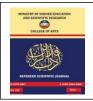## Adab Al-Rafidayn

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Investigating Kurdish Translators' Stance towards Neutrality from an Academic and Professional Perspective

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Abstract

The current study explores Kurdish translators' stances on neutrality from academic and professional perspectives, shedding light on the challenges of maintaining neutrality in various contexts. This includes sensitivity of linguistic representation in a culturally, politically, and socially charged environment that translators need to negotiate. The study analyzes how neutrality is interpreted and utilized in academic and professional contexts, considering the employer and the audience's expectations, the context, and the translation's intended use. This study uses a quantitative technique to evaluate academics' and professionals' perspectives of neutrality in translation. A standardized questionnaire was provided to various participants, including academics and industry professionals. Data for quantitative responses were examined using statistical methods, resulting in a full picture of the translators' viewpoints. The data show that there is widespread agreement on the impact of culture and politics on neutrality, with cultural elements having the greatest influence. While academics and professionals seek impartiality, freelancers have a stronger consensus on cultural issues. It is argued that, despite differences in context, translators have shared professional attitudes, highlighting translation processes that prioritize translation accuracy while including ethical considerations and cultural sensitivity.

دراسة موقف المترجمين الكورد من الحيادية من منظور أكاديمي ومهني

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المستخلص :

تستكشف الدراسة الحالية مواقف المترجمين الكورد بشأن الحيادية من منظور أكاديمي ومهني، وتسلط الضوء على تحديات الحفاظ على الحيادية في سياقات مختلفة. ويشمل ذلك حساسية التمثيل اللغوي في بيئة مشحونة ثقافيًا وسياسيًا واجتماعيًا يحتاج المترجمون إلى التفاوض بشأنها. وتحلل الدراسة كيفية تفسير الحيادية واستخدامها في السياقات الأكاديمية والمهنية، مع مراعاة توقعات صاحب العمل والجمهور، والسياق، والاستخدام المقصود للترجمة. تستخدم هذه الدراسة تقنية كمية لتقييم وجهات نظر الأكاديميين والمهنيين بشأن الحيادية في الترجمة. تم تقديم استبيان موحد لمختلف المشاركين، بما في ذلك الأكاديميون والمهنيون في الصنعة. تم فحص بيانات الاستجابات الكمية باستخدام الأساليب الإحصائية، مما أدى إلى صورة كاملة لوجهات نظر المترجمين. تُظهر البيانات أن هناك اتفاقًا واسع النطاق على تأثير الثقافة والسياسة في الحيادية، إذ تتمتع العناصر الثقافية بأكبر قدر من التأثير. بينما يسعى الأكاديميون والمهنيون إلى الحيادية، يتمتع المستقلون بإجماع أقوى بشأن القضايا الثقافية. ويقال إنه على الرغم من الاختلافات في السياق، فإن المترجمين يتشاركون في المواقف المهنية، مما يسلط الضوء على عمليات الترجمة التي تعطي الأولوية لدقة الترجمة مع مراعاة الاعتبارات الأخلاقية والحساسية الثقافية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الحيادية، الموقف، وجهات النظر، التحديات، الحساسية، التوقعات

1. INTRODUCTION

Translation is commonly known as the process that facilitates cross-cultural communication, where linguistic, political and cultural settings deeply intertwine. Subsequently, translation exceeds being considered a simple process of language change and develops as a complex negotiation of sense. In doing so, the question of neutrality is raised as an essential problem within such sensitive contexts. The current study examines academic and professionals' perspectives, exploring the way Kurdish translators perceive and navigate neutrality. A neutral translation can be a challenging task where the context is heavily charged with political, cultural, and social tensions. This study provides an in-depth investigation of how Kurdish translators perceive, interpret, and achieve neutrality, drawing on data taken from academic and professional settings and using a quantitative approach. The study also identifies the factors that mostly influence translators' stance on neutrality. A jury-validated questionnaire was administered to academics and professionals, and the data were analyzed using statistical methods resulting in comprehensive overviews of translators' stances.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

To accurately translate the original material, translators must navigate various linguistic, cultural, political, and social nuances, making neutrality in translation an important yet challenging goal. Despite the theoretical emphasis on neutrality, practical difficulties can arise due to inherent biases, cultural disparities, and political influences. Translators regularly encounter the challenge of maintaining objectivity while considering the perspectives of their clients and target audiences. Finally, the disparities between

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professional practices and academic theories may have their impact on translation quality and accuracy when addressing the perception and preservation of neutrality in translation.

1.3 HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The current study seeks to test the following hypotheses:

Academics have a greater tendency to maintain neutrality than professionals do.

Social considerations can hinder translators from maintaining neutrality.

Cultural preferences motivate translators to overlook neutrality in translation.Politically sensitive issues drive translators to disregard neutrality in translation.

The employer and the target audience play a significant role in overlooking neutrality in translation.

1.4 AIMS OF THE STUDY

This study aims to:

Provide a comprehensive understanding of neutrality and distinguish it from related concepts such as impartiality, and objectivity within the context of translation.

Examine how neutrality is approached and achieved differently in academic and professional translation contexts, considering factors such as employer and audience expectations, context, and purpose of the translation.

Explore the practical challenges faced by translators in maintaining neutrality, including linguistic, cultural, political, and social factors, and propose strategies for overcoming these challenges.

Enhance understanding of the ethical implications of neutrality in translation and provide recommendations for best practices that balance accuracy, impartiality, and cultural sensitivity.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study will hopefully provide insights into the way Kurdish translators address the intersection of personal beliefs, professional ethics, and political realities, specially within the unparalleled context of Kurdish translation. The findings are expected to be valuable for professionals, academics, and policymakers concerned with translation and language politics.

2. UNDERSTANDING NEUTRALITY: CONCEPT AND DEFINITION

The tendency to maintain a state of impartiality during a conflict, whether physical or ideological, is commonly referred to as neutrality within the realm of philosophy. Conversely, bias entails a leaning towards one side as opposed to another, rather than a predisposition to act in such partiality. It is important to note that individuals adopting a neutral stance do not necessarily lack a position or identity of their own (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2023). While related, the ideas of neutrality, ignorance, doublethink, objectivity, equality, and consensus exhibit distinctions, albeit not absolute ones. A person demonstrating neutrality may harbor inclinations towards a certain subject but opt not to take any action, whereas both apathy and indifference reflect a form of disregard for a particular topic.

