Substitution and Ellipsis in the English to Arabic Translation of Political Opinion Texts

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Abstract
Cohesive markers include substitution and ellipsis link sentences together and unite the whole text. These markers can be used differently in different languages due to their different grammatical structures. Therefore, while translating from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL), translators may not translate all of the cohesive markers or may incorrectly translate them which affects the message of the SL. This study uses Halliday and Hasan's (1976) model of cohesion to identify substitution and ellipsis used in Arabic and English political texts. The study also adopts Nida's translation techniques (1964) to identify the translation techniques which are used to translate English substitution and ellipsis devices into Arabic. The source English texts are taken from the online editions of The Washington Post and New York Times, while their translated Arabic versions are taken from the online Arabic newspaper, Asharq Al-Awsat. The findings reveal that substitution cohesive device is used in few examples in both Arabic and English texts. Ellipsis devices are used in more frequencies in English texts than in Arabic ones. The study also reveals that only one technique of Nida is found in translating the English substitution cohesive devices, which is, alteration, whereas two of the translation techniques of Nida, alternation and addition, are found in translating the English Ellipsis cohesive devices. One new technique is also found in this study, namely 'sustaining', as named by Lulu (2015).
Keywords: *Substitution and Ellipsis,   English to Arabic Translation,   Political Opinion Texts*

1. Introduction

Languages are rich in linguistic items that convey different meanings. Cohesion is one of these items which can be used differently in different languages. It is defined as "non-structural text-forming relations", according to Halliday & Hasan (1976) cited in Crane (2006, pp. 132-133). In other words, the relation refers to the semantic ties which reflect the meaning within the text.

This study focuses on political written texts genre which is one of the main genre audience is interested to read since politics is very essential in people's lives. It deals in specific with English political opinion texts and their translated Arabic versions. These texts basically relate to issues happened in the Middle East, because I believe that Arab people are interested in reading other writers' opinions about the political issues taken place in their countries due to their neutral perspectives. The readers are interested in online newspaper because they are free and easy to access. However, online newspapers are commercial for their producers as they cost a lot of money and time. Hence, they should convey only the important news and political opinions to laymen and only news which are of interest to the public. In this sense, translators of such texts must convey the communicative meaning of the source text through paying attention to translation techniques including those for cohesion. That is, while translating from a source text to a target text, translators are required to translate the cohesive markers either by shifting or making replacement for these markers. It is very important to study translation techniques of cohesive markers because there are many grammatical differences between languages, specifically, Arabic and English; mistranslation of these cohesive markers could lead to the loss of information.

In this study, I conducted an investigation on the English-Arabic translations of the online political English texts from *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* and their Arabic versions from the online newspaper, *Asharq Al-Awsat*. This is to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the frequencies of substitution and ellipsis cohesive markers in both Arabic and English texts?

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2. What are the main translation techniques used in translating these cohesive markers from English into Arabic texts?

2. Literature Review

Any language has its own grammatical structures which distinguish it from other languages. In relation to cohesion, Dooley & Levinsohn (2000) indicate that each language has its own system for using cohesive devices, however, some general types of cohesion are common, which means some of them *'will be found cross-linguistically'*. They add that cohesion is achieved in all languages by making use of linguistic means in order to signal coherence, as conformed by other scholars including Brown &Yule (1983); De Beaugrande & Dressler (1981), Grimes (1975) and Halliday & Hasan (1976). In his study, Crane (2006) analyzed an article entitled (Ruins with a view from Newsweek) using Hasan and Halliday's (1976) cohesion analysis model. He shows that cohesion markers join both ideas and experiences in the text. He also finds that through cohesion the readers become more proficient in understanding the exact meaning of English text.

