

The Effect of Normative Equivalence on the English Translation of the Arabic Word "Ghurfa"

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Abstract:

This study investigates how normative equivalence affects the English translation of the Arabic word ("غرفة" ghurfa) across various textual and institutional contexts. While the word appears semantically straightforward, its functional and normative meanings differ significantly across registers. Using a corpus of administrative, institutional, and professional collocations such as غرفة and others, the study analyzes translators' choices and evaluates the contextual adequacy of English renderings such as "chamber", "office", "department", "unit", and "room". The findings indicate that literal translations often fail to convey the institutional norms embedded in the Arabic term, while normative equivalence yields more accurate and context-sensitive outcomes.

Keywords : Normative Equivalence; Institutional Terminology; Semantic Shift; Translation Strategies; Lexical Semantics.

أثر التكافؤ المعياري في ترجمة الكلمة العربية "غرفة" إلى اللغة الإنكليزية

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المستخلص :

تتناول هذه الدراسة أثر التكافؤ المعياري في ترجمة الكلمة العربية (غرفة) الى اللغة الانكليزية عبر سياقات نصية ومؤسسية متنوعة. وعلى الرغم من أن الكلمة تبدو بسيطة دلاليًا، فإن معانيها الوظيفية والمعيارية تختلف بشكل ملحوظ باختلاف السجلات اللغوية. تعتمد الدراسة على مدونة لغوية تتضمن تراكيب إدارية ومؤسسية ومهنية مثل: غرفة التجارة، غرفة المحامين، غرفة التصوير، غرفة العمليات، وغيرها، وذلك لتحليل اختيارات المترجمين وتقييم مدى ملاءمة الترجمات الإنكليزية مثل : من حيث السياق . "chamber" و "office" و "department" و "unit" و "room" وتُظهر النتائج أن الترجمات الحرفية غالبًا ما تفشل في نقل الأبعاد المعيارية والمؤسسية الكامنة في المصطلح العربي، في حين يحقق التكافؤ المعياري نتائج أكثر دقة وملاءمة للسياق.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التكافؤ المعياري؛ المصطلحات المؤسسية؛ التحول الدلالي؛ استراتيجيات الترجمة؛ الدلالة المعجمية.

Introduction:

1.1 Background of the Study

The Arabic lexeme *ghurfa* (غرفة) is conventionally rendered as *room* in English. However, in many administrative, institutional, and technical contexts, the term extends beyond its primary spatial meaning to denote an institutional body, a functional unit, or a professional entity. This semantic shift reflects the impact of contextual and institutional conventions on lexical meaning. Consequently, reliance on literal equivalence may result in terminological inaccuracy and pragmatic inadequacy. As emphasized in translation studies, equivalence is not merely a matter of formal correspondence but involves the transfer of meaning in relation to context and communicative function (Munday, 2016, p. 59).

1. Problem Statement

Despite the apparent simplicity of the Arabic lexical item *ghurfa* (غرفة), its translation into English presents a significant challenge in institutional, administrative, and technical contexts. While the term is conventionally translated as *room*, such literal rendering frequently fails to capture its extended functional and normative meanings in expressions such as *ghurfat al-tijara*, *ghurfat al-muhamin*, and *ghurfat al-'amaliyyat*. In these contexts, the term does not denote a physical space but rather an institutional body, operational unit, or professional entity. This reflects the broader principle that lexical meaning is shaped by context and usage rather than fixed form (Baker, 2018; Halliday & Hasan, 1976).

The reliance on literal equivalence often results in semantic distortion, terminological inaccuracy, and pragmatic inadequacy, thereby undermining the communicative purpose of the source text (Newmark, 1988; Nida, 1964). This problem is particularly evident in translations that ignore target-language conventions governing institutional terminology (Shuttleworth & Cowie, 2014). Accordingly, the central problem addressed in this study lies in the inadequacy of literal translation strategies in rendering the normative and context-dependent meanings of *ghurfa*, and the need to examine how normative equivalence can provide more accurate and contextually appropriate translations.