In the field of translation, "neutrality" involves the translator's role in preserving the original meaning of the text without introducing personal preferences or interpretations. The notion of neutrality has been tackled by different scholars from different perspectives. Nida (1964, p.10) emphasizes the importance of "neutrality" for an accurate translation, as the translator must strive to achieve a balance between form and function; to reproduce the meaning of the source text understandably, and for it to be culturally relevant to the target audience. According to Reiss and Vermeer (1984, p. 21), the disappearance of the translator is linked to "neutrality", as the role of the translator is often marginalized, where his contributions are hidden to maintain the illusion of transparency. This disappearance is considered crucial to achieving neutrality because it allows the translator to present the meaning of the source text without overt interference. Based on the functional approach, prepared translations must perform the same function in the culture as the original text does in the culture. This approach requires a neutral stance from the translator to ensure that the function of the text is maintained across different cultural contexts (Venuti, 1995, p. 60). Vermeer's (1989) theory of Scopus stresses that the purpose of translation dictates translation strategies and choices, and "neutrality", in this context, means adapting the translation strategy to match the intended purpose of the translation, while still preserving the essence of the original text (pp.146-163).

3. NEUTRALITY IN TRANSLATION, AND ASSOCIATED TERMS

When discussing translation, concepts such as bias and fidelity often accompany the notion of neutrality. Bias represents a preference towards or against an individual, a group, or an object. During translation, it emerges when the translator's personal, cultural, or political perspectives impact how they understand and convey the original text. To provide a more accurate translation, it's critical to identify different biases, acknowledge their significance, and reduce their impact. According to Munday (2016, p. 98), cultural bias arises when the translator's cultural background affects how they interpret the original text, possibly changing its meaning. Linguistic bias results from the translator's skill and knowledge of the target languages (Baker, 2018, p. 55). A translator who is not fully aware of the nuances in both the source and target languages may distort the depiction. Biased representations of the source text may arise when a translator's politics, social ideology, or personal convictions influence their translation decisions (Herman, 2015, p. 72).

On the other hand, fidelity in translation refers to the translator's dedication to faithfully and accurately conveying the meaning, intent, and subtleties of the original language. This commitment is necessary to ensure that the translated text faithfully reproduces the source text without distortion or misunderstanding. Several important factors influence the accuracy and efficacy of translation. The first consideration is faithful representation, which requires the translator to be true to the meaning and intent of the source material. This requires thoroughly understanding the source material while aiming to retain its original message, tone, and context in the language and purpose (Robinson, 2003, p. 75). The second consideration is transparency in translation judgments. It refers to the translator's candor about the decisions made throughout the translation process, and a real translator must make these decisions clear to ensure that the translated material is as similar to the original language as possible (Hatim and Mason, 1997, p.112). The third consideration is how the translator approaches the source material. This method necessitates a thorough investigation and comprehension of the text's cultural, historical, and contextual elements. To create an authentic depiction, fidelity demands the translator to be completely absorbed in the source material (Bassnett, 2002, p. 89). Last but not least, fidelity involves ethical issues, such as avoiding distortions, omissions, or additions that may damage the source text, and the translator must follow ethical norms to guarantee that the translation is identical to the original (Nida, 2001, p. 142).

A faithful translator, as (Bell, 1991, p. 66) describes, must carefully handle ambiguity in the source language, providing clear explanations or options that correctly reflect the original purpose. This involves making educated judgments while being true to the source.

4.   THE KEY CRITERIA OF A SUCCESSFUL TRANSLATION

Literature on translation assessment shows that scholars adopt different models in deciding on a successful translation. However, most of the models meet at one point, i.e., a successful translation needs to accurately convey the content of the source text in a precise manner. What's more, there should be no missing or altered words, phrases, or sentences. Barnwell (1992) observed inaccuracy in translation to include: Omission: The translation is inaccurate if part of the meaning is missing. Addition: The translation is inaccurate if anything has been added to the meaning. Change: The translation is inaccurate if the meaning has been changed or twisted in any way. Generally, an inaccurate translation might have adverse consequences, especially while coping with linguistically, politically, culturally, and socially challenging topics. On top of having an excellent command of their working languages, translators are required to have knowledge in certain domains including political, cultural, societal, etc.

Accuracy is one of the most essential criteria for a successful translation. Any translation of any text or utterance should have a degree of accuracy to claim that it conveys the same message as the original text or utterance. Zhong (2002) believes that accuracy involves a correct, impartial, objective and faithful translation (p. 575). Stansfield (2008) states that translators make efforts to transfer the original message in an accurate manner concentrating on delivering the "content and spirit" of that message, taking the cultural context into account (p. 49). Angelelli and Jacobson (2009) suggest that accuracy should be one of the basic criteria for any assessment rubric to be considered comprehensive in assessing translators' skills (p.52). Jieun (2012) explains that translation evaluators assess what translators comprehend from the source text, using the accuracy of their translated texts (p.699).

In literary texts and editorial documents, for instance, the author and the translator's attitude are always evident. In contrast, legal texts, the so-called system-bound (Fathi, 2012), have a relatively neutral tone. This indicates that while a good translation may sometimes involve a degree of adaptation to ensure clarity and naturalness in the target language, it should in principle remain faithful to the author's intent and style. Neutrality in translation means conveying the original message as accurately and objectively as possible without adding personal preferences or altering the meaning. By embodying these characteristics, a good translation can effectively bridge linguistic, political, cultural, and social barriers, enabling communication across different languages and audiences.

According to Nord (1991), if the translation brief requires the production of a target text that holds an equivalence relationship with the source text, an equivalent translation will be considered successful. House (2015) proposes a functional approach to equivalence, namely the semantic and pragmatic equivalence. She argues that it is essential that the source and the target texts match one another in function as the basic requirement for equivalence (p.22-23). In fact, following her model, every part of a text has its place within a certain situation "context of situation". This "context of situation" has to be identified correctly and translators need to take it into account and also focus on their "recognition of the intimate interconnectedness" of text and context (p.4). If there is a considerable difference between the source and the target texts on "situational dimensions", like the case of violating neutrality, they are not equivalent in function, and the translation is not high in quality or successful.

5. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Many translators and scholars agree that, depending on the goal of the translation and other factors, it may be better for the translator to make changes to the source text such as omitting words or phrases, adding new content, or updating the text instead of translating word for word. However, they should consider the cultural differences between the original text and the target audience and adapt the text to make it understandable for them. This may mean not being completely faithful to the original text in terms of language. Contemporary translators are concerned about not receiving the same recognition as the original text writers. Because of this, some translators argue that they have the right to be visible and to reflect their views, comments, or ideologies in their translations rather than remaining invisible (Icoz, 2012, p. 130).

