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RESEARCH ARTICLE

IDEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS IN NEWS TRANSLATION: A COMPARATIVE POLITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT HEADLINES POST-OCTOBER 7TH

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Abstract

The study involves picking a group of news headlines from BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera, in both English and their Arabic versions. The chosen headlines must be about the conflict between Israel and Palestine after October 7th. The study looks at how these headlines are translated to see if there are any changes in language or ideas. By using a special method called PDA, the headlines are studied to see how events and people are described. The focus is on the words used, the way the stories are presented, and whether there are any hidden or clear messages with a particular viewpoint. This study looks at how different ideas and cultural backgrounds affect the way news headlines from BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera English are translated into Arabic, especially when talking about the Gaza War in 2023-2024. The study checks a number of headlines to see how these factors change the way the news is presented. Using a special way of analyzing language, the research finds out how each news company's translation choices match their overall way of reporting news, which leads to different views of the same events. The study shows that translation plays a big part in how people understand the news and suggests that we need to be more aware of the different ideas behind news in different languages. The Gaza War in 2023-2024 was a very important event that got a lot of attention from media around the world. Big news groups like BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera have shared a lot of information about the conflict, each with their own special way of telling the story based on what they think is important and what their viewers want to hear. It's really important to know how these stories are translated into Arabic and what beliefs they support, because this can change how people see things. This should make viewers careful to not just believe any news story without thinking about the beliefs it might be supporting.

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Introduction:-

Translation means changing texts from one language to another. It's not just about changing words and how they're put together, but also about sharing the same meaning, situation, and special details from the first language to the second one. A translator changes written or spoken words from one language to another. To do this well, they need to know both languages very well and understand the cultures too, so they can make translations that are correct and fit the situation. Sometimes, translators have their own ideas, values, and ways of thinking that can change how they translate something, leading to different versions of the same thing that show their own views or what they think the

audience wants to hear. So, they might focus on some parts more or less, depending on what they believe or what they think the audience believes.

Translating news from English to Arabic isn't just about changing words from one language to another. It needs a good understanding of the culture, how politics might affect the message, and what the audience wants to hear. The Gaza War in 2024 is a good example to look at how big news companies like BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera handle translation. This article looks at how these companies translate their headlines to show their views and meet the needs of their different audiences.

This study investigates how headlines about the Gaza War are translated from English to Arabic by three major news outlets: BBC, CNN, and Aljazeera. It explores the differences between the English and Arabic versions and how these channels present the news differently. The research indicates that those who produce the news and their supporters can shape how the news is delivered to the public, often to advance their own political or social agendas. A researcher named Van Dijk noted that the structure of news can mirror the social practices and beliefs of those who create it, and it can also be shaped by the broader social and institutional contexts of the media. When it comes to global news, translating headlines between languages can significantly impact how people perceive events. This is especially crucial for significant political events like the ongoing Israeli Palestinian conflict.

By looking at how news groups like BBC, CNN, and Aljazeera change their English headlines into Arabic, we can see the small differences in beliefs that affect these translations. This article looks at the beliefs behind translating news headlines about the Gaza War and shows how translation affects how the conflict is shown. In the study, it was found that these three news groups have different ways of reporting on the same type of content, which helps different goals.

Ideology in Translation

In the process of creating news, translation is not neutral; it is greatly affected by the translator's beliefs and the social and political environment. L. Venuti (1994:vii) explains that "Translation is, naturally, a change to an original text. All changes, no matter what their purpose, show a certain set of beliefs and ideas about writing, and they control how literature works in a certain society in a certain way. Changing a text is a way of controlling it, usually to support power, but it can also help a literature and a society grow." As people who read news, it's important to see the beliefs that are part of translated news. By thinking carefully about these translations, we can better understand the different views and stories that help us understand world events.

The study of the Gaza War from 2023 to 2024 shows how important it is for international news to be translated carefully, taking into account the specific situation. This helps make sure that the news is easy to understand, meaningful, and shows the complicated truth it aims to describe. Changes can happen through the words chosen, the way sentences are built, and how the information is presented in the translated news.

Comparative Analysis of Headlines

News headlines are very important because they sum up a story and affect how people see it and if they want to read it. They are made to be short, interesting, and give information. When changing headlines into another language, the hard part is keeping them short, interesting, and informative while also making sure they make sense and connect with the people who speak that language and understand their culture.

