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*Assessing the Translations of Collocation in the  
Glorious Qur'an into English*

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**1. Introduction**

Collocation is a linguistic phenomenon found in language. Different languages have their own collocations and their own ways in dealing with them. Being a native speaker of a certain language necessitates being familiar and acquainted with collocations. Since a translator is impossible to be a native speaker in both the SL and TL, then he has to be aware of collocation when he translates. He has to be linguistically and culturally well equipped to be able to handle TL collocations in an appropriate way, even in the cases where no corresponding collocation is found.

Moreover, dealing with collocation is a critical matter because of the significant change in meaning that can occur in any erroneous use of collocation or in any inappropriate way of rendering. For example, it is quite possible to describe a woman as handsome. However, this implies that she is not beautiful at all in the traditional sense of female beauty, but rather she is mature in age, has large features and certain strength of character. Similarly, a man could be described as beautiful, but this would usually imply that he had feminine features. Calling a man pretty is most often done pejoratively to suggest effeminacy<sup>(1)</sup>.

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(1) (<http://esl.fis.edu/index-fp.htm>).

This paper attempts to study how translators deal with collocation in translating the Glorious Qur'an. It aims at achieving high typicality between SL and TL collocations through providing as much accurate renderings as possible. It hypothesizes that collocation is a phenomenon that needs an appropriate attention on the part of the translator of the Glorious Qur'an, otherwise inaccuracies resulting from SL-TL collocational inconsistencies will absolutely occur

## ***2. Collocation in English: Definitions and Types***

Etymologically, "collocation" is derived from "collocate", which means to place together, it came from Latin *col-locare*. (Skeat,1993: 255). Larson (1984: 144) defines collocation as words joined together in phrases or sentences to form semantically unified expressions. Crystal (1988: 55) defines collocation as a term used in lexicography to refer to the habitual co-occurrence of individual lexical items in a syntagmatic lexical relation. However, Newmark (1988: 114) suggests a paradigmatic relation as well, consisting of words belonging to the same semantic field which may substitute for each other or be semantic opposites. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (2006: 293) defines collocation as a combination of words in a language, which happens very often and more frequently than would happen by chance. Baker (1992: 47) defines collocations as semantically arbitrary restrictions which do not follow logically from the propositional meaning of a word. She adds that the patterns of collocation are largely arbitrary and independent of meaning within and across languages (ibid: 48).

According to Greenbaum (1996: 426) choices of collocating words are lexical rather than semantic, i.e. to do with words and not meaning. He gives as an example the word *black* which collocates with the word *coffee*, he says that there is nothing in the meanings of *black* that makes it more suitable than *brown* to collocate with *coffee*.

Williams (2002: 2) defines collocations as two or three word clusters which occur with a more than chance regularity throughout spoken and written English. McKeown and Dragomir (2002: 3) mention that collocations are typically characterized as arbitrary and language-specific, and that the notion of arbitrariness captures the fact that substituting a synonym for one of the words in a collocational word pair may result in an infelicitous lexical combination. They talk about grammatical and semantic collocations. The former often contains prepositions such as verb + preposition (e.g. come to, put on), adjective + preposition (e.g. afraid that, fond of ), and noun + preposition (e.g. by accident, witness to). The latter are lexically restricted word pairs, where only a subset of the synonyms of the collocator can be used in the same lexical context.

Williams (Ibid.) suggests the following types of collocations:

**1. Verb + Noun**

*e.g.* throw a party / accept responsibility

**2. Adjective + Noun**

*e.g.* square meal / grim determination

**3. Verb + Adjective + Noun**

*e.g.* take vigorous exercise / make steady progress

**4. Adverb + Verb**

*e.g.* strongly suggest / barely see

**5. Adverb + Adjective**

*e.g.* utterly amazed / completely useless

**6. Adverb + Adjective + Noun**

*e.g.* totally unacceptable behaviour

**7. Adjective + Preposition**

*e.g.* guilty of / blamed for / happy about

**8. Noun + Compound Noun**

*e.g.* pay packet / window frame

Thornbury (2004: 221) distinguishes two categories of collocations:

1- Lexical Collocations: such combinations have the following formulae:

– verb + noun

*e.g. join a club, do a degree*

– adjective + noun

*e.g. great fun, loud music*

– adverb + adjective

*e.g. happily married, incredibly easy*

2- Grammatical Collocations: having the following formulae:

– verb or adjective + preposition

*e.g. depend on, interested in*

– preposition + noun

*e.g. for a while, in my twenties / thirties*

– verb + particle

*e.g. pick sth / sb up, get on with sb*

– noun + noun and compound nouns

*e.g. television programme, bus stop, swimming pool.*

### 3. Collocation in Arabic

Emery (1991) classifies collocations in Arabic as follows:

- 1. Open collocations:** combinations of two or more words co-occurring together, without any specific relation between those two words. Collocated elements here are freely re-combinable, and each element is used in a common literal sense.

