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The Degree to Which Translation Retains Parallelism: A Data-Driven Analysis of King Abdullah II's Speeches from Arabic to English

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the frequency and handling of parallelism in Arabic and English, focusing on how it affects argumentation in political discourse. This paper examines how parallelism is preserved in translation from Arabic to English, with a focus on a selection of King Abdullah II's speeches. However, it does not explore the impact of translating from Arabic to English on parallelism in other types of texts, an area that could be investigated in future studies. Using speeches by King Abdullah II, the study compares Arabic original texts to their English translations. The texts are taken from speeches by King Abdullah II to compare the changes in parallelism that occur when translating the texts from Arabic to English. Three levels of parallelism—word level, sentence level, and chunk level—are examined. The findings are presented in two tables: one for Arabic speeches and another for their English translations. The study's corpus includes original Arabic political speeches and their English translations, as parallelism is examined from the perspective of translation studies. The analysis reveals a total of nineteen parallel structures in the Arabic texts. In contrast, the English translations retained only six parallel structures, displayed eight semi-parallel structures, and lost five structures altogether. These findings highlight the similarities and differences in parallelism between Arabic and English, shedding light on the implications of translation choices in the context of political speech. The study emphasizes the importance of maintaining parallelism to strengthen arguments in translation.

Keywords: Frequency; Figure of Speech; Repetition; Rhetorical Device; Political Discourse; Loss and Compensation

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1. Introduction

Linguistic parallelism is a phenomenon that describes the use of the same word pattern for two or more concepts of equal value that are presented in successive lines and in a balanced way to help the reader understand the content or perceive the relationship between ideas^[1]. Parallelism can occur at the word level, sentence level i.e. nominal and verbal sentences and chunk level. Parallelism fulfills a minor locus in English, though it is found at various levels of frequency at word, clause, phrase and chunk levels^[2]. In contrast to how it does in Arabic, parallelism does not function as a discourse-constructive device in English. Instead, it is used as a figure of speech to draw the reader's attention to the argument and emphasizes other notable features like the use of a series of elements, contrasting pairs, the use of pronouns, and reminiscing which means discussing or writing about past experiences that are recalled with joy^[2]. Williams^[3] contends that "English does not favor repetition of lexical strings, either for aesthetic or cohesive reasons".

Arabic often utilizes word-level parallelism, which is a common feature in the language. Political speeches in Arabic are notably characterized by a strong reliance on word-level assonance, known as *Al Saja*. Assonance refers to the occurrence of two or more words ending with the same letter or sound. Another stylistic device used in Arabic is *Al Jinas Al 'Istihlai* (Alliteration), which involves the repetition of initial sounds across two or more lexical units at the word level^[2].

The categorization of sentences follows the Arabic distinction between nominal and verbal sentences.

[A sentence] is generally agreed to be the most convenient point of departure for grammatical investigation, not requiring the prior specification of any other grammatical unit, being semantically more self-contained than any other unit, and being also relatively easy to identify in both speech and writing- especially printed writing (^[4], pp. 43–44).

It is widely recognized that Arabic uses both verbal and nominal sentences. A nominal sentence is defined as one that starts with a noun and appears at the beginning or middle of a paragraph. In contrast, a verbal sentence begins with a verb, followed by a subject, and generally ends with a

complement^[2].

Parallelism at the chunk level occurs on a larger scale than lexical items and sentences, as it spans across more than one paragraph^[2].

This paper discusses the extent to which translation maintains parallelism when translating from Arabic into English, focusing on a sample of King Abdullah II's speeches. However, it does not address the effect of translating from Arabic into English on parallelism in other types of texts, which could be explored in future research.

2. Literature Review

Following Van Dijk's^[5] socio-cognitive method and his concept of Ideological Square, Almehdawi^[1] investigated parallelism as a rhetorical device from a critical discourse viewpoint. Additionally, it investigated Hillary Clinton's use of parallelism in her political speech on "the fourth and final night of the Democratic National Convention" in December 2016. According to the study's findings, parallelism is a crucial tool for illustrating and reflecting dominance in a political setting. Additionally, Hillary uses it to demonstrate her beliefs to her supporters by sending them emotive messages.

Shamaileh^[2] conducted a study to examine the function, patterns, and frequency of parallelism in the translation from Arabic to English. Since critical discourse analysis (CDA) draws attention to important concerns like power and legitimacy, which are at the center of political discourse, the research will utilize CDA to investigate the setting of the research, which focuses on political discourse and argumentative text typology. To tackle the rhetorical device, the researcher has chosen the following two methods. The first is the contrastive stylistics method, in which parallelism is examined as a stylistic device in political speeches in both Arabic and English. Second, the translation method is applied to the analytical part of this work, which examines parallelism in the original Arabic utterances and their English translations. According to the study's findings, parallelism is a powerful rhetorical tactic that frequently appears in Arabic political speeches. The findings also show that English uses parallelism, though less frequently than Arabic does and instead depends more on other rhetorical devices, like listing three elements, utilizing contrasting elements, and playing with pronoun usage, among others. The study concludes that par-

allelism is important in Arabic political speeches. Contrary to what has been hypothesized, it has been observed that parallelism is heavily used in the English translation, even though it is less common in English political speeches. This could be because the corpus is that of a monarch, whose speeches reflect legitimacy, power, and tightly controlled language.

Monassar^[6] investigated parallelism in Arabic through data from three Arabic varieties: Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), Classical Arabic (CA), and (Yemeni) Adeni Arabic (AA). It examined parallelism in Arabic at morphological and lexical, syntactic, and textual levels of language. Parallelism was discovered to be more common in publications that seek to persuade readers or restate ideas and theses. It is also predicted in sermons, public presentations, and writings of opinions. Parallelisms do happen, but they rely on the genre, the intent, and the circumstance, i.e., they are genre-specific, purpose-oriented, and context-dependent. Evidently, parallelism, especially when it goes beyond redundancy and lexical level, causes resonance in the listener's or reader's mind, helping to keep the relevant information in short-term memory and therefore designating it for emphasis.

