

Terminological Inconsistency in the Translation of Electoral Texts: A Parallel-Corpus Based Study

Mohammed Ali Ayad Assist Prof Dr. Mohammed Kadhum Ghafil
College of Arts-Mustansiriyah University

Keywords: Corpus based translation studies, Terminological inconsistency, legal translation

Summary:

Elections are crucial for shaping democracy worldwide, and effective communication is essential for exchanging information and ideas. This study investigates terminological inconsistencies in English and Arabic translations of legal-electoral documents, aiming to identify the underlying causes and evaluate their implications on the target text. The study uses a self-constructed parallel corpus of carefully selected electoral texts and a hybrid approach, combining quantitative and qualitative analyses. The quantitative analysis investigates terminological usage, while the qualitative analysis uses Vermeer's Skopos Theory to understand the importance of translation purpose and maintaining inter-textual and intra-textual coherence.

The study reveals a wide range of terminological inconsistencies in electoral text translations, influenced by factors such as the genre's complexity, translators' lack of competence, lack of standardized terminology, heavy reliance on machine translation, and lack of proper project management. Inconsistency significantly impacts the overall understanding of the target text and the quality of translation, leading to inaccuracies.

1. Introduction

The inherent complexities of legal language present considerable obstacles for translators as they strive to faithfully and accurately translate legal texts from the

source language (SL) to the target language (TL). This assertion is widely accepted and uncontested within the field. The emergence of these challenges can be attributed to the inherent characteristics of legal language, which is distinguished by its utilization of specialized terminology.

According to Cao (2007: 53), the use of terminology is a prominent and easily identifiable linguistic characteristic of legal language, particularly as a technical language. Furthermore, it is acknowledged as a primary factor contributing to challenges encountered during the translation of legal texts. The examination of terminology has been a central focus within the field of Legal Translation Investigations (LTI), prompting scholarly inquiry. However, there remains a dearth of empirical research pertaining to the inherent characteristics of terminology and the challenges it poses within legal genres, which encompass both legal and other specialized terms. Consequently, there is a pressing need to incorporate such studies into the existing body of literature. The primary emphasis of case studies often revolves around the intricate and specialized terminology employed within specific domains of law, encompassing various legal semantic fields or legal genres. Consensus exists regarding the notion that law possesses a profound depth and engages in intricate interplay with various other fields of knowledge. This suggests that the inclusion of specialized terminology from non-legal domains may hold equal importance to the constituent elements of legal discourse.

The distinct categorization of legal language can be attributed to its utilization of specialized terminology and jargon. When considering the matter of translation, it is imperative to approach legal texts with utmost care due to their inclusion of concepts deeply embedded within local cultures and customs, necessitating meticulous attention to even the minutest of details. The process of transitioning from one legal system to another is inherently complex and challenging. The present study examines two distinct legal systems that exhibit significant differences. Hence, it is evident that variations in legal traditions and concepts give rise to issues of asymmetry and

incongruity, which are frequently encountered in the process of translating legal texts across different legal systems. This phenomenon has become a recurring subject of methodological inquiry within the field of Legal Translation Studies (LTS).

In the realm of inter-systemic legal translation, Robertson (2015) asserts that the establishment of communication priorities holds significant importance in the resolution of terminological difficulties encountered. This assertion underscores the pivotal role played by communication priorities in determining appropriate terminological solutions within this context (p. 41). In the context of translation within multilingual legal systems, such as those found in international institutional settings, the importance of inter-linguistic concordance and intra-linguistic consistency cannot be overstated. These factors play a pivotal role in establishing a common understanding of legal framework concepts and institutions among different languages.

The task of achieving consistent translations for repetitive segments of text, such as paragraphs, sentences, and phrases, poses significant challenges, particularly in the context of manually translating extensive volumes of technical documents. The presence of multiple translators concurrently working on distinct segments of a shared document, the potential for subsequent modifications to the source text, and the inherent challenges associated with manually identifying recurring units within the source text may collectively contribute to this phenomenon. The selection of a specific translation, or even from a range of viable translations, is a decision that individual translators on a translation team make based on their own unique rationales and considerations.

Furthermore, the problem is aggravated with electoral texts because Iraq is a young democracy, so the election culture and election events are not well consolidated, while in the English-speaking worlds that have witnessed countless election events, the election culture is well consolidated. Consequently, the gap is not only

terminological but also cultural due to the well-established election culture in the English-speaking world while it is still young in Iraq.

2. Methodology

2.1 Study Aims

The objectives of the present study is to respond to the following two questions:

1. What are the major causes of terminological inconsistency in legal translation?
2. What implications does inconsistency have on the target text?

2.2 Corpus Construction

To ensure adequate data for the thesis, the corpus was built as a data analysis resource. The process of constructing a corpus is deemed essential in order to transform unprocessed data into a refined textual format consisting of properly aligned sentences, thereby enabling it to effectively serve its intended purpose.

2.2.1 Corpus Description

The corpus consists of 26 electoral texts between English and Arabic. The texts are collected from the websites of reliable international and local organizations and these texts represents laws, reports, researches, fact sheets, regulations, instructions and resolutions, all of them are of direct relation to elections and electoral process in Iraq. Furthermore, the translations of these texts were driven from the same websites since the texts were published in both English and Arabic. Furthermore, the corpus is comprised of 77,467 words.

2.2.2 Text Selection

The first step in building a corpus involves collecting textual data, considering factors like corpus design, raw text quality, and accessibility. The compilation of electoral documents covers various domains and showcases English language characteristics in legal terminology. English texts were chosen based on rigor standards, while Arabic translations were chosen for quality. The texts were available in electronic format,

reducing challenges of digitizing Arabic paper documents using optical character recognition, which often results in errors.

2.2.3 Text Preparation and Processing

The development of a bilingual corpus necessitated the implementation of a comprehensive four-stage procedure, which encompassed meticulous proofreading, meticulous segregation of English and Arabic texts, and meticulous manual alignment. In spite of repeated experimentation and utilization of diverse automatic alignment software tools, the outcome of the process proved to be unsatisfactory. The preference for manual alignment as the chosen method can be attributed to the substantial quantity of errors and the labor-intensive nature of data cleanup. Following a comprehensive analysis, a strategic blueprint was formulated to facilitate the creation of a bilingual corpus. In order to ensure optimal outcomes, meticulous guidelines and protocols were meticulously devised for every phase of the corpus construction process. The implementation of a software toolkit was undertaken to optimize and enhance the efficiency of the process. In instances where automated completion was unattainable, specific software tools were employed to facilitate manual processing.

2.2.4 Separation of Source and Translation Texts

Both the English and Arabic versions of the texts are included in alternating paragraphs throughout the documents. First, we have the original text, and then we have the translated text. By dividing the source and translated texts, paragraph alignment units are created. With an Excel spreadsheet that has two columns for every language, the process is done manually in one step. To indicate sentences, Sketch Engine inserts tags after segments are copied and pasted into their corresponding columns. Data is saved in Excel format.

2.2.5 Alignment

The parallel corpus constructed in this thesis comprises alignment units that encompass various levels of construction, such as texts, paragraphs, sentences, phrases, and words. As the unit size decreases, the corpus is capable of providing a

greater amount of linguistic information and practical utility, but the complexity of text processing also escalates.