Most professions have established a code of ethics, reflecting the importance of defining acceptable behavior within each field (Phelan, 2001, p. 39). Translation, as a recognized and integral profession, possesses its specific code of ethics, rooted in the belief that translation is an inherently ethical activity (Baker & Maier, 2011, p. 1). This perspective views translation not simply as a linguistic act, but as an activity driven by ethics, ideology, and politics (Tymoczko, 2006, 443). Professional translators increasingly recognize their work's ethical implications and their significant role in shaping societies and nations on a global scale (Baker & Maier, 2011, p.1).

The concept of translation ethics has traditionally been defined as the practice of preserving the meaning of the source text without distortion (Robinson, 2003, 25). However, this definition is overly narrow, as there are instances where the translator is specifically required to alter the meaning of the original text to meet the expectations of the audience, such as in the adaptation of texts for children's stories, television, advertising campaigns, and other contexts (Robinson, 2003, 26; Icoz, 2012, 131). This aligns with Tymoczko's assertion (2006, 448) that new research in the field of translation studies supports the idea that translation can be adapted to different contexts, readerships, media, and technologies. According to Ibraheem and Mahdi (2016, pp. 190-92), the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) established a Code of Ethics in 2013, aiming to set professional standards for all translators and interpreters, two of which are serve the theme of the current study.

a. Conduct in a professional manner

Interpreters and translators are expected to uphold the highest levels of professionalism. Any conditions or conflicts of interest that would compromise their impartiality must be disclosed honestly. Additionally, they must uphold professional ethics by being industrious and accommodating to the needs of all parties concerned with their work.

b. Impartiality

Any time there is communication between participants in an interpreted encounter, interpreters and translators must maintain their objectivity. They must not alter the messages while at work or exhibit bias toward either the speaker or the listener.

TENDENCY TO NEUTRALITY IN TRANSLATION BETWEEN ACADEMICS AND PROFESSIONALS

This section seeks to demonstrate the tendency toward impartiality between academics and industry professionals. The distinction in neutrality between professionals and academics is a rich field to explore, particularly when dealing with sensitive topics such as politics, culture, and society.

Academic translation guarantees that scholarly work is appropriately represented across languages, allowing for more academic collaboration and research dissemination (Bielsa & Bassnett, 2009, p. 90). Professional translation, on the other hand, ensures that industry standards and requirements are communicated, which is critical for effective implementation and compliance (House, 2015, p. 135).

Translators are expected to act as neutral mediators, facilitating communication and comprehension for readers who do not speak the source language. However, research has demonstrated that information is rarely transferred from one language to another without providing additional contributions that go beyond the simple representation of the message being transferred (Lefevere, 1992, p. 30). Translation, therefore, is an encounter that necessitates linguistic, social, political, and cultural modifications (Venuti, 2018, p. 71).

When comparing the tendency toward neutrality in translation between academic and professional contexts, it is critical to understand how each context influences the translation process and the role neutrality plays. Academic translation seeks to accurately apply research findings, theories, and scholarly arguments, whereas professional translations focus on practical applications, guidelines, or industry standards (Chesterman, 1997, p. 54). Furthermore, academic translation's target audience consists mostly of fellow researchers, scholars, professors, and students familiar with the academic field's vocabulary and concepts. The target audience for the professional translation, on the other hand, is industry professionals and decision-makers who require clear and actionable information (House, 2015, p. 120). The academic translation environment includes theoretical frameworks, research approaches, and scholarly discussion. Neutral translations must account for these aspects while keeping loyal to the original research (Bielsa & Bassnett, 2009, p. 85). Professional translations involve practical applications, methods, or industry standards. Neutral translations must take into account how these components apply in real-world circumstances (Pym, 2014, p. 94). Pym goes further to state that academics' and professionals' propensity for neutrality varies according to the texts' context, audience, and goal. Professional translations put precision and usefulness first, while academic translations must concentrate on maintaining intricate ideas and academic integrity.

6. CHALLENGES IN MAINTAINING NEUTRALITY IN TRANSLATION

Examining how translators negotiate linguistic, political, cultural, and social factors to maintain objectivity is part of the process of researching neutrality in translation. It is common knowledge that translators contribute their experiences and viewpoints to their job. Personal prejudices may affect translation decisions, whether intentionally or inadvertently, even with the greatest of intentions (Venuti, 2018, p. 83). Translators frequently face moral conundrums, such as how to address contentious subjects. They have to strike a compromise between their ethical position on what is proper to communicate and the necessity to maintain objectivity (Baker, 2018, p. 60).

Overall, preserving objectivity in translation involves special and difficult difficulties and calls for a blend of linguistic competence, political consciousness, social awareness, and cultural sensitivity (Lefevere, 1992, p. 45). Translators must be skilled at handling these difficulties to create translations that are as

accurate and objective as feasible. A detailed examination of these issues and potential solutions is provided below:

The subjectivity of neutrality is the greatest obstacle to preserving neutrality in translation. Since what one person views as neutral may be interpreted as prejudiced by another, depending on background and viewpoint (Pym, 2014, 102). Therefore, translators' understanding of neutrality and their ability to adapt to different cultural and social contexts are critical in addressing this challenge.

a. Language and Text Typology

Translators face challenges when trying to remain neutral in their work. This includes dealing with language conventions and how they translate into other languages. Neutrality in translation means trying to accurately represent the source text without bias, while also following the linguistic patterns of the target language (Venuti, 2018, p. 45). This involves knowing when to keep the original wording and when to change it to fit the target language.

Languages are subjective. Different languages can convey different meanings, emotions, and connotations through word choice, tone, and style (Pym, 2014, p. 67). Maintaining neutrality becomes difficult when source texts are ambiguous or open to multiple interpretations. Translators must decide how to convey these different meanings and emotions in the target language without adding their own interpretations (Lefevere, 1992, p. 89).

Additionally, different languages have different structures and grammatical rules that can affect how information is expressed. For instance, some languages are more direct or indirect in their communication style (House 2015, p. 34). Furthermore, idioms and informal expressions may not have direct equivalents in the target language (Baker, 2018, p. 23). This often poses a challenge in machine translation as Abdullah and Nasser (2022) conclude that the language of informative texts is direct with almost no additional connotative or intentional meanings whereas expressive texts are usually figurative ones with different connotations which makes them vulnerable to errors. Literary works, for example, often include stylistic elements like metaphors, tone, and rhythm. Translating literature neutrally, as (Venuti, 2018, p. 56) states, is challenging because it requires staying true to the original while making it readable in the target language.