Methodology:-

This study looks at a group of headlines about the Gaza War from BBC, CNN, and Aljazeera. We will focus on the English headlines and their Arabic translations. It is a descriptive and qualitative method. The data is collected from BBC, CNN and Aljazeera websites. By studying these headlines, we can see how ideas are quietly shown in the way they are translated.

BBC English to Arabic Headlines

The BBC usually tries to be fair and balanced in its news stories. But sometimes, even when they try to stay neutral, the way they translate news can show some hidden biases.

- - English Headline: "Hamas says Israel's Gaza actions jeopardise ceasefire talks"
- - Arabic Translation:

"حماس تقول انتصر فاطيسر انيل فيغز قتر ضم حداثا توقفا لاطلاق النار للخطر"

In this case, the BBC keeps a neutral voice, but the words and sentence structures they choose can still affect how the reader understands the news.

CNN English to Arabic Headlines

CNN's way of reporting is usually straightforward and can be quite intense, and this style can also be seen in how they translate news.

- English Headline: "Israel is using artificial intelligence to help pick bombing targets in Gaza, report says "
- Arabic Translation:

"إسرائيل تستخدم الذكاء الاصطناعي للمساعدة في اختيار أهداف القصف في غزة، بحسب تقرير"

CNN's translation keeps the intense tone, focusing on the attack on Hamas using artificial intelligence, which might have different meanings in Arabic. This approach matches the perspectives of US officials. It focuses on Hamas's infrastructure rather than Palestinian properties.

Aljazeera English to Arabic Headlines

Aljazeera usually talks a lot about how people suffer and the troubles of Palestinians in their news. This can be seen in how they translate their headlines.

- English Headline:

"Death toll in Israeli attack on displaced Palestinians in Rafah rises to 45 "

- Arabic Translation: "ارتفاع حصيلة قتلى الهجوم الإسرائيلي على النازحين الفلسطينيين في رفح إلى 45 قتيلا"

In this headline, they are showing the bad effects of the fighting on people and devastating effects on the civilians, which shows what Aljazeera believes is a disaster.

Ideological Shifts in Translation

Lexical Selection Choices

The way big news channels like CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera talk about the Gaza War shows how the words they choose can change how people see the conflict. A study by Van Dijk (1988:81) suggests that the words and meanings used can show the reporter's perspective and beliefs. The words these channels pick for their headlines show what they think and can affect what people believe. When translating, the words chosen can change the feeling of a headline. For example, "airstrikes" could be translated as "غارات جوية" (air raids), which sounds more intense. Let's look at how these channels worded their headlines:

CNN:

- o "Israel intensifies airstrikes, ground combat across Gaza"
- o "See aftermath of rocket attacks in Israel"

CNN uses words that focus on action and fighting. Phrases like "Israel intensifies airstrikes" and "aftermath of rocket attacks in Israel" show a feeling of hostility and rising tensions. This way of talking about it often puts the spotlight on the war parts of the situation.

BBC:

- o "Israel targets Hamas's labyrinth of tunnels under Gaza"
- o "Israel-Gaza: Rockets hit Israel after militants killed"

BBC's news titles use clearer words to explain what's happening. Words like "Hamas's labyrinth of tunnels" and "Rockets hit Israel" tell us exactly what the attacks are aimed at and what effects they have, giving us a clearer picture of the situation.

Al Jazeera:

- o "Israel war on Gaza updates: Israel forces Palestinians into 20% of Gaza: UN"
- o "Israel's war on Gaza updates: Israel says Hamas chief killed on March 10"

Al Jazeera's news titles usually show how people suffer because of the fighting. Phrases like "Israel forces Palestinians into 20% of Gaz" and "Israel says Hamas chief killed" point to a tougher look at what Israel does, focusing on how it affects regular and fighters which makes the violence worse.

Comparison of Lexical Choices

CNN often uses language that is focused on military actions and stays neutral, while the BBC uses detailed language to give a full picture of what's happening. Al Jazeera, however, talks more about the harm to people and is more critical of Israel, showing how their actions affect civilians and make the violence worse.

