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Collocational Partitive Constructions in English-Arabic Translation

Prof. Misbah M. D. Al-Sulaimaan

(Ph.D. in Linguistics)
Lebanese French University

Rafad S. H. Al-Juboury

(Asst. Lecturer)
University of Mosul

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Abstract

The present paper concentrates on the problems translators may face with English vocabulary use, in particular, with the appropriate combinations of words. This aspect of language called collocation. Our major focus in this study will be on collocational partitive constructions and how they are realized in Arabic. This study mainly aims at: (1) specifying and studying a number of different types and patterns of collocational partitive constructions in books of grammar, semantics, as well as syntactic, semantic and cultural periodicals, (2) testing the translatability of the constructions under investigation which are linguistically and culturally different, (3) showing how these constructions are realized in Arabic, (4) pin-pointing the areas of differences between these constructions in English and Arabic, (5) specifying the method of translation that has been used by the subject translators, and (6) proposing the most appropriate and accurate rendering in case of subjects' success and giving a new one in case of subjects' failure. To achieve the above mentioned aims, the study hypothesizes that: (1) collocational partitive constructions cannot be successfully translated into Arabic without understanding the linguistic and semantic variations as well as cultural norms of both languages, and (2) using free translation results in giving appropriate, accurate and effective renderings. The main findings the study arrived at are: (1) more than 50% have been translated freely, whereas less than 50% have been translated literally, (2) the main problems and obstacles have been found to be due to the cultural differences between the two languages, collocational partitive constructions may have more than one equivalence in Arabic, and (4) there is no one-to-one formal correspondence between English collocational partitive constructions and their Arabic counterparts whether linguistically, semantically, pragmatically or culturally.

1. Statement of the Problem

Much ink has been spilt on the study of collocational expressions. However, to the best of our knowledge, no study has been conducted about the translation of the collocational partitive constructions. This study is an attempt to fill that gap.

No doubt languages differ in the way they express the same notion or concept. This difference gives rise to many problems in understanding the same message in the two languages (i.e. source language and target language), on the one hand, and to



convey this message from source language to the target language via the process of translation on the other.

It is a well-known fact that in communication one can distinguish two types of meaning, namely (1) literal meaning and (2) collocational meaning (among many other types of meaning). Hence, the problem arises, simply, because these constructions in English and Arabic have different syntactic and semantic systems. Added to this, forming collocational partitive constructions is based on two different cultures. So a translator is perplexed and does not know whether to translate literally or freely. This leads us to say that the translator should know the cultural systems of the constructions under investigation.

2. Aims of the Study

The present study seeks to achieve the following aims:

1. Specifying and studying a number of different types and patterns of collocational partitive constructions in books of grammar, semantics, as well as syntactic, semantic and cultural periodicals.
2. Testing the translatability of the constructions under investigation which are linguistically and culturally different.
3. Showing how these constructions are realized in Arabic.
4. Pin-pointing the areas of differences between these constructions in English and Arabic.
5. Specifying the method of translation that has been used by the subject translators.
6. Proposing the most appropriate and accurate rendering in case of subjects' success and giving a new one in case of subjects' failure.

3. Hypotheses

In the present study, it is hypothesized that:

1. Collocational partitive constructions cannot be successfully translated into Arabic without understanding the linguistic and semantic variations as well as cultural norms of both languages.
2. Using free translation results in giving appropriate, accurate and effective renderings.



4. Procedure and Data Collection

The current study is based on a corpus of 29 different examples of “collocationalpartitive constructions” taken from books of grammar, semantics and cultural periodicals. Collocational expressions were given to two assistant professors, one of them was in the Department of Translation and another one was in the Department of Arabic as juries to judge whether they involve cultural overlap or discrepancy. Then, the collocations were translated by seven subject translators (M.A. students at the Department of Translation/ College of Arts/ University of Mosul). These constructions were analyzed by using tables in terms of literal translation and free translation.

Each text analysis is supplemented by translational discussion. As for the selected rendering, the most appropriate one will be proposed in case of success. However, in case of subjects’ failure, a new rendering will be proposed.

5. The Concept of Collocation

A collocation is two or more words that often go together. These combinations just sound “right” to native English speakers, who use them all the time. On the other hand, other combinations may be unnatural and just sound “wrong”. Let us consider these examples which are illustrated by table (1).

