

مركز الترجمة والتعريب والاهتمام باللغة العربية

GCC Centre for Translation, Arabisation and Promotion of Arabic



Study on

The Status of Translation in The States of Cooperation Council For The Arab States of The Gulf

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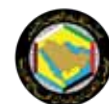
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This study delves into the complex dynamics of translation within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, highlighting not only the linguistic challenges but also the cultural nuances that shape this crucial field. The process of translation goes beyond mere words; it serves as a bridge that connects diverse cultures and promotes mutual understanding.

This is the first translation of the original study in Arabic, titled

«دراسة واقع الترجمة في دول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية».

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As we delve into the exploration of translation in the GCC, it is important to acknowledge the collaborative efforts that have made this new version of the study possible. We hope that the insights provided here will contribute to the ongoing discourse in translation studies and inspire further research in this vital area.



Preface

Throughout history, countries and their communities have acknowledged the importance of translation, considering it one of the main elements of progress. Translation is one of the ways to ensure international development in all human and natural fields. Those who are interested in translation history in the Arab world will likely notice the contributions made by translation to scientific, civilized, and literary development throughout history.

Because of the vital importance of translation, in 2019, the leaders and members of the Gulf Cooperation Council established the GCC Centre for Translation, Arabization, and Promotion of Arabic, which is a unit of the General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States.

The main aim of the centre is to promote the importance of the Arabic Language amongst the GCC people; and to collaborate and cooperate with organizations specialized in translation and Arabization, forming a unified Gulf body which links and coordinates all efforts and achievements in this respect.

Because the Centre seeks to fulfil its responsibilities including but not limited to, contributing to the civilized and cultural values of the Council along with following, supervising, and publishing (translations in particular), it was also tasked with preparing a study about the reality of translation in the GCC. In this regard, cooperation of the Translation Association in Saudi Arabia was made to prepare this study. This study is concerned with examining the status quo generally in GCC and documenting the efforts, activities, and institutions specializing in translation as well as some other achievements in this important field, enabling recommendations to be made that can benefit translation undertakings in the GCC realm.

May Allah grant us success

GCC Centre for Translation, Arabization and Promotion of Arabic

Introduction

The Gulf Cooperation Council is among the most homogeneous and compatible group of countries in many respects, the most important of which are history, religion, language, and culture, in addition to the common customs and traditions of their people. These characteristics strengthen the sense of belonging and solidarity of the GCC nations and contribute to generating more aspects of such harmony and compatibility as well as common security, economic, and environmental interests.

Because of the rapid developments in the modern era of globalization, and the strength of the cross-cultural communication movement across all borders, translation has become essential for communication and interaction between different cultures. Furthermore, the Arab Gulf countries, specifically, are experiencing continuous growth in the fields of business, trade, and tourism, which greatly increases the demand for both general and specialized translation services.

Due to the important economic and cultural status of the Arab Gulf states, which is considered globally as a business hub in the Arab region that attracts international companies for investment from different nationalities and cultures, the various commercial, investment and communication activities of businesses require competent translators, particularly because there are many multiple languages and cross-cultures within the Arab Gulf region. Translation is a huge task and plays a significant role in the success of many of these global partnerships and investments in the Arab Gulf countries.



However, the status quo of translation in the Arab Gulf nowadays faces remarkable challenges while offering many opportunities at the same time. For example, there is an increasing interest in the field of translation and the development of services provided therein; moreover, we see the emergence of professional and specialized translation institutions that implement technology - such as machine translation- to facilitate and accelerate the translation process. It has been noted that there is an abundance of educational and training resources to develop translators' skills and increase the level of professionalism in this field. However, there are many challenges faced by translation in the Arab Gulf, including an inadequate integrated legislative environment for translation activities, the lack of specialized programs made available by the GCC, the provision of professional licenses to translators, and the lack of qualified translators who specialize in certain fields, such as medical and legal translation. In addition, there are few entities specialized in ensuring translation quality.

Therefore, an examination of the current situation regarding translation in the GCC is essential to understanding the challenges and opportunities available in this field. Also, it seeks to develop appropriate recommendations to solve translation problems, which is important given their impact on strengthening scientific, cultural, literary, commercial, and professional interdependence in the field of translation between the Arab Gulf and the global business community.

This study seeks to create a broad concept to understand the status quo of translation in the GCC, and to direct efforts towards improving and developing this important field by providing effective recommendations for the required development of the translation sector in the GCC.

Study Methodology

For the purposes of this study, data was collected from multiple sources, the most important of which are official studies and reports on translation in the GCC, official documents, and official websites of ministries, agencies, governmental, semi-governmental, and private, academic, and training institutions and bodies, the official websites of international awards and seminars, and others. Also, data was sought from commercial institutions and companies in every GCC country.

The study is essentially based on surveys and research on the information available and published about translation in the GCC. Due to the limited time of the research and the discrepancy in statistics - in most cases - about the translation industry and the translation movement in the GCC, the study did not include statistical information.

It must be pointed out that the information obtained about each GCC country, and its structural narrative are different based on the information available to about each country. The research conducted for each country comprises the following facets.

The Legislative Aspect of Translation: This includes the legislative aspects related to the field of translation in the country, as well as some of the regulations, if any, that regulate translation practices.

Professional Licenses and Certified Translation Tests: This concerns the entities that grant the professional license for translation - if any - and the type of licenses or licensing requirements for translation practitioners, and how these licenses can be obtained and from whom.

Parties, Bodies, and Institutions Responsible for Translation: These are the parties, bodies, and institutions responsible for translation in the country.

Translation Associations: These are the independent translation associations or organizations within a particular country.

Published Translation Glossaries of Terms and Nomenclatures: These are the translation glossaries produced or approved by official authorities in the country. They contain special terms and phrases that translators are required to use.



Standardised Translation of Names of Ministries, Governmental and Private Bodies, and Institutions: This concerns the agencies and bodies tasked with standardizing the translated names of ministries, governmental and private bodies, and institutions.

Official Registration of Offices, Institutions, and Companies Concerned with Translation: Official registration is required by offices, institutions, and commercial companies concerned with providing translation services and complying with certain conditions.

Translator Preparation Institutions: These are governmental, community-based, and private agencies, whether academic or otherwise, concerned with translator's training.

National and International Conferences and Translation Awards: These are the international conferences, national and international awards given to translators or organizations. These awards are described, together with their objectives and eligibility stipulations.

Legal Aspects of Translation: This pertains to official and judicial bodies and intellectual property rights in general.

Translation and Quality Assurance Guides: This covers the guidelines and references in the country and the bodies that issue these guidelines, in addition to quality assurance guidelines in the field of translation - if any.

A Summary Table of the Current Situation, Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations: This is self-explanatory and shows the availability of services, and the challenges and opportunities associated with translation activities in each GCC country. Recommendations are also made.

Challenges, Opportunities, and Recommendations: It discusses the challenges and opportunities faced by translators and posed by the nature of translation tasks in the country.

Study Recommendations: It addresses the conclusion and recommendations of the study.



Translation

Importance of Translation

During the past century and at the beginning of the 2000s, the world witnessed an unprecedented increase in cultural openness and development in all fields of human endeavour. In this new global environment characterized by cultural interactions and technical development, translation plays an essential role in building bridges of communication between countries and peoples. It has made it easier for everyone to access any information and content - especially on the Internet - in their native language, and it has facilitated dialogue and cultural exchange between peoples. Therefore, the main purpose of translation is to create ways of communication and bridge the gap between cultures. Today, it plays a significant role in all aspects of life.

The first pillar of the renaissance and progress of any nation is education, as it paves the way towards the future. Since science and knowledge are developing rapidly in all fields and in various countries around the world, and many scientific products, research, and reports are issued daily in different languages, every nation that seeks renaissance and advancement should support an important element of education, which is translation. In the Incheon Declaration (2015), UNESCO recommended, within the project framework, that in order to achieve its fourth goal - sustainable development - there was need to encourage teaching and learning in the mother tongue to achieve effective educational outcomes by providing scientific content that keeps pace with development and is constantly updated. This can

only be achieved by strengthening the role of translation and Arabization and developing plans to improve translated scientific works that can be disseminated globally.

Translation, in addition to enriching the language to which it is transmitted, is a tool for enhancing human thought and a mirror that reflects the literary and cultural aspects of the language from which it is transmitted. The interaction of cultures through cultural activities, tourism, and media production has encouraged many people to delve deeper into the culture of others, giving translation a broad scope and the opportunity of translators to influence the cultural movement by accurately and clearly conveying culture, literary content, and other matters to other people. Translation also affects economic mobility and is one of the most important economic stimulants according to the website, [verifiedmarketresearch.com](https://www.verifiedmarketresearch.com). The global translation market was valued at approximately \$39.37 billion in 2020, and it is expected to reach \$46.22 billion by 2028, with an annual growth rate estimated at 2.07%. The economic openness between markets in the world and the activity of the e-commerce movement has led to an increase in demand for translation services of all types, encompassing both translation and interpreting. This is reinforced by the market research on consumer behaviour, which has indicated that 75% of people prefer to shop and browse websites and applications using their native language. Hence, accurate translations are vital to business.

Hence, it can be concluded that translation contributes to almost all aspects of human activities. This is not surprising since today's daily human communication extends beyond the interactions with people sharing a common language within a limited environment. Nowadays, particularly with widespread access to the Internet, people's sphere of communication has expanded, bringing them in contact with a range of individuals from different cultures, who speak a different language. Hence the importance of translators and translation.

Translation Objectives

Since translation is one of the most stimulators of the economy, the Gulf countries have paid attention to it by establishing centres and institutions including the Centre of Translation, Arabization, and Promotion of Arabic under the general secretariate for the GCC to promote the importance of the Arabic language. In addition, it focuses on encouraging coordination and cooperation among the private sectors offering translation services in the GCC to standardise and support their work as well as find a common reference for the translation sector to achieve several goals, including:

Diplomatic and cultural communication: Translation aims to facilitate communication and deal with different cultures by rendering texts from one language into another which enables individuals from different countries and cultures to understand and exchange ideas and information, whether on the translation itself or the elements of interpretation.

Spreading knowledge and culture: The translational concept refers to the spreading of knowledge and culture among nations through the translations of scientific and literary works, books, and articles, enabling individuals worldwide to benefit from the knowledge and culture offered by other languages.

Commercial communication: In the global business market, translation plays an important role in facilitating communication and dealings between companies and individuals from different countries. Translation enables businesses and markets to expand, as well as achieving business partners' mutual understanding.

Justice and law: Translation plays an important role in guaranteeing individuals' rights and ensuring justice for speakers of other languages, since numerous legal cases require documents and files to be translated into a language that the parties involved can understand, particularly regarding the provision of evidence and the clarification of legal provisions.

Media and publishing: The media and publishing sectors are two of the main fields that depend on translation, where the translation of articles, news reports, and media content enables individuals from around the globe to access information and news



regardless of their native language. Hence, important results will be achieved by organizing and supporting the translation sector such as improving the business infrastructure to attract distinct economic activities and big companies around the world. Moreover, accurate translations help to convey the Gulf culture to the world, building human connections, encouraging cultural exchange, intellectual and literary production, and enriching the Gulf library with different kinds of knowledge and science. In addition, translation will boost the tourism sector and promote the Gulf countries as tourist destinations with unique cultural, historical, and geographical attractions.

Goals could be diversified and increased according to the context and the field translation served in the GCC. However, the most important ones are those above.

Translation Types

Since the birth of translation, specialists interested in translation studies focused on studying all aspects that could develop this sector such as analysing the necessity of translation in different contexts and areas. Also, they focused on studying the effect of scientific and technological development on translation as well as the methods and strategies that are more effective in transferring the meaning properly. Some researchers such as (Jakobson, 1959) and (Elewa, 2020) have classified translation according to the following:

Text type: This can be general or specific such as translations of works that are literary, technical, scientific, medical, legal, economic, political, and others. It could also be translations based on interpretations of presentations given at conferences or specific seminars or translations as in the rendering of books, brochures, and studies.

Translation method: This concerns the translation in the language itself which is called (Intralingual Translation). It is defined as paraphrasing terms and sentences in the same language to simplify meaning such as translating poems to simplify their rendering into other languages. For example, it includes translating speech into pictures, translating digital symbols, and translating non-linguistic signs.

Translation tool: This can be a human translation which is done by translators who either interpret or translate, a machine translation conducted by translation machines, or a translation done by using translation tools on the computer. Audiovisual translation is classified among audio and visual media materials which includes adaptation or reporting for newspapers, articles, and electronic services (Internet). It has various types some of them which involve subtitling and dubbing. The former is the script that appears at the bottom of the screen, and the latter involves changing the original sound in the character's dialogue from the source language into the target language which requires synchronizing the original sound with the lip movements of the original characters.

Examples of International Translation Organisations

Several international institutions and entities address translation by providing manuals for translators and ensuring overall quality within the translation field. These international guidelines can be applied when developing guidelines for:

Translator
Translator ethics
Translation quality
Professional behaviours and translation practices
Translators' licenses

Among these international institutions are the following:

1 Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators

This is the national association for both the translation and interpreting profession in Australia whose members are required to adhere to certain codes of ethics and engage in continuous professional development, enabling translation service seekers to choose from a group of experienced and qualified translators and interpreters to carry out translation services for them.

The Institute provides a forum for knowledge exchange and strengthening professional relationships among translators and translation agencies, those requesting translation services, and other stakeholders in the field. The Institute encourages commitment to professional ethics and adopts quality standards through the application of best practices.

The Institute organises events and training workshops throughout the year to provide its translation and interpreting members with the best opportunities to improve. Among these events are the National Translation Conference and the Excellence Awards. The Institute aims to:

Represent the interests of the profession at the national and global level and ensure that translators and interpreters adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards.

Promote the profession of translation and interpreting in government and private agencies.

Promote and organise professional development activities including workshops, conferences, courses, and seminars.

Provide a forum for communication, advancement of translation, and exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Improve the status of the translation and interpretation profession.

Work to ensure that non-English speakers have access to appropriately certified translation services when dealing with authorities.



2

National Australian Authority for Translation and Interpretation

This is the national authority responsible for setting quality standards for the translation sector in Australia and accrediting translators and interpreters. It is the only organization that issues certificates to potential practitioners. The Authority's certification provides confidence and quality assurance to clients when dealing with certified translators, and enacts language and localization policies, but it does not provide any services related to the hiring of translators.

The Authority is interested in investing in translation research to improve its services through the Translation Research Fund. Research priorities are determined on an annual basis. For example, the priorities for the fiscal year 2021-2022 included the following:

- Quality and scope of the certification system.
- Validating English language proficiency requirements and analysing the relationship between language proficiency level and interpretation test results.
- Validating the test specifications by analysing the relationship between test results and professional competence.
- Test reliability.
- Inter-rater reliability (consistency of test scores across raters).
- Analysing the relationship between examinees' demographic characteristics and assessment performance.
- Options to provide valid and reliable translation and skills testing opportunities for new and emerging languages.
- Certified qualifications.
- Best practices in teaching translation and interpretation.
- Relationships between the type of training or qualification and duration, admission demographics, English proficiency, and test scores.

Translation and Interpretation Practices

- Translator retention rates (i.e. why do certified translators retain or lose the profession?)
- Best practices for managing vicarious trauma for translation and interpreting practitioners.
- Identifying current gaps in professional development opportunities for translators and interpreters.
- Analysing the Code of Ethics considering modern theories and practices and its effects on the validity and reliability of the Institute's assessment tool for ethical competencies.

The Translation Sector in General

- Identifying priority languages to meet emerging demand in the translation and interpretation sector (including regional differences).
- Analysing the cost-benefit of whether or not to engage appropriately accredited practitioners in particular sectors (e.g. health, law, immigration).
- Finding efficient and effective ways to educate users on the accreditation system.
- Determining the effectiveness of the accreditation system in improving translation standards.

The Institute is committed to supporting and developing the translation sector through the Translation Sector Development Fund, which supports projects that address translation sector issues such as capabilities, capacity building, and innovation that help to develop the sector in the future. The Institute's Board of Directors reviews the funding priorities annually in terms of:

Possibilities

The Institute focuses on quality issues, the provision of translation and interpretation services, and the extent to which projects address issues related to professional development, methodologies of practice and performance, or improving quality in other activities to provide services and activities with a focus on individual professionals working in this field.

Developing abilities

The Institute is keen to support projects that are interested in capacity building and evaluate the extent to which the translation sector of the project can meet current and future needs to support all aspects of professional language services. Capacity-building projects must address issues related to the scope and nature of languages that require development in terms of translation and interpreting. These projects may include addressing issues related to new and emerging linguistic communities, developing modern approaches to gaining translation experience, and providing opportunities to attract interpreters and translators to the sector.

Innovation

Innovation is a strategic priority for the Institute, its goal being to ensure that the accreditation system keeps pace with changes in the sector resulting from new technologies, market changes, and development. Projects wishing to benefit from the Institute's support can focus on innovation, explore the impact of new technologies on practice, and expand standards and accreditation scope to include multiple new languages.



3 The American Literary Translators Association

The American Literary Translators Association is a non-profit association that provides its services to various stakeholders, namely individual translators, academic institutions, publishing houses, and others who work in literary translation. Its annual conference is the largest gathering of literary translators in the United States, and the only one of its kind in the field of literary translation, as it brings together nearly 500 translators, writers, and editors who discuss sector issues over three days at seminars, workshops, roundtables, and bilingual readings. One of the conference's most important goals is to promote and develop the field of literary translation.

The association gives awards for excellence in translation and provides sponsorship and mentoring grants to support emerging translators. Six main awards are awarded at the annual conference: the National Translation Awards in Poetry and Publishing, the Lucien Strick Award for Asian Translation, the Translation Award in Italian Prose, and the Spanish-American Translation Foundation Award. The travel requirements of all emerging translators attending the conference are covered, and the Emerging Translator Mentoring Program -intended for individuals who have not published more than one complete translation work - guides the most experienced translators.

4 American Translators Association

This is a voluntary, professional association whose membership includes translators, interpreters, teachers, project managers, developers of Internet translation software, owners of translation service companies, hospitals, universities, and government agencies.

The Association's mission is to enhance the role of professional translators and interpreters, facilitate communication between them, set standards for competence and professional ethics, provide its members with professional development opportunities, and enhance the status of the profession.

5 Canadian Translators, Terminologists, and Interpreters Council

The Canadian Council of Translators, Terminologists, and Interpreters helps to bridge the gap and communication divide between languages and cultures - and is the national body representing all of the abovementioned entities. It maintains and promotes professional standards in translation, interpreting, and terminology and ensures high-quality communication between linguistic and cultural communities in Canada through national standardised examinations.

6 A Candidate's Guide to the CTTIC Standard Certification Examination in Translation

This guide is intended for candidates applying for certification by the Canadian Council of Translators, Terminologists, and Interpreters. The test is intended for experienced translators. It does not aim to determine competence or potential, but to demonstrate the professional skills of the candidate who can produce a linguistically and terminologically correct translation. The test is considered open source, and it includes dictionaries and paper workbooks that are permitted but cannot be exchanged with other candidates. It is prohibited during the exam to use any technical devices, except those required for medical reasons. A special committee appointed by the Council selects sample exam papers that test the candidates' ability to analyse and understand, in addition to their fluency in the target language.

7 Marking Guide for The CTTIC Standard Certificate Examination in Translation

This guide explains the test method and the mechanism used to calculate grades. Each candidate is asked to translate two texts, each consisting of approximately 175-200 words, to test the candidates' abilities to translate different types of texts.

The test consists of three texts for each language, one of which is compulsory and is a general text, whereas the other two are specialized texts (technical, medical, administrative, economic), one of which is chosen by the translator.

8 Translation at the United Nations

All branches of the United Nations rely daily on high-quality translations, whether written or oral. Translation is required for the management of General Assembly affairs and conferences in New York, Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi, or in the regional committees of the United Nations in several countries.

The United Nations, through its human resources website, has set standard exams for language speakers, titled Competitive Exams for Language Speakers, and potential candidates can register their interest through the United Nations link (careers.un.org). There are several competitive exams in several translation fields, such as those for translators and editors, summary records, verbatim records, and interpreters' examinations.

The United Nations holds a special annual meeting for organizing languages, documents, and publications, where more than 80 international organizations that use conference, language, and translation service providers meet to exchange experiences and discuss relevant topics, including documenting translation.



The United Nations has issued several publications related to translation and translators, including the following:

a. The United Nations Terminology Database

The United Nations has established a website (www.untermun.org) that includes a database of United Nations terminology, nomenclature, documents, bodies, institutions, agreements, and others, in the six languages it has adopted, namely Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese. The website provides the researcher with several options for searching the texts and their translations.

The database is one of the largest databases of the United Nations as it includes its documents in the six languages approved by the United Nations, with a comprehensive search engine.

b. Translator's Guide with A Focus on The United Nations System in Arabic

This guide covers everything that is required of the translator in terms of accuracy in performance, behaviour, instructions, and directions regarding translation which is appropriate to the context of translation approved by the United Nations. It addresses other topics such as standardizing the most common terminology in the field of (atomic translation, legal translation, military ranks, etc.), provides guidelines for the editing and linguistic rules to be followed, and lists abbreviations and symbols used within the framework of the United Nations system.

c. Evaluation of the Translation Procedures in the United Nations System

This part of the United Nations website contains a study of the effectiveness and efficiency of the translation system in the United Nations and addresses productivity and operational problems. It presents the report for the evaluation of the science-related translations done for the United Nations. It concluded with the following recommendations:

- Improve document quality control and workload planning.
- Encourage language training centres and provide incentives to add new languages.
- Provide contracting for translation services.
- Conduct system-level productivity analysis, CAT system management, and develop common terminology modules.
- Recognize precise writing jobs and ensure appropriate facilities are available to translators.
- Move towards adopting self-review of translation.
- Conduct a careful periodic evaluation of operations, effectiveness, administrative outputs, and support processes such as translation.



United Arab Emirates

During the past five decades, UAE has witnessed progress in all sectors of the economy, politics, and culture among others, which has increased the extent and pace of communication with the outside world and the need to exchange knowledge and experiences. Translation is, of course, the key to success in this regard.

Due to this extensive development, the translation market became more active. The need for translation has increased in the fields of finance, business, tourism, and culture, creating abundant employment opportunities for translators in all community and business sectors. This has been accompanied by a movement and interest in education and training in the field of translation and the provision of qualified training personnel, especially since tourism and business are among the pillars of the economy in the UAE.

UAE worked on the general legislative structure of the translation sector and established the basic foundations for professional translation practices, whether for individuals or institutions. It issued a federal decree to regulate the translation profession, and many bodies and institutions translated various books into and from Arabic as a contribution to educating society and participating in the translation movement in the Arab world.

Legislative Aspect of Translation

UAE has enacted several legislations to regulate the translation profession within the country, so as to guarantee translators their rights, along with the country's right to monitor translated materials, regulate the relationship between the publisher and the translator, and establish these controls and include them in Federal Decree Law No. (22) of 2022 regarding "the regulation of translation profession" issued by the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs - General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers.

This decree, consisting of 41 articles, stipulates that it is not permissible for any authority concerned with the work of authentication or legalization, nor for any court to approve an instrument or document translated from a foreign language into Arabic unless this translation has been made with the approval of a licensed translator under the provisions of this law.

The decree warns against allowing anyone to practise the translation profession in UAE unless they are registered with the registry of translators in the Ministry of Justice and have obtained a license to do so related to the relevant affairs in the concerned emirate. The Ministry has a register of translators, and each translator has a file containing everything related to him or her. Regarding translators' practice of the profession, the following is a review of several articles contained in the aforementioned federal law.

Registration Conditions

The regulations specify a number of conditions that must be met by translators wishing to be included on the ministry's registry. For instance, they must be of good conduct, and without previous convictions for a felony or misdemeanour that is in breach of honour or trust, even if their reputation has been restored. Moreover, they must be fluent in Arabic reading, writing, and speaking whether the translation is from or into Arabic. They must have an accredited qualification from one of the recognized universities or institutes indicating their specialization in the language or languages from which they will translate from and into. Furthermore, the practical experience in the field of translation must not be less than five years following graduation, where the citizen is exempted from the period of experience. Translators must pass the procedures and tests determined by a decision of the competent minister, be medically fit to perform the duties of the profession, pay the prescribed fees, and have an insurance contract against liability for professional errors.



Oath

After being registered, the translator takes an oath before one of the competent courts of appeals chambers and that the oath is recorded and kept in the translator's file. The translator's registration is for three years, renewable for a similar period following the translator's request. The translator must submit a request to renew the registration at least thirty days before the expiry date of the registration, accompanied by evidence showing the updating and development of their skills in the licensed translation field during the previous three years, whether through training courses, scientific and practical participation in seminars and conferences, or through tasks assigned to them, or other activities conducive to the updating of those skills. The translator's delay in renewing the registration ninety days after it expires results in the cancellation of their registration.

Termination of Practice

The regulations require the translator to notify the committee if he or she is prevented from practicing the profession due to an obstacle that has arisen that prevents them from completing the translation task, and they may request to resume practicing it when that obstacle is removed, taking into account the provisions of Clause (2) of Article 10 of this decision. The translator must practise the profession through a licensed office in order to carry out translation work and the office shall have a director of translators, except for the public employee translator.

Translators' Obligations

According to the regulations, the translator is obligated to perform translation work with accuracy, honesty, and sincerity, and in a way that preserves the dignity and respect of the profession, taking into account the principles and traditions of the profession stipulated by the Charter. Also, translators shall not change the translated content, should personally perform the translation work entrusted to them, make every attempt to improve the necessary skills and keep pace with developments in the field of the language they are licensed to translate. Moreover, they must maintain confidentiality in terms of what they learned from their translation activity, adhere to translating from and into the licensed languages, and include their names, registration number, and the name of the office where they work, in all their publications and correspondence, certificates and the reports that they sign. They must notify the relevant department of any changes to their employer's (office) address within one month of the change being made.

