Challenges of Translating American and British Forensic Terms and Texts into Arabic

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Abstract

This study explores the challenges of translating American and British forensic terms into Arabic when dealing with forensic legal terms. The study aims to explore of the challenges, proposed solutions, and types of dictionaries used in the translation process. The study followed a quantitative method approach by developing questionnaires. The sample of participants included 30 translators specializing in the legal context as forensic translators. They participated in a methodological survey that covered various aspects of their professional experience. The results revealed significant differences in the translation of criminal legal terms among translators, highlighting the importance of understanding the meaning when written in British or American English. The study also sheds light on the translators' suggestions for addressing the challenges identified. The results highlight the importance of improving the translation process in the specialized field of forensic terms in the legal context. Additionally, the study recommends the importance of using specialized dictionaries after providing continuous training and qualification to enhance translators' abilities in translating the complexities of criminal evidence within the legal framework. Finally, the study provides valuable insights to enhance the translation of criminal legal terms and improve overall efficiency in this required field.

Keywords: forensic terminologies, translation challenges, Arabic, British English, American English

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

The translation process involves converting a particular linguistic discourse's meaning from one language into another. Translation is the process of changing the linguistic elements of one language into their equivalents and transferring text material from "a source-language (SL)" to the "target language (TL)" (Sánchez, 2009, p.59). According to Newmark (1981), translation must convey the writer's intention, unique views, and viewpoints as accurately and faithfully as possible, and must possess linguistic solid sensitivity as well as good knowledge of both the SL and the TL.

As for Ghazala (1995), the term *translation* refers to all the procedures and techniques used to extend a source meaning of language into a receiver language; it depends on the idea that meaning is a crucial component. So, understanding the meaning of a SL text is essential while translating to have the proper counterparts in the TL text. Hence, the resulting TL text will not express the exact message of the SL text if the translator does not cautiously comprehend the original meaning.

British and American English contain many types of differences and linguistic aspects that are difficult and time-consuming to trace and historically explain (Abu Fares, 2019). Therefore, when discussing the distinctions between British and American English in this study, we mean standard British English and standard American English. Likewise, discussing the differences between British and American English here is limited to vocabulary and semantics.

The researchers have noticed differences and gaps in forensic terms used in official correspondence, i.e., letters, texts, e-mails and memos which are translated from both American and British English (AE and BE) into Arabic by the Public Security Directorate (PSD). In many cases, if the source language is American, the intended meaning will be completely different from the intended meaning if the text is written in British. Forensic translators use different electronic dictionaries to save time, but these dictionaries do not provide translators with ideal and correct equivalents in Arabic. Translating these texts into Arabic usually faces specific challenges related to the type of the target language such as AE or BE. Thus, it is necessary to explore and investigate the challenges faced by forensic translators in order to reduce the difficulties they face when rendering specialized forensic texts.

This research aims to examine the problems and challenges of translating forensic terms in BE and AE into Arabic and sheds the light on the following research questions:

1. What is the effect of producing an inaccurate translation of a forensic text?

2. What are the challenges faced by forensic translators?

3. What are the recommended solutions to overcome these challenges?

4. What is the type of dictionaries (paper-based/ digital-based) preferred by forensic translators?

1.2 Forensic Translation

Forensic translators deal with two kinds of English forensic texts: British and American English texts. In many cases, a given forensic term may have different meanings in British English (BE) and American English (AE). This fact constitutes a challenge for translators. The challenges of forensic translation extend beyond linguistic disparities. Syntactical structures, legal nuances, and cultural connotations are integral components that demand careful consideration. Translating forensic terms involves a dance between the exactness required in legal discourse and the cultural sensitivity necessary to communicate effectively in the target language (Rosenhouse, 2013).

1.2.1 Forensic Translation from British English into Arabic

Translating forensic terms from British English into Arabic is a complex endeavor beyond linguistic challenges. It involves navigating legal intricacies, linguistic subtleties, and cultural variations. This delicate process requires a nuanced understanding of forensic science and legal frameworks to ensure the accurate preservation of legal meanings while maintaining linguistic clarity. In this section, the study explores the broader considerations involved in translating forensic terminology into Arabic, transcending regional variations to shed light on the complexities of this specialized field (Dweik & Suleiman, 2013).

1.2.2 Forensic Translation from American English into Arabic

Translating forensic terms from American English into Arabic indeed presents notable challenges. The differences in legal systems and linguistic nuances between the two languages create complexities that demand meticulous attention. The process requires a deep understanding of legal frameworks, cultural sensitivities, and linguistic accuracy to ensure precise and culturally relevant translations. Navigating these disparities while preserving historical and legal contexts is crucial for producing accurate and contextually appropriate translations in forensic science (Koppenhaver, 2007).

Translating American English forensic terms into Arabic presents significant challenges. Case studies involving crime scene documentation and courtroom proceedings highlight the intricacies translators face. These examples emphasize the crucial need for precision, showcasing the delicate balance required to maintain linguistic accuracy and cultural relevance. Exploring such practical insights provides a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in this specialized form of translation.