Table (1): Natural and Non-natural Collocations

Title	Natural English	Non-natural English
Definite	The fast train fast food	*The quick train *quick food
Indefinite	A quick shower A quick meal	*A fast shower *A fast meal

In corpus linguistics, collocation is defined a sequence of words or terms that co-occur more often than would be expected by chance. In phraseology, collocation is a sub-type of phraseme (Halliday, 1961: 245). An example of a phraseological collocation is the expression **strongtea**. While the same meaning could be conveyed by the roughly equivalent ***powerful tea**, this expression is considered incorrect by English speakers. Conversely, the corresponding expression for **computer, powerful computers** is preferred over ***strong computers**. Phraseological collocations should not be confused with idioms although both are similar in that there is a degree of meaning present in the collocation or idiom that is not entirely compositional. With idioms, the meaning is completely non-compositional, whereas collocations are mostly compositional. The main criterion for defining an idiom is that its meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of its parts.



The definition of a collocation is not a matter of serious controversy. The British Linguist Firth is often quoted as one of the first who dealt with collocations.

He (cited in Palmer, 1976: 94) says that "You shall know a word by the company it keeps". He gives an example of the company of the English word "ass", which occurs in a limited set of contexts and in the company of a limited set of adjectives 'silly', 'obstinate', 'stupid', and 'awful'.

Firth introduced his often-quoted definition of collocation as "the company words keep". He maintains that "meaning by collocation is an abstraction at the syntagmatic level and is not directly concerned with the conceptual or idea approach to the meaning of words". He gives the example of the word **night** where one of its meanings involves its collocability with **dark**. In discussing seven differentiated types of meanings, Leech (1974: 20) discusses what he calls "collocative meaning" which "consists of the associations a word acquires on account of the meaning of words which tend to occur in its environment". This definition is Firth's definition and instead of "ass", Leech gives the examples of **pretty** and **handsome** and the collocates of each. The words **pretty** and **handsome** share the common general meaning of **good-looking**, but they are distinguished by the range of nouns with which they are likely to co-occur. He also gives the example of "quasi-synonymous" verbs like **wander-stroll**, and **tremble-quiver**, where each keeps a different company from the other. Benson et al. (1986: 50) attempt to develop criteria for defining collocations. They propose the dual criteria of relative fixedness and non-idiomaticity and they use recurrent combination and fixed combinations for collocations. (For details, see Ryden, 1975: 20; Nesselhauf, 2005: 40, 2003: 230 and Nakata, 2006: 50).

6. Spectrum of Collocations

As for the spectrum of collocation, it is believed that certain types of word co-occurrences that are governed by conventional use rather than form or meaning have long been studied under the label collocation. For example,

1. **Adjective-noun:** a tall person or building (*high one)
 2. **Adverb-adjective:** statistically significant (*important)
 3. **Noun + Noun:** a surge of anger (* a rush of anger)
 4. **Noun + Verb:** lions roar (* lions shout)
 5. **Verb + Noun:** commit suicide (* undertake suicide)
 6. **Verb + Expression with preposition:** burst into tears (*blow up in tears)
 7. **Verb + Adverb:** wave frantically (* wave feverishly)
- (English club.com: 2012)



7. Problems of Translating Collocations

In this section, the problems translators may have with English vocabulary use – in particular with the appropriate combinations of words will be focused. This is an aspect of language called collocation. An example of collocation that many learners of English may be familiar with is the different adjectives that are used to describe a good-looking man and a good-looking woman. One talks of **a beautiful woman** and of **a handsome man**, but rarely of **a beautiful man** or **a handsome woman** (Fahlman, 1979: 20).

It is quite possible, in fact, to describe a woman as handsome. However, this implies that she is not beautiful at all in the traditional sense of female beauty, but rather that she is mature in age, has large features and certain strength of character. Similarly, a man could be described as beautiful, but this would usually imply that he has feminine features. Calling a man pretty is most often done pejoratively to suggest effeminacy. (See Jakobson, 1959: 235 and Howarth, 1998: 170) and AL-Sulaimaan, 2013:50)

In another familiar example of collocation, one talks of **high mountains** and **tall trees**, but not usually of **tall mountains** and **high trees**. Similarly a **man** can be **tall** but never **high** (except in the sense of being intoxicated!), whereas a **ceiling** can only be **high**, not **tall**. A **window** can be both **tall** or **high**, but a **tall window** is not the same as a **high window**. We **get old** and **tired**, but we **go bald** or **grey**. We **get sick** but we **fall ill**. **A big house**, **a large house** and **a great house** have the same meaning, but **a great man** is not the same as **a big man** or **a large man**. One can **make a big mistake** or **a great mistake**, but cannot **make a large mistake**. One can be **a little sad** but not **a little happy**. **Very pleased** and **very tiny** are possible, but say **very delighted** or **very huge** is not. And so on, there are endless examples of this kind of difficulty (Lewis, 1997: 20).