Translators' Affairs Committee

Under the regulations and by a decision of the Minister of Justice, a committee shall be formed to be called the "Translators' Affairs Committee", the number of whose members shall not be less than five, in addition to two members with specializations, provided that the decision shall specify the chairman and vice-chairman of the committee. The committee shall meet at the invitation of its chairman, and its meetings shall not be

valid except in the presence of the majority of the members including the Chairman of the Committee. The discussions shall be confidential, and the decisions shall be made by an absolute majority of the votes of those present. In the event of a tie, the side with which the Chairman of the Committee is in Favor shall prevail. Decisions made to refuse the registration of the translator or to write them off must be reasoned. In case the Chairman is absent, or any impediment occurs, the Vice-Chairman shall take the role and determine the committee's work system defined by a decision of the Minister.

Criminal Cases

The Public Prosecution shall notify the Committee of the criminal cases filed against translators and the rulings issued against them. The Committee shall notify the translator and the party to which they belong of any complaint filed against them to respond to it within fifteen days from the date of the notification. The complaint shall be presented to the Committee accompanied by the translator's response to decide what it deems appropriate regarding its preservation or refer it to the investigation.

The decision confirms that a disciplinary penalty may not be imposed on the translators except after conducting a written investigation with them and hearing their statements. The investigation of the translator will be carried out by a member of the Public Prosecution following a request made by the head of the committee. A disciplinary council is responsible for disciplining translators; this council is formed by a decision of the Minister, is headed by one of the presidents of the courts of appeal and its two other members are judges chosen by the Minister. The Disciplinary Council may delegate one of the employees of the competent Court of Appeal to perform secretarial duties.

Disciplinary Penalties

The disciplinary penalties imposed on the translator include a warning, suspension of registration for a period not exceeding one year, and the permanent removal of the translator from the registry. The disciplinary case is filed before the Disciplinary Board by the Public Prosecution with a petition that includes the accusation and the evidence supporting it. The Public Prosecution must require the translator to appear before the Council at least ten days before the time specified for the session, and it shall follow up on the disciplinary case until it is decided.

The Disciplinary Board may conduct whatever investigations it deems necessary and may assign one of its members for this purpose. It also may temporarily suspend the translator from working until the end of their trial. The Disciplinary Board's sessions and deliberations shall be confidential, and its decisions shall be issued with their reasons.

The translator's registration will be removed from the registry by a decision from the committee in any of the following cases: failure to adhere to one of the conditions of the registration, conviction of a felony or misdemeanour that violates honour or trust, inability to perform the work for health reasons stipulated in a report prepared by the medical committee. The translator shall be informed through the relevant department of the decision to remove him or her from the register within 10 days from the date of



its issuance, and the translator may appeal this decision before the relevant court of appeal within 30 days from the date of notification, and the ruling is final.

The committee may impose any of the disciplinary penalties stipulated in Article 22 of this decision on the director of the translation office licensed to practise the profession in the case of violation of one of the obligations stipulated in Article 15 of this decision. The court or the public prosecutor - as the case may be - shall bear the translator's fees if it decides to seek assistance from them. In criminal cases, the court and the public prosecutor may, if necessary, seek the assistance of a translator who is not on the registry after taking the oath, and allow indirect translation from and into Arabic using more than one translator.

Reconciliation of the Situation

The regulations confirm that translators registered in the registry before the date of implementation of the law shall adjust their situation within one year from the date of its implementation. The translators' registration prior to the date of implementation of the law, provided they meet the conditions stipulated in the decision, shall continue until the expiration of the registration period.

Professional Licenses and Certified Translation Tests

The Federal Decree Law No. (22) of 2022 regarding the regulation of the translation profession, issued by the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs - General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, specifies the following in its second article:

Practicing the Translation Profession

1. It is not permissible to practise the translation profession in the country without being registered and obtaining a license to do so from the competent licensing authority, in accordance with the controls and procedures it determines in this regard.
2. As an exception to the provisions of Clause 1 of this Article, the judicial authority may seek the assistance of a translator or translation house that is not registered in the registry if the need arises, provided that the translator takes the legal oath.
3. The executive regulations of this Decree-Law shall determine the controls for using unregistered translators and translation houses referred to in Clause 2 of this Article.

Articles (3 and 4) stipulate:

Accepting Translated Documents

Without prejudice to what is stated in Clause 2 of Article 2 of this Decree-Law, neither any authority conducting authentication or legalization, nor any court may accept a translated document, report, or instrument unless the translation has been carried out by a translator or a translation house registered in the registry in accordance with the provisions of this decree-law.

Registry of Translators and Translation Houses

- A registry shall be established by the Ministry to register translators and translation houses, and each translator and translation house shall have a file in which everything related to the affairs of practising the translation profession shall be documented.
- The data of all translators and translation houses specified in the executive regulations of this decree law, and any update thereto, shall be recorded in the registry.

The process and conditions for registering as a translator are explained in the previous chapter.

Articles (6 and 7) stipulate the following conditions that must be met in order to register a translation house:

1. The Local Translation House

- a. It must be licensed to work in the country by the competent licensing authority, and its license must be valid.
- b. The manager supervising the translation shall be one of the translators registered on the registry.
- c. The number of translators in the local translation house should not be less than four translators registered in the registry.
- d. A valid insurance policy must be taken out against liability for professional errors, issued by one of the insurance companies licensed to work in the country, in accordance with the regulations determined by the Minister.
- e. Prescribed registration fees must be paid.

2. The international translation house, in addition to the conditions referred to in Clause (1) of this Article, the following conditions shall be met:

- a. A valid license for the main branch located outside the country.
- b. The registered translators working for the International Translation House must be residents of the country.



Article (V)

Register of Employee Translators in Government Agencies

1. Government agencies may request the Ministry to register any of its employees who meet the conditions stipulated in Article 5 of this Decree-Law as a translator, provided that their practice of translation work is limited to the entity to which the employee belongs and the provisions stipulated in this Decree-Law and its executive regulations are apply to them.
2. Government agencies are exempt from paying the prescribed fees and from submitting an insurance policy against liability for professional errors made by their translators.

Registration of a Legal Translator in UAE

The UAE Ministry of Justice, through its website (www.moi.gov.ae), provides translators the opportunity to apply for registration as a certified legal translator with the UAE Ministry of Justice. The website clarifies the application steps, documents, conditions, and necessary fees as outlined by Federal Law Decree (22) of 2022 regulating the translation profession, and include information on special examination for legal translation.

Agencies, Bodies and Institutions Responsible for Translation

Over the past few years, several institutions, research centres, and initiatives focused on translation and publishing have been established, which have made a profound impact on enhancing the Arab library.

Kalima Project

The Kalima Project by the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre at the Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi, aims to revive the translation movement in the Arab world and support the active cultural movement in Abu Dhabi by contributing both at the regional and international cultural level.

Every year, the Kalima Project selects one hundred books from the most important classical, modern, and contemporary international works from various countries around the world and translates them into Arabic, taking into ensuring quality and accuracy in publishing and translating these books. The project currently has a list of about 600 translators representing many languages.

So far, the Kalima Project has translated approximately 1,300 books into 22 languages, covering the following areas: general knowledge, philosophy, psychology, religions, humanities, languages, natural and exact/applied sciences, arts, sports, literature, history, geography, biography, children's literature, and young adult fiction.

Dar Zayed

Dar Zayed for Islamic Culture enriches the cultural aspect by producing specialized publications in the domain of education, among others. It works on translating articles and texts specialized in Islamic culture into English and various languages such as Chinese, Russian, Filipino, Tamil, Amharic, Oromo, Sinhala, and Urdu. One of the most prominent translations carried out by Dar Zayed on a regular basis is the translation of Islamic culture articles, totalling about 120 translations throughout the year.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation

A. Translation Programme

The Foundation launched the Tarjem Program to enrich the Arab library with the best of world thought and literature and to showcase various aspects of Arabic civilization by translating Arab creations into global languages. The Foundation prioritizes the translation of notable cultural heritage books published in the various regions of the Arab world, to strengthen the bridges of cultural and cognitive communication with those cultures.

B. Translation Challenge

The Translation Challenge, which was launched by the Foundation in 2017, is an important initiative designed to provide comprehensive and integrated educational content in the fields of science and mathematics, given their significance as among the most important contributors to the development of civilizations.

Publishing Houses

- a. **Dar Riwayat**, which is one of the Kalimat Publishing Group companies in UAE, specializes in publishing narrative works – both in Arabic and in translation.
- b. **Dar Al-Falak for Translation and Publishing**, which is a publishing house specializing in the translation of children's and young people's literature from various languages into Arabic, has published 26 titles, including 19 titles translated from languages such as: Italian, Icelandic, English, Spanish, Korean, Dutch, French, and Swedish. Al-Falak has taken the lead in issuing seven 'silent book' titles including three Emirati titles.



Translation Associations

Translators Association of UAE

The Ministry Translators Association was established in the first half of 2014 by the Ministry of Social Affairs, with its headquarters in Dubai and its jurisdiction covering the country. It is a publicly beneficial association working to serve and develop the publishing sector in the country, and to achieve the objectives established by a ministerial decision. Its aims are to strengthen the translation profession, acknowledge the efforts of its employees, contribute to developing and improving the skills of translators, support their professional development, facilitate communication between translators and entities seeking translation services, create job opportunities commensurate with the translator's experience and skills, and work to bridge linguistic and cultural gaps by providing an appropriate platform for communication, interaction, and exchange of ideas.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation

A. Arab Translators Club

The Foundation announced the establishment of the Arab Translators Club to enrich the translation movement. The club organises translation workshops supervised by the International Writing Program and aims to attract the largest number of Arab translators and provide a platform for exchanging visions and experiences in this field. It serves as a platform for the concerted efforts of Arab translators, facilitating access to knowledge resources and encouraging young talents to explore the opportunities provided by the translation sector and move forward in their careers.

B. Translation Club

The Translation Club is one of the most prominent knowledge projects of the Foundation, and it aims to attract the largest number of young translators through an Arab platform to exchange experiences and knowledge among young people with the goal of raising a new generation of young translators capable of transferring knowledge and sciences from various international languages to and from Arabic, under the supervision of an elite group of professionals, experts and senior specialists in the field of translation.

Published Translation Glossaries of Terminology and Nomenclature

There are several translation glossaries produced or approved by official authorities in UAE, which translation providers adhere to when translation specialized terms and phrases. These glossaries are listed below.

Dictionary of Legal Terms of the Ministry of Justice

The UAE Ministry of Justice, in coordination with the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation, issued a dictionary of legal terminology in Arabic and English, aimed at standardizing legal terminology in the country. The dictionary contains the basic words mentioned in the legislations and laws of the country, together with their synonyms and English translations.

The initiative of this legal dictionary, which was unveiled in 2017, is aimed at achieving the highest quality and consistency in legal and judicial translation, and to secure the rights of litigants and stakeholders to the fullest extent possible. The dictionary features a smart application on Apple and Android systems with several usage features, including the ability to search using voice and display search results translated by voice, and allows search terms to be saved via the “Favourite Terms” feature.

The dictionary contains more than 4,700 legal terms translated from Arabic into English and vice versa. The terms are updated periodically and new terms are added whenever new legislation is issued in the country.

Other examples include:

- **ICT Glossary** - Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority
<https://tdra.gov.ae/en/pages/ict-terminology-dictionary>
- **Smart Dubai Glossary** - Digital Dubai
<https://www.digitaldubai.ae/knowledge-hub/publications/smart-dubai-glossary>



Standardised Translation of the Names of Ministries, Governmental and Private Bodies, and Institutions

The research found no specific entity responsible for translating the names of ministries, government departments, and private bodies and institutions. It appears that the translation of the names in the UAE depends on familiarity within various media, political, and other circles, or that dictionaries and lexicons may be referred for preliminary checks of names.

Official Registration of Offices, Institutions, and Companies Concerned with Translation

Federal Decree-Law No. (22) of 2022 on the Organization of the Translation Profession issued by the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs - General Secretariat of the Cabinet, in its article (6), establishes the conditions for registration of the translation house, as mentioned above. Article (10) of the Decree-Law defines the duration of the registration as follows:

1. The translator and translation house shall be registered for a period of three years, subject to renewal, provided that the registration renewal request is submitted at least thirty days before the expiry date. The registration will be renewed under the same conditions specified for registration for the first time.
2. The translator or translation house may not engage in translation work from the expiry date of any of them registration until its renewal.
3. Failure to submit an application for renewal of the registration within the ninety days of its expiry will result in the cancellation of the registration from the list.

The law specifies the obligations of the manager of the translation house in Article (14), which stipulates that the manager must carry out the following tasks:

- Notify the competent department of the translators who work for the translation house, and of every change that occurs to them within a month as of the date of the change.
- Notify the competent department of any modification or change to the license data within one month as of the date of the change.
- Maintain a special record in which the data of the translation work that has been completed, its date and the name of the applicant are recorded.

- Adhere to translation only from and into the languages in which the translators are licensed; and
- Not outsource or assign translation work within the translation house to individuals who are not translators working for it and who are registered in the list.

Translator Preparation Institutions

Many universities, bodies, and institutions in United Arab Emirates offer bachelor and postgraduate degrees as well as specialized courses in translation. Some are listed below.

1. United Arab Emirates University

Bachelor of Translation Studies: The Department of Translation Studies mainly offers Translation Studies in Arabic and English. One of its objectives is to teach and train students in the necessary translation skills to prepare them for the labour market.

2. Al Ain University

Bachelor of Arts in English and Translation: The Faculty of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences offers Bachelor of Arts in English and Translation, and focuses on developing students' translation and interpretation skills in Arabic and English.

3. University of Sharjah

Master of Arts in Translation: The Foreign Languages Department of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences grants Master of Arts in Translation. The Master of Arts Program, according to the University's website (www.sharjah.ac.ae), aims to:

- Provide students with theoretical foundations of the main approaches of translation.
- Familiarize students with the characteristics of speech in Arabic and English texts of various kinds (legal, informative, political, religious, scientific, etc.), and intensive training in the translation of such texts.
- Enhance students' awareness of the relationship between culture and translation, among other aspects.



4. Master's Programme in Translation and Interpretation at the American University of Sharjah.

5. Master's Programme in Translation at Saint Joseph University in Dubai.

In addition to the workshops and translation courses conducted by the Muhammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for knowledge and others on a periodic basis.

National and International Translation Awards and Conferences

The United Arab Emirates sponsors a number of conferences and awards that celebrate translators' efforts and encourage the transfer of foreign cultures of all languages into Arab culture. The most prominent of these awards are:

1. Sheikh Zayed Book Award - Translation Branch

This award is one of the world's most important literary awards. It was established in 2006 to develop intellectual and cultural creativity in the Arab world by honouring creative thinkers, publishers and youth for their contributions in the fields of authorship and translation in the humanities.

Mechanism and conditions for nomination - according to the Award's website (www.zayedaward.ae):

- The nominee should have contributed to the development of mind and creativity in Arab culture, whether it be creators, intellectuals or publishers. The candidate's work must have a high degree of authenticity and innovation, and should represent a real addition to human culture and knowledge.
- The candidate may apply for only one of the award branches.
- The writer cannot be nominated for another award, either personally or on behalf, in the same year.
- Translated books must be from the original foreign languages into Arabic or vice versa.
- The intellectual and creative product should be published as a "paper book", published no longer than two years prior.
- The book must be published and should have not been published for more than two years.
- If another person has contributed to the work (painter or co-author), their name must be included on the nomination form along with their data.

- The work submitted must contain an international standard book number (ISBN) to ensure property rights.
- The prize will not be awarded for work that has previously won a major Arab or a foreign prize.
- It is permissible to re-nominate the same work for the award, provided that it fulfils the time period requirement and new copies of the work are submitted.

2. The Sharjah Translation Award “Tarjuman”

The Sharjah Book Authority in the UAE Emirates launched the Sharjah Translator Award (Tarjuman) in the Emirate of Sharjah. The main aim of the award is to encourage Arab creators of literature to be creative in translation, and to build bridges of communication with other civilizations outside the Arab world by means of translation.

There are many events in the field of translation, including:

1. Abu Dhabi International Translation Conference

Since 2013, the United Arab Emirates has hosted the “Abu Dhabi International Translation Conference”, which aims at emphasizing the important role that translation plays in building bridges between civilizations and peoples, improving the capabilities of young translators, and encouraging the emerging generation to continue the process of transferring cultures, sciences, and literature from and to Arabic. Seminars and workshops held during the conference contribute to the preparation of trained cadres of Arab translators, enhancing of the quality of translation in the Arab world, particularly in the field of translation of science and mathematics, as well as the providing the opportunity young translators to exchange experiences with translators with extensive experience.

2. Dubai Translation Conference

In line with the UAE's launch of the National Literacy Strategy in 2016, the Emirates Literature Foundation, in partnership with the Dubai Executive Council, organised the “Dubai Translation Conference” as a step towards enriching knowledge content in Arabic, making Arabic creative content available to non-Arab speaking peoples, and enabling a generation of readers, educators, and intellectually open and a coherent society. The conference featured two sessions that brought together translators from around the world; however, no further conferences have been organised.



Legal Aspects of Translation

Federal Decree Law No. 22 of 2022 on the organization of the translation profession issued by the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs - General Secretariat of the Cabinet, defines in its articles the specific regulations on translation. Article 2 specifies who can practise the profession, while articles 13 and 14 set out the obligations of translators and managers of translation houses. The same law stipulates in articles 19, 20, and 22 the establishment and formation of the Translators Affairs Committee and its powers, and the establishment and formation of the Translators Disciplinary Board. The decree provides for a penalty of up to two years imprisonment and a fine of up to 100,000 dirhams for breaches of these laws.

Unified Translation Centre Project

The Ministry of Justice aims to establish the "Unified Translation Centre" to facilitate translation processes and provide associated services to those directly concerned during litigation. This helps to manage the sessions in a way that ensures the quality and efficiency of the translation provided and its subsequent outputs, which is an influential factor in the litigation process and contributes to achieving justice.

The Unified Translation Centre employs an adequate number of translators, who interpret for adversaries in court proceedings, and in electronically transmitted visual trial sessions, without the need for the interpreter to move between courts.

The Unified Translation Centre has contributed significantly to the quality control of translation and the provision of an electronic database of legal and judicial terminology, which, over time, leads to the standardization and consistency of translations to the greatest extent possible.

Intellectual Property Rights of Translators

Intellectual property is legally protected in the UAE under rights, such as patents, copyrights, and trademarks that enable people to earn recognition for their innovations or inventions or bring financial benefit to their counterparts. By striking a sound balance between innovators' interests and those of the general public, the intellectual property system aims to provide an environment that encourages creativity and innovation.

Institutions and publishing houses in the UAE are keen to obtain copyright, pay the original author or publisher for these rights, and monitor appropriate versions in different foreign languages, such as English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.

Intellectual Classifications

According to Decree-Law No. 38 of 2021 on Copyrights and Neighbouring Rights, “intellectual classifications” are defined as any innovative writing in the field of literature, arts or science, whatever its type, method of expression, significance or purpose.

Compulsory License to Copy or Translate

According to Article 7 of the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights, any person may apply to the Ministry of Economy for copies, translations, or both of a subject protected by law, in order to meet the needs of education of all kinds and levels, or of the public library or preservation and archiving houses, and in accordance with the conditions set out in this resolution.

For this reason, the Emirates Reprographic Rights Management Association was established as an attempt to preserve the rights of translators and authors. The Association is currently working to publish articles and books, and it is hoped that in the future it will protect the technical rights of translators, writers, and authors.

Translation Guidelines and Quality Assurance

It should be noted that, although there is Federal Decree by Law No. 22 of 2022 on the organization of the translation profession, it is important to find a set of translation guidelines which is consistent with the Federal Law Decree. However, no such guidelines are found in the traditionally professional sense of the translation industry; hence, they appear to be absent in the GCC.

With regard to quality assurance guidelines for translation, two articles (16 and 17) of the previous Federal Decree by Law set outline procedures for evaluating the translator's work and the implications of the evaluation result; however, they apply to the work of the individual translator, not the translation industry as a whole.

Therefore, there is a need for translation guidelines and quality assurance guidelines for translation.



Summary of Current Situation, Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations

1. Current Status of Translation in the UAE

Based on the foregoing, the current status of translation in general can be summarized as follows:

Table 1: A summary of the current status of translation in UAE

Subject	Unavailable	Available	
		Complete	Needs improvement
1. Legislative Aspect			✓
2. Professional Licenses			✓
3. Translation Tests			✓
4. One Entity Responsible for Translation	✓		
5. Translation Associations			✓
6. Translation Glossaries and Dictionaries			✓
7. Standardised Translation of Official Terminology	✓		
8. Official Registration of Offices		✓	
9. Translator Training Institutions			✓
10. Translation Awards			
11. Periodic Translation Conferences		✓	
12. Translation Guides	✓		
13. Quality Assurance Guides	✓		

2. Opportunities

Opportunity	Description
1. UAE publishing approaches	In general, the choice of translating certain topics rather than others depends on the approach adopted by the publishing house, as publishing houses tend to translate topics that have not previously appeared in the market. Additionally, the desire of the Emirati publisher in general is to reinforce the stereotypical image of Gulf culture before publishing by educating other societies and informing them of the culture of Emirati society. This intention extends not only to Western societies but also to other Arab countries.
2. Growing interest in Emirati culture in particular and the Gulf culture in general	The translation of information about other cultures attracts new types of readers, and Western communities have increased their interest in Arab culture, particularly the UAE's culture after the Expo Dubai 2020. Previously, we sought the West to show more interest in Arab culture, but now it is Western entities who approach us to request copyright for some content.
3. Investing in media activity to motivate the Emirati translator	Media channels seek the services of companies outside the UAE, especially for the dubbing of films, which limits the opportunities available to Emirati translators. Thus, Emirati translators should be encouraged to pursue this vital profession by promoting it through the media, forums, and specialized and ongoing training courses, which facilitates the exchange of experience and knowledge and enhance their specialized skills in the field.
4. Investing in platform activity, conferences, and seminars held by the UAE to develop Emirati translation activity	Translation, like other disciplines, demands extensive specialized knowledge and a deep understanding of two or more cultures. It is not an isolated profession; rather, it necessitates vital communication between colleagues to refine style and ensure quality performance. Therefore, conferences and practical activities in the UAE provide opportunities to develop the skills of the Emirati translator and link him/her to his/her counterparts regionally and globally.
5. Cultural construction is the path of conscious translation, and continuous and intensive reading develop and prepare the translator	A translator must be keen to acquire knowledge from their rich and valid sources, ensuring a tremendous intellectual wealth that supports their work on various subjects they counter. Translation demands profound insight, cultivated from childhood, extending and developing with the individual over the years, so that the knowledge becomes the result of several years of research and reading.
6. Availability of grants and initiatives in the field of translation	The Sheikh Zayed Translation Award and the Sharjah International Book Fair Fund offer an opportunity for translators to apply for funding and recognition. The "Kalima" project also provides an opportunity for Arab translators to publish their work and benefit from the project's support. In addition, the "Spotlight on Rights Initiative" creates valuable opportunities for translators to collaborate with publishers to contribute to the translation movement in several international languages.



3. Challenges

Challenge	Statement
1. Poor job opportunities and low turnout in the translation profession	The prevailing belief among students is that the translation major means working in only one area, (translation or interpretation), while other disciplines may provide a greater range of employment opportunities. Given the scarcity of Emirati translators, a number of intellectuals and translators have emphasized the extreme weakness in Emirati students' willingness to enrol in Translation Departments at local universities despite the urgent need for translators in the labour market. This indicates that there are complex problems that require genuine intellectual consideration and a vision based on the reality in order to establish firm foundations with set goals and begin achieving them. It is a project that has been mentioned only in the halls of intellectuals, at the table of cultural forums, and among the shelves of scientific research, without turning to the reality and necessity of developing the Emirati translator.
2. The phenomenon of linguistic weakness in the mother tongue	Working in the field of translation requires full proficiency in at least two languages, one of which is Arabic. However, most Emirati students are more fluent in English than in Arabic since the majority of students are graduates of bilingual schools in the country. Therefore, their limited poor knowledge of the Arabic language prevents them from being accepted for translation studies at universities.
3. Poor university interest in a translation major, and near absence of an interpretation major in university courses	The country has only one department at United Arab Emirates University that offers a bachelor's degree in Translation Studies. In contrast, translation curricula are taught as a sub-discipline of English Language programs and Literature at other universities, thereby reducing students' access to translation studies courses. Several universities in the country offer a master's degree in translation, but there are currently no PhD programs in Translation Studies and very few PhD programs in Linguistics and Translation or English Literature and Translation. As a result, the failure to establish bachelor's degrees and postgraduate Translation Studies courses limits options for students wishing to enrol in these programs, coupled with the difficulty of enrolment conditions. Additionally, here is no academic program that grants any academic degree in the field of interpretation, which is in high demand in the labour markets, with the exception of several courses offered by the American University of Sharjah within the Master of Translation programme.
4. Inadequate translator's environment and limited support	There is no sponsor of translators in the UAE. Instead, there are individual contributions to WhatsApp groups that exchange experience, ideas, and suggestions. As a result, the Emirati translator is still lost between the study he/she received and the reality of the translation profession. To address this gap, Emirati translators need encouragement to take action to improve the status of their profession and to care for those involved, by highlighting it through the media, forums, and specialized and ongoing training courses, which facilitate the exchange of experience and knowledge and refinement of their specialized expertise in the field.

