

Contrastive Analysis of English and Arabic Versions of Coelho's Novel *Eleven Minutes*

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Abstract

This exploratory research investigates linguistic and cultural challenges in English and Arabic translations of Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho's novel, *Eleven Minutes*, which was originally written in Portuguese. This study raises the following questions: (1) How does the functional-pragmatic model of House prove to be advantageous to the contrastive analysis of translations of *Eleven Minutes*? (2) To what extent are the translators whose work is examined in the current research faithful to the ST? (3) How intensely are linguistic-textual elements prioritized over cultural aspects in the conveyance of the ST message in either translation? This work employs Juliane House's model of translation quality assessment to make a comparative analysis of the source text with both translations and to highlight the relationship of linguistic components with the relevant communication process. Furthermore, the techniques adopted in both translations are examined through excerpts taken from each of the three versions of the book. The registers of the source text and those of the target texts are analyzed and compared based on the register analysis of House's model. Consequently, the study demonstrates how the conceptual and interpersonal functions of language are affected in the target texts. The outcome of this qualitative analysis leads to the identification of the methods adopted by the translators, mainly referring to overt and covert translation methods. Overall, it is concluded that the English translation is significantly linked to the source text by pragmatic equivalence, in contrast, the Arabic translation is connected to the source text by significant functional equivalence that highlights the cultural filter used in the text.

Keywords: Coelho's *Eleven Minutes*, cultural filter, pragmatic equivalence, register analysis

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Introduction

At its core, language involves shared cultural knowledge and constitutes a means to spread culture worldwide. Simon-Vandenberg et al. (1997) stated, “the object of inquiry is always the language in society and culture, and if it were not, it couldn't be described at all” (p. 51). Since language is developed through the cultural aspect and translation is a cultural and linguistic process, the content sense is transferred between languages by this integrated system. Hence, any translation must not be centered on simply the lexical equivalent of a single word but instead, should preserve sociocultural aspects. The critical element for a successful translation is established by the appropriate choice of translation methods and strategies.

Many of the obstacles found in the translation process are related to social, cultural, and ideological factors. Additionally, equivalence and adequacy may be considered solutions to avoiding cultural confrontations or unfamiliar situations in translation (Sang, 2022). Cultural knowledge is not the only concern, though; linguistic differences between the Source Text (ST) and the Target Texts (TTs)—as well as between both target texts—are also fundamental in the translation process. As Bassnett (2002) stated, “Language, then, is the heart within the body of culture, and it is the interaction between the two that results in the continuation of life energy” (p. 23).

The purpose of this research is to analyze and compare a Brazilian novel and its English and Arabic translations. The study aims to demonstrate that a text can have multiple interpretations and that different translators may use different strategies to translate the same work. It is important to note that this study does not aim to determine which translation is superior, nor does it seek to evaluate the performance of individual translators. Rather, the focus is on determining which translator was more faithful to the original text, as faithfulness has long been a contentious issue in Translation Studies. According to Gutt (2010), “the principle of relevance heavily constrains the translation concerning both what it is intended to convey and how it is expressed” (p. 107). The techniques used by each translator have been carefully examined to better understand their approaches and inform analyzing both translations. Familiarity with these translation techniques is essential for a thorough analysis of the work.

This is significant since it highlights two important aspects of translation—linguistics and culture—by which the ST interpretation is represented with equivalents in the TTs according to the norms of each culture. Additionally, this research may prove helpful to academics of linguistics and translation studies as it highlights different practices translators engage in to resolve semantic gaps according to the target audience's needs and cultural norms. This study also shows how translators are free to decide about the communication of the meaning, that is, to preserve or not to preserve the linguistic and sociocultural characteristics of the original text.

This paper is organized as follows: Section one introduces an overview of translation challenges on linguistic and cultural levels and highlights the prominence of the translators' faithfulness to the source language in addition to the significance of their appropriate choice of translation methods. Section two points out the issue of cultural and ideological problems in

translation and introduces the contributions of some linguists who have left their mark in linguistics and translation studies. Then, a general view of various approaches to evaluating translation reviewed by House (1997, 2015, 2016) is presented. Moreover, the functionalist perspective and the linguistic-textual approaches are highlighted. Section three reveals the reasons for which selected approaches are considered appropriate to this study. In addition, dependent and independent variables are displayed, followed by the procedures applied in this study, comprising the techniques detected in the translations and the comparative linguistic and cultural analysis, thus allowing the recognition of ST and TT profiles to subsequently identify mismatches between them. At last, the data collection methodology is presented, and the selected data is specified. Afterward, section four specifies the text function, defines mismatches, and pinpoints the methods adopted by the translators. A register analysis is conducted among the texts at hand based on the functional-pragmatic model of House. Based on the results presented previously, a conclusion is drawn in the last section indicating the prominence of the contrastive analysis conducted in the current research and the significance of the examination of the texts at issue from different angles. Limitations of the study are displayed and eventually, implications for further research are provided.

Literature Review

The field of translation studies deals with translation theories and covers several spheres of knowledge, such as cultural studies, linguistics, semiotics, and philosophy, amongst others.

Approaches to Translation Evaluation

Various approaches have dealt with the translating act from different perspectives, believing translation evaluation could be performed according to their criteria.

First, most mentalist views focus on the translator's subjectivity in interpreting the translation process. "The mental processes in the minds of translators and consequent actions informed by them are the only domain in which considerations of equivalence have an impact on the eventual constitution of a translated text" (Sickinger, 2018, p. 217). According to House (2015), no appropriate attention has been given to the ST, to the relationship between the ST and TTs, and the TT readers' expectations in these approaches; the issue of discerning between a translation and several textual procedures has been similarly neglected. The problem with these approaches is that they have only accentuated the translator's subjectivity in the translation process, through which the interpretation of meanings depends on the communicative intentions of each translator, i.e., each translator might translate an idea from a different perspective according to the concept associated with that idea in their minds.

