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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**

Supplement Vol. Eighty-seven/ year Fifty- one / Jumada al-awwal - 1443 AH / December 2021 AD

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- Consideration should be given to the design of the research, its final output, and the logical sequence of its ideas and paragraphs.

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•The researcher should consider taking note of the results that the researcher reached, and make sure of their topics and their rate of correlation with research questions or hypotheses that the researcher has put in his research.

7- The researcher should be aware that the judgment on the research will be according to a peer review form that includes the above details, then it will be sent to the referee and on the basis of which the research will be judged and weights will be given to its paragraphs and according to what is decided by those weights the research will be accepted or rejected. Therefore; the researcher must take that into account in preparing his research.

## **Editor-in-chief**

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***Context Impact in Translating Sport Idiomatic Expressions from English into Arabic with Regard to Types of Idioms***

**kasim Muhammad Basil Al-Azzawi\***

**Luqman A. Nasser \***

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**Abstract**

The translation of sport idiomatic expressions from English into Arabic represents a difficult task for the translators. This difficult task increases when such expressions are decontextualized. This study aims to pinpoint the impact of context in helping translators to provide appropriate translations for such idioms with regard to idiom types. The study hypothesizes that the context is indispensable in translating idioms as cultural bound expressions and that the type of idioms also positively affects their appropriate translations. The data used for analysis comprise 10 sport idiomatic expressions which are carefully selected from 10 different familiar and less familiar types of idioms that are mentioned in the literature following Moon's model (1998), with some modification about the subject. These expressions are given to 10 teachers from the Department of Translation, College of Arts, University of Mosul, in the form of two tests with an interval of one week between them: decontextualized and in everyday language context. Chief among the findings of the study is that appropriate translations of sport idiomatic expressions are provided within the context. Also the findings reveal that the type of idiom plays an essential and effective role in providing such appropriate translations.

**Keywords:** Context, Translation, Sport Idioms. Type of Idioms.

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**Master student/ Dept. of Translation/ College of Arts / University of Mosul.**

**Prof/ Dept. of Translation/ College of Arts / University of Mosul.**

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## **Statement of the Problem**

The translation of idiomatic expressions among them, sport idioms, has always been a difficult task to perform, because they are cultural-specific expressions. When sport idiomatic expressions are translated from English into Arabic, they may lose their features at the semantic, syntactic and other levels. Various strategies for translating such idiomatic expressions are suggested, most of which translate these idioms in isolation or decontextualized of their different situational sport or non-sport (everyday language context). So, these contexts have an impact on the way these sport idiomatic expressions are translated and understood by the speakers of Arabic. Context has an essential role or impact in translating sport idiomatic expressions and it is very important for translators. This study attempts to pinpoint the impact of the non-sport (everyday language) context in translating sport idiomatic expressions from English into Arabic, in addition, to pinpoint the role of the types of idiom in translating such type of idioms.

### **Aims of the Study**

The study aims at finding the impact of context in translating different sport idiomatic expressions which represents ten types of sport games. The study attempts to apply a pre and post-test approach to translating these sports idioms to find out the impact of context on the understanding of the meaning of these idioms by translators and whether they can produce the required appropriate meaning of these expressions.

### **Hypotheses**

The study hypothesizes that:

1. The context in which sport idioms are used; significantly affects the degree of understanding of their meanings by translators.
2. The type of idiom plays an essential role in facilitating the understanding of their meaning with context and in translating them.

### **Procedure and Data Collection**

The data for analysis in this study comprise 10 sport idiomatic expressions (Henry, 2016, P. 7-132). These expressions are selected



from 10 different sport games which are: Tennis, Football, Basketball, Baseball, Boxing, Golf, Swimming, Track & Field, Hunting and Fishing. In addition, the choice of these game types was to ensure that some of them are familiar to the subjects who participated in the tests of translating them and some others are less or unfamiliar to them. Ten teachers from the Department of Translation, College of Arts, University of Mosul voluntarily agreed to take the two translation tests of the selected 10 sport idiomatic expressions. The two tests are given as follows: in the first test, the 10 sport idiomatic expressions were given in decontextualized lists and the ten subjects were asked to translate them in a classroom in the department. They were requested not to consult dictionaries and to do the translations on their own. The test lasted for a little less than half an hour. A week after that, the subjects went into the classroom again to do the second test. The same 10 sport idiomatic expressions were given to the subjects in an everyday language context to translate, and again, they were requested not to negotiate their meanings with others or to look up dictionaries. It took the subjects about an hour to finish the translations.