Challenge	Statement
5. The need for preparation, training, and development programs to enhance quality to provide more efficient and quality programs for translation professionals	Most translation curricula at local universities do not adequately prepare their students well for labour markets, leading to frustration among inexperienced recent graduates who struggle to compete professionally. This frustration can discourage others from pursuing translation courses. The translation and interpreting profession requires specific skills, including creativity, the ability to adapt to various types of texts across different disciplines, and proficiency in at least two languages and cultures. Translators must continually develop their cultural knowledge, engage in ongoing reading across various fields, and seek relevant research studies to enhance their professional and academic growth. The significant effort required to stay current in the translation field—such as constant reading, keeping up with developments, and accessing the latest language dictionaries—can deter some individuals from pursuing this career. Moreover, to encourage tomorrow's generations to work in the field of translation, it is necessary to stress the important role of Arabic language teachers and language teachers in high schools who should identify those students who excel at languages and encourage them to take up a career as translators.
6. Separation from child's reality and reading aspirations	Publishers in the children's translation sector tend to translate books based on themes which are disconnected from reality, especially when they are translated from foreign languages into Arabic. Most publishers focus on subjects that convey certain values and ethics, such as cooperation and love of the other, while most publishers move away from books that portray children's problems.
7. The complexities of the local dialect and its composite cultural contents	Difficulties are encountered when translating the Emirati dialect into foreign languages. Translators are confronted with local words that are difficult to translate and, in some cases, the spirit of the original book is lost due to a vigorous attempt to achieve a balance between balance meaning and free translation to communicate it using various translation strategies.
8. Number of translators and their relevance to the position of the translation profession in society	The number of citizen translators is very small for a number of reasons, among which is that the translation major has been introduced relatively recently, having previously been offered as a unit within the literature course, and not as a separate major. However, the situation is different now as it offered as a major in postgraduate studies. The social view of the translation profession is somewhat limited, and some translation offices eschew the training of the Emirati translator because he/she will not be satisfied with the low salary. In addition, translators in government departments have low salaries, as these departments may be reluctant to appoint a postgraduate translator as a science degree is regarded as more prestigious and therefore attracts a higher salary.

4. Recommendations

1. Establishment of a professional translators' association: The establishment of a professional translators' association in the UAE will allow the field to develop the skills of emerging translators, link them to previous generations, and provide them with training and professional opportunities to apply their skills alongside their counterparts in other Gulf countries.
2. The governance of translation processes: Criteria for selecting a translator should be established through a cultural audit committee. In some cases, the committee goes back to the translator more than once, in others it goes back to the author himself/herself if possible.
3. Benefitting from international experiences: A Turjeman specialized committee should be formed to monitor foreign translations, select translators, and obtain professional experiences and best practices for the implementation and publication of translations.
4. Selection of translators: There is a need to form a specialized committee to select translators, preferably Emirati translators with sufficient knowledge of the terms used in two languages and overcome cultural barriers by using Emirati citizens who are fluent in foreign languages to review translations before publication.
5. Content selection: It is important to carefully select the content that will be translated, as it is the key factor in the successful promotion of the translation industry, especially since controversial topics and cultural issues are generally the exciting ones which attract more readers.
6. There is a need to reconsider the design of university courses and expand their offerings to include translation studies as a major rather than a sub-major and encourage students to enrol in this major to learn professional translation, both written and interpretation.
7. Targeted translation content should be linked to the local, social, and cultural scene to ensure the content is safe from Westernization and identity blurring, and to promote culturally and cognitively enriched content that strengthens students' knowledge, skills, and understanding of other cultures around the world.



The Kingdom of Bahrain

Translation in the Kingdom of Bahrain began quite some time ago, and interest in it increased at the beginning of the 1950s, which some consider to be the actual beginning of the translation phase in modern times due to large numbers of non-Arabic speakers coming to Bahrain for a number of economic, cultural, and political reasons. One of the most important recent initiatives serving the overall translation sector in Bahrain is the “Knowledge Transfer Project”, part of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities strategy to advance purposeful cultural work stemming from the need to transfer human knowledge and openness to other civilizations.

The greater interest in translation is evident in the increase in the number of translator preparation projects at both academic and training levels, but they are still in the process of being developed and improved, and there is still hope for the development and advancement of the translation sector.

The Legislative Aspect of Translation

The Kingdom of Bahrain is interested in the judicial and legislative aspects of the use of languages and translation, specifically the languages used in the Bahrain Chamber for Economic, Financial and Investment Disputes Resolution (BCDR) and for translating documents and papers. Article 5 of Decision No. 134 of 2021, issued by the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs, and Waqf in the Kingdom of Bahrain, regarding the issuance of the regulation of dispute resolution procedures for the BCDR under Chapter I of Title II of Decree-Law No. 30 for the year 2009 concerning the BCDR, stipulates the following:

- a. The Arabic language shall be the language used in dispute resolution proceedings before the Chamber. The parties to the dispute may agree in writing to choose English as a language used before the Chamber at the hearing of the case, in accordance with the following conditions:
 1. The subject matter of the lawsuit shall be issued in a language other than Arabic.
 2. The agreement to choose English shall be provided in the subject matter of the lawsuit or in correspondence between the parties to the contract or in a special agreement.
 3. The agreement to choose English as a language used in front of the Chamber must be submitted during the conduct of the proceedings and within the deadlines set therein.

If the parties do not agree to the choice of English within the deadline set by the schedule, then Arabic is the language used in the dispute resolution procedures.

- b. Each party to the lawsuit shall submit to the case director or tribunal, as the case may be, a translation of the documents and written papers in a foreign language into Arabic, or to English if agreed to be used by paragraph (a) of this article if it is written in another language.
- c. The translation submitted by any of the parties to the lawsuit to the case director or tribunal, as the case may be, is considered unless the other party disputes it. If the other party disputes the validity of the translation, he/she must provide an alternative translation. If the party submitting the first translation disputes the alternative translation, the authority may seek the assistance of experts regarding the disputed aspect of the translation.

Article (43) stipulates that the statements of the parties to the lawsuit or witnesses shall be translated under the provision of paragraph (a) of article (5) of these regulations. The tribunal may hear statements by parties to the lawsuit or witnesses who do not speak the language/languages used in the dispute resolution proceedings through an interpreter after taking the oath to truthfully translate, or formally declare to tell the truth.



Article (4) stipulates the following in regard to translation:

The dispute parties must submit a certified translation of the documents relating to the dispute before the tribunal if the documents are written in a language other than English. The tribunal must hear the statements of litigants or witnesses who do not speak English through a translator after taking the oath to truthfully translate, or formally declare to tell the truth.

There is no doubt that this part of the judicial measures and the use of translation before the courts requires legislation from the relevant authorities from the translation sector.

Professional Licenses and Certified Translation Tests

Bahrain's Ministry of Industry and Commerce provides the Business Licensing System (SIJILAT) which is an electronic system for registering and licensing businesses in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and fully connecting with all electronic systems of relevant government agencies.

According to the website of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Kingdom of Bahrain (www.moic.gov.bh), the SIKILAT system deals with the following:

1. Making business records data publicly available, such as company activities, partner names, company status, date of registration, entitlement, company type... etc., which is automatically updated.
2. Transactions for registration and visas on business records (e.g. activity management, branch management, deletion of a business register without a license, transfer of ownership... etc.).
3. All visa data and transactions carried out in commercial registries are reflected in the Electronic Official Gazette immediately and are available to the public.
4. "Live Chat" feature allows the investor to have a direct conversation with the Customer Service Centre directly where Customer Service staff respond immediately and follow up on all queries.
5. The feature for business records searches with the ability to advance search to obtain accurate results.

There is an urgent need for a professional test for translators that can be relied upon by the executive authorities for the professional licensing of translators and everything relating to this area.

Agencies, Bodies and Institutions Responsible for Translation

There are a number of entities responsible for the translation sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain as it is acknowledged to be a sector that supports the economy. As mentioned in the second chapter of this section, systemic issues in translation are devolved to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in terms of official registration, whereas matters relating to courts are devolved to judicial authorities.

There is no single entity responsible for the translation sector. Perhaps the creation of legal and technical sections will essentially contribute to finding a body responsible for the translation sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The establishment of the Knowledge Transfer Initiative, which is part of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities Strategy, shows the growing awareness of the importance of the translation sector due to the need to transfer human knowledge in consciously and soundly. According to the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities website (www.culture.gov.bh), the main objectives of the Knowledge Transfer Initiative are:

1. Contributing to the accurate and honest transfer of knowledge to the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Arab world through translation and about our real needs and basic priorities, making translated books reliable references for researchers, students, and readers in general, while contributing to the development of Arabic language and terminology.
2. Contributing to the exchange of knowledge experiences, especially among young Arab and European researchers, in the field of social sciences and arts.
3. Contributing to the intercultural dialogue, seeking to deepen their understanding and change distorted images, ideas, and prejudices.
4. Highlighting the open cultural and intellectual dimension of the Kingdom of Bahrain at the Arab and international levels.



Translation Associations

There are numerous calls for the establishment of a translator association in the Kingdom of Bahrain that is concerned with the translation sector and the enhancement of translation and coordinates the efforts of those interested in the field. The challenges facing the establishment of such an entity seem to require more attention and effort to overcome them. In this context, we mention the Bahrain Writers Association.

Bahrain Writers Association

Founded in 1969, the Bahrain Writers Association is one of the first cultural institutions in the GCC to deal with literary and cultural affairs. In 2016, it included a group of professional and amateur translators who ran a number of events and introduced translators and their work. The translation group organised approximately 20 events, ranging from seminars, and lectures, the launch of translated books, and the regular celebration of International Translation Day each year. In 2022, the translation group adopted the theme “translation critique”, to highlight the concept of criticism in translation. Additionally, they assist Bahraini translators in publishing their products and translating Bahraini literary works into the world’s languages.

Published Translation Glossaries of Terminology and Nomenclature

The Public Relations and Protocol Terminologies Guide, issued in 2022 by the Bahraini Council of Representatives, provides a set of general guidelines regarding the use of phrases, words, and terms. It provides a list of words, phrases, and terminology relevant to public relations and protocol within the legislative branch. The published guide aims to provide legislative authority employees working in the Public Relations and Protocol Department with the terms they may encounter in their work in both Arabic and English. The guide contains the names of parliamentary committees, ministers, government institutions, and various governorates in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

More information about the Public Relations Terminology and Protocol Guide issued by Bahrain’s Council of Representatives can be found at:

<https://www.nuwab.bh/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PR-Protocol-Terminologies-Dec-2022.pdf>

Standardised Translation of Names of Ministries, Governmental and Private Bodies, and Institutions

The Public Relations and Protocol Terminology Guide issued in 2022 by the Bahraini Council of Representatives includes the names of parliamentary committees, ministries, government institutions, and various governorates in the Kingdom of Bahrain in both Arabic and English, and it can be considered a primary reference in official nomenclature to a large extent, as it includes the names of most ministries, institutions, and official bodies in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Official Registration of Offices, Institutions, and Companies Concerned with Translation

The Commercial Institutions and Companies Guide issued by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which was previously mentioned, is one of the most important procedural guides in the country regarding the establishment of companies and commercial institutions. In 2015, the new commercial registration system was launched in cooperation with the e-Government Authority and government agencies related to commercial licenses.

Automated submissions can be made through the commercial registry (SIJILAT) website (www.sijilat.bh) to open commercial translation activities. The steps for establishing offices and companies, including the field of translation, are given below:

1. Submitting a registration application: You must submit a registration application to open your organization with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism.
2. Obtaining the necessary licences: You must obtain the necessary licences from the relevant authorities, such as a municipal licence, advertising licence, and other licences.
3. Establishing the company: You must establish the company, determine its organizational structure and internal system, identify the members of the board of directors, and determine their responsibilities and permissions.
4. Obtaining a work licence: You must obtain a work licence from the Ministry of Labor and Social Development before starting work.
5. Obtaining tax and insurance: You must register with the Zakat, Income, and Social Insurance Authority, and specify your contribution to fees and taxes.



6. Location selection: You must choose a suitable location for your office or company, preferably in a commercial area and easy to access.
7. Employing: You must employ employees who specialize in translation and the different languages that you will deal with, and you can contract with professional translators as freelancers.
8. Create a social media site: You can create a website and social media accounts to attract customers and promote services.

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism has created The Profiler as a comprehensive guide for all aspects related to business registration and management in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Profiler can be accessed through the SIJILAT system. The Profiler provides a complete set of information, requirements, procedures, and instructions that will help the potential investor to proceed with an investment in Bahrain.

Translator Preparation Institutions

There are many training institutions for translators in the Kingdom of Bahrain, with both public and private institutions offering relevant courses, some of which are listed below.

1. Bahrain University

Department of English Language and Literature, College of Arts

The Department offers a course in theoretical sciences in translation in addition to practical training in various types of translation.

2. Arab Open University, Kingdom of Bahrain Branch

Faculty of Linguistic Studies

The Faculty of Linguistic Studies qualifies graduates for the labour market and takes up positions in the following fields: teaching, journalism and media, business administration, translation, training, and creative writing.

3. Al-Wasat Training & Development Institute (IDTW)

Al-Wasat Training & Development Institute, supported by the Education and Training National Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority, offers the Professional Certificate Program (Diploma in Translation), as the program targets many broad sectors, including ministries, government agencies, and institutions, in addition to business sectors in the fields of law, advocacy, media, and public relations. The program is accredited by the Bahraini Ministry of Labor and is also accredited by the Chartered Institute of Linguistics in the United Kingdom.

National and International Translation Awards and Conferences

The most prominent translation conferences and events in the Kingdom of Bahrain are listed below.

1. Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Award

The Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Award is one of Bahrain's most important prizes awarded for excellence and creativity, although it was not intended for translation. However, in 2006, it celebrated the inauguration of the translation of the book of the literary poet His Excellency Dr. Ghazi bin Abdulrahman Al Qusaybi titled *Al Diwan (The Flying Hawk)*. In Bahrain, it is important to offer an award for translation or to include it as a state-sponsored branch of the awards.

2. Translation Symposium in the Arab World

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities organised the regional symposium "Translation in the Arab World" in Manama over the course of three days between the 11th and 13th of November 2022. The symposium was the culmination of the Knowledge Transfer Project after the release of its 50 Arabic-translated books.



Legal Aspects of Translation

It can be argued that the obligations and rights applicable to workers in other professions apply to the translator, as a result of the system, whether a real or legal person.

The rights and obligations of those employed in the field of translation are similar to those stipulated in other types of contracts between parties, and the terms of the contracts that define the rights and obligations are referred to in legal disputes.

It is essential to have a legal matrix defining the specific rights and duties of both individuals and institutions involved in translation practices.

Translation Guidelines and Quality Assurance

Given the ongoing efforts in the field of translation activities in the Kingdom of Bahrain, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive translation and translator guide and a further translation quality assurance guide.

Summary of Current Situation, Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations

1. Current Status of Translation in Bahrain

Based on the foregoing, the current status of translation realities in general can be summarized in the following table:

Subject	Unavailable	Available	
		Complete	Needs improvement
1. Legislative Aspect			✓
2. Professional Licenses			✓
3. Translation Tests	✓		
4. One Entity Responsible for Translation	✓		
5. Translation Associations	✓		
6. Translation Glossaries and Dictionaries			✓
7. Standardised Translation of Official Terminology	✓		
8. Official Registration of Offices			✓
9. Translator Training Institutions			✓
10. Translation Awards	✓		
11. Periodic Translation Conferences			✓
12. Translation Guides	✓		
13. Quality Assurance Guides	✓		



2. Opportunities

Opportunity	Description
1. Investment in the development of legal and technical aspects	The high demand for legal and technical translation creates great opportunities for highly esteemed translators with experience in these fields. Acquiring specialized skills and building a good reputation in these two fields can lead to professional development and increased market demand.
2. Technical and computer development in translation	Adopting translation techniques can be more efficient and productive for translators. By making use of computer-assisted translation tools, translators can improve the consistency of their texts, facilitate translation processes, and focus on the creative aspect, leaving repetitive tasks monotonous to automated tools.
3. Knowledge Transfer Project	An increasingly strengthening activity by the government sector emerged following the launch of the Knowledge Transfer Project by the Authority for Culture and Antiquities of the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2018. The growth and escalation of Bahraini translators' output, particularly in the field of literary and intellectual translation, was noted, with the vast majority being financed by the translators themselves.
4. Growing interest in literary translation	Literary translation provides great opportunities to promote Bahrain's ethics and cultural heritage internationally. Translators can contribute to cultural exchange by familiarizing the global public with Bahraini literature, promoting intercultural understanding and enriching the literary scene.
5. Professional communication between translators	Building a strong network of translators, language experts, and the translation industry can provide opportunities for collaboration, peer support, and continuous professional development. Translators' associations, conferences, and online platforms can facilitate networking and knowledge-sharing.
6. Social responsibility in private and commercial sector	The role of translation can be strengthened by bringing its programs to the attention of those involved in social responsibility programs in Bahrain's private and commercial sector institutions to enhance their contributions to support the translation movement, and increase the interest, care, and motivation of translators and supporting their training programs and projects. Private institutions interested in translation include The Abdul Rahman Kanoo Cultural Centre and The Bahrain Historical and Archaeological Society. The latter is interested in publishing periodicals, research, and books related to Bahrain's history. The Society also organises events where translators of historical works participate.

Opportunity	Description
7. The impact of excellent translation	Translators have the opportunity to contribute to cultural exchange with excellent translation by conveying cultural nuances with the utmost precision, ensuring that translated content echoes the target culture. Therefore, a precise translation could bridge the intercultural gap and promote understanding.
8. Linguistic diversity as an opportunity	Skilled translators in many Arabic dialects who can translate these dialects efficiently have a competitive advantage over others. They can meet the diverse linguistic needs of different communities in the Kingdom of Bahrain and beyond.
9. Linking successive generations	There is an opportunity to promote the professionalisation of translation by sponsoring promising translators, setting up training programs, and giving them certificates in their specialization. Creating a supportive environment that introduces translators' contributions and attracts talents can help in improve the quality and the status of the profession.



3. Challenges

Challenge	Statement
1. Decline in economic feasibility under electronic competition	The Kingdom of Bahrain has many professional translation offices which struggle in a difficult economic situation. It has become easier for individuals and institutions to find online translation providers.
2. Cultural sensitivity and free translation	The Kingdom of Bahrain is culturally diverse and rich in its heritage. Translators face the challenge of maintaining the sensitivity of their content and translating it freely so that it is in line with the target audience without sacrificing translation accuracy.
3. Legal and technical challenges	Legal and technical translation requires specialised knowledge and terminology, and translators face challenges in accurately conveying the content of legal documents, contracts, technical evidence, and industry-specific jargon.
4. Diversity of languages and dialects	Arabic is the official language of the Kingdom of Bahrain, but many dialects are spoken by different communities in the country. As a result, translators should be able to easily navigate between different forms of one language and adapt their translations to their target audience.
5. The absence of cognitive reference for translator in light of the electronic dominance of translation technologies	The most important challenges facing translation in the Kingdom of Bahrain are the lack of unified Arabic glossaries of terms, the reliance on Google and other inaccurate translation programs, the bias of some translators towards the orientations of the institutions in which they work, the lack of translators in multiple specializations, the shortage in the cadre of translators, and the increase in the volume of work related to translation, whether textual, consecutive, or simultaneous, as well the standardization of terminology and its style of writing, and verifying the information mentioned according to its facts.
6. Technical developments	Rapid developments in translation technology, such as machine translation and computer-assisted translation tools pose significant challenges for human translators. They need to adapt to these technologies and integrate them into their work effectively.
7. Literary translation and cultural exchange	Translation of literary works involves grasping the essence of the original text and the cultural differences it contains, while the new audience access to it. This requires a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures.
8. Professional assessment and training	Despite the importance of translation, this profession may not always receive the recognition it deserves. Translators face challenges as they set foot in the profession and need to receive adequate support and resources.

Challenge	Statement
9. Cooperation and networking	Translators often work in isolation, missing opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing. This can hamper professional development and the exchange of best practices.
10. Inadequate funding for translation projects	There is inadequate funding or lack of continuity of funding, with an increasing tendency for any funding to diminish. This prevents the implementation of ambitious projects of Arabic translation institutions. Translation takes a lot of time and effort, and it requires a high budget. There are Arab waves in the field of translation that do not last on the part of donor agencies, despite their great ambitions and ample budgets initially. However, they are vulnerable to decline or stop completely in case of a financial crisis, which suggests that knowledge and culture are not always among the priorities of official agencies.
11. Poor linguistic and skill preparation of translators	One of the reasons behind the weak translation movement from intralingual is what can be described as "the subjective reasons" which are related to the translators themselves, such as linguistic knowledge and mastery level, as well as considerations relating to the conditions of the Arabic classical language today in the region and the world. It is far from being acceptable in terms of collection, communication, writing, and translation.
12. Weak government support for translation projects	The translator's lack of resources and financial and organizational support is an important issue that requires more attention and official support for the translation industry, profession, and projects.
11. Lack of training support and professional preparation programs for the translator	There is a significant shortage of skilled translators that is associated with a significant shortage of specialised translation institutions and universities, which has a significant impact on the translation movement and severely limits its areas of advancement and opportunities.

4. Recommendations

1. Consolidated efforts and increased financial support are required to improve the status of Arabic and develop its dictionaries in line with the tremendous changes we are witnessing today.
2. It is important to adopt translation techniques to improve translators' efficiency and productivity, making use of computer-assisted translation tools so that translators can improve the consistency of their texts, facilitate translation processes, and focus on the creative aspect.
3. Social responsibility programs in Bahrain's private and commercial institutions should also benefit the translation movement, and translation programs and activities should be developed that are engaging and relevant for participants. It is for important institutions to increase their support for the translation movement, increase their interest in translators, and care about, motivate, and support their training programs and projects.
4. It is important to create standardised Arabic glossaries of terms and technical expressions and standardise translators' practices in this area to create a consistent Bahraini translation identity that ensures the quality of legal, technical, and cognitive translation.
5. Bahraini's distinctive literary products deserve to be conveyed in other languages and to diverse cultures. Translators should seek to contribute to cultural exchange by familiarizing the global public with Bahraini literature, promoting intercultural understanding, and enriching the literary landscape.
6. Nurturing promising translators, establishing training programs for them, and giving them certificates in their specialization will create a supportive environment that acknowledges the contributions of translators, attracts talent, enhances quality, and improves the status of the profession.
7. It is necessary to build a strong network of translators, language experts, and the translation industry with opportunities for collaboration, peer support, and continuous professional development through translators' associations, conferences, and e-platforms for networking and knowledge sharing.



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pays special attention to the Arabic language which is the official language of the country, while encouraging the learning and translation of other languages. The Kingdom attracts a wide variety of new arrivals with different cultural and linguistic identities and deals with many international companies and institutions with multilingual languages.

Therefore, the importance of translation appeared at the beginning of the founding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where translation is an essential source of the economy and development. If we take, for example, the Hajj and Umrah pilgrims that the Kingdom welcomes from various countries and languages of the world, these require translators and could even be offered copies of translations of the meanings of the Holy Qur'an, which have been translated into more than 75 languages.

Regarding the Kingdom's translation movement, there has been a tremendous expansion over the past years. Indeed, there is hardly any government institution or body without a section or a unit dedicated to translation. For instance, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers established an official translation unit.

It must be noted that the importance of translation and the quality of translated work have been developed in recent years, with the establishment of a special body for literature, publishing, and translation within the Ministry of Culture to serve as the reference for translation in the Kingdom.

In terms of training and qualification of translators, most academic bodies in the Kingdom offer languages and translation units for all academic degrees. Also, there are many centres for the qualification and training of translators. Moreover, the Kingdom launched a global translation award named the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Award for Translation, which promotes translation and translation movement in the world.

The Legislative Aspect of Translation

The Kingdom took an early interest in the translation profession, restricting its practice to specialists, as Article 3 of the Ministerial Resolution Regulating the Translation Profession No. 346 dated August 15th, 1977 (9/1/1397 A.H.) stipulates the translator's obligations in accordance with the resolution that he/she should not practise the translation profession unless his/her name is registered in the translators' register and holds a licence from the competent ministry, and he/she must maintain the confidentiality of the profession and all information and data entrusted to him/her.

In regard to the empowerment and localization of the translation profession, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development issued a decree to regulate and localize the translation market by 100%. The decision came into effect in 2021 in order to provide motivated, productive, and stable employment opportunities for citizens and increase their participation in the labour market. The Ministry issued a procedural guide for the decree to settle administrative supporting professions (translation, secretarial, inventory trustees, and data entry) in 2021 (1443 A.H.)

Additionally, one can obtain a self-employment document, which can be issued under certain conditions in an automated manner by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development that provides its holders with advantages, services, and incentives to practise the translation profession independently. The Ministry provides them with support and funding programs in cooperation with other bodies where individuals can engage in freelance work through the Ministry's self-employment portal.

Several entities in the country are involved in the legislative and administrative aspect of translation, as it requires obtaining the necessary approvals and licences from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Culture, which is concerned with technical supervision of the translation sector, each according to its specialty and field work.

However, there is still an urgent need to modernise existing systems and issue comprehensive legislation for the translation sector with clear clauses and parameters that define responsibilities and regulatory references in the translation sector.



Professional Licenses and Certified Translation Tests

Some professions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have begun to establish specific professional tests, such as in the medical field and others. It must be noted here that the Ministry of Culture, represented by the Literature, Publishing and Translation Commission, is striving to establish foundations, rules, and professional tests for translation based on international best practices in collaboration with Saudi and universal institutions and bodies. In the middle of this year, 2023, the Commission conducted tests, in the first trial version, for a group of translators, classified those who succeeded, and issued “Certified Translator” licences to the first batch of translators in various specializations: legal, medical, general translation, simultaneous interpretation, and others. This test was preceded by specialized courses for the participants. The dissemination, legalization, and implementation of such a test will undoubtedly have to be brought into line with the legislation on the translation sector and the development of other supportive organizations.

Currently, undertaking a translation activity in the Kingdom requires an academic qualification in translation or one of the languages to practise the profession. Saudi individuals can engage in translation activity independently by obtaining a self-employment document which includes the translation profession referred to in the previous chapter.

The licence to practise professions is issued by the Ministry of Commerce, in addition to the requirement that the institution or company must obtain a licence from the body that technically supervises the work of that profession. If it is educational, then it is the Ministry of Education, if it is health, then it is the Ministry of Health, and if it is in the field of translation, then it is Ministry of Culture represented by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission...etc.

Licences and registrations can be issued automatically within a few minutes through the unified government platform (Government Information Guide for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), which works to develop the commerce sector in the Kingdom and ensures its sustainability and gives great importance to improving the business environment with various relevant parties locally and internationally.

Agencies, Bodies and Institutions Responsible for Translation

1. Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission in the Ministry of Culture

The Ministry of Culture, represented by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission, which was established in 2020, is the body responsible for organizing the translation sector in general and for the technical supervision of this sector in particular. It is responsible for supervising all events and activities related to the translation sector, and it works to organise the sector and draw up its strategy and development.

