# Translation Assessment of Legal Discursive Structures in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

Seyed Reza Beh-Afarin[1*] iD
Robabeh Derishemadi[2] iD

[*1]Assistant Professor in Applied Linguistics, Department of English Translation, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Islamic Azad University, North Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran

[2]Ph.D. Candidate in Applied Linguistics, Department of English Translation, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Islamic Azad University, North Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran

**ABSTRACT**

This study aimed to examine the translation of legal discourse structures in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and their impact on the creation, maintenance, and alteration of power relations. The corpus of the study included the written English text of the JCPOA agreement on Iran's nuclear program and its Persian translation. Additionally, the researchers consulted several law dictionaries, including the Law Dictionary published by the Vice Presidency for Legal Affairs (2017), Majd Law Dictionary (2015), and the Legal Terms Dictionary by the Iranian Court of Arbitration for Hague (1989) to compare legal concepts in both languages. Using the Fairclough's model as the analytical framework, the researcher analyzed the original text against its Persian translation. Findings indicated that the Persian translated text (SL) contained some untranslated parts, which was an omission strategy. This omission resulted in translation errors. The discourse practice level error analysis revealed that the Persian translation had an error rate of 11%, which was significant (P>0.05) for Persian translation. On the other hand, the social practice level demonstrated that English terms and words were used in the Persian translation without explanation. The findings were discussed and the implications were made.

**KEYWORDS:** JCPOA (literally in Persian, BARJAM); Translation Assessment; Discursive Structures, Translation Assessment

## 1. Introduction

This research aimed to analyze the translation of legal discourse structures as depicted in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to assess their significance in establishing, preserving, and modifying power dynamics. Legal discursive structures pertain to the methodologies through which legal language is employed to formulate arguments and convey significance within the legal framework. These structures encompass the utilization of legal terminology, referencing legal precedents and statutes, and employing formalized argumentation techniques like syllogisms and deductive reasoning. Legal discursive structures are structured to guarantee lucidity, exactitude, and uniformity in legal interaction, and they wield a pivotal influence in shaping legal consequences and determinations. This investigation aimed to unpack the complexities of these

discursive structures and explore their impact on power dynamics within the context of the JCPOA. The examination sought to shed light on how legal discourse functions within this framework and its implications for power relations.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is a historic and pivotal accord inked on July 14, 2015, in the beautiful city of Vienna, bringing together Iran and the international community, which includes major powers such as China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Germany, and the European Union. This landmark pact officially came into force on October 18, 2015, and its provisions commenced on January 16, 2016. At its core, the JCPOA aimed to thwart Iran's potential nuclear weapons program and was crafted as a single agreement with five supplementary appendices. Central to the terms were actions necessitating Iran to dismantle its stockpile of medium-enriched uranium, slash its store of low-enriched uranium by an overwhelming 98%, and curtail its gas centrifuges by approximately two-thirds over a span of 13 years. Moreover, for the subsequent 15 years, Iran consented to limit its uranium enrichment to a mere 3.67% purity, solidifying its commitment to peaceful nuclear energy pursuits. The JCPOA is widely regarded as a considerable diplomatic achievement, embodying years of intricate negotiations and consensus-building.

Iran has committed not to develop any new heavy-water facilities for the following decade. The enrichment activities will be restricted to a single facility utilizing first-generation centrifuges, with other facilities being repurposed to mitigate proliferation risks. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will have consistent access to all Iranian nuclear facilities to oversee and validate Iran's adherence to the agreement. In return for demonstrably upholding its obligations, Iran will gain relief from nuclear-related economic sanctions imposed by the US, the European Union (EU), and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) (Articles 2-6 of the JCPOA's preface, Appendix E). This accord holds significant weight as it ensures the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program for the global community. Its translation into Persian is also of critical importance. Historically, Iran holds a substantial background in various international agreements and conventions with nations worldwide, each of which has left a distinct impact on the Iranian government and its people. Notably, the high-stakes oil contracts pre- and post-1979 revolution fall within this realm. This demonstrates Iran's long-standing engagement with international agreements and their implications for the country.

