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**Faculty of Letters and Languages**  
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**Translation and UK Political Agendas, with  
special reference to W. Churchill, M.  
Thatcher and T. Blair**

**A Dissertation Submitted To the Department of English in Partial Fulfilment of the  
Requirement for Master Degree in Civilization and Literature**

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## **Abstract**

This dissertation seeks to investigate the role of translation to serve political agendas in the UK. Particularly it examines the correlation between translation and political discourse through the study of Britain's Prime Ministers Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair. This study explores how translation functions not only as a linguistic tool but also as a political instrument used to manipulate meaning and reshape thoughts, thus affecting opinions and even draw biased political ideologies. This research also highlights the potential of translation through which the reception of the political message is received across different cultural, linguistic and political contexts. Through implementing a qualitative analysis of the case studies of Churchill, Thatcher, and Blair's speeches and analysis of rhetorical, ideological, and cultural translation shifts, this dissertation argues that translation is used by political leaders to project authority, maintain power and spread domination by shaping a national identity. It suggests that translation can be a powerful, strong determining tool of political persuasion rather than being a neutral means of transferring language. Translation often contributes to the legitimization of political authority as it plays a role beyond the linguistic scope.

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## **Dedication**

To my dearest family, my mother, my father, Abdou, Malek, Youcef and Lina. I owe thanks to all of you for supporting me since day one, believing in me and having faith in me.

To my most precious friends: to Dalia, To Salima, to the girls and to Fulla, I sincerely cannot find the enough words to thank you for all the love you have given me since I met each one of you.

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Always and forever, thank you,

Forevermore,

## Table of Contents

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Dedication</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>General Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter One: Translation in the Context of Politics</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>I. Translation across Political and Cultural Contexts</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>II. Political Language, Ideology and Political Discourse</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>III. Politics, Power and Relationships</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>IV. The Role of Translators' Backgrounds</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>V. The 'Politics' and 'Policy' of Translation</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Chapter Two: Translation and Political Agendas: Churchill and Thatcher</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>I. The Iron Lady</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>II. Translating Political Rhetoric: The Politics of Margaret Thatcher</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>III. 1988 Bruges speech</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>IV. Margaret Thatcher's interpreter "softening"</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>V. Translation of Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>VI. Recontextualisation in English media quotes</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Chapter Three: A translational Analysis of Political Texts: The Case of Tony Blair.</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>I. The Translation of Political Discourse</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>II. Tony Blair's Premiership</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>III. Political Texts Analysis</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>IV. Tony Blair's Image Repair Discourse in Response to the Iraq Inquiry</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>IV. Cross-Leaders Comparison</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>General Conclusion</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>65</b>

<b>Appendices Bibliography of the political figures</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Résumé</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>ملخص</b>	<b>70</b>

## General Introduction

The discipline of translation studies has increasingly moved away from viewing translation as a neutral linguistic exercise to recognising its function as a sight of ideological and political negotiation. Over centuries, translators have shown their interest in decoding languages in an attempt to combine cultures, shed light on ancient civilizations and even more, to use the target language as a political means.

Translation was often defined as the process of rewriting a text of a particular language to another; it is the replacement of the original text by another.<sup>1</sup> These rewritings reflect a certain ideology which may manipulate meaning which resembles a source of power to the translator as it often represents the target society with new concepts, strange innovations and so it represents translators as a major force in shaping texts.<sup>2</sup>

The title of this dissertation is *Translation and UK Political Agendas with Special Reference to W. Churchill, M. Thatcher and T. Blair*. The title reflects the crucial role of translation in imperial contexts focusing specifically on manipulating language to serve various purposes which were often personal and often governmental.

Through history, politicians sought to obtain power and spread their control via legal as well as illegal orientations in which translation was a key means of achieving domination accession.

Mona Baker (2006) in her book *Translation and Conflict: A Narrative Account* demonstrated on the participation of translators as well as interpreters in creating a particular surrounding for a cruel conflict, through her work, the author shifted attentions toward the role

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<sup>1</sup> Julian House, *Translation*, ed. H. G. Widdowson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 4.

<sup>2</sup> Lawrence Venuti, *The Translator's Invisibility* (London: Routledge, 1995), 8

of translators in politically sensitive contexts. Moreover, the emergence of activist translator and interpreter communities with explicitly politicized agendas is also an important fact. In her work, she focused on the notion of conflict and how translation operates within the given charged settings.

In *Problems Related to the Translation of Political Texts*, Krisztina SÁROSI-MÁRDIROSZ (2014) dealt with the problems related to translating political contexts established by scholars in translation studies. Through this study, the writer addresses the challenges involved and reflects on the terminological peculiarities of the specialized language characteristic of this text type. In this work, Mardirosz focused on analysing a specific political speech originally written in English and translated into Hungarian and Romanian emphasizing on translation as being an act of interpreting cultural, historical, and political contexts and their significance.

In his thesis *The Manipulation of Ideology in the Simultaneous Interpreting of Political Discourse*, Jasim Khalifah Sultan Al-Maryani (2016) studies how ideology can be manipulated in interpretation of political speeches by analysing Obama's speeches through different TV channels (Al-Arabiya, Al-Jazeera, and Russia Today), the writer clarified that interpreters often shift meanings to reflect political or social agendas as anti-Islamophobia, anti-Israeli, or sectarian positions.

In their book *Diplomatic and Political Interpreting Explained* Mira Kadrić, Sylvi Rennert, and Christina Schäffner (2022) presented an in-depth exploration of translator's role in the international communication. This work examines how language effectively functions as a key concept in political affairs as well as diplomacy, shedding light on how interpreters deliver information and affect the political relations providing real-life examples of the given concepts.

*Political Routines in Press Translation* by Petros Kontos et Maria Sidiropoulou (2012) examines Tony Blair's premiership's articles which were translated into Greek, highlighting

the linguistic and cultural adjustments made, focusing on how political theory shapes the choices of information.

This dissertation is a modest contribution to the ongoing discussion about the role of translation in both shaping and shifting the political beliefs, obtaining governmental interest as well as a means to serve an individual need. The main concern of the thesis is to investigate the following research question:

How did translation play political roles to serve political agendas through the example of Prime Ministers W. Churchill, M. Thatcher and T. Blair?

Sub-Questions:

- 1- How did the translation strategies reflect the broader objectives of British imperial policy?
- 2- What role does translation play in bridging and facilitating causing the bias in Britain during the Prime Ministers premierships?

To answer these questions, a qualitative approach to Translation and UK Political Agendas with special reference to W. Churchill, M. Thatcher and T. Blair, this study hypothesizes that translators served as agents when speeches by Churchill, Thatcher, and Blair are translated; they are not simply transformed and transmitted into another language but rather adapted to fit political goals. Translators change words, metaphors and even style to suit the culture and politics of the new audience. This means translation helps shape and reshape how these leaders are seen in other countries by controlling the flow of knowledge.

This dissertation will be divided into three chapters.

Chapter one is entitled: Translation in the Context of Politics. It will discuss concepts of Translation and its relation to various concepts, ideology, diplomacy, power, politics, policy, culture, etc. including defining translation.

Chapter two: The UK Political Agendas: The Case Study of Churchill and Thatcher. It will include a direct application of the case studies (the two Conservative Prime Ministers) clarifying the questions raised earlier.

Chapter three: an Analytical Translational Viewpoint of Political Texts: The Case of Tony Blair for further explanation and extension to the previous chapter merging the political translational strategies of translation.

## Chapter One: Translation in Context

### Introduction

A bound relationship has long existed between translation and the territorial expansion regarding empires. Translation is no longer regarded as a linguistic (interlingual)<sup>3</sup> process of replacing an original text with an inferior substitute, but rather as a means of a continual social, cultural and political practice in international relations. This chapter seeks to shed lights over the history of both: translation and explores the role of translation in manipulating meaning for various purposes.

### I. Translation Across Political and Cultural Contexts

#### 1. Defining Translation

As a matter of fact, translation is often seen as a phenomenon which has a massive impact on daily practices. The term translation encompasses beyond one distinct sight as it is involved in various perspectives as in linguistics, culture, society, education, politics and even in the international relations. It also interfaces with several other distinct disciplines from linguistics to the cultural studies, postcolonialism and modern languages.<sup>4</sup>

Basil Hatim and Jeremy Munday in their book *Translation: An Advanced Resource Book* defined translation as a process or a product that may be divided into sub-types as literary translation, subtitling, technical and machine translation which technically alludes to the process of replacing the written text which sometimes can also be oral, in this case translating

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<sup>3</sup> It is the involvement of two or more languages.

<sup>4</sup> Basil Hatim. Jeremy Munday, *Translation: An Advanced Resource Book* (London: Routledge, 2004), xvii

the oral (spoken) language is known as interpretation. The variation of the latter is quite necessary as they represent two distinct activities each of which is alternately characterized.<sup>5</sup>

Translation can be defined as a linguistic replacement process which substitutes a text of a certain language by its duplicate in another, and what features translation is the combination of these three items, replacing, process and duplicate, each of which is a significant characteristic of this process.<sup>6</sup>

## **2. Between Politics and Culture**

In recent years, research has been initiated within various fields which cover all distinct types of cultural, linguistic and ideological practices. In the political context of translation, the distinction of language was clearly emerging within the quotidian practices such as the bilingual street signs or whenever a linguistic community reclaims its identity over the dominant language through graffiti.<sup>7</sup>

In fact, translation is no longer regarded as a linguistic means, but rather as an act which crosses various fields, as the cultural and political ones. In the cultural studies, the act of translation must always refer to both culture as well as language as the two components cannot be set apart: language is what shapes its culture and culture is what defines any particular language of it. So language is culturally rooted: it seeks to define cultural reality as well as giving a literal meaning to language elements.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Julian House, *Translation*, ed. H. G. Widdowson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009),9.

<sup>6</sup> House, 6.

<sup>7</sup> House, 6.

<sup>8</sup> House, 9.