Translating American English forensic terms into Arabic requires more than just linguistic skills. Translators need a deep understanding of legal and cultural nuances. They should create specialized glossaries, work with legal experts, and show cultural sensitivity. This approach ensures that the translation captures the linguistic meaning and preserves the legal intent and cultural significance of the terms (Sher & Oliver, 2022).

1.3 Review of Previous Studies

Navigating the challenges of translating British and American forensic terms into Arabic requires more than linguistic proficiency; it demands a keen awareness of the legal and cultural settings. Strategies employed by translators may include the creation of specialized glossaries that capture the intricacies of British forensic language, collaboration with legal experts to ensure accuracy, and a heightened cultural sensitivity that goes beyond mere language equivalence. Prior research has investigated various aspects of translation, legal discourse, forensic linguistics, and lexical analysis, providing a basis for understanding the challenges and opportunities in these fields. This section reviews and discusses key studies relevant to the topics at hand.

Dickins (2012) investigates the challenges associated with translating culturally specific items. This study contributes to a broader understanding of cultural nuances in translation, with potential implications for legal and forensic contexts. These additional studies and resources expand the scope of previous research, covering various of topics within legal translation, forensic linguistics, and related fields. Such studies provided various insights and contribute to a more general understanding of the complexities involved in language, translation, and forensic analysis.

Ali and Abd Algane (2013) explore the significant role of forensic translation and interpretation in legal settings, particularly courtrooms. The study found that forensic translators use various linguistic mechanisms to mitigate or magnify defendants' culpability in court trials, such as modifying inaccurate lexical choices and using source language instead of target language words and phrases. They also focus on definitions and calques, repair mechanisms, hesitation forms, and polite expressions to express solidarity, and avoid face-threatening acts. The lexical choices of interpreters have been shown to influence judges and attorneys.

Schreiber (2014) further discusses the basic understanding of the principles of the proper use of language interpreters in therapeutic and forensic investigations and provides an overview of the literature on the usage of translators in medical settings and examinations by using a qualitative approach to examine the issues related to the interpreters' use in forensic medical examinations. The study provides a critical analysis and offers insights into the ethical considerations that should be considered when using interpreters in medical and forensic settings. The authors emphasize the importance of qualified interpreters trained in medical terminology and clear communication between the interpreter, doctor, and patient.

Mayfield (2016) investigates the challenges and complexities surrounding interpreter-assisted investigative interviews of non-English speaking victims and witnesses. The study focused on the consistency and standard of service provided by police to non-English speaking

victims and witnesses, and explored whether interpreters and investigators relied on any formal training or guidance documents. The study methodology involved a double-survey with police interpreters and investigators. The survey aimed to gather their perspectives on the challenges and complexities of interpreter-assisted investigative interviews of non-English speaking victims and witnesses.

del Arbol (2017) provides strategies and techniques for translators and interpreters to accurately translate and proofread Forensic Science and Law documents. The methodology used in the study included a review of existing research on the translation and interpretation of forensic science and law documents, interviews with experts and experienced translators and interpreters, as well as analysis of samples of forensic science and law documents to identify common translation and interpretation challenges. The study concluded that forensic science and law field documents produced that include technical terminology, complex noun phrases, and formal writing style can make translation and interpretation a challenging process.

Gómez-Durán and Jones (2018) investigates the challenges of language barriers in forensic psychiatry and psychology, emphasizing the importance of cross-cultural translation in legal and forensic contexts. This study highlights the need for linguistic accuracy in conveying complex psychological concepts across languages, especially when dealing with the justice system. The study suggested various ways to mitigate obstacles and difficulties faced by forensic translators, especially in clinical settings. Amongst these are early school years of language training and the availability of new technologies. Furthermore, instantaneous electronic translation applications on smartphones and computers are critical and needed to manage language barriers in therapeutic settings.

Akan, Karim, and Chowdhury (2019) examine an analysis of Arabic-English translation, focusing on identifying problems and prospects. This study adds to understanding the specific issues encountered in translating between Arabic and English, offering valuable insights for practitioners and researchers. The study suggests that in the case of translating a totally different linguistic system, such as the case of Arabic-English translation, translators need to be fully aware of the linguistic system of the target as well as the source language to enable them to tackle the deep and surface structure of the translated text. The study also suggests the importance of providing IPA transcriptions whenever needed to make them more accessible to non-native Arabic users.

Abu-Hammad (2020) examines the most common challenges police translators face in Jordan when translating police terms and phrases from English into Arabic. In addition, he examines the problems police translators face for variations of English such as British and American English. To achieve these objectives, a sample of (20) male and female police translators was selected, taken English into Arabic translation test and asked to translate two texts. The results of this study show that the most common difficulties and problems faced by professional police translators are related to using the exact equivalents of Arabic language for police terms, regardless of the lexical differences between BE and AE, and that translators face serious problems when dealing with police terms and expressions.

