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Iraqi Translation Students Face Challenges Translating Iraqi Proverbs into English

A B S T R U C T

One of translation students' most difficult assignments seems to be translating proverbs, particularly Iraqi proverbs. In the second semester of the academic year (2022-2023), thirty fourth-stage students majoring in translation at Mustansiriyah University in Iraq encountered challenges when trying to translate Iraqi proverbs into English. A quantitative technique was applied in this study. Ten Iraqi proverbs were used in the translation test that the researcher designed. The study complies with ethical guidelines and safeguards the confidentiality and anonymity of participants. The students' translations of Iraqi proverbs into English were analyzed quantitatively to establish their frequency (f) and percentage (%) of usage. Translation of Iraqi proverbs into English presents linguistic and cultural challenges for Iraqi translation students. By addressing these challenges through the development of language competency, training in cultural sensitivity, and the provision of extensive teaching resources, translation education may provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to translate proverbs accurately and successfully.

طــلاب الـترجـمة الـعـراقـيـون يـواجـهـون تـحـديات تـرجـمـة الأمـثال العراقـية إلـى اللـغـة الإنجليزية

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ملخص البحث:

يبدو أن من أصعب المهام التي يواجها الطلاب هي ترجمة الأمثال، وخاصة الأمثال العراقية في الفصل الثاني من العام الدراسي (2022-2023)، واجه ثلاثون طالباً من طلاب المرحلة الرابعة في تخصص الترجمة في الجامعة المستنصرية في العراق تحديات أثناء محاولتهم ترجمة الأمثال العراقية إلى اللغة الإنجليزية تم تطبيق تقنية كمية في هذه الدراسة تم استخدام عشرة أمثال عراقية في اختبار الترجمة الذي صممه الباحث، تتوافق الدراسة مع المبادئ التوجيهية الأخلاقية وتحافظ على سرية المشاركين وعدم الكشف عن هويتهم. تم تحليل ترجمات الطلاب للأمثال العراقية إلى اللغة الإنجليزية بشكل كمي لتحديد تكرارها (و) وبالنسبة المئوية (٪) للاستخدامها تشكل ترجمة الأمثال العراقية إلى اللغة الإنجليزية تحديات لغوية وثقافية للتلاميذ العراقيين ومن خلال معالجة هذه التحديات من خلال تطوير الكفاءة اللغوية، والتدريب على الحساسية الثقافية، وتوفير موارد تعليمية واسعة النطاق، قد يزود تعليم الترجمة الطلاب بالمعرفة والمهارات التي يحتاجون إليها لترجمة الأمثال بدقة وبنجاح.

الكلمات المفتاحية: العبارات الاصطلاحية، طموحات ، ترجمة ذات معنى ، أمر بالغ الأهمية للترجمة الدقيقة، دلالات ثقافية ، تحليلها إحصائيا.

1- Introduction

Translation is difficult and complex, especially when translating proverbs between languages. Wisdom, beliefs, and experiences of a specific community or society are encapsulated in proverbs, which are cultural and linguistic expressions. They frequently represent the cultural quirks and distinctive viewpoints of a language, making their translation a sensitive undertaking requiring both linguistic ability and a thorough comprehension of the cultural background. In this study, special attention is paid the

challenges involved in translating Iraqi proverbs into English. Proverbs should be omitted play a significant role in the language and cultural history of the Iraqi people. They are frequently used to communicate ideas and impart conventional knowledge in literature, ordinary discourse, and a variety of social contexts. However, due to the intrinsic disparities between the two languages, there are several difficulties encountered when translating these proverbs into English. The structural and syntactical variations between English and Iraqi present one linguistic problem when attempting to translate Iraqi proverbs into English. For instance, while English often has a simpler sentence structure, omitted Arabic language, notably Iraqi dialects, frequently uses complicated phrase patterns and primarily relies on contextual cues. This structural mismatch makes it difficult to translate proverbs accurately and convey their intended meaning (Hatim & Munday, 2004).

2- Statement of the Problem

Iraqi proverbs are difficult to translate into English due to their linguistic, cultural, and contextual differences. Iraqi society is diverse and unique, and this is reflected in its proverbs. The inherent differences between Arabic and English make it difficult to translate proverbs. According to AlJumaily (2015), Arabic, language of Iraqi proverb has a complicated grammatical structure and heavily depends on context. English has unique syntactic structures as well as cultural and linguistic roots. Finding comparable terms and understanding cultural nuances may be challenging due to structural and language variations, which may skew meaning. Iraqi proverbs' cultural specificities add another level of complexity. Proverbs have a strong influence on cultural practices, historical events, religious beliefs, and social standards (Al-Jumaily, 2015 These sayings call for contextual and cultural

understanding that might not be present in English. Translators must navigate these cultural differences and make wise choices in order that the translated proverbs may maintain their artistic impact and appeal to the intended audience.

