effect – although it will obviously not always be possible to use exactly the same formal or other features as in the ST. In our TT, we have made use of assonance and alliteration in particular to achieve a similar effect to that achieved by the use of other features in the ST.

(ii) **TT**

The years go by, year after year. The breast of the Nile swells just as the breast of man swells with anger. Water flows over the banks and covers the cultivated land as far as the bottom of the houses at the edge of the desert. The frogs croak at night, and a moist wind drenches with dew blows in from the North, bearing the scent of acacia blossoms and wet wood, the smell of thirsty fertile land when it is watered, and the stench of dead fish washed up onto the sand by the waves. On bright nights when the moon is full, the water is transformed into a huge luminous mirror, its surface disturbed by the shadows of branches and palm-fronds. Sounds are carried huge distances on the water; if a wedding party is held two miles away you can hear the ululations, the beating of the drums, and the music of the tambour and the mizmar as if they were just next door.
For reasons of focus and climax, we wanted to keep the equivalent of 
طيات النخل واغصان الشجر at the end of the sentence. 'On the surface 
of which move the shadows of the palms and the branches of the trees' 
would be possible, but obtrusive, jerky, at odds with the fluidity of the 
ST image. Using 'disturb' in the passive introduces some distortion of 
the sense of تتحرك, but allows for a simpler English structure in which 
'surface' is the subject.

Arabic tolerates more tautology and near-tautology than English does 
(cf. Dickins and Watson 1999: 549–53). Here, the literal 'the shadows 
of the palms and the branches of the trees' sounds odd in English, 
because palms are a type of tree. 'The shadows of the palms and the 
branches of the other trees' would be too pedantic for this text. Our 
rendering avoids this clumsiness, while maintaining the implied ST 
distinction between the feathery fronds of palms and the woody branches 
of other sorts of trees; it is exegetic and particularizing, but rhythmically 
and phonically it fits far better into the sentence, which – like the ST 
here – is as mellifluous as what it denotes.

Practical 8 Tutor notes

This chapter has quite a lot of material in it. Although students may not have 
previously considered notions such as pattern repetition or lexical item 
repetition in Arabic, these are not intrinsically difficult to grasp, and should 
not be laboured. Of the two texts in § 8.2.4.1, the first, beginning بالخطاب 
العام لسياسة الإعلام, is short enough for the relevant aspects to be analysed 
by students as an in-class exercise without prior consideration at home. The 
second text, beginning وعلى الصفع الفكري should, however, be prepared 
at home.

8.1 Lexical item and other repetition

This text provides a large number of examples of different kinds of repetition 
discussed in this chapter. It is not difficult to understand. However, the 
working of the TT into a suitably formal, academic English style requires 
careful thought, and initial versions of the TT are likely to need significant 
polishing. The translation is best done individually at home.

As a post-translation exercise, students can be asked to analyse the patterns 
of lexical item repetition in their own TTs, and compare these with the 
patterns of lexical item repetition in our sample TT (the analysis of this is 
given immediately before the Decisions of detail for our TT).
PRACTICAL 8.1 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON حوار الثقافات

(i) Strategic decisions

The translator needs to deal with the various forms of repetition which characterize this text in such a way that the TT reads like a piece of formal academic English writing. Accordingly one might expect fairly long and well integrated TT sentences, as well as use of academic-oriented vocabulary. The translator also needs to make sure that the TT retains all significant features of the message content of the ST.

(ii) TT

The notions of dialogue between cultures, or civilizations, or religions, or between Islam and Christianity, or between North and South, or Islam and the West, or the Arab world and Europe, all relate to a single topic, or, perhaps better, a group of intimately related topics which are only properly distinguishable in terms of their degree of specificity. These topics have been widely discussed in books, articles, lectures, seminars and conferences; I myself have dealt with them or with aspects of them in various meetings and on other occasions, and I have presented the fundamentals of the ideas discussed here in various forms. Nonetheless, this is an area which deserves further detailed consideration in order to make people better informed on all sides, in the hope of moving from the stage of information to that of co-operation between all those who believe in peace, justice, and the elimination of hatred between peoples.

(iii) Decisions of detail

Before we comment on specific renderings of repetition, here is an analysis of ways in which lexical item repetition in the ST is relayed in the TT. Repeated lexical items in the ST and their equivalents in the TT are noted in curly brackets with a following superscript. The first figure of this superscript indicates the lexical item: thus \(^1\) for حوار, \(^2\) for برنامج، etc. The second figure of the superscript (following the ) indicates the point of occurrence in the ST: thus \(^1\) for the first occurrence, \(^2\) for the second occurrence, etc. Accordingly, the first occurrence of حوار is indicated by \(^1\), the second occurrence by \(^2\), etc.

The notions of {dialogue\(^1\), \(^2\), \(^3\), \(^4\)} between cultures, or civilizations, or religions, or between Islam and Christianity, or between North and South, or Islam and the West, or the Arab world and Europe, all relate to a single topic, or, perhaps better, a group of intimately related topics which are only properly distinguishable in terms of their degree of specificity. These topics have been widely discussed in books, articles, lectures, seminars and conferences; I myself have dealt with them or with aspects of them in various meetings and on other occasions, and I have presented the fundamentals of the ideas discussed here in various forms. Nonetheless, this is an area which deserves further detailed consideration in order to make people better informed on all sides, in the hope of moving from the stage of information to that of co-operation between all those who believe in peace, justice, and the elimination of hatred between peoples.

Taking each recurring lexical item in the ST in turn, occurrences of lexical item repetition in the ST and their equivalent in the TT can be analyzed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexical item in ST</th>
<th>Equivalent in TT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>حوار 1.1–1.6 (six occurrences)</td>
<td>1.1–1.7 ‘dialogue’ (one occurrence only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>الحوار 1.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The standard modern usage for this type of discussion, particularly between people of different religious or political beliefs, is 'dialogue'. It seems absolutely necessary for general TL stylistic reasons to reduce the seven occurrences of حوار to one occurrence of 'dialogue' in the TT. Unfortunately, this makes it impossible for denotative reasons to translate محاور by 'term', which would otherwise be the obvious usage in this context. Thus, it is possible to say 'Dialogue between cultures', 'Dialogue between civilizations' [...] are terms', or perhaps better 'The terms "cultural dialogue", "civilizational dialogue" [...] are [...]'. But it is not possible to say, 'The terms 'dialogue between cultures, civilizations [...] are [...]': a listing which involves only one use of 'dialogue' does not involve discrete terms, but rather describes a number of different ideas, phenomena, or notions. We have used the term 'notions' at the beginning of the text, since this makes it plain to the reader from the outset why the subsequent long list is being presented.

It does not seem legitimate to reduce the number of list elements in the TT, since the function of listing here is not to give a general picture by providing specific instances (as is sometimes the case in Arabic), but to make the reader aware of the various different terms/notions currently in use with respect to the kinds of dialogue the author has in mind. A more concise translation would be obtained if adjectives could be used throughout to describe the kinds of dialogue in question. But this would sound very odd; e.g. 'The notions of cultural, civilizational, religious, Muslim-Christian, North-South, Islamic-Western, or Arab-European dialogue'. It is better if 'or' is placed between every element: 'The notions of cultural, or civilizational, or religious, or Muslim-Christian, or North-South, or Islamic-Western, or Arab-European dialogue'. However, this is still unsatisfactory: 'North-South' is not a genuine adjective phrase, and Islamic-Western is a strange pairing (Islam is a religion, and the West is a cultural region). In any case, the combination of length and extreme concision makes the complete phrase difficult to interpret. This is why we have used 'dialogue between' followed by a series of noun phrases, and divided the list into groups, using 'between' three times.

'All' is added to provide a kind of structural marker, reminding the reader that everything which precedes it is the subject of 'relate to'.

In translating محاور as 'relate to' we have chosen a phrase which would be coherent with the use of 'notions' at the beginning of the sentence and the immediately subsequent use of 'single topic'. We have added 'perhaps better' to make plain that the immediately preceding 'or' does not indicate a genuine choice: it is not that the notions of dialogue between cultures, civilizations, etc. relate either to a single topic, or to a group of intimately interrelated topics, but that there are two alternative ways of interpreting one set of facts.

Intimately related is an example of grammatical transposition to deal with ST pattern repetition.

It is hard to reproduce the pattern repetition without losing idiomativeness. 'Degree of specificity' is a suitably formal idiomatic rendering; the slight rhetorical loss is insignificant.

Note the suffix repetition here. This gives a sense of forcefulness to the list, stressing the different arenas in which the author has discussed these issues. There is no unobtrusive way in which this forcefulness can be relayed in the TT.

Since there is no idiomatic English verb which can translate محاور here, grammatical transposition is required. In addition a literal translation كاتب هذه الدراسة might be considered rather pompous. We have therefore translated the entire phrase 'I myself have', with 'myself' marking the contrast with the previous general 'These topics have been [...]'. By introducing the pronoun 'I', we have personalized the blurb; it becomes a personal statement on the part of the author, rather than a general statement about the book. If this is deemed unacceptable in a blurb, one solution would be to use the author's name: 'Nasir Ad-Din Al-Asad himself has [...]'.

A more literal translation, e.g. 'in various meetings and occasions' would produce a semantic anomaly in the English, since meetings are a kind of occasion; adding 'other' avoids this. (For a general discussion of apparent semantic anomaly in Arabic, see Dickins and Watson 1999: 549–53.)

The TT makes use of lexical variation here, in accordance with standard features of English. 'This is an area' sounds more idiomatic than the more literal 'this area'. This may be because the change of word (from 'topic(s)' to 'area') in the TT makes 'area' seem more like unpredictable information and therefore more worthy of being placed towards the end of the phrase (cf. § 9.2.2).
(in and and and and). The most important feature, however, is the semantic parallelism and virtual semantic repetition. Here means 'meditating on', 'reflecting on', 'returning to (intellectually)' rather than 'cheating', 'trickery', etc., as in Wehr.) Given the semantic parallelism/repetition, we have built up a composite TT phrase covering all the major aspects of the ST phrase: 'further detailed consideration'. 'Further consideration' captures much of the sense of the Arabic ST phrase; the loss of 'speaking' (i.e. in this context 'writing') is more apparent than real - in the context of a book 'consideration' implies 'discussion'. 'Consideration' also implies careful thought, and therefore provides a partial translation of both the Arabic ST and the Arabic ST. 'Detailed' provides a stronger denotative equivalent of the Arabic ST and relays something of the emphasis of the ST semantic repetition/parallelism.

The ST utilizes grammatical parallelism with semantic parallelism. Our translation incurs potentially important translation loss: being informed does not necessarily imply understanding or conviction. However, we wanted to keep the structure relatively simple here in order to pick up the notion of 'information' in the TT later on in this sentence (cf. Note 15).

The ST uses the dual ('on both sides'). However, it is not clear from the context (and particularly perhaps from a Western perspective) that there are only two sides. We have therefore made use of the common expression 'on all sides'.

We have sacrificed any TT equivalent of the Arabic here. An equivalent would only have made sense if we had translated the earlier (cf. Note 13). However, to have translated both that and the Arabic here would have made the TT verbose and unidiomatic. We have relayed the root repetition of the Arabic ST and the Arabic ST 'informed' (above) and 'information' (here). This seemed necessary in order to retain the coherence of the TT in this sentence. Note also that 'information' is denotatively not quite right here; what is properly required in this context is a noun which means 'being informed'. This is not the standard denotative meaning of 'information'. However, given the subsequent use of 'co-operation' in the TT (an obvious literal choice), the suffix repetition of -ation and concomitant assonance in 'information' and 'co-operation' make 'information' more acceptable than would its denotative meaning alone.

The ST metaphor is not intrinsically unacceptably. The unacceptability of the literal translation 'the uprooting of the seeds of hatred(s)' is phonically, not semantic; the rhythm and the repetition of of 'of' and the make the phrase quite difficult to say. A phonically more acceptable alternative retaining the 'seeds' metaphor, e.g. 'uprooting the seeds of hatred', seems too informal for this context.

PRACTICAL 9.1 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON لقد دفعت السعودية TT

(i) Strategic decisions

The general style of the English TT will need to be journalistic. However, the joke in the second paragraph should be couched in an informal style, which is at least reminiscent of the way that such a joke would actually be told. The relatively long sentences of the Arabic ST are likely to need breaking up in various ways.

(ii) TT (based on Hetherington 1996: 34-5)

Saudi Arabia paid 55 billion dollars for the Gulf War. Before the war, the Saudis used to lie awake at night thinking of how they could best invest the 180-billion-dollar deposits which they held in the West. Now they are kept awake worrying about how they can pay off the interest on their mounting debts, which currently stand at 70 billion dollars.

There is a joke in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf which goes: 'Before the war, we used to dream of a Japanese wife, an American salary, an English country-house, and a Chinese cook. Now we're faced with the prospect of an American wife, a Chinese salary, a Japanese house, and an English cook.'

