

Teacher : Dr. Benlakdar

Module : Translation and Interpreting

Level : 3rd year

Translation of press Interview

Press interviews are a common form of media communication where journalists interview individuals, such as public figures, experts, actors, players, or eyewitnesses to gather information and gain insights and opinions on a specific topic.

Translating interviews helps practising translation skills and deal with challenges posed by the spoken language and conversational style.

The original dialogue, accuracy, clarity, intended meaning, style, and tone should be preserved in the translation process. Further, cultural references, connotations, nuances, collocations, and idiomatic expressions should be reproduced in the TT.

Features of interviews :

Interviews' distinctive features should be maintained in translation. They include :

- Dialogue : they involve conversation between an interviewer and an interviewee. They include a set of questions and answers as part of an interactive exchange ;
- Interaction : they include a back-and-forth exchange as part of a conversational flow ;
- Spontaneity : the responses are natural, smooth, and flowing ;
- Direct quotes : they represent opinions, pieces of information, and personal experiences ;

- Personal and subjective perspectives : they reflect the ideas, emotions, and opinions of the interviewee ;
- Follow-up questions : they may be added to dig deeper in a particular topic and get more details which allows a further exploration.
- Contextual relevance : they address specific topics, events, or issues relevant to the context in which they are conducted.
- Informality and informality : they vary in terms of formal and informal language depending on the purpose and context.



Practice

Task 01 : Identify the structure and features of the interview below.

Task 02 : Comprehension questions

- Who are the participants in the interview ?
- What is the main topic of of the interview ?
- Who are the main arguments discussed in the interview ?
- What are the insights and perspectives shared by the interviewee ?

Task 03 : Language analysis

- Analyse the vocabulary, sentence structure, and register used in the interview. Are there any specific linguistic features that require attention in translation ?
- Identify any rhetorical devices, such as metaphors or analogies, used by the interviewee and discuss their impact on the conveyed message.

- Examine the use of direct quotes and reported speech. How would you handle them in translation to maintain accuracy and convey the speaker's voice?

Task 04 : Critical thinking and evaluation

- Evaluate the credibility and expertise of the interviewee. Does he provide evidence or support for his statements ?
- Assess the balance and fairness of the interview. Are different perspectives presented ?
- Analyse the effectiveness of the interview in conveying information, eliciting insights, or engaging the readers.
- Reflect on any subjective elements or potential biases in the interview and consider their implication for translation.

Task 05 : Writing and rewriting

- ❖ Summarise the main points of the interview.
- ❖ paraphrase specific sections in a different style or tone while preserving the original meaning.
- ❖ Write an introduction or conclusion for the interview that attracts the readers' attention.

Task 06 : Translation practice

- Translate the interview while preserving accuracy.
- Identify any cultural references or idiomatic expressions, or slang and find suitable equivalents in the target language.
- Identify any collocations and suggest their translations.
- Translate some sections of the interview using colloquial style.

Interview with Jordanian novelist Jalal Barjas

•04.11.2021

"Some Arab writers present distorted images of societies"



Jordanian writer Jalal Barjas' novel "Notebooks of the Bookseller", which won this year's Booker International Prize for Arabic Fiction, was celebrated at a symposium during the Berlin International Literature Festival in September. A large number of Germans and Arabs interested in Arabic literature attended. On the sidelines, journalist Rim Najmi caught up with Jalal Barjas

The journalist : A large German audience attended your evening at the Berlin International Literature Festival, and you signed copies of "Notebooks of the Bookseller" for lots of the people present, to the point where all the copies you had with you ran out. As an Arab writer, how do you think you went down with the German public?

Jalal Barjas: [I was so happy to connect with readers in Germany.](#) Through my conversation with them, I sensed a yearning to read Arabic literature and to hear about new ideas, different perspectives and lives in the Middle East. This got me thinking more about the state of translation from Arabic into foreign languages, including German, and I'm wondering what's behind the poor showing in terms of getting material translated at this point in time, when there is such a need for cultural cross-fertilisation.

Journalist : It is expected that "Notebooks of the Bookseller" will be translated into English and from that into other languages. How do you feel about Arabic literature being translated into foreign languages? Do you agree with the view that Western publishing houses are biased towards those Arab works which present an image in line with certain Orientalist perspectives or towards those which break taboos?

Barjas: [Some Western publishing houses do operate according to the Orientalist view of Arabic literature](#), which presents Arabs as backward and out of step with human civilization. There are also publishing houses which make their decisions about what to translate of Arabic literature on commercial grounds – whether such material might be accepted by readers, or not. That is why we find some Arab novelists who have been translated, and regularly so, even though they are not the best writers the Arab world has to offer. This is because they have complied with expectations that qualify their texts for translation in the West. Indeed, some Arab writers present distorted images of their societies.

At the same time, it is true that there are also publishing houses that do not operate like that, especially since the advent of the Arab Booker Prize, and novels exist that have been translated into a multitude of languages. We need to ask ourselves what the outcome of a post-Booker translation is and whether it has been done for the right reasons regarding the distribution and promotion to foreign readers. After all, many Arabic novels have been translated that have sunk without trace.

Journalist : After the event at the Berlin Festival, you wrote on your Facebook page that the experience of taking part in the Berlin International Literature Festival was one of the most important in your literary life. Why? What makes the German experience stand out from other international events in which you have participated previously?

