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تطبيق أساليب الإيضاح: دراسة حالة اتفاقية دولية للمنظمة البحرية الدولية The Application of Explication Techniques: A Case of an IMO International Convention

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الملخص

تناولت الدراسة أربع تقنيات إيضاحية مُطبقة في ترجمة اتفاقية للمنظمة البحرية الدولية من الإنجليزية إلى العربية. علماً أنّ الدراسات التي تبحث في تطبيق هذه الأساليب في الاتفاقيات البحرية الدولية نادرة، وتُعدّ إمكانية تطبيق الإيضاح في ترجمة الوثائق الرسمية نقطةً مهمةً تناولها هذا البحث الذي اختار للتحليل اتفاقية دولية أصدرتها المنظمة البحرية الدولية عام 2009 بعنوان اتفاقية هونغ كونغ الدولية لإعادة التدوير الآمن والسليم بيئياً للسفن وتُعدّ هذه الاتفاقية من الاتفاقيات الدولية المهمة في المجال البحري. وقد استند البحث في تطبيق تقنيات الإيضاح في أثناء عملية الترجمة إلى تصنيف هورت-بيدرسون وفابير ومقاييسهما (2010). أظهر البحث الحالي أنّ تقنيات الإيضاح تُستخدم في عملية الترجمة من الإنجليزية إلى العربية ضمن نطاق الاتفاقيات الدولية. وأنّ هذه التقنيات لا تؤثر في معنى النص المُترجم أو تُغيّره عند مقارنته بالنص الأصلي، وأنّ المترجمين المحترفين يميلون إلى استخدام تقنيات الإيضاح في أثناء الترجمة. وقد خلص البحث إلى مجموعة من التوصيات منها: ضرورة تطبيق تقنيات الإيضاح في مجالات أخرى كالاقتصاد والسياسة وغيرها من المجالات التي تحتاج إلى التعاون الدقيق بين الجهات والدول.

الكلمات المفتاحية: خبرة الترجمة، الترجمة من الإنجليزية إلى العربية، تقنيات الإيضاح، الترجمة القانونية، مفاهيم الترجمة العالمية

ABSTRACT

The current study investigates four techniques of explication employed in translating an International Maritime Organization (IMO) convention from English into Arabic. As noted in the literature, studies examining the application of such techniques in international maritime conventions are rare. The applicability of explication in translating official documents is an important point explored in the present research.

The document selected for analysis is a 2009 important international convention issued by the IMO, and titled Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships -- one of the international agreements in the maritime field. The researcher investigates the application of explication techniques during the translation process based on Hjort-Pedersen and Faber's (2010) classification and measures. The current research demonstrates that explication techniques are applied in the translation process from English into Arabic within international agreements. The study also underscores the fact that these techniques neither affect nor change the meaning of the target text when compared with the source text. In addition, the research shows that professional translators do employ explication techniques during translation. The research concluded with a recommendation expressing the necessity of investigating the explication techniques in economics, politics, and other fields that require cooperation between countries and authorities.

Keywords: Translation Expertise, English–Arabic translation, Explication Techniques, Legal Translation, Translation Universals



للنسخة الالكترونية

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the study

The phenomenon of explicitation is well known in the study of languages, particularly translation. According to Blum-Kulka (1986) and Klaudy (2003, 2008, 2010), a translation is typically a piece of writing that is more explicit than the original. Explicitation is a stylistic translation approach that, depending on the situation or context, makes the target text (TT) more explicit than the implicit source language (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1958/1995; Heltai, 2018).

Explicitation is introduced through the analysis of cohesive features in texts (Klaudy 2010; Sipayung et al., 2017). Other features discussed include the use of proper nouns instead of pronouns and the addition of conjunctions instead of ellipses in sentences (Chesterman, 2004). Pápai (2004) identifies four levels of text explicitation: logical-visual relations, which involve the use of punctuation marks; the lexico-grammatical level, which addresses lexical repetition; the syntactic level, related to the use of conjunctions; and the extra-linguistic and textual levels, reflected in the use of organising elements in discourse.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Few studies have been undertaken to apply explicitation techniques in international conventions, particularly maritime conventions. In the present study, explicitation is examined in connection with translation expertise. Numerous researchers have attempted to establish a relationship between explicitation and translation proficiency, but the research conducted so far has produced inconsistent results and no clear trends. Hence, the researcher investigates the usefulness of applying explicitation techniques by professional translators when translating official documents from English into Arabic – a topic that is rarely explored – as well as the role of explicitation in producing translated texts that are easily understood (Park, 2024).

