

**The Translatability of Military expressions
by Iraqi Translation Students
from English into Arabic**

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Abstract

The study aims at investigating the translatability of English military expression from English into Arabic by Iraqi Translation's students. The researcher selected randomly (20) students (12) males and (8) females of 4th year translation students from first semester, at Translation Department, University of Mosul.

The study adopted Larson's Modes (1984/1998) to collect the required data, the research used qualitative and Quantitative approaches.

Questionnaire and test were distributed to the sample, the results of the translated test showed that the translatability of student is at (poor level).

The study recommended some recommendation to improve the level of the student in translating English military terminology.

Key words: Translatability, Military Expressions, Military Terminology, Translated Test, Poor level.

المخلص

تهدف الدراسة إلى التحقق من إمكانية ترجمة التعابير والمصطلحات العسكرية من الإنجليزية إلى العربية من قبل طلاب الترجمة العراقيين. اختار الباحث عشوائياً (20) طالباً، (12) طالباً و (8) طالبات من طلاب السنة الرابعة في الترجمة من الفصل الدراسي الأول 2003/2022 في قسم الترجمة بجامعة الموصل .

اعتمدت الدراسة على نموذج لارسون (1998/1984) ، واستخدم الباحث الأساليب الكمية والنوعية ، قام الباحث بتوزيع استمارة الاستبيان والاختبار على العينة لجمع البيانات المطلوبة ، وأظهرت نتائج الاختبار أن مستوى الطلاب في ترجمة المصطلحات العسكرية من اللغة الانكليزية الى اللغة العربية كان ضعيفاً. أوصت الدراسة ببعض التوصيات لتحسين مستوى الطالب في ترجمة المصطلحات العسكرية الإنجليزية.

مفتاح الكلمات: الترجمة ، التعبيرات العسكرية ، المصطلحات العسكرية ، الاختبار المترجم ، مستوى ضعيف.

1. Introduction

Al - shehab, M. (2014, p.36), states that "Military Translation has played a crucial role since the early days of Islamic growths Muslim armies benefited from the expertise. of the translators they encountered in the nations they conquered. The armies moved through areas with different Languages and Cultures. Despite the fact that Arab have had A rich military history, they had to depend on foreign armies to develop and modernize their armies. As a result, they had to keep up with the massive inflow of new military technology and terminology"

Translation is considered a significant part of studies since it translation information and knowledge among nations.

New mark (1981) points out That "Translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and / or statement in one Language with same message and / or statement in another Language"

1.2 Statement of the problem

Military terminology is consider a branch of Technical Translation, particularly in its nature and there are differences between General English and specialized English teaching .Therefore, it needs a background and advanced knowledge in Military Language to be comprehend and understood by translation student. Military expression and terms are constantly changing due to the developments in manufacturing every time and then of sophisticated and producing and new tactics, and strategies of war far, in addition to the restructuring of Army forces branches. For that military terminology needs to be up dated, the lack of experience in using such terminology may cause a severe consequences for military personnel.

1.3 Purpose of The Study

The present study aims at achieving the following:

1. Investigating the Translatability of Iraqi Translation's student in Translating English Military terminology from English into Arabic.

2. Identifying the proper way of teaching Military terminology through design effective and integrated Syllabus.

1.4 Scope of The Study

The present research is conducted in University of Mosul, Iraqi, it aims at assessing English Military terminology translation from English into Arabic. The research has some limitation such as; time, Place Sample and subject matter. The participants: were four year Translation students at the College of Arts at Mosul University. The research was Conducted during the second semester of the academic year 2023/2024.

The researcher confronted some limitations and obstacles, such as, the references on teaching English Military terminology were limited, and the size of the sample was small.

1.5 Significance of the study

The significant of this research stems from importance of assessing English military terminology translation. To the best of the researchers knowledge the Syllabus of teaching translation at Mosul University does not include teaching English military terminology. Moreover, there are only rare studies dealt with this subject. This research may promote the level and competence of the students and make them more familiar in comprehending and translating English military terminology.

1.6 Research question

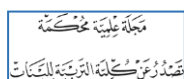
To achieve the objectives of the study the following two questions are posed:

1. what is the Translatability of Iraq Translation Student in translating English Military terminology from English into Arabic.?
- 2 How Could Iraq translation students translate English Military Terminology into Arabic.

The research aims at as assessing the Translatability of Military Expressions into Arabic by Iraqi Translation's students.

2.Literature Review

2.1Theoretical background



Bell (1991, p. 15), points out that translation is "The transformation of a text originally in one Language into an equivalent text in a different Language retaining, as far as possible, the content of the message and the formal features and functional roles of the original text".

