



**IMPLICATIONS OF ARABIC SIMILE FEATURES IN TRANSLATION
AND TRANSCREATION OF LITERARY TEXTS IN THE BOOK OF
AL-'ABRAT INTO ENGLISH**

By

ZAHRAWI RASHA

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

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DEDICATION

To my late father,

Making you proud motivated me to start this journey, which was a promise to myself. Every step taken, every challenge faced, was with you in my heart, guiding me forward. Though fate hastened to a pace beyond our shared moments, the essence of your spirit has been my beacon. This achievement—every page written, every discovery made—is a testament to the enduring love and inspiration you have bestowed upon me. In the quiet moments, I feel your pride, a gentle reminder that although you are not here in physical presence, your influence shapes who I am and what I strive to be. This thesis stands not just as the culmination of my academic endeavour but as a profound tribute to you, Dad, for every sacrifice you made and every dream you held for me. Your legacy is woven into this work, a silent whisper in the annals of my achievements, forever reminding me that the journey was worth it for you.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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July 2024

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The study of Arabic rhetorical characteristics, particularly similes, in translation has garnered significant interest due to their pivotal role in fostering intercultural understanding. Translating Arabic similes, known for their linguistic and cultural intricacies, poses significant challenges to translators. These challenges arise from the complex nature of similes, the use of implicit strategies, and subtle cultural nuances that affect meaning transmission across cultural boundaries. The aim of this research is to identify and analyse the translation problems encountered when translating Arabic similes present in “*Al-'Abrat*” by Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti into English, with particular focus on linguistic and cultural nuances that hinder the translation process. In addition, Siddiqui’s main strategy for translating these Arabic similes is assessed, and the extent to which the translation favours a literal approach over a creative, transcreative strategy is determined. Furthermore, the study examines the impact of Arabic similes on the translation of literary texts, particularly in al-Manfaluti’s “*Al-'Abrat*,” and explores the potential applications of advanced machine learning

methods, such as natural language processing techniques, to analyse these similes and their translations.

A Python-based program was employed to identify instances of similes in the translation of “*Al- 'Abrat*” into “*The Tears*.” The researcher then carried out a manual verification process to confirm the accuracy of these findings, resulting in 200 verified similes that served as the data set for the study. Employing a descriptive and interpretive methodology, the study analysed these 200 pairs of similes and their translations from Arabic to English, taken from the story anthology “*Al- 'Abrat*.” The findings indicate that the predominant strategy — retaining the original simile vehicle — was evident in 61% of cases, highlighting a preference for literal translation to preserve the original imagery of the simile while incorporating adaptive strategies for cultural relatability.

The analysis reveals a higher prevalence of literal translation strategies compared to creative or transcreative approaches, indicating a departure from the dynamic and integrative translation practices recommended in the literature. This preference for literal interpretation underscores the difficulty of balancing linguistic accuracy with capturing cultural and emotional nuances in translation. The study also explores the potential of interdisciplinary approaches, including computational linguistics, to enhance translation precision and promote cross-cultural understanding. The application of natural language processing techniques offers new insights into the complex interplay of language, culture, and cognition in literary texts. This research makes a valuable contribution to the wider discussion of Arabic-English literary translation and emphasises the importance of a deep understanding of both cultural

and linguistic elements in this process.

Theoretical frameworks by Abdul-Raof (2006), Pierini (2007), Lakoff and Johnson (1980), and Ketola (2018) served as the basis for analysing translation difficulties, strategies, and the implications of rhetorical features. This integration of machine learning into literary translation research promises to open innovative ways of understanding and preserving the emotive and cultural dimensions of original works in their translated form.

Keywords: *Al-'Abrat*, Arabic rhetorical features, literary texts, literary translation, machine learning, algorithm, python, Al-Manfalouti, *The Tears*, transcreation,

SDG: GOAL 4: Quality Education

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**IMPLIKASI CIRI SIMILE BAHASA ARAB DALAM TERJEMAHAN DAN
TRANSCRIPTA TEKS KESUSASTERAAN DALAM BUKU *AL-'ABRAT*
KEPADA BAHASA INGGERIS**

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Kajian mengenai ciri-ciri retorik Arab, terutamanya simile, dalam penterjemahan telah menarik minat yang tinggi kerana peranannya yang penting dalam memupuk pemahaman antara budaya. Penterjemahan simile Arab, yang terkenal dengan kerumitan linguistik dan budayanya, menimbulkan cabaran yang ketara kepada penterjemah. Cabaran ini timbul daripada sifat simile yang kompleks, penggunaan strategi implisit, serta nuansa budaya yang halus yang mempengaruhi penyampaian makna merentasi sempadan budaya. Kajian ini bertujuan mengenal pasti dan menganalisis masalah penterjemahan yang dihadapi semasa menterjemahkan simile Arab yang terdapat dalam "*Al-'Abrat*" oleh Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti ke dalam bahasa Inggeris, dengan tumpuan khusus pada nuansa linguistik dan budaya yang menghalang proses penterjemahan. Selain itu, strategi utama Siddiqui dalam menterjemahkan simile Arab ini dinilai, serta sejauh mana penterjemahan ini lebih cenderung kepada pendekatan literal berbanding dengan pendekatan kreatif atau transkreatif ditentukan. Kajian ini juga meneliti kesan simile Arab terhadap

penterjemahan teks sastra, terutamanya dalam "*Al-‘Abrat*" karya al-Manfaluti, dan meneroka potensi penggunaan kaedah pembelajaran mesin lanjutan, seperti teknik pemprosesan bahasa semula jadi, untuk menganalisis simile-simile ini dan penterjemahannya.

Sebuah program berasaskan Python telah digunakan untuk mengenal pasti kejadian simile dalam penterjemahan "*Al-‘Abrat*" ke dalam "*The Tears*." Penyelidik kemudian menjalankan proses pengesahan manual untuk mengesahkan ketepatan penemuan ini, menghasilkan 200 simile yang disahkan yang berfungsi sebagai set data untuk kajian ini. Menggunakan metodologi deskriptif dan interpretatif, kajian ini menganalisis 200 pasangan simile dan penterjemahannya daripada bahasa Arab ke bahasa Inggeris yang diambil daripada antologi cerita "*Al-‘Abrat*." Penemuan menunjukkan bahawa strategi dominan, iaitu mengekalkan kenderaan simile asal adalah jelas dalam 61% kes, menekankan keutamaan penterjemahan literal untuk mengekalkan gambaran asal simile sambil menggabungkan strategi adaptasi untuk kebolehterimaan budaya.

