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**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

## The Influence of Ideology on Translation: A Study of The Russia-Ukraine War

**Qusai Muhammad al-Mashaqbah**

*Postgraduate Student, Department of English Language and Literature, The Hashemite University, Zarqa, Jordan*

**Corresponding Author:** Qusai Muhammad al-Mashaqbah, **E-mail:** [ibnshaqb006@yahoo.com](mailto:ibnshaqb006@yahoo.com)

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**ABSTRACT**

Ideology plays a huge role in translation, and it does affect the end product. The study shows that the influence of translation is influenced by the translator's ideology, the institution's ideology, or even the government's ideology. The study aims to investigate the influence of ideology on the translated text and the nature of ideology's function in translation, particularly during wartime. The study focuses on manipulated texts, headlines, and strategies used by translators as they change or rewrite the product of translation to reflect specific beliefs and viewpoints. The study is restricted to texts about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine; the source texts are in English, and the translations are in Arabic. The researcher applies Lefevere's model (1992) by comparing the source texts with their translations. Additionally, the analysis of the translations in the study makes use of critical discourse analysis following Fairclough's (1995) model. The strategies that were used by the translators to manipulate the texts were omission, addition, and lexicalization. The translators interfere in the ST by changing the intent of the original author without maintaining equivalence. The translations of the examples, taken from the RT Arabic Website, Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) website, and Al Emarat Alyoum website, reflect points of view about the Russia-Ukraine war in the countries where they are produced; these websites adopted the official government's statements and the position these governments take from the Russia-Ukraine war. As a result, translation can be used and seen as a political tool to accomplish certain objectives. It is advised to conduct more research to look into additional factors influencing translation as well as the authors' intentions.

**KEYWORDS**

Translation, Ideology, Critical Discourse Analysis, Russia-Ukraine war.

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### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Overview

A country or group in power may employ translation as a tool of imperialism and power to increase their sphere of influence over particular social groups, the general public, or the outside world. As a result, translation serves multiple purposes and is more than just a way of delivering meaning and information. A state may employ it to spread its beliefs and exercise control over a community or a group of people.

Translators are often employed to render many types of texts into other languages. According to the theories and principles of equivalence and fidelity, the translator is expected to convey the same ideas, tone, ease of composition, and manner. He/she must have good knowledge of both languages, i.e., a broad knowledge of the source language text and the language into which he/she is translating, in addition to a full understanding of the shades and layers of meaning in the source text. Akbari (2013) said, "As a matter of fact, a good translator should be familiar with the culture, customs, and social settings of the source and target language speakers. He should also be familiar with different styles of speaking and social norms of both languages."

Translators sometimes manipulate specific ideas and content while translating the original text in order to achieve certain goals. This usually leads to a change in the intended meaning that the author of the source text wants to deliver. The manipulation by the translator may be in the form of the deletion of specific information from the ST or also addition of information to the TT that is not found in the original. Translators manipulate texts by changing meaning at the word level or the text level to distort the overall message of the source text.

A translator who is controlled by a specific ideology, such as the ideology of institution and culture, does not seek and is not mainly governed by principles of faithfulness and equivalence between the source text and the translation. However, he/she treats the translation act as an instrument for spreading certain views, maintaining a specific set of ideas and beliefs, or challenging an opposite ideology. Munday talked about the players that may affect the translation and translator. He said:

These would be the publishers and editors who choose the works and commission the translations, pay the translators, and often dictate the translation method. They also include the literary agents, marketing and sales teams, and reviewers. The reviewers' comments indicate and, to some extent, determine how translations are read and received in the target culture. (Munday, 2016, p.224)

Translation strategies may be used by translators who are in the service of the dominant power to shape public opinion. The dominant power may use the state's official media to translate particular texts that are appropriate to its ideologies and manage other texts in a certain way to reflect the dominant power's points of view. Accordingly, the meaning and the spirit of the original text will not be conveyed. The ideological stamp of the translator will be reflected in the target text, and the recipients of the target texts receive a new message that is ideologically motivated. In other words, the reader who expects to have a translation of the original text that reflects the author's intended meaning will eventually read the text that the translator wants him/her to read.