1.3 Research questions

The present study is undertaken to answer the following questions:

- 1– Do common explicitation techniques apply while translating international conventions from English into Arabic (international maritime conventions as an example)?
- 2– Do explicitation techniques change the translated meaning when applied? In other words, do translators opt for literal translations or explicitations

1.4 Significance of the study

The significance of the study lies in its ability to demonstrate how certain explicitation techniques can be used to transform official documents into coherent and clear translations. Translators can produce more unambiguous versions of their work by using these techniques, which will undoubtedly enhance clarity. The use of explicitation in translating official (legal) documents from English into Arabic is the main focus of the current study. This subject has been rarely addressed in prior research (Park, 2024).

1.5 Source of linguistic data

The chosen document for analysis is an international agreement issued in 2009 by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), titled Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. This agreement is a significant international convention in the maritime field, describing the recycling process of ships worldwide. The researcher examines how experienced translators use explicitation techniques to translate this convention from English into Arabic and considers the importance of these techniques in the translation process.

There are various reasons why this convention was selected for further research. First, it is issued in two languages – Modern Standard Arabic and English – chosen for their clarity and widespread use as standard languages. Second, before being published for international signature, the convention was translated by IMO bodies and thoroughly edited to eliminate errors.

2- Review of Literature

2.1 Development of the ‘explicitation’ concept in Translation Studies

• Vinay and Darbelnet

The concept of explicitation was first introduced into linguistics by Vinay and Darbelnet (1958). The two scholars defined explicitation as a process responsible for introducing details in the target language (TL) that are implicit in the source language. These details, however, can be understood through the situation or the context itself. Scholars also believe that informative meanings are derived from both linguistic and extra-linguistic contexts. Explicitation, for them, is the method by which the understanding of sentences does not rely on the situation or context (1995).

- **Eugene Nida**

Nida had a similar term to explicitation, called “addition”. Addition, for him, is the process of introducing elements that ‘may legitimately be incorporated into a translation’ (1964, p. 227). He adds that 'addition' refers to information recovered from the situation, the context or the text itself. 'Addition' can be grammatical, such as using classifiers, filling out elliptical expressions, or including connectives. Moreover, 'addition' can involve transferring information so that it becomes explicit in the target text (TT) while remaining implicit in the source text (ST). This is achieved by linking meanings derived from the text to the socio-cultural context. 'Addition' is necessary to avoid misunderstanding when ambiguity exists. Nida's concept of 'addition' is similar to Vinay and Darbelnet's (1995) concept of 'explicitation', as both relate the understanding of meaning in texts to the clarification of the context or situation in which the text appears.

- **Blum-Kulka**

Blum-Kulka (2000) presents a perspective on explicitation that differs from those of Vinay and Darbelnet, as well as Nida. She believes that explicitation results from shifts in cohesion and coherence at the level of TT discourse. She argues that explicitation occurs during the translator's interpretation of the ST (Blum-Kulka, 1986/2000). She divides these shifts into ‘optional’ – related to stylistic preferences – and ‘obligatory’, which are determined by the grammatical systems of the source and target languages. She maintains that 'optional' shifts are the ones to be considered when studying a text. For her, explicitation is a technique used to make what is implicit in the ST more explicit in the TT. Blum-Kulka (1986) regards explicitation as one of the universals of the translation process. In other words, she claims that explicitation is a central feature of translated texts.

- **Elisabet Murtisari**

Murtisari (2013) discussed two types of explicitation, namely 'scalar' and 'categorical'. 'Scalar' explicitation refers to the encoding of inferred information from the ST into the TT. It is called 'scalar' because the inferred meanings are already explicit in the text by category; thus, explicitation increases their degree of explicitness. The second type, 'categorical', refers to shifts in meaning from implicature to explicature. In other words, it shifts meaning from one category to another – from implicit to explicit information (Murtisari, 2016). For example, the ST sentence ‘I need that apple’ could be

translated into the TT as if it were ‘Give me that apple’. (El-Nashar, 2016). The study of explicitation continued in linguistics, focusing on its status as a universal phenomenon, although interpretations varied among researchers.

2.2 Explicitation in legal translation

Legal writings have historically been viewed as sacred (or sensitive) documents due to their potential to lead to legal consequences or actions (Faber & Hjort-Pedersen, 2009a). As a result, literal translation has long been the predominant method in legal translation. Legal translation was known for its literal nature for a much longer period than other fields of translation due to the ‘sanctity’ attributed to legal documents. This principle of respect for the ST remained central in legal translation until the 1980s when Canadian and Swiss legal translators were asked to assist in drafting federal legislation. The introduction of novel bilingual drafting methods not only transformed the legal translation profession in Canada and Switzerland but also brought about a major shift in the discipline itself (Šarčević, 2000).