Nurlaili et al.^[7] conducted a study to evaluate the translation quality of parallelism in the novel *Negeri 5 Menara* using a descriptive qualitative approach. They collected data through document analysis and focus group discussions. The focus group discussions were centered on the translation methods and the quality of the translation, while the document analysis involved identifying and marking relevant data in the novel. The study found two types of parallelism in the text: word parallelism and phrase parallelism. The translator employed nine translation techniques—equivalent, paraphrase, modulation, transposition, exploitation, implication, reduction, borrowing, and compensation—when translating parallelism. Word parallelism was mainly used to express parallel ideas, with verbs being the most common tool for conveying both word-level and phrase-level parallelism. Additionally, the technique of equivalence was the most frequently used in translating parallel structures.

Shamaileh^[8] conducted a study to show how parallelism is lost and compensated for when political speeches are translated from Arabic into English at the word, phrase, and chunk levels. This study highlights the extensive use of parallelism in Arabic political speeches, where it serves as a rhetorical strategy to evoke an emotional response from the audience and to enhance persuasion and assertion. The anal-

ysis also shows that Arabic political discourse offers an ideal context for parallelism across all its levels. Furthermore, it can be inferred that the constraints of formal English make it difficult for translators to replicate the parallelism present in Arabic speeches at the word, phrase, and chunk levels.

Uludag^[9] suggested that textual data analysis has become a valuable method for studying complex human behavior across fields like psychology, sociology, and computer science. However, identifying relevant textual parameters for these analyses remains challenging. This paper explores potential parameters that can enhance the examination of behavior through complex textual data. The paper conducted a literature review, highlighting topics such as sentiment, discourse, lexical, and syntactic analysis, and discussing their theoretical foundations and practical applications with examples from past research. It emphasized the importance of context and interdisciplinary collaboration for a deeper understanding of behavior. Additionally, we provide Python code in the Supplementary Materials for behavioral analysis and used ChatGPT 3.5 Turbo to generate a 1000-word text for this purpose. Overall, this paper offers a foundation for researchers in fields like linguistics and psychiatry to identify relevant textual parameters for analyzing human behavior.

3. Methodology

Seven political speeches by the Monarch of Jordan were selected as the text corpus to compare the original Arabic speeches with their English translations. The speeches were carried out in the Jordanian Royal Court, or they were published online at King Abdullah's website <http://www.kingabdullah.jo/>. The speeches that were not available online were found in a document at the Department of Communication and Information in the Jordanian Royal Court. The analysis of parallelism in the speeches will be conducted at a bottom-up level, focusing on words, sentences (including nominal and verbal sentences), and chunks. In the discussion section, two tables were presented to show the frequency of parallelism in the Arabic speeches and their English translations in the political speeches of King Abdullah II.

4. Results

The corpus of the study consists of original Arabic political speeches and their English translations since parallelism

is investigated from translation studies point of view.

4.1. Parallelism at the Word Level

The following examples illustrate parallelism at the

word level, with the selection based on grammatical structures in Arabic, such as the accusative case, personal pronouns, masculine plural, dual forms, feminine markers, and alliteration. Consider the examples (1–5):

(1) "وفي هذا الصدد، فإنني أتطلع إلى انجاز قانون انتخابي عصري، يتيح للجميع فرصة المنافسة الحرة الشريفة لتمثيل شرائح المجتمع و توجهاته الفكرية و السياسية."

(1) King Abdullah II^[10] claimed that "In this respect, I look out for the formulation of a modern elections law that gives everyone the opportunity to free and fair competition, to present the various sectors of society with its various political and cultural colors" (p. 318).

In the Arabic sentence, parallelism is established between the lexical pairs (الحرة، الشريفة) (free, fair) where morphological parallelism is achieved through the feminine marker (ة) which incorporates rhyme and creates phonological parallelism and using the definite article (ال) which creates alliteration at the phonological level. Another instance of parallelism occurs between the lexical items (السياسية، الفكرية) (political, cultural) where both the lexical items are adjectives that manifest morphological parallelism by the definite article (ال) and the feminine marker (ة). Phonologically, parallelism is evident in the rhyme at the end of the

words, as well as in alliteration with the same initial sounds and metrical consistency following the pattern (الفعلية). In the English translation¹ parallelism was not achieved between the lexical items (free, fair), whereas it was maintained in the second couplet via the use of the adjectives (political, cultural) which have rhyme in their endings (-al). However, this rhyme does not carry the alliteration seen in Arabic, as the definite article is not used in English. The parallelism in the original Arabic text emphasizes and draws attention to the parallel structures, a feature that is not fully maintained in the English translation.

(2) "لقد تفاعل المسلمون خلال أربعة عشر قرناً تفاعلاً فكرياً إيجابياً مع الحضارات الأخرى، أدركوا أن هذا التفاعل، لا يشكل خطراً على مبادئهم و معتقداتهم الأساسية، فالاسلام دين يحث على طلب العلم و إدارة الاقتصاد، بما يفيد و يخدم مصالح الأمة."

(2) According to King Abdullah II^[10], "For fourteen centuries, Muslims have interacted positively with other cultures. They have realized that this interaction does not represent a threat to their principles and fundamental beliefs. Islam is a religion that urges the pursuit of knowledge and the effective management of the economy for the benefit of the Nation's interests" (p. 376).