In contrast, technical documents, such as manuals or scientific papers, require precision and clarity. Neutrality in this context means using accurate terms and clear language without unnecessary complexity (Pym, 2014, p. 78). Legal texts can be particularly challenging as they need precise translation to preserve their legal meaning. Lefevere (1992, p. 102) maintains that neutrality involves maintaining legal terms and concepts accurately and adapting them to fit the legal system of the target language, if necessary, without introducing errors or ambiguities. Overall, achieving neutrality in translation requires a deep understanding of both the source and target languages and the ability to navigate different types of texts accurately and sensitively.

b. Employer and Audience Expectations

Balancing employer and audience expectations while maintaining neutral translations can be challenging. Employers may have preferences that affect their expectations for the translation. They might have specific guidelines on tone, style, and terminology that don't always align with a neutral approach (Baker, 2018). Navigating these expectations while aiming for neutrality can be delicate. Translators may feel pressured by employers to present information in a way that aligns with specific stances and views (Pym, 2014). On the other hand, different audiences have varying expectations and levels of familiarity

with the subject matter. A neutral translation takes into account the audience's needs without distorting the original message (House, 2015). Audiences may have their own preferences and expectations, which can influence how they perceive a neutral translation.

c. Political

Because the political discourse is one of the powers directly affecting the minds of the masses, the languages employed in the political arena are in constant contact, which may necessitate the establishment of a kind of common language. Political discourse often resorts to evoking symbols in the minds and souls of the addressees, to achieve its goal (Daoud, 2003, p. 26). Therefore, translations related to political issues require a delicate balance to avoid unintended implications. When dealing with politically charged content, maintaining neutrality can be particularly challenging. Translators might struggle with how to handle sensitive topics without endorsing or opposing the views expressed in the original text. Political texts often have inherent biases. Translators must be careful to present the information objectively, which can be challenging when the source material is polarized. Certain terms or phrases may have different political connotations in different languages, potentially influencing the perceived neutrality of the translation. Some countries have censorship regulations on the translation of political content, which may require translators to alter the content.

d. Cultural

Translators often face the challenge of navigating situations where a neutral translation may be culturally sensitive or inappropriate. This is because translation involves two languages and a transfer from one culture to another (Hervey and Higgins, 2007, p. 28). Different cultures have distinct norms, values, and expressions. A literal translation might not accurately convey the cultural context, potentially leading to misunderstandings or misrepresentations. Certain terms and phrases carry cultural meanings and may have different connotations that don't directly translate, making it difficult to maintain a neutral translation. It imposes a great challenge for the translator to navigate cultural differences respectfully while avoiding cultural appropriation or insensitivity. Translators need to ensure that their translations do not reinforce stereotypes or preferences, which can be challenging when dealing with culturally sensitive material. They have to strive to represent different cultures fairly and accurately, avoiding both over-generalization and distortion.

e. Social

Since translation is a human activity, and humans are social beings, translation often has a social dimension. This involves not only the ability to understand, but also the ability to identify deviant sentences and, on occasion, to impose an interpretation on them (Venuti, 2018). The social aspect of translation challenges the translator's proficiency because it demands an in-depth understanding of the language and the broader social context in which the text is situated (Bielsa & Bassnett, 2009).

It, therefore, follows that since translation has a social angle, it becomes a "conditio-sine-qua-non" for this social dimension to be considered and properly contextualized. Since the words or texts to be translated are situated or housed in a social context that has social significance, it becomes imperative for the translator to have adequate knowledge of the context via whose language he/she desires to work. Social topics often involve a range of perspectives and sensitive issues, such as gender, race, and class (Lefevere, 1992). Translators must navigate these issues without taking sides. Social issues may involve terminology that is evolving or contentious. Ensuring that all sides of a social issue are represented fairly without showing favoritism can be difficult. Translators must be mindful of how their translations might impact various groups

or individuals, particularly when dealing with sensitive social issues. Translations associated with social issues require a delicate balance to avoid unintended implications.

7. AINTAINING NEUTRALITY IN TRANSLATIONS

To translate a text ethically, translators must retain objectivity (Baker, 2018, p. 45). To do this, the original message must be communicated without any of their interpretations. To do this, translators must closely consider the target audience, cultural circumstances, and linguistic quirks of the source material. According to Newmark (1988, p. 78), to preserve the spirit and cultural connotations of the source material in the target language, translators must handle idiomatic terms and references carefully to maintain neutrality. Ignoring this could seriously compromise the translation's objectivity and accuracy (Newmark, 1988, p. 78). Moreover, neutrality in translations depends on ethical issues. To prevent adding subjective interpretations that depart from the original text, translators should place a high priority on correctness and transparency (Venuti, 1998; p. 112). In reality, achieving neutrality frequently necessitates extensive study, expert consultation, and the application of efficient translation techniques that support the original text's communicative goals. Building confidence and credibility with customers and readers is facilitated by being open and honest about the translation process and the challenges of attaining impartiality (Pym, 2010, p. 211).

In conclusion, translators must strive for total neutrality even when it is challenging. They can achieve this by adhering to accepted norms, closely examining language and culture, and maintaining transparency through the translation process.

8. METHODOLOGY

The next sections focus on data-gathering methods, study sample characteristics and analysis tools. The study uses a self-administered questionnaire to obtain information about translators' interactions with audiences and employers, their cultural experiences, and their perceptions of the sociopolitical backdrop affecting their profession. This organized approach enables a thorough examination of the issues at play, ultimately leading to a better understanding of translators' impartiality and the dynamics of their work environment.

9.1 Approach

In this study, a quantitative approach is used to collect information about translators' perceptions of the factors that influence their work. A standardized questionnaire is used to collect data on how factors such as culture, politics, and employment situation influence translators' capacity to stay neutral in their translations. The major purpose is to examine how these factors influence translators' impartiality in their work.

9.2 Data Collection and Procedure

The data of the study was acquired using a self-administered questionnaire designed specifically to measure translator responses across multiple categories. The questionnaire included questions about the translators' interactions with their audiences and employers, their experiences with different cultures, external factors influencing their work, their views on politics and society, their perceptions of translations as a product, and their roles as translators. Participants were asked to rate their level of agreement with each statement using a five-point Likert scale ranging from "Strongly Agree" (1) to "Strongly Disagree" (5).

