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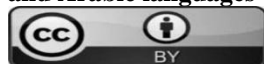
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## The influence of morphological structures on translation equivalence across English and Arabic

### A B S T R A C T

This study aims to examine the impact of morphological structures on translation equivalence between English and Arabic languages. Employing a qualitative research methodology, the study conducts a content analysis of two translated texts from English into Arabic. The theoretical framework is grounded in Nida and Taber's (1969) translation equivalence theory, which posits that modifications in meaning, style, and function are essential to achieving equivalence. Through a rigorous analysis of the data, the research contends that morphological structures play a pivotal role in shaping translation equivalence across these languages. While meaning and function are largely preserved, morphological disparities necessitate syntactic reconfiguration, explicit articulation, and stylistic adjustments to ensure fidelity and coherence in translation.

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تأثير البنى الصرفية على التكافؤ الترجمي بين اللغتين الانكليزية والعربية

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### الملخص

تسعى هذه الدراسة إلى التحقق من تأثير البنى الصرفية على التكافؤ في الترجمة بين اللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية. من خلال تبني منهجية البحث النوعي، تجري الدراسة تحليل محتوى لنصين مترجمين من الإنجليزية إلى العربية. يستند الإطار النظري إلى نظرية التكافؤ في الترجمة لـ "نيدا وتابور" (1969)، التي تفترض أن التعديلات في المعنى والأسلوب والوظيفة ضرورية لتحقيق التكافؤ. من خلال تحليل دقيق للبيانات، تؤكد الدراسة أن البنى الصرفية تلعب دورًا جوهريًا في تشكيل

التكافؤ في الترجمة بين هاتين اللغتين. وبينما يتم الحفاظ على المعنى والوظيفة إلى حد كبير، تتطلب الفروق الصرفية إعادة الهيكلة النحوية، والتعبير الصريح، والتكيفات الأسلوبية لضمان الدقة والتماسك في الترجمة. الكلمات المفتاحية: البنى الصرفية، التكافؤ الترجمي، اللغة الانكليزية، اللغة العربية.

## Introduction

English language is an international language. It is a language of communication, science, and business. Nowadays, most studies, research and academic references and articles are published in the English language. One of the most important language means for understanding information and effective communication is translation. Translation facilitates effective communication between people worldwide. Rose (2000) claimed that translation is an important social skill because it makes strangers able to communicate and understand each other.

Naimushin (2002) said that in the absence of translation, science and technology would not be transferred from developed to developing countries. In the language classroom, translation is a significant component of learners' linguistic and communicative ability, preparing them for real-life situations throughout study and career. El Tantawi (2011) stated that translation constitutes a very significant art and science because it transmits the cultures of others to their countries of origin. Without translation, people will be unable to be familiar with any information about their ancestors. Newmark (2003, p.27) defined the act of translation as "transferring the meaning of a stretch or a unit of language, the whole or a part of a text, from one language to another". As mentioned by Hatim and Munday (2004), translation is a process or a product, and can be classified into sub-types as literary translation, technical translation, subtitling and machine translation.

Gambier & Doorslaer (2016) said that a successful translation is one that conveys the explicit and implicit meaning of the source language into the target language as fully and accurately as possible. Abu-Elenein (2015) asserted that translation aims to transfer the meaning and context from the source to target language. It requires the translator to master both source and target languages. Translation can be seen as a complex process involving comprehensive control of source and target languages, in addition to significant inventiveness and imagination, in terms of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic qualities, combined with creativity and imagination of a high level (Zenngin & Kacar, 2011).

Furthermore, Khammyseh (2015) conducted a research study on MA students of the department of translation at Al-Yarmouk University in Jordan to find out the problems that they face when translating Islamic expressions from the Arabic into the English language. The finding showed that most of that translation problems were related the cultural gaps between the English and the Arabic languages. The lack of equivalent expressions resulted in an inappropriate and unacceptable translation. In addition, grammatical and syntactical problems related to the differences between the structures of the English and the Arabic were reported. In accordance with the same view, Agliz (2015) concludes that grammatical structures, paragraphing and redundancy are the most important key elements that should be taken into consideration for accurate and appropriate translation, especially, when translating Quranic texts as well as Hadiths of the prophet (PBUH) into the English language..

