Offending Formality: A Study of the Translation of Online Official Announcements of Iraqi State Establishments[(1)]

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Abstract

The aim of the present study is to identify the translation error patterns found in the announcements produced by Iraqi state establishments, especially those errors that distort the formal shape of language and consequently the external appearance of the establishments. The data used for the analysis purposes are represented in written Arabic-English announcements on the online official webpages of Iraqi Ministries, Universities. The data has been analyzed by using a threefold perspective proposed by Popescue (2013) including linguistic errors, comprehension errors, and translation errors. Moreover, a carefully-designed questionnaire of thirty statements have been handed out to fifty university teaching staff members in Basrah. The researcher adopted a qualitative-quantitative approach to analyze the collected data. The obtained results have been statistically treated by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Software. The analysis results have yielded that the translated versions of online official announcements do contain many linguistic and translation errors that alter the intended meaning. More importantly, the majority of questionnaire's participants confirm that formal style implies being free from all kinds of errors.

Keywords: formality, linguistic errors, comprehension errors, translation errors.

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مخالفة الرسمية: دراسة ترجمة الإعلانات الرسمية الإلكترونية للمؤسسات الحكومية العراقيـة

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المستخلص

تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى التعرف على أنماط أخطاء الترجمة الموجودة في الإعلانات الصادرة عن المؤسسات الحكومية العراقية، وخاصة تلك الأخطاء التي تشوه الشكل الرسمي للغة وبالتالي المظهر الخارجي للمؤسسات. تتمثل البيانات المستخدمة لأغراض التحليل في إعلانات مكتوبة باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية على صفحات الويب الرسمية للوزارات والجامعات العراقية وغيرها. وقد تم تحليل البيانات باستخدام منظور ثلاثي اقترحته بوبسكو (٢٠١٢) يتضمن الأخطاء اللغوية، وأخطاء الفهم، وأخطاء الترجمة. علاوة على ذلك، تم توزيع استبيان مصمم بعناية يتكون من ثلاثين عبارة على خمسين عضوا من أعضاء هيئة التدريس في البصرة. اعتمد الباحث منهجا نوعيا و كميا لتحليل البيانات التي تم جمعها. وقد عولجت النتائج المتحصل عليها إحصائيا باستخدام برنامج الحزمة الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية وقد توصلت نتائج التحليل إلى أن النسخ المترجمة للإعلانات الرسمية عبر الإنترنت تحتوي على العديد من الأخطاء اللغوية والترجمية التي تغير المعنى المقصود. والأهم من ذلك أن غالبية المشاركين في الاستبيان يؤكدون أن الاسلوب الرسـمي يعني الـخلو من الأخطـاء بكافة أنواعها.

كلمات مفتاحية: الرسمية، الأخطاء اللغوية، أخطاء الفهم، أخطاء الترجمة .

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1.Introduction

Recently, media is widespread in our life; it affects different aspects of social life such as political, cultural, and academic. Online media has been increasingly employed by different private and public establishments to perform certain purposes such as advertisement, announcements, publications, and so on. Language, among other tools of media, is often seen as the cornerstone of all types of media activities, especially when it comes to announcements. Some establishments highly depend on online announcements through their formal online webpages as a way of notifying people about particular events. According to Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary (2023), announcement is defined as "a public statement containing information about an event that has happened or is going to happen". Announcements are of a textual importance, what characterizes these announcements is that, they are written in standard language and formal style that can be comprehended by lay people. Generally speaking, formal language is characterized by precision, clarity and solidity. Each language has its own rules. So, any violation of language rules, for instance inaccurate use of grammatical and lexical items, misuse of capitalization or punctuation will breach language formality. The translation of these announcements should be carefully performed due to the fact that these announcements represent important issues to be delivered on the one hand and they are displayed in public on the other. Any translation errors such as additions, omissions and inaccurate rendition of lexical items might distort the meaning of the announcement, change the intended message, offend the formal shape of language and affect the reputation of that establishment. As a result, the translators responsible for translating official announcements should be cautious and precise in conveying these announcements from the source language into the target language. They must have a perfect knowledge in both languages, in addition to their translation competence in order to produce a high-quality product.

2. Theoretical Background

This section discusses the formality from a linguistic point of view, shows its characteristics, and investigates translation errors.

