

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي

MINISTERE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPERIEUR ET DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE

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جامعة مولود معمري - تيزي وزو
كلية الآداب واللغات
قسم الترجمة

Item Number:
Serial Number:

رقم الترتيب.....
الرقم التسلسلي.....

A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement For the Degree of Master in Translation

DOMAIN: Arts & Foreign Languages
SUBJECT: Translation
SPECIALITY: Translation Arabic/English/Arabic

*The challenges of subtitling American legal court hearings from
English into Arabic language*

“Paternity Court, episode 66, season 3” case study

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Promo 2021/2022

Acknowledgement

First of all, we thank Allah almighty for all that he has given us and the chance to finish this work.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to our supervisor Salima AKEZOUH for guiding and helping us to make a high quality work and also thank the jury members for approving the review of our dissertation.

Appreciation

First of all, this work would have never been possible without Allah Almighty. Praise be to Allah who has rewarded me by replacing my hardship with happy memories and by giving me the courage and the ability to overcome difficulties from which I improved and learned.

I would like to thank my parents for providing me with everything I needed during the pursuit of my educational achievements and for giving me all the support and encouragement that I needed for my success.

My brother Hamza and his wife who taught me about life, guiding me to light in times of darkness, showing me how to get back up whenever I fall and teaching me the rules to survival.

My childhood friends: Sidali Hamiche and Youcef Rabia for standing by my side during hard times and encouraging me throughout life in hopes to become the best version of myself and to always keep moving forward.

Nassim

I dedicate my dissertation work to my family and my friends, a special feeling of gratitude to my loving parents who encouraged me and never left my side.

I would like to thank all my brothers Abderraouaf, Abdelmomen and Abdelouadoud who encouraged and helped me accomplish this work.

I also dedicate this dissertation to my friends who have supported me throughout the process. I will always appreciate all that they have done.

I dedicate this work to my best friends Ferial and Souhila.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my wonderful aunt Zoubida who supported me throughout this period.

Radhia

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Abbreviations

In this study, we will use the following abbreviations to conduct our work accordingly:

Abbreviation	Signification
AVT	Audiovisual Translation
ST	Source Text
TT	Target Text
SL	Source Language
TL	Target Language
UI	User Interface
ATC	Advanced Timing Control

INTRODUCTION

Translation is considered as a bridge through which different languages, cultures and civilizations cross. It is an effective way that allows people to open up to learn about the various traditions, cultural differences, literature and scientific development. Translation also transfers civilizations from one time to another, from one place to another and contributes to building relationships between peoples and nations. Translation still enjoys an important place in the world to the extent that it has become a basic element for determining the development level of countries with different translation fields such as scientific, technical, literal and legal translation.

With that being said, legal translation has a great importance and tangible impact on the lives of individuals within society, as it represents a link between jurists and litigants. Legal professionals rely on accurate translations to ensure that individuals, businesses and governments can understand and comply with the rights, obligations and legal procedures in different jurisdictions. Translators who specialize in legal translation not only possess linguistic skills, but also a deep understanding of the legal texts, concepts, terminology and principles of both the source and target languages.

We decided to make this research on subtitling American legal court hearings because of our personal preference inspired by a desire to help individuals not familiar with the American legal language to actually understand it, we are driven by a passion to bridge this communication gap and ensure that every individual, regardless of their specialty and familiarity with American legal language, has the opportunity to understand and engage with the American legal system. In addition to that, we are inspired by legal language and also the process of subtitling. With that being said, we want to describe their mutual interplay, especially for future students who will be interested in both as much as we are.

Court hearings are crucial events that shape legal outcomes, but an audience not related to the legal sphere from another nation often faces barriers in accessing and understanding these proceedings. By focusing on subtitling court hearings, this research will aim to explore the challenges and develop effective strategies for providing accurate and timely subtitles that will enable individuals to fully comprehend the American legal system.

This research will be about *“The challenges of subtitling American legal court hearings from English into Arabic language “Paternity Court episode 66, season 3” case study*. The first time this TV show was premiered was in 2013, it was broadcasted by MGM Television via several television channels and online streaming websites. Based on the

financial decline the production company had to undergo, we can say that the show was not ranked amongst the most watched programs.

This research will attempt to subtitle American legal utterances of a court hearing from English to Arabic, while maintaining functionality, legal atmosphere and the energy of court hearings similar to the original dialogue in the target culture, focusing on achieving the same communication function rather than adhering to literal meanings, applying several translation techniques that are target text oriented, that totally serve the purpose of the target text. And most importantly, simplify them for an audience not familiar with the American legal language. Moreover, whilst acting upon all these factors, we should take into consideration the subtitling constraints and adapt them based on Skopos theory.

Lots of individuals have encountered comprehension issues when it comes to understanding legal content, because they lack the knowledge and experience to understand something they are not specialized in, or familiar with. This obstacle does not solely lie on a linguistic perspective, because of how difficult the terms are, but also on specialty and background experience. Moreover, there are lots of legal television programs shown in our daily lives that require legal knowledge of both cultures in order to be understood, but luckily, this is where subtitling interferes to overcome these challenges and puts an end to this barrier, by facilitating comprehension and making legal content accessible to the public.

So long our research will be about the challenges of subtitling American legal court hearings, we are to answer the following problematics:

➤ **What are the main challenges faced in subtitling American legal court hearings in Paternity Court into Arabic?**

- What are the strategies that can help us overcome the challenges posed by subtitling American legal court hearings?
- What translation techniques should we use and how precise can our translation be by adopting Hans J Vermeer's Skopos Theory?
- Is the duration and number of characters going to intervene with keeping all the relevant information in the process of subtitling?

Based on these problematics, we suggest the following hypotheses:

- Henrik Gottlieb's subtitling strategies may help overcome the challenges posed by subtitling.

- Hans J. Vermeer's Skopos theory and some other translation techniques may achieve precise meanings and the seriousness of court.
- The duration and limited number of characters is definitely a constraint in subtitling.

As this research will tackle the difficulties of subtitling American legal court hearings, it will include two chapters. The first chapter will be devoted to the theoretical part. First, we will define legal texts and their various types and characteristics. This is in order to get an idea of how different it is from scientific and literary texts. After that, we are going to explain legal language and the language of the court in particular and give a perspective of how court hearings are processed. By the time we do that, we will have moved to talk about translation in legal areas, giving a brief explanation. Finally, we will provide a complete explanation about subtitling, starting with its definitions and constraints, then finishing with Gottlieb's strategies.

In the second chapter, we will start by presenting the corpus of this study: Paternity Court, providing all the necessary information regarding our corpus, then we will move on to introduce the Skopos theory on which we have based our translation, after that, we are going to start our analytical part in which we will study and analyze the difficulties faced in the process of translation and subtitling "Paternity Court" into Arabic.

CHAPTER ONE

LEGAL TEXTS AND SUBTITLING IN THE LANGUAGE OF COURT

In the norms of legal texts, Subtitling is essential for making legal content accessible to multilingual audiences from across the universe, in other words, those who are not native speakers of the language used in the audio can comprehend the legal content shown. As television became more popular, subtitles were added to films as well to accommodate audiences who spoke different languages.

This chapter delves into the realm of legal texts and subtitling. To elaborate better, this chapter is divided into 8 sections. Section one (1.1) investigates the nature of legal texts and its correlation with law by Markby (1871:03), Beaugrande & Dressler (1981:3) and Tiersma (1999:139). Section two (1.2) classifies the distinctive types of legal texts in three subcategories related to our corpus, Constitution by Alex carroll (2017:3), Judgment by Nabil Ismail Omar (2006) and Contracts by Sarcevic (1997:133-134). Section three (1.3) includes different characteristics of legal texts that have a profound explanation as to why legal texts have a complicated side to it in terms of comprehension. Section four (1.4) talks about legal language even further by Sarcivic (1997:9) & Millinkoff (1963:4). and how it is correlated but not limited to the language of court by Stygall (1994), Coulthard and Johnson (2007:37) and Matthiessen (2009). Section five (1.5) mentions the legal proceedings that an individual undergoes at court explaining the different phases of a hearing by . Robert W, Lagran (2004) and Andrew Bailey. The sixth section (1.6) connects the dots between the norms of legal texts and the field of translation by Gotti & sarcevic (2006) and Al Shehab (2003:19). After that, we move to section seven (1.7) where it defines what subtitling is, how it is accomplished by Dias Cintas (2005), Shuttleworth and Cowie (1997:161) and Kapsaskis (2008:42) and also share the different types of subtitling by Gottlieb (1997). as well as state the commonly known constraints and the technical challenges of which a subtitler may face by Karamitroglon (2000:104) and Cintas and Remael (2010: 19-21). The last section of this chapter would be section nine (1.9) that elaborates and explains different subtitling strategies proposed by Henrik Gottlieb that help a translator overcome certain constraints and challenges posed by the subtitling process.

I. 1- Legal Texts and Law

A law is a body of regulations designed to control conduct, enforced by governmental or social entities, Markby (1871:03) defined law as the general body of rules that are addressed by the rules of political society to the member of that society that are generally obeyed, based on what he defined, this means that law is a set of regulations and ethical rules issued by government agencies that citizens must adhere to. It must be approved and complied with by citizens, in otherwise law serves as a barrier between crime and an individual to prevent one from misbehaving and affecting the rights or quality of life of others; that is why disobeying the law is punishable. Besides, it is written in specialized books in the form of legal text.

Legal text is very different from ordinary speech. It is any piece of writing that includes an obligation or allows certain actions, makes a binding promise, or sets out penalties to be imposed in case of violation. This is especially true of authoritative legal texts: those that create, modify, or terminate the rights and duties of persons or institutions. What it means is that legal texts are far different than what you read daily, not only because of its complexity in the legal norms, but also because of the context that functions as an obligation towards others, indication of a particular perspective, imposition of a specific law, or penalty for specific violations. And all of these factors mentioned above do not belong to a standard text. Therefore; It is not a text to read for entertainment, fun or knowledge but aspects to be consciously aware of, regulations and standards to act upon or transgressions to avoid for the sake of safety and stability and most importantly, penalties.

This kind of texts are formulated in a special language that is subject to particular syntactic, semantic and pragmatic constraints Abdelmoneim Youssef masry zidan (2015:15), furthermore it considered as a difficult content to read and understand, this is why it requires accuracy, clarity and avoiding ambiguity which leads to misunderstanding or results in multiple interpretations. Hence, legal texts are unique because they serve as instruments of law. Beaugrande & Dressler (1981:3) and are typically written in a specific manner with specific terminology and phraseology.

Tiersma (1999:139) classifies legal texts into three categories based on function: Operative documents, Expository documents and Persuasive documents. Profoundly, operative documents have a performative function to operate upon, for example: Pleading, Petitions, Orders and Statutes where they require one to perform an act of request in writing,

demanding a particular situation to be solved. As for expository documents, they tend to establish a particular point of view or argument about a subject, discussing it directly with the audience involved. Lastly, persuasive documents that have a strong perspective, that is presenting a specific point of view, in attempts to convince the reader, or an individual present in a particular situation.

As a result, any text created by humans in the norms of the law by prosecutors, judges, or attorneys can be seen as a legal text. National constitutions, decrees, judgments, contracts, wills and other documents are clear examples of this type of text. It is not necessary for the word "legal" to be included in a phrase or sentence for the context to be seen as legal; But rather, depending on the type of legal text in question, if the context performs as lawfully as we would expect, the phrase or sentence is considered to be legal.

