



***Adab Al-Rafidayn
Journal***

Refereed Scientific Journal

Issued by

The College of Arts

Issue No : seventy two

Year: Forty Eight

Mosul

2018A.D. / 1439A.H.

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Adab Al-Rafidayn Journal



A refereed journal concerned with the publishing of
scientific researches in the field of arts and humanities
both in Arabic and English

Vol. Seventy Two

Year: Forty Eight

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The Potential Meaning Conveyed by Comment Clauses as Pragmatic Markers

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تأريخ القبول: ٢٠١٨/١/٣

تأريخ التقديم: ٢٠١٧/٩/٢٥

1.1 Introduction :

Comment clauses are defined as epistemic / evidential parentheticals, which are in a linear but not hierarchical syntactic relationship with their host sentence , and which are positionally mobile and semantically independent – expressing the speaker attitude (Brinton ,2008 : 18).e.g.,

(1)

a) John came later than Sue , I think .

b) John came , I think ,later than Sue .

c) John , I think , came later than Sue . (Emonds,1973 : 333)

Comment clauses are also identified as pragmatic markers - have little or no referential meaning but serve pragmatic or procedural purposes (Brinton,2008: 2). They include a wide variety of formal structures:

(a) first-person pronoun + present-tense verb/adjective: I think, I suppose, I

guess, I reckon, I fear, I hope, I hear, I feel, I understand, I admit, I see, I'm

sure, I'm convinced, I'm afraid;

(b) second-person pronoun + present-tense verb/adjective: you know, you see.

(c) third-person pronoun + present-tense verb/adjective: it seems, they say,

they allege, one hears.

(d) conjunction + first-/second-/third-person pronoun + present-tense

verb/adjective: as I'm told, as I understand (it), as you know, so it seems,

as everybody knows;

(e) imperative verb: look, say, listen, mind you, mark you.

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(f) nominal relative clause: what's more {surprising, annoying, strange, etc.}, what annoys me.

Modalized forms :I dare say, I must say, I can see, you must admit, you may know .

passive forms (it is said, it is claimed, it is rumored, as was pointed out), perfective

forms (, I have heard), and negative forms (I don't know, I don't doubt)

also occur as interrogative tag forms (wouldn't you say?, don't you think?). (Quirk et al. 1972:778).

What makes comment clauses interesting as a linguistic category is that their ambivalent character, which stems from a discrepancy between usage and structure : structurally they represent clauses, but functionally they are like disjunct adverbials conveying secondary information (Aijmer,1997: 1-47).This indeterminacy can be attributed to the ongoing process of grammaticalization they are subject to: the change whereby lexical items and constructions come in certain contexts to serve grammatical functions and, once grammaticalized , continue to develop new grammatical functions . As grammaticalizing elements, they are in a state of latent instability and particularly liable to change" (ibid.) Comment clauses have also been claimed to undergo a process of expansion from their prototypical ' first person form ' (e.g., I think) to variant forms such as *I would think* , *I'm thinking* (cited in Kaltenbock , 2010 :2)). .In other words, *I think* , which is considered a central comment clause has advanced on the path of grammaticalization and is changing from a marker of epistemic modality , expressing lack of speaker's commitment , to a pragmatic marker with important textual and discourse-organizational functions (ibid.) .

1.2The classification of comment clauses .

Quirk et al. (1985 : 1112- 1113) , classify comment clauses into six types :

1. like the matrix clause of a main clause , e.g. ,
There were no other applicants , I believe , for the job .
2. like an adverbial of finite clause(introduced by as) ,e.g. ,
I'm working the night shift , as you know .

3. like nominal relative clause ,e.g.,
what was more upsetting , we lost all our luggage.
4. to-infinitive clause as style disjunct ,e.g.,
I'm not sure what to do , to be honest .
5. -ing clause as style disjunct , e.g.,
I doubt , speaking as a layman ,whether television is the right medium for that story.
6. -ed clause as style disjunct ,e.g.,
Stated bluntly, he had no chance of winning .

Although such clauses resemble main clauses in containing at least subject and verb and are not introduced by a subordinator , they are dependent clauses, since they are syntactically defective : the verb or adjective lacks its normal obligatory complementation .(ibid.:1114). For example,

2) John has been promoted , I'm told -----

In example(2) , the comment clause *I'm told* the verb *told* requires a complementation to complete its meaning , which could be : I'm told *that John has been promoted.* (ibid.)