As stated on its official website (lpt.moc.gov.sa), the Commission is specialised in developing and organising the translation sector to be a regional and a global competitor to contribute to the promotion of cultural exchange and transfer of Saudi local content in its various contexts to several languages, in order to serve recipients worldwide. Among the general objectives of the Commission are the following:

- Development of the literature, publishing, and translation sector.
- Development of financial and operational competencies.
- Development of human capital efficiency.

The following objectives were established for the area of translation:

1. Develop Saudi translators' capabilities and career paths.
2. Enhance Saudi's role in cultural and knowledge exchange through translation.
3. Enrich Arabic translated content.
4. Organise the local translation market and improving the business environment.
5. Promote effective communication with the concerned people.

2. The Official Translation Department in the Bureau of Experts

The Official Translation Department was established by the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 134 in 2001 (1422 A.H.). The official translation of government documents is carried out by a specialised scientific board and, according to the Bureau of Experts' website (www.boe.gov.sa), the functions of the Official Translation Department are summarised as follows:



- Translation to and from Arabic for official documents, including regulations, laws, treaties, and international agreements in which the Kingdom is a party, as well as translating correspondence exchanged between the Kingdom and other countries at the leadership level.
- Standardizing the writing of names of people, places, ministries, agencies, and governmental and non-governmental institutions when translated into other languages.
- Adopting translations that represent the Kingdom's perspective as seen by some entities.
- Building databases for terms and names.
- Cooperating with local and international entities in the field of translation.
- Setting standards for translation and determining the approved dictionaries.

3. Translation Centres and Administrations in Government Agencies

Translation departments or units exist in most ministries, agencies, and governmental and non-governmental institutions that require working with entities who do not speak Arabic. There are also many Arabisation and translation centres in universities and governmental and private entities. Among these centres are those listed below.

A. Unified Translation Centre in the Ministry of Justice

The Unified Translation Centre, affiliated with the Ministry of Justice, was established to serve the judicial sector in the Kingdom, including courts. The Centre's scope of work includes providing remote translation services for courts, involving several specific tasks related to the Centre's operations, such as providing the necessary human resources and training them, providing the necessary infrastructure to connect the Centre with courts and judicial facilities, and analysing and developing the necessary system to support the provided services. The Centre provides professional translators in most of the languages spoken by workers in the Kingdom from various nationalities to assist in the courts.

B. King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology

In 1403 AH, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology established a database of scientific terms under the name "Saudi Automated Coding Bank" (BASM) in four languages to enrich the Arabic language and serve researchers. This database is based on an integrated encyclopaedic foundation resulting from extensive and intensive cooperation in the field of scientific and technical terminology Arabization with many sources, scientific bodies, information banks, Arabic language academies, and international universities, in addition to benefiting from the efforts and experiences gained in Arab countries in this field.

C. Ministry of Commerce

The Ministry offers a translation service for incorporation contracts at a fee of 1000 Riyals per contract to produce a unified format for the contracts. This service is provided by the Ministry to save time and effort, aiming to facilitate communication with various markets and non-Arabic speakers without needing to consult external translation offices, contributing to the development of global cooperation to meet the requirements of international business.

D. General Presidency for the Affairs of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque - Agency of Languages and Translation

The General Presidency for the Affairs of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque, represented by the Agency of Languages and Translation, provides a service to translate the Friday sermon at the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque into ten global languages through a select group of scientifically and practically qualified translators, ensuring comprehensive translation services for all non-Arabic speaking beneficiaries around the world. Saudi television, represented by the Qur'an and Sunnah channels, provides translations of the meanings of the Qur'an and the purified Sunnah of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him.

According to the General Presidency for the Affairs of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque's website (gph.gov.sa), the Agency of Languages and Translation provides around-the-clock translation services to all pilgrims and visitors requesting service inside the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque in more than 50 languages. Additionally, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' project for the instant translation of the Arafat sermon into multiple global languages is broadcast on several television and radio channels.

E. Translation Centre at King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur'an

The Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Dawah, and Guidance oversees the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur'an, based in Medina. The Translation Centre at the complex is responsible for the scientific aspects of translations and has a scientific council comprised of experts and specialists. The Centre's tasks include:

- Translating the meanings and interpretations of the Holy Qur'an into various languages.
- Studying related issues and providing appropriate solutions.
- Conducting research and studies in this field.
- Reviewing translations submitted to the Centre.
- Translating Islamic sciences related to the Qur'an as needed by Muslims.

According to the Complex's website (qurancomplex.gov.sa), the Translation Centre has issued 80 publications, including 72 translations of the meanings of the Holy Qur'an into various languages.



4. Arabisation and Translation Centres in Saudi Universities

- Translation Centre at King Saud University
- Translation and Arabisation Centre at King Abdulaziz University
- Translation and Authorship Centre (TAC) at Prince Sultan University
- Arabization and Translation Centre at Umm Al-Qura University
- Translation Centre at the Saudi Electronic University
- Scientific Publishing and Translation Centre at Qassim University
- Translation and Authorship Centre at King Faisal University
- Translation and Language Editing Centre at Prince Fahad bin Sultan University.

Translation Associations

Several associations have been established in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with different objectives. In the context of the translation sector, two types of associations are worth mentioning:

- Saudi scientific associations with an academic nature, focusing on research and scientific aspects, such as those found in universities and academic institutions.
- Non-profit associations focusing on translation and its professional aspects, such as the Saudi Translation Association (SATA).

Below is a list of some of these associations and their objectives, in no specific chronological or alphabetical order.

A. Scientific Society for Languages and Translation

This association was established at Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University, and its objectives are as follows:

- Promote scientific thought in the field of language and translation, and work on its development and activation.
- Facilitate scientific communication among the Association's members.
- Provide scientific advice in the field of language and translation.
- Develop the scientific and professional performance of the association's members.
- Facilitate the exchange of scientific and intellectual production in the fields of language and translation between concerned bodies and institutions inside and outside the Kingdom.

- Contribute to identifying qualified scientific talents in the fields of language and translation.

B. Saudi Translation Association (SATA)

This is a national professional association concerned with the practices of translation and its various fields in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Its vision is to form a leading national professional system in the field of translation and to qualify translators according to the highest standards and global practices. Its mission is to enhance the status of translation as a professional activity, activate its cultural and national role, improve it in the labour market, and enable translators to work professionally to present an honourable image of translation locally and globally. Its objectives are:

- Enhance the role of translation as an important means of communication between cultures.
- Enable those interested in translation and language specialists to work in the field of translation.
- Contribute to setting and activating standards for quality, accreditation, arbitration, and professional classification in the field of translation.
- Build effective partnerships, provide consultations, and organise events in the field of translation.
- Focus on human capabilities and promote the use of technology in translation.
- Provide support, certificates, and awards to talented and active individuals in the field of translation.
- Offer consultations on building and developing organizational policies in the field of translation.

C. Scientific Society for Linguistics

This association was established at King Saud University, and its objectives are:

- Develop the linguistics work system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, particularly.
- Contribute to the Arabization of scientific linguistics terms to enrich the Arabic scientific library.
- Organise conferences, scientific seminars, and specialized workshops.
- Provide advice to graduate students in the field.
- Publish linguistic studies to raise awareness of the branches of linguistics in the community.



Published Translation Glossaries of Terminology and Nomenclature

Some ministries, agencies, and institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have published glossaries to improve translation quality and standardise terms within their respective fields. Examples include:

■ **List of Governmental and Public Entities and Their Translation**

Issued by the Official Translation Department of the Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers, this list includes the approved names of entities, ministries, and agencies. Details will be provided later.

■ **Judicial Terminology Glossary**

The Unified Translation Centre at the Ministry of Justice has issued the Dictionary of Judicial Terms (Arabic/English). This dictionary contains key judicial and documentation terms extracted from 12 systems and provides their legal translations according to the official translation of the regulations. The dictionary helps clarify judicial terms for litigants and supports and standardises legal translation at the Unified Translation Centre.

■ **Zakat, Tax, and Customs Glossary**

Issued by the Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority, this glossary serves as a reference for expressions and concepts specific to the authority, standardizing terms and their translations from Arabic to English.

■ **Taareeb Platform**

A platform under the Centre for Translation and Arabization at King Abdulaziz University, containing around 25,347 terms encompassing various sciences. The platform's services are available on the website.

■ **Guide to Definitions of Digital Platforms, Products, and Services by the Digital Government Authority**

This brief guide defines terms related to channels, platforms, products, and digital services, classified according to a unified national classification. It serves as a source for individuals, government entities, and the private sector to standardise terminology in the field of digital government, facilitating the application of digital government regulations and managing digital assets more clearly, thus enhancing spending efficiency and promoting data integration and sharing among government entities.

Other examples of glossaries in various ministries and institutions include:

- Capital Market Terminology (Capital Market Authority)
- Budget Terminology (Ministry of Finance)
- Data and Artificial Intelligence Glossary (Saudi Authority for Data and Artificial Intelligence SDAIA and King Salman Complex)
- Entrepreneurship Glossary (Monsha'at)
- Communications Glossary (Communications, Space and Technology Commission)
- Intellectual Property Glossary (Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property)
- Municipal Dictionary (Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing)
- Illustrated Geological Glossary (Saudi Geological Survey)
- Saudi Health Data Dictionary (National Health Information Centre)
- Sharia Sciences Terminology Glossary (Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Dawah, and Guidance) - implemented by King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology
- Tourism Terminology Glossary (Ministry of Tourism)
- Arabic Competition Glossary (General Authority for Competition)



Standardised Translation of Names of Ministries, Governmental and Private Bodies, and Institutions

The Official Translation Department of the Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was established by Cabinet Decision No. 134 dated 2/5/1422H. This department is responsible for the official translation of government documents and names. Its mandate on the Bureau of Experts website (www.boe.gov.sa) states:

Standardizing the writing of proper names in foreign languages, such as names of individuals and places, and unifying translations of governmental and non-governmental bodies' names like (Diwan, Presidency, Governorate, Directorate, Commission, etc.), in addition to the titles of heads of these bodies. This is to standardize terms, meanings, and the forms of the letters of names of people and places when translated into other languages, such as *Makkah Al-Mukarramah*, *Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah*, and other religious and historical landmarks.

The list includes most of the names of governmental and public bodies according to the official documents establishing those bodies. It serves as a reference for translation and the guide on the Bureau of Experts website includes the following branches:

- Ministries
- Universities
- Centres
- Institutions
- Authorities
- Funds
- Councils
- Other Entities
- Presidencies

The scientific council within the Official Translation Department is tasked with the following:

- Approving the translation of systems and regulations issued by the Saudi Arabian government into foreign languages as needed.
- Approving the translation of proper names into foreign languages, such as names of individuals and places, as well as titles of heads of these bodies.
- Approving dictionaries and translation standards.
- Approving the translation of other documents reflecting the official viewpoint of the state.

Official Registration of Offices, Institutions, and Companies Concerned with Translation

The official registration of offices, institutions, and companies is generally conducted through the Ministry of Commerce. Some activities may require approval from other entities, but this is usually limited. The Ministry of Commerce aims to automate its processes through online registration on its website (mc.gov.sa), reducing the time needed to issue commercial records, which now often takes only a few minutes.

Translator Preparation Institutions

Licensing for Practicing the Translation Profession

The Ministry of Commerce defines a “consultative profession” as a profession practised by a natural person on a professional basis based on their expertise and qualifications to offer their services independently. It enables professionals to obtain licences for consultative professions, including translation. The Ministry of Commerce can issue a licence electronically for free within one working day, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The applicant must be a Saudi citizen or a citizen of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
2. The applicant must not be employed in the government sector.
3. The applicant must have at least a bachelor’s degree from a recognized university or college in the Kingdom or any equivalent degree from abroad recognized by the Ministry of Education. If the degree is from outside the Kingdom and is in English, it must be translated by an accredited office.
4. The applicant’s educational qualification must be related to the profession they wish to be licensed to practise.
5. The work experience must be documented with the General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI) or the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development. It must be compatible with the academic qualification and related to the profession for which the licence is being sought. Additionally, a certificate of experience from the relevant entity must be provided, confirming the practical experience and job title in Arabic.
6. The applicant must have the necessary number of points for professional licensing based on academic qualifications and practical experience.



7. The licence is valid for three years and can be renewed for similar periods upon the licensee's request, which must be submitted at least 60 days before the expiration of the current licence.
8. Licences are classified into three categories (Practitioner - Specialist - Expert) based on the applicant's academic qualifications and practical experience.

The Ministry of Investment plays a crucial role in licensing investors from outside the Kingdom. According to its website (msa.gov.sa), the Ministry provides flexible and advanced services to both local and international companies, whether startups or large established enterprises. This is done to achieve a highly efficient and easy-to-navigate investment environment. Foreign investors can apply through the Ministry's portal via what is termed the "Investor Journey," which starts with applying for investment licences, obtaining temporary certificates for applying on government projects, and proceeding to full official registration.

Translator Training Institutions

Several Saudi universities offer academic degrees in translation at various levels (bachelor, master, and doctoral) in several languages.

1. Universities Offering Academic Qualifications in Languages and Translation

- Imam Muhammad Ibin Saud Islamic University
- King Abdulaziz University
- King Saud University
- King Khalid University
- Qassim University
- Taibah University
- University of Tabuk
- Najran University
- Northern Border University
- Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University
- Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University
- Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University
- Majmaah University
- Saudi Electronic University
- University of Jeddah

Academic degrees are offered in these universities and colleges:

- **King Abdulaziz University**, Department of European Languages and Literature.
- **Imam Muhammad Ibin Saud Islamic University**, College of Languages.
- **King Khalid University**, College of Languages and Translation.
- **Taibah University**, Department of Languages and Translation.
- **King Saud University**, College of Languages and Translation, offering several language programmes leading to diplomas and bachelor's degrees.

Below are the departments at King Saud University and their contributions to training translators:

■ **Department of Linguistics and Translation Studies, affiliated with the College of Languages and Translation**

This department focuses on providing students with essential knowledge, skills, and theoretical foundations in the field of theoretical linguistics. The aim is to prepare students for teaching at the university level or working in the public or private sector in the field of translation.

■ **Department of English Language and Translation**

Offers a Master of Arts in Translation, aimed at preparing specialists in English language teaching and translation, as well as professional translators and consultants for both public and private sectors.

■ **Department of French Language and Translation**

Established in 1977 under the Centre for European Languages and Translation (CELT), this department aims to train qualified translators in written translation to and from French.

■ **Department of Modern Languages (College of Languages and Translation)**

This Department courses in the following languages:

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| ■ German | ■ Chinese |
| ■ Spanish | ■ Hebrew |
| ■ Turkish | ■ Persian |
| ■ Russian | ■ Japanese |

Emphasis is placed on teaching language skills, translation applications to and from Arabic, and awards bachelor's degrees in language and translation. Special attention is given to training students in various types of translation (oral and written) across different fields (legal, security, religious, political, literary, etc.).



The Department also offers diverse classroom and extracurricular activities and a study abroad program (twinning), which allows students to immerse in the target language and culture while maintaining and displaying their native language appropriately to different cultures and communities.

Several Saudi universities offer doctoral degrees in the field of translation, further contributing to the advanced training and development of professional translators.

2. Translation and Arabisation Centres in Academic Institutions

■ Translation and Arabisation Centre at King Abdulaziz University

King Abdulaziz University has been concerned with translation and Arabisation since as early as 1400 AH when the College of Engineering launched a project to Arabize engineering sciences. This initiative aimed to support translation, Arabization, and authoring of scientific content taught at the college. The college received support and attention from the university administration and the Ministry of Higher Education at the time, completing fifty-five projects in translation, Arabisation, and authoring in the engineering sciences domain.

■ Translation, Authorship, and Publishing Centre at King Faisal University

The Centre, as a specialized scientific, technical, and administrative entity, supervises the scientific works authored and translated. It collects and submits these works to relevant authorities for approval and peer review. Additionally, it organises and participates in scientific conferences and seminars in the fields of translation, authorship, and publishing within and outside the Kingdom.

■ King Abdullah Institute for Translation and Arabization

Established in 1433 AH at Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University, this Institute disseminates the works of scholars, researchers, and faculty members in Saudi universities and scientific centres in the Kingdom's fields of jurisprudence, humanities, and social sciences to beneficiaries worldwide, facilitated by translation.

■ Translation Centre at Saudi Electronic University

This Centre, as an administrative and technical entity, supervises all translation operations within the university, including documents, correspondence, and the translation of conference and seminar proceedings. It oversees translated scientific works as well.

■ Translation and Arabization Centre at Umm Al-Qura University

Established in 1442 AH, this centre operates under the university's Agency for Graduate Studies and Scientific Research.

■ **Translation and Authorship Centre at Prince Sultan University**

This centre is a specialized entity offering linguistic solutions such as translation, editing, and proofreading. It meets the authorship needs of Prince Sultan University and other governmental and private entities.

■ **Linguistic Translation and Editing Centre at Prince Fahad bin Sultan University**

The Linguistic Translation and Editing Centre at Prince Fahd bin Sultan University translates for the university and other governmental and private entities.

National and International Translation Awards and Conferences

The Kingdom offers numerous awards and conferences in translation to encourage translators and enrich Arabic content with high-quality translations. These awards cover various translation fields for individuals and institutions. Among the most important translation awards, activities, and conferences are the following.

1. King Abdullah International Translation Award

This prestigious global award recognizes outstanding works and remarkable achievements in the field of translation from and into the Arabic language. It aims to be a leading supporter in promoting translation and contributing to bridging knowledge communication and constructive cultural dialogue between the Arab culture and other cultures and peoples. The award is granted in the following categories:

- Translation Award in Humanities from other languages into Arabic.
- Translation Award in Humanities from Arabic into other languages.
- Translation Award in Natural Sciences from other languages into Arabic.
- Translation Award in Natural Sciences from Arabic into other languages.
- Translation Award for Individual Efforts.
- Translation Award for Institutional Efforts.



2. Translation Award

This is one of the national cultural awards presented by the Ministry of Culture to promote translation, honour translators, and celebrate the most distinguished works in this sector. Its objectives include:

- Establishing the award's Arab and international status through its pathways and sustainability.
- Stimulating competitiveness in the translation market and encouraging individuals and all interested in this field to participate.
- Honouring contributors to translation, localization, and knowledge dissemination.
- Elevating the level of translation and enriching the Arabic library with global cultural works.

3. Prince Sultan Regional Translation Competition

Prince Sultan University supports high-quality translation projects submitted by professional translators who are faculty members in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, as well as promising students from within and outside the Kingdom. Additionally, there are several local translation competitions among Saudi universities.

4. Tarjim Initiative

The Literature, Publishing, and Translation Authority launched Tarjim, a Translate Initiative as part of its efforts to support the translation movement in Saudi Arabia and enrich Arabic content with valuable translated materials from various languages. The initiative has two tracks:

- First Track: Translation Grants, targeting Saudi publishing houses as primary beneficiaries, ensuring the implementation of high-quality translated materials that support authors, translators, and publishers in Saudi Arabia.
- Second Track: Translation of Academic Journals, aimed at academic and cultural journals and translated articles from and into Arabic for researchers, students, and those interested in cultural fields, mainly targeting translation platforms, the nonprofit sector, and publishing houses.

5. Translation Forum

Annually organised by the Ministry of Culture, represented by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Authority, the International Translation Forum aims to highlight modern techniques and trends in the translation industry and discuss challenges, and new promising opportunities in the translation field. The Forum offers various interactive training courses, workshops, and competitions aimed at refining the skills of translators and improving their readiness for the job market.

For example, Translation Hackathon, a quality competition for translation software, and an instant translation performance experience. The Forum is accompanied by an exhibition showcasing international and local entities working in the translation industry.

6. Arabization Conference

The Thirteenth International Arabisation Conference (Arabisation and Localisation of Sciences and Technology) was held from 24th to 26th Rajab 1439 AH (corresponding to 10th to 12th April 2018) in Riyadh, in collaboration with the Arabisation Coordination Office of the Arab Organisation for Education, Culture, and Science (League of Arab States). The conference aims to continue research on the Arabization of scientific, technical, and cultural terminology, with the presence of language scholars and linguists from various Arab linguistic academies, universities, and relevant institutions. The conference is accompanied by an exhibition showcasing the achievements, interests, and future plans of specialized institutes and centres in the fields of translation and Arabization.

7. Grants Program in Translation Research and Studies

A research support program is offered by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Authority to support researchers in completing specialized research studies in the field of translation studies and encourage them to publish them in international publishing outlets and register them in the Arab Translation Observatory. In its first edition, the program supported one hundred scientific research studies completed by researchers and scholars from various Arab world countries.



Legal Aspects of Translation

Legal issues are among the most significant concerns for official entities in various countries. Accordingly, the Ministry of Commerce in the KSA has proposed different contract formats with various translations and styles to define rights and duties clearly.

Thus, there is a pressing need for uniform translation contracts in the Kingdom, which falls under the responsibilities of the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission. One of its objectives is to organise the local translation market and improve the business environment. Some entities, such as the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property and the Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers, have issued certain regulations and laws to preserve rights and reinforce the principle of intellectual property protection.

Copyright Law

The Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers issued the law published on 22/07/1424 AH (corresponding to 19/09/2003 AD), with amendments in 1439 AH. Article (3) of this law protects translated works, and Article (12) regulates the contractual relationship between rights holders. They are required to formalise their relationships and rights with production, printing, publishing, and distribution institutions, broadcasting authorities, and other licensed entities through documented contracts that specify all the rights and obligations of all parties involved.

Production, printing, publishing, and distribution institutions, broadcasting authorities, and others must not engage in any activity related to copyright without entering into a contract with the copyright holders or their legal representative, detailing the rights and obligations of each party. Article (22) specifies the penalties for violations of the law. The Commercial Court is responsible for handling intellectual property rights infringement cases, as stated in Article (16) of the Commercial Courts Law, after the complaint is documented with the Intellectual Property Authority.

Mandatory Licence for Copyright works

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property grants translators the right to protect their translations through the Mandatory Licence for Copyright works, available under the conditions and cases stipulated in the Copyright Law and its executive regulations. The licence is granted to Saudi individuals and entities based in the Kingdom according to the following conditions:

1. The work, for which the licence is requested, must have been published in its original language in the Kingdom by the rights holder or their representative.
2. Copies of the work must not be obtained from the rights holder or their representative if copying is required.

3. There must be a need in the Kingdom for the translation or copying of the work to meet the public or educational and research needs, and the purpose of the Mandatory licence should not be commercial or for-profit.
4. The Mandatory licence must not be exclusive to the licensee but should be available for the benefit of others.
5. Each Mandatory licence application must be for one work only.
6. Each Mandatory licence application must be decided individually.
7. The rights holder should receive fair compensation, with the council determining the financial reward, and the licensee committing to fulfil it.
8. The licensee must state the author's name and the work title on the licensed translated works.
9. The original title of the work in its original language must be stated on all copies of the translated work.
10. Each copy issued under the licence must state that the copy is for distribution in the Kingdom only.

Translation Guidelines and Quality Assurance

The Ministry of Culture, represented by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission, began preparing a translation guide for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and working on releasing it is still in progress. There is an urgent need to develop specific guidelines for ensuring the quality of translation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Summary of Current Situation, Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations

1. Current Status of Translation in Saudi Arabia

Based on the previously presented information, the current status of translation in Saudi Arabia is presented in the table below.

Subject	Unavailable	Available	
		Complete	Needs improvement
1. Legislative Aspect			✓
2. Professional Licenses			✓
3. Translation Tests ¹	✓		
4. Single Entity Responsible for Translation			✓
5. Translation Associations			✓
6. Translation Glossaries and Dictionaries			✓
7. Standardised Translation of Official Terminology	✓	✓	
8. Official Registration of Offices			✓
9. Translator Training Institutions			✓
10. Translation Awards	✓	✓	
11. Regular Translation Conferences ²			✓
12. Translation Guides	✓		
13. Quality Assurance Guides	✓		

¹ Official announcement of the certified translator exams by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Authority is expected soon.

² The translation guide for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not been officially published yet.

2. Opportunities

Opportunity	Description
1. Establishment of SATA	This professional association aims to enhance the translation sector and highlight the cultural and civilizational role of translation by promoting the Kingdom's global status, strengthening societal interest in the profession of translation, and raising awareness about its role and its impact on Saudi society.
2. Establishment of the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission	The KSA established the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission, which is responsible for regulating the translation profession and all its affairs according to a framework approved by the Council of Ministers. This Commission has had a significant impact on the translation sector, increasing its appeal and attracting specialists.
3. Continued Growth in the Establishment of Colleges and Departments of Languages and Translation in Saudi Universities	In the 1990s, there were only two specialized colleges for languages and translation in the Kingdom. The number has since increased to six colleges across various public universities, with dozens of academic departments specializing in translation for different languages. Many universities have restructured their foreign language departments and programs to offer undergraduate and graduate translation courses, benefiting from the national movement to support the translation field.
4. Abundance of Specialised Human Resources in the Field of Translation	Qualified Saudi personnel in the field of translation are the cornerstone of the translation industry and movement. The interests and horizons of translators have expanded, with many graduates from Saudi universities and international scholarship programs specializing in crucial fields such as translation technologies, translation studies, simultaneous interpretation, literary translation, Islamic content translation, and other vital areas that the Kingdom cares about and seeks to qualify specialists for to fulfil their responsibilities towards their country.
5. <i>Tarjim</i> Initiative	This is an initiative intended to encourage translators to submit their translated works to receive support from the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission.
6. Translation Research and Studies Grant Program	This is an initiative that encourages Arab researchers to publish their scientific works and studies on global publishing platforms and register them in the Arabic Observatory of Translation for Translation Studies and Research.