### **The Reliability of the Tests**

The reliability of these tests was achieved by the fact that the subjects voluntarily agreed to do the translations without seeking help from each other or resorting to dictionaries. They simply used their ability to infer the meaning of each idiom depending on their background cultural knowledge or their familiarity with the meanings of these idioms.

### **Limitation of the Study**

This study is limited to investigating the impact of the context, sport or non-sport, in translating such expressions. It is limited to only the type of idioms. The study focuses on the semantics of these idioms with regard to translating them. Their syntax or structural characteristics are not part of this study nor are the type of strategies followed by the subjects who participated in this study.

## **Idioms**

Idioms are an integral part of language i.e. humans across the world use idioms widely in their daily life whether in their spoken or written language. Idioms are unlike other structures of language, as their meanings are not always predictable from their words themselves. (Juma'a, 2014:3-4). Langlotz (2006:2) describes idioms as a group of words which are semantically ambiguous and have fixed structure. Likewise, Palmer (1976:98) describes idioms as a special kind of words that mostly have an opaque meaning. He states that, grammatically, Idioms are not single grammatical units, and semantically cannot be described as single words i.e. it is wrong to analyze them into their individual units. Hence, idioms are specific cultural expressions and their meanings cannot be known from their words themselves i.e. idioms have meanings which differ from their words themselves (Bouarroudj, 2010:7).

## **Types of Idioms**

Generally, idioms involve classes and sub-classes that were placed among many approaches by linguists and scholars. Idioms, for instance, may have the same meanings as implied by their words, share various senses from their composed units, or slightly carry the same sense with their words themselves. So, the degree of idiomaticity, that the idioms hold, is the only way used to distinguish the different kinds of idioms whether they are transparent or totally opaque (Al Zahrani, 2018:4). Moon (1998:4) classifies idioms into four types:

### **1- Transparent idioms**

The meaning of idioms in this type is very near to the literal meaning of the idioms' combinations themselves, i.e. the meaning of idioms can conclude from the meaning of their constituents. For example: "See the light" means 'To understand'.

### **2- Semi-transparent idioms**

In this type, the meaning of idioms tends to have a metaphorical meaning i.e. the meaning of their constituents contributes less in

understanding the whole meaning of the idiom. For example, “break the ice” means ‘To relief the tension’.

### 3- Semi opaque idioms

This type of idioms has unrelated sense to the meaning of their constituents. The meaning of idioms here involves two parts, the first one has literal meaning, and second one has a figurative meaning. For example, “to know the ropes” means ‘To know how a particular job should be done’.

### 4- Opaque idioms

The meaning of the idioms in this type is not very easy to understand, because idioms’ constituents have cultural denotation and not close to the literal meaning. For example, “to burn one's boat” means ‘To make retreat impossible’.

Moreover, Fernando (1996:35) distinguishes three sub-classes of idioms:

- 1- Pure Idioms: Fernando (1996:36) defines pure idiom as “a type of conventionalized, non-literal multiword expression”. Pure idioms are always non-literal, but they may either be static or have a slight difference (ibid). In addition, Fernando (1996:32) states that pure idioms are said to be non-transparent. For example, the pure idiom ‘to spill the beans’ has nothing to do with ‘beans’ (Strakšienė, 2009:14).
- 2- Semi-idioms: idioms here have one or more literal constituent and one with non-literal sub-sense. Fernando (1996:60) describes this type of idioms as partly opaque idioms. For example, the Semi-idioms ‘foot the bill’ means ‘pay’ the bill (Strakšienė, 2009:14).
- 3- Literal idioms: this type of idioms is either invariable or allow little variation. Besides, literal idioms are said to be transparent because their meaning can understand from their parts. For example, the literal idioms ‘of course’, in any case, for certain (Strakšienė, 2009:14).

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**Translation, Language and Culture**

Translation can be considered as the only way which makes humans around the world able to communicate with each other and to share knowledge, culture and news among others. But, translation in general, is a difficult task especially in translating idioms and cultural-bound expressions because their translation needs a good knowledge of the culture of both source and target languages, and to follow appropriate strategies to be used in translating and transferring the same effect of the original text (Dweik & Thalji, 2016:120).