1.3The pragmatic functions of comment clauses

The notion of comment clauses is understood in a variety of ways . Urmson (1952: 484) in a discussion of parenthetical verbs(i.e. comment clauses), observes that they prime the hearer to see the emotional significance, the logical reference, and the reliability of our statements. Peltola (1982,1983 : 103) comment clauses are metacommunicative: they comment on the truth value of a sentence or a group of sentences, on the organization of the text or on the attitude of the speaker. Quirk et al. (1985: 1114-1115) , state that the comment clauses are both style and content disjuncts; they function as hedges(e.g., I think) expressing tentativeness over truth value, as expressions of the speaker's certainty(e.g., I am sure), as expressions of the speaker's emotional attitude towards content of the matrix clause(e.g. I hope), and as claims to the hearer's attention (e.g., you see). Biber et al. (1999 :197,864-865), see comment clauses as markers of 'stance', or the expression of personal feelings, attitudes, value judgments, or assessment, denoting epistemic stance(e.g., I think , I guess) or

style (e.g., if I may say so) According to Dehe (2014 :65) , comment clauses along with interrogative parentheticals, question tags, and reporting verbs , have often been argued to attach an illocutionary commitment to an utterance or to serve metalinguistic functions rather than serving any descriptive function or contributing to the truth conditionality of the host utterance. Comment clauses may also function as mitigators i.e. they are used to modify , correct , reinforce or soften a speech act performed by the host sentence (ibid.) Their function can often be achieved and they can thus be replaced by message – oriented adverbs such as probably , possibly , certainly , attitudinal adverbs such as luckily , happily , unfortunately , surprisingly , without affecting the meaning of the utterance too much . Accordingly, comment clauses have been treated as epistemic adverbials , pragmatic markers , and discourse markers (ibid.).(See also Espinal 1999) .

Fraser(1990:167-168), divides sentence meaning; the information encoded by linguistic expressions, into two parts : propositional sentence meaning and non- propositional sentence meaning . The former represents a state of the world which the speaker wishes to bring to the addressee's attention, and the latter can be analysed into different types of signals, or what he calls pragmatic markers. These pragmatic markers , taken to be separate and distinct from the propositional content of the sentence , are the linguistically encoded clues which signal the speaker's potential communicative intentions .Further, Fraser classifies these pragmatic markers into four types :

a. Basic markers , which signal more or less specifically the force of the basic message, include sentence mood and lexical expressions . These markers are illustrated by the following examples :

3) **I regret** that he is still here .

4) **Admittedly** , I was taken in .

5) The cat is very sick . (ibid.)

Sentence (3) is an expression of regret and sentence (4) is an admission. Sentence(5) has no lexical basic marker, but its declarative mood signals that it is the expression of belief that the state of the world expressed by the propositional content is true .

b. Commentary markers , which provide a comment on the basic message , are optional. When they do occur with a single word, often signaling both the message force and content .The following examples illustrate this type of markers :

6) **Stupidly**, Sara didn't fax the correct form in on time .

7) **Frankly** , we should be there by now .(ibid.)

In sentence (6), the commentary message ,signaled by *stupidly*, is that the speaker believes that Sara's failure to act has been stupid. In (7), the commentary marker *frankly* signals that the basic message which follows is, in the speaker's opinion, not going to be well received by the addressee .

c. Parallel markers , also optional , which signal an entire message separate from the basic and any commentary markers . The following examples are illustrative of these markers :

8) **John** , you are very noisy .

9) **In God's name** , what are you doing now ? (ibid.)

In (8) the speaker , in addition to the basic message of a claim that John is being very noisy, is conveying a message signaled by *John* that it is John who is being addressed ,while in (9), *in God's name* signals exasperation on the part of the speaker.

d. Discourse markers , again optional, which signal a message specifying how the basic message is related to the foregoing discourse, as in the following examples :

10) Jacob was very tired . **So** , he left early .

11) Martha's party is tomorrow . **Incidentally**, when is your party ? (ibid.: 169)

In (10), the discourse marker **so** signals that the report that Jacob left early is a conclusion based on the message conveyed by the preceding sentence , while in (11) the marker **incidentally** signals that the following basic message is going to reflect a shift in topic .(ibid.)

Beside the above mentioned pragmatic markers, there are two major groups : performative expressions, which essentially refine the force signaled by the sentence mood , and pragmatic idioms. .