Next, Harrache (2022) asserted that "the behavioristic approach attempted to adopt a more scientific way of judging translated products, mainly through observation, and testing. However, it was as well criticized for being subjective and lacking credibility in judging translations (p.660)". Therefore, the ST is mainly ignored and its relationship with other textual operations is

unclear. For House, the main weakness of these approaches is that they restrict the quality of a translation to criteria such as 'intelligibility' and 'informativeness' (Baker, 1998).

The descriptive theory of translation is explicitly focused on the TT and TC, while the original is of 'subordinate importance' (House, 2016). Therefore, the quality of the translation is evaluated based on the forms and functions of the translation process within the system of the TC, which further supports House's criticisms. The gaps in the behavioristic and descriptive approaches that should be addressed are their focus on the target text and target culture, ignoring the ST, which leads to the acceptance of manipulation in translation that may cause a lack of equivalence between the ST and the TT.

Lastly, proponents of postmodern approaches focus on identifying the types of texts chosen for translation and the reasons for such choices, as well as questioning the reason for the manipulation of the ST's message, which is based on a subjective application of ideologies in the TC. This approach almost ignores the fact that translation is a linguistic procedure. In House's opinion, postmodern approaches are inadequate for Translation Quality Assessment (TQA). Theoretically, "it lacked further elaboration on practical procedures, which might have guaranteed a more objective consideration regarding these approaches" (Harrache, 2022, p.662).

For these approaches, translating means disregarding the original message where the boundaries between the ST and TT disappear. They refuse to consider the translator's work as a dependent status and highlight the translator's visibility in translation, where there is a lack of connection between the ST message and the target audience, and where the TC norms are prioritized. This lacuna needs to be addressed.

Comparison of Source Text and Target Text

A comparison of the ST and TT would evaluate their relative correlation based on their intra-textual characteristics and respective situational and cultural contexts.

Functionalist Perspective

Functional approaches consider pragmatic, cultural, linguistic, and text-specific problems in translation (Nord, 1997; Sang, 2019). These problems can be determined by analyzing the extra-textual aspects and making the register analysis of the original text, and TT. House (1997) asserted the framework of this theory could not be part of linguistics. Instead, she stated it should be viewed as part of cultural studies, due to its emphasis on the target culture. According to House (2001), Skopo's theory, one of the functionalist views, always considers the text types during the translation process. She adds that the translation's purpose is predominant in this theory, which defines the strategies and methods to be adopted in the translation process.

Furthermore, House (2015) assumes that the translator is a co-author, and the TT is built anew. This is similar to what Reiss and Vermeer (2013) mentioned in their work. They related equivalence to the relationship between the ST and the TT, where both have an identical communicative function, whereas adequacy is associated with the relationship between the ST and the TT, where each has a different role, and where the purpose of translation is considered the most

important criterion (VanDemark, 2022). It is crucial to tackle this issue since functionalist approaches consider that the method adopted in translation is determined by the function of a text in the TC. They highlight the prominence of the TT as the main objective of the translation process.

Linguistic-Textual Approaches

According to House (2015), linguistics has made remarkable contributions to translation evaluation, considering the relationship between the ST and TT. However, no specific norms or procedures are offered to evaluate the translation quality. As House (2001) earlier declared, "Linguistic-textual approaches take the relationship between original and translation seriously but differ in their capacity to provide detailed techniques and procedures of analysis and evaluation" (p. 24). This demonstrates her preference for the linguistic-textual approaches. The critical factor is "the source text, its linguistic and textual structure, and its meaning potential at various levels, including the level of context of a situation in a systemic framework" (p. 16).

Functional Pragmatic Model for Translation Evaluation

It is noteworthy that House's functional pragmatic model is a linguistic analysis model "based on pragmatic theories of language use" (Baker, 1998, p. 199). On the one hand, House (1997) overemphasizes the importance of being conscious of the difference between linguistic analysis and social evaluation. Both are the result of two functional components, conceptual and interpersonal. For House, both components are necessary for the translation study, in that neither can be justified without the other. Therefore, House stresses that elaborating on the linguistic aspects of the ST, and then comparing them with the relevant linguistic elements of the TT is quite different from judging values, social and ethical issues of relevance, and personal preferences. On the other hand, she considers equivalence the most crucial concept of translation quality, stating, "Equivalence I take to be the fundamental criterion of translation quality" (House, 1997, p. 31). For House, preserving the exact meaning between two distinct languages and cultures is a must to reach equivalence.

House's model was applied by Vallès (2014) to an episode of *The Simpsons*, a satirical American cartoon translated from English into Spanish, through an analysis of the register and genre of both texts. It also presented a statement of quality after identifying mismatches between the original text and the translated text, as well as highlighted the importance of equivalence between the texts concerning their conceptual and interpersonal functions (Pedrazzini & Royards, 2022).

In the current study, we analyze the Register and Genre of the ST and TTs and provide an analysis of three techniques used in the translated texts to define more accurately whether the TTs are covert or overt translations. Analyzing the techniques used in the translation process will serve to make a contrastive analysis of the texts.

Method

Since this exploratory research performs an in-depth contrastive analysis of the ST and the TTs, and since the notion of equivalence between texts is considered, it is important to highlight why the approaches we adopted are appropriate.

On the one hand, the functionalist approach is culture-centered and focuses on the cultural and pragmatic characteristics of translation (Baker, 2019). In line with this, we conducted an in-depth analysis of language use on semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic levels. Hence, linguistic features of the three versions of the novel were examined to determine which were preserved and which were altered according to the norms of the TTs. Furthermore, we performed a detailed analysis of the excerpts to verify whether the translated texts are functionally equivalent to the ST. On the other hand, linguistic-textual approaches mainly focus on semantic, syntactic, and lexical aspects while considering cultural and pragmatic aspects of translation (Kaindl, 2019). Thus, we employed these approaches to examine the grammatical class changes, the replacement of lexical units, and the meaning transfer in the translated texts to detect whether such linguistic features were affected in the translation process and, if so, for what reason. Finally, we used House's functional-pragmatic model for translation evaluation for a comparative ST – TT analysis of the register of the texts to define their functions and determine mismatches. Given that we also aimed to examine the equivalence between the texts, this model was considered suitable in such a case as it highlights the importance of equality between the genres of the texts. In addition, this model is an essential reference for the current study since it broaches overt and covert translation methods.

