

Analysis of Linguistic and Cultural Aspects in Translation of 'Official Invitations for a Symposium on Socotra Island'

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Abstract

This study investigated the translation errors found in Arabic invitations and their English counterparts, focusing on a sample of invitations that the Center for Studies and Environmental Sciences, University of Aden issues issued in 2002 for participating in First International Symposium on Socotra Island. Using a descriptive qualitative approach and content analysis design, the study identified a range of translation issues, particularly in lexical, semantic, and grammatical domains. These errors, attributed to a lack of familiarity with cultural norms in English-speaking contexts, underscore the importance of both linguistic competence and cultural awareness for translating formal documents. To address these challenges, the study recommends a specialized translation team of professionals trained in both language and intercultural communication. Such a team would help ensure that official documents, including conference invitations, reflect the institution's academic standards and foster effective international collaboration.

Keywords: Documents, Socotra, symposium, translation errors, University of Aden

- **Received:** May 12, 2025
- **Accepted:** August 14, 2025
- **Published:** August 25, 2025

DOI: 10.56540/jesaf.v4i2.117

To cite this article (APA):

Salem, A. (2025). Analysis of Linguistic and Cultural Aspects in Translation of 'Official Invitations for a Symposium on Socotra Island'. *Journal of English Studies in Arabia Felix*, 4(2), 14-26. DOI: 10.56540/jesaf.v4i2.117

Introduction

Translation plays a crucial role in facilitating communication and fostering mutual understanding across languages and cultures. It involves interpreting a text written in one language (the source language) and producing an equivalent version in another (the target language). As an established academic discipline, translation has been defined and approached in various ways. Despite these diverse perspectives, scholars generally agree on a central principle: the accurate transfer of meaning between languages. Lefevere (1992) defines translation as “a rewriting of an original text” (p. 56), highlighting the process of reformulating the source material in a different linguistic context while preserving its original intent.

Since translation is not only a process of transferring words but also messages from one language to others, researchers (e.g. Al-Khulaidi & Alzokhaimy, 2022; Alqohfa & Sanad, 2025) confirm that the main task of translators is to translate such messages appropriately and be aware of the associated nuances to avoid problems whether on economic, cultural or even political levels. Therefore, translators must make a great effort when translating any type of text. Furthermore, to present the meaning appropriately, some steps should be followed. The first is that the translator should have knowledge of the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the source language text. Analyzing the source language will assist in figuring out its meaning, then restructuring the same meaning by using lexicon and grammatical structure that are properly in the target language and its cultural context (Larson, 1984)

On the other hand, even if the translator has sufficient knowledge about translation and linguistic theory and other domains, there are still some hurdles when conducting translation processes. Some hurdles commonly encountered by translators are meaning components (lexical items), word meaning occurs in several contexts, one word represents several meanings, and one meaning represents several words. Based on some studies that conduct research on translation errors, they discovered some types of error in translation and the causes of such errors (Herrera-Espejel et al., 2025; Newmark, 1988). Nonetheless, the translator's mission requires presenting a work that mimics the original in form, content, style, and spirit, and at the same time observes the nature of the target language (hereinafter TL) and its cultural dimensions. Also, he highlights four levels which translators work on are: *science* in which knowledge of languages is required, *skill* which calls for appropriate and acceptable language use, *art* involving good style of writing that is creative, intuitive and inspired, and finally, *taste* where individual preferences and differences are expressed and reflected upon (Al-Kadi, 2022; Newmark, 1988). According to him, good translators are never satisfied with satisfactory translation, which is usually achievable, but they tend to attempt improvement in their means of expression as well as expansion in their knowledge, since there is no such thing as perfect, ideal, or correct translation.

