

Conversational maxims in fiction translation: New insights into cooperation, characterization, and style

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyses Grice's maxims in two Arabic translations of *Animal Farm* to gain insight into the communicative principles underlying character-to-character, narrator-to-reader, and translator-to-reader interactions in fiction translation. Compared to the original, the translated character-level interactions show more frequent use of maxim hedges, more awareness of or commitment to maxims, more informative responses, and more manifestations of interpersonal relationships, politeness and propositional attitudes. They also show a preference for observing rather than flouting maxims and hence for explicating rather than implicating a meaning. By contrast, there are fewer narrator-reader implicatures, reduced persuasive power and hence a lesser reader engagement. The overall results point to a higher level of explicitness and informativeness that contributes to the conciseness and simplicity of the translational language and style. Compared to the original writer, translators provide more contextual knowledge and show more awareness of conversational maxims during the re-narration and mediation process.

Keywords: Characterization; cooperation; explicitation; fiction translation; Grice's maxims; translational style

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INTRODUCTION

This paper examines two Arabic translations of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (1945), adopting an analytical framework based on Grice's theory of Cooperative Principle (CP) (1975). More particularly, it analyses the patterns of change in the translation of conversational maxims and their potential effect on *meaning-creation* and *inferencing* processes in the translated narrative (Malmkjær, 2005; Gutt, 2010; Levý, 2011; Abualadas, 2019b, 2019c). One important argument the present paper makes is that the analysis of conversational maxims enables us to stylistically interpret interactions and relationships between (i) the characters themselves (ii) the narrator and characters, (iii) the narrator and reader (Black, 2006; Leech & Short, 2007) and (iv) the translator and reader (Munday, 2008; Boase-Beier, 2014). Not only as a device for the analysis of the implicit/intended message, conversational maxims can be used also as a stylistic *characterization* tool for the

exploration of characters (Culpeper, 2014; see Bousfield, 2014, pp. 130-131); the exploration of conversational behaviours that reflect the characters' "individual characterisations and their character-relations" and their propositional attitudes (Leech & Short, 2007, p. 269).

In this theoretical framework, conversational maxims can be exploited to analyse the translator's *mediating presence* (Malmkjær, 2004) and its effect on the *stylistic* characteristics of the translated narrative (Munday, 2008) as well as its effect on the target reader's *cognitive engagement* with the translated narrative (Boase-Beier, 2018). If we assume that "the message coming from the translation is relayed in a different code ["a third code" in Frawley's words (1984, p. 168)] that bears the translator's print" (Munday, 2008, p. 13), exploiting speech maxims will enable us to approach the conversational rules or interactional patterns pertinent to that code. The findings of present

study will help enhance fiction translators' awareness of the dynamic role of conversational maxims in interpretation and translation, and enhance translators' understanding of the "cognitive-referential" and "interpersonal" functions of the translated language (House, 1998, p. 56). The findings will also shed light on the important role that pragmatics-oriented models play in the research into "translational stylistics" (Malmkjær, 2003, see Şerban, 2013, pp. 217-221).

Conversational maxims and cooperation

Grice (1975) studied *cooperation* in conversation: how people communicate cooperatively and proposed the notion of *conversational maxims*. His basic view is that

communication is a cooperative and joint activity where both speakers and hearers cooperate to reach certain common goal(s) (see Lambrou, 2014, p. 142). When interpreting any utterance, the hearer assumes that the speaker has complied with certain maxims concerning the truth, informativity, clarity and relevance of the information exchanged. When we talk, we are actually assumed to give sincere, sufficient, relevant, and clear information; and hearers are expecting us to do so. Grice (1975, pp. 45-47) proposes four major maxims, as shown in Figure 1, that speaker is assumed to comply with (which together comprise the Cooperative Principle (CP)).

