An Assessment of the Translation of the International Computer Driving License Guide (ICDL) into Arabic

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my wonderful parents, my sister Khadejah, and to my lovely husband Hussein. Thank you all for the unconditional love, guidance and support.
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Abstract


The present study seeks to investigate computer expert users' acceptability and usability of computer translated technical terms in the International Computer Driving License Guide edition 3.0 to assess the translation of the Arabicized version of the Guide. This study can be considered a step toward standardization.

The data were collected by means of a research tool in the form of a written questionnaire. The analysis of the data confirms that most of the technical terms were translated accurately and are accepted and used by the users. Some of these terms were neither translated accurately nor used by the users due to employing inappropriate translation methods and users' unfamiliarity with the Computer's field jargon.

As a result, professional translations have been provided for these technical terms to help computer users to cope with terminology in the computer science field.
Chapter One

Introduction

1.1. Preface

Translation is a process in which translators convey the meanings from the source language text (SLT) into the target language text (TLT). Technical translation deals with technical terms and each field has its own terminology. Technical terms cannot be translated literary. Translating Computer Science (CS) terms from English into Arabic is important to cope with technology and development. Lannon (1979:9) says people are interested in learning about new inventions that will affect their lives. He adds saying that technical translation is needed to inform people about such new inventions. People, who do not know English, have the right to use technology.

A Technical term to Pinchuck (1977: 161-176) is a special type of term. It has some of the characteristics of a name, and it is a kind of label, but it is more than a mere label; it also contains some of the idea for which it stands. What distinguishes a technical language to Pinchuk is its vocabulary.

To translate CS terms, a translator should be familiar with this field's terminology and should use technical dictionaries of the field. Non-technical translators of the CS field may translate MOUSE as
kind of animals whereas technical translators will translate it as one of the computer components. To translate technical terms into the TL, a translator has to be faithful, familiar with the SL technical terms and has to update his knowledge to cope with technical terms that are expanding and changing daily. A translator has to be faithful to the SLT. Lack of knowledge is not an excuse for translators ignore or omit some of the source language's terms. Translators have to produce precise and concise translations.

This study will assess the translation of CS technical terms into Arabic used in the Arabicized International Computer Driving License Guide (AICDLG).

1.2. Review of Related Literature

Awawdeh (1990) states about major problems of scientific-technical translation from English into Arabic in general. He considers technical translation as a challenge to Arabs because of the growth and development of source languages that use technical terms.

Hamdan (1999) believes that thousands of computer terms are still used in English in the Arab world inspite of having Arabic equivalents to them. Standardarized equivalents must be given to these terms.