To thoroughly investigate the translation of legal concepts in the JCPOA, the researchers thoroughly examined three law dictionaries: The Vice Presidency for Legal Affairs' law dictionary (2017), Majd Law Dictionary (2015), and the Legal Terms Dictionary by the Iranian Court of Arbitration for Hague (1989). Upon examination, the researchers identified numerous structural and grammatical issues in the Persian translation of the JCPOA's English script. Given the significant implications and importance of agreements like the JCPOA, the translation of legal concepts must be carried out by competent legal experts to guarantee the precision of the translated terms. Furthermore, an accredited translator, sanctioned by the pertinent department of the Ministry of Justice and Foreign Affairs, must translate and officially endorse every document, including the JCPOA agreement. There is no specific evidence to indicate that the JCPOA agreement received official authorization from the General Administration of Documents and Sworn Translators (Technical) Judiciary to confer the same level of validity and support as the original English version in international legal courts. Therefore, the clarity and legitimacy of the Persian translation of the JCPOA may be subject to question.

This research sought to comprehensively analyze the use of Persian equivalents in conveying the precise meaning of English legal concepts within political documents like the JCPOA. Specifically, the study evaluated the effectiveness of Persian translations in preserving the original legal intent as expressed in the English text. Recognizing the high stakes associated with interpreting and translating such documents, the study emphasized the crucial role of legal experts in ensuring faithful rendering. The researchers aimed to communicate the critical importance of accurately translated legal concepts within the JCPOA, acknowledging the significant interpretational impact of legal language in its translation. Employing Fairclough's Model (1993), the study examined the influence of cultural discourse and hegemony on legal concept translation. Recognizing the interconnectedness of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) with causality, discursiveness, practice events, and texts (Fairclough, 2013), the study delved into understanding the formation of these practices within a broader social, cultural, and relational framework. Furthermore, it explored how the ambiguity in the discourse-society relationship can be utilized to establish authority and hegemony, highlighting the interplay of power dynamics within the communication of legal concepts.

## 2. Methodology

The study aimed to compare the English text of the JCPOA agreement on Iran's nuclear program with its Persian translation to define and specify legal concepts. The researchers considered this as a subcategory of conceptual research, which aims to clarify concepts. The study focused on two official documents: the written English text of the JCPOA agreement and its Persian translation. The researchers analyzed the content of both documents and consulted several law dictionaries, including the Law Dictionary published by the Vice Presidency for Legal Affairs (2017), Majd Law Dictionary (2015), and the Legal Terms Dictionary by the Iranian Court of Arbitration for Hague (1989).

To compare the Persian equivalents of English legal concepts, the researchers used the principles presented by Fairclough (1993) in his CDA model, which includes causality, discursiveness, practice events, and texts. Fairclough's model emphasizes the social and cultural structures that shape the creation of these practices, events, and texts, and how power

relationships affect the vagueness of discourse and society to secure power and hegemony. The researchers compared the English and Persian versions of the JCPOA agreement to specify legal concepts. However, the accuracy of legal concepts and discursive structures relies on expert legal translators. The study aimed to define these legal concepts and discursive structures and assess the translation.

## 3. Results

The data collected were non-parametric in nature. Therefore, to determine the frequency of discursive structures used in translating legal concepts from English to Persian, a chi-square test was used in the first phase. In the second phase, the researchers analyzed the collected data using three legal dictionaries: (1) Ansari's (2017) Vice Presidency for Legal Affairs law dictionary, (2) Ahsan Nezhad's (2015) MAJD Law Dictionary (14th ed., Vol. 14), and (3) the Legal Terms dictionary by the Iranian Court of Arbitration for Hague (1989). The researchers used these dictionaries to determine the compliance of four lists presented as "proper nouns," "verbs," "adjectives," and "adjective-adverbial phrases" with the original and translated text. In the third phase, the researchers prioritized and identified the most frequently used proper nouns and words in both the original English and Persian translated text to emphasize their importance. According to Fairclough's model of CDA, each language has its own lexical and grammatical aspects, especially in translating legal concepts. It is undeniable that translating from English to Persian requires some shifts at the level of syntax, genres, discourse, and styles. To analyze the translation quality of legal discursive structures in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and their significance in the production, maintenance, and change of particular relations of power, the researchers collected 100 English adjectives, adverbs, and verbs from the original JCPOA English text.