Moran (2023) emphasizes that the effectiveness of translation hinges on the availability of ideas and equivalences that are not culturally laden. Thus, the primary challenges associated with conveying culturally charged messages in other language using adequate equivalents, as achieving accurate translation equivalence remains a persistent challenge, particularly between languages with distinct morphological structures such as English and Arabic. Attia, (2024, p.17) states that equivalence, is crucial in translation as it ensures clarity, cultural relevance, and natural flow, making the translated text more comprehensible and engaging for the target audience. Using effective equivalences require the adaptation of the text to fit the linguistic and cultural context of the target language, thereby retaining the original impact and effectively communicating complex concepts.

Translation equivalence, as proposed by Nida (1964), refers to the extent to which a translated text conveys the same meaning, function, and style as the source text. However, equivalence is not merely a matter of lexical substitution; it is deeply affected by the morphological structures of both the source and target languages. Catford (1965) mentions types of equivalence, the first includes formal equivalence, where the structural properties of the source text were preserved and dynamic equivalence, which prioritizes naturalness and readability in the target language. In relation to the English and Arabic translation, Nilam , etal. (2021) states that the morphological complexities of the Arabic and the English languages often disrupt both types of equivalence, requiring translators to make strategic choices to balance accuracy and readability.

Morphological structures, which is the internal composition of words, including affixation, derivation, and inflection, significantly influence how meaning is conveyed and interpreted across languages (McCarthy, 2017). The English and Arabic languages have significant differences in syntax, grammar, and semantics, which can lead to challenges in achieving accurate translations. Understanding these differences is crucial for accurate translation(Ghazala, 2008). One of the factors that lead to these distinctions is the cultural differences between English-speaking and Arabic-speaking regions. Translators need to consider morphological structures to ensure that the translated material is relevant and appropriate for the target audience (Al-Qinai, 2005).

Since the Arabic language is semitic, characterized by a root-and-pattern morphology, whereas the English language which is a germanic language, it relies deeply on affixation and analytical constructions. Consequently, the differences in their morphological systems present challenges for achieving translation equivalence (Farghal & Almanna, 2022). Arabic relies on a rich system of inflectional and derivational morphology, where root consonants combine with various patterns to form words (Ryding, 2005). In contrast, English has a relatively fixed word order and utilizes auxiliary verbs and prepositions to express grammatical relations. This structural difference complicates translation, particularly in cases of verbal morphology, noun derivation, and tense/aspect representation. These distinctive morphological systems lead to non-equivalent translations, where nuances may be lost or misinterpreted (Soudi, etal. 2007).

Another crucial factor influencing translation equivalence is the process of word formation. The Arabic language frequently employs derivation and compounding to create new words, while English relies more on borrowing and affixation (Booij, 2012). The Arabic language relies on generating multiple lexical forms from a single root complicates the process of translating abstract concepts and technical terms into English, where morphological transparency is often required (Farghal & Shunnaq, 1999). Additionally, the existence of bound morphemes in Arabic, such as the pronominal suffixes attached to verbs, poses challenges for English translators, who must compensate by restructuring sentences to maintain coherence (Abdul-Sahib, 2003).

Other researchers in translation studies has consistently highlighted the effects of morphological mismatches on lexical and grammatical translation shifts. Jawad, (2020) indicate that English-Arabic translators often resort to paraphrasing or syntactic transformation to achieve equivalence when dealing with morphological disparities. Farghal & Almana, A. (2022) revealed that the Arabic/English corpus includes mismatches in both word and multi-word units. At the word level, there is lexical and referential/cultural gaps. Therefore, translators should use different translation strategies when handling such gaps, such as cultural approximation and descriptive translation. He revealed also that while collocations may present several problems at the production level, idiomatic expressions are more challenging at the reception level. Furthermore, Alhendi and Baniamer (2024) addressed the phenomenon of referential gaps between Arabic and English, highlighting the distinct referential behaviors each language employs during communication.