Barral and Amado (2021) delve into the application of scientific language study in the forensic context of law, where language and law intersect in forensic linguistics, a field that utilizes linguistic methods in legal contexts. The study hones in on the application of linguistic analysis and forensic translation in the context of forensic linguistics. It reviews and analyzes existing literature and research on forensic linguistics, linguistic analysis, and forensic translation to synthesize and discuss key themes and concepts related to the topic. The study concludes that linguistic analysis and forensic translation are not just components, but critical pillars of forensic linguistics, providing invaluable insights into language use in legal contexts.

Mohammed (2022) focuses on the significance of forensic translation in legal proceedings, specifically in criminal cases. The study adopted qualitative methods based on interviews or case studies with forensic translators. It emphasizes the crucial role of forensic translators in accurately conveying the message to ensure that all parties involved are treated fairly. Additionally, the study highlights the importance of forensic interpreters having a solid command of the language beyond just the witnesses and defendants in the court. Their role also involves correcting grammatical errors during the trial and making appropriate language choices. The study concluded that the role of forensic translators and interpreters in legal proceedings is crucial, and the language requirements for such professionals and their translation choices affect judges and lawyers.

Madadin et al. (2022) conducted a bibliometric analysis of research trends in forensic anthropology. Although not directly related to translation, this study demonstrates the importance of bibliometric approaches in gauging the growth and impact of research in forensic disciplines. Likewise, Sher and Oliver (2022) conducted a systematic review of the assessment of response bias in forensic contexts in the UK. This study adds a psychological perspective to forensic research, emphasizing the need for accurate and unbiased language assessments in legal proceedings.

Alduais, Al-Khulaidi, Allegretta, and Abdulkhalek (2023) meticulously examine the growth of forensic linguistics through a scientometric review, providing a comprehensive overview of the research setting in this interdisciplinary field. This study is important and suggests valuable insights into the fast growth and emerging trends in forensic linguistics research among 6,490 documents published between 1936 and 2022 from Scopus, WOS, and Lens databases. The researchers identify keywords that are frequently used in forensic linguistics such as legal language and translation, linguistics, human, authorship attribution, natural language processing system, and speech recognition. The study underscores the importance of raising public awareness about the implications of our daily language usage, such as copyrights and other rights, in the context of forensic linguistics.

2. Method

This section describes the data collection procedure, sample of the study, and study instrument. Furthermore, it describes the data analysis adopted in this study and the validity and reliability of the instrument.

2.1 Data Collection Procedure

The study design follows quantitative methodology. It aims to elicit information regarding the effects of mistranslations of forensic terms, challenges in translating forensic terms, solutions to overcome them, and the dictionary types translators prefer. This strategy allows for a meticulous examination of linguistic nuances, providing insights into how spesific terms are used in legal contexts and highlighting potential challenges translators face.

2.2 Sample of the Study

The study considers a purposive sample consisting of (30) translators majoring in English language who are working in three different security sectors under the Public Security Directorate (PSD) in Jordan. These three sectors are (1) Planning and International Cooperation, (2) Peacekeeping Operations Department, and (3) Family Protection and Juvenile Department. The questionnaires handed to the translators, whether personally or via email, to fill out the form prepared by Google Forms as shown below in the Google Docs: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrJxCyh8lPkWnHdSWLjAuqKfT8jsWdvGQrfCZB325-NWC8Xw/viewform?usp=sf_link. The translators received enough time to answer the items of the survey and they were allowed to use any kind of paper or electronic dictionaries. The translation test circulates to the thirty translators to investigate the possible obstacles they will encounter while translating.

2.3 Study Instrument

The developed data collection instrument consisted of four parts (See Appendix A). The first part of the quantitative data collection instrument is a structured survey question about the effects of forensic terms mistranslation. This survey was administered to forensic translators to gather quantitative data on the perceived effects of mistranslation of forensic terms. Participants responded by selecting multiple answers from four potential effects of forensic terms mistranslation, allowing for quantitative analysis of the impact of mistranslation on legal processes, communication, and overall accuracy from their perspective. The second part of the questionnaire is about the challenges of forensic terms translation. This survey aims to quantitatively explore the challenges forensic translators face in translating terms from American and British English into Arabic. Additionally, participants provide input on potential solutions to these challenges, enabling a quantitative analysis of prevalent issues and proposed remedies. The third part of the questionnaire is about the suggested solutions proposed by the participants. The fourth part is about the choice of the dictionary and its usage by translators. This survey investigates the quantitative aspects of forensic translators' reliance on dictionaries during the translation process. Questions assess the frequency of dictionary usage, types of dictionaries consulted (paper-based/online-based), and the translators' perception of dictionary adequacy. The quantitative data gathered facilitates an analysis of the role of dictionaries in mitigating translation challenges.