On the political front, the Saudi opposition has succeeded in winning over a number of religious leaders, and putting pressure on the ruling family. In July 1992, they presented a 'Memorandum of Advice', which was signed by more than one hundred religious figures. In this, they demanded that King Fahd implement 'far-reaching reforms in the political system', and further Islamize - as if that were possible! - the institutions of the state. They also demanded an end to political dependency on the Americans - the 'enemies of God' - and expulsion of U.S. troops from the country. These are the troops which had been withdrawn from Europe following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and were then sent to the Gulf, possibly to remain there as long as they had stayed in Europe - about 40 years.
9.2 Theme and rheme; mainness and subordination; coordination

This ST is also fairly easy to understand – and very difficult to translate idiomatically. There are numerous problems involving sentence length, the interaction of theme and rheme and mainness and subordination, and the tendency for Arabic narratives to make use of coordination where English prefers subordination. There are also interesting problems of tense in the TL as compared with the preponderance of the perfect in the ST. Students can profitably do the translation individually at home; these translation issues repay close consideration. However, if time is lacking, it would be possible for the tutor to present students with a fairly literal translation of the ST and get them to work in groups in class, revising and improving this initial translation. Group work would be followed by a class discussion in which the tutor presented the students with our TT, and issues were discussed or re-discussed in the light of this.

Practical 9 Tutor notes

This chapter presents more conceptual problems for the student than most. It is important for the student to understand that the sentential level involves features of organization in addition to grammatical elements (dealt with in Chapter 8), and that it is these features which make sentences what they are (as defined in this book): ready-made vehicles for communication.

The notions of theme and rheme are likely to be new to students, and therefore may involve some explanation. Similarly, students are unlikely to have heard of foregrounding and backgrounding before. In some cases, they may also not understand what are meant by subordination and coordination as grammatical notions; it is worth checking that students do understand these concepts, and if they don’t, briefly explaining them in class.

9.1 Theme and rheme, and mainness and subordination

The ST is fairly easy to understand – and easy to translate into English which fails to respect the typical conventions of English regarding theme and rheme and mainness and subordination. Students will need to think carefully about these issues. It would be perfectly reasonable to get students to produce a complete translation individually at home without prior class discussion. Perhaps a better procedure is to get students to produce a preliminary translation of the first paragraph individually in class and swap this with their neighbour for revision and discussion. General class discussion immediately following this can then focus on problems of theme and rheme and mainness and subordination in the first paragraph. If time permits, students can then be asked to produce a complete translation of the ST, with additional work as detailed in the Assignment, individually at home.

This approach allows the tutor to make sure that students have grasped the conceptual issues involved in translating Arabic themes, subordinate clauses, etc. into English, before embarking on a full-scale translation of the ST.
Decisions of detail of relevance to theme-rheme issues and mainness-subordination issues, marked by superscript numbers inside curly brackets.

1) Contrast this second sentence with a possible alternative which retains the subordinate clause followed by main clause structure of the Arabic ST:

Instead of lying awake at night thinking of how they could best invest the 180-billion-dollar deposits which they held in the West, as they used to do before the war, the Saudis are now kept awake worrying about how they can pay off the interest on their mounting debts, which currently stand at 70 billion dollars.

The theme-element is an unusually long time coming, because of the initial pile-up of subordinate elements (culminating in 'before the war'). This is a classic way of creating suspense, but in this text it is simply confusing, because the connection with the previous sentence is obscure – it is hard to see where the argument is going; in fact, it looks as if 'instead of lying awake' is leading up to a statement about what the Saudis did during the war (e.g. 'instead of laying awake, they got up and fought'). Another reason for this is that 'could' looks like a past tense, not a conditional – an impression reinforced by 'held'. After this build-up, 'as they used to before the war' comes as a confusing surprise. Even if the beginning of the text were translated more literally along the lines 'Saudi Arabia paid for the Gulf War 55 billion dollars, and instead of lying awake at nights [...]', the obscurity and ponderousness would remain. This is why we have split the single unit of the Arabic (in fact part of a larger sentence) into two sentences in English.

2) 'Before the war' is added to provide cohesion with the previous sentence, which deals with the Gulf War. Along with the changes discussed in 1) above, this has the effect of altering the theme-rheme structure of this part of the text; the main theme of this sentence is 'Before the war' while that of the corresponding part of the ST sentence is 'وتقدموا في يوليو 1992 ومؤسساتها (!!) 1992, along the lines 'In July 1992, they presented a "Memorandum of Advice", which was signed by more than one hundred religious figures, and in which they demanded that King Fahd implement "far-reaching reforms in the political system", and further Islamize – as if that were possible! – the institutions of the state' (see also Note 13). But this is unwieldy; it possibly also suffers from the fact that the final relatively rhetorical subordinate clause beginning 'and in which they demanded' seems to convey foreground information. This is why this long ST section is split up into two TT sentences.

3) 'In this' is thematized in the new English sentence in order to provide linkage with the previous sentence (cf. Dickins and Watson 1999: 344). 'In this' can be contrasted with - فقاطما في ST, which is not similarly thematized. It is also interesting to compare more generally the early part of this paragraph in the Arabic ST and the English TT; thematized elements are placed in curly brackets.

4) The contrast produced in the Arabic by the phrase لكن يعد هذه الحرب is adequately covered by 'Now', whose contrastive aspect is highlighted by the fact that it is a subordinate-theme following another subordinate-theme in the previous sentence 'Before the war'. The use of 'Before the war' and 'Now' in this paragraph also parallel their use in the first paragraph – although this is perhaps not a very elegant feature of the TT.

5) In the Arabic ST وقدموا في يوليو 1992 is part of a single sentence with what precedes it. We have started a new sentence in the TT here, in order to avoid an unacceptably long and complex sentence. We have also thematized 'In July 1992', which in the Arabic is a non-theme; the loss is outweighed by the preservation of idiomativeness.

6) It would be possible to translate the entire phrase وقدموا في يوليو 1992 ومؤسساتها (!!) 1992, along the lines 'In July 1992, they presented a "Memorandum of Advice", which was signed by more than one hundred religious figures, and in which they demanded that King Fahd implement "far-reaching reforms in the political system", and further Islamize – as if that were possible! – the institutions of the state' (see also Note 13). But this is unwieldy; it possibly also suffers from the fact that the final relatively rhetorical subordinate clause beginning 'and in which they demanded' seems to convey foreground information. This is why this long ST section is split up into two TT sentences.

7) 'In this' is thematized in the new English sentence in order to provide linkage with the previous sentence (cf. Dickins and Watson 1999: 344). 'In this' can be contrasted with - فقاطما in the Arabic ST, which is not similarly thematized. It is also interesting to compare more generally the early part of this paragraph in the Arabic ST and the English TT; thematized elements are placed in curly brackets.

ST

TT

[On the political front], the Saudi opposition has succeeded in winning over a number of religious leaders, and putting pressure on the ruling family. [In July 1992], they presented a 'Memorandum of Advice', which was signed by one hundred religious figures. [In this], they demanded that King Fahd implement 'far-reaching reforms in the political system', and further Islamize – as if that were possible! – the institutions of the state.
The Arabic ST and the English TT share an initial thematic element ‘On the political front’. Subsequently, however, the thematic patterns are rather different. The ST thematizes a series of verbs: تجنبنا ضغوطا (we may regard اتجهت as the theme of the main part of the clause in question, while اتجهت is the theme of the entire clause). The TT, by contrast, thematizes a series of prepositional phrases ‘On the political front’, ‘In July 1992’, ‘In this’.

(iv) Other decisions of detail, marked by superscript without brackets.

1. It would be possible to say ‘it used to lie awake at night’, but the ‘it’ would be odd in English. Hence the more personal ‘the Saudis’.

2. The more literal ‘in order to know’ sounds distinctly odd in English, partly because ‘to know’ in English is normally interpreted as describing a state of cognizance rather than a dynamic process of coming into knowledge. On the other hand, frequently describes a process of coming into knowledge. ‘In order to work out’ would be possible here, but suggests too deliberate a lying awake. ‘Lie awake at night thinking’ is a fairly standard collocation and fits the context well.

3. The Arabic has only استثمر ‘invest’. However, the deposits were presumably already invested in the West. We have therefore added ‘best’, in order to suggest a reappraisal of where the deposits should be invested.

4. A more literal translation (‘one hundred and eighty billion dollars – their/its investments in the West’) would sound ungainly in English, especially after ‘invest’ in the previous clause. We have therefore incorporated the information contained in the parenthetical ST phrase into the main English phrase.

5. We have used ‘kept awake’ mainly to avoid the phrase repetition of ‘lie awake’. Unlike ‘lie awake’ it also has the advantage of denoting that the people concerned are being acted on by an outside agent, and connoting that they are the helpless ‘victims’ of this agent. ‘Worrying about’ is also intended to be stronger than ‘thinking of’, which was used in the previous sentence; the contrast compensates for the loss of ST. أصبح

6. A more literal translation (e.g. ‘their mounting debts, and their/their associated interest’) would not be idiomatic. Our TT distorts the denotative meaning, but is more idiomatic.

7. Since ‘mounting’ has already been used in the previous clause, there is no need here to use another preface denoting a change of state, such as ‘have now reached’. Hence the stative expression ‘now stand at’, ‘stand at’ being a fairly standard collocation with ‘debits’.

8. The more literal ‘People in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia say’ sounds odd, suggesting that what follows is a standard saying. Here, what follows is a joke. It is more idiomatic in English to specify what it is to come is a joke.

9. A literal translation, ‘there’s no longer anything in front of us except’, is unidiomatic. ‘We’re faced with the prospect of’ is a fairly standard, fairly informal phrase in English, although logically less exclusive of other possibilities than the ST expression.

10. Rather than a cumbersome literal translation ‘what was known as’, we use quotation marks to indicate the unique nature of this document.

11. Our TT makes King Fahd into the explicit agent of the reforms, but it is more idiomatic than a more literal translation, e.g. ‘in which they demanded from King Fahd far-reaching reforms in/to the political system’.

12. The structure of English makes it necessary to include the word ‘reforms’ within the quotation. If this were felt in the context to be too serious a distortion of the original, an alternative (still a distortion) would be: “far-reaching” reforms to the political system”.

13. Multiple exclamation marks are normally only found in informal writing in English. It would be possible to use only a single exclamation mark in the English TT; for example ‘further Islamization (!) of the institutions of the state’. Even this seems a little informal in the context. Hence the more sober parenthetical phrase ‘as if that were possible!’.

14. More literally ‘the facilities and institutions of the state’. The meanings of مؤسسات and مراقبات seem so close here that the semantic repetition is adequately dealt with by merging.

15. Making ‘King Fahd’ the subject of the verb ‘implement’ means that, if we continued the list of ST phrases following [طوابع [...]] (especially after the interruption of ‘as if that were possible!’) the sentence would grow increasingly heavy and obscure. We have therefore started a new sentence, introducing it with the fairly neutral ‘They also demanded’, which echoes the earlier ‘they demanded’ and thus preserves the ST feel of a long list of demands.

16. The same basic problem as with يومZend من سلسلة مراقبات الدولة ومؤسساتها (Note 13). Here we use inverted commas to reflect the fact that this is the view of the Saudi opposition, rather than the government, and to mark the writer’s scepticism regarding the phrase, as intended by the use of (!!) in the ST.

17. ‘U.S. troops’ was preferred to ‘their troops’, because ‘their’ could momentarily be taken to refer to the ‘they’ of ‘They also demanded’.

18. We have used the passive in the English both here (‘had been withdrawn’), and subsequently (‘were then sent’). In English it seems more idiomatic to present the troops as servants of government policy, rather than free agents.
PRÁCTICAL 9.2 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON وکان القدر TT

(i) Strategic decisions

The structure of this ST is relatively simple and idiomatic. The translator has to preserve the relative simplicity, and therefore elegance, of the ST, while converting ST coordination into TT subordination where necessary, in order to produce a TT which is typical of English short story writing. The tense structure of the ST is straightforward; the passage is dominated by verbs in the perfect. Tense, however, turns out to be a difficult problem in putting the text into idiomatic English.

(ii) TT (incorporating some ideas from Montgomery 1994: 12–13)

It was as if Fate had wanted to make them forget everything which linked them to Hassan. Removing from its quiver the last of the harsh poisoned arrows which it had been relentlessly firing over the past two years, it took aim. This arrow hit the piebald ewe which Hassan had raised with his own hands, gathering grass for it, and sharing his own food and bed with it. The ewe had died. No longer would Hassan hear its bleating when he sprang up out of bed early in the morning to give it food and water, or when he took it along with him to the water wheel. No longer would it cheerfully destroy the crops as it grazed, while Hassan did his work. It had died, just as drought and famine had destroyed the entire flock which Sheikh Mahjoub had raised.

(iii) Decisions of detail

1. The phrase وکان القدر أراد أن ينسىهم كل شيء، يربطهم بحسن constitutes a complete clause in Arabic. A sentence beginning 'As if' at the start of a paragraph in English would sound unacceptably elliptical. We have therefore introduced a subject and initial verb at the start of the TT: 'It was [...].'

2. The text subsequently personifies 'fate' as firing arrows. Capitalizing it as 'Fate' here sets up the expectation that fate is to be interpreted in something more than its standard sense.