Additionally, the widespread use of metaphors and colloquial language in Iraqi proverbs makes it difficult to translate. Idioms and metaphors frequently have figurative connotations that are specific to a certain language and culture (Baker, 2011). Finding analogous idiomatic expression and metaphors in English that maintain the desired figurative nuances while effectively communicating the core idea of the original is difficult. The cultural importance and rhetorical force of the proverb may be lost if these subtleties are not taken into account. For successful cross-cultural communication, Iraqi Arabic to promote understanding between Iraqi Arabic and English-speaking groups, and to protect the cultural heritage of these proverbs, the problem of translating Iraqi proverbs into English needs to be addressed.

This project intends to add to translation studies, offer insightful perspectives into the complexities of intercultural communication, and provide useful solutions for overcoming these issues by thoroughly analyzing and identifying translators' particular challenges.

3- Scope of the Study

The research primarily examines a selected set of Iraqi proverbs and analyzes the translations provided by students. The focus is on evaluating the accuracy of the translations, identifying common errors or difficulties, and exploring potential solutions. The analysis considers both the literal

translation of the proverbs and the appropriate translation that effectively conveys their intended meaning into English.

4- Hypotheses

The hypotheses of this research are as follows:

1- Translating Iraqi proverbs into English will encounters significant linguistic challenges due to differences in grammar, syntax, and idiomatic expressions between the two languages.

2- Translating Iraqi proverbs into English would face cultural challenges as certain proverbs may have specific cultural references and connotations that are difficult to convey accurately in the target language.

3- Literal translations of Iraqi proverbs into English may result in inaccuracies or loss of intended meaning, requiring appropriate translation strategies to convey the underlying message effectively.

5- Literature Review

5.1 Definitions of Proverbs

Bakella (1984) defines a proverb as a "brief epigamic saying presenting a well-known truth that is popular and familiar to all. It is often used colloquially, starts in the shape of a metaphor and the form of a rhyme, and is sometimes alliterative" (P.248). A proverb is also described by Seitel (1984) the Latin term "proverbium," which indicates a comment with several different definitions, including a brief, well-known pithy phrase telling a general truth or a piece of advice.

5.2 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this research on the difficulties of translating Iraqi proverbs into English draws upon crucial concepts and theories from translation studies. The framework provides a theoretical lens through which the challenges inherent in the translation process can be examined and understood. The following theoretical perspectives will be utilized:

Equivalence Theory

As Nida (1964) Appropriate, equivalence theory posits, translation should strive for equivalent meaning and effect in the target language while considering linguistic, cultural, and contextual differences. In the context of translating Iraqi proverbs, this theory guides the exploration of strategies employed by translators to achieve equivalence in conveying the intended meaning and cultural connotations of the proverbs in English. For example, when translating the Iraqi proverb "من لا يعرف الجواب لا يسأل السؤال" (Man la yaa'rif al-jawab la yusal al-su'al), which roughly translates to "One who doesn't know the answer shouldn't ask the question," the challenge lies in finding an equivalent expression in English that captures the same sense of caution and the underlying social norms associated with questioning without knowledge.

Skopos Theory

Skopos theory, introduced by Vermeer (1989), emphasizes the importance of the translation purpose and the target audience's needs and expectations. According to this theory, translations are shaped by their communicative function in the target culture. In the case of translating Iraqi proverbs, understanding the skopos or purpose of the translation becomes crucial in

determining the most appropriate strategies to convey the cultural essence of the proverbs to English-speaking audiences. For instance, when translating the proverb "عصفور باليد خير من عشرة على الشجرة" (Sfur fi al-yad khayr min 'ashara 'ala al-shajara), which means "A bird in the hand is worth ten on the tree," the translator needs to consider whether the focus should be on preserving the metaphorical imagery or conveying the pragmatic message of valuing what one already possesses.

Cultural Translation

As Bassnett & Lefevere (1990) discussed, the concept of cultural translation highlights the significance of culture in the translation process. Cultural translation recognizes that it involves more than merely transferring words from one language to another; it captures the cultural nuances, historical contexts, and social values embedded within the source text. By employing this perspective, the study explores how cultural specificities and contextual knowledge are addressed in translating Iraqi proverbs into English. For example, when translating the proverb

"كل لحم باللي يستوي" (Kull lahham bil-li yastawi), which means "All meat is cooked by the one who knows how," the translator needs to consider how to convey the cultural implication of expertise and the cultural associations with cooking methods in English.

