

Integrative Complexity: An innovative technique for assessing the quality of English translations of the Qur'an

James W. Moore

Defence Research and Development CANADA

Peter Suedfeld

University of British Columbia, CANADA

Lianne McLellan

Defence Research and Development CANADA

ABSTRACT

This article¹ introduces Integrative Complexity (IC), a measure of cognitive structure drawn from the discipline of social psychology, and reports on the application of this technique to the problem of Qur'anic translation quality assessment (TQA). Specifically, the IC scoring method was used to score selected Qur'anic verses relating to either one of two broad themes—"struggle" or "virtue"—from three different English translations of this text. These scores were then compared to determine whether the different translations captured the meaning of the Qur'an *in terms of its cognitive complexity* in the same way. The results of the exercise showed no statistically significant difference in IC scores among the three translations. In other words, they were essentially equivalent in terms of cognitive complexity. This exercise demonstrates the usefulness of the IC approach as complementary to traditional TQA methods in assessing the quality of English translations of the Qur'an.

KEYWORDS: equivalence, Integrative Complexity, Qur'an, translation quality assessment.

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