3. Challenges

Challenge	Statement
1. Multiplicity of Language Teaching Institutions and Lack of Differentiation in Translator Qualification	Despite the presence of many language and translation colleges in various Saudi universities specializing in training translators, numerous academic departments offer programs aimed at teaching English and other languages. These departments, such as foreign language departments in arts, humanities, and social sciences colleges, vary in their focus on preparing graduates for translation careers. The abundance of these programs has led to professional orientation issues for graduates between translation and other fields.
2. Weak Coordination between Translator Training Institutions and the Labour Market	Many specialized colleges in translator preparation coordinate with the labour market and strive to align and develop their programs according to market demands. However, this coordination is often lacking in most colleges, resulting in graduates from these programs needing to begin considering their professional paths in translation only after entering the labour market.
3. Job Attrition Due to Limited Career Growth Opportunities for Translators	The Ministry of Human Resources has formulated job titles and descriptions for translation roles across both public and private sectors. Nevertheless, the career trajectory for translators still falls short, prompting many to contemplate shifting to fields that closely align with their professional interests. They leverage the flexibility and enhanced communicative and linguistic skills acquired through specialized translation, enabling transitions into domains such as marketing, media, public relations, business, and other humanities-related disciplines akin to translation.
4. Negative Practices in the Translation Market	Negative practices in the translation market hinder the profession's progress and the choice of translation as a career path for graduates. Such practices include unauthorized offices and student service centres offering translation services at low prices, creating pressure on licensed and accredited translation offices. Additionally, unlicensed translators provide translation services for events and conferences through their connections with event organizing companies. Although there are plans to regulate these practices in the near future, their impact has been significant, adversely affecting the attractiveness of the sector for translators.

4. Recommendations

1. It is important to develop guidelines and a code of conduct to regulate relationships between parties involved in the translation process, specifying their rights and responsibilities.
2. Necessity to establish a database listing Saudi translator, along with programs for their training, qualification, and professional development.
3. Government licences should be issued to individuals and institutions enabling them to practise the profession, aiming to improve sector governance and quality control.
4. A national monitoring body should be established and tasked with checking translation outputs in the Kingdom from governmental, private, and individual entities, and a unified database should be established to guide sector development efforts based on statistics.
5. A comprehensive and accredited terminology database should be established to serve translators across the Kingdom and globally who are engaged in translating works from and into Arabic.
6. National programs, seminars, conferences, and scientific and economic events, as well as media channels, should prioritise local translation professionals for editorial, consecutive, and simultaneous translation tasks. This ensures terminological consistency, practice integrity, competency development, and localisation.
7. Legislation should be enacted to regulate and improve the working environment for translators and promote the localisation of related roles such as linguistic auditing, editing, arbitration, and review to create an attractive career path for translators.
8. It is important to link translation activities within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to coordinate, streamline, direct, unify practices, facilitate exchanges, and support efforts. This includes standardising and coordinating terminologies, enhancing collaboration in translation to serve the Arabic language, its unity, and the unified identity of GCC countries.





Sultanate of Oman

Translation in the Sultanate of Oman has a long historical journey that spans the extent of civilizational and cultural communication between Omanis and their neighbours from Asian and African regions. The scope of translation expanded with the geographical reach of Omani delegations. Although this historical experience has recently been documenting to some extent, the journey of discovery of these treasures is still far from over.

In the modern era, especially since the beginning of the second millennium, translation in the Sultanate has had a clearer presence, manifested in various cultural, educational, commercial, and media contexts. This was accompanied by a growing awareness of the importance of translation and the necessity of training professionals to enhance its quality and cultural and economic effectiveness. Consequently, there emerged a need to institutionalise individual efforts within a legal framework.

On the legislative side, the Sultanate issued a Royal Decree in 2003 that includes the regulation of legal translation offices, assigning the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion to issue the necessary decisions to implement the law.

Oman has made notable strides in training and qualifying translators, with translation departments offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses receiving significant attention and support in higher education institutions, encouraging national cadres to enter this field.

The Legislative Aspect of Translation

Translation has received significant attention in the Sultanate of Oman, with laws dedicated to regulating its practice, and others specifying licensing fees. Translation is also mentioned within various other laws in terms of establishing rights for individuals and institutions alike, and it has a significant place even in legislative and judicial rulings. The following are several legislative initiatives indicating Oman's attention to the translation sector.

1. Law Regulating Translation Offices

On February 24, 2003, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said issued Royal Decree No. 18/2002, enacting the Law Regulating Legal Translation Offices. The second article of this decree tasks the Minister of Commerce and Industry with issuing the necessary decisions to implement this law. The law is divided into four chapters: provisions and definitions, conditions for granting a licence to practise, details on granting, suspending, or revoking licences, and penalties.

This law allows both Omani and foreign investors to officially practise the profession within the Sultanate, granting their translations the same legal standing as the original text, provided they accurately reflect the original in form and substance. The law does not specify particular languages for these offices but considers Arabic as the central language, likely due to its status as the official language of the country. One of the conditions for licence holders or practitioners is proficiency in Arabic in speaking, reading, and writing, although the law does not define the standards for "proficiency" or designate the authority determining this.

The law requires obtaining the necessary licence from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and renewing it every five years for a specified fee set later by Ministerial Decision No. 53/2004. It also stipulates that applicants must not be employed in the government sector, according to paragraph (a) of Article 15.

The law emphasizes the importance of translators adhering to professional ethics, highlighting "absolute honesty and accuracy" by not altering the substance of the original text. The honesty and integrity of the translator is a well-discussed topic in translation literature and theories. The law also emphasizes the importance of confidentiality and adherence to professional standards and traditions. These three ethical behaviours are termed "duties", and the law requires terminating the employment of anyone proven to violate them. Article 13, paragraph (c), allows the suspension of the licence for violating these provisions, and paragraph (b) of Article 15 permits the imposition of imprisonment and fines on any translation establishment or translator whose negligence or deliberate distortion of the original text causes harm to others.



The law follows these duties with nine “conditions” for granting a licence, including that the licence holder must be Omani. However, it does not exclude foreign investors as long as they partner with a licensed Omani practitioner. The law also permits offices to hire an unlimited number of foreign translators, provided they meet the stipulated conditions.

Noteworthy among the conditions is the inclusion of criteria that could be seen as a minimum standard for assessing the quality of licensed translators. In addition to having competent proficiency in Arabic, the law requires a high qualification in the other language being translated from and into, and a minimum of five years of practical experience following graduation unless the applicant holds a specific translation degree. This is significant given that the law was enacted in early 2003, the same year the first academic program for training Omani translators was established at Sultan Qaboos University, suggesting a complementary legislative and academic initiative.

The law also requires that a foreign office must have been practising translation to and from Arabic for at least ten consecutive years. It distinguishes between individual investors and companies, subjecting translation companies to the provisions of the Commercial Companies Law, and Ministerial Decision No. 53/2004 specifies the licensing fees. Article 13 of the law allows the minister to form a committee to decide on granting, suspending, or revoking translation practice licences.

Observers will note that the law, enacted 20 years ago, addresses the regulation and licensing of translation offices, focusing on “translation” in general without providing a definition. It seems to focus mainly on written translation without explicitly mentioning it, and there is no specific reference to oral translation, sign language translation, or the technological and digital aspects of translation.

2. Decision on Licence Fees for Legal Translation Offices

On April 11, 2004, the Minister of Commerce and Industry issued Decision No. 53/2004, which specified the fees for licensing and renewing legal translation offices as follows:

Description	Amount (Omani Rial)
Individual Omani offices	30
Omani companies (100%)	40
Joint companies (Omani and foreign)	100
Late fee	This is a percentage of the fee for each month of delay starting from the licence expiration date, with any partial month rounded up to a full month and any fraction of a rial rounded up to a full rial per month. A one-month grace period is granted after the licence expiration.

Professional Licenses and Certified Translation Tests

Translation can only be practised after obtaining the necessary professional licence as stipulated by the Law Regulating Translation Offices referred to in the first chapter of this study. The licence can be obtained electronically through the “Invest Easy” platform, affiliated with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion. The platform defines the licence as a prior legal authorization used to allow the practice of restricted commercial activity. The licence is issued by “Invest Easy” after obtaining final approval from the governmental entity owning the licence. The activity cannot be commenced without obtaining the licence.

According to the platform’s content, the licence is named “Translation and Proofreading Services”, encompassing both written and oral translation activities. This is the same licence granted to companies applying for it, regardless of their type (individual establishment, Omani company, or foreign company) or their capital amount (less than 21,000 Omani Rials, 21,000-50,000 Omani Rials, or more than 50,000 Omani Rials). The licence description states that it includes the provision of all types of translation services and allows the following legal entities to obtain the licence:

1. General Partnership
2. Limited Liability Company (LLC)
3. One-person Company
4. Sole Proprietor (sometimes called Individual Establishment)
5. Branch of a Foreign Company

The licence requirements include the following, with variations depending on the types of commercial registrations:

- 1. Qualification:** Academic qualification (bachelor, master, or doctoral degree) in translation or any other recognized specialization from universities or higher institutes where the language of instruction is the language required for translation from or into.
- 2. Experience:** For individual establishments, holders of higher educational qualifications (bachelor, master, doctoral degrees in a field other than translation) must provide proof of at least three years of work experience (certified by the Public Authority for Manpower Register or the General Authority for Social Insurance). However, holders of a translation specialisation certificate are exempt from this requirement. For foreign companies, proof must be provided from the competent authority in the home country that they have been operating and practising their business for more than 10 years in the specialised field.



3. **Dedication:** Attach a certificate of dedication from the public sector and proof of practical experience from the Public Authority for Manpower Register or the General Authority for Social Insurance.
4. **Eligibility:** Attach a certificate of non-conviction from the Royal Oman Police.
5. **Media Approval:** Attach approval from the Omani Ministry of Information for obtaining the licence for certain types of commercial registrations.
6. **Other Requirements:** For foreign companies, requirements include proving identities, document authentication, signature authorization requirements, financial data, board of directors' members, and others.
7. **Additional Requirements:** From the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, the Muscat Municipality, and the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority for the workplace.

It is noteworthy that the academic degree and practical experience are the only technical supports required. Furthermore, practical experience is not required for new graduates specializing in translation. This emphasizes the need for quality translation, considering the enormity of responsibility and its relevance in legal matters and potential legal repercussions.

Agencies, Bodies and Institutions Responsible for Translation

Several entities include translation within their mandates, contributing to achieving their entrusted missions. In addition to various cultural initiatives, there is a clear need in the Sultanate of Oman for an entity specifically dedicated to translation or overseeing its affairs comprehensively. The following are among the prominent entities in Oman that deal in some way with the translation sector:

1. Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science

Translation also falls within the jurisdiction of this Centre, as stated in its governing law: “Translate and publish the output of Omani thought into other widely spoken languages, and work on identifying and following the most important global works and translating them into Arabic” (see Article 3).

2. Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth

Royal Decree No. 87/2020, which established this Ministry, specified a range of responsibilities, including “conducting research, studies, and specialized translation in cultural fields.” In this regard, the ministry has translated numerous books, primarily from English to Arabic.

In 2020, the Ministry announced the establishment of the “Research, Translation, and Publishing Department” under the umbrella of the department of the “Literary Forum,” establishing six goals directly related to translation:

1. Supporting and encouraging translation in various literary and intellectual fields.
2. Overseeing the procedures and activities of translating Omani intellectual output into different world languages.
3. Collecting data, conducting surveys, and maintaining updated databases on the state of books in Oman concerning translators, available resources, and obstacles to be overcome.
4. Exchanging publications related to Oman and Omani authors.
5. Organizing seminars related to translation.
6. Participating in cultural events and meetings focused on translation.

To date, the Department has compiled four databases:

- i. List of translated books about the Sultanate of Oman.
- ii. List of books written in English about the Sultanate of Oman.
- iii. List of publishing and printing houses interested in translation.
- iv. List of prominent Omani and non-Omani translators.



Additionally, the Department organised a symposium on translation in the Arab world, focusing on its current state and future aspirations, and is currently working in 2024 on publishing its proceedings as a standalone book, along with three other translated books. In the same year 2024, it published the first issue of the magazine “Culture,” which includes translated articles. These activities align with the Cultural Strategy 2040 launched by the Ministry in 2021, which included translation as one of its main areas.

3. Oman Committee for International Humanitarian Law

Established in 2017 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this Committee's responsibilities include translating documents related to international humanitarian law.

4. Institute of Public Administration

Established in 1978, the Institute has several focuses, including translating research and studies issued at regional and international levels that enrich administrative thought and development. The Institute publishes a quarterly journal and several books on administrative topics.

5. Government Communication Centre

Established in 2017 within the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and later transferred to the Ministry of Information, the Centre has played a significant role at the national level during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been instrumental in translating official directives and circulars. The Centre's activities indicate a different approach to translation unlike that of the four aforementioned institutions, focusing on delivering urgent messages from official bodies to both citizens and residents in Oman, especially during times of public crises. Below is a summary of its efforts during the COVID-19 period (from 2020 onwards):

1. Translating all decisions issued by the Supreme Committee for COVID-19 and publishing them on social media.
2. Providing live translation of the weekly press conference held by the committee and publishing it on social media.
3. Daily translation of the “Oman Faces Corona” news bulletin into 10 languages used in the Sultanate: English, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Filipino, Nepali, Sinhalese, Shehri, Balochi, Kumzari, and Swahili. Notably, some of these translations were also issued daily as audio recordings, an unprecedented step in the Sultanate both in terms of type and volume.
4. Translating official statements into sign language regarding the latest pandemic developments.

Additionally, the Centre has been active in translating official statements and reports related to the exceptional tropical cyclones that have affected Oman in recent years.

Translation Associations

Several institutions in the private sector that play a prominent role in bridging official, commercial, and semi-governmental sectors, and individuals within the community. In the Sultanate of Oman, there are several private associations dedicated to various cultural and scientific activities, including translation. However, there is no specialized translation association in Oman that focuses solely on translation. Among these institutions are:

1. **The Omani Society for Writers & Literati:** This includes a committee specifically dedicated to translation, established in 2020. Its cultural and literary work involves sponsoring dialogues, and lectures related to translation, and hosting an annual creativity award that includes a translation category.
2. **Bait Al Zubair:** This comprises a variety of sections, among them the “Translation Lab” which was established in 2018. This lab focuses on cultural and intellectual pursuits, organising meetings, seminars, and training sessions related to translation, and sponsoring the translation of three books.
3. **Nadwa Cultural Centre:** This includes a translation department called the “*Nadwa* Translation Centre”, established in 2016. Some of its achievements include:
 - i. Launching the first media platform specialized in translation updates in Oman via Twitter (X platform).
 - ii. Initiating the “Translation in Crisis Times” initiative in 2018.
 - iii. Translating six books.
 - iv. Establishing the “Translation Library” within the Nadwa Cultural Centre’s library.
 - v. Launching the first database of translated books in Oman.
 - vi. Organizing the “Nadwa Translation Caravan” initiative, and held a number of lectures and dialogue meetings.
 - vii. Providing scientific advice related to translation to some institutions in the Sultanate.
4. **Translation Group at Sultan Qaboos University:** This Group is among the pioneers promoting translation activities since 2003. Some of its achievements include:
 - Organizing approximately 13 annual conferences
 - translating and publishing 10 books mostly focusing on literary topics



- Sponsoring the first translation supplement in Omani journalism in late 2007, which was published monthly within (Al-Jisr) the Bridge, a supplement in Oman newspaper, and contained translations into Arabic from various languages such as English, Russian, Japanese, and some local languages like Baluchi. This supplement ceased publication after issuing 23 editions.

There are other voluntary civil initiatives, but the aforementioned examples provide an overview of the collaboration between civil and official efforts. However, there is no single official body responsible for the translation sector in Oman, although collective efforts indicate a recognition of the urgent need for it. Additionally, most of these efforts focus on theoretical cultural matters without addressing other aspects such as legislation, technology, quality control, and others.

Published Translation Glossaries of Terminology and Nomenclature

When examining the nature of translation work in several institutions in the Sultanate of Oman, there is a general sense of the need for glossaries or dictionaries to standardise terminologies. Several institutions have initiated efforts in this regard, but each one works independently without collaborating with other institutions.

For instance, within the oil and gas sector, one of the largest economic sectors in Oman, the Translation Team at Petroleum Development Oman (the largest national company in the Sultanate's oil sector) has produced the following glossaries:

1. Oil and Gas Glossary
2. Health, Safety, and Environment Terminology Glossary
3. Fourth Industrial Revolution Terminology Glossary
4. Renewable Energy Terminology Glossary
5. Company Terminology Glossary

These works were undertaken solely by the translation team at Petroleum Development Oman, without collaboration with translators and specialists in other related oil and gas companies. While these glossaries are available on the company's website and can be utilised by any translator, there is no formal mechanism to ensure consensus with translators in oil and gas companies, let alone official institutions like the Ministry of Energy and Minerals or the Oman Society for Petroleum Services, regarding their adoption and standardisation of terminologies.

Similarly, within the military sector, Dr. Muslim Al-Ma'ni published the *Military Abbreviations Glossary and the Military Terminology Dictionary for the Sultan's of Oman's Armed Forces*. Additionally, the translation team of the Royal Navy of Oman prepared a new dictionary for internal use. However, similar to the oil and gas sector, there is no clear mechanism to ensure the standardization of sector-wide terminology. This is also observed among other translation service providers in the job market.

However, a promising initiative has been implemented by the Omani Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance to ensure quality in education. The introduction to their terminology and abbreviation glossary states that it aims to ensure agreement among various concerned parties regarding concepts related to external operations to ensure quality. This glossary was developed through public consultation with the higher education sector and other entities that could offer valuable feedback. Additionally, the translation team at the Ministry of Education is contributing to the preparation of an educational glossary through the collaboration of translators and reviewers.

As mentioned, the Government Communication Centre was primarily responsible for translating official directives during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Their efforts also included compiling a glossary of key crisis-related terms, albeit unpublished, to be used by their translation team.

Tracking the efforts of other institutions reveals a similar situation: the translation team at Galfar, one of the largest construction companies in the Sultanate, is planning to prepare a glossary on net neutrality. Similarly, the translation team at the Omani Shura Council has prepared a parliamentary dictionary. It is hoped that there will be some collaboration on the creation of these glossaries and terms to save effort and ensure the consistency of the terminology used for the same concepts.



Standardised Translation of Names of Ministries, Governmental and Private Bodies, and Institutions

The efforts made in this context still require further coordination and unification. Ministries, government bodies, and private institutions rely on individual interpretations that may differ in the choice of appropriate terms, as there is no unified and agreed-upon official entity for standardising the names of governmental and private institutions.

The English translations of laws are usually produced by unofficial efforts, specifically by the translators on the website, Decree.om, who have prepared a reference called the *Irfan Rulebook for Translating Omani Legislations*, aiming to enhance the quality of Omani law translations and to ensure the consistency of terms, names, styles, and formulations, even co-ordinating with others in some areas. Starting from page 16, it includes an appendix with the names of Omani states and governorates in Arabic and their English equivalents.

In addition to the Decree.om initiative, summaries of royal decrees are also published in Omani English-language newspapers such as the *Times of Oman* and the *Oman Observer*. Therefore, translating the names of some official institutions can be studied by comparing these three sources and noting their usage of names and terminology.

Official Registration of Offices, Institutions, and Companies Concerned with Translation

Below is the official registration process that must be followed by translation offices, and its requirements:

1. Log in to the “Invest Easy” platform through electronic authentication (using either the national ID card or residency card supported by electronic authentication).
2. Access the portal for registering a new commercial register.
3. Choose the legal form of the commercial record. The entities allowed to obtain a translation services licence are:
 - Partnership Company
 - Limited Liability Company
 - Sole Proprietorship

- Sole Trader (sometimes called a Sole Establishment)
 - Branch of a Foreign Company
4. Fill out the commercial record data forms, including:
 - Trade name
 - Capital
 - Financial data
 - Investors
 - Authorized signatories
 - Business activities (translation and linguistic auditing services can be selected here)
 - Address
 - Contact information
 - Commercial record auditors
 - Articles of association
 - Details of the tax obligor
 - Commercial register validity
 - Attach the required documents
 5. Verify and electronically sign the documents.
 6. Pay the fees.
 7. Access the commercial register management page and apply for a translation services licence through the (Commercial Work Management > Commercial Register Licences) window. This includes preparing the required documents to attach after filling out the application form, as explained in the second chapter of this study. The designated government authorities will review and approve the application within 14 days.
 8. After obtaining the licence (electronically), the institution can start operating. This includes fulfilling other legal requirements such as obtaining the official seal, renting an office, and hiring employees if necessary, according to legal regulations.



Translator Preparation Institutions

Translator Preparation Institutions in Oman currently include six higher education institutions, all offering bachelor's or master's degrees. Here's a summary:

University	Qualifications Offered
Sultan Qaboos University	Bachelor of Translation and its Studies (Arabic - English)
	Master of Arts in Translation (Arabic - English)
University of Nizwa	Diploma + bachelor's degree in foreign Languages (English Language and Translation)
	Diploma + bachelor's degree in foreign Languages (French Language and Translation)
	Diploma + bachelor's degree in foreign Languages (German Language and Translation)
	Master's degree in English Language and Translation
Dhofar University	Bachelor of Translation (Arabic - English)
Sohar University	Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Translation (Arabic - English)
Al-Zahra College for Women	Bachelor of English Language and Translation (Arabic - English)
Al-Buraimi University College	Bachelor of Translation (Arabic - English)

1. Sultan Qaboos University

■ **Bachelor's degree in Translation and its Studies**

Established in 2003, this course was the first university one of its kind in Oman. It consists of 19 units in the core of the specialisation, along with other mandatory and elective courses.

■ **Master of Arts in Translation**

This program is taught in English and follows a credit-based system with comprehensive examinations. Students can enrol on a full-time (two years) or part-time (three years) basis. Upon completion of the required conditions, students may obtain a Postgraduate Diploma or pursue a master's degree.

2. University of Nizwa

■ **Diploma + bachelor's degree in foreign Languages (English Language and Translation)**

Students can earn a diploma or a bachelor's degree in English Language and Translation. The diploma course includes 23 units, with three practical translation-focused units.

■ **Diploma + bachelor's degree in foreign Languages (French Language and Translation), as well as German Language and Translation.**

■ **Master in English Language and Translation.**

3. Dhofar University

■ **Bachelor's degree in Translation (Arabic - English).**

4. Sohar University

■ **Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Translation (Arabic - English):**

This program is taught in English and is affiliated with educational institutions such as the Chartered Institute of Linguists in the UK.

5. Al-Zahra College for Women

■ **Bachelor of English Language and Translation (Arabic - English).**

6. Al-Buraimi University College

■ **Bachelor's degree in Translation (Arabic - English).**

In addition to the aforementioned academic programs, it is worth noting that several other educational institutions may offer courses in translation within their English language teaching programs. For example, Majan University College offers courses in translation. Additionally, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation caters for visually impaired individuals, providing scholarships for them in one of the aforementioned bachelor's degree courses on translation.



National and International Translation Awards and Conferences

1. Sultan Qaboos Award for Culture, Arts and Literature

In general, the Sultan Qaboos Award for Culture, Arts, and Literature is the most prestigious national and international Omani award concerned with culture, arts, and literature. It was established in 2011 by Royal Decree No. 18/2011 and is supervised by the Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science. The award is presented annually, alternating between one year for Omanis only, and the following year for Omanis and all Arabs (an honorary edition).

The prizes are substantial and the award covers various cultural fields, including translation, although the fields change from one year to another. For example, translation was included in the fifth year, 2016.

Objectives of the Award

- Supporting the cultural, artistic, and literary fields as a means of continuing human civilizational progress, contribute to scientific development and intellectual enrichment, and solidify the process of knowledge accumulation.
- Instilling the values of originality and innovation in emerging generations by providing a fertile environment based on cognitive and intellectual competition. Opening the doors to compete in the fields of science and knowledge that are based on research and innovation.
- Honouring intellectuals, artists, and writers for their cultural contributions to renewing intellect and elevating human sentiment.
- Affirming Oman's contribution in the past, present, and future to enrich human civilization with financial, intellectual, and cognitive achievements.

Eligibility Criteria for Award Nominees

- The nominated works must be published between 2013 and the last day of the nomination period for the award.
- The nominee must submit one work, in addition to two other samples of their work. The file can contain individual translations and joint translations with other translators.
- Translated texts can be from or into Arabic, regardless of the other language. Moreover, the provided original works must contain scientific, intellectual, or literary value. Furthermore, the nominee must provide a certificate proving the obtaining of the translation rights for each text where necessary.

- The nominee must submit five copies of the file for the award. Each file must contain a copy of each translation and a copy (or image) of the original work.
- The nominee's resume is one of the criteria that may be considered in the final evaluation.

2. Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) Award for Book Translation

This is a national award that is awarded specifically for translation achievements. It was launched in 2021 as part of the "Omani Translators Forum", which is organised annually by Petroleum Development Oman. The award cycle is biennial and given to Omani translators.

The award covers all fields of human knowledge, scientific, and literary domains but is specifically focused on books translated from Arabic into English and vice versa.

The objectives of the award include enriching the cultural movement in the country, honouring the efforts of Omani translators, and enhancing their presence in the cultural sphere.

Award Eligibility Criteria

1. The translator must be Omani.
2. Nominations are open to individuals, not institutions.
3. More than one translator may collaborate on a single work.
4. A single nominee cannot submit more than one work.
5. The submitted work must have yet to win any other award.
6. The translated book must have been printed and published between 2019 and 2020.

3. Bait Al Ghasham Dar Arab Translation Prize

The award is "an international prize for translating Arabic literature into English". Moreover, it is "a partnership between Bait Al Ghasham for Press, Publishing, and Advertising (Oman) and Dar Arab for Publishing and Translation (United Kingdom)". This award honours distinguished Arabic literature by translating it into English in order to make it accessible to readers worldwide. This award strongly recognizes the critical role that translation plays in promoting understanding and communication between cultures, languages, and individuals around the world. It is funded by Bait Al Ghasham and managed by Dar Arab. Also, it has two branches:

- **Unpublished Arabic Literary Work Award.**
- **Award for an Unpublished Translation of a Published Literary Work.**
This branch pertains to translation.



Objectives of the Award

- Introducing foreign readers to Arabic literature in general.
- Introducing foreign readers to the diversity and richness of the Arab society socially, intellectually, and financially.
- Bridging the gap between Arab and foreign cultures by increasing the availability of translated works of modern Arabic literature in English libraries all over the world.
- Appreciating, supporting, and encouraging the efforts of both Arab writers and translators from Arabic to English.