Many studies have been conducted to show the differences and similarities between Arabic and English cohesive ties. It is generally found that languages like Arabic and Persian are used high frequency of cohesive marker to strengthen the meaning of the text. According to Mohamed & Omer (2000), Arabic cohesive markers have what equivalence in English language. However, the two languages in some cases differ in the uses of cohesive markers in the text. For example, Arabic language is considered as an additive language due to the using of many conjunctions in the text, while English language is considered as a non-additive language, as cited in Chaalal (2009, p. 32). Being non-native speakers of English like Arabs has an influence on the way they use cohesive markers in English language. In her study, Hinkel (2001) shows that Arab students' English written texts include more frequencies of cohesive markers than in native speakers' texts. These students believe that using more of such markers help to convey the message of the meaning of the text.

In her study, Hanan (1988) reveals that both references and ellipsis are operated in the same way in both Arabic and English language. She also finds that, in Arabic language, verbal substitution type may occur, nominal substitution rarely occurs and clausal substitution may not occur comparing with English language in which this type highly occurs. In another study, Mohamed & Omer (2000) analyze three Arabic short stories texts and their equivalent translated texts in English, which were produced by professional native English speakers. They also analyze other three Arabic short stories and their contextually equivalent stories in English, they are not translated texts. Their study aims to investigate the relationship between both the cohesive markers and the cultural contexts in the two languages. The findings reveal that there are differences in the use of cohesion in the two languages and these differences are not linguistically but social culture. For example, Arabic and English language use different type of conjunction in different way where Arabic cohesion is mainly additive unlike English cohesion which is mainly non-additive includes causative, temporal and adversative.

It is worth noting that, the type of register, (closed, limited, or free), could determine the frequency of cohesive devices in the text. In other words, the more open the register, the denser use of cohesive devices. In her study, Buitkienė (2005) examines three texts belonging to different registers to explore the frequency and distribution of cohesive markers across each genre. These three texts are, a legal text belongs to a restricted register, a short story as an open-ended register and a newspaper text that could be placed as middle of the two samples. She finds that story text contains more substitution and ellipsis than legal and newspaper ones to ensure that the story relies on conversation and fiction unlike other realistic genres, legal and newspaper, where both seek to convey clear information to avoid ambiguity. In another study, Ambiyo (2007) analyses three road traffic accidents reports taken from newspaper articles and other three taken from academic texts. She finds that the newspaper texts use more lexical synonyms, pronoun and definite references, and nominal ellipsis since they aim to convey certain current news to people as they are commercial expressing main information and avoiding repetitions. In addition, her study finds that, generally, substitution and ellipsis are rarely used comparing to other cohesive devices.

When translating from the ST text, translators transfer what equivalent to the TL texts. The translator sometimes misunderstands or misuses the strategies of translating the cohesive devices from the SL into the SL, which may lead to the loss of information of the ST. The study of Silveira (n.d.), for example, investigates how postgraduate students translate cohesive devices from English to Portuguese. The study reveals that students fail to keep the message of the content of the ST because they are unaware about the translation strategies of cohesive devices. In case of substitution, for example, it is found that most of the students omit the verb which makes the idea unclear and ambiguous. Hence, it is important to find a good strategy of translation to solve the problem while translating to the target texts.

Baker (1992) and Darwish (2010) shows that using different grammatical structures in both the SL and the TL may change the communicative meaning or message translators want to convey. Therefore, translators should take in their consideration some types of shifts, including, "adding", "omitting", or "altering" the ties meaning of the TT,

in order to convey the same message by translating the exact or equivalent meaning of the SL. In her study, Lulu (2015) explores Nida's (1964) translation techniques used to translate English references into Arabic in political opinion texts. Two techniques of Nida are found in her analysis: 'alteration' and 'subtraction'. She also finds one new technique in her analysis, which is, 'sustaining'. In this paper, We used the same data of Lulu (2015), but unlike Lulu who analysed references, we focus on substitution and ellipsis as cohesive devices. Most importantly, studies on translation techniques used to translate English cohesive devices, specifically substitution and ellipsis, into Arabic language are very rare. Hence, this study tries to cover the gap in the literature.