In the example above, Arabic achieves parallelism at the word level through the accusative case, marked by (إ) in (تفاعلاً فكرياً إيجابياً)، and through personal pronoun (هم) which is used in the lexical items (معتقداتهم و مبادئهم). The repetition of these structures creates phonological paral-

lelism, marked by rhyme at the end of the words. In contrast, the English translation fails to preserve the parallelism found in the Arabic, meaning that phonological parallelism is not achieved in the English version.

(3) "إن الوصول إلى الازدهار الاقتصادي الذي نريد، يتطلب تنفيذاً فورياً، لمجموعة من الإجراءات التي تضمن الاستقرار المالي، و تعزيز البيئة الاستثمارية. و من هذه الإجراءات ضبط مستويات التضخم لحماية المواطن من زيادة تكاليف المعيشة و تفعيل سياسات مصرفية تضمن سلامة الأجهزة المصرفية و سمعتها، و ترتقي بوسائل الرقابة على حقوق المودعين و المتعاملين. و من أهم الإجراءات المطلوبة من الحكومة في هذا المجال ربط مستويات الرواتب بمعدلات التضخم، وذلك من خلال زيادة علاوة تحسين المعيشة لحماية للعاملين و المتقاعدين."

¹The English translations provided by the Jordanian Royal Court use American spelling.

(3) King Abdullah II^[11] stated that “Achieving the economic prosperity which we seek requires the immediate application of a set of measures to guarantee financial stability and enhance the investment environment. Among these measures is controlling inflation to protect citizens against rising cost of living, activating banking policies that guarantee the safety of banking institutions and their reputations, and elevating the monitoring tools of depositors and guaranteeing clients’ rights. Among the most important measures required of the government in this regard is linking salaries to inflation averages, increasing the allowance for improving living standards to protect the work force and retirees” (p. 3).

In this example, both morphological and phonological parallelism are evident in the Arabic lexical items (المتعاملين ، المودعين، المتقاعدين، العاملين) where the four lexical items end with the masculine plural indicator (ين) and start with the definite article (ال) which both manifest morphological parallelisms. Phonological parallelism on the other hand, is manifested using rhyme created in (ين) and alliteration via repetition of the definite article (ال). In the English translation, the plural structure is mostly preserved with the plural marker (s) in words like (depositors, clients, retirees), but the plural form is not maintained in “workforce,” nor is the alliteration present across all the lexical items. As a result, the English translation fails to achieve phonological parallelism.

(4) "فالأردنيون أمام القانون سواء و العدل أساس الحكم. و هو الضمانة للحفاظ على قيم التسامح و الترابط و التكامل و الوحدة الوطنية."

(4) According to King Abdullah II^[12], “Jordanians are equal by law. Justice is the base of governing and the guarantor of the values of tolerance, affinity, integration and national unity” (p. 110).

A key characteristic of political discourse is the use of various elements to emphasize points and influence the audience, as illustrated by the use of three specific elements (التسامح و الترابط و التكامل) (tolerance, affinity, integrity). This effect is further strengthened using phonological parallelism, which is created by alliteration in (الت), and the use of the same metrical foot according to the pattern (التفاعل), in addition to morphological parallelism manifested in the definite article (ال). While the English translation can preserve the three key elements to maintain emphasis and focus the audience’s attention on them, it does not retain the phonological and morphological parallelism.

(5) "و أما الأشقاء في العراق، و السودان فاننا نشعر بمعاناتهم تحت وطأة الحصار المفروض عليهم، و ندعو المجتمع الدولي إلى القيام بواجبه الانساني و الأخلاقي لرفع الحصار عن هذين الشعبين، و وضع حد لهذه المعاناة، التي فاقت الحدود. و في هذا المجال فإننا نؤكد على موقفنا الثابت بضرورة الحفاظ على وحدة و سلامة الأراضي العراقية."

(5) King Abdullah II^[12] stated that, “As for our brethren in Iraq and Sudan, we feel for their suffering and endurance under the sanctions enforced upon them. We invite the international community to fulfill its human and moral duty to lift the sanctions on these two peoples and put an end to this suffering, which exceeds all limits. In this regard, we reiterate our firm position concerning safeguarding the integrity and unity of Iraq” (p. 114).

In the above example, parallelism is achieved through duality in the phrase (هذين الشعبين) (two peoples) which incorporates morphological parallelism as the two lexical items end with a marker of dualism in the accusative case (ين) which also creates phonological parallelism through rhyme. In contrast, English lacks a dual form, so the only way to convey the same meaning is by using the word “two” to indicate duality. As a result, the English translation fails to preserve both morphological and phonological parallelism, losing the rhyme and the intended effect of emphasizing the parallel structure to draw the reader’s attention.

4.2. Parallelism at the Sentence Level

4.2.1. Parallelism at the Nominal Sentence Level

The following examples (6–10) will reflect the manifestation of parallelism in nominal sentences followed by examples (11–15) on verbal sentences.

(6) "و انتم الأهل و العزوة و ريباق المسيرة، الأوفى عهداء، و الأصدق انتماء، و الأنبل هدفا، و الأقدر على مواجهة التحديات و الصعاب و تحقيق اعظم الانجازات."

(6) According to King Abdullah II^[12], "You are the Kins and cohorts, the comrades, the most faithful and truthful in their pledge, the noblest in their aims and the most capable in facing challenges and difficulties and in achieving the greatest of undertakings" (p. 309).

