

Equivalence in Meaning: A Comparative Analysis of Nida's and Newmark's Translation Theories in English-Arabic translation

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ABSTRACT

There has been an increase in studies examining equivalence in meaning in translation, particularly in relation to how translators convey complex layers of meaning. While many studies have investigated equivalence, they often emphasize literal interpretations and frequently neglecting the underlying nuances associated with these translations. This paper presents a comparative analysis of Eugene Nida's theories of dynamic and formal equivalence and Peter Newmark's concepts of semantic and communicative translation. These theories represent foundational approaches to achieving equivalence in translation, particularly between culturally distinct languages like English and Arabic. This study analyzes how these theories inform Nida's dynamic equivalence prioritizes the effect on the target audience and it aiming to create a natural and culturally adapted translation, while his formal equivalence focuses on maintaining the original structure and linguistic form of the source text. In contrast, Newmark's semantic translation strives for precise meaning, even at the cost of readability, while communicative translation emphasizes accessibility and cultural resonance. Through the applications, benefits, and limitations of each approach, this study highlights how these theories address different translation needs, from preserving textual accuracy to enhancing reader comprehension. Practical examples are provided in both Arabic and English to illustrate the distinct impacts of these theories. Finally, this paper argues that the choice of translation approach depends on the specific goals and audience of the translation task, contributing insights to the ongoing discourse on effective translation strategies.

1. Introduction

Translation has been defined in many different ways, ranging from rendering silence into speech to changing poetry into prose. Regardless of its titles, translation fundamentally involves conveying a message from one language to another. Nida (1964), in *Toward a Science of Translating*, emphasized that translation is not merely linguistic but also cultural, aiming to create an equivalent impact on the target audience through his concept of dynamic equivalence. This perspective highlights translation as a bridge for fostering cultural diversity and uniting civilizations.

Jakobson (1959), in his essay *On Linguistic Aspects of Translation*, contributed to this understanding by exploring how translation serves as a tool for cultural advancement and connection. He proposed that translation involves transferring meaning from one language's signs (L1) to another's (L2), emphasizing the semiotic nature of the process. This view aligns with traditional translation theories that prioritize form, with the translator acting as a midwife who reproduces the source text's meaning and structure. Traditional translation theories, such as the one-by-one form and meaning-based approach, are no longer able to explain the intricacies of the translation process or foster communication between contemporary translation theories and scholars. Nida (1964), in *Toward a Science of Translating*, highlighted this limitation in traditional models and introduced dynamic equivalence as a way to prioritize the response of the target audience over strict adherence to the form of the source text. Formal correspondence, on the other hand, which Nida classified as formal equivalence, focuses on maintaining the source text's structure and vocabulary, and it remains dominant in traditional translation theories.

Newmark (1981), in *Approaches to Translation*, introduced semantic and communicative translation. Semantic translation seeks fidelity to the source text's meaning and stylistic nuances, often sacrificing naturalness. Communicative translation, akin to Nida's dynamic equivalence, adapts the text to ensure ease of understanding and cultural appropriateness for the target audience. Newmark's framework accommodates both technical and literary translations, making it versatile and purpose-driven. The evolution of translation studies has also been influenced by Venuti (1995), who emphasized the ethical and cultural dimensions of translation through his concepts of domestication and foreignization. These strategies address the translator's role in shaping how texts are received, highlighting the impact of cultural context and linguistic choices.

Translation studies continue to evolve as scholars explore new paradigms that integrate linguistic precision, cultural sensitivity, and audience reception. This progression moves beyond static models to foster dynamic, inclusive approaches that address the complexities of cross-cultural communication. Dynamic, later functional equivalence is based on what Nida calls 'the principle of equivalent effect', where 'the relationship between receptor and message should be substantially the same as that which existed between the original receptors and the message. (Nida 1964a: 159). Equivalence, or the extent to which a translated text mirrors the meaning, structure, and effect of the source text, is central to many translation theories. Eugene Nida introduced the concepts of dynamic and formal equivalence, focusing on achieving a balance between faithfulness to the source text and accessibility to the target audience. In contrast, Newmark (1981) proposed semantic and communicative translation approaches, emphasizing either precision in meaning or ease of understanding. Semantic translation seeks to preserve the original author's exact intent, focusing on fidelity to the source text's meaning and linguistic features. Communicative translation, on the other hand, prioritizes the reader's ease of understanding, adapting the text to the target audience's cultural and linguistic norms.

