

## RECONTEXTUALIZATION PROCESSES IN TRANSLATIONS OF POLITICAL NEWS TEXTS INTO TURKISH: THE BBC AND EURONEWS

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### ABSTRACT

This paper investigates various transformations that are likely to occur within the political news translations from English to Turkish based on the recontextualization processes. Seven news texts from the BBC and Euronews were obtained to conduct an in-depth analysis of how and to what extent these transformations emerge. In light of the findings of the present study, it is claimed that a large number of transformations emerge in the form of omission, information selection, substitution, paraphrasing, and situational information. It has also been observed that one of the main reasons for the disparities between the source and the target texts is that religion-based and society-oriented priorities and sensitivities of the Turks are taken into account in the case of political news text translations. However, it is further suggested that the target readers of the news content are not provided full access to the vast majority of the source texts.

**Keywords:** Political News Texts, Recontextualization, Translations Into Turkish, The BBC and Euronews

### INTRODUCTION

“Until the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, scholarly publications on the position and impact of language use, let alone translation, in the media were very rare” (van Doorslaer 2012:1047). Along similar lines, Palmer argues that “there are of course numerous studies on news language, but most of them largely ignore the role of translation in news production” (2009:186). As a consequence of this, researchers have not given sufficient consideration to the role that translation plays in the field of journalistic studies. Notwithstanding that, the last decade has seen rapid technological developments that have demonstrated the need for the dissemination of information and have given rise to a considerable amount of research in the field of journalistic translation.

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In this respect, Valdeon (2015:640) propounds the view that “from the mid-2000s, journalistic translation research (JTR) has indeed become a popular area of research within the larger umbrella of Translation Studies with a small number of articles published in proceedings and specialized journals that had opened the way”. In the era of the internet today, media corporations such as BBC, CNN, Euronews, and Reuters have launched their online news services together with translations of news texts provided online.

As a result, it is much easier today to have access to information circulated by news agencies around the world. However, since circulation is carried out by specific news agencies that have different ideologies, institutional principles, and financial situations, translations may come in various forms of transformations. Thus, it is of utmost importance to take a look at what happens in the world of journalistic translations in terms of such transformations to understand how and to what extent they occur. These transformations will be taken into consideration under the term recontextualization.

Recontextualization is in general terms the dynamic transfer and transformation of something from one discourse/text-in-context ... to another (Linell 1998:154). Schäffner and Bassnett (2010:2) suggest that “media reports about political events are always forms of recontextualization, and that any recontextualization involves transformations”. There is a divergence between source texts and their translations. This divergence occurs because of the recontextualization which depends on various factors, including the goals, values, and interests of the target audiences according to Schäffner and Bassnett (2010:8).

“Deletions, rearrangements of information, substitutions and paraphrasing are typical examples of transformations that text producers (i.e. journalists, revisors, editors) make use of in the recontextualization processes” (Schäffner 2008:13). In addition to subtle linguistic transformations such as adopting a quote to make it fit the syntactic structure of a sentence (Schäffner 2008:4), recontextualization also often involves the “filtering of some meaning potentials of a discourse” (Blackledge 2005:121).

“News translation involves a process of recontextualization that may be intricately associated with issues of voice, representation, institutional authority, and ideology” (Kang, 2007). For example, as stated by Aktan and Nohl (2010), “the BBC World Service, with its numerous language services, offers a rich field for studying strategies and patterns of trans-editing.” There are several possible explanations for causes of transformations in translations of political news texts regarding the language usage and style as well as priorities of the target readers. Furthermore, it can be argued that the perceptions and expectations of the target readers can exert an effect upon the level of transformations.

All things considered, this paper seeks to examine recontextualization and its forms in political news texts translated from English to Turkish. This paper will first describe the objective. The following section will include a brief literature review on journalistic translations in Turkish. In the final section, the corpus extracted from the BBC and Euronews will be analysed in terms of recontextualization and a conclusion will be reached.

## 1. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Little attention has been devoted to journalistic translations of notably political news that are translated from English to Turkish. Tom Cheesman and Arnd-Michael Nohl (2011) attempted to accentuate gatekeeping and domestication and foreignization in translations of news texts in four languages one of which is Turkish apart from Arabic, Persian and Tamil. They focused on an analysis of a single text related to the winner of the US presidential race in parallel to various aspects of globalizing and re-localizing news. In another study on a text analysis along with an interview with the head of the BBC World Service Turkish Radio and participant observation conducted among their trans-editors, trans-editing was elaborately discussed with various forms of transformations in news text translations with an attempt to find out intercultural communication strategies that are employed (Aktan and Nohl, 2010). It was found out in the study on journalistic translations of cultural elements and possible discrepancies that may occur when translating news texts based on an analysis of texts obtained from the BBC and Euronews that transformations in the form of omissions, additions, and paraphrasing are evident in almost all texts translated in Turkish (Eriş & Ulađlı, 2017). In another study which was based on gatekeeping in news translations, Erzurumlu (2016) focused on the function of gatekeepers concluding that the policies of media outlets covering translation and language policy, the perception of the interpreters regarding the profession and their role, and their work conditions all function as gatekeepers. She further suggests that there is not one single interpreter who is in charge of the gatekeeping process that makes the key decisions (2016: 49). And in her Master's Thesis Aslı Polat (2015) discussed the role of translation in journalism concluding that the strategies applied by the BBC Turkish add idiosyncratic features to its institutional discourse and create a target-oriented institutional discourse. Hence, to build on the existing knowledge in the field, to contribute to the literature on comparisons related to other language pairs and to determine whether political texts are also subject to transformations, as it was found concerning cultural elements, this study has been designed by drawing upon corpus obtained from not only the BBC news agency but also from Euronews, a European-based news agency. As institutional ideology and expectations may have a profound impact on the selection of which texts are to be translated and how translations should be carried out, the two agencies were chosen to help find out recontextualization processes. Besides, the reason for the selection of these two specific news agencies is that they are among the most popular agencies from which Turkish readers obtain information, particularly related to political news. With this in mind, the following research questions will be addressed:

1. What forms of transformations occur in translations of political news texts from Turkish into English?
2. How do the expectations and priorities of the target audience affect the recontextualization processes carried out in translations of source news texts?
3. What are the main differences and similarities between translations in the BBC and Euronews in this language pair?