Moreover, both meaning and the cultural context cannot be set separately: some items can only be understood when we refer to their cultural realities where these semantic units are utilized.<sup>9</sup>

Culture, as it is conventionally defined, it refers to a community embodies its culture which shares same traditions, values, morals, language and sometimes even religion. However, the distinction of each group is what makes the difference of translating languages, i.e., the different cultural beliefs, norms and behaviours are rooted in their language which becomes exported when it is translated and shared to another cultural group.<sup>10</sup>

Additionally, the politics of translation in the domain of international relationships shows a different bound between the latter: translation in this field is conventionally used as a transformative tool of particular information within the boundaries of a given context<sup>11</sup>. However, the scope of translation is broader than to be contained and limited within the bound of transmitting the language, interpretably or translated, it goes beyond the linguistic framework. The impact of politics on translation is quite observable through the political texts as the political speeches, political text, articles and journals.<sup>12</sup>

Furthermore, the transformative dimensions of translation capture the broadness of translation to multiple practices that construct the international notion.<sup>13</sup> It represents a mutual matter in controlling power and the various political practices worldwide.<sup>14</sup> The use of

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<sup>9</sup> House, 11.

<sup>10</sup> House, 12.

<sup>11</sup> Zeynep Gülşah Çapan, Filipe dos Reis, and Maj Grasten, *The Politics of Translation in International Relations*, vol. 47, no. 1, 2021, p. 4.

<sup>12</sup> Roberto A. Valdeón, *Introduction: The Politics of Translation and the Translation of Politics, Translation and Interpreting Studies*, vol. 12, no. 2, 2020, p1.

<sup>13</sup> Valdeón, 4.

<sup>14</sup> Valdeón, 4.

translation can affect constructing meaning, perspectives and viewpoints, accurately as well as misleadingly.

### **3. Translation and History**

Translation and the narratives of history are tightly interconnected and related as they highly interact in sharing and shaping activities, translation plays a crucial part in shaping history.

Translators lead power. Historians while recalling history, they rely on translators in writing and transferring it to the world as they face difficult obstacles in decoding all what is of a foreign discourse, historians when translating they tend to depend on translators as well as interpreters mainly in translating some cultural terms that may cause a misleading notion while transmitting them, while some deliberately intend to translate passages maintaining their own estimations.

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Translators have been seen as a tool of representing the various political and cultural images, the subjectivity as well as the objectivity is what determines the effect of manipulating and causing a distortive meaning by translators or historians.<sup>16</sup>

The subjectivity of translators shapes a specific dimension through of which meaning is completely and utterly reshaped according to some sort of individual concern.

## **II. Political Language, Ideology and Political Discourse**

### **1. Political Language Vs Political Discourse**

Politics is traced back to the Greek era, meaning, ‘city’, ‘citizen, as it shapes

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<sup>15</sup> Valdeón, Roberto A. *Communicating the Past via Translation: The Manipulation of History*. Meta: Translators’ Journal, vol. 60, no. 2, 2015, pp.3.

<sup>16</sup> Çapan, dos Reis, and Grasten 4.

people's opinions, it is now one of the main concerns in this world, politics is often seen as Plato claimed "politics is nothing but corruption." Additionally, Dahl defined politics as "the process that determines the authoritative allocation of value."

Politics is power, accordingly, the politics of language is technically the language of power on the other hand, the political discourse is a powerful tool in shaping people's opinions, but rather it may shift their thoughts through of which a particular aim is served.

## 2. Between Translation and Ideology

The term ideology refers to the interference and viewpoints of a specific group of people who are known as the intellectuals of society, politics, culture, political parties, religion, ethics, and even political behaviours<sup>17</sup>, according to Lefevre, ideology is "*a set of discourses which wrestle over interests which are in some way relevant to the maintenance or interrogation of power structures central to a whole form of social and historical life*" (Shuttleworth, 2004, p.136).

This term holds much importance as any tiny changes in ideology consequently cause notable changes in producing different translation, in fact, some translators rely on their cultural and political ideologies in translating text which affects the general meaning of the translated material, some attempt to purposely state their political as well as their cultural ideology to facilitate the process of publishing their translations<sup>18</sup>, and in some outliers, they deliberately mistranslate out of self-interest.

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<sup>17</sup> Jiajun Bian and Xia Li, *The Interaction Between Ideology and Translation.*, 2022, p. 443.

<sup>18</sup> Mei Zhang, *Translation Manipulated by Ideology and Poetics—A Case Study of The Jade Mountain*, 2012, 754.

This is where the honesty of the translator is determined, in such cases, they are stuck in a double bind of whether being professional and honest or following the ideology, regarding the fact that sometimes subjectivity is regarded as dishonesty.<sup>19</sup>

Nevertheless, each translator comes from a particular social, political and historical background, the restriction imposed on them is comes sometimes from the political awareness of the translator and the publication censorship of the government. It is commonly known that there is an invisible line between both authority; leadership, and translation, in fact, in the field of politics, society and social interests, translation is centred within the culture of the ruling body; the elite, the interference of the leadership in the translational actions strongly indicates that their personal objectives does have a clear political bias<sup>20</sup>.

The influence of politics and ideology on translation can be clearly observed through the political texts, this influence is quite profound, as cited before, translation is no longer seen as a matter of exchanging information through translating languages, in fact, historically speaking, translation is a process of language activity which is manipulated by outside influences. As complicated as this process may appear, Ideology of the translator is not the only factor which affects translation but also what the ideology of the external forces that is imposed on him, for that, the policy of translating such texts is not randomly or objectively selected but rather a result of the ideology of the leadership, translation in this case appears as a combination of history society and politics<sup>21</sup>.

According to Schleiermacher, the act of translation strategy fulfilled a significant ideological function influencing the the mindset of the target audience (at the core of the matter,

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<sup>19</sup> Zhang, 754.

<sup>20</sup> Bian and Li, p. 443.

<sup>21</sup> Bian and Li, 1.

the heart of the issue lay in the political and cultural tensions between both France and Germany)<sup>22</sup>.

### 3. The Influence of Ideology

Ideology directly affects translation, translating any material or the various translation acts and the process itself serves a particular aim, whether a specific personal aim that can also be out of serving the translators' own purposes or political benefits.<sup>23</sup> Translation however is included within understanding the literal characteristic of any text which is going to engage the connection of the audience along with the social, cultural and political relationships between the human being. These features will result in creating powerful relationships. Power can be seen as the influence that groups or institutions have over people or other groups. This influence can limit the actions or choices those people can make. In some cases, power can also appear in texts and affect how we understand or act, language is a powerful tool to attain and sustain power in human interactions (Fowler 1985), in this vein, the political power is to be obtained and reserved as the political texts are seen as formal ways to communicate within and beyond the state's borders. In the multilingual context, translation represents a significant role in obtaining the political power.<sup>24</sup>

The adoption of translation material is quite determined by the ideology, whether that of the translator (for personal interests) or the governments' (political benefits), it was claimed that all translation are ideological since they are manipulated by meaning, aim, and the objectives of these social or political groups.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Jasim Al-Maryani, *The Manipulation of Ideology in the Simultaneous Interpreting of Political Discourse*, 2016, p. 1.

<sup>23</sup> Bian and Li, p. 443.

<sup>24</sup> Mátyás Bánhegyi, *Translation and Political Discourse*, p. 141-142.

<sup>25</sup> Bánhegyi, 142.

However, if the translation doesn't meet the interests of that community, it is going to be rejected by whoever leads power, as resulted, we can say that ideology control translation: the selection of the accurate translation materials is determined on the purpose of this process of translating this text.

### **III. Politics, Power and Relationships**

#### **1. Politics and Power**

The cultural shift in the early 1920s paved the way to moving the attention towards analysing the translation of the political texts, discourses additionally to the strong bound of the relationship between the ideology and the power existing within translating these texts.<sup>26</sup>

Moreover, multiculturalism was highly supported within the global scope, nationally and internationally. The cultural variation of territories was often promoted through the institutional interaction,<sup>27</sup> Multilingualism is often linked to the core principles of democratic societies, such as equality, diversity, and inclusion.

In this vein, translation is not only a linguistic task but also a meaningful social and political act. It plays a major role in supporting and promoting multilingualism, which helps ensure that all citizens, regardless of their language, have access to the same rights and opportunities (Sosoni, 2005). Translation has been seen as a way to guarantee equality between speakers of different languages before the law and public institutions (Wagner et al., 2002). It also protects the democratic right of individuals to communicate with authorities in their own language (Meylaerts, 2011, p. 165). At the same time, translation values and strengthens

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<sup>26</sup> Bánhegyi, 142.

<sup>27</sup> M. Rosario Martín Ruano, *Translation vis-à-vis Democratic Deficit in the Digital Era: Policies, Practices and Possibilities of Institutional Translation in Increasingly Diverse Societies*. p.48.

cultural and linguistic differences, making it an essential tool for building more inclusive and fair societies.<sup>28</sup>

Subsequently, translation was approached as a key principle of promoting multiculturalism as the latter facilitate the process of decoding language eventually the culture of the given territory: it is a success factor within the EU<sup>29</sup> policy<sup>30</sup>. Translation however is not only a linguistic tool, but also a tool used to pave the way to the governors to achieve their actual aim behind opening the doors of translating languages, meeting new cultures, and being aware of as many territorial languages as possible.

For sure, within the process of interpreting and translating people or speakers, their thoughts, interests, beliefs and opinions are reflected. This transparent process clears the window upon the sincere intentions of the individuals.<sup>31</sup> Through this process, not only the intentions that are shown but also the conscious as well as the unconscious interventions are revealed, these speeches play a considerable role in shaping the spacious perception onto which a lot of the geopolitics<sup>32</sup> rely.<sup>33</sup>

## **2. The Power of Relationships**

Usually, Translation and interpretation are neutral tools used to transfer language in order to make the process of communication between the people world widely easier, however, translation and interpretation do not simply facilitate this operation but it is a conscious result of political acts to reshape, and defines the values and the beliefs of both source and target

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<sup>28</sup> Ruano, 48-49.

<sup>29</sup> The European Union

<sup>30</sup> Ruano, 49.

<sup>31</sup> Al-Maryani, p29.

<sup>32</sup> Geopolitics is a study of the effects of geography, economics, and demography and foreign on politics and policy of a particular state

<sup>33</sup> Al-Maryani,29.

culture.<sup>34</sup> It is quite known that politics is cantered in power, and power is politics, the institutional power is subsequently a result of many factors upon of which translation is included.

