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Translation of Antonyms

Words that are opposite in meaning are called antonyms. Two words can be called antonyms when they share all the semantic features but one. 'Tall' and 'short', for instance, are semantically similar and belong to the same semantic category, which is 'height'. Nevertheless, the property that they do not share is present in one and absent in the other. Antonyms are recognized of "their dependence upon dichotomization" (Lyons, 1977, p. 271) in which binary opposition can be revealed in the form of contradictory pairs.

In both languages, English and Arabic, antonyms often concur. That is, the same words that are seen as antonyms in one of the languages may be regarded as antonyms in the other language. To illustrate, the words 'أم' and 'أب' that considered antonyms in Arabic are also seen as antonyms in English. Although the word 'father' contradicts with the word 'mother' in terms of gender, they share the same semantic feature of being humans. Nevertheless, both of the words may indicate non-humanity when they are jointly used with certain words or expressions. For example, in the English expressions 'mother-tongue or language' and 'Mother Earth', the word 'mother' does not imply the sense that it usually denotes. Furthermore, the word 'father' may be employed to mean more than its natural meaning. Consider this sentence in which 'father' means 'God': 'For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you'. Similarly, in Arabic the same two words of antonymy, 'father' and 'mother', are used to indicate different associations and connotations. Consider the following examples in which the word 'أب' loses its contrary relationship with the word 'أم' and; thus, its natural meaning: 'أبو جعدة', 'أبو بريص', 'أبو جابر', and 'أبو' that mean respectively: wolf, gecko, bread and crab. The word 'أم' is also used in Arabic to convey many senses. Some examples are: 'أم قويق', 'أم عامر', 'أم' and 'أربع وأربعين' that are rendered as hyena, owl, centipede and jerboa in a descending order.

As a result of this, a translator must pay attention to the fact that antonyms may be employed in different contexts to refer to a variety of connotative meanings rather than their denotative ones. A translator who is ignorant of the story that has behind the emerging of this proverb:

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'كمجير أم عامر' will literally translate 'أم عامر' as 'Amir's mother' instead of 'hyena'. To avoid such a problem, the translator must not be deprived of further reading that enhances his familiarity with the culture of his mother-tongue and also the TL.

It is must be mentioned that the "oppositeness of meaning between lexemes" (Lyons, 1977, p. 271) is relative than absolute in most cases. A lady who is described as being pretty by a certain person might be seen as an ugly one by another. This is attributed to the fact that the standards of beauty and ugliness differ from one society into another with regard to some personal aesthetic tastes and cultural factors. Described as relative, the relationship of oppositeness between a pair of words may be canceled according to the nature of use. However, some antonyms can be described as absolute the whole time. In other words, they do not lose their contrary relationship according to the circumstances of occurrence. For instance, 'death' and 'life' are in contrary relationship the whole time. A dead person in one society will not be regarded as being alive in other societies under different circumstances and conditions.

Another example is that of the two contradictory colors, white and black, which are sometimes used in the Arabic context to convey a different kind of contradiction rather than that of color distinction. To illustrate, let us consider this example taken from the Holly Qur'an: chapter 4, verse 106, sura 3: "يوم تبيض وجوه وتسود وجوه" that can be rendered as "the day when (certain) faces become white and (certain) faces become black" (as cited in Mouakket, 1988, p. 96). As can be noticed the two verbs 'تبيض' and 'تسود' contradict each other in terms of the goodness and the badness of the deeds conducted by the two different teams specified by the Holly verse as those of white faces to which good and praised actions are assigned and those of black faces to which ugly and evil actions are related. In fact, such translation of the Holy verse deprived it much of its emotiveness and connotations. This can be seen in the expression, 'تسود وجوه', which has been translated as "faces become black". 'Blackface' is a collocation both in Arabic and English. In Arabic 'blackface' symbolizes disgrace and humiliation, whereas in English it denotes anger and fury. A skillful translator who is interested in transferring the meaning exactly as it is will provide a footnote that illustrates this distinction in meaning

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between the two expressions in English and Arabic. The translator must bear in his mind that he "can often avoid not only errors of usage but mistakes of fact and language simply by applying his common sense and showing sensitivity to language" (New mark, 1988, p. 3). By this sensitivity that is to be shown to the SL and the TL, a translator will reveal an effort that reflects his interest for his translation to be genuine and sincere.

ANTONYMY IN SPECIFIC ENGLISH TEXTS

Antonymy helps achieve textual cohesion. It reveals the opposition and the unity of objects in languages. Employing antonyms in English texts correctly reveals the oppositeness of objects and produces a strong sense of comparison. Therefore, writers are fond of and good at employing antonyms in their literature works, because it makes the works artistically charming and powerfully convincing.

