



Payam Noor University

Translating Persian Islamic Texts to English Theories and Application

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امروز کتابخوانی و علم‌آموزی نه تنها یک وظیفه‌ی ملی، که یک واجب دینی است.^۱

مقام معظم رهبری

در عصر حاضر یکی از شاخصه‌های ارزیابی رشد، توسعه و پیشرفت فرهنگی هر کشوری میزان تولید کتاب، مطالعه و کتابخوانی مردم آن مرز و بوم است. ایران اسلامی نیز از دیرباز تاکنون با داشتن تمدنی چندهزارساله و مراکز متعدد علمی، فرهنگی، کتابخانه‌های معتبر، علما و دانشمندان بزرگ با آثار ارزشمند تاریخی، سرآمد دولت‌ها و ملت‌های دیگر بوده و در عرصه فرهنگ و تمدن جهانی به‌سان خورشیدی تابناک همچنان می‌درخشد و با فرزندان نیک‌نهاد خویش هنرنمایی می‌کند. چه کسی است که در دنیا با دانشمندان فرزانه و نام‌آور ایرانی همچون ابوعلی سینا، ابوریحان بیرونی، فارابی، خوارزمی و ... همچنین شاعران برجسته‌ای نظیر فردوسی، سعدی، مولوی، حافظ و ... آشنا نباشد و در مقابل عظمت آنها سر تعظیم فرود نیاورد. تمامی این افتخارات ارزشمند، برگرفته از میزان عشق و علاقه فراوان ملت ما به فراگیری علم و دانش از طریق خواندن و مطالعه منابع و کتاب‌های گوناگون است. به شکرانه الهی، تاریخ و گذشته ما، همیشه درخشان و پر بار است. ولی اکنون در این زمینه در چه جایگاهی قرار داریم؟ آمار و ارقام ارائه‌شده از سوی مجامع و سازمان‌های فرهنگی در مورد سرانه مطالعه هر ایرانی، برایمان چندان امیدوارکننده نمی‌باشد.

کتاب، دروازه‌ای به سوی گستره دانش و معرفت است و کتاب خوب، یکی از بهترین ابزارهای کمال بشری است. همه دستاوردهای بشر در سراسر عمر جهان، تا آنجا که قابل کتابت بوده است، در میان دست‌نوشته‌هایی است که انسان‌ها پدید آورده و می‌آورند. در این مجموعه بی‌نظیر، تعالیم الهی، درس‌های پیامبران به بشر، و همچنین علوم مختلفی است که سعادت بشر بدون آگاهی از آنها امکان‌پذیر نیست. کسی که با دنیای زیبا و زندگی‌بخش کتاب ارتباط ندارد بی‌شک از مهم‌ترین دستاورد انسانی و نیز از بیشترین معارف الهی و بشری محروم است. با این دیدگاه، به‌روشنی می‌توان ارزش و مفهوم رمزی عمیق در این حقیقت تاریخی را دریافت که اولین خطاب خداوند متعال به پیامبر گرامی اسلام (ص) این است که «بخوان!» و در اولین سوره‌ای که بر آن فرستاده عظیم‌الشان خداوند، فرود آمده، نام «قلم» به تجلیل یاد

1. <https://farsi.khamenei.ir/message-content?id=2696>

شده است: «إِقْرَأْ وَ رَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ. الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ» در اهمیت عنصر کتاب برای تکامل جامعه انسانی، همین بس که تمامی ادیان آسمانی و رجال بزرگ تاریخ بشری، از طریق کتاب جاودانه مانده اند.