(a)Performative expressions :

The most well-known lexical device for signaling the basic message force specifically is the performative expression, as illustrated in the following examples :

12) **I promise** that I will be there on time .

13) **I (hereby) apologize** for running over your cat .

14) **I(hereby) request** that you stay just a bit longer . (Yule, 1996 : 50-52)

These performative expressions contain a first person singular subject , in some cases an object *you* , and a verb in present tense which denotes a propositional attitude specifying the speaker's view towards the following proposition. However , there are numerous variations of performative expressions such as :

- First person plural subject : 15) **We invite you** to apply again , Mr. Jones .
- Negative verb: 16) **I don't agree** that she is the best .
- Displaced performative expression: 17) John is , **I admit**, not quite all there.
- Nominals: 18) **My request** is that you go at once. (Fraser ,1990: 174)

Another form of performative expression is the so called hedged performative,

as illustrated by the following examples :

19) I can promise you that it will not happen again.

20) I might advise you to wait a bit .

21) I would propose that we make a try at it .

In each case the performative expression has a modal auxiliary in pre- verb position . Like the previous ones , these forms are also standardized although they are weaker in requiring the addressee to select the performative interpretation. (ibid.)

b) Pragmatic idioms :

pragmatic idioms are expressions for which there is no plausible inferential path leading from literal direct meaning to the accepted pragmatic signal, such as *please* (kindly) and *perhaps* (maybe). When *please* occurs before an imperative structure , it signals that the speaker intends the utterance to be a request (ibid.), as in the following examples :

22) I'd like you to please sit down.

23) I (hereby) ask you to please leave .(ibid.)

Similarly , when *perhaps* (maybe) occurs before an imperative it narrows the force of the utterance to a suggestion , e.g.,

24) Perhaps, take an aspirin .

25) Why don't you perhaps see a doctor ? (ibid. : 175)

1.4 Declarative based markers

There are two relatively similar structures in this group , both of which consist of a declarative sentence followed by a brief tag. The first, shown in (26), is the so called tag question, a declarative followed by a sentence- final interrogative tag which consists of the declarative tense- carrying element with a change of polarity followed by the sentence subject in pronominal form , e.g.,

(26)

a) John saw Mary, didn't he?

b) John didn't see Mary, did he? (ibid.: 177)

While the initial declarative sentence alone signals a basic message of speaker's belief (26a) that the speaker intends to convey the claim that John saw Mary , the presence of the tag renders (26a) an entirely different basic message , namely, a request that the addressee confirms that John saw Mary.

The second structure, the so-called Positive Tag Question, consists of a declarative sentence followed by a tag with the same polarity, e.g. ,

(27)

a) John dated Mary, did he?

b) You broke it, did you?

c) So you expect a raise, do you?

d) He won't go, won't he? (ibid.)

The basic message force in these cases is that of a request for confirmation . However , there is a difference here , since the speaker of such sentences is relatively confident in the accuracy of the propositional content and only wishes the tentative conclusion confirmed . (ibid.: 178))

1.5 Interrogative based markers

There are also two groups in this type .The first is shown in the following examples :

(28)

- a) Can (could/ can't / couldn't) you do that ?
- b) Will (would/ won't / wouldn't) you do that ?
- c) Do that , can(could/ can't / couldn't)you ?
- d) Do that , will (would/won't / wouldn't) you ?(ibid.: 178)

Nominally these are simply interrogative sentences in which the speaker is expressing a desire for a yes/ no response . However , these forms have become standardized and such sentences are characteristically heard directly as a speaker request for action either in their interrogative forms or their inverted forms as in (28 c-d) .

The second group is illustrated in example (29) below :

(29)

- a) May I see that vase ?
- b) May I be seated ?
- c) May I have the second one from the left ? (ibid.)

Although these cases appear to be simple requests for permission , the *May I* has become standardized to signal a polite request , when used with verb such as see, have , look at , hold , which denote a future state of the speaker under the addressee's direct control. (ibid.)

1.6 Comment Clauses in Arabic

In Arabic , like English , comment clauses function as disjuncts or conjuncts and are placed initially , medially , or finally , (Aziz , 1989 : 227) e.g.,

- 30a). اظن علي غائب
(I think , Ali is absent)
- b) علي اظن غائب
(Ali , I think , is absent .)
- c) علي غائب اظن
(Ali is absent , I think .)