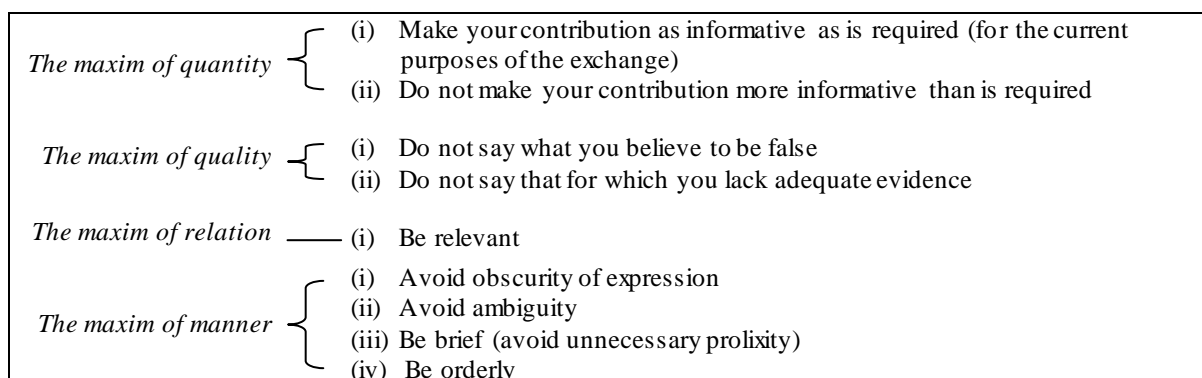


Figure 1. Types of maxims

According to Grice, the maxims are the ground rules that people normally *observe* when they speak and interpret utterances (Black, 2006, p. 23). When A asks B, "How is your new job?" and B replies, "Everything is OK, thank you," A expects B to observe the maxims: by giving an answer that is conventionally sufficient, truthful, relevant to the question being asked and perspicuous. Speakers may not always observe these speech maxims; they may *exploit* or *flout* them. This happens when we strategically break a maxim to give an *additional meaning* in an indirect way; when we blatantly fail to observe a maxim to draw the hearer's attention to a different meaning. This happens when we say something that is more or less than needed, or give information that is untrue, irrelevant or ambiguous, while expecting the hearer to cooperatively search for the intended meaning (see Leech, 2014, pp. 74-78). An example is when A asks B "How is your new job?" and B replies "Get lost!" or "Can you help me find another job," which flagrantly flouts the maxim of relation and manner and gives the meaning that "B is not happy with his new job."

Another case of ostentatious flouting of speech maxims is the use of figurative expressions such as metaphors, tautologies, idioms, irony and hyperbole. The metaphorical expression "War is war" is a flouting of the maxim of quantity (by giving information less than needed) and manner (by saying something unclear), while the expression "Intelligence is a double-edged sword" is a flouting of the maxim of quality (by saying something untrue) as well as the maxim of

manner. The use of such figurative language induces the listener to go beyond the literal meaning and search for the intended meaning. Grice referred to this intended meaning, which has to be inferred as *conversational implicature*. It is this conversational implicature that bridges the gap between what is stated (the literal content, determined by the grammatical structure) to what is implicated by the speaker (Horn, 2006, p. 3).

In addition to flouting maxims, there are some cases when speakers express their awareness of the maxims by using an extra note, called *hedge*. When we speak, we may simply make an assertion like "alcohol is not good for your health," but if we are hesitant to make such a bald assertion, we may preface it with a hedge on the quantity of information like "as far as I know" or "all what I know." These hedges reflect to the hearer that we are aware of the maxim of quantity and that our utterance may or may not adhere to this maxim. Grundy (2013, pp. 100-101) argues that such hedges do not add any truth-value to the sentence they are attached to; they are more a *comment* on the extent to which we are adhering to the maxims in our speech than a *part* of our speech. Examples on quality hedges include expressions that indicate that the speaker is not sure about the truth of his/her utterance such as "I believe" or "I think". Relevance hedges involve for instance expressions that indicate a sudden change in the topic like "anyway" or "by the way". Manner hedges can involve such expressions as "more simply" or "more clearly".

Grice's conversational maxims have helped stylisticians to analyse how "conversational norms

become resources for meaning-making upon which authors draw in the design of represented dialogue and narrative” (Warner, 2014, pp. 369). Even though Grice’s theory of conversational maxims and implicature was first proposed in relation to short-spoken dialogues, it has proven useful for the interpretation and linguistic analysis of large literary texts (Warner, 2014, pp. 368-369). As a literary text, such as a play or novel, may largely contain conversations between characters, these conversations should also be analysable by some of the same models of analysis that are applicable to any real-life language interactions (Bousfield, 2014, pp. 118-119). Communications between fictional characters are often mimetic of the real-life interactions, where characters may exaggerate, lie, hide or avoid giving certain information (see Leech & Short, 2007, pp. 296-298). Since Gricean maxims are of relevance for the analysis of fictional discourse, we may expect the maxims to be also relevant to the analysis of the interactions between characters or between the narrator and characters (Black, 2006, p. 27; Lambrou, 2014, p. 145).