دانشگاه پیام نور با گستره جغرافیایی ایران شمول خود با هدف آموزش برای همه، همه جا و همه وقت، به عنوان دانشگاهی کتاب محور در نظام آموزش عالی کشورمان، افتخار دارد جایگاه اندیشه سازی و خردورزی بخش عظیمی از جوانان جویای علم این مرز و بوم باشد. تلاش فراوانی در ایام طولانی فعالیت این دانشگاه انجام پذیرفته تا با بهره گیری از تجربه های گرانقدر استادان و صاحب نظران برجسته کشورمان، کتاب ها و منابع آموزشی درسی شاخص و خودآموز تولید شود. در آینده هم، این مهم با هدف ارتقای سطح علمی، روزآمدی و توجه بیشتر به نیازهای مخاطبان دانشگاه پیام نور با جدیت ادامه خواهد داشت. به طور قطع استفاده از نظرات استادان، صاحب نظران و دانشجویان محترم، ما را در انجام این وظیفه مهم و خطیر یاری رسان خواهد بود. پیشاپیش از تمامی عزیزانی که با نقد، تصحیح و پیشنهادهای خود ما را در انجام این وظیفه خطیر یاری می رسانند، سپاسگزاری می نمایم. لازم است از تمامی اندیشمندانی که تاکنون دانشگاه پیام نور را منزلگاه اندیشه سازی خود دانسته و ما را در تولید کتاب و محتوای آموزشی درسی یاری نموده اند، صمیمانه قدردانی گردد. موفقیت و بهروزی تمامی دانشجویان و دانش پژوهان عزیز آرزوی همیشگی ما است.

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List of abbreviations for writing the dates

AD بعد از میلاد مسیح

The abbreviation 'AD' stands for "*Anno Domini*" in Latin. In English, this means "in the year of our Lord." This abbreviation refers to all time periods after the theoretical birth of Jesus Christ.

AH هجری قمری

The abbreviation 'AH' stands for the Latin *Anno Hegirae*, or 'Year of the Hijrah'. The date is based on Prophet Muhhamad's migration from Makkah to Madinah in 622 C.E.

The abbreviation marks the Islamic calendar (also known as the Lunar Calendar or the Hijri Calendar) which is based on 12 lunar months; that is a new month begins when a new moon is sighted.

BC قبل از میلاد مسیح

The abbreviation 'BC' stands for "Before Christ." It refers to all time before the theoretical birth of Jesus Christ.

BCE قبل از میلاد مسیح

The abbreviation 'BCE' stands for "before the common (or current) era". BCE and CE have a shorter history than BC and AD.

BH قبل از هجرت

Years prior to the Prophet of Islam's migration from Makkah to Madinah are denoted by BH ("Before the Hijra").

CE میلادی، بعد از میلاد مسیح

The abbreviation 'CE' stands for Common Era (or Current Era or Christian Era). CE refers to dates after the birth of Jesus Christ. CE (Common Era) is in fact the secular equivalent of AD.

Circa (Also ca or cca) تاریخ تقریبی میلادی

This abbreviation ‘CA’ stands for the Latin word “circa” which means “approximately.” Circa is Latin for "around" or "about". It is used to show approximate dates; when something approximately happened.

HS (Also SH and S) هجری شمسی

The abbreviation ‘HS’ stands for ‘Hijri Shamsi’ (also Hijri Solar). The Solar Hijri calendar is one of the oldest calendars in the world. The years of this calendar are solar years rather than lunar years used in lunar calendar.

List of abbreviations in translation studies

ABC: The American Bible Society

CDA: Critical Discourse Analysis

DA: Discourse Analysis

IATIS: The International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies

SC: Source Culture

SL: Source Language

ST: Source Text

TC: Target Culture

TQA: Translation Quality Assessment

TL: Target Language

TT: Target Text/ Translated Text

WOFIS: The World Organization for Islamic Studies

Preface of the author

Islamic texts and religious texts have long existed in Iran and come partly from Persian Literature, mysticism, Sufism, and books teaching Islamic rules or doctrines. But above all, Persian Islamic texts do come from the Holy scriptures including but not limited to the Holy Koran (also spelled Quran or Qu'ran) -the central religious text of Islam revealed by the Almighty God to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) - *Nahj-al-Balagheh* by Imam Ali, *Sahifa Sajjadia* (known as *Psalms of Islam*)¹ by Imam Zainul Abideen; the great-grandson of the Prophet of Islam and some other books particularly Hadith Collections² and exegeses³ on the Holy Koran.

1. *Sahifa Sajjadia* or *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya* which is known as *Psalms of Islam*

صَحِيفَه سَجَّادِيَه، مجموعه دعاهاي حضرت امام سجاد (ع). اين كتاب سترگ پس از قرآن كريم و نهج البلاغه مهمترين مکتوب تشيع مي باشد.