Jiang (2000:328) claims that “Language and culture make a living organism; language is flesh, and culture is blood. Without culture, language would be dead”. Jiang stresses that language and culture are tightly linked i.e. it is impossible to understand language without the culture and vice versa. Language and culture are an integral part i.e. the understanding of any culture means understanding its language (Min, 2007:223). Ivir (1987:208) states that “language is a part of culture and, therefore, translation from one language to another cannot be done adequately without knowledge of the two cultures as well as the two languages structures”.

Although languages do not determine culture, idioms can express society’s beliefs, practices and thoughts, because their meaning derives from the culture of that society (Juma’a, 2014:11). According to British culture, for example, the reason behind the famous idiom “it is raining cats and dogs” is because it belongs to a story that occurred in England. It narrates that there are big holes all over the unpaved roads in old England. A number of cats and dogs were playing around the road. A heavy rainstorm suddenly started and filled these holes with water, which would lead cats and dogs to fall into them. This is where this idiom came from. (Al Zahrani, 2018:3).

The role of culture in translation is clear and it should be taken into consideration by translators when translating idiomatic expressions (Min, 2007:215). Therefore, translators should focus on the issue of

culture to get the meaning when translating from one language to another. The translator should do his/her best to replace the textual materials with their equivalent in the target language, because the translation of such culture-bound items like idioms into the target language is highly important (Ali & Al-Rushaidi, 2016:188).

### **Translation of Idioms**

Pedersen (in Trosborg, 1997:109) states that: “The translation of idioms is as difficult as it is central”. On the other hand, Larson (1984:143), argues that “idioms should be translated with great care”. The translator should carefully find the meaning of the idiom at first, then try to find a suitable equivalent that holds nearly the same meaning of the idiom in the target language. Generally, idioms should not be translated in a literal way. Newmark (1988:125) argues that “these (idioms) are never translated word for word”. Larson (1984:20) also states that “The real danger comes in translating an idiom literally, since the result will usually be nonsense in the receptor language”. Nevertheless, this does not mean to translate the idioms in isolated way; but the translator should find the real meaning of that idiom to fit in the target language (Khalil, 2010:4).

The translation of idioms highly depends on their culture, because idioms are culture-bound which makes them opaque and not easy to understand or to translate (Howwar, 2013:2). The differences between any two languages such as English and Arabic would harden the process of translating idioms because each language has its own cultural issues that affect the translation of idioms (Ali & Al-Rushaidi, 2016:188).

### **The Role of Context in Translating Idioms**

Context has an essential role in explaining the intended meaning of idioms (Alqahtni, 2014:43). Ullmann (1957:63) defines context as “a set of entities i.e. things or events which are related in a certain way; these entities have individual characters such that other sets of entities occur having the same characters and related by the same relations; and these occur nearly uniformly”. Crystal (1997:87) defines context as “a general term used in linguistics to refer to

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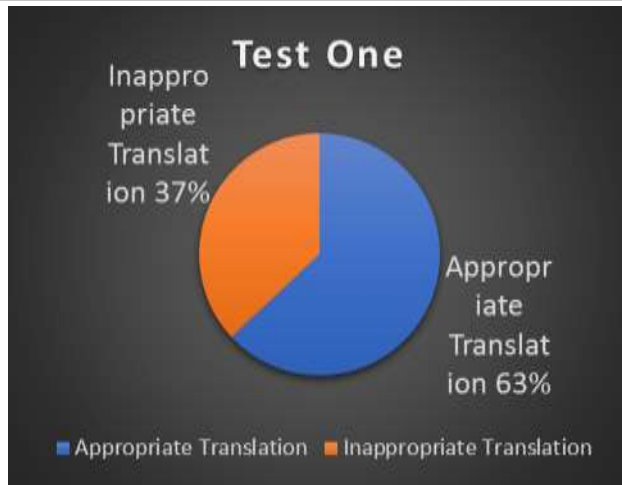
specific parts of an utterance (or text) near or adjacent to a unit which is the focus of attention”.

Context is an essential factor that contributes in decoding and overcoming the difficulties that face the translators in translating idioms (Colin, 2005:11). Sköldbberg (2004:308) states that the whole meaning of the idioms cannot be recognized till they are put in context. Furthermore, Colin (2005:11-12) claims that knowing the origin of an idiom and its cultural significance makes us recognize the reason of using the idiom in that way, however the meaning of an idiom and the development of its metaphorical meaning cannot be followed back in time.

