Euphemism and Political Discourse in Iran’s Nuclear Agreement with the World Powers

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Abstract – Political euphemism had mostly been used as a tool intended for political leaders to control and regulate information transmission. Political figures generally pick out words carefully to make lies seem true and gain respect. These euphemistic acts are done consciously to avoid the heavy criticisms of people. Drawing on Crespo-Fernández’s (2014) categorization of euphemism strategies, this study was an attempt to examine and recognize the strategies Persian translators employ while translating euphemistic terms and their methods of rendering these terms into sensible and logical outputs of the desired community in the case of Geneva Agreement on Iran’s nuclear program as reflected in Tabnak News agency website. Among 125 pieces of News selected, the findings of the study proved that the majority of euphemistic items occurred at word level – most notably through understatement, underspecification and overstatement. Cases of euphemism as periphrasis at word level and down toners at sentence level were utilized to have an opposite function as dysphemism in which the phrase including a chain of adjectives in the source text was substituted with one or two adjectives and the down toning adverb was replaced with an up toning one which served the noun to dysphemize the desired effect.

Keywords: Euphemism, Political Discourse, Understatement, Nuclear Agreement, Dysphemism

1. INTRODUCTION

Euphemism is an appropriate language style that individuals follow in social communication as a way to achieve an ideal communication effect. Due to the fact that euphemism is specific to each community, it is heavily marked with religious, political, ideological and social-cultural variants. Political euphemism had mostly been used as a tool intended for political leaders to control and regulate information transmission. Most of the translators are not aware of the bias and ideologies that happen to be hidden inside the terms associated with discourse, especially when their first language is the dominated language and they are translating a political text to a hegemonic culture. If the translators do not learn the strategies of presenting ideologies in a special discourse like politics in the press, it will be rather difficult for them to comprehend and translate these texts. The use of euphemisms is important because they have an influence on the mass audience of people through the political language that is targeted process. Thus, this study aimed at investigating the status of euphemisms and the current mindset of the Iranian graduates on the recognition of
euphemisms in practice and examines strategies employed by Persian translators to overcome such complexities of political discourse. Hence, the translators might become aware of the bias and ideologies hidden inside the political utterances and be able to render them in an appropriate manner regarding their desired society.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Euphemism in Definition

Warren (1992, p. 135) postulates that an expression is a euphemism if the interpreter perceives the use of some word or expression as evidence of a wish on the part of the speaker to denote some sensitive matter in a tactful manner. Furthermore, she adds three prerequisites for this definition. Firstly, the topic must be considered to be a sensitive phenomenon. Sensitive topics usually include areas such as death, crime, politics, physical and mental defects, bodily functions, and sex. Secondly, the expression used has to be considered less harsh or coarse and less direct than other alternatives. This implies that euphemisms tend to only name phenomena that are already named. Thirdly, the interpreter has to perceive that the speaker’s choice of words is dictated by considerations of tact or embarrassment with the referent. This means that what is actually considered euphemistic depends on the speaker and the receiver’s interpretation of the message or, as Warren (1992) puts it, “what is a euphemism is in the eye/ear of the beholder and cannot be strictly speaking objectively verified, although normally of course there is consensus among language users as to what words are euphemistic” (p. 135). Gómez (2009) proposes that euphemisms can be defined as “the cognitive process of conceptualization of a forbidden reality” (p. 71). Euphemistic terms are constantly changing as languages evolve. Keyes (2011) says: “Verbal evasions put a spotlight on what most concerns human beings at any given time” (p. 58).

2.2. Pragmatic Functions of Euphemism

According to Abdul Wahid (2012), the pragmatic functions of euphemism are included in taboo, polite, covering up, inducing, tactical, and humor functions. Politicians in general select words with care to make lies truths and seem respectable (Al-Qadi, 2009). Therefore, politicians tend to use euphemistic expressions to save their face and not deform their picture in people’s minds. Zhao and Dong (2010) say that one of the features of political euphemisms is vagueness. That is, when talking about American army’s invasion into Grenada in 1983, President Reagan was quite dissatisfied with the word “invasion” used by the journalists, instead, he expressed it as “a rescue mission”, glorifying their military invasion as their help offer to other countries. Besides, euphemistic expressions generally characterize discourse in public relations and politics, where it is sometimes referred to as double speak and is equated to politeness (Al-Quran and Al-Azzam, 2009). Using euphemistic expressions in political discourse is one of the methodologies that politicians and policy makers follow in order to convey their message in the least offensive manner.
2.2.1. Political Euphemism