The comment clause may also take the form of the main clause , e.g.,

- 31) وهذا كما تعلم جوهر الموضوع
(This, as you know , is the essence of the matter .)

However , such clauses may be introduced inside the main clause by the conjunction و , whereas English would use a non-finite comment clause in a similar situation , e.g. ,

- 32) هذا والحق يقال ظلم

(This is , to be honest , is unfair .) (ibid. 231)

Arabic makes frequent use of conjunctions to build texts, as is the case in example (31) **كما** and **و** in example (32) . This is because the phenomenon of implicit conjunction is rare in Arabic text , where the general tendency is to express explicitly the relationships between the sentences of a text .(Aziz ,1996 :102) Consider example (33) below :

(33) It was very hot. We did not go out .

كان الجو حارا , فلم نخرج

In example (33), the two sentences of the English text are not joined by any explicit linker , while the two sentences of the Arabic text are linked by the conjunction **ف** . Because it would be unusual to omit the conjunction **ف** : **كان الجو حارا. لم نخرج** . (ibid.: 102 -103)

1.7.The pragmatic functions of comment clauses :

1) Bracketing (الاعتراض)

Bracketing can be defined as "an utterance which is introduced into a single or compound expression . If it is omitted , the meaning will not change. " The purpose of bracketing is to improve, ascertain , intensify , or to strengthen the discourse . It is used during the speech or between two clauses having different functions (Cited in Fathy , 2005 : 82) . Consider the underlined expression in example (33) below :

ان الثمانين وبلغتها قد احوجت سمعي الى ترجماني(34)

(The age of eighty , may you reach it , has impaired my hearing) (Aziz,1989 :227)

2) Hedging (الاحتراس)

Hedging is defined as " qualification and toningdown of utterances and statements in order to reduce the riskiness of what one says" (Fathy , 2005 : 62). In Arabic , it is realized by what may be termed softeners or hedging devices such as : **بعض** , **قليل** , **ربما** , **وقد** and **افعال** (uncertainty verbs) such as **ظن** , **حسب** which indicate that the speaker is not certain about the truth value of the propositions (ibid.: 82) , e.g. ,

ربما يعلق بعض المعلقين (35)

(Perhaps someone may comment) (Badawi, 2004: 97)

(3) Certainty (التوكيد)

Certainty markers are used to confirm and strengthen the informative meaning . They include grammatical items such as : قد , اعلم , افعال اليقين and ان , لام التوكيد , نون التوكيد (certainty verbs) such as , e.g., (Fathy ,2005: 86) اجزم, اعتقد

لقد تغير كل شيء (36)

(Everything has changed)

علمت انهما ماتا (37)

(I knew they had died) (Cantarino , 1974 : 68, 69)

4) Tagging (التذييل)

The speaker sometimes uses tag questions after completing the meanings in the utterance to ascertain the discourse . Such questions have argumentative function, and show how the speaker seeking interaction from the audience to make sure that the audience successfully follows the flow of the discourse Fathy ,2005 :90). According to Aziz (1989:256),tag questions in Arabic have one frozen form which is:" ليس كذلك?" Consider the following examples :

لقد بعثت الدار. اليس كذلك ؟ (38)

(You have sold the house , haven't you ?

لا احد في الدائرة . اليس كذلك ؟ (39)

(There is nobody in the office , is there ?)

In addition to what has been mentioned , there is a group of Arabic verbs that bear some similarity to the verbs of cognition and which are subsumed under mental process . Such verbs are called " افعال القلوب " (verbs of hearts)because most of them denote suspicion , certainty , probability , which are linked to heart . They include : ظن, عد, حسب, خال , حجا (Cited in Hadi , 2014 : 63, 64).The following examples are illustrative :

ظن اخوك الدرس سهلا (40)

(Your brother thought that the lesson was easy)

يحبسون انهم يحسنون صنعا(41) (ibid.:64)

(They think they are doing well) Nevertheless, when these verbs are used in" verba dicendi and sentiendi" (افعال القول اللفظية والادراكية) , they are used as indirect speech only . Consider the following examples :

(42) ظن : " لن يأتي احمد"

(He thought : "Ahmed is not coming")

(43) حَسب : " لن ينزل المطر اليوم"

(He thought : "it is not going to rain ") (ibid.)

