



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

An International Open-Access Peer Reviewed Referred Journal

Impact Factor: 6.064

E-ISSN : 2249 – 4642

P-ISSN: 2454 - 4671

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY TRANSLATION STUDENTS IN TRANSLATING INTERNET CONTRACTIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS FROM ENGLISH INTO ARABIC

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DOI: <http://doi.org/10.37648/ijrssh.v12i03.001>

Paper Received:

05 May 2022

Paper Accepted:

30 June 2022

Paper Received After Correction:

01 July 2022

Paper Published:

02 July 2022



How to cite the article: Mohamed E. J.(2022)

Difficulties Faced by Translation Students in translating Internet Contractions and Abbreviations from English into Arabic, *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences & Humanities*, Jul-Sep 2022 Vol. 12, Issue 3; 1-9 DOI: <http://doi.org/10.37648/ijrssh.v12i03.001>

ABSTRACT

The scientific translation from English to Arabic is a subject that has been in the light of concern nowadays. With the increasing development of the technology and social media, language also developed along with it. Therefore, the current study aims at investigating the difficulties that translation students face when they try to translate internet language especially the slangs and contractions. The sample of the study is a third year students from the Translation Department, College of Arts. The goal is to determine the types of difficulties these Iraqi students face while translating the contractions and abbreviations used by internet users from English to Arabic. The number of students involved in the study are it 36 students. A text containing a series of conversations among an internet users were given to the students to translate from English to Arabic. Afterward, the conversations were analysed based on a specific scoring scheme figure out what exactly the problems that encountered the translation process from the items or order and sequence (clear and unclear), Translation (Under translation, complete translation, and over translation), and Accuracy (title and numbering). Based on the statistical analysis, the translation students made some errors and encountered a number of difficulties while translating these conversations into Arabic and this is ascribed to them employing dictionaries that are not designed to keep pace with the increasing change in language.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Students that are in the field of translation come across many problems specifically when the translation is from English to Arabic. The reason behind this may be ascribed to the lack of language skills students have which cause the disorder in the translation process. This study attempts to shed light on the difficulties the translation students may face while translating internet slangs and abbreviations from English language to Arabic as well as the errors they may do during the translation process.

Aims of the Study

The study aims at:

1. Exploring the internet slangs and abbreviations

2. Identifying the problems that translation may encounter during the process of translation from English to Arabic

3. Exploring the errors students may conduct during the process of slangs and abbreviations translation.

4. Proposing a number of recommendations and suggestions for translation, students to develop the translation process and overcome difficulties.

Questions of the Study

Based on the introduced problems we can summarize the questions of the study as following:

1. What is the difficulties translation students face when they translate slangs and abbreviations from English to Arabic?

2. What are the possible mistakes or errors they may conduct when they translate them?

3. How can these difficulties be conquered and how to avoid errors?

Hypotheses

The present study attempts to test the following hypothesis:

1. A lot of errors happen when translations students translate internet slangs and abbreviations.

2. Students face a lot of difficulties when they try to translate internet language from English to Arabic.

Significance of the Study

1. It helps translation students to facilitate the Translation of interest conversation that contain slangs and abbreviations.

2. It highlights some of the common mistakes made by Translation students when they deal with the internet language.

3. It plays a significant role in improving the translation of internet slangs from English to Arabic.

SECTION TWO

Translation

The words as used by those who speak English as a native language tend to be

sometimes hard to be comprehended by those who learn English as a foreign language especially words that are used colloquially by internet users which are called slang. Consequently, people tend to misinterpret the meaning of these words. Therefore, these words must be translated into the target language through a process called as translation.

Translation has a number of definitions. For example, Cambridge Advanced Learners Dictionary & Thesaurus (2014) defined translation as “something that is translated, or the process of translating something, from one language to another.” On the other hand, Nida and Taber (2009) introduced translation as a process where the words are reproduced by the translator from its source language and changed into the target language in way that create a similar meaning to the one of the source language in meaning and style. With these definitions in mind, the following definition can be concluded:

"Translation is the process needed to transfer the meanings or messages from source language into target language to overcome the misunderstanding of meanings".

Internet Slang Language

The internet slang language is not an easy language to be understood, the meaning of

this slangs can be sometimes hard to be predicted. Nowadays, the use of internet slang language is very common by those who use internet and social media. Internet slang words include all of the terms or words that are widely employed by internet users. There are various forms of internet slang language come, first we have the abbreviation process where the creation of internet slang language has started. Internet slang can have many types based on the type of process used to create the slang such as acronym, blend, and clipping (Jones,2014).

These slang are primarily used to make the communication much easier and economical. We are living in the world of speed where people want to do everything faster and constantly creating methods to shorten the ways for them. Therefore, they are abbreviating words and phrase into a new word. Writing a slang on the internet is something easy to be done but the difficult part comes when people attempt to read these slangs because they will face difficulties in understand the exact meaning of the word (Ningrum,2009).