In recent years, some legal translation scholars have argued that ‘while non-authoritative translations (i.e. translations intended for informational purposes), such as national laws and court orders, may be less restrictive, authoritative “translations” (i.e. legally binding translations), such as contracts, international agreements and wills, must be literal’ (Garzone, 2000, p. 400). The counterargument in favour of a more flexible approach is that literal translations may require more effort from the TL reader – or may even be unintelligible – and thus fail to serve as effective information sources. This is because literal translations tend to use words and structures that mirror the source language. If the goal is to inform, then the recipient should be able to understand the translation easily. Judgments are one example of non-authoritative translations when produced purely for informational purposes (except for judgments issued by supranational entities – such as the EU – or international bodies and judgments from countries with two or more official languages). In the TL culture, such a judgment functions as a metatext. Even if the original judgment is an authoritative, legally binding document in the source language culture, it helps the recipient – such as a judge – to understand its content. There has been limited empirical research on explicitation in legal translation. Faber and Hjort-Pedersen (2009b) examined explicitation in translations produced by lawyers and translators, with a particular focus on Danish-

to-English legal texts. Their study suggests that legal experts tend to include more explanations than the translator group.

2.3 Explication and expertise

Faber and Hjort-Pedersen (2009a), as well as Hjort-Pedersen and Faber (2010), note that because legal texts serve a particular purpose, research on explication in legal translation differs from other translation-related fields. Adding or mentioning information in legal translation is a high-risk process, as legal documents can result in legal actions and ramifications. Therefore, Faber and Hjort-Pedersen (2009b) argue that explication is likely to be uncommon in legal translation, particularly in translations done by trainee translators. The authors also hypothesise that because legal documents are known to be extremely complex, the effort required to understand the source language will manifest as explications in the TT.

For the sake of this study, explication is defined by Dimitrova (2005) and Becher (2011) as the verbalisation of information that the recipient may infer from the context, their prior knowledge, and so on. Consequently, when a TT is more explicit than the corresponding ST, explication occurs. Regarding the analysis of explication techniques in texts, there is a prominent study by El-Nashar (2016). This study discusses the techniques of explication applied in the translation process from English into Arabic. The researcher focuses on explication in the translation of institutional and official documents and examines whether the technique can be used in translating official documents, as it is in literary texts. Following Klauy and Karoly's (2005) framework, the researcher applied ten tools to explain explication. El-Nashar's (2016) study aims to stress the importance of explication as a technique used in the translation process from English into Arabic. Another objective is to highlight the distinction between 'positive' and 'negative' explication – that is, necessary versus redundant explication. The research shows that the most frequent type of explication is 'Explicative Paraphrase', followed by 'Conjunction' and 'Reference'. Other types also appear in the translation process but to varying degrees. The study concludes that longer translations are not necessarily the result of explication. The researcher recommends applying this framework to literary texts. The study by Cai (2021) applies explication to literary texts. Through the Spanish translation of euphemisms in three Chinese literary novels, the study seeks to explore explication as a universal principle in translation.

Furthermore, the analysis enables the researcher to confirm that the level of explication is linked to the translator's style, in addition to the domain of the original euphemism. The findings support the explication theory, showing that it is a frequently used translation technique in the examined literary corpus, aligning with El-Nashar's conclusions regarding the importance of explication in translation. In his published study, Zhilla (2021) examines explication and impication in translation. A corpus of English texts and their Persian translations was used to manually identify explication and impication shifts. Vahedi Kia (2011) developed a framework that Zhilla used to classify shifts as either explicit or implicit. The study aims to determine the frequency of explications and impications in two translations of *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Unlike earlier research on explication in translation, this study does not begin with the assumption of a 'translation-inherent' universal process of explication. The basic hypothesis is that every example of explication (and impication) can be explained by pragmatic and/or lexicogrammatical elements. The study also lists several variables that typically influence translators to translate either explicitly or implicitly, thus supporting the validation of explication in translation, similar to the findings of Cai (2021) and El-Nashar (2016).