The power of relationships in the scope of translation intervenes all the fields of culture, politics, economics but mainly the political relationships, this power can be found within the text itself of the translator. The familiar source languages back to the Early Modern period were Latin, Spanish and Italian as they presented the languages of the dominant colonisers all over the world, later on French from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century eventually replaced Latin as becoming one of the dominating territories in the 18<sup>th</sup> century which in Europe became an important source language for translations followed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by the English language as an important source language followed by German. The latter took the leadership of being the most powerful languages in the domain of the European translation centre.<sup>35</sup>

Translators provides a passive role to legalize their works, language conceal the implicit as well as the explicit biases and perspectives which are unavoidable that can be a result of powerful impact – that of the leadership- targeting to reshape opinions and beliefs establishing and legitimizing the superiority and worldview of the dominant colonial power.<sup>36</sup> Cervantes' Don Quijote was translated from Spanish to English in 1612, meanwhile, Hamlet, Shakespeare's play, which was published simultaneously in England, was not translated into Spanish until almost two centuries later.<sup>37</sup> This consequently proves the dominance of English as a global colonial power.

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<sup>34</sup> Elaine Hsieh, *The Politics of Translation and Interpretation in International Communication*, p1.

<sup>35</sup> Antje Flüchter and Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink, *Translation Policy and the Politics of Translation—The Translation of Power Relationships: An Afterword*, p.376.

<sup>36</sup> Hsieh, p.1

<sup>37</sup> Hsieh, 1.

Another notable result of the power of relationships in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was in Ireland, this translation movement was an important element which contributed in Ireland's independence.<sup>38</sup> The puissance of the power relationship as well as language translation results not only in the political hegemony but also in academic institutions.<sup>39</sup> The application of political actions and authority in Foucault's idea of power aspects' shall be taken into consideration as key influences on the process of translation

Besides, translation in this context is seen through the perspectives of government and political processes as the latter are in the position of controlling what is translated to the population, the elite have the authority to manipulate translation which has a direct impact on politics and policy, the relationship established among politicians and the policymakers is quite profound that has to be discussed furthermore.<sup>40</sup>

### **3. The Manipulative Intervention**

Ideology has a profound impact on translation, the objection of the translators –interpreters– that is called “manipulative intervention” which contradicts with their immediate position, according to Bourdieu, translation highly operates within the field of power as Inghilleri (2005a) observes, "social agents are likely to reproduce the conditions of their immediate status, favourable or not, with respect to existing social hierarchies" (70). Furthermore, Bourdieu's theory of habitus highlights "habitus is not necessarily adapted to its situation nor necessarily coherent" (Bourdieu 2000, 159), this theory clarifies the occasions of the translators which are strongly guided by their ideologies and shaped by their political backgrounds, this eventually

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<sup>38</sup> In this vein, translation was manipulated by the Irish politicians and governors to get the independence of the country

<sup>39</sup> Flüchter and Lüsebrink, 376.

<sup>40</sup> Flüchter and Lüsebrink, 376.

affects their way and methods in interpreting or translating texts which reflects power within it.<sup>41</sup>

Nevertheless, following Bourdieu, the political field of the translator, leaders of power and agents affect in shaping the political forces through determining which translations are ignored or promoted, they actually influence, decide and control what is translated and what is not.

#### **IV. The Role of Translators' Backgrounds**

##### **1. Translators in the Situation of Political Conflict**

Translators take the position of mediators among the political conflict, mainly recently as politics is becoming worldwide more dominant act,<sup>42</sup> Calzada Pérez (2007) examines the role of translators in conflict situations and emphasizes that translators should confront such challenges rather than avoid them. In this vein, translators may easily raise a conflict through creating fictitious points or what is known as consensus<sup>43</sup>, as they may also edit disagreements to achieve certain aims, these points assert the possibility or the translators' interference in the political criteria.<sup>44</sup>

The studies presented in this section demonstrate that translators of political discourse frequently positioned on the front line; the characteristics and quality of their work can significantly influence both the reception of these texts and the political events connected to them. Furthermore, the analysis of political texts by researchers or translating such content shall

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<sup>41</sup> Jasim Al-Maryani, *The Manipulation of Ideology in the Simultaneous Interpreting of Political Discourse*, 2016, p. 42.

<sup>42</sup> Bánhegyi, p. 144.

<sup>43</sup> A general agreement

<sup>44</sup> Bánhegyi, 145.

extend beyond the texts themselves<sup>45</sup> to include their reception and if possible, the political events directly or closely associated with their translation.<sup>46</sup>

## **2. The Influence of Translators' Historical and Cultural Backgrounds**

Translators while dealing with the political texts may affect this process through their historical as well as cultural settings, translators' historical and cultural backgrounds influence how they interpret events, figures, and narratives in the source text, and this interpretation—reflected in the target text—shapes readers' understanding of, and attitudes toward, the historical events being represented and how they are perceived. Thus, it can be justifiably argued that any valid textual analysis must take into consideration the translator's own political commitment and attitudes, as these may be traceable within and highly affects the translated text.<sup>47</sup>

## **3. The Influence of Political Agendas on Translation**

The Palestinian-Zionist war is one of the most controversial cases where meaning was manipulated, the misinformation used by the biased translators to manipulate and shift opinions, translators often apply specific techniques as adding or omitting data in an attempt to distort meaning.<sup>48</sup>

Political and news texts are often translated to share information about political events happening in other countries, in the international level. However, when they are translated, they can also become part of political discussions. In fact, translations can play a significant role in

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<sup>45</sup> The intentions and the hidden purposes shall be taken into consideration

<sup>46</sup> Bánhegyi, 145.

<sup>47</sup> Bánhegyi, 145.

<sup>48</sup> Meriem Bouguettaia and Imane Debabeche, *Misinformation and Manipulation in Translating Journalistic Articles: Terms Related to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, International Press Institute, p 31.

political conflicts because they may be used to support or oppose certain ideologies. This means that translation is not always neutral—the way a text is translated and the strategies the translator chooses are often influenced by political and ideological factors.<sup>49</sup>

News translations are naturally unstable when it comes to conveying meaning. This is because they involve complex processes of transferring information between different languages and cultures—sometimes even across multiple languages.<sup>50</sup>

- Example of which is the Chinese translation of *Wild Swans*

The portrayals of Mao Zedong during the early phase of the Cultural Revolution

(1965–1966) in Jung Chang’s politically charged English-language autobiography *Wild Swans* and its Chinese translation published in Taiwan reveal significant differences shaped by political and cultural contexts. *Wild Swans* was highly criticized as it negatively represented the Chinese history.<sup>51</sup>

- The Spanish/Cuban political interpreting:

Translation studies are viewed as empirical practices which can never be a neutral tool, the media acts as the main channel for delivering political speech, often shaping it to align with the interests of the institution it represents. Media outlets serve as gatekeepers, deciding not only what to translate but also how the translation is carried out. In her study, Al-Mohannadi (2008) offers a comparative analysis of the translated versions of Bin Laden’s

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<sup>49</sup> Bouguettaia and Debabeche, 29.

<sup>50</sup> Bouguettaia and Debabeche, 29.

<sup>51</sup> Long Li, *Shifts of Agency in Translation: A Case Study of the Chinese Translation of Wild Swans*, p178.

speech broadcasted by CNN and BBC. Her analysis reveals that, from the introduction to the final paragraph, ideological interference played a role in distorting the core message. This manipulation influenced the viewers' understanding, subtly directing them toward adopting a particular perspective.<sup>52</sup>

- Barack Obama Speech:

Another example of manipulating meaning by the elite which goes beyond to the political level

- Text 1 (Telegraph): Barack Obama: Britain would go to the ‘back of the queue’ when it comes to US trade deals if it leaves the EU. (Foreign Stuff, 2016)<sup>53</sup>

- Text 2 (Russia Today)

الأمريكيين يرون في الاتحاد الأوروبي معقال لهم ضد روسيا... " اوباما " يتدخل " في الاستفتاء البريطاني

(The Mayor of London) (Tass, 2016)<sup>54</sup>

كما ان المقال ذكر التلغراف أيضا

There is a significant difference between the source title and the target one.

When back-translated from Arabic, the target title reads: “Obama ‘interferes’ in the British referendum.” This does not accurately reflect the original content. In fact, a careful reading of the source text shows that Obama clearly states he is not interfering, but merely offering friendly advice. Moreover, the Russian news outlet includes an additional quotation attributed to the London mayor, claiming that “Americans consider Britain a stronghold against Russia.”

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<sup>52</sup> Abdelali Zaid, *Ideology and Translation*, 245-246.

<sup>53</sup> Zaid, 251.

<sup>54</sup> Zaid, 251.

However, no such statement exists in the source text or in any of the mayor's public speeches during the Brexit debate.<sup>55</sup>

This example illustrates how the Russian institution's translation appears to serve a political agenda, objective: to discredit Obama's visit to the UK and frame both him and the United States as interfering powers whose global dominance is diminishing. By strategically adding elements to the target text and omitting others from the source, the translator constructs an alternative narrative. This aligns with what Fairclough (1989, p.111) refers to as rewording—a discursive strategy that manipulates language to reshape meaning and influence public perception.<sup>56</sup>

- Hugh Thomas's, *The Spanish Civil War*

Thomas's book is seen as one of the best accounts of this important and painful event. However, it was not accepted in Franco's Spain. That's why it was translated into Spanish by Éditions Ruedo Ibérico, a publishing house set up in France by Spanish exiles. A considerable number of translators have contributed in making fundamental changes in public opinions through manipulating the original texts for political purposes. Valdeón (2017) points out that some scholars may not have ethical concerns when using translation to support their own political goals, even if it means inventing ideas that don't actually exist in the original text. For example, Sigal used a short translated excerpt from Cieza de León's important work *Crónica del Perú* to argue that "Cieza supported a theory then popular in Europe, what elsewhere I have called (drawing from Rudi Bleys's work) the 'progressive development' of sodomy" (Sigal, 2003, p. 2). In his analysis, Sigal claims that this translation proves the Spanish writer knew about and agreed with this theory. Álvarez and Vidal (1996) explain that translators

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<sup>55</sup> Zaid, 251.

