



Exploring the Causes of Translation Problems: Students' Perspectives

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Abstract

This study used a quantitative research design to investigate students' attitudes toward practicing translation at the Sudan University of Science and Technology and identify the main translation challenges students face. 50 master's students, both male and female, completed an online questionnaire. The study results showed that although most students had a positive attitude towards studying the course, many students needed help translating texts from Arabic to English and vice versa. The researcher applied the descriptive analysis method. The study targeted Master of Translation students at Sudan University of Science and Technology, College of Languages, during the academic year 2023. The researchers used a questionnaire as a data collection tool.

Background of the Study

As some relevant literature will show later, translating articles from Arabic into English provides a considerable challenge for Arab students. Accordingly, this study investigates the main translation challenges experienced by MA students. When

translating Arabic-to-English articles, English language learners—including Saudi students—should be prepared for certain difficulties.

The purpose of this study was to look at the difficulties translation students face when translating journalistic phrases and English idioms into Arabic. The ability to change a meaning into its original meaning in a different language is called translation. Thus, the translator must be knowledgeable about the idioms, terminology, sentence construction, etc.

The researcher's attention must be drawn to the idioms and journalistic terms that translators may encounter when working on a translation project. The press, media, and various facets of our everyday lives can serve as sources for journalistic texts. Various authors may contribute to the

journalistic pieces, depending on their perspective. Data for the study will be gathered by giving out a series of tests. The students that are learning translation are the test respondents.

Exposing the shortcomings of translators working from Arabic to English and vice versa requires an understanding of the issues they experience. One of these major issues is choosing the appropriate phrase. Translation issues and challenges arise when the same concepts are expressed in a different language. because language and culture have a strong link in which linguistic variances reflect cultural differences. I believe that cultural differences, particularly those seen in technical language, are common and affect many facets of life. These differences must be made up for by the translator's ability.

It is necessary to comprehend the problems faced by translators who work from Arabic to English and vice versa in order to expose their deficiencies. Selecting the right phrase is one of these crucial problems. When the same ideas are stated in a different language, problems and difficulties with translation occur. due to the close relationship between language and culture, whereby linguistic variations mirror cultural differences. I think that cultural differences are widespread and have an impact on many aspects of life, especially when it comes to technical jargon. The translator's skill must compensate for these disparities.

Objectives of The Study

This study aims at:

- 1-Highlighting whether M.A. Students of translation can translate English idioms into Arabic.
- 2-Examining whether M.A. translation students can translate Arabic idioms into English.

The Questions of The Study

1. To what extent are MA. Translation students able to translate English into Arabic?
2. What kind of difficulties encountered by MA. Translation students translate Arabic idioms into English.

Hypotheses of The Study

1. Most of M.A. translation students face difficulties in rendering English sentences into Arabic.
2. Students of M.A. translation face difficulties in translating Arabic idioms into English.

Statements of The Study

This study intends to discuss difficulties that MA students of translation face while they are searching for a clear meaning of the texts. It also offers a detailed analysis of lexical problems encountered by the translation students. The MA Student of translation should have a good knowledge in source and target language system to convey information and keep the basic meaning of the original.

On the other hand, translation including financial and business translation has become very important. The need for translation of agreements, contracts, financial statements, and documentation are become more requested. This study will take place at Sudan University of Science and Technology - College of Graduate Studies for MA students of Translation in the academic year 2023-2024

Problems with translation texts typically arise when concepts that are entirely unfamiliar to master of translation students, or when the meaning of a word or expression in the source language is not grasped. This study examines textual issues that may arise from disparities in the source and target language systems.

Significance of The Study

The significance of this study stems from the fact that it investigates a problematic area of rend English sentences from English into Arabic. The study is hoped to be of benefit to M.A. Students of translation, the teachers of translation, and the syllabus designer of translation. Moreover, the translation of idioms and terminologies in journalistic deals with various matters in our life.

Study Limits

This study is limited to investigating linguistic problems faced by M.A. Translation students in translating English sentences into Arabic. It is conducted online at Sudan University College of languages. It is conducted in the academic year 2023-2024.

Literature Review

Based on a thorough analysis of the body of literature on the subject to date, there hasn't been a single study on the challenges Arab students face when translating Arabic to English, despite the abundance of research studies on these issues. This is especially true when it comes to translating Arabic articles into English in Saudi Arabia. According to the literature on this subject, translating articles from Arabic into English or vice versa appears to be one of the most significant language challenges that many Arab students, especially Saudi students, face. First off, a significant new study on the difficulties of translating articles from English to Arabic has been conducted.