3. We have used the past perfect 'had [want-jed]’, here and on a number of occasions subsequently in the text. This is partly so that 'the ewe had died' and 'It had died' can be used as translations for the two occurrences of 'ماتت' later in the text. This latter decision was motivated by a wish to point up the contrast between the death of the ewe and the consequent change in Hassan's state. It would have been possible to use simple past tenses (or in the case of 'had been firing' past perfect progressive) in translating the first sentence of the ST. But then the first occurrence of the past perfect in the TT would have been 'The ewe had died', which would have made it look as if the ewe had died before the events described in the first two sentences of the TT (first sentence of the ST). Using the past perfect in the earlier sections of the TT is partly an attempt to forestall this.

4. More literally: '[So/And] it fired the last of the harsh poisoned arrows in its quiver which it had been aiming successively [...] and without stopping.' It seems more natural in English to treat the aiming (or firing) itself as the core of the message (i.e. to maintain its status as a foregrounded main clause, but to put it at the end of the sentence as the rame). Doing this meant reorganizing the rest of the ST message content into a separate initial thematic subordinate clause. Since the ST contains only the verb رمي (apart from the relative clause verb-sequence مان أن يسددها في جمهبت), this in turn required introducing an additional verb. 'Removing' allowed us to incorporate the element into the TT idiomatically: 'Removing from its quiver'. The TT contains three elements which describe the unremitting nature of Fate's assault on Hassan: بعد نينادن و تباعا. These would appear too strong if translated literally, and would add further elements to a TT clause which is already somewhat over-heavy. The progressive 'been firing' is a partial equivalent of التباعا and بدون نينادن are merged into 'relentlessly'.

We have also 'reversed' the translations of and respectively, regarding the former as 'firing' (rather than 'aiming', 'taking aim'), and the latter as 'took aim' (rather than 'fired'). This produces what appears to an English-speaker a more logical overall formulation.

5. We have avoided repetition of 'last' by not translating تباعا. In any case, in this context 'the last arrow' seems like the last of a specific series just referred to. 'This arrow' avoids repetition of 'last', but retains something of the ST's dramatic emphasis on this final arrow. It also compensates for the partial loss of ST تباعا (see Note 4).

6. We have added 'with his own hands', because, without it, the TT would read as if it was the arrow that was gathering grass.

7. A more literal translation would be 'which Hassan had raised, for which he had gathered grass, and with which he had shared his food and bed'. The repetition of 'which', and the use of 'for which' and 'with which', make this translation inelegant. It was partly to avoid this inelegance.
that we opted for subordinate -ing forms, rather than the use of coordination.

8 ‘Share one’s food and bed with’ is a concise and idiomatic phrase in English which allows for the elimination (with no loss of message content) of the Arabic verb نشياط.

9 A more literal translation along the lines ‘The ewe had died and it no longer bleated’ would sound odd: the use of ‘and’ here suggests an almost causal connection between dying and not bleating, whereas in fact, the non-bleating is a predictable and obvious consequence of the fact that the ewe has died. It therefore seems preferable to have a separate sentence, ‘The ewe had died’, since this fact is central to Hassan’s problems. (For tense here, see Note 3 above.)

10 The use of ‘would hear’ introduces an emotive element, and suggests that what the sentence is describing is not so much a state of affairs as Hassan’s own thoughts and feelings seen from his point of view. Compare this with the more literal ‘No longer did it bleat in the early morning when Hassan jumped out of bed lightly and sprightly’. While this is better than ‘The ewe had died and it no longer bleated’ (cf. Note 9), it still seems odd in that to some extent it presents information which is obvious and unnecessary as foregrounded.

11 We use ‘to give’ rather than the more literal ‘and gave’, to avoid an inelegant repetition of ‘and’ in ‘food and water’.

12 The previous use of ‘No longer’ entails ‘or’ rather than ‘and’ here.

13 If this TT sentence were made part of the previous one, as in the ST, it would sound anomalous, in that it would present information as backgrounded (subordinate) which is better treated as foregrounded. We have accordingly made a new sentence, introduced by ‘No longer would it’. This does break the emotive continuity of the single ST sentence, but there is compensation in kind by the echo of ‘No longer would Hassan’, which establishes an equally emotive rhetorical connection between the two sentences.

14 Again the TT has a subordinate clause introduced by ‘just as’, where the ST has a coordinating construction introduced by وكذلك. The TT subordinate clause is justified by the fact that the information that Sheikh Mahjoub’s flock have all died is already known from the previous context. The information that the flock has died can be regarded as relatively unpredictable (and therefore more appropriately treated as thematic), as compared to the information that the ewe has died, which has already been given a few lines above (and is therefore more appropriately treated as thematic). This gives an overall structure of TT thematic main clause for ST مانعت (i.e. ‘It had died’), and TT thematic subordinate clause for ST وكذلك, etc. (i.e. ‘just as’, etc.).

15 Both هممل and قحص have the meanings ‘drought’ and ‘famine’ (cf. Wehr). This semantic repetition can be easily translated by semantic distancing (Ch. 5.2), given that ‘drought’ and ‘famine’ are clearly distinguished in English.
Practical 10 Tutor notes

Discussion of the chapter is not problematic. It is worth reiterating the point made in § 10.1 that there is necessarily some overlap between the discourse level and the sentential level, particularly given the tendency for information which is conveyed in a single sentence in Arabic to be conveyed in more than one sentence in English. It should also be reiterated that this overlap is not a practical problem, and that students should not get bogged down over whether a particular feature belongs to one or the other level.

As regards the intertextual level, the main thing is to reassure students that they are not (yet) expected to have an encyclopedic knowledge of Arabic culture. But they should be ready to research expressions that they suspect may have intertextual resonances. The main thing is that, when they do know they are facing an intertextual allusion, they should be able to assess its function in the ST, and therefore its strategic importance. (When setting pieces for assessment or examination, it is reasonable to give intertextual references in a footnote or in the contextual information, unless they are very well known or can easily be traced in reference works.)

Students will need to prepare the analysis of phrase repetition and repetition of pronouns/possessive adjectives in the إن القومية العربية ST and ‘Arab nationalism’ TT in § 10.2.1 before the class.

10.1 The discourse level

This is a fairly undemanding exercise, which can be done as class work in groups (or in pairs); it should take around twenty minutes. Following completion of the exercise each group exchanges its version with another group, for revision of no more than ten minutes. The tutor then gives out our sample version for further discussion, which should take no more than a quarter of an hour. One useful technique may be to compare our sample version with one particular group version (in this case the easiest technique is probably to break the class for five minutes, copy the group version onto an acetate, and display on an overhead projector).

10.2 The discourse level

This is quite a challenging piece, with lots of scope for breaking up the ST into smaller TT sentences, and for some more radical textual restructuring. The somewhat poetic and even gushing tone of parts of the ST – a feature of some travel writing in English as well – also provides scope for the use of appropriate rhetorical and metaphorical forms at various points in the TT.

As a whole, the translation is best done individually at home. However, prior to this, it may be useful to get students to produce a translation of the first paragraph in groups in class, with subsequent class discussion. This will introduce students to some of the recurrent problems of the translation, prior to their tackling the entire piece.
COHESIVE-DEVICE REVISION OF

Note: English forms corresponding to the major inter-clausal/inter-sentential connectors in Arabic are put in curly brackets. Where there is no English form corresponding to the Arabic connector, a pair of curly brackets has been added containing a Ø sign.

{However}, these political gains failed to satisfy the high popular hopes which had greeted the revolution of 1919. {Despite} the declaration of Egyptian independence in 1922, {Ø} British troops remained on Egyptian territory, {notably} in the Canal Zone, {and} the British High Commissioner remained the de facto ruler of the country. {Moreover, despite} the proclamation of a democratic constitution and the subsequent holding of free elections, {Ø} the two major factions in the struggle for power were only really committed to democracy to the degree that this guaranteed them even greater influence over other groups. {Indeed}, as soon as the Wafd came to power, it launched an all-out attack on its rivals in the Communist and National Parties. {This culminated in} Sa’ad Zaghoul’s decree of 1924, stipulating the dissolution and delegalization of the Egyptian Communist Party, the arrest of its leadership and rank-and-file members ({Ø} including the Party leader Mahmoud Husni El Arabi), and the outlawing of membership of the Party, as well as any attempt to reconstitute it. {Ø} {Similarly}, no sooner had the Wafd settled into office than it was brought down by the alliance between the Palace and the colonial power, through a constitutional coup which brought into office the minority parties which were members of the coalition. {This in turn led to} the downfall of Sa’ad Zaghoul after less than ten months in office, {and} the establishment in November 1924 of a government consisting of the Liberal and Union Parties under the premiership of Ahmad Zayur. {With} the shadow of dictatorship {thus} hanging over the entire population, {Ø} the Egyptian masses were seized by a profound sense of disillusionment with the new political system.

(i) Strategic decisions

This text is a piece of travel writing, with something of a political undertone. The recent history of conflict between the Iraqi state and Kuwait. The kind of style typically used in the National Geographic Magazine provides a good guide to the translation style appropriate to this text. The Arabic ST is characterized by quite complex structures, as, very often, are original English-language texts of this type.

The first paragraph contains multiple relative clauses. One would expect these either to be broken up into separate TT sentences, or to be subject to a variety of translation techniques in order to avoid over-repetition of ‘who’/‘which’ in English. The second ST paragraph contains only one extremely long sentence. Some sentence-splitting and/or textual restructuring might be appropriate here. The final paragraph contains only two sentences. Sentence-splitting and/or textual restructuring might again be appropriate.

(ii) TT

From 60-Metre Street, so-called because of its width, we set off for the Citadel of Arbil. From afar, one can see, crouching in its entrance, a huge statue of Ibn al-Mustawfi, a historian and minister from the era of King Mudhaffir al-Din Kukhari, who wrote numerous books, the most important of which is the four-volume History of Arbil.¹

The path up to the citadel led us to the main gate, which in turn led up via a cement staircase to other parts of the Citadel Square containing numerous still-inhabited historic houses and streets where pedlars stood beside wooden carts.² We immediately entered the citadel itself, where a huge notice in Arabic informed us that seven civilizations had passed by here.³ Here where we stood, and where the Kurdistan Directorate of Antiquities was attempting with the most meagre of resources to preserve the glories of its cultural and historic heritage, were etched the imprints of so many invaders and conquerors, some of whom had left lasting impressions, while others chose only a legacy of destruction.⁴

We had spent many days in an area whose mere mention had once filled us with foreboding, and had discovered for ourselves the degree to
which the Kurdish question was surrounded by distortions and exaggerations. On our return route, which took us from Sulaimaniya to Arbil, and then on to Dohuk, Zakho and the border crossing of Faysh Khabur, there was one question which kept coming back to us: What would we as Arabs gain if we were to lose these people, with their illustrious forebears, who have played such a positive role in our own civilization?

(iii) Decisions of detail (NB The decisions of detail are largely confined to those relating to the discourse level)

1. The ST sentence here has three relative clauses (beginning وال الذي ألف and which is appositive to the immediately preceding اين المستوفي). It is difficult to fit all these elements in without making the TT sentence sound over-heavy. It is also important to introduce variation into the TT equivalents of the ST relative clauses. Multiple relative clauses in English all beginning ‘which’ or ‘who’ are stylistically very odd.

   We have dealt with the initial ST prepositional phrases by adding in the TT ‘one can see’. This allows for the equivalent of the ST من مدخلاً to be treated as a parenthetical clause in the TT; thus, ‘from afar, one can see, crouching in its entrance, a huge statue [...]’. This makes TT equivalents of من مدخلاً and من بعيد clearly structurally different. A more literal translation, such as ‘From afar, crouches from in its entrance a huge statue’ would be inelegant. This is partly because ‘from afar’ and ‘from its entrance’ are structurally too similar in this version, and give the feeling of crowding each other out. It is also because the subject-verb inversion of ‘crouches’ followed by ‘a huge statue [...]’ is quite stylistically marked in English. It is, however, necessary to put the ‘a huge statue [...]’ after the equivalent of ST يتقن the TT for theme-reheme reasons (‘a huge statue [...]’ is clearly the unpredictable information here), and for the associated reason that long elements in sentences tend to come after short ones. ‘There crouches’ would be slightly better than ‘crouches’, but even this is stylistically quite marked. We have therefore used the form ‘one can see’, introducing some change in the denotative meaning, but allowing for a natural-sounding continuation of the TT sentence.

   We have retained the TT equivalent of وال الوزير في عهد الملك مظفر الدين كوكبكر as an appositive phrase, but have used the indefinite article in English, reflecting the fact that English readers are unlikely to know who this man was.

2. The second paragraph in the ST consists of one sentence. This clearly needs breaking up into a number of smaller sentences into the TT. We have made the first sentence break before the phrase which marks a change of subject back to the writers themselves. In order to keep TT sentence length down, we have kept the English fairly concise (‘led up’ for ‘بيرفع’ ... ليرفع); ‘pedlars’ for ‘عرباتهم الخشبية’; ‘wooden carts’ for ‘البائعون الجالعون’.

