

**An Analysis of the Translation
of the Nostalgic Terms in
the Novel “Dates on My Fingers”
by Muhsin AL Ramli**

Ahmed Saeb Salih

Lecturer

Al Jinan University

E-mail: Ahmed.saebe1@gmail.com

Mobile Number: +9647806090899

Abstract

Upon conducting an analysis of the translation of nostalgic terminology in Muhsin AL-Ramli's novel "Dates on My Fingers," from its original Arabic source language to the English translation by Luke Leafgren, several conclusions were derived. The study concludes that the translation of nostalgic terms and the methodology employed in rendering nostalgic sentences involved the utilisation of the literal translation technique to preserve the intended meaning of the sentences in the target language. Furthermore, the nostalgic phrases encompass a series of linguistic techniques, such as modulation, addition, literal translation, reduction, and transposition. Apart from the aforementioned techniques employed for intricate expressions, namely transposition, modulation, free translation, and naturalization, Luke's translation was one of the best translations of the writer Muhsin Ramli's novel.

الملخص

مشكلة البحث:

المشكلة الرئيسية للورقة البحثية التي تفيد في أن المحادثات الأخيرة حول الحنين إلى الماضي توفر حيزاً لدراسة المشكلات ذات الأهمية المتزايدة حول كيفية تمثيل الأفراد لتصوراتهم للتاريخ. تقدم هذه المحادثات النظرية والأدبية تحليلات متطورة للدوافع البشرية ، ودور اللغة في فهم العقل ، والطرق التي تعبر بها اللغة عن نفسها. في نهاية المطاف ، يسلطون الضوء على الاختلافات المعرفية بين الخطاب الخاص والخطاب العام الذي يتم إجراؤه في الخطاب الأكاديمي والشعبي. "الحنين" عبارة مثيرة للاهتمام بشكل خاص لأنه لا يمكن اختزالها في منظور أو تأثير أو عملية. بسبب غموضها ، كان على الباحثين استكشاف العديد من التفسيرات المحتملة. (بتلر ، 2012.1).

أن نظرية الحنين لمحسن الرملي تسلط الضوء على المناقشات الافتراضية المعاصرة المتعلقة بالتعبيرات الحنينية. أولاً ، هناك تحول كبير في تفكير الرملي حول الحنين إلى الماضي يميزه عن غيره من الكتاب الذين لا يزال خطابهم الحنيني ثابتاً طوال مسيرتهم الأكاديمية. كما حفز فهمًا أكثر نشاطًا وتعقيدًا لمفهوم الحنين إلى الماضي. تعقد رواية الرملي «تمر الاصاب» الجوانب الافتراضية الحالية للحنين إلى الماضي من خلال التعبير عن نواقل مختلفة للحنين إلى الماضي، سواء لوطنه «العراق» أو لإسبانيا.

1- Introduction

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Translation is a point of contact between peoples, and since it is rare that two peoples have the same access to power, the translator is in a privileged position as mediator, to make explicit the differences between cultures, expose injustices or contribute to diversity in the world.” (Gill and Guzmán 2010 p.126)

Throughout its extensive history, the profession of translation has not received the same level of recognition and esteem as other fields, such as medicine and engineering. Translation professionals have long complained that their profession is undervalued. According to Nick Rosenthal's report, Professor Bellos provided a summary of the inaugural conference held by the Institute of Translation and Interpreting in the United Kingdom. The primary driving force and focal point of the inaugural ITI Conference was the inequitable and inadequate professional recognition afforded to translators. The theme is relevant as it served as a primary impetus for the establishment of the ITI. (Bellos 1987 p.163 .(The main problem of the research paper that recent talks on nostalgia provide a venue for examining problems of increasing importance about how individuals represent their perceptions of history. These theoretical and literary conversations give sophisticated analyses of human motivation and the function of language in comprehending the psyche and how it might be expressed. Ultimately, they highlight the epistemological contrasts between private and public discourses that are made in academic and popular discourses. "Nostalgia" is a particularly fascinating phrase for investigation since it cannot be reduced to a single perspective, effect, or action. Due to its ambiguity, the researcher must explore a number of

An Analysis of the Translation of the Nostalgic Terms in the Novel "Dates on My Fingers" by Muhsin AL Ramli

possible interpretations. (Buttler, 2012. p.1) (Muhsin AL Ramli's nostalgia theory illuminates contemporary hypothetical discussions concerning nostalgic expressions. To begin with, AL Ramli's nostalgic thinking has undergone a significant shift, distinguishing him from other writers whose nostalgic discourse has remained unchanged throughout their scholarly careers. It has also stimulated a more energetic and complex understanding of the notion of nostalgia.

