Problems in Translating English Business Letters into Arabic

By

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Abstract

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This study aims at investigating the translation of English business letters into Arabic. It specifically attempts to identify and categorize the major errors under two categories: lexical and syntactic. For this purpose, eleven English business letters have been translated by fifteen MA students in Translation Program at Yarmouk University.

The error analysis approach was followed to analyze the translations. Errors were identified, defined, categorized, calculated and measured into percentages to pinpoint the most common errors that were committed by the subjects. Corrections of these errors in translations were suggested in order to give scientific and lingual justification entailing why every error was committed by the subjects. The corrections and suggestions were meant to help students and translators to improve future translations.
The analysis of the selected English letters and their translations are further evidence that the subjects suffer from a number of serious lexical and syntactic problems which negatively affect the originally intended message.

The study goes on to conclude a set of findings then to suggest a number of recommendations, which would hopefully help the students to adjust their translations to match those of professional translators.