3. We have made a second sentence break in the TT before a series of ST subordinate clauses, whose main verb انطباع involves a change of subject. The inclusion of ‘itself’ after ‘citadel’ provides a greater degree of TT cohesion with the previous ‘Citadel Square’, compensating for the loss in cohesion involved in starting a new TT sentence here.

4. We have retained this long final section as a single sentence in the TT. Although the TT sentence is long, attempts to break it up yield a less cohesive and coherent text; for example: ‘Where we stood’ this spot, the Kurdistan Directorate of Antiquities was attempting with the most meagre of resources to preserve the glories of its cultural and historic heritage. Here were etched the imprints of so many invaders and conquerors, some of whom had left lasting impressions, while others chose only a legacy of destruction.’ In this translation, the final section ‘were etched [...] legacy of destruction’ appears somewhat disconnected from what has gone before, lacking the force and focus which it has in our TT. This focus in our TT derives from the fact that ‘were etched [...] legacy of destruction’ is a final main clause (i.e. it is schematic and foregrounded). The TT also includes two features of rhetorical emphasis. The first of these is the subject-verb inversion of ‘were etched the imprints [...]’. This is, in fact, virtually imposed on the TT by the overall sentence structure (this is the only place where ‘were etched’ could reasonably be put). The second is the inclusion of ‘so’. Although this has no obvious correspondent in the ST, the TT reads much more idiomatically with it.

5. This TT paragraph consists of two sentences. An obvious alternative to our TT would be to translate it into three separate English sentences, along the following lines:

   On our return route, which took us from Sulaimaniya to Arbil, and then on to Dohuk, Zakho, and the border crossing of Faysh Khabur, there was one question which kept coming back to us, after we had spent so many days in an area whose mere mention had once filled
us with foreboding. Now we were returning from it, and had discovered for ourselves the degree to which the Kurdish question was surrounded by distortions and exaggerations. The question was: What would we as Arabs gain if we were to lose these people, with their illustrious forebears, who have played such a positive role in our own civilization?

This alternative more literal version makes a first sentence at the point where the ST subject shifts from سؤال إلى the first person plural. It also marks a contrast between the discussion of what the writers had done, and what they are now doing. From both these points of view, therefore, this is a good place to start a new English sentence. There is, however, a problem with this English text in terms of coherence (and cohesion). Like the ST, this alternative TT version introduces the statement, 'There was one question' fairly early on in the first sentence. The point of this is then rather lost in this alternative TT version because of the intervening independent sentence 'Now [...] exaggerations', to be rather weakly picked up again in 'The question was' (in the ST, the point is arguably less lost because the ST operates with a single sentence).

In our TT, we have given the English greater coherence by restructuring this final paragraph textually. We have moved the equivalent of قسمتنا بالرعب [...] to the beginning of the first TT sentence, and appended to this the translation of لا مبرر له, giving an independent initial TT sentence 'We had spent [...] exaggerations'. We have made the equivalent of في طريق العودة [...] سأل يطرح نفسه بشدة into the start of a second TT sentence: 'On our return route [...] question which kept coming back to us'. This allows the question itself to follow immediately after the statement introducing the question, giving the TT greater concision and force. Note that in the final TT phrase 'What would we [...] own civilization', common sense dictates that عندمما should, exceptionally, be translated as 'if'. The need for a rhetorically strong statement also motivates the inclusion of 'such' here in the TT.

Practical 11 Tutor notes

This chapter is intellectually quite challenging. The important thing is that students grasp the basics: the notions of topic, vehicle and grounds; the division between lexicalized and non-lexicalized metaphors; the subdivisions between dead, stock and recent metaphors, and between conventionalized and original metaphors. The tutor should not get overinvolved in the minutiae of metaphor translation techniques; as long as the basics are fully grasped, students can come back to the more detailed issues of classification when they are doing the practicals, or when they need to later in the course.

The sentence (not discussed in Chapter 11), 'The past is another country; they do things differently there' (from LP. Hartley, The Go-Between, cited in Goatly 1997: 9) is useful for illustrating the differences between topic, vehicle and grounds, since all three are explicitly included in the sentence (topic: 'The past'; vehicle: 'another country'; grounds: 'they do things differently there').

11.1 Metaphor down-toning

This is a straightforward exercise, which can be done in group-work in class. The exercise not only gets students to think about metaphor down-toning in Arabic-English translation, but also allows the tutor to check that students have understood the more basic division of metaphors into dead, stock, etc.

11.2 Metaphor

This translation requires close consideration. The translation problems involve not only metaphor, but many other issues. We have only commented in our decisions of detail on problems relating to metaphor, because of considerations of space and in order to keep the exercise focused. The exercise is best done individually at home.
PRACTICAL 11.1 CLASS HANDOUT

COMPARISON BETWEEN CATEGORIES OF METAPHOR USED IN ST AND ‘SINCE THE AMERICANS’ IDIOMATIC TT:

The numbers 1–10 here correspond to the numbers 1–10 inside curly brackets in the ST and TT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE TEXT</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>TARGET TEXT</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>للسيرة</td>
<td>original</td>
<td>1 ‘orchestrated’</td>
<td>stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>الناعم</td>
<td>original</td>
<td>2 ‘players’</td>
<td>stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>النغمة النشام</td>
<td>original</td>
<td>3 ‘discordant notes have been struck’</td>
<td>resuscitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ينتظرون ضمن التخت الموسيقي</td>
<td>original</td>
<td>4 ‘members of the alliance’</td>
<td>topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ينتظرون ضمن الكورس المواكب</td>
<td>original</td>
<td>5 ‘stood by applauding’</td>
<td>stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>تسارعت</td>
<td>original</td>
<td>6 ‘reached a crescendo’</td>
<td>stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>الآلاف النشام</td>
<td>original</td>
<td>7 ‘discordant voices’</td>
<td>stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>النشام</td>
<td>stock</td>
<td>8 ‘violent actions’</td>
<td>topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ينك</td>
<td>original</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>رصدتها</td>
<td>original</td>
<td>10 ‘lost whatever credit’</td>
<td>dead</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is a general tendency to downgrade metaphors in the idiomatic English TT. Original metaphors in the Arabic are sometimes translated by original English metaphors, but are frequently relayed by stock English expressions. The English TT maintains the overall metaphorical congruence of the Arabic. It also downplays the dramatic shift from the musical to the financial metaphor which occurs in the Arabic, فقدت المنظمة في بني السبأة الأمريكية الكثير من صمودها, by utilizing the English phrase ‘lose [...] credit’; i.e. ‘the PLO has lost whatever credit it had with the Americans’.

The metaphorical force of this is very weak in English, and it is best regarded as a dead metaphor. If a more obviously financial metaphor in English were used here (as in the fairly literal TT in Chapter 11), it would be likely to result in an unacceptable sense of mixed metaphor coming so soon after the extended musical metaphor.

PRACTICAL 11.2 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON قال صابر مخاطبا نفسه TT

Note. The TT is from Brown (1996: 36) with some adaptations, but the notes in (i) and (iii) are by the authors.

(i) Strategic decisions

This text is strongly metaphorical. The most obvious problem is to find means of translating the various metaphors and other figurative usages in the ST which are consistent with the rather formal, and somewhat mannered, literary style of the text.

(ii) TT

Saber said to himself, ‘How difficult it is for a person to bear the pressure of the blockade, but it is still more difficult that his executioner is of his own flesh and blood.’ Then he began conjuring up the great dreams which, like the City’s poor, he often drew and coloured. These dreams seemed to him like birds falling to hunters’ bullets.

A ribbon of memories brought scenes of wretchedness and fear to him, and a longing to emigrate was ignited in him. Yet in the depths of his heart the embers refused to die out, and no sooner had they faded than they would blaze up anew.

Saber was gripped by thoughts and fears. Distances near and far began to persistently attract him, and his small room was transformed into a theatre accommodating the goings-on of the City of Oppression, and where his wandering imagination created a shrine visited by extraordinary people, coming like shadows without permission, and leaving as though they were clouds heavy with rain.

(iii) Decisions of detail

1 can both be read as non-lexicalized metaphors here. They have both been translated as literally equivalent non-lexicalized metaphors in English.
metaphor. The same is true of its literal translation, 'refused'.

In English embers typically 'die out' or 'die'. This gives a double metaphor in the English here; 'die out' is a stock metaphor having the sense 'go out/stop burning', while the ultimate meaning is a conventionalized non-lexicalized metaphor from this, indicating the refusal of hope (etc.) to disappear.

The TT has reproduced the ST metaphor of 'fading'. These are both conventionalized non-lexicalized metaphors.

الانقلاص and 'blaze up' are both conventionalized non-lexicalized metaphors. The TT metaphor is, however, rather more precise than the ST one, since it implies both that the fire had not gone out altogether (as is indicated by the earlier 'fade'), and that it returned with renewed vigour.

From 'a longing' to 'blaze up anew', the TT retains all the congruent extended metaphors of the ST.

Literally 'was prey to'. The ST stock metaphor is changed to a TT stock metaphor having a different vehicle.

The description of the room as a theatre and what follows are metaphorical, or at the least metaphor-like.

'Wandering imagination' is a stock metaphor in English.

'Shrine' is a stock metaphor in the TT, whereas مزار is a non-lexicalized but conventionalized metaphor in the ST.

This simile has been somewhat downplayed in the TT; طيف literally means 'fantasy, phantasms; vision, apparition; phantom, spectre, ghost' (Wehr). It may be that the translator felt that a version such as 'coming like a spectre' or 'coming like spectres' was unacceptably dramatic in English.

The translator has downplayed the non-lexicalized but conventionalized ST metaphor حبل إلى translating it as a stock metaphor with a different vehicle (assuming that 'heavy' is to be regarded as metaphorical here). 'Clouds pregnant with rain' would seem somewhat comical in this context, since 'pregnant' usually collocates with abstractions such as 'meaning' or 'significance'.

The dead metaphors قلب and قلب قد can be translated as dead metaphors in English, the English phrase 'depths of [one's] heart' corresponding exactly to Arabic أعمق قلب [أعمق قلبه].
Practical 12 Tutor notes

Discussion of the chapter and the examples is straightforward; the only difficulties which are likely to occur are in § 12.4.2 where students have no real knowledge of Egyptian colloquial Arabic. Here, some additional explanation of what the Egyptian colloquial forms mean will be required from the tutor.

The suggested categories of language variety are useful tools in discerning salient textual features and their function. But there are sometimes expressions which belong in more than one category, or in which the categories cannot easily be decided. Students, then, should be urged to find the most accurate varietal label for the expressions they discuss: this will increase their awareness of the expressive function of style and make them more competent and confident translators. But they should be reminded that the aim is to see the expressive function so that they can decide on a translation; disentangling the types of language variety is the means to this end: as long as they have learned to see the strands in the tangle, it does not always matter if they cannot find a precise taxonomic label for them.

12.1 Tonal register

This is a challenging exercise, which is best done individually at home.

12.2 Code-switching

This is also a challenging exercise, and is best done individually at home. Obviously, if a significant proportion of the class do not know any Egyptian colloquial, Practical 12.2 should be avoided (or the tutor will at the least have to provide a gloss of the colloquial forms, preferably as a handout).

PRACTICAL 12.1 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON سيادة الأخ العزيز TT

(i) Strategic decisions

The tone of the ST is polite and the author is careful to maintain the formalities and sense of respect which could be regarded as appropriate in addressing a head of state. At the same time, the underlying message is that Iraq is in the wrong, and that its actions are likely to precipitate a catastrophe. The TT should preserve a high degree of formality and politeness without detracting from the fundamental message of the ST.

(ii) TT

His Excellency3 President Saddam Hussein – may God preserve and protect him.2

I send you my warmest brotherly greetings2 as an Arab and a Hashemite.4

I have just2 returned from the meeting in Rabat to which his Excellency6 President Chadli Ben Djedid and myself were invited by his Majesty7 King Hassan the Second. The subject of the meeting was the crisis in the Gulf – a crisis which3 has become that of the entire Arab nation8 since the fateful day9 of August 2nd, when Iraqi troops occupied Kuwait, and precipitated the slide towards the abyss.10 These events have given rise to a continuing and ever-increasing sense of anxiety, as we perceive the gains which our nation has struggled11 to achieve since the early part of this century threatened with obliteration.12 They also take place in the immediate post-cold-war14 period, when the world is moving towards15 a new era with the emergence of a new world order,16 and the establishment of new rules17 for the international game, which are quite different from those of the period which has just passed.18

(iii) Decisions of detail

1 'His Excellency' is the standard formula for addressing a president. 2 يُؤبَى establishes a sense of equality and closeness between the two leaders,
but we have omitted it here, because there is no concise way of doing this here in English (cf. Note 3, however).

2 The formulaic nature of the language here justifies the maintenance of the semantic repetition. The stylization is discreetly underlined by the alliteration in 'preserve and protect'.

3 Something along the lines 'Greetings of love/affection and brotherliness' sounds uniomatic. 'Warmest brotherly greetings' combines a standard TL formula with the notion of brotherhood, which is vital to King Hussein's purpose.