In summation, the role of context in translation is very important because it helps the translators to not convey codes or forms only, but to convey the meaning or sense as well. Context helps to interpret the source codes that stand within their specific context. Hence, it is not easy to mark the intentional meaning without understanding the context. For example, the Arabic word “حفظ” has many different possibilities of translation into English, it may refer to “memorizing”, “keeping”, “preserving” or “saving”. Therefore, the context can only determine the intended meaning of the word what it refers to (Idlibi, 2018:32-33).

**Test One (Decontextualized Sport Idiomatic Expressions)**

As mentioned earlier, the first test consists of 10 decontextualized sport idiomatic expressions. The 10 subjects have been asked to translate them in test one. Diagram (1) shows the total average of the translation of these idiomatic expressions and whether the translation is appropriate or not:



**Diagram (1) Appropriate and Inappropriate Translations**

The above diagram shows that 63% of the subjects achieved appropriate translations in translating sport idiomatic expressions from English into Arabic. For others, on the other hand, the diagram shows that 37% of the subjects presented inappropriate translations. The assessment of the renditions depends on reproducing the same intended meaning of the idiom. So those renditions that achieved the same intended meaning have been considered appropriate.

### **Analysis and Results of Test One**

The researcher analyzed each idiom by using SPSS and Microsoft-Excel. This process can be represented by table (1) which involves: types of games, the idioms that are listed in test one, and the number and the percentages of the appropriate and inappropriate translations for each idiom.

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Sport Idioms			Appropriate Translation		Inappropriate Translation	
No.	Type of Game	Idiom No.	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Tennis	Idiom 1	10	100%	0	0%
2	Football	Idiom 2	5	50%	5	50%
3	Basketball	Idiom 3	4	40%	6	60%
4	Baseball	Idiom 4	5	50%	5	50%
5	Boxing	Idiom 5	8	80%	2	20%
6	Golf	Idiom 6	4	40%	6	60%
7	Swimming	Idiom 7	9	90%	1	10%
8	Track & Field	Idiom 8	3	30%	7	70%
9	Hunting	Idiom 9	7	70%	3	30%
10	Fishing	Idiom 10	8	80%	2	20%

**Table (1) The Numbers and the Percentages of the Appropriate and Inappropriate Translations of each Idiom**

1) The first game, tennis, involves the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
1	The Ball is in Your Court	الكرة في ملعبك

Table (1) indicates that in idiom (1), “The Ball is in Your Court”, all the subjects achieved an appropriate translation, as in the following:

**Appropriate Translation**

الكرة في ملعبك

القرار قرارك

2) The second game, football, consists of the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
2	Playbook	الاحكام

Going back to the table (1), it indicates that in idiom (2), “Playbook”, 50% of the subjects achieved an appropriate translation and 50% did not, as in the following:



Appropriate Translation

خطة اللعب  
كتاب القوانين

Inappropriate Translation

سجل اللعبة  
دفتر الإنذارات

3) The third game, basketball, comprises the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
3	A Jump Ball	فرص متكافئة

Depending on table (1), it is shown that in idiom (3), “A Jump Ball”, 40% of the subjects achieved an appropriate translation and 60% provided an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

كرة يرميها الحكم بين فريقين لبدء اللعبة  
رمي الكرة في الهواء بين لاعبين

Inappropriate Translation

كن ذئبا قبل ان تأكلك الذئاب  
كرة ساقطة

4) The fourth game, baseball, consists of the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
4	Get to First Base	تحقيق الهدف

Table (1) shows that in idiom (4), “Get to First Base”, 50% of the subjects provided an appropriate translation and 50% gave an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

تمكن من الوصول الى الملعب الاول  
الوصول الى البداية

Inappropriate Translation

العودة الى المربع الاول  
افتخر بإنجازاتك

5) The fifth game, boxing, comprises the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
5	A One-Two Punch	تلقي ضربتين في آن واحد

Depending on table (1), it is shown that in idiom (5), “A One-Two Punch”, 80% of the subjects achieved an appropriate translation and 20% provided an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

ضربة ثنائية  
المصائب لا تأتي فرادى

Inappropriate Translation

ضربة تليها ضربة  
لكمة بلكمتين

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6) The sixth game, golf, consists of the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
6	Hole in One	حقق نجاحا كبيرا

Table (1) shows that in idiom (6), “Hole in One”, 40% of the subjects provided an appropriate translation and 60% gave an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation	Inappropriate Translation
اصابة الهدف بصرية واحدة	يضرب عصفورين بحجرة واحدة
أدخل الكرة في الحفرة برمية واحدة	شق في واجد

