Problems Of Translating Lexical Means, Such as Calque And Cliches, In Political Terminology In Arabic

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Abstract: This article explores the challenges of translating political terminology from foreign languages into Arabic, focusing on lexical means such as calques and clichés. Political language is characterized by a high degree of formalization, frequent repetition of expressions, and reliance on standardized templates. The study analyzes the mechanisms of term formation through calquing (lexical, semantic, and phraseological) and the use of clichés as ready-made linguistic units. It also examines the role of semi-calques in cases where full translation is impossible and highlights the importance of context and stylistic adaptation when transferring lexical units from one language to another. Practical examples from Arabic, English, and other foreign languages illustrate the difficulties of preserving meaning, formal style, and international standards in political discourse.

Keywords: Calque, Lexical Means, Phraseological Calque, Semantic Calque, Semi-Calque, Clichés, Political Terminology, Arabic, Translation Problems, Diplomatic Language, Lexical Borrowing.

Introduction: The widespread use of calque in the formation of political terms provides a basis for studying it as an independent term-forming method. [Superanskaya, 1989:213]. According to Ch. Bally, calques are (fr. calque – word) [Bally, 1961:69] – "…we define them as words and expressions mechanically formed through literal translation based on expressions borrowed from a foreign language.". Regarding the emergence of calques, N. Shansky provides the following definition: "Calques are usually the product of written literary activity; they emerge as innovations

introduced by translators in the process of translation" [Shansky, 1964:106]. Several types of calques are distinguished:

1. A lexical or word-formational calque is a word formed in Arabic by means of literal translation of meaningful elements (prefixes, roots, suffixes, and final affixes); that is, a word created through the exact replication of the word-formation pattern of units from another language;

Arabic	English	Note
إعادة الهيكلة	"restructuring"	From English *restructure* (re + structure).
تعديل الدستور	"constitutional amendment"	Calqued from English *amendment*.
الإصلاح الإداري	"administrative reform"	Literal translation of *administrative reform*.
الاستفتاء الشعبي	"popular referendum"	*Referendum* → translated morpheme by morpheme.

2. A semantic or lexico-semantic calque is one in which "the meaning itself is considered to have been borrowed," while "the word itself, in its pronunciation, material form, and word-formation structure, is not borrowed; however, one of its meanings originates from another language, that is, it corresponds to the meaning of a certain word in another language" [Fomina, 1990:179];

Arabic	English	Note
الحصار الاقتصادي	"economic blockade"	From English *blockade*; the word is Arabic, meaning adapted.
القيود التجارية	"trade restrictions"	Semantic calque; concept borrowed from international law/politics.
الأمن الجماعي	"collective security"	Translated meaning from foreign political vocabulary.

3. Phraseological calque — formed "through the literal translation of the borrowed expression" [Sinkova, 1985:108].

Arabic	English	Note
سياسة الباب المفتوحة	"open-door policy"	Word-for-word translation from English.
حقوق الإنسان	"human rights"	Calqued phrase from international law context.
حرية التعبير	"freedom of expression"	Standard political phrase, literal translation.

In addition, in the field of the Arabic literary language under study, so-called semi-calques are also widely used: along with the exact replication of elements from a foreign language, original elements are also present. "Semi-calques are expressions in which half of the borrowed word is retained in the foreign language, while the other half is translated" [Bulakhovsky, 1953:127].

In terminology studies, lexical or word-formational calques are mainly manifested in two-element constructions, whose translation and structure precisely replicate their counterparts in another language. Such terms usually form a two-component iḍāfa (genitive) construction. For example, the term "إعادة التنظيم" (reorganization) is formed by translating the English morpheme re- (whose basic meaning is "again") and the English noun organization ("organization") into their corresponding Arabic equivalents "إعادة" and "تنظيم." In the same way, the terms "إعادة الطبع" (reassessment), "إعادة التقييم" (reprinting), and "إعادة النظر" (reconsideration) are also calqued.

Lexical-semantic calques, in which the meaning is borrowed, are less common in the studied system of Arabic terminology. For example, in Arabic explanatory dictionaries, the term محاصرة (alternative form حصار) is defined as "الموضع الذى يحصر فيه الإنسان" – "a place where a person confines or besieges himself." Under the influence of the English word blockade, the lexeme "محاصرة" began to be used in economics as "محاصرة إقتصادية" – "economic blockade," or politically as "محاصرة" – "political blockade" (i.e., isolating a country by restricting or prohibiting trade, foreign relations, and international interactions with another country), giving it a new meaning. Regarding this topic, A.V. Superanskaya emphasizes that as a result of semantic calquing, "under the influence of a foreign language, a new word emerges in the native language" [Superanskaya, 1989:215].

Currently, the majority of political terms are formed as phraseological calques created through the literal translation of the entire borrowed expression. For example, "سياسة الباب المفتوحة" – open-door policy, where "policy" = "سياسة" = "door" = "الباب" = and "open" = "المفتوحة" = Similarly, the following economic terms have

also been formed through literal translation: " حساب " – "current account," "بورصة سوداء" – "black (illegal) stock exchange," "تكاليف الإنتاج" – "production costs," "سعر السوق" – "market absolute rent," " الريع المطلق" – "price," "عرض طلب" – "black market," "سوق سوداء" – "supply and demand," "نماذج إقتصادية" – "economic models."