<sup>56</sup> Zaid, 251.

are influenced by many factors: their own beliefs, how they feel about the language they are translating into (whether they think it's better or worse than the original), the structure of the original language, and what powerful institutions and ideologies expect from them. But translators are not the only ones responsible for misrepresenting others or promoting certain worldviews. Translation scholars also play a role. They can choose to study certain texts while ignoring others that might challenge their opinions or offer more balanced views. Some scholars even change or hide information to support a biased story, which they then present as true knowledge or even as unquestionable facts.<sup>57</sup>

Indeed, translation no matter of the period, the era nor the area, it was always a political act, According to the Egyptian papyri and the stone tablets<sup>58</sup> based in the Middle East, clarified that translation was used for religious and political purposes. Nemely, The Rosetta Stone that is a political instrument translated into three languages (Ancient Egyptian, Egyptian demonic script and Ancient Greek), which contributed to promoting the establishment of the cult of King Ptolemy V. Same documents were found all over the world.<sup>59</sup>

- The Welsh Contribution to the Early Modern Cultures of Translation

Confessional politics in 16th-century England and Wales were marked by constant shifts, making religious loyalty a matter of great concern for the ruling authorities. During this time, translation played a key role in shaping what Peter Burke describes as the early modern "culture of persuasion," especially in Wales, where translations were used as tools for religious instruction. In fact, certain translations became official instruments of Reformation politics—for instance, the 1563 Act of Parliament required that the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer

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<sup>57</sup> Valdeón, p.3.

<sup>58</sup> Pre-historic languages.

<sup>59</sup> Valdeón, 2.

be translated into Welsh. This demonstrates a direct link between translation practices and political agendas during the early modern period, as defined by Burke.<sup>60</sup>

At the same time, efforts were also made to establish a Catholic translation program into Welsh as a countermeasure to what were considered ‘heretical’ Protestant texts. These attempts were carried out at a high political level by Catholic exiles residing in Italy, aiming to preserve and spread Catholic doctrine among Welsh speakers in response to the growing influence of Protestantism. A collection of Welsh texts, often referred to as the ‘Glamorgan school of translation’—primarily produced by anonymous translators and preserved in manuscript form—provides valuable insight into the complex interplay between political agendas, religious devotion, and translation policies in a region located on the periphery.<sup>61</sup>

The religious texts were also affected by the translation policy as it change the political religious context in the 16th century and affected current tendencies in English historiography and the Welsh developments.<sup>62</sup>

In brief, the political and religious landscape of 16th-century England was heavily influenced by the monarchy. Henry VIII (1509–1547) broke from papal authority in 1533—not for theological reasons, but legal ones. Despite his separation from the Catholic Church, Henry was not a committed reformer; in fact, he had earlier written a treatise defending Catholic doctrine, earning him the title *Fidei defensor* (Defender of the Faith) from Pope Leo X. After the split with Rome, reform-minded figures like Thomas Cromwell and Thomas Cranmer introduced significant changes, including the official English Bible and the Book of Common

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<sup>60</sup> Flüchter and al. p.125.

<sup>61</sup> Flüchter and al, 126.

<sup>62</sup> Flüchter and al, 126.

Prayer, marking the ‘Henrician Reformation’ (1533–1540). Following Cromwell’s execution in 1540, Henry’s stance fluctuated, at times suppressing reformers while occasionally allowing limited liturgical reforms under Cranmer. His successor, Edward VI (1547–1553), educated by reformist scholars, actively pursued Protestant reforms. Mary I (1553–1558), a staunch Catholic, reversed these efforts, executing many Protestants. Under Elizabeth I (1558–1603), a moderate Religious Settlement was introduced, but Catholic persecution intensified over time. From 1588, fines were imposed for recusancy—refusing to attend Anglican services—and Catholic clergy faced severe repression.

This outline of monarchical religious policies in 16th-century England and Wales offers only a simplified framework of the broader, complex societal transformation occurring during this period.<sup>63</sup>

Historically speaking, translation not only used by politicians to manipulate meaning but it was rootedly used by the leadership starting from earlier ages and parts of history, translation was always a part or an extended process of achieving governmental purposes.

## **V. The ‘Politics’ and ‘Policy’ of Translation**

Politics and policy are two distinct terms which technically refer to distinct demonstrations. Politics is power, war, conflict, territories, processes, domination, monarchy, government, leadership and the elite control whereas policy is tasks, examination, goals and aims. Politics is known as the affaire of states, policy can be referred to as the analysis of translation, and the distinction between these terms is relevant. Moreover, Translation policy is primarily concerned with the conditions that govern whether a translation occurs at all, and if so, what shape it ultimately takes. At its core, it addresses the fundamental question of why

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<sup>63</sup> Flüchter and al, 126.

certain texts, images, and sign systems are selected for translation, while others are deliberately or structurally left untranslated<sup>64</sup>.

Additionally, translation plays a fundamental role in the political process of managing the needs of the institutions which is going to be further examined in the upcoming chapter<sup>65</sup>.

Nevertheless, both concepts—the politics of translation and translation policy highlight the ingrained connection between translation and various power forms. Translation was never a neutral act, it is rather embedded in complex power structures. Power may manifest in different ways: translations can serve as instruments of control, often imposed 'from above', and certain translation policies may explicitly restrict or forbid specific types of translation. Moreover, political power is also reflected in other systems, which shape both translation practices and the very notion of translatability. In this context, dominant discursive structures are often mirrored in translations, and the boundaries of what can be expressed may simultaneously define the boundaries of what can be translated.<sup>66</sup>

### **1. Translation and democracy**

Translation is not merely a result of cross-cultural exchange; it also plays an active role in shaping the language, ideology, and knowledge systems of both the source and target cultures, thereby significantly influencing political actions.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Flüchter and Lüsebrink, p17.

<sup>65</sup> These needs are in form of political aims and benefits that the elite seek achieve through the various translation manipulations.

<sup>66</sup> Flüchter and Lüsebrink, 17.

<sup>67</sup> Hsieh, p52.

Contemporary institutions are frequently talking about translation as a way to support and spread the ideas of democracy. Translation is often seen as a way to ensure people's right to access information, which is a key part of how current democracy is understood. This demonstrates a strong connection to thoughts as the equal representation and inclusion, in other words, to political equality and everyone's right to take.<sup>68</sup>

Although democracy is usually described by people as governmental rule, the term often needs further illustration as it is not always clear who are these people how they are meant to govern. Even basic books on democracy admit that there are many different types and ideas of what democracy means.<sup>69</sup>

Even though comparing how different institutions use translation in multilingual settings can reveal a lot about how willing they are to respect social and political diversity and encourage mutual understanding. , it can also hint at larger political issues and, at the same time, hide or rise tensions and controversial debates. As a result of which, translation done by institutions is always involved in shaping meaning. It changes the power balance between languages, promotes a specific way of handling cultural differences and political biases, defines how "others" are seen, and creates a vision for how different groups can live together.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Hsieh, 52.

<sup>69</sup> Hsieh, 52.

<sup>70</sup> Hsieh, 59.

### **Conclusion**

To sum up, the concept of translation goes beyond the process of transferring information through transforming language; translation is often implied in the official institutional domain, in politics manipulated by power-leaders seeking particular aims. While it was true, the biased tendencies of translation influenced by the powerful forces, however, translation, as a political act, is not merely a means of exercising power; it has also been employed as a strategic tool by scholars and intellectuals alike. From a colonial perspective, researchers often engage in translation with subjective political motives. This intersection between translation and political intent is deeply rooted in history and will be continued throughout the upcoming outlook.

## **Chapter Two: Translation and UK Political Agendas: The Case of Churchill and Thatcher**

### **Introduction**

The history of translation as a profession is closely connected to the spread of important legal, religious, cultural, and political texts. It has played a key role in the rise of elite control, the sharing of knowledge, the exercise of power, and the expansion of dominance. When tracing the history of translation, it becomes evident that translation studies have long been influencing the political dimensions. Translation, as a political act, is not merely a means of exercising power; it has also been employed as a strategic tool by scholars and intellectuals alike. From a colonial perspective, researchers often engage in translation with subjective political motives. This intersection between translation and political intent is deeply rooted in history, as various studies and practices have demonstrated.<sup>71</sup>

This chapter aims to further explore the relationship between translation and The UK Political agendas, through the case study of Thatcher and Churchill with a specific focus on the role of translation in the service of imperial politics of Britain's most influential Prime Ministers. This study will also examine the mundane realities within England emphasizing the role of translation in promoting certain ideologies, shaping public opinions and serving various political aims.

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<sup>71</sup> Hsieh, p.3.

## I. The Iron Lady

Margaret Thatcher, the most powerful UK Prime Minister and one of the greatest politician figures within Europe who had a profound impact on the UK's political system as she came to save the ill Britain through series of revolutionary changes. Thatcher, the iron lady, was known for her strong personality and unflinching ability to dominate and control, she presented both feminine charm and stark governor, as a matter of fact, no one dared to stand against her as she positioned herself somewhere between being Britain's first and for so long quite the only woman and was indeed the longest serving Prime Minister of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Margaret Thatcher's remarkable strength was unravelled primarily through her iconic triple election lately by succeeding in writing her golden name in Britain's history.<sup>72</sup>

Andrew Marr (2007), BBC's political commentator, referred to Britain's PM as *"a one-woman revolution, a hurricane in human form, she would go on to transform Britain more radically than any prime minister since the Second World War."*

reflecting the series of revolutions happened during Thatcher's earlier premiership. She was seen as Britain's powerful saviour who would save the ill country and return Britain's dignity to resolve its international position.<sup>73</sup>

## II. Translating Political Rhetoric: The Politics of Margaret Thatcher

Politics of Margaret Thatcher was presented through *The Iron Lady (2011)*

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<sup>72</sup> Nick Robinson. *The Iron Lady*. BBC News, 28 Dec. 2011, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-16346301>

<sup>73</sup> Liang, Lisi. *Subtitling a Political Film: Linguistic and Ideological Transfer in The Iron Lady (2011)*. *Journal of Audiovisual Translation*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2019, p163.

movie. According to Charteris-Black (2005, pp. 181–182), Margaret Thatcher often shaped her political speeches around conflict metaphors, presenting ideas through opposing or parallel entities.<sup>74</sup>

Analysing Thatcher’s speeches in *The Iron Lady*. The Prime Minister shared St. Francis’s poem recalling when she first became a Prime Minister presenting and manifesting the upcoming hope and faith to Britain through this poem.<sup>75</sup>

Throughout her words and as a matter of serving individual political purposes, Thatcher sought after earning the people’s trust via sharing significant poem verses, these words presented a cultural reference in British community.