## 2. JOURNALISTIC TRANSLATION IN TURKISH

The current literature on other language directions such as English-French and Spanish-English abounds with examples of studies conducted related to the divergences that occur in news texts and their translations. However, very few of these studies revolve around journalistic translations into the Turkish language. Turkey is a huge country with seven different regions and a great many different communities of different ethnic origins and languages. Besides, as it is close to the Middle East and thus is open to political as well as security-related issues, it is discussed in news texts from all over the world. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that translations into Turkish are carried out taking into account the main parameters and issues of Translation Studies, especially those related to journalistic translations such as localizing, re-localizing, gatekeeping, trans-editing, and recontextualization processes. Aktan and Nohl (2010) mentioned about the trans-editors of news texts translated from the BBC World Service to Turkish and determined that under the circumstances of language barriers, mediated intercultural communication follows five principal strategies to facilitate comprehension on part of the audiences. According to them, these are adding explanative information, modifying semantics, reducing information, omitting information, and adding input applied by the trans-editors where a direct translation would lead to either incomprehensibility or nostrification, i.e. *not* or *wrongly* understanding the text. As they conducted a text analysis based on participant observation and interviews with the BBC Turkish team, the results of this study both give an insight into how translations are delivered to study on other factors and elements of shifts in journalistic translations. In their study, Cheesman and Nohl (2011) worked on a particular news text related to the win of Barack Obama as the US president and included the Turkish language in the languages to be analysed to determine whether there are many voices in the BBC World during the translation process with a special interest in gatekeeping and localizing. Mona Baker (2009:347), who extensively studies on the issues of framing and reframing of news and narratives, puts forward that

Because translation is a textual activity that is closely scrutinised and generally treated with suspicion, undermining a narrative elaborated in any given source text does not necessarily mean direct intervention in the text itself. More can often be achieved by intervening in the space around the text (footnotes, prefaces, addition of visual material) and by the very selection of texts to be translated. This is particularly the case in politically sensitive contexts, where translators and/or those who commission them are aware that other advocacy groups working on the same or similar issues are likely to have access to the source texts and to scrutinise the translations they produce carefully. Maintaining close semantic resemblance to the source text, or those stretches of it that are translated and made available in another language, allows those who produce the translations to claim that they are objective, non-partisan and a trustworthy source of information.

She further suggests that “advocacy groups as well as individual translators and interpreters can exploit features of narrativity (temporality, relationality, selective appropriation and causal emplotment) to frame or reframe a text or utterance for a set of addressees” (ibid: 360).

Based on this exploitation of features of narrativity, Eriş and Ulağlı (2017) focused on the omission, addition, and paraphrasing in journalistic translations of cultural elements with news texts taken from the BBC and Euronews.

A lack of capability of obtaining first-hand information is the underlying reason why translations are highly important regarding news about Turkey that is translated into Turkish. There will be a touch upon the news agencies of Turkey that provide international content. Hürriyet Daily News, Anadolu Agency and Daily Sabah are some of these news agencies. In general, these mainstream media agencies report news content in English and give wide coverage to mainly Turkey-based events. Though the target group of these agencies is an international audience, they have failed to reach their goal. They mainly draw upon sources including Reuters, BBC, and Euronews. It can be claimed that first-hand news content is rarely obtained from Turkish-based agencies. On the other hand, there are few cases when some hot topics such as the attempted coup and the Syria War are drawn from Turkish agencies. Taken together, referral agencies are international sources to a large extent. As a consequence of this, the content of international media agencies is sine qua non for the Turks who look for first-hand information. I will analyse the content taken from the BBC and Euronews, which are the two popular news corporations from among a great number of agencies.

### 3. BBC AND EURONEWS IN TURKEY

This section will include information about the history of the BBC Turkish and current activities of the BBC and Euronews related to Turkey. To that end, I will first describe the BBC Turkish. “During WW II, radio broadcasting was used as a means of propaganda to recruit support for political causes” (Ahiska 2010). It was that time when the BBC Turkish Section was established as part of the World Service (ibid). The present form of the BBC Turkish online service was launched on 20 November 1939 as a subsidiary of Radio Broadcasting. However, the length and scope of the news productions changed over time (Ahiska 2010:98).

Today, the BBC Turkish offers few translations of the news content reported on the BBC World on a daily basis. A great deal of information available within the source texts is found to be filtered out in the target texts in forms of omission, paraphrasing, and substitution. Even though the amount of transformations varies across the texts, all news content changes. The present study appears to corroborate such a view via illustrations as will be shown in the text analysis section.

Euronews, an online platform that provides translations into several European and Non-European languages, launched its service in 1993. Valdeon (2009) points out that Euronews was created in 1993 aimed at covering international news from a European perspective at times of great political turmoil in the Old Continent. It was in a sense a reaction to the hegemony of Anglophone services to counteract the dominant role of Anglophone media (ibid).