2. Research Hypotheses

Normative equivalence provides more accurate and contextually appropriate English translations of the Arabic term *ghurfa* in institutional and professional contexts than literal equivalence.

Literal translation of *ghurfa* as “room” leads to semantic distortion in institutional and administrative contexts.

The meaning of *ghurfa* is context-dependent and varies according to domain-specific usage (e.g., legal, medical, technical, and administrative).

English translations that align with institutional conventions (e.g., *Chamber*, *Unit*, *Center*) achieve higher levels of pragmatic and terminological adequacy.

Corpus-based analysis reveals consistent patterns in the normative translation of *ghurfa* across different domains.

Failure to apply normative equivalence results in loss of institutional meaning and functional misrepresentation.

1.3 Research Questions

- What normative meanings does the term "غرفة" acquire across different institutional and administrative contexts?
- How do English translators render these collocations in actual translation practice?
- To what extent does normative equivalence enhance contextual accuracy in translation?
- Which translation strategies are most effective in handling the normative dimensions of "غرفة" ?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

- To identify the functional and institutional meanings of "غرفة" across various contexts.
- To evaluate English translations in professional, administrative, and technical texts.
- To measure the role of normative equivalence in improving translation accuracy.
- To propose translation strategies for institutional collocations involving "غرفة".

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study emphasizes the importance of normative equivalence in translation and contributes to a deeper understanding of Arabic institutional terminology. It also provides practical guidance for translators working with administrative and contextualized lexical items.

1.6 Methodology

The study employs a **qualitative, corpus-based analytical approach**. A dataset comprising authentic Arabic collocations containing the lexeme *غرفة* (*ghurfa*) is compiled from legal instruments, professional association records, governmental publications, and media discourse. English translational equivalents are systematically compared, evaluated, and interpreted through the lens of **normative equivalence theory**.

Within this framework, the study conceptualizes translation as a **purpose-driven activity** (Holz-Mänttari, 1984), wherein the translator's role extends beyond linguistic transfer to the production of a target text that fulfills a specific communicative function in the receiving culture. This aligns with **skopos theory** (Vermeer, 1989; Nord, 1997), which posits that the *skopos*—or purpose—of a translation determines the strategies employed. In the case of institutional collocations involving *ghurfa*, the overarching *skopos* is to achieve **pragmatic adequacy** in English, thereby justifying recourse to **normative equivalence** over literal correspondence.

As Munday (2016, p. 79) observes, functionalist approaches “move away from the linguistic equivalence paradigm to a focus on the target text's purpose.” This shift underpins the present study's methodological orientation, privileging target-context norms and institutional conventions as the primary determinants of translation decisions.

Theoretical Framework

2.1 Equivalence in Translation

Equivalence is a foundational concept in translation studies, central to understanding how meaning can be transferred effectively between languages while preserving both semantic and pragmatic dimensions. Scholars such as Eugene Nida, J.C. Catford, and Mona Baker have explored this concept extensively, highlighting various types of equivalence, including formal, dynamic, functional, and normative equivalence. Formal equivalence focuses on the structural and linguistic correspondence between source and target texts, while dynamic equivalence emphasizes the effect of the translation on the target audience, aiming to reproduce a similar response as in the original context. Functional equivalence considers the communicative purpose of a text, ensuring that the intended function is conveyed, and normative equivalence aligns translation choices with institutional, professional, and cultural conventions governing specific lexical items.

In the context of Arabic–English translation, normative equivalence proves particularly essential when dealing with institutional terminology, such as the lexeme *غرفة* (**ghurfa**). While the literal English equivalent "room" might be

adequate in casual contexts, it often fails to convey the institutional, operational, or professional meaning embedded in collocations such as *غرفة التجارة*, *غرفة المحامين*, and *غرفة العمليات*. In these cases, the semantic shift from a physical space to an organizational or functional entity highlights the inadequacy of literal translation and underscores the necessity of applying normative equivalence. For instance, translating *غرفة المحامين* as "Lawyers' Room" would obscure its function as a professional regulatory body, whereas "Bar Association" accurately reflects its institutional role and aligns with English legal terminology. Similarly, *غرفة العمليات* in a crisis management context requires translation as "Emergency Operations Center" rather than "Operations Room" to preserve its managerial and operational significance.