This comparative analysis explores the main objective of the research is to compare the translation theories of Eugene Nida and Peter Newmark, focusing on Nida's concepts of dynamic and formal equivalence alongside Newmark's distinctions between semantic and communicative translation. Nida's dynamic equivalence emphasizes the importance of conveying the intended meaning and emotional impact of the source text, aiming for a

response from the target audience that mirrors that of the original. In contrast, his formal equivalence stresses a more literal translation, preserving the form and structure of the original text. Newmark, on the other hand, provides a nuanced approach that distinguishes between semantic translation focused on fidelity to the original meaning and communicative translation, which prioritizes clarity and accessibility for the target audience. This study analyzes how these theories inform translation practices, highlighting their implications for fidelity, clarity, and cultural adaptation in literary translation.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Eugene Nida's translation theories

Eugene Nida's translation theory, presented in his seminal works *Toward a Science of Translating* (1964) and *The Theory and Practice of Translation* (1969, co-authored with Charles Taber), revolutionized the field with a focus on reader response. Nida introduced two key concepts: dynamic equivalence and formal equivalence. Dynamic equivalence prioritizes creating a similar impact on the target audience as the original text had on its audience, even if this means altering the structure or wording of the source text. Formal equivalence, by contrast, emphasizes a close, literal translation that respects the structure, grammar, and vocabulary of the source text. Nida's approach was particularly influential in translating religious texts, where ensuring both accurate and accessible meaning was essential.

The exploration of translation theories has evolved significantly, particularly through the contributions of influential scholars such as Eugene Nida and Peter Newmark. (LONG, 2015) In his article, highlights the foundational impact of Nida's, *Toward a Science of Translating*, and Newmark's "A Textbook of Translation" on contemporary translation studies. Nida's introduction of transformational generative grammar marked a pivotal shift towards establishing a scientific framework for translation, emphasizing the cognitive processes involved in translation practice. This approach sought to bridge the gap between linguistic theory and practical translation, thereby laying the groundwork for future research in the field.

Peter Newmark's translation theories, detailed in *Approaches to Translation* (1981) and *A Textbook of Translation* (1988), introduced two contrasting methods: semantic translation and communicative translation. Semantic translation focuses on capturing the exact meaning, nuances, and stylistic elements of the source text, often at the expense of naturalness in the target language. Communicative translation, aligning closely with Nida's concept of dynamic equivalence, prioritizes a natural, culturally appropriate rendering that conveys the intended message and effect to the target audience. Newmark's approach is notably more flexible than traditional frameworks, accommodating both technical and literary translations while adapting to the purpose and audience of the text.

2.2. Peter Newmark's translation theories

Peter Newmark's translation theories, detailed in *Approaches to Translation* (1981) and *A Textbook of Translation* (1988), introduced two contrasting methods: semantic translation and communicative . Newmark's focus on a text-oriented theory challenged the prevailing author-oriented perspectives, advocating for a more pragmatic approach to translation that prioritizes the text's function and reception. This shift not only questioned traditional

notions of authorship and intention but also underscored the importance of context in understanding translation outcomes. The integration of linguistic principles further reinforced the connection between translation studies and linguistics, suggesting that a comprehensive understanding of translation must account for both linguistic structures and communicative functions. Through a critical evaluation of these seminal works, the literature review will delve into the contrasting methodologies and theoretical underpinnings of Nida's and Newmark's approaches, illuminating their respective contributions to the field and the ongoing discourse surrounding dynamic and formal equivalence in translation.

The exploration of dynamic and formal equivalence in translation theory has undergone significant evolution, marked by critical contributions from various scholars. The foundational work of Barghout (1970) establishes a clear distinction between Nida's dynamic equivalence, which focuses on the receptor's response, and Catford's formal equivalence, which remains anchored in the source text's structures. Barghout emphasizes the necessity for translations to resonate with the cultural norms of the target audience, aiming for what Popovic termed 'expressive identity' between source and target texts. This early discourse sets the stage for understanding the complexities of equivalence as both a philosophical and practical challenge in translation.

2.3. Critical perspectives on equivalence

Several scholars have expanded on and critiqued Nida's and Newmark's theories:

Ferguson (1993) further contextualizes this dichotomy by addressing the impact of structural linguistics on translation practices. She notes Nida's caution against a purely literal approach when translating for diverse audiences, highlighting the tension between art and science in translation. This perspective underscores the shift towards viewing translation as a linguistic operation, which would later influence the methodologies adopted by translators. (Tanku, 2013) contributes to this dialogue by identifying two prevailing attitudes in translation studies: one that overemphasizes linguistic structures and another that relies on the translator's intuition. He advocates for a balanced approach that recognizes the importance of both linguistic and cultural elements in achieving equivalence, reflecting the ongoing debate within the field regarding the nature of translation itself.