In the end, legal texts are no ordinary and are completely different than most texts out there and as long as they contain the set of rules, regulations, penalties, obligatory and imposing statements, as well as authoritative sources and all the factors that we've mentioned before, or anything that is a subsidiary of legal norms will fall under the term of legal text. Speaking of which and what allows a legal text to be recognized as a legal text, we also need to mention that there is an array of types that are different in the legal area, describing a totally different perspective in the field of legal texts.

I.2- Types of Legal Texts

The types of legal texts are defined based on their source, content and purpose. Constitutions, judge opinions, judgments, contracts and so on are all primary sources of law, meaning that they have the force of law and are binding on individuals within the jurisdiction to which they apply. Below are some of the types that we felt necessary to address:

I.2.1- Constitution

The Constitution in a purely formal sense and is made up of the laws, regulations (such as convention) and other practices that define and explain: the institution of government, the nature, scope and distribution of powers within those institution, in addition to the forms and the procedures through which those power should be exercised and the relations of government and the individual citizen, which is frequently expressed in terms of a "bill and rights" Alex Carroll (2017:3), what that means is that constitution is regarded as one of the

most significant documents to have ever been penned or written. It has frequently been claimed that constitutions safeguard and protect democracy by establishing certain rights and conditions; there can be no state without a constitution.

To clarify more, the constitution is a set of rules that determine the shape of the state. It is considered as an official document that contains the basic law, which indicates the public authority and regulates the relations of various state organs to one another and to the private citizen Hood, P & Paul, J. (1987:5). According to the former, the Constitution is a written document that explains the basic principles, rules and regulations that govern a nation, state, or individuals as a whole. In the United States, for example, the Constitution describes the organization of a federal government, defines the authorities of each branch and division, establishes individual rights and freedoms and provides a foundation for the judicial system. It is one of the most important texts ever written.

I.2.2- Judgment

A judgment, also known as case law, is seen as a final decision made by a tribunal or court, often the judge takes into consideration all the relevant evidence of the legal trial and considers all rights and obligations, the plaintiff and defendant will receive the final judgment. In other words, it is the decision issued by the court in the litigation in accordance with the rules legally established by the judiciary. Furthermore. Nabil Ismail Omar (2006) defined judgment in Arabic as "القرار الصادر عن شخص له ولاية القضاء في نزاع رفع إليه وفقا لقانون", the proper translation to the former would be "Decision of a person with jurisdiction in a dispute submitted to him in accordance with the Law of Pleadings",

This implies that, before passing judgment, we must declare that the question of how a person can have jurisdiction in a case filed to them is fully dependent on the setting and the legal system in place. In general, jurisdiction can be established through a variety of means, including geographical location, subject matter, personal jurisdiction and consent. As a result, in order for a court to have jurisdiction over a dispute, it must have personal authority over the parties involved, subject matter jurisdiction over the legal issues in the case, geographical jurisdiction over a dispute that arises within a person's jurisdictional boundaries and finally, consent, in which parties to a dispute may agree to submit to the jurisdiction of a specific person or court.

I.2.3- Contract

Contracts are legal agreements between two or more parties to exchange performances in a given situation for specific purposes. The legal actions to be performed or not performed are set forth in the substantive provisions in the form of obligations, permissions, authorizations and prohibitions, all of which are enforceable by law Sarcevic (2000:133-134).

In our opinion, a contract is submitting to the terms and circumstances of the agreement and it might be written or oral. If written, it is legally binding since it may be used as future evidence of submission in the event of any violations or problems with the terms and conditions involved. If a contract is verbal, we can see it as a legal agreement established through spoken words rather than in writing, which means that the terms and circumstances of the agreement are addressed verbally. However, it can be difficult to enforce due to the fact that without a written record of the agreement, it may be difficult to show what was actually agreed upon and there may be conflicts about the specific terms of the contract. As a result, Contracts are necessary in many parts of life, including business and employment, for a variety of reasons. Consequently, contracts serve to ensure that each party understands their responsibilities and obligations under the agreement by providing certainty and clarity.

In the end, the types of legal texts we have just mentioned are necessary to establish a safe environment in the legal systems upon which the entire infrastructure is built. Within the profound norms of legal texts, we can also find important characteristics that are deemed important to what legal texts consist of.

I.3- Characteristics of Legal Texts

The characteristics of legal texts are designed to ensure that they are accurate, precise and enforceable, while also being accessible to those who need to read and understand them.

I.3.1- Archaism

Archaism is an old and outdated word or expression that is still in noose in legal writing and is used to refer back or forward within the text (Gibbons et al., 2004, 5) In other words archaic vocabulary and expressions are used in order to preserve the originality of text, they give examples of archaism as “*to shousu*” (referred to), “*aforesaid*” and “*thereof*”.

What this means is, it is characterized by the use of complex, formal and often latin-based terminology that can be difficult to understand for people without legal training as archaic

legal language may create ambiguities, lead to confusion and create obstacles to understanding court content.

I.3.2- Binomials

The basic definition of “ Binomials” are word pairs consisting of two words of the same word class, connected by a conjunction “and”, “or” Joanna, K & Hans, S (2017: 42) which are used to create a single legal term or phrase. The first half of the sentence usually has a pair of nouns that function as adverbs, such as "by and with", "advice and consent ", or "estate or degree". Binomials are often used in legal language to convey complex legal concepts and ideas in a concise and precise manner. For example, "terms and conditions," "aid and abet," which in other words means an accomplice of a crime; and "will and testament " are all common binomials used in legal language.

I.3.3- Latin and French

Latin is in evidence everywhere in legal English Mattila (2006: 229) for instance the word versus (against), pro se (for “him/herself), in other words Latin is a language that has traditionally had a large impact on legal terminology, it was the Roman Empire's language and it served as a development for many legal systems across Europe. According to Tiersma (1999:16) English was influenced by many Latin words and phrases and some of them are still used in current professional language. What it means is, Latin had a significant influence on the development of law and legal systems. As a result, many Latin legal terms and phrases were adopted into English legal language and have remained in use to this day.

Many French words are borrowed from legal English which are also used in legal documents by their origins from French characters such as: Contract, proposal, quash, condition, policy, alias, Sabrah (2003:46). In other words, English legal language has been heavily influenced by French words. After the Norman Conquest of England, with that being said French became the language of the English courts and legal system.

I.3.4- Frequent repetition of particular words and expressions

Although repetition is rare, it is crucial in legal language because of the difficulties that legal language writers may have while creating a particular paragraph, or anything in writing. Hence, we might discover a word that is written twice in a single sentence of legal English.

there as an illustration, as Sabrah's (2003:37) examples following:

_The lessee shall pay to the lessor at the office of the lessor

_ يدفع المستأجر إلى المؤجر في مكتب المؤجر....

Repetition is frequently used to prevent ambiguity. In other words, repetition serves several purposes. For instance, repetition can help attain accuracy in legal papers by using accurate legal terminology. It can help explain important points by allowing the reader to contemplate the repeated word. As it can also function to create a sense of formality and authority in legal language, making the content more authentic and official. However, excessive use can lead to misinterpretation and confusion, that is why Sabrah (2003:38) suggested the following translation:

The lessee shall pay to the lessor at his office

_ يدفع المستأجر إلى المؤجر في مكتبه _

I.3.5- Using coordinated and complex sentences

Legal English texts have many features that distinguish them from other texts, including the use of complex sentences and coordination, according to Sabrah (2003:55) coordinations in Arabic are: “يعتبر التوافق بين العبارات سمة شائعة في اللغة الانجليزية القانونية على كل المستويات وبين “ and our proper translation for this Arabic segment is “*Coordination between phrases is a common feature in English legal language at its levels and different types of combinations and this coordination is achieved by repeating similar conjunction marks, linking words and attribution*” in other words, Such sentences distinguish legal language from everyday language. In addition to that, we would say that a long, coordinated sentence is an excellent approach to show that the idea in one phrase is more essential than the idea in the whole sentence, for example:

-The funds of the Society shall on the expiration of the term of years specified in the schedule hereto or on the previous death of the life insured become and be liable to pay to his personal representative the sum due and payable. Sabrah (2003:55).

- تصبح خزانة "الشركة" عند انتهاء المدة المحددة الموضحة في الملحق المرفق بهذه البوليصة أو عند وفاة الشخص المؤمن عليه قبل ذلك مسؤولة عن ان تدفع إلى من ينوب عنه شخصيا المبلغ المستحق المطلوب دفعه. (Sabrah 2003:55)

Sabrah

The main purpose of coordinating phrases is to provide precise and detailed information about laws and regulations. These sentences are often written in a formal tone and use specific legal terms.

I.3.6- Using passive form

The frequent use of passive forms which is another aspect characterizing written legal English. This brings the object of the action into the foreground, giving the actor only the secondary role Mattila (2006: 73). That means the passive form is generally harder to understand, but in some cases is required, particularly in persuasive writing, because sometimes an active verb may be more suitable in a sentence but the use of the passive voice makes it more formal. For example the judges employ passive voice instead of personal pronouns since they prefer to concentrate on the action more than the doer, because the doer may change but the judgment does not.

e.g: *-payment shall be made within seven days.*

-the accused was found guilty. Alcaez,E & Hughes,B (2002:20)

We translated the examples as follows:

- يجب أن يتم دفع في غضون سبعة أيام
- تم العثور على المتهم مذنب

Passive voice focuses on the action being done rather than the person performing the action Furthermore. The use of passive voice in legal language helps maintain a certain level of formality and precision, while also serving to reduce chances of misunderstandings or misinterpretations. However, it is essential to use passive voice accordingly, as overuse can make the language unnecessarily complex and difficult to understand.

I.3.7- Using impersonal style

The language of the law tends to use the passive forms which is the one of the most common methods of emphasizing the impersonal style Sarcevic (1997:177), which means the language uses passive voice to get rid of subjectivity through impersonal manners because it is directed to several individuals at the same time. The third person is frequently used in legislative writings (both singular and plural), which emphasizes the idea of objectivity.

Impersonal style is widespread, it helps establish a feeling of objectivity in the language. This is significant in legal circumstances when precision and accuracy are required. Third-person pronouns are used instead of first-person or second-person pronouns, that is “**He, she, they, it**” instead of “**I, we, you**”

e.g: “if you violate the terms....” —> “if he or she violates the terms (plural)....”

e.g: “I believe” —> “It is believed ”

Our translation of these examples are as follows:

إذا إنتهكتَ الشروط.. - إذا انتهك الشروط
أعتقد أن — ويُعتقد أن

I.3.8- Using formal words

Formality is an official procedure which is necessary for achieving a legal standing in law. and as Sabrah mentioned in his book in Arabic:

يميل محرر اللغة القانونية عادة إلى استخدام الكلمات الرسمية, ويندر تماما وجود الكلمات العامية في الوثيقة القانونية و
من أمثلة الكلمات و التعبيرات الرسمية المستخدمة في اللغة القانونية
"consider بدلا من deem كلمة و liable كلمة و responsible بدلا من"

Sabrah (2003:45).

Our translation for what Sabrah (2003:45) mentioned in his book:

“A legal language editor usually tends to use formal words, slang words are rarely used in a legal document, here are some examples of formal words and expressions used in legal language: Instead of using the word “**consider**”, we use “**deem**”, instead of “**responsible**”, we can use “**liable**” Sabrah (2003:45).

It implies that the use of formal words in legal language is important. First, the use of formal words helps to establish that level of formality and seriousness since legal language is often used in contexts that require a high level of formality, such as in court hearings or in contracts, Second, the use of formal words in legal language helps create a sense of authority and credibility. Third, legal language is often used to make important decisions or to establish legal procedures; Therefore. The use of formal words helps to show the importance of these decisions.

Consequently, formal words are often used to convey specific legal concepts or to establish the terms of legal agreements.

