**Translational Institutions and Advancement of Modernism in Iran**

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**Abstract**

As an intellectual and behavioral tendency, modernism received considerable attention in specific eras in Iran, particularly after the constitutional revolution during the Qajar dynasty. Various manifestations of modernism were present in social movements, certain laws and regulations, philosophical thought, literature, art, science as well as institutes including translational institutes and bureaus. This study was aimed at investigating the role of translational institutes in developing the ideas of modernism in Iran during the Qajar dynasty. To achieve this, three translation institutions including Naseri Translation Bureau, Amir Kabir’s Board of Translators and Abbas Mirza’s Office of Translation, whose primary function was the advancement of modernism in Iran in different historical periods of Qajar era were analyzed via a descriptive exploratory method in a range of levels from abstract to concrete as defined by Koskinen (2011). The institutions in their most abstract level are governed by role expectations, norms, values and belief systems, which give rise to more formal institutions. The formal institutions in their concrete level had their own assigned members, policies, material spaces and recurrent activities. To further analyze institutions in this level with regard to their role in advancing the ideas of modernism in Iran, the archaeology of translation introduced by Pym (1998) was adopted in historiographical analysis to investigate the selection of works of translation, translation methods, translation procedures and policies, active members and translators, state-support or lack of it and direction of translation beside other issues. The results of this study emphasized the provocative, operational and activist role of translation leading to social and intellectual change.

**Keywords:** *Modernism, Translational Institutions, Qajar Dynasty*