A study by Hua (2022) investigates the use of connectives to provide explication in texts. As part of a corpus-based comparison study, the researcher examines explication – one of the translation universals studied in detail. The study explores the use of connectives in two different translations of *The Lord of the Rings* – one Taiwanese and one Mainland Chinese. To determine whether explication through connectives occurs in Chinese translation and to what extent such explication exists in the ST, the two versions are compared with the original Chinese text and their ST. The connectives in both Chinese versions are analysed quantitatively and qualitatively, and a comparison is drawn between the untranslated TL and its counterparts in the ST. The findings indicate that the Taiwanese version uses more explicit language than the Mainland version in both cases. The study attributes these differences to educational and regional standards for translation, particularly in Mainland China, where translation faithfulness is highly valued. The researcher emphasises the importance of explication, which is in line with the findings of Cai (2021), El-Nashar (2016),

and Zhillia (2021). On the other hand, Park (2024) conducts a study on explicitation and honorific terms, reaching conclusions similar to those in the previously mentioned studies. This study explores explicitation in Buddhist scripture translations, suggesting the use of honorific phrases as one type of explicitation. Honorific form explicitation is associated with the diversity of language systems and features and is linked to external factors such as social rank, kinship, and hierarchical relationships among interlocutors. The study proposes the inclusion of honorific expressions in the explicitation process and highlights the importance of considering explicitation in light of the distinct characteristics of different languages.

Previous studies have highlighted the importance of explicitation in producing clear texts. However, they did not address the role of explicitation in the field of international agreements, which is the core focus of the current study. In other words, this study investigates the application of selected explicitation techniques in the translation of legal documents.

2.4 Method of analysis

An analysis of an authentic English legal text (an international convention) and its Arabic translation was conducted to achieve the study’s objectives. A qualitative approach was used to analyse the data. According to Hjort-Pedersen and Faber (2010), the study focused on specific explicitation techniques involving amplification, passives, system-bound terms and elliptical phrases, as these reflect features of legal language. The selected items were checked for their application in randomly chosen examples to determine whether explicitation is used as a technique in international conventions within the legal language field.

3- Methodology and Analysis

3.1 Methodology

The researcher analyses the data obtained from the Arabic translation of the convention alongside the English source convention to investigate the application of certain explicitation techniques in legal documents and to reflect on how explicitation influences the conveyed message in the TT. The analysis is qualitative and is conducted according to the measures proposed by Hjort-Pedersen and Faber (2010). The study highlights the use of amplification, passives, system-bound terms, and elliptical phrases in the Arabic translation.

3.2 Data collection and sampling

The English version of the IMO convention and its Arabic translation constitute the data used in this study. Article by article, the English convention was read and compared with its Arabic equivalent. This process aims to determine which explicitation techniques – if any – are applied in the Arabic version of the English convention and whether such elements are present. The results are categorised separately. The part of the ST that is made explicit in the TT is underlined, along with the corresponding Arabic equivalent.

3.3 Tools of analysis

An analysis is conducted on an international English convention and its Arabic counterpart to meet the study’s objectives. Qualitative methods are used to analyse the data and draw conclusions regarding the function of explicitation in conveying meaning within a formal framework. The analysis focuses on explicitations involving amplification, passives, system-bound terms, and elliptical phrases, as these reflect features of legal language, according to Faber and Hjort-Pedersen (2009a) and Hjort-Pedersen and Faber (2010).

4- Results and Discussion

In this section, the researcher discussed the applicability of amplifications, passives, system-bound terms, and elliptical phrases to the IMO international convention titled “Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009.”

4.1 Amplification

Amplification is a translation where the translator explains the ST word in the TT with many lexical items to give the required meaning (House, 2008; Krüger, 2013, 2014).

Table 1

Example 1: An example of the Application of Amplification

ST	TT
The growing concerns about safety, health, the environment and welfare matters in the ship recycling industry.	الهواجس المتزايدة لدى قطاع تفكيك السفن والتصرف بمكوناتها بشأن مسائل السلامة..... "älhwāğs älmτζäyd ^s ld ^s qtā' t ^s kyk älsfn wältsrf bmkwnāthā bš'n msā ^s l älsläm ^s"

The lexical item “recycling industry” in the ST is translated into a long phrase, “تفكيك السفن والتصرف بمكوناتها” /t^skyk älsfn wältsrf bmkwnāthā/, to explain the exact concept of “recycling industry” in the TT.

Table 2
Example 2: A Second Example of the Application of Amplification

ST	TT
"Administration" means the Government of the State whose flag the ship is entitled to fly, or under whose authority it is operating.	"الإدارة" تعني حكومة الدولة التي يحق للسفينة أن ترفع علمها. أو التي تعمل السفينة تحت سلطتها..... "alldār" t'n hkwms āldwls ālty yhq llsfyn' sn trf' lmhā' w ālty t'ml ālsfyn' tht slthā....."

In example 2, the pronoun "it" in the English ST has been substituted in the TT with the noun "السفينة" /ālsfyn/ for clarity. In other words, the noun "السفينة" /ālsfyn/ is an explanation (a replacement for the pronoun in English) that was added in Arabic to suit the intended meaning in the ST.

