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التحديات المعجمية التي يواجهها الطلاب السعوديون في الترجمة القانونية Lexical Challenges Faced by Saudi Students in Legal Translation

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Mohammed Ali El-Siddig

Associate Professor, English Department, College of Science and Arts,
Al-Baha University

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9247-5801>

محمد علي الصديق

أستاذ مشارك، قسم اللغة الانجليزية، كلية العلوم والآداب، جامعة الباحة

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ABSTRACT

Some legal expressions may contain identical phrases, producing disorientation and confusion for the recipient. In the language of choice, a single term can have more than one meaning, leaving no space for originality in legal translation. Depending on the overall setting of the written material and statements, the translator may prioritize one meaning over another. If the meaning is misconstrued, it could be for a lack of legal context and a failure to link the two parts. This study aims to show the challenges addressed by Al Baha University students when translating legal articles. Thirty students of English participated in the study. The researcher built a legal translation test and gathered data from numerous sources, including books and websites. The study revealed that in translating legal documents, students have numerous lexical, especially semantic, challenges. To deal with these challenges, the study urged that, students be trained in writing various legal texts in addition to other translation types.

Keywords: Challenges, Language, Lexical, Legal, Students, Translation

الملخص

يشكل المشترك اللفظي في بعض التعبيرات القانونية إشكالية تسبب الارتباك والحيرة للمتلقي، ففي اللغة المختارة، قد يكون للمصطلح الواحد معنيين، مما لا يترك مجالاً للأصالة في الترجمة القانونية. واعتماداً على الإطار العام للمادة المكتوبة والبيانات، قد يرجح المترجم معنى على آخر. إذ يُفسر المعنى بشكل خاطئ، وربما يكون السبب راجعاً إلى عدم وجود سياق قانوني، وفشل في ربط معني المصطلح. وتهدف هذه الدراسة إلى إظهار التحديات، التي يواجهها طلاب جامعة الباحة عند ترجمة النصوص القانونية. شارك في الدراسة ثلاثون طالباً يدرسون اللغة الإنجليزية. وقام الباحث ببناء اختبار ترجمة يركز فيه على الترجمة القانونية. وقد جُمعت البيانات من مصادر عديدة، بما في ذلك الكتب والمواقع الإلكترونية. وأشارت الدراسة إلى أن الطلاب يواجهون تحديات معجمية في أثناء ترجمة الوثائق القانونية، وبخاصة المعجمية الدلالية. وحثت الدراسة على ضرورة تدريب الطلاب على أنواع مختلفة من الكتابات القانونية من أجل تحسين أدائهم، إلى جانب تدريس مواضيع الترجمة للأفراد في هذا المجال لحل هذه المشكلات.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التحديات، اللغة، المعجمية، القانونية، الطلاب، الترجمة



1. Introduction

Frade (2015) states that converting materials and literary topics into a different tongue is regarded as an official translation process because it is widely recognised that this type of translation focuses on legal formulas, such as contracts, judgments, and legal instruments. Finding a suitable, alternate, and consistent format for the text, record, and subject is the goal. The translator should consider the subject's conventions and terminology while preserving and emphasising the initial notion without creating any inconsistencies or distinct characteristics. Al Aqad (2014) claims that certain words in the Arabic language share the same phrases and semantic builds; however, because of the juridical frameworks to which they are connected, they have distinct meanings. It is commonly known that the law is both vast and multifaceted. It is intricate, considering that it pertains to all relationships between people and includes elements of various legal types, including family, commercial, and administrative law. Due to its highly specialised terminology and distinctive form, legal translation frequently causes difficulties for translators, particularly inexperienced translators. In Murici's (2016) view, the challenges involved in translation are primarily brought about by disparities across various cultural perspectives on law and legal systems, as the vocabulary used in law has evolved to comply with the specific needs of the legal framework in which it is communicated. In this regard, translating legal writings from Arabic into English may be challenging due to the technical legal words used in English. In English, the terminologies literally translated as a birth act and a marriage contract look strange; instead, the corresponding English legal terms are a birth record and a getting married document, respectively. This is supported by Kobayakova and Habenko (2017), who assert that when translating legal documents, there is no opportunity for an exact translation. Legal translation is distinct from various forms of specialised translation, which is inclined to deliver broad details via far fewer specialised phrases. It is sufficient to use corresponding phrases in both the target language and the source language. Translating legal documents remains the basis for skilled translation and is ranked as the trickiest area in technical writing. This suggests that both rookie and skilled translators face hurdles when translating legal content. Janigová (2023) explains that the challenges and impediments in translating legal language stem from notions that cannot be translated because he seeks an equivalent