The words chosen for headlines are very important because they shape how people understand the Gaza War. The different word choices by CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera show what each news outlet thinks is important. By looking at these choices, we can see the different ways these news sources cover the Gaza War and what they focus on.

Grammatical Structures

The way Arabic is structured grammatically lets it put emphasis differently than English. In English, passive sentences might become active in Arabic to show who is responsible or in charge. News headlines are very important in journalism because they create the first thoughts people have and affect how they see events. The way headlines are written, using different grammar, can change how people understand the news. This article looks at how CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera write their headlines, using grammar to shape their stories, by looking at examples from different events they covered.

Simple Present Tense for Immediate Impact

The way Arabic is structured lets it put emphasis differently than English. In English, passive sentences might become active in Arabic to show who is responsible or doing the action clearly.

In news stories, the simple present tense is commonly used to make the information feel more immediate and important, especially when talking about current events or situations happening now. This tense is used for actions that are happening right now or are generally true. News organizations use the simple present tense to make their news reports more impactful, as these examples show:

CNN:

- English Headline: "Chaos erupts as UK parliament votes on Gaza ceasefire "
- Arabic Translation: **فوضى عارمة في البرلمان البريطاني بعد تصويت علني قفأاطال النار في غزة**
- The simple present tense **تندلع** (erupts) makes the action feel immediate and powerful even in European countries.

BBC:

- English Headline: "Israeli forces launch deadly West Bank raids, pound Gaza ahead of UN vote"
- Arabic Translation: **القوات الإسرائيلية تشن غارات اندامية في الضفة الغربية وتصفقز قبل تصويت الأمم المتحدة**

The simple present tense **تشن غارات** (launch) suggests ongoing or repeated actions, highlighting the intensity of the situation.

Al Jazeera:

- English Headline: "Anti-Gaza war protest marchers in New York City say 'hands off Rafah'"
- Arabic Translation: **متظاهرون مناهضون للحرب يلغز في مدينة نيويورك يطالبون برفع إسرائيل عن رفح**

The phrase **يرفع إسرائيل عن رفح** (say 'hands off Rafah') in the simple present tense shows that the protests are happening right now and are ongoing.

These news headlines and their translations show how the simple present tense is used in Arabic news to describe the ongoing and changing events of the Gaza War, making readers feel the urgency and importance of what's happening.

Passive Voice for Objectivity

In news stories, people sometimes use the passive voice to show that they're being fair. They talk about what happened instead of who did it. This way of writing makes it seem like the person telling the story isn't taking sides, which is usually seen as more neutral or unbiased.

CNN:

- English: "Gaza civilians killed in Israeli airstrikes"
- Arabic Translation: **قتلى من المدنيين في غزة بنيران جوية إسرائيلية**

The passive construction **مدنيين قتلوا** (civilians killed) focuses on the victims without specifying the agent of the action.

BBC:

- English: "Hospitals overwhelmed as casualties continue to rise in Gaza"
- Arabic Translation: **المستشفيات تعاني الاكتظاظ مع استمرار ارتفاع عدد الضحايا في غزة**

The phrase **المستشفيات تتعاني لاكتظاظ** (hospitals overwhelmed) uses the passive construction, which shows the situation without saying who is directly responsible. The BBC often uses the passive voice in headlines to stay neutral and not point fingers. This way of writing puts the focus on what is happening instead of who is doing it, making the information seem more unbiased.

Al Jazeera:

- English: "Ceasefire brokered after weeks of fighting in Gaza"
- Arabic Translation: **تم التوصل إلى وقف لإطلاق النار بعد أسابيع من القتال في غزة**

The phrase **"تم التوصل إلى وقف إطلاق النار"** highlights that a ceasefire was successfully arranged, but it doesn't mention who did it.

Modal Verbs for Speculation

These special verbs, called modal verbs, are commonly used in news stories to talk about things that might happen, to be careful with what they say, or to suggest different results without saying they are definitely true. When talking about the Gaza War, these verbs can help in discussing what could happen next, looking at how events affect things, or sharing different opinions on the war. Here are a few examples:

CNN:

- English: "Israel may have targeted civilian areas in Gaza"
- Arabic Translation: **قد تكون إسرائيل استهدفت مناطق مدنية في غزة**

The use of "may have" (**قد تكون**) suggests speculation about Israel's actions without stating it as a fact.