Kelly (2005, p.26), defines the translation as "The skill of understanding the source text and rendering it in the target Language by using the register, the background knowledge, and other Language resources according to the intended purpose".

Larson (1984) indicates that "general translation communicates, as much as possible, the same meaning that was understood by the speakers of the source Language, using the normal Language form of the receptor Language while maintaining the dynamics of the original source Language text, she also adds that "the goal of a translator should be to produce a receptor Language text"

Sakarna (2015), states that military translation as its name suggests, it involves rendering texts written in a specialized Military style uses terminology, and it differs from any other type of discipline.

Military texts is considered as a very special type which are produced, rendered and circulated among Military community. kocote & smirnova (2016).

Malkawi (2000, p.35). states that military translation is a branch of technical Translation and it needs a full knowledge of military discipline.

Alkaabi(2008) believes that Military translation is significant, as long as there is need of translating information about new military devices, such as, New weapons, and equipment, that are highly sophisticated, this requires the need to be well-acquainted and understanding the instruction of these devices, and the proper ways to operate them.

Al-Ali, F. (2018) indicates that, the Military Translation is considered a different type of translation activity due to the probability of serious consequences of inaccurate translation particularly when neglecting the context of the SL text.

Jalabniah (1991) states that " Arab military academies have released pamphlets and compiled dictionaries for military terms".

.2Related Studies

Jalabniah (1991) in an attempts to investigates the challenges of translating military terms, he selected randomly (165) military translators working at Jordanian Armed forces, in order to assess their level in military translation and to identify the most common challenges and difficulties they confront translating military expressions.

The researcher distributed a questionnaire and conducted open-ended interviews to a achieve the objectives of the study. The findings of the research found that the level of the of Jordanian military translators is moderate level and they used various types of strategies to overcome the challenges they encountered during the process of translating military terms.

Al Shehab (2014) conducted a study at Translation Department Yarmouk University in Jordan to examine the military expressions from English into Arabic. He chose randomly (20) MA student they were in the first semester (2011 - 2012). The result of the study revealed that the level of the students is at low level. The study presented some recommendations to improve the level of the students.

Al-Harabsheh (2019). In an attempt to investigate the difficulties in translating military expressions encounter by Jordanian and the most common professional military translators strategies they used to overcome such challenges, the researcher selected (30) males and females professional Military translators. The result has shown that most challenge were the lack of suitable use Arabic sentence structure and misuse of accurate propositions. The findings depicts that literal transaction method preferred by the translators. The study recommended the need for extra courses Arabic Language.

Akhoirsheda (2021), investigated the translatability of military Expressions by under graduate student at Zarga University in Jordan, The researcher selected (25) students from the Department of Translation. The findings of the study has revealed that the main challenges faced by the sample were polysemy and synonymy. Moreover, the result has shown there was no effect of the gender on the result.

3. Methodology of the research

3.1 Research design

The researcher adopted quantitative and qualitative approaches to collect the required data to achieve the objectives of the study. The main sources of collecting data were questionnaire and the test.

The research conducted on (20) Iraqi undergraduate translation student's (12) males and (8) females from in the second semester of the academic year 2022-2023 Translation Department College of Art, University of Mosul. The sample was examined in order to assess their ability of translating military expressions from English into Arabic.

The researcher Adopted Larson Model (1989/1998] i.e. the three criteria to assess the quality of translation which they are; clarity, Naturalness, and accuracy.

4. Analysis and discussion

Assessing is a linguistic process and procedures to provide the ground for estimating the quality of a translated texts.

The study used the questionnaire and the test to collect and analyze the data. The questionnaire consisted of Demographic information about the sample of the study, see Appendix (A) , while the test included an English military text, to be translated by the subjects. See Appendix(B)

Twenty undergraduate translation students.(12) males ,(8) females, were requested to translate the English military texts within 45 minutes in the class in order to explore the challenges that the participant encounter in translating English Military expressions from English into Arabic. The text was reviewed by a jury from the same Department.

Table (1) represents the demographic information of the sample.

Table(1) Demographic Data of the students

Variant	Level of variable	No	Responses of the sample
Gender	Male	12	60%
	Female	8	40%

year	4th year Translation	20	100%
Age	22 years	17	85%
	23 years	3	15%

The table above indicates that all the subjects are at 4th year level, they studied translation from English into Arabic and versa for three years, (12) males and (8) females were randomly selected to participate in this study , all the participant are native Arabic speakers with second Language, such as Kurdish, Christian, and Yazedi languages.

Table(2), indicates the criteria for assessing the translatability of the samples in translating military terms from English into Arabic.