Thus, based on the challenges of employing suitable morphological structures from English into Arabic languages and vice versa, the present study seeks to explore the extent to which morphological structures influence translation equivalence between English and Arabic through analyzing the translation strategies used in morphologically translation contexts, providing insights into how linguistic differences could be modified in style and function, maintaining meaning across these two languages.

### **Statement of the problem**

Morphological differences between Arabic and English pose significant challenges to achieving translation equivalence. Arabic language is considered as a Semitic language, with a complex root-and-pattern system and extensive inflectional and derivational variations, whereas English language follows a more linear and affixation structure. These fundamental distinctions lead to inconsistency in meaning, function, and style in translating equivalences. The problem of the present research lies in exploring how the morphological structures in both Arabic and English languages influence translation accuracy across both languages.

### **Objective of the study**

The present study aimed to

- Examine the morphological structures effects on maintaining equivalence in meaning, function, and style
- Analyze the impact of inflectional and derivational morphology on the accuracy and consistency of translation.
- identify translators' challenges when translating Arabic and English morphology structure.
- explore strategies that can enhance translation equivalence while preserving linguistic and cultural nuances.

### **Questions of the study**

The present study tried to answer the following questions:

- How do Arabic and English morphological structures effect on maintaining equivalence in meaning, function, and style
- What is the impact of inflectional and derivational morphology on the accuracy and consistency of translation?
- What are the primary challenges posed by Arabic's inflectional and derivational morphology in translation?
- What strategies can improve the accuracy and effectiveness of translation between Arabic and English?

### **Hypotheses of the study**

1. Morphological differences between Arabic and English significantly affect translation equivalence.
2. Inflectional and derivational morphology variations in Arabic lead to greater translation challenges compared to the English morphological structures.
3. Certain morphological structures in Arabic have no direct equivalent in English, leading to specific adaptations.

### **Theoretical review of literature**

#### **Translation skills**

Translation is considered the fifth skill of English language skills : reading, writing, listening , speaking and translation (Castillo, 2019). Chesterman (2005) states that "The etymology of the term translation is Latin TRANSLATIO, a term to be found in most Romance languages with a different meaning. It comes from TRANS 'through' and LATUS 'side', so it means something like move something from one side into the other. In this case , this movement comes from a given (A) language into another (B)".

### **Definition of translation**

As a mean of communication , translation could be defined as "the interpretation of the meaning of a text in one language (the "source text") and the production, in another language, of an equivalent text (the "target text." or translation)" that communicates the same message (Warwal, 2015). Additionally, Kolawole, (2013) defines translation as a modern science at the interface of philosophy, linguistics, psychology , and sociology Literary translation in particular is relevant to all these sciences , audiovisual arts, as well as intellectual studies.

Bassnett &, Bush (2007, p.7) define the translator as “a writer who formulates ideas in words addressed to readers . The only difference between him and the original writer is that these ideas are the latter’s”. Colina (2003) defines translation as "rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text." It means that the meaning of the source text is transferred into the target text and appropriately according to author's purposes " .

Translation has long been viewed "as striving towards a faithful reproduction of a source text (ST) and possessing an invariant, stable meaning. The target text (TT) was considered an equivalent to an original" (Gambier, 2008, p. 19).

Basically, translation is a reproduction of a text from one language to another, keeping the same meaning of the original text. It could be considered a mean of communication as it conveys the ideas and expressions of a writer in a specific language to the readers in another language

### **Translation equivalence**

Translation equivalence has been a central and debated concept in translation research and studies, focus mainly on the degree to which a translated text preserves the meaning and effect of the source text. In this domain, several theories have discussed the concept and proposed models to clarify the concept.

### **Jakobson semiotic theory**

Jakobson (1959) introduced a semiotic theory for translation equivalence, categorizing it into three types:

- Intralingual translation: which focused on interpretation of verbal signs within the same language.
- Translation Proper: which focus on interpretation of verbal signs between different languages.
- Transmutation: interpretation of verbal signs through non-verbal sign systems.