Analisis menunjukkan bahawa terdapatnya prevalens strategi penterjemahan literal yang lebih tinggi berbanding dengan pendekatan kreatif atau transkreatif, sekali gus menunjukkan peralihan daripada amalan penterjemahan yang dinamik dan integratif yang disyorkan dalam kesusasteraan. Keutamaan ini terhadap tafsiran literal menonjolkan kesukaran dalam mencari keseimbangan antara ketepatan linguistik dengan keperluan untuk menangkap nuansa budaya dan emosi dalam penterjemahan. Kajian ini juga meneroka potensi pendekatan antara disiplin, termasuk linguistik komputasi, untuk meningkatkan ketepatan penterjemahan dan menggalakkan pemahaman antara budaya. Aplikasi teknik pemprosesan bahasa semula jadi

menawarkan pandangan baharu mengenai interaksi kompleks bahasa, budaya, dan kognisi dalam teks sastra. Kajian ini memberikan sumbangan yang bernilai kepada perbincangan yang lebih luas mengenai penterjemahan sastra Arab-Inggeris dan menekankan kepentingan pemahaman mendalam mengenai elemen budaya dan linguistik dalam proses ini.

Kerangka teori oleh Abdul-Raof (2006), Pierini (2007), Lakoff dan Johnson (1980), dan Ketola (2018) berfungsi sebagai asas untuk menganalisis kesukaran penterjemahan, strategi, dan implikasi ciri retorik. Integrasi pembelajaran mesin ke dalam kajian penterjemahan sastra menjanjikan cara yang inovatif untuk memahami dan mengekalkan dimensi emosi dan budaya karya asal dalam bentuk terjemahannya.

Kata Kunci: Al-'Abrat, Ciri Balaghah Arab, teks kesusasteraan, terjemahan kesusasteraan, pembelajaran mesin, Algoritma, python, Al-Manfaluti, The Tears, transcripta.

SDG: MATLAMAT 6: Air Bersih dan Sanitasi

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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TRANSLITERATION OF ARABIC ALPHABETS

1. Consonant

Arabic	Symbol	Arabic	Symbol
ء	‘	ض	D
ب	B	ط	T
ت	T	ظ	Z
ث	Th	ع	‘
ج	j	غ	Gh
ح	h	ف	F
خ	k	ق	Q
د	d	ك	K
ذ	dh	ل	L
ر	r	م	M
ز	z	ن	N
س	s	ه	H
ش	sh	و	W
ص	S	ي	Y

2. Vowels

Arabic Long Vowels	Symbol	Arabic Short Vowels	Symbol
أَ	A	ا	A
أُ	U	و	U
إِ	I	ي	I

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The study's historical context is provided in this section. First, it offers a succinct discussion of literary translation, creative translation, and transcreation. Second, it gives a brief overview of how similes being a part of Arabic rhetorical features affect the translation and transcreation of literary texts. Additionally, this section introduces the study's main area of inquiry, namely the translation of *Al- 'Abrat* into English. The theoretical framework of this study is informed by influential works in the field of translation studies, including Abdul-Raof (2006), Pierini (2007), Lakoff and Johnson (1980), and Ketola (2018). These scholars provide a comprehensive basis for understanding the challenges of translating rhetorical features such as similes and the cultural and cognitive dimensions of translation. By combining these theories with advanced machine learning techniques, the study aims to offer new insights into preserving the emotive and cultural nuances of Arabic literary works in their English translations.

1.1.1 Background to the Study

Arabic rhetoric, characterised by its eloquence and persuasive power, plays a pivotal role in shaping the Arabic language and literature. This style of language use is essential in various domains such as literature, public speeches, and religious studies. It employs metaphorical language, repetition, and emphasis to effectively communicate messages, ensuring translations remain true to the original while engaging the target audience (Scholz, 2019; Van De Wege, 2013). Such skills are

crucial when translating complex texts like religious scriptures or legal documents, as they help maintain accuracy and relatability (Shamsuddin & Ahmad, 2020; Higgins et al., 2017).

Significantly, Arabic rhetoric also influences other disciplines such as philosophy, religion, and law. Historical figures like Al-Ghazali have contributed extensively to its study, underscoring its ongoing relevance and complexity (Belhaj, 2015; Abdul-Raof, 2006). In translation studies, Arabic literature poses unique challenges due to its intricate rhetorical and cultural contexts. Recently, the field has seen the rise of transcreation, which involves linguistic, cultural, and creative reinterpretation, making texts culturally resonant and artistically appealing to the audience (Lataiwish, 1995; Benetello, 2018; Gerdes, Beal, & Cain, 2020; Aldalain, 2023). Definitions of transcreation vary, but it's increasingly recognised as a distinct approach, especially beneficial in translating literary works where fidelity to emotional and cultural nuances is paramount (Diaz-Millón & Olvera-Lobo, 2021; Katan, 2016; Mavis Ho, 2021; Ray, 1995).

1.1.2 Translation Versus Transcreation: State-of-the-Art

The primary distinction between translation and transcreation is that translation focusses on providing an accurate and idiomatic reproduction of the original text (Jones, 2023), whereas transcreation incorporates creativity and more freedom in conveying the same idea and concept in a new language (Nkwocha, 2020). Transcreation refers to translating marketing materials in a creative manner, which is different from the broader connotation of translation that aims to create an accurate and idiomatic reproduction of the original material. Transcreation entails more artistic

license in translating, where transcreators are free to include additional content, such as cultural references, and even adapt the look and feel of the text to make the material more relevant to the intended audience (Timofejeva, 2024). Furthermore, text including clever wordplay and methods like assonance or alliteration requires more than a simple translation; it must be transcreated to guarantee that the effect is maintained (Transperfect, 2014).

(Slator, 2021) defines six aspects of the difference between transcreation and translation, among which are: transcreators are writers; the process of transcreation begins with a creative brief; transcreation yields fresh messaging; transcreation is intended for the creative market; and transcreation entails counselling on both look and feel. Translate (Lucas, 2022) emphasises various distinctions between translation and transcreation, such as content vs. copy, accuracy vs. effect, meaning vs. perception, wording vs. messaging, and information vs. inspiration.

There are numerous definitions of translation as an action and a process, and they all contribute to how meaning is transferred from the source language to the target language. “Straight translation” would be what we do with a document like a birth certificate in order to submit it to an authority; we translate every section precisely as it is in the source document. American Translators Association (ATA) says there is not much room for adaptation. “Straight translation” aims at converting the original text into its equivalents as faithfully and accurately as possible (Kuhzady, Seyfi, & Béal, 2020).

