
Difficulties Interpreters Face with Military Acronyms from English into Arabic

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Abstract

Interpreting military acronyms from English to Arabic, a domain characterized by linguistic and contextual complexities, possess several challenges. Military acronyms, with their continuous evolution and context-dependent nature, pose great difficulties for interpreters, especially in multilingual military settings. The study aims to identify such challenges and provide effective strategies for them. Through employing a qualitative method, the data was collected using semi-structured and focus group interviews from 21 experts in military interpretation. Participants were selected using purposive sampling to gather insights on the topic. Thematic analysis was used to identify recurring patterns and themes. The main findings reveal difficulties in the multi-expansion of acronyms, unrecognized terms, memory limitations, and the absence of standardization in Arabic acronyms. The research offered methods like, giving full expansions of acronyms, frequent practice, borrowing English acronyms, and developing Arabic equivalents as practical solutions. The study focused on the originality of the underdeveloped state of Arabic military acronyms and the importance of specialized training for interpreters. The findings place much emphasis on the critical need for collaboration between interpreters, linguists, and military personnel to enhance cross-linguistic communication. In conclusion, the study offers actionable recommendations on how to minimize interpretation challenges and emphasizes the need for further research into standardizing military acronyms and developing a comprehensive training program for interpreters in military settings.

Keywords: Military Interpretation, Military Acronyms, Borrowing Acronyms, Coining Acronyms, Unrecognized Acronyms.

Introduction

Translation has become a significant part of communicating between cultures. Modern technologies are being transferred among cultures based on translation (Ahmed, 2019). Military language provides a rich interplay of semantic and linguistic analysis due to its evolving nature, precision and specificity (Erkinovich, 2024). The growth in discourse about the military has been made possible by an assurance of publicizing military activities, military education and training ventures, and missions by the mass media, together with policymakers being informed and keen on matters that involve funding support, sharing power, and other aspects related to what happens after missions are carried out.

As long as interpretation is concerned, it is significant to set the borders between interpretation and translation. Newmark (1981) stated that “translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/

or statement in one language of the same message and/or statement in another language” (Newmark, 1981). On the other hand, Baker & Saldanha (2019) defines interpreting as “the oral translation of the oral discourse” (Baker & Saldanha, 2019). There are a variety of ways in which oral translation is provided, sometimes called interpretation. It includes simultaneous, consecutive, escort, whisper, written/sight, TV, over-the-phone, and sign translating. (Gutiérrez, 2021; Hamid et al., 2023).

Interpretation is a form of translation from source language (SL) into target language (TL). It is a process of finding what a single statement would sound in the TL if it is translated verbatim from SL (Al Juboori & Raju, 2023). Interpreters face challenges when translating from Arabic to English. These difficulties include the different origins of the languages, lack of syntactic knowledge, contextual and cultural differences and structural differences (Akan et al., 2019). The growing concerns of arabic interpreters

increased as the war on Iraq. As a result a wide range of factors were investigated that had an effect on interpreters including the geographical regions (Ruiz Rosendo et al., 2021).

Accordingly, translation and interpretation are two contiguous linguistic disciplines. Both share the same purposes of rendering equivalent meaning to TL despite translation and interpretation have mild differences. However, interpreters normally deal with problems in interpretation of military topics particularly. Acronyms and abbreviations are one of these difficulties in military topics. Newmark (2003) defined acronym as initial letters of a phrase “for denoting an object, institution or procedure” (Newmark, 2003). Short forms of words or phrases are known as abbreviations or acronyms and are spelled differently. Acronyms are formed by joining the first letter of words, as a result new words are formed (Siddig, 2022). As, NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) are used as acronyms. While abbreviation and acronyms might be used interchangeably by many, they still two different concepts. An abbreviation is “a shortened form of a written word or phrase used in place of the whole word or phrase “Amt” is an abbreviation for “amount” . Acronyms, however, is used by Bolinger (1968) to refer to “the combined pronunciation of the initial letters of composite names “ that relate to names, phrases, or social and political organizations (Bolinger, 1968). Therefore, the researcher, in this study, is using word ‘acronym’ to refer to both abbreviation and acronym.