2.2.1.1. Features of Political Language

Political language exhibits some distinct features. Wodak (2009, p. 582) claims the political language “operates indexically”, which means that politician’s choice of language will always, either explicitly or implicitly, imply certain political distinction. This is evident in “positive self- and negative other-presentation”, often achieved by the pronouns we and they. These pronouns are usually used by a politician in establishing a contrast between him/her and his/her opponent. Another feature of political language is the specific use of modality, which enables the expression of attitudes and the level of commitment and conviction towards certain issues. To sound convincing about the future, and to present the future as possible and within reach is an important effect every political speaker should achieve. In fact, political language aims at removing doubt because “people expect their leaders to present a plan of well-defined future actions, rather than a set of hypothetical abstractions” (Charteris-Black, 2014, p. 109).

Mostly, euphemisms are employed by politicians for the purpose of protecting their “face” or “public image” (Grillo, 2005, p. 91). Thus, as with pronouns and metaphors, euphemisms can be used to present oneself positively and the opponents negatively. This is very important, since the introduction of policies often depends on a favourable perception of the public image. In addition, euphemisms may cause “vagueness” due to indirect linguistic reference (Orwell, 1946), which may help politicians avoid discussing some issues directly, and thus avoid responsibility. Moreover, linguistic items used in politics rarely have explicit referents and they are thus vague and indirect. That is why, according to Wilson (1990, pp. 20-21), political language is highly “implicational” since it rather “invites inferences” and it covertly “directs hearer’s interpretation”.

2.2.1.2. Feature of Political Euphemism

Political euphemism is created in political life and serves political purposes. Generally speaking, it is a tool for political participants to hide scandals, disguise the truth, and guide public thoughts when discussing social issues or events. In spite of some common features political euphemism shares with others, Zhao and Dong (2010) believe that political euphemism shares three typical features: Greater degree of deviation from its signified, more vague meanings, and strong characteristic of times.

2.2.1.3. Categories and Classifications of Political Euphemisms

Crespo-Fernández (2014) considering strategies for rendering euphemistic terms in political discourse believes that translators trying to fulfill the functions of language may use some types of strategies such as euphemistic strategies. Euphemism links on the one hand to the linguistic levels and on the other hand to the social levels. As for social levels, euphemism is considered as politeness and social tact expected in every communications and with respect to the linguistic levels, it refers to avoidance of some words or speech acts that may raise conflicts. Therefore, euphemism is a powerful linguistic tool to refine the communication and keep the translation in a non-offensive manner (Crespo-Fernández, 2005).
He categorizes euphemistic strategies as two types: Euphemism at word level, and euphemism at sentence level. According to Crespo Fernandez (2014) word level strategies include:

- Underspecification: the use of a general term which is required to be specified in its context of use to refer to a taboo subject and thus fulfill its euphemistic function.
- Understatement: it presents an unpleasant topic as less serious than it really is in order to reduce its degree of potential face-affront.
- Litotes: it is one of the manifestations of understatement that mitigates the negative force of the utterance by expressing the affirmative through the denial of its opposite, which contributes to the intended euphemistic effect.
- Overstatement: it upgrades a desirable feature of the referent to highlight the positive aspects of it and disregard the antisocial behavior associated with it.
- Periphrasis: this strategy disguises unpleasant realities. It is a means to avoid direct reference to something deemed unpleasant or potentially face-threatening.
- Metaphor: it is a type of comparison between two objects that are not alike but have some similarities.
- Metonymy: it plays a role in some of the cases of understatement. Metonymy allows us to conceptualize one thing by means of its relation to something else.

And at the sentence level, the strategies proposed by Crespo Fernandez (2014) include:

- Passive voice: it is used to evade direct responsibility of an action or thought.
- Apologetic expressions: it constitutes previous or subsequent apologies or excuses regarding conflictive issues and are therefore at the speaker’s disposal to mitigate their face-affronting power.
- Hedge: it indicates the speaker’s lack of complete commitment to absolute, categorical assertions; in this way, they attenuate the illocutionary force of the utterance.
- Down toners: it scales down the negative effect of the particular item they modify.