As news is not presented through anchors, but through the voice-over technique, thus allowing greater flexibility for the audience to choose their preferred language and entailing that the news items remain the same no matter which language is selected (ibid), translation is at the core of Euronews. Besides, translation is more visible in Euronews because the channel does not have their own network of correspondents and reporters around the world, like other international news outlets (ibid).

After TRT (Turkish Radio and Television) purchased almost one-fifth of the shares of Euronews in February 2009, the content in Turkish had more media coverage than before. One of the most obvious salient features of Euronews is that nearly all news content and videos are given in Turkish.

#### 4. CORPUS AND METHODOLOGY

The corpus for this study was selected from seven political news texts. As the BBC runs the BBC Türkçe (Turkish) as its subsidiary, five of them were obtained from the BBC while two of them were taken from Euronews, which does not possess a subsidiary named as Euronews Türkçe or something else. The whole corpus obtained from news texts in English was comprised of 874 words while the corpus in Turkish texts was comprised of 583 words in total. To validate the view that recontextualization processes are carried out in political news text translations, there was a need for as many contents as possible. As a result, after longitudinal research various sources of news texts, I chose these two specific online news platforms for the present study. In particular, political texts were taken as a basis because the vast majority of the political texts are offered in translations while news texts in other sections such as culture, economy, etc. are ignored. Besides, political news texts prove to be more vulnerable to the transformations in context and content based on the fact that the main reason to disseminate political information is not solely to highlight policies in any part of the world but also to persuade or appeal with an attempt to take advantage, make profit or impose something. In this context, the news texts were picked up randomly among those published between 2016 and 2017, when important hot topics such as the Syrian war, the US presidential race, the migrant crisis and gender issues were high on the agenda in Turkey and around the world. “Analysing news content on a particular date can reveal important features and offer a general picture of how news circulates globally through the organization’s website” (Bielsa and Bassnett 2009:106).

In this respect, to provide information on how examples will be analysed, the source text (a); the target text (b) and back translation of the target text (c) will be given altogether. Besides, as there is no certain information about who exactly translates the news texts in the BBC and Euronews, though it is observed from the profiles of some employees that journalists rather than professional translators carry out translations, the term ‘text producers’ will be preferred to refer to the translators/journalists in the present study.

Before moving on to examine the news content, it is essential to fully define the strategies of recontextualization. In this study, recontextualization will be defined as omission, addition, information selection, substitution and paraphrasing, summarization, and situational information.

Firstly, “information may be omitted due to such factors as space limitation, the potential lack of informativity for the target readers, or other text-normative considerations of the target language” (Kang 2007:226). Secondly, text producers may add some important issues to turn implicit points into more explicit ones. According to Gambier (2006:14) “sometimes you may need to clarify, to make explicit some background information, assumption, etc.” Text producers may draw upon addition in line with the background knowledge of the readers. Thirdly, rearrangement of information, according to Schäffner, may occur in the form of information selection from a certain text (2008:4). “Most media do not normally publish a complete text but select information which is transformed in the recontextualization process” (2008:13). Fourthly, Gambier argues:

Substitution involves other strategies. For instance, you make details less specific (instead of 1552 dead in a typhoon, you write 1500); you change the focus; you depersonalize (instead of giving names of Defence Ministers, you mention their countries or just their position); you summarize. (2006:14)

One of the common strategies in recontextualization carried out along with substitution is paraphrasing, which means expressing a statement with the same meaning but in a different way. However, in news translations paraphrasing may be applied by text producers to shape the given statement or change the focus. Most importantly, within one translation strategy, there may be many other strategies that are used simultaneously with the focal strategy; for instance, in a paraphrase, there could be a more general word (superordinate), a hyponym, a loan word, and there could also be a cultural substitution or an omission (Mmaboko 2006:31). Fifthly, summarization is a strategy when text producers select specific information and turn that into a summary of the whole text. And finally, situational information is what occurs when text producers of translations add statements related to the context of the source text though they are not part of the source text at all. This strategy is mostly carried out when the priorities of the target audience are taken into account at the highest levels.

## **5. ANALYSIS OF TEXTS FROM THE BBC AND EURONEWS**

In this section, examples taken from the news texts will be discussed with the strategies of recontextualization. The journalese language is universal; however, different cultures and the reception of the target audience affect the way it is used (see example 1).

Example (1): Addition and Concrete Explanation

(a) Presidential debate: Who won - Trump or Clinton?

This may have been the debate Donald Trump wanted, but it wasn't the one he needed.

With one last chance to make a pitch to the American public that he should be trusted with the presidency, the Republican nominee had to make efforts to expand his base of support. (BBC (I), 20 October 2016)

## (b) Clinton Trump'a karşı: ABD'de son seçim tartışmasını kim kazandı?

ABD'de başkanlık seçimi yarışında başkan adayları Hillary Clinton ve Donald Trump son kez yüze geldi. BBC muhabiri Anthony Zurcher, adayların performansını yazdı:

Tartışma Trump'ın istediği havada geçmiş olabilir, ancak bu gergin atmosfere ihtiyacı olup olmadığı şüpheli. (BBC (I), 20 Ekim 2016)

(c) Clinton **versus** Trump: Who won the last presidential debate in US?

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, presidential candidates of the US presidential race, faced for the last time. BBC reporter Anthony Zurcher reported the performance of the candidates:

The above example is the title of a political passage. "Titles have been the subject of many analyses in different fields, arouse the curiosity of the reader, and deploy specific linguistic strategies in different fields: rhetoric, linguistics, social speech, pragmatics, etc." (Penalver 1965: 251). Rhetoric and social speeches are different in all cultures and feature as culture-specific. Accordingly, culture-specific phenomena change in translations. Therefore, it may be concluded that titles as indispensable parts of a report of media are also subjected to a transformation when being translated. As indicated above, the addition strategy is carried out by the text producer. The original text does not mention whether the relevant confrontation is the last debate or not, whereas, within the target text, readers are provided extra information to be aware of the status of the debate through an addition of a more explicit phrase. "There are country- or language-specific habits of writing and reading news; for example, in Turkey, it is common to introduce a report by referring to the general topic, not to specific events" (Cheesman and Nohl, 2011). Thus, the Turkish text includes more concrete explanations as well as gives extra information related to the general topic.