Examples: بدأت الحرب - انتهت الحرب

- 2. Restricted collocations:** combinations of two or more words used in one of their regular, non-idiomatic meanings, following certain structural patterns, and restricted in their commutability not only by grammatical and semantic valence, but also by usage.

Examples: جريمة نكراء - حرب ضروس

- 3. Bound collocations:** a bridge category between collocations and idioms. One of the elements is uniquely selective of the other.

Example: أطرق الرأس

Okasha (2005: 188-191) gives eleven cases in which collocation takes place in Arabic language:

#### 1. Noun + Adjective

Examples: الأمة العربية - الرأي العام - السلم الاجتماعي - الحياة اليومية

#### 2. Adjective + Preposition

Examples:

- |              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| "ثقل في..."  | to denote weight.         |
| "أثقل من..." | to show comparison.       |
| "ثقل على..." | to describe man's burden. |

### 3. Verb + Preposition

Examples:

- "مال على..." to denote injustice.  
"مال عن..." to denote deviation.  
"مال الى..." to denote love.

### 4. Verb + Noun

Examples:

- "قالت نملة" to show tropicality.  
"قالت امرأة العزيز" to show reality.

### 5. Infinitive Noun + Preposition

Examples:

- "السعي إلى..." means to go to a certain place.  
"السعي بين الصفا والمروة" means pacing between Safa and Marwa.

### 6. Prefixed Noun + Post-fixed Noun

Examples: عصر القوة - تذليل العقبات - أم القرى

### 7. Coupled Noun + Antecedent Noun

In this case the relation between the two nouns could be:

- a. Synonymy: الأمن والسلام - العفة والشرف
- b. Integration: العلم والإيمان - دين ودنيا
- c. Antonymy: الحرب والسلام - الليل والنهار

### 8. Quantity relation between the collocated elements:

Examples: عدد كبير - نزر يسير

### 9. Quality relation between the collocated elements:

Examples: الى حد بعيد - بعيد المدى - بعيد المنال - صعب للغاية

### 10. Expressions related to Place.

Examples:

- من هنا وهناك - في كل مكان - قاب قوسين أو أدنى - في شتى كذا - في أرجاء كذا

## 11. Expressions related to Time.

Examples:

في الوقت نفسه - في المستقبل القريب - في بضع سنين - في التو

### 4. *Translation of Collocation*

Collocation has to be given the appropriate attention by translators since it has its importance in both SL and TL. Samdja et al (1995: 33) mention three main reasons for the importance of providing a translation for collocations. First, they are opaque constructions which cannot be translated on a word by word basis. Second, collocations are domain dependent. In each domain, there exists a variety of phrases that have specific meanings, and translations should apply only in the given domain. Finally, correspondences between collocations in bilingual dictionaries, even for widely studied languages, are largely unexplored. Larson (1984: 146) even talks about collocational clashes describing lexical collocational errors committed by people who speak a language which is not their mother-tongue. He distinguishes between collocational clashes and cultural clashes saying that the latter should not affect the former. He adds that the translator must be alert to the potential pitfall of collocational clashes. Baker (1992: 54-59) mentions that some problems and pitfalls in translation are related to collocations due to the engrossing effect of the SL text patterning, misinterpreting the meaning of the SL collocation, the tension between accuracy and naturalness, and the existence of culture-specific collocations. Sarikas (2006: 39) says that since every language has its own words and structures which are peculiarly

organized, the translator must be keen on the word relations and grammatical systems of the SL while translating collocations into the TL. Otherwise there would be a loss of meaning in translating collocations.

## ***5. Translation of Collocation in the Glorious Qur'an***

### ***5.1. Scope of Research***

In this research six translations of the Glorious Qur'an are taken in order to analyze the way translators have rendered the Qur'anic verses that contain collocations. The translations chosen are those of Pickthall (1930), Daryabadi (1957), Ahmad Ali (1984), Irving (1985), Mohamed J. Ahmed & Samira Ahmed (1995), and Qaribullah & Darwish (2001).

