A Study of Mistranslated Bilingual Public Signs as Visual Pollutants in Iraqi Cities

Res.Abdullah Najim Abdullah Prof. Dr. Jasim Khalifah Sultan Al-Maryani Department of Translation, College of Arts, University of Basrah Abstract:

The present study aims at investigating the role that the mistranslation of public signs in Iraq plays in generating visual pollution. It attempts to explore the types of translation errors or mistranslations and the impact they have on the community. It hypothesizes that the available English translations of the Arabic texts on the public signs in Iraqi cities are full of linguistic errors that take part in degrading the aesthetic and informative value of these cities. To validate such a hypothesis, many official mistranslated public signs have been collected in Basrah governorate by using a digital camera from different streets, roads, and official institutions, then analyzed according to Costa et al.'s (2015) taxonomy of error analysis. Moreover, a carefully-designed questionnaire of nineteen statements has been handed out to fifty university teaching staff members in Basrah.

Keywords: Visual Pollution, linguistic landscape, public signs, error analysis

Received: 02/08/2023 Accepted: 31/08/2023

دراسة للعلامات العامة ثنائية اللغة المترجمة بشكل خاطئ بوصفها ملوثات بصرية فى المدن العراقية

الباحث عبد الله نجم عبد الله الأستاذ الدكتور جاسم خليفة سلطان قسم الترجمة/كلية الآداب/جامعة البصرة

اللخص:-

تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى التحقق من الدور الذي تقوم به الترجمة الخاطئة للعلامات العامة في العراق في توليد التلوث البصري: فهي تحاول استكشاف أنواع أخطاء الترجمة وتأثيرها على البيئة المحيطة. وتفترض الدراسة أن الترجمات الإنجليزية المتاحة للنصوص العربية الموجودة على العلامات العامة في المدن العراقية مليئة بالأخطاء اللغوية التي تساهم في إضعاف القيمة الجمالية لهذه المدن. وللتحقق من صحة مثل هذه الفرضية ، تم جمع العديد من العلامات العامة الرسمية ذوات الترجمات الخاطئة باستعمال كاميرا رقمية من شوارع وطرقات ومؤسسات رسمية مختلفة ، ثم حللت وفقًا لتصنيف تحليل الأخطاء التابع لكوستا وآخرون (٢٠١٥). فضلاً عن ذلك ، وزع استبيان مصمم بدقة ومكون من تسعة عشر فقرة على خمسين تدريسياً في الجامعات البصرية. وعولجت النتائج التي عليها الباحث إحصائيًا باستعمال برنامج الحزمة الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية. وجدت الدراسة أن النسخ المترجمة تحتوي على العديد من الأخطاء اللغوية التي تغير المعنى المقصود.

كلمات مفتاحية: التلوث البصري المشهد اللغوي اللافتات العامة تحليل الاخطاء.

تاريخ القبول: ٢٠٢٣/٠٨/٣١

تاريخ الاستلام: ٢٠٢٣/٠٨/٠٢

Introduction:-

Translation has almost been a significant means of linguistic and cultural communication. Its role has increasingly become an integral part of our daily life. It plays significant roles in industry, economy, communication, politics, etc., especially within the current technological developments. One aspect with which this fact is confirmed is the public display of translated texts as a way of defining places, buildings, streets, roads, etc. This is seen in bilingual or multilingual public signs. These signs consist of several elements, such as the size, shape, and location, the color and size of the font, and the source and the target languages of the content, that work together to achieve the directive or informative goal. Hence, the translation indicated in the signs takes part in shaping the places where these signs are situated. It may affect, positively or negatively, the whole scene it is part of, depending on how efficient the translation product is. In other words, when a text in a public sphere is poorly translated, it may distort the whole picture of that sphere, leading to what is called 'visual pollution' which is known as "an established expression commonly used to describe the degradation of the visual quality of places by signage" (Portella, 2014, p.1). According to Word-Sense Online Dictionary (2023), visual pollution is "the presence of an undesirable sight that can ruin the aesthetic appeal of an area; the visually unattractive elements of a landscape".

Although the argument on visual pollution resulting from public signage has efficiently been investigated, there is still a dearth of evidence in the literature that might refer to the role of public signs in altering the users' perception and evaluation of various urban contexts (Portella, 2014, p. 1). That is to say, visual pollution resulting from public signs has to be elucidated as a universal phenomenon that is continuously altering the appearance of numerous historic cities worldwide (ibid, p. 68). In what follows, we are going to deeply investigate the role of mistranslated public signs in Iraq, Basrah in particular, in generating this particular kind of visual pollution. That is to say, the present study attempts to investigate the role that translation plays in deforming the inhabitants' perception of the environment within which they live, or the extent to which the offered mistranslations contribute the visual pollution of cities. Therefore, it addresses the following questions:

- Vhat are the most common errors committed in the English translations of Arabic texts on the public signs in Basrah, Iraq?
- Y- To what extent do these errors alter the meaning of the original texts?
- Υ- Do these errors contribute to the visual pollution of Iraqi cities?
- 4- Are there any authorities/ monitoring institutions that revise and properly modify these translated signs?

2. The Theoretical Background

Y, 1. Visual Pollution (VP)

Visual pollution (hereinafter, VP) has recently become a common phenomenon in urban societies as it becomes more influential than water, land, and air pollution. It is that type by which the aesthetic aspects of any society can be distorted. It is related to the entire image of the physical life of the environment. It has received much emphasis from both researchers and practitioners because it has a direct impact on our life, especially on social, cultural, and psychological aspects, as well as the public taste of people (see Yilmaz & Sagoz 2011, Voronych 2013, Wakil et al. 2019, Said Mohamed et al. 2021, etc.). As a result, previous studies on VP show that the definition of VP is a matter of public opinion. For instance, Portella, a leading urban designer, defines it as "the degradation of the visual quality of historic city centers caused by commercial signs displayed on building facades and in public spaces" (Portella, 2014, p. 14). Al-Anbari et al. (2020, p.12) treat it as any unaesthetic and heterogeneous scenes as well as distorting elements that can disrupt and affect the visual quality of an image. It includes all the unacceptable and inappropriate aspects of the environment. In addition, it is a changeable value that depends on the viewer's cultural and social background. Moreover, Said Mohammed et al. (2021, p.95) view it as an aesthetic problem that stands for the impacts of pollution spoiling an individual's ability to enjoy a beautiful scene. It leads people to be disturbed by the scenery surrounding them. It is clear now that one of the major sources from which VP arises is signage or public signs. With a particular focus on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Said Mohamed et al. (2021) list almost fifteen constituents of VP. The majority are public signs such as street name signs, postings, lavatories, billboards, etc. Lack of control over the design and distribution of these signs can influence negatively the appearance of city centers. According to Portella (2014, p. 75, p.110), residents in commercial areas complain of both irregular and dense positioning of

commercial signs as they act as a threatening factor to their quality of life. In this respect, Brazil legislated in 2007: the " Clean City Law" in Sao Paulo to control and ban outdoor advertisements.