It is postulated in the present study that the priorities and background knowledge of the audiences are possible factors that determine the extent to which linguistic and stylistic transformations are to be carried out. A statement in the source text that may not seem acceptable in the target text based on values may be changed, emphasized or turned into a more emotive nature in the target text. The changes or emphasizes may occur in the form of different punctuation marks or attributions (see example 2).

## Example (2): Substitution and Paraphrasing

(a) Instead, after roughly half an hour of **something resembling an actual policy** debate about the Supreme Court, gun rights, abortion, and **even** immigration, **the old** Donald Trump - **the one who constantly interrupted his opponent**, sparred with the moderator and lashed out at enemies real and perceived - **emerged**. He (Trump) called Mrs Clinton a liar and a "**nasty woman**". He said the women accusing him of sexual harassment bordering on assault were either attention-seekers or Clinton campaign stooges. (BBC (I), 20 October 2016)



(b) Yarım saat süren Anayasa Mahkemesi, silahlanma hakkı, kürtaj ve göçmenler konusunda bir başkanlık tartışmasının ardından, Trump moderatörle tartıştı, gerçek ve hayali düşmanlarına saldırdı. Ardından da Clinton'ı “yalancı ve kötü kadın” olarak niteledi. Kendisini cinsel tacizle suçlayan kadınları ‘dikkat çekmeye çalışmakla’ suçladı ya da ‘Clinton kampanyasının yarıdakçıları’ olarak tanımladı.

(c) After half an hour of a **presidential** debate about the Supreme Court, gun rights, abortion, and immigration, Trump sparred with the moderator and lashed out at enemies real and perceived. And then he (Trump) called Clinton “a liar and bad woman”. He accused the women who accused him of sexual harassment of ‘seeking attention’ or called them ‘Clinton campaign stooges’.

“A term rich in target culture connotations may also signal intensified emotion” (Cheesman and Nohl, 2011:229). In the above example, the word ‘nasty woman’ is replaced by ‘bad woman’ as it would otherwise seem harsh with a literal translation. “As in the rendering of a translation, it is impossible to compose a news text without consideration of a target audience” (Brook 2012:52). Thus, the text producer substitutes a phenomenon for another phenomenon through a more reasonable term for the target audience. What is more, whereas the word ‘liar’ is positioned in the source text without quotation marks, thus ignoring the expression and its impact, it is added into the quotation mark in the target text to make it more visible. With regard to the style, some specific idioms such as attention-seeking and stooges are used to place emphasis on another issue. “Trans-editors are aware of the implicit structuring principles of source texts, in particular, their uses of emotive components, and (within the scope allowed) they creatively adapt these structures and components, in order to achieve comparable effects on different readers” (Cheesman and Nohl, 2011:230). Finally, some crucial parts of the source text are omitted leading to an imperfect interpretation. “Not every semantic shift seems to be legitimate and appropriate” (Aktan and Nohl, 2010). Though the source text mentions “the old Trump - the one who constantly interrupted his opponent-”, which depicts one of the candidates with an intensified emotion, this is neglected in the target text.

Linguistic shifts between the two languages may also lead to some amount of additions, paraphrasing, and situational information.

Example (3): Addition, Paraphrasing and Situational Information

(a) Iraq rejects fears of Shi'ite revenge attacks in Mosul

What next for Mosul once the so-called Islamic State has been ousted? Several Western and Middle Eastern countries have come together in Paris to consider just that question.

*“These forces are sacrificing their children for the liberation of Mosul” Ibrahim al-Jaafari, Iraqi Foreign Minister*

France has a particular interest: its warplanes and artillery are involved in the battle as part of the US-led coalition backing the Iraqi campaign. Foreign ministers and senior diplomats are seeking to put together guidelines about how to govern the city while protecting civilians and providing aid. Iraq's foreign minister dismissed fears about possible revenge attacks from elements within coalition forces.

“There is no need to worry regarding the presence of the popular movement, the “Shi’ite militia”. These forces are sacrificing their children for the liberation of Mosul. All those who say that the popular movement forces commit crimes or murders, it’s not true, let them show proof. Everyone is fighting under the control of the Iraqi army. These forces will go back home once this exceptional situation is over,” said Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, speaking a news conference alongside his French counterpart Jean-Marc Ayrault.

The summit comes a few days before coalition defence ministers are due to meet, also in Paris, to take stock of the battle for Mosul. (Euronews (I), 20 October 2016)

(b) Irak: ‘Şii milislerin Musul’daki varlığı endişe yaratmasın.’