The above example illustrates parallelism in three nominal sentences (انتماء، و الأنبل هدفا الاوفى عهداء، و الاصدق) which is a key feature used in political speeches and manifests emphasis and bigger persuasive effects over an audience (as shown in chapter three and four). Each of these nominal sentences is based on the same structure, i.e., خبر و مبتدأ (a topic and a comment) where the first lexical items are adjectives in the superlative degree (الانبل الاوفى، الاصدق)، (the most faithful, the most truthful, the noblest) followed by nouns in the accusative case (هدفا، عهداء، انتماء، هدفا). One notices that the English translation almost maintains the superlative form; however, due to linguistic restrictions in English, the translation could not maintain the exact form as

in (الاصدق) (truthful) where the superlative degree is not manifested. Moreover, the Arabic parallel lexical items in the same example, هدفا عهداء، انتماء are of the same word pattern, whereas their English counterparts are different, i.e. more than one word: in their pledge, in their aims. Furthermore, phonological and morphological parallelism occurs in the first set of items via using the same metrical foot according to the pattern (الأفعل)، the definite article (ال) and via the use of the accusative indicator (إ) in the second set of lexical items. It can be argued that using a series of three parallelism configurations contributes to creating a sense of solidarity between the speaker and the receivers in difficult situations.

(7) "فالاسلام دين يحث على طلب العلم، و على ادارة الاقتصاد، بما يفيد و يخدم مصالح الأمة، و من هذا المنطلق فان الحصول على التكنولوجيا المتقدمة و مواكبة التقدم العلمي، و التفاعل مع الحضارات الأخرى، أمور تنسجم مع جوهر ديننا الحنيف."

(7) King Abdullah II^[10] said: "Islam is a religion that urges the pursuit of knowledge and the effective management of the economy for the benefit of the nation's interests. Accordingly, acquiring modern technology, keeping up with scientific progress and interacting with other cultures are in harmony with the essence of our great religion" (p. 376).

In this example, the use of collocation which is another feature of political discourse is manifested in the parallel configuration (طلب العلم، ادارة الاقتصاد) (the pursuit of, effective management) which share the same structure i.e. genitive structure. Morphological parallelism is also achieved by the definite article (ال) in (العلم و الادارة). Generally, the lexical item (طلب) (pursuits) is one of the items that collocate with (علم) (knowledge), and the lexical item

(ادارة) (management) is one of the items that collocate with (الاقتصاد) (economy). As for the English translation, it was successful in maintaining collocation in addition to the use of the genitive structure in (the pursuit of knowledge, and the management of the economy). Though it could not maintain morphological parallelism where it dropped one of the definite articles used with the second lexical items.

(8) "ان المازق الذي وصلت اليه المفاوضات الفلسطينية الاسرائيلية و ما أقدمت عليه اسرائيل قبل اندلاع انتفاضة الأقصى و بعدها يستدعي منا وقفة مسؤولة لتدارس أفضل السبل و أنجح الطرق لمعالجة هذه الأوضاع."

(8) King Abdullah II^[10] stated that, "The impasse the Palestinian Israeli negotiations have reached, and the actions Israel undertook before the eruption of the *Aqsa Intifada* and after it, demand our taking a responsible halt, to contemplate the best ways and useful means to deal with this situation" (p. 357).

This is another example that reflects collocation in a parallel constituent. Collocations are a common feature of political discourse "One characteristic of political language

is that it tends to collocations" (^[13], p. 159). Newmark goes as far as stating that the more collocations are used the more, they can become clichés.

Parallelism is created through the repetition of a grammatical structure using adjectives in the superlative degree (أفضل، أنجح) (the best, useful) and manifest phonological parallelism via alliteration in (أ) and sharing the same metrical foot according to the pattern (أفعل)، followed by a noun (الطرق، السبل، الطرق) (ways, means) which have morphological parallelism via the article (ال) and a semantic relation of synonymy that occurs between the two lexical items. Fur-

thermore, the lexical items (أفضل السبل) and (أنجح الطرق) collocate (“the best ways” and “the most successful means”) strengthens the argument. In the English translation, the superlative form of the first lexical item (“the best”) is retained, but the second item (“useful”) does not reflect the same degree. The second pair of nouns (“ways” and “means”) is translated effectively, and the semantic connection between them is preserved.

(9) فإنني أعهد اليك بتشكيل حكومة هذه المرحلة الجديدة، أملا أن تضم قيادات كفوة متميزة، قادرة على تحمل الأعباء الكبيرة، وفي مقدمتها النهوض بالاقتصاد الوطني بالتعاون مع جميع القوى و الفعاليات في القطاعين العام والخاص، و تعزيز قدرة المواطن على مواجهة أعباء الحياة، و تجذير الديمقراطية و تأكيد سيادة القانون، و تعزيز الوحدة الوطنية، و الحفاظ على أمن الوطن و استقراره.

(9) King Abdullah II^[14] claimed, “I am commissioning you with formation of a government for the new era. We wish your cabinet to include competent and distinguished leaders, capable of shouldering the huge burdens, in the forefront of which is advancing the national economy in cooperation with all the forces in both the public and private sectors. They will also be charged with all the forces in both the public and private sectors. They will also be charged with enhancing the citizen’s ability to face the burdens of life, establish democracy, reaffirm the rule of law, enhance national unity, safeguard national security and stability” (pp. 19–20).

This example shows parallelism in a set of three nominal sentences (الوحدة الوطنية تعزيز قدرة المواطن، تأكيد) تعزيز (سيادة القانون، تعزيز) by the same syntactic structure (i.e. noun + a genitive structure). Moreover, repetition, the highest level of parallelism, is achieved through the lexical item (تعزيز) as it is repeated twice in two nominal sentences. Furthermore, phonological parallelism is created by alliter-

ation in (تعزيز، تأكيد، تعزيز). In the English translation, the genitive structure is retained in the form of a set of three sentences, which is a stylistic feature used in political speeches to achieve persuasion and assertiveness. However, phonological parallelism; however, was not maintained due to language constraints.