The problem for the translator is that there are no collocation rules that can be learned. The native English speaker intuitively makes the correct collocation, based on a lifetime's experience of hearing and reading the words in set combinations. The non-native speaker has a more limited experience and may frequently collocate words in a way that sounds odd to the native speaker (See Baker, 1992: 85; Hill and Lewis, 1997: 22 and Ghazala, 2006: 80).

8. Collocation and Partitive Constructions

Collocations play a major role in the process of communication as they contribute effectively to create a text. As Newmark (1988) rightly puts it, "If grammar is the bones of a text, collocations are the nerves, more subtle and specific in denoting meaning, and lexis is the flesh".



While definitions of collocations have been varied in research projects, the fact that they are observable in large samples of language had led to success in their use in various statistical applications. Sophisticated approaches to collocation acquisition for representation in a lexicon now exist. These semi-automatically developed phrasal lexicons have been used for the tasks of language generation. In addition, identification and integration of collocations and lexical context have also played a central role in tasks such as statistical approaches toward sense disambiguation.

As for partitives, both count and non-count nouns can be modified as partitive constructions, that is, constructions denoting a part of a whole relation. A partitive is a phrase, typically consisting of a count noun followed by 'of' that precedes another noun. When the partitive noun is part of the subject, the verb agrees with it in number.

9. Translational Model Adopted

The model adopted in this study is that of Catford (1965) which focuses mainly on two types of translation: literal and free. He rejects such a definition of translation since he believes that meaning is the property of a language, i.e. an SL text has an SL meaning, and a TL text has a TL meaning. He defines translation as "the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by an equivalent textual material in another language (TL).

This study is concerned with literal and free translation, literal translation is also word-oriented translation, but it does not follow the SL grammar. It follows the TL grammar. This type is in opposition between 'word-for-word' translation and 'free' translation. It may start from a word-for-word translation, but it makes changes in conformity with TL grammar. This may make it a group-group or clause-clause translation.

As for free translation, the translator aim is to produce a naturally reading target text rather than preserving the source text wording intact. This type is also known as sense-for-sense translation. It is defined by Catford (1965: 25) as follows: "A free translation is always unbounded equivalence and may shunt up and down the rank scale, tending to be at the higher ranks".

10. Data Analysis

The data which have been chosen from different books of grammar, semantics and cultural periodicals will be analyzed literally and freely in the light of the model adopted, i.e. Catford's classification of translation. As for translation, the method adopted by the subjects will be shown giving the degree of appropriateness for each rendering as closely as possible and wide diversity of translation.

Birds

Text Analysis (1):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Colony of Auks ⁽¹⁾				
Subject Translators	1	مجموعة من طيور الاوك		+
	2	مستعمرة طائر الاوك	+	
	3	مستعمرة طائر الاوك	+	
	4	حشد من طيور الاوك		+
	5	سرب من طيور الاوك		+
	6	حشد من طيور الاوك		+
	7	سرب من طيور الاوك		+
<u>Juries</u>			+	
Dept. of Translation	1	مستعمرة طيور الاوك		
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من طيور الاوك		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من طيور الاوك		

Translational Discussion

A close look at this text reveals that out of seven subjects, two subjects (2 and 3) have rendered the expression literally, for they have focused on its dictionary meaning. Five subjects (1, 4, 5, 6 and 7) have provided free translation because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من طيور الاوك which is the closest one to the SLT. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its effective Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which is based on the Arabic cultural norms.

Text Analysis (2):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Raft of Auks				
Subject Translators	1	مجموعة كبيرة من طيور الاوك	+	
	2	حشد من طائر الاوك		+
	3	مجموعة من طائر الاوك	+	
	4	حشد من طيور الاوك		+
	5	سرب من طيور الاوك		+
	6	سرب من طيور الاوك		+
	7	جمع غفير من طيور الاوك		+
<u>Juries</u>			+	
Dept. of Translation	1	مجموعة من طيور الاوك		

⁽¹⁾ All Collective Nouns are from: <mhtml:file:///J:/Collective%20Nouns.mht>. This involves syntactic, semantic and cultural periodicals (2011).



Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من طيور الاوك		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من طيور الاوك		

Translational Discussion

A careful inspection of this text reveals that out of seven subjects, two subjects (1 and 3) have rendered the expression literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five (2, 4, 5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on the force of the message rather than on the message itself. Nonetheless, the most effective rendering is سرب من طيور الاوك which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which is compatible with the Arabic cultural norms.

Text Analysis (3):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Fleet of Birds				
Subject Translators	1	سرب من الطيور		+
	2	سرب من الطيور		+
	3	مجموعة من الطيور		+
	4	سرب طيور		+
	5	أسطول من الطيور	+	
	6	أسطول من الطيور	+	
	7	حشد من الطيور		+
<u>Juries</u>				+
Dept. of Translation	1	سرب من الطيور		
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من الطيور		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من الطيور		

Translational Discussion

In regard to this text and its renderings, two subjects (5 and 6) have rendered text (3) literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five subjects (1, 2, 3, 4 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من طيور which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been fulfilled by our proposed rendering which coincides with what we say in Arabic.



Text Analysis (4):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Flight of Birds				
Subject Translators	1	سرب من الطيور		+
	2	هجرة الطيور		+
	3	سرب من الطيور		+
	4	سرب من الطيور		+
	5	طيران الطيور	+	
	6	حركة الطيور		+
	7	تحليق الطيور		+
<u>Juries</u>			+	
Dept. of Translation	1	سرب من الطيور		
Dept. of Arabic	2	تحليق الطيور		+
The Proposed Rendering		تحليق الطيور		

Translational Discussion

A careful inspection of this text reveals that only subject (5) has rendered the construction literally for he has focused on its dictionary meaning, and the rest of subjects have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is تحليق الطيور which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Very briefly, in this example, both the dictionary meaning and cultural meaning are compatible.

Text Analysis (5):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Parcel of Birds				
Subject Translators	1	مجموعة من الطيور	+	
	2	مجموعة طيور	+	
	3	مجموعة من الطيور	+	
	4	مجموعة طيور	+	
	5	سرب من الطيور		+
	6	سرب من الطيور		+
	7	خرقة من الطيور		+
<u>Juries</u> Dept. of Translation	1	مجموعة من الطيور	+	
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من الطيور		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من الطيور		

Translational Discussion



With regard to this text and its renderings, it is clear that out of seven subjects, four subjects (1, 2, 3 and 4) have rendered the text literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and three (5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من طيور which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Thus, our proposed rendering is in an agreement with what Arab people say (i.e. cultural norm).

Text Analysis (6):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Pod of Birds				
Subject Translators	1	سرب من الطيور		+
	2	سرب من الطيور		+
	3	خط من الطيور		+
	4	سرب من الطيور		+
	5	مجموعة من الطيور		+
	6	مجموعة من الطيور		+
	7	قطيع من الطيور	+	
<u>Juries</u>				
Dept.of Translation	1	سرب من الطيور		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من الطيور		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من الطيور		

Translational Discussion:

A careful examination of this text reveals that one subject (7) has rendered the expression literally for he has focused on its dictionary meaning, and six (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من الطيور which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Our proposed rendering is in agreement with both juries (i.e. Arabic cultural) norm.

Text Analysis (7):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Chain of Bobolinks				
Subject Translators		سرب من طيور الممراح		+
		مجموعة من طيور الممراح		+



		سرب من طيور الممراح		+
		سلسلة من طيور الممراح	+	
		سلسلة من طيور الممراح	+	
		صف من طيور الممراح		+
		قطار من طيور الممراح		+
<u>Juries</u>				+
Dept.of Translation		سرب من طيور الممراح		
Dept. of Arabic		سرب من طيور الممراح		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من طيور الممراح		

Translational Discussion:

In this text, out of seven subjects, two subjects (4 and 5) have rendered the expression literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five subjects (1, 2, 3, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من طيور الممراح which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been fulfilled by our proposed rendering. Our choice of the proposed rendering is based on what our juries renderings which are due to the Arabic cultural norm.