I.3.9- Use of nominalization

Nominalization is commonly viewed as a traditional characteristic of legal language and is seen as one of the devices that accounts for the excessive “wordiness” of many legal documents Williams (2007: 38), In other words, it implies that legal language tends to use ‘nominalization’ extensively, resulting in the excessive use of noun forms and potentially making legal documents more wordier and difficult to understand by transforming verbs and adjectives into nouns.

e.g: Original: “The accused's confession is an **important piece of evidence**”

e.g: Nominalized: “The accused's confession carries **evidentiary significance**”

which can be translated as follows:

الجملة الأصلية: "اعتراف المتهم دليل مهم

الجملة المسماة: "اعتراف المتهم يحمل دلالة إثباتية

In our words, Legal language turns grammatical expressions into noun phrases, the fact that nominalization is a great way to improve formalities in sentences, by transforming an expression of important actions into abstract nouns to clear out a particular idea formally. The whole purpose of nominalization is to preserve formal sentences, particularly in legal writing where formalities are necessary.

In conclusion, these characteristics embody the infrastructure of legal texts, as the characteristics of legal texts and legal language are correlated and essential to establishing an effective communication of legal information.

I.4 Definition of Legal Language

Legal language differs from everyday language, it refers to the dialects that are used by those in the legal profession, or other related activities and in this sense, Sarcevic (1997: 9) defined legal language as a special purpose communication between lawyers and non-lawyers. In other words, legal language has a specific terminology that has a relationship with law, regardless of the concerned profession and that it possesses unique characteristics that

allows a lawyer to effectively communicate legal principles and information to individuals who are not familiar with legal language.

The relationship between the legal language and law is mutual. Therefore, a lawyer's speech is influenced not just by law, but also by the language used in their surroundings Millinkoff (1963:4). According to this point of view, the language employed by lawyers is not solely influenced by legal contexts. but also influenced by language norms, traditions and practices that are widespread in their culture. This also suggests that a lawyer's speech is shaped by cultural norms and their professional society, implying that any law individual may adopt certain linguistic styles that are commonly used within their legal community to convey their intended message.

Consequently, legal language includes all types of languages used in the legal profession, such as legislation, regulations, contracts, statutes and other legal documents. It may also involve the language of court or court terminology, but it extends beyond court proceedings to cover all legal documents. However, The language of court is a subsidiary of legal language that is used specifically in court procedures like trials, hearings and appeals. It is used to make sure that court proceedings are carried out accurately.

I.4.1. Language of court

The language of courts differs from one country to another, depending on the official language of that country, for instance: English in The United States, Arabic in Arab countries and French in France. Despite the variation and the difference of the language, they all have legal language as a common object, because language has been identified as the "primary medium of social control power" (Fairclough, 1989 [2001], 3). Therefore, a court's language is used by parties to interact with judges, arbitrators and to submit arguments both orally and in writing. Consequently, this language basically focuses on the legal language as an object, process and instrument Stygall (1994). As an object, legal language's structure and grammatical characteristics highlight its context. As a process, it advances the study by looking at how legal language is used in interaction, describing how it works to establish and maintain institutional authority. As an instrument, it uses legal language to demonstrate how a social objective is achieved.

Moreover, it pays attention to the legal terminology used in enabling and reporting context Matthiessen (2009), in enabling context, legal language is concerned with text

instantiating, acts of Parliament, register, etc. and in reporting context, legal language is concerned with texts instantiating registers as in police interrogations, cross-examination in trial, courts hearing and so on.

Consequently, Legal terminology is the specific style used in the field of law and it is essential for lawyers, judges and other legal professionals to use legal language to communicate effectively and accurately when dealing with legal matters, this is why courts use legal language extensively. We can notice that during a court proceeding, lawyers present their arguments and evidence using legal language and so does the judge or jury to ask questions and make decisions.

I.4.2- Court Hearing

"Justice is blind" is an idiom which means justice is impartial and objective, it is one of the important elements that developed countries are keen to achieve, it served in many forms, for example proceed to Court which is a formal institution that has the authority to interpret the law Robert W, Lagran (2004) and aim to adjudicate legal dispute between parties, as well as the role of the court is to determine dispute in the form of cases which are brought before, as was already mentioned these disputes could arise between individuals, between a person, organizations or governments, in fact the evidence submitted by the parties in a case is heard by the Court in order to settle the dispute before the judgment is reached.

Moreover, a hearing in a courtroom is a legal proceeding in which a judicial officer or administrative body hears arguments, witness and evidence. Bailey, A. (2023:15). *The court process: Understanding the criminal justice process (guidebook)*. Office of Attorney General. What that means is a court hearing can be viewed as an official session held in a courtroom, for a chance to be heard, to offer one's side of a story, or to be appreciated, where the judge rules on a case in the presence of the opposing parties. The purpose of this court proceeding is to resolve a particular issue, it gives one an opportunity to elaborate their side of the story in support of their act before the judge makes a final verdict whether or not to take the case to a full court trial.

A court hearing can be related to the process of translation in several ways. A few scenarios where translation plays a significant role in court proceedings may include interpretation services, translation of legal documents, transcription and translation of testimonies, or international cases.

I.1.5 Theory of translation

While translating the corpus of our research, we adopted the Skopos theory; this theory was selected to provide a cogent translation through the coherence of the work and the acceptance of the receiver.

Skopos theory is a translation theory developed by the German translator Hans J Vermeer in 1978. According to the definition of Nord (1997:27) skopos is a Greek word for ‘purpose’. The primary factor determining any translation process is the purpose of the translating effort. This is consistent with the idea that any action must be purposeful in some way, in other words, the idea must have a purpose to which it serves. Based on the skopos theory, the translator's main task is to make sure the translated text serves the target culture's needs. As a result, the translator must consider not only the linguistic and cultural variations between the source and target texts, but also the translation's specific purpose to better achieve the intended function and intended audience including their language proficiency, cultural background and any specific preferences they may have.

And according to Vermeer (1989:229) point of view that every translational action should be viewed as an action and that every action should have an aim or purpose, in other words, this theory is an intuitive approach to translation and interpreting, it is mostly based on action theory and cultural anthropology. Furthermore, this approach highlights the importance of the translation brief, which is a set of instructions that outlines the purpose, target audience and other relevant information for the translation, as it serves as a guide for the translator in creating a text that meets the specific needs of the target audience, it is provided to the translator by the client. With that being said, the translator uses that translation brief (instructions) to decide on the best translation technique, which may involve transforming the content to whatever suits the target culture or even rewriting it from scratch.

Skopos theory does not consist of specific translation strategies. However, it emphasizes the importance of adapting and employing various strategies, like “Equivalence, Adaptation, Transposition, Modulation and some other strategies like expanding, or reducing the size of the text, adapting the text to local linguistic, cultural and social norms of the target audience, as well as changing the function of a text to meet the audience’s needs. All these are major factors to an optimal translation that is merely based on “Purpose”.

At the conclusion of this analysis, we employed skopos theory in our research paper when conducting our study because it is the appropriate theory and fits perfectly with Gottlieb's strategies as long as it serves purpose.

I.6- Translation in Legal Norms

Translation in legal areas can be seen as a specialized translation fully devoted to translating legal content. In other words, Legal translation is one of the specialized fields of translation. It has seen a significant growth in demand over the past few decades, Due to globalization and greater interaction and interchange between people and states. Gotti & Sarcevic (2006). Indeed, legal translation is the process of taking one text from one language to another or foreign language with an adequate legal terminology, In our words, Gotti & Sarcevic referred to the specialized area of translating legal documents, such as decrees, court judgments, laws and regulations, from one language to another.

Gotti & Sarcevic also referred to the considerable increase in the demand for legal translation in the past decades, which can be attributed to several factors such as that of globalization and increased international communication between individuals or nations. Convinced that the main goal of legal translation is to reproduce the content of the source text as accurately as possible Sarcevic (1997: 16), According to Sarcevic, the primary objective of legal translation is to reproduce and translate ST with a high degree of accuracy, as it is crucial to convey the meaning, message, intent and legal implications of the original text in TL. However; The translator must possess comprehensive knowledge of legal systems and terminology in both SL and TL to accurately convey the meaning and intent of the original text, as legal translation requires not only linguistic proficiency and terminology, but also a deep understanding of the legal systems in both original and target contexts; With that being said, legal documents often have specific formats, which may vary depending on the jurisdiction and legal system involved, i.e: a document created in the United Kingdom or Algeria are never alike due to different terminologies and legal systems; Therefore. Adhering to the proper format ensures that the translated document can be easily understood, recognized and accepted by legal professionals, courts and other relevant authorities.

In the end, Translation is correlated with subtitling as both of which are considered linguistic processes that employ different techniques to convey meaning from one language to

another.

While subtitling is not commonly associated with legal translation, it can play a role in making legal content accessible to a wider audience and easily understood.

I.7- Subtitling

In recent years, Audiovisual Translation (AVT) has rapidly grown and attracted a lot of attention in the field of Translation studies. Translation studies have seen a growth in the use of research studies on Audiovisual translation (AVT) since 1990 Dias Cintas (2005). The former suggests that the area of translation studies has placed a greater focus on research studies that are devoted to audiovisual translation, emphasizing its importance and specialized characteristics within the field of study. This growth reflects an understanding of the expanding function and difficulties of translating audiovisual content. The main AVT mode is subtitling. Subtitling is defined in Shuttleworth and Cowie (1997:161) as “*the process of providing synchronized caption for the film and television dialogue*”, in other words subtitling is the technique of converting spoken speech into written version of the dialogue, it has become a common method of resolving language problem.

While the role of subtitles is to facilitate access to audiovisual products in a foreign language Kapsaskis (2008:42). In our words; Subtitles can help with language barriers, they can also simplify the complexities of translation and cultural differences, completely facilitating the reading or viewing experience for a multilingual audience when viewing audiovisual works of a foreign language. However; Some complexities require an oversimplification by the subtitler that may lead to a loss of accuracy and depth in understanding audiovisual works.

I.7.1- Constraints of subtitling

Each kind of translation has its own challenges and difficulties, subtitling is the AVT mode which has unique formal and contextual constraints. As stated by Karamitroglou (2000:104) that the number of possible audiovisual translation problems is endless and a list that would count for each one of them can never be finite, meaning that subtitles may have an infinite amount of constraints and they all vary from one situation to another. The subtitling process is surrounded with some constraints that may include technical challenges.

I.71.1 Technical Constraints

The translator faces certain restrictions during the subtitling process and as specified by Cintas and Remael (2010: 19-21), this is the common type of constraining in the subtitling process that places limitations on the work of the translator. They can be classified into:

- **The Space**

During the subtitling process, translators are constrained to a set number of characters and with limited lines for each image, this character count may vary slightly, depending on the language.

- **Time**

Another technical restriction is that the duration of the subtitle on the screen is limited to no more than six seconds, which means the information must be condensed to fit within the character constraints and the duration of the subtitle. The viewer's ability to understand the subtitle and the content may be impacted by this. Since there may be a limited amount of words available, choosing the right words to convey the message could be helpful.

- **Spotting**

The subtitle on the screen has to be carefully matched with the dialogue. But, subtitles may not only contain the character's or narrator's conversation; they may also contain other relevant symbols, letters, or other written words.

- **Position on the screen**

Pictures on the screen must be 270 pixels wide by 576 pixels with the subtitle placed centrally and at the bottom of the screen at a distance of 10 from each frame edge.