3. Methodology
3.1 Data Collection
The data used for this study are English political texts and their Arabic versions. These texts are classified as political opinion texts because I believe that such kind of texts allows for more space of presenting ideas unlike other types of political texts such as news in which the writers only state very brief ideas. These texts focus on Middle Eastern issues and they were sourced online in 2012 as many events have been taking place in this year, including the Arab Spring, the series of demonstrations and protests across the Arab regions that started in Tunisia 2010 and quickly spread to Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Libya.

Seven English texts were selected for the analysis; four of which were from *The New York Times* and the others were from *The Washington Post*. The former was selected because it is the most popular American online newspaper. While the latter was selected because it is one of the leading American daily newspapers and the most widely newspaper published in Washington. The translated versions of the English texts were taken from *Asharq Al-Awsat*, the only Arabic newspaper that owns the Arabic copyright of renowned international syndicates, and its staff are professional translators. Table 1 shows both the English texts and their Arabic translated versions.

Table 1: The English texts and their Arabic translated versions

No.	English texts	Arabic texts
1.	War, War and More War for Sudan	مزيد من الحروب بانتظار السودان
2.	In Egypt and Libya, radicals are jockeying for power	المتشددون في مصر وليبيا يتحايلون للوصول إلى السلطة
3.	Next Up: Turkey vs. Iran	المواجهة المقبلة تركيا ضد إيران
4.	Watching Elephants Fly	مشاهدة الفيلة تطير
5.	Morsi's Wrong Turn	توجه مرسي الخاطئ
6.	The United States' chance for a do-over with Egypt	فرصة الولايات المتحدة لبدء صفحة جديدة مع مصر
7.	Egypt's new leaders must accept reality	على قادة مصر الجدد الاعتراف بالواقع

3.2 Analytical models
3.2.1 Halliday and Hasan's (1976) cohesion model
This study makes use of Halliday and Hasan cohesion (1976) model to find out cohesive markers in the texts analysed. It only tackles the substitution and ellipsis as grammatical cohesion. Halliday and Hasan assert that cohesive items, including substitution and ellipsis, show relations among text. According to them, substitution is utilized in the text to avoid repetition by replacing one item by another. It is related to grammatical function and it can be 'nominal'; functions as "head of the nominal group", e.g. (one and ones). It can also be 'verbal'; functions as the "head of a verbal group" and it is always posited final of the group e.g. (do) and (do so/be/say), or it can be clausal e.g. (so, not). See table 2 below:

Table 2: Substitution forms in English (Halliday and Hasan 1976:141)

		Non-prominent (given)	Prominent (new)
Nominal	Thing (count noun)	one(s)	the SAME
	Process (nominalized) Attribute Fact }	so	do be say } the SAME
Verbal	Process(+...)	do	Do so
Clausal (β): report, condition, modality	positive	so	SO
	negative	not	NOT

On the other hand, ellipsis occurs when some information in the text are 'unsaid' but still 'understood' as it can be easily presupposed or implied in the text. Halliday and Hasan refer to ellipsis as 'substitution by zero'. It can be nominal, verbal or clausal.

3.2.2 Nida's (1964) translation techniques
Translating from a source language to a target language requires producing an equivalent target text. However, equivalence sometimes does not exist in the target language because of the differences between languages. Nida (1964) proposes "adjustment techniques" (cited in Baker, 2005, p. 81) which are: 'additions', 'subtractions' and 'alterations' to "adjust the form of the message to the characteristics of the structure of the target language", and to "produce semantically equivalent structures, equivalent communicative effect and stylistic equivalences" (Molina & Albir, 2002, p. 502). Hence, this study makes use of Nida's translation techniques to find out techniques used while translating substitution and ellipsis from English to Arabic texts. According to Molina & Albir (2002), Nida's three techniques are summarized as shown in table 3 below.