4 Our grammatical transposition loses some of the force of the ST adverbial forms. It was tempting to drop أوتت الأشياء altogether, but they are more than formulaic, having important implications for social and tonal register; by mentioning that he is a Hashemite (i.e. of the family of the Prophet), King Hussein is stressing his authority, the implication being that this extends beyond the rather limited power possessed by the Jordanian state.

5 is a standard device in opening sections of letters (also introductions to books) to show that the formal opening is finished and the main body of the text is about to begin. Since nothing similar exists in English, this can be omitted.

6 ئيغد للنوى is a rather formal way of saying '[I have] just' in Arabic. 'Just' is more informal, and is therefore somewhat odd in register terms. It does, however, give a greater sense of urgency than the more formal 'recently', or the somewhat archaic 'but recently'.

7 Although the Arabic has فكحة here, contrasting with سبأة, used earlier for Saddam Hussein, English only has the form 'Excellency' when addressing a foreign head of state. This has therefore been used to translate both expressions.

8 More literally 'to which His Majesty King Hassan II invited me, just as he invited His Excellency President Chadli Ben Djedid'. The active form, however, puts the short and informationally predictable 'me' at the end of the first clause here, which sounds odd in English. An obvious alternative would be to passivize this clause: 'to which I was invited by His Majesty King Hassan II'. This gets the predictable (thematic) element 'I' and the unpredictable (thematic) element 'His Majesty King Hassan II' in the normal and more acceptable order. But it leaves 'His Excellency, Chadli Ben Djedid' stranded. We have therefore merged the two occurrences of دما دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم دم D
There is not sufficient semantic difference between قواعد and قوانين to justify using two nouns in English, which could make King Hussein sound verbose. (Cf. Notes 13, 18.) However, 'new rules' seems better than merely 'rules'. This may partly be because 'new rules' mirrors 'new world order', but it also seems to point up the logic of the situation more idiomatically.

Yet again, considerations of social and tonal register suggest merging the two elements of the ST semantic repetition. We have added 'just' for clarity, and to convey something of the ST emphasis. (Cf. Notes 13, 17.)

PRACTICAL 12.2 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON الاشتراكية زي ما قال الميثاق

(i) Strategic decisions

The translator must attempt to produce a TT which sounds reasonably like a political speech in English. Political speeches in both English and Arabic make wide use of rhetorical anaphora and other forms of lexical item repetition, Arabic even more so than English. There is therefore likely to be some need to reduce these elements in the TT, but not to eliminate them altogether.

The second obvious problem is the use of colloquial Arabic in the ST. One strategy might be not to translate this any differently from the Standard Arabic material in terms of register. Our strategy is to attempt to find some way of establishing a degree of intimacy and solidarity with the audience in dealing with these elements.

(ii) TT

Note: elements of the TT corresponding to colloquial Egyptian Arabic material in the ST are underlined.

Socialism, as it says in the Charter, is the correct interpretation of the revolution as a progressive phenomenon. But what does socialism really mean? Socialism means the establishment of a society of sufficiency and justice, a society of equal opportunity, a society of production and services. Just a word, you might say – but what does it mean? It means the freeing of man from economic and social exploitation. And what about democracy? Democracy means the affirmation of the sovereignty of the people, and the placing of all authority in the hands of the people, in order to achieve the goals of the people. Democracy means political freedom; socialism means social freedom. This, my friends, is something we have said before; it is in the Charter. It is absolutely impossible to separate democracy from socialism. You need both to be present to have real freedom. This is something we can see clearly from our own personal experience. The facade of democracy which existed before the revolution was nothing more than the democracy of reaction. Think back to before the revolution, when the forces of reaction controlled the economic resources of the country and monopolized social privileges. The democracy which existed then was nothing more than a phoney democracy. They used to claim...
there was political freedom, they used to say there was democracy.\textsuperscript{16} But exploitation, feudalism, and rampant capitalism\textsuperscript{17} destroyed the very democracy which they told us existed.\textsuperscript{18} This is why we say today:\textsuperscript{19} it is simply not possible to have political freedom, unless political democracy is combined with social democracy.

\textbf{(iv) Decisions of detail}

1. 'It says' is an obvious way of translating this. 'It said' would imply that the Charter (see Note 2) was defunct. The use of colloquial Arabic here seems to be motivated by the fact that this is a parenthetical statement; a kind of aside delivered to the audience to remind them that this is not just Nasser's personal view, but is found in the National Charter.

2. What is being referred to is the ميثاق الوطنى, The National Charter, a basic constitutional document of the Nasser era in Egypt.

3. الترجمة clearly corresponds to 'interpretation' here, rather than 'translation'. We have used 'correct interpretation' because it sounds like leftist, Marxist-inspired, jargon. 'As' is an attempt to find a concise way of translating لفظ الترجمة. 'Progressive' is again leftist jargon.

4. We have tried to capture the sense of intimacy and solidarity conveyed by the use of colloquial Arabic in the ST here (and the associated sense that this is something of an aside and commentary on the main body of the speech), by using 'But' and 'really', to suggest more direct interaction with the audience. The impression is less strong than in the ST, however; this loss is compensated for later in the TT – see Note 9.

5. In this section, the Arabic repeats إقامة ميثاق at the beginning of four phrases in rhetorical anaphora. This repetition seems excessive in English, given that ميثاق is also repeated in each of these four phrases. Nasser was an orator, but he would come over as more verbose than in the ST if the repetitions were copied in the TT. English has less tolerance of repetition than Arabic. We have therefore translated only the first إقامة ميثاق, choosing the formal 'establishment'.

6. Even the repetition of 'society' as the equivalent of ميثاق would be excessive here – Nasser would again come over as more bombastic than in the ST. We have therefore omitted any equivalent of the entire phrase إقامة ميثاق before 'services'.

7. We have reversed the ST order to give acceptable TL coherence. Our translation is fairly free, in order to relay the intimacy and solidarity of the ST idiomatically. Hence, for example, 'you might say' instead of the literal 'we say', for قول.

8. Again the ST uses phrase repetition in rhetorical anaphora. For the same reasons as above, we have eliminated this from the TT.

9. This is the first mention of democracy in this text. For it to make sense in English, it needs something like 'And what about' before it. This partially parallels the earlier TT usage 'But what does socialism really mean?'. The repetition accords both with the rhetorical style, and with the intimacy between speaker and audience set up by the colloquialisms. As such, it compensates for the relative loss of colloquial tone in 'But what does socialism really mean' (cf. Note 4).

10. 'This is something we have said before' is an obvious translation of الكلام دا قلناه قبل كدا, الكلام دا جا في الميثاق... The addition of 'my friends' is an attempt to compensate for the loss in the TT of some of the intimacy and solidarity achieved by the use of colloquial Arabic in the ST. 'It is in the Charter' is more idiomatic than 'It appears/appeared/came in the Charter'.

11. The ST is slightly inelegant here since it repeats the 'without' element in a way which does not clearly move the argument forward. A literal translation 'Without them or without one of them' would be unidiomatic and obscure. 'You need both to be present' makes the intended meaning plain, and conveys the colloquial tone of the ST expression.

12. In English it is not possible to say 'We have a clear experience of this'. 'We have clear experience of this' is grammatically possible, but unidiomatic. A common collocation is 'personal experience', and this expresses idiomatically what is meant by تجربة خصيمة here. We have added the phrase 'This is something we can see clearly from our own', both to convey the sense of في كنا واضحة and to provide some of the intimacy and solidarity conveyed by the use of colloquial Arabic.

13. We have moved the equivalent of من قبل الثورة into a relative clause, 'which existed before the revolution', defining 'The facade of democracy'. Keeping the ST order would be odd, suggesting that this facade continued also after the revolution (definitely not what was intended here) but changed its character. The TT here loses the intimacy and solidarity perhaps conveyed by the colloquial ST form من قبل الثورة. However, this is to some extent compensated for by the subsequent use in the ST of the phrase 'Think back' in the next TT sentence (see Note 14).

14. We have broken up the ST sentence of which this is the first part into two TT sentences to conform to the standard modern English pattern of relatively short sentences. We have therefore recast the first noun phrase of the ST into a main clause of the TT 'Think back to before the revolution'. 'Think back to' is also intended to compensate for the loss of intimacy and solidarity produced in the ST by the use of colloquial Arabic. The repetitions in الاقتصاد البلد وثورة البلد would sound bombastic if translated literally, hence the conflation and grammatical transposition of الاقتصاد and ثورة in the TT as 'economic resources'. We have also eliminated the lexical repetition of البلد in the TT, which would sound excessive if translated literally here. The use of the ST colloquialized form شروة is relatively incidental in the ST and we have
not attempted to relay the slightly informal tone here. (But cf. Note 15.)

Having split the ST sentence into two, we needed ‘The democracy which existed then’ to link them cohesively.

We choose ‘a phoney democracy’ mainly to avoid lexical item repetition (ديموقراطیه سریعه) was translated earlier as ‘the facade of democracy’). However, ‘phoney’ also restores something of the colloquial tone arguably lost in the translation of ‘حمریای البلد’ as ‘economic resources’ and ‘نفوذ’ as ‘social privileges’. Note that in adding the phrase ‘nothing more than’, we have in fact introduced phrase repetition which is not present in the ST – ‘nothing more than’ occurs two sentences previously. The introduction of ‘nothing more than’ restores some of the onward drive lost by the division into shorter sentences.

We have maintained the ST repetition in the TT here, because it serves an appropriate rhetorical purpose of emphasizing the argument in English as well. The use of ‘they’ (instead of e.g. ‘politicians’, ‘the authorities’, etc.) and the omission of ‘that’ in ‘they used to claim/say there was’ gives this sentence some of the colloquial tone of this part of the ST.

While ‘exploitative capitalism’ is possible in English, it would sound weak and repetitive coming so soon after ‘exploitation’. We have used the fairly standard phrase ‘rampant capitalism’ instead of the literal ‘exploitative capitalism’.

Clearly exploitation (etc.) did not in fact destroy the word ‘democracy’. From an English perspective, at least, the Arabic here seems to be rather loosely argued. We have omitted any equivalent of ST ‘كلمة حمریای البلد’, but have added ‘very’ to preserve the ST emphasis. A literal translation of ‘كلمة حمریای البلد’ is grammatically unacceptable in English. Here is an echo of the use of ‘قائم’ in the previous ST sentence. Having used ‘claim’ and ‘say’ to translate the previous ‘قائم’, we have again gone for lexical variation, and used ‘told’. This permits the introduction of ‘us’, which provides some of the intimacy and solidarity in the TT conveyed in the ST by the shift into colloquial Arabic. ‘Existed’ makes the sentence grammatically acceptable English.

In the ST, there is a patterning in which previous uses of the verb ‘قائم’ referring to ‘they’ contrast with the use here of ‘قائم’ (strengthened also by ‘ع.HashSet). In the TT, this pattern is lacking; the various uses of the verb ‘قائم’ are translated by a variety of TT words: ‘claim’ and ‘say’ (for ‘قائم’), ‘told’ (for ‘قائم’), and ‘say’ (for ‘قائم’). The TT does, however, have previous repetition of ‘used to’ (in ‘used to claim’ and ‘used to say’). We have added ‘today’ to provide something of the contrast with ‘used to’ which is produced in the ST by the repetition of the verb ‘قائم’ twice in the third person plural and then in the first person plural. ‘Today’ also introduces a strong ‘here-and-now’ element in the TT, which is intended to relay something of the intimacy and solidarity achieved by the use of colloquial Arabic at this point in the ST.

Practical 13 Tutor notes

In discussing this chapter, it should be stressed to students that any generic categorization is arbitrary. We have found that ours works well in practice, but it is not the only one possible. Another point to stress is that each of the five genre types can be virtually endlessly subdivided. It quickly becomes pointless to try and find a label for every sub-category, sub-sub-category, etc. Ends should not be confused with means: the important thing is to be able to see what the purpose of the text is and how typical an example it is of texts having such a purpose. Related to this point is another: the more categories sub-divide, the more likely a text is to have characteristics of several different categories. This point is made in the coursebook (§ 13.3), and it is a good idea to draw attention to it in class. The reason this is important is that students do at first tend to oversimplify the question of genre; instead of examining the text and seeing what generic features it actually has, they assign a text a priori to one of the five genre-categories, and then deduce from this category what features the text must have. The result is that they often miss vital features. This is also mentioned in the coursebook (§ 13.3) and is worth drawing attention to. (The ST in Practical 13.2 is a good example of a text involving some ‘hybridization’.) At the same time, however, students can be reassured that, especially in a professional specialist situation, the translator will know in advance what genre most STs are likely to belong to, so that only a quick read through the text will be needed to confirm this. At the training stage, of course, it will take some time to learn what features signal the genre, and – just as important – what the TL expectations are for that genre. Chapters 14–16 are an introduction to these considerations in respect of some genres in which translators commonly find themselves working.

13.1 Genre

The main translation challenge in this text is to produce a TT whose generic features are reasonably acceptable in terms of the corresponding TL genre of the signed newspaper article. Some quite subtle reworking is required, and the translation is best done individually at home.
13.2 Genre

This text is not easy to translate effectively, and is best done individually at home. However, it is easy for students to entirely miss the playful use of natural-scientific terms. At best this results in a loss of humour in the TT; at worst in a serious loss of message content, as students incorrectly interpret such terms into their TTS. With weaker classes, this can be avoided by having students analyse generic features of the text in class prior to the home assignment. This analysis can be done in groups with subsequent general class discussion.