Grice’s theory of speech maxims has been criticized for ignoring some other issues relevant to meaning processing, most importantly social and interpersonal relations (Black, 2006, p. 24, see Bach, 2012, p. 57). Grice’s theory does not also account for stylistic variations in text types as well as cross-linguistic and cross-cultural differences. Sperber and Wilson (1995) question the need for four different conversational maxims to account for meaning. They argue that since every utterance is processed only on the ground that it is relevant to the current language exchange, Grice’s maxims should be reduced to a single maxim, that of *relevance* (Be relevant). Leech (2014) adds a fifth maxim, that of *politeness* (be polite). He argues that politeness maxim, which concerns showing consideration to others, has a higher status than Grice’s maxims and therefore enables us to explain interactions where other maxims are flouted for interpersonal reasons.

Conversational maxims and translation

The notion of speech maxims has been employed in descriptive translation studies to indicate the need to analyze the extra-textual parameters influencing meaning generation processes in translation (Malmkjær, 2005; Morini, 2008; Gutt, 2010). The notion of speech maxims has been used to raise translators’ awareness towards the question of *how* people interact through texts, and how they construct and negotiate their intentions, identities or feelings (Şerban, 2013, p. 220). Lockwood in *Wuthering Heights* uses the expression “What vain weathercocks we are” (Chapter 4) to describe the sudden change in his personality; he has been a misanthrope and now has become more interested in getting closer to people. He chooses to communicate his attitudes to readers by speaking metaphorically, flouting the maxim of quality (by giving

false information; no one can be a weathercock in real-life) and manner (by speaking in an unclear way).

Some studies adopting a pragmatic and text-linguistic model of translation have emphasized that understanding how speech maxims operate in a text is fundamental for determining its overall organization and maintaining its coherence (e.g., Blum-Kulka, 2004; Hatim & Mason, 2013). The utterance “I lost ten thousand dollars in the casino. What a lucky night!” will not sound coherent unless we realize that the speaker in the second clause is flouting the maxim of quality to create a pragmatic effect, irony or sarcasm (see Baker, 2018a, pp. 249-154). The basic assumption that translators need to understand here is that the grouping of sentences in a particular situation or text is not often random; a speaker or writer has put these sentences in a particular way or order intentionally for communicative purposes (Shreve, 2018, p. 165).

Grice’s maxims have been used in translation studies to point out the complex communicative principles that require the translators to understand a range of linguistic, social, cultural, and sometimes psychological dimensions (Ying & Zhao, 2018, pp. 117-118). These maxims should not be looked at as rules for how to speak properly; they are more like general norms, which are often breached in order to communicate messages in an indirect way, “the actual maxims might vary enormously from culture to culture” (Pym, 2014, p. 35). Cultures show differences as to *how* and *when* an utterance in a given situation is, or is not, sufficient, truthful, relevant, clear and polite (see Wierzbicka, 2003, pp. 392-403). Several studies have actually emphasized the differences between cultures and societies in how these maxims operate and how they rank with respect to each other (e.g., Malmkjær, 2005; Morini, 2013; Baker, 2018a). For instance, in Arabic-language cultures, the maxim of politeness in spoken and written communications tends to have more value or weight than the other maxims; the consideration of people’s face often overrides the consideration of the information quantity, quantity, relevance or clarity (Baker 2018a, pp. 251-252). Also, sarcasm is likely achieved in many Arabic-language cultures more through flouting the maxim of quantity than the other maxims (Hatim, 2000, pp. 196-197). This reflects a cross-cultural variation in the ways these maxims operate, and which can only make the task of translation harder.