### **1.2 Patrons and Power Practiced on Translators**

Patrons may affect translation and the role of the translator in rendering the source text's message to spread a specific ideology. Chen (2016) defined a "Patron's ideology":

Ideas or beliefs of a patron, either a person or institution of a particular social group or class, on various issues or aspects of translation, with a view to manipulating the whole process and the final product of translation to help maintain the interests and social status of the individual or the social group or class. (Chen, 2016)

André Lefevre believes that translation should be studied in connection with power and patronage. He also sees that patronage consists of three components, which are the ideological component, the economical component, and the status component (Lefevre, 1992b, p.16). The ideological component acts as a constraint on the choice and development of form and subject matter. The economic component relates to the payment of translators, while the status component implies the integration into a specific group and its lifestyle. According to Lefevre, patronage can be differentiated or undifferentiated. Patronage is differentiated when the economic success is independent. It becomes undifferentiated, however, when the three components are all dispensed by the same patron.

### **1.3 The Context of Culture and the Context of Situation**

Culture can be defined as "the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time" (*Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, 2023). Elliott and Boer (2012) see translation and interpretation as inseparable, and "they take place within the complex webs of ideology and culture." Venuti sees norms housed in the institutions that the translators work for:

Norms may be, in the first instance linguistic or literary, but they will also include a diverse range of domestic values, beliefs, and social representations which carry ideological force in serving the interests of specific groups. And they are always housed in the social institutions where translations are produced and enlisted in cultural and political agendas. (Venuti 1998, p. 29)

According to this view, cultural norms and traditions may influence the translation process and its product. Institutions may practice their power on translators to reflect their beliefs and social representations into the target text and let not other norms and traditions spread inside the society. In terms of the situation, Hu (2010) said the "context of the situation determines the meaning system of a text, and therefore translation is a process of reestablishing situational context in the target language." Halliday, McIntosh, and Strevens proposed three features for the situation: field, tenor, and mode. These three features describe how the context of the situation determines meaning:

The field is the total event in which the text is functioning, together with the purposive activity of the speaker or writer; it thus includes the subject matter as one element. The mode is the function of the text in the event, including, therefore, both the channel taken by the language – spoken or written, extempore or prepared – and its genre, or rhetorical mode, as narrative, didactic, persuasive, ‘phatic communion’ and so on. The tenor refers to the type of role interaction and the set of relevant social relations, permanent and temporary, among the participants involved. (Halliday & Hasan, p.22)

#### **1.4 Translator as Mediator versus Translator as Manipulator**

The need for communication between people of different cultures makes the task of the translator very important and imperative. The translator transfers messages and conveys information from a SL into a TL and is often seen as a mediator between cultures who facilitates the exchange of ideas and experiences between different languages and cultures while conforming to the ethics of fidelity and equivalence:

The translator plays an important role in being a mediator between two cultures. A translator not only translates the text from source language (SL) to the target language (TL) but also carries the culture and tradition of one to the other. (Christopher. P & Maheswari. S, p.6)

However, the translator can also act as a manipulator as he/she makes changes to the target language text so as to be appropriate for or influence the target language audience. According to Lefevere:

Translation is, of course, a rewriting of an original text. All rewritings, whatever their intention, reflect a certain ideology and poetics and, as such, manipulate literature to function in a given society in a given way. Rewriting is manipulation undertaken in the service of power, and in its positive aspect can help in the evolution of literature and a society. Rewritings can introduce new concepts, new genres, new devices, and the history of translation is the history also of literary innovation, of the shaping power of one culture upon another. (Lefevere, 1992, p.xi)

Manipulation in translation can be defined as:

Manipulation is the translator’s handling of a text, which results in the adaptation of the text for the Target Audience, considering the cultural, ideological, linguistic, and literary differences between the cultures in contact, which takes place within a particular cultural setting and is carried out by a human translator, with the consequence of a possible influence of individual- or psychology-related factors upon the end product. (Dukate, 2007, Glossory)

#### **1.5 The Russia-Ukraine War**

Translation plays an important role in wartime, during which countries may employ translators and interpreters to communicate with spies and get information about enemies. It is also a way to gain more social support and defend the country’s political stands and military behaviors. Moreover, translation plays an important part in the news coverage of wars; it can be, in this case, utilized by a country that attacks another country to legitimize the war and gain people’s support locally and internationally. On the other hand, the attacked country uses it to defame the attackers and get their people’s and other countries’ support. Evans and Fernández described the role of translation in politics as follows:

Translation is political as it affects the interactions among groups and communities, as well as between states and in supranational organizations such as the European Union. Like most human actions, translation can have intended and unintended effects on other people and the environment, and what was not intentionally political can have political effects. (Evans & Fernández, 2018, p. 2)

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is one of the major crises in the twenty-first century because of its great impact on the world, especially on economic life, not only on the people of the two countries but also on the whole world. For instance, Ukraine was unable to export its grain to the world at the beginning of the war. The conflict led many Ukrainian people to leave their homes and take refuge in the neighboring countries to save their lives. The conflict stemmed from the different ideologies of the dominant powers in Russia and Ukraine. Ukraine wants to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for defense and security purposes. While Russia does not want NATO to be beside its territories for security purposes and to stop the enlargement of this military alliance in its neighboring countries.