While literary translation is an attempt to recreate an original work of art in a different language (Holman & Boase-Beier 1999), When translating a piece of writing into another language, the translator uses self-interpretation of the source text to create a faithful equivalent (SL). All of the original's stylistic and linguistic characteristics are present in the source text's rhetorical, pragmatic, and aesthetic qualities (ST) (Beal, 2020). The word selection, grammar, and style of translators in the target language determine whether or not their translations are faithful to the original meaning. According to (Reiss & Vermeer, 2014), the primary objective of any literary translation is to create in the target language (TL) a work of art with the same meaning, tone, and effect as the source text. In other words, the reader of the TL should be able to feel and experience the same emotions and psychological effects that the SL reader did.

The word “transcreation” refers to a sort of translation-related activity involving a three-pronged strategy: linguistic translation, cultural adaptation, and the (re-)creation or reinterpretation of selected parts from the original text. Previous research has defined transcreation as the innovative reworking of literature across or between languages to meet the particular requirements of a target audience (Benetello, 2018; Gaballo, 2012; Rike, 2013). Translation of Arabic texts into other languages requires both linguistic and cultural adaptation (Díaz-Millón & Olvera-Lobo, 2021). To accurately convey the substance and intent of the original text, the translator must evaluate the cultural and historical context of the work and adapt it to the target audience. This may be difficult because Arabic texts frequently contain unfamiliar cultural and historical references as well as rich and nuanced vocabulary.

1.1.3 Translation and Transcreation in Literary Texts

Translation and transcreation are two independent but closely related procedures used to adapt materials from one language to another. Translation is the process of transferring a text from one language to another, whereas transcreation is the process of modifying the text to make it more appropriate for the intended audience (Baker, 2018). Both translation and transcreation are essential for making literary writings accessible to readers of various languages and cultures. The preservation of the original meaning and aim of the text, while simultaneously making it accessible and appealing to the target audience, is one of the primary challenges of translating literary writings (Beal, 2020). This can be a difficult and sensitive task, as literary texts frequently rely extensively on figurative language, symbolism, and other literary tropes to communicate meaning. To translate and transcreate literary materials properly, the translator or transcreator must have an in-depth comprehension of the source text as well as a solid grasp of the target language and culture (Aldalain, 2023). They must be able to recognise the primary themes and concepts of the source material and locate adequate equivalents in the target language. In addition, they must be able to employ language in a manner that is loyal to the original text while also making it accessible to the target audience (Baker 2018).

Translation and transcreation are essential methods for making literary writings accessible to readers from many linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Exploring the concept of transcreation - transcreation as 'more than translation'? (Pedersen, 2014) asserts that by employing these techniques, translators and transcreators can preserve the original content and intent of a piece while making it accessible and appealing to the intended audience. Through translation and transcreation, literary texts can reach

a larger audience and contribute to the respect and understanding of diverse cultures and languages. It is essential to recognise that translating Arabic literary material is a difficult task that necessitates a more imaginative translation or transcreation due to its abundance of rhetorical elements (Spinzi, Rizzo, & Zummo, 2018). Identifying the rhetorical features of any type of communication requires the usage of cliched phrases. To comprehend what is being said, and more importantly, to be persuaded by it, individuals must recognise a unique event as a variation on a familiar topic. This has been acknowledged by rhetorical theorists ever since Aristotle (Olid-Peña, 2012). When incidents are frequent enough, we refer to them as commonplaces. Even though individuals have been repeating themselves for millennia, translation is remarkably fertile ground for rhetorical study. Literary translation is the recreation in one language of a literary work that was originally written in another (Kryeziu & Mrasori, 2021). This requires making decisions on the target language's lexicon, grammar, and style. These picks should reflect the semantic, pragmatic, and aesthetic features of the original. The goal is to create an artistic work with the same message, tone, and effect. Literary translation –also known as “free translation” or “transcreation”– allows the translator to be creative while reconstructing the message (while the meaning remains the same), but the form and organization of the Original Text are not preserved (Abd El-Hameed & El-Masry, 2022). This method involves a “meaning for meaning” translation rather than a “word for word” one.

According to (Landers, 2001: 27), “literary translation is significantly more challenging than one might assume”. Both the translation process in general and the literary translation process in particular are influenced by numerous factors. Human, linguistic, and sociocultural variables all have an impact.

Consequently, literary translation requires creative translation approaches. In other words, it requires creative translation of transcreation which is adapting the text from one language to another to make the information more culturally relevant and creatively appealing for the intended audience. It is 'is akin to adapting a marketing campaign for the US to Argentina. This would involve not only the text, but also images and many other aspects of the presentation' ASTM F2575-14. Transcreation aims at converting the original text as faithfully and precisely as possible into its equivalents.

Literary transcreation is the adaptation of a literary work from one language and cultural setting to another while preserving the original intent, style, tone, and themes. This procedure frequently entails modifying the text significantly to ensure that it is culturally suitable and resonates with the intended audience. It differs from literary translation, which seeks to give a literal translation of the original text while keeping its meaning (Díaz-Millón, 2021).

It could be an important tool for bridging cultural and language divides because of the rich rhetorical and social information included in literary works. On the other hand, it is a difficult work that necessitates the translator mostly to come up with creative approaches to convey a faithful meaning rather than translating word-to-word where the translation is seen as more than just the hunt for semantic equivalents. This means that translators need to be aware of how these notions are interpreted in different discourses, as well as the sociolinguistic aspects of language and culture. A successful literary translation demonstrates that language possesses not just communicative properties, but also human, societal, and cultural characteristics that identify the

Source Text. The translator cannot avoid the complications inherent in linguistic differences, so they find themselves obliged to be creative and start transcreating instead of translating. ‘Transcreation’ emerged as a translation-related activity over the last decade, involving the creative reinterpretation of texts to fit the characteristics of an intended audience.

1.1.4 Arabic Rhetorical Features in Literary Texts

Arabic rhetoric, often known as “Arabic belles-lettres” (DeLongis & Holtzman, 2005), is the use of techniques and figures of speech in the Arabic language to improve the effectiveness and beauty of written or spoken communication. Metaphor, simile, hyperbole, and imagery are all common rhetorical devices in Arabic. Furthermore, Arabic rhetoric employs strategies such as “*al-majaz*” (al-majaaz, metaphor), “*al-kinaya*” (al-kinaayah, implication), “*al-taswir*” (al-taswiir, imagery), “*al-isti’ara*” (al-isti’aarah, metaphor), and “*al-tashbih*” (al-tashbiih, simile), among others. These approaches are frequently utilised in Arabic poetry, prose, and oratory to elicit a dramatic and emotional response from the audience. It is one of the three arts of speech and a component of the education system in ancient Western culture, particularly in Greek antiquity. In the Arabic cultural environment, rhetoric (*‘ilm al-balaghah*) became the heart and soul of the Arabic language with the arrival of Islam, and the book under review examines its evolution and development from pre-Islamic times to the present. *al Ma’ani* (stylistics), *al bayan* (figures of speech), and *al badi’* (embellishments) are its three constituents (Abdul-Raof 2006: 8–30).