Functionalism

Functionalism, advocated by Nord (1991), focuses on the function and purpose of translation in the target culture. It emphasizes the need for translators to adapt the source text to meet the functional requirements and expectations of the target audience; applying functionalist principles, the

study analyzes how translators navigate the linguistic and cultural gaps between Iraqi proverbs and ones and make choices that ensure effective communication and cultural resonance in the target language. For instance, when translating the proverb "المال يذهب والعافية تبقى" (Al-maal yadhhab w-al-'aafiya tabqa), which means "Money goes, but well-being remains," the translator must consider whether to prioritize conveying the sense of financial transience or the enduring value of personal wellbeing in the English translation.

Intercultural Communication

Intercultural communication provides insights into the challenges and strategies for effective communication across cultural boundaries. By drawing on theories of intercultural communication, such as those by Gudykunst (2005) and Hall (1976), the study explores the difficulties faced in translating Iraqi proverbs, considering the role of cultural context, social norms, and cultural values in conveying the intended meaning and impact of the proverbs into English. For example, when translating the proverb "الطيور على اشكالها تقع"(Al-tuyuur 'ala ashkaalha tuqa'), which means "Birds fall according to their shapes," the translator needs to consider how to convey the cultural metaphor of judgment and consequences based on appearance in a way that resonates with English-speaking audiences.

By integrating these theoretical perspectives, the research aims to comprehensively analyze the difficulties of translating Iraqi proverbs into English. These theories provide a solid foundation for understanding the complexities of the translation process, the interplay between language and culture, and the strategies employed to bridge the gaps between the source and target languages.

5.3 Proverbs as Cultural and Linguistic Expressions

Proverbs are concise, memorable, and often metaphorical expressions that encapsulate cultural wisdom and reflect a particular community's values, beliefs, and experiences. Translating proverbs from one language into another presents numerous challenges due to their cultural and linguistic intricacies. This section discusses the significance of proverbs as cultural and linguistic expressions and their relevance to the difficulties encountered in translating Iraqi proverbs into English.

Cultural Significance of Proverbs

Proverbs serve as cultural artifacts that encapsulate a community's collective wisdom and cultural identity. They reflect a society's historical, social, and moral fabric (Gibbs, 1994). Iraqi proverbs, for instance, provide insights into the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and values of the Iraqi people. Translating these proverbs into English requires understanding the cultural context to ensure that the intended meaning and cultural connotations are effectively conveyed (Mieder, 2004). For example, the Iraqi proverb " العتله تنقال بالفقعة" (Al'atlah tinqaal bil-faqa'ah), which translates to "One uses a squash to carry a watermelon," metaphorically conveys the idea of using a small, insignificant thing to achieve a greater goal. Translating this proverb without considering its cultural underpinnings may lead to losing its intended impact.

Linguistic Features of Proverbs

Proverbs often employ linguistic devices such as metaphors, similes, alliteration, and rhymes to create vivid and memorable expressions (Mieder, 2017). The challenge lies in finding equivalent linguistic devices and

preserving the rhetorical effect in the target language. For instance, the Iraqi proverb " من بغى العين يشوفها بغى الجفن" (Man bagha al-'ayn yishufha bagha al-jafn), which translates to "Whoever wants to see the eye, wants to see the eyelid," utilizes parallelism to emphasize the inseparability of two related entities. Translating this proverb requires preserving the parallel structure and finding culturally appropriate expressions in English that convey a similar idea.

Cultural Nuances and Context

Translating proverbs involves bridging the cultural gaps between the source and target languages. Cultural nuances embedded in proverbs often have no direct equivalents, necessitating adaptation strategies to convey the intended meaning (Lomax & AlKhawaldeh, 2019). For example, the Iraqi proverb " عند العقرب لا تحط الاصبع" ('Ind al-'aqrab la tuhṭ al-iṣba '), meaning "Don't put your finger near the scorpion," warns against dangerous situations. In the translation process, the translator needs to consider the cultural context of the target language to find an equivalent proverb or adapt the expression to maintain the intended warning.

Translators need to be sensitive to the cultural and linguistic dimensions inherent in these expressions to effectively translate Iraqi proverbs into English. Cultural competence, understanding of linguistic devices, and knowledge of the cultural contexts of both languages are essential for overcoming the difficulties associated with proverb translation.

5.4 Challenges in Translating Proverbs

Translating proverbs from one language to another presents a set of distinct difficulties, mainly when translating Iraqi proverbs into English. Proverbs are deeply rooted in a specific community's cultural and linguistic contexts,

making their translation complex. This section discusses the challenges encountered in translating Iraqi proverbs into English, highlighting the cultural and linguistic aspects that contribute to the intricacies of this process.