AL Ramli's novel "Dates on my Fingers" complicates present hypothetical aspects of nostalgia by verbalizing various vectors of nostalgia, both for his homeland "Iraq" and for Spain.

ما كنت لأكتب قصة أهلي وأفضحهم لولا تشجيع أبي لي وهو يخلق رأسي في مرقصه المدريري قائلا: ((أكتب ما تشاء فلن يحدث أسوأ مما حدث... هذا العالم جايف)). لم أعلق على قوله، لحظتها، مكتفيا بمواصلة استشعاري لشفرته وهي تكاد تجلط الجلدة خلف اذني (AL Ramli, M. 2015. p.13).

1.2 Purpose of the Study:

The current study has several objectives. They can be presented as follows:

1. The objective of this study is to examine the strategies employed in translating Arabic nostalgic terms into English, with particular emphasis on Muhsin AL Ramli's literary work entitled "Dates on my Fingers ."
2. The analyst will examine every nostalgic expression in the source text (ST) and its corresponding translation(s) to scrutinize the translator's proficiency in accurately conveying the nostalgia and message, the nature of resemblance inherent in the original novel, and the impact on the English reader.

3. This research aims to assess the translation of Arabic nostalgia into English and propose a novel composite framework for analysing the translation of nostalgic expressions.

1.3 Scope of the Study:

The examination of difficulties encountered during the process of translation and endeavours to establish precise meanings are not unprecedented in academic discourse. The text cites several pertinent examples. Firstly, the assertion made by the mediaeval nominalist Maimonid that the context of a word is crucial for its translation. Secondly, the views of the 15th century Czech reformer Jan Hus on the translation of biblical realia. Lastly, the humanist perspectives on the correlation between a concept and its verbal manifestation in different languages, as well as the insights of ancient Romans like Horace, Cicero, and Quintilian. The fundamental claims of St. Jerome, Tytler, and Goethe, among other scholars, have been extensively debated over the years. In contemporary times, the declarations that were the culmination of early philological research during the humanist era, which occurred four centuries ago, are no longer considered scientific discoveries. Instead, they are viewed as the fundamental knowledge base for every translator who is actively engaged in the profession. According to Levý (2011, p.4), the following statement holds true .

This study is concerned with the study of the expressions of nostalgia in the novel “Dates on My Fingers” and their translation from Arabic into English, as well as the translator’s need for proficiency in using expressions in the target language (TL), in a way which is similar to the source language (SL).

1.4 Significance of the study:

An Analysis of the Translation of the Nostalgic Terms in the Novel “Dates on My Fingers” by Muhsin AL Ramli

Current translation theory research is heavily influenced by professional needs as well as the organizational structures present in various nations. A discernible differentiation exists between nations that adhere to Western democratic principles and those that subscribe to communist ideology. There are a number of well-established colleges in West that teach Individuals who specialize in the field of translating and interpreting with a high level of expertise and proficiency are commonly referred to as professional translators and interpreters. These schools also have their own professional organizations, which commonly collaborate with literary translators. Literary translators in communist nations, on the other hand, have highly active organizations inside authors' unions. Literary translation differs from technical translation and interpretation in terms of institutionalization degree. (Levý, J. 2011. p.5)

The study is significant for several reasons:

1. The research findings are not limited to specific regions or countries and may be as well useful for overall nostalgia research domain.
2. It provides conceptual background of nostalgia research terms and their translation.
3. It provides alternative conceptual and theoretical discussion in order to show the importance and the complexity of the translation of nostalgia terms.

