Translation of Arabic Legal Documents into English: A Semiotic Analysis of the Translation of the Saudi "Basic Law of Governance"

Noha Alowedi[1]

Abstract

The present study seeks to analyze English translation of the Arabic legal document of the Saudi "Basic Law of Governance". The aim is to evaluate the accuracy of maintaining the semiotic relations connecting the signifier to the signified within the corresponding seme or sign, with respect to the Arabic context and Saudi culture. The English translation output is assessed against the Arabic original document in terms of using the most appropriate lexicon and word order. This study adopts a semiotic approach to analyze the designated legal document. By adapting some principal propositions in semiotics, the argument in this study speculates that the best translation quality can be achieved via meta-lingual adjustment, because a sign is not born with a specific meaning but can change its referent by the existence of adjacent signs, i.e., its collocates. The study also shows that semiotic analysis can help in revealing how the translation of legal documents can perpetuate certain ideas and beliefs while ignoring others. Therefore, the translation of a legal document is held critical and sometimes dangerous if it did not serve the same purpose of communication of the original document.

Keywords Semiotic analysis · Semiotics of law · Socio-semiotics · Arabic–English translation · Collocation · Legal document · Saudi law · Legal translation

1 Introduction

As several scholars [1, 2] point out, translation of a legal text should exert the same effects in the target legal system as it does in the source legal system. That ambition makes legal translators' work particularly complicated as they not only need to

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English To Arabic Legal Documents Translation

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English To Arabic Legal Documents Translation:

Arabic-English-Arabic Legal Translation Hanem El-Farahaty,2015-05-12 Arabic English Arabic Legal Translation provides a groundbreaking investigation of the issues found in legal translation between Arabic and English Drawing on a contrastive comparative approach it analyses parallel authentic legal documents in both Arabic and English to examine the features of legal discourse in both languages and uncover the different translation techniques used In so doing it addresses the following questions What are the features of English and Arabic legal texts What are the similarities and differences of English and Arabic legal texts What are the difficult areas of legal translation between English and Arabic legal texts What are the techniques for translating these difficult areas on the lexical and syntactic levels Features include A thorough description of the features of legal translation in both English and Arabic drawing on empirical new research corpus data analysis and strategic two way comparisons between source texts and target texts Coverage of a broad range of topics including an outline of the chosen framework for data analysis a historical survey of legal discourse developments in both Arabic and English and detailed analyses of legal literature at both the lexical and syntactic levels Attention to common areas of difficulty such as Shariah Law terms archaic terms and model auxiliaries Many examples and excerpts from a wide selection of authentic legal documents reinforced by practical discussion points exercises and practice drills to encourage active engagement with the material and opportunities for hands on learning Wide ranging scholarly and thought provoking this will be a valuable resource for advanced undergraduates and postgraduates on Arabic Translation Studies and Comparative Linguistics courses It will also be essential reading for translation professionals and researchers working in the field

Issues in Arabic Legal Translation Sonia A. Halimi,Djamel Goui,2025-03-10 This edited collection provides an insightful study of the state of the art in legal translation It not only presents the latest research on legal translation pragmatics terminology and intercultural communication but also delivers an account of the situation of legal translation in a selection of Arabic speaking countries representing the four regions of the Arab world in an attempt to show when and how legal translation is done The collection also portrays translation situations in the international arena with two case studies the United Nations setting and the Arabic translation of the American Constitution The book chapters explore the dynamic relationship between language and the law in a variety of legal settings where the cultural landscape historical background and social dynamics determine the act of translation This collection is a valuable source of information for professionals and students of Arabic legal translation linguists practitioners and academics **Advanced English-Arabic Translation** El Mustapha Lahlali,2014-03-24 This clearly structured guide will help learners who already have a basic grasp of Arabic to hone their translation skills The texts chosen for translation exercises have been carefully selected from a variety of authentic contemporary texts across a broad range of genres **The Routledge Course on Media, Legal and Technical Translation** Mahmoud Altarabin,2020-10-26 The Routledge Course on Media Legal and Technical Translation English Arabic