to them and resorts to disposing of them, interpreting them, and occasionally explaining them. Legal language is distinguished by the use of the passive voice to emphasise a deed. It is also distinguished by clarity, precision, and the absence of ambiguous phrases that generate confusion. Legal terminology is always written in long, convoluted sentences. As stated by Alharbi (2023), cross-border transactions require the rigorous identification and application of specific legal terms and values. Geographical variances pose additional complications because different authorities may interpret common phrases separately. Something that appears normal in a certain area may be totally out of place in another. The study centres on the legal issues present for students at Al-Bah University and is significant given the paucity of empirical evidence on legal challenges in Saudi Arabia. This work may benefit educators and tutors and help them have a better understanding of legal difficulties in translation. This study addresses a gap in the literature by examining legal translation for Saudi participants and identifying causes and remedies for the problem. The study adheres to the following research objective: investigate the nature of the common challenges faced by Saudi students when translating legal texts and the lack of understanding of the legal context, contributing to translation errors.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

The issue with this research is that translators make mistakes when translating legal texts, primarily when translating from English into Arabic and vice versa. Language scholars ascribe the difficulties translators meet when translating legal materials to a broad range of aspects, including the translator's poor command of their native tongue and the target language, their ignorance of legal terminology, and their cultural ignorance of the lawful login. Malinowski (2001) claims that this ignorance always leads to an inadequate translation of the material, which leaves readers with a misconception. Studies have indicated that Saudi translators encounter difficulties when translating documents related to law, particularly deals, which have implications for translation students from Saudi Arabia. For instance, Salamah (2021:165) reveals that the main issues faced by Saudi translation practitioners are the absence of counterparts, the translators' inadequate command of legal terminology and expressions, and the cultural distinctions between English and Arabic legal texts. Abu-Ghararah (2017) also notes that before beginning legal translation, Saudi translators require more knowledge and skills.

1.2. Questions of the Study

- What are the most common challenges faced by Saudi students when translating legal texts?
- How does a lack of understanding of the legal context contribute to translation errors?

1.3. Significance of the Study

The relevance of this study is that it adds to the body of knowledge in the field of linguistic research. It examines the nature of the challenges in translating legal materials, as well as some of the related and interwoven fields of study that surround legal literature. To date, research has been limited, and knowledge gaps exist. It is hoped that this study will offer fresh insights into this field of study while also validating and expanding on previous research. This study looks into legal text issues among Saudi university students. As a result, it may be useful for students and instructors.

2. Literature Review and Previous Studies

2.1. Concept of Legal Translation and Its Importance in Multilingual Contexts

Engberg (2020) claims that legal translation involves a complex interplay of diverse sources and interconnected contexts, where cultural and linguistic characteristics are key factors. Since Arabic is a Semitic language and English is an Indo-European language, each of which belongs to a different language family, translators must consider these distinctions when translating syntactic terms.

Klbal

(2024) states that the fastest-growing translation field today is legal translation, particularly when it comes to translating contractual documents, which form the cornerstone of social and technical agreements, along with business actions and commercial relationships. A translator working in legal translation must be cognizant of the linguistic and cultural nuances of both the source and target languages, particularly English, due to the numerous linguistic relationships and cultural barriers the field faces. Gibbons (2004: 20) says that not all regular texts are subject to dispute or interpretation; however, unlike all other types of translation, legal documents must be referred to a body with the authority to interpret the text. Changing a vowel in a word has the potential to shift the judiciary to the right. A legal translator is not simply a writer or translator who hides behind the translation; rather, they are the most exposed to criticism from the recipient because the translated material itself is ambiguous. Legal translation presents a challenge in translating legal terminology because it occurs between two cultures and two separate laws, and the translator

employs functional equivalence while searching for legal terms in the target language system.