Analyzing how conversational maxims operate in a text can contribute to the characterization of style, “the perceived distinctive manner of expression in writing or speaking” (Wales, 2014, p. 397), helping the translator in maintaining a *close stylistic link* with the original text (Boase-Beier, 2014, p. 394). Analyzing how meaning is constructed or generated via maxims in a fictional text assists the translator in both hearing and recreating the literary style or narrative voice that guides the linguistic choices made by the author (Munday, 2008, p. 19). Such analysis would help fiction translators in maintaining the style of the original as to *how* the

original author communicates messages to his/her readers and *how* the narrator and characters in the original narrative interact among themselves. The process of reading a text involves interpreting implicatures triggered through maxims; it demands active *processing* or *interpretative* efforts (*engagement*) on the reader's part. This reader engagement may be determined, among other factors, by such stylistic features of the text as the tendency to flout rather than observe maxims or more generally the tendency to communicate in an implicit rather than explicit way. The translator's awareness of maxims would then help in constructing a translation that provokes a level of *reader engagement* similar to that of the original (Boase-Beier, 2018, p. 201). The analysis of interaction using maxims would also provide insights into the study of the reader engagement with the translated text.

METHODS

The source and target texts and methodological issues

The source text is George Orwell's novel *Animal Farm* (1945). George Orwell was an English novelist and political satirist who opposed Russian communism and defended freedom and democratic socialism. His novel *Animal Farm* is a political satire of Stalinism and the Russian Revolution of 1917. It mocks the outcomes of the Russian Revolution; when the revolution has led to a government that is far worse than the one it has overthrown. The story revolves around a group of animals who decided to kick their master, Jones Manor, and his men out of the farm they live on and adopt their own philosophy of life, called Animalism. After they manage to achieve their goals, the life in the farm improves for a while, but it shortly starts to get worse when two young pigs, Napoleon and Snowball, seize control of the farm and start to fight for power. Over the years, other animals' life becomes more miserable, and when Napoleon eventually defeats Snowball, he and his fellow pigs start to dress and behave like Jones and his men. The story ends when the pigs seem to adopt the same role as that of the humans the animals once revolted.

Animal Farm has a distinctive writing style. A third-person omniscient narrator who relates information from the perspective of multiple animals narrates the story. The narrator is not involved in the story events, but has a god-like access to their subjective knowledge and emotions (see Bloom, 2006). Orwell in

this novel uses a simple and concise language. He adopts a spare linguistic style that is often described as unambiguous, direct, exact, and impersonal, with simple and clear syntactic structures and plain and demotic lexical choices (Fowler, 2009, pp. 63-68). Orwell's style in this novel is also characterized by the use of ironic language that reflects his sarcastic views of the Russian Revolution.

The target texts that are analysed and compared in the present study are Abada (2009) and Abdulghani (2014), which, to the researcher's knowledge, are the only Arabic translations of the novel. Both translations are well known to Arab readers and critics, and are taught in several language and literature courses in many universities in the Arab World. Both translators are Arabic native speakers and well known in the field of English-Arabic fiction translation. For the analysis process, the study has utilized a *descriptive* model (Toury, 2012) in which the maxims governing the interactions between interlocutors (the narrator, characters and readers) are compared and described in both source and target texts. The study has analyzed any kind of deviation from the original in the way(s) the maxims operate or are utilized (e.g., observed, flouted or hedged, etc.) by interlocutors. Relying on evidence from the *textual analysis* (see Mason, 2000, p. 18; Şerban, 2013, p. 219), the study has tried to describe the potential effect of this deviation on the communicative behaviours and interpersonal relations in the story. The study assumed that the translated text is often "the result of motivated choices" and hence can be "a means of retracing of the pathways of the translator's decision-making procedures" (Hatim & Mason, 2013, p. 4). Therefore, the study has employed textual data to describe the translator's (intentional or unintentional) choices or mental processes underlying the changes in the communicative behaviours in the translated story (see Abualadas, 2019a, pp. 74-75).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Analysis of data

The study has compared the two target texts with the original text and examined any change in the way Grice's maxims are operating in the interactions between characters or between the author/narrator and reader. As can be seen in Table 1, the study has found that Grice's maxims have undergone four kinds of change in translation.

Table 1. Changes in Grice's Maxims in the Two Translations

Changes in translation of maxims	Abada	Abdulghani	Total
Hedging maxims	48	25	73
Observing maxims flouted in the original	34	20	54
Increasing information quantity	37	28	65
Flouting maxims observed in the original	2	4	6
Total	121	77	198

The first kind of change, hedging maxims, involves the insertion into the translated narrative of different hedges on different maxims that do not exist in the original

narrative. The translator here, whether intentionally or unintentionally, adds a particular cautious note indicating that the speaker is aware of the maxim

guiding the interaction. Among the 73 cases of hedges added by the translators, 31 are hedges on the maxim of relevance, 18 hedges on quality, 13 hedges on quantity, while 11 hedges on manner. The following examples explain how these hedges occur in the translations. Note that the Library of Congress Transliteration System is

used transliterate the Arabic text (see appendix). An English gloss of the Arabic text is offered to allow non-Arabic readers to see the changes and follow the discussions. The underlined sentences indicate the English translated parts within examples. Italic font is used for emphasis.

