



Assessment of Arabic-English translation produced by Google Translate

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ABSTRACT

There have been very few research studies conducted on the assessment of Arabic-English translation produced by online Google Translate according to an extensive review of the literature available on this topic to date. The current qualitative study seeks to assess some samples of Arabic-English translation done by Google Translate and measure their accuracy against model translations of these samples provided by Dickins, Hervey and Higgins (2017) to determine if this translation method can be followed or not. The researcher collected the data (texts) from a book entitled *Thinking Arabic Translation* (Dickins, et al., 2017), fed them into Google Translate and conducted an error analysis to assess the quality of translation produced by Google Translate. The error analysis showed that Google Translate made lexical and syntactic errors which affected the quality of translation and caused the meaning of the translations to be unintelligible. The findings of the study revealed that Google Translate cannot be used as a valid translation tool for Arabic-English translation and that human interference is greatly needed to produce accurate and effective translation. Further research on the assessment of Google Translate in Arabic-English translation is recommended to either support the findings of this study or challenge them.

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancements in technology and communication tools have resulted in the creation of many useful applications in almost all aspects of life. By virtue of these applications, communication among distant and different nations has not only improved, but it has also broken physical borders once and for all. One such application or tool is Google Translate which has been in existence and undergoing continuous improvements for about thirteen years. To be precise, Google Translate was devised by Google in 2006 (Wikipedia) to help translate different kinds of texts from, and into, over a hundred living languages. This virtual multilingual machine translator gathers words, expressions and documents from different languages and retrieves them very fast when prompted to translate any given words or texts. So, the more words, expressions and documents it stores, the faster and better it works.

There is no shred of doubt about the usefulness of Google Translate to people from all different walks of life, especially those who want to find the meaning of individual words and some short expressions and

sentences in the target language. Franz Och who was the major scientist and head of machine translation (MT) at Google Inc. at that time, explains how Google Translate integrates statistical MT into its system as follows: “what the system is basically doing (is) correlating existing translations and learning more or less on its own how to do that with billions and billions of words of text. In the end, we compute probabilities of translation” (Schulz, 2013). This is a direct reference to the law of probability which underpins Google Translate. The end translation produced by Google Translate is just a result of these ‘probabilities of translation’ with plenty of room for errors and inaccuracies. Och elaborates this point further by suggesting that Google Translate’s “current quality improvement curve is still pretty steep” (Helft, 2010). In other words, the quality of translation produced by Google Translate is still poor compared to that produced by professional translators. The quality of Google Translate’s outputs is also expected to be poorer when translation from Arabic into English is performed as Arabic and English belong to two widely different families whose linguistic systems and cultures are greatly different.

1.1 The Objectives of the Study

Since research done on the assessment of Arabic-English translation performed by Google Translate is scarce to the best of the researcher's knowledge, the present study seeks to bridge this gap and add new insights into the effectiveness and accuracy of Google Translate and the types of errors resulting from this kind of translation. With this general aim in mind, the present study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- 1- To assess Arabic-English translation produced by Google Translate in terms of accuracy;
- 2- To identify the errors resulting from this kind of translation;
- 3- To provide the field of machine translation (MT) research with some significant insights into the assessment of Google Translate in the direction of Arabic-English translation.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

The present research study seeks to answer the following two questions:

1. Is Arabic-English translation produced by Google Translate accurate?
2. What are the errors in Arabic-English translation produced by Google Translate?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Since Google Translate is relatively new, there has been relatively little research on the assessment of its translation outputs in the direction of Arabic-English translation because most translation in the Arab world tends to be in the direction of English-Arabic translation. The researcher found one corpus-based study on the evaluation of Arabic-English translation produced by Google Translate and Babylon machine systems (Hadla et al, 2014) which makes the present study a relatively new one, despite the availability of little research on the evaluation of Google Translate's Arabic-English translation. However, there have been some small-scale studies on the assessment of Google Translate in the direction of English-Arabic translation.

To begin with, Al-khresheh et al (2018) conducted a study on the translation of some English proverbs into Arabic by Google Translate to see if the Google Translate's outputs are valid and accurate translations. They selected six famous proverbs in English, fed them into Google Translate and compared the resultant translations with valid Arabic translations of these

English proverbs found in Jabak's (2016) book entitled *One Thousand and One English Proverbs Translated into Arabic*. The researchers discovered that Google Translate could not render the English proverbs into accurate proverbs in Arabic and that it experienced lexical and syntactic difficulties. This general finding supports the findings of the current study regarding the errors and types of errors made by Google Translate when carrying out translation from Arabic into English.