Research Problem

Translation involves conveying meaning from one language to another, often across languages with distinct grammatical structures, cultural norms, and linguistic systems. When translating between Arabic and English languages from different families, errors are common due to these inherent differences. Such mistakes are not exclusive to novice translators; even experienced professionals may struggle with nuances and cultural appropriateness (Al-Khulaidi & Alzokhaimy, 2022; Alqohfa & Sanad, 2025; Herrera-Espejel et al., 2025). This study addresses the issue of translation errors in a specific context: the English translation of an Arabic invitation to the First International

Symposium on Socotra Island. It aims to identify and analyze the types of errors present in this translation, focusing on lexical, semantic, and grammatical inaccuracies. Additionally, the study seeks to uncover the underlying causes of these errors, including linguistic limitations and cultural misunderstandings. By examining this case, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of the challenges involved in translating formal documents and provides recommendations for enhancing translation practices in academic and institutional settings.

Research Questions

This study strives to answer the following questions:

1. What specific translation errors can be identified in the English version of Arabic official documents of the First International Symposium on Socotra Island?
2. What linguistic and cultural factors contribute to these translation errors?

Review of Literature

Throughout history, translation was considered a tool of communication among nations. Human beings from different nations, races, and cultures used translation to share knowledge, to transfer cultures, and to know each other. Accordingly, the difference in the linguistic system among languages poses some errors in translation due to such differences. For instance, the Arabic sentence order is subject(s), verb (v), object (o) or v, s, o whereas in English there is only one form s-v-o. Therefore, the role of a translator is to reduce the gap to connect different languages and cultures (Cúc, 2018). To translate a text from source language into target language means to study the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the source language text; analyze the source text to determine its meaning; restructure the same meaning using lexicon and grammatical structure context (Larson, 1984).

An error refers to the production of incorrect forms in speech and writing by a non-native speaker of the target language, due to the insufficient knowledge of the rules and structures of that target language. Pym (1992) highlights that errors emerge from different levels of language, pragmatics, or culture. There are different translation errors committed by translators. Popescu (2001) identifies three kinds of translation errors they are linguistic error, comprehension error, and translation error. In the same regard, Yousfi (2014) illustrates that translation errors encountered by the translators are not due to the lack of knowledge of the target language, but the source and target language, such as the structure, vocabulary, and punctuation.

Regarding the causes of the translation errors, Baker (2011) attributes such errors to the non-equivalence between the source and the target. In addition, Nord (1997, p. 75) classifies translation errors into the following categories:

- Pragmatic translation errors, caused by inadequate solutions to pragmatic translation problems, such as a lack of receiver orientations
- Cultural translation errors, due to an inadequate decision regarding the reproduction or adaptation of culture-specific conventions
- Linguistic translation errors, caused by an inadequate translation when the concentration is on language structures
- Text-specific translation errors, which are related to a text-specific translation problem and, like the corresponding translation problems, can usually be evaluated from a functional or pragmatic point of view.

Arabic-English Translation Errors: Common Challenges

Translation between Arabic and English presents a range of challenges that frequently result in errors, particularly when linguistic, cultural, and contextual factors are

not adequately considered. One of the most prevalent issues is overly literal translation, which occurs when translators adhere rigidly to the source text's structure without accounting for syntactic and semantic differences. Al-Khulaidi and Alzokhaimy (2022) emphasize that literal translation, when devoid of contextual awareness, often leads to unnatural phrasing and miscommunication, especially in academic and professional settings (Al-Kadi, 2022). Colas (2018) underscores importance of dynamic equivalence in translating ideologically and culturally loaded terms, arguing that accurate translation requires conveying the intended meaning rather than the literal form. His analysis concepts demonstrate how literal translation can distort meaning and highlight the necessity of context-sensitive strategies, which are equally applicable to emotionally and culturally nuanced texts such as those involving emotional eating or psychological counseling.

Another significant source of error is the mishandling of cultural nuances. Cultural references and values embedded in the source language may not have direct equivalents in the target language, making cultural competence essential for accurate translation. Alqohfa and Sanad (2025) argued that artificial intelligence tools often fail to capture these subtleties, resulting in culturally inappropriate or misleading translations. This underscores the need for human translators to possess deep cultural knowledge of both source and target languages.