2.1 Linguistic Formality

As a linguistic concept, formality is concerned with the variety in the styles of language. (Labov,1966) introduces the notion of stylistic variation or 'stylistic variety' (Strazny ,2005), which is characterized by different levels of formality. Furthermore, in linguistics, formality refers to the use of language that adheres to established norms and decorum, characterized by precise grammar and vocabulary, in contrast with informality, which is characterized by slang expressions, nonstandard grammar. According to the Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics (Richards et. al ,1995), 'formal speech' is described as speech characterized by meticulous attention to pronunciation, word choice, and sentence structure. Linguistics primarily focuses on investigating the various classes and structures of language, examining their interrelationships across all levels ranging from phonology to discourse (Nida ,1994), in this regard, the roles of characteristics of a language system come to play into determining formality.

2.2 Characteristics of Formal Language

As the present study is concerned with formality in translation, and as linguistic competence is the major competence in the translation process, thus an emphasis should be placed on the features of formal language.

A. Specific structuring including redundancy, syntactic and semantic parallelism

Irvine (1978) states that numerous authors define 'formality' as an increased level of structuring and predictability in communication. Irvine adds that (Bricker ,1974) and (Gossen ,1974) observe that in Rotinese culture, 'formal speech' is characterized by specific structuring, including redundancy, syntactic or semantic parallelism. Some scholars have highlighted the predictability of structured discourse, arguing that a 'formal style' diminishes the variability and spontaneity of speech as noted by Joos (1967).

B. Precise and Clear Language

Moreover, according to Karlsson (2008) Trudgill suggests that a serious subject requires a specific style of language that is precise and clear. This influences the length of words and the usage of words derived from Greek, Latin, or German in the language being used. A serious

subject probably prefers longer words and words derived from Greek or Latin because these factors enhance the level of formality.

C. The Use of Latin and Greek

Leech and Svartvik (2002) define formal language as the type of language that is used publicly for serious purposes, such as in official reports, business letters, regulations, and academic writing. They further explain that formal language predominantly consists of vocabulary derived from Latin and Greek, whereas informal language is characterized by words of Anglo-Saxon origin.

D. Passivation (impersonal style)

Formal writing takes an impersonal style, where personal references like I, you, and we are avoided. Impersonal language typically includes the use of passive constructions (Leech & Svartvik, 2002). In written English, the passive voice is more commonly utilized than in spoken English. However, excessive use of the passive voice can create a very formal tone (Baily, 2004). The passive voice emphasizes concepts and objects as the grammatical subject of a sentence, rather than individuals, which helps clarify the topic of discussion. This clarity is essential for various forms of communication and especially for research articles (Biber& Conrad,2009). Butt (2006 as cited in Al-Dahwi, 2021) adds that, in legal language, the passive voice is extensively employed due to its advantageous indirect nature and formal tone.

E. The Use of Long and Complex Sentences

Formality can manifest through long and complex sentences, such as in the style found in legal English texts (Al-Dahwi, 2021).

2.3 Translation Errors

Translation is a challenging task that requires both skill and artistic ability. Putri (2019) states that translators need to have a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, including translation theories, linguistic knowledge, and awareness of cultural differences. Despite this, many translators still struggle with errors in their work, which can be caused by factors such as anxiety and a lack of linguistic knowledge. Ghazala (2006) states that there is a question: what do we translate? The answer is: we do not translate grammar, words, style, or sounds. We only translate one thing: MEANING. However,

defining meaning is a complex task that cannot be easily, directly, exhaustively, or decisively answered. Nevertheless, we can provide a general, satisfactory, and simple explanation. Meaning is an intricate network of language components, including syntax (grammar), vocabulary (words), style, and phonology (sounds), each of which encompasses various elements as set out below:



Figure (2.1) Adapted from Ghazala (2006, p.3).

Consequently, meaning is the result of the various elements of language coming together in a specific type of text and context, aimed at a particular readership.

Therefore, Putri (2019) declares that in order to convey the meaning accurately, there are several steps involved in the process of translation. Firstly, the translator needs to thoroughly study the vocabulary, grammar, communication context, and cultural background of the original language text. Next, they must analyze the source text to ascertain its meaning, and finally, they need to restructure the same meaning using vocabulary and grammar that is appropriate for the target language and cultural context (Larson,1984). In the translation process, translation errors can be classified into: linguistic errors, comprehension errors, and translation errors.