This paper is confined to the analysis of the Qur'anic verses that contain collocations of the type (Noun + Adjective).

### ***5.2. Text Analysis***

Under the type (Noun + Adjective) collocation so many examples could be found in the verses of the Glorious Qur'an such as:

"عذاب أليم", "عذاب مهين", "عذاب مقيم", "عذاب عظيم", "عذاب شديد", "عذاب غليظ", "الصراط المستقيم", "أزواج مطهرة", "بلاء عظيم", "شفاق بعيد", "عدو مبين", "قرضاً حسناً", "العروة الوثقى", "قول معروف", "رهان مقبوضة", "شفاعة حسنة", "شفاعة سيئة", "شيطان مرید", "شيطان رجيم", "قرآناً عربياً", "زوج بهيج", "زوج كريم", "هباءً منثوراً", "عتواً كبيراً", "يوم عظيم", "نباً يقين", "رزق كريم", "الفوز العظيم", "الوح محفوظ", "فوز كبير", "نار مؤصدة", "ريح صرصر عاتية.etc. ...",



In this research six collocations have been taken for analysis. These collocations are: "عذاب أليم", "عذاب مهين", "عذاب عظيم", "عذاب شديد", and "عذاب غليظ" where the SL noun "عذاب" collocates with the adjectives "أليم", "مهين", "مقيم", "عظيم", "شديد", and "غليظ" respectively. Three different Qur'anic verses are considered for each collocation.

A native speaker of English, the translator Thomas Ballantine Irving who was a convert to Islam, has been included in the analysis in order to test the impact of being native English on rendering collocations appropriately. However Baker (1992: 53) says that being a native speaker of a language does not automatically mean that the translator can assess the acceptability or typicality of register-specific collocations.

### SL (1):

a-

{يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقُولُوا رَاعِنَا وَقُولُوا انظُرْنَا وَاسْمَعُوا وَلِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ} (104) سورة البقرة

b-

{الَّذِينَ يَلْمِزُونَ الْمُطَّوِّعِينَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي الصَّدَقَاتِ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَجِدُونَ إِلَّا جُهْدَهُمْ فَيَسْخَرُونَ مِنْهُمْ سَخِرَ اللَّهُ مِنْهُمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ} (79) سورة التوبة

c-

{قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ أَهْلَكَنِيَ اللَّهُ وَمَنْ مَعِيَ أَوْ رَحِمَنَا فَمَنْ يُجِيرُ الْكَافِرِينَ مِنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ} (28) سورة الملك

**Collocation:** (عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ)

**Translations:**

1- Pickthall (1930):

a- a painful doom.

- b- a painful doom.
- c- a painful doom.
- 2- Daryabadi (1957):
  - a- a torment afflictive.
  - b- a torment afflictive.
  - c- a torment afflictive.
- 3- Ahmad Ali (1984):
  - a- Painful is the nemesis.
  - b- painful punishment.
  - c- a painful doom.
- 4- Irving (1985):
  - a- painful torment.
  - b- painful torment.
  - c- painful torment.
- 5- Mohamed J. Ahmed & Samira Ahmed (1995):
  - a- a painful torture.
  - b- a painful torture.
  - c- a painful torture.
- 6- Qarib & Darwish (2001):
  - a- a painful punishment.
  - b- a painful punishment.
  - c- a painful punishment.

### **Discussion:**

As shown in the table below the nouns "doom", "torment", "punishment", "torture", and "nemesis" are used by the translators as renderings for the SL noun "عذاب".

Lea (2002) mentions that the noun "doom" only collocates with the adjectives "approaching" and "impending".

The noun "torment" collocates with the adjectives "great", "inner", "mental", and "private". The noun "punishment" collocates with the adjectives "cruel", "harsh", "heavy", "severe", "unusual", "appropriate", "fitting", "capital", "corporal", and "physical". The noun "torture" collocates with the adjectives "brutal", "systematic", "mental", and "physical". As for the noun "nemesis", it is oddly used by Ahmad Ali (1984) and it has no collocations. Moreover, Ahmad Ali's renderings of "عذاب أليم" are inconsistent unlike the other translators.

Accordingly, all translators fail to appropriately render the SL collocation "عذاب أليم" in consistency with the TL collocations.