Register and tone also play a critical role in translation accuracy. A failure to match the formality level and emotional tone of the source text to the expectations of the target audience can result in a disconnect between the message and its reception. As Baker (2011) and Nord (1997) suggest, translators must consider the communicative intent and audience expectations to preserve the integrity of the original message. Likewise, idiomatic expressions pose a unique challenge, as their meanings are often non-literal and culturally bound. Translating idioms word-for-word typically leads to confusion or loss of meaning. Alqohfa and Sanad (2025) highlight that idioms are particularly vulnerable to mistranslation in AI-assisted contexts, where semantic nuance is often overlooked. Larson (1984) and Newmark (1988) similarly stress the importance of understanding idiomatic usage and finding culturally appropriate equivalents.

Terminological inconsistency is another common issue, especially in specialized fields (Alasbahy & Shamsi, 2023). Using different terms for the same concept within a single document can confuse readers and undermine the credibility of the translation. Cúc (2018) and Popescu (2013) advocate for the use of glossaries and terminology databases to ensure consistency and clarity. Besides, ambiguities in the source text must be carefully analyzed before translation. Misinterpreting ambiguous phrases or terms can lead to significant errors. Yousofi (2014) recommends that translators consult subject matter experts or conduct thorough textual analysis to resolve ambiguities effectively. Moreover, ignoring context, whether linguistic, situational, or cultural, can severely distort the meaning of a translated text. Contextual awareness enables translators to make informed decisions about word choice, tone, and structure (Lefevere, 1992; Nord, 1997).

While machine translation tools have advanced considerably, reliance on them without human oversight often results in errors, particularly in nuanced or context-dependent texts. Alqohfa and Sanad (2025) caution against overreliance on AI, noting that post-editing by skilled translators remains essential to ensure accuracy and appropriateness. Neglecting proofreading and revision can give way unnoticed errors.

Method

This study comes under descriptive qualitative research. According to Creswell (2012), qualitative research is "an inquiry approach useful for exploring and understanding a central phenomenon" (p. 58). Fred and Perry (2005) also point out that

qualitative research is "to do in-depth investigations that need information-rich samples" (p. 626). The research design employed in this study is a qualitative content analysis. In qualitative content analysis, the aim is to identify themes in the text being analyzed and to identify the underlying meaning of those themes. Newman (2007) defines content analysis as a "technique [used] for gathering and analyzing the content of the text" (p.227). The researcher in this study focuses on exploring the mismatches between the SL and the TL texts, and their effects on the translated text (Invitations to participation in the First International Symposium on Socotra Island' from Arabic into English).

Data Collection and Analysis

The data for this study were obtained from an official document. As Creswell (2014) explains, "researchers collect data themselves through examining documents, observing behavior, or interviewing participants" (p. 239). In line with this approach, the primary source of data in this study is a quarterly leaflet issued by the Center for Studies and Environmental Sciences at the University of Aden. A purposive sampling strategy was employed to select relevant extracts from the leaflet dated October 2, 2002. This method aligns with Creswell's (2014) assertion that "the idea behind qualitative research is to purposefully select participants or sites or documents or visual material" (p. 240). The selected excerpts were chosen based on their relevance to the research objectives and their potential to provide meaningful insights into the topic under investigation.

The dataset was analyzed using qualitative content analysis. This involved a systematic examination of the selected extracts to identify recurring themes, patterns, and meanings. The analysis focused on both manifest content (explicitly stated information) and latent content (underlying meanings and implications). Categories were developed inductively, allowing themes to emerge from the data rather than being imposed beforehand. This approach ensured that the analysis remained grounded in the context and language of the original document.