As was mentioned earlier, the alignment process was carried out manually for it was deemed that best method after a period of trial and error and for the following reasons:

- The lack of tools that would satisfactorily transform Arabic pdf format texts txt format.
- The huge number of errors which would result from the conversion process of Arabic texts including spelling and arrangement errors so the process of correcting them would be tedious one.

2.2.6 Software and tools set

2.2.6.1 Microsoft Excel

Microsoft Excel was used to carry out the manual alignment process since the tools used for the analysis (Sketch Engine) deals with XLS and XLSX data formats.

A spreadsheet was created for each text, with two columns for source English segments and target Arabic translations. The corresponding segments were copied and pasted into the columns. The segmentation and alignment process was straightforward due to the formal language and translation, ensuring one-to-one correspondence between the source and target segments.

2.2.6.2 Sketch Engine

Sketch Engine was used to build the corpus since it has number of good features that serves the purpose of this study the most valuable feature which was highly beneficial is that it allows to build corpus using aligned documents on *Microsoft Excel* sheets. This feature help to facilitate the process of corpus building specially for non-professionals, furthermore, it helps to overcome the issue of non-compatibility of document processing tools with Arabic. Below is a list of other features offered by the tool.

3. Data Analysis & Discussion

The study examines the categorization of corpus and correlation between data and translation, focusing on equivalence and consistency in electoral text translation. The data analysis procedure involves four stages, starting with the central term, "node," and analyzing lexical terms associated with the main word and its collocations.

The selection of terminologies was based on three methods: the Sketch Engine's keywords feature, which identifies unique or typical terminologies, the wordlist feature, which generates frequency lists, and the Arabic glossary of electoral terminologies by the United Nation Development Program (UNDP), which serves as a reliable source for terminology extraction and consistency checking.

The analysis and discussion is divided into two sub-sections mainly; English-Arabic terminologies and Arabic-English terminologies.

3.1 Analysis of English-Arabic Terminologies

The below table demonstrates the selected terminologies with their frequency statistics alongside words of co-occurrence.

Table 1

English Arabic Terminologies

Node/lexica term	Freq.	Translations	Collocates	Freq.	Translations
Quota	112	كوتا/حصة/محاصصة	Woman quota	77	حصة المرأة
			Gender quota	13	حصة النوع الاجتماعي
			Quota system	4	نظام الكوتا/المحاصصة
			Constitution quota	6	الكوتا الدستورية
			Female quota	15	حصة الاناث
			Hare quota	8	حصة هير

Tabulation	45	(فرز/ جدولة/ تبويب)	Results tabulation	21	جدولة النتائج/ فرز النتائج، تبويب النتائج
			Tabulation system	17	نظام فرز
			Tabulation center	14	مركز الجدولة
			Tabulation process	12	عملية الجدولة
Counting	39	(عد/ فرز)	Manual counting	15	(العد اليدوي/ الفرز اليدوي)
			Electronic counting	4	العد الالكتروني
			Vote counting	13	عد الأصوات
Turnout	21	نسبة المشاركة/ اقبال لناخبين/ نسبة التصويت	Voter turnout	7	نسبة اقبال لناخبين/ نسبة التصويت
			Historic turnout	4	لاقبال التاريخي
			Countrywide turnout	3	لاقبال على مستوى البلاد
Polls	3	مراكز اقتراع/ صناديق اقتراع			

Electoral terminologies that often have multiple translations, is problematic as they represent the same concept in the source language and target language, despite differences in linguistic and cultural systems. While some terminology may have different meanings or strategies for translation, providing multiple translations can be confusing and negatively impact the quality of translation in technical genres.

From the perspective of skopos theory consistency is a must, since, according to the theory, the target text represents an offer of information from the source texts encoded in the target text's linguistic and cultural system. Consequently, no matter how similar they appear, multiple translations of the a given terminology would not represent the same intended information of the source text because each variation would have a different meaning. Therefore, the predominant rule of *skopos theory* which is the purpose of the text will be affected. Furthermore, variation in translating terminologies will affect coherence within the text and coherence between the source and the target text, because incoherent text due to inconsistency in translation is neither comprehensible to the target reader nor loyal to the target text.

It is also important to note that stylistic variation, as rhetorical device that require the use of "different term for the same referent" (De Waard & Nida 1986:94), is a characteristic of literary works and political discourse but not legal discourse and legal translation. Since the language of the law is straight in precise so has to be its translation, therefore, stylistic variation and the use of synonyms in such genre will have many implications on the understanding of the text, as (Sarairoh, 2002: 12), a concept-signifier correspondence between the two languages has to be maintained so that the term encountered by the target reader signifies the same concept of the original terminology.

The following is a qualitative detailed analysis of the terminologies depicted in table 1

3.1.1 Quota

According to Arabic Lexicon of Electoral Terminology (2014:57), quota is the legal requirement to allocate a specific number of seats or positions to individuals from marginalized or underrepresented social groups, such as women or ethnic/religious minorities, with the aim of enhancing their participation in representative institutions. As can be seen from (table 4.1) the terminology has the highest frequency level with three different translations *viz.* محاصصة، حصة، كوتا. Furthermore, the terminology mostly collocates with; gender, woman and system. Consider the following examples.

Example 1:

Campaign activities must end 24 hours prior to the opening of polls.

يجب ان تنتهي أنشطة الحملة الانتخابية قبل ٢٤ ساعة من فتح صناديق الاقتراع.

Example 2:

Only on 10 September, the IHEC published a regulation on seat allocation, including implementation of the gender quota.

فقط في ١٠ أيلول، نشرت المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات لائحة بشأن تخصيص المقاعد بما في ذلك تنفيذ الكوتا.

Example3:

the ethno-sectarian power-sharing quota system – *muhasasa* – they represent, as well as to the fact that all newly founded Tishreen parties, except three, boycotted the elections.

نظام الكوتا العرقية والطائفية لتقاسم السلطة " المحاصصة" التي يمثلونها وكذلك حقيقة ان جميع أحزاب تشرين التي تأسست حديثاً، باستثناء ثلاثة، قاطعوا الانتخابات.

To better understand the function of the word *quota* in the target language it needs to be understood within the Iraqi context. As can be seen from the examples above the term *quota* is highly associated with the word *women* as well as the word *system*.

Pertaining *women quota*, it means the allocation of seats dedicated to women in order to rip the gap between men and women representation in the parliament. According to the Iraqi Transitional Administrative Law Article 30 Section III, "the National Assembly shall elect a women representation of no less than a quarter of the members of the National Assembly. Another legal act is the Iraqi Election law No. 16 of 2006 which stipulates, "At least one woman must be among the three candidates on the list, and at least two women must be among the first six candidates on the list, and so on until the end of the list" (Article 11). Therefore, it is simply a proportional share or number of seats dedicated for women in elected bodies, such as: parliaments and municipal councils, in order to ensure women's access to legislative and decision-making positions.