2.4 Errors and Formality

As the adherence to linguistic formality plays a crucial role in maintaining the standard use of language that is shaped precisely through punctuation, capitalization, vocabulary, grammar and other norms. Thus, interaction between errors and formality makes a sophisticated and

subtle phenomenon, whether accidental or systematic, that can disrupt the accepted standards of formality, potentially undermining the clarity and efficacy of communication. This section tackles the intricate connection between errors and formality, examining how inaccuracies, and deviations from the norms and rules can influence the formal conventions of language usage and shape the transmission and perception of information such as errors in spelling, punctuation, or capitalization, and misuse of grammar rules. The current section first sheds light on stylistic errors represented in punctuation and capitalization, as the basic elements that affect the text arrangement, linguistic errors on the morphological and syntactic levels, errors of collocations, and translation errors such as, additions, omissions, and mistranslations.

Punctuation and capitalization are of a stylistic significance in written communication. Punctuation marks in English, like commas, periods, and colons, play a crucial role in organizing, clarifying, and enhancing understanding in writing. They carry implicit meanings and serve as stylistic elements. Similarly, Arabic punctuation marks serve similar functions and meanings but tend to be overlooked. English employs punctuation in a systematic and assertive manner, whereas Arabic often treats it as a decorative feature such as in, “Goodness is a virtual plant; it flourishes in good soil”. Consequently, punctuation is marginalized in classical Arabic texts, leading to inconsistent usage of marks like periods, commas, question marks, and exclamation points, (Ghazala,2006). Capitalization involves writing a word with its initial letter in uppercase and the rest in lowercase. Skilled writers are cautious in their use of capitals, preferring not to employ them when uncertain. Capitalization is used for examples in proper nouns, places, countries, and nationalities. Misuse of punctuation marks leads to punctuation errors, and when someone disregards the target language's writing system conventions, intentionally or unintentionally, the situation results in capitalization errors. Moreover, spelling mistakes happen when a word's letters are added, removed, or switched out, (Abdullah ,2023).

On the level of morphology, Haspelmath & Sims (2010), states that morphology examines word composition and distinguishes between

inflection and derivation in linguistic analysis. Inflectional forms convey categories like 'present' and 'past', ‘singular’ and ‘plural’ while derivational meanings focus on semantic changes. Languages vary in complexity, but there is consistency in inflectional values across languages. Thus, morphological errors arise when using the incorrect tense, number, or form of a word. For instance, the following examples are provided:

1.“…The news ***were** positively received…” (Popescu,2013, p.244).

2.“War World II ***begin** 42 and ***end** in the year 45.” (Candra & Wahuni ,2019, p.348).

The morphological error in the first sentence “…The news ***were** positively received…” is manifested in the incorrect use of the plural verb 'were' with the singular noun 'news.' In English, 'news' is singular despite its plural appearance, so the accurate sentence should be 'The news was positively received.' In the second sentence “War World II begin 42 and end *in the year 45”, the morphological error is manifested in the verb tense, the correct time should be past tense “began” and “ended”.

Whereas syntax involves examining the rules used to form sentences in specific languages (Chomsky,2002), the deviation from the particular rules will lead to syntactic errors, as in the following phrase:

“……to choose the items with *price reasonable” (Cuc 2017, p.25).

The incorrect position of the adjective “reasonable” in the above phrase yields a syntactic error. The errors on the level of morphology and syntax in the above examples are also known as comprehension errors, (Popescu ,2013). Besides, Shamaa (1978:24 as cited in Al-Ali, 2007) calls for greater comprehension competence, maintaining that "the less the translator understands his material the greater his difficulties in translating."

When it comes to collocations, collocational competence indicates the ability to comprehend and employ words in conjunction with other words that commonly co-occur, which are referred to as collocations. Collocational competence is, in fact, a good measure of advanced language ability (Hua and Azmi ,2021). Therefore, a lack of

collocational competence leads to collocational errors (Popescu, 201٣). Such as in the following:

"*** a handsome** flower", (Thaker ,1999, p.47).

In the above sentence, the collocational error is attributed to the misuse of the adjective "handsome" with the noun flower.

It is worth mentioning that, the mentioned linguistic errors, such as incorrect morphology and syntax, punctuation errors, capitalization, and misspelled words, can significantly restrain the accuracy of meaning in a written version. These errors cause confusion and misinterpretation, consequently leading readers to misunderstand the intended message. Furthermore, such inaccuracies can reduce the formality of the writing. In formal writing, clarity and precision are essential; therefore, linguistic errors not only decrease the originality of content but also distort the writer's credibility, which is an important demand of formal style.