In the studied system of Arabic literary terminology, semi-calques are used when it is not possible to provide a fully adequate translation of a foreign term and when creating a complex nominative construction using a foreign lexeme. L.P. Efremov emphasizes that "as initial material for lexical semi-calques, compound, complex, and shortened words as well as word combinations serve. A lexical semi-calque consists of at least two roots, one of which serves to render the translation in a full word-formation calque, while the other is taken from the corresponding foreign word" [Efremov, 1974:121]. For example: "بنك الحكومة" – "state bank," "بنك التسليف" – "international bank," "البنك الدولي" – "loan bank," "البنك العقاري" – "real estate bank," "دفتر شيكات" – "grain exchange," "بورصة الغلات" –

"شيك مصرفي" – "bearer check," "شيك لحامله" – "checkbook," – "bank check."

In analyzing borrowings in the field of politics, the issue of assimilation of borrowed words draws our attention. A calqued borrowing is adapted into Arabic, with both its morphological structure and semantic features assimilated. As a result, the word becomes Arabic in form and official appearance. Word combinations can be translated as combinations, for example: "state of war" – "حَالَةُ حَرْبٍ" , "administrator" – "قَائِمٌ بِالْأَعْمَالِ" . Terms related to international relations, foreign policy, and particularly diplomacy include persona non grata – شخْصٌ غَيْرُ مَرْغُوبٍ فِيهِ, cultural attaché – مُلْحَقٌ ثَقَافِيٌّ, as well as السِّكْرِتِيرُ الأَوَّلُ (diplomatic corps), المَلَكُ الدِّبْلُومَاسِيُّ as (first secretary), which can also be calqued.

Diplomatic terminology, an integral part of foreign policy and international relations, is formed through both borrowing and calquing. For example, terms that exist in many languages, such as veto, diplomacy, diplomat, consul, etiquette, are often directly borrowed. Variants of these terms in different languages are presented in the following table:

Languages	Words					
Arabic	فيتو	دبلوماسية	دبلوماسي	قنصل	* بروتوكول	إتيكيت
English	Veto	Diplomacy	Diplomat	Consul	Protocol	Etiquette
French	Veto	Diplomatie	Diplomate	Consul	Protocole	Etiquette
Italian	Veto	Diplomazia	Diplomate	Console	Protocollo	Etichette
Russian	Veto	Diplomatiya	Diplomat	Konsul	Protokol	Etiket
Swedish	Veto	Diplomati	Diplomat	Konsul	Protocol	Etikett
Finnish	Veto	Diplomatia	Diplomatti	Konsuli	Protokolla	Etiketti
German	Veto	Diplomatie	Diplomat	Konsul	Protokoll	Etikette

* The word بروتوكول refers to a protocol, which is one of the diplomatic documents.

When the same situation (or state) is expressed in both the source language and the target language (in our study, Arabic and Uzbek), clichés are used. In linguistics, a cliché (Fr. cliché – mold, stamp) refers to standard patterns of word usage in identical or specific situations, typical templates of word combinations and syntactic constructions, as well as general models of speech.

By "political cliché," we mean a template expression used to classify and evaluate political subjects or political events (situations) in a brief and declarative form. Thus, clichés are ready-made speech templates (patterns) that can be easily and mechanically used in identical (typical) contexts and situations. Usually, clichés are formed from words and expressions created through morphological or semantic means, or calqued. In texts on political and social topics, the following clichés may be used [Mayburov, 2003:24]:

Arabic   English

"… delegation consisting of" يَضُمُّ الوَفْدُ

"… arrive on a visit lasting … days" وَصَلَ بِزِيارَةٍ تَسْتَغْرِقُ.......أَيَّام

"issues of mutual interest to both parties" القَضايا التي تَهُمُّ الطَّرَفَيْن

"issues of shared interest" القضايا ذاتُ الإهْتِمام المُشْتَرَكِ

"he was received at the airport…" كان في إسْتِقْبالِهِ في المَطار....

"representative/spokesperson" المُحَدِّثُ بِإسم

"news agencies" وكالاتُ الأَنْباء

"colleague/peer" نَظِيرٌ

"at the invitation of …" بِناءً على دَعْوَةٍ مِنْ...

"the accompanying delegation" الوَفْدُ المُرافِقُ لَهُ

"bilateral relations" العَلاقاتُ الثُّنائِيَّةُ

"to hold official negotiations" أجْرَى المُباحَثَاتِ الرَّسْمِيَّةَ

Besides words and expressions, a cliché can also be used in the form of a complete sentence or a part of a sentence. For example, in Uzbek political texts, a frequently occurring (template) sentence is:

"to discuss ways to develop and strengthen bilateral relations in the future."

In Arabic, this is usually expressed through the following cliché:

"بَحَثَ سُبُلَ تَطْوِيرِ و تَعْزِيزِ العَلاقاتِ الثُّنَائِيَّةِ في المُقْبِلِ"

It should be noted that, although clichés are ready-made words and expressions that transfer from one situation or text to another, when translating them into another language, it is necessary to pay attention to the context as well as the stylistic features of the target language.

Conclusion

Calquing is one of the active methods for forming terms. Calques in political terminology are classified into lexical, semantic, and phraseological types. Phraseological calques, in particular, play the greatest role in generating the largest number of terms.

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