**Table 1.** List of adjective/adverb verbs & nouns in English and in Persian

| A. Adjective/Adverb Verbs, & Nouns in English (COLLOCATIONS) | A. Adjective/Adverb Verbs & Nouns in Persian |
|---|---|
| 1 Historic Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), | None |
| 2    Be exclusively peaceful | None |
| 3    Positively contribute | None |
| 4    Fundamental shift | None |
| 5    Full implementation | None |
| 6    An exclusively peaceful, indigenous nuclear program | None |
| 7    Mutually determined limitations | None |
| 8    Exclusively peaceful purposes | None |
| 9    Exclusively peaceful nature | None |
| 10    Mutually determined parameters | None |
| 11    Discriminatory regulatory and procedural requirements | None |
| 12    Will be fully observed | به طور کامل رعایت خواهد شد |
| 13    Setting precedents | ایجاد رویه |
| 14    Internationally recognized principles | اصول و رویه های شناخته شده بین المللی |
| 15    Fundamental principles of international law | اصول بنیادی حقوق بین الملل و حقوق و تعهدات |
| 16    Mutually determined civil nuclear cooperation projects | طرح های مربوط به همکاری های هسته ای صلح آمیز که مشترکاً توسط طرفین تعیین می شوند، |
| 17    UN Security Council resolution | قطعنامه شورای امنیت |
| 18    Certain agreed limitations | محدودیت های مورد توافق |
| 19    Enrichment -related activities | فعالیت های مرتبط با غنی سازی |
| 20    Enrichment -related infrastructure | زیر ساخت های غنی سازی مربوطه |
| 21    Safeguarded R&D | تحقیق و توسعه تحت نظارت پادمانی |
| 22    A nuclear, physics and technology Centre | یک مرکز هسته ای، فیزیک و فناوری |
| 23    Appropriate infrastructure modification | اصلاح مقتضی زیر ساخت |
| 24    International qualification standards | استانداردهای بین المللی کیفیت |
| 25    Fabricated fuel assemblies | سوخت تولید شده |
| 26    IAEA technical cooperation | همکاری های فنی آژانس، |
| 27    International qualification standards | استانداردهای کیفی بین المللی |
| 28    IAEA continuous monitoring | نظارت مستمر آژانس |
| **B. ARAK HEAVY WATER REPROCSSING** | **اراک آب سنگین + بازفرآوری** |
| 29    Modernized heavy water research reactor | راکتور تحقیقاتی آب سنگین مدرنیزه |
| 30    Agreed conceptual design | طراحی اولیه مورد توافق |

| 31 | Peaceful nuclear research | تحقیقات هسته ای صلح آمیز |
|---|---|---|
| 32 | International technological advancement | پیشرفت فنآوری بین المللی |
| 33 | Further treatment or disposition | برای پسماندای یا اقدامات بعدی |
| 34 | With the sole exception of separation activities | به جز فعالیت های جداسازی |
| 35 | Irradiated enriched uranium targets. | نمونه های تابش دیده اورانیوم غنی شده |

| **C: TRANSPARENCY AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES** | **ج. شفافیت و اقدامات اعتمادساز** |
|---|---|

| 36 | Comprehensive safeguards agreement | موافقتنامه جامع پادمان |
|---|---|---|
| 37 | With the respective roles | با اختیارات مربوطه |
| 38 | Full implementation of activities undertaken | کاملا اجرا خواهد کرد . |
| 39 | Taking necessary action | اتخاذ اقدامات لازم |
| 40 | The implementation of the voluntary measures | اجرای اقدامات داوطلبانه |
| 41 | To implement transparency measures | اجرای تدابیر شفافیت ساز |
| 42 | Long -term IAEA presence | حضور بلند مدت آژانس |
| 43 | On -line enrichment measurement and electronic seals; | استفاده از فنآوری‌های مدرن تایید شده و گواهی شده توسط آژانس از جمله دستگاه سنجش میزان غنی سازی به صورت مستقیم و مهر و موم های الکترونیکی |
| 44 | The development of a nuclear explosive device | توسعه تجهیزات انفجاری هسته ای |