A. Antonymy Used in Poetry

Antonyms are widely used in poetry. English poet Alfred Tennyson had the famous lines in his Ulysses "Though much is taken, much abides; and though/ We are not now that strength which in the old days/ Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;/ One equal-temper of heroic hearts,/ Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will/ To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." How encouraging it is! Even a man in despair can get the ower from the lines. And what makes the lines memorable and powerful is the use of antonyms.

In Romeo and Juliet, Romeo has the poem, "O loving hate,/ O anything, or nothing first created!/ O heavy lightness, serious vanity,/ Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms,/ Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health,/ Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!"

B. Antonymy Used in Dramas

Antonymy is also widely used in dramas. It can be seen obviously from the works of William Shakespeare. In Romeo and Juliet "My only love sprung from my only hate. Too early seen unknown, and known too late. Prodigious birth of love it is to me, that I must love a loathed" In the quotation, four antonym pairs are there and they constitute the well known figures of speech

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in English, oxymoron and paradox. When we read the words at first, we may think them very ridiculous, illogical and raving. However, when we explore the plot of the drama, we can find that the drama uses these antonym pairs and corresponding figures of speech to depict the contradictory mind of Juliet on the occasion. Juliet says this in Act 1 Scene 5 when she finds out who Romeo is. She's expressing a bunch of information and emotion all at once here—she's fallen in love with Romeo, but she's upset that he is a member of the rival family. She saw him first (too early) and fell for him before she found out who he was (too late). Love now seems very strange to her, that she can love someone she's supposed to hate.

Antonyms for the most of time are used to make irony and oxymoron. In The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, Caesar states, "I thank you for your pains and courtesy." Different listeners interpret it differently. Caesar meant one thing; to the audience, who knows that Caesar will soon be killed, the statement means something entirely different. Oxymoron is formed whenever two words that are contrary in normal usage are combined together. (Watson, 2006, p.29) The master of the oxymoron was William Shakespeare. In the Act 5 Scene 1 of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Theseus remarks about the choices for the entertainment in the evening: "A tedious brief scene of young Pyramus/ And his love This by; very tragical mirth./ Merry and tragical? tedious and brief?/ That is hot ice and wondrous strange snow. How shall we find the concord of this discord? "

C. Antonymy Used in Novels

In the process of writing novels, numerous novelists are very good at employing antonyms. The following is excerpted from A Tale of Two Cities written by Charles Dickens. "It was the best times, it was the worst times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of the foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us." It uses six pairs of antonyms to depict the complicate and dangerous atmosphere before the French revolution. These six antonym pairs are parallel and overwhelming.

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In Maxwell Anderson's *Lost in the Stars*, you will read "That you are all lost here, black and white, rich and poor, the fools and the wise!" In O. Henry's *The Duel*, you will read "I despise its very vastness and power. It has the poorest millionaires, the littlest great men, the haughtiest beggars, the plainest beauties, the lowest skyscrapers, the dolefullest pleasures of any town I ever saw." In T. Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* you will read "there was an audible stillness, in which the common voice sounded strange." Every famous novelist without exception has a good master of antonyms.

D. Antonymy Used in Speeches

When antonymy is used in a speech, a clear-cut stand and a clear point of view are easily made. The language has stronger rhythm and helps being persuasive. As a result, many people employ antonymy in their speeches to state their opinions, justify their positions and influence the public opinion. This can be best seen from the speeches of American presidents.

Observing Barack Obama's first victory speech in 2008, we are easy to read following lines: "It's the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Latino, Asian, Native American, disabled and not disabled — Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been a collection of red states and blue states; we are, and always will be, the United States of America."... "In this country, we rise or fall as one nation — as one people."... "our stories are singular, but our destiny is shared, and a new dawn of American leadership is at hand. To those who would tear this world down: We will defeat you. To those who seek peace and security: We support you."... "And tonight, I think about all that she's seen throughout her century in America — the heartache and the hope; the struggle and the progress"... "because after 106 years in America, through the best of times and the darkest of hours, she knows how America can change. Yes, we can."

Abraham Lincoln once in his Address at Gettysburg had "The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, for above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. ". The effect achieved by the use of these antonyms is rather striking. With the beautiful language forms

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with the use of antonymy the persuasive power of the speakers are strengthened greatly and the audience are more likely to be convinced to a greater extent. Examples are many, not only in presidential speeches, like Barack Obama, Abraham Lincoln. Martin Luther King had “one hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of a poverty in the midst of vast ocean of material prosperity.”

E. Antonymy Used in Proverbs

Proverb is a form of language with the presentation of each figure of speech, which is a fixed short verse naturally coming from the usual use of some composition of the language. (Xu, 2009) Proverb is simple; meanwhile, it entertains a thought deeply. When antonyms are used in proverbs, the rhetorical effect of phonological harmony, formal beauty and conciseness are achieved.

