

Manipulation and censorship in translated texts

Jamal AL-QUINAI
Kuwait University

Abstract:

The volume and accuracy of translated texts is not solely determined by the source text; censorship plays a key role in manipulating both the size and sense of the original under the rubrics of interventionism, mediation, adaptation or even domestication. This paper tackles the factors that lead to such a phenomenon, which may be summed up in the following:

- The influence of translation commissioners, proofreaders, editors and the expectations of target readers.
- The role of culture and tradition and pre-established translations in confining the translator's freedom
- Sociolinguistic constraints and the use of attenuation strategies.
- The significance of the translator's competence, ideological affiliation and working incentives.
- Non-cognitive constraints: political allegiance, media and governmental censorship.

The study will analyze the effect of the ensuing change of focus on both the quantitative and qualitative (i.e. stylistic) aspects of source texts in comparison with target renditions.