The participants were selected through collaboration with expert translators from numerous networks, internet forums, and translation associations. Invitations to participate were sent out via email and social media, and the questionnaire was made available online for easy completion. Data collection lasted four weeks, with reminder texts delivered to promote participation. Following the gathering of responses from 57 participants, the information was compiled into a database for analysis.

9.3. Sample of the Study

The sample of the study included translators categorized by:

- Status: Academic, Professional, or Both

- Employment Type: Employed or Freelancer

- Field of Study: Translation, English, or Other

- Years of Experience: 0-5 years, 6-14 years, and 15+ years

It is worth noting that gender and age were removed from the analysis to allow for a more focused examination of the relevant categories.

9.4 Tools of the Study

The study used a variety of technologies to collect and analyze data. A questionnaire was developed and validated by a specialized jury (see Appendix 2), comprising Likert scale items to assess attitudes toward specific categories. The reliability test was conducted on the questionnaire using Cronbach alpha to assess the quality of the measurement procedure used to collect data and to determine the consistency of the items. The stability coefficient value, 0.820, ranged between 0 and 1 (**Table 1**). This value is considered high compared to the standard (or critical) value of 0.60 in human studies (Eisinga et al., 2012, p. 639), indicating the reliability required for the study.

Table 1: *Reliability test table*

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	Number of Items
0.820	57

To analyze the impact of various parameters, descriptive statistics, and p-values were calculated using the statistical software R. The data analysis framework included descriptive statistics to summarize the data, p-value calculations to determine the significance of differences between categories, and comparative analyses to investigate the interactions between employment status, nature of employment, department of graduation, and years of experience. This methical approach is intended to provide insights into the factors that influence translators' neutrality, allowing for a better knowledge of their professional landscape.

9. AN OVERVIEW OF THE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The questionnaire, the source of data in this paper, covered the translators' responses to certain categories. The translators were required to show the extent to which they agreed on the items of the questionnaire, related to each category, by ticking one of five answers ranging from (Strongly Agree) to (Strongly Disagree). The sample was classified by their *Status*, *Nature of Employment*, *Department of Graduation,* and *Years of Experience*. *Gender* and *Age* will be excluded as they are not part of the research focus.

Descriptive statistics is set out to translate the data into a set of measurements, providing information about the sample's response to the questionnaire. The data are analyzed according to different descriptive measures. The ranking of the categories or the items is measured by computing their influence on the participants, using the p-value of the categories or the items.

10.1 The Analysis of the Categories

In this part of the analysis, the ratings of the categories in terms of influence on the participants are demonstrated. The ratings are determined based on the p-values of the categories using "R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing".

Table 2: Percentage Distribution and P-value of Categories

Categories	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Undecided (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Means	p-value
Audience and Employer	19.30%	51.75%	7.89%	20.18%	0.88%	3.68	70.8
Culture	22.81%	63.16%	8.77%	5.26%	0.00%	4.04	85.97
External Factors	25.15%	57.89%	11.70%	5.26%	0.00%	4.03	85.05
Politics	24.56%	54.39%	8.77%	12.28%	0.00%	3.91	78.00
Society	26.32%	54.39%	8.77%	10.53%	0.00%	3.96	80.71
Translations as a product	28.65%	47.95%	11.11%	11.70%	0.58%	3.92	76.6
Translators	32.16%	46.78%	9.65%	11.40%	0.00%	4.00	79.38
p-value	**0.022**						**0.022**

The figures in **Table 2** show that the *Culture* category has the highest influence on the sample. This assertion is based on the p-value of this category, amounting to 85.97, which is higher than the p-values of all the other categories. This conclusion is supported by the mean of the same category, amounting to 4.04, indicating a strong agreement among the participants. On the other hand, the *Audience and Employer* category is the least influential from the sample's point of view, based on its p-value amounting to 70.8,

which is less than the p-values of all the other categories. The conclusion is supported by the mean of the same category, amounting to 3.68, indicating the least strong agreement among the participants. On the grounds of the means of the categories, the influence of the categories on the sample descends as follows: *Culture* 3.99, *External Factors* 3.98, *Translators* 3.97, *Society* 3.96, *Politics* 3.91, *Translations as a Product* 3.92, and finally *Audience and Employer* 3.68.

10.2 The Analysis Based on the Interaction Between Status and Categories

The *Status* classification of the sample addressed their responses according to whether they are academic, professional translators, or both. **Table 3** shows the sample's response based on the interaction between their *Status* and the categories.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution and p-value for Status and Categories

Status	Categories	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Undecided (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Means
Academic Professionals Both	Audience and Employer	18.70%	52.30%	8.70%	19.30%	1.00%	3.68
		19.00%	50.00%	8.00%	21.00%	2.00%	3.63
		20.00%	51.00%	7.00%	20.00%	2.00%	3.67
	Culture	22.00%	63.00%	9.00%	5.00%	1.00%	3.99
		24.00%	60.00%	10.00%	5.00%	1.00%	4.01
		23.00%	62.00%	9.00%	5.00%	1.00%	4.01
	External Factors	24.00%	57.00%	10.00%	8.00%	1.00%	3.95
		25.00%	55.00%	9.00%	9.00%	2.00%	3.92
		26.00%	58.00%	8.00%	7.00%	1.00%	3.99
	Politics	26.00%	55.00%	8.00%	10.00%	1.00%	3.95
		28.00%	52.00%	8.00%	10.00%	2.00%	3.94
		27.00%	53.00%	9.00%	10.00%	1.00%	3.95
	Society	25.00%	56.00%	9.00%	9.00%	1.00%	3.95
		29.00%	52.00%	9.00%	8.00%	2.00%	3.98
		28.00%	53.00%	8.00%	10.00%	1.00%	3.97
	Translations as a product	27.00%	49.00%	12.00%	10.00%	2.00%	3.89
		31.00%	45.00%	10.00%	12.00%	2.00%	3.91
		29.00%	46.00%	11.00%	12.00%	2.00%	3.88
	Translators	30.00%	47.00%	10.00%	11.00%	2.00%	3.92
		34.00%	44.00%	9.00%	12.00%	1.00%	3.98
		33.00%	50.00%	8.00%	12.00%	1.00%	4.14

Total		24.67%	54.18%	9.52%	10.32%	1.28%	3.91
		27.14%	51.14%	9.00%	11.00%	1.71%	3.88
		26.57%	52.71%	8.57%	10.85%	1.28%	3.92
p-value		0.015					