(Thabane, 2016) introduces a practical framework for assessing translation quality, grounded in Nida's criteria of communication efficiency, comprehension of intent, and equivalence of response. This framework highlights the critical distinction between source-oriented and target-oriented approaches, reinforcing the relevance of Nida's theories in contemporary translation evaluation. The advent of technology and its implications for translation practices are examined by (for Translation & Literary Studies et al., 2018), who argues for a more fluid understanding of equivalence. She posits that the interaction between human translators and technology necessitates a reassessment of traditional theoretical frameworks, advocating for the inclusion of sociocultural contexts in the analysis of equivalence.

Benneghrouzi, (2019), identify with translation and literary studies Zohra delves into the ideological dimensions of equivalence, suggesting that it is influenced by various linguistic and cultural factors. She highlights the relativity of equivalence, as articulated by Baker, and the necessity for translators to navigate between different levels of equivalence to produce culturally resonant translations.

S. Al-Fouzan (2019), stated that in *World English Journal* he expands on this by discussing the concepts of adequacy and acceptability in translation, paralleling them with Nida's and Newmark's equivalence theories. This analysis emphasizes the importance of cultural adaptation and the translator's role in mediating between source and target cultures. (*World English Journal & Adel Fattah, 2022*) focuses on the specific challenges posed by collocations in translation, advocating for dynamic equivalence as a strategy to bridge linguistic gaps. She reinforces the necessity for translators to apply effective techniques to navigate cultural differences, highlighting the ongoing relevance of Nida's and Newmark's frameworks in addressing contemporary translation challenges.

(Suraid Almutairi, 2022) for translation and literary studies he examines the socio-cultural dynamics that influence translation choices, emphasizing the importance of understanding the communicative function of the source text. Her work aligns with Nord's functionalist approach, which advocates for a translator's loyalty to the author's communicative intentions, thus enriching the discourse on equivalence.

Almutairi, (2024) for translation and literary studies, Almutairi within his studies in this journal and analysis underscores the critical role of translation in the dissemination of literature, illustrating the dynamic nature of translation as a process that balances fidelity to the original text with the creation of a new text. This contemporary perspective reinforces the ongoing dialogue surrounding translation strategies and the necessity for translators to possess a deep understanding of both source and target languages.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Participants / Subject / Population and Sample

The paper used a qualitative approach to explore and compare the translation theories of Eugene Nida and Peter Newmark. It employs a comparative analytical framework to examine how these theories address equivalence in translation.

3.2 Data Analysis Procedures

This study relies on secondary data were collected from seminal works by Nida and Newmark, academic critiques, and applied case studies in translation equivalence. Practical examples from Arabic and English texts were selected to demonstrate the theoretical concepts in action.

4. Findings and Discussion

This section presents the findings of the study by examining Nida's and Newmark's translation theories in the context of English-Arabic translations. The analysis highlights how dynamic and formal equivalence, as well as semantic and communicative translation, address challenges in translating between these linguistically and culturally distinct languages. The findings emphasize the practical implications of these theories for achieving equivalence in meaning.

4.1. Nida's theories of equivalence

4.1.1. Dynamic equivalence

Dynamic, later 'functional', equivalence is based on what Nida calls 'the principle of equivalent effect', where 'the relationship between receptor and message should be substantially the same as that which existed between the original receptors and the message'. (Nida 1964a: 159). Eugene Nida, a pioneering translation theorist, introduced dynamic equivalence and formal equivalence as two key strategies in translation, primarily focused on Bible translation but applicable to various types of texts. Dynamic Equivalence This approach aims to produce a translation that creates the same effect on the target audience as the original text did on its original audience. The goal is for the translation to be as natural and accessible as possible in the target language, often prioritizing the meaning and intended impact over the exact words. Dynamic equivalence often involves adapting cultural references, idiomatic expressions, and stylistic elements to make the text feel "alive" for modern readers.

Nida's dynamic and formal equivalence concepts emphasize different aspects of the translation process. Dynamic Equivalence is reader-oriented, aiming to make the text accessible and impactful for the target audience. This approach values natural expression and cultural adaptation to achieve a similar response in the reader as the original might have. For example, in dynamic equivalence, a phrase like "breaking the ice" might be translated to a culturally equivalent idiom in the target language, rather than a literal rendering.

4.1.2. Formal equivalence

Formal equivalence focuses attention on the message itself, in both form and content. One is concerned that the message in the receptor language should match as closely as possible the different elements in the source language. (Nida 1964a: 159). Formal equivalence this strategy focuses on literal translation, where the translator strives to stay as close as possible to the source text's structure, grammar, and vocabulary. The primary aim is to preserve the original form and content, even if the result feels slightly less natural in the target language. Formal equivalence is often chosen when the original structure or phrasing carries particular significance, as in legal, academic, or religious texts.

