Problems of Translating Economic Texts from English into Arabic

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Abstract

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This study aimed to investigate, analyze and account for problems that face translators when translating economic texts from English into Arabic. The data upon which this study is based comprise fifteen economic texts translated into Arabic along with their English sources. All errors were identified in terms of occurrence. Then, they were categorized into: lexical, cultural, metaphorical, cohesion and omission errors. After that, these errors were calculated, analyzed and justified. The justification of the errors was based on specialized dictionaries in the field of economics and other related fields. Two instances exemplifying each category were presented for the purpose of illustrative analysis and explanation. Each of them is followed with a suggested translation by the researcher. The results of the study showed that 37% of the total 294 erroneous instances of the study were lexical errors. The results also showed that cultural, metaphorical, cohesion errors and omissions were 15%, 4%, 35% and 9%, respectively. Seventy eight percent of lexical errors were technical vocabulary while the other 22% were general vocabulary items. Cultural errors were found in three subcategories, 59% were concepts, 35% were measures and numbers and the rest 6% were beliefs.

Key words: Problems, Translating, Economic, Texts, English and Arabic.