IŞİD’e karşı operasyonun sürdüğü Musul kentinin geleceği Fransa’nın başkenti Paris’te masaya yatırıldı. Bakanlar düzeyinde yapılan toplantıya 20 ülke katıldı. Türkiye’yi Dışişleri Bakanlığı Müsteşarı Büyükelçi Ümit Yalçın temsil etti. Musul IŞİD örgütünden temizlendikten sonra kentte istikrarın nasıl sağlanacağı ve nasıl siyasi bir yol izleneceği ana gündem maddesiydi. Toplantıya başkanlık yapan ev sahibi bakan Jean Marc Ayrault ile Irak Dışişleri Bakanı İbrahim El Caferi ortak basın toplantısı düzenledi:

El Caferi, Musul’daki operasyona Şii milis güçlerinin dahil olmasıyla ilgili kaygılara şöyle yanıt verdi:

“Şii milislerin operasyondaki varlığı herhangi bir endişe yaratmamalı. Bu güçler, Musul’u kurtarmak için kendi çocuklarını feda ediyor. Bu güçlerin suç işlediği, cinayet işlediği doğru değil, bunları söyleyenler kanıt sunsun. Operasyondaki tüm gruplar Irak ordusunun komutası altında hareket ediyor. Söz konusu gruplar bölgedeki olağanüstü durum normale döndüğünde evlerine geri dönecek.”

Ankara, Musul operasyonunun, çoğunluğu Şii milisler ve benzer yapıdaki Irak ordusunca düzenlenmesinin bölgede bir mezhep savaşını alevlendirmesinden endişe ediyor.

(c) Irak: ‘There is no need to worry regarding the presence of Shi’ite paramilitaries in Mosul.’

The future of Mosul, where the operations against ISIS go on, in France’s capital, Paris. Ministers of 20 countries participated in the meeting held. Turkey was represented by the Ümit Yalçın, the Ambassador and Undersecretary of the Foreign Minister. The main question to be considered was how the stability would be assured and what policy would be followed once the ISIS has been ousted from Mosul. The host minister of the meeting, Jean-Marc Ayrault and Iraqi Foreign Minister İbrahim El Caferi held a joint news conference:

El Caferi responded to fears about the presence of the Shi'ite militia in the battle in Mosul as follows:

“There is no need to worry regarding the presence of the popular movement, the “Shi'ite militia”. These forces are sacrificing their children for the liberation of Mosul. All those who say that the popular movement forces commit crimes or murders, it's not true, let them show proof. Everyone is fighting under the control of the Iraqi army. These forces will go back home once this exceptional situation is over.”

Before proceeding to examine the above example, it is significant to note that though the titles of news texts may be translated or chosen independently, the selection and presentation of the titles demonstrates that there exists a rearrangement from the beginning. Both titles amount to the same argument: to advise a group not to worry. The two different titles, neither of which has been taken directly from the whole text, are chosen for the source and the target text. What is implied in the source text does not create the same impact on the target audience and thus, it is transformed through paraphrasing based on the priorities of the Turks and their political sensitivity to a religious issue. The opinion of the Turkish government and the Turks throughout the turmoil in the Middle East has been centred on the protection of Sunni communities, a sectarian group belonging to Islam. The transformation observed in the example (3) indicates that the text producer of the Turkish version has not ignored the current political agenda and the priorities. Whereas the source text sees only a rejection of fears related to some specific groups, the target text highlights the issue of the Shi'ite paramilitaries. In this way, the relevant group is found to denote a negative meaning. In considering the discrepancies between the language style in English and Turkish, it is clear that there is a divergence between the source text and the target text.

As put forward by Bielsa and Bassnett (2009:104), “the purpose of news translation is to adapt texts to the needs of different publics, which requires not only reorganizing and contextualizing information but also a subtle rewriting to heighten the effectiveness of the original text in the new context”(see example 4).

#### Example (4): Situational Information

(a) President Hollande has warned that ISIL militants fleeing the city should be pursued within the bounds of international law. (Euronews (I), 20 October 2016)

(b) Ankara, Musul operasyonunun, çoğunluğu Şii milisler ve benzer yapıdaki Irak ordusunca düzenlenmesinin bölgede bir mezhep savaşını alevlendirmesinden endişe ediyor.

(c) Ankara worries that Mosul offensive, the majority of which is to be operated by Shi'ite paramilitaries and Iraqi Forces of similar structure, may fuel a war of religion in the region.

The statements in (3) and (4) are found to be reorganized. As seen in the example (4), the source text is fully modified. While the original text underlines the issue of ISIL militants and international law related to the Mosul offensive, the Turkish counterpart predominantly diverts the issue to the matter of Shi'ite.

Another key point to remember is that Ankara is preferred in place of the representative of the Turkish government, a participant in the meeting in Paris, to highlight the issue. As a consequence of this, the representative is depersonalized.

What happens in news translation is that networks of foreign correspondents, working within or linked to news agencies, write and shape stories for designated audiences (Bielsa and Bassnett 2009:132). Political views and expectations play a vital role in the modifications in news translations. Besides, the strategy of omission, which is extremely common, effectively prevents target readers from ever having full access to the source (2009:7) (see example 5).

#### Example (5): Omission

- (a) Farc rebels have until 20 June to hand over the remaining weapons - a deadline that was extended from the original date of 30 May. The peace deal was signed after four years of negotiations, held in Cuba. It was initially rejected in a referendum last October, then reworked a month later and approved by Congress before beginning to be implemented. For his efforts to reach peace with the Farc, Mr Santos was awarded last year's Nobel Peace Prize. (BBC (IV), 14 June 2017)
- (b) Örgütün 20 Haziran'a kadar elindeki tüm silahları teslim etmesi gerekiyor. Anlaşma dört yıl süren müzakerelerin ardından Küba'da imzalanmıştı.
- (c) The rebels (FARC) have to hand over the remaining weapons until 20 June. The deal was signed after four years of negotiations in Cuba.

One of the striking differences between the source and the target texts is that nearly half of the source text has been omitted in its counterpart in Turkish. Such a strategy would surely deprive the target audience of the main issues reported. Firstly, the target readers would not be able to reach the information about whether the deadline was first declared as 30 May. Secondly, whether the negotiations were held in Cuba or Colombia is not clear in the target text. Finally, though it is highly crucial to note that one of the main actors of the peace deal, Mr Santos, was awarded Nobel Prize, a fact which is reported within the full text, it is disregarded via omission, leading to an incomplete interpretation of the source text.