In conclusion, subtitling faces significant technical challenges that require careful consideration and expertise to overcome. Time limitations necessitate precise synchronization

between audio and subtitles for the best viewing experience, what this means is that the audio and subtitles must be precisely synchronized at the same time. Linguistic and cultural sentences must be accurately translated, while maintaining readability and comprehension. The integration of manual adjustments helps in achieving temporal synchronization while the translator gets to be autonomous in his subtitling. Overall, addressing these challenges ensures a high-quality subtitling.

I.7- Subtitling Strategies

To create a good and relevant subtitle, the translator must understand the rules of subtitling, by using strategies of subtitling. These strategies are also technical devices in translation words. According to Gottlieb (1992:166) there are ten subtitling strategies: expansion, paraphrasing, transfer, imitation, transcription, dislocation, condensation, decimation, deletion and resignation.

1. **Expansion:** Adding information to the subtitle to clarify and explain cultural references or idioms that may not be understood in the target language.

2. **Paraphrasing:** Rephrasing a text or speech in one's own words, while maintaining the original context and meaning

3. **Transfer:** Refers to the translation of meaning of a ST into a TT while taking into consideration the cultural and linguistic differences between the two languages.

4. **Imitation:** It is about using the same style or tone of the original dialogue in the subtitles, replicating it as accurately as possible in the subtitles.

5. **Transcription:** Transcription is converting the audio of the dialogue into a text, such as music or sound effects by using text and symbols in the subtitle.

6. **Dislocation:** In accordance with Gottlieb. It is used to offer different translations or expressions when tackling music or something in that regard which is more important than dialogue.

7. **Condensation:** The act of summarizing a longer line of a dialogue into a shorter one so that it can be displayed on screen.

8. **Decimation:** A more extreme example of condensation. It is the translation of long

subtitles with too many words appearing simultaneously. Therefore; the translator deletes most of the content to improve readability at the expense of losing important and original details.

9. **Deletion:** Omitting certain parts of the original dialogue in order to make the subtitles more concise and easier to read.

10. **Resignation:** Certain words in the original dialogue may not be accurately translated in the subtitles. Therefore; the translator may choose to either leave the word untranslated or provide an explanation in the subtitles.

We have now reached the conclusion of this chapter, in which we have fully defined legal texts and the field of legal translation by various theoreticians and presented its various characteristics. In addition, we have introduced translation in the norms of the legal system, then went forth on presenting one of the most common types of audiovisual translation, namely subtitling, along with its strategies.

CHAPTER TWO

STUDY AND ANALYSIS OF

THE CORPUS

The most significant portion of this research paper will be covered in this chapter, which will provide an analytical study for different subtitling of a legal American court hearing and their translation into Arabic. And the subtitling examples were extracted from “**Paternity Court, season 3, episode 66**” This is referred to as the corpus, from which we extracted and assessed our examination of a subtitling.

Within this chapter, three different sectors will be discussed, first, we delve into the first section (2.1) which is an overview that contains characters, technical sheet and the summary of our corpus, sharing a profound and thorough information of each subsection in regards to “Paternity Court”; Moreover, the second section (2.2) involves the technique used to discuss this corpus; it includes information about the translation theory as well as the processes taken to aid in the selection of relevant translation frames. In addition to the mentioned, we move to the third and last section of this chapter (2.3) that will include all of our analytical studies in the subtitling of our corpus “Paternity Court”, going from providing legal examples, translating them to analyzing and providing proper translation suggestion to them. After that, within the same section, we opt to discuss the challenging process of subtitling as well as provide the suitable subtitle strategy for each example shown to have the optimal translation and subtitle experience; Lastly, we tend to present the software we have used to subtitle this corpus and elaborate about the experience through which we have gone.

II.1- Presentation of the Corpus:

Our corpus in this study represents a half-hour American talk show with a court - plaintiff and defendant- format, it is deemed as a non-script drama show based on real cases, covering a wide range of paternity issues with real emotions and real people, involving judge Lauren Lake where she hears different testimonies from the litigants involved on scene regarding paternity disputes, ranging from a careless cold-hearted father to an over-caring one willing to give it all.

The show has been popular in the U.S for a decade that it has become widespread all over media platforms, it consists of lots of episodes and seasons, where each episode reveals a new case that is not related to the previous ones. Sometimes a situation may take longer at court to be processed that they have to make an -all in one- 45-minute episode, or separate

episodes for the same case.

Participants appear before a judge in each episode to submit their cases and express their worries. The judge, who is usually Judge Lauren Lake, rules over the courtroom and hears the testimony and evidence offered by the parties concerned. Based on the material supplied, the judge then gives legal analysis, counsel and direction.

The major purpose of "Paternity Court" is to determine paternity and establish legal duties and rights for child support, custody and visitation. The show frequently dives into the emotional elements of these cases, examining the impact on the people involved, especially the children.

II.1.1- Characters of the episode

Here is the list of the main characters of Paternity Court series:

- **Lauren Lake:**



Lauren Lake is an American television personality, lawyer and author known for her work as the leading judge on the reality court show "Paternity Court." She focuses on resolving paternity disputes and other related family issues. And also serves as the authoritative figure on the show, presiding over the cases and offering legal analysis and advice to the participants.

- **Agent Jerome:**



The court agent responsible for the safety and security of the courtroom, he's considered as a main character as he partakes in pretty much all episodes in this reality American court show "Paternity Court".

Here is the list of the secondary characters of this episode, as secondary characters vary from one episode to another.

- **Scotty Rasmussen:**



Scotty is the litigant that is believed to be the biological father in this episode for the young child "Zaylie" while his ex Tiffani, as an opposition, tried to convince him otherwise, but he still insisted on being the biological father under the terms that "Zaylie" has physical similarities to his.

- **Tiffani Miller:**



The plaintiff has petitioned plenty of DNA tests to prove that the litigant "Scotty Rasmussen" is not her daughter's biological father under the terms that she's been dating someone else.

- **Zaylie:**



The true daughter of Tiffani that both Tiffani and Scotty are disputing for in regards to her paternity.

II.1.2- Summary of the episode

Our research involved focusing on Episode 66, Season 3, where Judge Lake talks and tends to break the dispute between the litigants that involved Mr. Rasmuseen and Miss Miller, regarding their three year old daughter Zaylie in an attempt to find out who the true biological father was, as both of them were dating different individuals during their -on and off-relationship so they could never figure out who it was biologically until they had to be subject of the “Paternity court” to undergo a paternity test.

Consequently, the jury returned a special verdict finding Ms. Miller 65 per cent negligent and Mr. Rasmussen 35 per cent negligent. The episode was under the title of “Man Drives 100+ Miles For Birth Of Child That Woman Says Isn't His (Full Episode)”.

II.1.3- Technical Sheet

This is a document that provides detailed information about our corpus from a technical perspective and the sheet is as the following:

Title: Man Drives 100+ Miles For Birth Of Child That Woman Says Isn't His (Full Episode).

Created by: David Armour.

Presented by: Lauren Lake.

Theme music composer: Devin Powers.

Country of origin: United States.

Original language: English.

Production: David Armour.

Production companies: 79th & York Entertainment Orion Television Georgia Film Office (2014–2020) (seasons 2–7) Lauren Lake Limitless Entertainment (2018–2020) (seasons 6–7)

Genre: Drama.

Duration: 30 minutes.

Original release: September 23, 2013 – February 29, 2020.

Lastly, after presenting, summarizing the episode, providing the technical sheet of our corpus and stating the major important factors of this corpus, we opt to move to the next section that relates to our practical work in terms of the theory of our translation. The next section would give an idea about the approach we have chosen to process our practical work.

II.2. Analysis of the Legal segments taken from Paternity Court

In our analysis of challenging legal words in paternity court, we focus on the complex vocabulary used within the legal domain surrounding these words and their meanings, we aim to clarify the nuance of the intricacies of the court proceedings. Understanding these American legal terms is crucial to navigating the complexities of paternity cases and ensuring fair and informed outcomes. Through this analysis, our goal is to simplify and facilitate a better understanding of the legal language encountered in paternity court.

Example 01

The first example concerns the translation of “Hello, your **Honor**”

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
00:00:05,720 --> 00:00:06,560	Jerome: Hello, your Honor	جيروم: مرحبا سيادة القاضي

In the segment shown above, the sentence includes the word “**Honor**” which reflects dignity, respect, integrity and adherence to ethical standards. The word “**Honor**” refers to

respect, in this context, it is used to address someone with a higher status or a judge at court. Hence; It's important to note that the concept of the word “**honor**” can differ across cultures and its interpretation may differ in different contexts, or legal systems. And the reason why we have not used “شرفك” or “كرامتك” as suggested in **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab**'s law dictionary is the fact that these words do not address a person with a higher status and has no alternative meaning for this context, whereas, According to **Marriem Webster's law dictionary**, it is to regard or treat someone with admiration and respect. Which in Arabic-speaking nations address to as “سيادة القاضي” Therefore, based on **Hans Vermeer's** Skopos theory, we translate the word to “سيادة القاضي” as a honorific word that represents the judge in person throughout court cases, so the aim of this translation in accordance with Skopos is to address the judge, so we used the strategy of equivalence and the following is our suggested translation:

“جيروم: مرحبا سيادة القاضي”

Example 02

This is another example of legal terminology mainly used in judicial and legal situations such as in court and interrogation cases, depending on the context and the legal system. This part involves translating the following segment

“This is **the case** of Miller versus .Rasmussen”

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
00:00:07,200 --> 00:00:09,240	Jerome: This is the case of Miller versus .Rasmussen	جيروم: هذه قضية السيدة ميلر ضد السيد راسموسن

Based on **Merriam Webster's** law dictionary, the word "**case**" is a situation requiring investigation or action, generally refers to legal matters or particular situations being presented before court or a legal authority for judgment. **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab's** law dictionary suggested “قضية” for the word “**case**”.

The word “قضية” is the most commonly used word in legal matters, it may refer to a legal case or a lawsuit, but this one in particular represents a dispute or disagreements brought to court for resolution, which, in this case, completely matches our context, since “Paternity

Court” is not a trial but only a court hearing where facts are examined and decisions are made so we used calque as a way to maintain the structure of the phrase and the meaningful context.

According to **Hans J Vermeer**’s Skopos Theory, the translation "قضية" adequately conveys the meaning of "case" in legal contexts, as it accurately represents the core concept of a legal dispute. In addition to that, the translation is suitable for Arabic-speaking legal professionals, judges, lawyers and individuals familiar with legal terminology. So with that being said, this translation completely adheres to the principles of skopos theory. Hence; why our suggested translation for this segment will be as follow:

"جيروم: هذه قضية السيدة ميلر ضد السيد راسموسن"

Example 03

In the following example, we’re about to translate

“You claim you have been in an ongoing **court battle** over **custody**”

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
00:00:22,600 --> 00:00:26,880	Judge Lake: You claim you have been in an ongoing court battle over custody	لقاضي لايك: تدعين أنك قد خضت إلى نزاعات قضائية جارية بشأن الحضانة

The word “**Court**” is regarded as the establishment of a sovereign dignitary by **Merriam Webster’s law dictionary**. In accordance with **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab’s law dictionary**, it refers to “محكمة”. On the other hand, the word “**Battle**” may refer to combat, war, dispute, disagreements and so many other meanings, completely depending on the context in which it is involved. **Merriam Webster’s law dictionary** defined the word “**Battle**” as a struggle to succeed or survive and when combining the two words together in one clause, a legal meaning can be produced, allowing the phrase “**Court Battle**” to add a notion of a civilized legal disagreement between the parties involved, not necessarily in a physical manner.