2.4 Data Analysis

Quantitative data collected from the tests and surveys is analyzed using statistical techniques. Descriptive statistics, such as frequencies, percentages, and means are employed to summarize and present the responses. This comprehensive quantitative data collection and analysis plan aims to quantitatively explore the accuracy of forensic translators, assess the impact of mistranslation, identify challenges, propose solutions, and examine the role of dictionaries in the forensic translation process. The results contribute to a robust understanding of the quantitative challenges in translating forensic terms.

2.5 Validity of the Instrument

The study instrument was validated before being distributed to the sample by a panel of referees (Appendix B). The four parts mentioned above were revised and peer-reviewed by a panel of English-Language university professors to ensure their suitability and determine whether they sufficiently meet the study's objectives. They requested minor revisions related to the arrangement of words in the second part and some phrasing adjustments in the remaining parts. The recommendations of the referees, with an agreement rate exceeding 95%, were taken into account.

2.6 Reliability of the Instrument

Reliability was measured by means of a test-retest procedure. The survey was given to ten English majors who were not members of the study's sample. Two weeks later, it was handed in again to the same students and the results proved being reliable, stable, and eventually suitable for the current study.

3. Results

This section provides the results of the statistical analysis of the survey that was responded to by translators in the field of forensic translation. Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to conduct appropriate statistical tests to answer the study's questions about the challenges in translating American and British forensic terms and texts into Arabic. This statistical analysis allows for a better understanding of the information collected through the survey. It can contribute to drawing conclusions and recommendations to help improve the practice of translating criminal texts between the mentioned languages.

3.1 Results of the First Research Question: What are Potential Effects of Forensic Mistranslation?

This section presents the results of the first research question, which is formulated as follows: "What are the potential effects of forensic mistranslation?" The aim is to identify the effects and implications of a mistranslation of forensic terms.. The results are shown in Table 1. below.

Table 1. Effects of Forensic Terms Mistranslation

Statement	Frequency
The loss of important context, making it difficult for investigators, attorneys, and judges to fully understand the evidence.	10
Misinterpretation of evidence due to inaccurate translation.	14
Witnesses who speak a different language may provide statements that are inaccurately translated.	12
Inaccurate translation has a crucial effect on communication and cooperation among law enforcement agencies and legal professionals.	10

The results in Table 1 provide valuable insights into translators' perspectives in the field of forensics. The followind is the frequency of each statement and its implications.

3.1.1 The Loss of Important Context, Making it Difficult for Investigators, Attorneys, and Judges to Fully Understand the Evidence (Frequency: 10)

This statement underscores the fundamental challenge of maintaining the context and nuances of evidence during translation. It reflects the idea that if context is recovered, it can help the complete comprehension of evidence by legal professionals, including investigators, attorneys, and judges. The selection of this option by 10 respondents highlights the recognized significance of context preservation as a challenge in forensic translation.

3.1.2 Misinterpretation of Evidence Due to Inaccurate Translation (Frequency: 14)

The high frequency of 14 respondents choosing this option emphasizes the critical concern of misinterpretation in forensic translation. Misinterpretation can have profound consequences, potentially leading to incorrect legal decisions and miscarriages of justice. This result indicates that translation accuracy is paramount to these translators, as it directly affects the interpretation of evidence.

3.1.3 Witnesses Who Speak a Different Language May Provide Statements That are Inaccurately Translated (Frequency: 12)

This statement draws attention to the potential risks when witnesses speaking different languages provide statements that are not accurately translated. This can distort their intended meaning and impact the credibility of their testimony it highlights the credibility of witnesses and the integrity of their testimony as significant concerns. The selection of this option by 12 respondents underscores the recognition of the impact that inaccurate translation can have on witness testimony in legal proceedings.

3.1.4 Inaccurate Translation has a Crucial Effect on Communication and Cooperation Among Law Enforcement Agencies and Legal Professionals (Frequency: 10)

The choice of this option by 10 respondents emphasizes the broader consequences of inaccurate translation. It underscores the interconnectedness of various stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies and legal professionals, and how inaccurate translation can hinder effective communication and collaboration. This result suggests that translators acknowledge the far-reaching implications of their work beyond individual cases.

In summary, these survey results reveal a strong consensus among translators on the critical importance of accurate translation in the forensic context. They recognize that challenges such as context preservation and avoiding misinterpretation have significant implications for the legal system, witness credibility, and effective communication among stakeholders. These findings reinforce the need for rigorous translation practices, specialized training, and continuous improvement in forensic translation to ensure justice is served accurately and fairly.

3.2 Results of the Second Research Question: What are the Challenges Faced Forensic Translators?

This question aims to investigate the difficulties encountered by forensic translators in their work and to explore the recommended strategies and solutions for effectively addressing and surmounting these challenges within the field of forensic translation, which plays a critical role in the legal and criminal justice systems. Table 2 shows the results of the challenges faced forensic translators, and the recommended solutions to overcome these challenges.