Text Analysis (8):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Brood of Chickens				
Subject Translators	1	فقسة من الفراخ	+	
	2	فقسة الدجاج	+	
	3	فقسة من صغار الدجاج	+	
	4	فقسة الدجاج	+	
	5	صيضان الدجاج		+
	6	صيضان الدجاج		+
	7	حضنة بيض الدجاج		+
Juries				
Dept.of Translation	1	فقسة الدجاج	+	
Dept. of Arabic	2	صيضان الدجاج		+
The Proposed Rendering		صيضان الدجاج		

Translational Discussion:

Regarding this text, it is apparent that four subjects (1, 2, 3 and 4) have rendered the text literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and three (5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is صيضان الدجاج which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which is based on the Arabic cultural norms.

Text Analysis (9):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Clutch of Chickens				
Subject Translators	1	فرخ الدجاج		+
	2	حاضنة الدجاج	+	
	3	حضنة بيض الدجاج	+	
	4	حضنة بيض	+	
	5	حضنة بيض	+	
	6	حضنة بيض	+	
	7	أفراخ الدجاج		+
Juries				
Dept.of Translation	1	حضنة بيض		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	حضنة بيض الدجاج		+
The Proposed Rendering		حضنة بيض		



Translational Discussion:

A close look at this text reveals that out of seven subjects, five subjects (2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) have rendered the expression literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and two subjects (1 and 7) have rendered it freely. However, the most effective rendering is *حضانة بيض* which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which is compatible with the Arabic cultural norms.

Text Analysis (10):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Peep of Chickens				
Subject Translators	1	زقاء الفراخ	+	
	2	وصوصة الفراريج		+
	3	صوت الدجاج	+	
	4	وصوصة الدجاج		+
	5	نقنقة الدجاج		+
	6	زقزقة الدجاج	+	
	7	نقنقة الدجاج		+
Juries				
Dept.of Translation	1	نقنقة الدجاج		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	نقنقة الدجاج		+
The Proposed Rendering		نقنقة الدجاج		

Translational Discussion:

A careful inspection of this text reveals that out of seven subjects, three subjects (1, 3 and 6) have rendered text (10) literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and four subjects (2, 4, 5 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is *نقنقة الدجاج* which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which coincides with what we say in Arabic.

Text Analysis (11):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Chattering of Choughs				
Subject Translators	1	زقزقة الغربان	+	
	2	نعيق الغربان		+
	3	زقزقة الغربان	+	
	4	قعقعة الغربان		+
	5	نعيق الغربان		+
	6	صوت الغربان		+
	7	نعيق الغربان		+
Juries Dept.of Translation	1	نعيق الغربان		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	نعيق الغربان		+
The Proposed Rendering		نعيق الغربان		

Translational Discussion:

In regard to this text and its renderings, two subjects (1 and 3) have rendered the construction in question literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five have (2, 4, 5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on the force of the message rather than on the message itself. Nonetheless, the most effective rendering is نعيق الغربان which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Very briefly, in this example, both the dictionary meaning and cultural meaning are compatible.

Text Analysis (12):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Covert of Coots				
Subject Translators	1	مكمن الغزاء	+	
	2	مخبأ الغزاء	+	
	3	عش الغزاء		+
	4	مكمن الغزاء	+	
	5	وكر الغزاء		+
	6	عش الغزاء		+
	7	وكر الغزاء		+
Juries Dept.of Translation	1	وكر الغزاء		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	وكر الغزاء		+
The Proposed Rendering		وكر الغزاء		



Translational Discussion:

A careful inspection of this text reveals that three subjects (1, 2 and 4) have rendered the construction in question literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and four (3, 5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. Nonetheless, the most effective rendering is *وكر الغراء* which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Thus, our proposed rendering is in an agreement with what Arab people say (i.e. cultural norm).

Text Analysis (13):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Commotion of Coots				
Subject Translators	1	هياج الغراء		+
	2	فوضى الغراء	+	
	3	اهتياج الغراء		+
	4	صخب الغراء		+
	5	هيجان الغراء		+
	6	غضب الغراء		+
	7	هيجان طائر الغراء		+
Juries				
Dept.of Translation	1	اهتياج طائر الغراء		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	هيجان طائر الغراء		+
The Proposed Rendering		هيجان طائر الغراء		

Translational Discussion:

With regard to this text and its renderings, it is clear that out of seven subjects, one subject (2) has rendered the expression literally for he has focused on its dictionary meaning, and six subjects (1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is *هيجان طائر الغراء* which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Our proposed rendering is in agreement with both juries (i.e. Arabic cultural) norm.