According to **Hans J Vermeer's** skopos theory, since this phrase does not involve real-time combat but instead a conflict, the word "**Battle**" can be translated as "نزاع" rather than "حرب" or "معركة" because that is what it actually means in the context. As for the word "**Court**", the purpose of this word in this context is to address the battle that is occurring through court proceedings, rather than the physical place in which it is happening. What we are trying to say here is, while the word "**Court**" refers specifically to the physical location or institution where legal proceedings take place, "**Court Battle**" refers to the actual judiciary conflict that is to be resolved between the parties. Our suggestion would be "نزاع قضائي" by relying on the Calque strategy, Otherwise, "معركة محكمة" would simply be considered as a literal translation.

In addition to the word that is also included in the translation segment "**Custody**", which **Merriam Webster's law dictionary** defines as an immediate charge and control exercised by a person or an authority. **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab** suggested the word "حراسة" which does not really meet the intended meaning in this context, because it means to safeguard someone, whereas, "**custody**" refers to the actual possession of the child, that is why have decided to use the equivalent word from Arabic "الحضانة" and not "حراسة".

Based on **Hans J Vermeer's** skopos theory, this translation combines both calque and equivalence strategy to adopt the meaning. it conveys the same meaning in the target language as that of in the original one, as well as ensuring that it conveys the intended message to the target audience in a manner consistent with legal language and Arabic culture. The translation is appropriate for formal legal contexts, such as court proceedings or legal documentation. We can say that the following translation matches the standards and the principles posed by Skopos Theory:

"تدعين أنك قد خضت إلى نزاعات قضائية جارية بشأن الحضانة"

Example 04

In this example, we're on to translate "And have **petitioned** the court several times for a DNA test all of of which have been denied"

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)

00:00:26,930 --> 00:00:32,640	Judge Lake: And have petitioned the court several times for a DNA test all of which have been denied	قاضي لايفك: وقدمت التماساً للمحكمة عدة مرات لإجراء اختبار الحمض النووي ووقد تم رفض جميع الطلبات
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Ibrahim Ismail El wahab's law dictionary suggested the word "التماس" for the word "Petition" depending on the context. "Petition" refers to court paper submission to ask the court to take action based on one's demands. **Merriam Webster's law dictionary** regards it as a formal written request made to an authority, it is unlikely to be similar to the word "request", because this word itself may encompass a wide range of requests and not solely within the legal norms..

On the other hand, Arabic-speaking nations often use the word "التماس" during legal proceedings because it is seen as a formal request term to ask court to take action, this word has a sense of seeking something often in formal contexts, particularly, something within legal norms, So based on **Hans J Vermeer's** skopos theory, we find the word "التماس" more appropriate for this phrase, respecting the standards on which our translation was based, ensuring the right meaning was translated from the original text to the target one and preserving the message to the target audience in a manner consistent with legal language, so we opted to use the strategy of transposition to make the necessary phrasal changes, so our suggested translation would be:

وقدمت التماساً للمحكمة

"عدة مرات لإجراء اختبار الحمض النووي ووقد تم رفض جميع الطلبات"

Example 05

According to the segment below, we have a couple of American legal terms that we are about to analyze

"Because the only reason why he wants the **visitation** is to **claim her on his taxes.**"

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
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00:01:53,150 --> 00:01:58,170	Ms. Miller: Because the only reason why he wants the visitation is to claim her on his taxes.	سيدة ميلر: لأن السبب الوحيد وراء رغبته في الحصول على حق الزيارة هي المطالبة بضرائب ابنته .
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The first term is the word “**Visitation**” which according to **Merriam Webster’s law dictionary** is temporary custody of a child granted to a noncustodial parent, which also means the right of visitation, usually used during court proceedings, in an attempt to resolve a conflict between two separated parents.

According to **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab’s law dictionary**, he suggested the word “زيارة”. Since the subject is addressing the right of visitation of Rasmussen’s child. This means that the word “زيارة” is suitable for the translation and by adopting **Hans J Vermeer’s** skopos theory, we opt to add the word “حق” to bring the meaning even closer for the target audience, making it clear that it is about the right of visitation and not the act of visiting.

As for the word “**Claim**”, **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab’s law dictionary** suggested the word “مطالبة”. **Merriam Webster’s law dictionary** regards this as to ask for especially as a right. Since the context of our segment refers to the act of claiming a right, when someone is assertive of his entitlement to a certain right or believes that he has the right to claim something specific, he requests for his rights to be recognized, so based on **Hans J Vermeer’s** Skopos theory, we adopt the word “مطالبة” because it specifically denotes the act of claiming a right, we ensured that the target audience’s simplified message is in a manner consistent with legal language, ensuring in the process that the words in the target language are coherent, as well as respecting the cultural differences of the target text, so we used the strategy of expansion to add the word “حق” and the strategy of modulation because we translated it from a different perspective. Our suggested translation is as follows:

”لأن السبب الوحيد وراء رغبته في الحصول على حق الزيارة
هي المطالبة بضرائب ابنته .“

Example 06

In the example shown below, concerning the complexity of legal terms and the challenging comprehension of such ambiguities, we are about to translate the following:

“I’m paying my **child support**, I have my **child support payments** right here”

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
00:02:16,850 --> 00:02:21,120	Mr.Rasmuseen: I’m paying my child support , I have my child support payments right here	سيد راسموسن: أنا أدفع نفقة ابنتي وأملك وثائق تثبت ذلك هنا

“**Child support**” in a literal sense, is a compound word, combined of two different words, the word “**Support**” has the meaning of providing aid for a person. However, this word itself has a wide range of meanings in terms of aid, ranging from mental aid, physical aid to financial aid. Furthermore, when the two words are combined together in a phrase, it specifies that the word “**support**” is solely related to a child, allowing the compound phrase to fully denote the legal norms of child services. In accordance with the **Merriam Webster’s law dictionary**, “**child support**” is a payment for the support of the children of divorced or separated parents while the children are minors or as otherwise legally required-. in other words, it has a sense of obligation of parents to provide for the financial needs of their children.

Arabic-speaking nations have an equivalent saying to the word “**child support**” in Arabic and that is the word “النفقة”. This word is commonly known in Arab communities, especially within legal norms, as it fully denotes the obligation of parents to provide for the financial needs of their children as we mentioned earlier.

As for “**child support payments**”, we opt to not translate it similarly and that is to avoid repetition and a long translation that would be considered redundant. Hence; Repetition is seen as a con in translation norms, with that being said, if we had neglected our translation by considering repetition, it would have been deemed as a literal translation and it would appear as something like “أنا أدفع نفقة ابنتي وأملك وثائق النفقة تثبت ذلك هنا”.

According to **Hans J Vermeer’s** Skopos theory, we focused on respecting the main standards, firstly, the meaning from the original to the target text, ensuring that the right

meaning for “**child support**” was translated accordingly, as well as being assertive on preserving the message being delivered in a way consistent with legal language so it can be easily comprehended by the target audience. And lastly, making sure that our translation is appropriate with legal contexts and court proceedings. So we used equivalence for “child support” and condensation to remove repetition. Our suggested translation is as the following:

”أنا أدفع نفقة ابنتي وأملك وثائق تثبت ذلك هنا“

Example 07

In the translation below, we have had some cultural difficulties in terms of regional dialects, in addition to the legal terms included and the example would go as follow:

“Until about 5 or 6 months or so **give or take** after she was born, we were at **family court** talking to the family court **commissioner** about custody and the things that go along with that“

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
00:04:47,220 --> 00:04:58,700	Mr.Rasmuseen: Until about 5 or 6 months or so give or take after she was born, we were at family court talking to the family court commissioner about custody and the things that go along with that	سيد راسموسن: إلا بعد خمسة أو ستة أشهر منذ ولادتها ، كنا في محكمة الشؤون العائلية نتحدث إلى مفوض المحكمة حول الحضانة والأشياء اخرى

Before moving on with analyzing the legal terms, we opt to talk about the “**give or take**” phrase that has a complex meaning for viewers, especially those not familiar with cultural aspects and local, regional dialects from overseas. The expression “**Give or take**” is often used to refer to the context of uncertainty, meaning that Rasmussen was unaware of the

exact period “**Until about 5 or 6 months or so give or take after she was born.....**” indicating that the timeframe in the sentence could take less, or longer than five months. Therefore, we had to improvise and change our translation, entirely asserting and respecting the cultural differences between the original and target text, focusing on our purpose of the translation based on **Hans J Vermeer’s** Skopos theory, which is to allow the target audience to easily understand our translation, simplifying it as accurately as possible.

Moving on to the next challenging phrase, “**Family Court**”. Unlike any other example we have translated before, this combined phrase of two words would translate in a literal sense as “محكمة العائلة” which has no meaning at all, However, upon checking with **Merriam Webster’s law dictionary**, it is defined as a “court of domestic relations”, also defined as a court that has jurisdiction and often special advisory powers over family disputes. And according to **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab’s law dictionary**. he suggested “محكمة الشؤون العائلية”. We came to realize that it refers to the department responsible for handling family affairs and judiciary matters, which is a subsidiary in court. So for those unfamiliar with legal terminology would have difficulties and ambiguities in understanding the actual meaning, it could cause misinterpretation of the context, leading to misunderstanding. Therefore; based on **Hans J Vermeer’s** skopos theory, we translate the word “**Family Court**” to “محكمة الشؤون العائلية” by adding the word “الشؤون” to clarify and simplify the meaning for the target as it symbolizes the family affairs, rather than the place.

Next legal term in this sentence contains the word “**Commissioner**”, which according to **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab’s** dictionary, translates as “مفوض”. The word “**Commissioner**” is defined, by **Merriam Webster’s law dictionary**, as the representative of the governmental authority in a district, province, or other unit often having both judicial and administrative powers. In our words. It typically refers to an employee appointed by the government to handle certain affairs. So this word fully captures the role of a family court commissioner. Eventually, in terms of **Hans J Vermeer’s** skopos theory, we used the strategy of equivalence and modulation by adopting words from Arabic-speaking nations’ culture and alter with the semantic structure to make the necessary changes. Our entire translation would suggest to be done as follow:

”الإلا بعد خمسة أو ستة أشهر أو أكثر منذ ولادتها ، كنا في محكمة شؤون العائلية
”تحدث إلى مفوض المحكمة حول الحضانة والأشياء أخرى

Example 08

In this table, we opt to translate the following sentence containing a challenging context:

“Do you **dispute** Ms. Miller that he was excited about this beautiful little girl being born?”

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
00:08:02,020 --> 00:08:06,920	Judge lake: Do you dispute Ms. Miller that he was excited about this beautiful little girl being born?	قاضي لايك: السيدة ميلر, هل لديك أي شك أنه كان متحمسًا لولادة هذه الفتاة الصغيرة الجميلة؟

Based on **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab**, he translates the word “**Dispute**” as “منازعات” in his law dictionary, but the context above has a different agenda to what has been translated in the dictionary, because the context above denotes to denying and suspecting what has been stated by the other party “Scotty Rasmussen”. In other words, the word “منازعات” refers to disagreements, conflicts and disputes between individuals, it is commonly used in formal contexts such as referring to legal cases that require to be resolved through a legal process. With that being said, it is quite far from the context we are trying to translate above. Eventually, the context in the phrase adds a notion of denial and doubt of an opinion to what has been said rather than a conflict or disagreement of a case. At last, **Merriam Webster’s law dictionary** defines “**Dispute**” as to call into question or cast doubt upon, which in this case, matches the context above.