PRACTICAL 13.1 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON اختطاف الطائرة .. اختطاف العقل TT

(i) Strategic decisions

This text is a signed newspaper opinion article, and as such has an exact equivalent in English-language newspaper writing. Like many persuasive texts the ST makes wide use of repetition, both for rhetorical effect, as well as for text-building. One problem for the translator is to decide which repetition to maintain in the TT in order to relay something of the intended rhetorical effect of the ST, and which to remove, in order to conform more closely to the kind of English which one would expect in a text of this nature.

This text is a written text but has elements which from an English point of view are highly oral. These include not only lexical item repetitions, but also a marked personal tone (e.g. use of the first person plural, references to ابنا لنا which is not common in English-language newspaper writing. In other respects, however, the ST is quite formal in style.

This combination of personalization and formality presents interesting difficulties in translation. The strategy adopted here is to relay some of the personalized elements, in order to retain a degree of faithfulness to the ST, but to downplay or eliminate others where they would produce a TT anomalous in terms of general TL writing of this kind. It also seems important to maintain a sense of formality in the TT, since this helps to give authority to the ultimately rather stark message which the writer is trying to put across.

(ii) TT

The Hijacking of Reason

Dr Ahmad Al-Rub'i

Faced with the scourge of terrorism, the Kuwaiti people have no choice but to respond with unity and solidarity. Our only option is to reject all the demands made by the hijackers of the Kuwaiti aircraft and to refuse even to discuss these demands. Giving in to terrorism this time would mean giving in to terrorism every time. This is something we are not even prepared to discuss.

We can understand the grief experienced by the families of the victims;
we can understand the suffering of the children who were getting ready to meet their loved ones at the airport, and who are still waiting for their fathers and mothers. We can understand the depths of their suffering. In fact we all share it; for all the victims are our children, our mothers and our fathers. Every Kuwaiti has been touched by the monstrous tragedy which has resulted from this evil terrorist act. But, for all our sorrow, we must not relinquish our resolve, nor lose sight of the nature of the affair. Our children who have been taken hostage are paying the price which has to be paid in order to maintain the rule of law, respect for the judiciary and the right of the accused to defend himself. The mere thought of surrendering to terrorism would entail surrendering our entire legal system, and all of the modern civilized values enshrined in our constitution. 

(iii) Decisions of detail

1 Arabic favours doublets of this kind, very often separated by two dots, in newspaper headlines. They are not, however, a typical feature of English. اختطاف can mean various things: 'grab', 'seize', 'abduct', 'kidnap', etc. We have used the specific English term for the seizing of a vehicle: 'hijacking', and combined this with a translation of مقتل 'reason'. The English maintains the odd collocation اختطاف المعتقل 'the abducting of rationality', and like the ST suggests a metaphorical interpretation of this phrase.

2 The Kuwaitites seems too distant here, particularly given that the article is written in a Kuwaiti newspaper and that its general tone is very personalized. 'The Kuwaiti people' maintains a degree of distance (as opposed to the subsequent use of 'we', for example), but identifies the entity in question as the people of Kuwait, and not just its government.

3 'Unity' is an obvious translation of الوحدة here. To translate تلامح we have chosen 'solidarity' because it collocates quite commonly with unity, and covers the sense of تلامح fairly accurately. The repetition of the suffix -ي in 'unity and solidarity' achieves something of the same emphatic effect as is achieved by the semantic repetition in the ST.

4 The ST makes use of root repetition in اختطاف here and خيار in the first clause, as well as semantic repetition, and lexical item repetition of أمام. Repetition in the TT here would be rhetorically too strong for the context. Hence 'Our only option', a phrase which is formally quite different from the translation of خيار امام الكويتین.

5 Despite the multiple punctuation marks in Arabic, an exclamation mark in the TT might suggest a lack of calmness or reasonableness on the part of the writer -- not at all what is intended here.

6 'Giving in to terrorism' is more informal than 'surrendering to terrorism'. Although the ST uses quite formal vocabulary, the use of repetition gives it an oral feel which corresponds more obviously to a somewhat informal toal register in English.

7 After كل مرة مرة is used later on in the ST sentence. An analogous rhetorical effect can be achieved in English here with lexical item repetition, 'this time' and later in the sentence 'every time'.

8 ' Terrorism' is repeated for rhetorical effect here. If this were felt to be excessive, 'terrorism' could easily be replaced with 'it'.

9 A new sentence in the TT here gives this clause more force, since it makes it informationally independent.

10 A more literal translation such as 'we do not/cannot agree to discuss' sounds too weak here. 'We are not even prepared to discuss' rhetorically echoes the earlier 'refuse even to discuss'.

11 We know the sadness/grief would sound too abstract and emotionally distant here. 'We can understand' is idiomatic and less distant. 'Grief' is more appropriate than 'sadness' in this highly emotional situation.

12 It is unthinkable, even in right-wing TL journalism, to confuse one’s concern to sons and exclude daughters.

13 'Still' plays up the dramatic contrast between were getting ready and 'are [...] waiting'. This corresponds to the contrast between the simple imperfect and the complex verb form in English require an additional emphatic word (such as 'still' here).

14 The three occurrences of 'we understand' correspond exactly to those of نعرف in the ST.

15 The ST here makes use of alliteration, assonance and suffix repetition to give a heightened sense of emotion in talking about the victims. We have tried to relay this rhetorical effect by repeating 'our' ('our children, our mothers and our fathers').

16 'Every' is more personal and intimate than 'all' here, because it focuses on individuals, unlike 'all', which focuses on the totality. The rest of the text focuses entirely on the people involved, with no other mention of houses, homes, etc. A mention of 'house', 'home', etc. here would seem slightly intrusive. We have therefore omitted any equivalent of بيوت, compensating for this with 'every Kuwaiti'.

17 عملية الإرهاب الأسود poses similar problems to those posed by the earlier الإرهاب الأسود (cf. Note 2). But 'evil terrorist act' is appropriate and unambiguous here.

18 The negative ('we must not') sounds more dignified and forceful than a
more literal rendering (e.g. ‘we need a certain amount of degree of resolve/resoluteness/determination/firmness’), an effect enhanced by the alliteration and assonance (especially ‘relinquish’ and ‘resolve’). A degree of formality seems appropriate here, since this statement represents a turning point in the argument. Previously the writer has been focusing on the suffering of the victims and their relatives. Here he goes on to make the main point of the article: that despite all this Kuwait must stand firm in confronting the hijackers.

20 The choice of the negative earlier (‘we must not’) makes a corresponding negative here the obvious choice. If there were no comma after ‘resolve’, ‘or’ would have to be used instead of ‘nor’; our TT structure ensures a certain rhetorical measuredness.

21 We use ‘children’ here for the same reason as earlier (cf. Note 13). ‘أبناء’ here carries something also of the reflected meaning of ‘citizens’, ‘fellow citizens’, as in ‘أبناء الوطن’. There seems no concise and unobtrusive way of incorporating any of this into the English TT. But ‘children’ has compensatory force a little lower down; see Note 23.

22 A more literal translation, e.g. ‘which we have to pay’, might sound like a contradiction of ‘Our children […] are paying the price’: while most Kuwaitis doubtless felt that the whole country was paying the price, the author might come over in the TT as undervaluing the sacrifices being made by the kidnap victims themselves.

23 The previous decision to translate لا بد أن ندفع همة as ‘which has to be paid’ makes it difficult to retain the reference to ‘we’ in the TT. The phrase ‘maintain the rule of law’ is fairly standard in English and covers all aspects of نصية الدستور بالقانون except the personal ‘we’ element. This loss is to some extent compensated for by ‘children’, which has connotations of tender years and vulnerability that ‘sons/citizens’ does not have; the implication is that we need to protect our children by maintaining the rule of law.

24 The more literal ‘the right of the criminal/guilty party to defend himself’ would rather undermine the writer’s position in the eyes of TL readers, since it would imply a presumption of guilt even before a trial has begun. We have used the standard English phrase.

25 We have used the verb ‘surrendering’ here (cf. Note 7), and ‘surrendering’ as a transitive verb immediately afterwards, thus mirroring the ST rhetorical anaphora (ننازلا عن التنازل ل). Using ‘giving in’ and ‘giving up’ would be a weaker repetition, and sound like a feeble pun.

26 The rhetorical anaphora achieved by the repetition of كل in the ST would not carry over idiomatically into the TT. This might be partially compensated for by linking the two differently: ‘surrendering both our entire legal system and all of the modern civilized values’.

27 The sober nature of the text would not make the use of an exclamation mark in the TT here appropriate (cf. Note 6).

### PRACTICAL 13.2 CLASS HANDOUT

#### COMMENTARY ON التشيخ شيخة TT

(i) **Strategic decisions**

This text belongs to the literary genre of short-story writing, which has been adopted in the Arab world from the West. This aspect of the ST does not present significant generic problems. There is, however, a degree of hybridization. As far as نقاش فقدان is something of the feel of an empirical or even a philosophical genre. Phrases derived from the empirical genre of natural-science writing occur fairly frequently, and much of the humour of the text derives from the inclusion of these elements in the TT. It is important to maintain the prominence of such words and phrases belonging to the natural sciences, while making sure that these are coherently integrated into the overall narrative and have a similar effect to the ST.

Some of the sentences are longer than they would usually be in the TL genre, but in the ST they are unmarked. Keeping them in the TT would result in a counter-productive tortuousness or stodginess which the ST does not have. Where necessary, therefore, we shall create shorter sentences as stylistically unmarked as the longer ST ones.

(ii) **TT**

The Old Man’s an Old Woman

There are innumerable villages scattered across God’s creation, and each village has all it needs; young and old, men and women, single folk and families, Muslims and Copts, and large landholdings which are brought under control – and thrown into confusion – by the regulations of the law. Occasionally, however, one comes across an exception to the rule. This is the case in our village, which alone amongst all villages possesses a living being who is not classifiable amongst either the human or the animal inhabitants of the village; nor is he the missing link between the two. Rather, he is a unique and nameless entity. Granted, people on occasion call him Old Man Muhammad, and on occasion Old Woman Fatima. But they do this only as the occasion demands, and for the sake of ease. The truth is that he has always been nameless, fatherless and motherless. Nobody knows where he came from, or who bequeathed him
that stocky body. As for whether he has human features – well, he certainly
once had them;14 two eyes, two ears, a nose, and he walked on two legs.
But the problem is that his features have come to assume totally non-human
forms. His neck, for example, tilts horizontally over one of his shoulders,
like a tree which has been trampled underfoot as a sapling15 and started
growing parallel to the ground. Similarly with his eyes; one eye is
permanently half open, the other permanently tight shut.16 As for his arms,
the way they fall from his shoulders suggests that they have no connection
with the rest of his body – as though they were the sleeves of a gallabiya
which had been washed and hung out to dry.

(iii) Decisions of detail

1 The obvious choice in translating شيخ (as a title)
and ‘old man’. ‘Old man’ seems better in this context, because (i) ‘sheikh’
in English has unwanted connotations (cf. ‘oil sheikh’), and (ii) شيخ
contrasts with the next word شيبة, which does not exist as a cultural
borrowing in English. ‘Old man’ and ‘Old woman’ lose the connotations
of respect which may be felt to be present in the Arabic. An alternative
in English might be ‘Old Gentleman’ and ‘Old Lady’.

2 بلال الله poses a problem in English, particularly since بلال
contrasts with the following بلدة in the same line. ‘God’s creation’ is idiomatic
and does preserve something of the religious flavour of the original. It is
quite normal in Arabic to have expressions of quantity or number as
predicates: e.g. الشاشكان ثلاث, literally: ‘the problems are three’, but this
structure sounds affected and old-fashioned in English. We have rendered
باياسمة as ‘scattered across’, since this fits in better with the restructured
sentence. ‘Innumerable’ distorts somewhat but is more idiomatic
than ‘many’ in this context.

We have translated the various occurrences of بلدة بلال in the
ST as ‘village(s)’. This seemed more plausible in this context than
‘towns’, and the repetition helps to maintain the coherence of the TT.
‘Community/communities’ would be an alternative – but might sound
over-technical and intrusive if repeated numerous times.

3 ‘Young men, and women’ would be bizarre and implausible in English.

4 ناس seems to mean ‘unattached’ individuals’ here. The playful
alliteration in ‘single folk and families’ compensates for the loss of that
in فيها ما تكيفها

5 Here أضف مشجعه (literally: ‘to deprive of sleep’) idiomatically means
something like the opposite of تنظمه قوانين ‘brought under control –
and thrown into confusion’ uses two phrases which parallel each other
syntactically and contain alliteration and assonance. This underlines
the opposition, and thus partly compensates for the loss of the effect of the

ST lexical item repetition.

6 ‘Regulations of the law’ is chosen because ‘the law’ on its own would
be rhythmically anti-climactic, at the end of a sentence containing long
and ‘heavy’ parts. It also relays something of the emphasis provided in
the ST by the lexical item repetition.