Accordingly, what is required in this study is to recognize what euphemistic strategies at the word and sentence level were used in Persian translations of News and the frequency of their use through this framework.

Not many studies focusing on euphemisms in translation of News texts have been conducted. Nevertheless, a research similar to the section of the present paper was conducted by Samoškaitė, who analyzed the structural, semantic and pragmatic properties of 70 modern political euphemisms extracted from the newspaper The Guardian. It was found that in terms of their structure, euphemisms are mostly compounds, while the most prominent semantic realizations are metaphorical euphemisms. Also, with respect to pragmatic properties, it was found that euphemisms mostly perform the function of cover-up, which indicates that the “main aim of [political] euphemisms is to hide the unpleasant reality by using more positive and acceptable words” (Samoškaitė, 2011, p. 53). Basically, the study showed that...
Euphemisms are a vital component of political speeches. Another study, resembling the present section much more, was conducted by Yaseen (2012), who focused on the pragmatics of euphemisms. Analyzing six speeches of President Obama, the study revealed that Obama predominantly uses politeness strategies aiming at sympathy, which protect the interlocutor’s face. This is mostly evident in the situation where Obama refers to the victims of war as “loved ones” or “fallen heroes” (Yaseen, 2012, p. 9). Based on the arguments, Yaseen concludes that Obama is very much concerned about his own public image, which is why his speeches reflect the picky nature of the language he uses.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Corpus of the Study

The corpus of this study constituted of the News published in Tabnak News agency website in Iran during the last year concerning Iran’s nuclear talks in Geneva with the world powers (P5+1). The corpus consisted of 125 pieces of News selected on a random basis from foreign News agencies namely Reuters, Daily Mail, France 24, Associated Press, CNN, ABC News and etc. together with their pertinent translations in Tabnak News agency website.

3.1.1. Rationale

One of the main subjects that Tabnak covered wholly was the matter of Iran’s nuclear agreement with the big powers of the world. The matter which has affected Iranian citizens severely since the previous president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Bringing up matters of agreements which took 3 years of negotiation at the highest political levels, different News agencies fed the controversy between Iran and the other negotiating countries. Each News agency might have been compelled to behave as its policies allow. Regarding the euphemistic expressions used by these News agencies, Tabnak News agency among all others in Iran, reflected the most useful and handful sources of News about Iran’s nuclear program. Considering the favorable translations by this News about Iran’s nuclear program. Considering the favorable translations by this News agency translators, the source of the News are mentioned properly. Finding the sources, the author of the present work realized some major euphemistic and dysphemistic strategies employed by both English authors and Persian translators which prove the sensitivity of this analysis.

3.2. Procedure

As contextual issues play a crucial role in euphemism, this study is not based on isolated words, but on coherent and contextualized discourses excerpted from a sample of real language use. The research methodology followed corresponds to the adoption of a “top-down” approach to explain the linguistic data obtained: first, selecting certain linguistic data at both word and sentence level; second, making generalizations given that data. Once the cases of euphemism were found, the different modes of verbal attenuation to the categories of euphemism formation proposed by Crespo-Fernández (2014) were assigned both at word level and at sentence level. The frequency of each euphemistic strategy was reported and
depicted in tables and charts later on. These raw data came under scrutiny to consequently be commented thereupon in a descriptive way.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to offer a fine-tuned analysis of political euphemism, it is necessary to explore the forms euphemism can take at both word and sentence level.

The frequency of each euphemistic strategy is presented in the table 1 and 2 in quantitative terms.

Table 1: Statistical Presentation of Total Euphemism Strategies in the Persian Translation of News in the Corpus

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A general table of euphemistic strategies as applied by Persian translators of English political euphemistic texts is presented in the Appendix part of the study following the Reference section. It is to be noted that some euphemistic items fall at the same time into more than one category of euphemism formation.