7) The seventh game, swimming, includes the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
7	Lightweight	ليس له مكانة او اهمية

According to the table (1), it is shown that in idiom (7), “Lightweight”, 90% of the subjects presented an appropriate translation and 10% failed to present an appropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation	Inappropriate Translation
وزن خفيف	غير ناجح
وزن الخفيف	

8) The eighth game, track and field, consists of the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
8	A Head Start	بداية مبكرة

Table (1) shows that in idiom (8), “A Head Start”, 30% of the subjects provided an appropriate translation and 70% gave an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation	Inappropriate Translation
انطلاقة ذات افضلية	بداية قوية
بداية متقدمة	بداية بالراس

9) The ninth game, hunting, comprises the sport idiomatic expressions:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
9	Bark up the Wrong Tree	يبحث في المكان الخطأ

According to the table (1), it is shown that in idiom (9), “Bark up the Wrong Tree”, 70% of the subjects presented an appropriate translation and 30% failed to present an appropriate, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

يطلق على الهدف الخطأ  
أخطأ الهدف

Inappropriate Translation

السير بالاتجاه الخاطئ  
تجاه الشجرة الخاطئة

10)The tenth game, fishing, consists of the sport idiomatic expressions:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
10	Fish or Cut Bait	قم بالعمل او انسحب منه

Table (1) shows that in idiom (10), “Fish or Cut Bait”, 80% of the subjects provided an appropriate translation and 20% gave an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

اصطد او توقف عن رمي الطعم  
اصطد او اقطع الطعم

Inappropriate Translation

ان يصطاد او ان يكسر السنارة

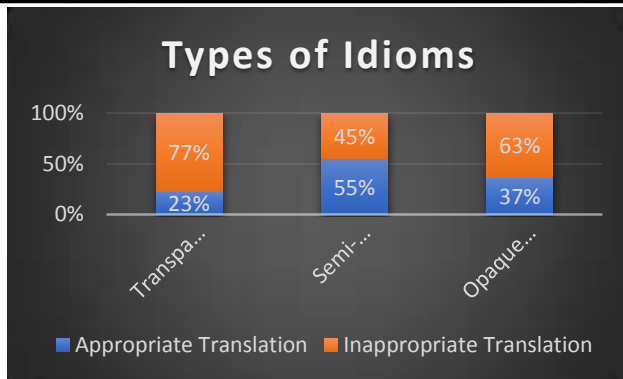
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### Analysis and Results at the Level of Idioms Type in Test One

The researcher carries on another analytical process for the collected data at the level of the types of idioms, which are transparent, semi-transparent and opaque, to investigate the impact of the context on the percentages of the appropriate and inappropriate translations that were provided by the subjects. The outcomes show that the subjects scored varying percentages of appropriate and inappropriate translations with regard to the type of idioms. Diagram (2) and table (2) show in detail these percentages.

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**Diagram (2) Appropriate and Inappropriate Translations at the Level of Idioms Types**

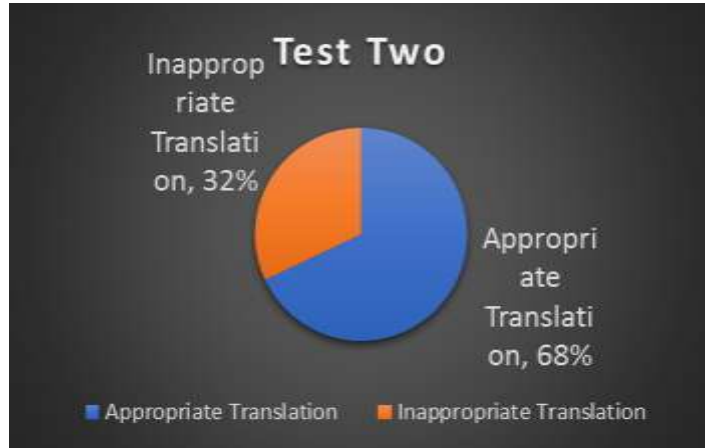
Analysis at the Level of the Types of Idioms					
No.	Types of Idioms	Appropriate Translation		Inappropriate Translation	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Transparent	23	23%	77	77%
2	Semi-Transparent	55	55%	45	45%
3	Opaque	37	37%	63	63%

**Table (2) The Percentages and the Numbers for the Appropriate and Inappropriate Translation at the Level of Idioms Types**

**Test Two (Sport Idiomatic Expressions in Everyday Language Context)**

The second test comprises the same 10 sport idiomatic expressions that were included in the first test but this time they are put within non-sport contexts. The same 10 subjects have been asked to translate the listed sport idiomatic expressions in test number two.