2.2. Characteristics of Legal Language: Structure and Semantics

As noted by Mohammed (2022), the legal translator should be constantly attentive to certain criteria, such as technical terms and expressions, text structures, and formats. The target text must be faithful to the original text. In legal translation, there are no small mistakes. The main translation errors that usually arise are misinterpretations, false meanings, false friends, barbarism, and even solecism. All of these can have serious legal consequences. The translated content of a legal document cannot be identical to the original. Each country has its own legal system and its own terminology. The legal translator must adapt their translation to avoid any errors or approximations. Mellinkoff (1963) states that legal language is defined as persuasive language that is intended to persuade the audience, judge, or reader of the legitimacy of the court's ruling or the validity and logic of the lawyer's case. It confronts the conscience in the same manner that literary language does, and articles and court jurisprudence are considered pure rhetoric. Every country's legal language is a full unit that expresses a legal system. The translation challenge arises when an equivalent in the target language cannot be located, and the semantic equivalent is missing. The translation technique selected is based on legal factors that must be considered and understood to portray the concepts accurately. 'Legal language is known for its long, complex sentences that focus on precision and clarity, which can be a major challenge for novice translators. Sammut (2021) suggests that legal translation requires focusing on the unique grammatical structure of legal texts, especially those that rely on repetitive formulations, such as negative or conditional sentences. For example, students' errors in translating phrases such as "The contractor shall not assign the contract" reveal their lack of understanding of the use of contextual legal formulations.'

2.3. Lexical Challenges in Legal Translation: A Theoretical Perspective

As suggested by Bostanji (2010), the most frequent problem encountered whenever converting legal material is the absence of functional equivalency. To avoid mistakes at the level of the legal notion and the word that carries the intended meaning, one must specialise in translating legal language by way of acquaintance with the terms used in law. This is referred to as specialised legal translation. Ignoring

the legal text leads to confusion and an explanation that is very different from what was intended. To effectively communicate legal actions and produce the intended results, a legal translator needs to be able to use language. The Saudi legal system, based on Sharia law, shows a marked contrast to Western legal systems, adding a complex cultural dimension to the challenges of legal translation. This contrast is one of the main reasons why terms such as 'appeal' and 'case' are difficult to interpret, as these terms carry legal connotations that differ radically between the two cultures. Alharbi's (2023) study emphasises the importance of understanding the source and recipient legal systems to achieve accurate translations. Klalal (2022) argues that semantic qualities are regarded as one of the most challenging areas for the legal translator, as each word in the legal language precisely conveys the meaning intended by the legislator. The words 'arrest of the accused' and 'detention' differ in that the former requires a judgment from a governmental body, whereas the latter can be carried out by an individual. The terms 'imprisonment' and 'detention' are not interchangeable. When a single signifier has many meanings, the word becomes elastic, and its applications broaden or narrow. The signifier may acquire a meaning that differs from that of regular language, or it may retain the same meaning while ordinary language is devoid of it. Sammut (2021) suggests that failing to include the setting or particular linguistic patterns in a document of law may result in a variety of difficulties and uncertainties in the last version of the document. Even though some sound petite, they potentially have an impact on the document's legality or the sensitive nature of the individuals affected by the legal situation. The written content, form, and norms of the written material can fluctuate significantly. Law demands stipulations that an English vocabulary treaty fails. El-Sadik (2018) claims that one of the most distinguishing elements of legal translation is its profound connection to a country's culture and traditions. Since this is the case, legal translation requires the translator to be particularly careful because the text consists of abstract terms that are deeply and firmly rooted in the local culture and intellectual traditions. There are hurdles and obstacles to the practice of legal translation. Translation does not have the place it deserves, which causes issues for legal translation. Students have difficulty finding functional equivalence for legal terms, which leads to translation errors. The lack of functional equivalence is a major challenge in legal translation, as many legal