Table 2. Challenges of Forensic Terms Translation

Statement	Frequency
Forensic translation requires legal accuracy.	11
Bias and neutrality may affect the forensic translator in collecting and evaluating legal cases.	14
Forensic translation depends on specialized terminologies.	11
Forensic translation is subjected to cultural sensitivity.	10

The responses to the question regarding potential solutions to overcome inaccurate forensic translation provide additional insights into the strategies and considerations translators are crucial for addressing this challenge. The following sections display the result of each statement and its implications.

3.2.1 Forensic Translation Requires Legal Accuracy (Frequency: 11)

The selection of this statement by 11 respondents highlights the fundamental requirement for legal accuracy in forensic translation. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring translations align with the legal requirements and standards of the jurisdiction where the forensic work is conducted.

3.2.2 Bias and Neutrality May Affect the Forensic Translator in Collecting and Evaluating Legal Cases (Frequency: 14)

The high frequency of 14 respondents choosing this statement underscores the awareness of the potential challenges related to bias and neutrality in forensic translation. Forensic translators must remain impartial and objective when collecting and evaluating legal cases to avoid any distortion of evidence.

3.2.3 Forensic Translation Depends on Specialized Terminologies (Frequency: 11)

The selection of this statement by 11 respondents emphasizes the specialized nature of forensic translation. This recognition underscores the importance of translators' deep understanding of the specialized terminologies unique to the forensic field to ensure accurate and contextually relevant translations.

3.2.4 Forensic Translation is Subjected to Cultural Sensitivity (Frequency: 10)

This statement highlights the role of cultural sensitivity in forensic translation was chosen by 10 respondents. It acknowledges that cultural nuances can significantly impact the interpretation of evidence, and forensic translators should be attuned to these sensitivities to provide accurate translations.

3.3 Results of the Third Research Question: What are the Recommended Solutions to Overcome these Challenges?

The survey results further emphasize the complexity of accurate forensic translation and the multifaceted nature of potential solutions. The responses highlight the importance of legal accuracy, neutrality, specialized knowledge, and cultural sensitivity in addressing the challenges associated with forensic translation. Incorporating these considerations into translation practices can contribute to the reliability and fairness of forensic work in legal and investigative contexts. In their responses, they discuss the steps that should be taken to overcome inaccurate forensic translation. Here are the results provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Solutions to Overcome Inaccurate Forensic Translation

Statement	Frequency
Advancements in technology tools, such as translation software, assist forensic translators in maintaining consistency and efficiency in their work.	10
Specialized training in forensic terminology and forensic procedures benefits forensic translators in their work.	10
Explain the importance of cultural sensitivity when translating in international forensic cases.	10
Proofreading and a second translator review enhance the reliability of forensic translations.	10

The responses to the question regarding potential solutions to overcome inaccurate forensic translation provide insights into the strategies and approaches translators consider essential for addressing this challenge. The following are the results of each solutions.

3.3.1 Advancements in Technology Tools, such as Translation Software, Assist Forensic Translators in Maintaining Consistency and Efficiency in Their Work (Frequency: 10)

The selection of this option by 10 respondents reflects the recognition of the valuable role that technology, including translation software, can play in improving translation consistency and efficiency. Technology can aid translators in ensuring accuracy and streamlining their work processes.

3.3.2 Specialized Training in Forensic Terminology and Forensic Procedures Benefits Forensic Translators in Their Work (Frequency: 10)

The choice of this option by 10 respondents underscores the importance of specialized training for forensic translators. Forensic terminology and procedures are highly specialized, and providing translators with the necessary expertise can enhance the accuracy and reliability of translations in this field.

3.3.3 Explain the Importance of Cultural Sensitivity When Translating in International Forensic Cases (Frequency: 10)

This statement highlights the significance of cultural sensitivity in international forensic cases which was the choice of 10 respondents. It emphasizes the need for translators to convey words accurately and understand and respect cultural nuances and contexts, which can greatly impact the interpretation of evidence.

3.3.4 Proofreading and a Second Translator Review Enhance the Reliability of Forensic Translations (Frequency: 10)

This option was selected by 10 respondents which emphasize the value of quality control measures such as proofreading and second translator reviews. These steps can help identify and rectify errors or inaccuracies, ensuring the reliability of forensic translations.

These survey results indicate that translators recognize the multifaceted nature of addressing inaccurate forensic translation. They emphasize the importance of technology, specialized training, cultural sensitivity, and quality control measures as integral components of solutions to enhance the accuracy and reliability of translations in the forensic field. Implementing these strategies can improve outcomes and Justice delivery in forensic contexts.

3.4 Results of the Fourth Research Question: Which Type of Dictionaries (paper-based/ digital-based) Preferred by Forensic Translators?