Research Instruments

Deciding upon the specific book, we would examine was remarkably significant. The principal motives for choosing the novel *Eleven Minutes* were: (1) to detect the divergence of linguistic characteristics that exist among the languages concerned in this study, which makes the contrastive analysis between texts a challenging task, and (2) to explore the cultural transfer among the three languages.

Furthermore, it was determined that choosing to analyze English and Arabic translations of the novel would enrich the study with more detailed information referent to linguistic aspects of both languages. This not only helped us explore whether the syntactic and semantic elements of the original text are preserved but also to examine whether the translators maintained a balance between the formal aspects of the text and the reader's understanding. Therefore, some examples of grammatical structures in English and Arabic versions are analyzed and compared with those of the ST to permit a clear understanding of the extent to which linguistic features differ in both translations.

Variables of the Study

Independent Variable

The independent variable of the study was the method of translation employed in the ET and AT, be it overt or covert, through which we discovered the extent of the faithfulness of each translator to the ST. House (2015) distinguishes between the methods as, “an overt translation is a case of ‘language mention’ as opposed to ‘language use’ in the case of covert translation” (p. 66). To understand the role of these independent variables, it is significant to mention how they operate in the translation process at linguistic and cultural levels.

From one side, associating the notion of overt translation with the model Language/Text, Register, Genre, and Function, it can be said that the ST and its overtly translated text must have equivalence at the Language/Text, Register, and Genre levels. As for the textual function level, reaching the function existent in the discourse world and frame of the ST can be achieved by limited functional equivalence.

In covert translation, however, an equivalent text must be reproduced in the TL (House, 2001), meaning the fundamental role of covert translation is to reproduce in the TT the function existing in the discourse world and frame of the ST. In such a case, the ST might be manipulated at the levels of Language/Text and Register by applying a *cultural filter*. However, on the levels of individual textual function and genre, there must be equivalence between the ST and its covert translated text.

Dependent Variable

The dependent variable was the degree of faithfulness to the ST, which involves the notion of the semantic, syntactic, lexical, and cultural intricacy of the languages concerned, as well as the cultural differences or similarities between the ST and the TTs, in addition to the subjective characteristics of each translator. Observing the differences between overt and covert translation, it can be said that intercultural exchange is only achievable in situations of overt translation, by which most of the linguistic and cultural elements are transferred from the ST to the TT. However, no cultural transfer is made in covert translation due to the cultural filter used in the TT.

Research Procedures

Determining the most appropriate techniques to be employed in translation operation is considered the key factor for a successful translation (Laviosa, 2021). Therefore, by analyzing the texts, it can be observed that preserving the form and the content of the SL largely depends on the techniques used in the translation process considering the similarities of the languages in question and the translators' faithfulness to the ST message.

To get started, it should be pointed out that cultural and linguistic aspects constitute in effect the basic part of the translation process (Brown, 2020). Hence translation, along with being a language transfer, is also a culture transfer since every language in the world has its cultural characteristics. For that reason, both texts have been investigated to find out which of the SL

characteristics were preserved and how far both translators have adopted the same techniques in their texts. In general, the use of the techniques earlier mentioned in this study would lead to various modifications. Hence, in many instances of the texts under discussion, such modifications are deemed as a solution. However, in some other cases mainly in AT, they affected the message of the SL.

It can be observed that some techniques resulted in a translation as good and precise as possible, while others led to inaccurate translations (Laviosa, 2021). Furthermore, in addition to specifying the difference between the grammatical structure of the ST and that of the TTs, it has been highly significant to verify whether pragmatic equivalence between texts was achieved. This implies not verifying the exact meaning of the terms, but rather the meaning in the cultural framework. Since textual, pragmatic, and semantic aspects are all essential to form the meaning in translation (Kaindl, 2019), the next step in this procedure is to analyze the texts in this study and examine the functional pragmatic equivalence between texts. This is deemed mainly adequate for the preservation of meaning between ST and TT.

In terms of register level, we considered three categories when going through the comparative analysis of the texts (House, 2015): (1) the field that indicates social action, for instance, the text content or its theme; (2) the tenor which indicates the nature of sender and receiver and their correlation regarding social attitude; (3) the mode which indicates spoken or written communication between author and audience and the extent to which the participation between them is permitted. Yet, register descriptions are restricted to detect individual characteristics on the linguistic level. Hence, we investigated the genre level which is valuable for the analysis and assessment process since it offers a different notion to describe more in-depth textual structures and patterns.

To sum up, it is worth pointing out that the approaches adopted in the current research, the functionalist perspective, linguistic-textual approaches, and the functional-pragmatic model of House, have a significant role to play in the contrastive analysis between texts. They highlight the importance of pragmatic, semantic, syntactic, and cultural characteristics between the translated texts, settle a consistent relationship between the original text and the TT at different linguistic levels, and focus on how the texts are represented as genres via register and genre analysis.

Data Collection Techniques

In this work, we employed contrastive analysis between the original text and its translations, in searching for linguistic and cultural differences or similarities. Three techniques are featured through various excerpts from the books, which will be elaborated upon. Register analysis will be highlighted to enable the identification of mismatches between texts. To clarify the basis on which the criteria for collecting data was determined, the aspects of each technique are described below.

Distortion of Meaning

First, we observed fallacies in translation as a direct consequence of a fundamental meaning change that provided false information about the reality presented in the original Portuguese that could lead to a potential critical judgment because of mistranslation. In this category, a willingly biased view on the part of the Arabic translator is noted, which resulted in solid distortions in the outcome of the AT. Nonetheless, these distortions of meaning might not be considered inappropriate at the stylistic level. Furthermore, we noted that if the syntactic emphasis in the ST was altered in the TT, the emotions expressed in the TT were also largely subjected to alterations.