7 The ST has احيانا four times: احيانا بانتظام والحظ احيانا
We have tried to retain some of this word play in the TT with ‘Occasionally’ here, on occasion’
(twice), and ‘as the occasion demands’.

8 ‘Shala’ is ‘an exception to the rule’, in a scientific sense. Here
is introducing a scientific term into what is otherwise a
fairly straightforward non-technical literary text, launching the somewhat
deadpan humour. It is important to keep this effect in the TT. Our
word-order gets the less predictable information at the end, as in the ST,
while ‘one comes across’ preserves the idea of emergence and discovery.

9 ‘Classifiable’ is an attempt to render متميز economically. It is
more exclusively scientific than the ST phrase, but accords with the
spirit of the text.

10 We chose ‘the human or the animal inhabitants’ rather than ‘the people
or [the] animal inhabitants’ because it mixes the quasi-technical
‘inhabitants’ with the more literary assonance of the whole phrase.

11 ‘Missing link’ translates scientific term with scientific term.

12 The connector ‘granted’ is required because the new sentence we start
here is followed by an adversative sentence.

13 ‘He has always been’ makes better sense than ‘he (has) remained’, since
it suggests a state of affairs obtaining since his birth, while ‘he (has)
remained’ implies ‘he (has) remained since some specifiable time after
his birth’.

14 We have introduced the colloquialism ‘well’ here, suggesting a pause
for thought in response to the implicit question raised by ‘As for whether
[...]’. The Arabic قد here suggests a contrast between the situation in
the past and that in the present. We have tried to relay this with ‘certainly’
and ‘once’.

15 Using terms like ‘youth’ to describe a plant would be downright eccentric
in English, a pathetic fallacy where there is no such imagery in the ST.
Particularization seems inevitable here. ‘Sapling’ is acceptable, but
necessitates the earlier particularization of نبات into ‘tree’.

16 and مطلقة مغلقة both describe forms of closure. Just as English often
avoids lexical item repetition, here it is more idiomatic to replace the
parallelism with balanced antonyms. However, this makes it impossible
to preserve the neatness and economy of the next ST sentence. We have
therefore left it out, and subsumed its sense under ‘permanently’ in this
sentence. The repetition of ‘permanently’ in the TT helps strengthen the
somewhat weak compensation for the loss of an entire ST sentence.
Practical 14 Tutor notes

14.1 Translation of technical terms

This is not a difficult exercise to do – but it does illustrate the difficulties in recognizing and translating technical terms, even in relatively non-technical texts. Students also need to take care to produce a TT register which is appropriate for this kind of popular science writing. The translation can be usefully done in groups in class.

14.2 Technical translation

This is a more challenging ST than 14.1, and is best done individually at home. Students may be wary of this assignment, because of their ignorance of the field. But if they prepare it properly, translating it as best they can and noting points which require specialist advice, they will find the class reassuring: they will realize that after some induction into technical translation it is not so frightening and difficult a subject area as they might imagine. The ‘Bacillary dysentery’ text in § 14.5 provides solutions to a number of the problems found in the ST.

Other technical terms can be treated in two ways. Either the practical can be treated as a genuine exercise in technical translation in a field where students are presumed to have no existing technical knowledge. In this case, they should be told that the best dictionary for dealing with medical technical terms used in Syria is Hitti’s New Medical Dictionary (Hitti and Al-Khatib 1989), while the best general Arabic medical dictionary is The Unified Medical Dictionary: English–Arabic–French (Khayat, M.H. et al. 1983). The tutor should ensure that copies of both dictionaries are available if possible. Students can be left to their own devices to consult appropriate English-language references. If they can also consult a medical expert, so much the better.

The alternative is to give students the meanings of the medical terms used in this text which they will not find in Wehr or other general Arabic/English dictionaries and which they are unlikely to be able to work out for themselves. These words are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>انطرح</td>
<td>infectious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>الصفحة السريرية</td>
<td>tract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ترفع حريري</td>
<td>temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>زحار</td>
<td>catarrhal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>وذمة</td>
<td>oedema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>الطريقة المعدية المعوية</td>
<td>gastro-intestinal-tract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>قشع زحاري</td>
<td>catarrahic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>تنظير المستقيم</td>
<td>proctoscopy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| تفرشات [ ] منقطعة | This seems to refer to what are known in English as ‘transversally distributed ulcers with ragged undermined edges’, the extra detail (‘with ragged undermined edges’) being absent from the ST. ‘Transversal’ here means arranged around the circumference, rather than longitudinally, somewhat like the horizontal marks found on the trunks of trees such as cherry trees.

The following terms are particularly problematic, because they involve odd or possibly misleading ST formulations. In such cases the translator would need to consult the author or an expert before finally releasing the TT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to excrete clinical phase (however, ‘clinical features’ is a more standard English term in the TT context; cf. the ‘Bacillary dysentery’ text in § 14.5)</td>
<td>rise in temperature (because of fever), fever, high temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tenesmus</td>
<td>oedema (however, ‘inflamed mucosa’ seems to be the more standard English term in the TT context)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although this is what the ST says, the usual phrase in English is ‘faecal-oral route’ (cf. the ‘Bacillary dysentery’ text in § 14.5).

This is an old term, hardly in current use, meaning stools that contain only mucus. This looks right in the context, except that it denotes a mild form of the disease.

Doctors whom we consulted were surprised by this, because a proctoscope only examines the rectum, and the features described here occur further up, in the sigmoid flexure of the intestine. The procedure they would expect to use is sigmoidoscopy (used in the ‘Bacillary dysentery’ text: § 14.5); although the ST term means ‘proctoscopy’, it would be more accurate here to say ‘sigmoidoscopy’.
PRACTICAL 14.1 CLASS HANDOUT

COMMENTARY ON \[1992 - \ldots \]

(i) **Strategic decisions**

This text needs to read like a fairly standard magazine article, covering a somewhat technical theme. The technical nature of the subject is likely to favour fairly formal language, with a clear logical organization to the TT.

(ii) **TT (based on Evans 1996: 13)**

This programme is designed to run from 1993 to 2000. However, it is to be extended into the twenty-first century, and is therefore known as Agenda 21.\(^1\) It consists of an 800-page working plan covering the steps which need to be taken to deal with the urgent environmental and developmental problems which confront the earth, including global warming,\(^2\) deforestation,\(^3\) and the depletion of the ozone layer,\(^4\) as well as the world-wide problems of poverty and development. The aims of the conference included the drawing up of solutions to these problems, action to protect and manage the earth’s natural resources and biodiversity,\(^5\) and the promotion of environmentally friendly\(^6\) bio-technology.\(^7\)

(iii) **Translation of technical terms used in the ST, marked by superscript numbers inside curly brackets.**

\(^1\) The translator needs to spot that جدول أعمال Agenda 21 and جدول أعمال Agenda 21 are both intended as equivalents of the English ‘Agenda 21’ in the Arabic text in effect glosses what is meant by the subsequent loan-word جدولة أعمال Agenda 21. Accordingly, the English TT should only have ‘Agenda 21’.

\(^2\) ‘global warming’.

\(^3\) ‘deforestation’.

\(^4\) ‘depletion of the ozone layer’.

\(^5\) ‘bio-diversity’.

\(^6\) This is not a technical term in the Arabic, but has an obvious, if clichéd, semi-technical equivalent in the English ‘environmentally friendly’.

\(^7\) التكنولوجيا البيولوجية ‘bio-technology’.

(iv) **Other decisions of detail, marked by superscript numbers without curly brackets.**

1. It seems more natural in English to make the sentence break here, and make the clause beginning with ‘However’ a single sentence together with the following clause beginning in the TT ‘[and] is therefore’, since this following clause explains why the programme is called Agenda 21.

2. ‘أشتهرت’; clearly one cannot talk about a programme becoming ‘famed as’ ‘Known as’ is a fairly standard cliché. The present tense ‘is […] known’ is more idiomatic than the more literal ‘has […] become known’, and conflicts less with the fact that ‘Agenda 21’ is an official title of the programme.

3. Compound nouns, such as ‘800-page working plan’, are common in journalism, as well as in technical writing.

4. ‘لتي تشتمل على سبيل المثال:’ literally ‘which include, for example’. English does not favour such virtual tautology, and ‘including’ seems sufficient here.
PRACTICAL 14.2 CLASS HANDOUT

الزحار العصوي

(ii) TT (from Al-Muhammad 1993: 235–6, with some amendments)

Bacillary Dysentery
This is an infectious disease which is characterized anatomically by the inflammation of the large intestine. It is caused by bacilli of the genus Shigella. It enters the body through the gastro-intestinal tract, via food, water, or unwashed hands. Bacteria are excreted in great numbers during the acute phase of the illness within loose stools. This may occur during convalescence, and even after the patient has recovered completely. Bacillary dysentery may appear epidemically in crowded populations where there is lack of cleanliness and poor sanitation. The hot climatic conditions in tropical countries aid the spread of the disease through flies.

Clinical features
Severe abdominal pains, fever, and tenesmus. Diarrhoea often occurs several hours after the onset of the disease. In the initial stages, the stool is loose, but quickly becomes watery. It is accompanied by mucus, purulent exudate, and sometimes blood. The diarrhoea may become more severe and persistent and contain only bloody mucus. This is called catarrhal dysentery. The patient's general state worsens if diarrhoea persists. The illness has severe and mild forms. It is diagnosed through stool culture, and through proctoscopy, which normally confirms edema, inflammation of the rectum, and transversally distributed ulcerations which, though large, are superficial.

Practical 15 Tutor notes

Discussion of the chapter is straightforward, and illustrates the fact that once the principles are grasped, certain kinds of technical translation can be relatively accessible to the non-specialist.

15.1 Constitutional translation
The ST follows the standard form of constitutions, as discussed in the coursebook. This exercise is best done at home individually to allow students to work through the various issues raised by the TT, using Chapter 15 of the coursebook as a reference point.

The official translation, which we provide as a class handout, is significantly different from what the students (or tutor) are likely to produce. It would be worthwhile comparing features of the official translation with one or two good student versions in class following completion of the assignment and more general discussion of the issues raised.

15.2 Constitutional translation
This is a difficult text to translate successfully and is best done individually at home. The ST follows the standard form for main texts of constitutions, and TTs will obviously have to respect this. The translation also provides a number of interesting examples where idiomaticness may clash with accuracy: for example 'member state(s)' suggests itself as a potential translation at a number of points in the ST. Students will need to decide where a more idiomatic translation is acceptable, and where considerations of legal precision require them to use a more literal but less idiomatic TL form.
PRACTICAL 15.1 CLASS HANDOUT

OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF دستور دولة الكويت BY KUWAITI GOVERNMENT

THE CONSTITUTION
OF
THE STATE OF KUWAIT

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

We, ABDULLAH AL-SALIM AL-SUBAH
AMIR of the State of Kuwait

Being desirous of consummating the means of democratic rule for our dear Country; and,

Having faith in the role of this country in the furtherance of Arab nationalism and the promotion of world peace and human civilization; and,

[...]
Upon the resolution of the Constituent Assembly;
Do hereby approve this Constitution and promulgate it.

PART 1
THE STATE AND THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Article 1

Kuwait is an Arab State, independent and fully sovereign. Neither its sovereignty nor any part of its territory may be relinquished.

The people of Kuwait is a part of the Arab Nation.

[...]

Article 4

Kuwait is a hereditary Amirate, the succession of which shall be in the descendants of the late Mubarak al-Subah.

The Heir Apparent shall be designated within one year, at the latest, from the date of accession of the Amir.

His designation shall be effected by an Amiri Order upon the nomination of the Amir and the approval of the National Assembly which shall be signified by a majority vote of its members in a special sitting.

In case no designation is achieved in accordance with the foregoing procedure, the Amir shall nominate at least three of the descendants of the late Mubarak al-Subah of whom the National Assembly shall pledge allegiance to one as Heir Apparent.

The Heir Apparent shall have attained his majority, be of sound mind and a legitimate son of Muslim parents.

[...]

Article 5

The flag, emblem, badges, decorations and National Anthem of the State shall be specified by law.