Y, Y. Public Signs

The different English dictionaries offer too many definitions for the concept of "sign". The majority of these dictionaries use almost the same wording, which is an indication of agreement on the nature of this concept. To name a few, Merriam-Webster (2022) sees public signs from three viewpoints: "[a] sign is defined as a lettered board or other display used to identify or advertise a place of business; b) a posted command, warning, or direction; c) Signboard." In Collins (2022), a sign is defined as "a piece of wood, metal, or plastic with words or pictures on it. Signs give you information about something or give you a warning or an instruction. By the same token, Landry & Bourhis's widely known definition has been refined by Backhaus (2007), who has applied it in the linguistic landscape (LL) of Tokyo, where he has examined urban multilingualism. He demonstrates that:

A sign was considered to be any piece of written text within a spatially definable frame. The underlining definition is physical, not semantic. It is rather broad, including anything from the small handwritten sticker attached to a lamp post to huge commercial billboards outside a department store. Items such as push and pull stickers at entrance doors, lettered foot mats, or botanic explanation plates on trees were considered signs, too. (p. 66)

Therefore, studying signs and language displayed in public, as Spolsky and Cooper (1991) recognize, may help to understand the different historical, social, economic, and political factors that constitute a society (p. 148). Ultimately, groups and individuals in a particular space use, amongst other sources, public signs to make that space socially meaningful. Subsequently, they take part in place-making, transforming the abstract idea of space into an actual, meaningful, and vibrant space (Zimny, 2017, p. 1).

Finally, in semiotic theory, a sign including a word or a sentence, a graph, a picture, or a gesture can only be meaningful just in three ways: it could be a picture of something in reality. In this case, it is called an *'icon'*. The small face that stands for happiness is used by individuals on social media and is made of combining the right parenthesis and a colon (:) is an icon. This icon exhibits a schematic image of a smiling face. A sign could also be a representation of something in reality that is entirely arbitrary. In this case, it is called a *'symbol'*. For example, the green color

of a traffic light permits one to keep driving. The green color has nothing inherent that means go on or keep driving. This association is completely arbitrary (Scollon & Scollon, 2003, p. 1).

۲٫۴. The Translation of Public Signs

Translation as a mediating process is a mirror that depicts what has been written or said in a source language. In this vein, Nida and Taber (1969, p. 12) suggest that "translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, firstly in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style". Similarly, Venuti (1995, p. 17) defines translation as "a process by which the chain of signifiers that constitutes the source-language text is replaced by a chain of signifiers in the target language which the translator provides on the strength of an interpretation". Translation is not only changing a source into a target text but rather it is a replacement or reproduction of a text maintaining the same meaning, function, and purpose of the original.

Therefore, public signs as written pieces of language that are bound by the standards of textuality provided by De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) namely, cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationally, and intertextuality should be treated as complete texts. Considering public signs as a text type is also supported by Snell-Hornby (2004, p. 104) as she assumes that "the public directive is a text type restricted to written language, as found in signs and notices displayed for public attention". Due to the limited space on which the content of a sign is written, the provided translation should be as clear, concise, and straightforward as possible. That limitation of space, the conciseness of words put on the surface of public signs, and the intended target readers should be taken into account when rendering the content of a sign from one language into another. The most common characters present on public signs are proper nouns, verbs, gerunds, phrases, abbreviations, a combination of text and logo, present tense, imperative sentences, and standard vocabulary. Regardless of the number of words found in a sign, there must be a purpose behind them. That purpose should come first in the mind of translators. According to Vermeer (cited in Munday, 2016, p.129), "the translator should first ensure that the target text (TT) fulfills its purpose".

What characterizes bilingual public signs is that both source and target texts are visible to their viewers. Visibility in this sense means the presence of both source and target languages on the

same sign. In other words, a sign containing the source text and its translation is considered 'visible', while a sign with either the source text or its translation on its surface is not 'visible' (Backhaus, 2007, p. 110). Thus, choosing appropriate translation strategies is a burden on the translators' shoulders. They have to take into account the audience to whom their translation is addressed. For this, they must translate according to three interrelated conditions of language choice suggested by Spolsky (2009). These three conditions are: translating should be into a language known first by the translator himself; the translation should be communicative and functional i.e., it should be easily read and understood by the people that are expected to understand; and, the translation should have a symbolic value that addresses several readerships at once (Spolsky, 2009, p. 33). From a translation point of view, Koskinen (2012) explores the four strategies proposed by Reh (2004). He claims that these strategies explain only the product of translation; thus, they cannot draw a comprehensive picture of all the strategies of translation utilized in public signs. On the other hand, Edeleman (2010) builds a translationoriented model depending on Reh's typology of writing strategies. In his model, he divides the duplicating strategy into 'free translation' and 'word-for-word translation', moreover, the fragmentary strategy is renamed as 'partial translation' and the complementary strategy as 'null translation' (omission). Such a model can provide an apparent picture of translation strategies used in translating public signs. Koskinen (2012, p.79) argues that translation is "often the process through which any documentation comes to take on a new linguistic form, translatedness is an issue closely related to linguistic landscape research." Moreover, he states that translation as a field of study can serve to study and analyze public signs. For example, 'overt and covert translations', foreignization, domestication, explication and implication, additions and omission, simplification, and so on can be used to approach the content of public signs (ibid, p.80).

۲, ٤. Previous Studies on Public Signs

The language of public signs has recently become a fresh area of research. The literature on this area has been significantly enriched through a considerable number of contributions indicating the importance of these signs to the linguistic landscape on the one hand, and to the communities to whom these signs are designed on the other. As long as Arabic-English public signs are concerned, Al Kharabsheh et al. (2008) study the translation of shop signs in several Jordanian cities to identify, classify, and discuss translation errors. In this study, digital photos of

165 shop signs have been analyzed according to two criteria: adequacy and effectiveness of translation. They find that two factors contribute to these errors: linguistic factors, such as inappropriate lexical choice, word order errors, and reduction strategies that resulted in deformed information, and extra-linguistic factors such as promotional and sociocultural aspects. Al-Athwary (2014) studies the translation of signs in Yemen. He collects 398 signs from Sana'a's streets. He intends to examine and categorize translation errors. He reveals that almost 130 signs of the corpus show various errors that can confuse and distract foreigners. He classifies these errors into three types, namely lexical, grammatical, and spelling errors. Moreover, he finds that these errors come from three sources: the weakness of translators' linguistic competence, the translators' carelessness, and cultural differences in Arabic and English.

Moreover, Abdulwahid (2017) studies bilingual shop signs in Erbil, Iraq. She tries to determine the different translation methods. To realize this, she randomly collects almost 100 commercial signs from different places in Erbil. Then, according to the number and type of languages on them, she divides these signs into four categories: signs with Arabic only, signs with Kurdish only, signs with English and Kurdish, and signs with English and Arabic. Adopting the methodology employed by Al-Kharabsheh et al. (2008), she reveals that the status of sign translation in Erbil is unsatisfactory and disappointing: the translations show various grammatical, lexical, and spelling errors. Besides, Algryani (2021) studies private public signs in Salalah, Oman, to assess their translation quality. He analyzes the content of 100 public signs depending on two parameters: the translation strategies used and the appropriateness of the translations to their readership. The study comes up with two conclusions. First, the most apparent translation strategies employed to translate the content of the sign under investigation are literal translation, omission, generalization, and transference. Second, translation errors may be generated as a result of the translator's insufficient linguistic knowledge, misuse of translation strategies, and linguistic differences between Arabic and English. Finally, in his study entitled "Reframing Cultural Conceptions Through Translation", Al-Maryani (2023) investigates the translations of public signs in Iraq to identify the committed errors to name the strategies used in translating them on the one hand, and explore the impact of mistranslated signs on viewers' perception of cities on the other hand. He adopts a qualitative approach to analyze his

data which comes from some Arabic-English signs and questionnaire responses that have been distributed to international viewers. The study concluded that mistranslated signs leave a negative impact on the viewers leading them to reframe their perception of Iraqi cities and citizens. The previous studies in general shed light on certain aspects such as translation or linguistic errors in public signs and the strategies followed in translating them, the negative impacts of mistranslated public signs, etc. The present study attempts to study public signs from a different perspective. It tries to explore how these signs if not properly translated, could harm the environment of the community where they are placed. In other words, the researcher is not only going to classify the types of translation errors, how these errors occur, or why these translation errors happen, but also the way these errors affect the environment, hence raising awareness of visual pollution in the landscape.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. The Adopted Model

Costa et. al. (2015, p. 3) confirm that all taxonomies proposed to identify and classify translation errors are affected by the language idiosyncrasies they are designed for. For example, the model developed by Vilar et. al. (2006) is restricted to English-Chinese language pairs and cannot be applied to other languages, especially European, due to the linguistic diversity they manifest. Therefore, Costa et. al. design a comprehensive and systematic framework that links both human-error taxonomies and machine translation-error typologies. They (2015, p. 4) declare that this framework applies to English-Portuguese as well as all Romance languages. Their model consists of five main categories with several sub-categories (ibid, pp. 6-12). These are as follows:

- Errors on the Orthographical level: they refer to errors that occur in the form of words such as:
 - *a.* Punctuation errors relate to the misuse of punctuation marks.
 - **b.** Capitalization errors, which occur as a result of translators' unawareness of capitalization rules.
 - *c*. Spelling errors, which take place when the translator adds, deletes, or substitutes one or more letters.