Adaptation

Adaptation is a sort of translation intervention through which the TT can be identified as representative of the ST rather than a simple translation, with the cultural side being prioritized (Baker). In this study, adaptation was identified in instances where there is a lack of lexical equivalents in the TT, cultural inadequacy between the two languages, or when alterations at the level of genres occur. Hence, the translation is being adapted to the TL to evoke connotations analogous to those of the original text.

Transposition

Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) introduced the notion of transposition as a procedure of oblique

translation: "Transposition consists of replacing one class of words by another without changing the meaning of the message" (p. 94). Transposition indicates morphosyntactic rearrangement, a shift of word class. In both translations in question, from a stylistic point of view, the translated texts preserved the exact meaning of the ST but with alterations in grammatical structure.

Thus, to achieve the objectives of this qualitative research, it is fundamental that one be familiar with linguistic studies as well as translation studies. Therefore, to present a comprehensive textual analysis, the techniques mentioned previously served as a basis for a contrastive analysis between the ST and TTs employing selected excerpts from the AT and ET.

Findings

Register Analysis

In the current study, we employ House's functional-pragmatic model to perform a contrastive analysis between the register of the original text and those of both translated texts to identify the text function, define mismatches, make a statement of quality, and determine the methods adopted by the translators.

Register Analysis of the ST

Regarding ST at the lexical level, emotive language is used in the novel to express the attitudes and feelings of the main character. Meanwhile, there is a predominance of explicit lexical

items referring to a narration of obscene scenes. Concerning the syntactic level, long sentences with complex structures are frequent in the novel, which offers dynamism to the text. We observed that the regular use of em-dash offers extra information and emphasizes particular situations, thereby rendering equilibrium to the text. As for the textual level, strong textual cohesion is obtained via clausal connection in complex sentences indicating a cause-effect relationship in communicative situations and via iconic linkage optimally providing the information. Three examples of iconic links show their significance in achieving textual cohesion. For instance, we have the repetition of the modal auxiliary verb *can*, “podem bater, podem gritar, podem ameaçar” (p. 82), which means, “they can beat you up, can shout at you, can threaten you”; we also found non-isomorphic words that are identical in meaning, “se ampliando, se expandindo” (p. 107) that translate as, “grew and grew”; and lastly, we observed the repetition of the same attitude with steady rhythm providing an aesthetic aspect to the sentence, “não hesitam, não perdem uma oportunidade, não deixam passar nenhum momento mágico” (p. 125) which translates as “they do not hesitate, they do not miss an opportunity, they do not let slip a single magic moment”.

Second, concerning the mode of the original text, simple lexical choices with many descriptions make it clear and understandable to a great extent. In addition, the informal type is notable due to the spontaneous use of language and the constant use of imperative voice. Furthermore, the style of the novel switches between narration, dialogue, monologue, and some selected verses to firmly engage the reader. What also draws the reader's attention are the diary entries presented alongside the body of the novel in italics as a strategy of the author to highlight the protagonist's thoughts in a way that sets them off from the surrounding text. It can be concluded that the solid connection among sentence structures resulted in a significant interaction between author and reader, thus making the whole text a cohesive unit.

The statement of function is as follows: the ST function comprises the conceptual and interpersonal functional constituents. Concerning the field, the regular use of long, complex sentences along with innuendo and explicit sentences to portray the protagonist's life experience, reinforces the conceptual function of the text.

Also, the use of simple narrative vocabulary involves the reader with plenty of details about the main character's feelings of anxiety, which enriches the text's conceptual and interpersonal functions. Regarding the mode, given that the text is written in an informal style, that the content meaning is intelligible, and that the switch between the frameworks of dialogues and monologues is frequent, it can be said that the interpersonal function is thus strengthened. This is realized at the linguistic level through the text cohesion that significantly involves the reader in the text events.

Comparison of ST and TTs

Analyzing the novel, it can be said that the ET and AT both related the same content of the ST maintaining very detailed descriptions of the events. However, the framework differs in no small measure in the AT, unlike in the ET which adopted almost the same framing and tone as the ST. For this reason, separate mismatches in AT are presented next across fields and modes.

First, regarding AT, we found syntactic and textual mismatches. Regarding syntactic mismatches, the constant use of em-dash in the ST was not preserved in AT except in a few cases. This mismatch caused a loss of required focus on text parts. However, this focus was markedly preserved in ET. Moreover, the impact of the content meaning was not precisely transferred in some instances due to the different use of punctuation or its replacement by a cause-effect relationship, as in the following examples, “Por uma simples razão: não espero nada” (p.129), translated into English with the preservation of the colon as “for one simple reason: I’m not expecting anything to come of it” (p. 138). However, it was replaced by a cause-effect sentence in AT, “لسبب بسيط وهو أنني لا أتوقع شيئاً” (p. 146). This mismatch resulted in the loss of the needed emphasis on the character’s important stance. Another example is marked by the replacement of semi-colon by a cause-effect sentence as follows, “E isto ele terá; quero que ele seja muito feliz” (p. 130), rendered in ET as ‘that is what he will have; I want him to be very happy’ (p. 148). Separating the sentence using a semi-colon almost gives voice to the main character and consequently enhances its impact on the reader. In AT the sentence has become: “هذا ما سأمنحه إياه” (p. 147). It is evident how the tone of the sentence is changed by eliminating the semi-colon, hence reflecting the translator’s attitude. It is also notable that the use of punctuation is identical in ET.

Concerning textual mismatches, the iconic linkage of the ST was not transferred into AT with the same impact due to changes made at the syntactic level. For instance, “they can beat you up, can shout at you, can threaten you” in the ET was rendered in AT as: “بإمكانهم أن يضربوا ويزعقوا” (p. 92). The repetition of the auxiliary verb *can* in the ST serves to call attention to and highlight the character’s emotional state of mind. However, this impact is lost in the AT due to the mismatch that caused a loss of cohesion, mainly because the emphasis on the function of *can* is ignored. Again, the same emphasis of the ST is kept in the ET.