When the Russia-Ukraine war erupted on February 24th, 2022, it caused economic and political problems in the world and resulted in a hike in prices and food crises. It has also impacted the relationships between countries. Consequently, the world now is divided into three blocs: countries that stand with Russia and call the war a “military operation for denazification,” the second bloc stands

with Ukraine and calls the war “an invasion of Ukrainian territories by Russia,” the last bloc includes neutral countries that support neither side throughout the war. According to Chatham House:

The realization of a major war breaking out in Europe after almost eight years of simmering conflict created a political constellation of three different groups of nations: those who sided with Putin’s Russia, those who pledged support to Ukraine, and a group of non-aligned nations resisting involvement and/or hedging their bets. (*Seven Ways Russia’s War on Ukraine Has Changed the World*, 2023)

The consequences of the war were not restricted to those that affected the economic conditions of countries. In addition, new coalitions emerged in the political arena. As far as translation is concerned, translators have also been affected by the war because war limited the freedom of interpreters and translators in the countries participating in this war or those that belong to any of these blocs. The war also affected the practice or strategies of translation employed in the process of translation, as will be seen later in this study.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Translation and Ideology**

Translation can impact many disciplines in life. It can be seen as a political tool utilized by the dominant powers to reach certain goals, defend their policies, spread their ideas, and manipulate the people to get the desired effects on a community. In certain situations, especially during conflicts, when an ST is translated, its ideologies will be hidden. The product of the translation act might be affected by the ideology of the translator or the ideology that governs the translator, including the company or institute for which he/she works or the people in power. In this sense, all of these factors contribute to establishing the final product in translation.

Simpson (1993, p.5) defined ideology as “the taken-for-granted assumptions, beliefs, and value-systems which are shared collectively by a social group.” In this respect, each group has views and beliefs that distinguish it from other groups. People in the world will not view or understand things in the same way because of differences in cultures, traditions, the way they see things and beliefs. Therefore, the accepted point of view or idea in one social group may be rejected in another. Thus, media language will be different according to the differences among social groups, as well as the discursive practices. Van Dijk (1998, p.8) sees ideology as the source of representations in a society. In his view, ideologies help people organize their social beliefs about what is right and wrong for them and how they should act based on them.

To Hall (1996), ideology stands for “the mental frameworks— languages, the concepts, categories, imagery of thought, and the systems of representations — which different classes and social groups deploy to make sense of, figure out and render intelligible the way society works” (cited in Van Dijk, 1998, p.9). Hence, ideologies usually become a characteristic constituent of the life of a specific group. Ideologies can be religious, cultural, or political, and one may find different ideologies in one country because of the difference in religious or political orientations and alignments.

Lefevre (1998) defined ideology as “the conceptual grid that consists of opinions and attitudes deemed acceptable in a certain society at a certain time and through which readers and translators approach texts” (cited in Baker and Saldanha, 2009, p.137). According to Lefevre’s definition, the opinions and attitudes of one social group may differ over time, including the reader’s and translator’s points of view, which usually change according to the incidents that occur.

Schwarzmantel defined political ideology as the organization of society and the way it works. Schwarzmantel (2008, p.25) described the word ideology as “totalistic,” and he defined it as a wide array of views “which cover the central aspects of how society should be organized, answering such questions as what the role of the state should be, what forms of difference or differentiation between people should be accepted, and which rejected.” He also believes ideologies provide answers to the question of what kind of society is desirable.

Lefevre (1992, xi) believes that “Translation is, of course, a rewriting of an original text. All rewritings, whatever their intention, reflect a certain ideology.” Lefevre’s statement suggests that translation is inseparable from translators’ intellectual potential as well as their social and cultural milieu. Therefore, it is possible to find translators who use a certain language behavior to symbolize the status of a group or persons. Lefevre also believes that translation is not always pure or straightforward and that translators always act according to a given ideology (Lefevre, 1992, p.14).

Calzada-Perez (2014, p.23) stated that “the relationship between ideology and translation is multifarious.” She believes that all translations are ideological, and since social agents’ interests, aims, and objectives determine which source text to choose and the

use to which the subsequent target text is put. This view also suggests that translation can be devious and misleading because the translator feeds his/her beliefs and values into the new text, which projects the intended image the translator wants to distribute.