Through this framework, it is emphasized that complete equivalence between code units in different languages is unattainable due to inherent linguistic differences. Translation involves substituting messages in one language for entire messages in another, rather than seeking direct code unit replacements. This perspective highlights the necessity of considering the overall message and context during translation (Rędzioch-Korkuz, 2023, p.33).

### **Nida theory of translation equivalence**

Nida (1964) introduced the concepts of formal and dynamic equivalence, explaining them as formal equivalence which focuses on preserving the form and content of the source text, aiming for a close match in grammatical units and terminology. This approach seeks to maintain the original message's structure and meaning. The other type is dynamic equivalence which prioritizes conveying the intended effect and meaning of the source text, even if it necessitates structural adjustments. The goal of the dynamic equivalence is to produce a natural and culturally appropriate translation that resonates with the target audience.

Nida and Taber (1982) emphasized that the dynamic equivalence often leads to more effective translations by ensuring that the target text elicits the same response as the original text. Strict adherence to formal equivalence might hinder comprehension and naturalness in the target language.

### **Newmark communicative and semantic translation**

Newmark (1981) proposed two distinct methods of translation, the first is communicative translation, which aims to produce the same effect on the target audience as the original text does on the native audience. Thus, it allows flexibility in expression to achieve equivalent impact. The other method is semantic translation which focuses on reproducing the precise contextual meaning of the source text, maintaining its form and content as closely as possible. This approach emphasizes fidelity to the original text's nuances and structure. Panou, (2013, p. 4) comments on Newmark theory saying that he highlighted the importance of context and the translator's judgment in choosing between these methods, depending on the text type and purpose.

### **Contemporary Perspectives on Equivalence**

In recent years, the concept of equivalence has evolved, with scholars viewing it as a relationship between texts rather than a strict one-to-one correspondence. Munday (2016, p.71) states that this shift acknowledges the complexities of translation, where cultural, contextual, and linguistic factors interplay. Equivalence is now often seen as a functional relationship, where the focus is on achieving the intended purpose of the translation within its specific context.

### **Pym (2014) theory**

Pym (2014) distinguishes between natural equivalence which is a two-way relationship where back-translation is possible, and directional equivalence which is a one-way decision made by the translator. He highlights the complexity of translation procedures like modulation, transposition, and adaptation. Munday (2016, p.74) advocates Pym effort for reframing the debate on equivalence in translation studies, mentioning that Pym theory provides a practical and realistic view that goes beyond rigid linguistic models. In the same view, House (2015, p. 118) appreciates Pym's distinction between natural and directional equivalence, calling considers Pym theory as a useful framework for understanding how equivalence operates dynamically in different translation contexts. However, from an opposite point of view, Baker (2018, p.92) mentions that this theory emphasize on asymmetry

in directional equivalence, which may oversimplify the translator's decision-making process," especially in literary or culturally loaded texts (p. 92).

### **Dickins, Hervey & Higgins (2017) theory**

Dickins et al. (2017) address the translation equivalence from a pedagogical perspective, dividing it into two main types; the descriptive and the prescriptive types, suggesting that instead of seeking identical effect. In their view, translators should aim to minimize differences. They argue that equivalence should be seen as a continuum of similarity, not identity, and introduce the textual matrices model to help student translators analyze translation choices.

Gambier and van Doorslaer (2019) support the pedagogical value of this theory as it offers practical tools for learners while still engaging with theoretical nuance. Hatim and Munday (2004) consider the notion of minimizing difference as a helpful strategy in translation pedagogy, especially for complex linguistic and cultural mismatches". On the other hand, Nord (2018) comments that the minimal-difference approach may neglect the communicative purpose of the target text, particularly when adaptation is required for a specific audience.

### **Morphological Structures into English and Arabic languages**

Morphology is the internal study of word. A word can consist of one morpheme or more. Morphemes are the minimum units of the lexicon. Bloomfields, define lexicon as "the total stock of morphemes in a language. "Morphemes are the smallest individually meaningful elements in the utterances of a language". (Nur, 2016).