Article 6

The System of Government in Kuwait shall be democratic, under which sovereignty resides in the people, the source of all power. Sovereignty shall be exercised in the manner specified in this Constitution.
(iii) Decisions of detail

1. The standard translation of ‘لا يجوز’ in constitutional texts is ‘shall not’, typically used with the passive.
2. ‘Dispute’ is a better word than ‘conflict’ here, since the latter implies the use of force. The article ‘النزاع’ here is used generically, to signify ‘any dispute’ or ‘disputes in general’; it would also be possible to have ‘disputes’ here.
3. More idiomatic translations here would be ‘two or more members of the League of Arab States’ or ‘two or member states’, utilizing lexical variation. The acceptability of these would depend on whether all members of the League of Arab States actually have to be states and what is meant here by ‘being a state’ (cf. the case of Palestine, for example).
4. ‘Them’ would be too vague in English here. ‘Two states’ reflects the use of the dual pronoun suffix ‘هما’ here. (Logically, one could imagine a dispute arising between more than two states – as indeed stated earlier in Article 1. Accordingly, it could be argued legally that the present element of Article 1 does not apply in such circumstances. Although this interpretation was presumably not intended by whoever drew up the Charter of the League of Arab States, it applies equally to the ST and TT. It is not the translator’s task to remove loopholes from the TT version of the Charter which are clearly present in the ST.)
5. ‘Bear upon’ is in a more suitable register than ‘is connected with/to’.
6. ‘The state’ would sound odd in the TT here, because the only previous references to states have been to ‘states’ in the plural. Adding ‘either’ here does not involve any change in the message content.
7. ‘Parties to the dispute’ is more genre-specific than ‘disputants’.
8. Since ‘disagreement’ was used earlier to translate ‘الخلاف’ it makes sense from a legal point of view to be consistent and use it here. Idiomatically, it might have sounded better to say ‘to settle this dispute’.
9. ‘الخلاف’ is used generically here, so the generic plural ‘disagreements’ is acceptable. We have translated three of the four occurrences of ‘الخلاف’ as ‘state(s)’. This dense lexical item repetition is generally atypical of English, but it is common in legal documents in English, and is justified here by the requirement not to risk introducing unintended additional meanings.

A possible translation of ‘من دول الجامعة أو غيرها’ would be ‘whether a state of the League or not’, but in this context, the relationship between this and the preceding ‘another state’ might be too vague. Adding ‘the latter’ is preserves the ST clarity.

It is more natural in English to place the rhematic element at the end of the sentence, as we have done. However, a more literal translation, ‘the Council shall mediate’, would sound anti-climactic, because it is so much shorter than the long rhematic element which precedes it. Hence
the more substantial ‘act as mediator’.

10 ققرار has been translated as ‘decision’ earlier. Consistency therefore suggests that it should also be translated as ‘decision’ here (and elsewhere in the text). Otherwise ‘resolution’ would be an alternative here.

11 ‘Member state’ is a standard phrase in English (normally as the translation equivalent of دولة عضو; nothing of the message content seems to be lost by this reorganization of the ST form in the TT. It might be felt that ‘attack’ is too specific for اعتداء, which can also mean ‘commit an aggression, a hostile act’. In this case, one might say ‘If any member state of the League is subject to an act of aggression by another state’. There seems no need to include ‘of the League’ in the TT here.

12 is quite a vague word in Arabic. ‘Counter’ seems equally vague – and does not, for example, commit the League to using military force in this kind of situation.

13 A more obvious idiomatic translation would be ‘a member state (of the League)’. We have not used it here because there might be a potential difference between a member state دولة عضو, a ‘state of the League’، and a state which (merely?) participating مشتركة in the League (Article 4).

14 بالاقتراع بالأغلبية is translated here as ‘by majority vote’, as was بالاقتراع بالأغلبية earlier (Article 2). If there were felt to be a material difference between the invention of the two ST phrases, one might translate ومايقره مجلس بالأغلبية here as ‘Majority decisions of the Council’ (removing any mention of ‘vote’ in the TT, since there is no correspondence to this in the ST).

15 TT ‘those states’ is a particularizing translation of لـن. It seems idiomatically necessary in English to have a specific noun here. The addition does not distort the ST message content.

Practical 16 Tutor notes

Discussion of the chapter is straightforward. However, it is important that students are told to consider the texts for discussion in § 16.2.1 and § 16.3 carefully, and make detailed notes on them prior to discussion of them in class. The texts are too complex, and too many issues are raised, for students to be able to discuss the texts ‘cold’.

16.1 Translation of consumer-oriented texts

This exercise is entertaining, and quite intriguing. It is bound to be somewhat speculative, since without consulting the translator, it is not possible to be sure why changes are made in a translation of this kind (and even the translator may not be sure why he or she has made a particular change). Students are likely to come up with a variety of analyses, and discussion may be lively. The exercise requires careful consideration. It is best done individually at home.

16.2 Translation of consumer-oriented texts

Students who have a good knowledge of English-language cookery books will find this ST fairly easy to translate; those who don’t may have quite a struggle. The difference is instructive, demonstrating how particular genres may be technical in nature, without necessarily being thought of as so. It is important to stress that even students who feel they know a lot about cookery writing should look at examples of such writing in English before attempting the translation; it is very easy to overestimate one’s own competence in a particular genre. The translation can be done individually at home. It could also be done in groups in class; in this case, the tutor will need to bring in either some English-language cookery books, or appropriate photocopied examples of cookery writing in English.
PRACTICAL 16.1 CLASS HANDOUT

CONSIDERATION OF 'FEZ HAS A LOT TO BE PROUD OF’ ST AND TT

(i) Places in which the TT differs from the ST.

Fez has a lot to be proud of. \{\phi\} It is the place where the great 14th-century\(^2\) historian \{\phi\} and traveller\(^4\} \{\phi\} Ibn Khaldoun lived and its centrepiece\(^9\) is the \{grand\} Karaouine mosque, reputedly\(^9\} one of the world’s oldest universities. The city has built on these venerable origins\(^8\} by organizing a series of festivals throughout the year. \{\alpha\} \{Music, painting and cooking\(^1\} \{become the focus of scholarly debates, conferences and informal discussions about the place of artistry in the modern world\(^8\} \{There’s a terrific enthusiasm for the subjects and those curious\(^9\} \{\phi\} to know more about Fez and its heritage\(^8\} travel from around the globe \{crossing the usual boundaries that keep people apart\(^4\}.

\{These special cultural programmes take place\(^7\} in the warren of tiled courtyards and narrow alleyways\(^8\} that make up \{\phi\} \{the heart and the head of this fascinating city. Heart and head because Fez is both a sort of forerunner of Oxford and Cambridge\(^6\} \{the centre where intellectual rigour and scientific endeavour was pioneered and then fostered\(^2\} \{but also its heart\(^2\} \{for it is here that Moulay Idriss founder \{and patron saint\(^4\} \{Fez \{and also founder of Morocco’s first royal dynasty\(^8\} \{is buried \{\phi\} and pilgrims \{from all over Morocco\(^5\} \{come to his shrine. Additionally there are over 3,000 mosques and medresas or religious schools \{\phi\} \{within its dark, maze-like streets\(^8\}.

(ii) Comments and categorization

1 Comments: TT lays additional stress on history and culture of Fez.
Category: culture

2 Comments: The ST formulation probably reflects expected ignorance on the part of the readership of who Ibn Khaldoun was; the use of ‘great’ justifies mention of him in the text. The TT audience are probably expected to know who he was, and when he lived. However, the TT points out that he was an Arab – perhaps for reasons of cultural pride.
Category: culture

3 Comments: With the addition of عالم الاجتماع, the TT has greater scholarly orientation than the ST. Cf. Note 15.
Category: culture

4 Comments: TT stresses scholarly achievements and status of Ibn Khaldoun. ST perhaps presents him more as a prototype tourist.
Category: culture

5 Comments: TT again stresses scholarly achievements of Ibn Khaldoun. The term ‘grand’ is well known in the Arab world, but largely only known in the West in academic circles.
Category: culture

6 The ST uses the emotive term ‘centrepiece’. The TT has the rather formal and neutral أصبح. موطن
Category: tone

7 Comments: Use of the emotive ‘grand’ in the ST; nothing in the TT.
Category: tone

8 Comments: ‘Reputedly’ hints at uncertainty about the age of the corroboration University; the TT removes this, perhaps for reasons of cultural pride.
Category: culture

9 Comments: The TT drops reference to building on the venerable origins, perhaps because they are felt to be covered in the opening reference to
of the ideas expressed here are omitted earlier in the TT (cf. Note 12).
Category: uncategorized

20 Comments: ‘Heart and head’ metaphor removed in TT, presumably because it would not work in Arabic. TT suggests that Fez is equivalent to Oxford and Cambridge, rather than a forerunner, presumably reflecting expected attitudes of cultural pride of TT readership.
Category: culture

21 Comments: It is not clear why the TT drops this element; perhaps omitting ‘forerunner’ implies omitting ‘pioneered and then fostered’. طلاب العلم والثقافة is perhaps felt to cover the gist of both ‘heart and head’ and ‘intellectual rigour and scientific endeavour’.
Category: uncategorized

22 Comments: ST ‘Heart’ metaphor replaced by description of Fez as a spiritual centre in Arabic. This seems to be partly because ‘Heart and head’ does not work well as a metaphor in Arabic. Also, however, the greater importance of religion in the Arab world as compared with the contemporary West means that religion is much less likely in the Middle East to be regarded as a matter of the heart and thus contrasted with science and scholarship as matters of the head.
Category: religion

23 Comments: ‘Patron saint’ is a very obviously Christian notion, and although used here to describe an Islamic phenomenon, would not translate easily into an Islamic context in Arabic.
Category: religion

24 Comments: It is not clear why the TT drops this element.
Category: uncategorized

25 Comments: The TT lays greater stress on the reasons for the pilgrims coming to Fez, in keeping with the greater importance generally of religious belief in the Arab world as compared with the West.
Category: religion

26 Comments: The ST stresses the popularity of the pilgrimage, while the TT has previously stressed the purposes (cf. Note 25). It is not clear why the TT does not similarly mention how popular the pilgrimage is; perhaps the translator was reluctant to debase it by implying that it might be a tourist spectacle.
Category: uncategorized

27 Comments: The TT gives further details about the purpose of these schools, bringing out the religious aspect more strongly than the ST.
Category: religion

28 Comments ‘Dark maze-like streets’ suggests old-world charm and perhaps a degree of excitement and mystery to a Western readership; it is omitted in the TT, probably because it would be more suggestive to an Arab audience of economic backwardness (cf. Note 18).
Category: sensitivity
Add Gruyère cheese cut into small pieces, some grated cheese, two chopped boiled eggs, two raw eggs, and boiled potatoes, and mix together.

Cook the macaroni in salted water for ten minutes and leave to drain.

In an ovenproof dish, add the macaroni in alternate layers with layers of the mixture and cook in a moderate oven for fifteen minutes.

(iii) Decisions of detail

1. The term 'macaroni in the oven' is used to mean a dish cooked in an oven. English more typically describes the cooking method ('fried eggs', 'boiled eggs', etc.) than the instrument used.

2. 'Macaroni bake' implies macaroni plus a number of other major ingredients, whereas 'Baked macaroni' suggests that macaroni is the only (or major) ingredient.

3. It is usual in English to put the preparation time before the cooking time. '٤٦' is literally 'to prepare'; but here the 'preparation' in question must be the cooking of the dish.

4. It is unnecessary in the TL genre to add 'people' after 'four'.

5. It is standard in the TL genre to have the sub-heading 'ingredients' here.

6. It is a 'calf'; Wehr gives '٤٦' as 'boned meat', and '٤٦' as 'piece or slice of meat'. The context suggests a meaning 'boned meat' for '٤٦'. However, in the United Kingdom at least, veal is not widely used, and most meat is now boned. Our TT gives the cook a realistic choice of meat. It is also an exegetical TT, making explicit the implication of lean meat and the implication, in the picture, that the meat has been minced (cf. Contextual information).

7. A British recipe book is much more likely to specify how much cheese was required in grams (or ounces).

8. It is now normal practice to express fractions of litres as millilitres in the United Kingdom.

9. 'Method' is the standard term in British cookery books.

10. Modern British cookery books almost universally use the imperative throughout.
11 خمشر is evidently a Tunisian Arabic verb meaning 'to thicken'; here glossed in the ST by the Standard Arabic form خصر.
12 'Heat' seems better than 'flame', given the commonness of electric ovens in Britain and elsewhere.
13 Since this cheese is not mentioned in the list of ingredients, we have used the phrase 'some grated cheese'.
14 Literally: 'two fresh eggs'. However, the point is not that they are fresh, but that they have not been previously cooked (unlike the bits of boiled egg). We have put 'raw eggs' immediately after 'chopped boiled eggs' since this seems a more natural grouping in English.
15 رفس means 'mix' in Tunisian Arabic (as noted under Contextual information). We have said 'mix together', to avoid the inelegant 'mix the mixture'.
16 طيف has to be regarded as meaning 'cooking-dish' here (rather than 'sceptre' as in Hans Wehr!). 'Ovenproof' is standard usage in English.
17 'Moderate oven' is standard usage in English.

Practical 17 Tutor notes

Discussion of the chapter is straightforward. The text 'The Wadis (Valleys)' in § 17.3 is short enough for students to produce edited versions working in groups in class, before class discussion of them.

17.1 Revising and editing

The unrevised TT contains numerous basic English errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar, which are not difficult to correct. However, there are also more subtle problems involving sentence structure, register and technical terms. There is not enough time to do this exercise satisfactorily in class. The exercise should be done in pairs at home prior to the class, and the results subsequently discussed in class.

17.2 Revising and editing

Unlike 17.1, this unrevised TT does not contain basic English errors. It does, however, contain quite a number of more difficult problems, relating particularly to sentence structure, denotative meaning, and register. Like 17.1 it is time-consuming and should be done in pairs at home, with subsequent class discussion. As an exercise in editing, 17.2 presents more problems than 17.1. As the more challenging exercise, 17.2 is better done with a strong class if there is only time for one practical.