Second, concerning the Mode, attention is drawn to the diary writing style. Although the diary of the main character is introduced in the ST as monologue chunks are written in italic font, however, the regular font was adopted in AT except for the last part of the diary. Thus, the endeavor to attract the reader to the character’s thoughts and emotions is not kept up in the translation. This mismatch inflicts an attenuation of the required impact precisely because no emphasis on diary entries was made.

Quality Statement

Analyzing the ST and TTs shows there is a significant similarity in the ET, thereby reinforcing the conceptual and interpersonal functional constituents of the text. However, mismatches are detected in the AT through the variables of field and mode, consequently resulting in an intrinsic change on the level of interpersonal functional constituent. Regarding AT, cultural elements of the ST were manipulated via the cultural filter. Hence, the target reader is not allowed to get closer to particular points of the original text. Loss of cohesion is also seen in various instances, which reduces the emotional impact on the target audience. In addition, the different use

of punctuation, including the omission of em-dash and iconic linkage, leads to a loss of cohesion that, in turn, lessens the accuracy of the ST message. For this reason, the interpersonal functional constituent is affected to a particular degree.

Based on our contrastive analysis, it can be concluded that the procedure employed in the ET at the register level resulted in a translation in which the translator sought to maintain balance with the ST register, keeping the source content information unaffected. By contrast, the procedure employed in the AT at the register level led to a translation in which emphasis was placed on things through the translator's perspective, thereby distorting the impact of the ST. As a result, the English translator's performance is invisible. Consequently, the ET is considered adherent to the ST, which makes the ET translation process faithful to the content and form of the original. In contrast, the Arabic translator's performance is visible, and therefore the AT is considered deceptive, which makes the translation process unfaithful to the content and form of the original.

Analysis of the Techniques

In translation, particular set procedures are typically adopted, like omitting some cultural aspects or situations where the repetition of the SL content is not necessary for the TC, adapting the text for semantic or syntactic needs, making explicit when a term or expression requires explanation, etc. Translation techniques are countless. However, the specific choices made regarding applying a particular technique depend on the text itself, the translator's purpose, and the directions of the translation commissioners.

Distortion of Meaning in AT

We did not find any distorted meaning in the ET. There are similarities in the semantic fields of both the ST and the ET. Thus, the real message of the ST was conveyed with no alterations, impacting the target English reader with the same effect as that affecting the source reader. Conversely, distorted facts are found in the AT in large part. To illustrate this distortion factor, several examples are presented in the following table, showing the similarities between the ST and ET, and in contrast, displaying the differences between the ST and AT at the various textual levels. Afterward, these examples are analyzed.

Table 1. *Distortion of meaning in AT*

Portuguese Original Text	English Translated Text	Arabic Translated Text
A dona de casa que sonhava em ser modelo	A housewife who dreamed of becoming a model	عاملة التنظيف التي كانت تحلم بأن تصير عارضة
(58)	(55)	(65)

Trezentos francos por dia (72)	Three hundred Swiss francs a day (71)	9.. فرنك سويسري في اليوم (81)
Ele parou de beijá-la de repente (20)	Then suddenly, he stopped kissing her (8)	وفجأة توقفت عن التقبيل (21)
Conversando com as companheiras sobre artistas famosos e rapazes da cidade (22)	Talking with her girlfriends about film stars and about other local boys (10)	وألهمت نفسها بالتحدث إلى صديقاتها الفنانات، والشبان الذين يسكنون في الجوار (23)
Não via que ela já... era sua escrava, seu animal, seu objeto (164)	Couldn't he see that she was...his slave, his creature, his object (182)	ألا يرى أنها مستعدة... أن تكون عبدة له، كلباً أو شيئاً يمتلكه (187)
Assim não passamos por riscos, frustrações, momentos difíceis, e quando ficarmos velhos poderemos sempre culpar os outros...por não termos realizado aquilo que desejávamos (36)	That way, we avoid all the risks, frustrations and difficulties, and when we are old, we can always blame other people...for our failure to realize our dreams” (27)	وهكذا، فإنه لا بد لنا من اجتياز الظروف الصعبة ومواجهة الأخطار والتعرض للحرمان عندما نتقدم بنا السن وتدهمنا الشيخوخة. وفي نهاية المطاف نحمل الآخرين... الذنب، لأنهم (38) لم يحققوا لنا رغباتنا

As in the previous instances, the examples mentioned in Table one show that ET is analogous to a considerable extent to the ST, especially regarding the semantic field. In effect, the translator's mastery in transmitting the same image as that of the original text is evident through the textual equivalence made by the choice of appropriate lexical units, although the sentence structures were formed within the boundaries of the TT with their stylistic skills.

Although radical changes in meaning are found in the AT, i.e., many changes were performed by the Arabic translator within the semantic field of the ST. However, it is not merely a question of adaptation or modification at the structural level, nor an alteration using equivalence or adequacy. It is a matter of content meaning replacement with a false one, i.e., the facts were highly distorted. The examples in Table one show a replacement of lexical items; for instance, the *housewife* was translated as a *cleaning woman* and *300 Swiss francs* as *900 Swiss francs*. Gender substitution also takes place, so, *he stopped kissing her* was replaced by *she stopped kissing*. The AT translator goes even further by using distortion of meaning haphazardly, modifying the events of an entire situation. For instance, in the ST, the protagonist talks to her friends about famous artists and local boys, whereas in the TT she talks to her artist friends and the local boys.

Furthermore, modification of content meaning occurred with the use of negative connotation so that the word *animal*, referring to sadomasochism in the ST, was translated as the *dog* in the TT, as in the specific type of animal specified. Hence, the sentence undergoes a major change in meaning. The last example carries a remarkable number of meaning changes at syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic levels. Such changes are as follows: the change of the syntactic purpose of punctuation, thus resulting in a new scenario in TT; the deletion of the conjunction *and*, thereby transforming two actions into one, which results in a radical change in meaning; and the last part of the segment is misinterpreted causing a great change of sense and depriving the target audience of reaching the true meaning of the ST.