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
4	3	2	1
Above 85%	70-84%	50-69%	0-49%

To answer the first question of the research: What is the Translatability of 4th year Iraqi translation Students at Translation Department, University of Mosul in rendering military terms from English into Arabic table three shows the results of participants.

Table (3) The results of the students

Number	Grade	Percentage	Gender
1	15	75%	Male
2	17	85%	Female
3	12	60%	Male
4	9	45%	Male
5	10	50%	Female
6	8	40%	Male
7	9	45%	Female
8	8	40%	Female
9	7	35%	Male
10	13	65%	Female
11	6	30%	Male
12	5	25%	Female
13	3	15%	Male
14	9	45%	Male

15	8	40%	Female
16	8	40%	Female
17	12	60%	Male
18	7	35%	Male
19	6	30%	Female
20	11	55%	Male
Total 20	9.15	45.75%	

The above table shows that the Translatability of the student is (45.75%) which is (poor Level).

The researcher adopted Larson's Model (1984/1998) to evaluate the quality of the of translation by the students. The main three criteria based on Larson' strategies to assess the level of the translation, which are, accuracy, clarity and naturalness.

According to here, there are two types of translation; literal Translation which is depended on the form based of, she believes it is non-sense approach, while the second type is the translation based on meaning i.e. idiomatic translation, which according to Larson can convey the intended meaning.

Larson indicates that the clarity can be obtained when the translated text is readable in order to be understood by the recipient, she believes that accuracy can be achieved when translator conveys the similar meaning as the close as possible the S.L meaning without any change like addition or reduction or neglect any information. The third criterion is the naturalness it can be gained by apply same syntactic and lexical rule in target Language.

From the results of the test it is clear to be seen that most of the students failed to A apply all the three criteria adopted by Larson; accuracy, Charity and naturalness, only few student managed to follow the above criteria during the process of rendering the text.

Table (4) Larson's (1984/1998)Model and participant's Answer Percentages.

Translation's Model	Number of Respondents	Percentages
1. Clarity	3	15%
2. Accuracy	5	25%
3.Naturalness	4	20%

Table above Table indicate that a great of the students did not follow the all criteria produced by Larson, which led to poor translations result

To answer the Second question: How could Iraqi Translation's students Translate English military Terminology?

From the analyzing of the data of the research and the result of the test, one can notice that, the respondents have lack of using translation strategies, the main reason was because they didn't tackle translation strategies through their study at the Department, moreover they are not familiar with these techniques of translation. To improve their skills and competence in translating military terminology they have to be well-aquainted with various translating strategies and over comes the challenges, such are syntax and lexical problems.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Military translation has developed through times, it is a branch of technical translation, because it deals with weapons, equipment and sophisticated devices. Military Translator should be skillful and has thorough experience in dealing with military texts translation, because it is the Language of war.

The study attempted to investigate the ability of Iraqi under graduate translation students in translating military terminology, and how could they deal with such problematic issue in translation, in order to overcome the challenges that they may encounter during translating military expressions.

The research used quantitative and qualitative approaches to collect and analyze the data. Questionnaire and test were the main source of the information.

The study adopted the three criterion of translation based on Larson's model, which are clarity, accuracy and naturalness.

The result of the study showed that the translatability of Iraqi translation student at Translation Department, University of Mosul is at poor level.

The study recommend that the curricula of the Iraqi translation Department should include materials on military translation such as

teaching military expressions, military slang language, military abbreviation acronyms, and military neologism.

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Appendix (A)

Dear participant kindly fill in the following Demographic information, for the purposes of the study.

A level of Education

☐

4th Year

B. Gender

Male

☐

Female

☐

C. Age

Appendix(B)

Dear student, you are kindly requested to translate the follow English military text into Arabic for the study purposes.

The field artillery is the Army's fire support branch, the king of battle. It destroys, neutralizes or suppress the enemy by cannon, rocket or missile fire and integrates all supporting fires-field artillery, tactical air, naval guns, army aviation and mortars to combine arms operations. Field artillery puts hell on target in the right places, at the right time, and in the right proportions to assure the success of the maneuver's plan.

تعتبر مدفعية الميدان احد فروع الجيش التي تقدم نيران سائدة وتسمى ((الملك المعركة)). لها قابلية التدمير وتحييد وقمع العدو عن طريق المدافع والصواريخ او اطلاق الصواريخ ودمج جميع نيران الميدان السائدة. مثل المدفعية، الاسلحة الجوية التكتيكية، والمدافع البحرية وطيران الجيش، والهاونات في عمليات الاسلحة المشتركة. ان مدفعية الميدان تصب الفولاذ على الهدف في الاماكن الصحيحة وفي الوقت المناسب، بالنسب الصحيحة لضمان نجاح خطة مناورة القائد.