1. **ST:** The very first question she asked Snowball was, “Will there still be sugar after the Rebellion?”
 “No,” said Snowball firmly. “We have no means of making sugar on this farm. Besides, you do not need sugar. You will have all the oats and hay you want.” (Orwell, 1945, Ch.2)
TT: ‘alā kuli hālin, al-sukaru shay’un ghayru ḍarūrī. (Abdulghani, 2014, p. 27)
[Gloss: *By the way*, sugar is not an important thing]
2. **ST:** “We have removed the sheets from the farmhouse beds, and sleep between blankets. And very comfortable beds they are too!” (Orwell, 1945, Ch. 6)
TT: wa-’aqrāran li-al-ḥaḡi fa-’anna al-nawma ‘alā al-sarīri murīhun jidan. (Abada, 2009, p. 59)
[Gloss: and to say *the truth*, sleeping in bed is very comfortable]
3. **ST:** “The enemy was in occupation of this very ground that we stand upon. And now-thanks to the leadership of Comrade Napoleon-we have won every inch of it back again!”
 “Then we have won back what we had before,” said Boxer. (Orwell, 1945, Ch. 8)
TT: kull mā fī al-’amri ‘ananā ‘asta’dnā (thānīyan) mā kāna lanā min qabl! (Abada, 2009, p. 89)
[Gloss: *the whole issue* is that won back what we had before!]
4. **ST:** “What is going to happen to all that milk?” said someone.
 “Jones used sometimes to mix some of it in our mash,” said one of the hens.
 (Orwell, 1945, Ch. 2)
TT: wa-’almaḡat al-firākhu ‘anna mistir jünz ‘a’tāda ‘ann yamzija al-’alafa al-khāšu bi-hā bi-shay’in mina al-llaban!
 (Abada, 2009, p. 25)
[Gloss: and the hens *hinted* that Mr. Jones used to mix their mash in some milk!]

In Example (1), Mollie, a vain mare who prefers sugar over rebellion, wonders if she will get to eat sugar after rebellion, and Snowball reminds her that she will have better options; oat and hay. In the given translation, the expression “Besides” has been replaced by “by the way”, which is a hedge on the maxim of relation; it shows that Snowball is warning Mollie that his utterance “you do not need sugar” may or may not be relevant to her question. In Example (2), the horse Clover is disturbed after hearing that the pigs have moved into the farmhouse and begun sleeping in beds too, and the pig Squealer explains to her that the pigs have done so only because they need a quiet place to think clearly. The given translation has prefaced Squealer’s utterance “And very comfortable beds they are too” by the expression “to say the truth”. This shows that Squealer hedges the maxim of quality; where he explicitly expresses to Clover his awareness that his response must be well founded and that he is fully committed to the truth of his utterance.

In (3), the animals manage to defeat Frederick and his men who have just attacked the farm and blown up the windmill, and Squealer claims that this is a victory, but the horse Boxers does not think so. Boxers responds to Squealer that what we just did is that “we have won back what we had before”. However, in the given

translation, the hedge “the whole issue is” has prefaced Boxers’ response. This is a hedge on the maxim of quantity, which conveys Boxers’ concern over the most precise information, which he has to give while speaking to Squealer. In (4), When the pigs milk the cows and produce five pails of milk, which later the pig Napoleon steals, the other animals wonder what the pigs are going to do with this milk. A hen, who eyed the milk desirously, says to Napoleon that Jones used to mix it in their mash. In the given translation the whole mode of report has been changed from *direct* speech into *indirect* speech (see Leech & Short, 2007, pp. 255-257), where also the verb used to report the hen’s utterance, “said”, has been replaced by the verb “’almaḡat” (hinted, said indirectly). The use of the reporting verb “’almaḡat” is a hedge on the maxim of manner; which reflects that the hen was conscious during conversation of the obscurity of her utterance, which also serves as a warning to Napoleon that her manner of expression may not be as clear as expected.