The participants were asked about their use of dictionaries when translating forensic texts and, if applicable, the type of dictionaries they prefer. The results indicate the following, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Type of Used Dictionaries in Forensic Translation

Usage	Frequency	Percentage%
Electronic dictionaries	27	90.0%
Paper dictionaries	3	10.0%
Total	30	100.0

3.4.1 Electronic Dictionaries (Frequency: 27)

As indicated in Table 4, most respondents (90.0%) reported using dictionaries when translating forensic texts. Meanwhile, a smaller portion (10.0%) stated that they use paper dictionaries for this purpose. This finding reveals a prevalent reliance on dictionaries among translators when working with forensic texts. Notably, a significant majority (90.0%) of respondents opt for electronic dictionaries, which aligns with the modern trend of utilizing digital resources for translation tasks. Electronic dictionaries offer numerous advantages, such as ease of search, quick access to updated information, and portability.

3.4.2 Paper Dictionaries (Frequency: 3)

The minority of respondents (10.0%) who still prefer paper dictionaries indicate that traditional reference materials maintain a presence in the translation process, albeit to a lesser extent. While paper dictionaries may lack electronic counterparts' immediacy and search capabilities, some professionals may find comfort and familiarity in their use.

These results underscore the evolving nature of translation practices in the digital age, where electronic resources have become indispensable tools for translators. Furthermore, the preference for electronic dictionaries may also reflect the dynamic nature of forensic terminology, which often evolves alongside technological advancements and legal developments.

Understanding translators' dictionary preferences is integral to comprehending the tools and resources utilized in the translation of forensic texts. Such insights can aid in developing of strategies and resources to support translators in their work, ultimately contributing to improved accuracy and consistency in the translation of forensic terminology into Arabic.

In the results for "Choosing Special Dictionaries for American or British English, participants were asked whether they chose special dictionaries in American or British English when translating. The results show that 46.7% of respondents choose special dictionaries for American or British English. At the same time, 53.3% of respondents do not choose special dictionaries for American or British English. These results provide insights into the preferences and practices of translators when it comes to using specialized dictionaries for specific English variants.

4. Discussion

4.1 Discussion Related to the First Research Question: What Are Potential Effects of Forensic Mistranslation?

The findings regarding the potential effects of forensic mistranslation presented in the results align with established concerns in forensic linguistics and translation studies. The identified effects underscore the far-reaching consequences of inaccuracies in translating forensic terms and emphasize the crucial role accurate translation plays in the legal system as shown in the following disscusion.

4.1.1 The Loss of Important Context, Making it Difficult for Investigators, Attorneys, and Judges to Fully Understand the Evidence

The acknowledgment of the loss of important context as a consequence of mistranslation resonates with Myers, Well, and Lorch Jr's (2013) emphasis on the significance of context in forensic and legal settings. They argued that the loss of context can impede investegators, attorneys, and judges' understanding of evidence. Therefore, preserving context is fundamental in legal and forensic analysis.

4.1.2 Misinterpretation of Evidence Due to Inaccurate Translation

The concern about the misinterpretation of evidence due to inaccurate translation reflects a consistent theme in the forensic linguistics literature. Pole (2007) discussed the challenges of combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies in forensic research, emphasizing the potential for misinterpretation. The high frequency of the survey underscores the gravity of this concern, with misinterpretation having profound implications for legal decisions and justice delivery.

4.1.3 Witnesses Who Speak a Different Language May Provide Statements That are Inaccurately Translated.

The recognition that witnesses who speak a different language may provide statements that are inaccurately translated corresponds with Rosenhouse's (2013) examination of forensic linguistics issues and discussion of the importance of linguistic accuracy in forensic contexts. She stated that witnesses' statements are crucial evidence in legal proceedings, and inaccurate translation can distort their intended meaning, impacting the credibility of their testimony.

4.1.4 Inaccurate Translation has a Crucial Effect on Communication and Cooperation Among Law Enforcement Agencies and Legal Professionals

The acknowledgment that inaccurate translation has a crucial effect on communication and cooperation among law enforcement agencies and legal professionals was addressed by many researchers. Effective communication is pivotal in collaborative forensic efforts, and inaccurate translation can impede the coordination of law enforcement agencies and legal professionals, which aligns with the concerns highlighted by Gómez-Durán and Jones's (2018) exploration of forensic psychiatry and psychology in Europe.

Furthermore, the survey results regarding the effects of forensic mistranslation coincide cohesively with existing literature in forensic linguistics and translation studies. The emphasis on the loss of context, misinterpretation of evidence, impact on witness credibility, and hindrance to communication among stakeholders underscores the multifaceted challenges associated with forensic translation. These findings reinforce the urgent need for precise and culturally sensitive translation practices, emphasizing the implications of translation accuracy on the integrity of legal proceedings and the pursuit of justice.

4.2 Discussion Related to the Second Research Question: What are the Challenges Faced by Forensic Translators?

The survey's findings regarding the challenges faced by forensic translators and the recommended solutions goes in line with with previous studies in the field of forensic linguistics and translation. Below is the disscussion of each aspect which matches it with relevant literature.

4.2.1 Forensic Translation Requires Legal Accuracy

The emphasis on legal accuracy in forensic translation agrees with Altarabin's (2018), findings which highlighted the challenges of translating legal lexical features accurately. He maintained that legal accuracy is crucial to ensuring that translations meet the jurisdiction's standards where forensic work is conducted.