(10) "و حتى نتمكن من الحفاظ على مسيرتنا الديمقراطية و فتح الافاق أمامها حتى تنمو و تزدهر، فلا بد لنا من ممارسة هذا النهج الديمقراطي بروح عالية من الشعور بالمسؤولية، و بفهم عميق لمعنى الحرية."

(10) According to King Abdullah II^[15], “To safeguard our democratic march and open new vistas before it so that it can prosper and develop, we must exercise this democratic course of action with a high sense of responsibility and deep understanding of the concept of freedom” (p. 317).

Here, parallelism is achieved between two nominal sentences via the use of parallel prepositional phrases (عميق) (بروح عالية، بفهم) and (الشعور بالمسؤولية، لمعنى الحرية) من (of responsibility, of the concept of freedom). The English translation maintained the prepositional phrases, though it was unable to retain the form of (بفهم عميق). Moreover, phonological parallelism is manifested by alliteration in (بفهم بروح) where the two lexical items share the same common preposition (ب) and in the use of rhyme in (المسؤولية، الحرية) as they end

with the same feminine marker (ة). In general, using two sets of parallel structures reflects assertion and is meant to show that the speaker is legitimate and authoritative; legitimacy which is a pivotal feature of political discourse is described by Chilton^[16], p. 23) as “the evident need for political speakers to imbue their utterances with evidence, authority and truth.” Legitimacy and authority are maintained in the English translation as they reflect the use of a series of two parallel elements, and it can be assumed that this reinforces the implications of legitimacy.

4.2.2. Parallelism at the Verbal Sentence Level following examples:

If we now turn to the second type of Arabic sentences, that is verbal sentences, we can identify parallelism in the

(11) "و كنا على الدوام، و بحكم عوامل الجوار و الترابط، و المصير المشترك، الشقيق الأقراب للفلسطينيين، نتأثر بما يتأثرون، و نشاركهم أحزانهم، و نفرح لفرحهم، و نعيش آمالهم، و نعاني معاناتهم، و نتألم لما يؤلمهم."

(11) According to King Abdullah II^[17], "We have always been, by virtue of neighborly ties, connections and common fate, their nearest of kin, we live their hopes, suffer their hardships, get affected by what affects them, join in their sorrows, rejoice to their joy and suffer their pain." (p. 365).

In this statement, parallelism is manifested in five verbal sentences (يؤلمهم لفرحهم، نشاركهم أحزانهم، و نفرح لفرحهم، و نتألم لما نعيش آمالهم، و نعاني معاناتهم، و نتألم لما يفرحهم، و نشاركهم، يؤلمهم، معاناتهم، آمالهم، أحزانهم، نشاركهم، يؤلمهم) which reflect sharing a common fate between the speaker and the addressee and creates solidarity, sympathy and strengthens the rapport between them. The use of five parallel structures has a special effect in political discourse that is reflecting the accumulation of information and appealing to people's feelings "Persuasiveness function of text or talk is not limited to its rhetoric but may also depend

on style or meaning or coherence" (^[5], p. 12). Phonological parallelism is achieved here using alliteration in the initial of the five lexical items which start with the letter (ن), and the use of rhyme in (هم) used as the suffix of the five lexical items (نشاركهم، أحزانهم، آمالهم، معاناتهم، يؤلمهم).

In the English version, the translation was able to retain the use of verbal sentences; however, alliteration and rhyme were not maintained whereas, the pronoun which is added to the nouns (معاناتهم، آمالهم، فرحهم) is reproduced successfully in the English version but without creating rhymes (their hopes, their hardships, and their joy).

(12) "إن الوحدة الوطنية هي احدى المقومات الأساسية التي تعطي الوطن القوة و تمنحه المنعة، و تحول دون التفتت و الاختراق."

(12) King Abdullah II^[15] claimed that "National unity is one of the central components that give the Homeland its strength and fortitude and prevent the fragmentation and infiltration of our ranks" (p. 20).

In this paragraph, parallelism is achieved using the same grammatical structure and word order (تمنحه المنعة، تعطي الوطن القوة، (الوطن، المنعة) (give) followed by an object (المنعة القوة،) (strength, fortitude). Moreover, phonological parallelism

is achieved via alliteration in (تعطي، تمنح) and rhyme in (القوة، المنعة) in addition to having a semantic relation of synonymy between the pairs (تعطي، تمنح) and (القوة، المنعة) where the choice of these lexical items highlights the importance and the need for security and safety as one of the most essential needs of a human being.

(13) "فالفساد يبدد الطاقات و يكرس الاحباط و يزعزع ثقة المواطنين بمؤسساتهم و يحرهم من فرصهم المشروعة."

(13) According to King Abdullah II^[18], "Corruption wastes capabilities, breeds frustration and undermines citizens' confidence in their institutions, robbing them of legitimate opportunities."

Again, the speaker resorts to the use of a series of three elements (يكرس الاحباط يزعزع ثقة المواطنين، يبدد، الطاقات) to describe the corrosive effect of corruption. A sense of completeness and unity is given for greater persuasion, a style used by prominent politicians such as the former Prime Minister Tony Blair. Chilton (^[16], p. 5) contends that "It is shared perceptions of values that define political asso-

ciations. And the human endowment for language has the function of 'indicating', i.e. signifying and communicating what is deemed, according to such shared perceptions, to be advantageous or not, by implication to the group, and what is deemed right and wrong within that group". As for the English version, parallelism is maintained with emphasis on the outcomes of corruption (wastes capabilities, breeds frus-

tration, undermines citizens confidence). The three parallel configurations relate to the conjunction (و) (and), while the English translation uses commas and a final (and) to connect the sentences, this is due to formal constraints of Arabic and English, as commas are used to connect a series of items in English, whereas (u) (and) is used as a conjunctive in Arabic.