Table 3: Nida's three techniques of translation

Techniques	Reasons
Addition	• to make an elliptical expression in the source language clear in the target language • to adjust grammatical structure of the target language • to amplify implicit element to explicit one • to connect using connectors • to avoid ambiguity
Subtraction	• to avoid unnecessary repetition • to specify conjunctions, adverbs and references
Alteration	• To introduce new words from the SL because the TL does not have it (known as transliteration) • To introduce new grammatical categories • To introduce a descriptive equivalent in the TL when semantic misfits occur (that is, no standard equivalent to the term in the SL exists)

4. Findings

This section first reports the main findings regarding the frequencies of substitution and ellipsis cohesive markers in both Arabic and English texts. Then, it reports the main translation techniques used in the English-Arabic translation of the substitution and ellipsis as a type of cohesive markers based on Nida's aforementioned translation techniques.

4.1 The frequencies of substitution and ellipsis
The frequencies of substitution and ellipsis in English and Arabic texts are shown in table 4 below.
Table 4: Frequencies of Substitution and Ellipsis in texts

	English Texts		Arabic Texts	
No.	Substitution	Ellipsis	Substitution	Ellipsis
1	2	9	2	3
2	2	3	0	2

3	0	4	0	0
4	2	9	1	2
5	2	15	1	7
6	0	11	0	4
7	3	6	3	3

It is apparent from the analysis that English and Arabic texts employ a considerably few substitution cohesive markers. Complete statements appear in both texts as a writer of this type of genre (political opinion text) tends to present his or her opinion freely since there is no need to make redundancy that appears in other types of political texts such as political news. It is found that in three English texts, substitution is used more than in their Arabic texts versions. Substitution devices are used in both texts for stylistic reason to avoid repetition.

Below are examples of the English substitution cohesive markers appear in the English text:

The groups challenging Bashir are united by their common hatred of him and his party rather than by a shared vision for Sudan's future. But were they to topple him, they would soon be at odds with **_one_** another over a longstanding, unresolved debate that has haunted Sudan.

Does America **_have an interest_** in the internal fights taking place in these countries still quaking from the Arab uprisings? Of course it **_does_**.

What makes this particularly noteworthy is that Peres's office did not **_release Morsi's letter publicly_** until after checking with the Egyptians to make sure it was okay to **_do so_**.

In the first example, the writer uses the nominal substitution (one) to replace the noun (group). The second example shows the use of the verbal substitution (does) to replace the verb clause (has an interest), and the third example also shows the use of the verbal substitution (do so) replaced the verb clause (release Morsi's letter publicly).

On the other hand, the Arabic substitution cohesive markers appear in the Arabic texts include the following examples:

وبسبب هذا القرار، فضلا **عن خلاف مرير عام حول سلطات الرئيس**، أصبح الرجلان عدوين لدودين... وهما لا يزالان **كذلك** على الرغم من الجهود المتكررة من قبل جماعة الاخوان المسلمين المصرية

وقد أسرت الينا بعض النساء المسنات الأميات بأنهن لم يستطعن فراءة ورقة الاقتراع، وأنهن قد **صوتن** حسبما قال لهن أبناؤهن أن **يفعلن**

وكذلك ينبغي أن يعرف كل من الرئيس والشعب المصري أننا مستعدون **لحشد المجتمع الدولي والمؤسسات المالية العالمية لمساعدة مصر**، لكننا لن **نفعل ذلك** إلا إذا كانت الحكومة المصرية على استعداد للعب على أساس مجموعة من القواعد قائمة على الواقع والمبادئ الرئيسية

In the first example, كذلك / kadhalika/ means (so) which is clausal substitution replaces the clause خلاف مرير عام حول سلطات الرئيس /khilaf mareer aam hawla soltat al-raees/ means (dispute over the power of the presidncy). The verbal substitution يفعلن /yafaalna/ means (to do) replaces the verb صوتن /sawatnaa/ means (to vote), in the second example. نفعل ذلك /nafaal dhaalika/ means (do so), in the last example, substitutes the verb clause لحشد المجتمع الدولي والمؤسسات المالية العالمية لمساعدة مصر /li-hashd al-mojtamaa al-dawli wa al-moasasat al-maliya al-alamiya li-mosaadit misra/ (mobilize the international community, and global financial institutions, to help Egypt).