Farghal (2002) studied the notions of managing and monitoring in translation. He distinguished between two types of managing, namely intrinsic and extrinsic managing. Intrinsic managing, he believes, is required by the various inequalities between the original and the translated text for the sake of creating a natural effect. Extrinsic managing, on the other hand, refers to the intention of forcing ideological beliefs by the translator on the target audience by intentionally changing the source text (p.257). Farghal also distinguished between managing and monitoring in translation. He sees translations that intervene in and change the message of the ST as managing, while translations that render texts neutrally as monitoring.

## **2.2 Applied Literature Review**

Karimnia (2020) studied the translation of political implications in three Persian translations of *Animal Farm*. The researcher applied Critical Discourse Analysis, Fairclough's model (1995) in the investigation of the translations. The study focused on the linguistic items that play an extra-textual role in the formation of meaning and the way they are translated into Persian. The study attempted to find the underlying ideologies of the ST. Then, through a comparative and contrastive analysis between the ST and the TTs, the study presented a sample of political allusions in the ST and then explored how each TT reflected the implications of the Persian translation. The results showed that the translations were not appropriate equivalents. In other words, the three translations showed differences in ideologies mainly through the techniques of addition and omission.

Ash Shofs, Yuliasri, and Mujiyanto (2018) studied the ideology in the Indonesian translation of Charlotte Brontë's novel, *Jane Eyre*. The study aimed to investigate the role of ideology in the translation of the novel from English into Indonesian. The researchers analyzed the Indonesian translation of the novel conducted by Lulu Wijaya under the title *Jane Eyre* by using CDA. The vocabulary and grammar choices of the source text and the translation were analyzed and compared. The results showed that 120 data loaded with meaning can be categorized under ideology, which are implicit beliefs and principles. Also, 27% of the data had no lexical equivalents in the translation into Indonesian. The remaining data show the ideology of the original text in the same way. The researchers concluded that there are no ideological differences between the ST and its translation. Also, the translator expressed the ideology of the original text quite faithfully (Ash Shofs, Yuliasri, and Mujiyanto, 2018).

## **3. Methodology**

### **3.1 corpus of the Study**

The study utilized news articles sourced from various news websites concerning the conflict between Russia and Ukraine that erupted in 2022. The researcher selected texts that were translated from English to Arabic. The source texts were taken from the Bloomberg website ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)), The Toronto Star website ([www.thestar.com](http://www.thestar.com)), The Washington Post website ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)), and The National Interest website ([www.nationalinterest.org](http://www.nationalinterest.org)). The translated texts, on the other hand, were taken from the RT Arabic website ([www.rtarabic.com](http://www.rtarabic.com)), the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) website ([www.sana.sy](http://www.sana.sy)), and the Emarat Alyoum website ([www.emaratalyoum.com](http://www.emaratalyoum.com)). To guarantee the validity and reliability of the study, a random selection of examples was made from the previously mentioned websites. In order to examine the influence of ideology on translation, the news items were carefully chosen from websites belonging to governments and institutions that hold conflicting opinions regarding the Russian-Ukrainian War.

### **3.2 Data Analysis**

The researcher applies Lefevre's model (1992) to dig out and identify all forms of ideological interference on the part of translators. The researcher investigated the source texts and their translations in Arabic in terms of word use and their actual contextual meanings. Then, he made a comparison and a contrast between the STs and the TTs to identify the texts with words or expressions that carry a specific ideology.

The data are analyzed by using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). The study employs Lefevre's (1992) theoretical framework through which the researcher compares the STs with their translations and highlights the linguistic choices in the texts that are most affected by the ideology of translators. Strategies of translation employed by the translator to manipulate the target texts will also be highlighted.

### **3.3 theoretical framework**

The theoretical framework of this study is based on Fairclough's (1995) CDA model. This method of analysis investigates the relationship between language and power. In this study, CDA is used to show how the deliberate choices made in the target text or the translation can also be expressive of power. The approach is based on a three-dimensional conception of discourse. According to Fairclough, the analysis starts at the level of the text (spoken or written); discursive practice examines and processes

the description of the text, and discourse production relates the discourse to social reality and the standards (ideology) of society or a group.

The use of CDA is useful to understand how a translator employs ideology in the translation. Fairclough (2013, general introduction) stated that CDA has the following characteristics and usage:

- 1-It is not just analysis of discourse (or, more concretely, texts); it is part of some form of transdisciplinary analysis of relations between discourse and other elements of the social process.
- 2-It is not just a general commentary on discourse; it includes some forms of systematic analysis of discourse.
- 3-It is not just descriptive; it is also normative; it addresses social wrongs in their discursive aspects and possible ways of righting or mitigating them.