- Y. Errors on the Lexical level: This includes errors that occur on the lexical level of words such as:
 - *a.* Omission errors exist when a word (function or content) is intentionally or unintentionally omitted.
 - b. Addition errors arise when a word (function or content) is intentionally or unintentionally added.
 - c. Untranslated errors occur when a translator fails to find an equivalent in the target language for an expression in the source language, therefore s/he keeps it untranslated.
- **r**. Errors on the Grammatical level: These involve errors that occur on the morphological and syntactic levels of the target language such as:
 - a. Misselection errors, which are morphological misformations on the grammatical level such as when a word class is improperly used instead of another (an adjective instead of an adverb; a noun instead of a verb). It also can be found in cases related to tense, person, gender, and so on.
 - b. Misordering errors, which appear due to following an incorrect word order.
- Errors on the Semantic level: These cover errors related to word meanings and wrong word selection. It is of four sub-types:
 - *a*. Confusion of senses errors occur when a word has more than one meaning, but the translator selects the incorrect one.
 - *b*. Wrong choice errors, appear when an improper word in the target language is used to stand for a word in the source even if there is no relation between the two.
 - c. Collocational errors emerge when one aspect of a collocational expression is mistranslated.
 - *d.* Idiomatic errors result when an idiomatic expression is not properly translated.
- •. Errors on the discourse level: This type covers discursive options that are not the most expected but still are not errors such as:
 - *a*. Style errors involve an undesired choice of a word style as in the case of repeating words close to each other.

- *b*. Variety errors occur when the target language has more than one variety as in American and British English. In this case, the translator uses lexical items or grammatical structures of a language variety other than the intended one.
- c. Should-not-be-translated errors, which are found when a word or group of words in the source language should not be rendered into the target language as in cases of proper nouns.

3.2. Data Collection

As the present study aims at investigating the role of translation in resulting visual pollution through mistranslated Arabic-English public signs in Iraq, the researchers have collected the necessary data from two main sources: bilingual (Arabic-English) public signs distributed inside Iraqi cities and the responses to a carefully designed questionnaire.

3.2.1. The Arabic-English Public Signs

This type of data has been collected by using a digital camera from streets, roads, and inside and outside governmental buildings such as Basrah International Airport, universities, official corporations, and so on. The process of collecting these signs took almost 2-3 months (from November 2022 to January 2023). It is worth noting that the collected signs cover only the official ones which are presumably under the control of the government. There are several properly translated signs which have been excluded as the target is only the mistranslated ones.

3.2.2. The Designed Questionnaire

The questionnaire form designed for the present study is itended to be a measuring tool by which the degree of the negative impact that mistranslated signs have on Iraqi cities is determined. It is composed of two parts. The first involves personal information of the participants. These personal information include, for example, their age, their years of experience in teaching or translating English, their academic qualification, and so on. The purpose of including such information is to show the reader that these participants are fully qualified and carefully chosen to fill up the questionnaire form. The second part indicates a brief introduction to the present study and its aims, in addition to the research questions. Then, nineteen statements were listed and designed according to a five-level Likert scale which ranges from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The reason behind choosing this particular type of scale is to give the participants more flexibility to tick in the answer they find most appropriate. The

questionnaire form has been assessed by a jury. The jury is composed of five members chosen from four academic institutions in Basrah. The first member is a teaching staff member at the University of Basrah, College of Education for Human Sciences, Department of English, who holds a Ph.D. degree. The second one is a teaching staff member at the University of Basrah, College of Arts, Department of English who also holds a Ph.D. degree. The third is a teaching staff member at the University of Basrah, College of Arts, Department of Translation who holds a Ph.D. degree. The fourth one is a teaching staff member at Al-Ma'aqal Private University, College of Arts, Department of English who holds a Ph.D. degree. The last one is a teaching staff member at Shatt Al-Arab University College, Department of English who holds an MA degree, but he is an assistant professor.

4. Data Analysis

As long as the present study adopts a mixed-methods approach, the data will be qualitatively and quantitatively analyzed. As mentioned before, the data are of two types, namely unstructured data which comes from mistranslated Arabic-English public signs and structured data elicited from the questionnaire responses. The collected mistranslated public signs have been classified and qualitatively analyzed depending on Costa et al. (2015) taxonomy of error analysis. The qualitative analysis method followed is the content analysis method because the content of the qualitative data dealt with is words, phrases, or sentences. The participants' responses to questionnaire items are qualitatively and quantitatively analyzed. Each item has been examined separately by quantifying the participants' responses by the researcher himself, and, then, these responses were represented numerically. Afterward, a detailed statistical analysis has been conducted on the participants' responses to find out the correlation and impact between the variables by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software.

4.1. The Qualitative Analysis of Arabic-English Public Signs

Within this section, Arabic-English signs will be analyzed and categorized according to the model which has been discussed previously. That's to say, signs will be classified under each category of the taxonomy depending on the type of error that certain sign exhibit. The word, phrase, or sentence under discussion will be written in bold so that the reader can easily recognize the focus of the discussion because there are many signs which show more than one

error and can be included under more than one category, except for omission cases. Moreover, the analysis will include the source text, the target text, and the errors. For special considerations, pictures that contain both source and target texts are listed in Appendix (2). After commenting on the different errors, an appropriate translation, suggested by the researcher and approved by the jury, will be offered:

1- Errors on the level of orthography: according to Jose (2014, p. 2439), this type of error refers to "cognitive errors consisting of the substitution of a deviant spelling for a correct one when the writer simply doesn't know the correct spelling of a particular word or forgot it or misconceived it." They include capitalization errors, spelling errors, and punctuation errors.

Example:

[Baladiyet Safwan turahhib bikum] بلدية سفوان ترحب بكم

Target Text (TT): municipality of Safwan Welcome to you

In this example, we can see that the translator may be unaware of the capitalization rules of English. First, s/he writes the first letter of the first word 'municipality i.e., 'with a small letter, where s/he should write it with a capital because English always starts with capitals. Second, s/he writes the first letter of the word 'welcome i.e., 'with a capital letter, whereas s/he should write it with a small letter because it lies in the middle of the sentence on the one hand, and it is not a proper noun on the other hand (see picture 1, appendix 2). These errors show a clear violation of the capitalization rules of English. Although such errors may not affect the meaning, they are still undesired to be seen, especially by Arabic-English speakers and most importantly by English native speakers. If we want to be systemic, an appropriate presentation for the translation would be 'The Municipality of Safwan Welcomes You'.

2- Errors on the level of lexis: as it has been mentioned earlier, lexical errors occur on the level of words. They include omission errors, addition errors, and untranslated errors.