Furthermore, the findings reveal that Ellipsis is more used in English texts than in Arabic texts. There is few occurrences of this device in the Arabic text since the Arabic text tends to completely express information by using long sentences. In addition, Arabic text tends to use more personal references than those in English text and as a result English text has more occurrences of ellipsis devices than Arabic text by omitting the personal references in some cases. However, both texts have a shared notion that ellipsis is functionally used for avoiding repetition and for stylistic reason.

The following examples show some examples of the English ellipsis cohesive markers appear in the English texts:

*The lesson of that disaster is that local security authorities must quickly restore order — and if they **can't or won't**, then Americans must move out of harm's way.*

*Now, however, Washington has no choice but to rebuild its connection with Egypt — the most populous and historically most important Arab nation… It is a daunting, even scary prospect for the State Department and Obama White House…**The remake** launches this week when Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visits Cairo.*

In the former example, the elliptical information after the phrase (can't or won't) is (restore order), while in the latter example, the elliptical information after the phrase (the remake), is (the remake of rebuild-connections with Egypt).

On the other hand, the Arabic ellipsis cohesive markers appear in the Arabic texts include the following examples:

وعلى الرغم من أنه من المؤكد أن مثل هذا الصندوق المحشو بآمال الكثير من المواطنين المصريين العاديين يعد ضروريا لتحقيق بداية جديدة هنا، فإنه **ليس كافيا بمفرده**

والاتجاه الذي يبدو أنه يختمر في أذهانهم حاليا هو منهج الحذر والسير خطوة خطوة، من خلال تقديم الدعم الأميركي لنظام مرسي في الحصول على مساعدات اقتصادية من صندوق النقد الدولي، وكذلك الاتفاق على صفقة لتبادل الديون ظلت مؤجلة منذ وقت طويل، بشرط أن يفي النظام بوعوده بمراعاة حقوق المرأة والأقليات الدينية، وأن **يلتزم** بالمعايير الديمقراطية، وأن يحافظ على السلام مع إسرائيل.

In the former example, there is an ellipsis after the phrase ليس كافيا بمفرده /laysa kafiyan bimofradihi/ means (it is not sufficient alone) which needs a complement for the elliptical information which is لتحقيق بداية جديدة /litahkeek bidaya jadida/ means (to achieve a new beginning). In the latter example, there is an ellipsis after the phrase أن يلتزم /an yaltazima/ means (respects) where the elliptical information is أن يلتزم النظام /an yaltazima al-nizam/ (the regime respects).

4.2 Translation techniques used to translate substitution
4.2.1 Alternation
The findings reveal that alternation technique is used while translating English substitution cohesive markers into Arabic text. The following sub sections provide some examples of this alteration.
Alteration by a noun: This technique is found by replacing an English substitution device by a noun in the Arabic text, as demonstrated in the following example:

ST	TT	Back Translation
The Salafists' assault on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi at first appeared to be a "copycat" attack like the <u>one</u> in Cairo…	وفي البداية بدا أن هجوم السلفيين على القنصلية الأميركية في بنغازي هو هجوم «مقلد» على غرار <u>الهجوم</u> الذي وقع في القاهرة	At first, the assault of the Salafists on the American consulate in Benghazi appeared to be a "copycat" attack like the attack occurred in Cairo.

As noted in the ST, the nominal substitution (one) which refers back to (attack) is translated into the TT by a noun الهجوم /al-hojoum/ means (the attack). Hence, there is an alteration technique by replacing the English substitution device with the Arabic noun.