Results and discussion

The source text (which is Arabic text in this case) on the left side of the text are the source text. The target text (which is English text in this case) will be written on the right side of the text and signed as target text. The translation errors under investigation are available in the translated text (English). The models of Popescu and Nord mentioned above were adopted as a guideline in the analysis process of the text. In what follows is an analysis, interpretation, and discussion of the translated text ('Invitation to Participation in the First International Symposium on Socotra Island' from Arabic into English), and the results are displayed and discussed below.

Types of Translation Errors Identified

This section addresses the first research question. The analysis revealed a range of translation errors as outlined and discussed below. As can be observed from the text below, the Arabic expression *تحت رعاية فخامة الرئيس* was translated into "Under the patronage of Highness". The translator committed two errors, the first is a linguistic error, "grammatical in particular" when he missed the adjectival pronoun "his", and the second one is a stylistic error when he used the word "Highness" instead of "Excellency". The word *Highness* is commonly used with "Kings and Princesses," not with presidents. Therefore, the appropriate translation of the above Arabic expression would be "under the patronage of His Excellency".

Source text (ST)

تحت رعاية فخامة الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية تنظم جامعة عدن بالتعاون مع الهيئة العامة للتنمية وتطوير الجزر اليمنية الندوة الدولية العلمية الثانية حول الاستراتيجية التنموية لأرخبيل سقطرى والجزر اليمنية الأخرى وذلك تنفيذاً لأحد توصيات الندوة الدولية الأولى حول جزيرة سقطرى التي نظمتها جامعة عدن خلال الفترة من 26-224 مارس 1996 والتي لعبت توصياتها دوراً كبيراً في رفع مستوى الأهتمام الرسمي بالجزيرة وتميبتها

Target text (TT)

Under the patronage of Highness The President Ali Abdullah Saleh President of the Republic of Yemen. The University of Aden is organizing the 2nd International Symposium in association with the executing one of the recommendations of the 1st International Symposium organized by the University of Aden during the period from 24-26 March 1996, of which its recommendations played a great role in enhancing official level of consideration to the Island and its development.

The second Arabic expression of the above paragraph which is included errors when translated into English is: بالتعاون مع الهيئة العامة للتنمية وتطوير الجزر اليمنية الندوة الدولية العلمية الثانية حول الاستراتيجية التنموية لأرخبيل سقطرى والجزر اليمنية الأخرى وذلك تنفيذاً لأحد توصيات الندوة الدولية بالتعاون مع الهيئة العامة للتنمية وتطوير الجزر اليمنية الندوة الدولية العلمية الثانية حول الاستراتيجية التنموية لأرخبيل سقطرى والجزر اليمنية الأخرى was completely deleted which means it is not translated into English. Though the omission strategy is one of the useful translation strategies, it is widely used in long texts and its use shouldn't affect the meaning. Thus, the above Arabic deleted expression is considered as an essential in the letter and its deletion posed confusion to the comprehension of the expression.

Regarding the third Arabic expression of the paragraph, وذلك تنفيذاً لأحد توصيات الندوة الدولية الأولى حول جزيرة سقطرى, it is translated into "in association with the execution of one of the recommendations of the 1st International Symposium:". Clearly, the translation error is vivid, and it is represented mainly in linguistic error, particularly 'lexical error', whereas the English phrase "in association with" does not match the Arabic conjunction وذلك. Thus, the suitable translation to the above expression is "based on the execution of one...".

The fourth Arabic expression of the paragraph is "والتي لعبت توصياتها دوراً كبيراً في رفع مستوى الأهتمام الرسمي بالجزيرة وتميبتها", which is translated into "of which its recommendations played a great role in enhancing the official level of consideration to the Island and its development. The translation error committed in translating this expression represents the word order in addition to the style. The translation, to some extent, didn't convey the message effectively. Hence, it would be better to render it into "which its recommendations played a crucial role in raising the level of official interest in the Island"

Source text (ST)

وبالرغم من انتقال جزيرة سقطرى إدارياً لمحافظة حضرموت إلا أن جامعة عدن ارتأت أن تستمر في اهتمامها بالجزيرة ودراسة الجوانب المختلفة لجزيرة سقطرى والجزر اليمنية الأخرى وذلك امتداداً لاهتمامها المبكر بالجزيرة الذي بدأ في عام 1982 .