As linguistic competence is the primary competence in the translation process, PACT (2011) encompasses the understanding of grammar, syntax, semantics, and phonetics, which are vital for accurately transferring meaning between languages. Linguistic errors, such as using the wrong words, misinterpreting idiomatic expressions, or having incorrect sentence structures, can compromise the original message's integrity. These errors not only lead to misunderstandings but also affect the formality of the translated text especially in the official translation which is the translation of official documents such as, certifications of birth or death, licenses of driving, and so on, (Gambier & Doorslaer, 2013). Formal language often relies on precise wording and adherence to grammatical rules, so linguistic inaccuracies can make a translation feel less formal or professional. Therefore, maintaining a high level of linguistic accuracy is essential to ensure that the translated version maintains the same formality and respect as the original, preserving its intended impact on the audience.

In addition to linguistic errors, translation errors can have a crucial impact on the formality of translated document. Misunderstandings, where the translator misinterprets the original text's meaning, can result in a final product that distorts the source content and alters its level of formality. Additions and omissions, which occur when a translator adds

unnecessary information as in the Arabic phrase "موقف السيارات"which is translated into English into "Main Car Park", adding the word "Main" and omitting the preposition "in" as in the Arabic example " نقابة الاكاديميين العراقيين في البصرة" ,which is translated into English as "Iraqi Academics Syndicate Basrah", can distort the content of the text , (Abdullah ,2023,p.59), Additionally, mistranslations, where words or phrases are inaccurately translated, can alter the context and subtleties of the original text, potentially moving it away from its intended formal style as in the Arabic phrase "المتدفقة بالخير و العطاء" which is mistranslated into English as "….that are a source of great benefit… " (Bakir and Lazim ,2009,p.28).

2.5 Previous Theses of Formality

This section does not aim to be inclusive; rather, it attempts to give a sample of MA studies that tackled formality as illustrated below:

Boaky (2007) analyzes gender differences in ambiguous language use in formal and informal settings. Data was collected through observation and survey, and it was found that men and women exhibit distinct linguistic behaviors based on social norms. Women exhibited more ambiguity and preferred specific expressions. Gemmell (2009) presents a new method for analyzing linguistic behavior in German culture, using cultural scripts to define formality levels. This approach helps German language learners navigate register variations and understand appropriate language choices in different contexts. It provides a formality scale for rating linguistic expressions, guiding learners to use appropriate terms in different contexts.

Once more, Pramitha (2011) examines the President's Speech Script from the "State Address by the President of the Republic of Indonesia on the 65th Anniversary of Independence" in English. The research employs a descriptive qualitative methodology and applies the theory of formality level to examine linguistic expressions. The researcher concludes that the translation outcome is deemed formal based on the conducted analysis. Eldursi (2013) examines the level of formality in weblogs. The investigation primarily focuses on the key features of formality and contextuality, with particular emphasis on the F-score proposed by

Heylighen and Dewale (1999), the study reveals that the more an author prioritizes imparting information, the higher the F-score and consequently, the lower the level of contextuality in the text. Conversely, authors who focus on their personal lives tend to produce more contextual texts with lower F-scores. Last but not least, Keppens (2015) studied formality levels in four different genres of spoken and written discourse: academic papers, conference papers, popular science articles, and speeches. A corpus of twenty samples was analyzed using a POS tagger and the F formula. Results were ranked from high to low and compared on written versus spoken discourse and more popular genres versus specialized genres. Conference papers scored higher than expected, possibly due to unaddressed register issues. Written genres scored higher than spoken genres.

The previous studies on formality have mostly shed light on the linguistic elements of language use, examining factors such as word choices, sentence structures, and pragmatics norms such as politeness in investigating formal settings. While this linguistic approach offers valuable insights, there is still a gap. The gap is represented in the impact of translation errors in breaching formality. The current study "Offending Formality: A Study of the Translation of Online Official Announcements of Iraqi State Establishments" aims to bridge this gap by investigating how translation errors in online official announcements, like government notifications or official declarations, can violate the intended level of formality and consequently result in misunderstandings or a loss of credibility.

3. Methodology

This section discusses the model adopted in the study and shows procedures of data collection.