Winkler & Stickle (2024) explains it in details mentioning that there are two classes of morphemes. A free morpheme (sometimes called a stem or base) is one which can meaningfully occur alone. There are also morphemes that must always occur with a base, e.g. the plural morpheme in "books" expresses plurality. Such morphemes are called bound morphemes. Other examples of bound morphemes are the "present tense" morpheme, the "negative" morpheme. Bound morphemes or affixes may also be classified as derivational or inflectional according to the effect they produce on the base. Derivational affixes are bound morphemes which generally combine with the base to change its parts of speech class. Bound morphemes may be classified as affixes, which are subdivided into prefixes, suffixes and infixes, according to the way they combine with the base or stem. Prefixes occur before the base; suffixes occur after the base. Inflectional affixes are bound morphemes which carry grammatical meanings like "plural", "past tense" or "possessive". Both derivational and inflection affixes may be used to define word classes or parts of speech.

Lieber (2021, p.273) mentions that that the way in which morphemes are put together in a complex or a compound word is called a morphological construction. While, the devices by which the constituent words of a paradigm are differentiated from one another are known as morphological process. Morphological process can be divided into five kinds. (1) affixation, (2) internal change, (3) reduplication, (4) suppletion and (5) zero modification.

### Differences in Morphological Structures

Arabic is a semitic language with a highly inflectional and root-based morphology, it is the language of religion. whereas English, a germanic language, primarily relies on affixation and word order. English is the language of science and technology; it can also be used as the language that informs about religion since many materials about religion are also written in English (Watson, (2002, p. 3).

Ryding (2005, p. 50) clarifies that both languages share some isolated morphological features. Linguistically, the English language has four aspects that include (1) phonology, (2) morphology, (3) syntax and (4) semantics. In terms of phonology, English has consonants, consonant clusters, vowels, and diphthongs. In addition, it also has suprasegmental phonemes that include (1) pitch, (2) stress, (3) intonation, and (4) juncture. In terms of morphology, the English language has its own rules of word formation, that might be different or the same with other languages. In terms of syntax, i.e., the arrangements of words to become sentences, English also has its own rules. In terms of semantics, English also has many kinds of meanings.

Arabic morphology is based on a root-and-pattern system, where words derive from a set of three or four consonantal roots that convey a general meaning. These roots are then inserted into specific patterns involving vowels and affixes to form words. In contrast, English follows a linear and affixational morphology, where words are formed by adding prefixes and suffixes. For instance, the root word *write* can be modified to *writer*, *writing*, and *written* through affixation, but the fundamental structure of the word remains unchanged (Salim, 2013).

In relation to inflectional morphology, the Arabic language is a highly inflectional language, meaning that word forms change significantly to indicate tense, gender, number, and case. Nouns in Arabic inflect for definiteness (e.g., *kitāb* vs. *al-kitāb*), gender (e.g., *mu'allim* (male teacher) vs. *mu'allima* (female teacher)), and number (singular, dual, plural). Verbs conjugate based on subject pronouns, tense, aspect, and mood, often undergoing significant internal vowel changes. English, however, has a relatively low degree of inflection. While English nouns inflect for number (singular/plural) and possession (e.g., *cat* vs. *cats* vs. *cat's*), they do not reflect gender. In the English language, verbs show limited inflection mainly in past tense and third-person singular forms (e.g., *write* vs. *writes* vs. *wrote*), relying more on auxiliary verbs and word order to indicate grammatical relations (Shamsan & Attayib, 2015).

In respect to derivational morphology, the Arabic language employs non-linear derivation through internal vowel changes and affixation to derive related words. This construction allows extensive word formation from a single root. In contrast, the English language uses a more transparent derivational system, often adding prefixes and suffixes (e.g., "*happy – unhappy*", "*nation – national*"). While some internal vowel changes exist (*strong* → *strength*), they are less systematic compared to Arabic (Nur, 2016, p.53).

In respect to case system, in the Arabic language, nouns take different case endings based on their syntactic role, distinguishing nominative, accusative, and genitive cases. These case markings are most evident in formal or classical Arabic but are often omitted in spoken

dialects. The English language lacks a robust case system for nouns, relying instead on word order and prepositions to convey relationships. Pronouns, however, retain case distinctions (e.g., “*he* vs. *him* vs. *his*”), but these are relatively limited compared to Arabic (Mohammad, 1982).