Alteration by a pronoun: This technique is found by replacing an English substitution device by a pronoun in the Arabic text, as shown in the following example:

ST	TT	Back Translation

The groups challenging Bashir are united by their common hatred of him and his party rather than by a shared vision for Sudan's future. But were they to topple him, they would soon be at odds with <u>one another</u> over a longstanding, unresolved debate that has haunted Sudan from its founding.	فالمجموعات التي تعارض البشير توحدها كراهيتها المشتركة له ولحزبه أكثر من اتفاقها على رؤية موحدة لمستقبل السودان. وإذا ما أسقطوه فسرعان ما سيدب <u>بينهم</u> الخلاف بشأن النقاش طويل الأمد وغير المحسوم الذي خيم على السودان منذ نشأته	*The groups conflicting Bashir are united by their common hatred of him and his party rather than their agreement of a united vision for the future of Sudan. And if they toppled him, they would soon have conflict among <u>themselves</u> in relation to a longstanding, unresolved debate that has haunted Sudan from its founding.*

In this example, the nominal substitution (one) in the ST refers back to (the groups). However, when translated into Arabic text, it is altered by a pronoun /-hum/ means (them) to refer back to (the groups). Therefore, an alteration technique occurs by replacing the English substitution device with the Arabic pronoun.

Alteration by a clause: This technique is found by replacing an English substitution device by a clause in the Arabic text for the purpose of clarification, as shown in the following example:

ST	TT	Back Translation
If Morsi needs a primer on the democracy movement in Iran … he can read <u>the one</u> offered by Stanford's Iran expert.	إذا كان مرسي بحاجة إلى الإلمام بفكرة أولية عن حركة الديمقراطية في إيران ... فبإمكانه قراءة <u>ما كتبه</u> الخبير الإيراني بجامعة ستانفورد	*If Morsi needs to know an initial idea about the democracy movement in Iran… then, he can read <u>what was written</u> by an Iranian expert in Stanford University.*

In English text, the cohesive tie (the one) that falls under a nominal substitution device replaces the noun 'a primer' and grammatically functioned as an object. Yet, the translator makes use of alteration technique by altering the object (the one) with the clause 'قراءة ما كتبه' means (reading what was written). The translator may use this type of 'alteration' for the purpose of clarification.

Alteration by Ellipsis: This technique is found by replacing an English substitution device by an ellipsis device in the Arabic text, as demonstrated in the following example:

ST	TT	Back Translation
Does America have an interest in the internal fights taking place in these countries still quaking from the Arab uprisings? Of course it <u>does.</u>	فهل أميركا لها مصلحة في الاقتتال الداخلي الجاري في هذين البلدين اللذين ما زالا يهتزان بفعل الثورات العربية؟ بالطبع <u>لها مصلحة.</u>	*Then, does America have an interest in the internal fighting occurring in these two countries that are still quaking from the Arab revolutions? Of course, it <u>has an interest</u>.*

The verbal substitution (does) in the ST substitutes the verbal clause ('has' an interest in the internal fights taking place in these countries). This device cohesively connects the two sentences together, and hence, the reader can easily understand the elliptical information. However, the translator translates this device (does) by altering it with the clause لها مصلحة /la-ha maslaha/ means ('has' an interest) in the TT. Yet, the sentence in Arabic text is not completely provided in the translation. In other word, another device is used while translating into Arabic, which is, 'Ellipsis' since the elliptical information is: في الاقتتال الداخلي الجاري في هذين البلدين means (in the internal fights taking place in these two countries). Semantically, the translator uses ellipsis as a cohesive device in Arabic sentence in order to avoid repetition since the elliptical information is already comprehensible from the context. Moreover, if the translator translated only لها /la-haa/ means (has) without the alteration of the noun /maslaha/ (interest) instead of (does), the meaning would be /la-haa/ لها (it has), but this style is only used in informal spoken Arabic. Therefore, the translator is aware about conveying the communicative meaning of the SL as a result of the knowledge of the grammatical differences between the two languages.

In general, alternation technique is used in the aforementioned examples to introduce new grammatical categories and for the purpose of clarification. In addition, it is found that regardless the type of translation used to, the intended meaning of the sentences is totally conveyed.