Target text (TT)

The University of Aden has sought to continue paying attention to the Island as well as studying the other Yemeni Islands as an expansion of its early consideration about the Island, which was started in 1982

It can be seen from the first part of the above paragraph that the Arabic expression وبالرغم من انتقال جزيرة سقطرى إدارياً لمحافظة حضرموت is entirely neglected, and it is not translated. As mentioned above, adopting a deletion strategy is not preferable in short texts because it affects delivering the message properly. Looking closely at the expression,

it can be noticed that the deleted expression is essential in achieving communication. Therefore, the translation error led to a lack of communication and a lack of the body of the message as well. The expression can be rendered as "despite the administrative transfer of Socotra Island to Hadhramout governorate..."

Regarding the second part of the paragraph, the Arabic expression *ودراسة الجوانب المختلفة لجزيرة سقطرى* was translated into "as well as studying". The translation error is a linguistic "lexical" error. The translation does not match the original and it does not reflect the suitable equivalence to the ST. Hence, the accepted translation would be "and studying the different aspects of Socotra Island".

Source text (ST)

ولا زالت تولي الجزر اليمنية اهتماماً خاصاً ونذكر على سبيل المثال وليس الحصر بعض اهتمامات جامعة عدن بالجزيرة خلال العشرين السنة الماضية:

Target text (TT)

It still pays special attention to the Yemeni Islands because of their importance. It has become worth mentioning to outline some of the University of Aden considerations about the Island during the past twenty years.

Through looking at the translation of the Arabic expression *ولا زالت تولي الجزر اليمنية*, it still pays special attention to the Yemeni Islands because of their importance. The translator used the addition strategy when he added the phrase Islands because of their importance, which is not available in the original text (Arabic). Though it is one of the translation strategies, using it sometimes causes a mismatch with the original text. There is another small spelling mistake in the word "past" which was written without "t".

Source text (ST)

القيام بعدد من الرحلات العلمية من قبل بعثات كلية التربية- جامعة عدن كانت أولها بعثة قسمي الأحياء والجغرافيا في عام 1982 م.

Target text (TT)

This text was not translated

It has been observed that the above Arabic expression was not translated at all. The deletion is unjustified. The translator committed a big mistake in neglecting this part, which led to a miscommunication of the message.

Source text (ST)

القيام بعدد من الزيارات البحثية من قبل الفرق البحثية التابعة لمركز دراسات وعلوم البيئة بالجامعة.

Target text (TT)

Undertaking several research visits organized by research terms/ groups of the Centre for Environment Science studies.

From the above text, the translator committed a lexical error when he failed to select a suitable equivalent to the Arabic word "القيام", which was translated into "undertaking". Thus, the right translation of the Arabic word would be "carrying out". Another mistake appears in the word "environment," which was written with a misspelled "o" letter.

Source text (ST)

إعداد وترجمة ونشر 8 كتب
إنجاز ونشر أكثر من 50 بحثاً ودراسة.

Target text (TT)

-Translating & publishing 8 books
-Writing & publishing more than 50 papers and studies.

- تنظم الندوة الدولية العلمية الأولى حول جزيرة سقطرى والتي ناقشت أكثر من 80 بحثاً وتم نشرها في ثلاثة مجلدات. المشاركة في إنجاز عدد من المشاريع البحثية مع المؤسسات المحلية والدولية.
- Organizing the 1st International Symposium on "Socotra Island" into which more than 80 research papers were submitted, discussed and published in 3 volumes
- Participating in accomplishing several research projects conducted jointly with local and international organizations.

Here, the translation of the Arabic expression achieved communication. The translation error occurred only in replacing the active voice in the ST with the passive voice in the TT. Though the text is informative, the active style is the appropriate one in such text not passive. Another spelling mistake occurred in the word "accomplishing", which was written with "e" instead of "o" letter.