*MARGARET: And now I want to share with everyone. A passage of prayer from Shengfangji:*

*We bring harmony in confusion; We bring truth in mistakes; We bring trust in doubt; We  
bring hope in despair.*

However, the translation couldn’t share same affection in the Chinese community as it presented hollow words, the Chinese subtitles fail to neither make the St. Francis of Assisi reference meaningful nor clear to its community. Although both the subtitles and the original British dialogue identify the poem as his, St. Francis holds no cultural significance in China. As a result of which the reference feels empty. But in Britain, Thatcher used St. Francis to show and assure her audience that she will bring “harmony, truth, faith, and hope” to the country.<sup>76</sup>

Interestingly, Thatcher chose to speak her words describing her mission throughout another person’s. This is similar to how subtitles bring one person’s words into another culture.

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<sup>74</sup> “Translating Political Rhetoric.” *Subtitling English-language Films for a Chinese Audience: Cross-linguistic and Cross-cultural Transfer*, pp. 114–121.

<sup>75</sup> Zhang, Li.

<sup>76</sup> Zhang, Li.

The poem she uses is built on opposites: negative and positive. This structure is important because, despite the fact that political systems are different, politicians often use the same parallel style. For example: “Where there is discord, may we bring harmony. Where there is error, may we bring truth, where there is doubt, may we bring faith. And where there is despair, may we bring hope.”<sup>77</sup>

“We bring harmony in confusion; we bring truth in mistakes; we bring trust in doubt; we bring hope in despair.” The focus here is not only on the text itself but on the political form. Even though political systems are very different, this rhetorical form can be repeated. In this case, the subtitles do not need deep cultural adaptation because Chinese has a cultural equivalent. The translation works best when the same structure and style are kept, making it strong and convincing. This shows that cultural equivalence can be achieved through parallel sentence structures.<sup>78</sup>

Jonathan Charteris-Black argues that Margaret Thatcher’s speeches during her premiership were fully dominated and controlled by metaphors which she intentionally used to create negative associations with her political opponents (Charteris-Black, 2005: 176–177), which helped in shaping how evaluations were transferred in her political discourse. Thatcher’s metaphors of household management, her metaphors as a female leader, metaphors of terrorism, metaphors about trade unions, and metaphors directed at her political opponents.<sup>79</sup>

A referring to the female leadership, as stated by Charteris-Black (2005: 191), Margaret Thatcher was eager to emphasize the profound role of women whenever possible, which explains the frequent use of metaphors and images highlighting feminine strength. The Iron

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<sup>77</sup> Zhang, Li.

<sup>78</sup> Zhang, Li.

<sup>79</sup> Liang 171.

Lady portrays her as a determined and authoritative female leader, aligning her with this theme.<sup>80</sup>

The Leader of the Conservatives, Margaret Thatcher, is persuaded to run for the post of Prime Minister by her two spokesmen.

*MARGARET: It's all very well to talk about changing my voice, Mr. Reece, but for some of my colleagues to imagine me as their leader... would be like imagining, I don't know, being led into battle by their chambermaid. It's my background, and my sex. No matter how hard I've tried, and I have tried to fit in, I will never be truly one of them.*<sup>81</sup>

This speech was translated into Chinese and then retranslated into English, as a result of which the meaning of some words have utterly changed.

*MARGARET: As for the suggestion of changing my voice indeed very good but Sir Ruisi For my colleague imaging me as leader... It is like how to say Leading by housewife to battle my background and gender no matter how hard I try I do try hard trying hard to fit in but please believe I have never truly become one of them*<sup>82</sup>.

The way the Chinese subtitles translate the metaphor of female leadership provides important insight into the issue of linguistic equivalence.<sup>83</sup> In this case, translators have the complete power when it comes to modifying the meaning of to cause anarchy among political powers. In the English dialogue, the heroine recognizes that some of her party colleagues view

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<sup>80</sup> Liang.

<sup>81</sup> Liang.

<sup>82</sup> Liang.

<sup>83</sup> Liang.

her attempt to become leader and potentially Prime Minister, comparing it to a chambermaid commanding an army, with the Conservative Party as the army and the election campaign as the battlefield. This metaphor highlights her own initial doubt about the likelihood of holding such a position.<sup>84</sup>

The Iron Lady was still an unusual film for the Chinese authorities to release, and subtitle. Relations between Britain and China have often been tense, and Thatcher, remained a relatively unfamiliar political figure for most Chinese audiences<sup>85</sup>.

Thatcherism was characterised mainly by the Prime Minister's sharp criticism of the Labour Party. As Charteris-Black (2005: 174) explains, within Conservative Party discourse, socialism is portrayed as a hostile state that has invaded and occupied. Actions against socialism are thus framed as heroic resistance to a foreign ideology. This section examines examples of metaphors—both explicit and implicit—used to describe political opponents. While the Chinese subtitles often adapt or domesticate these metaphors, their lexical choices create a moral interpretation of Thatcher's Conservatism that stands in direct opposition to Chinese Communism.<sup>86</sup>

As an act of asking for political campaign support via voting, Margaret said:

*“Now, as the test draws near, I ask your help. That together we can shake off the shackles of socialism and restore to greatness this country that we love. And the only way is for the Conservatives to win!”*

After a back translation

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<sup>84</sup> Liang.

<sup>85</sup> Liang.

<sup>86</sup> Liang.

*“Now general election is approaching I need your support. Let us smash socialism’s shackle. Let glory return to this country with which you and I are both in love. The only way to achieve this goal is to let the Conservative party”*

This example highlights Margaret Thatcher’s political stance and her consistent use of conflict-based discourse built on antithetical metaphors.<sup>87</sup>

In conclusion, when addressing political opponents, a significant cultural gap emerges between the Chinese and UK political contexts. The translated subtitles attempt to bridge this gap by serving various strategies, such as using familiar Chinese idioms that domesticate and partially generalize the political message, making it more accessible to local audiences. However, this process also shows how translation practices can create or reinforce different political agendas, which may at times contradict the original political context within the receiving culture, and this is the power of translation.<sup>88</sup>

### **III. 1988 Bruges speech**

September 20<sup>th</sup> 1988, Margaret Thatcher and at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, she gave a highly anticipated speech focusing on Britain’s role and the future of European integration. Later referred to as the “Bruges speech,” this address proved highly influential in shaping both UK and European politics, producing effects that were unforeseen at the time.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> Liang.

<sup>88</sup> Liang.

<sup>89</sup> Daddow, Oliver, et al. *The Battle of Bruges: Margaret Thatcher, the Foreign Office and the Unravelling of British European Policy.*, 2019.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/2474736X.2019.1643681>

Thatcher in her speech tended to use Rhetorical Manipulation<sup>90</sup> as she carefully chose her words to and cause an emotional shift through using symbolic words. Not only this but translators had also to adjust the Prime Ministers profound words.<sup>91</sup>

The rhetoric manipulation actually targeted the political division between the United Kingdom and the EU and part of the speech was dedicated and translated to several languages all across Europe aiming at picturing Europe in a negative form as Thatcher tackled the matter of sovereignty for instance, the manipulation wasn't in her speech itself but rather through translating and finding equivalent words as translation here became a means of achieving political aims.

*"We have not embarked on the business of throwing back the frontiers of state at home only to see a Europe super-state getting ready to exercise a new dominance from Brussels."*  
*Thatcher.*<sup>92</sup>

The term super-state here suggests a loss of national independence, a choice meant to worry her audience. This term however in the French language « super-état » sounds less profound and convincing than the original term which mainly implemented a sort of a threat to the European Community.

#### **IV. Margaret Thatcher's interpreter "softening"**

During a diplomatic meeting between the UK's most famous Prime Minister

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<sup>90</sup> Using language in a strategic way through manipulating style and applying persuasive techniques to influence and even shape people's rational, feelings and reactions and is often used to guide people to a certain decision of belief.

<sup>91</sup> Daddow et al.

<sup>92</sup> *Thatcher's Bruges Speech*. BBC News, 23 Feb. 2000, [https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/politics/653550.stm](https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/653550.stm).

Margaret Thatcher and the Communist President of France Congo, referring to Charles Powell -her foreign policy advisor- she started her speech with a baleful glare saying “I hate Communists”, stating the fact that the president she was speaking to was a communist, the Iron Lady here made a quite strong statement through of which she sounded offensive towards the targeted party.

The French interpreter rendered that as “The Prime Minister Thatcher says that she has never been wholly supportive to Karl Max.”<sup>93</sup> This very small modification used by the interpreter promoted a biased claim that the UK’s Prime Minister doesn’t support Karl Max. as she often made a lot of offensive anti-communist claims reflecting her fierce opponent of communism giving the fact that Karl Max was a communist which reflected her hatred while in fact she wasn’t referring to the latter.

## V. Translation of Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech

Sir Winston Churchill another iconic Prime Minister of the UK who led Britain to victory in the second world war, he was a military officer, inspiration statesman and an orator

Churchill made his famous speech “The sinews of peace” when he was out of office in Missouri 1946 directly after the Labour party’s victory in the elections of 1945.<sup>94</sup>

Churchill's speech is often regarded as a defining moment of his leadership in opposition a it contains significant phrases.<sup>95</sup>

*This speech may be regarded as the most important Churchill delivered as*

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<sup>93</sup> Mira Kadrić, Sylvi Rennert, and Christina Schäffner, *Diplomatic and Political Interpreting Explained*, p. 90.

<sup>94</sup> Krisztina Sárosi-Márdirosz, *Problems Related to the Translation of Political Texts.*, 171-172.

<sup>95</sup> Sárosi-Márdirosz.

*Leader of the Opposition (1945–1951). It contains certain phrases – “the special relationship,” “the sinews of peace” – which at once entered into general use, and which have survived. But it is the passage on “the iron curtain” which attracted immediate international attention, and had incalculable impact upon public opinion in the United States and in Western Europe. Russian historians date the beginning of the Cold War from this speech. In its phraseology, in its intricate drawing together of several themes to an electrifying climax – this speech may be regarded as a technical classic. (Rhodes-James et al. 1969)*

This speech is known as "The Sinews of Peace." However, it is well known for the famous phrase "Iron Curtain," this speech was given in such an important period, in 1946, a year after Britain's victorious winning in the Second World War.<sup>96</sup>

It is not often easy to translate such texts as political texts doesn't require a simple word-by-word translation, but rather taking into consideration the context, hidden and intended meaning, the political situation and the government purpose.<sup>97</sup>

In fact, it is not always the case where the government intervenes, in certain instances, it is out of an individual self-interest, as the case of politicians all over the world since they are known for being selfish, liars, and often distorting history through intervening in history writing given that history is written by whoever holds power, whoever dominates and controls.