It is worth noting that when it comes to acronyms, interpretation is much harder than translation. That is, interpreters are not provided with the time translators have, to look for the extension of the acronym. Further, translators can rely on dictionaries and other resources to determine the meaning of acronyms, which can be a nightmare for interpreters, especially when simultaneous interpreting is involved (Suryasa, 2016). According to Mehawesh & AL-Allawi (2024), among the challenges the professional interpreters face in translating from English into Arabic are also related to linguistic aspects, such as delivery speed, short-term memory of speakers, specialized terminology, acronyms, and abbreviations (Mehawesh & AL-Allawi, 2024).

The researcher has the privilege to be an officer and has served a military interpreter for more than 15 years. Noticeably, native English speakers in military services

are using military acronyms increasingly in different military disciplines. This widespread use in different fields and services formed an overlapping in the expansion of used acronyms. However, many acronyms have multiple meaning not determined by interpreters unless they fully comprehend the context and situation (<https://acronyms.thefreedictionary.com/DoD>). Moreover, recent joint operations led by US in Iraq have increased the use of military interpretation and consequently the use of acronyms by army personnel and these acronyms have become part of their daily spoken language in military.

The researcher noticed that soldiers in the US army tend to use acronyms and abbreviations exaggeratedly, and this sometime hinders communication although they are aware of emerged difficulties from using acronyms for both audience and interpreter. A part from aforementioned difficulties, the use of acronyms is necessary as they shortens the time of speech, save efforts, and encrypts information (<https://acronyms.thefreedictionary.com/DoD>).

As joint Military Operations- multi-national forces- have multilingual armies working together around the table to plan for and implement joint operations, interpreters are highly required to tackle language barriers in order to obtain instant collaboration during warfare (Rosendo, 2022). Military interpreters for joint training, exercise, and conferences could not memorize all acronyms expected to be used in their task. Therefore, interpreters with good experience and dependable memory capacity improve their individual techniques to overcome this challenge. However, some interpreters with reputable military background still face difficulties with interpreting a lot of military acronyms (Denysiuk et al., 2021).

Acronyms are newly growing linguistic phenomenon in English. These emerged as an evolution of the linguistic phenomenon and modern communication needs as to make language simplified (Maricar, 2024). However, acronyms and abbreviations, an essential part of English military language, which is initially aimed at facilitating communication and serving as the means of linguistic economy (Yemelianova & Shkurko, 2024). Also, interpreters from English into Arabic encounter challenges in rendering full expansions into Arabic. Unlike many other languages, the use of acronyms is still at the beginning in Arabic language. Arabic still resists the use of acronyms as a popular phenomenon which plays a significant role in hindering the increase and the progress of military