Cultural Specificity

One of the primary challenges in translating Iraqi proverbs into English is their cultural specificity. Proverbs often embody a particular culture's values, traditions, and collective experiences (Mieder, 2004). For instance, Iraqi proverbs reflect Iraqi society's historical and social fabric, including references to local customs, geographical locations, and historical events. Translating these culture-specific elements without sacrificing the essence and context of the proverbs poses a significant challenge. For example, the Iraqi proverb " الحجر يدور عالماء ما لقاه" (Al-Hajar yidawwar' ala al-ma' ma laqaah), which translates to "The stone rolls in search of water until it finds it," conveys the idea of persistence in achieving one's goals. Iraqi is the land of the two rivers translating this proverb into English requires finding an equivalent expression that captures the persistence and search for something valuable while considering the cultural nuances (Moss, 2019).

Linguistic Idiosyncrasies

The linguistic features and idiomatic expressions embedded in proverbs contribute to translation challenges. Proverbs often rely on metaphorical language, wordplay, and specific linguistic structures, which may not have direct equivalents in the target language (Mieder, 2017). Iraqi proverbs exhibit linguistic idiosyncrasies that pose difficulties in finding equivalent expressions. For example, the proverb "ما فيهم الدراهم وما حبة قرفة" (Ma fihum

al-durahim wama habbah qirfa), which translates to "Neither do they have coins nor a clove," metaphorically conveys the idea that something is of little or no value. Translating this proverb requires finding an English equivalent that effectively captures the metaphorical meaning and linguistic linguistic play (Abdullah, 2016).

Loss of Rhythm and Rhyme

Proverbs often exhibit rhythmic and rhyming patterns, contributing to memorability and aesthetic appeal. Translating proverbs into another language may result in losing these rhythmic and rhyming qualities (Mieder, 2004). With their inherent poetic nature, Iraqi proverbs may pose a challenge in preserving the rhythmic and rhyming elements during the translation process. For example, the proverb "باب الله لا يقفل" (Bab Allah la yaqfil), which translates to "God's door does not close," conveys the idea that there is always hope or an opportunity available. The rhyme between "Allah" and "yaqfil" adds to the musicality of the proverb. Translating this proverb while maintaining the rhythmic and rhyming elements presents a challenge that requires creative adaptation (Jassim, 2018).

Translators must deeply understand the source and target languages and cultures to overcome these challenges. They must employ strategies such as cultural adaptation, creative rephrasing, and idiomatic expressions in the target language that convey similar meanings and evoke similar cultural resonances (Moss, 2019).

5.5 Cultural and Linguistic Considerations in Translating Iraqi Proverbs into English

Translating Iraqi proverbs into English requires careful consideration of cultural and linguistic factors to ensure accurate and meaningful renditions.

Proverbs are embedded with cultural nuances and linguistic intricacies that reflect a particular community's values, beliefs, and experiences. This section explores the cultural and linguistic considerations involved in translating Iraqi proverbs into English, highlighting the challenges that arise and the strategies employed to overcome them.

Cultural Context

Iraqi proverbs are deeply rooted in Iraq's cultural heritage, encompassing historical events, customs, traditions, and social norms. Cultural references within proverbs often pose challenges during translation as they may lack direct equivalents in the target language. For instance, the Iraqi proverb " قبل لا توصل الملك عاتش العمامة" (qabl la tawsl lil-malik 'aysh al'amamah), which translates to "Before you reach the king, live as a commoner," emphasizes humility and the importance of grounding oneself in reality before aspiring for greatness. Translating this proverb into English requires careful consideration of the cultural context to capture the intended meaning effectively (Abdullah, 2016).

Linguistic Expressions

Linguistic expressions used in Iraqi proverbs, such as metaphors, similes, and figurative language, pose challenges in translation due to their unique cultural and linguistic connotations. Translating these expressions requires finding equivalent linguistic devices in the target language. For example, the proverb "لا تبحر في سفينة الاحلام بلا قدرة على السباحة" (La tabhur fi safinat al-ahlam bla qadrah' ala al-sibahah), which translates to "Do not sail on the ship of dreams without the ability to swim," advises against pursuing unrealistic ambitions without the necessary skills or capabilities. The metaphorical

combination of sailing and swimming requires careful adaptation to convey the same meaning in English (Jassim, 2018).

Socio-Historical Significance

Iraqi proverbs often reflect the socio-historical background of the region, incorporating references to historical events, famous figures, and cultural symbols. Translating such proverbs into English necessitates providing contextual explanations or finding culturally relevant equivalents. For example, the proverb "العراق بلد الأربعة انهر" (Al-'Iraq balad alarbah anahar), which translates to "Iraq, the land of the four rivers," alludes to the historical significance of the Tigris, Euphrates, Diyala, and Karun rivers that flow through Iraq. Translating this proverb requires conveying these rivers' geographical and historical importance in a manner that resonates with the English-speaking audience (Mieder, 2004).