Schäffner claims that rearranging information can be seen as ideologically significant since it allows giving a more prominent position to a specific topic (2008:22). The text producers may drive forward important issues within the text to satisfy the needs of the new audience. The information selected for publication differs and is determined mainly by the national political interests (Schäffner 2008:5) (see example 6 and 7).

#### Example (6): Information Selection and Substitution

- (a) "In your office, school, hospital, law court, newsroom, shop, factory, or wherever you are working, stop for an hour to demand 'no more machista violence'," the march organizers wrote. Marches in support took place in Mexico, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. The Argentina Solidarity Campaign also organized a vigil of support outside the Argentine embassy in London.

Machismo is the Spanish word for an exaggerated form of masculinity, which campaigners say engenders attitudes that in their extreme form lead to men killing women. (BBC (II), 20 October 2016)

(b) Yürüyüşler ‘Daha fazla machista şiddeti istemiyoruz’ sloganıyla düzenlendi. ‘Machismo’ kelimesi İspanyolca’da ‘erkek şovenizmini’ tanımlamak için kullanılıyor. Yürüyüşler eş zamanlı olarak Meksika, Guatemala gibi farklı Latin Amerika ülkelerinde de düzenlendi.

(c) Marches took place with slogans ‘no more machista violence’. ‘Machismo’ is the Spanish word to define ‘male chauvinism’. Marches took place concurrently in different Latin American countries such as Mexico, Guatemala.

As the example (6) highlights, the source text with 83 words turns into a target text of 29 words as a result of the selected information. The reasons for such a selection may be attributed to the male chauvinism and fatal rapes, both of which are highly criticized in Turkey by women activists. For the last few years, plenty of incidents of rapes have occurred in Turkey, causing public unrest. As such the text producer selects the relevant information for the target text. While in the source text there is a demand against a kind of violence with specific places such as office and hospital, none of these adverbs of places is preferred in the target text, limiting the importance of the scope intended by the organizers of the march through an omission. Moreover, the Turkish version includes Mexico and Guatemala to illustrate the countries where marches take place, yet the source text mentions both Mexico and four other countries but Guatemala through the strategy of substitution in which details are made less specific. Finally, one of the most outstanding transformations is observed in the selected definition of the word ‘Machismo’, which is explicitly described in the source text and refers to a more general meaning as ‘male chauvinism’ in the target. The target readers are driven to a new issue, which is common in their own country. In this way, the text producer applies the substitution by changing the focus. While male chauvinism does not necessarily mean the killing of women by men, its use in such a context indicates that the focus of the readers has been centred on a topic highly popular in the relevant country.

#### Example (7): Information Selection

(a) Greece has recalled its ambassador to Austria amid sharp divisions among EU states over the migrant crisis. It acted after Austria hosted a meeting with Balkan states on the migrant issue, to which Greece was not invited. Meanwhile, EU and Balkan interior ministers met in Brussels to try to heal rifts over the migrant issue. Speaking afterwards, the EU’s migration commissioner warned the bloc’s migration system could “completely break down” within weeks. Dimitris Avramopoulos said member states had until a 7 March Summit with Turkey to curb the number of migrants. (BBC (V), 25 February 2016)

- (b) Avusturya'nın dün kendisini dışlayarak Balkan ülkeleriyle bir mülteci zirvesi yapmasına tepki gösteren Yunanistan, Viyana'daki büyükelçisini geri çekti. Yunan Dışişleri Bakanlığı açıklamasında, krizi çözmek için tek taraflı adımlarla uluslararası mevzuat ve Avrupa hukukuna aykırı davranışların Avrupa'nın birliğinin temellerine darbe vuracak girişimler olacağı vurgulandı. Açıklamada "Mülteci kriziyle mücadelenin sorumluluğu tek bir ülkeye yüklenemez" ifadelerine yer verildi. Avusturya ise Yunanistan'ı mülteci akınını durdurmak için yeterince sıkı önlemler almamakla suçluyor. Ülkenin İçişleri Bakanı Johanna Mikl-Leitner, eğer akın kontrol altına alınmazsa "AB'nin bekasının tehlikeye gireceğini" söylüyor.
- (c) Greece has recalled its ambassador in Vienna as a response to Austria leading a refugee summit yesterday with Balkan countries with the exclusion of Greece. Greece's foreign ministry has reported that actions against international and European law to solve the crisis with unilateral steps would break down EU's foundations. It has been reported in the statement that the "burden of struggle against refugee crisis may not be laid on a single country." On the other hand, Austria accuses Greece of not taking strict measures to stop the refugee surge. Interior Minister of the country (Austria) Johanna Mikl-Leitner reports that unless the surge is brought under control "survival of EU will be imperilled."

Considering some parts of the news text related to the migrant crisis, it is observed that the source text has been rearranged with a few strategies. First off, the first paragraph has been redirected as the reason for recalling the ambassador is explained with the exclusion of Greece rather than sharp divisions, which are argued in the source. Secondly, whereas the second and the third paragraph in the source text focus on the gathering of the EU and Balkan officials, it is omitted in the target text in which the main issue is related to a report of the foreign ministry expressing concern over arbitrariness and irregularities about acts towards a certain crisis. This strategy leads to a loss in context and makes it hard to follow the whole text. Thirdly, while the fourth paragraph of the source text points to uneasiness which is stated by a top EU official, who is also a Greek, concerning a breakdown in the future, it turns into a reproach by the foreign ministry and an accusation by Austrian officials against Greece. This situation clearly shows that information is selected in a large part of the text. Finally, Dimitris Avramopolous's report in the source text is replaced by a statement in the target text, leading to a failure to grasp the main idea and to know the actors who report these statements.