interpreting of acronyms (Asiri et al., 2024). Moreover, the frequent use of acronyms in English military is much higher and more difficult to understand and interpret for non-military people. It is also significant to mention that military personnel used to acronymize most of titles, companies, movements, weapons, and organizations. The increasing use of acronyms creates overlapping and ambiguity in some acronyms (Grossman Liu et al., 2021). Fair number of military acronyms stands for several expansions according to the field and arm. In such a case, interpreters become very confused to select the right one. This study explores the difficulties interpreters face while interpreting military topics in general and acronyms in particular from English into Arabic. It is not an easy task to figure out the right and full expansion for acronyms by interpreters due to the multi-expansion acronyms, or the acronyms that are unrecognized. Rather, the difficulty to pick out the correct expansion depends on the context and situation. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to provide more understanding about the difficulties encountered while interpreting of military acronyms from English into Arabic, with an attempt to find reasonable strategies and techniques to help interpreters tackle such issue. Findings of this study can potentially help interpreters overcome these difficulties, by practicing an adequate procedures and constructive techniques. It would help in developing techniques and strategies to improve the quality of interpreting military acronyms. Many research studies were performed on interpreting difficulties, and many other studies were performed on the translation of acronyms as well. Yet, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, there is lack of studies that address the difficulties encountering interpreters with acronyms in general and military acronyms in particular from English into Arabic. Accordingly, this study has the potential to benefit many stakeholders in the field of interpretations. Individual interpreters could benefit from the findings of this study as these findings could help them develop new strategies that help them becoming more efficient in their practices. This also helps them to become more confident and less stressed. Additionally, novice interpreters may benefit from the use of this study's findings. At the organizational levels, findings of this study may help the interpreting of conferences to be easier, more accurate, and ultimately more efficient. Finally, research in acronyms' interpreting from English into Arabic is scarce; therefore, this study would add to the body of knowledge in this area of research.

Literature Review

Military Language and the use of Acronyms in Military

The vocabulary of the military is always changing. Since it has coined new words, it has influenced the English language (Hanaqtah, 2019). Technical phrases, internal jargon, acronyms, abbreviations, and specialist terminology are all part of military language. For several reasons, including the rapid advancement of military technology, it has progressed significantly in recent years. Unlike nowadays, different military factions no longer stick to the same old vocabulary, and innovations are being developed rapidly.

The use of acronyms in military operations and warfare situations is growing instantly because they have several benefits as they help in coding information delivered via communication devices. An example of that; "Advancing IFVs and APCs were covered with fire of supporting MBTs". The full expansion for this sentence is: Advancing Infantry Fighting Vehicles and Armored Personnel Carriers were covered with fire of supporting Main Battle Tanks. There are various classes and categories that can enhance comprehension and be able to teach correct pronunciation for acronyms. This is going to be really essential for effective verbal communication during international cooperative operations. Abbreviations and acronyms were categorized into the following groups (Kadhim et al., 2022):

(a) Syllabic abbreviations and acronyms: In this case combined letters create a new word as in Radar: Radio Detection And Ranging.

(b) Initialisms: Letters are pronounced separately as in IPB: Intelligence Preparation of Battlefield

(C) Acronymized acronyms: In such acronyms, usually wide spread and well known meaning is marked by the first letter as in NRF: NATO Reaction Force

(D). Abbreviations consisting of acronyms: These abbreviations are partly pronounced by letters and partly as words as in JSOC: Junior Staff Officers Course

(E) Non-pronounced acronyms: Acronyms of military ranks, written instructions and indications fall into this category as in LTC/ Lt Col: lieutenant colonel

A fair number of used acronyms in each exercise with US and NATO expire by the time of closing the exercise itself. It is not surprising that the majority of military acronyms used in training are rapidly replaced with new ones. Therefore, such acronyms are not worthy of learning and

memorizing. Short living acronyms create big challenge for interpreters to render full form in consecutive or simultaneous interpreting. Standard communications, on the other hand, in all military branches i.e. air force, have comprehensive use of acronyms that can spare the valuable time in critical situations, and in addition, reduce the chances of miscommunication (Borowska, 2024).

Methodology

The study uses a qualitative approach to collect data through interview. Qualitative approach is the appropriate choice for a thorough in-depth understanding of acronyms phenomenon, and additionally, help researcher explore in detail this phenomenon and its related aspects.

Participants

Participants were selected based on their experience in military interpretations. They were selected based on their years of military experience, current position, interpretation experience, and time spent in English speaking countries. Purposive sampling is selected to gain insights and detailed information of the interpreters in military interpretation. A total of 21 participants were selected to conduct the interviews to reach the saturation level of data, which means that more participants will add no more information to the existing data.