These verbs ,however, may be followed by أن or ان particularly when they occur in a structure resembles "verba dicendi and sentiendi" in indirect speech, as in the following examples :

(44) حجا محمد أن الدرس سهل.

(Muhammed thought that the lesson was easy)

(45) ظننت أن أخاك مسافر (45)

(I though your brother was travelling.) (ibid.)

1.8 Text Analysis

This section is restricted to analyzing ten texts chosen from Shakespeare's Othello translated into Arabic by three well known translators, namely : Ghazi Gamal , Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, and Muhammed Mustafa Badawi . The model used in this analysis is that the assessment of the translation will depend on the realization of the function of the comment clause, if it is realized the translation will be appropriate if not the translation will be inappropriate . The tables listed below show the ratio of realization of the functions of comment clauses. The sign (+) means the function is realized and the sign (\neg) means the function is not realized . (CCL = Comment Clause)_(sub=subject)

SL text (1)

Roderigo :

"By heaven , I would rather have been his hangman . "Act 1 scene 1 p .9

Interpretation :

Roderigo swears by heaven that he would rather be the hangman of Cassio who was chosen by

Othello as his lieutenant instead of Iago.

TLtexts

والله لكننت افضل ان اكون جلاده .

Sub1:

والله لو كنت مكانك لفضلت ان اكون جلاده

Sub2:

وحق السماء , لو كنت مكانك لفضلت ان اصبح جلاده .

Sub3:

Discussion :

In SL text (1) , the speaker uses the comment prepositional phrase "by heaven" which represents a kind of oath used by the speaker to show that he is serious in what he is saying . Concerning the three translations above , subject1 and subject2 provided the appropriate translations of the comment clause- " by using **والله** which implicitly means **اقسم بالله** ,while subject3 provided the inappropriate translation by using **و حق السماء** which is the literal translation of the comment clause and which seems less effective in the hearer ,. However , our suggested translation is :

والله تمنيت لو اكون جلالد

Text CCL Analysis

sub 1	sub 2	sub 3	CCL Function
+	+	-	Oath

SL text (2)

Cassio to Othello

."Something from Cyprus , **as I may divine** . It is a business of some heat ." Act 1 scene 2 p.29

Interpretation:

Cassio is telling Othello that there is something urgent from Cyprus , and Othello has to be prepared for the battle.

TLtexts

تخميني انه امر ما من قبرص , له بعض الشأن .

Sub1:

شيء من قبرص كما اظن . مسألة عاجلة .

Sub2:

بشأن قبرص حسب ظني وأنه لأمر ملح .

Sub3:

Discussion

In SLtext (2), the speaker uses a modalized comment clause consists of a lexical verb preceded by the modal *may* and the subordinator *as* . That is , the speaker uses a hedging device expressing his uncertainty towards what he is saying . Although the three translators used different expressions : **تخميني** , **كما اظن** , **حسب ظني** , they succeeded in providing the appropriate translation of the comment clause *as I may divine* by using its Arabic hedging

equivalents which can also serve the same purpose in Arabic. However , we suggest the following translation which may serve also the same function of the comment clause in this context :

ان ظني ان هناك شيئاً ما على درجة كبيرة من الاهمية من قبرص .

Text CCL Analysis

sub 1	sub 2	sub 3	CCL Function
+	+	+	Hedging

SL text (3)

Lodovico to Othello

Truly , an obedient lady . I do beseech you call her back .Act 4 scene 1 p.263

Interpretation:

Lodovico praises Desdemona whom he thinks is an obedient lady and does not deserve to be chided by Othello. Therefore , he asks Othello to call her back.

TL texts

سيدة مطيعة , وايم الحق .. اتوسل الي سيادتك بأ ن تعيدها .

Sub1:

ونعم السيدة المطيعة . اناشدك سيدي ان تدعوها .

Sub2:

حقاً انها لسيدة مطيعة اتوسل اليك يامولاي ان تدعوها .

Sub3:

Discussion

In SL text (3),. the speaker initiates his speech by the word *truly* to express his certainty towards the content of the sentence. The most effective Arabic equivalent given in this context is the word *حقاً* by subject3 , which actually conveys the force of the utterance of the original SL text. Subject1 also did not overlook the function of the comment clause and provided the appropriate translation of the text by using *وايم الحق* . As for subject2 , he failed in rendering the text when he neglected the comment clause *truly* which expresses the certainty of the speaker in this context. Our suggested translation is :

لعمرى انها لسيدة مطيعة , اناشدك يامولاي ان لاتدعها تذهب غاضبة .