Arabic rhetoric is a linguistic means to a pragmatic end (Abdul-Raof, 2006) and involves the micro- and macro-level examination of language (Al-Araji, Baida Faisal,

& Al-Azzawi, Sarab Khalil 2016). This analysis examines how English and Arabic writings differ in terms of their rhetorical characteristics (Almehmadi, 2012). Eloquence and rhetoric are also essential components of Arabic rhetoric, with eloquence referring to the usage of words and rhetoric to the meaning. The rhetorical system of speech in Arabic is an arrangement of meanings of single words based on the grammatical rule in Arabic, as their locations are amongst the meanings of single words, not amongst the words themselves. Although it is necessary that the arrangement has to be among themselves also, as they are instruments of the meanings, they must necessarily follow them in their positions. If the meaning must come first in the soul, then the word must come first in the speech to convey that meaning (Shamsuddin, 2020).

The exploration of Arabic rhetoric, as detailed above, not only enhances our understanding of its rich linguistic structures but also sets the stage for examining its practical implications in contemporary applications such as literary translation and transcreation. This study, therefore, extends the theoretical discussion into a practical analysis by focussing on the translation of Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfalouti's "Al-'Abrat" (The Tears). This work provides a poignant example of how traditional Arabic rhetorical devices are challenged and transformed in translation. Specifically, the translation by Saddiqui is scrutinised to reveal the inherent complexities faced when literary Arabic rhetorical features must be rendered into English. This analysis seeks to uncover whether Saddiqui's translation leans more towards a literal interpretation or a creative re-envisioning—known as transcreation—and how this approach influences the conveyance of Arabic rhetorical nuances in English. By doing so, the study not only highlights the specific translation challenges but also illustrates the

broader impact of transcreation on the preservation and transformation of Arabic rhetorical styles in global literature.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

1.2.1 Introduction to the Problem:

The translation of Arabic literary texts into English presents unique challenges due to the significant linguistic, cultural, and rhetorical differences between the two languages. Arabic literature is rich in rhetorical devices, particularly similes, which are deeply embedded in the cultural and historical context of Arabic societies. These elements are not only stylistic but also carry significant cultural and emotional weight, making their translation into English a complex task.

1.2.2 Identified Research Gap

While there has been substantial research in the field of literary translation, especially focussing on the translation of Arabic cultural elements, there remains a notable gap in the study of transcreation—specifically the process of creatively adapting Arabic rhetorical elements such as similes into English. Previous studies, such as (Obeidat, 2021) work on cultural collocations, have addressed certain aspects of this challenge. However, the intricate task of transcreating similes in Arabic literature, particularly in works like Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti's "Al-'Abrat," has not been thoroughly explored.

Moreover, existing research in literary translation has primarily relied on traditional qualitative methods, often overlooking the potential of advanced computational

techniques. The use of machine learning, particularly natural language processing (NLP) techniques, remains underutilized in the study of literary translation. This gap is significant because NLP methods offer a systematic and scalable approach to identifying and analyzing rhetorical devices, such as similes, in literary texts. By utilizing supervised learning models trained on a corpus of Arabic literature specifically annotated for similes and their corresponding translations, this study introduces a novel methodological approach that bridges the gap between traditional literary analysis and modern computational techniques.

1.2.3 Significance of the Text and Research

“Al-’Abrat,” a seminal work by Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti (al-Manfaluti, 1915), is renowned for its eloquent use of language and profound rhetorical devices. This makes it an ideal subject for examining the challenges of translating Arabic rhetorical elements into English. The significance of this research lies in its focus on the transcreation of these elements, which has critical implications for preserving the emotional and cultural depth of the original text in English translations.

1.2.4 Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to systematically analyse the transcreation of similes in the English translation of “Al-’Abrat.” This includes:

- Identifying and categorizing similes: in the original Arabic text.
- Evaluating the translation methodologies: used in the English version.
- Assessing the effectiveness of these methodologies: in preserving the cultural and emotional essence of the original text using the integration of machine learning methods.

1.2.5 Methodological Innovation

This study employs advanced machine learning methods, specifically natural language processing (NLP) techniques, to identify and analyse Arabic similes. The use of supervised learning models trained on a specialized corpus represents a novel approach in the field of translation studies. By integrating computational methods with qualitative literary analysis, this research offers a comprehensive understanding of the transcreation process.

1.2.6 Expected Contributions

The study's findings are expected to contribute significantly to both academic and practical fields:

- **In Translation Studies:** This research provides a nuanced understanding of the translation and transcreation of rhetorical elements, particularly similes, in Arabic literature. The analysing the challenges and strategies involved in translating culturally rich similes from al-Manfaluti's "Al-'Abrat" into English, the study enhances the theoretical framework surrounding cross-cultural literary adaptation. It also contributes to a growing body of literature on the complexities of maintaining linguistic and cultural fidelity in translation, particularly in the context of Arabic-English literary works.
- **In Practice:** The study offers practical guidelines for translators and content creators, particularly in handling similes and other rhetorical devices in Arabic literature. These insights will help improve the accuracy, cultural relevance, and emotional depth of English translations of Arabic literary works. Additionally, the findings highlight the potential of integrating machine learning techniques, such as natural language processing (NLP), into the translation process, providing a more structured and efficient approach to analysing and translating similes.

1.2.7 Broader Impact

- By addressing the underexplored area of translating and transcreating Arabic-English literary texts, this study aims to bridge linguistic and cultural divides, enhancing global understanding and appreciation of Arabic literature. The integration of machine learning methods, particularly Python-based programs for identifying and analysing similes, sets a precedent for future research. This approach demonstrates the potential of interdisciplinary methodologies, where computational tools can complement traditional translation studies. The application of Python programs not only facilitates the precise identification of similes but also enables a deeper understanding of how these rhetorical elements are translated across different languages and cultures. This innovation underscores the importance of leveraging technology to preserve the emotive and cultural dimensions of original works, paving the way for more accurate and culturally sensitive translations in the future.