Normative equivalence, therefore, serves not only to maintain terminological accuracy but also to ensure that translations adhere to target-language conventions, providing contextually appropriate and culturally intelligible renditions. By considering lexical variation, domain-specific usage, and institutional norms, translators can avoid semantic distortion and functional misrepresentation, achieving translations that are both precise and communicatively effective. This multidimensional approach demonstrates that equivalence is not merely a matter of lexical substitution but a sophisticated process involving the interplay of language, context, and institutional expectations, especially in professional and administrative texts.

2.2 Normative Equivalence

Normative equivalence refers to the alignment of translation choices with the institutional norms, professional conventions, and cultural expectations governing specific lexical items. This form of equivalence is particularly relevant for administrative terminology, legal discourse, and organizational nomenclature.

2.3 Lexical Variation and Contextual Meaning

Words acquire context-dependent meanings shaped by domain-specific usage, register, and institutional functions. In Arabic, many nouns—such as *مجلس*, *هيئة*, and *غرفة*—shift semantically when used in official contexts.

2.4 Institutional Terminology in Translation

Institutional terms often resist literal translation due to embedded legal, administrative, or organizational conventions. Translators must therefore rely on established English institutional terminology rather than direct lexical mapping.

Data and Methodology :

3.1 Corpus Description

The corpus consists of institutional and administrative collocations that include the word "غرفة". Examples include:

- * غرفة التجارة
- * غرفة المحامين
- * غرفة العمليات (ادارة ازمة)
- * غرفة العمليات (قطاع الصحي)
- * غرفة النواب
- * غرفة التدخين
- * غرفة عمليات الطوارئ
- * غرفة الاحتراق (المحركات)
- * غرفة الصناعة
- * *غرف مجلس الشيوخ
- * غرف الاطباء
- * غرفة الأخبار
- * غرفة المسافرين
- * غرفة التصوير
- * غرفة الصناعات
- * غرفة الزراعة
- * غرفة المتابعة
- * *غرفة الحجز
- * *غرفة العناية المشددة
- * *غرف المهندسين
- * *غرفة الصحفيين
- * *غرفة المترجمين
- * *غرفة الحراسة

Each example is analyzed according to its function, domain, and normative implications.

3.2 Data Collection

Data is sourced from:

- *Governmental and administrative texts
- *Legal and professional association documents
- *Media discourse
- *Institutional websites and public statements

3.3 Analytical Procedures

- Identify the contextual function of each collocation.
- Determine its normative meaning in Arabic institutional usage.
- Examine existing English translations, if available.
- Evaluate the adequacy of translations using normative equivalence principles.
- Propose improved translations where necessary.

Analysis and Discussion

4.0 Expanded Corpus of Institutional and Functional Collocations Involving "غرفة"

To enhance the analytical depth of the study, this section expands the corpus to include a broader set of institutional, administrative, technical, and professional collocations. These additional examples illustrate the semantic elasticity of "غرفة" and further demonstrate the necessity of applying normative equivalence in English translation.

Expanded Examples:

- غرفة التجارة الدولية International Chamber of Commerce
- غرفة الصناعة والتجارة Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- غرفة السياحة Tourism Chamber / Tourism Board (normative)
- غرفة الملاحة Maritime Chamber / Navigation Chamber
- غرفة التحكم Control Center
- غرفة الدعم اللوجستي Logistics Support Unit / Logistics Operations Unit