Therefore, interpreting this segment might be considered a fallacy in translation where the translator over-mediated the translation operation by altering tremendously the reality of some text parts. By producing great shifts in the receptor language, the impact produced in the ST is not preserved in the translation. In effect, this kind of mediation creates in the TT a new image not provided in the ST. From a pragmatic viewpoint, translation is an intercultural communication by which the notion of equivalence between texts is deemed important. House (1997) considers that translation might in many cases result in the loss of original meaning and distortions of facts as it is a subordinate communicative situation of an original event that occurs just once.

It must be mentioned that the distorted meanings presented above are almost considered egregious errors in translation due to the evident manipulation of the text events. Although the reason behind such decisions remains unknown, it still leads one to think about the translator's instability in particular zones of the book. All in all, it can be deduced that even though the Arabic translator shows fidelity in some parts of the book, whether in terms of content or form, in other parts of the content, certain infidelities were engaged.

Adaptation in ET and AT

We found in this study that the English and Arabic translators attempted to seek good solutions to minimize the text's foreignness as much as possible. Next, three examples of adaptation in both translations are presented.

Table 2. Adaptation in ET and AT

Portuguese Original Text	English Translated Text	Arabic Translated Text
seu herói (15)	Her prince charming (1)	فارس الأحلام (15)
Os erros são uma maneira de agir (34)	Making mistakes is just part of life (25)	الأخطاء شكل من أشكال التقدم في الحياة (37)
Vejo que aqueles que me tocaram a alma não conseguiram despertar meu corpo, e aqueles que tocaram	I see that those who touched my heart failed to arouse my body, and that those who aroused my body failed to touch my heart"	إنّ هؤلاء الذين لامسوا روحي لم ينجحوا في إيقاظ جسدي من كيوته، وإنّ هؤلاء الذين لامسوا سطح جسدي لم ينجحوا في بلوغ أعماق روحي (28)

meu corpo não conseguiram atingir (16)
minha alma

(26)

In this section, the similarity of both translators' performances is remarkable. The examples above indicate the use of adaptation by which the apparent meaning of words was exceeded in both translations. The cultural context and traditional issues have been mainly considered. Hence, syntactic, semantic, and lexical levels of the ST were distinctly adapted in the ET and AT. Consequently, equivalence in meaning was reached through particular cultural elements employed in both translated texts.

For instance, in the first example, the word *herói* in the ST means *hero*. But its meaning in this context refers to prince charming as translated in ET. The Arabic translator also opted for *فارس الأحلام* as a perfect choice to keep the impact of the ST. In this case, the ST expression was translated with equivalent idiomatic expressions in both translations to get the message related as plainly as possible and to keep the meaning intact. Despite the different lexical items used in all three expressions, each similarly represents the same allegory, which preserves the impact of the ST.

The second example presents three different sentences about one central concept. In effect, the ST message in Table two means *making mistakes is a way of taking action*. The meaning was transferred into English as *making mistakes is just part of life*, and into Arabic as *making mistakes is a way of moving forward*. Accordingly, the manipulation of the lexical items in the text was carried out to achieve a suitable equivalence in both TTs. More precisely, the ST cultural reference was adapted adequately in the TT to avoid inappropriate content meaning. Consequently, equality in meaning has certainly been achieved.

The third example requires a longer explanation as it illustrates creative adaptation in translation. As is shown in Table two, creative transformation is employed in both translations. However, it is notable that explicit ability is more evident in AT. The lexical field in the Arabic language is considered one of the richest in the world. Hence, the expressive mode of lexical items in Arabic can be transmitted via many different styles of articulation and definition. As the example in the discussion, it expresses the protagonist's deep feelings of love. On the one hand, the creative adaptation in ET is represented by replacing the term *soul* with the term *heart*, which subsequently exerts an impact on the target English reader similar to that caused to the ST reader. The term *soul* could undoubtedly have been rendered with the identical lexical unit in TT. However, to achieve a similar stylistic effect to that of the ST, opting for a *heart* can be considered an appropriate choice. As for the rest of the sentences and the syntactic structures of the ST and English TT, they are very similar concerning the meaning and impact on readers.

On the other hand, the term *soul* was kept intact in AT. However, creativity was reflected in one of the essential elements of stylistics, the imagery aspect highlighted in the sentence. The expression *failed to arouse my body* was conveyed similarly but with the addition of the term *من كيوته* thus emphasizing the emotional aspects more effectively (see Table two). The use of such

imagery enriched the sentence by showing more explicitly how broken-hearted the protagonist is, a fact that might engage the reader more. Creativity was also manifested through the use of poetic images: *سطح جسدي* and *أعماق روحي*, thus overemphasizing the protagonist's emotional state with a harmony perfectly transmitted between lines resulting in a significant impact on the reader.

What can be inferred from the examples above is that adapting a communicative situation in translation means not doing word-for-word translation, which could result in a remarkable loss of meaning in the translated text. Therefore, the decision to use sense-for-sense translation does not imply unfaithfulness to the message of the ST. In effect, it aims to preserve the exact meaning of the ST by employing equivalents, so those cultural elements are typically adapted according to the TT's needs.

Transposition in ET and AT

The transposition technique, employed in both translations shows how effective it is in the translation process and to what extent it serves the TL (see Table three). The first example refers to a shift in words without changing the character's attitude. The following sentence in the ST, which *her mother did not want to explain*, is a simple negative sentence translated into English as *her mother preferred not to explain*. It is a structure in a negative form that consists of *prefer not + infinitive* with a nuance indicating a little more formal sentence. On the other side, the transposition in the AT took place using *refused to explain*, a structure comprising the affirmative form with a negative connotation. Despite the use of different word categories, the content meaning of the ST is preserved.