| **D: SANCTIONS** | **تحریم ها** |
|---|---|

| 45 | IAEA-verified implementation of agreed nuclear-related measures by Iran | اجرای اقدامات توافق شده مرتبط با هسته ای توسط ایران، راستی آزمایی شده توسط آژانس، |
|---|---|---|
| 46 | Nuclear -related economic and financial sanctions | تحریم های اقتصادی و مالی مرتبط با هسته ای |
| 47 | Including related designations | از جمله فهرست افراد مشخص شده مربوطه، |
| 48 | Provision of insurance and reinsurance; | ارائه خدمات بیمه و بیمه اتکائی |
| 49 | Specialized financial messaging services | خدمات پیام رسانی مالی |
| 50 | Correspondent banking relationships | روابط کارگزاری بانکی جدید |
| 51 | Financial assistance and concessional loans | خدمات مالی و وام های ترجیحی |
| 52 | Public-guaranteed bonds | اوراق تضمین شده |
| 53 | Flagging and classification services | خدمات پرچم و تعیین وضعیت(classification)؛ |
| 54 | Designation of persons, entities and bodies | لغو فهرست اشخاص حقیقی، حقوقی و نهادها |
| 55 | Proliferation -related sanctions | تحریم های مرتبط با عدم اشاعه |
| 56 | The agreed nuclear-related measures | اقدامات توافق شده مرتبط با هسته ای |
| 57 | Publicly accessible statements | بیانیه هایی را که در دسترس عموم باشد، |
| 58 | Consistent with their respective laws | ، منطبق با قوانین خود |
| 59 | Ongoing investigations | تحقیقات در دست رسیدگی |
| 60 | International participants | شرکای بین المللی |
| 61 | Agreed joint advanced R&D IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | تحقیق و توسعه پیشرفته مشترک برنامه اجرایی |
| 62 | Non -binding opinion | نظریه غیرالزام آوری |
| 63 | Significant non-performance, | «عدم پایبندی اساسی» |
| 64 | The old UN Security Council resolutions | قطعنامه های سابق شورای امنیت سازمان ملل متحد |
| 65 | The dispute resolution process specified in this JCPOA ARAK HEAVY WATER RESEARCH REACTOR | برای طی فرایند حل و فصل اختلاف پیش بینی شده دربرجام راکتور تحقیقاتی آب سنگین اراک |
| 66 | The agreed conceptual design | براساس طراحی مفهومی موافقت شده |
| 67 | The existing unfinished reactor | راکتور ناتمام موجود |
| 68 | Consistent with their respective national laws | هماهنگ با قوانین ملی خود |
| 69 | The safe and timely construction | ساخت و راه اندازی ایمن و به موقع |
| 70 | Peaceful nuclear research | تحقیقات صلح آمیز هسته ای |
| 71 | The agreed conceptual design | براساس طراحی مفهومی موافقت شده . |
| 72 | The relevant Iranian regulatory authority | نظام ایمنی ایران |
| 73 | Approved final design. | طراحی نهایی تایید شده |
| 74 | Relevant funding contributions. | None |
| 75 | Subsequent fuel core reloads | بارگذاری های |
| 76 | The timely and safe construction. | ساخت ایمن و به موقع |
| 77 | Planned radio-isotope production | برنامه تولید رادیو ایزوتوپ ها |
| 78 | Reactor operation program | برنامه بهره برداری از راکتور |
| 79 | The Fuel Manufacturing Plant | کارخانه تولید سوختFMP |
| 80 | All excess heavy water | تمامی آب سنگین مازاد بر نیاز |
| 81 | The Zero power heavy water reactor | راکتور آب سنگین صفر قدرت |
| 82 | Necessary technical modifications | تغییرات لازم |

| 83 | International technological advancement | پیشرفت تکنولوژی در سطح بین المللی |
| 84 | spent fuel reprocessing | بازفرآوری سوخت مصرف شده |
| 85 | Spent fuel reprocessing R&D activities | فعالیت های مربوط به تحقیق و توسعه بازفرآوری سوخت مصرف شده |
| 86 | Irradiated enriched uranium | اورانیوم غنی شده تابش داده |
| 87 | Peaceful industrial purposes. | مقاصد پزشکی و صنعتی |
| 88 | Currently operating units | واحدهای در حال تولید |
| 89 | Enrichment -related infrastructure, | زیرساختهای مربوط به غنی سازی |
| 90 | Single centrifuge machines | تک ماشینهای سانتریفیوژ |
| 91 | Internationally established practices | بهترین رویه های بنا شده بین المللی، |
| 92 | The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP) | تاسیسات غنی سازی فردو |
| 93 | Stable isotope production activities | فعالیت های خود را در تولید ایزوتوپ های پایدار |
| 94 | In agreed areas of research | در زمینه های توافق شده |
| 95 | In furtherance of implementation of the JCPOA | در پیشبرد اجرای برجام |
| 96 | Under the comprehensive safeguards agreement | تحت موافقت نامه جامع پادمان |
| 97 | Access to such locations | دسترسی به چنین محل هایی |
| 98 | Satisfactory arrangements | به طریق رضایت بخش |
| 99 | Undeclared nuclear materials | فعالیت های هسته ای اعلام نشده |
| 100 | Through containment and surveillance | از طریق محدودسازی و مراقبت |