Pertaining system quota, it means an ethno-sectarian power sharing system known as (*muhasasa*). According to (Al- Aloosy, 2022), the *muhasasa* system emerged in the early 1990s as a concept formulated by exiled Iraqi opposition political figures. Its

objective was to allocate political positions in Iraq's government by utilizing an estimated census of Shias, Kurds, and Sunnis. The primary aim of this system was to ensure adequate representation for these distinct groups within the government structure. The plans functioned as a strategic guide subsequent to the 2003 invasion led by the United States, providing direction for the Iraqi Governing Council. This council comprised the seven prominent Iraqi political parties that participated in the original accord in 1992. The Iraqi Constitution that was subsequently approved explicitly prohibits sectarianism and does not make any reference to the allocation of political positions based on sect or ethnicity. However, it is worth noting that the Muhasasa system, which involves the division of ministries among political players, has become an implicit agreement among them. The distribution of key political positions in Iraq, namely the presidency, speaker of the parliament, and prime minister, "were allocated among the three major communities. The position of president was specifically designated for the Kurds, while the Shia community held the position of prime minister, which is considered the most influential role in Iraq. The Sunnis, on the other hand, were assigned the position of speaker of the parliament".

However, despite the contextual differences of the term *quota* it has the same function which refers to a proportional share whether for women or for ethno-sectarian powers. The important thing here is to adapt the translation into the linguistic and cultural context of the target language, to make sure that the offer of information of the source text is preserved in the target text. Therefore, whenever the term *quota* is associated with system it is better to be translated as محاصصة since it refers to the specific ethno-sectarian power sharing system, and whenever it is associated with *women* it is better to be translated as حصة since it refers to proportional share or number of seats dedicated to women in parliamentary representation.

It is important to note here that transliterating the word quota into كوتا , as can be seen in examples 2,3 and 4, is not a problem, but inconsistency is the problem because the source text is not internally coherent which will be incomprehensible to the target reader. Therefore, consistency here is a must in order to preserve quality and achieve adequacy.

3.1.2 Tabulation

According to Arabic Lexicon of Electoral Terminology (2014:57), tabulation is the process of aggregating the outcome of a ballot tally during an electoral event.

As can be seen from the (table 4.1) the term has three different translations viz. فرز، جدول، and mostly collocates with; results, system, center and process. Furthermore, it is important to note that this terminology is important since it is a crucial step in the election process which starts with voting followed by sorting and counting then tabulation and lastly the publication of the final results. Consider the following examples:

Example 4:

For stations that failed to transmit the results using either the results transmission system, or the USB flash drives, or both, a manual tabulation system was created.

اما بالنسبة للمحطات التي لم تنقل النتائج باستخدام نظام نقل النتائج او وحدات الخزن الخارجي USB او كليهما فقد أنشئ نظام فرز يدوي.

example 5:

Access to the tabulation process at the IHEC National Results Tabulation Centre was granted neither to the EU EOM nor to domestic observer groups

لم يُمنح حق الوصول الى نتائج الجدولة في المركز الوطني لجدولة النتائج التابع للمفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات الى بعثة الاتحاد الأوروبي او مجموعات المراقبين المحلية.

Example 6:

The BoC approves the lists of voters, political parties and candidates. It accredits election observers and the media; reviews complaints and appeals and makes decisions; and approves counting and tabulation.

يوافق مجلس المفوضين على قوائم الناخبين والأحزاب السياسية والمرشحين. وهي تعتمد مراقبي الانتخابات ووسائل الإعلام: مراجعة الشكاوى والطعون واتخاذ القرارات: والمصادقة على العد والتبويب للنتائج.

Multiple translations to such important terminology would definitely make the target text incomprehensible to the target reader since it is neither internally coherent, nor its coherent with the source text. This is because the function is different between the original terminology and its one or two of its multiple translations. For instance, in example 1 the target reader would not be able to tell whether the manual process refers to sorting or tabulation, and this is problematic since the two processes occur at different phases during the election.

Furthermore, the multiple translations have different meaning in Arabic. According to Al-Maany Online Dictionary (n.d.), فرز (sorting) means to isolate something from something or to distinguish good from bad; the word جدولة (tabulations) means to arrange data, information, or results; the word تبويب (categorization) is the process of recognizing, understanding, and differentiating ideas, purposes, or data according to their properties or characteristics. Therefore, the three terminologies have three different function which do not correspond to the intended function of the source text and, of course, does not preserve the same offer of information provided by the source text.

In addition, the three terminologies differ in the context of election as; the word فرز (sorting) means to check the validity of the votes and sort them according to the candidates or parties; the word جدولة (tabulation) process of aggregating the outcome of a ballot tally; while تبويب (categorization) is rarely used in the process of election. Consequently, the inconsistency in the translation of this terminology affects the overall understanding of the target texts since it is neither correspond to the function of the original text nor achieve the intended purpose.

3.1.3 Counting

According to Lutz (2016: 10), vote counting refers to the systematic procedure of counting votes during an electoral event. The task can be performed either manually or through the use of automated systems. The terminology frequently collocates with the words manual, electronic, and votes. As can be seen from table (4.1) above the

terminology has two translations *viz.* فرز (sorting) and عد (counting). Consider the following examples.

Example 7:

The Independent High Electoral Commission conducted three large-scale simulations of polling, counting and results transmission involving 2,179 polling stations throughout Iraq.

اجرت المفوضية العليا للانتخابات ثلاث عمليات محاكاة واسعة النطاق لعملية الاقتراع وعد الأصوات ونقل النتائج شملت ٢١٧٩ محطة اقتراع في جميع انحاء العراق.

Example 8:

While the announcement was made within the time frame set by the Council of Representatives Election Law, the results of the 8,960 polling stations selected by lottery for manual counting were not included owing to a technical error.

وقد صدر الإعلان ضمن الإطار الزمني الذي يحدده قانون انتخابات مجلس النواب، لكن نتائج محطات الاقتراع ال ٨٩٦٠ التي اختيرت عن طريق القرعة المباشرة لفرز اصواتها يدوياً لم تُدرج بسبب خطأ تقني.

As it is the case with the term *tabulation*, the term counting is also important since is a crucial step that lies in the heart of the election process. To better understand the function and purpose of this terminology it is necessary to demonstrate the process of election with respect to counting phase in order to differentiate between the given translations of the terminology.

According to the Electoral Knowledge Network (n.d.), in instances where multiple ballot elections occur concurrently, such as presidential, national legislature, and municipal elections held on the same day, it is imperative to establish a systematic order of priority for the counting of these ballots. This prioritization is essential to mitigate the occurrence of errors and confusion during the ballot counting process. It is imperative that the guidelines provided to the individuals responsible for conducting the polling process during their training session and the operational procedures documentation for the counting phase encompass this particular aspect. Additionally, it is imperative to provide instructions regarding the appropriate procedures to be followed in the event that ballots are discovered in an incorrect box.

One method of sorting is as follows. Upon the unsealing of the ballot box, the designated poll official proceeds to meticulously ascertain the authenticity and legitimacy of each individual ballot during the counting procedure. In the course of executing the assignment, it is imperative for the individual to possess the ability to differentiate between an authentic ballot and a fraudulent one, primarily through the identification of distinguishing features such as watermarks or other markers present on valid ballot papers. It is imperative to segregate, tally, and promptly notify the electoral administration entity of any detected fraudulent ballots in order to address potential instances of electoral misconduct (ibid).

The election official will divide all ballots based on the candidate, political party, or option they represent during the counting process. Simultaneously, the individual has the capacity to identify and segregate all ballots that have the potential to be rejected. "Once the count of legitimate ballots has been finalized, the poll official is required to meticulously assess each potential rejected ballot individually in order to determine its validity" (ibid).