Example:

[Sinaeyt Hamdan] صناعية حمدان:ST

TT: Hamdan Industrial

Due to the linguistic differences between languages, some words in the SL might need more than one item to be transformed into the TL and vice versa. It depends on the translator's

decision to add or delete certain words, provided that the message remains intact. In the ST above, the lexical item 'صناعية' is a noun that may commonly be used to refer to a place or an area in which cars are fixed and car parts are sold. As a result of the translator's incompetency, the word 'صناعية' has been treated as an adjective and translated as 'industrial', which is an inaccurate TL equivalent (see picture 6, appendix 2). An added word is needed in this case to convey what is meant by the lexical item 'صناعية' efficiently. Therefore, it would be better to render it as an 'industrial area' to give the same interpretation of the source lexical item 'صناعية'. Thus, the correct translation of the ST above would be 'Hamdan Industrial Area'.

3- Errors on the level of grammar: They involve grammatical errors caused by translators' misuse of the target language's grammatical rules. They include misselection errors and misordering errors.

Example:

[Al-salama tabda'a bil sulook] السلامة تبدأ بالسلوك :ST

TT: Safety Start in Attitude

In English, subject-verb agreement is a grammatical rule and conveys the match between the main verb of a sentence and its subject in terms of number, person, and gender. The TT above shows a subject-verb agreement error. As long as the sentence in the TT is in the simple present tense, and the subject is singular, there must be an agreement between the subject 'safety' and the main verb 'start'. A third person 's' must be added to the main verb 'start' to be in its correct form. Although this sentence is semantically correct, it is grammatically incorrect (see picture 3, appendix 2). This error may be attributed to the translator's unawareness of the grammatical rules of the TL. The correct form of the TT above is 'Safety Starts in Attitude'.

4- Errors on the semantic level: They cover errors related to word meanings and wrong word selection. They include wrong-choice errors, confusion-of-senses errors, collocational errors, and idiom errors.

Example:

[Marsa al-zawariq] مرسى الزوارق :ST

TT: Marine

Generally speaking, translators should be very careful in using the appropriate lexical items. Their choice of words highly influences the quality of translation products. The more

appropriate the lexical items they select, the more cohesive the translation product will be. Any wrong choice they make would, inevitably, affect or change the original meaning of the message. In the example above(see picture 2, appendix 2), the message of the TT text is entirely different from that of the ST. In the ST, the word 'مرسی' is a special place on the beach where ships and pleasure boats anchor. In Arabic, the word 'marine' means 'بحري, ملاحي' as an adjective, and 'جندي في البحرية' as a noun. None of these two meanings is the right equivalent for the ST. Therefore, both ST and TT convey different messages. The translation suggested for the ST above is 'Boat Marina'.

5- Errors on the discourse level: they cover discursive options that are not the most expected but still are not errors except for the should-not-be-translated subcategory including proper nouns.

Example:

[Mustashfa Al-Naft al-takhassusi] مستشفى النفط التخصصي :ST

TT: Oil Specialized Hospital

It should be noted that proper nouns are among the only words that remain untranslated. Instead, they are transliterated into TLs. They are names referring to specific people, things, places, etc. In other words, they are considered to be the identity by which certain entities are known. Therefore, it is not acceptable to translate such types of words because they would lose their identifying property. The ST above is a name of a specialized hospital known as 'النفط' (Al-Naft). This proper noun has been dealt with, by the translator, as a lexical item and translated into the TL as 'oil' (see picture 5, appendix 2). This translation deforms the ST and converts it into an ordinary noun phrase empty of the property of naming a specified place. It seems that the reason behind this translation is that this hospital belongs to the Ministry of Oil and Energy of Iraq (وزارة النفط والطاقة العراقية), which leads the translator to mix these two senses up resulting in misunderstanding. In short, the proper noun 'النفط' should have been transliterated as 'Al-Naft' into the TL. The proper translation of the ST mentioned above is 'Al-Naft Specialized Hospital'.

4.2. The Qualitative Analysis of the Questionnaire

The design of the questionnaire form of the present study is composed of three parts. The first part includes a consent form that kindly asks the participants to partake in the study and to be signed, dated, and then returned upon their agreement. The second part requires the

participants to provide their personal information including their age, sex, academic qualification, native language, experience, occupation, and whether or not they are members of the Iraqi Translators Association. The third part presents nineteen statements. Each statement is provided with five options designed according to the five-level Likert scale: strongly disagree=1, disagree=2, neutral=3, agree=4, and strongly agree=5 (see appendix 2). These statements will be analyzed separately.

Following the expert sampling method where the selection of participants is non-random and based on the experience of the participants in the phenomenon under investigation, fifty teachers of English and translation have been chosen to take part in the present study. Ten of them are from the University of Basrah, College of Education for Human Sciences, Department of English holding Ph.D. and MA degrees with their age ranges between 30-60 and experience ranges between 5-30 years. In addition, seven teachers are from Shatt Al-Arab University College, Department of English holding Ph.D. and MA with their age ranges between 40-70 and experience ranges between 10-40 years. Moreover, seven teachers are from Al-Ma'agal Private University, College of Arts, Department of English holding Ph.D. and MA with their age ranges between 30-60 and experience ranges between 5-30 years. Furthermore, fifteen teachers are from the University of Basrah, College of Arts, Department of English holding Ph.D. and MA degrees with their age ranges between 30-60 and experience ranges between 5-30 years. Finally, sixteen teachers are from the University of Basrah, College of Arts, Department of Translation holding Ph.D. and MA with their age ranges between 30-60 years and experience ranges between 5-30 years. These participants are chosen because they have both professional and academic knowledge of Arabic as a mother tongue and English as a second language. In addition, their opinions are expected to be credible and based on scientific criteria. Before they filled in the questionnaire, they were kindly asked to read and understand the aims of the study and then, to sign and date a consent form. The responses of the participants to the questionnaire items will be discussed and analyzed separately (except for items no. 1 and 2 that are discussed together) below:

1- The first and second statements in the questionnaire form are about the frequency of translation the participants practice from Arabic into English and vice versa. The statistical analysis shows that 44% (i.e., 21 participants) strongly agree and 36% (i.e., 18 participants)

agree, which indicates that the sample is accustomed to the translation practice, while only 4% of them showed their disagreement with the first statement. As for the second, there are 50% of them strongly agree and 40% agree, whereas 2% only disagree as it is shown in Table (1). The reason why such statements are included here is to make sure that the representative sample is appropriate. The more frequently the participants translate, the more valuable their opinions about the questionnaire statements will be. Out of the percentages of their responses, it seems that they are aware of how to translate from Arabic into English and vice versa, indicating that they have background knowledge in translation strategies, translation challenges, the impact of mistranslation on the original text meaning, and so on. All these characteristics are necessary for participant-oriented research because all conclusions will be extracted from the viewpoints of the research participants.