### **Similarities of both languages**

Despite all the previous distinctions between both language there are many similarities. Firstly, both the Arabic and the English languages use affixation to modify meaning and grammatical function. English predominantly employs prefixes and suffixes “un-happy, happiness”, while Arabic uses both affixes and internal changes “*maktab* vs. *maktaba*” (Alenazi, 2021, p.36).

Secondly, both languages form new words through compounding. The English language frequently combines words to create new meanings (blackboard, toothpaste), while Arabic also forms compounds, often in the form of *idaafa* constructions, such as “*kitāb al-mudarris*” which means “the teacher’s book” (McGregor, 2009,p.93).

In addition, both languages borrow words from other languages, adapting them to their respective morphological systems. The English language has borrowed from Latin, French, and Germanic sources, while the Arabic language has incorporated words from Persian, Turkish, and European languages, often integrating them into its root-based system (Alenazi, 2021, p.64).

To sum up, despite the fundamental differences between both the Arabic and the English languages, they share several morphological features, particularly in affixation and word formation. However, the Arabic root-based system and inflectional nature contrasts clearly with the English linear and analytic structure. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for effective translation process across languages, highlighting the need to employ suitable strategies of modifications to find more suitable equivalences .

### **Methodology**

#### **Research Design**

The research followed the qualitative method. The researcher uses content analysis of various translated texts applied on university level, in order to explore the influence of morphological structures on translation equivalence across English and Arabic languages. The data of this research are the English and Arabic morphological structures that consists of prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and internal change. The sources of the data are the English printed texts that translated into Arabic language which applied on university level and extracted from books, magazines, etc. the texts were selected as they contain morphologically rich structures (e.g., affixation, derivation, inflection), word formation differences (e.g., compounding in the English language vs. root-based morphology in the Arabic language), grammatical categories that vary between the two languages (e.g., tense, gender, aspect), idiomatic expressions that require structural adjustments in translation.

To conduct the analysis, and to provide a comprehensive understanding of how morphological structures impact translation equivalence between the English and Arabic

languages, the researcher adopted an integration of theories of translation equivalence: Nida's Dynamic Equivalence for monitoring adaptations in meaning, style and function.

## Results

English source Text (1) (**Excerpt from a Scientific Report on Climate Change**):

*"Environmental sustainability requires continuous adaptation and innovation to combat climate change."*

### Arabic Translation:

*"الاستدامة البيئية تتطلب التكيف المستمر والابتكار لمواجهة تغير المناخ"*

**Table (1): Description of morphological structures and their features in English**

| Morphology in English | Feature                                     | Morphology in Arabic | Features   | notes  |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|--|--|
| Sustainability        | Noun of "sustain" + suffix "ability"        | الاستدامة            | Root-based derivation from "دام" + prefix              | Added prefix (است-) to form a noun of "seeking" or "state of being"          |
| Adaptation            | Noun of "adapt" + suffix "ation"            | التكيف               | verbal noun from the verb "تكيف"                       | No direct equivalent to the suffix "-ation", so the root-based noun is used. |
| Innovation            | Derived noun from "innovate" + suffix "ion" | "الابتكار"           | Root derivatied from "بكر" means "to innovate".        | Nominal form with the prefix (ابت-).   |
| Combat                | Verb used in abstract sense                 | مواجهة               | Derived from the root "و-ج-ه" , means "face/c onfront" | Pattern-based noun (مفاعلة), which often expresses reciprocal actions        |

It was indicated from the previous table that explaining the morphological structures and their equivalents in the Arabic language, how the morphological structures were modified to suit their equivalents in the English language. It was noted that English derivational suffixes (-ity, -ation, -ion) are replaced by root-based Arabic patterns. Some Arabic words require additional affixation to align with the meaning in English. English compound noun as "environmental sustainability" is translated as noun-adjective phrase in the Arabic language "الاستدامة البيئية". In addition English verb like "combat" requires nominalization in Arabic "مواجهة". Based on semantic considerations, it is noted that English abstract nouns are more easily formed via suffixation, while the Arabic language relies on templatic morphology to derive meanings. In addition, some words require paraphrasing rather than direct translation due to morphological constraints.