Source text (ST)

Target text (TT)

دعوة للمشاركة:
انطلاقاً من أهمية الجزر اليمنية المتعددة، وسعياً من جامعة عدن لربط أعمالها البحثية بشئون المجتمع اليمني وتنميته، ونظراً لأهمية هذه الندوة فإنه ينبغي أن تتضافر جهود جميع المؤسسات والمنظمات المهتمة بالجزر هتمين بمختلف اليمنية وكذلك الم اختصاصاتهم ومواقعهم لإنجاح هذه الندوة.

Call for participation

Due to the importance of Yemeni Islands and the obligance of Aden University to link its research activities with the Yemeni society environment development; and for the susces of this of this symposium, it is essential that efforts of all corporation, organizations concerned with the Yemeni Islands, as well as those concerned researchers and academicians should cooperate to successfully organize this symposium.

The above translated text included translation errors, which represented linguistic errors (lexical errors) and spelling mistakes. The word "obligance," which was provided to be equivalent to the Arabic word *سعيًا*, is not available in the English language at all. Another translation error is provided in the name of the university. It is broadly known that the name of the university is "University of Aden", but the translator rendered the name "Aden University", which is the name of another university. The Arabic phrase *بشئون المجتمع اليمني وتنميته* translated into "with the Yemeni society environment development. Obviously, the translation error represented linguistic error (lexical) which caused miscommunication. The Arabic word *بشئون* translated into "environment" which doesn't make sense and the whole phrase has become vague. Spelling mistake provided in the word "success" which was written "susces" by the translator. Therefore, the accepted translation to the above Arabic expression would be "in an effort by the University of Aden to link its research works to the affairs and development of Yemeni society".

As seen in the following excerpt, the Arabic expression was translated properly but only the last point which included linguistic error "grammatical" when he translated the Arabic name "البيئة" into adjective "environmental" instead of "environment". Thus, the translation doesn't match the ST *السياحة والبيئة* which can be translated into "Tourism and Environment" instead of the aforementioned translation.

- محاور الندوة Topics of the symposium
- التنوع الحيوي في جزيرة سقطرى والجزر اليمنية الأخرى. - Biodiversity in Socotra Island and other Yemeni Islands.
- المميزات الطبيعية والبيئية للجزر اليمنية. - Natural/ Biological and ecological characteristics of the Yemeni Islands.

- السكان والبيئة (الحياة الاجتماعية, الاقتصادية, الثقافية, التعليم, الصحة و....)
- Population and environment (social, economic, and cultural life, education, health, etc.)
- التنمية وأثرها على بيئة الجزر اليمنية.
- Development and its impact on the environment of the Yemeni Islands.
- الموارد الطبيعية
- Natural resources.
- السياحة والبيئة
- Environmental tourism.

Source text (ST)

تواريخ هامة
- ترسل الملخصات قبل 30 مايو 2003م
- الرد على قبول الملخصات قبل 30 يونيو 2003م.
- إرسال البحوث كاملة قبل 30 أغسطس 2003م.

Target text (TT)

Deadline for receipt abstracts/articles
abstracts submissions must be received by 30 May 2003
notice of acceptance or rejection of abstracts will be sent to authors/ researchers by 30 June 2003
articles should be submitted in full by 30 August 2003.

It is obvious that the translator committed some errors in translating this part of the letter "invitation". The Arabic expression تواريخ هامة was translated into Deadline for receipt of abstracts/articles. Though the translation achieved communication through applying an additional translation strategy, it doesn't reflect the original text. So, the translation would be more appropriate if it applied the literal translation, such as "significant deadlines". Another error in the translation emerged in style. The Arabic expression -ترسل الملخصات قبل 30 مايو 2003م was translated into Abstracts submissions must be received by 30 May 2003. It is vivid that the translator rendered the Arabic passive verb ترسل into the English passive verb must be received instead of "must be submitted". The suitable translation would be "Abstracts must be submitted before 30 May 2003".