- Y- The third statement revolves around the availability of Arabic-English public signs in the city where the participants live, i.e., Basrah. The statistical analysis demonstrates that 54% of the participants strongly agree and 32% agree, whereas 6% disagree. These percentages explain that the majority of participants confirm the presence of Arabic-English public signs in their city as Table (1) shows. This confirmation means that the participants observe and might read the content of these signs attentively and frequently. The benefit of such a statement is that the viewpoints of participants on whether mistranslated signs have an impact on the visual quality of cities or not will be based on real facts rather than subjective assumptions.
- Ψ- Concerning the accessibility of Arabic-English public signs examined by the fourth statement, the participants show a high agreement with the fact that these signs are accessible. 44% strongly agree, 28% agree, and 8% disagree as shown in Table (1). It is worth mentioning that accessibility is intended to be visual, not physical. This statement is complementary to the previous one since it emphasizes and supports the fact that the participants can observe and read these signs effortlessly and without the need for permission to access them.
- E- The participants' interest in reading the translations of public signs conveyed in the sixth statement also scores high agreement, where 60% of the participants strongly agree and 32% of them agree, and 0% disagree as shown in Table (1). Our participants are obsessed with reading the translations of signs continuously. This statement plays a crucial role in

- determining the appropriateness of the representative sample: their interest in reading the translations of signs means that they are aware of the quality of these translations, the types of errors that exist and their degree of seriousness, and the extent to which meaning is affected by the mistranslation. Such awareness leaves a positive impact on the participants' decisions or viewpoints.
- o- The participant's response to the seventh statement on the writing style and languages used in public signs demonstrates a total agreement of 72% divided into 22% strongly agree and 52% agree, while the total disagreement scores 4% only as shown in Table (1). Such an agreement strongly emphasizes that public signs have been written in plain language and easy-to-read style.
- As for the next statement on the importance of public signs in enhancing the aesthetic aspects of any city, the participants strongly confirm this aspect. There are 56% of them strongly agree and 26% agree, whereas only 6% disagree as can be seen in Table (1). The high percentages of the agreement reflect a clear indication of the significant role played by public signs in adding extra aesthetic aspects to any public sphere. Moreover, they (i.e., public signs) do not only act as a cosmetic dimension in urban cities but also do act as an integral element in the overall picture of modern societies, where their absence causes a remarkable defect in the identity of cities and their citizens.
- V- The eighth statement is about the extent to which public signs constitute a significant part of urban planning as an important element in any developing country. The participants demonstrated a high agreement, where 56% of them strongly agree and 32% agree, scoring a total agreement of 88% as shown in Table (1). As can be seen through this overwhelming response, public signs, then, are proved to be an indispensable constituent of contemporary urban planning. This role comes from the different functions it serves in several walks of our life, including guidance, informativeness, advertisement, warning, and so on.
- A- The presence of public signs, whether monolingual, bilingual, or multilingual, facilitates the effective movement of people worldwide. No one can deny that public signs perform a valuable role in directing people inside and outside their countries: this has been confirmed by the participants' responses to the tenth statement where 94% show high agreement

- (68% strongly agree and 26% agree) and 2% of them demonstrate very low percentages of disagreement as illustrated in Table (1).
- 9- As far as the translation strategies employed in translating public signs, the participants seem not to be satisfied enough with them. This can be seen when only 24% showed their agreement with the appropriateness of these strategies, while 50% of them showed their disagreement. This indicates that these strategies are not efficient enough in translating such types of texts.
- Volume 1.- Using unified terminology in any piece of writing is crucial for maintaining a systematic writing style. In addition, it reflects writers' or translators' competence in the language (s) they deal with. In our case where the content of public signs is investigated, it is important to know what the participants think of the uniformity of English terminology employed: 64% of them demonstrated a disagreement indicating that lexical items used in translating public signs are not unified. On the other hand, only 14% of them show an agreement, as illustrated in Table (1):
- 11- Statement twelve addresses a very sensitive issue related to those who are responsible for translating public signs: Do they have a degree in translation? or are they specialists in translation? Although the participants are not sure that texts are translated by non-specialist people, they strongly believe in this assumption, where 58% of them strongly agree and 28% agree, whereas only 2% of them disagreed as demonstrated in Table (1). Indeed, their assumption is based on the naïve errors or mistakes that exist on these signs, which would not have been done even by novice translators.
- 1Y- In statement thirteen, the focus is the extent to which public signs are properly translated. Out of the responses, it is clear that there is a tendency that public signs are not properly translated: this tendency emerged when 78% of the participants agree, whereas no participant agreed as shown in Table (1). This decision is, possibly, derived from the sample's comparison of both source and target texts shown on public signs closely, which, undoubtedly, results in diagnosing various types of errors.
- 1°- As for the tolerance of errors committed, only 28% of the participants showed their agreement, 38% showed their disagreement, whereas 34% demonstrate neutrality as revealed in Table (1). Although the number of participants who confirmed that errors

- existed in the translations of public signs are not tolerable is more than those who confirmed the opposite and the others who demonstrated neutrality, it seems that participants' judgment is based on the degree of seriousness these errors have. Some may find errors are just linguistic lapses, whereas others could relate them to social, cultural, and /or educational issues, which could have undesired consequences.
- 12- It is quite an easy task for those who master both Arabic and English to find out whether translations convey the exact meaning of source texts or not, especially when both versions are available. In response to the statement about the extent to which meaning is altered by the errors, 62% confirm that these errors alter the meaning of the ST, whereas 24% adopt the opposite as illustrated in Table (1).
- 10- It is essential to address the statement about how interested the participants are in reading mistranslated public signs to get an idea about the impact these signs might leave on their mental or psychological state. The interest in this context could be a gauge of the degree of disturbance caused by the mistranslated signs. The statistical analysis of this statement revealed that 76% dislike reading these mistranslated signs, whereas 10% like to read them as shown in Table (1). These numbers emphasize the negative impact mistranslated signs have on their viewer, specifically bilinguals.
- NT- Apart from what linguistic aspects might be influenced or violated by mistranslated signs, social and/or cultural aspects are also important to be investigated. Fundamentally, the impact of mistranslated public signs on the visual quality of the place they are situated in should be questioned. It was found that there is an overwhelming majority of agreement among the sample on the role played by mistranslation on the image of the city, where 90% agreed that mistranslated public signs degrade the visual quality of where they are situated, while 8% of them disagreed with this statement as illustrated in Table (1).
- NY- The environment is composed of a fabric of several natural and man-made factors. Proper manipulation of these factors would result in a visually and mentally homogenous, well-organized, and healthy environment. To determine whether mistranslated signs have a negative impact or not, it was necessary to address the impact mistranslated signs have on the environment. Responses to this statement showed that 68% Of the participants agree

- on the fact that mistranslated signs have a negative environmental impact, and only 12% of them demonstrated their disagreement as Table (1) reveals.
- NA- Finally, the awareness of official authorities of translation errors on signs should be addressed. In other words, do sign designers have an idea about translation errors public signs contain? It has been discovered that the sample believes that the designers are unaware of these committed errors: 50% of them strongly disagree and 32% of them disagree, in other words, 82% of the total number of participants disagree that sign designers are aware, while only 2% agree as shown in Table (1).

Having all questionnaire statements analyzed, it is essential, for purposes of clarity, to gather all participants' responses in one table to reflect an overall picture for readers. Table (1) below shows the nineteen statements of the questionnaire and their responses in percentages according to the Five-level Likert Scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

Table (1): The Participants' Responses to the Questionnaire Statements

Statement	Strongly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly
No.	disagree				agree
1	0%	4%	16%	36%	44%
2	0%	2%	8%	40%	50%
3	0%	6%	8%	32%	54%
4	0%	8%	20%	28%	44%
5	0%	0%	8%	32%	60%
6	0%	4%	22%	52%	22%
7	0%	6%	12%	26%	56%
8	2%	0%	10%	32%	56%
9	2%	2%	2%	26%	68%
10	16%	34%	26%	22%	2%
11	16%	48%	22%	12%	2%
12	0%	2%	12%	28%	58%
13	0%	0%	22%	60%	18%
14	10%	28%	34%	16%	12%
15	38%	24%	14%	18%	6%
16	4%	6%	14%	38%	38%
17	0%	8%	2%	30%	60%
18	2%	10%	20%	36%	32%
19	50%	32%	16%	2%	0%

4.3. The Statistical Analysis of the Questionnaire

The purpose of this analysis is to find out the correlation between mistranslated public signs and the visual pollution or deformation of the image of the city through the responses of the participants to the questionnaire items by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), v. 24. The following table shows the statistical means and standard deviations of the participant's responses to the questionnaire items:

Table (2): Statistical Means and Standard Deviations of the Participants' Responses

Main Variables	Sub-variables	Questionnair e Items	Statistical Means of Sub-variables	Gener al Mean	Standard Deviation	Rank	General St. Dev.
Independent		A1	4.28	4.39	0.886	Second	0.984
Variable= Z1	Frequency of Translation= C1	A2			1.083		
	Availability and	A3	4.274	1	1.054	Third	0.932
	Importance of	A4			0.788		
	Public Signs= C2	A5			0.785		
	200	A6	1		0.876		
		A7			0.652	1	
		A8	4.79		1.152		
		A9			1.352		
	Translation	A10			1.078	First	0.928
	Efficiency of Public	A11			0.884		
	Signs= C3	A12			0.882]	
	31003	A13			0.671	1	
		A14			0.981	1	
		A15			1.076]	
Dependent	The Image of the	A16	3.54	3.54	0.918	Fourth	0.816
Variable= Z2	City= C4	A17			0.811	1	
		A18]		0.774		
Total	4	19		2		4	

Source: Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), v. 24

Out of the table above, it seems that the sub-variable (C3) scores the highest rank among the other sub-variables with a statistical mean of (4.79) and general standard deviation (0.928), indicating that this sub-variable is the most important one according to the viewpoints of the study participants. The sub-variable (C1) comes in the second rank among the other sub-variables with a statistical mean of (4.28) and general standard deviation (0.984). In the third rank, the sub-variable (C2) comes with a statistical mean of (4.274) and a general standard deviation (0.932). Finally, the sub-variable (C4) scores the lowest arithmetic mean of (3.54) with a general standard deviation (0.816) to be in the fourth rank.

4.3.1. Validity and Reliability Test

When designing a questionnaire, it is better to pay considerable attention to issues of validity and reliability. The purpose of doing so is to make sure that the items or questions of the questionnaire are robust and appropriate to measure the concerned variables. In this regard, the validity of questionnaire items in the present study has been assessed by a jury consisting of five members from three universities. As far as the reliability test is concerned, the researcher adopted Cronbach's Alpha measure to test the internal consistency of the questionnaire items. When measuring the questionnaire items which consist of two main variables (Z1, Z2) and four sub-variables (C1, C2, C3, C4) by using SPSS software, the test scores (0.636) which are statistically acceptable according to Cronbach Alpha measure as shown in table (3) below:

Table (3): Results of Cronbach Alpha Measure

Main Variables	CRONBACHE α	P-VALUE	T-TEST	T- SCH.	SIG.
Z1	0.636	0.653	4.416	2.012	0.000
Z2		0.597	4.573	2.012	0.000

On the other hand, the T-test of the independent variable (Z1) scores (4.416) which is significantly and statistically high and acceptable compared to the T-Scheduled which scores (2.012), whereas the T-test of the dependent variable (Z2) scores (4.573), which is higher than the T-Scheduled indicating a high significance for the questionnaire items according to the viewpoints of the jury members. Moreover, the P-value of the independent variable (Z1) scores (0.653) and the dependent variable (Z2) scores (0.597), indicating that there are statistically crucial differences between their arithmetic means compared to the hypothetical mean of (3.00), which indicates that all the questionnaire items are valid and reliable.

4.3.2. Regression and Correlation Test

Out of the matrix below which reveals the correlation test (Pearson's r Test) between the main variables (Z1-Z2) and their sub-variables (C1-C4), it seems that all correlation results are significant and above the average rate, where the lowest correlation in the table below is between C1 and Z2, and the highest correlation is between C3 and C1. This indicates that there is a positive relation of impact and correlation between the independent and dependent variables and their sub-variables. See Figure (1) below.

Table (4): Results of Pearson's r Test

	C2	C3	C4	Z1	Z2
1	0.65	0.689	0.545	0.534	0.506
0.65	1	0.621	0.681	0.626	0.554
0.689	0.621	1	0.589	0.591	0.525
0.545	0.681	0.589	1	0.626	0.544
0.534	0.626	0.591	0.626	1	0.554
0.506	0.554	0.525	0.554	0.544	1
	0.689 0.545 0.534	0.65 1 0.689 0.621 0.545 0.681 0.534 0.626	0.65 1 0.621 0.689 0.621 1 0.545 0.681 0.589 0.534 0.626 0.591	0.65 1 0.621 0.681 0.689 0.621 1 0.589 0.545 0.681 0.589 1 0.534 0.626 0.591 0.626	0.65 1 0.621 0.681 0.626 0.689 0.621 1 0.589 0.591 0.545 0.681 0.589 1 0.626 0.534 0.626 0.591 0.626 1

Source: Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), v. 24

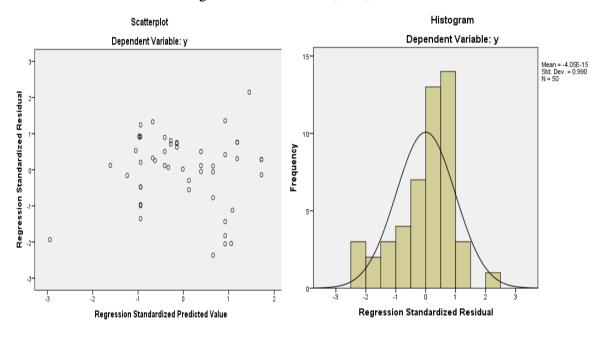


Figure (1): Frequency and Regression of the Dependent Variable

The following table shows a summary of the correlation and impact between the two main variables according to the results extracted from SPSS.

Table (5): The Correlation and Impact between the Two

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of Estimate
1	.551 ^a	.304	.289	.31641

a. Predictors: (Constant), X(Z1)

b. Dependent Variable: Y (Z2)

4.3.3. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

The ANOVA of the responses of the sample, which consisted of 50 participants presented in Table (6) below, shows that the p-value (sig. <0.01) indicates a significant correlation between mistranslated public signs and the visual pollution or image of the city.

Table (6): Results of Analysis of Variance

Mode	el	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2.094	1	2.094	20.917	.000 ^b
	Residual	4.806	48	.100		
	Total	6.900	49	322552222		

- a. Dependent Variable: Y(Z2)
- b. Predicator: (Constant), X (Z1)

After presenting all the statistical relationships above in terms of correlations that there is a positive and significant impact between the independent variable (Z1) which stands for mistranslated public signs and the dependent variable (Z2) that stands for the visual pollution or image of the city, it has been found that the value of T-Test is (4.416) (see table 3), which is higher than the value of T in T-Table (see appendix 3). In other words, there is a significant impact of the independent variable (Z1) on the dependent variable (Z2) at the confidence level of 95% because R² is (.304) (see table 5) meaning that almost 31% of (Z2) resulted from (Z1).