**Table 2.** Descriptive data of translation strategies

| Translation strategy | A. Adjective/Adverb Verbs & Nouns in English | B. Arak Heavy Water Reprocessing | C. Building Measures Transparency and Confidence | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S1 | 10 | 4 | 21 | 35 |
| S2 | 5 | 3 | 29 | 37 |
| Paraphrase | 0 | 0 | 16 | 16 |
| Omission | 10 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| Total | 25 | 7 | 71 | 100 |

The study found that out of 100 selected English adjectives, adverbs, and verbs, 35 cases (35%) were translated using the (S1) strategy (translating with the same meaning and appearance), 37 cases (37%) using the (S2) strategy (translating with similar meaning and different appearance), 16 cases (16%) using paraphrasing, and finally, 11 cases (11%) using the omission strategy. The results also showed that the frequency of (S2) and (S1) strategies were the highest among the other translation strategies, and a total of 72% of the selected English adjectives, adverbs, and nouns were translated into Persian using (S1) and (S2) strategies. This indicates that the official translation of the original JPCOA aimed to stay as loyal as possible to the original text, with only 16 cases using paraphrasing and 11 cases using omission strategies, which could be more ambiguous and unclear.

Furthermore, out of 224 selected English verbs from a total of around 7250 words shortlisted, up to 180 verbs were translated into Persian, and 44 verbs were omitted, resulting in an incidence rate of 80.3%.

**Table 3.** Descriptive analysis of JCPOA words

| | Part A | Part B | Part C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mean | 2.4000 | 1.4286 | 1.9296 |
| Median | 2.0000 | 1.0000 | 2.0000 |
| Std. Deviation | 1.38444 | .53452 | .78055 |
| Variance | 1.917 | .286 | .609 |
| Range | 3.00 | 1.00 | 3.00 |
| Minimum | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Maximum | 4.00 | 2.00 | 4.00 |

**Table 4.** Translation strategies of part A: adjective/adverb verbs & nouns in English

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valid | S1 | 10 | 13.9 | 40.0 | 40.0 |
|  | S2 | 5 | 6.9 | 20.0 | 60.0 |
|  | Omission | 10 | 13.9 | 40.0 | 100.0 |
|  | Total | 25 | 34.7 | 100.0 |  |
| Missing | System | 47 | 65.3 |  |  |
| Total |  | 72 | 100.0 |  |  |

**Table 5.** Translation strategies of part B: Arak heavy water reprocessing

*Part B: Arak Heavy Water Reprocessing*

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valid | S1 | 4 | 5.6 | 57.1 | 57.1 |
|  | S2 | 3 | 4.2 | 42.9 | 100.0 |
|  | Total | 7 | 9.7 | 100.0 |  |
| Missing | System | 65 | 90.3 |  |  |
| Total |  | 72 | 100.0 |  |  |

**Table 6.** Translation strategies of part C: building measures of transparency and confidence

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valid | S1 | 23 | 31.9 | 32.4 | 32.4 |
|  | S2 | 31 | 43.1 | 43.7 | 76.1 |
|  | Paraphrase | 16 | 22.2 | 22.5 | 98.6 |
|  | Omission | 1 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 100.0 |
|  | Total | 71 | 98.6 | 100.0 |  |
| Missing | System | 1 | 1.4 |  |  |
| Total |  | 72 | 100.0 |  |  |

Based on the observations in Table 4, Part A, which analyzes Adjective/Adverb Verbs & Nouns in English, the incidence rate of (S1) was 20%, (S2) was 40%, and Omission was 40%. This indicates that the official Persian translation of BARJAM used (S1) and (S2) translation strategies in 60% of cases, while the Omission strategy was used in the remaining 40%. In Table 5, Part B: Arak Heavy Water Reprocessing, the (S1) strategy was used in 57.1% of cases, and the (S2) strategy was used in 42.9% of cases. No (S3) or (S4) translation strategies were used in this section, making the translation more accurate. In Table 6, Part C: Building Measures Transparency and Confidence, the incidence rate of (S1) was 32.4%, (S2) was 43.7%, Paraphrase was 22.5%, and Omission was 1.4%. The frequencies of adjectives, adverbs, verbs, and nouns used in the original English (JCPOA) and translated Persian script (BARJAM) were analyzed. For this section, all 7250 English words of JCPOA were selected for CDA based on the Fairclough model. From the entire selected sample, 224 cases were English verbs and the remaining 100 selected words were adjectives, adverbs, and nouns. Tables 7 and 8 were prepared separately for verbs and other English words, respectively.