To sum up, the process first starts with opening the ballot boxes then sorting them, and then counting them so the outcomes can be conveyed to either the regional office or the central administrative body of the electoral management entity, where they are subsequently aggregated.

From the demonstration above, one can easily conclude that the two translations of this terminology have a great difference. Therefore, the target reader will not be able to understand exactly which phase in the election process is referred to i.e., sorting or counting. In this case, the overall comprehension is affected, in addition, the offer of information provided by the source text is not preserved since it does not achieve its intended purpose.

3.1.4 Turnout

According to Arabic Lexicon of Electoral Terminology (2014:127), the voter turnout rate refers to the proportion of eligible individuals within a given population who

exercise their right to vote on the designated election day. This serves as a notable measure of the extent of citizens' engagement in public affairs, as well as the legitimacy of the electoral process. This terminology frequently collocates with; voters, historic and country wide. As can be seen from table (4.1) the terminology has been translated into; نسبة المشاركة، اقبال الناخبين، نسبة التصويت.

Unlike the previous terminologies which had a great difference in translations, in this one the multiple translations are slightly difference. Consider the following examples.

Example 9:

it also stated that, with 9,602,876 actual voters among the 22,118,368 registered voters, turnout was 43 per cent.

وذكرت أيضا انه بمشاركة ٩,٦٠٢,٨٧٦ ناخباً فعلياً من أصل ٢٢,١١٨,٣٦٨ مسجلاً بلغت نسبة المشاركة ٤٣ بالمائة.

Example 10:

The relatively modest voter turnout underscores the need to further invest in promoting a democratic culture and trust in the democratic processes and institutions of Iraq.

وتؤكد نسبة اقبال الناخبين المتواضعة نسبياً، ضرورة مواصلة الاستثمار في تعزيز ثقافة الديمقراطية والثقة في العمليات والمؤسسات الديمقراطية في العراق.

Example 11:

Prior to election day, some interlocutors alleged that there was a deliberate strategy to keep voter turnout low by casting doubts on the date of the elections.

قبل يوم الانتخابات، زعم بعض المحاورين ان هناك استراتيجية مدروسة لإبقاء نسبة التصويت منخفضة من خلال إثارة الشكوك حول موعد الانتخابات.

Despite the slight difference in the translations of this terminology, consistency is a must because this slight difference can still make the text internally incoherent. For instance, نسبة المشاركة or نسبة الناخبين does not necessarily mean the number of voters how casted their votes i.e. the actual proportion of votes. Maybe the voters have only registered and got an election card but did not cast their votes. This particularly happened in the context of Iraqi elections due to mistrust of the public in the overall election process, where a lot of eligible and officially registered voters did not cast their votes. For example, According to Safaa Salih (2014), in the first

parliamentary elections in 2014, after the withdrawal of American forces, the number of eligible voters was 22,000,000 but only 12,000,000 have casted their votes which means 60% turnout. Therefore, it is better to be consistent to preserve the intended purpose of the original text in accordance with the linguistic and cultural context of the target text.

3.1.5 Polls

According to (Cambridge University press, n.d), polls are simply the places where people vote in a political election. This terminology is standalone which means that it does not frequently collocates with other words. As shown in tale (4.1) the terminology has two different translations viz. محطات اقتراع، صناديق اقتراع.

This is also an important terminology in the election events as it describes the place where people go and cast their votes, therefore, variations in translation will actually affect the target text and confuse its reader. Consider the following examples.

Example 12:

The results of those stations had been received after the polls closed but were awaiting clearance in the system.

وكانت نتائج تلك المحطات قد وردت بعد اغلاق محطات الاقتراع ولكنها كانت في انتظار اجازتها في النظام.

Example 13:

The Election Law compels the IHEC to announce results within 24 hours from the closing of the polls.

يلزم قانون الانتخابات المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات بإعلان النتائج في غضون ٢٤ ساعة من اغلاق صناديق الاقتراع.

Example 14:

Campaign activities must end 24 hours prior to the opening of polls.

يجب ان تنتهي أنشطة الحملة الانتخابية قبل ٢٤ ساعة من فتح صناديق الاقتراع.

Inconsistency in this terminology is nighny problematic as the reader would not be able to tell whether what is being referred to are the places where people go and cast their votes or the boxes in which the voting cards are stored. For instance, in example to the specific purpose (skopos) of the sentence is to inform that the results must be announced within 24 hours after the polls (the places where voting occurs) are closed.

Consequently, translating it into different terminology in Arabic will affect that purpose because the piece of information offered by the original has changed in terms of timing, from the time specified by the closing of the voting places to the time specified by the closing of the boxes where the votes are stored. Furthermore, the text is neither internally coherent nor it is coherent with the original text.

3.2 Analysis of Arabic-English Terminologies

The below table demonstrates the selected terminologies with their frequency statistics alongside words of co-occurrence.

Table 2

Arabic-English Terminologies

Node/lexica item	Freq.	Translations	Collocates	Freq.	Translations
حكم	74	Ruling/ judgment/ verdict	حكم المحكمة	22	Court ruling/ court verdict
			حكم المجلس	13	Council's judgment
			حكم قضائي	9	Judicial ruling
قرار	65	(decision/resolution)	قرار مجلس الامن	23	Security council resolution
			قرار قضائي	12	Court decision
			قرار المجلس	15	Council's decision/ resolution
رقابة	25	(Oversight/ control/ supervision/ censorship/ monitoring)	رقابة مجلس النواب	3	Council of representatives monitoring
			رقابة داخلية	6	Internal control

			رقابة اجتماعية	1	Social control
			رقابة ذاتية	1	Self-censorship
مخالفة	12	(irregularity/ violation/ breach)			
المصادقة	20	(Certification/ ratification/ approve)	مصادقة النتائج	11	Certification/ ratification/ approve of results.

It is important to note that translating terminologies in legal and technical genres is a primary source of difficulty as Cao (2007:53) noted, the use of terminology is a prominent and notable linguistic characteristic of legal language as a technical form of communication. Additionally, it is identified as one of the main challenges encountered when translating legal documents. For this reason, translations in such genres would results in different problems including inconsistency. Therefore, the prioritized objectives of institutional terminology management in international legal contexts typically encompass inter-linguistic and intra-linguistic consistency. The primary objective arises from the necessity of precision and adherence to a singular instrument in legal systems that encompass multiple languages, often resulting in a tendency to priorities superficial resemblances. Consistency is a fundamental requirement in order to maintain semantic univocity, ensuring a consistent and uniform interpretation, predictability, and legal certainty. According to Svoboda et al. (2017:3), the concept of standardization can be considered a prominent characteristic of institutional translation. According to Stefaniak (2017:116), within the realm of EU institutional translation, there has been an emphasis on the significance of consistency as a fundamental standard for adequacy. Specifically, he asserts that multiple translations of a given term, particularly within legal documents, can potentially

mislead readers into believing that these terms represent distinct concepts, thereby complicating the interpretation of legislation.