terms do not have a direct equivalent in the target language. This challenge is addressed by Bostanji (2010), who shows that legal terms such as 'detention' and 'imprisonment' may have different legal meanings, making it essential for translators to understand the legal context to distinguish between these meanings. Modern technology, including artificial intelligence and machine translation tools, is essential to improve the accuracy of legal translation. Altarabin's study (2021) shows that the use of translation systems can help analyse legal terms in their correct context, reducing translation errors resulting from a lack of accurate understanding of the context. Practical training is essential for developing students' legal translation skills. Klalal (2024) points out the importance of building educational programmes that focus on analysing real-world legal texts from different cultures, which helps students develop a deep understanding of contextual terminology and advanced translation techniques.

2.4. Previous Studies

Alrishan (2018) conducted research on the difficulties English as a foreign language (EFL) translation students face in translating legal texts into Arabic. The purpose of this study is to look into the challenges that EFL translation students have when translating legal texts into Arabic. The study's participants were carefully chosen undergraduate translation students from Al Buraimi University College. The main instrument used in the study was a translation test given to the students, which included a text from the United Nations, to ascertain the challenges they face when translating legal texts. The researcher looked at the translations made by the students, who were permitted to use all references to assist them in understanding the material being studied in class. The study's conclusions showed that translating legal texts into Arabic presents significant challenges for translation students. These challenges are collocations and lexical issues. The study's results were attributed by the researcher to the unique nature of translating legal texts, which calls for a high level of language and practical ability. Qian (2021) undertook an inquiry into the translation of English legal vocabulary and found that legal translators have challenges, given the cultural and linguistic variances across the intended audience and reference scripts, alongside transcribing legal material. On top of that, manner and lexicon issues were detected during the conversion of legal documents. Speech is an instrument for representing regulations, and it typically requires being governed by an extensive variety of

restrictions at the aesthetically pleasing, grammar-related, meaning, and morphological stages, which are implemented at the very top of the framework of the law's architecture. The most typical issue in converting legal materials is the absence of practical equivalency. Skilled legal transcription entails focusing on converting legal phrases by being conversant in the terms used in law to help minimise inaccuracies to a lawful degree. AlShaikh (2022) conducted a study on the problems of translating legal contracts. This study examined the most prevalent barriers that Saudi translation students face when translating legal documents, along with the procedures they employ to overcome these hurdles. The author of the study employed an analytical descriptive strategy to accomplish these goals and utilised a survey tool to gather data from the investigation's participants. Students studying at King Saud University and Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University were the population of this study.

Though substantial research has been conducted, lexical concerns in translating legal texts have been underestimated or evaluated only in a sample. This study builds on prior investigations by assessing the lexical challenges reported by Saudi translation learners, analysing Saudi legal translation as a legalistic language, and using data collection and analysis methodologies. Alharbi (2023) investigated Saudi legal phrases and their English counterparts. The disparities that exist between two separate tongues and legal frameworks have consistently posed a significant problem regarding legal translation. Researchers have paid little attention to the extent to which the differences between Saudi and English legal frameworks influence Arabic-English legal translations. Consequentially, the purpose of this detailed examination is to investigate the Arabic-English conversion of Saudi law documents to discover the technical and cultural traits that influence the entire translation procedure. Because an inquiry into the challenges and obstacles of converting legal content is indisputably important and the examination of Saudi legal speech and its adaptation is limited, the investigation tries to add to the literature by reviewing numerous Saudi legal reports. To compare the challenges faced by Saudi students and students from other cultures or countries in the field of legal translation, we drew on previous studies that address cultural and linguistic challenges in translation. The following were noted based on the current research and literature review:

- **What are the most common challenges faced by**

Saudi

Lack of functional equivalence: Translators in all cultures struggle to find equivalent legal terms in the target language due to differences between countries' legal systems. For example, the translation of 'appeal' into Arabic varies, depending on the legal system.

- **Lack of contextual understanding**

Most students translate words literally without understanding the legal context in which they are used. This challenge is universally shared by novice translators.