BBC:

- English: "Reports suggest Hamas is preparing for a major offensive in Gaza"
- Arabic Translation: **تشير التقارير إلى أن حماس تستعد لهجوم كبير في غزة**

The phrase "Reports suggest" (**تشير التقارير إلى**) indicates speculation based on available information.

Al Jazeera:

English: "Experts believe the situation in Gaza could escalate into a full-scale war"

Arabic Translation: **يعتقد الخبراء أن الوضع في غزة قد يتصاعد إلى حرب شاملة**

The phrase "could escalate" (**قد يتصاعد**) suggests that things might get worse, showing what experts think but not being completely sure.

These headlines and translations demonstrate how Arabic news uses verbs that show guessing to talk about possible situations or changes in the Gaza War, based on what people have studied or said.

Contextual Framing

Contextual framing is very important for how news headlines are translated and understood, particularly during conflicts like the Gaza War. Major news channels such as CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera have different beliefs that show in their news reporting and translation methods. This article looks closely at how contextual framing and beliefs affect the translation of headlines from English to Arabic during the Gaza War in 2024, using examples from these big news companies.

After looking at the information gathered in this research, how we set the scene for presenting details can highlight some parts more than others, shaping how people see things. Ideology, which includes the basic political, cultural, or social views, influences how news is shared and understood. When changing headlines into another language, these factors greatly impact the words used, the way it sounds, and what it focuses on, which might change the original message's meaning and how it affects people.

CNN:

English Headline: "Dozens killed and thousands flee as Israel shrinks 'humanitarian zone' in Gaza"

Arabic Translation: **"عشرات القتلى وآلاف النازحين مع تقلص إسرائيل المنطقة الإنسانية" في غزة**

CNN's headline says that Israel started the airstrikes, making it clear who is responsible. The translation keeps this clear message. The word **"العشرات"** (dozens) is used to show the number of people hurt, keeping the original message strong.

BBC:

English Headline: "Dozens Dead as Violence Escalates Between Israel and Gaza"

Arabic Translation: "مقتل العشرات مع تصاعد العنف بين إسرائيل وغزة"

BBC's headline is more neutral, just saying that many people died and the violence is getting worse. The translation also stays neutral, saying "مقتل العشرات" (dozens dead) and "تصاعد العنف" (violence escalates), without blaming anyone and focusing on the increasing violence.

Al Jazeera:

English Headline: "Israeli air strikes kill dozens of Palestinian civilians across Gaza"

Arabic Translation: "غارات جوية إسرائيلية تقتل عشرات المدنيين الفلسطينيين في أنحاء مختلفة من غزة"

Al Jazeera focuses on Israel's actions by saying "Israeli Airstrikes Kill Dozens," and the Arabic version, "الغارات الإسرائيلية تقتل العشرات," shows the same idea. This way of reporting makes it clear that Israel is responsible, which matches Al Jazeera's goals in covering the conflict.

Scholarly Perspectives on Ideological Translation

Translation scholars such as Hatim and Mason (1997:1) argue that translation "is an act of communication which attempts to relay, across cultural and linguistic boundaries, another act of communication which may have been intended for different purposes and different readers or hearers". In the context of news translation, the translator's positioning can manifest in various ways, from the selection of specific terms to the overall narrative constructed by the translation. The ideological interests are imposed in the headlines to grasp the reader's attention. K. Shehri (2007:2) asserts that "the headline of a news story is expected to be an important tool through which the publisher can express his/her own ideological interests. Publishers recognize the importance of news headlines in different ways. First of all, the headlines are the first part of a news story that attracts the reader's attention. Based on how attractive the headline is, the reader, can continue reading the news story or leave it". Publishers know that headlines are important because they are the first thing that grabs the reader's attention. Depending on how interesting the headline is, the reader might decide to keep reading the news story or move on to something else. Translation ethics should not be broken, and translators need to follow the rules of translation. According to Mona Baker (2006:127), "the translator has therefore discharged his or her duty to be faithful to the source text". This shows that translators must find a careful balance to give correct and fair information, while also understanding the ideas behind their decisions. Translation ethics should not be broken, and translators need to follow the rules of translation.