CDA enables researchers in translation to investigate the power behind discourse, and how it is shaped. It reveals links between language in the translated texts and the implicit ideological force. In other words, it shows how power is practiced through translation choices. For instance, the use of the words and expressions (war, military operation, invasion) in discourse varies from one user to another; the word "war" refers to an "armed fighting between two or more countries or groups, or a particular example of this" (*Cambridge Dictionary/ English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, 2023). On the other hand, the term "military operation" refers to The coordinated military actions of a state or a non-state actor in response to a developing situation. These actions are designed as a military plan to resolve the situation in the state or actor's favor. Operations may be of a combat or non-combat nature and may be referred to by a code name for the purpose of national security. (*Wikipedia*, 2023)

The word "invasion" denotes "an occasion when a large number of people or things come to a place in an annoying and unwanted way" (*Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, 2023).

**4. Results and Discussion**

**4.1 Results**

It was discovered that the Arabic translations of the original texts were ideologically driven to support the beliefs of the institution, the people in authority, or the translator. Because ideology has influenced the translation, readers might not trust the information provided by the target text. The importance and impact of the information provided by the source text determine how much ideology alters the intended meaning of the text.

The ideological motivations of the RT Arabic and Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) were identical in relation to the adoption of the Russian government statements and its political orientations. RT Arabic is "a Russian state-owned free-to-air television news channel broadcasting in Arabic and headquartered in Moscow, Russia" (*Wikipedia*, 2023). SANA is the national Syrian official news agency headquartered in Damascus, Syria. Both countries are considered allies of each other. According to Chatham House, "Putin predictably called in favours of old allies, such as Syria's Bashar al-Assad and Belarus's Aliaksandr Lukashenka, and entered a closer strategic relationship with Iran" (*Seven Ways Russia's War on Ukraine Has Changed the World* 2023). The Emarat Alyoum is an Arabic newspaper published in Dubai; it has adopted the Emirati government's orientations and movements to be neutral. Cafiero (2022) states, "The UAE's 'neutral' position on the invasion of Ukraine reflects its deepening partnership with Russia, but it could pose challenges to Abu Dhabi's relationship with Washington."

**4.2 Discussion**

**4.2.1 Ideology on the Level of a Headline**

1. The example here is taken from ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)). The article's headline is "Putin's Invasion of Ukraine Forces Biden to Rewrite US Security Plan." It is written by Martin, P. and Jacobs, J. (June 3, 2022), and the translation was extracted from ([www.rtarabic.com](http://www.rtarabic.com)):

**Table 1: The ideology of The Translator, which is Reflected on the TT.**

ST	TT	BT
<b>Putin's Invasion of Ukraine</b> Forces Biden to Rewrite US Security Plan.	بلومبرغ: "إدارة بايدن تراجع استراتيجية الأمن القومي بعد العملية الروسية في أوكرانيا."	Bloomberg: The Biden Administration rewrites the National Security Strategy after <b>the Russian Operation in Ukraine.</b>

The authors talk about the US security plan and how the Biden administration was forced to rewrite it because of the Russian-Ukrainian war. The authors used the expression: "Putin's Invasion of Ukraine," which is usually found in traditional speeches that have been delivered by people who stand with Ukraine; it also expresses the US government's view. The words "Putin's Invasion" have an implicit meaning, which implies that Russia is controlled by one person and that Putin is a dictator who attacks Ukraine and takes control of its territories without the permission of the people of Russia and its parliament.

There is a difference in meaning between the source headline and its translation. The translator rendered "Putin's Invasion of Ukraine" into "العملية الروسية في أوكرانيا" which does not give the intended meaning of the original headline. The translation hides the authors' ideology. The expression: "العملية الروسية" refers to a military attack that has been carried out by a country for defense purposes. Also, the word "Putin" is removed from the Arabic translation to imply that the decision of the war was made at the level of the government and not only by its president, Vladimir Putin; the ST says: "Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine has prompted a major rewrite of the Biden administration's National Security Strategy, according to people familiar with the matter." The analysis of the changes in the discursive practice, i.e., (how the target text is produced and how it influences the readers) shows the influence of the translator's ideology on the product of the translation by enforcing his/her own political views. The final stage of CDA entails looking at the discourse as a social practice, and the analysis shows that the translator has adopted the Russian point of view on the Russian-Ukrainian war, confirming that it is a military operation in Ukraine for defense purposes and not an invasion of Ukraine as the source text openly says.