### Effects on meaning equivalence :

Meaning equivalence in translation refers to whether the concepts and ideas conveyed in the source text remain intact in the target text. The core meanings are largely retained, e.g. in “sustainability (الاستدامة): both refer to the ability to continue over time, though Arabic uses a root-based derivation (دام), “adaptation” “التكيف”: both imply adjusting to new conditions, but Arabic uses infinitive formation from “تكيف”, “innovation” “الابتكار” : the Arabic word derived from root “بكر” captures the meaning well. From another side, “combat” “مواجهة” requires minor semantic shifts; “ombat” implies an active struggle, while “المواجهة” means “confronting” which is less aggressive. A closer translation might be “مكافحة”..

### Effects on functional equivalence

Functional equivalence assesses whether words serve the same grammatical role in both languages. Based on the previous analysis in table (1), it is noted that functional equivalence is largely maintained, but some verb-noun shifts occur due to differences in derivation strategies. .g. in “sustainability (الاستدامة): Both act as abstract nouns, though Arabic uses templatic morphology rather than suffixation. “adaptation” “التكيف”: both functions as a noun in both languages, but Arabic relies on root-based morphology. “innovation” “الابتكار” : both functions as a noun, derived from a trilateral root in Arabic. “combat” “المواجهة” : In English, “combat” is a verb, while in Arabic, “المواجهة” is a verbal noun, leading to a structural shift.

### Effects on stylistic equivalence

Stylistic equivalence examines whether the tone, formality, and structure remain similar. Based on the previous analysis in table (1), it is noted that Arabic often uses verbal nouns and extra morphology, making it more elaborate. Thus, style retained partially, as English style is concise and noun heavy where as Arabic style is more elaborative and root based . when translating e.g.. “combat” “المواجهة” : Arabic loses some forcefulness found in English. Consequently, Arabic translation remains formal and accurate, but the tone softens slightly due to different morphological choices.

To conclude, while morphological structures help retain meaning and function, translation equivalence is not absolute due to linguistic differences between English and Arabic. Some structural shifts (e.g., verb conveyed to noun conversion) and stylistic changes (e.g., Arabic being more formal) affect equivalence in translation.

## 2. English source text (2): (Excerpt from a Scientific Report on Climate Change):

"The government's decentralization policy encourages the empowerment of local communities to promote sustainable development.

Translation: "تشجع سياسة اللامركزية التي تتبعها الحكومة تمكين المجتمعات المحلية لتعزيز التنمية المستدامة"

**Table (2): Description of morphological structures and their features in English**

| Morphology in English | Feature   | Morphology in Arabic | Features  | notes  |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|---|--|
| Decentralization      | ( <i>de-</i> prefix + <i>centralize</i> (root) + <i>ation</i> suffix) | اللامركزية           | " <i>اللا-</i> " prefix + root (verb) - based derivation) | Root-based derivation instead of affixation                  |
| Policy                | abstract noun   | سياسة                | سياسة (root "س-ي-س")                                      | Maintain abstract meaning                                    |
| Encourages            | ( <i>-es</i> suffix for verb tense)                                   | تشجع                 | verb in present tense                                     | Shift from inflected English verb to root-based Arabic verb. |
| Empowerment           | ( <i>em</i> prefix + verb (root) + <i>ment</i> suffix)                | تمكين                | Infinitive form of verb "مكن")                            | Root-based derivation replaces suffixation.                  |
| Communities           | ( <i>-ies</i> plural form)  | المجتمعات            | plural form using "ات"                                    | Plural form in Arabic is templatic, not suffix-based.        |