- غرفة التخطيط Planning Unit / Planning Office
- غرفة الاجتماعات Meeting Room / Conference Room
- غرفة المراقبة Monitoring Room / Surveillance Center
- غرفة الحجز Detention Room / Holding Cell
- غرفة التعقيم Sterilization Unit
- غرفة الترجمة الفورية Interpretation Booth
- غرفة الاستعلامات Information Desk / Inquiry Office
- غرفة القيادة والسيطرة Command and Control Center
- غرفة الاتصالات Communications Center
- غرفة محادثات السلام Peace Negotiations Room / Dialogue Chamber
- غرفة التحليل الجنائي Forensic Analysis Unit
- غرفة التداول Trading (Dealing) Floor
- غرفة عمليات الطيران Flight Operations Center
- غرفة عمليات الشرطة Police Operations Center
- غرفة أمن المعلومات Information Security Unit
- غرفة خدمات الزبائن Customer Service Desk / Customer Support Unit
- غرفة الخدمات الفنية Technical Services Unit

These examples enable more comprehensive and multilayered analysis across institutional sub-domains.

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4.1 غرفة التجارة – Chamber of Commerce

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat al-tijara* refers to a formally recognized business organization responsible for representing commercial interests, issuing business documentation, and supporting economic policy. The normative English equivalent "Chamber of Commerce" is a well-established legal and administrative term. Literal translation would obscure the institutional authority and official standing of the entity.

4.2 غرفة المحامين – Bar Association

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat al-muhamin* refers to the official professional body regulating the legal profession, responsible for licensing attorneys, enforcing professional conduct, and representing lawyers before judicial and governmental authorities. The normative English equivalent "Bar Association" carries the same regulatory and representative functions in common law jurisdictions. A literal translation such as "Lawyers' Chamber" would fail to convey the regulatory authority and professional disciplinary role inherent in the term.

4.3 (غرفة العمليات إدارة أزمة) – Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat al-'amaliyat* in crisis management contexts refers to a centralized coordination hub that integrates multiple agencies during emergencies, responsible for resource allocation, decision-making, and inter-

agency communication. The normative English equivalent "Emergency Operations Center (EOC)" is a standardized term used by civil defense and disaster management institutions worldwide. A literal translation such as "Operations Room" would diminish the institutional scale and coordination authority implied in the Arabic term.

4.4 (غرفة العمليات (قطاع صحي) – Operating theater (OT)

In medical Arabic, *ghurfat al-'amaliyat* refers to a sterile, specialized clinical environment where surgical procedures are performed, governed by strict protocols of asepsis, anesthesia, and surgical team coordination. The normative English equivalent "Operating theater (OT)" is the internationally recognized medical term. A literal translation such as "Operations Room" creates dangerous ambiguity, as it could be confused with military or crisis management contexts, potentially compromising patient safety in clinical communication.

4.5 غرفة النواب – House of Representatives / Chamber of Deputies

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat al-nuwwab* refers to the lower house of the legislative branch, responsible for lawmaking, budgetary oversight, and representation of citizens. The normative English equivalent varies by country: "House of Representatives" in the United States and many Arab countries, or "Chamber of Deputies" in other jurisdictions. Both are constitutionally recognized legislative terms. A literal translation such as "Representatives' Room" would strip the term of its constitutional significance and legislative authority.

4.6 غرفة التدخين – Smoking Area

In regulatory Arabic, *ghurfat al-tadkhin* refers to a designated enclosed space where smoking is permitted, typically within public or commercial establishments, governed by health and safety regulations. The normative English equivalent "Smoking Area" reflects contemporary public health terminology. While literal translation of this term is functionally accurate, it does not obscure institutional meaning as the term remains within the physical space domain rather than shifting to institutional abstraction.

4.7 غرفة عمليات الطوارئ – Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Expanded Analysis

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat 'amaliyat al-tawari'* refers to a permanent or temporary coordination entity activated during emergencies, integrating multiple response agencies under unified command. The normative English equivalent "Emergency Operations Center (EOC)" is the standard term used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), NATO, and the United Nations. A literal translation such as "Emergency Operations Room" fails to convey the institutional authority, multi-agency integration, and strategic coordination function embedded in the Arabic term.