Nabeel et al (2017) conducted a survey on the history and development of machine translation with regard to Arabic-English translation. The researchers only reviewed earlier research on machine translation and traced its development and the tools or applications which have been added or integrated into it. They did not, however, evaluate Arabic-English translation performed by Google Translate, for example, as this fell beyond the scope of their research study. Even the Arabic examples they provided along with their corresponding English translations produced by machine translation were either individual words or very short random sentences which cannot be used to assess the quality of translation produced by machine translation, unfortunately.

Hadla et al (2014) conducted a corpus-based study on the evaluation of Arabic-English machine translation through Google Translate and Babylon machine systems. The corpus consisted of 1033 Arabic sentences with English model translations. The researchers fed the Arabic sentences into Google Translate and Babylon to evaluate the translation outputs produced by these machine translation systems. The primary finding of their study was that Google Translate produced better translation outputs than Babylon in terms of precision or accuracy. Another interesting finding was that both machine translation systems did not produce intelligible English translations of Arabic wise sayings or proverbs as these systems translated literally without recognizing the sociocultural aspects of Arabic proverbs. The researchers did not mention the type of Arabic text they fed into these machine translation systems, nor did they mention the kind of analysis they followed when they compared the translation outputs produced by the machine translation systems under study with the model translations or reference translations.

Hijazi (2013) conducted a study on the assessment of Google translation of legal texts from English into Arabic, and he found that Google Translate could not be used to translate legal texts from English into Arabic because the resulting translation was not accurate. However, the researcher emphasized that the system as such could produce gist translations of source texts which would be hardly intelligible to those specializing in law only. Al-Dabbagh (2010) carried out a questionnaire in which he aimed to examine how the readers rated the quality of translated texts by Google Translate. She came to the conclusion that the system could not provide the readers with a general idea about the translated texts.

In another study conducted by Al-Dabbagh (2013), the researcher sought to evaluate English-Arabic translation performed by Google Translate by choosing four different text types, namely journalistic, economic, scientific and technical, two of which she collected from web pages and the other two texts were chosen from two books. The findings which she arrived at revealed that Google Translate produced Arabic texts which were full of lexical, grammatical and textual mistakes. The analysis showed that the errors in the Arabic translations produced by Google Translate recurred in the four different translations regardless of the type and length of the source texts. In another study conducted by Alqudsi et al (2012), the researchers sought to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of machine translation from Arabic into English. They found that this method of translation is not a good one because Arabic has different word order from English which makes the resultant translation sound very literal and erroneous.

Abu-Al-Sha'r and Zughoul (2009) carried out a study which aimed at evaluating the translations of six different online services, and Google Translate was one of these services. Their findings revealed that the services produced translations which were unintelligible and erroneous. However, the study arrived at a new finding regarding English-Arabic translation carried out by Google Translate. The finding showed that Google Translate produced somehow better-quality outputs in the direction of English-Arabic translation. Finally, there was a study on the evaluation of Google Translate's beta English-Arabic/Arabic-English translation. The study was conducted by Izwaini (2006) and came to the conclusion that Google Translate reflected "addition

and deletion problems" (2006, p.147). This means that Google Translate adds words to the translation output and deletes words from the translation outputs which have no equivalents in the source language. Of course, this may, very likely, result in a faulty, incorrect translation.

It can be concluded that the findings of the above studies prove the inadequacy, ineffectiveness and defectiveness of Google Translate when rendering translations among languages as different from each other as Arabic and English. It is not surprising that the findings of the current study are generally in line with these findings regarding the assessment of Google Translate in the direction of Arabic-English translation with reference to the different text types chosen for this qualitative study.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data Collection Tools

Since the present study is qualitative, the researcher employed two tools for data collection which are very common in this kind of research. The first tool consisted of eight texts of different lengths and types along with their model translations, all selected randomly from Dickins' et al (2017) book entitled *Thinking Arabic Translation: A course in Translation Method: Arabic to English*. The choice of this particular book was deliberate as it addresses linguistic, cultural and stylistic issues in Arabic-English translation suitable for undergraduate and postgraduate students specializing in Arabic-English translation. The book also includes almost all types of Arabic texts of varying lengths and difficulty with model translations against which the translations of Google Translate of the same texts can be measured. As mentioned earlier, only eight Arabic texts with their model translations (some carried out by Dickins himself and others by some other English translators) were chosen to be translated by Google Translate. The translation outputs by Google Translate were to be measured against the model translations of the eight Arabic texts presented in Dickins' et al (2017) book above-mentioned.