It was indicated from the previous table that the differences between English and Arabic morphology require structural shifts to be navigated while ensuring semantic accuracy. Arabic's root-based morphology contrasts with English affixation tools, e.g. In English, the word "decentralization" is formed using the prefix "de-", the root "centralize", and the suffix "-ation". Whereas, in Arabic, "اللامركزية" is formed using the prefix "اللا-" and a root-based derivation. Instead of affixation (prefixes/suffixes), Arabic employs a root-based word, where a root conveys the core meaning and different patterns create noun and verb forms. Thus, equivalence is achieved, but the morphological formation differs significantly. The word "Policy → سياسة": Both the English and Arabic forms express an abstract noun, maintaining semantic equivalence. Arabic word "سياسة" derives from the root "س-ي-س", which inherently carries the meaning of governing or managing affairs. Accordingly, the translation achieves full morphological and semantic equivalence despite differences in structure. The word "encourages → تشجع": In English, the suffix "-es" is added to the root "encourage" to indicate the third-person singular present tense, but in Arabic, "تشجع" is a root-based present tense verb derived from "ش-ج-ع" (to encourage). Thus, instead of using an inflected verb form, Arabic uses a conjugated verb derived from a root. The grammatical function remains the same, but the morphological structure shifts from suffixation (English) to root-based conjugation (Arabic). The word "Empowerment → تمكين": the English forms "empowerment" using the prefix "em-", the verb "power", and the suffix "-ment". In the Arabic forms "تمكين" derived from the root "م-ك-ن" with a templatic structure, creating an infinitive noun. Thus, the Arabic equivalent expresses the concept without prefixation or suffixation, using a root-based verbal noun pattern (infinitive). In brief, while the meaning is maintained, the equivalent structure is entirely different. The word "communities → المجتمعات": In English, the suffix "-ies" is added to the root "community" for pluralization, but in Arabic, the equivalent "المجتمعات" is formed by adding "ات" to the root-based singular form. Thus, the English form uses a suffix-based plural, while Arabic uses a templatic plural.

### **Effects on meaning equivalence :**

The translated word “decentralization” into “اللامركزية”, meaning is accurately conveyed, though the prefix "de-" which is translated in the Arabic prefix "اللا". The word “empowerment which is translated into the Arabic word تمكين” a root-based noun formation in Arabic which captures the meaning well.

### **Effects on functional equivalence**

It is revealed from the previous analysis that functional equivalence is mostly retained in all equivalents. e.g. in the verb inflection in English “encourages”, the Arabic verb conjugation تنشجع maintains function. In addition, the Plural word “communities” and its equivalent “المجتمعات” follows Arabic templatic pluralization system, not suffix-based.

### **Effects on stylistic equivalence**

It is revealed from the previous analysis Arabic translation is more formal than English. The **Arabic language prefers explicit noun phrases**, while English allows more abstract suffix-based derivation.

To conclude, meaning is largely preserved, but morphological structures influence translation shifts. The English affixation-based morphology (e.g., *-ation, -ment, -ies*) is replaced with the root-based Arabic derivation. In addition, the English compounds may be shifted to the Arabic noun-adjective phrases. The English verbs may shift to different verb patterns or noun-based structures in Arabic.

### **Conclusion**

The present study aimed at exploring the influence of morphological structures on translation equivalence across English and Arabic. Through analyzing examples of translated texts from English into Arabic. It could be concluded that morphological structures has a crucial role in shaping translation equivalence across English and Arabic. While meaning and function are generally preserved, morphological differences require syntactic restructuring, explicit phrasing, and stylistic adaptations. Despite differences in morphological structures, translation generally preserves semantic accuracy. However, direct one-to-one translation is often impossible due to language-specific derivational and inflectional patterns. Affix-based word formation in English is often restructured into explicit phrasing or root-based derivations in Arabic. The English compound nouns are expressed as noun-adjective structures or genitive phrases in Arabic. In addition, the English language relies heavily on inflectional morphology, whereas the Arabic language prefers root-based derivation, verb conjugation, and explicit negation. English continuous tense may shift to present simple in Arabic. Some English past participles may be translated in active present verbs in Arabic. In relation to meaning and function, they are largely preserved, but some stylistic shifts occur due to the structural differences between the two languages. The English language maintains fixed word order, while the Arabic allows greater syntactic flexibility based on emphasis. Finally, the English passive voice may shift to active structures in Arabic due to stylistic preferences.

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