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<sup>96</sup> Sárosi-Márdirosz.

<sup>97</sup> Sárosi-Márdirosz.

In addition to the original text, the Hungarian version of translation is presents as well translated by László Horváth and the Romanian version translated by Luca Octavian. The Hungarian translation was in the book *Sohase engedjete! : Winston Churchill legjobb beszédei* (Never Give In!), published by Európa in 2006.<sup>98</sup>

- The original text

A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately lighted by the Allied victory.

- The first version

Árnyék borult arra a színpadra, amelyet legutóbb a szövetségesek győzelme megvilágított.

- The second version

S-a lăsat o umbră peste scenele atât de luminate, până nu demult, de victoriile Aliaților.

In this passage, the most significant element to translate is the metaphor “shadow,” which represents the difficulties that followed the war, both translators, the Hungarian and Romanian managed and succeeded to find good equivalents for this word though it was quite difficult mainly when it comes to figures of speech. However, the feeling or emotional effect of the translations is different from the original. The English version is short and direct, showing the shock that people felt after the excitement of victory had passed. Its simplicity gives it a strong emotional impact, as if the audience can feel the dark shadow. The Hungarian and Romanian versions keep the meaning of the original and follow its message, but they sound more formal and less natural. Even though the translators used correct methods and the translations are accurate, some of the original emotional power is missing.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>98</sup> Sárosi-Márdirosz, 172

<sup>99</sup> Sárosi-Márdirosz, 172

If any of the translators chose to mistranslate or accidentally include a mistaken translation it will affect the public opinion by shaping it based on the given translation of the given information.

- The safety of the world requires a new unity in Europe, from which no nation should be permanently outcast. It is from the quarrels of the strong parent races in Europe that the world wars we have witnessed, or which occurred in former times, have sprung

- A világ biztonsága újfajta egységet igényel Európában, olyat, amelyikből egynemzetet sem lehet tartósan kirekeszteni: Európa nagy alapító nemzeteinek ellenségeskedései robbantották ki azokat a világháborúkat, melyeknek tanúi voltunk, vagy amelyek korábban zajlottak.

- Securitatea mondială presupune o nouă unitate în Europa, de la care nici o națiune nu trebuie definitiv exclusă. Animosităților dintre puternicile rase originare ale Europei s-a datorat izbucnirea celor două războaie mondiale la care am fost martori, s-au care s-au desfășurat în ultima perioadă.

Through a careful examination of the previous passages, one can notice that English as a language is more expressive, Hungarian and Romanian simplify the situation. The English phrase carries a deeper emotional tone reflecting the patriotism of all European peoples. The Hungarian translation focuses more on the idea that some nations are more important in shaping history. Additionally, the Romanian version is similar in meaning to the Hungarian.<sup>100</sup>

## VI. Recontextualisation in English media quotes

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<sup>100</sup> Sárosi-Márdirosz,175.

Media plays a significant role as being an intermediary between both public opinion and politicians, recontextualisation often includes filtering certain meanings from the original discourse (Blackledge 2005: 121). This can be shown through omissions, additions, or changes made to the original text when it is transformed into a new text within the same context. The same process applies to translation, which is also a form of recontextualisation.<sup>101</sup>

During a political interview, the Russian President Putin had an interview with *The Times* which was also reported by the Prime Minister's Official Spokesman in a media briefing: *Asked what the Prime Minister's response was to President Putin's words in the Times, the Prime Minister's Official Spokesman (PMOS) replied that the new missile defence system that was being put forward by the US was not aimed at Russia, as had been made clear. [...] Put that President Putin had said that he would start targeting Europe, the PMOS replied [...]* (<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page11834.asp> last accessed 19 July 2008)

In fact, President Putin gave the interview to a carefully selected group of journalists representing major well-known newspapers and magazines from the G8 countries. These included *Der Spiegel* (Germany), *The Times* (United Kingdom), *Le Figaro* (France), *Kommersant* (Russia), *The Wall Street Journal* (United States), *The Globe and Mail* (Canada), *Corriere della Sera* (Italy) and *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* (Japan). Despite the multilingual nature of the exchange, the significant role of translation and interpreting involved in mediating the communication was largely invisible in the final media reports. As expected, the selected group of newspapers translators reported the event in totally different ways. They changed the content, length, focus, and layout. During the process of recontextualisation, several changes happened.

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<sup>101</sup> Christina Schäffner, *'The Prime Minister Said ...': Voices in Translated Political Texts*, Translation and Literature, p2.

The interview was first spoken by the president Putin, then it was written down, transcribed. After that, it was translated into several other languages. Then, long texts were cut into short parts, and early written drafts were changed into final published versions. Even though many steps were involved, the role of translation is mostly hidden in the media. Only The Globe and Mail mentioned it, saying “Mr. Putin’s remarks, translated from Russian [...]”. The other newspapers did not say anything about translation or interpreting.<sup>102</sup>

### **Conclusion**

To sum up, politicians and governors, despite being leaders of nations, they do control adjust, move the chess king and make checkmate not buy honesty but rather their dishonesty and cleverness in choosing whatever is suitable and benefits their own interest before benefiting the government, Thatcher was known to be strong, harsh and exceptional, Churchill succeeded in leaving a pinned print in the history of UK’s most influential Prime Ministers.

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<sup>102</sup> Schäffner, 2-3.

## **Chapter Three: A Translational Analysis of Political Texts: The Case of Tony Blair.**

### **Introduction**

By tackling the topic of analysing political texts, this chapter places a main focus on Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair. As discussed earlier, translation plays a very important role in political matters. It does not only transfer words from one language into another but also controls and influences international diplomacy. In fact, it often becomes part of the decision-making process, especially through the translation of speeches delivered during official visits between states. These translated speeches played a significant role in shaping how people saw Britain on the international stage, framing historic events and political tendencies in a way that matched British ideologies. Translation therefore became a key tool in helping to spread certain political ideas while controlling the way these ideas were understood abroad. This chapter aims to look more deeply into the translational analysis of political texts and to compare the strategies used by the Prime Minister. It will show how such strategies allowed him to maintain control, strengthen his authority, and sometimes gain personal and political benefits.

### **I. The translation of Political Discourse**

Translators are not just language experts, Translation studies has emphasized how translators often face divided loyalties, as they try to stay honest to their main role while respecting the needs of different sides, mainly with the politics' internationalisation.<sup>103</sup> Translators along with the politicians not only control the national policy but also control the

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<sup>103</sup> Bánhegyi, p. 144.

flow of information, you spread what they want to be spread, to manipulate meaning and succeed in securing what they seek, the diversity of political backgrounds with the translators' biased political embeddedness may lead to conflicting political perspectives expressed in the texts.<sup>104</sup>

Furthermore, Dragović-Drouet discussed the translations of the Yugoslav conflict through a closer focus on the concept of neutrality, along with Newmark's criteria of moral and factual truth as defined by Seleskovitch. Dragović-Drouet claims that such professional standards are often not supported by translators through a comparative textual analysis of both source and target language materials from the Yugoslav conflict.<sup>105</sup>

Nevertheless, in certain cases, translators may choose to examine or modify texts if they perceive that the original authors -such as journalists or media figures- are expressing political or cultural bias or hold perspectives that could result in unbalanced communication. From a methodological angle, Dragović-Drouet emphasizes the importance of preparing future translators to handle such conflict-based scenarios, both in terms of language and terminology management. In her research, she focused on the risk of political manipulation in translation and underlines the need spread critical awareness when working with politically sensitive content.<sup>106</sup>

Another governmental case through of which the official translation methods are practiced and how these translations are obtained in Canada, through the office of the Canadian Prime Minister, the Parliament as well as the various institutions of the government. One of the

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<sup>104</sup> Bánhegyi, 144.

<sup>105</sup> Bánhegyi, 144.

<sup>106</sup> Bánhegyi, 144.

methods used by translators in such cases is hybridity, when it comes to merging the target culture that is a result of the translator's decisions.

The institutional strategies and methods used in applying translation, i.e. the ways of translating are decided by the government, the political system to align with convincing the audience (internal and external audience) by the message sent through this process mainly with the impossibility of balancing and producing an equivalent political discourse, that is to say, the diverse political discourse on both levels internal and external cannot be possibly be produced truthfully.<sup>107</sup>

The studies discussed above indicate that the analysis of political texts in translation must necessarily and the importance of considering and taking into account the national and the international contexts in which the texts were produced, i.e. these contexts significantly shapes the meaning and purpose of the original message.<sup>108</sup>

## **II. Tony Blair's Premiership**

Sir Tony Blair, a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom a politician who was a Labour leader elected in 1994.

According to the headline, Ash (26 April 2007) from The Guardian shows a positive opinion about Mr. Blair, while Gill (24 June 2007) from The New York Times gives a mostly negative view. The translated versions have similar ideas and attitudes as the original articles, but there are some changes in the translations. These changes can be grouped and studied to understand how the translators worked. The current study focuses on certain changes—

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<sup>107</sup> Bánhegyi, 144.

<sup>108</sup> Bánhegyi, 144.

especially those that show the translator's knowledge of political ideas, which can help shape how the people in the articles are seen by readers.<sup>109</sup>

The two articles show different opposing opinions –ideologies- which are: one is for the Prime Minister, and the other is against him. The different opinions among the translators may notably cause controversial opinions within shaping the public perspectives.

- Blair has managed to get himself, hated at home.

(Gill 24 June 2007)

- ο Τόνι Μπλερ έχει καταφέρει να καταστήσει εαυτόν, μισητό στο εσωτερικό.

- Tony Blair has managed to make (formal) himself, hated at home.

(Gill 1 July 2007; translation by I Kathimerini;

In the Blair articles, certain translation shifts have been found in English-Greek translation contexts, regardless of whether the translation goes from English to Greek or the other way around. In Gill's article (1 July 2007), translated by the Greek newspaper I Kathimerini, the underlined phrase shows a more formal tone in the target text. This increased formality makes the message more persuasive. Such shifts have often been observed in news reports and translations for the EU (Sidiropoulou 2004; 2008).<sup>110</sup>

Even the lexical choice of words here indicated and implements two different POV's, get himself hated implements that the Prime Minister didn't purposely intend to be hated,

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<sup>109</sup> Petros Kontos and Maria Sidiropoulou, Political Routines in Press Translation, p1016.