The second type of change in the translation of maxims as Table (1) shows is observing maxims flouted in the original. This happens when the translator opts for deleting the narrator’s exploitation of a maxim and revealing the intended message:

5. **ST:** The others said of Squealer that he could tum black into white. (Orwell, 1945, Ch. 2)
TT: lidhālik yatafiḡu jamī’u al-ḡaywānāti ‘alā al-qawli ‘anna siḡlīr yaṣtatī’u ‘an yaj’alaka tartakibu ‘akḡā’an kabīrah.
 (Abdulghani, 2014, p. 26)
[Gloss: so all the animals agree that Squealer can convince you to commit foolish mistakes]

6. **ST:** There were many more mouths to feed now. (Orwell, 1945, Ch. 9)
TT: wa-'inda quḍūmī al-kharīfī jadda 'alā al-mazra'ati 'a'dā'an judud. (Abada, 2009, p. 95)
[Gloss: and when autumn came, there were new members in the farm.

In Example (5), the narrator tells that the pigs were successful in convincing the other animals about the rebellion and fundamentals of animalism, to the extent that the pig Squealer “could turn black into white”. The narrator here uses a metaphorical expression that most obviously exploits the maxims of quality and manner. In addition, it emphasizes the meaning that “Squealer uses rhetoric to twist reality”. This exploitation of the maxims on the part of narrator has been removed and replaced by a more explicit interpretation that observes the maxims (“Squealer can convince you to commit foolish mistakes”). In (6), the narrator tells that the farm has become unable to produce enough food for the

growing number of animals. He/she uses the expression “more mouths”, which flouts the maxims of quantity and manner, to refer to the growing number of animals. Similarly, this flouting which results from the metaphorical use of language has been deleted and replaced by the more explicit expression “new members”, which clearly adheres more to the maxims.

The third kind of change that occurred to maxims is the increase of information quantity in the translated text. This has involved the insertion into the target text of new details *retrievable* from the context of the situation of the original text (see Pápai, 2004).

7. **ST:** “Comrade,” said Snowball, “those ribbons that you are so devoted to are the badge of slavery. Can you not understand that liberty is worth more than ribbons?” (Orwell, 1945, Ch. 2)
TT: 'alā yumkuniki 'ann tataṣawarī 'ann li-al-ḥurriyati thamanan 'aghlā min hādhihi al-zīnati al-tāfīhah? (Abdulghani, 2014, p. 27)
[Gloss: Can you not imagine that liberty has more value than these worthless/silly ribbons?]

In (7), Mollie is asking the pig Snowball whether she will be allowed to wear ribbons after rebellion, and he responds that she should not wear them as they symbolize slavery. Mollie in the story is a vain, silly and materialistic horse representing the bourgeoisie who did not fight much against the Russian government. Snowball in his question “Can you not understand that liberty is worth more than ribbons?” is indirectly scolding Mollie for showing more concern for ribbons than the revolution. The given translation inserts some new information inferable from the context (“worthless/silly”) to describe “ribbons”. The insertion of this new description into Snowball’s response makes him more informative when communicating his message to Mollie.

Translational orientations

The data in Table (1) show that there are more cases of hedging maxims than the other two types of variation in the translation of maxims. This is manifested in both translations, but more remarkable in Abada’s translation. This suggests that there is a trend in the two translations towards the linguistic realization of the narrator and speaking character’s *tacit awareness* of conversational maxims while interacting (Horn, 2006, p. 25). There is a translational orientation towards lexicalizing the narrator and speaking character’s assumption on the extent to which they are abiding by the maxims. In a fiction translation, one would then expect the speaking characters not only to communicate messages but also to inform each other “how informative, well-founded, relevant and perspicuous these messages are” (Grundy, 2013, p. 101). For instance, in comparison with the untranslated text, Squealer in the translated text not only tells Clover that the beds are very comfortable but also relates to her that he is taking responsibility for the truth of what he is saying (see Example 2).