3.1 The Adopted Model

The current study, "Offending Formality: A Study of the Translation of Online Official Announcements of Iraqi Establishments," deals with the translation errors that are considered in one way or another a breach of the formal style of the online official announcements that are produced by Iraqi state establishments. Thus, the analysis of translation errors will be done by using a tripartite approach proposed by Popescue

(2013), including linguistic errors, which are subcategorized into morphological errors, syntactic errors, and collocational errors. Comprehension errors, and translation errors which are subcategorized into additions, omissions, and mistranslation. Popescue's perspective is effective for the studies that tackle translation error analysis.

3.2. Data Collection

As the current study aims to investigate the translation errors of online official announcements of Iraqi state establishments. The researcher has employed two main sources of data collection. The first main source is the official webpages that produce such announcements in Arabic and English, such as universities and ministries. The second source is represented in the responses to a carefully designed questionnaire.

4. Data Analysis

This section presents a profound qualitative and quantitative analysis of the collected data.

4.1 The Qualitative Analysis of Arabic-English Online Official Announcements

This section does not aim to be inclusive; rather, it attempts to give a sample of mistranslated online official announcements. A qualitative analysis of Arabic-English online official announcements will be conducted by using the previously mentioned model. The analysis will include source text, target text, and errors, along with a segment of the original picture. The discussion will highlight the main topic, with multiple error types. After discussing errors, a translation proposal will be presented, endorsed by the jury.

1.Linguistic Errors, which subcategorize into errors on the level of morphology, errors on the level of syntax, and collocational errors.

Example (1)

Source Text: كلية الطب البيطري جامعة القادسية تناقش درجة الدكتوراه أطروحة حول استخدام بعض مستخلصات النانو....

Target Text: College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Al-Qadisiyah ***discussed** a Ph.D. thesis on the use of some nano-extracts….

In this example, it can be noted that the translator is unaware of the grammar rule. The translator translates the Arabic verb "تناقش" into past

tense "discussed." Hence, the translator violates the grammatical rules concerning the inflectional domain in morphology, resulting in a morphological error in the target version. Besides, what cannot be overlooked is the random wording of source text ": كلية الطب البيطري جامعة القادسية تناقش درجة الدكتوراه أطروحة", which reveals the mother tongue insufficient of the writer. Thus, the precise translation, surely after reword the source text, is "College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Al-Qadisiyah discusses a Ph.D. dissertation on the use of some nano-extracts…". The above-mentioned example is quoted from the Ministry of Higher Education webpage, as shown in the bellow picture.



Picture (1): quoted from the Ministry of Higher Education webpage.

Example (2)

Source Text: يقر نظام الاعتماد العراقي بأن

Target Text: Iraqi Accreditation System ***Certify** that.

In this phrase, which is quoted from a Crediton Certification announced on the Iraqi Ministry of Oil webpage, it can be noted the translator is unaware of the English grammar rule; the translator translates the verb "يقر", into (certify) without adding the third person singular 's', whereas the verb should be translated according to the inflectional domain in morphology. It is worth mentioning that such morphological errors are inappropriate to be seen in the official webpages, especially by educated native speakers; therefore, such errors represent a violation of English grammatical rules and breach the formality of the announcement. An appropriate translation would be "Iraqi Accreditation System Certifies." The following segment of picture indicates the information that is relevant to the present discussion.



Picture (2): quoted from accreditation certificate announced on the Iraqi Ministry of Oil webpage.

It should be mentioned that the aforementioned morphological errors are simultaneously considered comprehension errors, which means the misuse of lexis and syntax.

2.Comprehnsion Errors

Example (1)

Source Text:.... (٢٨٩) استنادا لموافقة وزيرها وزارة الصناعة تعين

Target Text: Based on the approval of *__her__ minister *__The__ Ministry of Industry appoints (289) ….

Generally speaking, translators need to be cautious when selecting the correct lexical items. The word choice highly influences the accuracy of the translation product. However, the translator fails to choose the accurate relative pronoun when translating the above-mentioned phrase. The translator renders the Arabic non sapiens relative pronoun “"ها in the lexical item “وزيرها” into sapiens relative pronoun “her”. Such rendering results in a comprehension error. Additionally, the translator incorrectly begins the definite article “the” with a capital letter, thus negatively impacting the quality of the translation. The accurate translation is “Based on the approval of its minister, the Ministry of Industry appoints (289)….”.The example is quoted from the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals official webpage as illustrates in the below segment of picture.