Another tool was used in the analysis of the data derived from the comparison of the model translations with the translations produced by Google Translate to assess the quality and accuracy of Google Translate's translation outputs. This data collection tool was an error analysis whose purpose was to list the errors

found in the English translations of Google Translate along with the error type (lexical, syntactic, cultural, etc.). This error analysis would help identify the errors and classify them into distinct themes or categories so that it becomes easy for the reader to see for himself/herself how inaccurate and ineffective Google Translate's translation outputs in comparison to the translations models of the chosen texts are.

3.2 Data Collection Procedure

The topic of the current research study required the researcher to find various kinds of Arabic texts with their English model translations against which Google Translate's English translations must be measured to assess the quality and accuracy of the translation outputs produced by Google Translate. After some search, the researcher decided to use some Arabic texts along with their model English translations from Dickins' et al (2017) book *Thinking Arabic Translation* because of two reasons. First, the book is intended as a textbook for undergraduate and postgraduate students who seek to specialize in Arabic-English translation which is the direction of translation intended for the assessment of Google Translate in this study. Second, the book includes numerous Arabic texts with their English model translations. These texts seem to range from general to specialized or technical with varying lengths. So, the model translations of these texts will be used as accurate and valid translations to measure the accuracy and validity of the English translations produced by Google Translate. In this case, the first research question will be adequately answered, and the first objective will be realized, too.

As the current study is qualitative, eight Arabic texts which varied in length and type were selected as the data to be fed into Google Translate. The English translations produced by Google Translate were then compared with the model translations provided in Dickins' et al (2017) book above-mentioned. To answer the second research question and realize the second research objective, an error analysis was developed by the researcher, and it listed the errors spotted in the English translations produced by Google Translate along with the categories or themes into which these errors fitted. A simple descriptive table with these errors and their types will be presented to

help identify the errors made by Google Translate and categorize these errors into distinct themes.

3.3 Data Analysis

After collecting the data of the present study, the researcher compared the model translations of the eight Arabic texts with the translations performed by Google Translate to assess the accuracy and reliability of Google Translate's translation. The comparison of these two kinds of translations resulted in some errors spotted in Google Translate's outputs. These errors were then examined, analyzed and categorized into distinct themes based on their nature and recurrence. To better organize these errors with their corresponding categories, an error analysis was developed by the researcher to display them in a somewhat quantifiable manner. As such, the error analysis included the errors spotted in each translation of the eight Arabic texts carried out by Google Translate along with the types to which these errors belong. A detailed error analysis will be provided and analyzed in the subsequent sections of the current study.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After comparing the English translations of the selected Arabic texts which were produced by Google Translate with the model translations of the Arabic texts chosen for this study, the researcher discovered many errors in the English translations performed by Google Translate. So, he developed an error analysis to help organize and classify these errors. The error analysis took the form of a descriptive table which listed the errors found in the English translation of each Arabic text as performed by Google Translate along with the types to which these errors belong. Table 4.1 below lists the findings of this study extracted from the comparison of the English translations of Google Translate with the model translations provided by Dickins et al (2017). These findings along with their discussion realize the third objective of this research study. What follows is an elaborate presentation of the eight Arabic texts with their model English translations and the translations produced by Google Translate to show the errors and the types of errors found in Google Translate's English translations when measured against the model translations.

Table 4.1 Error analysis

Translation by Google Translate	Error	Type of error
Translation of Source Text 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respect • in action • cautious • everyone remains 	Lexical Lexical Lexical Syntactic (omission and change of meaning)
Translation of Source Text 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • harvest • oil work • took place 	Lexical Lexical Lexical
Translation of Source Text 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if • every oppressed • if • examples in good example • beside • surrounded by daggers, guns and swords 	Syntactic Lexical and syntactic Syntactic Lexical Lexical (literal) Lexical and syntactic
Translation of Source Text 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God opens up • make a debt • you will be able to do it • after the victim's ram • this palm 	Lexical and cultural Lexical Lexical Lexical (literal) Lexical
Translation of Source Text 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restrained • made his way round the room • pickled • cane 	Lexical Lexical Lexical Lexical
Translation of Source Text 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an old man • Shaykh • The sheikh • but • And 	Lexical Lexical Lexical (inconsistency) Lexical Syntactic Lexical (literal)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • voices • pleading • raged • and • raucous • and raged and raucous 	Lexical Lexical Syntactic Lexical Syntactic
Translation of Source Text 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literature • radio 	Lexical Lexical
Translation of Source Text 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right of all citizens and the State to provide Jordanians with the direction • the • the amount of his work and how it works 	Syntactic and lexical Syntactic (grammatical) Syntactic and lexical

Text 1

The following Arabic text is a short, general text with no technical or specialized expressions.