Formal equivalence is text-oriented, focusing on the exact linguistic and structural fidelity to the source text. Here, the emphasis is on maintaining the original words and structure as closely as possible, sometimes even at the cost of readability or idiomatic flow in the target language. In formal equivalence, "breaking the ice" might be translated more literally, even if the expression is unfamiliar in the target culture.

4.2. Newmark's theories of equivalence

4.2 .1. Semantic translation

Semantic translation attempts to render, as closely as the semantic and syntactic structures of the second language allow, the exact contextual meaning of the original. (Newmark 1981: 39). Peter Newmark proposed his own terms to describe similar translation strategies, known as semantic translation and communicative translation. Although his theories share

similarities with Nida's, Newmark's approaches provide a more nuanced distinction with a broader range of applications:

Semantic translation this is close to Nida's formal equivalence but places slightly more emphasis on conveying the author's intent and emotional impact than rigid linguistic fidelity. Newmark's semantic translation is designed to respect the original text's language, culture, and connotations, especially when these elements are crucial to understanding the meaning. However, unlike strict formal equivalence, it allows some flexibility to ensure the translation remains intelligible and emotionally resonant for the reader.

4.2.2. Communicative translation

Communicative translation attempts to produce on its readers an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original. (Newmark 1981: 39). Communicative translation Newmark's communicative translation aligns with Nida's dynamic equivalence, as it is target-audience-focused and aims to produce an immediate and accessible effect on the reader. This method prioritizes the ease and naturalness of the translation over literal adherence to the source text, making the translated text sound as if it were originally written in the target language. In communicative translation, cultural references and idiomatic expressions are often adapted to resonate better with the audience. This description of communicative translation resembles Nida's dynamic equivalence in the effect it is trying to create on the TT reader, while semantic translation has similarities to Nida's formal equivalence.

4.3. Comparative analysis of Nida and Newmark's theories

4.3.1. Dynamic equivalence vs. communicative translation

Dynamic equivalence (Nida) and communicative translation (Newmark) both aim to create translations that are natural and accessible to the target audience. They prioritize the effect on the reader in the target language, sometimes at the expense of the exact wording or structure of the source text. Goal these approaches focus on ensuring that the meaning and intent of the original text resonate with the target audience in a culturally appropriate and understandable way. This is particularly useful for idiomatic expressions, cultural references, and texts intended for broad audiences. Example translating an English idiom like "kick the bucket" into a culturally familiar phrase for the target language that conveys "to die," even if it differs from the source language's literal structure.

Dynamic equivalence and communicative translation both prioritize the audience's understanding and cultural adaptation. While Nida's dynamic equivalence is more flexible in altering structure and phrasing to resonate with the target audience, Newmark's communicative translation often maintains a closer adherence to the original message, even if it slightly compromises readability. For example, in translating proverbs, both approaches would use culturally relevant equivalents, but dynamic equivalence might alter the wording more freely.

4.3.2. Formal equivalence vs. semantic translation

Formal equivalence (Nida) and semantic translation (Newmark) both emphasize fidelity to the original text's meaning and structure. They aim for an accurate, word-for-word translation where possible, even if this results in a less natural-sounding or slightly less

accessible translation for the reader. Goal these methods are used to preserve specific language choices, nuances, and precise meanings of the source text, making them suitable for technical, legal, or religious texts where accuracy and detail are more important than readability or cultural adaptation. For example, translating “lamb of God” literally in a religious text to retain theological meaning, rather than finding a more colloquial equivalent in the target language.

Formal equivalence and semantic translation differ in their handling of language fidelity. Nida’s formal equivalence is strict in maintaining source language structure, useful in contexts where linguistic accuracy is essential. In contrast, Newmark’s semantic translation allows minor modifications to improve readability, making it suitable for texts that need to preserve meaning without sounding foreign. This description of communicative translation resembles Nida’s dynamic equivalence in the effect it is trying to create on the TT reader, while semantic translation has similarities to Nida’s formal equivalence.

This table summarizes the goals, priorities, and suitable contexts for Nida’s and Newmark’s translation theories. It provides a clear reference for how each theory addresses different translation challenges.

Summary Table

Theory	Goal	Priority	Suitable For
Dynamic Equivalence (Nida)	Natural readability, cultural adaptation	Reader response	General audiences, cultural texts
Formal Equivalence (Nida)	Accurate, word- for-word fidelity	Textual structure, linguistic form	Religious, academic, or legal texts
Communicative Translation (Newmark)	Readability and cultural resonance	Target audience adaptation	Public-facing texts, idiomatic language
Semantic Translation (Newmark)	Precise meaning, text fidelity	Source text accuracy	Technical, legal, or precise texts

Table 1: Translation theories and their applications

This table explained the alignment between dynamic equivalence and communicative translation as well as formal equivalence and semantic translation, illustrating how Nida’s and Newmark’s theories approach equivalence with overlapping yet distinct strategies. Also, Nida’s dynamic equivalence focuses on cultural adaptation for readability, whereas formal equivalence focuses on strict adherence to the source text’s form and language. This is the core difference within Nida’s theories and Nida’s dynamic equivalence focuses on cultural adaptation for readability, whereas formal equivalence focuses on strict adherence to the source text’s form and language.