Example (8): Substitution, Addition, and Omission

- (a) Mosul: **Islamic State** is 'a brutal opponent', says **US general**  
(BBC (III), 20 October 2016)
- (b) Koalisyon güçleri komutanı: IŞİD vahşi bir düşman
- (c) **The head of coalition forces: ISIL** is a brutal opponent.

Example (9): Substitution, Addition, and Omission

- (a) The **so-called** Islamic State (IS) group is “a brutal opponent” in the fight for Mosul, the head of coalition forces for Iraq and Syria has told the BBC. US Lt Gen Stephen Townsend was speaking on the sidelines of the battle to retake the Iraqi city from the jihadist group. Gen Townsend also said IS was “adaptable, creative and cunning”. Iraqi forces on Thursday said they had re-captured the town of Bartella, less than 15km (10 miles) east of Mosul. (BBC (III), 20 October 2016)
- (b) Musul operasyonunu BBC’ye değerlendiren Irak ve Suriye’deki uluslararası koalisyon güçlerinin komutanı, IŞİD’in vahşi bir düşman olduğunu söyledi. ABD’li korgeneral Stephen Townsend BBC’ye, Musul operasyonu için bulunduğu cephede konuştu. Townsend IŞİD’in ‘yeni koşullara uyabilen, yaratıcı ve kurnaz’ olduğunu da söyledi. Townsend, “İnsanları kentte canlı kalkan olarak kullanıyorlar” dedi. Irak güvenlik güçleri Perşembe günü, Musul’un yaklaşık 15 km doğusundaki Bartella kasabasını ele geçirdiğini açıkladı.
- (c) ISIL is a brutal opponent, the head of **international** coalition forces for Iraq and Syria has told the BBC in an interview about Mosul offensive. US Lt General Stephen Townsend spoke to the BBC on the frontline he was present for the Mosul operation. Gen Townsend also said IS was “adaptable, creative and cunning”. Iraqi forces on Thursday said they had re-captured the town of Bartella, less than 15km east of Mosul.

Example (10): Substitution, Addition, and Omission

- (a) **The predominantly Christian town** had seen fierce IS resistance, with reports of several suicide **car bombs** by militants in response to the **special forces**’ advance. (BBC (III), 20 October 2016)
- (b) Irak güçleri kentte IŞİD militanlarının yoğun direnişiyile karşılaştı. Irak ordusuna yönelik bazı intihar saldırılarının gerçekleştirildiği bildirildi.
- (c) **Iraqi forces** had seen fierce ISIL militants resistance in the town. There were reports of several suicide **attacks** in response to **Iraqi forces**.

As can be observed in the above examples, different acronyms of a group, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria with acronyms “ISIL”, “ISIS”, “Daish”, “Daesh” and “IS”- are used in the source and the target texts. The acronym IS, which stands for merely Islamic State, is preferred in the source text. However, the Turkish text includes IŞİD, which stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. In addition, while the adjective ‘so-called’ is prefixed to the term IS in the original form, the target text sees an omission, which signifies a significant change in the meaning in terms of the ascription. Given that the word ‘so-called’, which is seen in example 9, is used to show that you think a word that is used to describe someone or something is not suitable or not correct, the omission of such a crucial attributive adjective has led to a semantic loss in the target text. Besides, different denominations are used to describe actors included in the text. The head of coalition forces is replaced by US General in the example (8) while in the example (9) the word ‘international’ is added to the term ‘head of coalition’.

This may have been done because it was during the Syria War when the Turkish community became familiar with the term ‘international coalition’, a member of which is Turkey. Compared to examples (8) and (9), more significant changes are made in the translation of denominations in (10); ‘Christian town’ is replaced by ‘the Iraqi forces’, the ‘Special Forces’ by the ‘Iraqi forces’, and the ‘suicide car bombs’ by merely ‘suicide attacks’. Hypernyms for the Special Forces as the Iraqi Forces and attacks for the car bombs are selected differently than the original forms.

Example (11): Addition

- (a) Meanwhile, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told an international meeting in Paris on Thursday that the four-day offensive was ‘advancing faster than planned’. He (Abadi) also hailed co-operation between **the army and Kurdish troops**, saying they were “fighting harmoniously together” to free Iraqi territory from IS. (BBC (III), 20 October 2016)
- (b) Öte yandan Fransa’nın başkenti Paris’te düzenlenen ve Musul’un geleceğinin ele alınacağı toplantıya video konferans aracılığıyla katılıp bir konuşma yapan Irak Başbakanı Haydar Abadi, ülkenin en büyük ikinci kentinin IŞİD’den (Irak Şam İslam Devleti) geri alınması için başlatılan harekât için “Beklenenden ve planlanandan daha hızlı ilerliyoruz” dedi. Abadi, Musul’dan kaçan sivillere yardım etmek için güvenlik koridorları oluşturmaya çalıştıklarını da ifade ederek, “Hiçbir insan hakkı ihlâline izin vermeyeceğiz” diye konuştu.
- (c) Meanwhile, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who joined by video conferencing a meeting, held in Paris, capital of France, to discuss the future of Mosul, told ‘we are advancing faster than **expected** and planned.’ Related to the offensive launched to retake the second-largest city of the country from IS. Abadi also told ‘**We will not allow any human rights violation**’ stating they tried to open exit corridors to help fleeing civilians from Mosul.