4.2.2 Bias and Neutrality May Affect the Forensic Translator

Recognizing bias and neutrality challenges are consistent with the broader issues addressed by scholars such as Rosenhouse (2013), who discussed general and local issues in forensic linguistics. According to her, maintaining impartiality and objectivity is vital to prevent distortion of evidence, as emphasized in the survey results.

4.2.3 Forensic Translation Depends on Specialized Terminologies

The acknowledgment of the specialized nature of forensic translation corresponds with the findings of El-Farahaty (2010), who conducted a comparative study on lexical and syntactic characteristics of English and Arabic legal discourse. She stated that specialized knowledge of forensic terminology is essential for accurate translations.

4.2.4 Forensic Translation is Subjected to Cultural Sensitivity

The importance of cultural sensitivity in forensic translation resonates with the work of Darwish (2012) and Dweik and Suleiman (2013), who discussed the challenges of translating cultural expressions and the impact of culture on translation. According to them, understanding the cultural aspects is crucial for interpreting evidence.

4.3 Discussion Related to the Third Research Question: What are the Recommended Solutions to Overcome these Challenges?

The results of the current study suggested solutions to overcome inaccurate forensic translation. These are mainly related to the translators' behaviors during their translation process. The following are the most important ones.

4.3.1 Advancements in Technology Tools Assist Forensic Translators

The recognition of technology, including translation software, aligns with the broader trend in forensic translation and legal discourse, where technological advancements play a significant role as stated by Borissova et al., (2018) who believed that technology enhances consistency and efficiency in translation.

4.3.2 Specialized Training in Forensic Terminology Benefits Forensic Translators

Specialized knowledge in forensic terminology is crucial for translators, emphasizing the need for training in this field. The importance of specialized training corresponds with the work of Coleman and Ogilvie (2009), who insists on this point.

4.3.3 Cultural Sensitivity in International Forensic Cases

Understanding and explaining the importance of cultural differences is essential in international forensic cases. The emphasis on cultural sensitivity aligns with Dickins's (2012) findings, which discussed translating culturally specific items.

4.3.4 Proofreading and a Second Translator Review Enhance Reliability

Ensuring reliability through review processes is a recognized practice in forensic translation. The emphasis on quality control measures, such as proofreading and second translator reviews, corresponds with the broader literature on translation quality assurance, such as Koppenhaver's (2007) study.

In summary, the survey results and discussions align with existing literature in forensic linguistics and translation, emphasizing the challenges of legal accuracy, bias, specialized terminology, and cultural sensitivity. The recommended solutions align with technological

advancements, specialized training, and quality control measures discussed in previous studies. Addressing inaccurate forensic translation is multifaceted, consistent with the complexities highlighted in the broader field of forensic linguistics.

4.4 Discussion Related to the Fourth Research Question: Which Type of Dictionaries (Paper Based/ Digital Based) Preferred by Forensic Translators?

The discussion on dictionary usage and preferences among translators provide valuable insights into the evolving nature of translation practices, particularly in forensic translation, as listed below.

4.4.1 Electronic Dictionaries Overall Usage (90.0%)

The overwhelming preference for electronic dictionaries supports the modern trend of leveraging digital resources in translation. The advantages cited, such as ease of search, quick access, and portability, reflect the practical benefits of electronic tools in the fast-paced field of forensic translation.

4.4.2 Paper Dictionaries Overall Usage (10.0%)

While a minority still uses paper dictionaries, this indicates that traditional reference materials continue to play a role, albeit to a lesser extent. The reasons for this preference may include comfort and familiarity, even though electronic dictionaries offer more immediate and searchable information.

The dominance of electronic dictionaries underscores the importance of staying current with technological advancements in translation. It also suggests that the dynamic nature of forensic terminology, evolving alongside technology and legal developments, requires the efficiency and accessibility offered by electronic resources.

The study's results regarding the preferences of "Choosing Special Dictionaries for American or British English" reveal valuable insights into the preferences and practices of translation experts. The data indicates that 46.7% of respondents opt for special dictionaries when translating American or British English, while 53.3% do not choose such specialized dictionaries.

The results emphasize the importance of recognizing individual preferences and practices within the field of translation, acknowledging that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. This information is crucial for guiding future discussions on translation methodologies and providing valuable considerations for translation training.

In summary, the survey results highlight the different settings of dictionary usage and preferences in forensic translation. The shift toward electronic dictionaries reflects a broader trend in digitalizing translation practices, emphasizing the importance of efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility in this dynamic field. Understanding these preferences is crucial for developing tailored tools and resources to support translators in their efforts to convey forensic terminology accurately into Arabic.