Picture (3): quoted from the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals official webpage.

3. Translation Errors according to the selected model in the current study, translation errors are related to those errors that distort the intended meaning, and they are subcategorized into additions, omissions, and mistranslation.

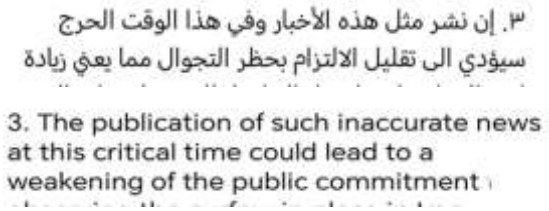
3.1 Additions of some lexical items not found in the source text.

Example (1)

Source Text: أن نشر مثل هذه الأخبار و في هذا الوقت الحرج سيؤدي الى تقليل الالتزام بحظر التجوال

Target Text: The publication of such ***inaccurate** news at this critical time could lead to ***a weakening** of the public commitment….

Maintaining fidelity to the original text is crucial in translation to convey the intended meaning accurately. However, in this example, an unauthorized addition of the word 'inaccurate' by the translator, the mistranslation of the Arabic lexical item " تقليل" into "a weakening," and the lexical item " حظر التجوال" into "the public commitment," may alter the message, potentially leading to reader confusion regarding the original content and consequently leading to an addition and mistranslation errors in the target version. Such discrepancies can compromise the clarity and reliability of the translated text, highlighting the importance of adhering closely to the source material while preserving its essence. The accurate translation is "The publication of such news at this critical time will lead to reduce the compliance of curfews….". The above example is quoted from an announcement on the Iraqi Ministry of Health official webpage, as in the below picture.

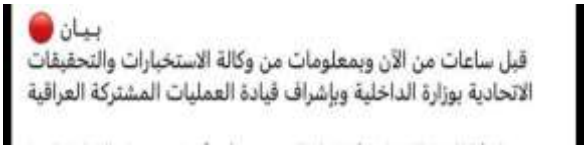


Picture (4): quoted from an announcement on the Iraqi Ministry of Health official webpage.

3.2 Omission of some lexical items from the source text**.**

Example (1)

Source Text: **بيان: قبل ساعات من الآن وبمعلومات من وكالة الاستخبارات و التحقيقات الاتحادية بوزارة الداخلية وبإشراف قيادة العمليات المشتركة العراقية**


بيان
قبل ساعات من الآن وبمعلومات من وكالة الاستخبارات والتحقيقات
الاتحادية بوزارة الداخلية وبإشراف قيادة العمليات المشتركة العراقية

Picture (5): quoted from an announcement on the Counter-Terrorism Service official webpage

Emphasizing the importance of fidelity to the source text is an essential subject matter in the translation process. However, regarding the above example, which is quoted from an announcement on the Counter-Terrorism Service official webpage, the translator has neglected to translate the example; consequently s\ he has neglected an important part of the announcement, "the title," which carries important information related to the source of the news and the time of the action .Thus, disregarding the translation of such important information results in losing an important part of the content in the target text, leading to an omission error in the translation of the whole announcement. The suggested translation of the above example is "Briefing: Hours ago, with information from the Federal Intelligence and Investigation Agency at the Ministry of Interior and under the supervision of the Iraqi Joint Operations Command".

Example (2)

Source Text: و ذكر الوكيل الاداري للوزارة **و عضو اللجنة الحكومية المعنية بأغاثة غزة و تقديم المساعدات الانسانية** ستار الجابر....

Target Text: The Administrative Undersecretary of the Ministry**…**, Mr. Sattar Al-Jabri,

Undoubtedly, the translator is responsible for transferring every word in the source text into its appropriate equivalent in the target text for ensuring a perfect translation; otherwise, a lack of the source message information will happen. As noted, the translator neglects the translation of an important part of the source text, " وعضو اللجنة الحكومية المعنية بأغاثة غزة و تقديم المساعدات الانسانية, which relates to the identity of the person who is responsible of transferring the humanitarian aids to Gaza. Such negligence causes an omission error in the target version and an insufficiency in the information. So, the perfect translation is "The

Administrative Undersecretary of the Ministry and Member of the Governmental Committee Concerned with Gaza Relief and Providing Humanitarian Aids, Mr. Sattar Al-Jabri.". The above example is quoted from the Ministry of Trade Webpage as displayed in the below picture.