4.4. The impact of the convey the meaning in translation and examples

Conveying meaning effectively in translation is a complex process that involves balancing linguistic accuracy with cultural sensitivity. This balance is particularly significant when dealing with idiomatic expressions, cultural references, and context-dependent meanings that may not have direct equivalents in the target language. Translators must make deliberate choices, guided by theoretical frameworks, to ensure that the translated text resonates with the intended audience while retaining the essence of the original message. This section explores the practical application of key translation theories, such as Nida's dynamic equivalence, through illustrative examples, demonstrating how these approaches influence the conveyance of meaning across languages and cultures.

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4.4.1. Dynamic equivalence (Nida)

One of the primary objectives of Nida's dynamic equivalence is to create a natural and culturally relevant translation that resonates with the target audience, even if that means deviating from the original text's structure. For instance, in translating the English phrase "break the ice" into Arabic, a literal rendering might result in an unintelligible or awkward phrase, as the metaphor does not exist in Arabic. To convey the intended meaning of initiating conversation or easing tension, a translator using dynamic equivalence might choose the phrase "كسر حاجز الصمت" (kasr hajez al-samt), which translates as "breaking the barrier of silence." This adaptation is culturally understandable to Arabic speakers and communicates the intended meaning effectively without adhering to the literal structure of the English phrase. Dynamic equivalence focuses on the meaning and impact rather than a word-for-word translation, adapting idioms and expressions to make sense in the target culture. The goal is to create a similar response from the audience.

Examples:

- Source text (English): "The president's speech broke the ice between the two nations."
- Literal translation (Formal Equivalence): "خطاب الرئيس كسر الجليد بين الدولتين."
- Dynamic equivalence translation (Nida): "خطاب الرئيس كسر حاجز الصمت بين الدولتين."
- English original: "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- Dynamic Arabic translation: الروح ترغب ولكن الجسد ضعيف
- English original: "It's raining cats and dogs."
- Dynamic Arabic translation: تمطر بغزارة

In this case, the phrase is translated into Arabic in a way that keeps the intended message the inner desire is strong, but human limitations are a barrier without a literal translation. The translation achieves the effect of breaking social tension, which resonates more strongly with the Arabic-speaking audience. Instead of a literal translation that would not make sense in Arabic culture (where "cats and dogs" don't signify heavy rain), the translator adapts it to mean "It's raining heavily," capturing the meaning without sticking to the exact words.

4.4.2. Formal Equivalence (Nida)

In contrast to dynamic equivalence, Nida's formal equivalence seeks to preserve the source text's grammatical structure and linguistic details, which can sometimes lead to less culturally adapted translations but retain the original form. Consider the English biblical phrase "the lamb of God." In Arabic, this phrase could be directly translated as "حمل الله" (haml Allah), maintaining the linguistic structure and religious connotations of the original. Although it might sound less natural to some readers, formal equivalence ensures that the theological significance and structure are preserved, which is crucial in religious texts where textual fidelity is paramount. Formal equivalence aims to preserve the exact structure and wording of the source text, even if it feels less natural in the target language. This approach focuses on linguistic fidelity.

Examples:

- English original: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."
- Formal Arabic translation: الرب راعي فلا يعوزني شيء
- Source text (English): "Behold, the lamb of God."
- Dynamic equivalence translation: Could interpret it as "الله المُخْلِص" (Allah al-mukhallis), meaning "God the Savior."
- Formal equivalence translation (Nida): "حمل الله" (haml Allah) directly translating "the lamb of God."
- English original: "Time flies."
- Formal Arabic translation: الوقت يطير

Here, the Arabic translation is as close as possible to the original structure. Although it may feel formal or less natural to Arabic speakers, it maintains the original phrasing and syntax to stay faithful to the text. In Arabic, the phrase might sound unusual because "time flies" isn't a common idiom. However, a formal equivalent translation preserves the literal words even if it sounds awkward. In this case, formal equivalence respects the original's religious symbolism, which is essential for preserving theological meaning for readers familiar with Christian terminology.