(14) "و أن من الوفاء للحسين الباني، ان تكمل المسيرة و أن نعلي البنيان، حتى الأردن بحجم طموحاته و رسالته لا بحجم موارده و امكانياته."

(14) King Abdullah II^[15] stated that, "We shall preserve his pledge of loyal and dedicated work for the sake of a stronger Jordan, united in faith and action" (p. 15).

In this example, parallelism occurs in the nominal sentences (نكمل المسيرة، نعلي البنيان) where it also incorporates phonological parallelism via the use of alliteration in (نكمل، نعلي) and morphological parallelism via the use of the definite article (ال) in (المسيرة، البنيان). It is worth mentioning that the parallel configurations reflect collocation sets which are features of political speeches as the lexical item (نكمل) is called nodal and collocates with (المسيرة) which could be one of a collocation range. This is also applied to (نعلي) which collocates usually with (البنيان). However, the English version does not retain parallelism and has opted for paraphrasing the meaning of the ST.

(15) "نرجو من الله عز و جل، أن عنوان هذه الدورة، العمل الجلد و العطاء المخلص، و أن تسود روح التعاون، و المصلحة العامة السلطات الثلاث، امتثالاً لقوله تعالى: "و تعاونوا على البر و التقوى و لا تعاونوا على الاثم و العدوان."

(15) King Abdullah II^[11] said that "We pray to God, may He be exalted, to entitle this session as one of hard work and honest giving, where the spirit of cooperation with the other authorities prevails, and where public interests come first, in compliance with God's words in the Holy Quran: "Cooperate in acts of righteousness and piety. Do not cooperate in acts of sin and aggression" (p. 10).

The above verbal sentences (على الاثم و العدوان) (Cooperate in acts of righteousness and piety, do not cooperate in acts of sin and aggression) are parallel and share a semantic relation. This is achieved via the use of a contrastive pair, which is another rhetorical tactic used in political speeches and strengthens an argument. This is mainly achieved as contrastive pairs provide a comprehensive view of the matter in discussion, highlight it from all its aspects and make the argument sound more vivid and convincing. The two sentences start with a verb (تعاونوا، لا تعاونوا) followed by a preposition (على) (in) and ended by a noun (البر، التقوى) (righteousness and piety)/ (الاثم و العدوان) (sin and aggression). As for the contrastive pairs they are manifested in (تعاونوا، لا تعاونوا) and (البر و التقوى، الاثم و العدوان). In the English translation, parallelism and the use of a contrastive pair are maintained, where it starts with a verb (to cooperate) followed by a preposition (in), ended by two nouns (rightness and piety, sin and aggression).

4.3. Parallelism at the Chunk Level

Consider the following examples (16–19) where parallelism at chunk level can be found.

(16) "حضرات الأعيان،

حضرات النواب،

لقد كانت مسيرتنا الديمقراطية و سنتظلم، خيارنا الوطني الذي لا رجعة عنه، و مجلسكم الكريم هذا عنوانها الرئيس. و قد

شهد الوطن قبل عدة أشهر احدى أروع صور الممارسات الديمقراطية، حيث قامت حكومتي باجراء الانتخابات للمجالس

البلدية، بمنتهى النزاهة و الحياد و الدقة و التنظيم، و ستعمل حكومتي على ترسيخ قواعد هذه المسيرة الديمقراطية و فتح

الافاق أمامها."

"حضرات الأعيان،

حضرات النواب،

لقد كان الأردن و سيطزل بعون الله، وارث رسالة الثورة العربية الكبرى، و أهدافها و غاياتها النبيلة، في الحرية و الوحدة

و الحياة الأفضل، و سيظل كما كان على الدوام، عربي الانتماء و الموقف و الرسالة و انطلاقا من هذه الرؤية الواضحة.

سيظل العمق العربي للأردن، هو الأساس في كل علاقاته، و لن تتقدم أي علاقة على علاقة الاردن بأشقائه العرب."

(16) King Abdullah II^[15] said:

"Honorable Senators,

Honorable Deputies,

Our democratic course has been and will remain our unwavering national course. Your honorable Assembly is its central feature. The country witnessed a few months ago one of its best democratic experiences when my government ran municipal council elections with utmost integrity, impartially, efficiency and organization. My government will firmly carry on strengthening this democratic course and opening new horizons" (p. 13).

"Honorable Senators,

Honorable Deputies,

Jordan has been and will always remain, God Willing, the inheritor of the message of the Great Arab Revolt and its noble aims and aspirations for freedom, unity and better life. Jordan will always be loyal to its Arab roots. Its relations with other Arab states will only stem from these roots. No relation with any country will take precedence over Jordan's relations with its Arab brethren" (p. 14).

As noted from the above example that parallelism stretches over two separate paragraphs in the form of three sentences (اب، لقد كانت مسيرتنا الديمقراطية و الاردن و سيظل) and (ستظل حضرات الاعيان، حضرات النواب). This is a common style of political speeches where a speaker tends to start or resume his/her speech after a pause with what is known as 'formulas of address', Chilton and Schaffner^[19], p. 106) stress that "Phraseology [which includes gambits, formulas of address and idiomatic expressions] has proved to be not just a marginal linguistic phenomenon but an essential feature of political speech. 'Phraseological language' amounts approximately ten percent of a speech."

An analysis of the example above reveals that the formula of address (حضرات النواب حضرات الاعيان) (honorable

senators/deputies) used in two paragraphs follows a consistent structure: a noun ending in a feminine plural form + a noun with a definite article (ال). This structure, which creates morphological and phonological parallelism through the definite article (the), the feminine plural suffix (ات) and the rhyme in (ت) is successfully retained in the English translation by an adjective ending with the suffix (-able), i.e. honorable + a noun (deputies/senators). Moreover, the structure of (our democratic course has been and will remain) is parallel to (سيظل لقد كان) (Jordan has been and will always remain), as they share nearly the same construction. In this case, the English translation maintains parallelism at the chunk level and successfully connects the speech using formulas of address.