Table 3
Example 3: A Third Example of the Application of Amplification

ST	TT
...in order to prevent, reduce or minimize any adverse effects on human health and the environment.	التأثيرات الضارة التي تهدد صحة البشر والبيئة أو الحد منها أو تقليلها إلى أدنى حد ممكن. "al'ityrāt āldārō ālty thdd šhō albšr wālbyl' w ālh mnhā' w tqlylhā' idn' h d mmkn."

In example 3, the verb "prevent" was translated into a nominal phrase in Arabic, "الحد منها" /ālhd mnhā /, to give clear meaning to what is required exactly to face "التأثيرات الضارة" /al'ityrāt āldārō / . The same technique in translation is used in transferring the meaning of the verbs in the phrase "reduce or minimize any adverse effects" into "تقليلها إلى أدنى حد ممكن" /tqlylhā' idn' h d mmkn/. For "reduce," the translator did not only use "تقليل" /tqlyl/ but also added the pronoun "ها" /hā/ to the verb to explain the meaning clearly. The same procedure is used in translating the verb "minimize" into the prepositional phrase "إلى أدنى حد ممكن" /idn' h d mmkn/ to explain the exact meaning. Consequently, the research demonstrates that experienced translators translate most of the source text's nominal structures literally, making explicit amplifications to obtain clear, system-bound terms that were uncommon or not found in the ST. Every explicitation is in the form of an addition.

4.2 Passives

This refers to the phenomenon of converting passive structures into active ones by adding the agent or subject of the sentence.

Table 4
Example 4: An Example of the Use of Passives

ST	TT
'Ship Recycling' means the activity of complete or partial dismantling of a ship at a Ship Recycling Facility in order to recover...	'تفكيك السفن والتصرف بمكوناتها' يعني العملية التي يتم بموجبها تفكيك سفينة كلياً أو جزئياً في مرفق لتفكيك السفن والتصرف بمكوناتها بغية استعادة مكوناتها..... "tfkyk ālsfn wāltšrf bmkwnāthā" yn' y ālmlyō ālty ytm bmwğbhā tfkyk sfynō klyā w ġzyā fy mrfq tfkyk ālsfn wāltšrf bmkwnāthā bgyō āstrād' ö mkwnāthā....."

In this example, the nominal phrase 'complete or partial dismantling of a ship' is translated as the noun phrase 'تفكيك سفينة كلياً أو جزئياً' /bmwğbhā tfkyk sfynō klyā w ġzyā yā / . The doer of the action 'dismantling of a ship' is not explicitly mentioned; only the place where the dismantling occurs is provided for clarification. As a result, the vague meaning in the English phrase is rendered in Arabic through a passive construction: "يتم بموجبها تفكيك سفينة كلياً أو جزئياً" /ytm bmwğbhā tfkyk sfynō klyā w ġzyā yā/. The translation of the passive form using (يتم + المصدر) in Arabic sentences is not a genuine style for translating passives. In fact, it reflects a way of transferring the passive structure from English into Arabic, regardless of the Arabic rules for rendering passive constructions.

Table 5
Example 5: A Second Example of the Use of Passives

ST	TT
THE PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION, RECALLING resolution A.962 (23), adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization...; amendments to the Guidelines adopted by resolution A.980 (24)...	إن الأطراف في هذه الاتفاقية، "وإذ تستذكر القرار (23) A.962، الذي اعتمده جمعية المنظمة البحرية الدولية... والتعديلات على الخطوط التوجيهية التي اعتمدت بالقرار "In al'traf fy hqh al'atfa'iyah, "w'ld tstdkr al'qrār A.962 (23) ، āld ā'tmdth ġm'yā ālmnzm ālbhry āldwly...wālt'dylāt 'ā ālhṭwt āltwġyhy' āly ā'tmdt bālqrār"

In the English ST, the phrase 'the Guidelines adopted by resolution...' is translated as 'الخطوط التوجيهية التي اعتمدت بالقرار...'. The translator preserves the passive form in Arabic, where the subject is the inanimate noun 'القرار' /al'qrār/, preceded by the preposition 'الباء' /baa/. The use of the passive in Arabic in this instance is appropriate and clearly conveys the meaning of the ST.

Table 6
Example 6: A Third Example of the Use of Passives

ST	TT
... the Full and Partial Dismantling of Ships; and the Guidelines approved by the 289th session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office...	'..... بشأن الإدارة السليمة بيئياً لتفكيك السفن جزئياً وكلياً؛ والخطوط التوجيهية التي تم إقرارها في الدورة 289 لمجلس إدارة مكتب العمل الدولي..... "..... bšān āldār' āslmym' by'ayā ltfkyk ālsfn ġzyā w'klyā' wālhṭwt āltwġyhy' āly tm l'qrār'hā fy āldwr 289' lmgls l'dār' mktb āl'ml āldwl ā....."