This greater use of maxim hedging in the translated narrative implicates a shift in the *character-level relations* (Black, 2006, p. 28), a tendency towards more consideration of *politeness* or *face wants* in a translated narrative (House, 1998). Maxim hedges like “I think”, “The truth is ...”, “The whole issue is ...”, “As far as I know,” etc., are commonly used as a strategy to soften the speaker’s own opinion and show deference to the hearer’s assumed greater understanding or experience (Leech, 2014, pp. 96-97). Thus, more frequent use of maxim hedges may suggest a greater awareness on the speaking characters’ part of their *face wants* and greater consideration of the appropriateness of their utterances in the translated fictional dialogues. Not only giving notice to Mollie that Snowball is aware of the maxim, the insertion of a hedge on the maxim of relation, “by the way”, into Snowball’s utterance to Mollie “you do not need sugar” in Example (2) also reduces the impact of, and probably apologizes for. This sudden change in topic, making him look more polite than he is in the original.

This increased use of maxim hedges in the translated narrative may reflect a level of awareness of the maxims on the translators’ part during their *verbal (re)materialization* of the original story (see Levý, 2011, pp. 27-31). A translation not only transposes a text from one language to another but also expresses the speech norms that guided the translator’s choices during the contextualization or resetting of the original story. Among these speech norms are the tendency to express a state of mind or propositional attitudes (e.g., politeness, uncertainty or commitment to maxims). The translation process may be more a process of (re)narration in which translator takes part in constructing the world rather than a process of transferring accurately semantic values from the source to the target language (Baker, 2018b, p. 180). Translators narrativize events, and this process may

involve, on the part of translators, a greater consciousness of conversational maxims and greater grammaticalization of this consciousness in the translated narrative.

The data in Table (1) also indicate that there are 54 cases where the translator observes a maxim that has been flouted in the original, while there are only 6 cases of a shift in the opposite direction, to flout a maxim that has been observed in the original. This gives us some insights into the character's interaction and their preferred style of negotiating thoughts and feelings (see Şerban, 2013, p. 220; Lambrou, 2014, pp. 143-144). Compared to the original, characters seem now to like to interact and communicate messages by observing rather than flouting maxims. They now prefer *explicitation* to *implication* (Blum-Kulka, 2004). For example, the animals would flout maxims and say Squealer "could tum black into white", but now they are more explicit and simply say that Squealer "can convince you to commit foolish mistakes" (see Example 5). This explicitation pattern can only manifest a greater *simplicity* and *concision* in Orwell's language or writing style (Fowler, 2009, pp. 63-68). Since one of the most distinctive characteristics of Orwell's linguistic style in the novel is his simple, clear and concise language, this tendency towards a *more simplified* and *less ambiguous* language in translation (Toury, 2012, p. 306) leads to a translated narrative that maintains the overall *style* or *feel* of the original (see Munday, 2008, pp. 19-20). One may then look at this pattern of explicitation or simplification as textual traces of the translator's (conscious or subconscious) attempts to reconstruct the *stylistic* choices the original author made. In other words, this may be an instance of a translator's voice complementing an authorial voice (Munday, 2008, pp. 14-16), or of a translator, relying on his/her cognitive context, reconstructing the original author's poetics (Boase-Beier, 2018, pp. 199-200, see Abualadas, 2019a, p. 275).

This orientation towards observing rather than flouting maxims in the translated narrative affects not only character-level interactions but also the *higher-level* (narrator-reader) ones (Black, 2006, p. 29). The narrator's flouting of maxims would normally communicate a message to the reader, through an inductive *inference* the reader (given rational cooperation) draws as to the intended implicature. The translator's tendency to observe maxims, which the narrator flouts in the original (e.g., the translation of "more mouths" as "new members" in Example 6, would actually avoid the target reader this inductive inference process. Such a pattern of shift can only be indicative of fewer narrator-reader implicatures and a lesser/weaker narrator-reader cooperation in the translated narrative. The text's persuasion power is claimed to improve if a reader accepts the implied meanings that are not explicitly stated, which is often referred to as *subliminal persuasion* (Lakhani, 2008, see Ying & Zhao, 2018, p. 117). This tendency towards fewer narrator-reader implicatures in the translated narrative may then result

in losing some of the narrative's subliminal messages or weakening the narrator's subliminal language. Such patterns of shift can generally suggest a *less stylistically engaging* text, hence a reduced level of engagement on the part of the target reader compared to that of the original reader (Boase-Beier, 2018, pp. 201-203).