Text Analysis (14):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Swarm of Coots				
Subject Translators	1	سرب من طيور الغزاء		+
	2	حشد من طيور الغزاء	+	
	3	حشد من طيور الغزاء	+	
	4	سرب من الغزاء		+
	5	قطيع من الغزاة		+
	6	سرب من طيور الغزاء		+
	7	حشد من طيور الغزاء	+	
Juries Dept.of Translation	1	سرب من طيور الغزاء		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من طيور الغزاء		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من طيور الغزاء		

Translational Discussion:

A careful examination of this text reveals that three subjects (2, 3 and 7) have rendered the text literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and four (1, 4, 5 and 6) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من طيور الغزاء which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been fulfilled by our proposed rendering. Our choice of the proposed rendering is based on what our juries renderings which are due to the Arabic cultural norm.

Text Analysis (15):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Herd of Cranes				
Subject Translators	1	سرب من طيور الكراكي		+
	2	سرب من طيور الكراكي		+
	3	قطيع من طيور الكراكي	+	
	4	سرب من طيور الكراكي		+
	5	مجموعة من طيور الكراكي		+
	6	فريق من طيور الكراكي		+
	7	قطيع من طيور الكراكي	+	
Juries Dept.of Translation	1	سرب من طيور الكراكي		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من طيور الكراكي		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من طيور الكراكي		



Translational Discussion:

In this text, out of seven subjects, two subjects (3 and 7) have rendered text (15) literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five (1, 2, 4, 5 and 6) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من طيور الكراكي which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been fulfilled by our proposed rendering which is based on its literal meaning since literal meaning is compatible with the cultural meaning.

Text Analysis (16):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Hover of Crows				
Subject Translators	1	حوم الغربان		+
	2	حوم الغربان		+
	3	طيران الغربان		+
	4	حوم الغربان		+
	5	تأرجح الغربان	+	
	6	طيران الغربان		+
	7	طيران الغربان		+
Juries				
Dept.of Translation	1	حوم الغربان		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	طيران الغربان		+
The Proposed Rendering		حوم الغربان		

Translational Discussion:

Regarding this text, it is apparent that one subject (5) has rendered the construction in question literally for he has focused on its dictionary meaning, and six (1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is حوم الغربان which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which is based on the Arabic cultural norms.

Text Analysis (17):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Muster of Crows				
Subject Translators	1	مجموعة من الغربان	+	
	2	تجمع الغربان	+	
	3	حشد من الغربان		+
	4	حشد غريان		+
	5	سرب من الغربان		+
	6	سرب من الغربان		+
	7	سرب من الغربان		+
<u>Juries</u>				+
Dept.of Translation	1	سرب من الغربان		
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من الغربان		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من الغربان		

Translational Discussion:

A close look at this text reveals that out of seven subjects, two subjects (1 and 2) have rendered the text literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five (3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من الغربان which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which is compatible with the Arabic cultural norms.

Text Analysis (18):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Bunch of Ducks				
Subject Translators	1	مجموعة من البط	+	
	2	مجموعة من البط	+	
	3	حشد من البط		+
	4	سرب من البط		+
	5	سرب من البط		+
	6	باقة من البط	+	
	7	قطيع من البط		+
<u>Juries</u>			+	
Dept.of Translation	1	مجموعة من البط		
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من البط		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من البط		



Translational Discussion:

A careful inspection of this text reveals that out of seven subjects, three subjects (1, 2 and 6) have rendered text (18) literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and four (3, 4, 5 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on the force of the message rather than the message itself. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من البط which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which coincides with what we say in Arabic.

Text Analysis (19):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A String of Duck				
Subject Translators	1	سرب من البط		+
	2	خط من البط	+	
	3	صف من البط	+	
	4	مجموعة من البط		+
	5	سرب من البط		+
	6	سرب من البط		+
	7	قطيع من البط		+
<u>Juries</u>				+
Dept.of Translation	1	سرب من البط		
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من البط		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من البط		

Translational Discussion:

In regard to this text and its renderings, two subjects (2 and 3) have rendered the expression literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five subjects (1, 4, 5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من البط which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Very briefly, in this example, both the dictionary meaning and cultural meaning are compatible.