Case Studies: Gaza War Headlines**Example 1: Ceasefire Agreements**

- BBC English Headline: "Gaza conflict: Rocket barrage and Israeli strikes intensify"

- Arabic Translation: "الصراع عنيفاً: تكثيف إطلاق الصواريخ والضربات الإسرائيلية"

The BBC's translation stays neutral, showing the organization's focus on fair reporting. The phrase "Rocket barrage" makes the situation seem less serious, suggesting a state of somewhat peaceful conditions.

- CNN English Headline: "Gaza hostage-ceasefire deal faces new hurdles as Israel sets conditions."

- Arabic Translation: "اتفاق وقف إطلاق النار في غزة يواجه عقبات جديدة مع وضع إسرائيل شروطاً"

CNN's translation shows the risk and weakness of the ceasefire, giving a more serious and urgent view of the situation.

- Al Jazeera English Headline: "Hope, frustration and fear in Gaza amid ceasefire talks "

- Arabic Translation: "الأمل والإحباط والخوف في غزة وسط محادثات وقف إطلاق النار"

Al Jazeera's translation stresses the unstable situation of the ceasefire, matching a story of ongoing conflict and unrest and showcasing despair and fear.

Example 2: Civilian Casualties

- BBC English Headline: "Children starving to death in northern Gaza - WHO"

- Arabic Translation: "أطفال يموتون جوعاً في شمال غزة - منظمة الصحة العالمية"

BBC's translation uses unbiased language, focusing on presenting the facts without causing strong feelings. Mentioning "Children starving to death" simply shows the impact on children suffering the consequences of the war.

- CNN English Headline: "Israeli airstrikes in Gaza leave dozens of civilians dead"

- Arabic Translation: "غار إسرائيلي علفزة تخلف عشر أتاقتلو الجرحمنالمدنيين"
 CNN's translation is clearer about how much harm was done to civilians, using "خسانرمدنية تخلف عشر أتاقتلو الجرحمنالمدنيين" (leave dozens of civilians dead) to show how serious it is.

- Aljazeera English Headline: "Dozens of Palestinian children killed in Israeli airstrikes"
 - Arabic Translation: "العشرات من الأطفال الفلسطينيين قتلوا في الغارات الجوية الإسرائيلية"
 Aljazeera's translation is more emotional, using the word "قتلوا" (killed) and specifically mentioning "Palestinian children," "الأطفال الفلسطينيين," which makes the story more touching and intense.

Example 3: Military Actions

- BBC English Headline: "Israel launches new military operation in central Gaza"
 - Arabic Translation: "إسرائيل تشن عملية عسكرية جديدة وسط قطاع غزة"
 The BBC's translation is simple and clear, describing what the Israeli forces did without adding any extra opinions.

- CNN English Headline: "Israeli ground invasion escalates Gaza conflict"
 - Arabic Translation: "الغزو البري الإسرائيلي يصعد النزاع في غزة"
 CNN's translation uses the word "الغزو" (invasion), which has a stronger and more negative meaning, matching a story that talks about increasing conflict and hostility.

- Aljazeera English Headline: "What are the military risks of an Israeli ground offensive in Gaza?"
 - Arabic Translation: "ما هي المخاطر العسكرية للهجوم البري الإسرائيلي على غزة?"
 Aljazeera's translation focuses on the invasion and military risks and how it has made tensions worse, showing a negative view of military actions.

Translation Strategy Comparison

The BBC tries to report news in a fair and neutral way. Its main news titles are usually simple, focusing on giving clear and short information. When changing the news into Arabic, the BBC uses various methods:

English headline: "Israeli Airstrikes Target Hamas in Gaza, Casualties Reported"

Arabic Translation: "الضربات الجوية الإسرائيلية تستهدف حماس في غزة، إصابات مبلّغ عنها"

In this case, the BBC usually keeps the original English words very close in their translation. They use "إصابات" (injuries) for "casualties," which is a neutral word. They don't use "قتلى" (deaths), which could be more emotional, to keep the tone even. By using neutral words, the BBC shows information without favoring one side. This way of translating follows their rule of being fair and not biased. They want the headline to be clear and easy for Arabic speakers to understand, without adding extra details that aren't needed.