English is an indispensable and engaging coursebook for university students wishing to develop their English Arabic English translation skills in these three text types Taking a practical approach the book introduces Arab translation students to common translation strategies in addition to the linguistic syntactic and stylistic features of media legal and technical texts This book features texts carefully selected for their technical relevance The key features include comprehensive four chapters covering media legal and technical texts which are of immense importance to Arab translation students detailed and clear explanations of the lexical syntactic and stylistic features of English and Arabic media legal and technical texts up to date and practical translation examples in both directions offering students actual experiences of professional translators authentic texts extracted from various sources to promote students familiarity with language features and use extensive range of exercises following each section of the book to enable students to test and practice the knowledge and skills they developed from reading previous sections glossaries following most exercises containing the translation of difficult words and a list of recommended readings following each chapter The easy practical and comprehensive approach adopted in the book makes it a must have coursebook for intermediate and advanced students studying translation between English and Arabic University instructors and professional translators working on translation between English and Arabic will find this book particularly useful **Analysing English-Arabic Machine Translation** Zakaryia Almahasees,2021-11-29 Machine Translation MT has become widely used throughout the world as a medium of communication between those who live in different countries and speak different languages However translation between distant languages constitutes a challenge for machines Therefore translation evaluation is poised to play a significant role in the process of designing and developing effective MT systems This book evaluates three prominent MT systems including Google Translate Microsoft Translator and Sakhr each of which provides translation between English and Arabic In the book Almahasees scrutinizes the capacity of the three systems in dealing with translation between English and Arabic in a large corpus taken from various domains including the United Nation UN the World Health Organization WHO the Arab League Petra News Agency reports and two literary texts The Old Man and the Sea and The Prophet The evaluation covers holistic analysis to assess the output of the three systems in terms of Translation Automation User Society TAUS adequacy and fluency scales The text also looks at error analysis to evaluate the systems output in terms of orthography lexis grammar and semantics at the entire text level and in terms of lexis grammar and semantics at the collocation level The research findings contained within this volume provide important feedback about the capabilities of the three MT systems with respect to EnglishArabic translation and paves the way for further research on such an important topic This book will be of interest to scholars and students of translation studies and translation technology **Arabic Materials in English Translation** Margaret Anderson,1980 This bibliography of over 1600 items represents for the most part English language translations of original Arabic works A few of the transaltions listed here most notably of those of writings by Hippocrates Aristotle and Galen are not originally Arabic but

are translations made of Arabic editions The aim of the compilaiton is two fold first to provide both students and the general public with an interest in the Arab world but with little or no facility in the Arabic language as full a listing of translated Arabic materials as possible and also to provide for those doing research in such fields as history and history of science political science comparative religion comparative literature and law and touching on the Arab world only occasionally with a partial substitute for the original materials whose language they have had no previous need to master **Aliran dan perkembangan semasa dalam bidang penterjemahan** ,1993 *Artificial Intelligence and Its Practical Applications in the Digital Economy* Yahya Mohamed Elhadj,Mohamedade Farouk Nanne,Anis Koubaa,Farid Meziane,Mohamed Deriche,2024-12-17 Artificial Intelligence AI technologies hold immense promise for developing countries by offering innovative solutions to longstanding challenges By leveraging AI in health care education economic development infrastructure and resource management these countries can potentially leapfrog traditional development stages and improve the quality of life for their populations However it s essential to approach AI deployment with ethical considerations to ensure that the technology serves the best interests of these communities and thus to maximize the expected benefits The I2COMSAPP 24 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and its Applications in the Age of Digital Transformation aims to provide an excellent opportunity to gather experts researchers practitioners and innovators from various fields to explore the latest advancements challenges and practical implementations of artificial intelligence and machine learning ML technologies Moreover it aims to foster knowledge sharing collaboration and networking among professionals who are driving responsible and innovative use of AI and leveraging real world applications for the betterment of society and industries Babel ,1997 **The British Library General Catalogue of Printed Books, 1986 to 1987** British Library,1988 *Translation Studies Abstracts* ,2000 2004, / Language International ,2002 *Studies in Islamic Law and Society* ,1996 *National Union Catalog* ,1973 Includes entries for maps and atlases **Martindale-Hubbell International Law Directory** ,1994 *The Solicitors' and Barristers' Directory and Diary* ,1989 **Catalogue** Bernard Quaritch (Firm),1907 **British and Foreign State Papers** Great Britain. Foreign Office,Great Britain. Foreign and Commonwealth Office,1904 Index Islamicus ,1981 A bibliography of books and index of articles in periodicals on Islam and the Muslim world Also includes reviews

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