The statistics in Table 3 establish that over 78.85% of the academics, 78.28% of the professionals and 79.28% of the academics who are also professional translators reported a positive response (Strongly Agree / Agree) on the items that measured the categories according to Status, while a small number (11.60%), (12.71%) and (12.13), respectively, reported a negative response (Disagree / Strongly Disagree). At the same time, some participants (9.52%), (9.00%) and (8.57%), respectively, chose to remain undecided on some of the items (Undecided). The measurement of the total index for all the items in these categories showed high levels of agreement, with means amounting to 3.91, 3.88 and 3.92 respectively. As far as influence is concerned, the Culture category proved to be the most influential among the other categories, as 85%, 84% and 85% of the participants, respectively, either strongly agreed or agreed on the items in this category, with means amounting to 3.99, 4.01 and 4.01 respectively. As opposed to that, Items related to the Audience and Employer category proved to be the least influential among the other categories, as 71%, 69% and 71% of the participants, respectively, either strongly agreed or agreed on the items in this category, with means amounting to 3.68, 3.63 and 3.67 respectively.

10.3 The Analysis Based on the Interaction Between *Nature of Employment* and Categories

The *Nature of Employment* classification of the sample addressed their response based on whether they are employed or freelance translators. **Table 4** shows the sample's response based on the interaction between *Nature of Employment* and the categories.

Table 4: Percentage Distribution and p-value for Employment and Categories

Employment	Categories	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Undecided (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Means
Employed	Audience and Employer	18.67%	52.00%	8.00%	20.00%	1.33%	3.67
		20.00%	51.43%	7.14%	20.00%	1.43%	3.69
	Culture	23.33%	61.33%	10.00%	5.33%	0.00%	4.03
		23.57%	63.57%	8.57%	4.29%	0.00%	4.06
	External Factors	27.33%	53.33%	13.33%	5.33%	0.00%	4.01
		28.57%	62.86%	8.57%	0.00%	0.00%	4.20
	Politics	24.00%	56.00%	8.00%	12.00%	0.00%	3.92
		25.71%	54.29%	10.00%	10.00%	0.00%	3.96

Freelancer	Society	26.67%	54.67%	9.33%	9.33%	0.00%	4.01
		28.57%	54.29%	8.57%	8.57%	0.00%	4.03
	Translations	29.33%	45.33%	12.00%	13.33%	0.00%	3.91
	as a product	28.57%	50.00%	10.00%	10.00%	1.43%	3.94
	Translators	34.67%	44.00%	10.67%	10.67%	0.00%	4.03
		34.29%	50.00%	8.57%	7.14%	0.00%	4.11
Total		26.28%	52.38%	10.19%	9.52	0.19%	3.91
		27.04%	55.20%	7.55%	8.57%	0.40%	3.96
p-value	**0.0035**						

When responding based on the *Nature of Employment*, 78.67% of the employed and 84.29% of the freelance translators responded positively (Strongly Agree / Agree) on the questionnaire items that measured this category as shown in **Table 4**. In comparison, 10.67% and 7.14%, respectively, responded negatively (Disagree / Strongly Disagree) on the same items. The table also shows that 10.67%, and 8.57% of the participants, respectively, remained (Undecided) about the items in this category. The measurement of the total index for all the items in these categories showed high levels of agreement, with means amounting to 3.91 and 3.96 respectively. In terms of influence, the *Culture* category was measured as the most influential with employed translators, and the *External Factors* category was measured as the most influential with freelance translators, as 84.66% and 91.43% of the respondents either strongly agreed or agreed on the related items, with means amounting to 4.03 and 4.2 respectively. On the other hand, Items related to *Audience and Employer* received the lowest score (70.67%) and (71.43%) with means amounting to 3.67 and 3.69 respectively, by both employed and freelance translators among other categories in terms of influence.

10.4 The Analysis Based on the Interaction Between *Department of Graduation* and Categories

The *Department of Graduation* classification of the sample addressed their responses according to the department from which they graduated: Translation, English, or other departments. **Table 5** shows the sample's responses based on the interaction between the *Department of Graduation* and the categories.

Table 5: Percentage Distribution and p-value for Department and Categories

Department	Categories	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Undecided (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Means
	Audience and Employer	20.00%	52.00%	8.00%	19.00%	1.00%	3.71
		19.00%	51.00%	8.00%	21.00%	1.00%	3.66
		19.00%	50.00%	8.00%	21.00%	2.00%	3.63
	Culture	24.00%	62.00%	9.00%	5.00%	0.00%	4.05

Translation English Other		21.00%	63.00%	9.00%	6.00%	1.00%	3.97
		23.00%	61.00%	9.00%	6.00%	1.00%	3.99
	External Factors	25.00%	58.00%	10.00%	7.00%	0.00%	3.99
		26.00%	57.00%	10.00%	6.00%	1.00%	3.99
		24.00%	58.00%	10.00%	7.00%	1.00%	3.97
	Politics	27.00%	52.00%	9.00%	11.00%	1.00%	3.93
		24.00%	55.00%	9.00%	12.00%	0.00%	3.91
		25.00%	54.00%	8.00%	12.00%	1.00%	3.90
	Society	27.00%	54.00%	9.00%	9.00%	1.00%	4.02
		28.00%	54.00%	7.00%	11.00%	0.00%	3.99
		25.00%	55.00%	8.00%	11.00%	1.00%	3.92
	Translations as a product	30.00%	48.00%	11.00%	10.00%	1.00%	3.96
		28.00%	49.00%	11.00%	11.00%	1.00%	3.92
		29.00%	47.00%	12.00%	11.00%	1.00%	3.92
	Translators	34.00%	45.00%	10.00%	10.00%	1.00%	4.01
		30.00%	47.00%	11.00%	11.00%	1.00%	3.94
		32.00%	46.00%	9.00%	12.00%	1.00%	3.96
Total		26.71%	53%	9.42%	10.14%	0.71%	3.95
		25.14%	53.71%	9.28%	11.14%	0.71%	3.91
		25.28%	53%	9.14%	11.14%	1.14%	3.89
p-value	**0.796**						

The positive response (Strongly Agree / Agree) to the items measuring according to *Department of Graduation* was echoed by 79.71% of the participants graduating from Translation Departments, 78.85% graduating from English Department and 78.28% graduating from other departments, compared to the negative response (Disagree / Strongly Disagree), echoed by 10.85%, 11.85% and 12.28% of the sample, respectively, as shown in **Table 5**. Further inspection of the data presented in the table reveals that some of the participants (9.42%), (9.28%) and (9.14%), respectively, did not show preference for some of the items in this category (Undecided). The measurement of the total index for all the items in these categories showed high levels of agreement, with means amounting to 3.95, 3.91 and 3.89 respectively. Concerning influence, the *Culture* category was calculated as the most influential on the Translation Department and other departments' graduates among the other categories with a mean of 4.05 and 3.99. On the other hand, the *External Factors* and the *Society* categories were calculated as the most influential on English Department graduates among the other categories with means of 3.99 each. In contrast, Items related to *Audience and Employer* were calculated as the least influential among the items in this category for all the departments with means of 3.71, 3.66, and 3.63 respectively.