Al-Sulaimaan et al. (2018) conducted the study to investigate the issues with translating definite and indefinite articles from English into Arabic. Six MA translation majors were given English examples from English grammar books to translate into Arabic for the study. The study's conclusions showed that there was no formal correlation between the Arabic and English definite articles since the English zero article could occasionally be translated into the Arabic definite article. While the current study used undergraduate students with less exposure to and familiarity with the English language than the MA students in the previous study, the above study used graduate students to do translation.

The prior study examined the challenge of translating articles from English into Arabic, whereas the current study attempts to assess the difficulty of translating articles from Arabic into English. Abumhah (2016) investigated the challenges Najdi Arabic speakers encountered when attempting to obtain English articles. Although the subjects and scopes of the two studies differ greatly from the subject and scope of the current study, they both used Saudi volunteers as their research population. Moreover, several of the findings from the previous study supported the conclusions of the current investigation. For example, the population in the previously cited study overused the definite article in English and misused the indefinite articles indiscriminately. Crompton (2011) carried out

Mohammed (2011) carried out a study to investigate the linguistic issues that 50 Yemeni translation students, inexperienced translators, and experienced translators ran across when translating from Arabic to English. The preceding study identified the translation of Arabic publications into English as a significant linguistic issue. The participant's commitment to literal translation, according to the researcher, was the fundamental cause of this problem. This appears to be

consistent with one of the potential reasons why the study's participants used articles incorrectly in their English translations.

Furthermore, the researcher of the study divided the issues with translating Arabic articles into English into three categories: excessive, insufficient, and incorrect usage of the articles. This classification closely resembles the taxonomy of mistake kinds found in papers translated into English by the Saudi students participating in this study. A translation test was one of the various data collecting instruments utilized in the previous study, and it served as the primary data collection instrument in the current investigation as well.

The population of each research differs significantly. The current study included Saudi students enrolled in Community College of King Saud University's Common First Semester curriculum, whereas the previous study included three distinct Yemeni participant groups. Nevertheless, neither study's conclusions were significantly impacted by the participants' experience, education level, or nationality.

Bataineh conducted a thorough investigation into the errors produced by 209 L1 Jordanian Arabic speakers when utilizing the indefinite articles "a" and "an" (2005). The study participants' descriptive essays provided the data that were gathered. After then, the writings were scrutinized to look for instances where the indefinite articles were used incorrectly. The results showed that most students had omitted the indefinite articles, probably due to the impact of Arabic, their mother tongue, which does not contain these articles. One of the main conclusions of this study will be that the Saudi students' English translations did not include the indefinite articles "a" or "an." Additionally, Zughoul (2002)

Smith (2001) and Kharma et al. (1997) noted the parallels and discrepancies between the Arabic and English article systems. They claimed that because Arab students rely more on their understanding of the Arabic article system than the English article system, they make mistakes while using the definite and indefinite articles in English. As the current study will demonstrate, while previous studies concentrated on examining Arab students' faults in the usage of English articles, they appear to have overlooked the fact that these problems in the article system can be largely linked to Arab students' literal translation from Arabic into English. Moreover, the research did not clarify why Arab students were unable to translate from Arabic into English.

Materials and Method

The Sudan University of Science and Technology was the site of this investigation. For this study, (50) MA students made up a purposive sample. This research study design uses quantitative methods in its quantitative method research. The investigation is predicated on the idea that gathering information via questionnaires offers the most insight into study issues. In order to collect and analyze data for this study, quantitative methods and techniques were employed in the research design. The study's instrument was the questionnaire. Seventy teachers received a questionnaire that was quantitative in nature.

The primary instrument employed by the researchers to gather information for this investigation was a questionnaire. The purpose of the questionnaire, which the researcher created for English language teachers, is to get their opinions and suggestions on how much students understand about the impact that morphological awareness has on vocabulary development.

Table 1: Most of M.A. translation students face difficulties in rendering English sentences into Arabic

Answer	Number
Strongly Agree	29
Agree	16
Not sure	1
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	4
Total	50

The first table shows that 29 respondents in the study's sample strongly agreed with the statement, "Most M.A. translation students face difficulties in rendering English sentences into Arabic. One respondent is unsure. And 16 respondents agree with that. and four respondents strongly disagree.