The Arabic sentence maintains the passive form of the ST. In other words, the English ST example '...and the Guidelines approved by the 289th session' contains an inanimate subject and is rendered in Arabic using a passive structure: 'والخطوط التوجيهية التي تم إقرارها في الدورة 289'. The Arabic expression 'تم إقرارها' is not a genuine Arabic style, but it is commonly used by journalists to align with the English source text. As the researcher mentioned in the previous example, the passive form in the Arabic text is acceptable and closely mirrors its English counterpart in structure, but does not strictly follow the steps for translating passives in Arabic structures. The research thus shows that experienced translators tend to translate most of the ST's passives literally, making explicitations of passives extremely rare. Any explanation that does occur takes the form of an addition.

4.3 System-bound terms

System-bound terms refer to specific terms used in conventions within the maritime field.

Table 7
Example 7: An Example of the Use of System-bound Terms

ST	TT
Resolution ...by which the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization requested the Organization's Marine Environment Protection Committee	القرار...الذي طلبت جمعية المنظمة البحرية الدولية بموجبه من لجنة حماية البيئة البحرية.... "ālqrār ...āld' t'lt ġm'yā ālmnzm ' ālbhry' āldwly' b'mwġbh mn lġn' hmāy' ālby'āy' ālbhry'...."

The English ST includes system-bound terms such as 'Resolution', 'the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization', and 'Marine Environment Protection Committee'. The translators rendered these terms into Arabic using their recognised equivalents in the maritime field. Accordingly, the Arabic equivalents are 'القرار، وجمعية المنظمة البحرية الدولية، و لجنة حماية البيئة البحرية' /al'qrār/, /ġm'yā ālmnzm' ālbhry' āldwly' /, and lġn' hmāy' ālby'āy' ālbhry' /.

Table 8
Example 8: A Second Example of the Use of System-bound Terms

ST	TT
THE PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION, NOTING ALSO the role of the Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in protecting human health...	إن الأطراف في هذه الاتفاقية، وإذ تلاحظ كذلك الدور الذي تقوم به اتفاقية بازل المتعلقة بمراقبة حركة النفايات الخطرة عبر الحدود وبالتخلص منها في حماية صحة البشر..... "In al'traf fy hqh al'atfa'iyah, w'ld t'lāhṭw' k'dlk āldwr āld' tqwm bh ātfāy' bāzl ālmt' lq' b'mrāqb' h'rk' ālnfāyāt ālhṭr' 'br ālhṭwdw w'bālhṭs mnhā fy hmāy' šh' ālbšr"

The English ST contains system-bound terms such as 'Basel Convention' and 'Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes'. The translators rendered these terms into Arabic using their appropriate equivalents in the maritime context. Therefore, the Arabic equivalents are 'اتفاقية بازل، حركة النفايات الخطرة عبر الحدود' /ātfāy' bāzl/, and /h'rk' ālnfāyāt ālhṭr' 'br ālhṭwdw/. These terms are system-bound in the English ST, and their equivalents – 'اتفاقية بازل، حركة النفايات الخطرة عبر الحدود' /ātfāy' bāzl/, and /h'rk' ālnfāyāt ālhṭr' 'br ālhṭwdw/ – represent accurate translations in the maritime field.

Table 9
Example 9: A Third Example of the Use of System-bound Terms

ST	TT
The growing concerns about safety, health, the environment and welfare matters in the ship recycling industry.	الهاجس المتزايدة لدى قطاع تفكيك السفن والتصرف بمكوناتها بشأن مسائل السلامة..... "ālhwāğs ālmtzāydō ldī qtā tḥkyk ālsfn wāłtsrf bmkwnāthā bšln msā lī ālsāmō....."

The English ST includes system-bound terms such as ‘ship recycling industry’. The translators rendered these with appropriate Arabic equivalents used in the maritime domain. Thus, the Arabic equivalent is ‘قطاع تفكيك السفن والتصرف بمكوناتها’/qtā tḥkyk ālsfn wāłtsrf bmkwnāthā/. While explicitations of amplification and passives are rare, the analysis reflects that system-bound terms are often explicitated in the TT. Most of these explicitations appear in the form of additions.

4.4 Elliptical phrases

Elliptical phrases involve adding missing elements from the English ST into the Arabic translation to make the meaning clearer for the reader.