The first noticeable quality is that most euphemistic items are found at word level. 164 items encountered, only 33 occur at sentence level: hedges (13), passive voice (8), apologetic expressions (3) and downtoners (9). Concerning word level, the vast majority of devices of euphemism formation generate non-metaphorical items. Among them, understatement ranks the most frequent euphemistic resource (it records 48 occurrences) followed by underspecification (27), overstatement (19), periphrasis (14), and litotes (7), and As shown in Figure 1, political discourse does not exploit figurative reasoning as a euphemistic resource in a significant way: metonymy is only responsible for seven euphemistic items and metaphor just records nine instances.

Table 1 suggests that all euphemistic strategies introduced by Crespo-Fernández (2014) were found in Persian translation of English political discourse. The fact that most euphemistic items are found at word level manifest the fact that translation of political discourse is a sensitive line of translation in which the words are determinant of one’s political countenance in facing the world’s views about them. Choosing a wrong single word might lead to a disaster for nations and politicians who are at the sight of millions of people around the world.
Among the euphemistic strategies at word level, understatement ranks the most frequent euphemistic resource (it records 48 occurrences). This indicates that the information or statements deemed harmful or in contrast with the beliefs and dominant ideologies in Iran get omitted. This omission of information served to avoid invoking certain contentious issues, to avoid irreverence toward particular individuals and Iranians in general, to hide or mitigate Iranian’s aggressive actions, and to conceal the activities of other opposition groups. The second most recurrent strategy as extracted from the corpus of the study is underspecification. In most cases of underspecification, the translator avoided the use of a specific term which is required to be specified in its context of use to refer to a taboo subject and thus fulfill its euphemistic function. Hence, the information which are in contrast with the common beliefs of the desired society are generalized to avoid further controversial issues rising from various interpretations by the public. According to the analysis of the data, the third most recurrent strategy belongs to overstatement. In cases of overstatement, the translator tries to explain more than what is declared in order to make ambiguities more clear in favor of the preferred politics with respect to using words carrying heavy ideological charges.

5. CONCLUSION

The fact that most euphemistic items are found at word level manifest the fact that translation of political discourse is a sensitive line of translation in which the words are determinant of one’s political countenance in facing the world’s views about them. Choosing
a wrong single word might lead to a disaster for nations and politicians who are at the sight of millions of people around the world.

Cases of euphemism as periphrasis at word level and downtoning at sentence level can be utilized to have an opposite function as dysphemism in which the phrase in the source text is substituted with one or two words and the downtoning adverb is replaced with an up-toning adverb which serves the noun to dysphemize the desired effect. Also in most cases of metaphor the metaphor in the source text is rendered as non-metaphor in the target text which helps to soften the desired effect of the source text.

The low frequency of apologetic expressions in the corpus of this study proves that the use of such expressions varies according to different News context. The nuclear talks in which the both sides wanted a win-win negotiation, can prove that neither of the parties involved in the talks could show any sort of mercy toward the other side in order not to be scrutinized and criticized by the officials in their own country.

The analysis also reveals that euphemism does not only perform a face-saving function which manifests in the use of words and expressions to cover-up distasteful realities. Euphemism also provides a “safe ground” for the speaker’s offensive intention under the euphemistic modality of quasi-dysphemism. In addition, euphemism referring to such delicate topics as death and euthanasia seems to show a true concern and consideration for the feelings of those involved.

Although euphemisms can be used for legitimate and justifiable purposes, they can also be used for the utterly reprehensible purpose of deception. In our constantly-changing and increasingly inter-connected world, euphemisms have a special place and, as noted earlier, are widely coined and used by different political and military individuals and entities for rather dodgy reasons. In today’s world, the proliferation of media organizations in all parts of the world and their biased discourses have worked hand in hand to lead to the unremitting bombardment of global citizens with euphemisms many of which they cannot make sense of adequately.

In summary, euphemism serves different purposes in the corpus of political language consulted: avoidance of discrimination to disadvantaged groups, concern for people’s sensitivity, polite criticism and mitigation – even concealment – of unsettling topics.