According to a study by Kenneth et. al. (2011), even major international online news providers such as the BBC and Reuters are not the first source of the news. What is more interesting is that newsreaders mainly draw upon Yahoo! News and Google News for reaching news and related stories. From this point of view, it is hard to follow whether the source is English or any other language. Thus, as a global language, English is considered as the first and the source language when translations are assessed in this paper. In this respect, it is obvious in the example (11) that though ‘advancing faster than planned’ is the original utterance by Abadi, who is a technocrat and speaks good English (Jiyad 2014), the text producer adds the word ‘expected’, the reason of which may not be given herein as there is no clear evidence whether Abadi has used the added word. Whereas it would be enough to give merely a literal translation of the source, a redundant word is employed. Moreover, the phrase ‘international meeting’ is substituted for a more expansive phrase in which the readers are informed about the context of a meeting. However, the information selected from the interview of Abadi is presented in the target text differently from the source text. While the source text sees an explanation regarding the specific actors involved in the fight, the target text includes a totally different context in which the human rights violation and the issue of fleeing civilians are addressed.



In most cases, the source texts turn into a summary in the target texts with the selected information and omission of relatively important parts of the original text (see example 12).

Example (12): Summarization

- a) ‘America has lost me. I’ve realigned myself in your ideological flow and maybe I will also go to Russia to talk to Putin and tell him that there are three of us against the world – China, Philippines, and Russia. It’s the only way,’ Duterte told Chinese and Philippine business people, to applause, at a forum in the Great Hall of the People attended by Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli. **“Both in military, not maybe social, but economics also. America has lost.”** (Euronews (II), 20 October 2016)
- b) ‘Washington beni kaybetti’ diyen Duterte ayrıca ABD Başkanı Barack Obama hakkında daha önce yaptığı ağır hakaretleri tekrarlayarak, ABD ile askeri işbirliklerine artık izin vermeyeceğini, Çin ve Rusya ile bu konuda işbirliğine açık olduğunu belirtti.
- c) Stating **‘Washington has lost me.’**, Duterte remarked he would not let military cooperation with US and would be open to cooperation with China and Russia, repeating insults at Obama.

As can be seen above, the strategy of information selection is applied when the text producers report the speech of Duterte. Basically, his speech is summarized into a short form in the source text. Besides, the phrase ‘Washington has lost me’ is out of the context through the omission of words that come before, giving rise to a vague meaning that the readers are unable to understand.

## CONCLUSION

This study has highlighted the issue of recontextualization processes that go on within political news texts translations. It has been concluded that news texts are recontextualized in forms of reorganization, omission, information selection, substitution, addition, paraphrasing, summarization, and situational information based on the priorities and background of the new audience as well as linguistic differences in style and usage. The available evidence reveals that the translations of the political texts in the BBC and Euronews are highly affected by factors including religious and political sensitivity as well as the concerns and background information of the new audience. Given that translation is situated in specific contexts, the entextualizing function of institutional news translation inevitably entails a reformulation of the source text in response to priorities and values relevant within the target context (Kang 2007:240). The producers of the news texts translations, who are presumably forced to tailor translations under certain limitations imposed by institutional authorities, make modifications to appeal to the target readers with profit-oriented intentions. “The (amount of) information selected for publication in the respective print media reflects the topics and political issues which are of particular relevance to the country, or more precisely, to the political group(s) which the newspaper is more or less openly lending its voice to” (Schäffner 2008:22).

The findings of this study have shown that modifications in news text translations into Turkish leave the target audience deprived of access to the whole text and context through the strategies of omission, paraphrasing, substitution, and reorganization. Translations into Turkish include a huge amount of redundant omissions and thus revoke the target audience's right of freedom to have access to the full text as one of the duties of translators or journalist translators is the accountability to convey what is given in the source text.

It has also been concluded that not only the BBC but also Euronews seem to translate the source texts with different forms of transformations. Another issue is that while the source language of the texts is not clear in Euronews as there is no direct reference to the reporter and whether the texts are taken from a certain language or a person, the BBC gives information related to the author or reporter of the news texts. The lack of information related to the source text author or language in Euronews makes it rather hard for researchers to find out who has translated the text and whether the text is the source or an already translated text. Providing that the name and the masthead of the reporters are given clearly, researchers may have a better understanding of the recontextualization process.

This paper has analysed the news texts qualitatively though in some parts quantitative figures are presented. More comprehensive research into translations of news content related to the other areas including culture, health, and science in the BBC and Euronews or in any other international news agencies would provide a better understanding of the recontextualization processes. Furthermore, another possible area of research would be to investigate the use of multimodalities and social media by online news services in news translations in the fields of politics, culture, and science among others.

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No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author.

### **Notes**

Corpus analysed within this paper were obtained from:

E (English) : <http://www.bbc.com/news/election-us-2016-37711218>

T (Turkish) : <http://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-dunya-37714650>

E: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-37703406>

T: <http://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-dunya-37710977>

E: <http://www.euronews.com/2016/10/20/iraq-rejects-fears-of-shi-ite-revenge-attacks-in-mosul>

T: <http://tr.euronews.com/2016/10/20/irak-sii-milislerin-musul-daki-varligi-endise-yaratmasin>

E: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37719634>

T: <http://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-dunya-37723311>

E: <http://www.euronews.com/2016/10/20/the-philippines-turns-its-back-on-america>

T: <http://tr.euronews.com/2016/10/20/filipinler-devlet-baskani-duterte-washington-beni-kaybetti>

E: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-40269080>

T: <http://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-dunya-40255621>

E: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35658776>

T: [http://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler/2016/02/160225\\_yunanistan\\_avusturya\\_multeci\\_kriz](http://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler/2016/02/160225_yunanistan_avusturya_multeci_kriz)