10.5 The Analysis Based on the Interaction Between Years of Experience and Categories

The *Years of Experience* classification of the sample addressed their response according to how long they have been working as translators. **Table 5** shows the sample's responses by the interaction between their *Years of Experience* and the categories.

Table 5: Percentage Distribution and p-value for Experience and Categories

Experience	Categories	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Undecided (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Means
	Audience and Employer	18.00%	53.00%	10.00%	18.00%	1.00%	3.69
		20.00%	53.00%	8.00%	17.00%	2.00%	3.72
		21.00%	51.00%	9.00%	17.00%	2.00%	3.72
	Culture	22.00%	63.00%	9.00%	5.00%	1.00%	3.99
		25.00%	60.00%	8.00%	7.00%	0.00%	3.98
		26.00%	59.00%	8.00%	7.00%	0.00%	3.84
	External Factors	23.00%	58.00%	12.00%	6.00%	1.00%	3.96
		26.00%	56.00%	9.00%	8.00%	1.00%	3.98
0 to 5		29.00%	54.00%	8.00%	8.00%	1.00%	4.02
	Politics	25.00%	55.00%	8.00%	11.00%	1.00%	3.92
6-14		28.00%	52.00%	8.00%	10.00%	2.00%	3.94
		27.00%	54.00%	8.00%	10.00%	1.00%	3.96
15+	Society	26.00%	53.00%	8.00%	11.00%	1.00%	3.89
		29.00%	53.00%	8.00%	9.00%	1.00%	3.99
		28.00%	54.00%	8.00%	9.00%	1.00%	3.99
	Translations as a product	26.00%	50.00%	12.00%	10.00%	2.00%	3.88
		31.00%	46.00%	10.00%	11.00%	2.00%	3.93
		30.00%	48.00%	10.00%	10.00%	2.00%	3.94
	Translators	29.00%	48.00%	10.00%	11.00%	2.00%	3.91
		34.00%	45.00%	9.00%	10.00%	2.00%	3.99
		32.00%	47.00%	9.00%	10.00%	2.00%	3.97
Total		24.14%	54.28%	9.85%	10.28%	1.14	3.89
		27.57%	52.14%	8.57%	10.28%	1.42%	3.94
		27.57%	52.42%	8.57%	10.14%	1.28%	3.95
p-value	0.110						

The *Years of Experience* **Table 5** indicates that 78.42% of the participants with five years of experience and less, 79.71% with 6-14 years of experience and 77.99% with 15$^+$ years of experience responded positively (Strongly Agree / Agree) on the items that measured the categories, compared to 20.13%, 11.70% and 11.42% who, respectively, negatively reflected (Disagree / Strongly Disagree) on the same items. A deeper examination of the table shows that 9.85%, 8.57%, and 8.57% of the participants, respectively, were undecided on some of the items in different categories (Undecided). The measurement of the total index for all the items in these categories showed high levels of agreement, with means amounting to 3.89, 3.94 and 3.95 respectively. Concerning influence, the *Culture* category was the most influential among the other categories, with participants with five years of experience or less, as 85% of the respondents either strongly agreed or agreed on these items, with a mean amounting to 3.99. On the other hand, the *Society* and the *Translators* categories were the most influential among the other categories with participants with experience between 6 and 14 years, with means amounting to 3.99 each. Finally, the *External Factors* category was the most influential among the other categories with participants with more than 15 years of experience, with a mean amounting to 4.02. On the contrary, items related to the *Audience and Employer* category were the least influential among the others, with means amounting to 3.69, 3.72 and 3.72 respectively.

11. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

This section is devoted to presenting an in-depth interpretation and discussion of the outcome and the primary results of the statistical analysis and how it is employed to test the research hypotheses. Generally, the analysis shows high levels of agreement across all categories, while disagreement levels remain relatively low. The highest levels of agreement are notably seen in the *Culture* category while the lowest levels of disagreement are noted in the *Audience and Employer* category.

A p-value of 0.022 indicates a significant difference in the distribution of ratings across categories (see **Table 2**). Although Freelancers and employed translators exhibit similar rating patterns across categories, freelancers show a stronger agreement in some categories. The p-value of 0.0035 indicates a significant difference in ratings between employed participants and freelancers for such categories. This may be due to the nature of freelance work, which requires greater flexibility and a broader perspective. Higher agreement rates among freelance translators may reflect common challenges and shared principles within this working style. The distribution of ratings across departments does not show significant variation, indicating that departmental affiliation may not strongly affect opinions on these categories. This finding is based on the p-value of 0.796, further supporting that there is no significant difference in ratings across departments. The lack of significant differences in responses indicates a common understanding or agreement across departments about the influence of the categories on neutrality in translation. This suggests that translators, regardless of their department of graduation, share core professional values and preferences. Based on the Years of Experience, the distribution of ratings suggests that more experienced participants (15$^+$ years) tend to agree more with the statements compared to those with less experience. This is likely to reflect their mature and settled view on key issues in the industry, based on extensive professional experience. The p-value of 0.110, however, indicates that these differences are not statistically significant.

The sample's response based on their status was used to test the hypothesis that "Academics have a greater tendency to maintain neutrality than professionals do". The p-value of 0.015, which is less than the tabulated value of 0.05, indicates that there is a statistically significant interaction between the status of

participants and the categories they are evaluating about the ratings provided. The relevant data were analyzed consistent with the theme this hypothesis generated. The analysis revealed high and relatively similar levels of agreement among the sample averaging 78.85% for **Academics** and 78.28% for **Professionals**, with means amounting to 3.91 and 3.88 respectively (see **Table 3**). The measurement of the total index showed insignificant difference in the sample's agreement, hence rejecting the above-mentioned hypothesis. This can be attributed to the fact that academics and professionals have the same tendency towards compromising between the quality and key elements of a successful translation and the cultural-context-driven preferences. This tied well with the alternative assumption that academics and professionals have the same stance on neutrality in translation.