Award Criteria (the second branch pertains to translation)

- This branch is dedicated to translating literary works originally published in Arabic but has yet to be translated and published into English.
- The first edition of the work must have been published after or during 1970.
- It must not have been previously translated and published into English.
- This branch is limited to the following literary genres: novels, biographical novels, short story collections, and poetry collections.
- Only the translator of the work may participate in this branch, and they must submit a sample of their translation not less than 10% of the total word count of the original text.
- The nominee must provide a written statement indicating the original literary rights holder's consent to participate in the award under its stated conditions.

Additionally, from time to time, cultural competitions are held in the Sultanate that include translation among their fields, but they are not fixed competitions. For example, there is the Literary Forum competition sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, and the competition organised by the Omani Society for Writers and Literates, and others.

4. The International Conference on Language, Linguistics, Literature and Translation

Sultan Qaboos University regularly hosts the activities of the International Conference on Language, Linguistics, Literature, and Translation, which focuses on the concept of cultural dynamics and its manifestations in the fields of language, linguistics, literature, and translation. It highlights cultural intersections and seeks to provide a forum for scholars, researchers, academics, translators, and students to learn about the latest developments in scientific research in their fields of expertise and interests. The conference also provides an opportunity for participants to interact, discuss, and communicate with well-known scholars and researchers from different countries worldwide.

Legal Aspects of Translation

Regarding translation in courts, sometimes full-time translators are employed by the court, or an external translator registered in the Experts Department of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs is called upon. Occasionally, the court may request one of the parties to provide a translator.

Before the translation\interpreting begins, the translator takes an oath to perform the translation with honesty and integrity. Ideally, the translator should be honest, impartial, and competent. However, any party in the case has the right to challenge the translator's integrity or the accuracy of the translation. If it is proven that there has been a specific violation, the court may decide to replace the translator or impose a legal penalty as stipulated in the Omani Penal Code. Article 235 of this code states: "Anyone assigned by judicial authorities or investigation bodies to perform acts of expertise or translation who intentionally falsifies the truth in any way shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year and not more than (3) three years". This is because translation holds "the same authority as the original document being translated unless proven that it contradicts the truth and content of the original document".

Since Arabic is the official language of the Sultanate, Omani laws require that original documents used in courts and notarial offices be translated into Arabic if they are in a foreign language -as explained in the first chapter-. For instance, if the defendant is a foreign person whose domicile is outside the Sultanate, a certified translation through a legal office must be attached to the lawsuit or the electronic announcement, which is into the official language of the foreign country where the person's domicile is located.

Similarly, the Arbitration Law in Civil and Commercial Disputes allows the arbitration panel to require that all or some of the written documents submitted in the case be translated into the language(s) used in the arbitration. If multiple languages are used, translation may be limited to some of them.

Additionally, the translators may be legally required to sign certain documents that contain their statements, as is the case with notarial documents. Furthermore, the regulatory framework of the Law on Simplifying Litigation Procedures allows courts to use remote audiovisual communication to hear translators.

Translation and its Role in Protecting or Violating Rights from the Perspective of Omani Laws

The Copyright Protection Law defines translation as "expressing a work in a language other than the source text language". Article 3 of the second chapter of the law states that anyone's work translated into another language will be protected by this law. However, the following article excludes some documents from the protection, which are: the official translations of international treaties and judicial rulings and collections of official documents. Article 5 in the third chapter (Copyright) preserves the author's



financial right after translating the work into another language. If some part of the work is translated for the sole purpose of personal use, Article 6 guarantees the permissibility of this within the framework of freedom to use protected works.

The translation is considered a derivative work from an existing work under the Copyright and Related Rights Law issued by Royal Decree No. 65/2008. It thus is protected under Article 3 of the same law for derivative works in general. However, this scope of protection excludes official translations of official documents, such as laws, regulations, decrees, agreements, international treaties, judicial rulings, arbitral decisions, and decrees issued by administrative bodies with judicial jurisdiction (see Article 4). Article 6 preserves the author's or his/her successor's "exclusive financial rights" resulting from translating the work into another language. Moreover, Article 77 of the School Education Law considers translation without written permission from the Ministry of Education a form of copyright violation of the educational curricula.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation requires private higher education institutions to provide "the essential references needed for research and study, such as linguistic dictionaries and translation lexicons" in their libraries. It also gives special consideration to individuals with hearing disabilities and requires the provision of programs translated into sign language. In regard to individuals with disabilities, the Regulations for providing communication services to people with disabilities consider simultaneous translation as an essential service that must be offered to this group of people. The Notary Public Law also provides a translator to assist those who are deaf or mute to convey their intentions to the notary public.

Several laws related to the Sultanate's accession to international agreements refer to the agreed languages for use. They also deal with the translation of to ensure accuracy in international dealings.

Translation Guidelines and Quality Assurance

In 2013, the translation team at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) issued an internal guide for the company's translators. Any future initiatives can benefit from this guide as a starting point, as there are no national translation guides or references available for translators.

The efforts of the Omani Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education in developing their terminology glossary is a valuable initiative and may serve as a reference when creating a quality assurance guide. The introduction to their glossary and abbreviations states that "the glossary aims to ensure agreement among various aspects regarding external concepts in order to assure the translation quality".

It can be said that there is a pressing need for translation guides and others for quality assurance in the field of translation.

Summary of Current Situation, Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations

1. Current Status of Translation in the Sultanate of Oman

Based on what was discussed previously, the current status of translation in general can be summarized in the following table:

Subject	Unavailable	Available	
		Complete	Needs improvement
1. Legislative Aspect			✓
2. Professional Licenses			✓
3. Translation Tests	✓		
4. One Entity Responsible for Translation	✓		
5. Translation Associations	✓		
6. Translation Glossaries and Dictionaries			✓
7. Standardised Translation of Official Terminology/ Titles	✓		
8. Official Registration of Offices			✓
9. Translator Training Institutions			✓
10. Translation Awards			✓
11. Periodic Translation Conferences			✓
12. Translation Guides	✓		
13. Quality Assurance Guides	✓		



2. Opportunities

Opportunity	Description
1. Linguistic and dialectal diversity	The Sultanate contains linguistic and dialectal diversity, including several languages and dialects such as Jibbali (الجيبالية), Mehri (المهرية), Swahili (السواحيلية), Balochi (البلوشية), Luwati (اللواتية), Zadjali (الزدجالية), Harsusi (الحرسوسية), Bathari (البطارية), and Kumzari (الكمزارية). These are living languages and dialects spoken in Oman, each with its own people, cultures, and practices. In addition, there are languages spoken by foreign workers in the Sultanate. Despite its significant importance, this aspect has not been fully exploited in translation, although there have been intermittent attempts in recent years to convey the literature and knowledge of these languages and dialects to readers. There also seems to be a growing awareness of the importance of this factor in accelerating community awareness during general crises, such as exceptional climatic changes and the COVID-19 pandemic, in which several official instructions were issued in various Asian and European languages.
2. Availability of university courses in languages and translation	There are university programmes specialising in translation at the diploma, bachelor, and master's levels, currently numbering 13 courses across various Omani universities. These courses can ensure a sustainable flow of qualified cadres in the field of translation and guide them effectively to enhance the activity of this sector in all its theoretical and practical aspects.
3. Abundance of Orientalist sources and documents about Oman	There are large numbers of foreign sources concerning Oman, estimated by researchers to be in the hundreds of documents that deserve translation due to the scarcity of information written in Arabic. Among them are the stories of travellers who travelled to Oman, such as the British Consul Samuel Barrett Miles, and missionaries who worked under the American Mission in Oman, such as Samuel Zwemer and Paul Harrison. In addition to travellers' stories, Al-Hajri also estimates that there are about 1,500 books and 1,000 other articles about Oman in the British Library, as well as hundreds of PhD and master's theses related to Oman in British, American, and Canadian universities, which are indispensable for Omanis.
4. Historical translation heritage due to Oman's location	The Sultanate's historical record in translation, though limited, is significant due to its geographical location and ancient links with countries in East Asia, Africa, America, and Europe. This includes documents dating back to the periods of the Persian and Portuguese presence in Omani land. Altogether, this offers an opportunity for research on the role of translation in this context.
5. Growing tourism openness	The Sultanate's tourism sector is growing. According to government statistics, Indian, Pakistani, and British tourists are among the top five nationalities visiting Oman. Translation remains absent from official statistics, even though it could contribute to government efforts to encourage tourism, as well as attracting investment capital.

Opportunity	Description
6. Interest in teaching foreign languages	The non-Arab cultural and educational institutions in the Sultanate that focus on languages include the British Council for English, the Francophone Association in Muscat for French, the Language Centre affiliated with the German University for German, the Persian Language Teaching Centre for Persian, and the Spanish Language Teaching Institute.
7. Friendship associations	Friendship associations such as the Omani-Japanese Friendship Association (OJFA), the Omani-German Friendship Association (OGFA), and the Omani-British Friendship Association (OBFA) can positively contribute to the field of translation through scientific cooperation and cultural exchange via translation.
8. Interest in teaching Arabic to non-native speakers	Sultan Qaboos College for Teaching Arabic to Non-Native Speakers aims to attract foreigners to the Sultanate to study the Arabic language.
9. National and private institutions interested in translation	Several institutions support the translation and publication of books, including the Cultural Club, which has translated several books into various foreign languages in the past few years, as well as the Department of Research, Translation, and Publishing at the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, among other institutions.
10. National and international translation awards	National and international awards link translators in the Sultanate with the Arab world, such as, (the Sultan Qaboos Award) or link them with the international community such as (the Bait Al Ghasham Dar Arab Translation Award) and other institutions.
11. Active cultural and translational environment in the Gulf	The active cultural and translational environment in the Gulf region, as seen in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, presents an opportunity for translation and translators in the Sultanate to collaborate, strengthen cooperation, and exchange experiences.
12. Establishment of the GCC Centre for Translation, Arabisation, and the Promotion of Arabic	The Centre for Translation, Arabization, and the Promotion of Arabic, based in Muscat, will significantly impact the enrichment of the translation movement in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and the enhancement of translational content within the GCC system.



3. Challenges

Challenge	Statement
1. Absence of a unified translation authority	There is no central authority for translation to achieve sector integration from start to finish. This study emphasizes the need to establish a single authority responsible for all aspects of translation in the Sultanate, including academic, cultural, legislative, and investment aspects, in alignment with Oman Vision 2040. This involves many matters, such as integrating scientific research efforts, conducting studies, creating databases, organizing translation-related seminars and conferences, employing translators, quality assurance, certifying translators, regulating the translation market to enhance its contribution to the Sultanate's Gross national product (GNP), and providing official authorities with advice regarding translation.
2. Lack of integration and coordination of academic programmes	The academic programs that grant translation qualifications in the Sultanate have no integration mechanism to achieve a unified and specific goal aligned with Oman Vision 2040 and the Cultural Strategy 2040. The goal should also be consistent with local market trends, employment opportunities in the public and private sectors, and technological and digital advancements in the translation sector.
3. Lack of data and statistical monitoring of translation activity	There is a lack of precise data and statistics; these are urgently needed to analyse the current situation and make appropriate decisions to guide the sector beneficially for Oman Vision 2040 and the Cultural Strategy 2040. For instance, there should be statistics on the contribution of translation - and the linguistic sector in general - to the GNP, statistics on qualified translators in the Sultanate, statistics on Omani cultural production in the translation sector, and statistics on the translation market in the Sultanate, and so on, with benchmarking against other countries or indicators.
4. Focus on English at the expense of other foreign languages	There is a predominant focus on the English language, leading to a cultural and investment loss in the Sultanate due to insufficient attention paid to other languages, both in quantity and quality. This is especially important as the Sultanate becomes increasingly open to tourism and investment from other countries. It will also enhance official communication and interaction with all residents in the Sultanate.
5. Lack of interest in translation studies in favour of translational production	There is insufficient attention to scientific research in translation studies, compared to the good attention given to translated productions. It is highly beneficial to encourage thinkers and scholars in translation who can contribute to localizing educational cadres, representing the Sultanate in international scientific events, and highlighting the Sultanate's translation efforts by contributing to scientific journals.

4. Recommendations

1. A unified authority should be established responsible for all aspects of translation in the Sultanate, including in academic, cultural, legislative, and investment areas.
2. Efforts should be made to achieve integration among academic programmes that grant translation qualifications in the Sultanate to achieve a unified and specific goal.
3. There is a need to designate an authority responsible for collecting and accurately monitoring data and statistics to analyse the current situation and make appropriate decisions to guide the sector beneficially.
4. Languages other than English should be given attention, both in quantity and quality, in light of the Sultanate's growing openness to tourism and investment from other countries. This would enhance official communication and interaction with all residents of the Sultanate.
5. There is a need to enhance attention and interest in scientific research of translation studies.
6. The linguistic and dialectical diversity of the Sultanate's residents should be leveraged to enhance the role of translation from and into Arabic, accelerating community awareness and facilitating communication.



Qatar

In the last four decades, Qatar has experienced significant development in various fields such as education, research, innovation, media, politics, sports, and more. Alongside attracting a wealth of knowledge and expertise, there has been an active translation movement to meet the demands of Arabizing sciences and building bridges for communication.

Undoubtedly, Qatar's successful organization of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, which drew a large number of people from different countries speaking various languages, has significantly boosted the translation movement.

In line with Qatar's support and attention to translation, the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding was launched in 2015 to contribute to cultural exchange and support the translation movement. Moreover, it has become one of the largest translation awards globally for translation to and from Arabic. The training and qualification of translators have also been given attention in the academic and training fields.

The Legislative Aspect of Translation

The translation movement in Qatar is considered significantly active, as most of the circulars and bulletins issued by ministries, state bodies, institutions, and private companies are translated into several languages, most notably English and the languages spoken by East Asian countries. Most document outputs of foreign companies must be submitted to government institutions in Arabic, so these companies are forced to translate them into Arabic.

In this regard, Qatar issued Law No. (7) of 2019 concerning the Protection of the Arabic Language, which primarily stipulates that all governmental and non-governmental entities and bodies are obligated to use the Arabic language in all their official activities (correspondence, meetings, circulars, etc.), with the permissibility of translating its publications into other languages.

Despite this law and the increasing demand for translation in Qatar, there is still a pressing need for sufficient laws or regulations to organise the translation sector in the country.

Regarding the legislative aspect of translation, the aforementioned law requires everyone working in Qatar to use Arabic or translate into it when submitting documents to official bodies.



Professional Licenses and Certified Translation Tests

The Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Directorate of Passports, includes translation among the professions listed on Qataris' national ID cards or non-Qataris' resident ID cards by adding "Translator" as their profession. However, it does not require any tests or certifications from any entity to include the title "Translator" on the applicant's identity card. Instead, it requires a bachelor's degree or higher diploma in the language to be translated from or into. Having the "Translator" title on the national or resident ID cards is not considered an accreditation by the Ministry to provide certified translation services by the identity holder.

In Qatar, the entities that grant translation profession licences are limited to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which provides companies and offices with commercial licences to offer translation services.

As in most Middle Eastern countries, there are no bodies in Qatar that test and certify individuals to provide certified translation services. There seems to be an initiative in the future by the Translation and Interpreting Institute to establish a partnership with the Ministry of Justice in Qatar to develop a mechanism for testing and certifying translator workers at the Ministry of Justice. Those interested in the translation are looking forward to this initiative's commencement to benefit from it.

Agencies, Bodies and Institutions Responsible for Translation

In Qatar, some several governmental bodies and institutions manage several translation-related matters. These include governmental academic institutions, such as the College of Arts and Sciences at Qatar University. It also includes private non-profit institutions, such as the Translation and Interpreting Institute at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which grants licences for companies to provide translation services.

The Ministry of Justice in Qatar issued Decree No. (6) of 1994 regarding the establishment of the Department of Translation and the Official Gazette, which is tasked with translating all documents, laws, regulations, and decrees.

Translation Associations

Article No. (15) of Law No. 21 of 2030 regarding private associations and institutions outlines the objectives of associations, which include improving and advancing this profession, spreading professional awareness among association members, preserving its roles and ethics, enhancing the scientific level of association members, and strengthening relationships and fostering the cooperation among members. In this regard, many specialized civil associations have been established in various fields except those related to translation. Therefore, there is a pressing need to establish a translation association to contribute to the development and enhancement of the translation sector within the third sector.³

³ The third sector comprises non-profit institutions and bodies, such as charitable and human rights organisations and non-governmental unions.



Published Translation Glossaries of Terminology and Nomenclature

Several major ministries, institutions, and bodies develop their own glossaries, which are often limited in circulation to the ministry, institution, or body that issued them. These glossaries contain general writing and translation guidelines for terms adopted by the institution in its writings and translations. Hence, there is a need to issue more comprehensive translation glossaries that include all of the State's institutions and are adhered to by translators for all translation works.

Standardised Translation of Names of Ministries, Governmental and Private Bodies, and Institutions

The translation of ministries' names has generally stabilised in the Arab world and particularly in the Gulf, especially when translating from Arabic to English. These translations for ministries, agencies, governmental institutions, and others appear to be consistent. However, within ministries, there may be different names for similar departments in other entities, highlighting the need for a general glossary of ministry and governmental institution names in the other languages.

Currently, one can rely on the "Hukoomi" website (www.hukoomi.gov.qa), a comprehensive government website where one can obtain the names of ministries, ministers, governmental and public entities, and more in Arabic; then the user can switch to the English version of the site to find the English equivalents.

Additionally, translators can visit the websites of specific ministries, institutions, and Bodies to learn about their officially adopted translations. There are also general sites relied upon by translators to find translations of names, such as the Qatar News Agency website, using the same method mentioned previously.

Moreover, there is an urgent need to officially document and register these names using a more suitable method.

Official Registration of Offices, Institutions, and Companies Concerned with Translation

Certain procedures must be followed regarding the companies' licensing that enables them to provide certified translation services. However, there are no requirements for specialized translation offered by companies or offices. Some fields require special procedures, such as the public relations field, which requires a special licence obtained from the Ministry of Culture. Those wishing to offer translation services, whether specializing in translation only or alongside other services, must obtain the main licences and documents required by the Ministries of Commerce and Industry (www.moci.gov.qa), Justice (www.moj.gov.qa), Labor (www.mol.gov.qa), and Interior (www.moi.gov.qa). Consequently, those licences should be obtained individually according to each ministry's requirements. Below are the steps followed to obtain a licence to provide translation services:

- Apply to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to determine the company's name and its services.
- Apply to the Ministry of Justice for the drafting and approval of the company's founding contract.
- Apply to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to issue the company's commercial registration.
- Apply to the Ministry of Interior to obtain the establishment's registration.
- Apply to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to determine the company's location and issue the commercial licence.
- Apply to a bank to open a company bank account.
- Apply to the Ministry of Labor for visas in case of bringing in translators from outside the state.

There is no pricing regulation to ensure consistency of fees for translation services in the State of Qatar. There are different categories of translation service providers in the State, which increasingly vary in quantity and quality of the translation services from one office to office or to another institution. In some companies, translation services are offered as a supplementary service alongside other services such as printing, writing, and photocopying.



Translator Preparation Institutions

The translation market in Qatar is notably active, especially in the period before the country hosted the World Cup. The huge active movement of the translation market can be noticed. However, Qatar primarily relies on attracting translators from outside the country. Therefore, it is notable that few Qataris working in the translation field. This may be partly due to the availability of job opportunities in other fields for Qatari citizens.

There are several entities offering training in translation, including a sub-specialization in the Department of English Literature and Linguistics at the College of Arts and Sciences at Qatar University, master's courses at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, and Translation, Training, and Interpreting Centre at Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

1. Qatar University

■ The Translation Major at the College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences at Qatar University aims to build a distinguished workforce. Hence, the bachelor course in English Literature and Linguistics aims to assist students to develop effective communication skills, foster acceptance of linguistic and cultural diversity, and introduce students to linguistics and its branches and applications.

Among the sub-specializations in this department is Translation. Students must complete a certain number of credit hours to achieve a minor in Translation. Mandatory units include Principles and Strategies of Translation, Contemporary Translation Theories, Media Translation, and Cross-Cultural Communication. Elective units include Writing Skills in Arabic and English, Linguistic Comparisons between Arabic and English, Translation Technology, and Introduction to Simultaneous Interpretation.

2. Hamad Bin Khalifa University

■ Master's programmes in Translation

Hamad Bin Khalifa University was established in 2010 as the first national research university within the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development. The University aims to contribute to development and support progress in Qatar. In pursuit of this noble mission, the university launched the programs of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (formerly called the Translation Studies College). The college offers two master's courses in translation and has established a centre for translation and

interpreting training, where a distinguished group of translation specialists train master's students. The Centre provides written and interpreting translation services to governmental and private entities in the country.

A. Master of Arts in Translation Studies (MATS)

This is a two-year program accredited by the University of Geneva, designed to provide translators with high-level skills in various translation fields. It enhances translators' practical competence through training that is based on translation technology and experiences gained from professional training opportunities at the college's translation centre. The theoretical component of the program encourages advanced intellectual research and inquiry, providing students with a solid foundation for professional work and pursuing a Ph.D. in Translation Studies.

B. Master of Arts in Audiovisual Translation (MAAT)

It is a two- to three-year program in Qatar accredited by the University of Geneva. It aims to train specialized translators to transfer audiovisual texts from one language to another, benefiting viewers who do not understand the source text language and individuals with hearing and vision impairments. The program provides students with practical and technical skills necessary for working in subtitling, dubbing, voice-over, subtitling for the hearing impaired, and audio description for the blind. It develops students' analytical skills, enabling them to enhance their abilities by applying deductive and critical thinking.



National and International Translation Awards and Conferences

1. Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding

In 2015, the State of Qatar launched the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding (www.hta.qa) to contribute to the cultural exchange process and to support the translation movement, until it became one of the most significant translation awards in the world, which related to translating from and into Arabic.

The award seeks to honour translators and appreciate their role regionally and globally. Moreover, it seeks to encourage individuals, publishing houses, and cultural institutions worldwide to engage in translation and Arabization, also to contribute to improving translation and Arabization standards, and enrich Arabic literature with significant works from the world's cultures, literature, arts, and sciences. The award is divided into two categories: awards for the "Single Books" translations in the two main languages, and awards for achievement in the two main languages and secondary languages.

The "Single Books" Awards

The "Single Books" category specializes in individual translations, from or into Arabic, within the main languages stipulated in this category. Nominations can be made by the nominees themselves, and translations can also be nominated by individuals or institutions.

Eligibility Criteria for the Nomination of the "Single Books" Translation Award

- Nominations are limited during the official dates announced.
- Nominations of translations are currently limited to the field of humanities and social sciences.
- Nominations can be submitted by institutions (publishing houses, research centres, Institutes, university departments, etc.) or by individual nominees.
- Nominations are limited to people living at the time of the award's announcement.
- Nominees' works, individual or institution, must not contain racist or offensive content.
- Translations must be published and have an (ISBN).
- There is no time limit for the publication date of translations.
- The award steering committee reserves the right to nominate translators or translated works that were not nominated previously.

- The award steering committee reserves the right to utilize the winning works and winners to introduce and promote the award.
- Winners of any Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding cannot reapply for any category for five years.
- The award committees reserve the right to withhold the award in any category (if the submitted works are below standard or do not meet the ranking criteria), adjust its amount based on judges' comments, or withdraw the award after granting it if reasons arise.
- In case of disputes, jurisdiction is exclusive to Qatar's courts. The Arabic text of the basic award system shall be adopted.

2. The International Translation Conference

The Translation and Interpreting Institute at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar (tii.aq) hosts a translation conference every two years. Each year, the conference addresses a topic related to translation. It is attended by academics, specialists, and professional translators from different countries. Accordingly, the conference serves as an opportunity for an experience exchange in the field of translation.



Legal Aspects of Translation

The relationship between service requesters and service providers is governed by special contracts with terms agreed upon by both parties. These often include terms regarding different prices, confidentiality, and other standard terms used in most agreements between contracting parties.

There is a need to formulate legislation and enact laws governing the relationship between service providers and requesters in the field of translation. Currently, this depends mainly on contracting with companies that provide translation services, including to courts and all government bodies.

It is important to reference Law No. (7) established in 2002, concerning the Protection of Copyrights and Related Rights, according to the website of the Ministry of Justice in Qatar, "Al Meezan" (www.almeezan.qa). Article (3) provides for the protection of the works after they have been translated. Article (7) concerns the author's right to translate their scientific work, and Article (18) regulates quotations, including their translation. Article (27), paragraph 1, states: "A Qatari citizen has the right to obtain a non-exclusive, non-transferable licence from the Minister or his delegate to translate any published foreign work into Arabic and publish this translation. That applies only after three years have passed since the date of the first publication of this work; additionally, if there is no published translation of it in Qatar into Arabic by the owner of the translation right (or with his consent), or if the translated editions run out".

Translation may also fall within the scope of intellectual property rights protection as per the 2009 Emiri Decree No. (53), which established the Centre for Intellectual Property Rights Protection.

Translation Guidelines and Quality Assurance

Some major institutions are making concerted efforts to develop guides to help their translators improve their translation quality and enhance their skills. However, there is a pressing need to produce a comprehensive translation guide approved by translation authorities in Qatar.

Ministries, institutions, and bodies rely on the translations' internal review and quality assurance through their internal systems. However, there remains a need for clear standards and systems for translation quality assurance through independent quality assurance guides applied across the state.