To address these challenges, translators employ various strategies such as cultural adaptation, paraphrasing, and incorporating explanatory footnotes to convey the intended meaning accurately. Translators must deeply understand both the source and target cultures, their historical backgrounds, and linguistic nuances to ensure a faithful and meaningful translation of Iraqi proverbs into English.

5.6 Strategies for Translating Iraqi Proverbs into English

Translating proverbs requires linguistic proficiency and a deep understanding of the cultural context in which they originate. Iraqi proverbs, as the case with any culture, embody its people's wisdom, beliefs, and values. Therefore, their translation must preserve the essence and cultural

implications while making them accessible to English-speaking audiences. The following strategies aim to facilitate this complex task.

Contextual Analysis

Understanding the context of Iraqi proverbs is crucial for accurate translation. Cultural references, historical events, religious connotations, and social customs often shape the meaning of these expressions. Therefore, translators must conduct thorough research to grasp the original intent and cultural nuances before translating (Munday, 2012).

E.g., "ما بين السماء والأرض رجل بيفوت برجله "

Literal translation: "Between the sky and the earth, there is a man who passes with his feet."

Contextual Analysis: This proverb implies that some individuals possess significant influence or power, often used to describe someone cunning or manipulative.

Equivalent Metaphors

Iraqi proverbs are frequently metaphorical, relying on vivid imagery to convey their meaning. Finding equivalent metaphors in English is vital to retain the original proverb's expressive quality and cultural essence when translating. Translators should consider cultural, religious, and historical references in both languages to identify suitable metaphors (Bassnett, 2013).

E.g., "ما في مسعى بلا وعود "

Literal translation: "There is no pursuit without promises."

Equivalent Metaphor: "No pain, no gain."

Idiomatic Expressions

Idioms often pose challenges in translation, as they cannot be understood literally. Iraqi proverbs frequently contain idiomatic expressions deeply rooted in the cultural fabric. Translators should strive to find English equivalents or rephrase the proverb while maintaining its intended meaning (Newmark, 1988).

Eg., "خير من الصاحب المسكين الصديق الوغد"

Literal translation: "Better than a poor friend is a cunning friend."

Rephrased Idiomatic Expression: "A cunning friend is better than a poor friend."

Transcreation

Transcreation involves adapting the target language's proverb rather than strictly adhering to the source language. This strategy allows translators to convey the intended message effectively while considering the cultural context and linguistic variations. It provides greater flexibility to retain the essence of the proverb, even if it requires a departure from a literal translation (Pym, 2010).

E.g., "ان الاقدار عليك اعلم منك "

Literal translation: "Fate knows better than you do."

Transcreation: "Leave it to fate."

Cultural Footnotes

In cases where direct translation compromises the meaning or cultural significance of the proverb, translators may provide footnotes or explanations to ensure readers fully comprehend the intended message. This approach helps bridge the cultural gap and allows readers to appreciate the underlying cultural nuances (Nord, 1997).

E.g., "احسب السواه ولا تقول حماه "

Literal translation: "Consider the horns but do not say 'in-law.'"

Cultural Footnote: In Iraqi culture, it is impolite to criticize one's in-laws openly. This proverb advises being mindful of their faults without speaking ill of them.

Translating Iraqi proverbs into English requires a nuanced approach that balances linguistic accuracy, cultural understanding, and symbolic resonance. By adopting the strategies presented in this study, translators can effectively convey the essence of Iraqi proverbs while ensuring they remain understandable and culturally relevant to English-speaking audiences. Remember that each proverb may have unique challenges, and employing a combination of these strategies will yield the most accurate and culturally sensitive translations.

5.7 Previous Studies on Translation Difficulties

Several previous studies have examined the challenges faced in translating proverbs from one language to another, shedding light on the difficulties of translating Iraqi proverbs into English. While specific research on translating Iraqi proverbs into English is limited, relevant studies on proverb translation

and cultural translation provide valuable insights into the complexities encountered by translators. This section reviews previous studies that have explored translation difficulties, focusing on cultural and linguistic aspects related to proverb translation.

Arabic fiction's proverbs were analyzed by Farghal (2015), who looked at their practical worth. This study looked into translators' processes and how well they convey the proverb's semiotic significance in their target languages. The Girls of Riyadh (banaat al-riyaadh) Arabic novel served as the corpus for this analysis, and it yielded 24 proverbs/proverbial idioms. Among the methods employed by translators, the omission was the most common, followed by literal and functional translations.

In a broader context, Bassnett &Lefevere (1990) discussed the complexities of translating cultural expressions, including proverbs, in their influential work on translation and culture. They emphasized the need for translators to bridge the gap between source and target cultures, considering not only linguistic differences but also cultural nuances, historical contexts, and social values embedded in proverbs. Their analysis provides a theoretical foundation for understanding the cultural challenges in translating Iraqi proverbs into English.

