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TITLE OF THESIS

ABOULELA’S “FAITH FROM THE BEGINNING”: TRANSLATING AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN A CHANGING REGISTER

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ABSTRACT

This is a practical translation thesis that includes an Arabic translation of Leila Aboulela’s autobiographical short story “Faith from the Beginning” and the accompanying critical analysis and commentary. The critical analysis of this thesis discusses the notion of register analysis and examines its usefulness in an Arabic translation of an English autobiography. This thesis argues that when the register changes (due to a change in one or more of its components: Field, Tenor, and Mode), this grants the translator some justified flexibility to change the target text in order to match the new context of situation. By utilizing the register analysis tool to examine it usefulness, the thesis concludes that Register Analysis is useful throughout the journey of translation. It is useful before the translation to predict register change, during the translation to inform translation choices, and after the translation to justify translation decisions. This utilization of the register analysis tool throughout the journey of translation provides the theoretical justification for changing the target text due to the change in register and therefore fulfills the thesis’s main argument.

Keywords:

*Faith from the Beginning*; Leila Aboulela; literary translation; register analysis; register (linguistics); translations into Arabic.