Diagram (3) shows the total average of the translation of these idiomatic expressions, in test two, and whether the translation is appropriate or not:



**Diagram (3) Appropriate and Inappropriate Translations**

The above diagram shows that 68% of the subjects provided an appropriate translation in translating sport idiomatic expressions from English into Arabic. It also shows that 32% of the subjects failed to achieve appropriate translations.

### **Analysis and Results of Test Two**

Likewise, the researcher analyzed the data in the second test i.e. for each idiom by using SPSS and Microsoft-Excel. This process can be represented in table (3) which includes: type of game, the whole idioms that are listed in test three, types of idioms, and the numbers and the percentages of the appropriate and inappropriate translations for each idiom.

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Sport Idioms			Appropriate Translation		Inappropriate Translation	
No.	Type of Game	Idiom No.	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Tennis	Idiom 1	10	100%	0	0%
2	Football	Idiom 2	6	60%	4	40%
3	Basketball	Idiom 3	6	60%	4	40%
4	Baseball	Idiom 4	6	60%	4	40%
5	Boxing	Idiom 5	9	90%	1	10%
6	Golf	Idiom 6	6	60%	4	40%
7	Swimming	Idiom 7	8	80%	2	20%
8	Track & Field	Idiom 8	4	40%	6	60%
9	Hunting	Idiom 9	6	60%	4	40%
10	Fishing	Idiom 10	7	70%	3	30%

**Table (3) The Numbers and the Percentages of the Appropriate and Inappropriate Translations of each Idiom**

1) The first game, tennis, involves the sport idiomatic expressions:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
1	"Do you think I should accept the job offer?". "Don't ask me. <u>The ball is in your court</u> now".	انت المسؤول عن القرار

Table (3) shows that in idiom (1), "The Ball is in Your Court", all the subjects achieved an appropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

القرار قرارك

انت صاحب القرار

2) The second game, football, consists of the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
2	This <u>playbook</u> , by our political consultants, is for the 2014 legislative campaign. It describes the strategy for the campaign, play by play.	خطة

Going back to the table (3), it indicates that in idiom (2), “Playbook”, ٦٠% of the subjects achieved an appropriate translation and ٤٠% did not, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation  
خارطة الطريق  
الإستراتيجية

Inappropriate Translation  
اللعبة  
جدول الاعمال

3) The third game, basketball, comprises the sport idiomatic expressions:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
3	It is a <u>jump ball</u> . The two proposals are so close.	حيرة

Depending on table (3), it is shown that in idiom (3), “A Jump Ball”, ٦٠% of the subjects achieved an appropriate translation and ٤٠% provided an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation  
نحن ازاء موقف متكافئ  
امر محيّر

Inappropriate Translation  
فوق العادة  
قفزة جيدة

4) The fourth game, baseball, consists of the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
4	I wish I could <u>get to first base</u> with my boss.	ادراك المبتغى

Table (3) shows that in idiom (4), “Get to First Base”, ٦٠% of the subjects provided an appropriate translation and ٤٠% gave an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation  
أكن في الصدارة  
أدرك ما اتمناه

Inappropriate Translation  
أبقى على تواصل  
أحرز الرمية الأولى

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5) The fifth game, boxing, comprises the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
5	I got a <u>one-two punch</u> before the election: Two important groups were against me. I lost.	معضلتين متتاليتين

Depending on table (3), it is shown that in idiom (5), “A One-Two Punch”, 90% of the subjects achieved an appropriate translation and 10% provided an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

تلقيت ضربة موجعة  
تلقيت ضربتين متتاليتين

Inappropriate Translation

ضربة مقابل ضربتين

6) The sixth game, golf, consists of the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
6	He got a <u>hole in one</u> with that sale. He sold a house in ten minutes.	نجاح غير متوقع

Table (3) shows that in idiom (6), “Hole in One”, 60% of the subjects provided an appropriate translation and 40% gave an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