The Review of the Literature

When empirical studies attempt to formulate generalizations, they are frequently limited to observing that translators should know: (1) the language from which they are translating, (2) the language into which they are translating, and (3) the subject matter of the source text (i.e. historical and local reality, the various characteristics of the author, and, in the case of technical texts, the relevant specialism). This three-pronged translation technique serves as the foundation for many seemingly complex remarks .

Such insights are sometimes founded on extensive practical experience and are developed to give quite complete and methodical instructions on various sorts of translation, for example, Edmond Cary's *La traduction dans le monde moderne* (1956) or Theodore Savory's *The Art of Translation* (1957).

2.2.1 Categories of Nostalgia

Due to difficulties in operational definitions and techniques of assessment, empirical studies on nostalgia have been rare. Since nostalgia is so vague, some scholars have proposed splitting it up into distinct subgenres, such as real and social nostalgia (Davis, 2000) or "personal nostalgia". The sources cited in this text include Batcho (1998, 2007), Holbrook (1993), and Stern (1992). Baker and Kennedy (1994) suggested three new forms of nostalgia: actual nostalgia, manufactured nostalgia, and communal nostalgia. True nostalgia, like the perspective of personal nostalgia, refers to a nostalgic longing for a period in one's own life that one has already experienced.

The phenomenon of nostalgia that is commonly experienced and shared by a particular culture, age group, or nation is referred to as "collective nostalgia" as per the research

An Analysis of the Translation of the Nostalgic Terms in the Novel “Dates on My Fingers” by Muhsin AL Ramli

conducted by Baker and Kennedy in 1994. Belk (1990) posits that every generation exhibits a distinct manifestation of collective nostalgia, thereby elucidating the reason behind the varying preferences in popular culture among the contemporary youth and their progenitors.

Methodology of the Research

3.1 Research Design

The act of translation, in its truest sense, entails more than a mere transference of the syntactic framework of one language to another. In any such undertaking, it is imperative to consider additional linguistic factors. In addition, it is imperative to incorporate the distinct features of a language, which differentiate it from others, into the definition of translation, assessment of translation quality, and training of translation.

Using a brief summary, Jeanne Dancette and Nathan Menard (1996. p.140) classify experimental research as either qualitative or quantitative. The advancement of translation depends on both. Quantitative research represents an advanced stage that is based on observation of the process, a phenomenon taking place in its usual framework, or an experimental setting, while qualitative research is based on correlation studies, a basic but necessary stage of data collection, followed by the description of the observed phenomena. The data gathered using empirical methods, such as verbalization procedures, are quite comprehensive. Their collection serves as the basis for the investigation.

3.2 Research Questions

The objective of this research is to examine and scrutinize the nostalgic expressions present in AL Ramli's literary work titled "Dates on my Fingers" and their corresponding

translations into English. The aim is to identify and categorize the various forms of nostalgia employed by the author. Moreover, the researcher aims to analyze the characteristics of the translation process, including the translation techniques employed by the translator when rendering these nostalgic terms. The present study aims to address the following inquiries:

1. What are the prevalent forms of nostalgia employed by AL Ramli in the chosen literary work?
2. What are the employed translation strategies in the translation of the chosen data?
3. What are the obstacles and complexities encountered by the translator(s) when rendering the selected novel from Arabic to English?

3.3Data Collection

The 30 texts were selected from the novel ‘‘Dates on My Fingers’’ translations, were first classified into best translations by the translator. In addition to this classification, the translator used the techniques of translation to make the TL somewhat close to SL .

The novel ‘‘Dates on My Fingers’’ by the writer Muhsin AL Ramli will be used of this research paper. The paper will use 30 examples of nostalgia terms from this novel .

Example from the novel :

1. I wouldn't have been able to write my family's story and expose its shame if my father hadn't encouraged me to do so while cutting my hair in his Madrid club. " Write whatever you want, " he said. " Nothing will happen worse than has already happened. This world is all fucked up. "At the time, I didn't comment on what he had said, forced as I was to focus on his razor, which nearly took off the skin behind my ear .