Text Analysis (20):



SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Team of Ducks				
Subject Translators	1	جمع من البط		+
	2	مجموعة من البط		+
	3	سرب من البط		+
	4	مجموعة من البط		+
	5	قافلة من البط	+	
	6	فريق من البط	+	
	7	صف من البط	+	
<u>Juries</u>				
Dept.of Translation	1	مجموعة من البط		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	مجموعة من البط		+
The Proposed Rendering		مجموعة من البط		

Translational Discussion:

A careful inspection of this text reveals that three subjects (5, 6 and 7) have rendered the text literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and four subjects (1, 2, 3 and 4) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is مجموعة من البط which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Thus, our proposed rendering is in an agreement with what Arab people say (i.e. cultural norm).

Text Analysis (21):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Gaggle of Geese				
Subject Translators	1	سرب من الإوز		+
	2	قطيع من الإوز	+	
	3	مجموعة من الإوز	+	
	4	قطيع من الإوز	+	
	5	سرب إوز		+
	6	سرب من الإوز		+
	7	فريق من الإوز		+
<u>Juries</u> Dept.of Translation	1	سرب من الإوز		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من الإوز		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من الإوز		

Translational Discussion:



With regard to this text and its renderings, it is clear that out of seven subjects, three subjects (2, 3 and 4) have rendered the text literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and four subjects (1, 5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من الإوز which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Our proposed rendering is in agreement with both juries (i.e. Arabic cultural) norm.

Text Analysis (22):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Mews of Hawks				
Subject Translators	1	قفص الصقور		+
	2	ملجأ الصقور	+	
	3	زمنجة الصقور		+
	4	قفص الصقور		+
	5	معتزل الصقور	+	
	6	عش الصقور		+
	7	قفص الصقور		+
<u>Juries</u>				
Dept. of Translation	1	قفص الصقور		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	قفص الصقور		+
The Proposed Rendering		قفص الصقور		

Translational Discussion:

A careful examination of this text reveals that two subjects (2 and 5) have rendered the text literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five (1, 3, 4, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is قفص من الصقور which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Our choice of the proposed rendering is based on what our juries renderings which are due to the Arabic cultural norm.

Text Analysis (23):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Band of Joys				
Subject Translators	1	زمرة من طيور القيق	+	
	2	مجموعة من طائر القيق		+
	3	مجموعة من طائر القيق		+
	4	مجموعة من طائر القيق		+
	5	عصبة من طائر القيق	+	
	6	سرب من طائر القيق		+
	7	سرب من طائر القيق		+
<u>Juries</u>				
Dept.of Translation	1	مجموعة من طائر القيق		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	مجموعة من طائر القيق		+
The Proposed Rendering		مجموعة من طائر القيق		

Translational Discussion:

In this text, out of seven subjects, two subjects (1 and 5) have rendered text (23) literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five (2, 3, 4, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is مجموعة من طائر القيق which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which is based on the Arabic cultural norms.

Text Analysis (24):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Bevy of Larks				
Subject Translators	1	سرب من طيور القبرة		+
	2	فريق من طيور القبرة		+
	3	مجموعة من طيور القبرة	+	
	4	سرب من طيور القبرة		+
	5	مجموعة من طيور القبرة	+	
	6	سرب من طيور القبرة		+
	7	سرب من طيور القبرة		+
<u>Juries</u>				
Dept.of Translation	1	سرب من طيور القبرة		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من طيور القبرة		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من طيور القبرة		

Translational Discussion:



Regarding this text, it is apparent that two subjects (3 and 5) have rendered the expression literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five (1, 2, 4, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من طيور القبرة which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which is compatible with the Arabic cultural norms.

Text Analysis (25):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Congregation of Magpies				
Subject Translators	1	حشد من الغربان	+	
	2	مجموعة من الغربان	+	
	3	فريق من الغربان		+
	4	تجمع من الغربان		+
	5	سرب من الغربان		+
	6	سرب من الغربان		+
	7	سرب من الغربان		+
<u>Juries</u>			+	
Dept.of Translation	1	حشد من الغربان		
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من الغربان		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من الغربان (العقاعق)		

Translational Discussion:

A close look at this text reveals that out of seven subjects, two subjects (1 and 2) have rendered the text literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five (3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من الغربان which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering which coincides with what we say in Arabic.