Picture (6): quoted from the Ministry of Trade webpage.

Example (7)

Source Text: وزير العدل الدكتور خالد شويني يستقبل الامين العام لجامعة الدول العربية، السيد أحمد أبو الغيط

Target Text: The Minister of Justice Dr. Khaled Shwani Receives Secretary-General of the ***University of Arab Countries**, Mr. Ahmed Aboul **…**Gheit.

The translator should be prudent in word choice; certain lexical items, like " جامعة الدول العربية", present challenges in direct translation due to their rich cultural and contextual meanings. A literal translation, such as 'University of Arab Countries,' fails to capture the depth of the term, consequently leading to a mistranslation error. It actually refers to the 'Arab League,' which is an entity fostering political cooperation among its member nations. This phrase embodies not only the surface definitions but also the shared identity and political context of the Arab countries involved. Hence, translating such expressions idiomatically ensures a more precise and culturally significant comprehension. Additionally, the translator ignores to write the definite article "Al" in front of the name "Ghait". So, the accurate translation is "The Minister of Justice Dr. Khaled Shwani Receives Secretary-General of the Arab League, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Al-Ghait". The below picture, which is relevant to the mentioned discussion, is quoted from the Ministry of Justice webpage.


وزير العدل د.خالد شواني يستقبل الأمين العام لجامعة الدول العربية السيد احمد ابو الغيط

اعلام وزارة العدل

تشرين الاول/16/2023

The Minister of Justice Dr. Khaled Shwani Receives Secretary-General of the University of Arab Countries, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit

Picture (7): quoted from the Ministry of Justice webpage.

4.2 The Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis of the Questionnaire Statements

The statements included in the questionnaire are chosen depending on the variables to be investigated in the study. Then, the statements were listed and designed according to a five-level Likert scale which ranges from strongly agree to strongly disagree. In the statement that is concerned with essentiality for avoiding errors in the formal style, the participants' responses indicate: 36% as equivalent to "17" participants score strongly agree, 34% as equivalent to "15" participants score agree, and 18% as equivalent to 8 participants score neutral. Meanwhile, only 10% of the participants, i.e., "7" participants score disagree, and 3 of the participants left the statement without response. As regarding the statements that refer to the availability of comprehension errors in the online official announcements, which can be considered a sensitive matter related to "comprehension" in translation, 84% of the participants agree, and 10% of the participants demonstrate disagreement. The next statement which address the impact of the linguistic and translation errors on damaging formality. Regarding the linguistic errors, the participants responses are: 34% strongly agree, 38% agree, and 18% neutral. Whereas only 4% of the participants score disagreement, concerning the translation errors, the participants score 34% strongly agree, 42% agree, and 20% score neutral. Additionally, the participants responses about the impact of the linguistic and translation errors on the

originality of the establishment confirm 75% agreement ,16% neutrality, and only 8% disagreement.

So forth, the statement which highlights the existence of punctuation errors in the online official announcements. The participants' responses are: 22%, i.e., 11 of the participants score strongly agree, 42%, i.e., 19 of the participants score agree, and 28%, i.e., 17 of the participants score neutral. While 3 of the participants ignored the response. Besides, the next statement, which concerns the existence of capitalization errors in the online official announcements, 18 % of the participants strongly agree, 32% of the participants agree, 34% of the participants score neutral, and 16% of the participants disagree. Whereas, 3 of the participants disregarded the response.

4.3 The Statistical Analysis of the Questionnaire

Some statistical methods were used, such as descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and regression analysis, to analyze the relationships between the independent variables, extraneous variables, the dependent variable, and general variables. Table (1) shows the results of the descriptive statistics for variables analysis.

Table (1): The Results of the Descriptive Statistics for Variables Analysis.

Main Variable	Sub Variable	Questionnaire Items	Statistical Mens of Sub-Variables	General Means	Standard Devotion	Rank	General St. Dev.
Independent Variables	Independent Variables	13	2.243	2.21485	0.218413	First	0.218092
		15					
		17					
	Extraneous Variable	7	2.1867		0.21777		
		8					
		11					
Dependent Variable		4	2.0222	0.78716		Third	0.78716