REFERENCES


APPENDIX

A general table of euphemistic strategies as applied by Persian translators of English political euphemistic texts is presented in this section. It is to be noted that some euphemistic items fall at the same time into more than one category of euphemism formation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Text</th>
<th>Target Text</th>
<th>Euphemistic Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Reuters) - Iran's Arab neighbors, deeply worried about Iran's nuclear program, want assurances that Tehran's deal with world powers will indeed enhance regional security, Bahrain's interior minister said on Thursday.</td>
<td>خبرگزاری «ریترز» با انتشار مطلبی مبنی‌سازی کشور‌های غرب همسایه ایران، که نگران برنامه‌ی هسته‌ای ایران هستند، خواستار دریافت این تضمین‌های هسته‌ای علیه آن‌ها نیست.</td>
<td>Understatement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Arab countries have often raised concern over Bushehr’s reliability and the risk of radioactive leaks in case of a major earthquake, as well as a possible military dimension to Iran’s nuclear drive.</td>
<td>کشورهای منطقه ای‌تان که جدیدان بر مدعی شدن در صورت وقوع زمین‌لرزه‌های شدید در منطقه نزدیک نیروگاه بوشهر، امکان انتشار تشکش‌های رادیواکتیو از این نیروگاه و ایجاد خطر برای کشورهای همسایه وجود دارد.</td>
<td>Overstatement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netanyahu vows to banish ‘darkness’ of Iran nuclear program.</td>
<td>بنیامین نتانیاهو اظهار داشته برای اشاره‌کردن «بی‌گری‌های برنامه‌های هسته‌ای ایران تلاش خواهد کرد.</td>
<td>Underspecification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The push, however, is a partial retreat from an all-out offensive to approve legislation to threaten Iran with sanctions should the current nuclear talks fail.</td>
<td>این حال ای نتایج در حقیقت نشانه خیفی شده‌ای از طراحی است که پیش از این سویی برخی سناتورها برای وضع تحریم‌های جدیدی علیه ایران اثرات شده بود.</td>
<td>Understatement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Ban withdrew the invitation Monday, saying he was “disappointed” that Iran’s public statements differed from its private assurances on the terms of its attendance at the talks — that Iran would endorse the goal of preparing a transitional government for Syria. | فرمان‌خواه حق »افزود: یان بر این تصویر بوده که در پی ارائه این تضمین‌های شفاهی از سوی ایران، جمهوری اسلامی حاضر خواهند شد، رسمای مکتوب حمامت خود را از بیانه‌ی زنان 1 اعلام کرد؛ یاما این امر رخ نداده و سبب پس گرفتن دعوت از ایران شده است. | Underspecification }
A possible vote is being prepared by US lawmakers on new sanctions against Iran, a move President Barack Obama and his P5+1 partners fear could sabotage the nuclear deal reached in Geneva.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic Translation</th>
<th>Passive Voice Hedging</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>تمایل حکم‌گزاران آمریکا برای رای دادن احتمالی به طرح محدودی‌کردن جديدة علیه ایران، اماده‌ی می‌شوند و این در حالی است که به اعتقاد دولت آمریکا و دیگر اعضای گروه P5+1، این کار می‌تواند به توافق به دست آمده در زمینه ضربه به اقتصاد ایران بسازد.</td>
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Bahrain's Interior Ministry says an Iranian drone has been found in the strategic Gulf kingdom that hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic Translation</th>
<th>Passive Voice Overstatement Hedging</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>«آشورتیدر»، وزارت به‌نوشت خارجه بحرین مدعي شده، يك پهپاد ايرانی که در این كشور مشغول فعالیت بوده، كشف شده است. يا اين حال، در بيانیه این وزارت، به هیچ كدام جزئیات از نوع فعالیت محل کشف این پهپاد و يا موارد دیگر اشاره نشده است.</td>
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Gulf Arab countries have often raised concern over Bushehr’s reliability and the risk of radioactive leaks in case of a major earthquake, as well as a possible military dimension to Iran’s nuclear drive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic Translation</th>
<th>Underspecification Understatement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>كشورهای منطقه تاکنون جنین بارمدعي شدهاند و قروض زمینلرزه‌های شدید در منطقه نزدیک نیروگاه بخش، امکان انتشار تشکشات رادیواکتیو از این نیروگاه و ایجاد خطر برای کشورهای همسایه وجود دارد.</td>
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</table>