Nowadays, people tend to employ internet slang language in their daily language in addition to the internet usage, like using it to send messages through SMS (short message service) and even when they are talking to other people(Winarto,2019:34).

Abbreviation

Abbreviation is well known subject these days in almost all the languages. It is used by people to show or express a certain concept or word that cannot be expressed fully by another languages. Furthermore, people need the effectiveness of a long phrase.

For instance, the phrase Association of South East Asian Nation is abbreviated into ASEAN. People tend to use these abbreviated words because it is much easier than the origin words or phrase. According to Kridalaksana abbreviation is “a process of one or more lexeme removal or combining lexemes into a new word” (1989: 159). People who speak the language as their mother language won't face any difficulties in understanding these abbreviated words' meaning of because they tend to employ them in their daily life. The difficulties appear when people who learn English as a foreign language tries to translate these words into their mother language (Booij,2005)

Slang Word Translation Strategies

The current study adopted four types of slang word translation strategies which are proposed by Baker's (1992) in order to employ them for the data analysis. Based on the proposed classification, those translation strategies are:

1. Translation by target language slang expression

In this strategy, the translator translate the slang word from the source language SL into a target language slang that has the close meaning.

2. Translation using an equivalent target language expression

This strategy is employed when the translator does not find a slang word in the target language with the exact meaning of the source language. Therefore, he translate the slang word from SL into a TL word that carry equivalent meaning.

3. Translation using a more neutral or less expressive related word

In this strategy, the slang word is translated from the SL into a word in the TL that is less expressive that the one in the SL. Nevertheless, the meaning of the TL slang still similar to the source language slang word.

4. Translation using an unrelated word or phrase with a similar expressive meaning

This strategy is the modification of one of Baker's (1992) strategies, translation by paraphrase using unrelated words. The translator can use unrelated words in the target language which still convey similar expressive meaning to the source language to translate the source language slang word. The translation students will definitely face difficulties while

translating these types of words from English to Arabic. Using traditional dictionaries is in fact is not the right choice since most of these dictionaries are not updated with the new words that being constantly created by the community (Shuttleworth,1997).

THE TEST

The Sample

The sample of the current study is a third year students who are studying at the Department of Translation at College of Arts. The test was conducted on the selected students to diagnose the types of difficulties they face during the process of slang translating from English to Arabic and what kinds of errors they could made during the process. The reason behind chosen a third year students is due to the fact that they tend to have at this stage a sufficient amount of knowledge that qualifies them to conduct the translation process. The number of the chosen population is (35), these numbers then were divided into two sections (C, B). Afterward, both of the sections were put together to be tested as it shown in (Table 1).

Table (1) Population and Sample of the Test

Section	Number of students	Total arrangement	Present of the answers	Absent scores was
C	20	42	39	3
B	22	Sequence and organization	→: the score would be either (0 , 3 , 6) if it was clear. On	

Note: Students who answered all the questions of the test without leaving any question are labelled as present while those who did not perform the test are labelled as absent.

The Test Design

The data that has been chosen to be analysed consists of a number of Tweets where the slangs and abbreviations are employed. Afterward, the students were asked to translate the tweets into Arabic. The specialized and general dictionaries are allowed to be used since translating without using any specialized dictionary may result in wrong meaning. The students were asked to translate the text from English into Arabic. The choice of the data and the topics of the tweets were based on the trending topics that the new generation is familiar with.

Scoring Scheme

The researcher set a special scoring scheme in order to ensure the results reliability, the scoring scheme was

depending on the answers given by students as it clarified in table (2). The arrangement of the answers ranged in the following manner:

Sequence and organization →: the score would be either (0 , 3 , 6) if it was clear. On

the other hand, if it is not clear then the score would be (zero). On the level of translation, the score (zero) is given to the translation that are not complete . While (0 , 5 , 10) are given to the translations that are complete. The accuracy level is also ranged as (0 , 3 , 6).

Face Validity

What is meant by face validity is that “A test is face valid if it appears to be measuring what it claims to measure”. “It is the best type of validity in the case of self- rating” (Kline, P. 2013:53).

After finishing constructing the test items, it was submitted to the jury to assess their validity. The members of the jury were selected based on their experiences in the education field. The researcher asked the jury to identify and check out the items of the tests to give their decision about whether or not the questionnaire is suitable. Therefore, certain items needed to be removed and others to be modified. Most of the jury members have verified the test items validity.

