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TRANSLATION AND REPRESENTATION
OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE IN THE MEDIA

Manar Nabil Abu Al Oyoum, Candidate for the Master of Arts Degree

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ABSTRACT

It is generally assumed that the purpose of translation is to bridge the gap between cultures and provide a better understanding of the other. However, this understanding is often shaped to suit a certain agenda. Given this, the aim of this thesis is to examine translation of Arabic political discourse into English by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). Three texts from different Arabic newspapers along with their MEMRI English translations were analyzed in terms of language and discourse. Word choice, word order, discourse, representation, deletion and addition were found to be some of the factors that reflect the ideology and agency of the translator. The analysis indicates the power of translation, politics and media in promoting particular images about the other mostly based on a pre-translation ideology.

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