2. My mother's duality, however, was clear. This made it all the easier to love her, even though I only realized the magnitude of my love for her when I was away from her, during my time in the army and now too in my exile.

3.4 The Limitations of the Study

During the process of scrutinizing Arabic texts and their corresponding English translations, the analysis of lexical and syntactic elements emerged as a significant concern. The Arabic language's vocabulary and grammatical structure have been expounded upon by Abbas Hassan (1981) and Baker (1980) for the sake of ease and clarity.

The central emphasis of this investigation pertains to language in practical application, specifically in written form. The aim of our study is to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying principles that facilitate the translatability of the intended functions of the source text (ST), specifically the purposes for which the language is utilised. This will be achieved through an analysis of translation errors and successes made by students. These guidelines can serve as a useful resource for aspiring Arab translator trainees and English language students seeking to enhance their writing and translation abilities. The study does not claim to be comprehensive in its analysis of Arabic persuasive texts and their translation assessments .

The scope of this study is confined to written materials, specifically argumentative texts in the editorial format sourced from the chosen literary work entitled "Dates on My Fingers". It is not appropriate to regard two argumentative texts as definitive instances of the category in question. Furthermore, the field of comparative and contrastive textology may provide

valuable insights into the textual structures of Arabic and English texts, highlighting their similarities and differences through both quantitative and qualitative analysis. However, such an investigation falls beyond the purview of the present study.

Analysis and Discussion

This chapter will focus on analysing the sentences containing nostalgic terms from the novel ‘‘Dates on my Fingers’’ by Muhsin AL-Ramli and translated by Luke Leafgren. This study will use quantitative and qualitative methods depending on Nord’s theory of translation.

1. The literal Translation

The most significant procedure is literal translation. This corresponds both structurally and conceptually. It may involve borrowing and literal translation. This is a 'coincidental' approach that is employed when the SL word is transparent or semantically driven and is written in standard English. According to Vinay and Darblenet, literal is the direct transfer of an SL text into a TL text that is grammatically and idiomatically correct. The translator's only job is to make sure that the TL's language rules are followed. For example, "President" is "Presiden" in Dutch. (2009. p. 149)

Sample 1 :

SL:

الى العراق ، مهد طفولتي ومهد الحضارات

إلى اسبانيا محطتي للسلام بعد طريقي المكتظ بالحروب. 5

TL :

To Iraq, the cradle of my childhood and the cradle of civilization

**An Analysis of the Translation of the Nostalgic Terms in the Novel “Dates on
My Fingers” by Muhsin AL Ramli**

To Spain, my way station of peace after a long road crowded with wars. P 6

The writer shows his nostalgia in this couple of sentences, first when he describes his homeland (العراق) as the cradle of his childhood and civilization and (اسبانيا) as his station of peace. Leafgren translated the two sentences by using literal translation for instance, the word (العراق) into (Iraq), and the word (اسبانيا) into (Spain).

2. Transposition

Transposition is a popular technique employed in translation. It is a translation process involving a change from SL to TL grammar. Transposition is the only translation method that involves grammar, yet the majority of translators perform it intuitively. Vinay and Darbelnet argued that transposition entails substituting one word class for another without altering the message's content (Ibid. p. 149) . According to Newmark, there are four sorts of grammatical alterations in transposition:

- a)** Automated translation with no options for the translator. For instance, there are two varieties of it. Secondly, the transition from plural to single. Second, in the position of the adjective .
- b)** Transposition, which is necessary when an SL grammatical structure does not exist in the TL .
- c)** Transposition, when literal translation is grammatically possible but may not correspond with natural usage in the target language. The SL adverb, for instance, can be transformed into a TL adverbial phrase.

d) Transposition, which is when a grammatical structure fills in a gap in the meaning of a word. In short, transposition is about how grammatical categories change when they are translated. This is the method that translators use most often because it gives them a lot of options that help them get around the problem of something not being able to be translated. With respect to Nord's diverse range of translation proficiency and involvement in this study, it seems that the students endeavoured to adhere to text genre conventions, sometimes at the expense of the writer's voice (e.g. reduced usage of affirmative lexicon, heightened use of citations). In contrast, the specialists exhibited a heightened awareness of the textual features such as comparable sentence structures, verb forms, and diverse conjunctions, as well as the author's writing style, including proficient vocabulary retention.

Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

After analysing the translation of nostalgic words in the novel ‘‘Dates on My Fingers’’ by Muhsin AL-Ramli in the Arabic as the source language and the novel ‘‘Dates on My Fingers’’ translated into English by Luke Leafgren as the target language, the following conclusions were drawn. The paper finds that these facts in the examination of the translation of nostalgic terms and the method used in this novel :

1- Literal translation

- a. Nostalgic sentences have translated by using literal translation technique to keep the meaning of the sentences in the TL .
- b. In addition to the processes applied to complicated phrases, which involve transposition, modulation, literal translation, and naturalization.

An Analysis of the Translation of the Nostalgic Terms in the Novel “Dates on My Fingers” by Muhsin AL Ramli

2- Borrowing

a. Adverb clauses in nostalgic sentences change to other sentences that use adverbs of time, place, clause or reason, condition, motive , text function, result, comparison, and manner.

b. Moreover, the nostalgic sentences include modulation, addition, two literal translation, reduction, and transposition steps.

3- a. Nostalgic sentences change to other sentences using noun clauses as subject, object, complement, and preposition object.

b. Moreover, the nostalgic sentence methods employ two reduction and three modulation procedures.

4- the subject matter used by the translator to gain an understanding of the vocabulary and content in the SL .

5- At least three key aspects must be taken into account when adding proper translation into cross-cultural research: (a) A credible, solid approach to translation is required; (b) the cost for suitable translation should be incorporated into proposals; and (c) journals should demand authors to provide a description of language translation procedures (McDermott & Palchanes, 1994). This article includes suggestions for the first consideration and prepares the researcher for the second and third, financing and publishing. Although it is currently impossible to create a translation that conveys the exact semantics of a conversation, the objective is to create one that is as close as possible to reality.

5.2 Recommendations

Preparation is essential to the success of any creative endeavor. No researcher desires to spend many hours gathering, translating, and transcribing material that is too ambiguous, too shallow, or too scant. Esposito & Powell-Cope (1997) and Krueger (1998a, 1998b) provide good resources for the preparation and execution of focus group research. In addition to all of the problems stated in preparing for focus groups, researchers undertaking cross-language research must also consider additional factors.

When language is a problem, it is advisable to engage professional, licensed interpreters. They can be used independently or in tandem with community-based translators. On the Internet, certified interpreters can be discovered by contacting the translators' guild. Before contracting a translation service, the research team should obtain professional credentials and a sample of the translator's work for review. Many methods exist for evaluating the correctness of both professional and amateur translator/interpreter work. Back-translation into the SL is a conventional method (Brislin, 1970). Checking for understanding, assessing for naturalness and readability, and comparing the translation to another transcript are other methods of evaluating correctness. A combination of tests strengthens the validity of the translation evaluation procedure (Larson, 1998).

The research problem defines the analytical technique. The researcher must determine the anticipated outcomes. Using a real-time interpreter provides the researcher with greater control over the data gathering procedure, which may be an essential consideration when a flexible approach is required. In qualitative research, research papers must begin to require specifics on translation problems. By publishing it in the literature, we have the chance to acknowledge the difficulties we confront in assuring the veracity of cross-language research,

An Analysis of the Translation of the Nostalgic Terms in the Novel “Dates on My Fingers” by Muhsin AL Ramli

to advance the conversation surrounding creative methodologies, and to establish the legitimacy of the work we provide .

Based on the preceding findings, the author makes the following recommendations:

.1 This is such an intriguing thing to study for other scholars who wish to conduct the same research. There is a consideration while analysing nostalgic sentences translation. The linguistic systems of the source and destination will be distinct. So, a fresh translator should have grammatical knowledge. Let's let him or her know what the phrase for a difficult statement would be.

.2 translators must have an in-depth understanding of the grammar, semantics, syntax, idioms, etc. of the source language, as well as the culture of its speakers, as well as an in-depth understanding of the target language.