**Table 7.** Frequency tabulations, JCPOA, English-Persian verbs

|  | Percentage of sample verb | Number of verbs | Frequency percentage of verbs | Total words | Total sample words |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English | 30.8 | 224 | 150 | 30064 | 7250 |
| Persian | 24.8 | 180 | 150 | 33319 | 7250 |
| Section |  | A, B, C |  |  |  |
| Total | 55.6 | 404 | 300 | 63383 | 14500 |

Based on Table 7, the sample volume for both the original JCPOA English text and the Persian official translation was 100%. The frequency percentage of verbs in both texts was the same at 150%. However, only 180 English verbs were translated into Persian, while 44 were omitted, resulting in a deviation of 19.7% between English and Persian verbs.

**Table 8.** Frequency tabulations, JCPOA, English-Persian adjectives/ adverbs/ singular and plural nouns

|  | Percentage of sample words | Number of words | Frequency percentage of words | Total words | Total sample words |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English | 13.8 | 100 | 150 | 30064 | 7250 |
| Persian | 12.2 | 89 | 150 | 33319 | 7250 |
| Section |  | A, B, C |  |  |  |
| Total | 26 | 189 | 300 | 63383 | 14500 |

Based on Table 8, the frequency percentage of 100 selected English words and their Persian translations was 13.8% and 12.2%, respectively, out of a total of 7250 words. The combined frequency percentage for both English and Persian was 150%. An error analysis conducted at the discourse practice level revealed a significant error rate of 11% in Persian translation ($P > 0.05$). In social practice, English terms and words were used in Persian translation, but there was a significant difference in the discourse knowledge produced by Persian versus English legal discursive structures of JCPOA, as per Fairclough's model of CDA. This variation was 6.00% for English verbs (30.8% English versus 24.8% Persian) and 1.6% for English adjectives/adverbs/nouns (13.8% English versus 12.2% Persian).

Based on Foucault's theory of power relations analysis, power refers to actions that bring about change or direct the behavior of others (such as strategy-making). Power, in this perspective, is the overall structure of actions that influence other possible actions. To evaluate the discourse knowledge of the Persian translation text compared to the original English text, the researchers interviewed a political scientist from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the effectiveness of word usage, verbs, and active and passive voice sentences. The political scientist concluded that the Persian translation text of the original JCPOA is equal to the original English text based on Fairclough's model of CDA, including syntax, discourse, and style.

According to Foucault, there is a close relationship between power and freedom, and power relations are seen as strategic games between free individuals who may influence the activities of others, despite their lack of power. Foucault believes that power is only exerted on free individuals who can make choices, as power aims to affect human choices and shape their activities. From this perspective, it could be argued that the translated text of the JCPOA underestimates the significance of the JCPOA in the production, maintenance, and change of particular power relations in Iran.

## 4. Discussion

The results of this study support previous research findings, although they may not align with the results of other investigations. Many studies have explored the linguistic dimension of the JCPOA, including those conducted by Aghagolzadeh (2012), Bánhegyi (2014), Samadi et al. (2011) and Sharififar and Azadi (2016). Aghagolzadeh's (2012) study concluded that to maintain up-to-date knowledge in various aspects of legal fields, including political and commercial, it is necessary to be proficient in different law systems, particularly in terminology. Using general corpus-based knowledge to focus on linguistic expressions can help to benefit from the systemic functional meaning-based level, which is SGF. By considering these features, translators can avoid errors or limit them in their translations. Aghagolzadeh analyzed fifteen translated texts from the English-Persian

exam held by the Iranian Judiciary and found that the most frequent errors were omission, mistranslation, and word choice strategies.

Bánhegyi (2014) found that the multitude of translation approaches and methodologies in Political Discourse Analysis (PDA) is hindering scientific progress in the field, as it makes it difficult to compare and contrast them with one another. Furthermore, the cultural, social, and ideological perspectives of the target audience must also be taken into account. Therefore, unification approaches must be considered in relation to social, political, cultural, historical, hermeneutical, political communication, and contextual features. This will enable the interpretation, evaluation, and analysis of these features under a single theory, while also taking into account the scholar's strategies.