Summary of Current Situation, Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations

1. Current Status of Translation in in Qatar

Based on the foregoing discussion, the current status of translation in Qatar can be summarised as follows:

Subject	Unavailable	Available	
		Complete	Needs improvement
1. Legislative Aspect			✓
2. Professional Licenses			✓
3. Translation Tests	✓		
4. One Entity Responsible for Translation	✓		
5. Translation Associations	✓		
6. Translation Glossaries and Dictionaries	✓		
7. Standardised Translation of Official Terminology/ Titles	✓		
8. Official Registration of Offices			✓
9. Translator Training Institutions		✓	
10. Translation Awards		✓	
11. Periodic Translation Conferences		✓	
12. Translation Guides	✓		
13. Quality Assurance Guides	✓		



2. Opportunities

Opportunity	Description
1. Investment of financial resources	Qatar has the financial resources enabling it to launch extensive and advanced translation teaching and training programs that meet national needs and achieve the programs' desired competitiveness.
2. Investment in university education	Qatar invests heavily in the education sector, spending many resources on it to enhance its competitiveness regionally and internationally. This represents a favourable opportunity for the translation field to benefit from government support and strategic orientation in the field of university education.
3. Development of university translation programmes	University courses have been introduced to teach translation as a main specialization, not a supplementary one, given the significant support and direction of the Qatari government to support university education and maintain its development.
4. Encouraging the establishment of endowment funds	The government encourages the establishment of grants and encourages businessmen and donor institutions to support these in order to strengthen the efforts of translating resources, creative works, books, and references from different languages into Arabic and vice versa. It also supports translating the Arab knowledge heritage into other languages, especially given the government's interest in the cultural movement and the translation role in it.
5. Social responsibility programmes	The Qatari government encourages and motivates companies and business sectors to invest - through Corporate Social Responsibility Programs - in the translation sector. Moreover, these programs help to enrich the Arab library with new knowledge resources and allocate significant funds to translate the best scientific and literary books and make them available to readers.
6. Encouraging and appreciating distinguished translators	Acknowledging, honouring, and appreciating translators represents a favourable opportunity to motivate younger generations to enter the translation field and shed light on distinguished translators, by sharing their experiences and success stories to inspire younger generations with these exemplary creative figures in translation.
7. Establishing a government institution to support translation activities	The establishment of a government institution affiliated with the Ministry of Culture or the state's relevant bodies can provide significant support for the translation movement. It provides an excellent opportunity to establish this entity or institution, which would be responsible for organizing translation activities in the state, by issuing laws and regulations governing translation activities. It will also create programs to certify translators in various fields, and issue guides to help governmental and private institutions and translators understand translation quality standards.
8. Establishing a translation data and statistics platform	Launching an electronic platform serving as a database for translators, specialized translation companies, and completed translation works is essential to support the translation movement and is an issue in which the Qatari government has shown interest in several respects.

Opportunity	Description
9. Investing in technology and developments in computerized translation	With the rapid growth of computing and artificial intelligence technologies, it has become crucial to utilise artificial intelligence for the translation purposes. This helps both translators and clients to obtain good translation services.
10. Supporting Arabic with the protection of the Arabic language law amidst the linguistic diversity of citizens and residents	Government institutions, bodies, and private companies should be required to communicate in Arabic as this is the official language of Qatar. This will help support the translation movement, which is the aim of the Protection of the Arabic Language Law mentioned earlier. Furthermore, due to the diverse population and the different languages spoken, government institutions and private companies must promote their works, activities, services, and products in various languages. Accordingly, they are forced to rely on translation. This law has resulted in many translation works being assigned to specialised translation companies, especially for the translation of various reports and guides. At the same time, others have turned to public relations companies, which offer translation as one of their supplementary services.
11. Growing governmental and private demand for translators	Many governmental and private entities need full-time or part-time translators to for internal translations. They rely on them for several reasons: to complete translation tasks quickly, to maintain the confidentiality of the translated works, and because the entity's translators can effectively convey and express its message. This represents an opportunity for Qatari translators to fill these job opportunities in their field of expertise.



3. Challenges

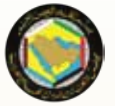
Challenge	Statement
1. Lack of interest from commercial companies in translation quality and creative translation	Most translation centres focus on producing translations of advertising and media materials, which quickly lose value and do not leave a permanent cultural or knowledge legacy. Since companies resort to translation out of necessity, they do not care about translation quality or have the ability to assess it, especially when translating from different languages into Arabic. Hence, their employees tend to be non-native Arabic speakers or foreigners.
2. Absence of general bodies or entities responsible for translation in Qatar	One of the most significant challenges facing the translation movement in Qatar is the lack of bodies or entities responsible for translation activities in general. Currently, no entity organises and supports translation activities; instead, the translation is based on the demand between service providers and seekers. As mentioned earlier, translation service companies obtain a commercial translation licence from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, which is not specialized in translation entirely. Consequently, the Qatari market has not fixed pricing schedules for translations, either by companies or individuals. Because there is no regulating entity, researchers or observers of the translation movement in Qatar cannot obtain specific information about translation, such as the size of the translation market, the number of professionals in the field, translation prices, or contracts binding service providers with clients. Accordingly, it often results in violations of the rights of companies or individuals. It has also resulted in translators working for low fees that do not encourage them to provide the best quality services to clients.
3. Proliferation of non-specialized translation offices	Many offices and small companies offer translation services in Qatar at low prices compared to the average individual's income. They employ unprofessional or insufficiently qualified translators, resulting in low-quality translated works. As previously mentioned, some offices active in the Qatari market offer very low prices. Accordingly, they provide translations of extremely low quality, relying on machine translation tools like Google Translate, which tarnishes the reputation of translation in general and makes it an undesirable profession for both citizens and residents.
4. The need for a platform or database to register professional and certified translators	There are no electronic initiatives in the state that help service seekers and providers to be linked to each other, and to reach qualified translators for translation requests. In contrast, there are major translation platforms in other countries like Proz.com, Elance, TranslatorsCafe, and other sites that facilitate communication between clients and translators, and significantly regulate translation prices in the absence of government regulatory bodies.

Challenge	Statement
5. The need for a translator certification programme	Another challenge is the lack of a governmental certification program offering certification services for translators. Consequently, the Qatari translation market includes many unqualified translators who practise translation simply because they speak more than one language. Due to the absence of a governmental or private database containing the names and contact information of certified or uncertified translators, many seeking translation services resort to entities providing poor-quality translation or take a huge amount of time to reach a certified translator outside Qatar, especially when the translation does not require Qatari state certification, such as for the state's various embassies.
6. Absence of regulatory bodies for translation quality and its practitioners	There is no entity in Qatar supervising and monitoring translation quality. One of the challenges facing the translation process is the absence of quality assurance bodies. Hence, there are no guidelines or rules to inform clients and service seekers about the different translation quality levels. Therefore, no one can determine the translation quality if a dispute arises between a client and a service provider, whether a company or individual. Additionally, the vast majority of employees in government and private sectors cannot judge the quality of translated content, especially when the target language is Arabic, due to either not mastering or lacking an adequate knowledge of Standard Arabic, or because most employees -even Arabs- received education in foreign schools that do not equip them with competent reading or writing skills. Some clients might direct translators and content creators to write in an extremely simple way to match the readers' level, resulting in significant clumsiness and poor language text, or sometimes the use of colloquial language. Due to many clients' poor linguistic skills and inability to distinguish between good and bad translations, translators lose their passion for delivering high-quality translations, as there is no distinguishing line between good and bad renditions.
7. Lack of translation references or guides	The absence of state-issued references for translation or writing methods in general, leads each translator to apply the translation strategies learned in his/her country, given the predominance of non-Qatari translators in the translation market. Therefore, it is noticeable that there are significant content differences in Qatar due to each person's writing style, which was learned in their own country or region. For instance, if a foreign individual requests an Arabic translation of "Birth Certificate" from an Egyptian translator, it will be translated as "شهادة ميلاد shahadat milad", while a Moroccan translator would render it as "شهادة ازدياد shahadat azdiad", and others might translate it as "شهادة/وثيقة مولد shahadat/wathiqat mawlid", etc. Additionally, no uniform guidelines are issued by the state to direct translators to the correct names of governmental and non-governmental entities, or how to attribute titles and names to prominent and historical figures, making it difficult for translators to learn the correct titles. Therefore, as previously explained, it necessitates visiting the website in both Arabic and English to find the accurate name or searching for the entity's printed issues.



Challenge	Statement
8. Inferior view of translation and translators and Qataris' reluctance to pursue translation professionally	Many people admire those who speak advanced Western and Eastern languages, seeking Western education for their children, which deepens Qataris' children's attachment to foreign languages and weakens their bonds with Arabic. This modern trend, alongside its Western imitation, poses challenges to the translation community. Many young people have been observed to avoid learning and pursuing translation as a profession. At the same time, modernity negatively affected the translation movement, as many now speak more than one language and no longer need written or simultaneous translation. Therefore, the need is limited to translating official documents, which remain hidden within the drawers of offices in government institutions.
9. Lack of appreciation for translators and their creative works	One of the reasons for the reluctance of Qatari citizens to adopt the translation profession is the lack of appreciation for translators and their works, which are not celebrated or given the same level of attention and recognition as the original works in different languages. In many cases, publishing houses refuse to credit the translator on the translated books. Instead, they display only the publisher's and author's names. Moreover, the translation profession is not treated like other administrative jobs; translators remain at the "specialist" level for long periods before being promoted to "senior translator" or "translation reviewer".
10. Lack of public awareness of the importance of translation and translators	There is little awareness among clients about the role of the translator and the complexity of the translation process. Translators are often viewed as machines that simply output translations instantly. However, translation requires significant effort, focus, and time to produce a high-quality translated text. Many clients do not understand this, and they are sometimes surprised when translators quote their prices, which they consider expensive. They do not realize the effort involved due to their superficial and incorrect view of the translator's role and profession.
11. Lack of interest in supporting the Arabic language	Western countries have promoted their languages by conducting proficiency tests such as TOEFL and IELTS for those studying their languages or studying their specialization in their language. In contrast, there are no Arabic proficiency tests in the Arab region. Qatar is one of the Arab countries where there is insufficient emphasis on the proficiency and capabilities of translators in Arabic. The focus is mainly on their mastery and proficiency in the foreign language they are translating from or into. Even though proficiency in Arabic is a critical foundation in the translation process, it is also more substantial than proficiency in the foreign languages involved.

Challenge	Statement
12. Framing Arabic with foreign languages from which it is translated	One of the prominent challenges facing translation in Qatar is that Arabic has become framed by the English language, leading to the use of structures and styles unrelated to Arabic norms, all of which are borrowed from other languages. This phenomenon is known in linguistics as “language interference”, where the foreign language influences the native language. Arabic is one of the richest and most eloquent of languages. However, it is now written following the structures and styles of other languages, due to the translators’ poor proficiency in Arabic or the client’s demand for literal adherence to the source language. This issue extends beyond translation to content creation, especially in the media field, where writers and translators draw upon only two to three thousand Arabic words, despite the language containing millions of words.
13. Weak alignment between translator training institutions programmes and labour market needs in quantity and quality	In the academic field and translator training institutions, there is a significant challenge in that they focus exclusively on theoretical study rather than practical application. Interviews with female graduates from Qatar University and Hamad Bin Khalifa University revealed that studies focus heavily on theoretical aspects. Hence, the available training opportunities take place in limited environments that do not allow students to practise translation fully and deeply. As previously mentioned, only two institutions offer translation education and training: the College of Arts and Sciences at Qatar University and the Translation and Interpreting Institute at Hamad Bin Khalifa University. The male graduate interviewees mentioned another challenge: the inadequacy of the content taught in these institutions to develop translators adequately qualified for the translation market. At Qatar University, the translation program is a sub-specialization, while Hamad Bin Khalifa University offers master’s programs for graduates from any specialization, even if unrelated to translation or languages in general. These master’s programs are attended by professionals residing in Qatar or citizen employees sent by their institution for postgraduate studies without considering the benefit they will gain from the employees’ studies.



4. Recommendations

1. It is important to establish a governmental institution affiliated with the Ministry of Culture or a sponsoring body responsible for the activities and affairs of the translation industry in general, to oversee the profession's affairs, organise it, support it, and supervise its practitioners' activities.
2. The activities of non-specialized translation offices and companies must be limited to prevent them from operating in the translation market to reduce their negative impact on the labour market and the translation movement, and to prevent the Qatari library from being crowded with substandard and unfaithful translations.
3. Investment must be made in resources to utilise artificial intelligence in the translation processes and translator training programs.
4. An electronic platform should be launched providing a database for translators, specialised translation companies, and completed translation works. All would be linked to a communication platform to facilitate access to professional and certified translators and ease communication between them and those who seek their services.
5. A government accreditation program should be established to provide accreditation services for translators, which can be supervised by the proposed translation Institution or the governmental body recommended to be established by this study.
6. It is essential to create a regulatory body responsible for monitoring the performance of entities operating in the translation field, evaluating the translations produced in the market, and supporting judicial entities in evaluating the work submitted to them. This body can be supervised by the proposed translation institution or the governmental body recommended to be established by this study, in order to follow the translation standards.
7. There is an urgent need to produce and issue reference guides and glossaries for all translators in compliance with the approved methodology in Qatar. Moreover, these will offer uniform guides issued by the state to help translators obtain the correct names of government and non-government entities, the names of prominent and historical figures, and others.
8. Better promotion paths should be made available for translator employees who should be treated professionally and have the same benefits enjoyed by administrative employees.

9. A certain level of Arabic proficiency must be required of foreigners coming to work in Qatar. All applicants must sit for and achieve a certain level in a common test given to anyone who wants to work in Qatar. This will strengthen interest in Arabic and enhance its status in society.
10. Translation courses offered to undergraduates and postgraduates need to be improved. Furthermore, the content and delivery of these courses has to be improved if potential translators are to graduate with a high level of skills and job-readiness.
11. Private, charitable, civil, and commercial sectors should be encouraged to support the translation movement through social responsibility programs and allocating financial amounts to support the translation of the best scientific and literary sources, which will support the Arabic library and translate Qatari content into other languages.
12. It is necessary to encourage emerging translators by supporting them and linking them to the distinguished professionals in the field, in order to increase their courage and confidence in their profession.



Kuwait

Upon examining Kuwait's efforts in the field of translation, it becomes apparent that significant development began in the 1970s and 1980s. This was accompanied by the establishment of cultural and academic institutions aimed at enhancing the translation sector, improving local translators, and establishing translation associations to support translators and enrich the translation field in Kuwait.

Academic and training institutions play a major role in the evolution of the translation movement by offering numerous academic programs and training courses in translation and supporting the development of professional translators.

In addition, the Kuwait Translators Association plays a crucial role in strengthening the translators' presence, affirming their effectiveness on a local level, and encouraging Kuwaiti translators to improve their skills and undertake professional development courses.

The Legislative Aspect of Translation

The State of Kuwait has enacted a set of laws and legislative regulations that partially cover translators and the translation field. There are no specific laws or regulations specifically for translation. However, some laws include provisions and regulations relevant to translation and aim to enrich the cultural aspect of Kuwait. They also encourage the transfer, localization, and dissemination of knowledge worldwide in general and through translation in particular. Below is an overview of some of the translation-related laws that contained within the broader context of laws governing cultural activities, printing, and publishing in Kuwait.

1. Law No. 3 of 2006 Regarding Printing and Publishing

The Kuwaiti National Assembly approved Law No. 3 of 2006 regarding printing and publishing, which generally stipulates that freedom of the press, printing, and publishing is guaranteed by the provisions of this law. More information about this Law can be found on the Kuwait Ministry of Justice website (www.kijls.moi.go.kw).

Article 3 of the first chapter of this Law states that any individual has the right to establish a printing office, operate it, open a publishing or distribution office, rent publications, or open a translation or advertising office. All of these activities are permissible after the individual has obtained the necessary licence from the Ministry of Information, as will be clarified in the section concerning the entities responsible for translation in Kuwait.

The Article outlines the conditions necessary for any Kuwaiti individual wishing to obtain the required licence for translation, such as having a good reputation and not having been previously convicted of a crime involving dishonesty or breach of trust unless proven otherwise. It specifies the educational qualification required for someone to obtain a licence for a publishing or printing office, requiring a high school diploma or its equivalent. However, those wishing to enter the field of translation must hold a suitable university degree or its equivalent. However, the relevant ministry has the right to exempt those with sufficient experience in the required field from this stipulation when applying for the licence. This Article includes other conditions that do not relate to translation in particular, but rather to practicing commercial activity in general.

In the second Article of the same Law, the translator is considered to be the “editor”, which is defined as “anyone who works in editing the newspaper as a professional journalist, whether he is a reporter, news analyst, investigative journalist, translator, cartoonist, or photographer”.



2 . Law No. 75 of 2019 Regarding Copyright and Related Rights

In 2016, the intellectual property rights law was amended, and Law No. 22 was issued concerning copyright and related rights. The law was further amended in 2019 with the issuance of a new law, No. 75 of 2019.

The law consists of three chapters: (definitions and scope of protection), (copyright and related rights), and (collective management of rights, conservative measures, and penalties), in addition to a final chapter, an explanatory memorandum, and an executive regulation. The law establishes and clarifies the literary rights of authors, researchers, writers, artists, and cultural figures involved in artistic and cultural production inside or outside Kuwait. It informs them about their literary rights guaranteed by various articles of this law, advising them to resort to the law if their rights are infringed. This legal right, guaranteed to them by the state, can protect their intellectual, literary, and artistic creations, help reduce plagiarism affecting artists, directors, and authors, and offer proper protection for creativity in fields of literature and arts. Additionally, the National Library of Kuwait distributes copies of the law widely, whether electronically (on its website) or as free printed copies to relevant member of the public, rights holders, and media professionals. The law consists of 51 Articles concerning copyright and related rights. It also protects creative works in literature, arts, and sciences and enhances human intellectual productions. Moreover, it ensures the interests of the state and society and effectively protects copyright and related rights by providing a legal framework that ensures these rights.

Article 9 of Law No. 75 of 2019 states the author's right to translate his works into another language, distribute them, and make any amendment or modification.

Professional Licenses and Certified Translation Tests

Pursuant to Law No. 3 of 2006 on printing and publishing, the Ministry of Information and its minister are responsible for granting translation licences to companies and institutions wishing to provide translation services. In this regard, the Ministry of Information offers four services through the official electronic website of the State of Kuwait or through the ministry's website (media.gov.kw): issuing translation licences to companies, renewing translation licences for companies, issuing translation licences to institutions, and renewing translation licences for institutions. The process of accessing these services is detailed in the Chapter 7 of this book.

Agencies, Bodies and Institutions Responsible for Translation

Translation activities in Kuwait are managed by a diverse group of ministries, institutions, and government bodies, each with specific tasks pertaining to the translation field. The Ministry of Information is responsible for granting licences to companies and institutions wishing to provide translation services, and the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters issues laws protecting translators' rights and offers awards to encourage translators to enrich the cultural elements of Kuwait. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Justice monitors and controls the quality of translations provided by companies and individuals. Moreover, a large number of academic bodies ensure the graduation of qualified cadres to work in and advance the field of translation. Additionally, the private associations conduct studies, provide suggestions to governmental and private entities, and help translation cadres communicate with each other.

What is missing from this group of institutions and bodies is a specialized entity or institution responsible for managing all elements of the translation sector system in Kuwait.



Translation Associations

Kuwait Translators Association

The Kuwait Translators Association was established in 2022. It enhances the skills of translators in Kuwait and develops translation standards through workshops, lectures, and training courses. These activities are intended to increase knowledge and awareness about translation and develop translators' skills in various fields such as literature, technology, law, and simultaneous translation, etc. Furthermore, the association fosters cooperation and knowledge exchange among translators in Kuwait by offering them a strong communication network. Therefore, it provides a platform for translators to communicate and exchange experiences and professional advice.

The Kuwait Translators Association is an important entity that promotes and improves the quality of translation in Kuwait. It provides necessary support for translators and encourages the development of professional skills and communication among its members and those in the local and international translation community.

Published Translation Glossaries of Terminology and Nomenclature

Reliance in translating terms is based on the established translations found in media and printed publications. However, there is a pressing need to direct the efforts of both public and private sectors towards issuing glossaries of terms and phrases that assist translators in standardizing translated terminology and producing translated texts that are consistent with one another.

Standardised Translation of the Names of Ministries, Governmental and Private Bodies, and Institutions

Countries make efforts to ensure consistency in all their official and literary productions, as well as in the naming of ministries, agencies, and institutions, using a single name and term across all state affairs and particularly in the media. This ensures stability in translation. However, there remains a pressing need to direct the efforts of governmental, semi-governmental, and private sectors toward establishing an official platform accessible to translators and authors for verifying the approved names of all governmental and private entities, as well as individuals' names. Currently, no unified platform exists to meet this need.

Official Registration of Offices, Institutions, and Companies Concerned with Translation

The Ministry of Information is responsible for granting licenses to companies and institutions wishing to provide translation services. Below are the conditions and procedures required to obtain a license.

Request for Issuing a New Translation Activity License for Companies

This service enables the business sector to apply for a new translation activity license for companies.



Conditions for Obtaining the Service

- The business premises must be operational.
- The applicant must be present to sign the transaction, either the business owner, one of the partners, or an authorized representative with a power of attorney to act before all ministries and government entities. The representative must present their civil ID upon attendance for signing or signature authentication for the responsible manager or one of the partners in the company's name.

Required Documents

- An official letter from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the requested license.
- Copies of the civil IDs of the partners.
- A copy of the nationality document for all partners.
- A copy of the university degree of the company's responsible manager.
- A copy of the lease contract and the latest rent receipt for the company's premises.
- A criminal record report for the responsible manager and the chairman of the board.
- A certificate from the Public Authority for Civil Information with the automated address number.
- A certificate from the Public Authority for Civil Information with the company's civil number.
- A letter from the municipality specifying the required space or a certified site plan from the municipality.
- If the company operates under a franchise, a copy of the franchise agreement and a copy of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry license must be provided after obtaining initial approval from the Ministry of Information to complete the procedures and receive the final license.

Procedures

Applicants must visit the Government Mall– Liberation Tower, Licensing Department – Department of Artistic Works Classification.

Translation Pricing

The cost of translation per page (250 words) can reach up to 15 Kuwaiti Dinars.

Translator Preparation Institutions

1. Kuwait University

Kuwait University was established in October 1966 as the first public research university in Kuwait, under Law No. 29 of 1966.

A. College of Arts - Department of English and Department of French

The College of Arts was one of the initial colleges established at Kuwait University in 1966. Its higher education programs are designed to meet the needs and development of modern civil society.

Both departments strive to equip their graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfil responsibilities in various professional fields, including ministries and governmental institutions, education, various media outlets, banking, insurance companies, research institutes, news agencies, and translation sectors.

Among the mandatory courses offered to students in both departments are introductory and fundamental courses in translation. After completing these units successfully, students can undertake specialized translation courses, including Arabic to English translation and vice versa, text analysis, translation and culture, and specialized translation topics.

B. College of Graduate Studies

The Department of Arts within the College of Graduate Studies offers two translation-related courses: a master's program and a Ph.D. program.

i. Master's degree in Translation

The Department of English Language and Literature offers a master's degree course in translation, which requires a research project or thesis. Lectures are delivered in both English and Arabic so as to give students the necessary academic knowledge required for translation. The course aims to improve students' translation skills and deepen their understanding of translation theories, methodologies, and various techniques used in the field. This includes the study of concepts, approaches, types of translation, comparative linguistic analysis, and the use of specialized dictionaries and terminology. The program offers an academic environment conducive to learning and the necessary support to help students develop their translation abilities, whether they are translating from English to Arabic, or vice versa. It addresses the challenges and issues related to the translation process and equips students with the necessary skills to handle such issues successfully.



In summary, the master's degree course in translation offered by the Department of English Language and Literature seeks to enhance students' translation abilities and equip them with the knowledge and tools needed to excel in this field, with a focus on translation between English and Arabic.

ii. Ph. in Translation

The Department of English Language and Literature offers a PhD program in translation, utilizing both English and Arabic for instruction and research. The aim of the program is to provide students with the academic knowledge necessary for understanding translation as an active academic field. It focuses on equipping students with the skills to address translation issues between English and Arabic and to develop their abilities in academic research within this field. Students are trained to produce high-quality research that contributes to the ongoing development of translation studies. The program provides an academic environment and the necessary resources to support students in their educational and research endeavours, preparing them to achieve excellence and contribute to the field of translation.

2. Arab Open University

A. Faculty of Language Studies

The Faculty of Language Studies was established in 2002 with the opening of the Arab Open University. Currently, it offers a bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature across all nine university campuses. Additionally, the faculty offers a bachelor's degree in English with majors in translation courses based on the curricula of the Open University in the United Kingdom, along with its academic references and applied methodologies.

B. Translation Track in the bachelor's degree Program in English

The English Language and Literature course comprises a curriculum that explores and analyses various topics such as discourse analysis, realism, and culture. It provides students with an in-depth specialization in English language and literature, essential for meeting societal needs in terms of comparative literature, linguistic skills, and cross-cultural translation.

C. Master's degree in Translation: Post-graduate Program

The Faculty of Language Studies in the Arab Open University has recently introduced a master's program for post-graduates wishing to pursue advanced studies to further develop their knowledge and skills and achieve excellence in their professional careers.

3. Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST)

Bachelor in Translation - College of Arts and Sciences

The Department of English at Gulf University for Science and Technology offers a bachelor's degree in English literature with accredited certificates in language and translation, literature, and teaching English as a second language. The Linguistics/Translation track trains students to understand, experience, and apply language concepts. As an applied linguistics program, it qualifies students to pursue graduate studies in translation and benefit from their studies in other fields.

4. Specialized Training Programs

Academic institutions, both public and private, support developmental and training initiatives in specialized translation to meet the needs of specific sectors or institutions, in collaboration with academic institutions.

One example of such initiatives is the Legal Advice and Legislation Department's program to train national personnel for translating national legislation. The Department for Legal Advice and Legislation in the Ministry of Justice in Kuwait makes significant efforts to prepare specialized national cadres for translating laws and regulations into foreign languages. The aim of this initiative is to disseminate legal culture and inform foreign investors about the country's laws. The department has organised specialized translation courses to achieve this goal.



National and International Translation Awards and Conferences

Presented below are several awards granted by governmental and private entities in the State of Kuwait.

1. The State Incentive Award for Translation into Arabic

The National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) was established by an Amiri Decree issued on July 17, 1973. It is an independent state-affiliated body that fosters an environment conducive to cultural and artistic creativity and promotes cultural activities on a wide scale. The Council enjoys financial and administrative independence and carries extensive cultural responsibilities. Among its tasks, the Council issues publications, dictionaries and indexes, compiles documents, contributes to the dissemination of innovative and translated intellectual production, and engages in cultural exchange and participation in exhibitions, conferences, festivals, and cultural and artistic seminars.