3.2.1 حُكم

According to (Abdul Azeez, 2018:3), the term **حكم** is known linguistically as prevention, response, and judging , which is preventing the oppressor from being unjust, and to judge between people in a just and fair manner. On the other hand, it is legally defined as the decision issued by the court in accordance with the Civil Code of Procedure, according to which the dispute presented before it is settled. This terminology has been translated into; verdict, ruling, judgment and despite that these terminologies, in one way or another, indicates a decision making in a legal setting but they carry out different meanings. Consider the following examples.

Example 15:

خامساً: غير محكوم بجريمة مخلة بالشرف أو أثرى بشكل غير مشروع على حساب المال العام بحكم قضائي بات وإن شمل بعفو عام أو خاص .

Fifth: not convicted of a disgraceful crime or illicit enrichment at the expense of public money by a final judicial ruling, even if he/she included by a general or special amnesty.

Example 16:

تم إلغاء ترشيح المرشحين بناءً على حكم مجلس المفوضين في المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات بوقوع انتهاكات لأحكام القانون الجنائي، دون تحديد الأحكام التي تم انتهاكها.

Candidates have had their candidature revoked based solely on the judgment of the IHEC BoC that there have been violations of criminal code provisions, without specifying the provisions breached.

Example 17:

ولكن يجوز، بالرغم من ذلك الطعن بطلب الإبطال في حكم الاستئناف الذي تصدره المحاكم العليا وفي الأوامر التي تصدرها هذه المحاكم التي تقوم بعد الاستئناف بوقف الإجراءات وجميع القرارات المشار إليها في القانون.

Nevertheless, the remedy of annulment can be sought against the appeal verdict handed down by the higher courts and against the orders issued by those courts which on appeal put an end to the proceedings and all the decisions indicated by the law.

As was mentioned earlier, the terms ruling, judgment, and verdict may seem alike as the all mean in some way a decision-making mechanism from a legal body, however,

they carry out different meanings. First, verdict in the legal setting according to (Garner, 2014), is the responsibility of jury to render, which entails determining whether the presented facts sufficiently meet the required elements of a claim or offense. The term is rarely used when describing a court's decision in a nonjury trial, with the preferred practice being to use the term "verdict" exclusively for cases involving juries. Second, ruling according to (Chukwuemeka, 2022), refers to a decision issued by a court pertaining to a legal principle in relation to a matter that arises during the progression or pendency of a substantive legal proceeding. In the realm of legal proceedings, it is commonly observed that the issuance of a ruling does not inherently establish the full extent of rights and liabilities for the involved parties, with certain exceptions. Notably, rulings that pertain to charges of contempt of court, custody orders, and similar instances serve as instances where such determinations are made. However, the determination of the subject matter that leads to the presence of the parties in court remains unresolved by the ruling. Upon the court's pronouncement of a ruling, it subsequently proceeds to address the matter at hand concerning the substantive lawsuit. Furthermore, the impact of a court ruling on a case is not contingent upon its substance, as it primarily serves to establish legal precedent. However, the implications of a ruling may potentially jeopardize the parties against whom it is directed. The court's ruling possesses a sense of finality, albeit limited to the specific matter it resolves. The finality of a court's ruling indicates that it cannot be reversed unless certain exceptional circumstances are established through a formal application (Chukwuemeka, 2022). Third, judgment as stated by (Chukwuemeka, 2022), refers to the final decision issued by a court pertaining to the merits of a legal case. The conclusion of a legal case is marked by a court judgment, which serves to resolve the legal disputes and establish the respective rights and obligations of the parties involved. The concept of court judgment is often perceived as being definitive and final, except in cases where the right to appeal is granted.

To sum up, a verdict is a decision made by a jury, a ruling is a decision made by a court on interlocutory matter during the proceedings of a substantive case and a judgment is a final decision made by court that disposes the substance of the suit.

One might argue, that the inconsistency in the translation of this terminology is due to contextual differences. However, in some instances of this corpus, this is not always the case. For instance, in example 15, the term حكم is translated into ruling despite that in the context of this sentence what is being referred to is a final conviction decision on a substance of a case. Therefore, as has been described earlier the term *ruling* is not appropriate in this context, rather, the term judgment corresponds to the purpose and function of the original since it refers to a final decision on the substance of a case. In addition, in example 16 the term حكم is translated into verdict, which is not suitable since it is a decision made by a higher court not a jury, therefore, the translation does not corresponds to the purpose and function of the original which is to demonstrate that the said decision is final on the substance of the case. Furthermore, in example 17, the term حكم is translated into ruling and judgment respectively while the original in both instances indicates a decision on the substance of the case.

3.2.2 قرار

The term قرار in general refers to the act of authoritatively and powerfully bestowing established directives and intentions, in accordance with legal frameworks and regulations, with the ultimate objective of advancing the collective welfare of the institution. Whether manifesting as administrative, judicial, legislative, or internal in nature, these directives or intentions necessitate a systematic approach that managers adhere to when formulating and implementing their determinations. In a legal and institutional setting as per the genre of the corpus of this study, the term قرار refers to the administration's disclosure of its binding will with the intention of establishing, amending, or canceling a legal position, with the aim of achieving the public interest,

as stated by (Duguit, 1928; 326) who described it as every administrative action issued to create or modify existing legal situations.

This terminology has to translations *viz.* resolution and decision, consider the following examples.

Example 18:

تنظم أحكام قانون الانتخابات وقانون المفوضية عملية حل النزاعات الانتخابية. وينص نظام القرار على درجتين، الأولى إدارية والثانية قضائية.

The provisions of the Election Law and the Law on the IHEC regulate the resolution of electoral disputes. The system of resolution provides for two instances, the first one administrative and the second one judicial.

Example 19:

ثانياً- للمتضرر من قرار مجلس المفوضين برفض الطلب أو سحب الاعتماد الطعن به لدى الهيئة القضائية للانتخابات خلال مدة ثلاثة ايام من اليوم التالي لنشره.

Second: The person affected by the decision of the Board of Commissioners to reject the request or withdraw the accreditation shall appeal it to the Judicial. The terminologies "resolution" and "decision," employed as translations for the term قرار, may appear to possess similar connotations as they both denote a determination regarding a specific matter. Nevertheless, it is important to note that these terms serve distinct functions. The term "resolution" according to (The Law Dictionary, n.d.), pertains to the determination made by a deliberative or legislative body, public assembly, town council, board of directors, or similar governing entity, with respect to its opinion or intention. Decision, on the other hand, is the act or process of deciding. Furthermore, the decision-making process as stated by (Eilon, 1969;172), can be conceptualized as a sequential progression of stages, commencing with the generation and analysis of relevant information, and culminating in the finalization of a resolution, specifically the choice among multiple feasible alternatives. In another words, a decision is a choice which is made after consideration of options, alternatives, circumstances and so on, and a resolution is the formalization of that decision.

One might argue that the inconsistency in the translation of this terminology is due to contextual differences, but in some instances of this corpus, the inconsistency is not

because of contextual differences. For instance, in example 18 the term قرار is translated into decision despite that the term in the aforementioned example refer to a determination by the Board of Commissioners that is published, which means that it has been formalized. Therefore, the term that suits this context is *resolution* as can be seen from example 18 which has a similar context to example 19. The same applies to translation of the word قرارات in example 50 which is translated into a *decisions* while it also indicates a determinations that has been formalized and published as resolutions. Pertaining other instances, the inconsistency is the result of contextual differences. For instance, in example 51 the term قرار is translated into *decision* which is suitable since the instance in the example refers to the process of making a choice taking into consideration option, alternatives and circumstances, on the other hand, قرار in example 48 is rendered into resolution which is suitable given that its context refer to a determination which has been formalized.