In accordance with **Hans J Vermeer’s** Skopos theory, we opt to use the word “شك”, similarly to what **Merriam Webster’s law dictionary** defined, to delve into the profound meaning and transfer it accordingly to the target text, while ensuring the riddance of ambiguities and complex nuances. We also had to translate it in a manner consistent to legal language, while making sure that the word also belongs to legal contexts. Consequently, we opted the transposition strategy to translate it accordingly, changing the grammatical category without losing meaning, so we suggested such a translation for our segment:

السيدة ميلر, هل لديك أي شك أنه كان متحمسًا

لولادة هذه الفتاة الصغيرة الجميلة؟“

Example 9

In the sentence below, we opt to translate the following sentence:

“I told him the first time that we had our court dates, but the courts threw it out”

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
00:09:43,520 --> 00:09:50,800	Ms. Miller: I told him the first time that we had our court dates , but the courts threw it out	سيدة ميلر: أخبرته في المرة الأولى أن لدينا موعد في المحكمة لكن المحكمة ألغت ذلك

The phrase in bold is deemed as a compound phrase that consists of two words, “**court**” and “**date**”.

In accordance with **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab**, he translates the word date as “تاريخ” or “موعد”, they are both correct. However, one is slightly more accurate in this context, because it all relies on the context’s purpose and intentions.

The context above refers to an appointment given by court to resolve a particular issue regarding parental rights and not to the exact date on which the appointment will take place, **Merriam Webster’s law dictionary** defines “**date**” as an appointment to meet at a specified time, but since the context is precisely referring to an appointment instead of a specific date, we opt to use the word “موعد” instead of “تاريخ”.

At last, we opt to respect the standards posed by **Hans J Vermeer’s** theory, we tend to provide a more accurate and precise meaning of the original text for the target audience, preserving the context and the necessary message by using the word “موعد”, we used the strategy of transposition to modify the structure of the phrase. Our suggested translation is:

”أخبرته في المرة الأولى أن لدينا موعد المحكمة
لكن المحكمة ألغت ذلك“

Example 10

In this table, we opt to translate the following sentence:

“I sit here day after day after day with women hoping a man would drive 16 miles to see their baby much less 160 miles each way and abide by a court order “

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:10,470	Judge Lake: I sit here day after day after day with women hoping a man would drive 16 miles to see their baby much less 160 miles each way and abide by a court order	قاضي لايبك: فأنا أجلس هنا يوميا مع نساء على أمل أن يقودوا رجالهن مسافة 16 ميلاً لرؤية أطفالهم أقل بكثير من 160 ميلاً ذهاباً وإياباً وأن يخضعوا لأمر المحكمة

In this sentence, **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab’s law dictionary** translates the phrase in bold **“Abide by a Court order”** as “يخضع لأمر المحكمة”, which according to **Merriem Webster’s law dictionary**, means to accept without objection an order issuing from a competent court that requires a party to do or abstain from doing a specified act. in our words, refers to submitting to, complying with, or obeying the command of a particular court to do something, or refrain from doing something..

Since the word **“Order”** أمر refers to an obligation context, this facilitates understanding that in this context, the court is giving an obligation to the child’s father to **“abide by a court order”**, or in other words “يخضع لأمر المحكمة”, because it is an a parental obligation and responsibility to care for a child and provide aid, but never a principle, or a right to hold onto, so the suitable word for **“Abide”** is يخضع because he or she submits to the order.

Finally, we can say our translation was based on skopos theory’s rules, maintaining all the necessary requirements to simplify the meaning for the target audience, Therefore, we used the strategy of calque to adopt our translation. We suggested the following translation:

”فأنا أجلس هنا يوميا مع نساء على أمل أن يقودوا رجالهن مسافة 16 ميلاً

لرؤية أطفالهم أقل بكثير من 160 ميلاً ذهاباً وإياباً و” أن يخضعوا لأمر المحكمة“

Example 11

The following table includes our next example, we chose to translate two different phrases from two different timings that have the same term:

“**Ms. Miller, I'm going to say this to you before I adjourn court**”

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
00:16:10,650 --> 00:16:13,860	Judge lake: Ms. Miller, I'm going to say this to you before I adjourn court	قاضي لايك: أنيسة ميلر، سأقول لك هذا قبل رفع الجلسة

In accordance with the **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab**'s law dictionary, he translates the legal term “**Adjourn**” as “يؤجل” which is a general term that can be used for various types of postponements or rescheduling. Merriam Webster's law dictionary defines it as to suspend indefinitely or until a later stated time, which means, to either end a court session, or postpone it to a later time.

As opposed to our context, the legal term “**Before I adjourn court**” has no context of postponing, the context shows that Judge Lake wanted to offer some pieces of advice for Ms. Miller before ending the court session, as court sessions usually have a specific duration of time before they end, so it adds a notion of an individual rushing, or being in a hurry to state something. Therefore; this context does not refer to recessing, or extending the timeframe of the court proceeding regarding a paternity matter, but rather an ending to it.

Since Arabic-speaking nations have a different saying of “**to Adjourn Court**” in Arabic to end court, we cannot use the literal translation of this phrase, but to respect the cultural differences that come along in the process of our translation. Hence, the literal translation of that phrase would appear to be the problem we have studied in the beginning, which is to postpone the session of court “المحكمة مؤجلة”. In Arab nations, when they tend to end a court session, it is usually said as “رفعت الجلسة”

In accordance with **Hans J Vermeer**'s theory, we used the equivalence strategy to obtain the phrase “رفعت الجلسة”، preserving the precise meaning, respecting the cultural differences of the original and the target text, maintaining the message in a manner consistent with legal language, as well as using formal words related to legal contexts. We have used the equivalence strategy. Finally, our translation would suggest the following for the two segments:

“أنيسة ميلر، سأقول لك هذا قبل رفع الجلسة”

Example 12

Below is our next example, we have two challenging terms that require an understanding and knowledge of both legal systems to acquire the precise meaning of which we are about to simplify next, we opt to translate the following sentences:

“I wish you the best of luck. We have counseling for you.”

“Court is adjourned”

Timing	Spoken English (Source Text)	Arabic Translation (Target Text)
00:16:41,740 --> 00:16:43,920	Judge Lake: I wish you the best of luck. We have counseling for you.	قاضي لايبك: أتمنى لكم حظاً سعيداً، لدينا جلسات استشارية لكم
00:16:44,130 --> 00:16:45,560	Court is adjourned	تم تأجيل الجلسة القضائية

The first sentence includes the word of “**Counseling**” that requires knowledge within legal norms to understand it accurately, **Merriam Webster** regards this word as professional guidance of the individual by utilizing psychological methods especially in collecting case history data.

Counseling encompasses a wide range of counseling and not only for parents, but we opt to be specific in our analysis. Our context refers to “**counseling sessions**” processed by a counselor -that according to **Ibrahim Ismail El wahab** is called “مستشار” - for paternity

disputes between separated parents, we opt to improvise by using the word “جلسات استشارية” in our translation entirely relying on the Modulation strategy by altering with the semantic changes.

As for the second segment “**Court is adjourned**”, it differs from the previous example (**Example 12**) regardless of the DNA results being stated or not. The fact that Judge Lake declared further proceedings in this example (Counseling) is evident, it means that the parties (Miller & Rasmussen) involved in the episode are ought to meet again for counseling sessions. Therefore, it adds a notion of postponing and rescheduling a session of meeting rather than ending it. From here, we understand that each word is implemented based on its own context.

We opt to translate the segment as accurately as possible, avoiding literal translation in the process, Arabic-speaking countries have a different way in postponing a session “**Court is adjourned**”. When they tend to postpone a court session, it is usually said as “تم تأجيل الجلسة”, instead of using a literal translation phrase “المحكمة مؤجلة”. We added the word “القضائية” in our translation, although it was unnecessary, just to shape the judiciary matter and add a notion to the audience that it is still a court matter and not an ordinary session. Our suggested translations for both segments are:”

“أتمنى لكم حظاً سعيداً، لدينا جلسات استشارية لكم”
 “تم تأجيل الجلسة القضائية

By relying on **Hans Vermeer**’s Skopos theory, we opt to avoid literal translation at all costs and respect the cultures of the target text, while being assertive in the process of our translation to achieve the purpose and the function. In this case we have used the modulation strategy to convey the same message in different languages.

II. 3 Analysis of subtitle challenges

Upon translating our work based on Skopos theory, to rid our corpus off all the complex nuances in terms of legal terminology, specifically legal terms that require knowledge of both ST and TT. We have come across several challenges that made our subtitling process even more difficult, in terms of space, length and time. Furthermore, our

corpus contains long dialogues, several repetitions, multiple utterances at once between subjects, fast dialogues in short delays, especially ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answers. All of these challenges made the reading experience difficult and Skopos theory was insufficient in our work, so we adopted Gottlieb’s subtitle strategies to further facilitate and simplify our subtitles for the target audience to create high quality work and the optimal subtitle experience. The following are the challenges we have encountered and analyzed and some others are Gottlieb’s subtitle strategies that we have implemented regardless of the difficulties.

II.3.1 Subtitle Challenges

Example 01:

In this example, we are going to analyze the challenge of timing and duration of the subtitling process

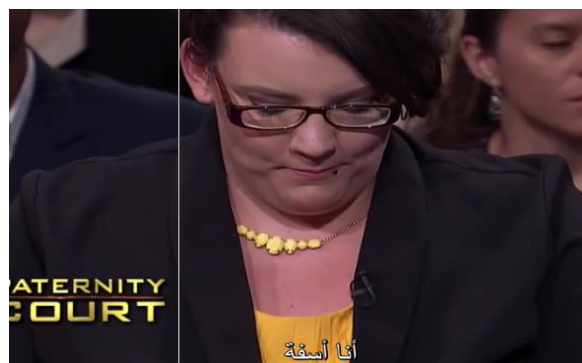
00:14:11,420 - 0:14:15.61

“**Judge Lake: Miss Miller, Jerome: Be respectful, Miller: I’m sorry, Judge Lake: Miss Miller, Miller: I’m sorry,**“

Picture 01



Picture 02



The pictures above represent the first challenges we have faced and that is repetition and multiple utterances occurring at once, in a very short delay, so the problem here is the **time and duration** of subtitles.

In the first picture, as we have stated earlier, there are some words that have a short duration, not only are they fast, which can be solved by extending the timeframe at which subtitles appear, but they happen to be said several times and interrupted by other subjects

during an utterance, where, for instance in this sample, Ms. Miller answered “No” to the judge three times for one question when judge Lake was interrupting her by questioning her response.

In the second picture, Ms. Miller apologized to Judge Lake more than three times simultaneously for shouting at court, where several subjects spoke and several sounds occurred for transcription at the same time during her apology, with that being said, we could not put four subtitles on top of each other, as it would ruin the process of subtitling and invade the entire space of the screen which goes against the standards of subtitling, we had to separate our subtitles into different segments and delete repetitive ones.

Subsequently, we had to apply “**Deletion**” that is one of Gottlieb’s subtitle strategies to omit all the unnecessary text from the original dialogue to better enhance the process of our subtitling.

Example 02:

In this example, we are going to go through the challenge of length and long sentences:

0:07:01.27 - 0:07:06.40

Mr. Rasmussen: “Through a winded wooded road, in Wisconsin, in December mind you, so it’s about a foot of snow on the ground”

Picture 03



Picture 04



The examples shown represent one of the other challenges we have encountered during the process of our translation, that is the length of subtitle that could not fit with the screen, so the problem here is the **length** and not the time that poses the problem, with that being said, we had to “**Transfer**” the meaning from ST to TT in **picture 03**, according to Gottlieb’s subtitle strategies, to convey and render the same meaning as that of the original

text without creating misinterpretations in TT, while taking into consideration the cultural and linguistic differences between the two languages.

Lastly, briefly make an “**Expansion**” for the word “**Wisconsin**” for those that are not familiar with the states of America, by adding the word “**state**” in Arabic “ولاية”. We also had to “**Paraphrase**” the subtitles shown in **picture 04**, using our own creativity and ideas to render a perfect meaning, in a very short phrase that is similar to that in the ST.