Suggested Translation: **Brutal Torture.**

SL	SLT Colloc.	Translator	TLT(a) Colloc.	TLT(b) Colloc.	TLT(c) Colloc.	Collocation Typicality
1	عذاب أليم	Pickthall	painful doom	painful doom	painful doom	Low
		Daryabadi	a torment afflictive	a torment afflictive	a torment afflictive	Low
		Ahmad Ali	Painful nemesis	painful punishment	a painful doom	Low
		Irving	painful torment	painful torment	painful torment	Low
		Ahmed & Ahmed	a painful torture	a painful torture	a painful torture	Low
		Qarib & Darwish	a painful punishment	a painful punishment	a painful punishment	Low

SL (2):

a-

{يُسْمَا اشْتَرَوْا بِهِ أَنْفُسَهُمْ أَنْ يَكْفُرُوا بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ بَغْيًا أَنْ يَنْزِلَ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ  
عَلَى مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ فَبَاءُوا بِغَضَبٍ عَلَى غَضَبٍ وَلِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ }  
(90) سورة البقرة

b-

{وَلَا يَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّهَا تُغْنِي عَنْهُمْ كَيْدَهُمْ بَلْ يُضَاعَفُونَ إِنَّهَا تَزِيدُ الْكَافِرِينَ كُفْرًا  
وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ } (178) سورة آل عمران

c-

{وَإِذَا عَلِمَ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا شَيْئًا اتَّخَذَهَا هُزُوًا أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ } (9) سورة  
الجمعة

**Collocation:** (عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ)

**Translations:**

1- Pickthall (1930):

- a- a shameful doom.
- b- a shameful doom.
- c- a shameful doom.

2- Daryabadi (1957):

- a- a torment ignominious.
- b- a torment ignominious.
- c- a torment ignominious.

3- Ahmad Ali (1984):

- a- The punishment for disbelievers is ignominious.
- b- an ignominious doom.
- c- shameful punishment.

## 4- Irving (1985)

- a- shameful torment.
- b- disgraceful torment.
- c- shameful torment.

## 5- Mohamed J. Ahmed &amp; Samira Ahmed (1995):

- a- a humiliating torture.
- b- a despised torture.
- c- a humiliating/disgracing torture.

## 6- Qarib &amp; Darwish (2001):

- a- a humiliating punishment.
- b- a humiliating punishment.
- c- a humiliating punishment.

**Discussion:**

The table below shows that the nouns "doom", "torment", "punishment", and "torture" are used to render the SL noun "عذاب". According to the discussion of SL1 the renderings are inappropriate. Ahmad Ali again shows inconsistency in his renderings.

Lea (2002) states that the adjective "shameful" only collocates with the noun "secret" which has nothing to do with the SL collocation, then the following translation is suggested by using non – collocation in the TL:

Suggested Translation: **Torture, which is shameful.**

It is also noticed that Irving uses (a despised torture). The word despised carries the meaning of "مُهين" and not "مُهين".

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SL	SLT Colloc.	Translator	TLT(a) Colloc.	TLT(b) Colloc.	TLT(c) Colloc.	Collocation Typicality
2	عذاب مهين	Pickthall	a shameful doom	a shameful doom	a shameful doom	Low
		Daryabadi	a torment ignominious	a torment ignominious	a torment ignominious	Low
		Ahmad Ali	Punishment ... ignominious	an ignominious doom	shameful punishment	Low
		Irving	shameful torment	disgraceful torment	shameful torment	Low
		Ahmed & Ahmed	a humiliating torture	a despised torture	a humiliating/ disgracing torture	Low
		Qarib & Darwish	a humiliating punishment	a humiliating punishment	a humiliating punishment	Low

**SL (3):**

a-

﴿يُرِيدُونَ أَن يُخْرِجُوا مِنَ النَّارِ وَمَا هُمْ بِخَارِجِينَ مِنْهَا وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّقِيمٌ﴾ (37)  
سورة المائدة

b-

﴿وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتِ وَالْكُفَّارَ نَارَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا هِيَ حَسْبُهُمْ وَلَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّقِيمٌ﴾ (68) سورة التوبة

c-

﴿وَتَرَاهُمْ يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَيْهَا خَاشِعِينَ مِنَ الذُّلِّ يَنْظُرُونَ مِنْ طَرْفٍ خَفِيٍّ وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّ الْخَاسِرِينَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَأَهْلِيهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَلَا إِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ فِي عَذَابٍ مُّقِيمٍ﴾ (45) سورة الشورى