Table 10
Example 10: An Example of Elliptical Phrases

ST	TT
THE PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION, NOTING ALSO the role of the Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in protecting human health.....	إن الأطراف في هذه الاتفاقية، وإذ تلاحظ كذلك الدور الذي تقوم به اتفاقية بازل المتعلقة بمراقبة حركة النفايات الخطرة عبر الحدود وبالتخلص منها في حماية صحة البشر..... "In ālītrāf fy ḥḏh ālatfāqyō. wīd tlahz kdlk āldwr āldī tqwm bh ātfāqyō bāzl ālmīlqō bmrāqb ō ḥrkō ālnfāyāt ālḥtrō lbr ālḥdwd wbālthlš mnḥā fy ḥmāyō šḥō ālbšr....."

In the current example, it is clear that the phrase ‘the role of the Basel Convention’ is translated into Arabic as ‘الدور الذي تقوم به اتفاقية بازل’/āldwr āldī tqwm bh ātfāqyō bāzl/, with the addition of the verb phrase ‘تقوم’/tqwm/ to make the meaning clear to the reader. There is also the addition of the adjective ‘المتعلقة’/ālmīlqō/ to convey the meaning of the preposition ‘on’ in the phrase ‘on the control’.

Table 11
Example 11: A Second Example of Elliptical Phrases

ST	TT
Resolution ...by which the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization requested the Organization’s Marine Environment Protection Committee	القرار...الذي طلبت جمعية المنظمة البحرية الدولية بموجبه من لجنة حماية البيئة البحرية "ālqrār ...āldī tbt ḡmīlyō ālmnzḡm ō ālbḥryō āldwlyō bmwḡbh mn lḡn ō ḥmāyō ālbyō ālbḥryō"

The translators added the Arabic noun phrase ‘بموجبه’ / b mwḡbh/ to match the meaning of the prepositional phrase ‘by which’ in the English ST. The noun ‘بموجب’ / b mwḡb/ is included in the TT, although it is not found in the ST but understood from the context.

Table 12
Example 12: A Third Example of Elliptical Phrases

ST	TT
... and other adverse effects on human health and the environment caused by Ship Recycling, and enhance ship safety, protection of human health and the environment throughout a ship’s operating life.	والتأثيرات الضارة الأخرى التي تهدد صحة البشر والبيئة الناجمة عن تفكيك السفن والتصرف بمكوناتها والحد من (ها) وتقليل (ها) إلى أدنى حد ممكن..... "wāłītyrat āldārō ālḥrī āly ḥdd šḥō ālbšr wāłbyō ālnāḡmō ln tḥkyk ālsfn wāłtsrf bmkwnāthā wāłḥd mn(hā) wīqlyl(hā) lī ḏnī ḥd mnkn....."

The addition of a referential pronoun to the Arabic noun – such as ‘هأ’ /hā/ in ‘تفاحته’ /tfāḥth/ – is an explicitation technique that may not appear in the ST (Hassan, 2014). The pronoun ‘هأ’ /hā/ is used to refer to ‘التأثيرات الضارة’ /āltītyrat āldārō/ in the prepositional phrase ‘منها’ /mnḥā/ and the noun phrase ‘تقليلها’/tqlylhā/. The addition of such pronouns helps form an equivalent to elliptical phrases in the English text, providing an explicit prepositional phrase and noun phrase to make the meaning clear to the reader. According to the research, the TT explicitly renders the elliptical phrases of the ST, similar to the treatment of system-bound terms. Every explicitation appears in the form of an addition.

5. Major Findings

By investigating the application of explicitation techniques to an English text – which is an international maritime convention – and its Arabic version, it is found that explicitation techniques are applied in the Arabic version. These techniques occur naturally during the translation process, resulting in a clear and meaningful document. The analysis focuses on explicitations related to elliptical phrases, system-bound terms, passives, and amplification. According to the study, professional translators translate

most of these features literally, meaning certain forms of explicitation are not very common. Translating international conventions requires the use of explicitation strategies – a fact consistent with earlier studies by Blum-Kulka (2000) and Hjort-Pedersen and Faber (2010). Both discussed explicitation as a common feature in translation. This section of the findings addresses the study's first question: Do common explicitation techniques apply while translating international conventions from English into Arabic (international maritime conventions as an example)?

Furthermore, the researcher finds that the use of some explicitation techniques does not result in a shift in the meaning of the TT compared to the original ST. In the TT, explicitation does not lead to unnecessarily long or redundant sentences. For instance, the technique of amplification led the translator to choose the phrase 'قطاع تفكيك السفن والتصرف بمكوناتها' to express the meaning of 'Ship recycling industry'. While this phrase includes several words, it conveys the intended meaning and reflects the associated concern surrounding the issue. Therefore, applying explicitation techniques in the translation process does not alter meaning, and professional translators seek out explicitation to ensure clarity in the translated text. This finding answers the second research question: Do explicitation techniques change the translated meaning when applied? In other words, do translators opt for literal translations or explicitations when they have a choice in the translation process to get clear meanings?