The data in Table (1) indicate that there are 65 instances of insertion into the translated utterance of information inferable from the cognitive context (Saldanha, 2008, pp. 21-23). At the level of the character-to-character interaction, this suggests characters offering more informative conversational contributions than those of the original. When Snowball advises Mollie not to wear ribbons (as they are a symbol of slavery), he now further tells her that these ribbons are silly and worthless (see Example 7). The articulation of such contextual information as "silly and worthless" reflects speaking characters showing an awareness of or need for an increased level of proposition *informativeness*, a level assumed to be appropriate or adequate (not more or less than needed) for the purpose of the conversation (see Bach, 2012, pp. 63-64). If we assume that in an ordinary situation a speaker is expected to speak in "the most economical way possible" or give only "the minimum required" (Chapman 2011, pp. 91-920), and so should a fictional character, the verbalization of extra contextual information in characters' interactions would express an increase in the minimum desired level of informativeness compared to the original.

This lexicalization of extra *optional* contextual information in the translated narrative may have an effect upon "the readability and ease of comprehension" of the translated narrative (Saldanha, 2008, pp. 31-32). It generally adds to the *mutual cognitive environment* of the narrator and reader (see Gutt, 2010, pp. 27-28), thus facilitating the communication of narrator-reader implicatures (Black, 2006, p. 29). This change of information from implicit into explicit status reflects the translator's *voice* or *mediating role* in the translated narrative (Munday, 2008, pp. 12-14). It can be looked at an instance of *self-referentiality* or *metalinguistic* use of language, when language describes or clarifies language (Hermans, 1996, p. 29; Saldanha, 2008, pp. 23-24), which is sometimes assumed to be related to the translators' assumption of their role as literary mediators (Saldanha 2008: 31).

CONCLUSION

The present study has analyzed Grice's maxims and cooperation in two Arabic translations of *Animal Farm* and revealed several patterns of change. At the character-level interaction, the translated narrative shows a more frequent use of maxim hedges and a more lexicalized awareness of, or commitment to, maxims than the original does. This suggests interactions involving more manifestations of social/interpersonal relationships, politeness and metalinguistic functions (House, 1998; Hatim and Mason, 2013; Baker, 2018a).

In addition, compared to the original, the characters in the translated narrative prefer to provide a more informative response as well as to observe rather than flout maxims. They show a preference for explication over implication and directness over indirectness while interacting (Morini, 2008; Gutt, 2010)

At the higher-level (narrator-reader or text-reader) interaction, the translational orientation towards less flouting and/or more observance of maxims suggests fewer narrator-reader implicatures and potentially a lesser degree of reader cooperation with the translated narrative (Malmkjær, 2003, 2005). This suggests a translational style that invites a lesser level of *cognitive engagement* compared to that of the original (Boase-Beier, 2018). The translated narrative exhibits a higher level of *explicitness* (Blum-Kulka, 2004) and an increased *informativeness* that may contribute to the ease and/or minimization of processing efforts while reading. This makes the “conciseness of form and simplicity of language” of the original narrative more visible to the reader (Fowler, 2009, p. 63).

The increased use of maxim hedges may reflect the translator’s awareness of or commitment to conversational maxims during the *re-narration* process (Baker, 2018b). The increased level of explicitness and informativeness may also signal the translator’s (intentional or unintentional) attempts to provide more contextual information or cues to interpretation (Malmkjær, 2004; Saldanha, 2008), or his/her mediating role while constructing or reconstructing the authorial and narrative voice (Munday, 2008; Saldanha, 2008). This may be a normal practice in translation if we assume that “the message coming from the translation is relayed in a different code that bears the translator’s print” (Munday, 2008, p. 13). Finally, in spite of the possible universality of conversational maxims, linguistic and stylistic preferences vary across cultures and text types, the analysis of which would be important for explaining the reason modifications are made in translation.

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Appendix

The Library of Congress Transliteration System for Arabic Consonants and Vowels

Arabic symbol	Transliteration	Arabic symbol	Transliteration
ء	'	ف	f
أ	a	ق	q
ب	b	ك	k
ت	t	ل	l
ث	th	م	m
ج	j	ن	n
ح	h	هـ	h
خ	kh	و	w
د	d	ي	y
ذ	dh	آ	ā
ر	r	أَ	a
ز	z	إِ	ī
س	s	إِ	i
ش	sh	أُ	ū
ص	ṣ	أُ	u
ض	ḍ	أَ	an
ط	ṭ	أَ	in
ظ	ẓ	أَ	un
ع	'	أَ	an
غ	gh		