In recognition of talented Kuwaiti citizens, and to encourage them to continue their distinguished achievements in the fields of arts, literature, social sciences, and humanities, the NCCAL presents an annual award named "The State Incentive Award in Arts, Literature, Social Sciences, and Humanities". Winners in each field receive financial prizes, certificates of appreciation, and a commemorative trophy presented during a formal ceremony held during the annual Qurain Cultural Festival.

The State Incentive Award for Translation into Arabic is granted for works translated from any of the world's languages into Arabic, provided that the publications are approved by the Ministry of Information and carry an ISBN or appear in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The submission must include the original text in the source language and copies of the translation.

Nomination Entities

Academic, scientific, cultural, and artistic institutions in the State of Kuwait.

Personal Nomination

Individuals have the right to nominate their own works for the award.

Conditions for Submissions of the Award

- The author must be of Kuwaiti nationality.
- The work in a specific category, must be considered distinguished.
- The nominee must complete the designated nomination form and submit it within the specified timeframe.

- The author's work must not previously have been submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for an academic degree (master's/doctorate).
- The submitted work must have been produced in 2019 or later (applies to the 2023 award).
- The applicants must provide the Council with their CV, a copy of their civil ID, three personal photographs, and samples of previous works if available.
- The applicant must submit seven non-returnable copies of the work they wish to enter.
- The works must be written in Standard Arabic.
- The works must be published in books approved by the Ministry of Information and carry an ISBN, or in peer-reviewed scientific or cultural journals.
- Research papers published in peer-reviewed journals (at least three) are accepted, provided they are in the applicant's field of specialization.
- Joint works are accepted provided all co-authors are Kuwaitis.
- The nominee must provide the Council with written consent if nominated by other entities.
- Previous winners in any category are not eligible to apply for the same category again.
- Works previously nominated for the award in past years are not accepted.
- The application must be submitted in person.

2. Encouragement of Local Publications

A permanent committee was established by the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) to encourage local publications. This committee examines books authored by Kuwaiti writers, as well as books about Kuwait authored by non-Kuwaitis. The committee's aim is to support and encourage deserving works, issuing a decision to evaluate them by the Council's Secretary-General for one year. The committee reviews and discusses the submitted works, making decisions in confidential meetings, and selects the works deemed suitable and deserving of support, excluding those that do not meet the required standards.

The encouragement award is given to authors of published works written in Standard Arabic or foreign languages. They comprise fiction novels and other creative works, academic or distinguished university theses, and books translated from Arabic to foreign languages. The goal of this encouragement award is intended to support Kuwaiti authors, with copies of the authors' works being purchased from the authors themselves and not from libraries or publishing houses unless with the author's consent. The award process considers the personal, literary, and cultural contributions of the author and the value of the work.



Conditions and Declarations for Applying for the Encouragement Award

Applicants must fulfil the following requirements:

- Attach 10 copies of the book to be encouraged with the application.
- Provide a copy of the civil ID.
- Provide a copy of the bank card and bank details certified by an official document issued by the bank.
- Provide a copy of the publishing permit issued by the Ministry of Information (Publications and Publishing Department).
- Submit the applicant's CV.
- Provide the required personal information on the application form.
- Provide a standard book number certificate from the National Library of Kuwait (ISBN).
- Include a letter addressed to the Secretary-General requesting encouragement.
- The copies attached to the application are non-returnable, regardless of the committee's decision to approve or reject the encouragement.
- The application for encouragement is considered void if the required documents or book copies are not attached or if the application does not meet the specified conditions.

3. Kuwait Prize from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science

The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) was established as a private non-profit organization by an Amiri Decree in 1976, under the auspices of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the late Emir of Kuwait. The foundation was established to achieve a long-term vision of fostering a thriving scientific, technological, and innovative culture, promoting sustainability in Kuwait.

Since 1979, KFAS has awarded the Kuwait Prize to honour Kuwaiti and Arab scientists who have made outstanding contributions to various scientific fields. The specific scientific fields included in the award change annually. The foundation invites universities, scientific institutions, and qualified researchers to nominate distinguished Kuwaiti and Arab scientists for the award.

While the award spans various fields, not exclusively focusing on translation, works eligible for the award can include translated works. The conditions for the works, which can include translated materials, serve as encouragement for translation efforts as well.

Nomination Criteria for the Award

- Nominations can be submitted by universities and scientific bodies. Previous award winners are eligible to nominate qualified individuals. Nominations from political entities are not accepted.
- Self-nominations must include a brief statement highlighting the nominee's eligibility for the award.
- Nominees must be of Arab nationality and provide proof of their Arab origin by supplying a birth certificate from an Arab country, an Arab passport, or other relevant documents attached to the application.
- Nominees must be researchers in the respective field and hold a Ph.D. in that field or a closely related one.
- Self-nominations must be accompanied by a list of three referees from science fields, in addition to the name of one scientific institution recommending the nominee.
- The scientific output must be innovative and highly significant to the field, published within the past twenty years. This includes published or accepted research papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals, authored books, translated works, edited volumes, or chapters in books, all with an ISBN or ISSN. Literary and artistic works, master's and doctoral theses, and publications derived from them will not be considered as part of the nominee's achievements.
- Applications and scientific output must be submitted electronically. Applications for awards related to basic sciences and applied sciences must be in English.
- Scientific output should be sent in PDF format via cloud storage services such as Google Drive, Dropbox, or OneDrive, and emailed to kuwaitprize@kfas.org.kw.
- Decisions of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science are final and not subject to appeal.
- The deadline for receiving nominations is Friday, June 30, 2023.



4. Jaber Al-Ahmad Award for Young Researchers

To encourage distinguished scientific talents in various fields of knowledge, and to promote Ph.D. holders from the country to engage in research, studies, authorship, and translation across different branches of scientific production, the award spans various fields. While not exclusively focusing on translation, works awarded may include translated materials, thus encouraging translation activities as well.

Eligibility for the Award

- The applicant must be a Kuwaiti citizen and not older than 45 years at the time of the award announcement.
- The applicant must hold a Ph.D. degree recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education, except for government university faculty members on scholarship.
- Those applicants in the medical and allied health sciences fields who do not hold a Ph.D.) require a fellowship certificate.
- The scientific output submitted must include:
 - Research papers published or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals (at least 8 papers post-Ph.D.).
 - Research papers published in the proceedings of scientific conferences.
 - Research papers presented as oral or poster presentations at scientific conferences.
 - Authored, translated, or edited books, or the authorship of one or more chapters in a book.
 - Scientific articles, studies, reports, and patents.
- All works must be submitted electronically in PDF format via cloud storage services (Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive). Scanned images of documents are not accepted.

International Translation Conference

The Department of English at the College of Arts, Kuwait University, organised the first International Translation Conference in 2019. The conference was attended by several faculty members and invited delegates from various international universities. The aim of the conference was for participants to exchange experiences in the field of translation and present the latest developments in translation studies.

Legal Aspects of Translation

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice makes significant efforts to regulate legal relationships in general and to ensure the quality of translation services in particular. However, there remains a pressing need to formulate standard models for translation contracts to govern the relationship between service providers and recipients.

Translation Guidelines and Quality Assurance

The state encourages the publication and translation of various books, guides, and indexes in numerous fields, including legal legislation. Despite this, there is an urgent need to prepare a comprehensive set of guidelines for the translation industry.

Translated documents are authenticated based on their issuance from an accredited translation office, without evaluating the quality of the translation. Therefore, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice has dedicated a special department for the certification of translations submitted by companies and institutions. The certification process follows specific conditions and mechanisms, but there is still a pressing need for a set of guidelines to ensure the quality of translations.



Summary of Current Situation, Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations

1. Current Status of Translation in in Qatar

Subject	Unavailable	Available	
		Complete	Needs improvement
1. Legislative Aspect			✓
2. Professional Licenses			✓
3. Translation Tests	✓		
4. One Entity Responsible for Translation	✓		
5. Translation Associations			✓
6. Translation Glossaries and Dictionaries	✓		
7. Standardised Translation of Official Terminology/ Titles	✓		
8. Official Registration of Offices			✓
9. Translator Training Institutions			✓
10. Translation Awards			✓
11. Periodic Translation Conferences			✓
12. Translation Guides	✓		
13. Quality Assurance Guides	✓		

2. Opportunities

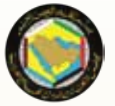
Opportunity	Description
1. Investment of financial resources	The Kuwaiti government's budget is adequate for implementing initiatives to improve translation training programs and to encourage citizens and residents to join the field of translation.
2. Investment in Grants for translation	Resources can be put towards grants for translating books and references from various languages into Arabic and translating Arab intellectual heritage into other languages to promote Arab and Islamic culture worldwide.
3. Building on Kuwait's cultural successes	Given the significant role of Al-Arabi magazine in elevating Kuwait's status across the Arab region, Kuwait should leverage this experience by producing translations of similar quality to reinforce Kuwait's cultural contributions globally.
4. Corporate social responsibility programs in private sector	Companies and business sectors should be encouraged to invest in the translation sector through corporate social responsibility programs, enriching the Arabic library with new knowledge resources and providing translated books and materials at affordable prices for all members of the community.
5. Highlighting distinguished translators	At certain symposiums and book fairs organised by the Kuwait Translators Association, the spotlight is often on the pioneers of the translation movement in Kuwait. However, these efforts should be intensified, showcasing models of distinguished translators to inspire younger generations in the field of translation including the translation of fiction and other creative writing.
6. Establishing a government body for translation activities	A dedicated government entity should be established under the relevant ministry to oversee translation activities in Kuwait. This entity would issue laws regulating translation activities, certify translators, license their practice, and publish references and guidelines to help governmental and private institutions, as well as translators, understand translation quality standards.
7. Launching an electronic portal	An electronic portal should be developed that regularly tracks data on translators, translation activities, and publications, making it easier to access translation service providers in the country.



3. Challenges

Challenge	Statement
1. Unqualified individuals entering the translation profession for financial gain	Many individuals have entered the translation field without understanding the dimensions, processes, and roles of the profession. They may have entered the field purely for financial reasons, especially those individuals lacking the skills and capabilities acquired through academic or practical training necessary to fulfil the translator's role.
2. Lack of key components in the state's translation system	One of the biggest challenges facing the translation movement in Kuwait is the absence of a single entity responsible for translation activities. Although various government bodies regulate and support translation, there is a critical need for a central authority to oversee translation activities comprehensively. Due to this absence, it is challenging for researchers or observers to obtain specific information about the translation market, such as its size, the number of professionals, translation rates, or contracts between service providers and clients, leading to issues like the loss of rights and acceptance of low rates that do not support quality services.
3. Urgent need for practical experience for translators	The demand for translation is increasing, but many university graduates are not adequately or appropriately qualified. Moreover, those teaching translation curricula often focus on linguistic theories and rules but lack practical experience and applied skills necessary for excellence in translation. Many instructors have not practised translation and are only qualified to teach theory.
4. Focus on proficiency in foreign languages at the expense of Arabic	Translators must be proficient in both Arabic and English. However, many academic institutions emphasize proficiency in English and other foreign languages for graduate students without stressing the importance of Arabic, even though translation from and into Arabic relies on proficiency in both languages and cultures.
5. Lack of scientific and cultural awareness among translators	Translation studies often focus only on foreign languages with limited attention to Arabic in some institutions. However, translation should extend to studying all fields of knowledge, with experts from various domains (e.g., medicine, law, economics, media, accounting, engineering) participating in training to ensure translators are well-informed and professionally equipped to deal with translations across various disciplines.
6. Absence of comprehensive quality control	Although some regulatory bodies like the Ministry of Justice certify translation quality, their focus is limited to official documents and excludes other types of translation, particularly translations of fiction. This lack of comprehensive quality control weakens translators' competencies.
7. Engaging non-specialized translation offices	In Kuwait, numerous small offices and companies offer translation services at low prices compared to the average income level of the population. These entities tend to attract translators who are either unprofessional or insufficiently qualified, resulting in low-quality translated materials.

Challenge	Statement
8. Need for laws and regulations governing the translation process	Currently, there is no Kuwaiti law regulating the translation process, unlike the regulations in other countries such as the UAE. The requirements for obtaining a translation licence in Kuwait are inadequate, relying solely on a university degree without thorough scrutiny or examinations.
9. Lack of platforms or databases for registering professional and accredited translators	There are no electronic initiatives in the country to assist service seekers and providers to connect with and access competent and qualified translators, as exist in the major translation platforms like Proz.com, Elance, and TranslatorsCafe of other countries. These platforms facilitate the connection between clients and translators and help regulate translation prices in the absence of governmental oversight.
10. Absence of authorized glossaries, references, or guides for translation	In Kuwait, no entity, including the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters - despite its role in issuing catalogues and general guidelines - provides references for translators or service recipients to assess the quality of translations. Additionally, there are no uniform state-issued guidelines to inform translators of the correct names of public and private entities, military and official titles, historical figures, and other approved terms. Consequently, translators often resort to checking the entity's website in both Arabic and English or referring to printed publications.
11. Lack of law regulating practice requirements for the translation profession	There is no law regulating the practice requirements for the translation profession. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Information has abolished the requirement for translation applicants to hold a specialized degree in a foreign language as was previously mandated. Therefore, the translation field in Kuwait lacks professional standards in terms of oversight, responsibility, competence, and experience, often leading to disastrous outcomes due to inaccuracies in translation.
12. Difficulty in purchasing translation rights	The purchasing of translation rights remains one of the greatest challenges for publishing houses and institutions wishing to translate foreign books and bring them to Kuwait. Communication with foreign publishers requires proficiency in the communication language in order to obtain rights. Moreover, reaching an agent can be challenging as some foreign agents delay responses for months before granting approval. Although there are also works that have been published without an agent, the translator's consent must be obtained, thereby ensuring his or her rights.
13. Challenge of censorship of publishing	Despite Kuwait's openness to importing foreign knowledge and investing in it, state censorship without clear standards often restricts public access to many works. Libraries suffer from censorship more than publishing houses; however, the latter translate and incur translation costs, only for their translated works to be rejected by censors, resulting in financial losses for the publishers.



4. Recommendations

1. There is a need to establish a specialized governmental body under the relevant ministry to oversee the translation movement in Kuwait. This entity should issue laws regulating translation activities, certify translators, license their practice, and produce references and guidelines to aid both governmental and private institutions, as well as translators, in understanding translation quality standards.
2. An electronic portal should be created to regularly record translator data, translation activities, and publications. This portal would facilitate access to translation service providers within the country and help regulate translation prices in the absence of government oversight.
3. Financial resources should be invested to enhance translation training programs, encourage citizens and residents to join the translation field.
4. Resources should be allocated to endowment funds dedicated to translating books and references from various languages into Arabic and translating Arab cultural heritage into other languages to promote Arab and Islamic culture globally.
5. A law should be enacted to establish and regulate the practices of the translation profession. This law should mandate that those seeking to practise translation hold a specialized degree in a foreign language or translation and establish professional standards regarding oversight, responsibility, competence, experience, and quality.
6. The success of Kuwait in publishing the renowned Al-Arabi magazine should be emulated as it produces high-quality translations that reinforce Kuwait's cultural contributions worldwide.
7. Businesses should be incentivized to invest in the translation sector through corporate social responsibility programs, enriching the Arabic library with new knowledge resources and providing translated books and materials at affordable prices for all sectors of society.
8. It is essential to identify and highlight the pioneers of the translation movement to enhance these efforts and introduce exemplary translators to the younger generations as role models in the field of translation and creativity.
9. Support should be provided for translators and the translation movement by facilitating the purchase of Arabic publishing rights for translated works from foreign sources and facilitating the procedures for support, registration, and publishing permissions. This support would help translators and publishing houses overcome the current challenges associated with translation and licensing.
10. There is a need to curtail the random practice of translation by unqualified individuals and to enact legislation preventing unqualified persons from entering the field of translation and foreign languages. This is to ensure the integrity of the Arabic and Kuwaiti libraries, keeping them free of poorly-executed translations.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

This research has thoroughly examined the translation sector in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Each section dedicated to a specific country included an assessment of the current translation landscape, based on available information and our analysis to provide a summary in a quickly-accessible form. Tables were provided at the end of each section to demonstrate the current sector of translation in each country. Below are the findings for each aspect examined in this study, along with comparisons between the GCC countries.

1. Legislative Aspect

The research highlights the need for GCC countries to enhance and develop their legislative frameworks concerning the translation sector. The laws and regulations in the United Arab Emirates and Oman are more comprehensive and detailed compared to those of other GCC countries. These laws cover various aspects of the translation profession and its practice, including some procedural legal aspects. Given the similarity in legislative environments across the GCC, it would be beneficial for these countries to learn from each other's experiences to improve their own regulations.

2. Professional Licences

There is a notable similarity and connection between GCC countries regarding professional licensing and how it is handled. However, all countries need further attention and improvement to align translation licences with those of other professions such as engineering and medicine. Currently, the translation field remains generally linked to official registration of individuals or institutions without professional licences to support translators' work.

3. Translation Tests

There is a lack of professional translation tests, except for the UAE, which has a requirement for translators in legal translation, though details about the test and its standards are not provided. The “Certified Translator” test in its trial version, prepared by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission at the Ministry of Culture in Saudi Arabia, is noteworthy. This test was developed following specialized courses for professional translators in the public and private sectors on various translation topics, and it was based on internationally recognized standards. This initiative is worth examining and emulating. However, there still remains a pressing need for a professional translator test.

4. One Translation Entity

All GCC countries agree that there is currently no single authority responsible for translation that issues legislation, licences, or official registration, among other responsibilities. This raises the question of the feasibility of establishing an institution or authority responsible for all translation-related responsibilities, including legislation, official registration, professional tests, monitoring the profession, licensing, setting specific standards, and providing translation quality assurance guides.

5. Translation Associations

There is variation among GCC countries in terms of translation associations. Saudi Arabia stands out with its recent establishment of the Saudi Translation Association (SATA), overseen by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission. This association has a clear strategy and has undertaken various activities within a short period. In contrast, translation associations in the UAE and Kuwait need development and improvement to keep pace with the progress in other GCC countries. Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar

currently do not have non-profit translation associations.

6. Translation Glossaries and Dictionaries

The study shows that the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Oman have various glossaries on different topics, some of which were not issued by governmental entities and are still being developed and improved. Saudi Arabia has numerous glossaries covering different sectors, but most are limited to Arabic and English, indicating a significant need for development and improvement, particularly by including other languages. The study did not find any such glossaries in Qatar and Kuwait, highlighting the need for collaborative work to produce comprehensive glossaries and dictionaries to serve translation in the GCC countries across all sectors.

7. Standardisation of Official Terminologies

Saudi Arabia has taken steps to standardise official terminologies through the Official Translation Department of the Prime Minister's Office. This includes standardizing the translation into foreign languages of names, titles, and government and non-government entities. However, other GCC countries tend to rely on commonly-used translations and terminologies, leaving room for individual interpretations.

8. Official Registration of Translation Offices

All GCC countries have an official registration system for individuals and entities involved in translation, whether domestic or foreign. The requirements and regulatory authorities vary, but most countries base their criteria on the applicant's educational qualifications and similar requirements for other professional registrations.



9. Translation Training Institutions

GCC countries offer various training programs and degrees in translation, including diplomas, bachelor, master's, and doctoral degrees. Saudi Arabia is particularly notable for its extensive postgraduate programs. Training and qualification programs in translation are available for multiple languages.

10. Translation Awards

All GCC countries offer awards related to translation, either as specific translation awards or as part of broader cultural awards. Qatar and Saudi Arabia are distinguished by their international translation awards.

11. Translation Conferences

All GCC countries host local and international translation conferences and seminars, albeit with different objectives and levels of participation. Some conferences are annual, while others are less frequent.

12. Translation Guides

The study shows that no GCC country has officially published translation guidelines for translators or the translation sector in general, highlighting the need for such guidelines and collaborative efforts to develop them.

13. Quality Assurance Guides

Quality assurance is crucial for professional practice and governance. Therefore, access to quality assurance guides for translations is vital for improving the translation sector and establishing standards for all types of translation.

In conclusion, we extend our gratitude to all the researchers and supervisors who contributed to this study. We also thank the esteemed members of the supervisory committee, the Saudi Translation Association, the reviewers, and the administrative staff. May Allah grant us success.

Recommendations

The studies specific to each GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) country have revealed several opportunities, challenges, and recommendations for the development of the translation sector in each country. The majority of these studies converged on several key recommendations, which are prioritized below based on their importance and frequency of occurrence in the sub-studies.

1. Organizational Aspect (Establishing an Authority Responsible for Translation Affairs in Each GCC Country)

- It is crucial for each GCC country to establish a government or semi-government authority responsible for translation affairs. This body should oversee the activities, standards, and regulatory aspects of the translation profession. It would support, supervise, and regulate translation practices, including the legislative aspects, quality control, and licensing of translators. It should also have the authority to license translation activities, classify and accredit translators, monitor their activities, and output, and ensure the quality of translators' performance and that of translation institutions. Additionally, it should provide arbitration, review, and legal support services for the translation field.
- Programs, seminars, conferences, scientific and economic events, and media channels should prioritize local and Gulf translators for tasks such as written, consecutive, and simultaneous translation. This would ensure consistent terminology, promote best practices, improve competencies, and harness localize expertise.
- It is essential to prevent unqualified individuals from practising translation in conferences, translation offices, and institutions without proper training and professional classification by an authorised state entity. Similarly, it is important to regulate and limit the activities of unqualified or unlicensed translation offices, publishing houses, and translation companies. These entities should not be allowed to invest in or influence the translation market without adhering to standardised and professional criteria. There should be an urgent and diligent effort to mitigate their negative impact on the profession and the translation movement, protecting the Arabic library from poor and unethical translations.



2. Establishing a Unified GCC Electronic Platform for Communication and Human Capital in Translation

This platform would collect, monitor, record, classify, and make accessible the relevant data pertaining to translators and specialised translation entities. It would also include a database of completed translations, facilitating communication with professional and accredited translators. This would facilitate interactions between translators and relevant stakeholders, celebrate outstanding translators, showcase their achievements, and support emerging translators.

3. Building a National Monitoring Agency for Translation in Each Country

Each GCC country should establish a National monitoring agency that gathers accurate data and statistics necessary to understand and analyse the current state of translation activities, publications, challenges, opportunities, and outcomes. This would assist decision-makers to make informed decisions that will successfully direct the translation sector, guided by the findings and recommendations of this agency.

4. Organizing Meetings between Academic and Training Institutions Specializing in Translation

- Efforts should be made to achieve integration and coordination between academic programs that grant translation qualifications in the GCC countries. This aims to ensure a common and specific goal, with a balanced focus on linguistic preparation. The Arabic language should receive the attention it deserves, ensuring that the learning of foreign languages does not come at its expense; this will help to make graduates job-ready so that they can meet the labour market needs of the GCC countries.

- There is a need to increase focus on scientific research in translation studies and not just on the production of translations.

5. Issuing Translation Guides, Glossaries, and Reference Dictionaries in Different Languages including Arabic

There is a need to develop and publish translation guidelines, glossaries, and reference dictionaries for the Arabic language to support the translation movement in the GCC countries. There should be one uniform set of guidelines established by the relevant government ministry or department to assist translators and standardise the names of government and non-government entities, official and military titles, technical terms, and historical figures and so forth.

6. Investing in Social Responsibility Programs to Support the Translation Sector

Organizations in the private sector, and businesses, should be encouraged to integrate into their social responsibility programs those activities that will support the translation movement and the work of translators. This includes sponsoring their projects, recognizing outstanding individuals, and supporting cooperative and volunteer translation projects and field training in collaboration with university translation departments.

7. Conducting a Comprehensive Study on the Feasibility of Establishing Endowment Funds to Support Translation

GCC countries should establish endowment funds and encourage philanthropists and institutions to support these funds with grants. This would facilitate the translation of sources, creative works, books, and references from different languages into Arabic and vice versa. It also involves translating Arabic intellectual heritage into other languages. Moreover, encouraging knowledge exchange and

cultural understanding between GCC countries and other countries worldwide is particularly important given the respective government's focus on cultural activities and the crucial role of translation in this regard.

8. Prioritising Translation from and into Living Foreign Languages

It is essential to prioritize other foreign languages besides English, considering the increasing number of investments in GCC countries and this region's tourism offerings to the rest of the world. This will benefit communication and formal interactions among everyone within GCC countries, promoting a broader linguistic and cultural engagement.

9. Enhancing Gulf Presence in Regional and International Translation Awards

GCC countries should broadcast their accomplishments in regard to translation awards and local, regional, and international research, and educational grants. These efforts should be leveraged to improve translation activities, coordinate efforts to achieve excellence, and ensure GCC translators receive the attention, support, and participation they deserve.

10. Establishing Specialized Scientific and Professional Associations

It is crucial to establish non-profit scientific and professional associations to improve the standards and quality of translators, strengthen professional networks, and encourage collaborative work. This will support the translation movement and improve its outcomes.

11. Organizing an Annual Gulf Forum Under the GCC General Secretariat:

An annual Gulf forum should be held under the auspices of the GCC General Secretariat and supervised by the GCC Centre for Translation, Arabization, and Promotion of Arabic to discuss translation issues. These include:

- Emphasizing the importance of leveraging the outstanding experiences and practices of global translation and publishing institutions. This encompasses the selection of translators, the development of translation aid systems, machine translation technologies, and AI-assisted translation. It also involves adopting best practices for executing, accelerating, intensifying, and improving translations, as well as utilizing cutting-edge technologies to enhance productivity, accuracy, speed, competitiveness, and quality in Arabic library translations from and into Arabic.
- Prioritizing the selection of targeted translation content by linking it to the developmental priorities of GCC countries. This ensures that the selected translation projects align with the social and cultural landscape of the local context in GCC countries, preserving the content from Westernization and identity dilution. This promotes the cultural, intellectual, and civilizational adoption of the content, contributing to the enhancement of knowledge, skills, human understanding, and respect for other cultures worldwide.
- Leveraging success stories and cultural and historical assets unique to each GCC country to capitalize on the translation movement, reinforcing their standing and enhancing their presence on the international cultural stage.

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