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Institute of Applied Linguistics Studies and Translation

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## The Subtitling of Taboo Language: A Socio-cultural Study of Selected American Films Subtitled into Arabic

ترجمة اللغة المحظورة على الشاشة: دراسة إجتماعية ثقافية  
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### **Abstract**

The current study examines the subtitling of taboo language in American movies subtitled into Arabic. The study particularly deals with three American movies on Netflix entitled: *Newness*, *The Dirt*, and *Dirty Grandpa* and their Arabic subtitling. Firstly, the study approaches its object using a model based on Battistella's (2005) taboo model. The model is used to categorize taboo words in the three American movies. Secondly, this study utilizes Schjoldager's (2008) translation model, and Allan and Burridge's (2006) x-phemism model are used to analyze the subtitling strategies used to translate taboo words from English into Arabic. Thirdly, the study investigates how Netflix translators convey the English ST to Arab audience from a socio-cultural perspective. The results reveal that the categorization of taboo words used in the three American movies tend to offend Arab audience directly. The results also reveal that Netflix translators use different subtitling strategies to convey the ST to Arab audience in a less offensive way that does not offend their culture. Also, the results reveal that subtitlers attempt to address Arab's socio-cultural perspectives using different strategies to bridge the cultural gap between English and Arabic.