A Criticism of Two English Translations of Sa’di’s Poem Based on a Linguistic Model

Maryam Roufigari¹ and Ameneh Mohaghegh²

¹: Department of Foreign Languages, Islamic Azad University, Khorasgan Branch, Isfahan, Iran
M.roufigari@yahoo.com

²: Department of Foreign Languages, Islamic Azad University, Khorasgan Branch, Isfahan, Iran
mohaghegh.am@gmail.com

In the present study, the researchers aim at comparing two English translations of one of Sa’di’s poems in Bustan with each other and also with the original text. The translations under the focus are by Clarke (1985) and Wickens (1984) and the model used for analysis of them is a linguistic one in which the translated texts are scrutinized in terms of applying lexical, grammatical and stylistic elements. It was concluded that because the native language of these 2 translators is not Persian, there were cases of misunderstanding the lexical items semantically leading to mistranslation. Moreover there is no rhyming word in English translations while the rhyme and musicality of the original version is an eye-catching characteristic of it. However, what is the main difference between the 2 renderings is that because of addition of words in the process of explicitation, Clarke’s translation is more target-oriented than that of ickens’.