لم يكن ثمة ود واحترام متبادلان على الصعيد الشخصي يمكن أن يشكلا خطوة في الاتجاه الصحيح لتحقيق الانسجام في العمل على الأقل. ولهذا بقي الجميع يتعاملون بحرصٍ وحذرٍ شديدين. (Dickens, et al,) (2017, p. 54)

This text was translated into English by Brown (1996, p. 43) cited in Dickins et al (2017, p. 54) as follows:

There was neither mutual friendship nor respect on a personal level, which would make possible a step in the right direction towards achieving harmony at work at least. Owing to this, their dealings with each other continued to be motivated by overwhelming greed and extreme caution.

The Arabic text was fed into Google Translate to translate into English, and the result was as follows:

There has been no mutual respect and respect on the personal level that could be a step in the right direction at least to achieve harmony in action. That is why everyone remains very cautious and cautious.

By comparing Brown's translation to Google Translate's translation, we can spot some lexical errors in Google Translate's translation (respect, in action, and cautious) and one syntactic error (everyone

remains). These errors make the translation poor and incorrect, with a change in meaning as well.

Text 2

The following Arabic text is somewhere between a general and technical text as it includes some technical words.

ومما لا شك فيه أن حصاد وإنجازات العمل البترولي خلال الـ 18 عاماً الماضية هو بمثابة وسام للعاملين بالبترول ومحصلة للسياسات والمجهودات التي تمت خلال تلك الفترة. (Dickens, et al, 2017,) (p. 118)

This text was translated into English by Dickins (2017, p. 118) as follows:

No doubt, the achievements of the petroleum sector during the past 18 years represent a triumph for the workers in this sector and reflect the policies and efforts which have been pursued during this period.

The Arabic text was fed into Google Translate to translate into English, and the result was as follows:

There is no doubt that the harvest and achievements of oil work during the past 18 years is a medal for oil workers and a result of the policies and efforts that took place during that period.

By comparing Dickins' translation to Google Translate's translation, we can spot some lexical errors in Google Translate's translation (harvest, oil work and took place). Although these errors do not affect the

overall meaning of the translation, they render the translation as poor and defective.

Text 3

The following Arabic text is somehow a long, general text despite its political language.

في استطاعة أي حزب أن ينجح إذا دافع عن قضية الحرية وحقوق الإنسان، إذا احتضن كل مظلوم، إذا قاوم الفساد، إذا ضرب الأمثلة في القدوة الصالحة، إذا حول الكلمات إلى أفعال والوعود إلى حقائق. كل حزب يقف إلى جانب الشعب يقف الشعب إلى جانبه يحيط به عندما تُوجّه إلى ظهره الخناجر وإلى صدره المدافع والسيوف. (Dickens, et al, 2017, p. 61)

This text was translated into English by Dickins (2017, p. 61) as follows:

It is possible for any political party to succeed if it defends the issue of freedom and human rights, if it embraces every unjustly treated person, if it opposes corruption, if it sets the highest standards in upright behaviour, if it changes words into deeds and promises into facts. Every party which stands by the people will find that the people stand by it, surrounding it when daggers are aimed at its back and guns and swords at its front.

The Arabic text was fed into Google Translate to translate into English, and the result was as follows:

Any party can succeed if it defends the cause of freedom and human rights if it embraces every oppressed if it fights corruption by striking examples in good example if it turns words into actions and promises to facts. Each party stands on the side of the people. The people stand beside it, surrounded by daggers, guns and swords.

By comparing Dickins' translation to Google Translate's translation, we can spot some lexical errors in Google Translate's translation (every oppressed, examples in a good example, beside and surrounded by daggers, guns and swords) and some syntactic errors (if, and surrounded by daggers, guns and swords). These errors make the translation sound very literal and erroneous.

Text 4

The following Arabic text is a short, prosaic text with some colloquial, religious and cultural expressions.