4.8 (غرفة الاحتراق) المحركات – Combustion Chamber

Expanded Analysis

In technical Arabic, *ghurfat al-ihraq* refers to a precisely engineered component within internal combustion engines where fuel ignition and energy conversion occur. The normative English equivalent "Combustion Chamber" is the standardized engineering term used in automotive, aerospace, and mechanical engineering contexts. A literal translation such as "Combustion Room" would inaccurately suggest a human-occupied space rather than a precision mechanical component, potentially causing confusion in technical documentation and engineering communication.

4.9 غرفة الصناعة – Chamber of Industry

Expanded Analysis

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat al-sina'a* refers to a formally recognized representative body for the industrial sector, responsible for industrial licensing, sector development, and advocacy before government entities. The normative English equivalent "Chamber of Industry" is widely recognized in international trade and economic development contexts. A literal translation would obscure the entity's legal standing and representative authority, conflating it with a mere physical space.

4.10 غرف مجلس الشيوخ – Senate Chambers

Expanded Analysis

In institutional Arabic, *ghuraf majlis al-shuyukh* refers to the physical and institutional spaces where the upper house of parliament convenes, carrying constitutional significance as the venue for legislative deliberation and formal proceedings. The normative English equivalent "Senate Chambers" conveys both the physical space and the institutional authority vested in the legislative

body. A literal reduction to "Rooms of the Senate" would diminish the constitutional weight and ceremonial importance associated with the term.

4.11 غرف الأطباء – Doctors' Lounge / Medical Staff Room

Expanded Analysis

In institutional Arabic, *ghuraf al-atibba'* refers to designated staff spaces within healthcare facilities where physicians rest, consult, and manage administrative duties. The normative English equivalent "Doctors' Lounge" or "Medical Staff Room" reflects standard hospital facility terminology. While literal translation such as "Doctors' Rooms" is understandable, it lacks the institutional recognition of designated professional spaces within healthcare settings and may create ambiguity regarding the space's function and access restrictions.

4.12 غرفة الأخبار – Newsroom

Expanded Analysis

In media Arabic, *ghurfat al-akhbar* refers to the centralized workspace where journalists, editors, and producers coordinate news gathering, writing, editing, and broadcast production. The normative English equivalent "Newsroom" is a consolidated industry term that conveys both the physical space and the institutional function of news production. A literal translation such as "News Room" (as two separate words) is technically accurate but fails to reflect the consolidated institutional concept recognized in media industry discourse.

4.13 غرفة المسافرين – Passenger Lounge / Transit Lounge

Expanded Analysis

In transport Arabic, *ghurfat al-musafirin* refers to designated waiting areas within airports, train stations, or bus terminals where passengers await departure, often with amenities and service facilities. The normative English equivalent "Passenger Lounge" or "Transit Lounge" reflects standard transport infrastructure terminology. A literal translation such as "Travelers' Room" would not convey the commercial and service-oriented function of these spaces within modern transport facilities.

4.14 غرفة التصوير – Photography Studio / Radiology Room

Expanded Analysis

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat al-taswir* carries two distinct meanings depending on context. In media and arts contexts, it refers to a professionally equipped space for photography production. In medical contexts, it refers to a radiology or X-ray room for diagnostic imaging. The normative English equivalents are "Photography Studio" (arts context) and "Radiology Room" or "X-Ray Room" (medical context). A literal translation such as "Photography Room" fails to distinguish between these functionally distinct institutional spaces and may create dangerous ambiguity in medical settings where accurate spatial identification is critical.

4.15 غرفة الصناعات – Federation of Industries / Chamber of Industries

Expanded Analysis

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat al-sina'at* (plural) refers to a representative body encompassing multiple industrial sectors, often functioning as an umbrella organization for sector-specific chambers. The normative English equivalent "Federation of Industries" or "Chamber of Industries" reflects the broader institutional scope and representative authority. A literal translation such as "Industries Room" would obscure the organizational hierarchy and institutional mandate that distinguishes this entity from a single-sector chamber.