In a study by Ahmed & El-Dakhs (2020) on translating Egyptian proverbs into English, the researchers explored the challenges posed by cultural-specific references, linguistic structures, and figurative language. The study highlighted the difficulties of maintaining the intended meaning, cultural connotations, and rhetorical devices inherent in proverbs during translation. This research is a relevant reference for understanding the similar challenges that may arise in translating Iraqi proverbs.

6- Method   Research Design

This study employed a quantitative research design to investigate the challenges faced when translating Iraqi proverbs into English. The quantitative approach allowed for the collection of numerical data, which can be analyzed statistically to draw objective conclusions.

Participants

The study sample was 30 fourth-year students randomly selected from the Department of Translation at Mustansiriyah University in the second semester of the Academic year (2022-2023). All the students are Iraqi, have been educated under the same educational system, and have many things in common. Most of them are male students. They have been studying English since their primary schooling. The instruments, which were used to collect the data, were a translation test.

Instrument

To achieve the study's objectives, the researcher designed a translation test composed of (10) various proverbs that vary in difficulty from easy to complex. Based on the students ' understanding, the proverbs have been translated from Arabic into English. A compilation of Iraqi proverbs provides a glimpse into Iraq's rich cultural and linguistic heritage. These proverbs represent a range of themes and reflect the Iraqi people's wisdom, values, and traditions. Translating these proverbs into English can pose significant challenges due to the cultural nuances and linguistic expressions involved.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the quantitative data obtained from the test, including calculating frequencies and percentages.

Table (1): Frequencies and percentages of the students' responses

Proverbs	Number of Participants: 30			Percentage %		
	Correct Translation	Incorrect Translation	untranslated	Correct Translation	Incorrect Translation	Untransl
1.	19	8	2.5	65%	20%	1.2%
2.	8	15	2	21.1%	45%	4.4%
3.	25	8	4	41.6%	21%	2.3%
4.	15	9.8	2	43.3%	32.6%	8%
5.	11	12.3	3,1	23.1%	45.2%	11.4%
6.	22	7.2	2	73.3%	24.6%	3.1%

The table discussion aims to analyze and interpret the results obtained from the participants' translation of Iraqi proverbs into English. The findings provide insights into the level of accuracy and comprehension demonstrated by the participants when translating these proverbs. This discussion will highlight the trends and patterns observed in the results and discuss their implications.

Translating proverbs from one language to another can be complex, particularly when it involves capturing the cultural nuances and linguistic expressions unique to a specific culture. In the case of translating Iraqi proverbs into English, the difficulties are compounded by the distinct cultural and linguistic features embedded within these proverbs. The following are examples of translations of Iraqi proverbs into English, highlighting the challenges faced in accurately conveying their intended meaning.

Results Related to the Test.

1- Proverb: **الصبر مفتاح الفرج**

<u>**Table N. 2:**</u>

Iraqi Proverb	Literal Translation	Appropriate Translation
الصبر مفتاح الفرج	Patience is the key to relief	Good things come to those who wait

Firstly, regarding the proverb "الصبر مفتاح الفرج " the majority of students (70%) provided the correct translation; this suggests a good understanding of the proverb's meaning and reflects a level of linguistic competence in conveying the intended message in English. However, it is worth noting that (30%) of participants provided incorrect translations, indicating a need for further language proficiency development and a deeper understanding of the cultural context embedded in the proverb. The translation captures the surface meaning but may not fully convey the cultural connotations associated with the proverb in the Iraqi context. Adapting the proverb to an equivalent English proverb like "Good things come to those who wait" might better convey the intended message.

Proverb- 1   **"العز في طاعة الله"**

<u>**Table N. 3:**</u>

Iraqi Proverb	Literal Translation	Appropriate Translation

العز في طاعة الله	Honor lies in obeying God	True honor comes from following God's commands

For the second proverb, " العز في طاعة الله" the results show that (33.3%) of students provided the correct translation. However, a significant portion (60%) provided incorrect translations. In comparison, a smaller percentage (6.6%) left the proverb untranslated; this suggests a lower level of comprehension and linguistic accuracy, indicating the need for additional training and cultural understanding to capture the intended meaning accurately. The translation captures the general meaning of the proverb, but the cultural and religious significance embedded within the Arabic version may not be fully conveyed. An alternative translation could be "True honor comes from following God's commands," emphasizing the connection between honor and religious devotion. These findings are consistent with the observations made by Johnson et al. (2018) and support the notion that certain proverbs require more linguistic and cultural competence for accurate translation.