The sample's response to the *Society* category was used to test the hypothesis that "Social considerations can hinder translators from maintaining neutrality". The data were analyzed in line with the theme this hypothesis generated. The sample's response was analyzed to categorize any potential difference in their response and determine which classification the differences were in favor of if there were any. The analysis indicated that social factors recorded high levels of agreement among the sample in all classifications with a p-value amounting to 80.71 and a mean averaging 3.97 (see **Table 2**), hence, validating the above-mentioned hypothesis. There seemed to be no direct relationship between the way the sample was classified and the way they responded to the items in this category. This finding was based on the measurement of the agreement rate in this category. The measurement of the total index for all classifications of the sample showed an insignificant difference in the sample's agreement.

The hypothesis that "Cultural preferences motivate translators to overlook neutrality in translation" was put to the test using the sample's response to the *Culture* category. The data were analyzed in light of the central idea that this hypothesis generated. Even though Amedi and Hussen (2024) maintain that Kurdish readers would rather chose complete translation over variational translation, the data analysis showed that the cultural factors recorded the highest levels of agreement among all the sample classifications, with a p-value of 85.97 and a mean of 3.99 (see **Table 2**), thus validating the aforementioned hypothesis. This finding was based on the measurement of the agreement rate of the category showing that the participants' status, department of translation, years of experience, and nature of employment show an insignificant difference in their response to the cultural factors. While it is often considered an important factor in deciding how translators approach their translations, it was justifiable in the current study to expect the translators to have the same stance, given that they embraced the same culture.

The sample's response to the *Political* category was used to test the hypothesis that "Politically sensitive issues drive translators to disregard neutrality in translation". The related data were analyzed under the theme this hypothesis generated. The analysis demonstrated high levels of agreement with a p-value amounting to 78 and a mean of 3.91 (see **Table 2**), thus validating the aforementioned hypothesis. The sample's agreement on this category seemed to go parallel with all the classifications, as they almost equally highlighted the influence of the category. This finding was based on the measurement of the agreement rate of the category showing that the participants' status, department of translation, years of experience, and nature of employment show an insignificant difference in their response to the political factors. The consistent agreement could be attributed to the weight the sample tended to give to political considerations.

The sample's response to the *Audience and Employer* category was used to test the hypothesis that "The employer and the target audience play a significant role in overlooking neutrality in translation". The data

were analyzed in line with the theme this hypothesis generated. The analysis indicated that the *Audience and Employer* category, though recorded the lowest levels of agreement among the sample in all classifications, with a p-value of 70.8 and a mean amounting to 3.68, validated the above-mentioned hypothesis. This finding was based on the measurement of the agreement rate in this category. The measurement of the total index for all the classifications of the sample showed an insignificant difference in the sample's agreement. The agreement could be attributed to the fact that the participants are aware of the employer or audience's influence on prioritizing appropriateness over professional values.

12. CONCLUSIONS

The findings indicate translators' tendency towards neutrality across different contexts, cultural and political factors exert significant influence over their work. Cultural sensitivity, in particular, emerges as a key concern for freelancers, indicating the nuanced and context-dependent nature of neutrality in translation. By highlighting the shared professional attitudes among Kurdish translators, this paper underscores the importance of balancing ethical considerations, cultural awareness, and translation accuracy in practice.

The statistical analysis shows significant insights into the factors influencing the sample's perceptions of neutrality, as follows:

1. The *Culture* category stood out as the most influential, signifying how cultural considerations play a role in translators' decision-making.

2. While Culture stood out, categories such as Politics, Society, and External Factors also had considerable influence.

3. Although the employer and target audience may have a role in translators' decision-making, translators may still strive to preserve their integrity and maintain neutrality more than expected.

4. No significant difference was found based on the Department of Graduation, which may suggest a shared professional ethos regardless of the academic background.

5. While statistically insignificant, a trend was measured where experienced translators showed slightly higher agreement about external factors' influences.

6. High levels of agreement regarding the influence of cultural and political factors establish that these elements are critical in shaping translators' decision-making. Conversely, the hypothesis concerning the influence of audience and employer was affirmed, albeit with lower agreement levels, reflecting an awareness of their role but a commitment to professional values.

In summary, this analysis provides a detailed understanding of the factors that impact neutrality in translation. The significant focus on cultural and political influences underscores the challenges translators encounter. Additionally, the findings indicate a steadfast dedication to upholding professional integrity in diverse settings.

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Appendix 1

Questionnaire

Dear Translator

We are conducting a study titled **"Investigating Kurdish Translators' Stance towards Neutrality from an Academic and professional perspective"**. We would highly appreciate it if you go through the items of this questionnaire and respond logically to them. I would like to assure you that your answers will be treated as highly confidential and for scientific research only. Your efforts and time are highly appreciated with sincere gratitude and appreciation for your cooperation.

Demographic Data						
Status	Academic		Professional		Both	
Nature of employment	Employed		Freelancer			
Department of graduation	Translation		English		Others	
Years of experience	0-5		6-14		15 and above	
Gender	Male			Female		
Age	20-29		30-39		40 and above	

No.	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Translators					
1	Translators need to be aware of bias and neutrality in translation.					
2	Translators' stance is often reflected in their translations.					
3	Professional ethics inspire translators to maintain neutrality in translation.					
	Translations as a product					
4	It is essential for translators to maintain neutrality in translation.					
5	A successful translation should be neutral.					
6	Maintaining neutrality in translation is a challenging task.					
7	Text typology plays a role in neutrality in translation.					
	Culture					
8	Cultural preferences have an impact on the translator's stance on neutrality.					
9	Culturally sensitive issues affect translators' tendency toward neutrality in translation.					
10	Maintaining neutrality can be challenging when translating expressions with language-specific interpretation.					
	Society					
11	Social considerations have an impact on translators' stance on neutrality.					
12	Controversial topics and expressions make it difficult for translators to maintain neutrality.					
	Politics					
13	Political views have an impact on translators' stance on neutrality.					
14	Politically sensitive issues affect translators' tendency toward neutrality in translation.					
	External Factors					
15	Neutrality in translation can be compromised by external factors.					
16	Professional advancement affects neutrality in translation.					
	Audience and Employer					
17	The employer's expectations affect neutrality in translation.					
18	The targeted audience plays a role in overlooking neutrality in translation.					
19	Translators' reaction to the provided feedback on translation affects maintaining neutrality.					

Appendix 2

Jury members who validated the questionnaire

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