2. The following example is from an article extracted from the Toronto Star's online website ([www.thestar.com](http://www.thestar.com)); the article headline is "Ukraine is getting rockets and tanks from the West, but front-line soldiers scrounge for bullets." The essay was written by Woods, A. (June 4, 2022). The translation of the text is taken from ([www.sana.sy](http://www.sana.sy)):

**Table 2: The ideology of The Translator, which is Reflected on the TT.**

ST	TT	BT
<b>Ukraine is getting rockets and tanks from the West, but front-line soldiers scrounge for bullets.</b>	<b>صحيفة كندية: مسؤولون أوكرانيون يتاجرون بالأسلحة الغربية المقدمة لهم.</b>	<b>A Canadian newspaper: Ukrainian officials trade in Western weapons provided to them.</b>

The author talks about the rockets and tanks that Ukraine receives from the West and the need for bullets from the front line. The intended meanings are clearer in the body of the article, in which the author called the war a Russian invasion of Ukraine, as can be seen in this paragraph: "There is suspicion, confusion, and frustration about why Ukrainian soldiers — backed by the wealthiest countries and best-armed countries in the world — are having to defend against the Russian invasion in such an improvised manner." Furthermore, the author called the foreign fighters "volunteers" as in this paragraph: "As the war in Ukraine passed a landmark 100th day this week, front-line fighters and volunteers say they are grappling with a dark and discouraging reality." The word "volunteer" refers to "a person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it" (*Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, 2023).

The translator provided a new adapted headline for this article. The managed headline does, in a way, defame the Ukrainian side. Information about the trading in weapons is given in this paragraph:

Police in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia arrested a government employee last month for the illegal sale of firearms and ammunition. It is alleged that the head of a local rescue team was selling weapons intended to be used on the front against Russian soldiers, including an anti-tank grenade launcher, two Kalashnikov rifles, and a quantity of rifle cartridges.

The discursive practice or the analysis of how the target text is produced and consumed reflects the translator's ideology through which he/she wants to defame the Ukrainians in front of the target text's readers. The translator delivers a message that the Ukrainian officials do not use western weapons to fight Russians, but the Ukrainian officials are trading in the weapons they get from the West to earn money. The managed translation represents the political viewpoints of the translator and also shows the impact of ideology on changing the source text's message.

3. The following example is from an article extracted from ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)); the headline of the article is: "Europe accepts Putin's demands on gas payments to avoid more shut-offs." It is written by Harlan, C. and Pitrelli, S. (May 24, 2022). The article's Arabic translation is taken from ([www.sana.sy](http://www.sana.sy)):

Table 3: The ideology of The Translator, which is Reflected on the TT.

ST	TT	BT
Europe <b>accepts Putin's demands</b> on gas payments to avoid more shut-offs.	واشنطن بوست: شركات الطاقة الأوروبية <b>استسلمت لمطالب روسيا</b> بدفع ثمن الغاز بالروبل.	Europe <b>surrendered to Russia's demands</b> on gas payments to avoid more shut-offs.

The original authors talk about accepting ruble payments from European countries that have a dispute with Russia because of the war in Ukraine. The authors claimed that it was a demand from Russian President Vladimir Putin, not the Russian government. This means there was only one person who made the decision. In terms of discourse practice, the original authors used the word "accept," which means "to say yes to an offer or invitation" (*Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, 2023). The authors intended to say that the European countries were not forced to say yes to the demand. Discourse production shows that it is an American newspaper that stands with Ukraine and the NATO countries and tries to justify any decision made by the NATO countries.

The translator rendered the word "accept" as "استسلمت," he/she dysphemized the meaning by using another word. The equivalence of the word "استسلمت" in English is "surrender," this word means to give up on demand or compulsion, "If you surrender to an experience or emotion, you stop trying to prevent or control it" (*Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, 2023). The translator wants to deliver a message that the European countries surrendered to the Russian demand for gas payments. The ideology of the translator affected the text's production. The translator used this word to say that Europe could not have done without Russian gas, so they surrendered to the Russian demands.

#### 4.2.2 Ideology on the Level of Paragraph

##### 4.2.2.1: Lexicalization

This example is extracted from ([www.nationalinterest.org](http://www.nationalinterest.org)); the headline of this article is "Europe Needs a Stable Russian-German Relationship." It is written by Der Simonian, A. (September 12, 2022). The translation is taken from ([www.emaratalyoum.com](http://www.emaratalyoum.com)):

Table 4: The ideology of The Translator, which is Reflected on the TT.