4.4 Validity and Reliability Test

The degree to which a measurement tool accomplishes what it is intended to measure is known as validity. The values of the Cronbach's Alpha coefficients for the independent variable range between 0.748-0.722 (the reliability characteristic is achieved by being greater than the permissible limit of (0.700). Regarding the value of the correlation coefficient for the extraneous variables (7, 8, 11) with the variable, it ranged between (0.533-0.423), which is greater than the permissible limit of (0.40). Accordingly, the interfering variable questions are characterized by honesty and are internally consistent, as the values show. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficients for the extraneous variable ranged between 0.764-0.743 (achieve reliability as it is greater than the permissible limit of (0.700). As shown in the below table, the value of the correlation coefficient for the independent variable data (13, 15, 17) with the variable range between (0.472-0.425), which is greater than the permissible limit of (0.40). Accordingly, it can be concluded that the statistics of the independent variable are characterized by honesty and are internally consistent.

Table (2): Results of Cronbach Alpha Measure.

Variable	Item	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
Independent Variables	**x1**	**0.457**	**0.717**
	x2	**0.425**	**0.748**
	x3	**0.477**	**0.722**
Extraneous Variable	**z1**	**0.533**	**0.740**
	z2	**0.424**	**0.783**
	z3	**0.423**	**0.764**

4.5 Correlation Analysis and Hypothesis Testing

The regression analysis method was used to analyze and test the hypothesis; it indicates that there is a relationship between the variables (the independent variable, the extraneous variable) with the dependent variable. The results in Table (4) show that 6% increasing for the independent variable and 30% increasing the extraneous variables will

raise the level of the dependent variable to 100%. The results also show significant influence relationships.

Table (3): Results of Correlation Analysis and Hypothesis Testing

	Beta	T	Sig.	Adjusted R Square	F	Sig.
Constant	**1.458**	**4.912**	**0.000**	**0.40**	**18.986**	**0.000**
X	**0.067**	**4.729**	**0.000**			
Z	**0.307**	**4.357**	**0.000**			

5. Conclusions, Recommendations, and Suggestion

This section discusses the important conclusions and recommendations. It also provides suggestions for future researchers.

5.1. Conclusions

In conclusion the analysis of the Arabic - English online official announcements yielded that:

1. The online official announcements issued by Iraqi state establishments are of low translation quality and contain many translation errors that affect the target version, causing deviation from the intended meaning, confusion, and most importantly, breaching the formality of language. As a result, such low transaltion quality and errors' availability are attributed to the translator's deficient knowledge in the target language, insufficient translation competence, and neglect submitting those announcements to editing (pre editing and post editing), that are also confirmed by the questionnaire's participants.
2. Different types of errors are found in the online official announcements: linguistic errors, comprehension errors, translation errors, and errors in word choice that result in mistranslation. The most common linguistic errors in the online official announcements are the morphological errors, which are also considered comprehension; those errors reveal insufficient linguistic competence of the translator. Regarding the translation errors, the common types that are found in the online official announcements are omission errors and mistranslations, which are a result of the low qualification of the translator.

3. Translation errors in the online official announcement affect the recipients by public. The majority of the questionnaire's participants assert their mock to mistranslation, in addition to their low esteem for the establishments that produce mistranslated announcements.

5.2 Recommendations

As the online official webpages represent a cultural gate through which countries are overlooking each other's cultures, and as the official announcements are one of state culture, therefore the researcher would like to recommend the following:

1.High attention should be paid in designing the official announcements through choosing qualified writers and translators. That is to say, the writers and the translator should have sufficient linguistic knowledge and translation competence in order to produce high-quality announcements that can raise the status of the establishment and the state.

2.Iraqi state establishments should consult experts in English and translation department in Iraqi universities regarding translation quality of their announcements. Besides, they should make use of feedback received to enhance the quality of their announcements.

3.When translators prefer using technology to translate, it is preferred using contemporary computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools instead of relying on unprocessed machine-translated content. Furthermore, they should submit the announcement to pre-editing and post editing to achieve good results.

5.3. Suggestions

As the present study is limited to examine formality through analyzing examples of online official announcements using the threefold model proposed by Popescue (2013), the researcher suggests for the next researchers to investigate the contracts and to improve the model by adding stylistic and cultural errors beside linguistic errors, comprehension errors, and translation errors.

Note :

[1] This research paper is part of an MA thesis entitled "Offending Formality: A Study of the Translation of Online Official Announcements of Iraqi State Establishments" conducted by the first researcher Zainab Jalal Jar-Allah and supervised by the second researcher Prof. Dr. Kadhim Al-Ali.

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