Table 3. *Transposition in ET and AT*

Portuguese Original Text	English Translated Text	Arabic Translated Text
A mãe não queria explicar (20)	Her mother preferred not to explain (8)	امتنعت الأم عن الشرح (21)
perder a oportunidade (41)	Missed chances (33)	فاتتني الفرصة (44)
um homem com uniforme de companhia aérea (72)	a man wearing the uniform of some airline (71)	رجلاً يرتدي بزّة طيار (81)
Será que o risco é maior do que um acidente com o ônibus que levou 48 horas para me trazer até aqui? (35)	But is the risk any greater than the chance of the bus that took forty- eight hours to bring me here having an accident? (26)	هل هذه المجازفة أقل خطورة مثلاً من حادث كان بإمكانه أن يحصل لي في الباص الذي استغرق ثماني وأربعين ساعة لإصالي إلى هنا؟ (37)

The second example refers to a shift in word class and verb tenses without affecting the relevant context. For instance, the expression of the ST *miss the opportunity*, which comprises the base form of the verb + singular noun, is translated into English as *missed chances* formed with past participle + plural noun, the latter being the lexical equivalent *chances*, thus providing a smooth, natural text. As for the AT, the expression is transposed with the use of simple past + indication to the object pronoun *me* + singular noun, which suits the target Arabic language more. It can be said that transposition is an attempt to bring harmony to the text by considering the aesthetic value of the TT.

The third example also indicates a shift in word category and simplification at the structural sentence level. Thus, the ST sentence *with the uniform of some airline* is a prepositional phrase translated with a verbal phrase in both translations. However, what differentiates AT is the reduction of sentence length for equivalence purposes (see Table three). In effect, despite syntactic and lexical differences, the main idea of the content and the original impact are preserved.

In the last example, the meaning of the original message is rendered more freely through significant alterations in word order and word class. Thus, starting the sentence with conjunction + verb to be in the ET replaces the indirect question of the ST, *I wonder if*, which was rendered in the AT with an interrogative lexical equivalent. Besides that, the concept of *riskier* in the ST and ET was transposed as *less risky* in the AT. However, using the quantifier *less* in the question posed in the sentence instead of *more* did not result in a different impact.

Furthermore, the word *accident* in the ST was replaced in the ET by a sentence structure that comprises the addition of more lexical items and the gerund form. It was transposed as follows, *the chance of having an accident*, to transmit a similar effect to the ST. The same effect is also achieved in the AT by the addition of the sentence that *could have happened*. Lastly, the occurrence of inverse transposition in ET must be mentioned. The reference to the probability of having an accident was mentioned at the start of the sentence in the original and Arabic texts, in contrast, in the ET it was indicated toward the end of the sentence. Although the sequence and form of elements in the sentence were changed, however, such a process did not affect the original content meaning.

As can be observed, the syntactic field differs from one language to another, which means that the replacement of a word class in the TL does not affect the message of the ST. Hence, in the examples above, content and form were subjected to shifts at various linguistic levels, but no changes occurred to the core meaning of the original text. In effect, transposition is a loose technique that allows translators to act freely by employing their style in translation.

Given the above, it can be concluded that any translator has a challenging task in terms of deciding which of the SL aspects must be preserved, adjusted, or eliminated, i.e., appropriate translation techniques might be adapted according to particular cultural and linguistic aspects of the relevant text to obtain a smooth, simple, and fluent text. On this basis, functional equivalence is reached only in some cases depending on the technique used in translation and the communicative situation in each of the examples described previously in this article. Hence,

translation techniques can affect ST characteristics, including micro-units, and consequently, they will influence the translation result.

Discussion

Through the contrastive analysis of the ST and both translations at issue, the research questions are consecutively answered below. As to the first research question, regarding the advantages of House's functional-pragmatic model to the contrastive analysis of translations of *Eleven Minutes*, it has been shown here that House's model (2015) contributes to determining the relationship between linguistic elements and the relevant communicative action, which helps to define whether language barriers are overcome and whether cultural aspects are preserved through the words used in the translations. Thus, having analyzed both the ET and AT at the register level, one of the essential aspects of the model, and compared them with the ST register, we found that the register variables field and mode represent significant differences in lexical, syntactic, and textual levels between the ST and AT. However, the ET manifests similarities to a great degree and at all levels with the ST. Hence, lexical, syntactic, and textual elements of both variables are translated almost identically in the ET, which allows an impact on the target English reader similar to the effect caused on the source reader. Thus, the interpersonal function of the ET is quite identical to that of the ST. In contrast, syntactic and textual mismatches in the AT field cause a loss of cohesion and reduce the emotional effect on the target reader, which affects the interpersonal functional constituent. Likewise, in terms of mode, the interpersonal function is affected due to alterations in writing style, which thereby do not allow the AT reader to be as involved as readers of the SL.

Hence, this confirms that House's functional-pragmatic model helps to a great extent to assess the relationship between the ST and TT as it focuses on texts, how they are regarded as genres that must be preserved equivalent in overt and covert translation, and emphasizes their differences or similarities. This contradicts the concept of the mentalist views that emphasize the translator's subjectivity in the translation process and contradicts the concept of the behavioristic approaches, descriptive approaches, postmodern approaches, and functionalist approaches mentioned earlier in the literature review, which pour all their attention into the TT rather than seeking equivalence between the ST and TT. Therefore, the discussion of this work's findings revealed the importance of the role of translators in focusing on both, the ST and TT, equally, and in formulating the TT linguistically and culturally to bring forth the meaning of the ST in the proper language of the TT. Otherwise, the interpretation of the ST may not be efficaciously communicated in the TT.