Sampling

The sample of this study is divided into three groups of military interpreters. The first group is freelance military interpreters who work with military under intermittent contracts during multi-national military exercises and joint training. The second group of interpreters is the active military officers who are currently in uniform. This group of study practices interpretation in many ways including interpreting of overseas and local courses with English speaking instructors, accompanying delegations and visits, meetings for bilateral cooperation, and multi-national exercises. The third group is veteran interpreters from Jordan Armed Forces (JAF), and now employed as military interpreters in the UAE. Those Ex-officers in JAF gained their military background and interpreting experience in Jordan. Those interpreters practice full-time job in different fields of the army. They translate and interpret from English into Arabic and vice versa. They interpret for Americans or British instructors loaned from their respectful armies to train the Emirate military soldiers on new military assets and battlefield operations. I chose this group of interpreters because they are considered

highly professionals and would in turn enrich the quality of this research.

Data Collection Methods

Semi-structured and non-structured interview were utilized to gain in-depth data collection. In most cases, the researcher used predetermined questions as a guide to be discussed throughout the interview. Depending on the responses of the interviewee the researcher will conclude or probe and ask for more details to acquire additional data needed. Interviews were recorded using cell phone. The researcher used the same questions to audio-record the phone call or document the data gained.

Focus Group

The researcher also used the focus group method to collect data. Focus-group approach is an interview style that can be used to interview a small group of people, five to eight persons (Nobrega et al., 2021). The group dynamics and the interactions among and between participants stimulate more discussion by members. This method is very beneficial for exploring the emotions and feeling of participants. The group interactions can generate topics, ideas, issues, and even solutions to the problems of interest.

The researcher's professional background in the field of military interpretation helped to figure out the topic of interest. The academic degree, military background, and experience practiced in interpreting for military courses allowed the researcher to define the difficulty of interpreting military acronyms. Furthermore, the benefits of understanding the behavior of interpreters and native English speakers helped the researcher to conduct successful interviews.

Data Analysis

All interviews were conducted in Arabic, as it was the native language of all participants. At the end of each interview, there were recording of the interview with notes and ideas for the next interview. After analyzing all conducted interviews, thematic analysis was adopted to develop themes and identify the gaps of information needed, the researcher, again, resumed interviewing new participants after making some modifications to interview guide. The later interviews were focused on the themes that were not being explored.

Different methods were used to develop themes. The researcher looked for similarities and differences within and between interviews transcriptions by making

systematic comparison across information gathered from all participants.

Findings and Discussion

The purpose of the study was to find out the difficulties that interpreters face in interpreting military acronyms from English into Arabic and to identify the recommended strategies and techniques to improve the quality of interpreting military acronyms. Based on the responses of the participants, four themes emerged in relation to the first part of the study purpose namely: multi expansion for acronyms, unrecognized acronyms, memory capacity, and lack of Arabic acronyms. Each difficulty was supported by interviewees responses and three themes in relation to the second part of the study purpose namely: the Obligation to render full expansion at the first use, coining Arabic acronyms, and borrowing English acronyms.

Difficulties that Interpreters Face in Interpreting Military Acronyms from English into Arabic

The first difficulty interpreters face is the Multi-expansions for acronyms. English native speakers in military service increasingly use military acronyms in all fields of the army. The widespread use of acronyms in different fields led to an overlapping in the expansion of used acronyms. Many acronyms have multiple expansions that interpreters cannot determine the right selection unless they fully comprehend the context and the situation. Military personnel are used to acronymize most of titles, companies, movements, and organizations. Each branch in the army develops its own acronyms which are fairly difficult for other branches to recognize. Also, the creation of short-living acronyms is mainly due to the frequent conduction of training, exercises and maneuvers in all arms. Therefore, fair number of used acronyms in each exercise is terminated by the time of closing the exercise itself. Thus, it is not surprising that the majority of military acronyms which are used in training are rapidly replaced with new ones. As that military acronyms are productive and change with time (Hashimova & Sattorov, 2021). Moreover, the creation of new acronyms every time without applying specific rules to control this phenomenon leads to find multi-expansion acronyms. This, in turn, increases the vagueness and ambiguity of interpreting consecutive or simultaneous interpreting of military acronyms.

