

ADVANCING CONTEMPORARY ARABIC-ENGLISH-ARABIC TRANSLATION: ADDRESSING COMMON ERRORS IN PRACTICE

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Abstract. *In contemporary language translation, frequent errors negatively affect the overall accuracy and quality of the process. This article identifies and examines these issues in Arabic-English-Arabic translation, enhancing proficiency. Thus, it analyzes translation challenges employing advanced methods, via integrating theory with practice. The outcomes contribute to refining methods, presenting ideas and insights for translators, educators, and learners. Finally, it aims to contribute to improve translation criteria in Arabic-English in both directions.*

Key words: *Translation, contemporary, advancing, Arabic-English-Arabic, common errors.*

Introduction:

In contemporary era, the role of language translation is evidently influential representing various aspects of life in our societies as culture, education, health, politics, business, etc. It has aided armies of researchers, scholars, and learners in various fields of knowledge to stay upgraded across their scientific or academic domains. However, many errors are committed by both translators and learners. As contemporary translation in both directions (Arabic-English-Arabic) encounters constant challenges and problems that hinder and distort the accuracy and overall quality of the process, this article aims to investigate and examine these challenges represented in their different patterns, particularly tackling common translation faults. Thus, selected samples of most common errors in translation from Arabic to English or versa are intended to be reviewed considering ongoing technological advancement in this domine. Moreover, the discussions and analyses employed to identify and understand these errors, are also intended to enhance proficiency in translation via suggesting and offering practical solutions. In the process, the interesting translation technological facilities employing automated approaches in

this domine will be considered examining their advantages as well as potential disadvantages.

Ronak Husni and Daniel L. Newman (2015) supported the fact that in the last two decades, there has been a considerable rise in the field of Translation Studies (TS), with a substantial surge in academic research and studies focusing on Arabic/English translation issues. The significance of this study arises from the significant value of translation as it has grown with the rise of globalization, and the resulting demands of a workforce that require multilingual proficiency succeed in the competitive global market.



Translation is a crucial and fundamental factor in the evolution of all sciences. It has played a vital role in transmitting cultural heritage throughout the ages. The importance of translation has been evident since ancient times; for instance, evidence of translation practice dates to 4,500 years BC. in Sumerian civilization (currently Iraq) where the clay tablets containing Sumerian-Eblatie word lists were found. the Romans translated Greek civilization, and the Greeks translated the Pharaonic civilization. (Valdeón, 2022). Additionally, numerous scientific and literary research studies have been translated from Arabic. Translation has evolved in our modern era, becoming one of the essential pillars for conveying the latest sciences to different languages. For Montgomery (2004, p.4) translation “is the process of transforming a specific piece of one language (commonly a text of some sort) into another language.” However, the cruciality of cultural aspect remains the core point in any translation practice.

Review of Literature

The field of Translation Studies (TS) is witnessing an exceptional growth, that according to Husni and Newman (2015) supported expansion in academic studies on issues relating to Arabic/ English translation over the past two decades. Köksal & Yürük (2020) emphasize the cruciality of translation clarity in the process of intercultural communication. Akan, Karim, & Chowdhury (2019) assert that deep understanding of linguistic subtleties is inevitable feature of a translator to understand the denotative and connotative language relation of translation from Arabic to English as it is a complex and nuanced task and as it also implies conveying and converting divers’ linguistic items between the two languages and not to ignore the crucial fact that they belong to different language families. Akan, Karim, & Chowdhury (2019) say that “translation from Arabic into English needs the processes and techniques which are used to transfer the meaning of the source language (i.e. Arabic) into the target language (i.e. English)”. However, they (2019) explain that translation of a specific piece of language (a source language (SL) into a target one (TL) Arabic- English- Arabic are this study concern) may involve different types of problems or errors that may be represented as a shortage in one or more of linguistic elements like lexis, phonology, syntax, stylistics, and usage of the source language. Consequently, translators and language users in general, tend to solve such problems employing variant tradition and contemporary advanced translation tools or procedures such as automated translation using software applications to enhance and update their work. Newmark (1988) indicated certain methods of translation such as: word-for-word, literal, faithful, communicative, semantic, adaptation, and free translation. These methods represent almost a tradition considered by most translators. faithful translation, communicative translation.

The Problem statement:

Common errors in translation, both in general and specifically in contemporary Arabic-English-Arabic translation, cause a considerable problem as they hinder effective communication or knowledge gaining in learning process.

These errors range from the loss of linguistic consistency to cultural differences, impacting the accurate conveyance of intended meanings and potentially distorting the content.

The Aims:

The current study aims to contribute new insights into enhancing proficiency in contemporary Arabic to English translation in both directions. This is achieved by addressing and correcting common errors observed in a selected set of practical applications, representing instances of prevalent translation mistakes. The article identifies, addresses, and analyzes areas of weakness to propose actionable improvements that can enhance the overall quality of translation. Possible reasons behind inaccurate translations will also be covered.