DATA ANALYSIS

Facility Value

A statistical method was used to conduct the data analyses. Throughout the employing of formula to numerate the percentage of those with the accurate answers to the test items:

$$FV = \frac{R}{N}$$

The (FV) refers to facility value regarding the items of the test. The purpose of this vue is to reveal whether an item is difficult or easy to the testees as it shown in Table 3. The (R) refers to the correct answers number while N indicates the students' numbers(Heaton, 1989: 178, 9). Based on the collected data, the statistical means of the facility value for the test and its items is found to be between 43% and 49%. This varies is considered to be an acceptable range:

Table (2) The Statistical Means of the Facility Value for the test and its items

Name of the title	Number of true answers	Students Number	Mean scores
Sequence and organization	16	35	0. 45
Accuracy	12	35	0.34
Translation	19	35	0.54

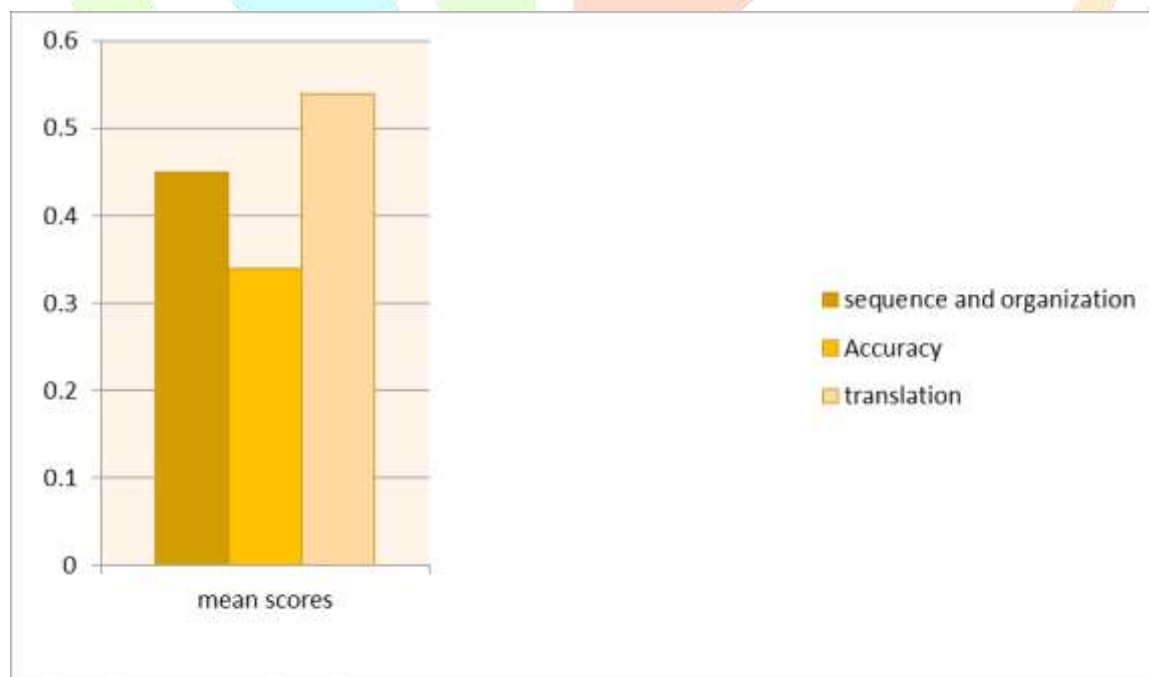


Figure (1) The Statistical Means of the Facility Value for the test and its items

Errors Analysis

The current study is not dedicated to examine every difficulty and problem faced by Translation students when they translate from English to Arabic because this requires more long and extensive study. Accordingly, this study aims at

addressing a few problems where students tend to make mistakes while dealing with internet slang. Furthermore, conducting an error analysis would locate the places where students face difficulty in translation. The error could be grammatical, semantic, structural, or stylistic.

The slang or abbreviation	Modal Answer	Errors
2 day	Today (يوم)	Two day يومان
ATM	At the moment في هذه اللحظة	صراف الي
Afair	As far as I remember على حسب ما أتذكر	عادل
Goat	Greatest of all time أعظم شخص على الإطلاق	معزة
Straight fire	شائع او رائع	نار مباشرة
Cringe	مخرج	تذلل
Dope	رائع او مذهل	مخدرات

CONCLUSIONS:

With accordance to the results of the data analysis, we can conclude the following

1. The analysis of the data showed that there are a number of errors made by students when translating the slang from English to Arabic. It has been found that employing the traditional dictionaries for translating these slang would make it more difficult with a high possibility of making mistakes. Furthermore, the process of translation from English to Arabic is harder than translating from Arabic to

English and this can be ascribed to the duality of English words' meaning.

2. The performance of students at translating some of these internet slang and abbreviations was poor. This can be ascribed to them using general and electronic dictionaries to translate the slang which led to a wrong Translation.

3. Updates and lessons about how language changes and how to keep up with these changes especially of what concerns the technological development should be given to the students.

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