The participants mentioned their challenges of interpreting the acronyms especially with multi-expansion as they got confused in selecting the right one. They depended on

the context and the situation to determine the appropriate acronym. Participants reported that:

P1: The problem of interpreting acronyms is that some acronyms could have more than one expansion, and that would confuse the interpretation and puts the interpreter in challenging situations.

P3: I have to read in advance all expected acronyms for the following task, hoping that they might help me differentiate the appropriate expansion for the given acronym or abbreviation, (AA) for example could be interpreted into Anti-Aircraft or Avenue of Approach.

P7: The multi-expansion acronyms are confusing me, but normally the context and situation determine the right meaning for presented acronym.

The overuse of acronyms is supposed to be avoided, particularly among representatives of different arms and services in case of communications and correspondences.

The participants share the same view that they feel very troubled and confused of multi-expansion acronyms. They added that acronym production is an easy job for US soldiers; they just take the initial of the phrase to produce the new acronym. Then they start to use these acronyms during their exercises. Once exercises are finished, these acronyms start fading until.

The second difficulty interpreters face is unrecognized acronyms. Some of the military acronyms are universally recognizable, and they are familiar to most military personnel such as: AOR (Area of Responsibility). On the other hand, there are many unfamiliar acronyms that hinder the flow of interpretation. Such acronyms are used by particular fields of military personnel, and these acronyms can only be recognized by the personnel of the particular field who created them in the first place. Some participants went even beyond the difficulty of interpreting some acronyms. They highlighted that this problem could also make problems for native English speakers themselves who are sometimes not able to render full expansion for acronyms. They know what such an acronym represents on the ground, but the full expansion for the acronym is not in their mind. In this case, the interpreters would not be in desirable situation, they have to render full expansion in Arabic while they could not able to get English expansion. Nothing, for the interpreter, is worse than coming about unexpected or unrecognized acronym during the discourse of speech. One of the most annoying challenges that interpreter encounter is recalling, and rendering the right expansion for acronym that is not recognized. The

following quotes provide more highlights:

P3: Before I conduct interpretation task I usually collect as much acronyms as I can which are expected to be used in the conference in order not to fall in trouble with unrecognized acronyms in the discourse of speech.

P12: The use of acronyms by speakers without knowing its full expansion. They only knew what it represents. The exercise name was the acronym CAT, when I asked for full expansion for CAT the instructor replied with “Combined Armies Team”, but when I looked for the expansion in the pamphlet I found that right expansion is “Counter Assault Team”.

P13: Instructors themselves could not be able to render full expansion for some long acronyms which lay heavy burden on interpreters. They know what it stands for and they could give expansion for part of the acronym letters but not all.

P16: when the instructors say an unrecognized acronym during consecutive interpretation, I stop them and ask for full expansion, they sometimes could not manage to render that.

P18: At the beginning, I notify the instructors to decrease the use of acronyms as much as they can. Also, I ask them to render full English expansion at the first use of the acronyms.

P20: In doing verbal interpretation, one should be acquainted beforehand with the acronyms the Subject Matter Expert is going to mention during lecturing or giving briefs and presentations.

To overcome unrecognized acronyms during interpretation, it is advisable to provide the full form before providing the abbreviated form at the first occurrence. This would make the interpreter oriented with the acronyms that whenever they are mentioned later on, the interpreter will be able to render their appropriate meaning. In this study, the participants supported the same idea that the frequent use of acronyms by military soldiers could make the presenters use English acronym as a word. Again, the presenters might know the meaning of the acronyms and what they represent on the ground, but they might not be able to render full expansion. Therefore, presenters supposed to mention the full expansion at the very beginning of the speech so that the interpreter would be capable to interpret. The third difficulty is the importance of interpreters' Memory capacity. The following responses provide more illustration. For instance

P8: Interpreter with limited memory capacity is always busy

trying to memorize the terminologies and acronyms every time before tasks. While on the other hand, interpreters with decent memory capacity depend on their experience to recall and render needed information.