2. Hadith Collection

مجموعه حديث، كتاب هايي كه احاديث را گردآوري كرده اند.

چهار كتاب مهم حديثي شيعه - كه "كتب اربعه" ناميده مي شوند- عبارتند از:

۱. *الكافي* به نويسندگي محمد بن يعقوب كليني ك بالغ بر ۱۶۱۹۹ حديث مي باشد.

۲. *من لا يحضره الفقيه* ابوجعفر محمد بن علي بن بابويه قمي ملقب به شيخ صدوق شامل ۵۹۶۳ حديث

۳. *تهذيب الاحكام*

گردآوري شده توسط ابوجعفر محمد بن الحسن طوسي معروف به شيخ طوسي مشتمل بر ۱۳۵۹۰ حديث

۴. *الاستبصار فيما اختلف من الاخبار* اثر ارزشمند ديگر از شيخ طوسي كه دربر گيرنده ۵۵۱۱ حديث مي باشد.

3. "Exegeses", the plural form of 'exegesis'

تفسير، شرح قرآن كريم

اصل واژه تفسير، سرياني است و به معني توضيح دادن مطلب است به منظور قابل درك كردن آن. در متون اسلامي اين واژه براي شرح هايي كه بر قرآن مجيد نوشته شده به كار مي رود. از جمله تفاسير معرف مي توان به تفسيرهاي ذيل اشاره كرد:

تفسير الميزان اثر شامخ سيد محمدحسين طباطبائي، *تفسير تبيان* اثر شيخ طوسي، *تفسير صافي* اثر ملا محسن

فيض كاشاني، *تفسير نمونه* به زبان فارسي تاليف ناصر مكارم شيرازي....

Henceforth, the religious texts in Persian can be classified to two broad categories of “Classical Islamic Texts” and “Contemporary Islamic Texts”. The main challenge for compiling the present book was finding religious texts written originally in Persian which are also translated to English for the reason that most Islamic writers have written all or most of their texts in Arabic for the reason that Arabic was considered the scientific language of the Islamic World. As a case in point, the great Persian Islamic mystic philosopher and theologian Ṣadr ad-Dīn Muḥammad Shīrāzī, known as Mullā Ṣadrā (980 - 1050 AH) wrote most of his works in Arabic and just a few ones in Persian. The same holds true for Imam Bukhari (Muhammad ibn Isma'il al-Bukhari), Mansur Hallaj, and many other Islamic scholars.

Though I tried to find and elect the best texts and make the work as close to the academic parlance as possible, fastidious readers may still find instances that come to be the focal point for revision or improvement. I take responsibility for the mistakes that may have gone undetected. I warmly welcome instructive suggestions, comments and any critical evaluation.

Dr. Razieh Eslamieh

Fall 2022

Tehran, Iran

How to use the book: A note on the structure of the book

The book is intended to be both a text book and a reference one for students eager to know more about Persian religious figures who have left their legacy by penning down mystic works or religious treatises.

The book is organized in two main parts; each main part is dubbed ‘Book’ as each Book is independent and can be used separately. “Book One” presents major translation theories, procedures, shifts and strategies which are mainly used for the translation of religious texts. It is crucial to emphasize that there are more translation solutions (procedure, shifts, strategies, methods ...) and “Book One” presents the ones used mostly for the translation of religious texts.

“Book Two” applies the theories presented in “Book One” on Islamic texts written originally in Persian. “Part One” of “Book Two” tries to locate equivalences of Islamic-bound and religious-bound linguistic items and also traces the translation solutions used for the translation of classical Persian texts. Each section in “Book Two” is devoted to one eminent figure. The biography of the writer, his major works, his major translators and minor translators are presented. Next, excerpts from the works of the author and their translations are presented. Such excerpts are followed by some exercises. The answers of the exercises related to equivalences and translation solutions can be found in the “Answer Key” at the closing sections of the book. There are also exercises which present Farsi texts of the author and ask the students to translate the texts to English. “Part Two” of “Book