ST	TT	BT
In the twentieth century, conflicting interests, alliances, and entanglements between Russia and Germany brought about a world war. Today, Europe once again finds itself in a precarious position. In the short term, <b>the Russian invasion of Ukraine</b> has consolidated the transatlantic partnership by supplying military aid to Kyiv and imposing sanctions on Moscow while giving new life to the European Union (EU) as it begins to reorient to a rapidly changing international system. However, as the Russo-Ukrainian War progresses, it is questionable how long Europeans can unconditionally support Ukraine amidst expanding domestic challenges. Alongside this transnational reorientation, the revolutionary reforms proposed by German chancellor Olaf Scholz to change Berlin's security and defense spending policies have received significant attention.	خلال القرن ال 20 أدّت التحالفات وصراعات المصالح والتداخل بين روسيا وألمانيا إلى حدوث حربين عالميتين. وتجد أوروبا نفسها هذه الأيام في موقف قلق. فيما أدّت <b>الحرب الأوكرانية</b> على المدى القصير إلى تعزيز علاقات الشراكة بين طرفي الأطلسي، عن طريق تقديم إمدادات المساعدات العسكرية لكييف، وفرض العقوبات على موسكو، الأمر الذي نجم عنه إنعاش الاتحاد الأوروبي، الذي بدأ بدوره بالتوجه إلى النظام الدولي سريع التغيير. ولكن مع استمرار الحرب في أوكرانيا، ثمة شكوك حيال مدى تمكن الأوروبيين من تقديم الدعم غير المشروط إلى أوكرانيا، وسط التحديات الداخلية. وإلى جانب هذه التوجهات المتغيّرة العابرة للحدود، تلقت اقتراحات الإصلاح الثورية التي أطلقها المستشار الألماني، أولاف شولتز، من أجل تغيير أمن برلين وسياسات إنفاق الدفاع، اهتماماً بالغاً.	In the twentieth century, conflicting interests, alliances, and entanglements between Russia and Germany brought about a world war. Today, Europe once again finds itself in a precarious position. In the short term, <b>the Ukrainian war</b> has consolidated the transatlantic partnership by supplying military aid to Kyiv and imposing sanctions on Moscow while giving new life to the European Union (EU) as it begins to reorient to a rapidly changing international system. However, as the Russo-Ukrainian War progresses, it is questionable how long Europeans can unconditionally support Ukraine amidst expanding domestic challenges. Alongside this transnational reorientation, the revolutionary reforms proposed by German chancellor Olaf Scholz to change Berlin's security and defense spending policies have received significant attention.

The text shows the biasedness of the author towards the Ukrainian side as he used the word invasion to refer to the war: "the Russian invasion of Ukraine." The ideology of the author becomes clear through the discursive practice. The translator used the word "invasion," which means to subjugate or occupy a country. Using this word reflects the sociocultural practice of people who are opponents of Russia and side with the Ukrainian people and government against the Russian attack.

The equivalence of the word "invasion" in Arabic is "غزو". The translator rendered this word into "حرب" which is not exactly equivalent to the original word. The word "war" means "a situation in which two or more countries or groups of people fight against each other over a period of time" (*Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, 2023). In terms of text production, The UAE did not condemn the Russian side for the war, and it stood in an in-between position. The source of the translated article shows that the translator belongs to a group of people or a neutral institution.

#### 4.2.2.2: Omission

In a text extracted from ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)), the headline of the article is "With scant options in Ukraine, U.S. and allies prepare for a long war." It was written by Ryan, M. and Lamothe, D. (June 17, 2022). The article's translation is taken from ([www.sana.sy.com](http://www.sana.sy.com)):

**Table 5: The ideology of The Translator, which is Reflected on the TT.**

ST	TT	BT
The decision to supply Ukraine with increasingly sophisticated arms such as anti-ship missiles and long-range mobile artillery — <b>capable of destroying significant military assets or striking deep into Russia</b> — reflects a growing willingness in Western capitals of Russia and its people to risk unintended escalation with Russia.	ولفتت الصحيفة إلى أن قرار تزويد أوكرانيا بأسلحة متطورة مثل الصواريخ المضادة للسفن والمدفعية الثقيلة المتنقلة بعيدة المدى يعكس تزايد المخاطرة في العواصم الغربية بالتصعيد مع روسيا.	The decision to supply Ukraine with increasingly sophisticated arms, such as anti-ship missiles and long-range mobile artillery, reflects a growing willingness in Western capitals of Russia and its people to risk unintended escalation with Russia.

The authors highlight the effectiveness of the above-mentioned military assets that the US and its allies want to provide to the Ukrainian side, as well as their capability of reaching the Russian territories. The authors wanted to confirm the impact of these assets, and they described them saying: “capable of destroying significant military assets or striking deep into Russia.” The original authors acknowledge the power of these assets and the struggles that will happen if they have been used.