When it comes to how CNN reports news, they usually focus on how events affect people and their emotions. They do this by translating news in a way that makes people feel connected to the stories and shows how they impact everyday lives.

English headline: "Gaza family recounts IDF shooting up their home"

Arabic Translation: "عائلة من غزة تروي كيف أطلق جيش الاحتلال النار على منزلها"

CNN's Arabic translations frequently use strong emotional words to show how news events affect people. The term "أطلق جيش الاحتلال النار على منزلها" (shooting up their home) clearly shows the risks that families face, which can make readers feel more connected to the story. By focusing on the struggles of families, CNN's translations stress the personal losses caused by conflicts, which matches the news channel's interest in human rights and individual experiences. This approach tries to attract readers by concentrating on parts of the news that are easy to relate to and emotionally powerful, making the headlines more interesting.

Al Jazeera, which is based in the Middle East, usually shares viewpoints that strongly connect with people in the region. Its way of translating news shows a good understanding of the local feelings and political situations.

English Headline: "Hamas 'serious' about captives' release but not without Gaza ceasefire"

Arabic Translation: "حماس 'جادة' في إطلاق سراح الأسرى لكن ليس قبل وقف إطلاق النار في غزة"

In this headline and its translation, Al Jazeera uses words that have a strong impact in the Arabic-speaking world. The phrase "لكن ليس قبل وقف إطلاق النار في غزة" (but not without Gaza ceasefire) creates a strong picture of being trapped and fighting, which connects deeply with people in the region. The words chosen also to show Al Jazeera's support for the Palestinian viewpoint, which is common in their reporting that Hamas is serious, but Israel has to stop the war in

return. This way of translating fits with Al Jazeera's overall story they tell. By choosing powerful words, Al Jazeera makes the situation seem very serious, so the headlines connect with the feelings and experiences of the people in the region.

Ethical Considerations in Translating Conflict News

Translating news about conflict involves significant ethical considerations. The big news outlets can influence translators to convey what they need to show the public. According to Darwish (2006:54) “translators and or translation journalists work under the powerful agents who impose their ideas on their audience specially regarding to news media translation”. The translator's choices can impact public perception and, consequently, political and social attitudes. Ensuring accuracy while being mindful of the potential for bias is crucial in maintaining ethical standards in translation. So, translator ethics is a crucial aspect of the translation profession, ensuring that translators maintain integrity, confidentiality, and fidelity to the source text. According to Baker (2006:128), translators must be accurate in transferring the main message arguing that “the main thing to stress here is that neutrality is an illusion, and thus uncritical fidelity to the source text or utterance also has consequences that an informed translator or interpreter may not wish to be party to”. This highlights the importance of ethical responsibility in translation, ensuring that the information presented is accurate, unbiased, and respectful of the complexities of the conflict.

Conclusion:-

Translating news headlines from BBC, CNN, and Aljazeera English into Arabic about the Gaza War shows how different beliefs can affect how news is reported and how people understand it. Looking at the words used, how sentences are put together, and the overall context in these translations helps us see how these beliefs change the stories told in the news. It's important for news groups and the people who translate the news to be careful and make sure they are being honest and fair when they report on conflicts. From this study, it's clear that each news channel translates their headlines differently to appeal to their different viewers. For example, CNN might focus on stories and ideas that match what Americans think is important. The way CNN presents international news might be done in a way that makes sense to American viewers.

The BBC tries to be fair and not take sides, but it can still show views that are more British, especially when talking about the UK or places it used to control. Al Jazeera gives a view that is often different from Western news, looking at things from a Middle Eastern angle, which means they talk about world events in a way that highlights what's important in the region and tells stories from that perspective.

In summary, the way BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera translated news headlines from English to Arabic during the Gaza War in 2023-2024 shows how language, beliefs, and what people expect from news are all connected. Each news organization's way of translating reflects what they believe and what they think their audience wants to hear. Knowing how they do this helps us understand how news is presented and understood in different languages and cultures. As the way we get news changes, it's becoming more important to translate news carefully and with an understanding of the context. This makes sure that news can be understood by many different people around the world. This study, like any, only looks at some examples from this time and can't give a complete answer. It suggests that a wider study would give a better understanding of this issue.

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