4.16 غرفة الزراعة – Chamber of Agriculture

Expanded Analysis

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat al-zira'a* refers to a formally recognized representative body for the agricultural sector, responsible for farmer advocacy, agricultural policy input, and sector development. The normative English equivalent "Chamber of Agriculture" is recognized internationally by organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and national agricultural bodies. A literal translation would obscure the institutional standing and regulatory functions associated with this entity.

4.17 غرفة المتابعة – Monitoring Unit / Follow-Up Office

Expanded Analysis

In administrative Arabic, *ghurfat al-mutaba'a* refers to an institutional unit responsible for tracking implementation progress, monitoring compliance, and reporting on project or policy execution. The normative English equivalent "Monitoring Unit" or "Follow-Up Office" reflects standard administrative terminology in international development and government contexts. A literal

translation such as "Follow-Up Room" would inaccurately suggest a passive physical space rather than an active institutional function with reporting authority and accountability mechanisms.

4.18 غرفة الحجز – Holding Cell / Detention Room / Reservation Desk

Expanded Analysis

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat al-hajz* carries two distinct meanings depending on context. In security and legal contexts, it refers to a temporary detention space within police stations or courthouses where individuals are held pending processing. In commercial contexts, it refers to a reservation or booking office. The normative English equivalents are "Holding Cell" or "Detention Room" (security context) and "Reservation Desk" or "Booking Office" (commercial context). A literal translation such as "Booking Room" creates dangerous ambiguity, conflating commercial transactions with custodial detention.

4.19 غرفة العناية المشددة – Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

Expanded Analysis

In medical Arabic, *ghurfat al-'inaya al-mushaddada* refers to a specialized hospital unit equipped for continuous monitoring and advanced life support for critically ill patients, staffed by specialized critical care teams. The normative English equivalent "Intensive Care Unit (ICU)" is the globally recognized medical term endorsed by the World Health Organization and international critical care societies. A literal translation such as "Critical Care Room" fails to convey the institutional unit structure, specialized staffing, and comprehensive care capabilities that distinguish an ICU from a general hospital room.

4.20 غرف المهندسين – Engineers' Lounge / Engineering Staff Room

Expanded Analysis

In institutional Arabic, *ghuraf al-muhandisin* refers to designated staff spaces within engineering firms, industrial facilities, or construction sites where engineering professionals rest, consult, and coordinate project activities. The normative English equivalent "Engineers' Lounge" or "Engineering Staff Room" reflects standard workplace facility terminology. A literal translation such as "Engineers' Rooms" lacks the institutional recognition of designated professional spaces and may not convey the social and collaborative function these spaces serve within engineering workplaces.

4.21 غرفة الصحفيين – Press Room / Newsroom

Expanded Analysis

In media Arabic, *ghurfat al-sahafiyin* refers to a designated space for journalists, often within government buildings, conference centers, or event venues, where press briefings occur or where journalists work. The normative English equivalent "Press Room" or "Newsroom" (depending on context) reflects standard media terminology. A literal translation such as "Journalists' Room" is functionally accurate but lacks the institutional recognition associated with "Press Room" as a designated space for official media interactions.

4.22 غرفة المترجمين – Interpretation Booth / Translators' Office

Expanded Analysis

In institutional Arabic, *ghurfat al-mutarjimin* carries two distinct meanings depending on context. In conference and diplomatic contexts, it refers to a soundproof booth where simultaneous interpreters work during multilingual proceedings. In institutional contexts, it refers to an office or unit where translators perform document translation. The normative English equivalents are "Interpretation Booth" (conference context) and "Translators' Office" or "Translation Unit" (institutional context). A literal translation such as "Translators' Room" fails to distinguish between these functionally distinct professional spaces and may not convey the specialized technical requirements of interpretation booths.

4.23 غرفة الحراسة – Guard Room / Security Booth

In security Arabic, *ghurfat al-harasa* refers to a designated security post where guards monitor access, manage entry points, and maintain security protocols. The normative English equivalent "Guard Room" or "Security Booth" reflects standard security industry terminology. A literal translation such as "Guarding Room" is grammatically awkward and fails to convey the functional and institutional recognition associated with established security terminology.