Source text (ST)

تعليمات للباحثين
- الملخصات تكتب باللغتين العربية والانجليزية بحيث لا تتعدى 200 كلمة.
- الابحاث كاملة لا تزيد عن 15 صفحة وترسل على دسك مرن برنامج نسخة Word الإلكتروني وثلاث نسخ ورقية.
- لغة الندوة العربية والانجليزية.

Target text (TT)

Notes for researchers
- Abstracts must be written either in Arabic or in English, with an abstraction both languages and should not exceed be between 200 words in length.
- Articles should be no longer than 25 pages.
- Researchers should submit the papers on disk with a hard copy (MS WORD) together with three copies of mauscrips.
- Languages of symposium are Arab and English.

The Arabic expression الملخصات تكتب باللغتين العربية والانجليزية بحيث لا تتعدى 200 كلمة was rendered into Abstracts must be written either in Arabic or in English, with an abstraction in both languages and should not exceed 200 words in length. The translation doesn't match the original due to the linguistic error "grammatical and lexical". As noticed in the ST, there is no choice in writing the abstracts, whether in English or" Arabic as mentioned in the translation, but they should be written in both languages, Arabic and English, as it is stated clearly in the ST. Another error emerged in the second part of the expression, specifically in the addition of be between which added more confusion to the translation.

Hereby, the appropriate translation would be “Abstracts should be written in Arabic and English and shouldn’t exceed 200 words”.

Source text (ST)	Target text (TT)
<p style="text-align: center;">المراسلات ترسل المرسلات الخاصة بالندوة إلى العنوان التالي: أ.د. صالح علي باصرة رئيس جامعة عدن ورئيس اللجنة التحضيرية للندوة الدولية العلمية الثانية حول الاستراتيجية التنموية لأرخبيل سقطرى والجزر اليمنية الأخرى- جامعة عدن -خور مكسر</p>	<p>Correspondence: All correspondences regarding the symposium should be addressed to; Prof. Dr. Saleh A. Ba-surrah Rector University of Aden Chairman of the organizing Committee of the Second International Symposium on THE DEVELOPHNG STRATEGY OF SOCOTRA ARCHIPELAGO AND OTHER YEMEN ISLAMDS. University of Aden- Khormaksar</p>

The above Arabic expression was rendered properly into English as the translation achieved the communication and there is no translation error seen.

Lexical, grammatical, stylistic, and spelling errors, as well as omissions and additions, can be summarized. Lexical inaccuracies were among the most frequent. For instance, the Arabic phrase "فخامة الرئيس" was translated as "Highness" instead of the more appropriate "His Excellency". Additionally, the use of non-existent words such as "obligance" indicates a lack of lexical awareness. These errors distorted the intended meaning and undermined the formality of the invitation. Grammatical mistakes included incorrect sentence structures, misuse of passive voice, and confusion between word forms. For example, the phrase "must be received" was used instead of "must be submitted", altering the communicative intent. Errors in subject-verb agreement and word order also contributed to miscommunication. Stylistic and register errors included the tone and register of the English translation often failed to match the formal nature of the original Arabic text. The inconsistent use of institutional names—“Aden University” instead of “University of Aden”—and awkward phrasing diminished the professionalism of the document.

As for omissions and additions, several key phrases were omitted without justification, such as the administrative transfer of Socotra Island to the Hadhramout governorate. Conversely, additions like “because of their importance” were inserted without basis in the source text, leading to semantic drift. Spelling mistakes such as “susces” for “success” and “Envirnment” for “Environment” were prevalent. These errors, though minor in isolation, collectively affected the credibility of the translation.