"يفتح الله"
"عشرون جنيهاً يا رجل، تحل منها ما عليك من دين، وتصلح بها حالك. وغدا العيد، وأنت لم تشتري بعد كيش الضحية! وأقسم لو أنني أريد مساعدتك، فإنّ هذه النخلة لا تساوي عشرة جنيهاً". (Dickens, et al, 2017, p. 52)

This text was translated into English by Montgomery (1994, p. 21) cited in Dickins et al (2017, p. 52) as follows:

'No deal!'

Look here my man, with twenty pounds you could settle your debts and make your life a lot easier. The Eid festival is tomorrow and you haven't bought a sacrificial lamb yet. As I would not ordinarily pay more than ten pounds for a date palm like this, I would like to think that I am being of some assistance to you. The Arabic text was fed into Google Translate to translate into English, and the result was as follows:

God opens up twenty pounds, man, from which you will be able to make a debt, and you will be able to do it. And tomorrow the feast, you did not buy after the victim's ram! I swear that if I did not want to help you, this palm is not worth ten pounds.

By comparing Montgomery's translation to Google Translate's translation, we can spot some lexical errors in Google Translate's translation (God opens up, make a debt, you will be able to do it, after the victim's ram and palm). These lexical mistakes render the translation as unintelligible and inaccurate.

Text 5

The following Arabic text is a relatively long, prosaic text typical of novels or short stories.

تملئ صابر في سريره دون أن يستبد به النعاس وجعل يطوف بناظريه في أرجاء الحجرة: طاولة مقلعة صغيرة، وكتب متناثرة على حصيرة من القش والقصب، وإبريق من الفخار مملوء بالماء وبعض الملابس الرثة على أحد الجدران. (Dickens, et al, 2017, p. 55)

This text was translated into English by Brown (1996, p. 38) cited in Dickins et al (2017, p. 52) as follows:

Saber fidgeted in his bed without feeling sleepy. Instead he let his eyes roam about the room: a small broken table, books scattered on a straw mat, a clay pitcher full of water and some old clothes hanging on one of the walls.

The Arabic text was fed into Google Translate to translate into English, and the result was as follows:

Saber restrained himself in his bed without being drowsy and made his way around the room: a small pickled table, books scattered on a mat of straw and cane, a jug of pottery filled with water, and some ragged clothes on a wall.

By comparing Brown's translation to Google Translate's translation, we can spot some lexical errors in Google Translate's translation (restrained, made his way, pickled and cane). These lexical mistakes render the translation as both unintelligible and inaccurate.

Text 6

The following Arabic text is a long, prosaic text typical of novels or short stories with some religious and cultural expressions.

وقادته خطواته إلى مسجد كبير، وكان يجلس في داخله شيخ له لحية بيضاء، تخلق من حوله عدد من الرجال. وكان الشيخ يتكلم عن الله والشيطان: "الله خلق كل الأشياء، وجميع المخلوقات لا تعمل شيئاً إلا بأمره."

فقال محمد لنفسه: إنني أستطيع الله مساعدته على تحقيق أمنيته."
وقال الشيخ: إبليس عدو البشر.. إنه الشر."

وغادر محمد المسجد بينما كانت دماء شرايينه أصواتاً تتوسل بلهفة، وتهفت ضارعة: "يا الله". (Dickens, et al, 2017, p. 43)

This text was translated into English by St. John (1999, pp. 7-8) cited in Dickins et al (2017, p. 52) as follows: His feet led him to a large mosque, and inside it sat a religious teacher with a white beard. Several men were gathered round him and he was talking about God and the Devil. Allah is the Creator of all things, and no creature can do anything unless He wills it.

'So Allah can help me realize my dream,' said Mohammed to himself. The teacher continued.

'The Satan is the enemy of Man - he is evil.'

Mohammed left the mosque, and as he did so, the blood in his veins became a mass of imploring voices, calling out woefully: 'Oh God.'

The Arabic text was fed into Google Translate to translate into English, and the result was as follows:

His steps led him to a large mosque, where an old man with a white beard was sitting, surrounded by a number of men. The Shaykh spoke of God and the devil: "God created all things, and all creatures do nothing but His command."

"Muhammad said to himself: " Then God can help me achieve my wish. And Muhammad said to himself: So God can help him to achieve my wish. "

And the sheikh said: Satan is the enemy of mankind. It is evil. "And Mohammed left the mosque while the blood of his veins voices pleading eagerly, and raged and raucous: "O God."