Coefficients

			andardized efficients	Standardized Coefficient			
Mod	del	В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	
1	(Constant)	2.144	.486		4.416	.000	
	z1	.568	.124	.551	4.573	.000	

- a. Dependent Variable: Y
- 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusions

The conclusions arrived at in the present study are:

1- In light of the analysis of the collected Arabic-English public signs, it seems that the translated versions indicate many linguistic errors. These errors highly affect the

- meaning of the TTs; this leads to misunderstanding, confusion, and, most importantly, distraction. A close observation of
- Y- these errors would reflect a clear insight into their possible causes. The most obvious causes could be the translators' linguistic incompetence, lack of translation skills, unawareness of the cultural differences, resort to literal translation, the use of low-quality translation software, translators' carelessness through neglecting the revision phase, and the absence of censorship of the official authorities responsible of creating bilingual signs.
- 2- The most common types of errors identified in the analyzed signs are caused by word disorder, wrong word choice, and the improper translation of proper nouns. All of these errors primarily influence the meaning of the target texts, hence resulting in low-quality products. Unquestionably, the emergence of such errors in particular stems from the fact that both Arabic and English differ altogether in terms of their structural rules. Moreover, translators' incompetence and lack of translation skills may also be overriding causes, especially in cases where proper nouns are involved. A literal translation might be another cause, particularly when a wrong lexical item is chosen instead of an appropriate one.
- 3- The translational errors committed alter the meaning and message intended to be conveyed in the target language. Meaning alteration varies among these texts depending on the interpretation of the translator responsible for the task of translation. Some errors change the original meaning in a way that the final product portrays a different message. Other errors partially shift the original meaning, i.e., the message conveyed is incomplete or distorted. In both cases, meaning alteration is unacceptable. This finding has been strongly supported in the
- 4- Although Arabic texts displayed on public signs are characterized by economy, clarity, the use of plain language, and simple structures, translators fail to produce acceptable English equivalent texts. This failure is a clear indication that these translations have been produced by non-specialists. This assumption is strongly supported by the participants' viewpoints, where 86% of them agreed upon the fact that these signs are translated by naïve or inexperienced people.

5- The mistranslated Arabic-English public signs take part in generating visual pollution in Iraqi cities. Three items in the questionnaire (viz. statements 16, 17, and 18) have been employed to find out this impact. In response to statement 16, out of 50 participants, 38 of them (i.e., 76%) show their disinterest in reading mistranslated signs, indicating that these errors, for them, are visual pollutants. Concerning statement 17, 90% (i.e., 45 participants) agreed that mistranslated public signs degrade the visual quality of the place where they are situated. Moreover, participants' responses to sentence 18 revealed that 68% of the participants agree with the fact that mistranslated signs have a negative environmental impact.

6- The official institutions that employ bilingual signs inside or outside cities are not responsible for the translation of these signs at all and do not even have a role in reviewing their translations. Rather, they depend entirely on translation-graduate offices or contracting companies adopting service projects. Through this, the role of translation and translators can be completely absent in governmental institutions due to the lack of awareness of the importance of translation and its effective social role.

5.2. Recommendations

The researchers would like to list several recommendations that would, hopefully, be beneficial for those who are responsible for designing and translating public signs. These recommendations are:

- 1. Translators of public signs should deal with the texts on signs carefully as their conciseness and clarity pose a burden, i.e., translators have to take into account that both source and target texts should be rendered completely and acceptably as the translated versions are available and visible to all people, which means that translation errors can easily be identified by specialized people which may lead to serious consequences.
- Y. If the translators prefer to use machine translation, it would be important to adopt modern CAT tools rather than raw machine-translated texts to obtain high-quality products
- Translators should have a sense of responsibility towards the translation task of public signs: although a public sign may not contain more than one sentence, however, it is still not an easy task.

Much attention should be allocated to the processes of revision and edition of the translated signs, to avoid all types of errors that may occur. It is unacceptable to translate any piece of writing without revising it even if it is a single word: the meanings of words are changeable depending on the text type and the context in which they are employed.

References

Abdulwahid, H. Y. (2017). Linguistic Errors in Shop Signs in Erbil City. *Cihan University-Erbil Scientific Journal Vol. (1)*, No. (2), pp. 264-278.

Al-Anbari, M., Abd, M. &Obaid, A. (2020). Evaluation of Some Visual Pollution Indicators in

the Physical Environment of Al-Hilla City: Muthanna Journal of Engineering and

Technology (MJET), Vol. (8), No. (1), (2020), 10-25, ISSN: 2572-0325. Retrieved

from: www.muthjet.com. Accessed 20 November 2022

Al-Athwary, A. (2014) Translating Shop Signs into English in Sana'a's Streets: A Linguistic Analysis. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science, Vol (4*), No (12), 140- 156.

Algryani, A. (2021). On the Translation of Linguistic Landscape: strategies and quality assessment. *Khazar Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vol. (24,)* No (2), pp. 5-21.

Al-Kharabsheh, A., Al-Azzam, B., and Obeidat, M. (2008) Lost in Translation: shop signs in Jordan. *Meta Translators' Journal, Vol. (53)*, No. (3), 717-727.

Al-Maryani, J. (2023). Reframing cultural conceptions through translation. *Journal of the College of Education, University of Wassit*, Vol. 51(1), pp. 245-257.

Backhaus, P. 2007. Linguistic Landscapes: A Comparative Study of Urban Multilingualism in Tokyo. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.

Collins English Dictionary. (2022). Definition of Sign. Available Online at:

https://www.collinsdictionary.com/english/sign.Accessed 4 February 2023

Costa, Â., Ling, W., Luís, T., Correia, R., and Coheur, L. (2015). A linguistically motivated

taxonomy for Machine Translation error analysis. Machine Translation, 29(2), pp.127-161.

Available at: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10590-015-9169-0. Accessed 2 May 2023

de Beaugrande, Robert and Wolfgang Dressler (1981) Introduction to Text Linguistics London & New York: Longman.

Edeleman, L. (2010). Linguistic Landscapes in the Netherlands A Study of Multilingualism in Amsterdam and Friesland. Academic dissertation. University of Amsterdam. Available

online at: https://t.me/c/1427600217/1184. Accessed 14 February

Jose F. (2014). Orthographic Errors Committed by Sophomore Students: A Linguistic Analysis: *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences MCSER Publishing*, Rome-Italy, Vol 5 No 23, pp. 2439_ 2443. Available at: http://dx.doi.org/10.5901/mjss.2014.v5n23p2439. Accessed 4 February 2023

Koskinen, K. (2012) Linguistic landscape as a translational space. The case of Hervanta. In J. Vuolteenaho, A. Newby, L. Ameel, & M. Scott (Eds.), Language, space and power: Urban entanglements (pp. 73–92), COLLeGIUM no 13. Retrieved from https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/38600. Accessed 12 November 2022

Merriam-Webster Dictionary. (2022). Signage Definition. Available Online at: https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/signage. Accessed 10 January 2023

Munday, J. (2016). Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications. London and New York: Routledge (4^{th} ed.)

Nasar, J. L. Ed. (1998). The effect of sign complexity and coherence on the perceived quality of retail scenes, and environmental aesthetics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 300-330.

Nida, E. & C. Taber (1969). The Theory and Practice of Translation, Leiden, E. J. Brill.

Portella, A. (2014). Visual Pollution: Advertising, Signage, and Environmental Quality. England & USA: Ashgate Publishing Limited

Reh, M. 2004. Multilingual writing. A reader-oriented typology—with examples from Lira Municipality (Uganda), International Journal of the Sociology of Language 170.

Said Mohamed, M., Ibrahim, A., Dodo, Y., and Bashir, F. (2021). Visual pollution manifestations negative impacts on the people of Saudi Arabia: International Journal of Advanced and Applied Sciences, Vol. 8(9), pp. 94-101.

Scollon, R. and Scollon, S.W. 2003. Discourses in Place: Language in the Material World. London/New York: Routledge.

Snell-Hornby, M. (2001). Translation studies an integrated approach. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.

Spolsky, B. and Cooper, R. L. (1991). The Languages of Jerusalem. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Venuti, L. (1995). The Translation Studies Reader. London and New York: Routledge.

Vilar D, Xu J, D'Haro LF, Ney H. (2006). Error Analysis of Machine Translation Output. In: International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, Genoa, Italy pp. 697-702.

Voronych, Y. (2013). Visual Pollution of Urban Space in Lviv. Przestrzen I Forma.