- **Length and complexity of legal sentences**

Legal language is characterised by long and complex sentences, which makes it difficult for students to understand and translate texts accurately.

- **Cultural influence**

Some legal concepts are culturally specific and cannot be translated directly, requiring explanation or interpretation.

- **Grammatical and morphological challenges**

Translating from a language with a specific grammatical structure, such as Arabic, into a completely different language, such as English, is a major challenge.

- **Challenges specific to Saudi students**

- **Lack of experience with practical legal texts**

Saudi students suffer from limited exposure to various practical legal texts, such as contracts and regulations, as confirmed by the current research.

- **Influence of cultural background**

Differences between the Saudi legal system, which is based on Sharia law, and Western legal systems lead to difficulty in understanding English legal terms.

- **Reliance on literal translations**

Saudi students tend to translate literally due to poor familiarity with specialised legal terminology.

- **Recommendations to mitigate challenges**

- **Exchange international expertise**

Organise joint workshops between students from different cultures to discuss legal challenges and how to overcome them.

- **Enhance practical translation training**

Provide realistic legal texts from multiple legal systems to expand students' experiences.

3. Methodology

This descriptive study employed sentence analysis as a method, as it studied and interpreted sentences to derive meaning, gain insight, and produce empirical information. The instrument consisted of 15 legal sentences gathered from various English legal sources.

3.1. Participants

The study group included English language students in a language education programme. The students were given a translation test to evaluate their translation abilities and identify legal difficulties. The participants consist of 30 university students. They were second-year English students enrolled in the second semester of 2023. The curriculum was offered at the College of Arts and Sciences in Baljurashi, Al Baha. Some participants had finished translation classes from English to Arabic and vice versa, thus receiving the same education.

3.2. Instruments of the Study

- The researcher created a translation test tailored to identify the challenges faced by the students in translating legal texts.
- Number of legal sentences: 15 legal sentences were selected from various English legal sources.
- The questions were designed based on the study's nature and core problem to evaluate the students' abilities to translate legal texts.

Test conditions

- The test was conducted in a single session for all participants.
- The students were allowed to use dictionaries during the translation to support their understanding of the terms.
- The translation assessed the accuracy of the terminologies and their meaning within the legal context.
- The researcher created a translation test tailored precisely to the needs of the current investigation.

3.3. Data Collection Procedure

The full test was administered in one session, and the students were permitted to utilise a thesaurus. The data were acquired by employing a translation test. The test required the participants to translate 15 sentences from legal documents. Correct answers constituted correct answers, suitable answers were acceptable, and incorrect answers received zero marks if the participants did not translate the subject matter correctly or made linguistic errors that altered the intended significance of the product. The test results were arranged in straightforward columns, alongside text descriptions of the material.

Evaluation of the answers

The responses were categorised into four groups:

- Correct answers: translations that accurately conveyed the legal meaning.
- Acceptable answers: translations that were close to the correct meaning but were not perfect.
- Wrong answers: translations that misinterpreted the

legal meaning.

- No answer: sentences left untranslated by the students.

Statistical analysis

The results were presented using bar charts showing the quantitative distribution of each type of answer. A descriptive analysis of the most common errors was provided, with illustrative examples.

Practical examples

The study included practical examples to analyse the errors.

4. Result and Discussion

This section discusses the tracking and assessment portions of the polls, as well as the students' translations for the topic information test. An analysis of variance presented both the test data and test outcomes to determine the students' translations. The following table displays the researcher's assessment:

Table 1

Analysis of participants' responses to legal and procedural statements

| .No | Statement | Answers | | | |
|-----|--|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | | Correct answer | Acceptable answer | Wrong answer | No answer |
| 1 | The principal is willing to appoint the agent for the above purpose but only under the terms, conditions and restrictions as hereinafter specified | 5 | 5 | 15 | 5 |
| 2 | The agent hereby agrees to inform the principal periodically at least four times per year | 6 | 9 | 14 | 1 |
| 3 | This agreement shall be valid for a period of one year and shall thereafter automatically be renewed. | 7 | 9 | 14 | 0 |
| 4 | The agent hereby acknowledges that the trademarks and other distinctive visual communications supplied and used by the principal | 10 | 11 | 9 | 0 |
| 5 | Appeal is the transfer of a case from a lower to a higher court for a new hearing | 5 | 6 | 17 | 2 |
| 6 | Call an accused person before a court to answer the charge | 8 | 9 | 12 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|-----|-----|-----|----|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Default is the failure to make a required court appearance. | 8 | 12 | 10 | 0 | Semantic errors | | | | |
| 8 | A fine is monetary penalty assessed against a defendant. | 14 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 4. Misunderstanding the context | Misinterpretation of legal text due to a failure to grasp the broader context | 'The contractor shall not assign the contract' misunderstood as 'will not sign the contract' instead of 'shall not transfer the contract' | Alteration of the legal meaning and inconsistency between the source and translated texts | Train students in analysing texts to fully understand the context before starting a translation. |
| 9 | Intake is the step in juvenile process, during which a decision is made either to detain the juvenile at a detention centre or release to the parents. | 9 | 8 | 13 | 0 | | | | | |
| 10 | 'Pre-sentence' investigation is the procedure after conviction during which the defendant's criminal history is investigated. | 10 | 11 | 8 | 1 | 5. Loss of implicit meaning | Disregard for implicit meanings carried by legal terms in their contexts | 'Charge' translated as 'shipment' instead of 'accusation' | Inaccurate translation and misrepresentation of the legal concept | Focus on deep analysis of texts and use real-life examples to highlight the implicit meanings of terms. |
| 11 | Written pleadings shall be filed with the registrar. | 3 | 6 | 16 | 5 | 6. Misinterpretation of phrasal verbs | Translation of phrasal verbs literally without considering their specialised meanings | 'Enters into' translated as 'enters' instead of 'agrees to' | Misunderstanding of legal relationships and misinterpretation of legal agreements | Train students in the use of phrasal verbs in legal contexts and review examples from contracts and statutes. |
| 12 | The Employer may affect any such insurance. | 6 | 12 | 5 | 7 | | | | | |
| 13 | The Contractor shall not assign the contract. | 4 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 7. Literal translation of connectors | Translation of connectors without considering their role in legal text | 'Before a court' translated as 'before the court' instead of 'in front of the court' | Weakening of the accuracy of the translated text, leading to significant legal misunderstanding | Train students in the legal usage of connectors and their application in different texts. |
| 14 | No claim shall be made against such security. | 7 | 7 | 15 | 1 | | | | | |
| 15 | The Contractor shall clear away | 9 | 6 | 13 | 2 | | | | | |
| Total | | 111 | 137 | 170 | 32 | Structural errors | | | | |

The evidence showed that the students struggled with legal translation, resulting in the highest mistake rate of 170. Compared to previous results, this proportion had the most errors. Acceptable responses ranked second with a rating of 138, and there were only 111 correct answers.

Table 2
Classification of Lexical and Linguistic Errors in Legal Translation

| Error type | Description | Example from legal text | Negative impact | Recommendation |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Lexical errors | | | | |
| 1. Lack of functional equivalence | Absence of direct equivalents for legal terms between the source and target languages | 'Detention translated as 'stopping' instead of 'arrest' | Loss of legal accuracy and ambiguity in the translated text | Use specialised legal dictionaries and train students in mastering precise legal terminology. |
| | Translation of words as they appear without considering their legal meaning | 'Case' translated as 'situation' instead of 'lawsuit' | Weak alignment with the legal context and loss of intended meaning | Raise students' awareness of the importance of functional and contextual translation. |
| | Use of incorrect or inappropriate alternative phrases for legal terms | 'Hereinafter' translated as 'here after' instead of 'as follows' | Reader confusion or loss of the formal tone of the legal text | Provide practical training on terms with various contexts to clarify their precise meanings. |
| 2. Literal translation | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 3. Inaccurate legal terms | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 4. Cultural errors | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 5. Ignoring cultural differences | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 6. Lack of coherence | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 7. Long and complex sentences | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 8. Ambiguity or distortion of the intended legal concept | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 9. Enhance skills in linking legal concepts and provide practical exercises on cohesive texts. | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 10. Break long sentences into small parts to understand them before translating them and train students in the structure of legal texts. | | | | |
| | | | | |