<sup>110</sup> Kontos and Sidiropoulou, 1017.

however, in the other English version, make himself hated implements the fact that as if Blair is intentionally and purposely making himself being hated.

### III. Political Texts Analysis

During his premiership, *Blair's shift in The Garden and the New York Times 2007* was illustrated through the following examples found in the Blair articles, which have consistently appeared in English–Greek translation, regardless of translation direction. The translation of these political texts varies according to their target audiences, and the semantics of political speech play a crucial role in shaping both public opinion and international perceptions of the UK's position on global issues but mainly over the political discourse.<sup>111</sup>

*"We must be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime." (Speech to the Labour Party Conference, 1995)*

The original English text emphasizes the need to be "tough on crime" and justifies this stance. The term tough conveys connotations of seriousness and determination, and it is frequently associated with a firm approach to issues of law and order.<sup>112</sup>

The two notion of seriousness and determination are seen through the world (though)

*"We must never forget that the most important thing about fighting terrorism is not the military tactics we use, but the values we stand for. " Blair.*

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<sup>111</sup> Athraa Mohammed Saleh, *A Translational Analysis of Tony Blair's Political Texts*, "Journal of Language Studies", vol. 9, No.1,2025.pp .267.

<sup>112</sup> Saleh, 275.

In this speech, the translation is changed to match the purpose of the original. The English text stresses that values are important when fighting terrorism. Even in translating the latter into other languages, the purpose of the claim delivered will remain quite similar to the original text.

According to McNair (1995/2011: 11), political reality can be divided into three categories: objective reality, which refers to political events as they actually occur; subjective reality, which reflects how these events are perceived by political actors and citizens; and constructed reality, which represents how events are presented by the media.<sup>113</sup>

#### **IV. Tony Blair's Image Repair Discourse in Response to the Iraq Inquiry**

The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, on March 13th, 2003 secured the approval of the House of Commons to join the United States in launching the war on Iraq which began two days later. Blair justified military intervention by citing intelligence reports that claimed Saddam Hussein's regime possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and presented a direct threat to Britain. However, shortly after the invasion, these claims were proven to be unfounded.<sup>114</sup>

Tony Blair faced heavy criticism when it became clear that the war in Iraq was based on false intelligence. This pressure finally pushed him to resign as Prime Minister and leader of the Labour Party in July 2007. However, his resignation did not end the attacks against him. Blair's public life has continued to be marked by the Iraq War, and many people in Britain see his legacy almost entirely in a negative way because of his decision to support the United States in the invasion (Lowe 2016; Erlanger and Sanger 2016).<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> Kontos and Sidiropoulou, p.1017.

<sup>114</sup> El-Seidi, Maha. Tony Blair's Image Repair Discourse in Response to the Iraq Inquiry Report: A Critical Analysis. 2016, p110.

<sup>115</sup> El-Seidi, Maha.

From time to time, Tony Blair apologized for the false intelligence that had been used to justify the Iraq War. However, the British media and public often described his apologies as incomplete, calling them “partial,” “qualified,” or even “pseudo-/non-apologies” (Greenslade, 2015; Jeffries, 2007). It was only after the release of the Iraq Inquiry Report (IIR) on July 6, 2016—which strongly criticized Blair—that he delivered a long statement. In this speech, Blair tried to repair the damage to his public image. This study focuses on examining the strategies Blair used in this statement to restore his reputation.<sup>116</sup>

The analysis was mainly based on Benoit’s (1995) theory of image repair discourse. The purpose of an image repair message is to rebuild the reputation of a person whose image has been damaged after being blamed for a negative action. In simple terms, these messages are a type of persuasion, trying to change how people think and feel about the accusations or doubts directed at that person.<sup>117</sup> This discourse has been highly used mainly in politicians’ repair messages. One of the main accusations against Tony Blair was also linked to George W. Bush. As Benoit (2006, p. 285) pointed out, there are few events more serious than a president justifying a war on another country for reasons that later turned out to be false. Bush’s way of defending himself was quite similar to Blair’s. According to Benoit, Bush mainly used three strategies to protect his image: denial, reducing the seriousness of the accusations, and avoiding responsibility. First, he denied misleading the American people, saying that his decision to go to war was based on the best intelligence available at that time. Second, he tried to reduce the blame by arguing that the war was still justified because Saddam Hussein posed a real danger. Finally, he avoided full responsibility by suggesting that the weapons of mass destruction might have been secretly destroyed, hidden, or moved elsewhere.<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 110.

<sup>117</sup> El-Seidi, Maha 111-112.

<sup>118</sup> El-Seidi, Maha 113.

As a tool of apology, this image has notably become an effective strategy used "across the political spectrum on a global scale has, arguably, become one of the most prominent of 'public' speech acts." (Harris, Grainger, & Mullany, 2006, p. 732)<sup>119</sup>

When politicians apologize, they often use special words or expressions that make their regret sound less strong and that help them avoid taking full responsibility for what happened, as Lakoff (2015) notes.<sup>120</sup>

Research on apologies related to the Iraq War has been carried out by Harris et al. (2006) and Jeffries (2007). Harris and colleagues (2006) examined two apology statements made by ministers from Tony Blair's government. These statements were delivered in different situations and to different audiences, but both were received negatively by the public and the media. The main reason was that the apologies failed to clearly take responsibility and were made by the wrong people for the wrong reasons. Many believed that only Tony Blair himself could give the "real" apology, since he was the one responsible for the decision to go to war — something he has refused to do.<sup>121</sup>

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<sup>119</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 114.

<sup>120</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 115.

<sup>121</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 116.

could give the “real” apology, since he was the one responsible for the decision to go to war — something he has refused to do.<sup>122</sup>

The study of Blair’s 2016 statement was carried out using Benoit’s (1995, 2015) theory of image repair discourse. To better understand Blair’s use of apology—one of the most debated strategies— this also drew on Harris et al.’s (2006) framework for analysing political apologies. In addition, Murphy’s (2014) work was used to examine the key elements that make up a political apology through making language in use.<sup>123</sup>

As mentioned earlier, Benoit’s theory of image repair discourse includes five main strategies. The first three of these strategies also contain several subcategories. The table below presents the general strategies and their variants (adapted from Benoit, 1997, 2015).<sup>124</sup>

Strategy	Key Characteristic
Corrective Action	Plan to solve or Avoid the Problem
Simple Denial	Did Not Perform Act
Shift the Blame	Act Performed by Another
Provocation	Responded to act of another
Defeasibility	Lack of information or ability
Accident	Act was a mishap
Good Intentions	Meant well in act

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<sup>122</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 117.

<sup>123</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 120-121.

<sup>124</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 121.

*“For all of this I express more sorrow, regret and apology and in greater measure than you can know or may believe.” Blair, 2016*

Through Translating Blair’s claim, as a sort of expressing his sincere apology for what he claimed earlier, he intentionally used emotional (stative) expressions which are carrying a strong message of regret when translated showing the deep emotional regret, as a result of which, using such words are purely targeting for shaping people’s minds and sympathizing the others.

Blair’s actual intentions were artlessly for some political agenda, his objective was to immaculate Britain’s picture to the world as the Prime Minister is the representative of his country, although he might have indicated his regret, however, it was purely for other objective.

Political apologies are often claimed to raise conflict and controversy through manipulating words and consequently meaning (over translation). The use of metaphors, which are tightly related to the culture of the given society often, shape a complete different meaning while translating to another language with a different cultural background.

Due to the fact that apologies are usually made in public, they are strongly shaped by the media. They also often reflect big differences in status and power between the person giving the apology and the people receiving it regarding the meaning sent through words.<sup>125</sup>

Nevertheless, Studies on the translation of Tony Blair’s political texts and speeches have examined how his discourse has been rendered into other languages, particularly Arabic. These analyses focus on the use of semantic and communicative translation strategies in order to preserve both the intended political message and the surrounding sociocultural context.

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<sup>125</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 123.

Showing sorrow and regret makes an apology feel real and emotional. Without them, the apology might sound empty or insincere (Hargie, Stapleton, & Tourish, 2010, p. 723).<sup>126</sup>

Blair highlights the hostility, violence, and long duration of the aftermath, explaining it as the result of “a set of ground facts” that were different from those expected by the coalition. In this way, the “shortcomings” and “failures” in planning and preparation, mentioned in detail in the Iraq Inquiry Report (IIR), are presented only as a gap between what was planned and what was later faced. At the same time, Blair does not mention the huge financial cost of the war, which is often listed in the UK press as one of the main offences of the war decision, usually following the death toll.<sup>127</sup>

This way of describing the offences shows Blair’s attempt to distance himself and other coalition leaders from the mistakes, while at the same time stressing their “positive” attitude towards the Iraqi people. He achieves this through his choice of words and sentence structures (van Dijk, 1993). For example, when he refers in general terms to the hostility, violence and long conflict that followed his use of the verb “turn out” hides the role of the coalition, making it seem as if these events happened naturally. The same technique appears when he speaks about sectarian violence in Iraq, saying that the country “became victim to sectarian terrorism,” which again removes the sense of direct responsibility from the coalition.<sup>128</sup>

*Now, of course, we can never know whether he [Saddam Hussein] would have done this [going back to the nuclear program]. But I ask: if you knew that for a fact this dictator had used chemical weapons on his own people and those of other nations, for a fact he had lied about having them so he could continue to produce and use them, and for a fact that he had killed*

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<sup>126</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 127.

<sup>127</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 129.

<sup>128</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 130.