أحرز صفقة خاطفة  
حقق نجاحا باهرا وسريعا

Inappropriate Translation

سد رمية في قلب الهدف  
توصلت الى اتفاق

7) The seventh game, swimming, includes the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
7	He can't help you. He is a <u>lightweight</u> in this corporation.	قليل الشأن

According to the table (3), it is shown that in idiom (7), “Lightweight”, 80% of the subjects presented an appropriate translation and 20% failed to present an appropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

Inappropriate Translation



ليس لديه منزلة او شأن كبير  
ليس لديه قرار

وزن خفيف  
لا يصلح

8) The eighth game, track and field, consists of the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
8	We have <u>a head start</u> , because they faxed their contract to us and mailed it to the others.	البدء مبكراً

Table (3) shows that in idiom (8), “A Head Start”, 40% of the subjects provided an appropriate translation and 60% gave an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

اسبقية  
لنا الاولوية

Inappropriate Translation

كلمة الفصل  
على عجلة

9) The ninth game, hunting, comprises the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
9	The FBI agent didn't find the criminal. He <u>was barking up the wrong tree</u> .	يخطئ بالاختيار

According to the table (3), it is shown that in idiom (9), “Bark up the Wrong Tree”, 40% of the subjects presented an appropriate translation and 60% failed to present an appropriate, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation

كان يلاحق الهدف الخطأ  
يلحق الشخص الخطأ

Inappropriate Translation

يتواري عن الأنظار  
اختبئ في مكان غامض

10)The tenth game, fishing, consists of the sport idiomatic expression:

No.	Sport Idiomatic Expression	Proposed Translation
10	If you don't want that job, <u>fish and cut bait</u> . Lois can do it.	افعلها او اتركها لغيرك

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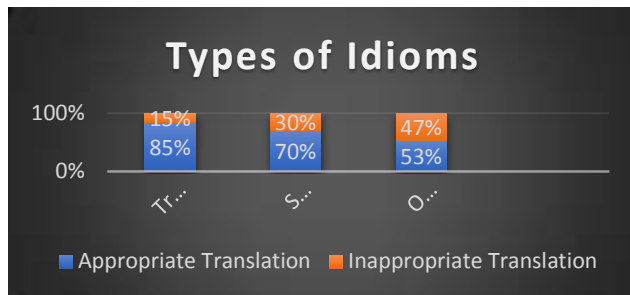
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Table (3) shows that in idiom (10), “Fish or Cut Bait”, 70% of the subjects provided an appropriate translation and 30% gave an inappropriate translation, as in the following:

Appropriate Translation	Inappropriate Translation
أختار او انهي الموضوع	ارمه خلف ظهرك
حاول او توقف	اترك الامر

**Analysis and Results at the Level of Idioms Type in Test Two**

The researcher also in test three conducts an analytical process for the collected data at the level of the types of idioms, which are transparent, semi-transparent and opaque, to investigate the impact of the context on the percentages of the appropriate and inappropriate translations that were provided by the subjects. The outcomes show that the subjects scored varying percentages of appropriate and inappropriate translations with regard to the type of idioms. Diagram (4) and table (4) show in detail these percentages.



**Diagram (4) Appropriate and Inappropriate Translations at the Level of Idioms Types**

<b>Analysis at the Level of the Types of Idioms</b>					
<b>No.</b>	<b>Types of Idioms</b>	<b>Appropriate Translation</b>		<b>Inappropriate Translation</b>	
		<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Transparent</b>	85	85%	15	15%
<b>2</b>	<b>Semi-Transparent</b>	70	70%	30	30%
<b>3</b>	<b>Opaque</b>	53	53%	47	47%

**Table (4) The Percentages and the Numbers for the Appropriate and Inappropriate Translation at the Level of Idioms Types**

### **Discussion**

The analysis in test one includes all the sport idioms involved using SPSS and Microsoft Excel. The translation in test one of the decontextualized idioms, as it is shown in diagram (1), reveals that only 63% gave appropriate translations, while 37% of the subjects gave inappropriate translations. Table (1) page (11) gives details of the percentages and numbers of the appropriateness and inappropriateness of the subjects' translations in relation to the type of idiom. Appropriate translations mean that the subjects produced the same intended meaning of the idiom. The analysis shows that the type of idiom is effective in giving the appropriate translations. The analysis also shows that the type of idioms (opaque, semi-transparent, and transparent) affects the role or the impact of context in giving appropriate translations. For example, with opaque idioms in games like golf or track and field, the impact of context was little, while with semi-transparent or transparent idioms in popular games like football, tennis or swimming, the impact of context was great. This means that the subjects scored varying degrees of percentages of appropriate and inappropriate translations. Diagram (2) and table (2) page (15) give the details of these percentages.