Critical discourse analysis shows how translation can be managed to express power authority and remove threats. In this example, the translator deleted the phrase “capable of destroying significant military assets or striking deep into Russia” from the translation to remove any segments of this discourse that are expressive of threats, such as the impact of these assets. The translation reflects the ideology of the Russian government and its allies and suggests that Russia is a strong country and can defend itself.

**4.2.2.3 Addition:**

The example is taken from an article entitled: “Europe accepts Putin’s demands on gas payments to avoid more shut-offs.” The article was written by Harlan, C. and Pitrelli, S. (May 24, 2022). The translation of this article is from ([www.sana.sy](http://www.sana.sy)):

**Table 6: The ideology of The Translator, which is Reflected on the TT.**

ST	TT	BT
European energy companies appear to have bent to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s demand that they purchase natural gas using an elaborate new payment system, a concession that avoids more gas shut-offs and also gives Putin a public relations victory while continuing to fund his war effort in Ukraine.	وذكرت الصحيفة في مقال لها أن شركات الغاز في دول الاتحاد الأوروبي التي <b>تصنفها روسيا غير ودية</b> انتهى بها الأمر بالاستسلام لمطالب موسكو ووافقت على دفع ثمن الغاز الطبيعي الروسي وفقاً للنظام الجديد “بالروبل مخالفة بذلك تصريحاتها السابقة.	European energy companies <b>that are classified as unfriendly by Russia</b> have bent to the Russian demand and accepted the paying for gas in a new payment system in rubles, which contrasts with their previous declarations.

The ST states that the companies in Europe have bent to the demand of the Russian president. The authors intended to say that the demand for paying is a demand by Putin, but not the Russian government. The authors also state that the war in Ukraine is Putin’s war, and they intended to say that Putin takes responsibility for the war, not the Russian government nor the Russian people. The discursive practice reveals the ideology in the translation manifested in the view regarding the Russian president’s responsibility for the war. The reader will observe which bloc the translators belong to by examining the expressions held by the pro-Ukraine countries.

It can be noticed that the translator added “ التي تصنفها روسيا غير ودية ” to the TT. He wanted to say that these companies have problems with the Russian government. The translator wanted to defend the Russian side for demanding payment and for the right to do such a thing. The translation represents the ideas and beliefs held by Russian officials.

## 5. Conclusion

The study investigates the influence of ideology in online articles and their translation into Arabic. The goal of the study is to determine through a process using Critical Discourse Analysis the ideological issues related to the Russia-Ukraine war and how each side's ideologies reflected on the ST and its translation. The impact of ideology is manifested in the product of the translation process, which confirms that the translator(s) made deliberate changes to the ST to appropriate the ideas to fit particular viewpoints and beliefs. These changes were reflected using the strategies of omission, addition, and lexicalization. The analyses show that the ideology of the official government of the state determines the media behavior, including the practice and product of translations, especially of political texts.

The ideologies of the Russian and Syrian governments were reflected in the product of the translation. Critical Discourse Analysis shows that both of the websites, RT Arabic and SANA, side with Russia and adopt their government's official statements. However, Emarat Alyoum was found to be neutral in its position, which was reflected and investigated in the translation because the newspaper adopted the UAE policies and statements. Translation as such becomes a misleading adaptation and manipulation that only serves the ideology of the people in power; the translator who manipulates texts is a mouthpiece for the people in power and their implicit ideologies.

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**ORCID iD:** <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-1229-6349>

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## Appendix A

**The Headlines of the STs' Examples and the Headlines of the TTs' Examples where the articles and their translations were taken from.**

<b>The Headlines of the STs' Examples</b>	<b>The Headlines of the TTs' Examples</b>
Europe accepts Putin's demands on gas payments to avoid more shut-offs.	شركات الطاقة الأوروبية استسلمت لمطالب روسيا بدفع ثمن الغاز بالروبل.
Europe Needs a Stable Russian-German Relationship.	أوروبا بحاجة إلى علاقة مستقرة بين روسيا وألمانيا.
Putin's Invasion of Ukraine Forces Biden to Rewrite US Security Plan.	إدارة بايدن تراجع استراتيجية الأمن القومي بعد العملية الروسية في أوكرانيا.
Ukraine is getting rockets and tanks from the West, but front-line soldiers scrounge for bullets.	مسؤولون أوكرانيون يتاجرون بالأسلحة الغربية المقدمة لهم.
With scant options in Ukraine, U.S. and allies prepare for long war.	بايدن وحلفاؤه يحضرون لصراع طويل الأمد في أوكرانيا.