The writer hopes that this thesis will make a positive contribution to the study of translation, particularly for the students of the English Department, as a supplement to their study of complex sentences. While this paper is not yet flawless, the researcher believes that the reader's corrections and evaluations will help make it so.

References

- AL Ramli, M., ALMada publication, (2015). Tamr al-asabi.
- AL Ramli, M., The American University Cairo Press. (2014). “Dates on My Finger. Translated by leafgren, L ,.
- Baker, M. (2018). In Other Words (3rd ed.). Routledge .
- Baker, S. M., Kennedy, P. F. (1994). Death by nostalgia: A diagnosis of context-specific cases. Advances in consumer research, 21, 169-174 .

- Baldwin, E., (2021, April 6). Nostalgia. Poem Analysis. Retrieved from <https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/nostalgia/>
- Barrett, F. S., Grimm, K. J., R.W. Robins. (2010). Music-evoked nostalgia: Affect, memory, and personality. *Emotion*, 10, 390–403 .
- Bassin, D. (1993). Nostalgic objects of our affection: Mourning, memory, and maternal subjectivity. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 10, 425-439 .
- Batcho, K. I. (2007). Nostalgia and the emotional tone and content of song lyrics. *American Journal of Psychology*, 120, 361-81.
- Batcho, K.I., DaRin, M. L., Nave, A. M., Yaworsky, R. R. (2008). Nostalgia and identity in song lyrics. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 2, 236-244.
- Baumgartner, H. (1992). Remembrance of things past: Music, autobiographical memory, and emotion. *Advances in Consumer Research*, 19, 613-620.
- Davis, F. (1979). *Yearning for yesterday: A sociology of nostalgia*. New York, NY: Free Press.
- Equivalence. Lauhan: University Press of America.
- Havlena, W. J., & Holak, S. L. (1991). —The good old days||: Observations on nostalgia and its role in consumer behavior. *Advances in Consumer Research*, 18, 323–329.
- Havlena, W. J., & Holak, S. L. (1992). Nostalgia: An exploratory study of themes and emotions in the nostalgic experience. *Advances in Consumer Research*, 19, 380-387.
- Havlena, W. J., & Holak, S. L.(1998). Feelings, fantasies, and memories: An examination of the emotional components of nostalgia. *Journal of Business Research*, 42, 217–226
- Homer. (1921). *The Odyssey*. (F. Caulfield, Trans.). London: G. Bell and Sons.
- Hornby, A. S. 1995. *Oxford Advanced Learner`s Dictionary of Current English*.
<https://www.arabicfiction.org/en/node/1721>
- Kaplan, H. A. (1987). The psychopathology of nostalgia. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 74, 465–486.
- Larson, M. 1984. *Meaning-Based Translation: A guide to cross-Language*

**An Analysis of the Translation of the Nostalgic Terms in the Novel “Dates on
My Fingers” by Muhsin AL Ramli**

- Levý, J. (2011). The Art of Translation (1st ed., Vol. 1). John Benjamins Publishing Co. • P.O. Box 36224 • 1020 me Amsterdam • The Netherlands John Benjamins North America • P.O. Box 27519 • Philadelphia pa 19118-0519 • usa .
- MUNDAY, J. 3rd ed. 2012. Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications. Abingdon: Routledge.
- New York: Oxford University Press.
- NIDA, E.A. 1964/2003. Toward a Science of Translating. Leiden: E.J. Brill.
- TOURY, G. 1995/2012. Descriptive Translation Studies and Beyond. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Wildschut T., Sedikides, C., & Cordaro, F. (2011). Self-regulatory interplay between negative and positive emotions: The case of loneliness and nostalgia. In I. Nyklicek, A. J. J. M.
- Wildschut, T., Sedikides, C., Arndt, J. Routledge, C, Cordaro, F. (2010). Nostalgia as a repository of social connectedness: The role of attachment-related avoidance. Journal of personality and social psychology, 98, 573-586.
- Wildschut, T., Sedikides, C., Arndt, J., Routledge, C. (2006). Nostalgia: Content, triggers, functions. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 91, 975–993.