4.2.2 Sustaining

The analysis reveals that a new translation technique is found while translating English substitution devices into Arabic texts, namely, sustaining as named by Lulu's (2015). According to Lulu, this technique means that there is an equivalent meaning and function of the ST grammatical cohesive markers when translated into the TT. She this translation technique in English-Arabic translation of references. In this study, English substitution devices are translated into their equivalent meaning and function of the Arabic ones. For more explanation, see the following example.

ST	TT	Back Translation
What makes this particularly noteworthy is that Peres's office did not release Morsi's letter publicly until after checking with the Egyptians to make sure it was okay to <u>do so</u>.	مما يجعل هذا أمرا جديرا بالذكر هو أن مكتب بيريس لم ينشر خطاب مرسي إلا بعد أن تواصل مع الجانب المصري للتأكد من إمكانية <u>القيام بذلك</u>	*What makes this matter noteworthy is that Peres's office didn't release Morsi's letter until after contacting with the Egyptian side to make sure of <u>doing so</u>.*

In the example above, the English verbal substitution (do so) replaces the verb phrase (release Morsi's letter publicly). Similarly, this device has the same function of cohesion when translated into Arabic text. It is translated into Arabic as القيام بذلك /al-kiyam bi-dhaalika/ which means (do so) and it substitutes ينشر خطاب مرسي /yanshor khitaba morsi/ which means (release Morsi's letter). The translator uses this translation technique in order to avoid repetition since the substitution device used cohesively ties sentences together in both texts.

4.3 Translation techniques used to translate ellipsis

4.3.1 Alternation

It is noted that few examples appear for the using of alteration technique in the translation of English-Arabic ellipsis devices.

Alteration by substitution: This technique used when an ellipsis device in English language is replaced by a substitution device in Arabic text, as shown in the following example.

ST	TT	Back Translation
Some illiterate elderly women confided that they could not read the ballot and just voted where their kids told them <u>to</u>.	وقد أسرت إلينا بعض النساء المسنات الأميات بأنهن لم يستطعن قراءة ورقة الاقتراع، وأنهن قد صوتن حسبما قال لهن أبناؤهن <u>أن يفعلن</u>.	*Some illiterate elderly women told us that they could not read the ballot, and they voted where their kids told them <u>to do</u>.*

In the (ST), the writer uses ellipsis device by omitting the verb after the infinitive (to) as means of avoiding repetition since the missing verb (vote) is previously mentioned. In the (TT), the translator replaces the ellipsis device in the (ST) by a substitution device in Arabic text. In other words, the translator adds a substitution verb يفعلن /yafal-na/ means (do) to substitute the verb صوتن /sawat-na/ means (voted). Therefore, an alteration technique is used resulting from the altering of the ellipsis device in the (ST) by the substitution device in the (TT). Moreover, the translator adopts this technique because it is not possible to only leave the Arabic particle أن /ann/ _which equal to (to) in English text_ without any verb. Consequently, the translator adds the substitution verb يفعلن (do) rather than the original verb صوتن (vote) in order to avoid repetition. It worth noting that, the intended meaning of the ST is completely conveyed in the TT.

4.3.2 Addition

It is apparent from the analysis that 'addition' technique is used for ellipsis when the translator translates implicit information in the ST by an explicit one in the TT. In other words, the translator makes an elliptical expression in a

source text clear in a target text by adding this elliptical information in the TT. It is also observed that 'addition' technique is the most obvious technique the translator used while translating English ellipsis devices into Arabic text. This translation technique is shown in the following example.