1.3 Research Objectives

This study presents an analysis of the English versions of ‘Al-’Abrat’. There are three primary research objectives for this study:

- I. To identify and analyse the translation problems encountered in conveying Arabic similes present in “Al-’Abrat” by Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti into English, with a particular focus on the linguistic and cultural nuances that pose obstacles in the translation process.
- II. To evaluate Siddiqui’s main strategy for translating Arabic similes in “Al-’Abrat” into English, determining the extent to which the translation favours a literal approach versus a creative, transcreative strategy.
- III. To examine the impact of Arabic similes on the translation and transcreation of literary texts, specifically in al-Manfaluti’s “Al-’Abrat” into English, and to explore the potential applications of advanced machine learning methods,

such as natural language processing techniques, for analysing these similes and their translations.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the research objectives outlined in the research objectives section, this research will answer the following three questions:

- I- What are the translation problems encountered in conveying Arabic similes present in “Al-’Abrat” by Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti into English, particularly emphasizing the linguistic and cultural nuances that pose obstacles in the translation process?
- II- What is Siddiqui’s main strategy for translating Arabic similes in “Al-’Abrat” into English, and how much does it favor a literal translation over a creative, transcreative approach?
- III- How do Arabic similes impact the translation and transcreation of literary texts, specifically in al-Manfaluti’s “Al-’Abrat” into English, and what are the potential applications of advanced machine learning methods, such as natural language processing techniques, for analyzing these similes and their translations?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Transcreation, a complex concept that connects literature, digital media, and marketing, has become increasingly important as a critical approach in recent years. This has been emphasised by scholars such as (Katan, 2016), and (Morón & Calvo, 2018). This method emphasises the complex process of modifying material to suit different languages and cultures, guaranteeing that the translated message connects with the cultural background and emotional state of the intended audience. Although Arabic rhetorical features are widely acknowledged as crucial in worldwide marketing

and advertising strategies for effectively engaging varied audiences, there is a noticeable lack of research on incorporating these characteristics into literary translation. The translation of Arabic literature into English has distinct difficulties, as highlighted by (Díaz-Millón & Olvera-Lobo, 2021). These issues arise from significant cultural and linguistic differences, requiring nuanced comprehension and advanced methodology.

This study aims to fill this gap by conducting a comprehensive narrative analysis of “Al-’Abrat” by Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti, a significant work in Arab literature known for its refined language and profound rhetoric. This research seeks to shed light on the typical challenges faced when translating classics like “Al-’Abrat” and provide significant insights for both the genre of fiction and the wider realm of traditional Arabic literature. This endeavour holds dual relevance as it both contributes to the academic field of translation studies and fulfils the practical requirements of creative translators and content writers in the marketing and communication industries. This study presents a detailed framework for effectively negotiating the intricacies of linguistic and cultural transcreation. It provides a guide for improving the accuracy and depth of cross-cultural communication.

Moreover, this study highlights the utmost significance of cultural preservation and interchange by focussing on a literary classic that holds a crucial position in the Arab literary canon. Its objective is to promote the worldwide acknowledgment and incorporation of Arabic literature, with the goal of preserving its vitality and significance in the global literary discourse. The expected results of this study go beyond improving translation studies in academia. They have the potential to cultivate

a more profound comprehension and admiration for Arabic literature on a global scale. This will guarantee that the valuable tradition of Arab storytelling continues to flourish in the worldwide narrative.

This research aims to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers by focussing on the translation and transcreation of Arabic literary texts. The anticipated framework resulting from this study holds the potential to direct future translations of Arabic literary works and provide insights for transcreative practices in diverse domains, thereby improving cross-cultural communication and fostering mutual comprehension. This action emphasises the crucial importance of translation and transcreation in spreading culture and knowledge worldwide, confirming the lasting value of Arabic literature in the fabric of global literature.

Transcreation, a notion studied in literature and digital media, has seen substantial application in recent years (Morón & Calvo, 2018). Despite its expanding importance in marketing and advertising for global audience involvement (Ray & Kelly, 2010), research on Arabic rhetorical elements in literary translation is noticeably limited. Literary translation from Arabic to English poses distinct obstacles due to cultural and linguistic differences (Al-Taie, 2019).

This study aims to fill that gap by presenting a narrative analysis of “Al-’Abrat” by Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti, a cornerstone of Arab literature known for its linguistic richness and rhetorical intricacy. The goal of this analysis is to shed light on frequent translation issues and provide insights that are applicable not only to the genre of fiction writing but also to the broader area of classic Arabic literature. The value of

this study stems from its ability to contribute to both translation studies and allied sectors such as advertising and communication by developing a model for creative translators and content writers to manage the complexities of linguistic and cultural transcreation.

Furthermore, by focussing on a literary piece with an important place in the Arab literary canon, this study emphasises the necessity of cultural preservation and interchange. It seeks to enhance the status of Arabic literature on a global scale, ensuring its continuous vitality and relevance in international literary conversation. The study's findings are expected to not only strengthen the academic field of translation studies but also assist in deeper knowledge and appreciation of Arabic literature around the world, keeping traditional Arab literature alive in the global loop.

This research aims to bridge linguistic and cultural divides by focussing on the translation and transcreation of Arabic literary texts (Ruvalcaba et al., 2019). The predicted paradigm from this study has the potential to guide future translations of Arabic literary works as well as inform transcreative techniques in other domains, thereby improving cross-cultural communication and understanding.

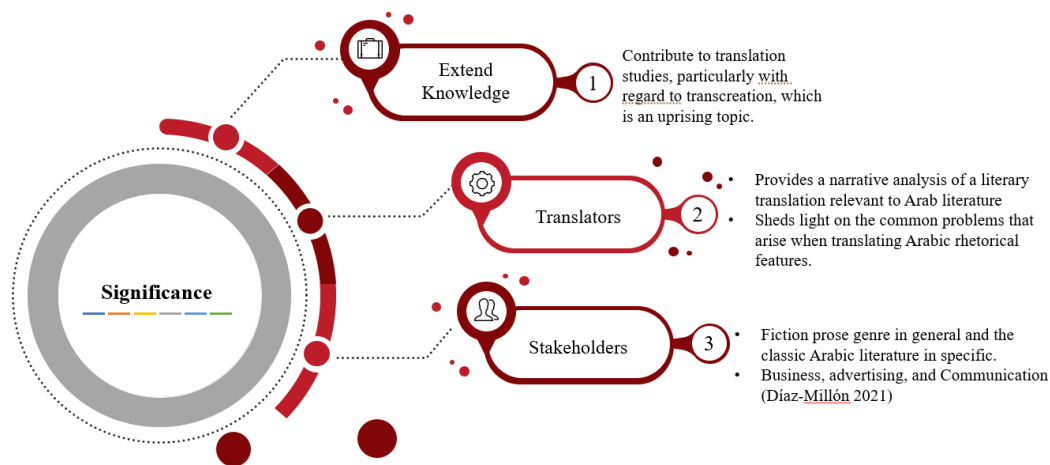


Figure 1.1 : Significance of the Study 1

This study is significant because it takes a novel approach to addressing the gap in translation studies related to the challenges of translating Arabic literature into English, specifically focussing on Arabic similes. This research seeks to enhance our comprehension of the complex relationship between linguistic accuracy and cultural awareness in translation by utilising machine learning (ML) methods to detect and interpret authentic Arabic similes. The integration of machine learning technology signifies an innovative advancement in improving the effectiveness and accuracy of translation methods (Jia et al. 2023). Particularly when handling the intricate and culturally diverse aspects of Arabic literature.