In test two, the same idioms are included but are put within everyday language contexts and are given to the same subjects to translate. The analysis of their translations reveals that 68% of the

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translations are appropriate and 32% are inappropriate. Table (3) page (17) gives details of the percentages and numbers of the appropriateness and inappropriateness of the subjects' translations in addition to the type of idiom. The analysis of the results of test two above in relation to the impact of everyday language context reveals that the impact of context has greater significance and it is closely related to the type of game. On the level of the type of idioms, the results reveal that the subjects achieved different percentages of appropriate and inappropriate translations. Diagram (4) and table (4) reveal that high percentages of appropriate translations are associated with transparent idioms 85%, and 70% for semi-transparent idioms, while for opaque idioms the percentage of appropriateness was 53%. This is an indication of the impact of everyday language context in specifying the idioms and their types. It also indicates the great significance of contexts in helping translators to recognize the meaning of not only familiar sport idioms, but also non-familiar ones sometimes.

### **Conclusions**

The analysis reveals that the types of idioms play an important role in understanding their meanings and in facilitating an appropriate translation. The type of idiom affects the impact of context in providing appropriate translations. For example, with opaque idioms in games like golf or track and field, the impact of the context was relatively little, while with transparent or semi-transparent idioms with popular games like football, tennis or swimming, the impact of context was significant. The translation of the decontextualized list of idioms is mostly literal, in which case it was inappropriate and vague especially with opaque idioms. However, it was sometimes proper for transparent idioms whose meanings can be figured out from the words of such idioms. Despite the general agreement on the significance of the context in providing or facilitating appropriate translations for sport idioms, it is not sufficient for effective translation sometimes. There are other factors such as the familiarity with idioms, and the cultural knowledge of both the

source and target languages involved in translation which in our case are Arabic and English.

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## تأثير السياق في ترجمة التعبيرات الاصطلاحية الرياضية من الإنجليزية إلى

### العربية من حيث نوع المصطلح

قاسم محمد باسل قاسم\*

لقمان عبدالكريم ناصر\*

### المستخلص:

تُعدُّ ترجمة التعبيرات الاصطلاحية الرياضية من اللغة الإنجليزية إلى اللغة العربية مهمة صعبة للمترجمين؛ إذ تزداد صعوبة هذه المهمة عندما يتم فصل هذه التعبيرات عن سياقها، وتهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد تأثير السياق في مساعدة المترجمين على تقديم تراجم مناسبة لمثل هكذا مصطلحات ولاسيما تلك التي تتأثر بأنواع المصطلحات، وتفترض الدراسة أنَّ السياق لا يمكن الاستغناء عنه في ترجمة التعبيرات الاصطلاحية الرياضية، كما تفترض هذه الدراسة أنَّ نوع المصطلح يؤثر في تحقيق تراجم صحيحة أو غير صحيحة، وتتألف البيانات المستخدمة في تحليل هذه الدراسة من ١٠ تعابير اصطلاحية رياضية؛ إذ اختار البحث ١٠ أنواع مختلفة من الألعاب الرياضية المألوفة وغير المألوفة فضلاً عن أنَّ اختيارها اعتمد على نوع المصطلح طبقاً لنموذج مون (١٩٩٨)، مع بعض التعديلات، وأعطيت هذه التعبيرات لعشرة مدرسين من قسم الترجمة، كلية الآداب، جامعة الموصل، على شكل اختبارين ليتم ترجمتها إلى اللغة العربية؛ إذ وضعت هذا التعبيرات في سياقين: بدون سياق وفي سياق اللغة اليومية، وتظهر نتائج الدراسة أنَّ السياق له تأثير إيجابي في تحقيق تراجم صحيحة، كما تظهر النتائج أيضاً أنَّ نوع المصطلح يؤدي دوراً أساسياً وفعالاً في تقديم تراجم صحيحة ولاسيما في ترجمة هكذا نوع من المصطلحات.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** السياق، الترجمة، التعبيرات الرياضية، نوع المصطلح.

طالب ماجستير/قسم الترجمة/كلية الآداب/جامعة الموصل .

أستاذ مساعد/قسم الترجمة/كلية الآداب/جامعة الموصل .