Text CCL Analysis

sub 1	sub 2	sub 3	CCL Function
+	-	+	Certainty

SL Text (4)

. Iago to Roderigo

I say , put money in thy purse. It cannot be long that Desdemona should continue her love to the Moor . Act 1 scene 3 . p. 67

Interpretation:

Iago is telling Roderigo to put money in his purse, because Iago thinks that the love between Othello and Desdemona will not last for long time.

TL texts

اقول لك : ضع نقودا في محفظتك . لايمكن لدمونا ان تديم حبها طويلا للمغربي .

Sub1:

اقول لك ضع مالا في كيسك . لايمكن لدمونا ان تستمر طويلا في حبها للمغربي لا ولا هو في

Sub2: حبه لها .

انصحك بأ ن تضع نقودا في محفظتك . أ ذ لا يعقل ان تستمر دددمونا في حبها للمغربي .

Sub3:

S

Discussion

In Text (4), the speaker uses the comment clause *I say* which implies advice . That is , when Iago uses the comment clause *I say* he is advising Roderigo . In other words, , if Roderigo wants to marry Desdemona , he has to pay money to Iago. Only subject3 of the three subjects could provide the appropriate translation of the comment clause by using 'انصحك I advise you' , while subject 1 and subject 2 used the literal translation 'اقول لك I say to you' which may deviate the intended meaning of the comment clause . That is , they provided the in appropriate translation of the text .

Our proposed translation is :

ان نصيحتي لك ان تضع نقودا في محفظتك فقد لا تستمر ديزدمونا في حبها للمغربي .

Text CCL Analysis

sub 1	sub 2	sub 3	CCL Function
-	-	+	Advice

SL text (5)

Cassio:

Let it not gall your patience, **good Iago** , that I extend my manners .Act2 scene 1 p.85

Interpretation :

Cassio wants Iago not to be annoyed by the courtesy that he shows to Emilia, Iago's wife, because Cassio is used to show his manners when he welcomes people .

TL texts

Sub1 : حلمك علي , ايها الطيب ياغو , اذ ابدي حسن تصرفي .
ارجو ان لا تتضايق يا صديقي ياغو ان وجدتني ابالغ في مجاملتي . انها تربيتي التي

تجعلني اعبر عن حفا وتي بهذه الجراة . Sub2:
يا ياغو السمح , لا يغيظك تصرفي اذا تماديت في ترحيبي بزوجتك فأن تهذي هو الذي

يدفعني على تجاوزي في هذه التحية. Sub3:

Discussion

In SL text (5) ,the comment clause came in a vocative form "good Iago" through which the speaker intends to address a certain person whom in this context is Iago and no one else . Although the three subjects used different expressions : يا صديقي ياغو , ايها الطيب ياغو , ياغو السمح , they provided the appropriate Arabic equivalent vocative forms ,which may serve the same function in this context . However , our proposed translation is :

انها اخلاقي , ايها الطيب ياغو , التي تحتم علي ان اتصرف بهكذا طريقة .

Text CCL Analysis

sub	1	sub	2	sub	3	CCL Function
	+		+		+	Vocative

SL text (6)

. Cassio to Othello

"I pray you pardon me , **I cannot speak** ."Act 2 scene 3 P. 125

Interpretation:

Cassio beseechs Othello to forgive him because of the quarrel that happened between him and Montano.

TL texts:

Sub1 : ارجو عفوك , لا استطيع الكلام .

Sub2: اتوسل اليك ان تعفيني , فلا استطيع الكلام .

Sub3: اضرع اليك ان تعذرني لا استطيع الكلام .

Discussion:

In SL text (6),. the speaker uses the comment clause *I cannot speak* which apparently expresses disability to speak but implicitly it expresses a confession .That is , when Cassio says *I cannot speak*

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, he implicitly confesses to Othello that he is guilty and begs the forgiveness because of the quarrel that happened between him and Montano . The three subjects agreed on one translation : لا استطيع الكلام . In other words, they followed the literal meaning of the comment clause and missed its potential meaning and hence provided in appropriate translations. Our proposed translation is:
ارجو عفوك يا مولاي , ان خجلي وشعوري بالذنب يمنعاني من الكلام .