Barjas: I said this for more than one reason, the first being the seriousness with which cultural issues are addressed in Germany, without formalities and conventions. The symposium that was held to talk about my experience as a novelist was exemplary in terms of preparation and the interaction of the audience with it. Seminars such as those held by the Berlin International Literature Festival build bridges between the writer and the readers, and between him or her and other writers, as well as with people involved in cultural affairs. This was in addition to the opportunity I had to meet Arab writers living in Germany. I also met Arab

readers who attended the symposium. From that I was able to discern many of the cultural landmarks on which countries such as Germany lean.

Journalist : *You attended the Berlin Literature Festival as [this year's winner of the 'Arabic Booker'](#). This award and others such as the Katara Prize (which you have won previously) have incurred criticism from some Arab writers. Some of them have gone as far as to say that these prizes, and "Gulf money" in particular, have corrupted Arabic literature. What do you think about this?*

Barjas: I have often said that the Arabic prizes awarded to novels, especially the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, have thrown a stone into stagnant waters. The appetite for novels has grown, and the Arabic cultural scene has seen a rise in novel-writing. It is the writer's dream that his or her books will find an audience, and the International Prize for Arabic Fiction has, in particular, become an eagerly-anticipated event each year.

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اللغة الإنجليزية – لغة العالم الحالي –

الصحفي: مرحبًا وشكرًا لك على استعدادك لهذا الحوار. هل يمكنك أن تعرض لنا نفسك بايجاز؟

المعلم: بالطبع! أنا مسرور بالمشاركة في هذا الحوار. أنا مدرس اللغة الإنجليزية ولدي خبرة تزيد عن عشر سنوات في تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية للطلاب من مختلف المستويات والأعمار. أعمل حاليًا في مدرسة ثانوية حكومية وأستمتع بتوجيه الطلاب ومساعدتهم في تحقيق نجاحهم في تعلم اللغة الإنجليزية.

الصحفي: ممتاز! ما الذي دفعك لاختيار مجال تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية؟

المعلم: منذ صغري، كنت مهتمًا باللغات والتواصل العابر للثقافات. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، كان لدي دائمًا شغف لتعلم اللغة الإنجليزية واستكشاف ثقافات العالم المختلفة. عندما شعرت بالرغبة في مشاركة هذا الشغف مع الآخرين ومساعدتهم على اكتساب مهارات اللغة الإنجليزية، قررت أن أصبح معلمًا للغة الإنجليزية.

الصحفي: هل يمكنك أن تشاركنا ببعض الإستراتيجيات التي تستخدمها في تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية؟

المعلم: بالتأكيد. أعتد على مجموعة متنوعة من الإستراتيجيات لجعل عملية التعلم ممتعة وفعالة للطلاب. أحب استخدام الأنشطة التفاعلية مثل الأدوار والمناقشات الجماعية لتشجيع التواصل وتطوير مهارات الاستماع والتحدث لديهم. كما أستخدم التقنية في الفصل الدراسي، مثل الوسائط المتعددة والبرامج التعليمية التفاعلية، لجذب اهتمام الطلاب وتعزيز مهاراتهم في القراءة والكتابة.

الصحفي: ما هي أكبر تحديات تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية التي واجهتها؟

المعلم: واجهت تحديات عديدة في مسيرتي كمعلم للغة الإنجليزية. واحدة من أكبر التحديات هي تلبية احتياجات الطلاب المختلفة وفهم مستوياتهم المختلفة في اللغة الإنجليزية. يجب علي أن أكون مرناً وأستخدم منهجًا متنوعًا لذي يناسب احتياجات كل طالب بشكل فردي. كما أن التحدي الثقافي يأتي في المرتبة الثانية، حيث يجب علي فهم توجهات وخلفيات الطلاب المختلفة وضمان توفير بيئة متنوعة وشاملة للتعلم.

الصحفي: ما هي الإستراتيجيات التي تستخدمها لمساعدة الطلاب على تحقيق تحسن في مهاراتهم اللغوية؟

المعلم: أولاً وقبل كل شيء، أحاول إنشاء بيئة داعمة ومشجعة حيث يشعرون بالثقة في التعبير عن أنفسهم باللغة الإنجليزية. أقوم بتوفير العديد من الفرص للممارسة اللغوية والتفاعلية من خلال الأدوار، المناقشات، الألعاب وتمارين الاستماع والقراءة والكتابة. أستخدم أيضًا تقنيات تقويم الأداء المستمرة لتحديد نقاط القوة والضعف لكل طالب وتوجيههم نحو تحسين مهاراتهم اللغوية بشكل فردي.

الصحفي: ما هي أهمية تعلم اللغة الإنجليزية في العالم الحديث؟

المعلم: اللغة الإنجليزية أصبحت لغة عالمية ووسيلة اتصال مهمة في العالم الحديث. إتقان اللغة الإنجليزية يمنح الأفراد فرصًا أكبر في التواصل مع الآخرين من مختلف الثقافات والبلدان. وفهم اللغة الإنجليزية يتيح للأفراد فرص عمل أفضل وتوسعًا في مجالات الدراسة والأبحاث. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، اللغة الإنجليزية توفر وصولاً أكبر إلى المعرفة والموارد العالمية عبر الإنترنت والمنشورات الأكاديمية.