This research is situated at the convergence of computational linguistics, literary studies, and cultural analysis. It is an interdisciplinary effort aimed at expanding the limits of conventional translation approaches. This study emphasises the significance of preserving the rhetorical elegance, aesthetic value, and cultural importance of Arabic literary devices, particularly similes which are deeply rooted in the cultural and historical context of Arabic societies, during the process of translation (Alshohybe et al., 2017).

This book of *Al- 'Abrat* holds value that goes beyond the academic realm. According to (Howe & Abedin, 2013), this book provides practical insights for translators, linguists, and scholars involved in the cross-cultural distribution of literary works. This tackles the urgent requirement for advanced translation techniques and methodologies that can handle the intricate nature of literary texts. This will enable a more profound and nuanced cross-cultural exchange and enjoyment of the world's literary legacy.

Moreover, (Alshohybe et al., 2017) suggests the importance of technology in human research. Therefore, this study adds to the continuing discussion about the impact of technology on humanities research by showing how computational methods might be used to address long-standing issues in translation studies. This research explores the capacity of machine learning to improve our comprehension and application of literary translation. It sets the stage for future advancements in the field, with the potential to enhance our global literary scene by making Arabic literature more easily understood and available to a broader audience.

The importance of interdisciplinary research is acknowledged by researchers such as (Sun, Livan, Ma, & Latora, 2021). Therefore, the current study's significance rests in its comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to solving a key gap in translation studies. This text not only provides insight into the particular difficulties of translating Arabic similes into English but also presents a unique approach for effectively addressing these difficulties. The goal is to increase the worldwide recognition of Arabic literature by ensuring that translations maintain the original works' integrity, beauty, and depth, thus overcoming language and cultural obstacles.

1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study

This section outlines the specific boundaries and constraints of the study, utilising a deliberate method of incorporating and excluding information to guarantee a concentrated and thorough examination of the process of translating and adapting Arabic rhetorical elements into English, with a particular focus on Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti's "Al-'Abrat." Approach to Inclusion

1.6.1 Inclusion Strategy

- **Included Content:** The study encompasses all 10 short literary Texts from Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti's "Al-'Abrat" collection, with the objective of conducting a comprehensive examination of the Arabic rhetorical elements. The purpose of this inclusion is to encompass all the linguistic and stylistic characteristics that are typical of the author's work, showcasing the historical importance and literary intricacy of his contributions to Arabic literature.
- **Focus:** The analysis focuses exclusively on the investigation of similes, disregarding other rhetorical devices such as metaphors, hyperboles, and personification. The emphasis on similes is a result of their widespread and important importance in the texts being analysed. While various devices are important in Arabic literature, focussing on a certain area of translation and transcreation problems allows for a thorough examination.

1.6.2 Inclusion Strategy

- **Excluded Content:** The study purposely excludes other rhetorical devices such as metaphors, hyperboles, and personification in favor of similes alone. This exclusion is intended to reduce the scope for a thorough examination of a single area of translation and transcreation issues.

- **Comparative Analysis:** It excludes comparisons with translations from other Arabic literary works (Susam-Sarajeva, 2014). This exclusion is intended to keep the analysis focused on the unique issues given by Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti's literary style, namely translating similes within the setting of "Al-'Abrat."

1.6.3 Justification for Focussing on Similes

The study specifically focusses on similes due to their prominence and significance in Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti's "Al-'Abrat." Similes are not only widely employed but also essential for conveying the complex emotions and vivid imagery characteristic of the author's work. Their cultural specificity poses unique challenges in translation, particularly when transferring the nuances of Arabic literary style into English. By narrowing the focus to similes, the study aims to explore how these challenges are addressed, offering insights into the translation strategies that best preserve the original meaning and impact. This focus allows for a manageable and thorough examination within the study's scope, contributing to the broader field of translation studies by addressing a relatively underexplored area.

Similes in "Al-'Abrat" are not just stylistic embellishments; they are integral to the text's narrative structure and thematic development. They encapsulate the cultural and literary richness of the original Arabic, and their translation involves intricate decisions that can significantly affect the reader's interpretation and emotional response. By narrowing the focus to similes, the study aims to explore these unique challenges in depth, which would not be possible if the scope were broader.

Additionally, the researcher excluded other rhetorical devices to ensure a thorough

and manageable examination within the study's scope. Each rhetorical device, such as metaphors, hyperboles, and personification, presents its own set of translation challenges. Attempting to address all of these within a single study could dilute the focus and lead to a less comprehensive analysis. By concentrating solely on similes, the study can offer detailed insights into the specific translation strategies that best preserve the original meaning and impact of this particular rhetorical device.

This focused approach not only allows for a more detailed analysis but also contributes to the broader field of translation studies by addressing a relatively underexplored area. It lays the groundwork for future research on the translation of other rhetorical devices in Arabic literature, which could build upon the findings of this study.

This study acknowledges an important factor in the larger context of literary analysis and translation studies: the emphasis on books that are highly regarded and have been translated multiple times may unintentionally limit the range of research to a small selection of literature. This emphasis runs the risk of diverting attention away from lesser-known works, which have the potential to provide new and unique perspectives on the utilisation of language, narrative structures, and rhetorical methods. By consistently focussing on books that are already widely recognised in academic and literary communities, there is a missed chance to investigate and shine light on other works that have not received the same amount of recognition. This technique may contribute to a continuous pattern in which only a limited number of works are analysed and appreciated, while a vast amount of literature remains overlooked and unexplored. It is crucial to find a middle ground between appreciating historically significant texts and exploring new and unexplored literary areas in order to offer a

comprehensive and inclusive examination of literary contributions from different cultures and time periods.

As a result, the restriction section provides a critical reflection on the study's bounds, noting the subject focus and methodological approaches used, as well as the potential impact of these decisions on the study's findings and application.

1.7 Rational of the Study

The decision to choose Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti's "Al-'Abrat" for detailed examination within the framework of translation and transcreation is based on a comprehensive understanding of its historical importance, intricate literary nature, and the distinct difficulties it poses in terms of cross-cultural adaptation. The rationale behind this option is based on the following justifications:

Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti played a crucial role in the Arab Nahda (Renaissance) movement, making substantial contributions to the development of modern Arabic literature. His work not only mirrors the intellectual and cultural liveliness of this era but also embraces the rejuvenating essence that aims to revitalise Arabic arts and sciences. Al-Manfaluti's effect transcends ordinary literary output and encompasses a wider impact on the Arabic literary canon and intellectual thought, rendering his work indispensable for scholarly scrutiny (Abedin, 2013).