(17) "إن رد الأمة على ما يحدث في فلسطين، و على تعثر المفاوضات مع الشقيقة سوريا، و التهديدات ضد لبنان، لن يكون مجديا و فعالا و بمستوى ما نطمح اليه و نتوقعه شعوبنا منا اذا لم يستند الى رؤية شاملة لاعادة النظر في طريقة عملنا كمجموعة قومي منطلقين من الايمان بضرورة تعزيز قدرتنا على العمل المشترك، و اطلاق اليات هذا العمل بصورة تدريجية، و أن نعمل على تحصينها ضد كافة المسائل الخلافية، التي قد تنشأ، أو تلك الموجودة بحكم ظروف سابقة "

"إن رد الأمة على الأخطار التي تأتي من أي جهة، و هي الآن اتية من جراء تعثر العملية السلمية، لا يمكن أن يستوي و يرقى الى المأمول دون تفعيل النظام العربي برمته، و كلكم يدرك الصعوبات و المشاكل التي يعاني منها نظامنا العربي."

(17) According to King Abdullah II^[17], "The nation's response to what is happening in Palestine, to the impeded negotiation with Syria, and the threats against Lebanon, will not be effective, and at the level we aspire and is expected from us by our nations, unless we base it on a comprehensive vision, that reconsider our work methodology as a national group, and stemming from our beliefs in the importance of enhancing our collective efforts, as well as, the gradual launch of mechanisms for such work. We must safeguard our collective efforts against all disparities which may arise, or those that already exist due to past circumstances" (p. 358).

"The Arab nation's response to the dangers affecting it from any side, which is now resulting from the obstructed

peace process, will not rise to the aspired levels, without a reactivation of the whole Arab order. You are all aware of the difficulties and problems our Arab system suffers from.” (p. 358).

Here, parallelism occurs in two nominal sentences (جهة يحدث في فلسطين ان رد الأمة على الأخطار التي تأتي من أي (إن رد، الأمة على ما happening in Palestine, the Arab nation’s response to the dangers affecting it from any side) stretching over two paragraphs and reflecting the need for safety and security. This in turn creates a greater effect and stirs the emotions of its recipients “If you can attach your proposal to a strong and familiar

motive, it will be drawn on to success with little effort” Turk ([20], p. 218). The structure i.e. a nominal sentence starting with the accusative particle (ان) stretches over to be parallel to another sentence in another paragraph. As for the English translation, it uses a parallel nominal structure and appeals to the need for safety and security, which makes it sound more persuasive.

(18) أيها الأخره المواطنين الأعزاء،

إن الطموحات كبيرة لكن تحقيقها يتطلب منا جميعا العمل بروح الفريق الواحد المتجانس، و ضمن رؤية واضحة، و تصور مستقبلي شامل، و استيعاب لمعطيات هذا العصر، و منجزاته العلمية و التكنولوجية، و الاستعداد لمواكبة هذه المعطيات المتغيرة بسرعة و باستمرار.

"أيها الأخوة المواطنين الأعزاء،

إن ثقتي بالمستقبل كبيرة، لأنها مستمدة من ثقتي بالإنسان الأردني المبدع، و ما يتمتع به من قدرات و مواهب، و ما يتسلح

به من علم و معرفة، و ارادة لا تعرف التعب أو اليأس أو الخوف من التغيير."

(18) King Abdullah II^[12] stated that:

“Dear Citizens,

Our aspirations are great but accomplishing them demands that we acquire a homogenous team spirit, a clear vision, a comprehensive conception of the future, awareness in the offerings of this age, its scientific and technological achievements, and preparedness to encompass such accelerated and continuous changes” (p. 311).

“Dear Citizens,

We have great confidence in the future, derived from our confidence in the creative Jordanian person, in his abilities and talents; knowledge and unyielding or tiring will that knows no despair or fear of change” (p. 312).

In this example, parallelism occurs in (الأعزاء، اطنون الأعزاء، أن ثقتي بالمستقبل كبيرة ايها الأخره المواطنين ان الطموحات كبيرة، أيها الأخوة المو The example incorporates the highest level of parallelism, which is repetition that occurs in the first part of the sentence. Looking at the English translation, it did not maintain the same structure as it omitted (الأخوة) (brothers) from the first sentence. Moreover, the structure of the nominal sentence which begins with the accusative particle (ان) in (ان الطموحات كبيرة) is repeated

in the second paragraph though parallelism is not achieved in the English translation. Hatim and Mason ([21], p. 199) contend that “It is now apparent that the cohesive devices at play [recurrence] are not random; they are motivated by overall rhetorical purpose. Assuming that recurrence is a universal rhetorical device, any attempt by a translator vary TT expression at these points in the text is sure to detract from equivalence of text focus.”

(19) حضرات الأعيان،

حضرات النواب،

إن تحقيق الأمن الغذائي الوطني، هو من أهم الأولويات."

"حضرات الأعيان،

حضرات النواب،

إن تحقيق أي تقدم، مرتبط بوجود بيئة قانونية و قضائية، تضمن سيادة القانون و نزاهة القضاء."

(19) King Abdullah II^[11] said:

“Honorable Senators,

Honorable Deputies,

Realizing food security is a top priority” (p. 5).

“Honorable Senators,

Honorable Deputies,

The realization of any progress is linked to establishing a legal and judicial environment that guarantees the rule of law and the integrity of the judiciary” (p. 5).