By comparing St. John's translation to Google Translate's translation, we can spot some lexical errors in Google Translate's translation (an old man, Shaykh, the sheikh, but, voices, pleading and raucous) and some syntactic mistakes (and, raged, raged and raucous). These types of errors make the translation both literal and inaccurate.

Text 7

The following Arabic text is a relatively long, general text despite its political or legal language.

يجوز في حالة إعلان الأحكام العرفية أو الطوارئ أن يفرض القانون على الصحف والنشرات والمؤلفات والإذاعة رقابة محدودة في الأمور التي تتصل بالسلامة العامة وأغراض الدفاع الوطني. (Dickens, et al, 2017, p. 256)

This text was translated into English by Dickins (2017, p. 256) as follows:

In the event of the declaration of martial law or a state of emergency, a limited censorship on newspapers, pamphlets, books and broadcasts in matters affecting public safety or national defence may be imposed by law.

The Arabic text was fed into Google Translate to translate into English, and the result was as follows:

In the case of martial law or emergency, the law may impose limited censorship on newspapers, publications, literature and radio in matters related to public safety and national defense purposes.

By comparing Dickins' translation to Google Translate's translation, we can spot some lexical errors in Google Translate's translation (literature and radio). Despite these lexical errors which make the translation sound literal, the meaning of the translation is quite clear.

Text 8

The following Arabic text is a long, legal text with some political expressions.

1. العمل حق لجميع المواطنين وعلى الدولة أن توفره للأردنيين بتوجيه الاقتصاد الوطني والنهوض به.

2. تحمي الدولة العمل وتضع له تشريعا يقوم على المبادئ الآتية:

أ - إعطاء العامل أجراً يتناسب مع كمية عمله وكيفية

ب - تحديد ساعات العمل الأسبوعية ومنح العمال أيام راحة أسبوعية وسنوية مع الأجر. (Dickens, et al, 2017, p. 264)

This text was translated into English by Dickins (2017, p. 264) as follows:

23. (i) It is the right of every citizen to work, and the State shall provide opportunities to work to all citizens by directing the national economy and raising its standard.

(ii) The State shall protect labour and enact a legislation therefore based on the following principles:

(a) Every workman shall receive wages commensurate with the quantity and quality of his work.

(b) The number of hours of work per week shall be limited. Workmen shall be given weekly and annual days of rest with wages.

The Arabic text was fed into Google Translate to translate into English, and the result was as follows:

Article 23

1. The right of all citizens and the State to provide Jordanians with the direction and promotion of the national economy.

2. The State shall protect the work and shall lay down legislation for it based on the following principles:

A - Giving the worker a wage commensurate with the amount of his work and how it works

B. Setting weekly working hours and giving workers weekly and annual rest days with pay.

By comparing Dickins' translation to Google Translate's translation, we can spot some lexical errors in Google Translate's translation (The right of all citizens and the State to provide Jordanians with the direction, and the amount of his work and how it works) and some syntactic errors (The right of all citizens and the State to provide Jordanians with the direction, and the amount of his work and how it work, and the). These errors make the translation sound very literal and inaccurate.

It is obvious that the errors spotted in the English translations produced by Google Translate are not insignificant ones which could be simply overlooked. In fact, they are very serious mistakes which render the translations as inaccurate and faulty. Anyone who knows English can readily identify these errors by simply looking at the model translations and the translations produced by Google Translate because these mistakes are easy to detect. Thus, one could imagine the number and types of errors Google Translate would make if longer texts or more specialized texts were to be translated by it.

5. CONCLUSION

It is very clear that Google Translate cannot be relied on to carry out translation from Arabic into English as it cannot always find the correct lexical word or expression suitable for a given context, not to mention the syntactic errors which result from the literal translation this tool seems to adopt. Such lexical and syntactic errors are bound to surface in this kind of translation because Arabic and English belong to two different families which have completely different linguistic as well as cultural systems. This means that machine translation cannot replace man-made translation, especially when translation is carried out in different language pairs such as Arabic and English.

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher suggests that a more large-scale quantitative study on

the assessment of Google Translate's Arabic-English translation be conducted to either support the findings of the current study or challenge them. Another kind of study may assess the accuracy and effectiveness of another translation tool or application such as Microsoft Translator to see if similar or different findings can be arrived at. Of course, the same language pair or a different language pair can be used and general or technical texts with varying lengths can be used as samples to be compared and examined.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR(S)

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