5. Conclusion

The study highlights the pressing need for meticulous translation practices, specialized training, and ongoing improvements in forensic translation for accuracy, fairness, and integrity in legal proceedings. The comprehensive analysis of survey results reveals nuanced challenges and solutions in forensic translation, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of the field. Insights into dictionary preferences, including a strong reliance on electronic dictionaries, reflect modern trends. Challenges highlighted include maintaining context, avoiding misinterpretation, and addressing cultural nuances, underscoring the vital role of precision. Proposed solutions emphasize legal accuracy, unbiased evaluations, specialized knowledge, and cultural sensitivity, providing valuable insights into the evolution of forensic translation and stressing the need for continuous improvement and specialized training.

In light of these findings, it is evident that translating forensic terms from American and British contexts into Arabic presents a multifaceted challenge. Translators must navigate not only linguistic differences but also the distinct legal systems, cultural nuances, and levels of recognition associated with these terms. The survey results emphasize the need for precise and culturally sensitive translation practices, particularly in legal and forensic contexts. Understanding the diverse challenges translators encounter is pivotal in ensuring accuracy, consistency, and clarity in legal proceedings, ultimately enhancing effective communication within forensics.

These insights can also serve as a robust foundation for future research endeavors, delving deeper into the intricacies of translating forensic terms between American/British English and Arabic. Further investigations can explore the implications of these translation challenges on legal proceedings and consider strategies to optimize the translation process, ultimately fostering cross-cultural understanding and legal efficacy.

6. Recommendations

Based on the results, the following are recommended:

1. Encourage forensic translators to participate in ongoing professional development programs to stay current on legal terminology, cultural nuances, and technological advancements.

2. Develop specialized training initiatives focused on forensic terminology, legal accuracy, and cultural sensitivity to enhance translators' skills in navigating the complexities of forensic translation.

3. Promote the use of electronic dictionaries and translation software to improve efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility. Translators should leverage technological tools for consistent and up-to-date translations.

4. Implement rigorous quality control measures, including proofreading and second translator reviews, to enhance the reliability of forensic translations and identify potential errors.

5. Facilitate collaborative platforms for forensic translators to share insights, discuss challenges, and exchange best practices. Building a community of experts can contribute to collective learning and continuous improvement in forensic translation.

6. Study the effect of wrong forensic translation on the accuracy of the ruling issued by the court.

Competing interests

Not applicable

Informed consent

Obtained.

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The Publication Ethics Committee of the Sciedu Press.

The journal's policies adhere to the Core Practices established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Provenance and peer review

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Data availability statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

Data sharing statement

No additional data are available.

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Appendices

Appendix (A): Data collection instrument

Dear participants, this survey is for the fulfillment of MA thesis about the challenges of translating American and British forensic terms into Arabic. This survey will take around 20 minutes to complete. Your answers are anonymous and will be used to overcome and improve these challenges in the future. We truly appreciate your insight and your time.

1. **A. Do you use dictionary when you translate forensic texts? If yes, what kind of dictionary do you usually use?**
   2. Electronic dictionaries
   3. Paper dictionaries

   B. When you translate, do you choose special dictionary for American or British?
   1. Yes
   2. No

Below are four options related to the challenges, effect, and solutions for forensic translation. rate them from (1-5), where (**1 is the most important**) and (**5 is the least important**).

2. **What do you think is the potential effects of forensic mistranslation?**
   1. Misinterpretation of evidence due to inaccurate translation.
   2. The loss of important context, making it difficult for investigators, attorneys, and judges to fully understand the evidence.
   3. Witnesses who speak a different language may provide statements that are inaccurately translated. This can distort their intended meaning and impact the credibility of their testimony.
   4. Inaccurate translation has crucial effective in communication and cooperation among law enforcement agencies and legal professionals.

3. **What steps should be taken as solutions to overcome inaccurate forensic translation?**
   1. Specialized training in legal terminology and forensic procedures benefit forensic translators in their work.
   2. Advancements in technology tools, such as translation software, assist forensic translators helps in maintaining consistency and efficiency in their work.
   3. Explain the importance of cultural sensitivity when translating in international forensic cases.
   4. Proofreading and second translator review enhance the reliability of forensic translations.
   5. All the above.

4. **Forensic translators face several unique challenges due to the critical nature of their work. Some of these challenges include:**
   1. Forensic translation depends on specialized terminologies.
   2. Forensic translation requires legal accuracy.
   3. Forensic translation is subjected to cultural sensitivity.
   4. Bias and neutrality may affect the forensic translator in collecting and evaluating legal cases.
   5. Forensic translation faces technical challenges
   6. Privacy and Confidentiality.
   7. Chain of Custody.
   8. Time Sensitivity.
   9. Multidisciplinary Knowledge.
   10. Admissibility in Court.
   11. Technical Challenges.

Appendix (B): List of Referees

Name	Work Place
Dr. Ayman Mohammed Abdalhy Al btoosh	Al zaytoonah University of Jordan
Dr. Omar Lasassmeh	Mutah University
Dr. Mohammed Nofal	Arab open University, Kuwait
Major Samer Salman Abu Hammad	Chief of Translation Section, PSD
Major Feras Mohammad Alwaraydat	Peacekeeping Operations Department