Table No (2) Translation is challenging when it comes to locating appropriate target language (TL) structures that convey the concepts

Answer	Number
Strongly Agree	27
Agree	14
Not sure	3
Disagree	6
Strongly Disagree	0
Total	50

Table 2 shows that 27 respondents strongly agree that "Translation is challenging when it comes to locating appropriate target language (TL) structures that convey the concepts". Fourteen respondents have indicated that they agree, three are unsure, six disagree, and zero strongly disagree.

Table No (3) having trouble determining the right terminology meaning from context

Answer	Number
Strongly Agree	19
Agree	11
Not sure	10
Disagree	6
Strongly Disagree	4
Total	50

Table 3 clearly shows that 19 respondents in the study's sample strongly agree with "having trouble determining the right terminology meaning from context." There are 11 who agree, 10 who are unsure, and four who disagree.

Table No (4) Translation becomes challenging when one does not understand the modest pragmatic and semantic features of the target language

Valid	Frequency
Strongly Agree	24
Agree	11
Not sure	7
Disagree	7
Strongly Disagree	3
Total	50

It is clear from the above table 4 that 24 respondents in the study's sample strongly agree with the statement: "Translation becomes challenging when one does not understand the modest pragmatic

and semantic features of the target language." Eleven agreed, seven were not sure, seven disagreed, and three strongly disagreed.

Table No (5) Cultural variations between the target language (TL) and source language (SL) create translation difficulties

Answer	Number
Strongly Agree	16
Agree	18
Not sure	5
Disagree	5
Strongly Disagree	6
Total	50

Table 5 above shows that 16 respondents in the study's sample strongly agree that "low cultural variations between the target language (TL) and source language (SL) create translation difficulties." Out of the total replies, 18 expressed agreement, 5 expressed uncertainty, 5 expressed disagreement, and 6 strongly disagreed.

Table No 6). Moderate grammatical and phrase form variances make translation challenging

Answer	Number
Strongly Agree	23
Agree	22
Not sure	0
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	4
Total	50

Table 6 shows 23 strongly agree that " Moderate grammatical and phrase form variances make translation challenging." Twenty-two people agreed with that, one disagreed, and four strongly disagreed.

Table No (7). Selecting suitable vocabulary facilitates the process of translating English writings into Arabic

Answer	Number
Strongly Agree	18
Agree	17
Not sure	4
Disagree	7
Strongly Disagree	4
Total	50

From Table 7 above, it is evident that 18 respondents in the study's sample highly agree that "Selecting suitable vocabulary facilitates the process of translating English writings into Arabic." 17 have shown agreement with such a statement, while 4 have expressed uncertainty. Moreover, 4 respondents strongly disagree, whereas 7 disagree.

Table No (8). The translation was challenging due to the low and improper language levels used.

Answer	Number
Strongly Agree	21
Agree	19
Not sure	0
Disagree	5
Strongly Disagree	5
Total	50

It is clear from Table 8 above; 21 respondents in the study's sample strongly agree that "The translation was challenging due to the low and improper language levels used." Nineteen agreed with that, five disagreed, and five strongly disagreed.

Conclusion

The gathered data was examined considering the study's hypothesis. Data was collected through a questionnaire given to Master of Arts in Translation students. After the data were reviewed and compared with the main hypothesis, it became clear that most MA translation students needed help translating Arabic idioms into English, and most needed help translating English words into Arabic. In response to the study's primary question, most MA students thought learning translation was beneficial and fascinating; this demonstrated favorable sentiments toward completing the Sudan University of Science and Technology translation course.

The survey concluded that the Sudan University of Science and Technology's MA students had the most typical translation difficulties. Since translation is undoubtedly challenging, English majors must overcome these obstacles. The findings demonstrated that many students encountered challenges when converting English texts into Arabic. Translation is challenging when locating appropriate target language (TL) structures that convey the concepts. The easiest way to translate texts from English into Arabic and vice versa is to use word choice and context to determine the appropriate meaning of vocabulary. However, the least challenging translations involved cultural differences between the target language (TL) and the source language (SL). While the remaining things were moderate, there was trouble with translation due to incorrect language levels and problems with translation due to the inappropriate teaching technique and atmosphere in the translation class.

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