4.4.3 Communicative Translation (Newmark)

Communicative translation, similar to dynamic equivalence, aims to convey the intended message and impact in a way that feels natural in the target language, but with a bit more attention to preserving nuances. Communicative translation, as proposed by Newmark, aims for readability and accessibility, often adapting language to fit the cultural context of the target audience. Consider translating the English idiom "to add fuel to the fire" into Arabic. A direct translation may not make sense to Arabic readers unfamiliar with this metaphor. A communicative translation might use "صب الزيت على النار" (subb az-zayt 'ala an-nar), a similar Arabic expression meaning "to pour oil on the fire," which conveys the idiom's intended meaning in a culturally resonant way.

Examples:

- Source text (English): "His comments only added fuel to the fire."
- Semantic translation (Newmark) Might literally render it as "أضاف الوقود للنار" (adaaf al-wuqood li-an-nar), which may be awkward or confusing in Arabic.
- Communicative translation (Newmark): "صب الزيت على النار" (subb az-zayt `ala an-nar) — a natural and culturally adapted idiomatic expression.
- English original: "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."
- Communicative Arabic translation: عصفور في اليد خير من عشرة على الشجرة
- English original: "Just do it." (Nike slogan)
- Communicative Arabic translation: افعلها فقط

In Arabic, the equivalent proverb is "A bird in the hand is better than ten in the tree." Here, the Arabic proverb communicates the same idea that it's better to have something secure than to risk for more but adjusts to a culturally familiar expression. Here, the translator aims to maintain the brevity, impact, and tone of the original slogan. While "Just do it" doesn't translate directly, "افعلها فقط" captures the motivating and straightforward spirit in a way that feels natural to Arabic speakers. In this instance, communicative translation allows the phrase to be immediately understood by Arabic readers, aligning with Newmark's emphasis on reader comprehension and accessibility

4.4.4. Semantic Translation (Newmark)

Semantic translation attempts to preserve the meaning and intent of the original text closely, focusing on capturing nuances and connotations, often with minimal adaptation. Newmark's semantic translation emphasizes precise meaning, sometimes at the cost of fluency. For example, in translating the phrase "the freedom of speech" into Arabic, a translator focused on semantic translation might choose "حرية التعبير" (hurriyat al-ta'bir), a precise rendition that prioritizes accuracy over cultural adaptation. This approach is suitable for contexts where exact meaning and clarity are essential, such as legal or academic texts.

Examples:

- English original: "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."
- Semantic Arabic translation: كل العالم مسرح، وكل الرجال والنساء مجرد ممثلين
- Source text (English): "Freedom of speech is a fundamental right."
- Communicative translation (Newmark): "حرية الكلام هي حق أساسي" (hurriyat al-kalam hiya haqq asasiy), where "الكلام" (al-kalam) refers to "speech" in an accessible manner for the general reader.
- Semantic translation (Newmark): "حرية التعبير حق أساسي" (hurriyat al-ta'bir haqq asasiy), where "التعبير" (al-ta'bir) retains the precise term "expression" relevant to the source text.
- English original: "My heart leaps up when I behold a rainbow in the sky."
- Semantic Arabic translation: قلبي يقفز عندما أرى قوس قزح في السماء

In this example, the translation closely mirrors the original’s wording, metaphor, and formal tone, preserving the philosophical depth and literary quality. Although it’s understandable in Arabic, it may feel slightly foreign, as it’s less adapted for Arabic idiomatic expression. Here, semantic translation ensures accuracy in conveying “expression,” a term often used in formal discussions on rights, which may not resonate as naturally with every reader but retains the source text’s specificity. The semantic translation tries to maintain the poetic structure and word choices, even if it sounds slightly unusual. The Arabic translation captures the literal meaning and emotional tone of the original without modifying it to fit more natural Arabic phrasing.

The table two provides a comparative analysis of translation approaches, illustrating their practical application with English and Arabic examples and emphasizing the reasoning behind each method.

Summary Table

Translation Approach	English Example	Arabic Translation	Explanation
Dynamic Equivalence	"It's raining cats and dogs."	تمطر بغزارة	Adapts to natural Arabic phrasing to convey meaning effectively.
Formal Equivalence	"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."	الروح ترغب ولكن الجسد ضعيف	Literal translation that closely follows the original structure.
Communicative Translation	"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."	عصفور في اليد خير من عشرة على الشجرة	Uses a culturally familiar Arabic equivalent for naturalness and relevance.
Semantic Translation	"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."	كل العالم مسرح، وكل الرجال والنساء مجرد ممثلين	Preserves metaphor and philosophical tone, with minimal adaptation for cultural familiarity.

Table 2: Translation approaches with examples and their cultural adaptations

Dynamic equivalence and communicative translation are both reader-focused and prioritize natural, culturally relevant language. Formal Equivalence and Semantic Translation are source-focused, prioritizing fidelity to the original text’s words and structure, but semantic translation allows slight flexibility for readability and clarity. These distinctions reflect different priorities audience comprehension and engagement in dynamic/communicative translations versus faithfulness to the original text in formal/semantic translations.