Samadi et al., (2011) researched the problems in translating legal terms from Persian into English. The study examined Altay's (2002) six problematic factors as a criterion and compared them with 239 legal terms chosen and extracted from the Civil Code of Iran, translated by Badrian (2001). They concluded that legal translators benefited from using a paraphrasing strategy, loan words as substitutions, and culture-specific items to have the same influence on the target readers. Sharififar and Azadi (2016) conducted research on investigating ideological manipulation in the translation of political texts, with a case study on the Iranian nuclear talks. The study concluded that the ideology of the translator had affected the translation of BARJAM. Accordingly, the most frequent factor in translating the Persian text was distortion, and the least factor was the manipulation of the expansion strategy.

Karimi (2016) conducted research on the challenges in English to Persian translation of contracts and agreements, with a case study on Iranian English translation students. The study concluded that a lack of efficient knowledge in terminology and syntax caused an essential problem for the students' endeavor to translate legal agreements, contracts, texts, and legal concepts in these Therefore, legal translations must consider the basis of terminology and the function of the source text (ST) to target text (TT), and legal translators should use practice-oriented knowledge.

The findings of this study are consistent with those of Fernando (2011), who concluded that legal translation is a specific professional translation that requires academic knowledge to avoid conceptual duplications and unite legal thematic elements. Additionally, aptitudes, knowledge, behavior, and efficient translation skills are other important factors. Fernando (2011) introduced two legal translation competence models: the PACTE Group Model, which is based on bilingual, extra-linguistic, instrumental, knowledge about translation, strategic sub-competence, and psycho-physiological components to clarify the strategy for solving problematic situations, and the European Master's in Translation (EMT) Group model, which emphasizes aptitudes, knowledge, behavior, and efficient translation skills. Fernando (2011) concluded that not only training but also the relationship between all these factors enables a process-oriented approach to identify, categorize, and solve problems in legal translation in this field of career. In a study conducted by Azizi and Gorjian (2015), the representation of Iran's nuclear program negotiations in two newspapers, Tehran Times and Los Angeles Times, was investigated. Two reviewers calculated the frequency of discourse strategies to determine the inter-rater reliability index through Pearson Correlation Analysis, resulting in an index of (r=.725). The percentages of the structures were then calculated, and Chi-square analysis was used to determine whether the differences were significant. The study found that the two newspapers represented their ideas differently on the same event, using macro strategies to show positive or negative attitudes towards the West or Iran. As a result, the newspapers were significantly different at the macro level. The Los Angeles Times emphasized the positive aspects of the West while downplaying the positive aspects of Iran. At the micro level, there was a significant difference between the frequencies of stability, accusing, authority, threatening, and blaming used as micro-discourse features in both newspapers. For example, a portion of the JCPOA international agreement stated that the E3/EU+3 and the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which ensured that Iran's nuclear program would be exclusively peaceful and marked a fundamental shift in their approach to this issue. They anticipated that the full implementation of the JCPOA would positively contribute to regional and international peace and security. Iran reaffirmed that it would never seek, develop, or acquire any nuclear weapons under any circumstances. Iran envisioned that the JCPOA would allow it to move forward with an exclusively peaceful, indigenous nuclear program, in line with scientific and economic considerations, in accordance with the JCPOA, and with a view to building confidence and encouraging international cooperation.

In this context, the JCPOA describes initial mutually determined limitations that would be followed by a gradual evolution of Iran's peaceful nuclear program, including its enrichment activities, to a commercial program for exclusively peaceful purposes, consistent with international nonproliferation norms. The E3/EU+3 envisioned that the implementation of this agreement would progressively allow them to gain confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's program. The JCPOA established mutually determined parameters, consistent with practical needs, and agreed limits on the scope of Iran's nuclear program, including enrichment activities and R&D. The agreement addressed the E3/EU+3's concerns, including through comprehensive measures providing for transparency and verification. The JCPOA resulted in the comprehensive lifting of all UN Security Council sanctions, as well as multilateral and national sanctions related to Iran's nuclear program, including steps on access in areas of trade, technology, finance, and energy.

## 5. Conclusion

In this study, the researchers aimed to explore the impact of translating political and international high-stakes agreements, such as the JCPOA, on various groups of people, including researchers, scholars, specialists, and learners. The researchers wanted to gain a deeper understanding of how the translation process affects these individuals and how it can be improved to enhance their ability and willingness to translate similar documents in the future. To achieve this goal, the researchers compared the English and Persian texts of the JCPOA and analyzed the use of linguistic elements to create impactful political effects and appeal to scholars and specialists. They found that the use of language in political documents is crucial in conveying the intended message and achieving the desired impact. Furthermore, the study highlights the important role that linguists play in assisting politicians in crafting their formal writings and speeches. Linguists have the expertise to analyze the language used in political documents and speeches and can help politicians convey their message more effectively.

