Conditional Sentences in English and Arabic
A Contrast - Error Analysis for Translation Purposes

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ABSTRACT

Conditionality is a problematic area for translators in both English and Arabic. This study aims at introducing conditional sentences from different aspects to familiarize translators and those interested with this problematic area.

Moreover, this study attempts to compare and contrast conditional sentences in English with their counterparts in Arabic. This comparison and contrast reveals the points of similarity and difference between them. The points of difference may account for the large number of errors which translators commit in the field of conditionality.

This study is supplemented by a test which consists of forty conditional sentences, half of which are in English and the other half in Arabic. A sample of a hundred students of English who were in their fourth year at Yarmouk University were given this test. The students were asked to translate the English sentences into Arabic and the Arabic ones into English. Their answers were corrected and an error analysis approach was adopted to classify these errors and speculate on their causes.

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