4.5. Sub Findings

In the Findings section, summarize the collected data and the analysis performed on those data relevant to the issue that is to follow. Nida’s theory is rooted in Bible translation with a focus on bridging cultural and linguistic gaps in a way that resonates with modern audiences. His terms dynamic and formal equivalence reflect his concern with how best to convey spiritual messages in a universally understandable way. Nida’s methods are particularly suitable for texts that require a deep cultural and emotional connection, like religious or literary texts. Formal equivalence is often reserved for texts where preserving the original structure and meaning is paramount. Dynamic equivalence (Nida) allows for

significant flexibility in translating cultural and idiomatic expressions, even if it requires significant adaptation from the source text and focus: dynamic equivalence is almost exclusively audience-oriented, while formal equivalence is focused on the source text.

Newmark, on the other hand, approaches translation more from a linguistic perspective, aiming to make the concepts applicable to a wider range of text types beyond religious texts. His terms semantic and communicative translation emphasize both the emotional and pragmatic aspects of translation, highlighting the need to balance faithfulness to the text with readability. Newmark’s methods are adaptable to a broader range of text types, from technical and scientific texts to literature and advertising, providing guidelines for maintaining meaning while ensuring intelligibility and he said communicative translation offer a balance semantic translation remains close to the source text while being mindful of readability, and communicative translation focuses on reader engagement but with respect for the original’s tone and style. Therefore, he meant Communicative is similar in its focus on readability and cultural adaptation but is slightly more reserved than dynamic equivalence, often aiming for a more moderate adaptation that respects the source text’s nuances without heavy modifications.

This table provides a detailed comparison of Nida’s and Newmark’s translation theories, emphasizing their goals, adaptability, focus, and suitable contexts for application.

Summary Comparison

Aspect	Nida’s Dynamic Equivalence	Nida’s Formal Equivalence	Newmark’s Communicative Translation	Newmark’s Semantic Translation
Focus	Audience-oriented	Source text-oriented	Audience-oriented	Source text-oriented
Goal	Achieve similar impact on audience	Maintain structural and content fidelity	Make the text sound natural and accessible	Retain author’s intent and nuances
Adaptability	High (cultural/idiomatic adaptations)	Low (literal fidelity)	Moderate (cultural adaptation allowed)	Low to moderate
Common Use Cases	Religious and literary texts	Academic, legal, and formal texts	General texts, advertisements	Literary, academic, and sensitive texts
Flexibility in Translation	High	Low ↓	Moderate	Moderate

Table 3: Comparative analysis of translation approaches

Both Nida and Newmark's approaches offer valuable perspectives on achieving equivalence in translation. Dynamic equivalence and communicative translation are ideal for texts where readability and cultural accessibility are key, while formal equivalence and semantic translation suit cases where preserving the original's structure and meaning is critical. Understanding these approaches can help translators decide on the most suitable strategy based on the text type, purpose, and target audience's expectations.

In the Findings section, summarize the collected data and the analysis performed on those data relevant to the issue that is to follow. The Findings should be clear and concise. It should be written objectively and factually, and without expressing personal opinion. It includes numbers, tables, and figures (e.g., charts and graphs). Number tables and figures consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text.

5. Discussion

The foundational contributions of Nida and Newmark have significantly influenced contemporary translation studies. For instance, Nida's work emphasized the cognitive processes involved in translation practice, bridging the gap between linguistic theory and its practical application. Meanwhile, Newmark's text-oriented theory challenged the prevailing author-oriented perspectives by prioritizing the function and reception of the text. Both scholars underscored the importance of context in achieving equivalence, highlighting the need for translators to consider cultural norms, audience expectations, and linguistic structures.

5.1. Significance of findings

The findings of this study highlight the importance of selecting appropriate translation theories when dealing with languages as distinct as English and Arabic. Eugene Nida's dynamic and formal equivalence, as well as Peter Newmark's semantic and communicative translation, provide frameworks for addressing equivalence in meaning. This section discusses the theoretical and practical implications of the findings and their relevance to translators and translation studies.

5.2. Dynamic equivalence (Nida)

The study confirms the effectiveness of Nida's dynamic equivalence in translations that require cultural adaptation. The ability to evoke a similar emotional and cognitive response from the target audience makes this approach highly suitable for literary and religious texts. For example, translating idiomatic expressions such as "breaking the ice" into Arabic as "كسر حاجز الصمت" (breaking the barrier of silence) demonstrates the importance of ensuring cultural relevance.

Theoretical implications:

- Dynamic equivalence aligns with functionalist translation theories, emphasizing the role of the target audience in shaping the translation process.
- This approach underscores the cognitive effort required to balance meaning with cultural resonance, reinforcing its importance in cross-cultural communication.