**Collocation:** (عَذَابٍ مُّقِيمٍ)

**Translations:**

- 1- Pickthall (1930):
  - a- a lasting doom.
  - b- lasting torment.
  - c- perpetual torment.
- 2- Daryabadi (1957):
  - a- a torment lasting.
  - b- a torment lasting.
  - c- a torment lasting.
- 3- Ahmad Ali (1984):
  - a- suffering will be constant.
  - b- lasting torment.
  - c- a lasting torment.
- 4- Irving (1985):
  - a- constant torment.
  - b- constant torment.
  - c- lasting torment.
- 5- Mohamed J. Ahmed & Samira Ahmed (1995):
  - a- a continuing torture.
  - b- a continuing torture.
  - c- a continuous torture.
- 6- Qarib & Darwish (2001):
  - a- a lasting punishment.
  - b- a lasting punishment.
  - c- an everlasting punishment.

**Discussion:**

In rendering the SL collocation "عَذَابٍ مُّقِيمٍ" the translators have used "doom", "torment", "torture",

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"punishment", and "suffering". The latter collocates with "great", "intense", "terrible", "unbearable", "needless", "unnecessary", "widespread", "human", "mental", and "physical" but not "constant" as Ahmad Ali renders it. So, all translations are inappropriate. Pickthall and Ahmad Ali show inconsistency in their renderings.

In the sense of torture the adjective "constant" collocates with the nouns "pain", "fire", and "terror". As for the adjective "lasting", it only collocates with "harm". If collocation is to be used in the TL the suggested translation is: **Lasting harm** (or) **Constant pain**. Otherwise it can be rendered without collocation to be: **Torture that lasts**

SL	SLT Colloc.	Translator	TLT(a) Colloc.	TLT(b) Colloc.	TLT(c) Colloc.	Collocation Typicality
3	عذاب مقِيم	Pickthall	a lasting doom	lasting torment	perpetual torment	Low
		Daryabadi	a torment lasting	a torment lasting	a torment lasting	Low
	Ahmad Ali	suffering ... constant	lasting torment	a lasting torment	Low	
	Irving	constant torment	constant torment	lasting torment	Low	
	Ahmed & Ahmed	a continuing torture	a continuing torture	a continuing torture	Low	
	Qarib & Darwish	a lasting punishment	a lasting punishment	an everlasting punishment	Low	



**SL (4):**

**a-**

{حَتَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ وَعَلَى سَمْعِهِمْ وَعَلَى أَبْصَارِهِمْ غِشَاوَةً وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ}  
(7) سورة البقرة

**b-**

{وَمِمَّنْ حَوْلَكُمْ مِّنَ الْأَعْرَابِ مُنَافِقُونَ وَمِنْ أَهْلِ الْمَدِينَةِ مَرَدُوا عَلَى النِّفَاقِ لَا تَعْلَمُهُمْ نَحْنُ نَعْلَمُهُمْ سَنُعَذِّبُهُمْ مَّرَّتَيْنِ ثُمَّ يُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عَذَابٍ عَظِيمٍ} (101) سورة التوبة

**c-**

{مِنَ وِرَائِهِمْ جَهَنَّمَ وَلَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُمْ مَا كَسَبُوا شَيْئًا وَلَا مَا اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ} (10) سورة الجاثية

**Collocation:** (عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ)

**Translations:**

1- Pickthall (1930):

- a- an awful doom.
- b- a painful doom.
- d- an awful doom.

2- Daryabadi (1957):

- a- a torment mighty.
- b- a torment terrible.
- c- a torment mighty.

3- Ahmad Ali (1984):

- a- great deprivation.
- b- a harrowing doom.
- c- great chastisement.

4- Irving (1985):

- a- severe torment.
- b- terrible torment.
- c- awful torment.

5- Mohamed J. Ahmed & Samira Ahmed (1995):

a- a great torture.

b- great torture.

c- a great torture.

6- Qarib & Darwish (2001):

a- a great punishment.

b- a mighty punishment.

c- a mighty punishment.