"Al-'Abrat" is a testament to the advanced grammatical and rhetorical skills that are prominent in Arabic writing from the early twentieth century. The narrative's profoundness, refined style, and extensive use of language demonstrate the literary

accomplishments of the period and Al-Manfaluti's expertise in prose. The intricate nature of "Al-'Abrat" not only provides insight into the literary customs of the day but also poses a substantial obstacle for translators seeking to capture its spirit in a different language.

Al-Manfaluti's meticulous examination of the Arabic language, namely his support for its reformation as expressed in "The Critique of the Arabic Language" (1908), highlights his dedication to adapting the language to contemporary circumstances while safeguarding its abundant cultural legacy. The aforementioned part of his work emphasises the constant conflict between tradition and modernity in Arabic literature, providing valuable perspectives on the linguistic and cultural factors that influence translation and transcreation methods.

The translation of "Al-'Abrat" into English illustrates the significant difficulties involved in transcreating intricate literary pieces. The intricate grammatical and rhetorical aspects of the original text present a significant challenge to translators, especially those who, like the current English translator, may lack the same cultural or linguistic expertise as the source material. This challenge emphasises the necessity for a sophisticated method of translation that acknowledges the complexities of the original language while ensuring the material is understandable to a worldwide audience.

Examining the translation and transcreation of "Al-'Abrat" has a twofold objective: it enhances the comprehension of the mechanisms involved in cross-cultural literary interchange and promotes the wider availability of Arabic classical literature. This

study seeks to shed light on the ways in which Al-Manfaluti's work is translated into English, with the goal of demonstrating how Arabic literary heritage may contribute to and enhance global literary discussions. This undertaking highlights the significance of linguistic and cultural sensitivity in translation while simultaneously promoting a worldwide conversation that surpasses cultural and linguistic obstacles.

The choice of "Al-'Abrat" for this research is primarily based on its historical significance, literary depth, and the distinctive difficulties it poses for translation. This analysis aims to contribute to the ongoing discussion on cross-cultural literary interchange and the important function of translation in connecting global literary communities.

1.8 Theoretical framework

This thesis examines the complex process of translating the rhetorical elements of literary Arabic into English, with a particular emphasis on Al-'Abarat by Al-Manfaluti. Translation is not solely a linguistic endeavour but also a process of cultural interchange that necessitates a profound comprehension of the subtleties inherent in both the source and target languages (Akan, Karim, & Chowdhury, 2019). This theoretical framework utilises influential works in the field of translation studies to examine three fundamental research inquiries regarding the difficulties, methodologies, and consequences of translating Arabic rhetorical characteristics.

The initial study inquiry investigates the challenges associated with translating rhetorical elements, specifically similes, from Al-'Abarat, a literary form of Arabic, into English. The paradigm proposed by (Abdul-Raof, 2006) plays a crucial role in

identifying and understanding the issues associated with recognising similes. Abdul-Raof presents a thorough approach for identifying and examining similes in Arabic literature, which is crucial for comprehending the challenges encountered while translating these rhetorical elements into English. This viewpoint is essential during the early stage of the investigation, which centres on the many language and cultural subtleties that make the translation of similes more complex.

The second topic investigates the translation orientation of Siddiqui's work, specifically inquiring if it favours a literal or creative approach when translating Arabic rhetorical elements. (Pierini, 2007) techniques for rendering similes in Al-'Abarat can serve as a framework for assessing Siddiqui's translation techniques. They demonstrate the art of maintaining fidelity to the original text while also incorporating modifications to accommodate cultural and linguistic considerations. Gideon Toury's (1980) concept of source- and target-oriented translation enhances this research by situating Siddiqui's method within a broader framework of translation theory. This theory provides us with a framework to analyse the approach from either the perspective of the source language and culture or the anticipated preferences of the target audience.

The ultimate research inquiry explores the wider ramifications of Arabic rhetorical characteristics in the translation and transcreation of literary works, specifically focussing on Al-'Abarat. The significance of Arabic rhetorical elements in translation is explored by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, offering a fundamental theoretical viewpoint that highlights the cognitive and cultural aspects involved in translating these features (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). Additionally, research by Ketola on the

effects of Arabic rhetorical traits on transcreation suggests new methodologies. It proposes that transcreation could offer more flexible ways to convey the original text's meaning and evoke the intended emotional response (Ketola, 2018). This dual theoretical perspective allows for a thorough examination of the translation procedures used and their efficacy in overcoming linguistic and cultural barriers.

Integration and Utilisation this theoretical framework integrates the chosen theories and academic works to create a unified analytical perspective for studying the translation of Al-'Abarat's Arabic rhetorical qualities. Every theory enhances a comprehensive comprehension of the translation difficulties, strategies, and consequences, directing the approach and analysis of the research (Elmbridge Borough Council, 2022). This methodology facilitates a comprehensive analysis of Siddiqui's translation decisions and also offers valuable perspectives on the wider challenges involved in translating Arabic literary works into English.

The aforementioned theoretical framework establishes the basis for this thesis, providing a systematic method for examining the translation of Arabic rhetorical elements into English. This paradigm enables a thorough examination of the translation of Al-'Abarat by including theories from the field of translation studies, specifically emphasising similes, translation direction, and the broader impacts of cultural and linguistic issues. This highlights the significance of having a detailed comprehension of both the original and target cultures during the translation process. The objective is to make a valuable contribution to the field of translation studies by conducting a thorough analysis of Arabic-English literary translation