Text CCL Analysis

sub 1	sub 2	sub 3	CCL Function
-	-	-	Confession

SL text (7)

Desdemona to Othello

" Be as your fancies teach you ; what are you be , **I am obedient** ."

Act 3 scene 3 P.165

Interpretation:

Desdemona is telling Othello that she will remain obedient to him forever and whatever fancies he has.

TL texts

Sub1

Sub2 .

Sub3:

كن على هواك . ومهما تكن , فأنني مطيعتك .
تصرف كما يحلو لك يا مولاي ولك مني الطاعة دائما
أ فعل ما يخيل لك ومهما تقول فأنا مطيعة.

Discussion

In SL text (7) , the speaker uses the comment clause *I am obedient* which implies sincerity of the speaker towards the content of the sentence . That is , when Desdemona says I am obedient , she implies that she is faithful and honest and she will remain so to Othello forever and whatever happens . Although the three subjects nearly provided the same literal Arabic equivalents by using فأنني , ولك مني الطاعة دائما , مطيعتك , فانا مطيعة , they successfully gave the appropriate translation of the text . However , we propose the following translation :

افعل ما يحلو لك ومهما فعلت فسوف أبقى مخلصا لك للأبد .

Text CCL Analysis

sub 1	sub 2	sub 3	CCL Function
+	+	+	sincerity

SL text (8)

Emilia:

Poor lady , she will run mad when she shall lack it . Act 3 scene 3
P. 189

Interpretation:

Emilia is talking about the handkerchief which she has stolen from Desdemona's house, and she thinks that Desdemona will get mad when she does not find it .

TL texts

Sub1

Sub2

Sub3:

مسكينة سيدتي . ستجن حين تفقده .

مسكينة سيدتي ستجن حتما حين تفقده ولا تجده .

ان تلك السيدة المسكينة ستفقد صوا بها اذا لم تجده .

Discussion

In SL text (8), the speaker uses the comment clause *poor lady* which implies sorrow. In other words , when Emilia says *poor lady* , she expresses her sorrow and sadness about Desdemona whom she thinks will get mad if she does not find the handkerchief which is a token of love given by Othello to Desdemona. Subjects1 and 2 provided the appropriate translation of the comment clause by rendering it into Arabic مسكينة سيدتي which also expressing the feeling of sorrow. Yet, subject3 failed to convey the content of the comment clause and provided inappropriate translation ان تلك السيدة المسكينة which does not serve as a comment clause in this situation. Our proposed translation is : واأسفاه على تلك السيدة المسكينة التي سوف تفقد صوابها عند ما لا تجد ذلك المنديل

Text CCL Analysis

sub 1	sub 2	sub 3	CCL Function
+	+	-	sorrow

SL text (9)

. Desdemona to Othello

I faith, you are to blame . Act 3 scene 4 P. 217

Interpretation :

,Desdemona is speaking to Othello about Cassio who is no longer the lieutenant of Othello and she says that Othello will be the only one whom to be blamed if Cassio is not to be reinstated .

TL texts

Sub1	والله انت الملووم .
Sub2	حقا انك جدير باللوم .
Sub3	حقيقة انك لمذنب .

Discussion:

In SL text (9). the speaker uses the comment clause *I faith* which suggests a sort of certainty in this context . That is ,when Desdemona says *I faith* , she means that she is certain that Othello will be the only person whom to be blamed if he does not reinstate Cassio .Although the three subjects used different expressions : والله , حقا , حقيقة , they provided the appropriate translation of the text. Our proposed translation is :

والله لتكونن انت الملام .

Text CCL Analysis

sub	1	sub	2	sub	3	CCL Function
	+		+		+	Certainty

SL text (10)

Emilia to Desdemona

"Pray heaven it be state matters, *as you think* , and no conception nor no jealous toy concerning you." Act3 scene4 P.223

Interpretation:

,Emilia wants Desdemona to pray God that Othello's anger is because of the state matters and not because of jealousy.

TL text:

Sub1 ادعو الى الله ان يكون الامر من امور الدولة , كما تظنين , لافكرة او خاطرا من الشبهات تتعلق بك انت .

Sub2 ادعو الله ان يكون السبب يتعلق بشؤون الدولة كما تظنين وليس وهماً او سوء ظن فيك او غيراً عليك .

Sub3: لنبتهل الى الله ان يكون سبب تصرفه ناجما عن مسائل الحكومة كما ظننت , لا العوبة من الاعيب .