3.2.3 رقابة

The term رقابة as stated by (Al-Shammari, 2022: 756), is defined as a process through which it is ensured that everything is proceeding in the organization in accordance with a set of plans and instructions established and issued. It can also be defined as an administrative function concerned with measuring the performance and method of ideal control in the organization, by predicting the problems that will occur before they occur and trying to identify and avoid them. There are three types of oversight, the first is administrative and the second is judicial in addition to political, and each one of them monitors specific and different destinations. Furthermore, the function of الرقابة can be conducted on different levels and different settings; it can be administrative, financial, legal, technical, performative and economical. This terminology has five translations: oversight, control, supervision, censorship and monitoring. Consider the following examples:

Example 20:

وفقاً لقانون المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات، فإن المفوضية هيئة عامة دستورية مستقلة ومحيدة تتمتع بالاستقلال المالي والإداري ومكلفة بالإشراف على الانتخابات والاستفتاءات وتنظيمها وإجرائها في العراق. وهي تعتمد أنظمة وتعليمات وسياسات لإدارة الانتخابات والاستفتاءات وتكفل تنفيذها. وهي أيضاً مخولة بتعزيز الثقافة الانتخابية وتوعية الناخبين والممارسات الديمقراطية. وبموجب الدستور، تخضع المفوضية لرقابة مجلس النواب.

According to the Independent High Electoral Commission Law, the Independent High Electoral Commission is a constitutional, independent and impartial public body with financial and administrative autonomy mandated to oversee, organize and conduct elections and referendums in Iraq. It adopts regulations, instructions and policies for the administration of elections and referendums and ensures their implementation. It is also empowered to promote an electoral culture, voter

للمفوضية موازنة سنوية مستقلة يتم اعدادها وفقاً للأسس والقواعد تقترح من الإدارة الانتخابية ويصادق عليها مجلس المفوضين ويقدمها مجلس الوزراء ضمن الموازنة العامة الاتحادية للدولة وتخضع لرقابة ديوان الرقابة المالية الاتحادي.

The Commission has an independent annual budget that shall be prepared in accordance with the foundations and rules. It shall be proposed by the Electoral Administration, approved by the Board of Commissioners, and submitted by the Council of Ministers within The federal general budget of the state and shall be subject to the supervision of the Federal Financial Monitoring Bureau.

Example 22:

وضع قيود على التبرعات، بما في ذلك العينية، وعلى الإنفاق الانتخابي لتعزيز الشفافية والمساءلة في التمويل السياسي، بما في ذلك الإعلان السياسي عبر الإنترنت. يجب تزويد الرقابة بالموارد المناسبة وتحديثها، مع إنفاذ إداري قوي وسلطات عقابية قادرة على ضمان نشر جميع تقارير تمويل الأحزاب السياسية في الوقت المناسب.

Introduce limits on donations, including in-kind, and on campaign spending to enhance transparency and accountability of political financing, including online political advertising. Oversight to be appropriately resourced and defined, and with strong administrative enforcement and sanctioning powers, able to ensure timely publication of all political party finance reports.

Example 23:

أولاً: الدائرة الإدارية والمالية: يديرها موظف بدرجة مدير حاصل على شهادة جامعية أولية في الاختصاصات الإدارية أو المالية أو الاختصاصات المناسبة لا تقل خبرته عن (١٠) عشر سنوات، يتولى مسؤولية الأمور الإدارية والتنظيمية للمفوضية وموظفيها ومواردها البشرية ومسؤولية الشؤون المالية والتدقيق والرقابة الداخلية

First: Administrative and Financial Department: It shall be managed by a staff member with a general manager degree who holds an initial university degree in administrative, financial or appropriate specialties, or appropriate specialties, with

not less than (10) years' experience, he/ she shall be responsible for administrative and administrative matters of the Commission and its staff and human resources and responsible for its financial affairs, auditing and internal control.

Some instances of inconsistency in the aforementioned examples are the result of collocational differences. For instance, the term رقابة has been translated into *censorship* because it collocates with the word ذاتية in the phrase رقابة ذاتية which

refers to the concept of self-regulation within a group, wherein the members themselves undertake the responsibility of governing their own actions and statements, as opposed to being subject to external oversight. In addition, the term رقابة has been translated into *control* because it collocates with the word داخلية in the phrase رقابة داخلية which encompasses a systematic and structured process that is implemented by an organization's board of directors, management, and other relevant personnel. Its primary objective is to offer a reasonable level of assurance regarding the achievement of organizational goals and the mitigation of risks.

Other instances of inconsistency are not the result of collocation difference. As can be seen in examples 21,22 and 23 with three terminologies (oversight, supervision and monitoring) used to translate the term رقابة. First, the concept of oversight according to (The Content Authority, n.d.) entails the systematic observation and critical evaluation of the behaviors and choices made by an individual or entity, with the aim of ascertaining their adherence to predetermined guidelines, protocols, laws or benchmarks. it entails the comprehensive analysis of an individual or organizational performance to discern any potential deficiencies or instances of noncompliance, followed by the implementation of appropriate remedial measures, if necessary. In addition, oversight is frequently conducted by an autonomous entity or an individual vested with the power to scrutinize and document the conduct of the organization or individual under observation. The entities involved in this process encompass regulatory agencies, auditors, and internal compliance teams. Second, supervision as stated by (Al-Shammari, 2022: 759), entails the practice of observing and directing the activities of individuals to guarantee their adherence to predetermined standards, protocols, or norms. In addition, it encompasses the provision of guidance, direction, and support to individuals or groups with the aim of facilitating the attainment of their goals and objectives. Furthermore, the act of supervision is commonly executed by an individual in a managerial or supervisory role, possessing the requisite authority to oversee and guide the tasks of subordinates, as well as to make organizational

decisions. it encompasses the systematic observation and evaluation of the performance of individuals or teams, with the aim of offering constructive feedback and guidance, as well as implementing appropriate interventions when deemed necessary. In contrast to oversight, supervision is primarily concerned with the facilitation of accurate and efficient execution of tasks, as opposed to the enforcement of adherence to established protocols, regulations and laws. Third, monitoring according to (The Black's Law Dictionary), entails the systematic observation and diligent tracking of various activities and the subsequent assessment of progress made in relation to predetermined objectives. The aforementioned element is of utmost significance in ensuring the effectiveness and accomplishment of a project, intervention, public policy, or program.

In the context of example 52 the term رقابة is used to refer to an observation by the Council of Representatives (henceforth ICR), for the purposed of assuring the adherence of IHEC to the rules and regulation given that ICR is the highest power to conduct such action according the Rules of Procedures or ICR 2006, Chapter 1, Article 1. And according to article 61 in the Constitution of Iraq.

The same applies to the context of example 53, where the term رقابة is also used to refer to an observation by the Federal Board of Supreme Audit whose one of their objectives is to oversight and audit the accounts of entities subject to oversight and verifying the proper application of financial laws, regulations and instructions.