According to previous research on explicitation in legal translation (Faber & Hjort-Pedersen, 2009a; Hjort-Pedersen & Faber, 2010), the findings of the current study align with earlier results. The researcher concurs with El-Nashar's (2016) findings and supports the general principle that explicitation is a translation strategy used to produce clear and understandable Arabic texts. Therefore, the study's findings are in agreement with prior research suggesting that explicitation is a characteristic of translation competence (Blum-Kulka, 2000; Cai, 2021; Nida, 1964; Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995; Zhilla, 2021).

One possible explanation for this finding, based on research by Dimitrova (2005) and Hjort-Pedersen and Faber (2010), is that system-bound terms appear to be norm-governed in the performance of professional translators and are therefore associated with non-problematic processing. On the other

hand, the performance of experienced translators also seems norm-governed when dealing with amplification, passive constructions, and elliptical sentences.

6. Conclusion

The performed analysis affirms that explicitation is a universal technique. The study shows that all explicitation techniques apply to international agreements and conventions. The researcher investigates four explicitation techniques in the translation process and reveals that professional translators used these techniques due to morphological, syntactic, or lexicogrammatical reasons required by the rules of the TL. According to the analysis, professional translators literally rendered most of the ST's amplification and passive constructions. Amplification and passives are, to some extent, uncommon in the TT. Additionally, the research shows that the TT explains the elliptical phrases found in the ST in a way comparable to system-bound terms. Each of the four elements of explicitation takes the form of an addition. The investigation into these techniques indicates that using explicitation is necessary to achieve a natural Arabic translation flavour and clear meaning.

7. Recommendations for Further Study

The current study can be criticised for its small sample size, its focus on translation from English into Arabic, and its concentration on four main items rather than analysing all elements of explicitation. As a result, the study's findings are indicative, and further investigation is needed to strengthen the results. Nevertheless, this study contributes empirical evidence of translators' explicitation techniques to the field of legal translation, which still lacks substantial empirical research on this topic. The research concluded with a recommendation expressing the necessity of investigating the application of explicitation techniques in the fields of economics, politics, and other fields that require cooperation between countries and authorities.

8. Transcription Alphabet Chart

The following table is the list of Arabic alphabets and their symbolic transcription according to Lexilogos transcription website charts.

Table 13
Arabic alphabet and its transcription symbols according to Lexilogos Website

Arabic Alphabets					
letter	name	final	middle	beginning	Phonetic symbol
ا	alif	ـا	ـا	ـا	a:
ب	ba	ـب	ـب	ـب	B
ت	ta	ـت	ـت	ـت	T
ث	ṭa (tha)	ـث	ـث	ـث	θ
ج	ǧim (jim)	ـج	ـج	ـج	dʒ - ʒ - g
ح	Ḥa	ـح	ـح	ـح	H
خ	ḫa (kha)	ـخ	ـخ	ـخ	X
د	dal	ـد	ـد	ـد	D
ذ	ḏal (dhal)	ـذ	ـذ	ـذ	Ḍ
ر	ra	ـر	ـر	ـر	R
ز	zay	ـز	ـز	ـز	Z
س	sin	ـس	ـس	ـس	S
ش	šim (shin)	ـش	ـش	ـش	ʃ
ص	Ṣad	ـص	ـص	ـص	s ^ʕ
ض	Ḍad	ـض	ـض	ـض	d ^ʕ - ḏ ^ʕ
ط	Ṭa	ـط	ـط	ـط	t ^ʕ
ظ	Ẓa	ـظ	ـظ	ـظ	z ^ʕ - ḏ ^ʕ
ع	ʿayn	ـع	ـع	ـع	ʔ ^ʕ
غ	ǧ a y n (ghayn)	ـغ	ـغ	ـغ	ɣ
ف	fa	ـف	ـف	ـف	F
ق	qaf	ـق	ـق	ـق	Q
ك	kaf	ـك	ـك	ـك	K
ل	lam	ـل	ـل	ـل	L
م	mim	ـم	ـم	ـم	M
ن	nun	ـن	ـن	ـن	N
هـ	ha	ـهـ	ـهـ	ـهـ	H
و	waw	ـو	ـو	ـو	w - u:
ي	ya	ـي	ـي	ـي	j - i:
ء	hamza	أ و إ ئ	ء	ء	Hamza

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