Discussion

In SL text (10).In this text, the speaker uses the comment clause *as you think*, in which he implies a wish in this context. That is , when Emilia says *as you think* ,she implicitly means "as you wish that the displeasure of Othello is to be not because of the jealousy." Although the three subjects agreed on nearly the same rendering : كما ظننت , كما تظنين , none of them could provide the appropriate

translation of the comment clause , which could be كما تتمنين . Thus , our proposed translation is :

لندعو الله ان يكون الأمر , كما تتمنين , من أمور الدولة ولا غير ذلك من الأمور التي تتعلق بالغيرة عليك .

Text CCL Analysis

sub 1	sub 2	Sub 3	CCL Function
–	–	–	Wish

1.9 Conclusions :

The interpretation of comment clauses, as the analysis of the ten texts showed, is context –dependent . That is, the interpretation of the comment clause is governed by the context in which the comment clause occurs .This semantic indeterminacy may be attributed to different factors: 1) as mentioned elsewhere, comment clauses are syntactically defective(lack complementation) in which case they require the hearer (or the reader)to deduce and then producing the meaning . 2) comment clauses express emotional attitudes and personal feelings which differ from one person to another and which result in different contexts. 3) some comment clauses are difficult to identify . That is , their structure does not differ much from any declarative sentence (see example 5 P.4) . This may confuse the hearer (or the reader) particularly when he/she does not find any lexical marker or any indication of comment . These factors may justify the failure which amounted 1.1% in translating some of the texts by the translators who were unaware of the potential meaning carried by such clauses and consequently rendered some of the texts literally , as is the case with text (4) in which the comment clause *I say* ,which implied advice ,was translated into اقول لك , and in text (6) the comment clause *I cannot speak* ,which implied confession, was translated into لا استطيع الكلام and in text (10) where the comment clause *as you think* , which expressing a wish , was translated into a hedging device , كما تظنين , and so on . In brief , comment clauses as pragmatic markers, conveying secondary information, are varying according to the context in which they are uttered . The translator wherever and whenever encounters such clauses , has to

be careful in dealing with them , for clauses of this type could be of a slippery area .

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المعنى الضمني لجمل التعليق في مفهومها التداولي

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المستخلص

تشير جمل التعليق الى الجمل التي تفتقر الى الارتباط النحوي مع الجمل الرئيسية المرتبطة بها . ووظيفة هذه الجمل انها تشكل انعكاسات لتكوين الجملة الرئيسية . وتعمل ايضا جمل تعليق أو مُقيِّمة لفحوى الجمل الرئيسية، ومن ثم تتمتع بمزيد من التقديم والتأخير . فضلا عن استقلالها الدلالي ، تتصف هذه الجمل بانخفاض درجة الصوت عند النطق بها. تهدف هذه الدراسة الى البحث في جمل من هذا النوع وتسلط الضوء على المعنى الضمني الذي تحمله هذه الجمل في عملية التواصل. أن المشكلة التي قد يواجهها فريق من المترجمين عند ترجمة هذا النوع من نصوص هي عدم درايتهم بالمعنى الضمني الذي تحمله هذه الجمل . لذلك تقترح هذه الدراسة ان يستفاد المترجمون من التراجم المقترحة في جزء المخصص في تحليل النصوص. وقد افترضت الدراسة ان تأويل هذا النوع من الجمل انما يعتمد على السياق الذي ترد فيه . واختيرت عشرة نصوص بطريقة عشوائية من مسرحية عطيل للكاتب الانكليزي وليم شكسبير ، و ترجمتها ثلاثة من المترجمين المعروفين: جبرا ابراهيم جبرا ، محمد مصطفى بدوي، وغازي جمال . و كشفت الدراسة تفسير هذا النوع من الجمل يعتمد بدرجة كبيرة على السياق الذي تستعمل فيه. كما كشفت الدراسة ايضا عن ان الاخفاق في ترجمة هذه الجمل راجع الى عدم دراية المترجمين بالمعنى الضمني الذي تحمله في طبيعتها ،في حالة اللغة المكتوبة والمحكية ، والذي يخضع لمؤثرات لغوية وغير لغوية. واخيراً توصي الدراسة ان يولي المترجمون(من الطلبة والتدريسيين) اهتماما اكبر بهذا النوع من الجمل حيثما وجدت في هذا النمط من النصوص.