By conveying the strategies above, the subtitled version aims to deliver the same meaning and impact of the source dialogue in a short phrase.

Example 03:

The following example will discuss the challenge of both the timing and length of subtitles:

0:02:40.32 - 0:02:55.41

Subtitle 01: Rasmussen: “Is it enough to buy her clothes so she doesn’t have to wear cutoff sweatpants and the same T-shirt everytime I pick her up?”

Subtitle 02: Miller: “I do that. because..., it’s just what it is”

Subtitle 03: Rasmussen: “Is it enough to buy her underwear so you don’t gotta keep putting her in diapers at four years old?”

Subtitle 04: Miller: “I have underwear for her”

Picture 05



Picture 07

Picture 06



Picture 08



Picture 09



So far, these pictures refer to the most occurring challenge we have faced in this corpus, which is the length of a dialogue that has several subtitles, with a short duration between each, in addition to the simultaneous interruptions of other dialogues at the same time, so here, it is the **length and the time** that pose the problem. We adopted the “**Condensation**” subtitle strategy, in this case, to remove all the redundant words that we saw as unnecessary in the subtitles and that is a very efficient way to cope with the constraints posed by subtitling. So we had to improvise, by replacing the word “sweatpants” with “pants” instead of giving an accurate translation to the word, as it was not the main focus of the utterance, but rather the negligence of Miller towards her child. In addition to that, we had to divide the first subtitle into two different segments as in **picture 05** and **picture 06** so we can allow the reader to comprehend and read comfortably without having to rush with the reading, as reading is seen as a longer process than listening, or speaking.

As for Miller’s response, in Subtitle 02, **Picture 07**, the sentence was short, but had a longer delay than expected. Therefore, it was being interrupted by Rasmussen’s response subtitle 03 as shown in **picture 08**, we had no other choice but to apply “**Decimation**” to extremely summarize Subtitle 02 Miller’s response to the point where important details, or answers were omitted “it’s just what it is” in **picture 07**, at the expense of avoiding confusion

that will not allow the reader to understand the situation, we felt like whatever she said can be sacrificed for a more important subtitle by Rasmussen, as we had no other position where to put it, since it would ruin the entire experience. As for the subtitles 03 and 04 in **picture 08** and **picture 09**, we opt to apply the same strategies since they have the same challenges, but this time from Miller's perspective doing the interruption, completely making the subtitling process challenging. We had to divide Subtitle 03 into two segments as it was a very long subtitle, then we applied the “**Condensation**” strategy again on it, removing the sense of obligation from the sentence, since it was not main focus, just to take advantage of the space that we would gain and use it for a better purpose, which is to show both subtitles at the same time.

II. 4 Presentation of the Software

In this corpus, we have decided to use Aegisub, one of the most powerful free, open-source software used for creating and editing subtitles. From our experience, this software comes with a wide range of features, some of which include, translation, styling, timing and most importantly, editing subtitles according to personal preferences; Hence why it is the popular amongst subtitlers and translators for its ease of use regardless of their subtitling proficiency, professionals and amateurs alike.

Profoundly, this software has a really simplified user-interface that allows a new user to easily adapt in the environment of subtitling including us in the process. The UI of this software is so simple that it allows us to navigate and access its features so easily due to its dual-panel layout that includes both the video on the top left and the audio fragments on the top right allowing the perfect synchronization between the two; With its Advanced Timing Control (ATC), Aegisub allows a precise timing control by allowing users to easily adjust the start and end time of each subtitle and can also add several lines of dialogue in a single subtitle if needed for multilingual translations; In addition to these, it also has the feature of Formatting and Styling including font, color, size and positioning, these allow the user to easily configure and adjust the way subtitles appear to enhance their looks. And finally; the spell checker that plays as a major feature in this software, especially for those lacking grammatical expertise, it basically rechecks your writing each time and suggests you the perfect correction for your subtitle, ensuring high-quality subtitle.

II.4.1 Technical difficulties (Aegisub)

When it came to the process of our practical work in the second chapter, we had difficulties as to what software we should be using for our subtitle work; However, upon googling for the top 10 subtitle softwares, we came across “Aegisub” as one of the best free open-source softwares one can find online. We installed it on our computer and took care of the necessary requirements for the software to run at its fullest potential. Once the software went up and running, we had no clue where to start and how to subtitle as everything on the screen was in dual-panel layouts and the fact that so many features are available on that software is really confusing for one to begin subtitling, especially in our case as beginners.

We took our situation to the next level by having private courses from a YouTube channel named “**TJ Free**” that had free lessons online for translators on how to properly operate that software, then started learning thoroughly the process of subtitling. The channel had different videos with separate ideas and explanations on the various features of “Aegisub” some of which include a way around the basics, styling, font usage, translation assist and finally import & export of subtitle files for future use. After getting along with the software, we knew our ways around Aegisub, so it all started making sense to us and how to subtitle at the time, after that, we even had more complex and challenging obstacles in the process of subtitling since it was our first project, one of the difficulties included the Space of the subtitles as well as the timing. Lengthy lines, surpassing 70 characters in quick and short utterances. We had no clue on what to do but to study other subtitle works like those in movies, realizing that they don’t go over 70 characters nor 6 seconds in delay, so we had to shorten the sentences as accurately as possible, as well as maintain high quality work without sacrificing precision and accuracy of our translation.

We had to improvise by separating a lengthy subtitle into two lines if the utterance was decently long enough between 4 to 6 seconds and less than 70 characters, if it was more than that in both cases (timing and characters), we had to summarize our subtitling in accordance with **Henrik Gottlieb**’s strategies to better fit the delay of the subtitle as it should not be displayed for over 6 seconds, on the other hand, if the translation was lengthy with a time delay in between, we would divide our subtitle sentence into two different segments with their own timing, each would appear separately for the same long speech, ensuring the optimal time and subtitle synchronization and the smoothness of lines on the screen without deleting the volume of text, except in some cases, where we had to apply **Gottlieb**’s subtitle

strategies. We had to remove all the redundant words (repetition, some linking words, take advantage of every millisecond) from sentences to have a perfect time and subtitle synchronization in the dialogue, preserving the meaning of the original text and the messages installed onto it.

To conclude the second chapter that involves the practical work and the process of subtitling, we came to conclude that the approach we have used is not sufficient, although correct, to provide the optimal subtitle experience, because, along the process of subtitling, new obstacles and difficulties emerged in our corpus, first problem concerned is the duration of subtitles, containing repetitive words that were challenging to subtitle, because they were excessively short and fast in an utterance of several people. Second problem includes the length and limited number of characters that we needed to adhere to. Therefore, we improvised to adjust our translation based on the limited number of characters. Third challenge involved both the length and the duration of subtitles, as they were excessively long and fast in a dialogue of several people. So, we opt to summarize our subtitle segments as short as possible, to facilitate the reading experience. So we relied on various translation strategies on which **Hans J Vermeer's** Skopos theory emphasized and also adopted **Henrik Gottlieb's** subtitling strategies to help overcome these challenges posed by the process of subtitling this corpus.

CONCLUSION

A translation that relates to the law is referred to as a legal translation, which is most in-demand genre in the translation industry due to the complexity and accuracy required.

Qualified legal translators are needed by law firms, corporations and government organizations alike.

Legal translations can be done on a variety of legal documents, including judgements and decrees as well as more complex ones like contracts, statutes and patents. Legal translations can be used for a number of aspects, like to better understand the meaning of a contract or other legal documents, or to create an English translation of a document that can be used on an international level.

The aim of this research was to study and analyze the challenges encountered while subtitling American legal court hearings "*Paternity Court*" from English to Arabic as a case study. The challenges mentioned herein are faced in the process of subtitling; it included barely regional dialects and mainly, legal expressions that could be seen as a barrier to understanding for the target audience. In our study, we opted to use the Skopos Theory which is generally target text oriented, based on the needs of the target audience and communicative function of the target text, because it was more acceptable and appropriate for our translation to convey the same meaning and preserve the same legal, official and seriousness effects similar to court proceedings, while completely facilitating and simplifying the legal context for the target audience. After that, we processed the subtitling we had created based on Skopos theory and the strategies on which it emphasized, then transcribed it at the bottom of the screen based on Gottlieb's subtitling strategies.

In the process of translating our work, we opted to implement the Skopos theory and some other translation strategies. We conclude that it rendered and conveyed the same meanings throughout our work, but did not respect the requirements of subtitling in terms of length. Some words, or phrases obtained from the practical work of this theory were removed, mostly condensed because of the length and were seen as a major constraint that would ruin the subtitling experience. Eventually, we opted to use Henrik Gottlieb's subtitling strategies to enhance our work and create high quality subtitles

While in the process of subtitling our work, we faced several constraints that were seen as a barrier to an optimal subtitling experience, these constraints include the duration or/and the limited number of characters. The predominant issue with our subtitling concerned length and duration, as it invaded the entire screen, not allowing the reader to see the content,

nor allow him to read as precisely, in other words, writing must be short to allow the target audience to read properly, but not excessively short nor excessively long, because then time would be a problem for both cases. These constraints were what allowed us to adjust the translation based the implemented strategies, with that being said, translators must be aware of both SL and TL to be as accurate as possible.

To conclude this research, we faced several challenges during the translation and the subtitling of our corpus "*The challenges of subtitling American legal court hearings from English into Arabic language Paternity Court episode 66, season 3 case study*", that was why we adopted **Hans J. Vermeer**'s Skopos theory, different translation techniques and **Gottlieb**'s subtitling strategies, we translated and subtitled the entire episode from the reality show "*Paternity Court*", we hope that this modest work will be interesting for future students interested in the branch of translation and interpreting studies, especially those interested in subtitling legal content, as it helps explain and give an overview of other nations' legal systems and introduce them to our culture for a better understanding and to increase our knowledge in terms of law.

Ultimately, we propose **Hans J. Vermeer**'s Skopos Theory for complicated dialogues or texts, especially those of legal context. This methodology is target text oriented, it prioritizes the function and communication effect of the translation and subtitles over the source text, it takes into account the purpose and intended function of the translation and this is one of the important reasons why we chose this methodology, as it recognizes that the target audience's linguistic and cultural background plays a significant role in the translation process and this explains the purpose of our translation, because we want the target audience to understand our translation, without them having to be directly involved with the American law.

We also suggest **Henrik Gottlieb**'s subtitling strategies and that is to further facilitate, simplify and condense our translation when it comes to audiovisual work, we believe that these two (**Hans J. Vermeer**'s Skopos Theory and **Henrik Gottlieb**'s subtitling strategies) have a mutual interplay, especially in this work, as they both prioritize the target audience's linguistic and cultural background over other factors. By adopting Skopos theory with Gottlieb's subtitle strategies, future students can make translations, create subtitles that

Conclusion

are not only linguistically accurate but also tailored to the specific purpose, audience and challenges of subtitling American legal court hearings. The integration and combination of this approach and these strategies improves the overall effectiveness of the subtitles in conveying legal content to viewers.