The announcement, made first by Iranian officials and later confirmed elsewhere, starts a six-month clock for a final deal to be struck over the Islamic Republic's contested nuclear program. It also signals an easing of the financial sanctions crippling Iran's economy, though some U.S. lawmakers have called for tough measures against the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic Translation</th>
<th>Understatement Metaphor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>این روزنامه می‌نویسد، اعلام این خبر به معنای آغاز دوره‌ای شش ماهه برای رسیدن به توافق نهایی بر سر موضوع هسته‌ای ایران است و همچنین به معنای آغاز روند کاهش تحريم‌های اقتصادی که به اقتصاد این کشور ضربه وارد کرده‌اند، از نظر ایرانی می‌شود.</td>
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Brussels: Tehran will resume negotiations with world powers over its nuclear program in the coming days, Iran's chief negotiator told a Belgian newspaper Tuesday, after a meeting with the EU's foreign policy chief.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic Translation</th>
<th>Metonymy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>در همین زمان، خبری از مذاکرات هیات‌های کارشناسی ایران و P5+1 طی جدید روز اینده را منتشر کرده است.</td>
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Mohebbi, & Moeinzadeh
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A new push to thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions by crippling the country's economy gathered momentum on Capitol Hill Wednesday with approval of legislation by the House Foreign Affairs Committee that would impose even tougher economic sanctions against Tehran.</th>
<th>کمیته روابط خارجی مجلس نمایندگان آمریکا، روز گذشته قانونی به تصویب رسیده که تحریمهای اقتصادی شدیدتری را علیه ایران در نظر می‌گیرد.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The initial agreement between the Iranian republic and the big powers over its nuclear file.</td>
<td>توافق مقدماتی میان ایران و گروه ۵+۱ بر سر موضوع هسته‌ای</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netanyahu vows to banish 'darkness' of Iran nuclear program.</td>
<td>بنیامین نتانیاهو اظهار داشت برای ایجاد کردن ایمانات برنامه هسته‌ای ایران نتایج خواهد کرد.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netanyahu solemnly vowed to serve as a “light unto the nations” and act against Iran’s nuclear program should diplomacy fail Thursday night.</td>
<td>نتانیاهو اظهار داشت که «همجوع جراغی برای ملت‌ها» عمل کرد تا آنها را با تاریکی‌های برنامه هسته‌ای ایران آشنا کند.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A State Department official confirmed the telephone call, saying they &quot;discussed the importance of moving forward on implementation of the Joint Plan of Action they agreed to in Geneva and of maintaining a constructive atmosphere as the negotiations continue.&quot;</td>
<td>افزون بر این، یک مقام وزارت خارجه آمریکا گفت که در این تماس تلفنی، دو طرف درباره اهمیت پیشرفت در زمینه اجرای موافقت‌نامه زنو و همچنین ایجاد یک فضای مثبت و سازگار در ادامه مذاکرات، با یکدیگر گفتگو کرده‌اند.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expectations had been modest as the talks started Tuesday. The announcement of an agreement on future talks appeared aimed in part to raise hopes that the negotiations had a chance to succeed.</td>
<td>در اغاز مذاکرات در روز سه شنبه، انتظارات از این دور چندان زیاد نبود؛ اما هدف از انتشار این بیانه تا حدی نشان دادن این موضوع است که امیدها به مذاکرات افزایش یافته و بخش مبتنیانه آن بیشتر شده است.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The size of Iran’s most contested uranium stockpile has declined significantly.</td>
<td>حجم ذخایر اورانیوم با غنای بالایی ایران به طور قابل توجهی کاهش یافته است.</td>
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Iran and six world powers ended the opening round of nuclear talks in Vienna on an upbeat note yesterday, with both sides saying they had agreed on a plan for further negotiations meant to produce a comprehensive deal to set limits on Tehran’s nuclear ambitions.

"He also said that Iran would not dismantle its centrifuges. The meaning of his statements is that if Iran continues to persist in this policy, a permanent agreement, which is the objective of the diplomatic process with Iran, would not be able to succeed," the prime minister added.

"There are definite differences of opinion on the interpretation (of the Geneva text). Not that I am saying these are insurmountable but both sides are looking to negotiate the most robust deal they can," one Western diplomat involved in the talks told AFP.

A new push to thwart Iran’s nuclear ambitions by crippling the country’s economy gathered momentum on Capitol Hill Wednesday with approval of legislation by the House Foreign Affairs Committee that would impose even tougher economic sanctions against Tehran.

The whole table is not presented here for the lack of space. In case you needed the whole corpus, feel welcome to contact the author.