### **Discussion:**

In rendering the SL collocation "عذاب عظيم" the translators have used the nouns "doom", "torment", "deprivation", "chastisement", "torture", and "punishment" to refer to "عذاب". The TL nouns "torture" and "torment" are the nearest equivalents to the SL noun "عذاب", however "torture" does not collocate but with "brutal", "systematic", "mental", and "physical"; and "torment" does not collocate but with "great", "inner", "mental", and "private" as formerly mentioned, a matter that is not evident in all of the renderings. The rendering of Ahmed & Ahmed is consistent, despite being collocationally inappropriate. See the table below.

Suggested Translation: **Great torment.**

SL	SLT Colloc.	Translator	TLT(a) Colloc.	TLT(b) Colloc.	TLT(c) Colloc.	Collocation Typicality
4	عذاب عظيم	Pickthall	an awful doom	A painful doom	an awful doom	Low
		Daryabadi	a torment mighty	a torment terrible	a torment mighty	Low
		Ahmad Ali	great deprivation	a harrowing doom	great chastisement	Low
		Irving	severe torment	terrible torment	awful torment	Low
		Ahmed & Ahmed	a great torture	great torture	a great torture	Low
		Qarib & Darwish	a great punishment	a mighty punishment	a mighty punishment	Low

**SL (5):**

a-

مَنْ قَبْلُ هُدَىٰ لِلنَّاسِ وَأَنْزَلَ الْفُرْقَانَ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ  
وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ ذُو انتِقَامٍ { (4) سورة آل عمران

b-

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَعْظَمُكُمْ بِوَاحِدَةٍ أَنْ تَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ مِثْلَىٰ شَفْرَةٍ وَأَنْ تَتَفَكَّرُوا مَا بِصَاحِبِكُمْ مِّنْ  
جُنَّةٍ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ لَّكُمْ بَيْنَ يَدَيْ عَذَابٍ شَدِيدٍ { (46) سورة سبأ

c-

اعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا لَعِبٌ وَلَهُوَ وَزِينَةٌ وَتَفَاخُرٌ بَيْنَكُمْ وَتَكَاثُرٌ فِي الْأَمْوَالِ  
وَالْأَوْلَادِ كَمَثَلِ غَيْثٍ أَعْجَبَ الْكُفَّارَ نَبَاتُهُ ثُمَّ يَهِيجُ فَتْرَاهُ مُصْفَرًا ثُمَّ يَكُونُ حُطَامًا  
وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانٌ وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعٌ  
الْغُزُورِ { (20) سورة الحديد

**Collocation:** (عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ)

**Translations:**

- 1- Pickthall (1930):
  - a- a heavy doom.
  - b- a terrific doom.
  - c- grievous punishment.
- 2- Daryabadi (1957):
  - a- torment severe.
  - b- a torment severe.
  - c- a grievous torment.
- 3- Ahmad Ali (1984):
  - a- the punishment is severe.
  - b- the dreadful affliction.
  - c- severe punishment.
- 4- Irving (1985):
  - a- severe torment.
  - b- stern torment.
  - c- severe torment.
- 5- Mohamed J. Ahmed & Samira Ahmed (1995):
  - a- a strong (severe) torture.
  - b- a severe torture.
  - c- a strong (severe) torture.
- 6- Qarib & Darwish (2001):
  - a- an intense punishment.
  - b- a terrible punishment.
  - c- a terrible punishment.

**Discussion:**

In rendering the SL collocation "عذاب شديد" the translators have used "doom", "punishment", "torment", "affliction", and "torture". The TL nouns "affliction" and "torment" are synonymous and are the nearest equivalents to the SL noun "عذاب", however "torment" collocates with "great", "inner", "mental", and "private"; whereas "affliction" has no collocations. In this case non – collocational alternatives can be used. Contrary to others, the rendering of Ahmed & Ahmed is consistent, despite being collocationally inappropriate. See the table below.