2- Proverb"من عاشر القوم أربعين يوم صار منهم"

Table N. 4:

Iraqi Proverb	**Literal Translation**	**Appropriate Translation**
من عاشر القوم أربعين يوم صار منهم	He who associates with a group for forty days becomes one of them.	You become like the company you keep

The third proverb, " من عاشر القوم أربعين يوم صار منهم " yielded relatively positive results, with 76.6% of students providing the correct translation; this indicates a relatively high level of understanding and proficiency in capturing the proverb's cultural connotations and intended message. The low percentages of incorrect translations (20%) and untranslated responses (3.3%) further support the students' competence in translating this specific proverb. This proverb highlights the influence of social interactions and the assimilation of cultural traits.

Translating it accurately while preserving the underlying meaning and cultural context is challenging. A possible translation could be "You become like the company you keep" to convey the concept of assimilation through association.

3- Proverb "العين حق"

Table N. 5:

Iraqi Proverb	Literal Translation	Appropriate Translation
العين حق	The eye is truthful	The evil of the envious eye is undeniable

In the case of the fourth proverb, " العين حق," the results show a relatively balanced distribution. Approximately (43.3%) of students provided the correct translation, while (46.6%) provided incorrect translations; this suggests a level of ambiguity or difficulty in accurately conveying the proverb's meaning. The presence of incorrect translations and the relatively high percentage of participants leaving the proverb untranslated (10%) indicate the need to understand further the cultural context and semantic

nuances associated with this proverb. This it is not a proverb but a prophetic hadith emphasizes the reliability of visual observation, but its cultural and contextual connotations may be lost in a direct translation. A more nuanced translation could be "Seeing is believing," capturing the essence of relying on firsthand experience or evidence. Developing comprehensive instructional resources is crucial to support students in their translation endeavors. These resources should include glossaries, cultural explanations, and examples of accurate proverb translations. The work of Smithson and Johnson (2019) on the development of cultural dictionaries can serve as a valuable reference for creating culturally relevant resources for proverb translation.

5- Proverb   " اللي ما يشوف الطيب يشمه "

Table N. 6:

Iraqi Proverb	Literal Translation	Appropriate Translation
اللي ما يشوف الطيب يشمه	One who cannot see goodness, should smell it	If you can't see the good, try to sense it

Similarly, for the fifth proverb, " اللي ما يشوف الطيب يشمه" the results indicate a relatively lower level of accuracy in translation. Only 33.3% of students provided the correct translation, while a majority (53.3%) offered incorrect translations. Additionally, a significant number of students (13.3%) left the proverb untranslated, highlighting the complexity and challenges of capturing this particular proverb's intended meaning and cultural nuances. This proverb encourages appreciating the value of something even when it is

not directly visible. Translating it while retaining the figurative meaning is challenging. A potential translation could be "If you can't see the good, try to sense it," maintaining the metaphorical aspect of the original proverb.

6-Proverb: من سار على الدرب وصل"

Table N. 7:

Iraqi Proverb	Literal Translation	Appropriate Translation
من سار على الدرب وصل	Whoever walks the path will reach	Where there's a will, there's a way

The sixth proverb, " من سار على الدرب وصل " exemplifies this challenge, with a (73.3%) accuracy rate. These results suggest that students could effectively convey the intended meanings of this proverb in English, possibly due to their familiarity with similar proverbs or the presence of direct equivalents in the target language. Translating this proverb challenges capturing the motivational meaning, as it suggests that perseverance and determination lead to success. The challenge lies in finding an appropriate translation that conveys the same idea while using an English proverb or expression that reflects the sense of accomplishment through persistence.

7-"Proverb: "العين بالعين والسن بالسن

Table N. 8:

Iraqi Proverb	Literal Translation	Appropriate Translation

العين بالعين والسن بالسن	An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth	Tit for tat

The seventh proverb, " العين بالعين و السن بالسن," received relatively high percentages of correct translations (60%). Translating such metaphors requires a deep understanding of both languages' cultural and linguistic nuances. Students must carefully consider the figurative meaning and find suitable equivalents or alternative expressions that convey the same message in the target language. Translating this proverb challenges capturing the concept of proportional retaliation or justice. The challenge lies in finding an appropriate translation that conveys the same idea while using an English proverb or expression that reflects the cultural and legal implications of seeking fair retribution.

8-Proverb: "الصديق وقت الضيق"

Table N. 9:

Iraqi Proverb	Literal Translation	Appropriate Translation
الصديق وقت الضيق	A friend is there in times of distress	A friend in need is a friend indeed

The ninth proverb, "الصديق وقت الضيق" received relatively low percentages of incorrect translations (43.3%); this suggests that students encountered difficulties grasping the precise cultural connotation and context of these proverbs, leading to inconsistencies in their translations. To overcome such challenges, students must delve into the proverbs' cultural background and

intended meaning to ensure their translations align with the original message. Translating this proverb challenges capturing the idea of friendship and support during difficult times. The challenge lies in finding an appropriate translation that conveys the same notion of reliance and comfort a friend provides during hardship.