Regarding the second research question, "To what extent are the translators whose work is examined in the current research faithful to the ST?", this study reveals two contradictory positions in the ET and AT of *Eleven Minutes*. Concerning the ET, determined in this study as overt translation, some adaptations and transpositions are used by the English translator for equivalence and grammatical purposes respectively. Still, the content meaning of the ST is preserved. In

addition, the cultural transfer is manifested using the same cultural elements of the ST. Hence, no distortion of the ST is found in the ET at the text and register levels, and linguistic elements are consistently rendered within the TT framework. This proves, therefore, the English translator's faithfulness to the core message of the original text. As for the AT, determined in this study as covert translation, the translator's primary intervention is noticeable in using translation techniques such as omission and distortion of meaning, to adjust the text within the TC norms, thus leading to misrepresentation of the original meaning. Additionally, modifications take place at text and register levels by applying a cultural filter to distract the target reader's attention from the ST culture. No cultural transfer is manifested in the AT. What stands out, though, is the alteration of some aspects of the ST and the preservation of others. It must be noted that many omissions and distorted meanings could have been avoided by the translator; however, the reasons behind resorting to such alterations are unknown. This establishes the Arabic translator's unfaithfulness to the original message.

Regarding the third research question, "Are linguistic-textual elements prioritized over cultural aspects in the conveyance of the ST message in either translation?", the contrastive analysis we pursued herein indicates primarily a linguistic analysis through which various cultural and linguistic differences are revealed. The relevant translations show the translators' performance in preserving a specific balance between the formal aspects of the text and the readers' understanding. Thus, the techniques and methods adopted in the translations do not rely only on the text itself, but also on social and cultural factors which, as is noted, greatly influence the resulting translation, mainly by applying the cultural filter as shown in the AT. These factors might be related to social taboos, human agents as commissioners, marketing strategies, or considerations behind the translation, which led to a distortion of meaning, omissions, and different forms of alterations that occur for cultural and ideological purposes. However, these cultural and social factors would not have been manifested had it not been for linguistic elements. Besides considering cultural and pragmatic aspects of translation, the linguistic textual analysis focuses mainly on semantic, syntactic, and lexical aspects of the text. Therefore, linguistic-textual elements are crucial in transmitting cultural parts within the translation process.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that translators might resort to applying drastic moves in their translations. However, such changes may occur not only for cultural or linguistic reasons but also have a lot to do with the style and background of each translator. Hence, this study has shown that the ET, thus defined as overt translation, is tied to the context of the ST by pragmatic equivalence providing thus a concise and accurate translation without the use of a cultural filter. Therefore, the target readers are given a chance to perceive the textual function and cultural aspect of the ST. As a result, translation invisibility is evident and faithfulness to the ST has been achieved in great measure. Regarding the AT, thus defined as covert translation, it is tied to the context of the ST by functional equivalence, where the original message was not directly connected to the target reader,

but it was reproduced according to the TC norms with the use of a cultural filter. As a result, the AT reader is not allowed to find out the textual function and the cultural aspect of the ST; their focus is exclusively oriented to the TC. Therefore, translation visibility is evident and faithfulness to the ST is not completely achieved. The result is that the minimum loss possible is guaranteed in the ET, whereas, in the AT, a different impact than that of the ST is manifested due to meaning changes of culture-specific content that occurred when a given text-based segment was transferred to the TL.

Limitations

This study presented register analysis and translation techniques analysis of the Brazilian novel *Eleven Minutes* and its English and Arabic translations; the English translator's faithfulness and the Arabic translator's numerous interventions in translation were markedly identified. However, if this study were to be broadened, more techniques could have been explored, and, consequently, more examples could have been presented, mainly because the AT comprises various fallacies that indicate the stylistic preferences adopted by the translator, which led to a different reality in the AT in several ST situations.

Moreover, the lack of previous research studies on contrastive analysis examining the three languages in question simultaneously limited the scope of this research. Previous studies might have addressed register analysis or techniques analysis of two of these languages. However, we could find no studies that could have assisted in providing a theoretical basis to determine the differences and similarities of all three languages linguistically and culturally, which made it harder to collect relevant data in the current study.

Another limitation is that the current study is qualitative research that does not rely on statistical procedures. Therefore, the findings might not be applicable or relevant to similar studies, mainly because this kind of research addresses ideological and cultural issues that are inherent in one culture but might not exist in the other, which may be a reference to lacunae between the languages in question and may indicate specific cultural concepts that represent a heavy burden for translators to deal with and might therefore evoke different perspectives among researchers.

Implications for Further Research

Given the data and analyses provided here, it can be said that the main contribution of this research is to show the extent to which linguistics and translation studies are interconnected. More precisely, the translation process—beyond dealing with cultural and ideological issues—also addresses various linguistic features as shown along with this contrastive analysis. Thus, it is evident how fundamental the linguistic and translation abilities of translators are, as well as their knowledge of the SL, the TL, and the text type to be translated.

Therefore, scholars can make use of this study as they focus on textual functions and communicative action in language use that represent the sender, receiver, and message of the text in three different languages. They can also recognize the importance of the notions of equivalence

achieved in the translation process, such as pragmatic equivalence or functional equivalence, bearing in mind that equivalence is highly significant for linguistics.

Moreover, having tackled language aspects and translation operation, this study is of great significance to researchers since it addresses a considerable range of translation techniques used in the ET and AT, showing the extent to which, they can affect the original text features linguistically or culturally. Over and above this, register analysis of the texts in question would also be meaningful to students since a detailed analysis utilizing its variables has been conducted to identify similarities and mismatches between texts.

In addition, since it has been observed here that conveying the ST culture-specific content requires equivalence of the communicative process in the TT, further research can explore the communicative functions of the concerned texts as an expressive, appellative, and referential function designed to show how speech is deemed an important means by which a message is conveyed to an audience.

Furthermore, since the novel at hand is rich in figures of speech (e.g., metaphor, symbolism, hyperbole, personification, etc.), the ambit of this research can be widened with a comparative analysis of the use of figures of speech between the languages in discussion to determine the stylistic effect delivered in each text and therefore to define whether the same emotions are raised in the target reader as in the source reader in such instances. This might allow us to recognize the extent to which aesthetic features are considered in the translated texts.

Another functional examination could elaborate more on the contextual aspects associated with the cohesion and coherence of the texts in question. The context can thus be examined to ascertain whether there is utmost stability in translation in which contextual aspects are least intricate and least ambiguous or if there is a minimum of stability in translation in which contextual elements are least transparent.

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