Glossary

Glossary

English Glossary

A	
Adjust	تعديل
Appeals	إستئناف
Arbitrator	حكام
Archaism	لفظ مهجور
Attorney	محامي
Audiovisual translation	ترجمة السمعية البصرية
Authorization	ترخيصة
C	
Calque	نسخ
Case	قضية
Character	شخصية
Child support	نفقة
Commissioner	مفوض
Condensation	تصغير
Conflict	نزاع
Constitution	دستور
Constraint	تحدي
Contract	عقد
Corpus	نموذج
Court	محكمة
Court hearing	جلسة استماع
Court proceeding	إجراء قانوني
Courtroom	قاعة المحكمة
Custody	الحضانة
D	

Decimation	تقليص
Decision	قرار
Decrees	مرسوم
Defendant	مدعى عليه
Deletion	حذف
Dialogue	حوار
Dignitary	شخصية مرموقة
Dispute	خلاف
Duration	توقيت
Duties	وجبات
E	
Equivalent	تكافئ
Evidence	دليل
Expansion	توسع
I	
Imitation	تقليد
Imposing statement	فرض البيان
Institution of government	مؤسسة حكومية
Instrument of law	جهاز القانون
J	
Judge	قاضي
Judgement	حكم
L	
Law	قانون
Lawyer	محام
Legal action	فعل قانوني
Legal argument	حجة قانونية
Legal text	نص قانوني
Length	طول

Literal translation	ترجمة الحرفية
Litigation	دعوى
M	
Modulation	تحويل
O	
Obligation	التزام
Orders	أوامر
P	
Paraphrasing	إعادة صياغة
Parliament	برلمان
Penalty	عقوبة
Permission	إذن
Petition	إلتماس
Plaintiff	مدعي
Pleading	مرافعة
Prohibition	ممنوع
Prosecutor	مدعي العام
R	
Register	سجل
Resignation	ترك
Responsibility	مسؤولية
Right	حق
Rule	قاعدة
S	
Screen	شاشة
Size	حجم
Spotting	مراقب
Statute	قانون
Subtitling	السترجة

Summary	تلخيص
Synchronization	مزامنة
T	
Theory of translation	نظرية الترجمة
Transcription	نسخ
Transcription	استنساخ
Transfer	تحويل
Translation	ترجمة
Transposition	تحويل
Trial	محاكمة
Tribunal	محكمة
V	
Violations	انتهاك
W	
Witness	شاهد عيان

Arabic Glossary

أ	
Court proceeding	إجراء قانوني
Permission	إذن
Appeals	إستئناف
Transcription	استنساخ
Paraphrasing	إعادة صياغة
Obligation	إلتزام
Petition	إلتماس
Violations	إنتهاك

Orders	أوامر
ب	
Parliament	برلمان
ت	
Constraint	تحدي
Modulation	تحويل
Transfer	تحويل
Transposition	تحويل
Translation	ترجمة
Literal translation	ترجمة الحرفية
Audiovisual translation	ترجمة السمعية البصرية
Authorization	ترخيص
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Condensation	تصغير
Imitation	تقليد
Decimation	تقليص
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Litigation	دعوى
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Character	شخصية
Dignitary	شخصية مرموقة
ط	
Length	طول
ع	
Contract	عقد
Penalty	عقوبة
ف	
Imposing statement	فرض البيان
Legal action	فعل قانوني
ق	
Judge	قاضي
Courtroom	قاعة المحكمة

Rule	قاعدة
Law	قانون
Statute	قانون
Decision	قرار
Case	قضية
ل	
Archaism	لفظ مهجور
م	
Trial	محاكمة
Lawyer	محام
Attorney	محامي
Court	محكمة
Tribunal	محكمة
Defendant	مدعى عليه
Plaintiff	مدعي
Prosecutor	مدعي العام
Pleading	مرافعة
Spotting	مراقب
Decrees	مرسوم
Synchronization	مزمنة
Responsibility	مسؤولية
Commissioner	مفوض
Prohibition	ممنوع
Institution of government	مؤسسة حكومية
ن	
Conflict	نزاع
Calque	نسخ
Legal text	نص قانوني
Theory of translation	نظرية الترجمة

Child support	نفقة
Corpus	نموذج
و	
Duties	وجبات

APPENDIX

APPENDIX:

The following CD copy contains an episode of “**Paternity Court**” season 3, episode 66, which we have translated and subtitled:

Appendix

The following are the segments we extracted from “Paternity Court” Episode 66, Season 03 to study and analyze this research:

Original dialogue	Timing	Arabic Translation
Jerome: Hello, your Honor	00:00:05,720 -> 00:00:06,560	جيروم: مرحبا سيادة القاضي
Jerome: This is the case of Miller versus .Rasmussen	00:00:07,200 -> 00:00:09,240	جيروم: هذه قضية السيدة ميلر ضد السيد راسموسن
Judge Lake: You claim you have been in an ongoing court battle over custody	00:00:22,600 -> 00:00:26,880	قاضي لايك: تدعين أنك قد خضت إلى نزاعات قضائية جارية بشأن الحضانة
Judge Lake: And have petitioned the court several times for a DNA test all of of which have been denied	00:00:26,930 -> 00:00:32,640	قاضي لايك: وقدمت التماساً إلى المحكمة عدة مرات لإجراء اختبار الحمض النووي وتم رفضهم كلهم
Ms. Miller: Because the only reason why he wants the visitation is to claim her on his taxes.	00:01:53,150 -> 00:01:58,170	سيدة ميلر: لأن السبب الوحيد وراء رغبته في الحصول على حق الزيارة هي المطالبة بضرائب ابنته
Mr.Rasmuseen: I’m paying my child support, I have my child support payments right here	00:02:16,850 -> 00:02:21,120	سيد راسموسن: أنا أدفع نفقة ابنتي وأملك وثائق تثبت ذلك هنا
Mr.Rasmuseen: Until about 5 or 6 months or so give or take after she was born, we were at family court talking to the family court commissioner about custody and the things that go along with that	00:04:47,220 -> 00:04:58,700	سيد راسموسن: إلا بعد خمسة أو ستة أشهر منذ ولادتها ، كنا في محكمة الشؤون العائلية نتحدث إلى مفوض المحكمة حول الحضانة والأشياء اخرى
Judge lake: Do you dispute Ms. Miller that he was excited about this beautiful little girl being born?	00:08:02,020 -> 00:08:06,920	قاضي لايك: السيدة ميلر، هل لديك أي شك أنه كان متحمساً لولادة هذه الفتاة الصغيرة الجميلة؟
Ms. Miller: I told him the first time that we had our court dates , but the courts threw it out	00:09:43,520 -> 00:09:50,800	سيدة ميلر: أخبرته في المرة الأولى أن لدينا موعد في المحكمة لكن المحكمة ألغت ذلك
Judge Lake: I sit here day after day after day with women hoping a man would drive 16 miles to see their baby much less 160 miles each way and abide by a court order	00:14:57,000 -> 00:15:10,470	قاضي لايك: فأنا أجلس هنا يوميا مع نساء على أمل أن يقودوا رجالهن مسافة 16 ميلاً لرؤية أطفالهم أقل بكثير من 160 ميلاً ذهاباً و إياباً و أن يخضعوا لأمر المحكمة

Appendix

Judge lake: Ms. Miller, I'm going to say this to you before I adjourn court	00:16:10,650 -> 00:16:13,860	قاضي لايك: أنيسة ميلر، سأقول لك هذا قبل رفع الجلسة
Judge Lake: I wish you the best of luck We have counseling for you.	00:16:41,740 -> 00:16:43,920	قاضي لايك: أتمنى لكم حظاً سعيداً، لدينا جلسات استشارية لكم
Court is adjourned	00:16:44,130 -> 00:16:45,560	تم تأجيل الجلسة القضائية
Judge Lake: Miss Miller Jerome: Be respectful Miller: I'm sorry Judge Lake: Miss Miller Miller: I'm sorry, “	0:14:11,420--> 0:14:15.61	لايك: أنيسة (ميلر) جيروم: تأدبي ميلر: أنا أسفة لايك: أنيسة (ميلر) ميلر: أنا أسفة
Mr. Rasmussen:“Through a winded wooded road, in Wisconsin, in December mind you, so it's about a foot of snow on the ground	0:07:01.27 --> 0:07:06.40	عبر طريق مليء بالثلوج و الأشجار في ولاية (ويسكونسن) في شهر (ديسمبر) لذلك كانت الطريق مكتظة بالثلوج
Rasmussen: “Is it enough to buy her clothes so she doesn't have to wear cutoff sweatpants and the same T-shirt everytime I pick her up?	00:02:40,320--> 00:02:45,400	راسموسن: هل يكفي لشراء ملابس لها حتى لا ترتدي سروال ممزق ونفس القميص في كل مرة اصطحبها؟
Miller: “I do that.. because..., it's just what it is”	00:02:45,690 -> 00:02:49,400	(ميلر): أفعل ذلك لأنني لا أريد أن...
Rasmussen: “Is it enough to buy her underwear so you don't gotta keep putting her in diapers at four years old?”	00:02:49,500--> 00:02:53,400	(راسموسن): هل يكفي المال لشراء ملابسها الداخلية حتى لا ترتدي حفاضات في سن الرابعة؟
Miller: ”I have underwear for her”	00:02:55,100--> 0:02:55.41	(ميلر): لديها ملابس داخلية

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Corpus:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13i0ViDkH8E>

[Man Drives 100+ Miles For Birth Of Child That Woman Says Isn't His \(Full Episode\) |](#)

[Paternity Court](#)

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Abstract:

The aim of this research is to study and analyze the challenges encountered in the process of translating and subtitling American legal court hearings "Paternity Court" season 3, episode 66 from English to Arabic.

The first challenge we have faced concerned the translation of a court utterance composed of legal terminology according to Skopos theory in order to transfer the same legal effect from English to Arabic without altering with the officiality and the seriousness of court, as well as simplify the meaning for the target audience, where we have found that this theory is the only one that could achieve this purpose. However, upon moving to implement our translation into our subtitle work, we have found that the position, time and length to be some of the constraints that did not allow us to provide a good subtitle experience, so we opted to adjust our translation and maintain the legal effect by using Gottlieb's subtitling strategies.

We think that this process has a good impact in the field of translation overall and subtitling in a legal manner to be precise. We deduce from this research that the translator must possess high proficiency and adequate law experience in order to be able to convey the legal message in an objective way, respecting the cultural and religious differences from the source to the target text

Key words: Legal text, Court Hearing, Legal translation, Subtitling, Skopos theory.

المخلص :

الهدف من هذا البحث هو دراسة وتحليل التحديات التي تمت مواجهتها أثناء ترجمة و سترجة جلسة المحكمة القانونية الأمريكية "محكمة الأبوة "paternity court", الحلقة 66 من الموسم الثالث من اللغة الإنجليزية إلى اللغة العربية.

التحدي الأول الذي وجهناه هو ترجمة حوار المحكمة المكون من مصطلحات قانونية، بناءً على نظرية skopos. بهدف نقل التأثير القانوني نفسه من الإنجليزية إلى العربية دون تغيير رسمية و جدية المحكمة أيضا و تسهيلها للجمهور المستهدف حيث نخالها النظرية الأنسب التي يمكن أن تحقق هدفنا. ولكن عندما انتقلنا لتطبيق الترجمة في السترجة وجدنا أن المكان، الزمان والطول من العوائق التي لم تسمح لنا بسترجة النص بطريقة جيدة، لذلك اخترنا تعديل ترجمتنا مع الحفاظ على اللمسة القانونية باستخدام استراتيجيات غوتليب Gottlieb.

نعتقد أن هذه العملية لها تأثير جيد في مجال الترجمة بشكل عام والسترجة القانونية على وجه التحديد. ونستنتج أن المترجم يجب أن يتمتع بكفاءة عالية وان يكون ملما بالقانون حتى يتمكن من نقل رسالة القانونية بموضوعية مع احترام الأبعاد الثقافية والدينية بين النص الأصلي ونص الهدف.

الكلمات مفتاحية :النص القانوني، جلسة استماع، الترجمة القانونية، السترجة، نظرية الهدف.