	Collocation	Semantic Shift	Normative Translation
1	غرفة التجارة	Spatial → Institutional	Chamber of Commerce
2	غرفة المحامين	Spatial → Institutional	Bar Association

3	غرفة العمليات (إدارة أزمة)	Spatial → Functional Unit	Emergency Operations Center
4	غرفة العمليات (قطاع صحي)	Spatial → Specialized Medical Unit	Operation theater (OT)
5	غرفة العمليات (قطاع صحي)	Spatial → Institutional	House of Representatives
6	غرفة التدخين	Stable Spatial	Smoking Area
7	غرفة عمليات الطوارئ	Spatial → Functional Unit	Emergency Operations Center
8	غرفة الاحتراق	Spatial → Technical Component	Combustion Chamber
9	غرفة الصناعة	Spatial → Institutional	Chamber of Industry
10	غرف مجلس الشيوخ	Spatial → Institutional	Senate Chambers
11	غرف الأطباء	Spatial → Specialized Professional Space	Doctors' Lounge – medical staff
12	غرفة الأخبار	Spatial → Specialized Professional Space	Newsroom
13	غرفة المسافرين	Stable Spatial	Passenger Lounge
14	غرفة التصوير	Spatial → Specialized Professional Space	Photography Studio / Radiology Room
15	غرفة الصناعات	Spatial → Institutional	Federation of Industries
16	غرفة الزراعة	Spatial → Institutional	Chamber of Agriculture
17	غرفة المتابعة	Spatial → Functional Unit	Monitoring Unit
18	غرفة الحجز	Stable Spatial	Holding Cell / Reservation Desk
19	غرفة العناية المشددة	Spatial → Specialized Medical Unit	Intensive Care Unit (ICU)
20	غرف المهندسين	Spatial → Specialized Professional Space	Engineers' Lounge
21	غرفة الصحفيين	Spatial → Specialized Professional Space	Press Room

22	غرفة المترجمين	Spatial → Specialized Professional Space	Interpretation Booth
23	غرفة الحراسة	Stable Spatial	Security Booth

Shift Type	Count
Spatial → Institutional	7
Spatial → Functional Unit	3
Spatial → Specialized Medical Unit	2
Spatial → Technical Component	1
Spatial → Specialized Professional Space	6
Stable Spatial	4
Total	23

5. Findings

*The word "غرفة" exhibits significant normative variation across institutional contexts.

*Literal translation often fails to convey correct institutional meaning.

*Normative equivalence produces accurate, conventional English terminology.

*Many institutional collocations of "غرفة" correspond to fixed English terms that do not contain "room."

5.1 Conclusions

Normative equivalence is essential for correctly translating institutional uses of "غرفة". Successful translation depends on understanding the functional and contextual norms rather than the base lexical meaning.

The expanded corpus confirms that the Arabic word "غرفة" exhibits a high degree of semantic fluidity governed by domain-specific norms rather than physical referential meaning. In professional registers—legal, governmental, media, financial, and technical—the term operates as an institutional marker. Normative equivalence consistently outperforms literal translation across all examples, reducing ambiguity and enhancing terminological accuracy.

Translators must therefore adopt a context-driven approach that prioritizes institutional conventions in the target language. Failure to apply normative equivalence leads to mistranslation, institutional displacement, and distortion of functional purpose.

5.2 Recommendations

*Translators should prioritize institutional conventions over literal forms.

*Terminology databases should include standardized equivalents for administrative collocations.

*Future research should examine other Arabic institutional nouns such as *هيئة*, *مجلس*, and *دائرة*.

- Translators should consult domain-specific terminology resources before rendering institutional collocations.
- Legal, medical, financial, and media translators should maintain glossaries that include standardized equivalents for terms such as *مجلس*, *غرفة*, *دائرة*, *هيئة*, and *مجلس*.
- Translation programs and certificates should incorporate training modules on normative equivalence.
- Institutional bodies should publish bilingual terminology guides to unify translation practices.
- Future research should explore parallel corpora comparing Arabic institutional terminology across different regions.

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