The following assertions serve as illustrations of legal sentence translations:

When translating the sentence,

The principal is willing to appoint the agent for the above purpose, but only under the terms, conditions and restrictions as hereinafter specified,

note the phrase 'under the terms'. Unfortunately, the conversion was not effective, and it was an exact duplicate rather than a legal translation. To illustrate, some versions read as follows: 'under the period' literary means 'under the period', but this phrase was translated into Arabic as 'according to the conditions'. Furthermore, the students translated the word 'hereinafter' as *هنا بعد*. However, the authentic wording is *فيما يلي*. This erroneous rendering may be attributed to the fact that such phrases are uncommon in the actual language and are seldom utilised in many linguistic expressions. Consequently, the students were unable to transfer the meaning from the source language to the target language.

The agent hereby agrees to inform the principal periodically, at least four times per year.

The students' responses were satisfactory when translating this statement, although nearly all of the translation mistakes were made with the word 'hereby'. The version given was *يجوار هنا*. However, the correct version is *بموجب*. The students were unable to find the equivalent phrase for the word and failed to connect the two concepts in the sentence with the intent of obtaining the relevant meaning. This faulty rendering of the above phrase may be because the legal version contained phrases with these unexpected structures, and there was a lack of acquaintance with the legal environment and the specific audience.

This agreement shall be valid for a period of one year and shall thereafter automatically be renewed.

The student choices varied between the correct meaning and the error, and the error occurred with the word 'thereafter'. The pupils rendered it as follows: 'here next', which is implied in the Arabic language as *هنا بعد*. This erroneous rendition could be traced to the students' lack of expertise with the legal terminology and its counterpart in the language into which it was being translated, as well as their failure to adhere to the legal text.

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Most students misused the word 'principal'. Its translation was inconsistent and disagreed with the

sentence. In addition, the phrase was substituted without its context. Notably, there were several renderings of 'major', 'primary', and 'foundation'. This implies *رئيسي*, *أولي*, *أساس*, however, the accurate version is *الوكيل*. This error is similar to the legal context used in agreements reached by jurists.

Appeal is the transfer of a case from a lower to a higher court for a new hearing.

Most students made mistakes when rendering the word 'appeal', which was transcribed as *مناشدة جاذبية*. The statement produced a poor rendering that was inconsistent with its character and which removed itself from the legal translation, posing a challenge to the students. The authentic phrase is *الاستئناف*. Likewise, the word 'case' was translated literally as *موقف*, *وضع*, *حالة*. However, from the standpoint of the law, it indicates a *قضية*. This error may have been caused by the students misusing appropriate legal language, failing to describe relevant and accurate legal words in the translation, and failing to contextually define the word, resulting in a departure from the correct meaning and a loss of accuracy.

Call an accused person before a court to answer the charge.

The word 'before' was rendered *قبل*, not *أمام*. However, in legal terminology, it means 'in front of'. The investigator noticed that the English equivalent of 'charge' had various *مسؤولية*, *شحن*, *رسوم*, *متهم*. This was an inaccurate rendition based on what is perceived in the sentence or legal context. When the meaning of the term 'charge' is extracted from the context of the statement, which qualifies as legal evidence, it is evident that it signifies *متهم*.

Default is the failure to make a required court appearance.

The translations of the preceding phrase revealed errors that the students made with the term 'default'. It was extremely disconnected from and inconsistent with the context, and it was inserted into an illegal environment, namely *إهمال*, *تقصير*, *افتراضي*. Reverting to the authentic significance referred to in the broader context of the legal phrase, a substantial distinction was noticed between the two versions of the intended significance, which is tied to the judicial meaning, as evidenced by the meaning of the word 'default', which refers to the legal perspective flank *عدم المثول*.

A fine is a monetary penalty assessed against a defendant.