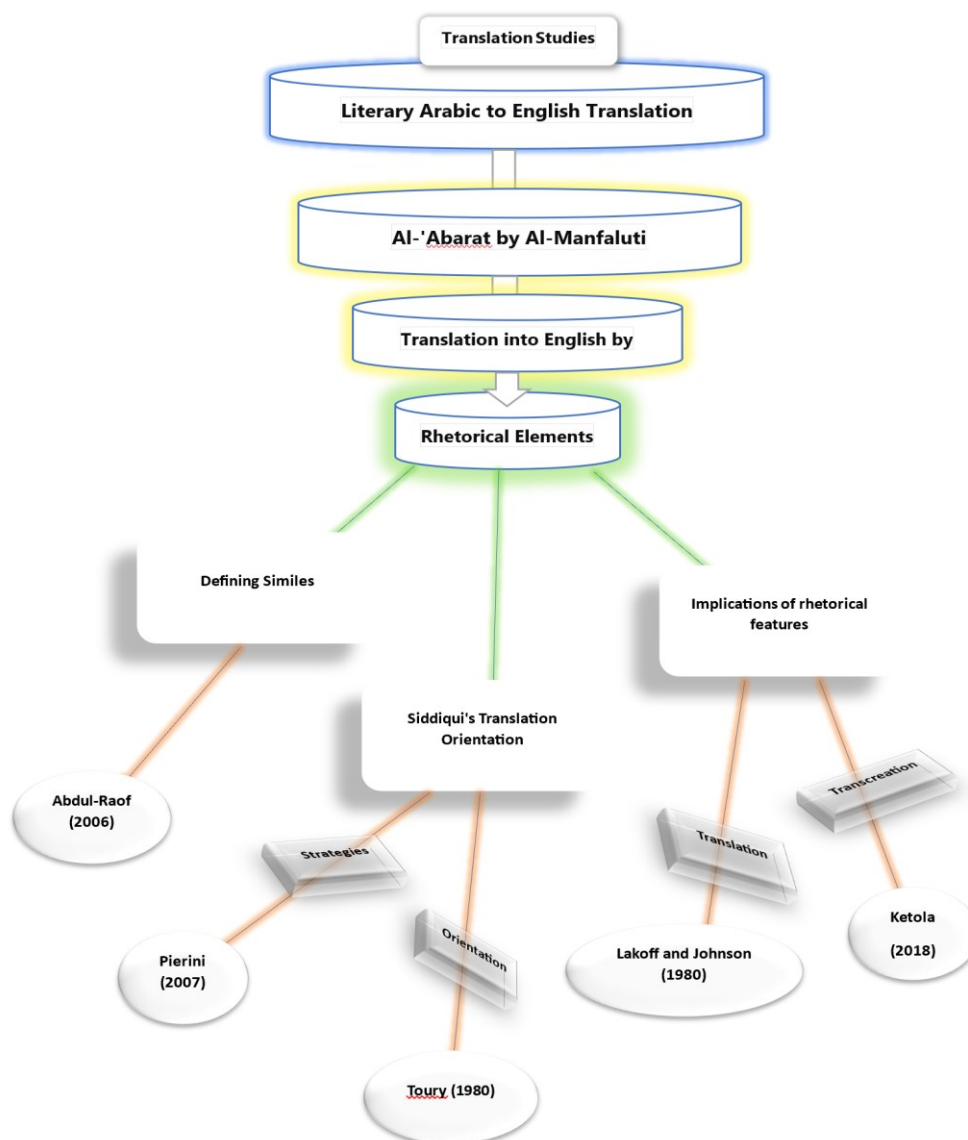


Figure 1.2 : Theoretical Framework

1.9 Definitions of Key Terms

- (1) **Literary Translation:** Literary translation involves converting a literary piece from its original language into another while preserving its stylistic, cultural, and thematic essence. This requires not just linguistic precision but also a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures (Newmark, 1988).

- (2) **Literal Translation:** Literal translation, or direct translation, focuses on transferring the words of the source language into the target language without considering cultural or stylistic nuances. This method prioritizes accuracy over contextual adaptation (Newmark, 1988).
- (3) **Transcreation:** Transcreation combines translation with creative writing to adapt content culturally and contextually for the target audience. The goal is to maintain the original message and emotion while making it engaging for the local audience (Díaz-Millón & Olvera-Lobo, 2021).
- (4) **Translation Strategies:** Translation strategies are techniques and procedures used by translators to solve problems that arise when transferring meaning from one language to another (Owji, 2013).
- (5) **Arabic Rhetoric:** Arabic rhetoric, encompassing metaphors, similes, and allegories, is essential for enhancing literary works. A deep understanding of these rhetorical features is crucial for translators working with Arabic literature (Abdul-Raof, 2006).
- (6) **Simile:** is a figure of speech that makes a direct comparison between two unlike things, typically using the words "like," "as," or "than." This rhetorical device is commonly employed to create vivid imagery and enhance descriptions in literature, speech, and everyday language. (<https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/simile>).
- (7) **Cultural Adaptation:** Cultural adaptation in translation adjusts content to align with the cultural norms and expectations of the target audience, ensuring that the translated material resonates with its new readership (Díaz-Millón & Olvera-Lobo, 2021).
- (8) **Poetic Interpretation:** Poetic interpretation allows for flexibility in translation to capture the artistic and emotional essence of the original text, particularly in literary works (Newmark, 1988).
- (9) **Translation Orientation:** Translation orientation refers to the translator's approach, ranging from literal accuracy to creative adaptation, based on the needs of the target audience (Jones, 2023).

- (10) **Machine Learning:** Machine learning, a branch of artificial intelligence, involves using data and algorithms to improve accuracy over time. It includes supervised learning, unsupervised learning, reinforcement learning, and deep learning (Brown, Cocke, & Della Pietra, 2002).
- (11) **Supervised Learning:** Supervised learning involves training algorithms with labeled data to make predictions or classifications, using methods like decision trees and linear regression (IBM, n.d.).
- (12) **Natural Language Processing (NLP):** NLP combines computational linguistics and machine learning to understand and generate text and speech, with applications in digital assistants, chatbots, and more (IBM, n.d.).
- (13) **Python:** Python is a versatile, high-level programming language known for its readability and is widely used by major organizations for various applications (Vosviewer.com).

1.10 Chapter Summary

This chapter provides a structured approach to analysing research on translating and transcreating Arabic literary texts into English, with a focus on Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti's "Al-'Abrat." It delves into the background of literary translation and transcreation, highlighting the intricate nature of Arabic rhetoric and its impact on translation. The challenges posed by Arabic rhetoric for translation are examined, along with the importance of transcreation in adapting texts for specific audiences. The study distinguishes between literary translation and transcreation, emphasising the necessity of creative independence and cultural awareness to maintain the essence of original texts. The problem statement identifies challenges in translating Arabic literature into English, particularly concerning rhetorical devices, and explores the role of transcreation in overcoming these challenges.

The conceptual framework outlines methods for analysing Arabic literary translation, stressing cultural and linguistic complexity to enhance translation techniques and intercultural communication. Addressing challenges in translating Arabic literature, especially regarding rhetorical devices, the study explores transcreation's role in overcoming these obstacles. The research objectives and questions aim to analyse the translation and transcreation process of Arabic literary texts, focussing particularly on "Al-'Abrat," while delving into the complexities of translating Arabic rhetoric into English. The scope and limitations of the study are defined, focussing on "Al-'Abrat" and its simile translations. The rationale of the study underscores the importance of preserving cultural nuances and artistic elements in translation, contributing to intercultural understanding. Lastly, the significance of the study lies in its potential to advance Arabic-English literary translation, promoting global appreciation of Arabic literature. Concluding with key term definitions, the chapter sets the stage for a detailed analysis of "Al-'Abrat" and its English translation. The next chapter will delve into literature related to this study in detail.

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