Here, parallelism is manifested in formulas of address using the same structure of inflection, i.e. feminine plural (ات) + noun in (حضرات الاعيان، حضرات النواب) (Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies), and the English translation was able to retain the same structure and connect the speech together. Moreover, parallelism occurs in the nominal sentence (ان تحقيق الأمن الغذائي الوطني) and (أي تقدم) (ان تحقيق). However, the translation does not present parallelism in (Realizing food security) and (The realization of any progress) where the structure of the two sentences varies as the first sentence starts with a gerund and the second sentence with a noun phrase, hence, it does not maintain the function of nominalization which generally consists of a subject and a predicate.

The approach to describing parallelism is based on the level of correspondence, which is categorized as follows: “parallel” refers to cases where there is full or near-total correspondence between the parallel structures; “semi-parallel” (or incomplete parallelism) applies when there is only partial correspondence between the parallel forms; and “zero parallelism” is used when no parallelism is achieved in the English translation. This classification is based on the degree of correspondence between the original text and its translation.

5. Discussion

The focus of the data analysis is to examine parallel configurations with reference to their various types, functions, levels and impacts. This study examined the speeches of King Abdullah II. This study is consistent with Almehdawi^[1], who examined parallelism as a rhetorical device from a critical discourse perspective. It also explored Hillary Clinton’s use of parallelism in her political speech.

After discussing examples 1–5, it can be argued that parallelism, specifically morphological and phonological parallelism plays a significant role at the semantic and structural levels, where it can add a stylistic touch through rhyme, asso-

nance, and alliteration while also emphasizing and strengthening a meaning to make it persuasive.

As noted in examples (6–11), the translation successfully maintains the parallel structure, and the choice of parallel configurations reflects unity, and neighborly feelings, and highlights a sense of support and solidarity.

Example 12 demonstrates how parallelism can be a powerful tool in political speeches and an effective technique for appealing to listeners’ desires in a way that makes the speaker sound more compelling. “Some politically relevant feelings, such as territorial belonging and identity (‘home’), love of family, fear of intruders and unknown people [...] such emotions might have an innate basis and be stimulated automatically in the political use of language” Chilton ([16], p. 204). The speaker connects (national unity) with lexical items (strength, fortitude) to evoke people’s emotions and appeal to their need for security. Despite not maintaining morphological and phonological parallelism, the English translation was able to appeal to the target text TT recipients due to their need for security and safety. However, by maintaining the antithesis’s semantic relationship, the English translation can accomplish parallelism in (15).

Examples (16–19) show that Arabic quotes maintain nominalization more than English quotes. Since nominalization is a style used in political writings to achieve objectivity, generalization, abstractness and adding a sense of formality, Arabic speeches can be characterized as more objective and formal.

After analyzing the study’s corpus and examining parallelism patterns, two tables are provided. The first table highlights the frequency of parallelism occurrences at various levels, including word, sentence, and chunk levels. The second table compares the frequency of these occurrences in Arabic and English. **Table 1** displays the number of parallel structures found in Arabic speeches, while **Table 2** shows those identified in the translated English version.

Tables 1 and **2** show that five instances of parallelism were found at word level in the original Ara-

Table 1. Frequency of occurrence of parallelism in Arabic political speeches.

Word Level	Sentence Level		Chunk Level
	Nominal Sentence	Verbal Sentence	
5	5	5	4

Table 2. Frequency of occurrence of parallelism in the English translation.

Word Level			Sentence Level						Chunk Level		
Parallel	Semi	Zero	Nominal Sentence			Verbal Sentence			parallel	semi	zero
2	1	2	parallel	semi	zero	parallel	semi	zero	parallel	semi	zero
			-	5	-	2	1	2	2	1	1

bic speeches, whereas in the translated version only two instances-maintained parallelism, one was semi parallel, and two instances did not maintain parallelism. This finding is consistent with Shamaileh’s^[8] study, which suggested that the constraints of formal English make it difficult for translators to adapt the parallelism present in Arabic speeches at the word, phrase, and chunk levels.

At the sentence level, five instances of parallelism were identified in nominal sentences and an additional five in verbal sentences. In the English translation, five instances of semi-parallelism, which involve partial repetition of structure, were found in nominal sentences. In verbal sentences, two instances of full parallelism were preserved, one instance of semi-parallelism occurred, and two instances exhibited no parallelism.

At the chunk level, four instances of parallelism were found in Arabic, while only two instances retained parallel structures in English. One of these was semi-parallel, and in the final instance, the translation failed to preserve parallelism.

In total, there were nineteen instances of parallelism in Arabic across the levels. In contrast, the English translation preserved six instances of parallelism, eight instances of semi-parallelism, and failed to maintain parallel structure in five instances.

6. Conclusions

In conclusion, parallelism can be viewed as a key rhetorical, stylistic, and cohesive device that serves not only as a means of semantic representation but also plays a central role in Arabic political speeches. Its functions extend beyond simple repetition; parallelism helps to introduce new

information while maintaining structural consistency, creating phonological effects such as rhyme, assonance, and alliteration. Additionally, it enhances the aesthetic quality of a speech, contributing to a more persuasive and compelling argument. The analysis conducted in this study suggests that, in certain instances, the formal constraints of English have posed challenges for translators in maintaining parallelism at the word, sentence, and chunk levels. This study also highlights the deep integration of parallelism in Arabic discourse, particularly in political contexts. As a frequent and powerful rhetorical device, parallelism is not only a tool for constructing meaning but also a reflection of the natural structure of the Arabic language, making it a vital element in effective communication. On this basis, future research should be conducted on parallelism in different types of Arabic texts and their English translations.

Author Contributions

To assess the level of parallelism in King Abdullah II’s speeches during their translation from Arabic to English, S.S. oversaw data analysis and comparative linguistic analysis. They contributed by choosing the datasets, figuring out important linguistic elements, and analyzing the outcomes to shed light on the translation techniques used.

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