Practical implications:

- Translators must possess a deep understanding of the target culture to effectively apply dynamic equivalence.
- This method is especially useful for translating advertisements, literary works, and speeches, where the primary goal is audience engagement.

5.3. Formal equivalence (Nida)

Formal equivalence, in contrast, prioritizes linguistic fidelity to the source text, often at the expense of naturalness in the target language. The study found that this approach is particularly beneficial in contexts where accuracy and preservation of structure are paramount, such as legal, academic, and religious translations. For example, translating "The Lord is my shepherd" as "الرب راعي" maintains the original structure and theological intent.

Theoretical implications:

- Formal equivalence reinforces the importance of linguistic structures in preserving the author's intent.
- This method aligns with structuralist theories that view language as a system of signs with fixed meanings.

Practical implications:

- Translators must ensure that the translation does not alienate the target audience due to unnatural phrasing.
- This approach is critical for producing translations that retain their legal, academic, or spiritual integrity.

5.4. Semantic translation (Newmark)

Newmark's semantic translation focuses on preserving the meaning and stylistic nuances of the source text. The findings reveal that this method is particularly effective in translating technical and literary texts where precise meaning is critical. For instance, translating the phrase "freedom of speech" as "حرية التعبير" ensures clarity and fidelity to the original concept.

Theoretical implications:

- Semantic translation bridges the gap between literal and free translation, offering a middle ground for texts that require nuanced interpretations.
- This approach highlights the translator's responsibility to maintain the author's voice and intent.

Practical implications:

- Translators using semantic translation must balance accuracy with readability, particularly in specialized fields such as medicine, law, and literature.
- The method ensures that the translated text resonates with educated audiences without compromising the original meaning.

5.5. Communicative translation (Newmark)

Communicative translation emphasizes accessibility and reader engagement, making it particularly suitable for public-facing texts such as advertisements and speeches. For example, translating "Just do it" into Arabic as "افعلها فقط" captures the slogan's motivational tone while adapting it for the target audience.

Theoretical implications:

- This approach aligns with functionalist theories that prioritize the text's purpose over its literal meaning.
- Communicative translation underscores the importance of cultural adaptation in enhancing reader comprehension and engagement.

Practical implications:

- Translators must prioritize the audience's cultural norms and linguistic preferences when applying this method.
- This approach is particularly valuable for translating idiomatic expressions and culturally sensitive texts.

5.6. Comparative implications

The study's comparative analysis of Nida's and Newmark's theories highlights their complementary nature. While dynamic and communicative translations prioritize cultural adaptation and readability, formal and semantic translations emphasize fidelity to the source text. Translators must assess the purpose of the translation and the needs of the target audience to determine the most appropriate approach.

5.7. Broader implications

The findings underscore the need for flexible and purpose-driven translation strategies in bridging cultural and linguistic divides. By integrating Nida's and Newmark's theories, translators can address the complexities of English-Arabic translation more effectively. This study contributes to the broader discourse on translation theory by advocating for a balanced approach that considers both linguistic precision and cultural sensitivity.

This section should explore the significance of the results of the study. A combined Findings and Discussion section is also appropriate. This section allows you to offer your interpretation and explain the meaning of your results. Emphasize any theoretical or practical consequences of the results.

The Discussion section should be a reasoned and justifiable commentary on the importance of your findings. This section states why the problem is important; what larger issues and what propositions are confirmed or disconfirmed by the extrapolation of these findings to such overarching issues.

6. Conclusion

This paper explored two influential approaches to translation equivalence Eugene Nida's dynamic and formal equivalence and Peter Newmark's semantic and communicative translation. Nida's dynamic equivalence prioritizes the reader's response, making translations accessible and culturally relevant, while his formal equivalence maintains structural and linguistic fidelity to the original text. Newmark, meanwhile, advocates for semantic translation when exact meaning is crucial, and communicative translation when the primary goal is reader comprehension and cultural resonance. The comparative analysis reveals that each approach has its strengths and is suited to different translation goals. Dynamic and communicative translations are particularly useful for texts where cultural adaptation enhances understanding, such as literature and religious texts. Conversely, formal and semantic translations are beneficial in technical or academic contexts, where preserving precise meaning and terminology is essential. Examples in both Arabic and English demonstrate the practical applications and implications of these theories, especially in bridging cultural differences. Ultimately, this study underscores that no single approach to translation is universally superior; instead, translators must assess the purpose of the translation, the needs of the target audience, and the cultural context to select the most effective strategy. This research contributes to the broader discourse on translation theory by advocating for a flexible, purpose-driven approach, enriching our understanding of how to achieve effective and meaningful cross-linguistic communication.

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