Several examples are given as follows. “More haste, less speed.” “Easy come, easy go.” “Art is long, life is short.” “An idle youth, a needy age.” “Small sorrows speak; great sorrows are silent.” Very famous people are more skilful of using antonymy in proverbs. George Herbert has “Love makes all hard hearts gentle”. And George Eliot has “It is surely better to pardon too much than to condemn too much”. All these examples listed above are neat in the construction of the sentences. No matter visually or phonologically, a kind of beauty of harmony can be sensed, which helps convey profound messages.

Here is the list of English Arabic translations of most common [Antonyms](#) with meanings in Arabic language with English pronunciations.

About – حول	Ancient – قديمة جدا	Artificial – مصطنع	Better – أفضل
Exactly – بالضبط	Modern – حديث	Natural – >>طبيعي	Worse – أسوأ
Above – في الاعلى	Angel – ملاك	Awake – استيقظ	Big – كبير
Below – أقل	Devil – شيطان	Asleep – نائما	Small – صغير
Accept – قبول	Animal – حيوان	Backward – الى	Birth – ولادة
Refuse – رفض	Human – بشري	الوراء	Death – الموت
Adult – بالغ	Answer – إجابة	Forward – الى الأمام	Bitter – مرارة مر
Child – طفل	Question – سؤال	Bad – سيء	Sweet – حلو
Alive – على قيد الحياة	Antonym – المضادة	Good – جيد	Body – الجسم
Dead – ميت	Synonym – مرادف	Beautiful – جميل	Soul – روح
All – الكل	Argue – تجادل	Ugly – البشع	Borrow – يستعير
None – لا أحد	Agree – يوافق على		Lend – أعار

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Bottom – أسفل	Expensive – مكلفة	Outside – في الخارج	Subtract – طرح او خصم
Top – أعلى	Cheap – الرخيص	Inside – داخل	Add – يضيف
Boy – صبي	Few – قليل	Parents – الآباء	Sunny – مشمس
Girl – فتاة	Many – عديدة	Children – الأطفال	Cloudy – غائم
Brave – شجاع	Finish – ينهي	Pleasant – جذاب	Tall – طويل
Cowardly – جبان	Start – بداية	Awful – سيى	Small – صغير
Brother – شقيق	Go – اذهب	Quick – بسرعة	Thick – سميك
Sister – أخت	Come – يأتي	Slow – بطيء	Thin – نحيف
Build – يبني	Hard – الصعب	Rainy – ماطر	Town – مدينة
Destroy – هدم	Easy – سهل	Sunny – مشمس	Village – قرية
Buy – يشتري	Heavy – ثقيل	Rear – مؤخرة	Ugly – البشع
Sell – باع	Light – خفيفة	Front – أمامي	Beautiful – جميل
Clever – ذكي	Huge – تسربت	Reduce – خفض	Up – أعلى
Stupid – غبي	Tiny – صغير جدا	Increase – يزيد	Down – أسفل
Closed – مغلق	Innocent – البريء	Refuse – رفض	Vertical – عمودي
Open – افتح	Guilty – مذنب	Agree – يوافق على	Horizontal – عرضي
Construction – اعمال بناء	Inside – داخل	Remember – يتذكر	Wealthy – ثري
Destruction – دمار	Outside – في الخارج	Forget – ننسى	Poor – مسكين
Create – خلق	Junior – نجارة	Rude – قلة الادب	West – غرب
Destroy – هدم	Senior – أول	Polite – مؤدب	East – الشرق
Cry – بكاء	Large – كبير	Rural – قروي	Wet – ميلل
Laugh – يضحك	Small – صغير	Urban – الحضاري	Dry – جاف
Damage – ضرر	Last – الاخير	Sad – حزين	Wide – واسع
Repair – يصلح	First – أول	Happy – سعيدة	Narrow – ضيق
Defeat – يهزم	Laugh – يضحك	Safety – سلامة	Wife – زوجة
Victory – فوز	Cry – بكاء	Danger – خطر	Husband – الزوج
Defend – الدفاع	Little – قليل	Same – نفس	Worst – أسوأ
Attack – هجوم	Big – كبير	Different – مختلف	Best – أفضل
Difficult – صعبة	Male – الذكر	Small – صغير	
Easy – سهل	Female – أنثى	Big – كبير	
Dirty – قذر	Many – عديدة	Smooth – ناعم	
Clean – ينظف	Few – قليل	Rough – الخام	
Empty – فارغة	Married – متزوج	Soft – لين	
Full – ممتلئ	متزوجة	Hard – الصعب	
End – نهاية	مطلقة – Divorced	Some – بعض	
Begin – يبدأ	الحد – Minimum	Many – عديدة	
Enemy – العدو	الأدنى	Start – بداية	
Friend – صديق	أقصى – Maximum	Finish – ينهي	
Equal – مساو	مزعج – Noisy	Strong – قوي	
Different – مختلف	هادئ – Quiet	Weak – ضعيف	
Exclude – استبعاد	شمال – North	Student – طالب	
Include – يشمل	جنوب – South	Teacher – معلم	