The word 'fine' is more frequently utilised in language than in law, and its existence in a legal language may appear unusual, notably to students. Consequently,

the renditions were bizarre and did not correspond to the actual significance. Surprisingly, the translations appeared to resemble رائع، رقيق، ناعم، جميل، referring to the legal material. The aforementioned issue, along with the failure to transfer concepts precisely from the originally spoken language to the language of choice, could be blamed on formal notions and a lack of precise and clear awareness.

Intake is the step in the juvenile process during which a decision is made either to detain the juvenile at a detention centre or to release to the parents.

The vast majority of the learners perceived the word 'intake' as 'capacity'. However, the following description was not entirely compatible with the setting and could not offer the intended sense in the formal notion, as the phrase in Arabic denotes اعتقال. This error may have been caused by the students translating words and phrases between languages, unaware that the legal interpretation also includes the transfer of meanings, laws, legal systems, and different cultures, in addition to the students' lack of familiarity with the culture and legal concepts in both languages, alongside the laws of the two countries involved.

Pre-sentence investigation is the procedure after conviction during which the defendant's criminal history is investigated

The word 'pre-sentence' was rendered differently from its setting and veered from the common meaning. Several students paraphrased it as قبل الجملة. This oversight may have been a consequence of neglecting to collect and assemble acceptable legal terms. There are numerous unique legal terms, and understanding suitable renditions of such terms necessitates extensive research and exact knowledge of the relevant legal ideas.

Written pleadings shall be filed with the registrar.

This sentence was removed from the legal formulation. Most students rendered 'pleadings' مرافعات as 'undertaking' تعهد، whereas 'file' ترفع is 'put in a file' or 'to place in a file', and the legal word is 'suit'. Looking at the context from all sides, we can see that these words do not fulfil the purpose or provide a clear meaning in terms of the students' translation. This is due to the pupils not using legal formulas and translating the word in an obvious or literal manner.

The employer may affect any such insurance.

The students missed the legal term 'affect' توفيق، which was literally translated as 'affect' يؤثر. The term 'affects' is commonly used in legal language and frequently poses complications for students throughout the

translation process due to its varied meanings and appearance in multiple legal formulations.

The contractor shall not assign the contract.

The students understood the word 'assign' يحوّل to mean that the lawyer would 'sign' يوقع their name or not sign the contract. The intended meaning differs because the word is employed in legal language rather than common English.

No claim shall be made against such security.

The students resorted to adopting a meaning that already existed in their minds, 'claims' يزعم/ يدعي، which is the most similar meaning to the word's common meaning.

The contractor shall enter into

Some students translated the verb 'enter' into يوافق، which is not the intended meaning in the legal context. The word 'enter' may mean يدخل in general, although it means 'agrees' يوافق with the legal definition. Such verbs followed by prepositions are common and employed in legal contexts, and they consistently generate difficulty for students.

5. Conclusion

Legal language is challenging to comprehend for learners, since it differs markedly from the language used in daily interactions, thus baffling them. The students encountered plenty of challenges in legal translation, most notably grasping legal concepts thoroughly. It was also evident that they had no knowledge of the legal system or legal principles in both languages, which resulted in a lack of proper understanding of the original text and its translation, adding to the complexity of legal translation. To navigate the challenges of legal translation, students must have the necessary legal expertise and practical experience, be conversant with the legal systems and concepts in different countries, and have the necessary translation and scholarly capabilities to work effectively and productively. This study aligned with Mohammad (2022) and Alrishan (2022), finding that students meet various hurdles when translating legal documents, namely semantic meaning, comprehension, and distortion of the correct meaning. The study urges that students be trained in various forms of legal writing to improve their performance and that individuals be taught translation subjects in the field to solve these issues.

Author Biography

Mohammed Ali Elsiddig

An associate professor at the English Department of the College of Science and Arts, Al-Baha University. He holds a PhD in general translation. His areas of interest include translation problems, translation difficulties, general translation, translation theory interpretation, and methods of interpretation.

Msiddiqui@bu.edu.sa

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J IAUHES