P13: Good interpreter is the one who takes notes during consecutive interpretation, but the best interpreter is the one who depends on his marvelous memory to render various acronyms and much other rigid information.

P5: The memory capacity is very important in interpreting especially with acronyms. That is, the better memory capacity you have the better acronyms recalling you can get.

Memory capacity is divided into two types, long-term memory (LTM) and short-term memory (STM) (Čepukaitytė et al., 2023). Both types have their role in interpretation. While the STM helps to memorize the numbers and similar information, LTM helps to recall and retrieve the stored data (Bhadauria, 2024). The memory needed for storing and recalling acronyms is LTM. The STM also helps interpreter by sending the expected acronyms to the human cash memory. Interpreters who suffer from weak memory capacity always pay more time and efforts to compensate their need to memorize the terminologies and acronyms every time before tasks. While, on the other hand, interpreters with decent memory capacity depend on their experience to recall and render needed information (Rasouli, 2022).

The fourth difficulty is the Lack of Arabic acronyms. When the researcher asked the participants about the lack of Arabic acronyms to meet equivalent English acronyms, some participants replied that they interpret the English acronyms into Arabic in full expansion. The participants responded as:

P6: The problem of long acronyms is that one English word [acronym] mean long phrase in Arabic which in my point of view is not right, and we have to find solution. Also, the time consumed in Arabic interpreting used to be longer than the time needed for the presenter.

P14: Acronyms with two or three letters are easy to interpret which require two or three Arabic words, but the long acronyms are a troubling task.

P 17: In case of using of long acronyms, interpreter has to render its full form in Arabic which takes longer time than the presenter. In such cases the confidence of the presenter towards the interpreter is affected as the presenter feels that interpreter is not qualified enough that he is manipulating

and paraphrasing instead of using direct terms. Therefore, the confidence of the speaker as well as the audience towards the interpreters might be affected accordingly. That is, the use of acronyms in an economic method to save time and space of speech. Additionally, the repetition of acronyms in English language do not affect the beauty and smooth flow of the language, while on the other hand, this repetition in Arabic language weakens the coherence of sentences and increase redundancy (Al Khotaba, 2022). As matter of that, interpreters developed individual techniques to compensate for the lack of Arabic acronyms by borrowing from the SL. English is abundant of acronyms while Arabic still resists using them because Arabic phonetic system which rarely allows abbreviations since pronouncing each letter in the Arabic alphabet needs at least four sounds (Gharaibeh & Alhassan, 2023; Kamel, 2017).

The Strategies and Techniques that Interpreters Recommended to Improve the Quality of Interpreting Military Acronyms.

The participants revealed various techniques and methods to overcome the difficulty of interpreting military acronyms. Below are the themes emerged as strategies and techniques to improve the quality of interpreting military acronyms with some quoted views. The first techniques interpreters utilize is the obligation to render full expansion at the first use. In such a case, the interpreter will be aware of the used acronym, thereafter, interpreter has to recall it whenever it is rendered. Usually, the US military personnel who work with Arabian militaries are aware of this issue, so they try to render full expansion at the beginning of the speech, and they normally express their full collaboration to help. They sometimes try to avoid using acronyms when speaking to nonnative speakers, but due to their very frequent use in their own country, they still find themselves using acronyms unintentionally. The following responses provide more highlights:

P7: Interpreter should not be shy to stop the presenter and ask him to give full expansion for the first use. For me I don't hesitate of doing that.