Causes of Translation Errors

This section addresses the second research question. The findings suggest that the errors stem from a combination of linguistic limitations and cultural misunderstandings. Based on the analysis and discussion presented in the previous section, it is observable that all the translation errors provided by Popescu and Nord existed in the translation of this letter "invitation". The translation errors are represented mainly in linguistic errors, specifically "lexical and grammatical errors". Through analyzing the translated text, it has been seen that the translator is incompetent in translation due to insufficient knowledge of lexical items. The translator failed in many positions to select the appropriate vocabulary that suits the context of the meaning. In addition, he didn't achieve a match with the source text (Arabic in this case). What is stranger is the existence of the word “*obligance*” in the translation, which is not available in the English language ever. It has been

observed that he selected words and phrases that didn't reflect the equivalent of the source. He also neglected some sentences which were considered a core of the letter.

Inconsistent terminology is another problem that has been noticed in the translation, specifically in the University of Aden, as with other similar contexts (Alasbahy & Shamsi, 2023). This is an indication of the weakness of information on the importance of terminologies in translation because interchangeability of terms leads to miscommunication (Alasbahy & Shamsi, 2023). Another translation error existed in grammar; it has been observed through discussion that the translator has a scarcity in English grammar. In some positions, he uses nouns instead of verbs, and sometimes he uses adjectives instead of nouns. It is also noticed that the translator neglected the linguistic context in some positions, and he failed to achieve communication. All in all, the Arabic text "letter of Invitation" was not translated properly in English, and the translation included many errors that caused miscommunication of the letter.

Overall, there are linguistic limitations, cultural misunderstandings, inadequate translation strategies, and a lack of institutional oversight that together or separately cause the errors outlined above. The translators demonstrated insufficient proficiency in English vocabulary and grammar. This was evident in the misuse of technical terms, incorrect syntactic constructions, and poor word choice. The lack of familiarity with idiomatic expressions and formal writing conventions further contributed to the errors. Cultural references in the Arabic text were often mistranslated or ignored. For example, the use of "Highness" reflects a misunderstanding of diplomatic titles in English-speaking contexts. The failure to adapt culturally embedded expressions led to translations that were either inappropriate or unclear. The translator relied heavily on literal translation and deletion strategies, which are unsuitable for short, formal texts. These approaches resulted in the omission of essential information and the introduction of unnatural phrasing. In addition, the absence of a professional translation team or editorial review process likely contributed to the poor quality of the translation. The study recommends that institutions like the University of Aden establish specialized translation units to ensure linguistic accuracy and cultural appropriateness in official documents.

Since the University of Aden is a governmental institution and the documents that are issued by such institution, whether in English or Arabic, are official, there should be a specialized team in translation whose duty is to translate the documents of the University. Translators in such governmental authorities and translators in general must have enough linguistic knowledge in different aspects of language. Also, they should be knowledgeable in the culture of the source and target languages. In addition, they should be experienced in using technology in translation. There should be a revision of all translated documents of the University of Aden to see whether they are old or new and to be corrected.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that translating formal invitations from Arabic into English presents significant linguistic and cultural challenges. The analysis of the invitation to the First International Symposium on Socotra Island revealed multiple translation errors, stemming from limited proficiency in English and a lack of cultural awareness. These findings underscore the importance of translators possessing strong skills in vocabulary, grammar, cultural context, and stylistic conventions. Moreover, the study highlights the responsibility of institutions like the University of Aden to ensure the quality of their English-language documents, which are often circulated beyond local audiences. To address these issues, the study recommends the establishment of a specialized team of experienced translators within the University. Such a team would help produce accurate, professional, and culturally appropriate translations, thereby enhancing the institution's credibility and effectiveness in international communication.

Disclosure Statement: I (the author of this paper) hereby declare that research ethics and citation principles have been considered in all stages of this paper. I take full responsibility for the content of the paper in case of a dispute.

Ethics Statement: I confirm that the manuscript was created by the authors and not an AI tool or a large Language Model (LLM).

Conflict of interest: I know of no conflict of interest associated with this publication.

Funding: None

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