Therefore, based on the above clarification, the suitable terminology to translate the term رقابة in these contexts is *oversight* since, as has been demonstrated above, the function of *oversight* is to observe whether a certain entity is complying with the valid laws, rules and regulations. Consequently, randomly translating the original terminology into a different term will not convey the purpose intended by the original text and it will eventually affect the comprehension of the target text.

3.2.4 مخالفة

According to (Al-Maany Online Dictionary, n.d.), the term **مخالفة** refers to the act of committing something that contradicts the law. In addition, it is a minor offence and it is punishable by a 24 hours detention or fees according to the Iraqi Penal Code 111 (2019) article 27.

This terminology has been translated into; breach, violation and irregularity. Consider the following examples;

Example 24:

وفقاً لقانون المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات، يتمتع مجلس المفوضين بسلطة حصرية لمعالجة الادعاءات بحدوث مخالفات انتخابية طوال العملية الانتخابية، بما في ذلك فيما يتعلق بتسجيل المرشحين وفترة الحملة الانتخابية، والاقتراع وعد الأصوات، ونشر النتائج الأولية.

According to the Independent High Electoral Commission Law, the Board of Commissioners has exclusive authority to address allegations of electoral irregularities throughout the electoral process, including with regard to candidate registration, the campaign period, polling and counting, and the publication of preliminary results.

Example 25:

إن الأساس القانوني لتمديد آخر غير واضح ولم تتذرع المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات بشيء. ولم تعلن المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات عن المخالفات التي كانت سبب إعادة الفرز هذه، حيث لم يتم نشر قراراتها.

The legal basis for yet another extension is unclear and none was invoked by the IHEC. The irregularities that were the grounds for these recounts were not made known by the IHEC, as its decisions were not published.

Example 26:

وأحالت اللجنة التعامل مع المخالفات من قبل وسائل الإعلام إلى الهيئة المنظمة للإعلام. في ١٢ أيلول، صرحت هيئة الإعلام والاتصالات بأنها أصدرت تحذيرات بشأن المخالفات المزعومة لقواعد الحملة إلى حوالي عشرة وسائل إعلام، دون فرض أي عقوبات.

The regulation referred dealing with violations by the media to the CMC, the media regulatory body. On 12 September, the CMC stated that it had issued warnings for alleged breaches of campaign rules to some ten media outlets, without imposing any sanctions.

One instance only of inconsistency in the translation of the term **مخالفة** is due to collocation difference. This can be seen in examples 58 and 59 above, where in both examples the term **مخالفة** has been translated into irregularity because it collocates

with the word انتخابي in the phrase مخالفات انتخابية which, according to (Arabic Lexicon of Electoral Terminologies, 2014:25), refers to instances inadvertence or negligence committed by election officers or individuals involved in the electoral process, which result in violations of established procedures or electoral laws.

However, in the other examples, the term مخالفة has been translated into; breach and violation, although they carry out different meanings. As stated by (The Legal Information Institute, n.d.) The term "breach" pertains to the act of not fulfilling or failing to execute specific terms and conditions that were previously established and mutually agreed upon in a legally binding contract, some examples are: late payment, failure to fulfill contractual obligations, and failure to deliver promised assets within the designated timeframe. In contrast, the term "violation" encompasses a broad range of transgressions or infringements of legal statutes or individual entitlements, for example, fraudulent activities, probationary measures, and traffic infractions. In this case, translating the term مخالفات in example 60 into breaches and violations respectively is not suitable since both uses of the original terminology indicate contraventions to the establishes rules and producers, therefore, the purpose and function of the original terminology is not properly conveyed into the target text.

3.2.5 مصادقة

The term مصادقة refers to a procedure whereby what is proposed or decided by another party is confirmed with the aim of conferring a legal value on it. It is also used in the context of international organizations to express approval issued by one body on an action or text proposed by another body of the organization or from outside it as stated by (Arabic Language Academy, 1999, p. 667). Although it is a function of sovereignty, in the current era it has become a means of constitutional oversight in the state. This terminology had three translations; ratification, certification and approval, consider the following examples.

Example 27:

ولا تزال النتائج قابلة للطعن ولن تكون نهائية إلا عند مصادقة المحكمة الاتحادية العليا عليها. وأكد رئيس مجلس المفوضين في المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات خلال المؤتمر الصحفي أنه يمكن الطعن في النتائج الأولية للانتخابات في غضون ثلاثة أيام من إعلانها.

The results remain subject to challenges and will not be final until ratified by the Federal Supreme Court. The Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Independent High Electoral Commission stressed during the press conference that preliminary election results could be challenged within three days of their announcement.

Example 28:

وبمجرد أن تبث الهيئة القضائية في جميع الطعون (لا تنص الأنظمة الحالية على أي موعد نهائي محدد)، تقدم المفوضية النتائج النهائية إلى المحكمة الاتحادية العليا للمصادقة عليها. ولم يُحدد الجدول الزمني للمصادقة على النتائج النهائية.

Once the Panel has ruled on all appeals (no specific deadline is provided in current regulations), the Commission will submit the final results to the Federal Supreme Court for ratification. The timeline for ratifying the final election results is not fixed.

Example 29:

سابعاً: المصادقة على النتائج النهائية للانتخابات والاستفتاء والاعلان عنها بعد المصادقة عليها من الجهات القضائية المختصة باستثناء نتائج انتخابات مجلس النواب التي تصادق عليها المحكمة الاتحادية العليا.

Seventh: Approving and announcing the final results of the elections and referendum after their approval by the competent judicial authorities, with the exception of the results of the Parliament elections that are approved by the Federal Supreme Court.

Example 30:

لم تكن بعض أجزاء العملية الانتخابية قد انتهت بعد وهي إعادة الفرز اليدوي لمحطات الاقتراع التي تم الطعن فيها والتي بدأت في ٢٧ تشرين الأول والفصل في الشكاوى المقدمة والتصديق على النتائج النهائية من قبل المحكمة الاتحادية العليا.

some parts of the election process were not concluded, namely the manual recount of challenged polling stations, which commenced on 27 October, adjudication of submitted complaints, and the certification of the final results by the Federal Supreme Court.

The three terminologies used to translated the term مصادقة may seem similar since they all denote a confirmation over a certain matter. However, they carry out different meanings. The term ratification according to (The Legal Information Institute, n.d.),

refers to the official endorsement or validation of a legal agreement, treaty, contract, results and so on. The process of ratification is commonly undertaken by a governing entity, such as a legislative body or a board of directors, subsequent to the completion of negotiations and the attainment of consensus among all relevant stakeholders regarding the terms of the agreement. The process of ratification holds significant importance within the legal domain, as it serves to establish the enforceability of the terms outlined in an agreement, while simultaneously ensuring that all involved parties are held responsible for fulfilling their respective obligations. The absence of ratification can render an agreement devoid of legal validity or enforceability. The term *certification*, as a procedural mechanism, as stated by (Henry.M, 2011: 125), entails the formal recognition accorded to an individual or organization upon successful demonstration of compliance with predetermined benchmarks or criteria. The concept of formal recognition pertains to the acknowledgement of an individual's competence, skill, or knowledge within a specific area or field. The significance of certification is widely acknowledged across various industries, as it serves as a means to guarantee the proficiency and expertise of professionals within their specific domains. The term *approval* according to (World Law Dictionary, n.d.), is a general terminology used to refer to a permission to do something.