ST	TT	Back Translation
The record to date is not good	وسجلهم حتى هذه اللحظة غير جيد	*Moreover, so far their record is not good.*

As noted in the former example, in the (ST) there is unsaid information after the noun (the record), which is, (the record of the Egypt's president and people), that can be found in previous paragraph. Since the information is understandable from the context of the text it is left unsaid by the writer to avoid repetition. However, when translated it into Arabic text, it is translated as /sijila-hum/ which means (their record). That is, the translator uses an addition technique in which he or she adds the third person plural suffix pronoun /-hum/ to the noun /sijil/. In Arabic, the suffix /-hum/ means (their) in English and it refers back to (Egypt's president and people). The reason for this addition refers to the structure of the word in Arabic, which means, if the word translated without a personal reference /-hum/ the meaning would be confused to the reader since sentences in Arabic language are cohesively linked to each other by means of personal references that considered as the predominated type of grammatical cohesive devices in the text. Therefore, an addition technique is used to adapt the structure of the target language besides avoiding the ambiguity of the meaning.

4.3.3 Sustaining

The analysis reveals that Lulu's (2015) translation technique of sustaining is also found in the English-Arabic translation of ellipsis. As mentioned earlier, this technique means that there is an equivalent meaning and function of the ST grammatical cohesive markers when translated into the TT. That is, the implicit expressions in the English text remain elliptical in the Arabic text, as demonstrated in the following example.

ST	TT	Back Translation
They began pressing Bashir for the expulsion of these groups from the country… Bashir eventually <u>agreed</u> because he realized …	وبدأوا بالضغط على البشير لطرد هذه المجموعات من السودان، وافق البشير... في نهاية المطاف لأنه أدرك	And they began pressing Al-Bashir to expel these groups from the Sudan… Al-Bashir ultimately agreed because he realized ….

The verb (agreed) in the (ST) can be interpreted as an elliptical reference since it needs a complement to clearly express a full idea. Yet, the reader can supply the elliptical information from the preceding paragraph, which is, (for the expulsion of these groups from the country). Similarly, in the (TT), the ellipsis device /wafaka al-bashir/ وافق البشير (Al-Bashir agreed) needs the same English complement, which is لطرد هذه المجموعات من السودان /li-tard haadhihi al-majmouaat mina al-sudan/ means (to expel these groups from the Sudan). Hence, it can be noted that while translating into the Arabic text, the translator infers that the missing information is not necessary to be compensated in the text because the topic is specified to one issue which is (conflict of power in Sudan). The elliptical information is also understandable from the context and there is no need to repeat the same idea. In doing so, the translator conserves the output message of the ST besides conserving the cohesion in the text.

5. Conclusion

This study investigates the English-Arabic translations of the online political English texts from *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* and their Arabic versions from the online newspaper, *Asharq Al-Awsat*. It first focuses on finding out the frequencies of substitution and ellipsis cohesive markers in both Arabic and English texts. The study also finds out the main translation techniques used in translating these cohesive markers from English into Arabic texts. With regard to the frequencies of substitution, the findings show that substitution cohesive devices are used in few numbers in both texts. This may refer to the type of register, where political opinion texts can be placed in between closed and free register. That is, writers seek to convey clear information to avoid ambiguity. On the other hand, it is apparent from the findings that ellipsis devices are used in more frequencies in the English texts than in the Arabic ones. Perhaps, this happens because Arabic language is an additive language, as conformed by Mohamed & Omer (2009), and Arabic texts tend to include longer texts. I also believe that Arabs' translators prefer the use of detailed sentences, for example, is because as explained by Kaplan (1966) in his canonical work on contrastive rhetoric, their thought patterns can reflect the way they express language in a text. These professional translators are

non-native English speakers, therefore, their thoughts may be expressed in a series of ideas as Arabic is less direct and linear than English.

In relation to Nida's (1964) translation techniques, the study reveals that only one of the translation techniques of Nida, alternation, is used in translating the English substitution cohesive devices, while two of the translation techniques of Nida, alternation and addition, are used in translating the English ellipsis cohesive devices. In addition, Lulu's (2015) translation technique sustaining is used when translating both substitution and ellipsis devices. Furthermore, I have sorted out some classifications under Nida's Alternation technique. This study contributes to the field of English-Arabic translation, specifically on political opinion texts where such data has been rarely tackled in previous studies, according to Lulu (2015). Other studies may analyze translation techniques used to translate English conjunctions, specifically on political opinion texts.

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