Wakil, K., Hussnain, M. Q., Tahir, A., and Naeem, M. A. (2016). Regulating Outdoor Advertisement Boards; Employing Spatial Decision Support System to Control Visual Pollution. In: IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environment Science, Vol. 37(1).

Word-Sense Online Dictionary. (2023). Visual Pollution. Retrieved from:

https://www.wordsense.eu/visual_pollution/ . Accessed 20 November 2023

Yilmaz, D. and Sagsöz, A. (2011). In the context of visual pollution: Effects to Trabzon city center Silhouette. Asian Social Science, 7(5): 98-109.

https://doi.org/10.5539/ass.v7n5p98. Accessed 12 December 2022

Zimny, D.~(2017).~Language~and~place-making:~public~signage~in~the~linguistic~landscape~of~Windhoek's~central~business~district.~Master~Thesis,~Stellenbosch~University.

Retrieved from: https://scholar.sun.ac.za. Accessed 12 March 2023

Appendix (1): The Questionnaire Form

Code	Question	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly
		Agree				Disagree
1	I often translate from Arabic into					
	English before.					
2	I often translate from English					
	into Arabic.					
3	Bilingual Arabic-English public					
	signs are available in my city.					
4	These signs are accessible.					
5	I am interested in reading the					
	translations of public signs.					
6	The writing style and languages					
	used on public signs are readable					
7	Public signs enhance the					
	aesthetic aspect of any city.					
8	Public signs constitute a					
	significant part of urban					
	planning.					
9	Public signs play a great role in					
	directing people, especially					
	foreign visitors.					
10	The translation strategies used in					
	translating texts on signs are					
	appropriate.					
11	English lexical terminology					
	employed in the translations is					
	unified.					
12	I believe that the provided					
	translations are made by non-					

	specialized people.			
13	Texts on these signs are not			
	properly translated.			
14	Errors committed in the			
	translations are tolerable.			
15	Errors committed do not alter the			
	meaning.			
16	I do not like to read			
	mistranslated public signs.			
17	Mistranslated signs degrade the			
	visual quality of the place they			
	are situated in.			
18	They have negative			
	environmental impacts.			
19	Sign designers are aware of the			
	errors in the translations.			

Appendix

(2): Arabic-English Public Signs



Picture (1): Picture taken at 10:07 pm on 25 December 2022 at the entrance of Safwan City, Basrah Governorate



Picture (2): Picture taken at 11:41 am on 20 December 2022 at the Gardens of Presidential Palaces in Basrah



Picture (3): Picture taken at 8:40 am on 4 November 2022 at the Headquarters of Oil

National Company



Picture (4): Picture taken at 9:05 am on 9 January 2023 at Al-Tawaisa Street, Basrah City Centre



Picture (5): Picture taken at 9:53 am on 9 January 2023 at Al-Tawisa District, Basrah City Centre



Picture (6): Picture taken at 10:22 am on 26 January at Al-Jamea'a Stree, Basrah City Centre



Picture (7): Picture taken at 1:50 pm on 31 November 2022 at the University of Basrah Campus



Picture (8): Picture taken at 8:14 pm on 12 January 2023 at Basrah International Stadium

Appendix(3): T-Table

					Confid	dence Le	evel				
	0%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	95%	98%	99%	99.8%	99.99
Z	0.000	0.674	0.842	1.036	1.282	1.645	1.960	2.326	2.576	3.090	3.29
1000	0.000	0.675	0.842	1.037	1.282	1.646	1.962	2.330	2.581	3.098	3.3
100	0.000	0.677	0.845	1.042	1.290	1.660	1.984	2.364	2.626	3.174	3.3
80	0.000	0.678	0.846	1.043	1.292	1.664	1.990	2.374	2.639	3.195	3.4
60	0.000	0.679	0.848	1.045	1.296	1.671	2.000	2.390	2.660	3.232	3.4
40	0.000	0.681	0.851	1.050	1.303	1.684	2.021	2.423	2.704	3.307	3.5
30	0.000	0.683	0.854	1.055	1.310	1.697	2.042	2.457	2.750	3.385	3.6
29	0.000	0.683	0.854	1.055	1.311	1.699	2.045	2.462	2.756	3.396	3.6
28	0.000	0.683	0.855	1.056	1.313	1.701	2.048	2.467	2.763	3.408	3.6
27	0.000	0.684	0.855	1.057	1.314	1.703	2.052	2.473	2.771	3.421	3.6
26	0.000	0.684	0.856	1.058	1.315	1.706	2.056	2.479	2.779	3.435	3.7
25	0.000	0.684	0.856	1.058	1.316	1.708	2.060	2.485	2.787	3.450	3.7
24	0.000	0.685	0.857	1.059	1.318	1.711	2.064	2.492	2.797	3.467	3.7
23	0.000	0.685	0.858	1.060	1.319	1.714	2.069	2.500	2.807	3.485	3.7
22	0.000	0.686	0.858	1.061	1.321	1.717	2.074	2.508	2.819	3.505	3.7
21	0.000	0.686	0.859	1.063	1.323	1.721	2.080	2.518	2.831	3.527	3.8
20	0.000	0.687	0.860	1.064	1.325	1.725	2.086	2.528	2.845	3.552	3.8
19	0.000	0.688	0.861	1.066	1.328	1.729	2.093	2.539	2.861	3.579	3.8
18	0.000	0.688	0.862	1.067	1.330	1.734	2.101	2.552	2.878	3.610	3.9
17	0.000	0.689	0.863	1.069	1.333	1.740	2.110	2.567	2.898	3.646	3.9
16	0.000	0.690	0.865	1.074	1.337	1.753	2.131	2.583	2.947	3.686	4.0
15	0.000	0.692	0.866	1.074	1.345	1.753	2.145	2.602	2.947	3.733	4.0
14	0.000	0.692	0.868	1.079	1.350	1.771	2.160	2.624	2.977	3.852	4.1
13	0.000	0.695	0.873	1.083	1.350	1.782	2.179	2.650	3.055	3.852	4.2
12	0.000	0.695	0.878	1.083	1.356	1.796	2.201	2.681	3.055	3.930	4.4
11	0.000	0.700 0.697	0.879 0.876	1.093	1.372 1.363	1.812	2.228	2.764	3.169 3.106	4.144	4.5
9	0.000	0.703	0.883	1.100	1.383	1.833	2.262	2.821	3.250	4.297	4.7
8	0.000	0.706	0.889	1.108	1.397	1.860	2.306	2.896	3.355	4.501	5.0
7	0.000	0.711	0.896	1.119	1.415	1.895	2.365	2.998	3.499	4.785	5.4
6	0.000	0.718	0.906	1.134	1.440	1.943	2.447	3.143	3.707	5.208	5.9
5	0.000	0.727	0.920	1.156	1.476	2.015	2.571	3.365	4.032	5.893	6.8
4	0.000	0.741	0.941	1.190	1.533	2.132	2.776	3.747	4.604	7.173	8.6
3	0.000	0.765	0.978	1.250	1.638	2.353	3.182	4.541	5.841	10.215	12.9
2	0.000	0.816	1.061	1.386	1.886	2.920	4.303	6.965	9.925	22.327	31.5
1	0.000	1.000	1.376	1.963	3.078	6.314	12.71	31.82	63.66	318.31	636
df	TANKS AND AND A		***********		and the same of	The state of the s	and the same of th	400 March 1974	de manufació	and the second	ALCO TO SERVICE SERVIC
two-tails	1.00	0.50	0.40	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.002	0.00
one-tail	0.50	0.25	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.05	0.025	0.01	0.005	0.001	0.00
cum. prob	t.50	t .75	t.80	t.85	t.90	t .95	t .975	t.99	t .995	t.999	t.9