P10: Acronyms should be written in full words at the very beginning. Hence, later on if it is used there is no problem. You can use open sources and internet to figure out the full meaning of acronyms. One may find many acronyms of same letters; in this case, the bottom line is the text itself or the context.

P12: First thing, this depends on the context and the information that needs to be interpreted. Second thing, do not be shy and you can stop the lecturer and ask him to explain the acronym in full if possible. Otherwise, you should try to deduce the meaning from the context because it is going to be relevant.

P16: At the beginning the instructor usually apologizes for his unintentional use of acronyms, and he adds that he is very happy to clarify the unrecognized acronyms.

Obligation to Render Full Expansion at the First Use

It is advised to provide full form for acronyms at the first occurrence in the discourse of speech or text. This is one of the techniques used to make acronyms easier for the interpreter to understand the full form of acronyms whenever they are mentioned later on, and it is advised by many style guides. This technique is also used in academic writing as a way of reducing redundancy in writing (Murshed et al., 2021). Other languages may have different conventions. An example of that, "North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), is a military alliance of twenty-eight North American and European countries". Some participants mentioned the importance of providing a list of acronyms expected in the conference before the start of the actual interpreting. As such preparation may help interpreters comprehend the meaning of the acronyms before they are used in the speech. Prior knowledge and preparation can play a significant role in dealing with expected problems created by acronyms that are unrecognized by the interpreter.

Coining of Arabic Acronyms

The second technique is coining of Arabic acronyms. This could be an attempt to resolve the lack of Arabic acronyms to match equivalent English acronyms. In Arabic, this attempt must be semantically and syntactically verified to meet acceptable pronunciation and meaning before it can be used in the language. Over the years, there were a lot of serious attempts to coin Arabic acronyms by Arabic scholars; their successful attempts produced many Arabic acronyms that are still in use like Al-Khalīl ibn Aniqueis an Arabic lexicographer (Ghersetti, 2020) . Unfortunately, these attempts faded as the scholars of Arabic did not persist to follow up these attempts. Therefore, Arabic nowadays, is not able to keep up with the revolution and overwhelming number of new terminologies and acronyms from other languages unless Arabic scholars resume instant serious attempts.

P3: I think borrowing English acronym is much easier for me than creating and memorizing new Arabic acronym.

P5: I don't think we need to do that because they will not give the exact meanings and this will not serve the main goal of the interpreting

The participants of the study showed their unwillingness towards the coining of Arabic acronyms. They justified that by the huge number of acronyms used in English language, and the continuous creation of new ones in English language. They also mentioned that Arabic still ignore the importance of using acronyms. They mentioned that the creation of Arabic acronyms is not attractive as they are in English. Moreover, they preferred to render full form in Arabic or borrow the same English acronym rather than coining new Arabic ones (Al-Jarf, 2021). This might be one of the reasons behind making the Arabic language lags in terms of acronym development. Early scholars made the base for acronym development, yet due perhaps to the dependence of Arabic speaking countries on the developed countries in all forms of technologies and development; they depend on making equivalent acronyms as well. That is, it is much harder to create an equivalent acronym than creating an acronym from the roots of the Arabic language itself. For instance, *حاسوب* *Hasoob*, is a word used in Arabic that means computer. Both words *hasoob* and *computer* are used fairly common by Arabic speakers. However, the word *hasoob* is originated from Arabic roots and can be managed in other forms in Arabic, unlike the word *computer*.

Borrowing English Acronyms

The third technique used by interpreters is Borrowing English acronyms as the TL lacks most of acronyms. A lot of English military acronyms can be easily recognized by Arabic natives. In this way, the borrowing of English acronyms verbatim enables interpreters to render fast and accurate information. Matras & Adamou (2020) stated that borrowing is one of the oldest translation strategies which also come to be employed by language users to fulfill communicative transaction in daily use of the language (Matras & Adamou, 2020).