Therefore, given the aforementioned distinctions among each terminology, the utilization of various terminologies to translate the term مصادقة will significantly influence the overall understanding. In the aforementioned examples (62, 64, 65, and 66), the term "مصادقة" is employed to denote the act of legally endorsing the result of the election by both the Board of Commissioners and the Federal Supreme Court. This process aims to ascertain the validity of said results in alignment with pertinent laws and regulations. The term in question has been subject to inconsistent translations, with various renderings such as approval, certification, and ratification being used interchangeably in the same context. Hence, the presence of such incongruity will inevitably impede the reader's understanding of the text, as the two translation

variables, namely certification and approval, fail to align with the intended function and purpose of the original terminology. Consequently, this discrepancy will ultimately hinder the effective dissemination of information. In the context of linguistic analysis, the act of translating a specific term, such as مصادقة, can significantly influence the semantic nuances conveyed by the original term. In this particular case, مصادقة denotes the act of approving something based on its legal validity. Conversely, the term "approval" represents a broader concept, encompassing the act of granting permission to engage in a certain activity. Consequently, the substitution of مصادقة with "approval" may have substantial implications on the informational content conveyed by the original term.

4. Conclusions

The analyses dedicated to the legal-related terminologies in the corpus of this study have shown a pattern of an impactful inconsistency in the translation of terminologies under analysis which reflects the complexity of the legal terminologies as well as the challenging nature of this genre in maintaining accuracy and precision in the translation of legal documents.

Terminological inconsistency in translation is primarily due to differences in legal systems and linguistic characteristics between English and Arabic, lack of standardized Arabic terminologies, insufficient translator competence, deficiencies in collaborative project management and quality assurance protocols, and overreliance on machine translation, which can lead to arbitrary selections and multiple outcomes for a given term.

Terminological inconsistency significantly impacts the comprehension of a text in the target language. Multiple translations for a single terminology can lead to misperceptions, as each translation serves a specific purpose. This can result in information loss and affect the quality of translations. Inconsistency also impacts accuracy, which is crucial for evaluating the effectiveness and reliability of translations.



The dominance of standardization is crucial in institutional translation, particularly in establishing a communicative vocabulary for legal discourse in the Arab World. One of the key benefits of standardization is its ability to facilitate a harmonized interpretation, enhance predictability, and ensure legal certainty in translating legal materials. Hence, it is imperative to mitigate any inconsistency, as it contradicts the principles of standardization. The presence of multiple translations for a specific term, especially within legal texts, has the potential to deceive readers by suggesting the existence of discrete concepts. Therefore, it is imperative to advocate for consistency as it plays a crucial role in ensuring adequacy.

References

- Al-Aloosy, M. (n.d.). Parasitical elitism in a sectarianized political system with a rentier economy: The power and practice of the Iraqi political elite after 2003. *Politics & Policy About the U.S. Courts of Appeals / United States Courts*. (n.d.). Retrieved November 20, 2023, from <https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/court-role-and-structure/about-us-courts-appeals>
- ACE Electoral Knowledge Network —. (n.d.). Retrieved November 29, 2023, from <https://aceproject.org/>
- Arabic lexicon of electoral terminology. (n.d.). UNDP. <https://www.undp.org/lebanon/publications/arabic-lexicon-electoral-terminology>
- Baker, M. (1995). Corpora in translation studies: An overview and some suggestions for future research. *Target. International Journal of Translation Studies*, 7(2), 223–243.
- Baker, M. (1999). The role of corpora in investigating the linguistic behaviour of professional translators. *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, 4(2), 281–298.
- Baker, M. (2019). Corpus Linguistics and Translation Studies*: Implications and applications. In *Researching Translation in the Age of Technology and Global Conflict* (pp. 9–24). Routledge.
- Biel, Ł. (2008). Legal terminology in translation practice: dictionaries, googling or discussion forums. *SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation*, 3(1), 22-38.
- Cao, D. (2007a). *Translating law* (Vol. 33). Multilingual Matters.
- Kruger, A. (2002). Corpus-based translation research: its development and implications for general, literary and Bible translation. *Acta Theologica*, 22(1), 70–106.
- Laviosa, S. (2007). Learning creative writing by translating witty ads. *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer*, 1(2), 197–222.

Legal Dictionary / *Law.com*. (n.d.). Retrieved November 6, 2023, from <https://dictionary.law.com/Default.aspx?selected=1771>

Mauranen, A. (2006). A rich domain of ELF-the ELFA corpus of academic discourse. *Nordic Journal of English Studies*, 5(2), 145-59.

Malmkjær, K. (2008). Translation competence and the aesthetic attitude. *BENJAMINS TRANSLATION LIBRARY*, 75, 293.

PROVISION / *English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary*. (n.d.). Retrieved November 14, 2023, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/provision>

Robertson, C. D. (2016). *Multilingual law: a framework for analysis and understanding*. Routledge.

Stubbs, M. (2001). *Words and phrases: Corpus studies of lexical semantics*. John Wiley & Sons.

Teubert, W. (2002). The role of parallel corpora in translation. *Lexis in Contrast: Corpus-Based Approaches*, 7, 189.

Vermeer, H. J. (1978). A framework for a general theory of translation. *Heidelberg: Heidelberg University*, 67.

Vermeer, H. J., & Chesterman, A. (2021). Skopos and commission in translational action. In *The translation studies reader* (pp. 219–230). Routledge.

التوافق المصطلحي في ترجمة النصوص الانتخابية: دراسة مستندة الى المتون المتواترة

أ.م.د. محمد كاظم غافل

الباحث: محمد علي اباد

كلية الآداب- الجامعة المستنصرية

mohammed.ayad@uomustansiriyah.edu.iq

الكلمات المفتاحية: دراسات المتون، الترجمة القانونية، التوافق المصطلحي

الملخص:

إن الانتخابات أمر بالغ الأهمية لتشكيل الديمقراطية في جميع أنحاء العالم، والتواصل الفعال ضروري لتبادل المعلومات والأفكار. تبحث هذه الدراسة في التناقضات المصطلحية في الترجمات الإنجليزية والعربية للوثائق القانونية الانتخابية، بهدف تحديد الأسباب الكامنة وراءها وتقييم آثارها على النص المستهدف. وتستخدم الدراسة مجموعة موازية من النصوص الانتخابية المختارة بعناية ونهجًا مختلطًا يجمع بين التحليلات الكمية والنوعية. يبحث التحليل الكمي في استخدام المصطلحات، بينما يستخدم التحليل النوعي نظرية سكوبوس لفيرمير لفهم أهمية غرض الترجمة والحفاظ على التماسك بين النصوص وداخل النص.

تكشف الدراسة عن مجموعة واسعة من التناقضات المصطلحية في ترجمة النصوص الانتخابية، متأثرة بعوامل مثل الطبيعة المعقدة لهذه النصوص، وافتقار المترجمين إلى الكفاءة، والافتقار إلى مصطلحات موحدة، والاعتماد الكبير على الترجمة الآلية، والافتقار إلى الإدارة المناسبة للمشروع. يؤثر عدم الاتساق بشكل كبير على الفهم العام للنص المستهدف وجودة الترجمة، مما يؤدي إلى عدم الدقة.