Studying & Translating Islamic Texts

(From Persian into English)

(A Textbook for MA Students in English Translation)

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(از فارسی به انگلیسی)

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C. 19r L e Programs of Translation Studies Center of Excellence

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Introduction

The aim of this book is to let MA students of English translation studies be familiar with English translations of Islamic texts and practice translating such texts into English. The book contains fifteen lessons and every lesson consists of seven parts, each of which having a certain purpose to facilitate reaching the and of the book.

In Part 1 of each lesson some translation theories and basic technical terms, especially those related translating Islamic texts, are discussed in detail. This is to make the students acquainted with theoretical aspects and connectechnical terms of translating religious texts.

Part 2 contains quotation: من M. Mutahhari's Man and Faith(انسان و ايمان) together with two English translations done by R. Campbell and M.A. Ansan The aim of this part is to let the students have a contr. stive analysis and a comparative study,

students have a contrastive analysis and a comparative study, that is, contrast the transactions with the original Persian text and compare the rendermes with one another to see the semantic varieties between them. This contrastive and comparative investigation is supposed to familiarize the students with the strategies and techniques applied in translating Islamic texts and show them any probable translation problem that the translators might have had when carrying out such a serious and sensitive task. Studying the English translations of Islamic texts in this way in the book is to pave the way for actual practice of

translating Islamic texts which begins with a guided exercise in the next part of the lesson.

In Parts 3 to 6, students practice translating Islamic texts in a graded way: A guided exercise of translation is given at the sentence level in Part 3. A similar translation practice is presented in Part 4 of the lessons in longer sentences and short paragraphs. In both of these two exercises the sentence structures of the translations have been provided and the students are required to complete the translations with the sun ble words from the lists given. In Lessons Fourteen and Fifteen, the exercise in Part 4 has a different format.

The translating practice presented in Par. 5 is at a higher level than the two previous exercises. It this part, short Persian paragraphs are quoted from The World view of Tauhid (جهانيني)

written by M. Mu ah. ri o be translated into English using the key words give from R. Campbell's translation. Providing the key words in this part is considered as a guidance to help the students at the translation easily and without any need to refer to a dictionary.

Part 6 in the lessons contains some Persian sentences extract d from Islamic sources to be translated into English by the said nts. No translation guidance is provided in this part, and therefore it may be considered as a translation practice which needs more translation competence in comparison with the other exercises in the lessons.

The last part, titled as "Extensive Reading", is a homework assignment to be done outside the class. In this part, the given English translation should be contrasted with the original Persian text in order to learn the provided English

equivalents of the Islamic terms and expressions employed in the given Persian text.

Finally, I am grateful to Iranian Translation Studies Centre of Excellence for providing me with a generous grant to compile this book. I also thank my dear colleague, Dr. H. Mollanazar, for surveying the first draft of the book and giving valuable comments on it.

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