The Use of Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Vernacular in Dubbing the animated Movie “A Bug’s Life”

Prepared by

Farah Abu Lawi
Supervised by

Professor Saleh Al-Salman

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the use of the two varieties of Arabic, namely Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), and the Egyptian Vernacular (EV) in dubbing animated movies in the Arab World. It sheds light on the effect of using each of the two varieties on the final product of animated works based on viewers’ reactions. In addition, the study explores the reasons why EV is a preferred choice for dubbing animations compared to other Arabic vernaculars. The corpus of the study consists of the original English dialogue and the two dubbed Arabic versions of the movie A Bug’s Life. The corpus was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. In the qualitative analysis, the Arabic scripts of the MSA and EV versions are examined to spot the differences between the two translations. This was conducted by using corpus manager and text analysis software. In the quantitative approach, a questionnaire was used as a data-collection instrument to elicit audience reactions to the two varieties of Arabic, MSA and EV, used in dubbing the movie. The research quantitative findings showed that the participants were more in favor of the animations dubbed in the EV version than in the MSA one. While the qualitative findings showed that, the quality of the EV dubbed version is better than MSA, linguistically and technically. The current study is quite significant as it probes into an important aspect of the audio-visual translation (AVT) domains. Finally, the current study provides some implications and recommendations concerning further research on dubbing animated works.

Keywords: animated movies, dubbing, AVT, MSA, Egyptian vernacular