Data review and analysis

Previous studies have shown great efforts identifying many translation errors in different contexts and analyzing them from different perspectives. For instance, Akan, Karim, & Chowdhury (2019) searched to define the causes behind different problems in Arabic- English translations. Whereas Alanzi (2023) depend on English – Arabic for types of errors in the translation of number of MA abstracts defining them and presenting possible solutions. This article selected varied examples, some of which are cited from the previous studies, to be briefly reviewed and distributed them into two groups as follow:

Group 1: Arabic (SL) – English (TL), 1. Syntax; example errors in translating the verb in "تسلق الدجاج" is translated "Climb the chicken." as Arabic contained the verb 'تَسْلُقُ' or 'تَلُقُ' (tasluqq) original Arabic contained the verb "تَسْلُقُ" or 'تَسْلُقُ' (tasluqq) which the automatic translation misread as 'تَسْلُقُ' (tasalluq) or 'to climb'.

2. lexis; example errors in translating the term حامل (*Haamel*) it is true that it may mean "pregnant" but not when it is written on a hotel reception desk. However, it should be translated as "carrier," or in this case, a "porter" (bag carrier).

3. phonology; an example of this error is "فصل الشاي" is translated as "Chapter tea" the pronunciation of the word "فصل"; "chapter" have similar pronunciation of the word "season" also the word for both has the same structure. However, it should be translated as "teatime" or "tea season."

Group 2: English (SL)- Arabic (TL), 1. Syntax; example errors in Grammer "The study explains how" is translated wrongly in an active mode "ويشرح الباحث بعد ذلك." while it should be translated keeping its passive mode into "وتوضح الدراسة بعد ذلك."

2. Semantics; example errors in translating the verb meaning in "This research examines..." is mismatched and translated "يركز هذا البحث على..." while its appropriate matching is "يخبر هذا البحث..."

3. stylistic; example of distorted translation or deformed message in translating a statement such as: "I like reading historical novels" القصص التاريخية "أحب قراءة" or "قراءة الكتب التاريخية" ... both translations are literary true, yet they failed to reflect the required sense. Thus, an improved stylistic version as: "التاريخية الروايات أحب قراءة" would solve this error.



Findings

Out of the above reviewed examples of common errors encountered in real-world translation scenarios, it is noticed that errors causes and forms may occur due to different reasons that corresponding to Alanazi's (2023) as mentioned previously such as: grammatical mistakes and problematic lexes, the way a translator transfers a text from (SL) to (TL), incorrect character, improper punctuation marks or inconsistency in term translation. Other problematic errors such as unnecessary omission was also defined, language-related problem and stylistic problems as Benzoukh (2020) expressed it as “thorny problems in rendering style” lead to isolated words denotatively rendered regardless of meaning of functional details that connote each word in certain context. The stylistic errors that may occur in literary translations are the outcome of wrong linguistic transfer. As a result, translation practitioners should be fully aware of the correct procedures utilizing different meaning research tools and technologies. This could involve deciding and selecting the appropriate meaning of terminology, awareness of the differences between connotative and denotative meanings required rendering the text meaning.

In fact, a translator should have control over a broad knowledge of expressions and vocabulary in both the source and target languages that also embrace cultural and social experiences, being familiar with the use of the terms and expressions that characterize each language. Also, an excellent knowledge in employing practical strategies for addressing and handling translation of different texts. Therefore, focusing on actual application of the remedies of most of the common errors that may face translators or learners increase the practitioner awareness of such errors and raise the possibility of avoiding them in their corresponding translation.

Translation and the age of artificial intelligence

The importance of contemporary technology in advancing translation to meet the demands of the era is clearly an overwhelming one especially in the light of Machine Translation (MT) Software, the high arouse of the artificial intelligence programs such as CAT tools in English translation. They save effort and time in translation process, as well as protect the translated text from terminological chaos such as: MemoQ program and the Trados and OmegaT software. Moreover, the experimental artificial intelligence system ChatGPT is capable to produce translations of varying quality and in all languages, yet a specialized human translator is necessary to revise the translations especially when practicing complex texts translation such as legal, medical, and literary texts, this system fall short, and the resulting translation needs scrutiny and a specialized review. However, translation technology is advancing, showing a wide opportunity horizon for promising exciting evolutions in the coming years. Therefore, this study shows several technological and automated translation programs intents to offer implementation insights that can be readily applied by practitioners in the field.

Conclusion:

To conclude, Translation is the conversion of spoken or written words and texts from one source language Arabic/ English (SL) to a targeted language Arabic/ English (TL) employing any adequate translation tradition that may lead to an accurate informative translation, considering that these two languages are of different origine. And so, it's fundamental to capture the principal meaning or spirit of the original text, considering the cultural and linguistic differences between the languages involved. It is, therefore, the conveyance of the spirit of the translated text and is not limited to the literal transfer of words and phrases. It involves a nuanced linguistic and semantic description that transcends mere word-for-word replication, acknowledging the cultural nuances inherent in both languages. Translation is a complex process that seeks to capture the essence and meaning of the original text in (SL) while adapting it appropriately to the (TL) on the denotative and on the connotative language level as well.

Finally, improving proficiency in contemporary Arabic-English-Arabic translation involves integrating and supporting the traditional translation approaches and techniques with the contemporary opportunities provided by new translation technologies and artificial intelligence. Utilizing this process may guide a translator or a learner to a targeted approach to address common errors in practice. By recognizing the specific challenges faced in real-world scenarios, the study contributes to the current efforts to improve the standards of translation, eventually encouraging successful and influential multicultural communication.

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