P5: When the presenter uses acronyms that I couldn't recognize, I stop him to ask for full expansion in case of consecutive interpretation. But in simultaneous interpretation since I couldn't stop him I alternatively borrow the same acronym as verbatim.

P13: When I know that the audience comprehended the meaning of the acronym, I start to use it as is.

P19: The idea of borrowing acronyms from English language is a good idea that the audience starts to interact with the speaker in consecutive interpreting which makes the task easier for me.

Furthermore, to understand how translators translate reduced forms of language into Arabic, Al-Hamly & Farghal (2013) examined authentic Arabic translation data of the forms in an English text type. It illustrated that since Arabic makes use of reduced forms less than English, translators often employ English reduced forms (Al-Hamly & Farghal, 2013). This can be achieved by translating and borrowing the English term or phrase, or by borrowing the English term and writing it in Arabic alphabet and adding the English acronym (Abdalla, 2018).

Likewise, when the researcher asked the participants about borrowing acronyms from English into Arabic, they mentioned that there is no problem in borrowing the popular English acronyms. But when it comes to new created acronyms, the interpreters tend to use these acronyms accompanied with their Arabic meaning many times until they become popular to the audience. Then, the interpreter starts to use the acronym verbatim in Arabic. By using this method, the concentration of the audience increase as they become more confident, and start to comprehend the general idea of the topic since they know the meaning of the acronyms in addition to the speaker body language. This strategy makes the task of interpreting easier as interpreters don't have to render full expansion to each acronym whenever mentioned. Thus, interpreter from English into Arabic tends to borrow English acronyms and use them in Arabic as verbatim.

Also, the use of English acronyms verbatim in Arabic language started to become popular among Arab people in both civilian and military sides. Also, they started to use English words or acronyms in Arabic as kind of evolution. They can be found at the name of restaurants, clubs, companies, centers, and factories. An example of that is ARAMCO/ Arabian American Oil Company which is a Saudi company and well known with its English acronym that has no equivalent Arabic acronym. In one hand, this could be described as disrespect and non-confident of Arabic. But on the other hand, the motivation of using English as the language of science and technology gives a kind of self-confidence and the feeling of being modern. This trend encourages interpreters to borrow English

acronyms which makes interpreting easier, further, and strengthens the confidence between interpreter and audience.

Conclusion

The present study investigated the difficulties that arise for interpreters when translating military acronyms from English into Arabic, pointing out key problems in the process: multi-expansion of acronyms, unknown terms, limited memory, and no equivalent acronyms in Arabic. The study offered practical solutions as rendering of full expansions, regular practice, and borrowing English acronyms. However, it pointed out the underdevelopment of Arabic acronym standardization. By addressing these challenges, the interpreters would improve accuracy and efficiency in communication among the military forces and remove the linguistic barriers. The findings have underscored the need for continued training and cooperation to support interpreters in this challenging and ever-changing field.

Recommendations

Future research should include the development of standardized military acronyms, easy to translate or acronymize in Arabic. Specialized training courses on military-acronym materials for interpreters should be held, since knowledge prior to interpreting would provide sound working practice in the fields of military and technical vocabularies. Comparative studies in these areas might offer useful insights into handling acronyms in different languages and contexts. A interdisciplinary research between linguists, interpreters, and military experts may facilitate collaboration to enhance Arabic military lexicons in ways that can equip interpreters to handle increasingly complex military terms.

Limitations of the Study

There were limitations to this study. A sample size of 21 participants, while sufficient for qualitative insights into military interpreters' professional preparation, may not be representative of the broader population. The results are not generalizable to a different language pair beyond Arabic-English; the data is self-reported from an interview and may contain a degree of bias; participants may have overestimated their coping strategies or downplayed the challenges. Lastly, the study does not utilize standardized tools in appraising the efficacy of strategies suggested. The

findings of the study cannot therefore provide concrete, measurable solutions. The next studies should involve larger samples that are also diversified and may adopt quantitative methods of data analysis.

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