9- **Proverb: "الشدة بتعلم الزينة"**

Table N. 10:

Iraqi Proverb	Literal Translation	Appropriate Translation
الشدة بتعلم الزينة	Hardship teach good lessons or hardship makes us learn new good things	Adversity brings out the best in us

On the other hand, the proverb "الشدة بتعلم الزينة " presented a more significant challenge, with only (23.3%) of translations considered correct. This proverb conveys the idea that difficult The cultural disparity between Arabic and English and the metaphorical nature of the proverb contributed to the lower accuracy rate in translation. Finding an equivalent proverb in English that conveys the same meaning can be particularly challenging. The challenge in translating this proverb lies in finding an equivalent English proverb that conveys the idea of personal growth or the emergence of positive qualities through difficult circumstances. "Adversity brings out the best in us" effectively captures the concept that challenging situations can lead to personal development and the manifestation of inner strength.

10- **Proverb: "الحاجة أم الاختراع"**

<u>Table N. 11:</u>

Iraqi Proverb	Literal Translation	Appropriate Translation
بالوجه مراية وبالكَفا سلاية	Necessity is the mother of invention	Necessity breeds invention

The last proverb "الحاجة أم الاختراع" received relatively high percentages of incorrect translations (60%). Translating this proverb challenges capturing the relationship between necessity and human ingenuity in finding creative solutions. The challenge lies in finding an appropriate translation that conveys the idea that challenging situations often inspire innovative thinking and problem-solving.

Students encountered challenges in translating Iraqi proverbs. These proverbs often rely on culturally specific meanings that are not easily translatable into English. Literal translations often result in the loss of intended meaning or misinterpretation. Iraqi proverbs frequently employ wordplay, metaphors, and rhetorical devices to convey their intended messages. Students found it difficult to capture the nuances of these devices in English translations. The linguistic subtleties, double meanings, and poetic elements often prove challenging to replicate accurately in the target language.

Moreover, Iraqi proverbs are deeply embedded in Iraq's cultural and historical context. Students encountered difficulties in conveying the cultural nuances and references in
English translations. The absence of equivalent cultural references in the target language posed challenges in communicating the intended

connotations and depth of meaning, leading to a loss of cultural authenticity. Translating Iraqi proverbs' sentence structure and grammatical patterns into English posed challenges for students. The syntactic differences between the two languages necessitated adjustments and adaptations to ensure grammatical accuracy and clarity in the target language. However, such modifications sometimes alter the original meaning.

Additionally, Iraqi proverbs often contain colloquialisms and dialectal variations specific to the region. Students struggled to find equivalent expressions or capture the regional flavor in English translations. Striking a balance between conveying the intended meaning and maintaining linguistic authenticity proved challenging. Some Iraqi proverbs inherently embody ambiguity or untranslatability due to their cultural specificity, context dependence, or lack of direct equivalents in English. Students faced difficulties finding suitable translation strategies that preserved the essence of the proverb while ensuring comprehensibility in the target language.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this research has explored the difficulties encountered by 30 Iraqi students in translating Iraqi proverbs into English. The findings have shed light on both linguistic and cultural challenges that participants faced during the translation process. The results have highlighted the importance of language proficiency, cultural sensitivity, and the development of instructional resources in enhancing the accuracy and effectiveness of proverb translation.

The findings of this study align with previous research in the field. Smith (2017) emphasizes that accurate proverb translation requires a deep understanding of both the source and target languages and cultural nuances.

Similarly, Jones & Brown (2019) argue that cultural competence plays a crucial role in capturing the intended meaning of proverbs in translation.

In conclusion, translating Iraqi proverbs into English poses linguistic and cultural challenges for students. By addressing these challenges through language proficiency development, cultural sensitivity training, and providing comprehensive instructional resources, translation education can equip students with the necessary skills to accurately and effectively translate proverbs; this will contribute to bridging the linguistic and cultural gaps between languages and promoting cross-cultural understanding in translation practice.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, proverb translation should be integrated in translation education It is recommended that translation education programs integrate specialized training in proverb translation; this can be achieved by offering dedicated courses or modules focusing on translating proverbs' unique challenges and strategies. These courses should emphasize the development of linguistic competence, cultural awareness, and critical thinking skills specific to proverb translation. Cultural immersion programs enhance students' cultural sensitivity and understanding; it is recommended to incorporate cultural immersion programs into translation education. These programs can provide students with firsthand experiences in the target culture, allowing them to understand cultural contexts and nuances better. By immersing themselves in the culture, students can develop a more comprehensive understanding of proverbs and their cultural significance, which in turn will facilitate more accurate and culturally appropriate translations.

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