Text Analysis (26):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Pride of Ostriches				
Subject Translators	1	قطيع من النعام		+
	2	سرب من النعام		+
	3	قطيع من النعام		+
	4	قطيع نعام		+
	5	مجموعة من النعام	+	
	6	غرور النعام	+	
	7	زهو النعام	+	
<u>Juries</u>				+
Dept.of Translation	1	قطيع من النعام		
Dept. of Arabic	2	قطيع من النعام		+
The Proposed Rendering		قطيع من النعام		

Translational Discussion:

A careful inspection of this text reveals that out of seven subjects, three subjects (5, 6 and 7) have rendered the expression literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and four subjects (1, 2, 3 and 4) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is قطيع من النعام which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Very briefly, in this example, both the dictionary meaning and cultural meaning are compatible.

Text Analysis (27):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Passel of Parrots				
Subject Translators	1	سرب من الببغاوات		+
	2	مجموعة من الببغاوات		+
	3	سرب من الببغاوات		+
	4	سرب من الببغاوات		+
	5	فرقة من الببغاوات	+	
	6	فريق من الببغاوات	+	
	7	مجموعة من الببغاوات		+
<u>Juries</u> Dept.of Translation	1	سرب من الببغاوات		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	مجموعة من الببغاوات		+
The Proposed Rendering		مجموعة من الببغاوات		



Translational Discussion:

In regard to this text and its renderings, two subjects (5 and 6) have rendered text (27) literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five subjects (1, 2, 3, 4 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is مجموعة من البيغاوات which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Thus, our proposed rendering is in an agreement with what Arab people say (i.e. cultural norm).

Text Analysis (28):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Passel of Pigeons				
Subject Translators	1	أسراب من الحمام		+
	2	فريق من الحمام	+	
	3	عدد كبير من الحمام	+	
	4	مجموعة من الحمام	+	
	5	سرب من الحمام		+
	6	سرب من الحمام	+	
	7	عدد كبير من الحمام		+
Juries				
Dept.of Translation	1	حشد من الحمام		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من الحمام		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من الحمام		

Translational Discussion:

A careful inspection of this text reveals that four subjects (2, 3, 4 and 6) have rendered the expression literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and three (1, 5 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من الحمام which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Our proposed rendering is in agreement with both juries (i.e. Arabic cultural) norm.



Text Analysis (29):

SL Text	No.	TL Texts	Translation	
			Literal	Free
A Cloud of Sea Fowls				
Subject Translators	1	سرب من الطيور البحرية		+
	2	عدد وافر من الطيور البحرية	+	
	3	سرب من الطيور البحرية		+
	4	حشد من الطيور البحرية	+	
	5	فوج من الطيور البحرية		+
	6	سرب من الطيور البحرية		+
	7	سرب من الطيور البحرية		+
<u>Juries</u>				
Dept.of Translation	1	حشد من الطيور البحرية		+
Dept. of Arabic	2	سرب من الطيور البحرية		+
The Proposed Rendering		سرب من الطيور البحرية		

Translational Discussion:

With regard to this text and its renderings, it is clear that out of seven subjects, two subjects (2 and 4) have rendered the text literally for they have focused on its dictionary meaning, and five (1, 3, 5, 6 and 7) have rendered it freely because they have focused on its contextual effect rather than its literal meaning. However, the most effective rendering is سرب من الطيور البحرية which is the closest one to effective Arabic. Obviously, the formal correspondence between the English text and its Arabic counterpart has been achieved by our proposed rendering. Our choice of the proposed rendering is based on what our juries renderings which are due to the Arabic cultural norm.

11. Conclusions

The major conclusions that can be derived from our study are the following:

1. Collocations refer to the combination of words that have a certain mutual expectancy. The combination is a fixed expression, but there is a greater chance that likelihood might lead to co-occurrence of words.

2. Collocationalpartitive constructions cannot be successfully translated into Arabic without understanding the linguistic and semantic variations as well as cultural norms of both languages. This comes in agreement with the high percentage of free translation which is based on linguistic variations and cultural norms.

3. Some translators misunderstood the correct signification of some texts due to the lack of mastery of the collocational system of one or both languages. Therefore, some translations appeared inadequate, and some others came redundant.



4. The main problems and obstacles have been found to be due to the cultural differences between the two languages.

5. Collocationalpartitive constructions may have more than one equivalence in Arabic.

6. Translating collocationalpartitive constructions is not easy task for translators, and needs competent translators who are aware of the cultural differences and linguistic variations between English and Arabic.

7. There is no one-to-one formal correspondence between English collocational partitive constructions and their Arabic counterparts whether linguistically, semantically, pragmatically or culturally.

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