This study sheds light on the importance of language in political and international agreements and emphasizes the need for skilled linguists to assist in the translation and crafting of such documents. The study also highlights the various issues that can arise during the translation process, which can affect the understanding of the source text. These issues include additions, omissions, unresolved references, loss of meaning, and inappropriate linguistic variations such as register, style, and dialect. Additionally, there can be inadequate renderings that affect the expression in the target language, such as spelling, grammar, lexical items, text, and style. These issues can impact the transmission of the main and secondary functions of the source text to the target text.

The study also found that the translators' knowledge of special words, phrases, and principles of political and commercial correspondences had a significant impact on the quality of their translations. Therefore, translation teachers and instructors need to improve their students' knowledge of these texts to enhance their translation quality. It is crucial to inform instructors and teachers about the benefits of improving students' level of knowledge of special properties of legal lexicon in their translation work. The researchers suggest using the rendering of JCPOA as an extraordinary sample of an international agreement in the field of translation studies as well as a fundamental assessment and evaluation factor in the translation sector, based on Fairclough's model from 1993. This suggests that the translation of legal texts is an important area of study for translation students and professionals and that improving their knowledge in this area can lead to better translation quality.

As to the research limitations, this study was limited to only one case; therefore, the findings cannot be generalized. Future studies can explore the translation of JCPOA from fresh analytical models, such as Baker's narrative theory. In-depth comparative analyses of different JCPOA translations (official and unofficial) across languages, focusing on potential discrepancies, ideological manipulation, and cultural adaptations can offer fresh insights. Researchers can also analyze the ethical implications of translator choices and strategies within the context of politically sensitive agreements like the JCPOA.

# 6. References

Altay, A. (2002). Difficulties encountered in the translation of legal texts: The case of Turkey. *Translation Journal, 6* (2), 3-8.

Aghagolzadeh, F., & Farazandeh-pour, F. (2012). The Analysis of English-Persian Legal Translations Based on Systemic Functional Grammar Approach (SFG). *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 2(1), 126-131. https://doi.org/0.4304/tpls.2.1.126-131

Ahsan Nezhad, M. E. (2015). *MAJD Comprehensive Law Dictionary - bilingual Persian and English law dictionary*. MAJD Publications.

Ansari, A. (2017). The Vice Presidency for Legal Affairs (2003, 2009, 2012 ed., Vol. 4th edition). Tehran, Iran: The Vice Presidency of Compliance and Publication of Rules and Regulations. Retrieved from www.dotic.ir

Azizi, P. & Gorjian, B. (2015, April 4). A Comparative Study on the Representation of Iran's Nuclear Program Negotiation in Newspapers, Tehran Times vs. Los Angeles Times. www.ijllalw.org, No. 8 (4).

Bánhegyi, M. (2014). Translation and political discourse. *Acta Universitatis Sapientiae, Philologica*, 6(2), 139-158.

Badrian, F. (2001). *Translation Civil Code of Iran*. Rahnama Publication.

Fairclough, N. (1993). *Critical Discourse Analysis*. Routledge.

Fairclough, N. (2013). Critical discourse analysis, organisational discourse and organisational change. In *Critical Discourse Analysis* (pp. 347-373). Routledge.

Fernando, P. (2011). Developing Legal Translation Competence: An Interactive Process-Oriented Approach. *International Journal for Legal Communication, 5,* 7-21. Retrieved from https://archive-ouverte.ch/unige:16166

Karimi, M. H. (2016). Challenges in English to Persian Translation of Contracts and Agreements: The Case of Iranian English Translation Students. *Applied Linguistics and Language Research, 3*(6, 2016), 188-198.

Legal Terms Dictionary by the Iranian Court of Arbitration for Hague (1989). Gange Danesh Publication.

Samadi, M., Shomoossi, N., & Rasekh, A. E. (2011). Problem in the translation of legal terms from Persian into English. *The International Journal, Language Society and Culture*, *3*, 108-114.

Sharififar, M., & Azadi, M. B. A. Investigating Ideological Manipulation in Translation of Political Texts Case Study: Iranian Nuclear Talks. *International Journal of Educational Investigations, 3,* (2), 61-71.