*thousands of his own people and those in other countries with no respect whatever for human life or norms of civilised behaviour, would you have wanted to take that risk of leaving him in place, or would you have wanted to eliminate it? Saddam in my view was going to pose a threat for as long as he was in power.*<sup>129</sup>

By referring to Saddam Hussein as “this dictator,” Blair uses what Fowler et al. (1979) call “overlexicalization,” a strategy that highlights and intensifies the sense of threat. To reinforce his message, Blair also relies on three rhetorical devices often used to strengthen political speeches (Atkinson, 1984; Heritage & Greatbatch, 1986): the three-part list, contrasts, and rhetorical questions. For example, he outlines the three main sources of threat through a series of three parallel if-clauses. Similarly, the rhetorical alternative question about possible responses to this threat is framed in two contrasting parallel clauses. In this way, Blair combines two techniques together, a method described by Atkinson (2004, p. 200) as “indeed the most powerful rhetorical technique of them all.”<sup>130</sup>

When such rhetorical devices are translated into other languages, their persuasive effect may either be maintained or altered depending on the translator’s choices. A literal translation might preserve the wording but risk losing the intended emotional impact, while a more adaptive translation can recreate the rhythm of the three-part list, the force of contrasts, or the dramatic tone of rhetorical questions. In Blair’s case, translation played a central role in spreading his political discourse internationally, shaping how different audiences interpreted the level of threat and the justification for war.<sup>131</sup>

## V. Cross-Leader Comparison.

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<sup>129</sup> El-Seidi, Maha, 135-136.

<sup>130</sup> El-Seidi, Maha.

<sup>131</sup> El-Seidi, Maha.

Translation choices have played a decisive role in reshaping the core agenda frames of three British Prime Ministers—Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill, and Tony Blair. The translation of their speeches and political texts did not merely transfer meaning across languages but actively influenced how their political messages were received and interpreted. This process shaped both national debates and Britain’s global image.

Translation redefined key themes such as war leadership, economic sovereignty, humanitarian intervention, and the ambition of leaders to secure or extend power. In doing so, it generated significant tensions and controversies within Britain and beyond, demonstrating how translation functions as a political instrument rather than a neutral act of linguistic transfer.

Margaret Thatcher, famously known as the Iron Lady, epitomized a discourse of toughness, determination, and resilience. Her political image was built on being harsh, uncompromising, and sometimes ruthless, yet also strategically intelligent. Thatcher’s success lay not only in becoming the first woman to win three consecutive elections and to govern for more than a decade but also in her ability to employ rhetoric persuasively. Translation amplified this aspect of her leadership by ensuring that her uncompromising tone reached audiences beyond the UK. Particularly during debates on European integration and globalization, the translated versions of her speeches reinforced her authority and sharpened international discussions. Translation thus became a mechanism that extended her political reach, shaping narratives in global conflicts and enabling her discourse to resonate across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Winston Churchill, by contrast, is remembered for his role in leading Britain to victory during the Second World War and for preserving national pride during a period of crisis. His strength lay not in a ruthless political style like Thatcher’s but in his extraordinary oratory.

Churchill's speeches, translated into multiple languages, served as unifying calls to the Allied nations. Translation was essential in transmitting his messages of courage, unity, and resistance, thereby transforming his rhetoric into a shared discourse that inspired international solidarity. In Churchill's case, translation was not merely a linguistic task but a strategic tool that reinforced alliances, motivated populations, and sustained morale during wartime.

Tony Blair's use of translation, however, took a different trajectory. His speeches were translated widely across international contexts, but the results were more controversial and less unifying than those of Thatcher or Churchill. While Blair sought to use translation to justify policies such as humanitarian intervention and the Iraq War, the translated versions of his discourse often generated criticism and fuelled international conflict. In many cases, his words, once translated, intensified suspicion and hostility, especially regarding the justifications for war based on intelligence that was later proven false. Translation, in Blair's case, revealed its double-edged nature: while it extended the reach of his rhetoric, it also exposed it to reinterpretation, criticism, and rejection by diverse audiences.

Consequently, the three leaders illustrate distinct ways in which translation interacts with political agendas. Thatcher employed translation as a forceful tool to reinforce her authority and influence European and global debates; Churchill used it to spread unity and strengthen alliances through the power of rhetoric; Blair's experience highlights the risks of translation, showing how it can magnify political controversy and damage credibility. Collectively, these cases demonstrate that translation is not simply a means of linguistic transfer but a significant political act, shaping both domestic and international perceptions of leadership and power.

### **Conclusion**

To conclude, it can be said that the act of misrepresenting content through adding commentary, adapting meanings, or embedding European moral values often resulted in the creation of biases within translated texts. This process was rarely accidental, rather, it reflected deliberate choices that shaped how audiences abroad would interpret British political discourse. In doing so, translation became not simply a technical act of transferring meaning from one language to another, but a powerful political practice that intervened in shaping perceptions of reality. Through this selective approach, the way target audiences understood the original political tendencies or messages was altered, often making them appear consistent with particular political agendas. In this sense, translation operated as a hidden form of persuasion, reshaping the reception of speeches and decisions in ways that aligned with the ideological and diplomatic needs of Britain. This illustrates how translation can serve as a subtle yet decisive instrument in international politics, where the framing of events is just as influential as the events themselves.

The Prime Ministers under study, Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill, and Tony Blair, each played an essential role in this process. Their speeches, once translated and disseminated globally, became tools not only for representing British policies but also for reinforcing certain identities, values, and historical narratives. Thatcher's uncompromising tone, Churchill's wartime rhetoric of unity, and Blair's modernized discourse on intervention were all carefully reproduced across languages, but not without transformation. Translators often had to choose between preserving the leaders' original style or adapting it to the cultural expectations of new audiences, a choice that could significantly amplify or weaken the intended message.

These translation strategies frequently served broader national goals, such as maintaining Britain's international authority or justifying controversial policies, but they also reflected personal ambitions. By shaping how their leadership was perceived abroad, Prime Ministers could reinforce their own image, justify their decisions, and consolidate their power. Translation, therefore, reveals itself as more than a linguistic tool; it emerges as a strategic practice deeply embedded in the exercise of authority.

## General Conclusion

Historically, translation has been more than a linguistic act; it has operated as a political instrument that connects cultures, sustains ideologies, and influences power relations. Throughout this dissertation, it has been shown that translation in the UK context—particularly during the premierships of Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, and Tony Blair—was never neutral. Instead, it functioned as a tool of persuasion, manipulation, and political positioning.

The analysis has demonstrated that translation does not merely transfer meaning from one language into another but also reshapes political discourse to fit specific ideological and cultural frameworks. In the examined case studies, it became evident that translators acted as active agents rather than invisible mediators. They adapted metaphors, altered stylistic choices, and emphasized or softened certain elements of discourse to align with national interests or international agendas.

Ultimately, the close relationship between translation, power, and political gain highlights the necessity of critically analysing translated political texts. It demonstrates that translation should not be seen as neutral, but rather as an active participant in political life, one that can frame history, justify action, and even redefine national identity for international audiences. This perspective underscores the importance of viewing translation as both a cultural and political force—one capable of serving the interests of the state while also shaping the personal legacy of its leaders.

The findings further revealed how translation reflected and reinforced broader objectives of British imperial and political policy, while also exposing cultural and ideological tensions between source and target audiences. The study highlighted the dual role of translation: it can bridge cultures by making political ideas accessible, but it can also distort meaning to secure dominance and legitimacy.

In light of this, the dissertation contributes to the ongoing scholarly discussion on translation and politics by illustrating how translation shapes and reshapes the image of political leaders across borders. Churchill's wartime rhetoric, Thatcher's conflict-driven metaphors, and Blair's moral appeals all show that political texts are not simply rendered into another language but are strategically recontextualized to serve specific purposes.

Ultimately, the study confirms the hypothesis that translation in political contexts functions as an instrument of power. It plays a decisive role in constructing identities, controlling narratives, and influencing international perception. The work concludes that the study of translation must go beyond linguistic equivalence and engage with cultural, ideological, and political dimensions if it is to fully account for the complexity of translated political discourse.

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## Résumé

Ce mémoire vise à étudier le rôle de la traduction au service des agendas politiques au Royaume-Uni. Elle s'attache plus particulièrement à analyser la relation complexe entre traduction et discours politique à travers l'étude des Premiers ministres britanniques Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill et Tony Blair. Cette recherche explore comment la traduction fonctionne non seulement comme un outil linguistique, mais également comme un instrument politique permettant de manipuler le sens, de remodeler les pensées, d'influencer les opinions et même d'alimenter des idéologies biaisées. Elle met aussi en évidence le potentiel de la traduction dans la réception du message politique à travers différents contextes culturels, linguistiques et politiques. En analysant les discours de Churchill, Thatcher et Blair, cette thèse soutient que la traduction est utilisée par les dirigeants politiques pour projeter leur autorité, maintenir leur pouvoir et renforcer leur domination en façonnant une identité nationale. Elle suggère ainsi que la traduction constitue un outil puissant et déterminant de persuasion politique, plutôt qu'un simple moyen neutre de transmission du langage. La traduction contribue souvent à la légitimation de l'autorité politique, puisqu'elle joue un rôle qui dépasse largement le cadre strictement linguistique.

## ملخص

تهدف هذه المذكرة إلى دراسة دور الترجمة لخدمة الأجنداث السياسية في المملكة المتحدة، مع التركيز على تحليل العلاقة المعقدة بين الترجمة والخطاب السياسي من خلال دراسة خطابات رؤساء الوزراء البريطانيين: مارغريت تاتشر، وونستون تشرشل، وتوني بليير. يتطلع هذا البحث عن كيفية عمل الترجمة، ليس فقط كأداة لغوية، بل أيضًا كوسيلة سياسية للتلاعب بالمعنى، وإعادة تشكيل الأفكار، والتأثير على الرأي العام، بل وحتى تغذية الأيديولوجيات المنحازة. كما يسلط الضوء على إمكانات الترجمة في نقل الرسائل السياسية عبر سياقات ثقافية ولغوية وسياسية مختلفة

ومن خلال تحليل خطابات تشرشل وتاتشر وبليير، تجادل هذه المذكرة بأن القادة السياسيين يوظفون الترجمة لإبراز سلطتهم، والحفاظ على نفوذهم، وتعزيز هيمنتهم من خلال صياغة هوية وطنية. وتشير النتائج إلى أن الترجمة تشكل أداة قوية وحاسمة في الإقناع السياسي، وليست مجرد وسيلة محايدة لنقل اللغة. وغالبًا ما تسهم الترجمة في إضفاء الشرعية على السلطة السياسية، إذ تلعب دورًا يتجاوز الإطار اللغوي البحث

**Keywords:**

Manipulation

M. Thatcher

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T. Blair

UK Political Agendas

W. Churchill