Suggested Translation: **Torture/ Torment, which is severe.**

SL	SLT Colloc.	Translator	TLT(a) Colloc.	TLT(b) Colloc.	TLT(c) Colloc.	Collocation Typicality
5	عذاب شديد	Pickthall	a heavy doom	a terrific doom	grievous punishment	Low
		Daryabadi	torment severe	a torment severe	a grievous torment	Low
	Ahmad Ali	the punishment is severe	the dreadful affliction	severe punishment	Low	
	Irving	severe torment	stern torment	severe torment	Low	
	Ahmed & Ahmed	a strong (severe) torture	a severe torture	a strong (severe) torture	Low	
	Qarib & Darwish	an intense punishment	a terrible punishment	a terrible punishment	Low	

**SL (6):**

a-

﴿وَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا نَجَّيْنَا هُودًا وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنَّا وَنَجَّيْنَا هُمْ مِّنْ  
عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ﴾ (58) سورة هود

b-

﴿يَتَجَرَّعُهُ وَلَا يَكَادُ يُسِيغُهُ وَيَأْتِيهِ الْمَوْتُ مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ وَمَا هُوَ بِمَيِّتٍ وَمِنْ  
وَرَأَيْهِ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ﴾ (17) سورة إبراهيم

c-

﴿نَمْتَعُهُمْ قَلِيلًا ثُمَّ نَضْطَرُّهُمْ إِلَى عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ﴾ (24) سورة لقمان

**Collocation:** (عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ)

**Translations:**

1- Pickthall (1930):

a- a harsh doom.

b- a harsh doom.

c- a heavy doom.

2- Daryabadi (1957):

a- a torment rough.

b- a torment terrible.

c- a torment rough.

3- Ahmad Ali (1984):

a- a dreadful doom.

b- A terrible torment.

c- a severe punishment.

4- Irving (1985):

a- stern torment.

b- harsh torment.

c- stern torment.

5- Mohamed J. Ahmed & Samira Ahmed (1995):

- a- a strong torture.
- b- strong/rough torture.
- c- a strong/rough torture.

6- Qarib & Darwish (2001):

- a- a harsh punishment.
- b- a dreadful punishment.
- c- a tremendous punishment.

### **Discussion:**

In rendering the SL collocation "عذاب غليظ" the translators have used "doom", "torment", "torture", and "punishment". As we previously mentioned the TL nouns "torture" and "torment" are the nearest equivalents to the SL noun "عذاب"; however "torture" does not collocate but with "brutal", "systematic", "mental", and "physical"; and "torment" does not collocate but with "great", "inner", "mental", and "private". This is not evident in the renderings by all translators. The rendering of Ahmed & Ahmed has some consistency, despite being collocationally inappropriate as shown in the table below. The SL "غليظ" can be rendered into "harsh" or "rough" which has no noun collocations. In this case also the SL collocation is rendered into TL non – collocation. Using no collocation in the TL is better than using wrong collocation.

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Suggested Translation: **Torture, which is rough / harsh**

(or) **Torment, which is rough / harsh**

SL	SLT Colloc.	Translator	TLT(a) Colloc.	TLT(b) Colloc.	TLT(c) Colloc.	Collocation Typicality
6	عذاب غليظ	Pickthall	a harsh doom	a harsh doom	a heavy doom	Low
		Daryabadi	a torment rough	a torment terrible	a torment rough	Low
		Ahmad Ali	a dreadful doom	A terrible torment	a severe punishment	Low
		Irving	stern torment	harsh torment	stern torment	Low
		Ahmed & Ahmed	a strong torture	strong/rough torture	strong/rough torture	Low
		Qarib & Darwish	a harsh punishment	a dreadful punishment	a tremendous punishment	Low

## **6. Conclusion:**

Collocation is a linguistic phenomenon worthy to be investigated in translating any text from English into Arabic and vice versa.

Analyzing different translations of the Glorious Qur'an into English, in order to investigate how translators deal with the phenomenon of collocation, the researcher has found that the latter has been given no attention on the part of translators. As far as collocation is concerned, translating Qur'anic verses should be given an appropriate attention, a matter that translators have not taken into consideration. Consequently, consistency between SL and TL collocations has not been achieved, which led to inaccurate translation.



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## ترجمة المصاحبات المفرداتية في القرآن الكريم إلى الانكليزية

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### المستخلص

يستقصي هذا البحث تقويم ترجمات المصاحبات المفرداتية في القرآن الكريم الى اللغة الانكليزية، ويحاول البحث دراسة كيفية تعامل مترجمي القرآن الكريم معها وذلك بالتحقق من مدى ملاءمة ترجماتهم بعد الأخذ بنظر الاعتبار التوافق في المصاحبات بين اللغتين المصدر والهدف. وقد تبين بأن المترجمين لم يعيروا المصاحبات المفرداتية الاهتمام اللازم، ولذلك يؤكد البحث على الإيضاء بتتقيح هذه الترجمات على قدر تعلق الأمر بالمصاحبات المفرداتية.

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