

Challenges Faced by English-Kurdish Interpreters and Translators in Iraqi Kurdistan

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ABSTRACT: The function of English-Kurdish interpreters and translators is vital in the complex terrain of Iraqi Kurdistan, but it is fraught with numerous difficulties in the political, cultural, and linguistic spheres. This study explores these issues by utilizing the perspectives of ten qualified translators, shedding light on the complex web of roadblocks that arise during the translation process. The participants identified a range of challenges, from grammatical and syntactic differences between languages to the subtleties involved in translating proverbs, idioms, and historical materials. These linguistic attempts were compared to solving puzzles, which is a fitting analogy given the importance of having a deep mastery of both source and target languages. A comparative examination of the existing literature demonstrates how translation issues are universal, spanning linguistic and geographic boundaries. The results highlight the critical importance of language aptitude; by bolstering linguistic proficiency and fostering deeper cultural understanding, stakeholders can facilitate more accurate and meaningful cross-cultural communication, fostering a climate of enhanced intercultural understanding and collaboration in the region and beyond.

Keywords: Translation, English-Kurdish, Linguistic Challenges, Cultural Sensitivity, Political Factors, Iraqi Kurdistan.

1. Introduction

1.1. Kurdistan context & The History of Translation in Universities of KRI

Kurdistan is surrounded by Syria, Iran, and Turkey. Erbil, also known as Erbil in Kurdish, is the regional capital. The Kurdistan Regional Government is in charge of the area officially. In 1970, the territory of Kurdistan was established. Following years of intense fighting, the region was granted autonomy in March 1970 when an autonomy agreement was struck with Baghdad. The inhabitants and environment of Iraqi Kurdistan were severely damaged by the 1980s Iran-Iraq War and the Iraqi army's Anfal genocidal campaign. After the Kurdish people's 1991 rebellion against Saddam Hussein, many Kurds were compelled to leave their homeland and seek sanctuary in Turkey and Iran's borders. After the First Gulf War in 1991, a no-fly zone was established in the north to aid the repatriation of Kurdish refugees. (Kurdistan Regional Government, n.d)

There are now about 19 state-funded and state-recognized private higher education institutions in the Kurdistan Region. Every academic year is divided into two semesters. In universities, a degree programmed typically requires eight or ten semesters of study to be completed. The aforementioned establishments comprise universities and comparable postsecondary educational facilities, such as comprehensive and technical universities, as well as specialist universities (e.g. for medical, sport, administrative studies, philosophy and theology). Doctorates can only be awarded by universities or other comparable entities. There are 94,700 students enrolled in higher education institutions in the Kurdistan region. 48 percent of pupils are female. Since education is free in the Kurdistan Region, there is no tuition. (Higher education in Kurdistan region, n.d)

This dataset encompasses information regarding the universities in Kurdistan, specifically focusing on those that host Translation Departments. The University of Sulaimaniya's Department of Translation was founded in 2014 and offers extensive courses in linguistics, language and culture studies, translation theories, and practice to give students the tools they need to succeed in translating and interpreting assignments. (College of Languages, n.d). Since it is the foundation of Cihan University – Sulaimaniya, the Department of Translation is one of the best departments there is. The Department started the study in the 2018–2019 school year. (Department of Translation, n.d)

Since 2013–2014, the Translation Department of Cihan University–Erbil has become a component of the College of Arts and Letters. (Bajalan,2013) In the Mergasor Technical Institute, the Translation Department of Erbil Polytechnic University for Techniques/English was founded in 2021–2022. (Department of Translation Techniques/English,2019). The Translation department of Nawroz University was established in 2017–2018 (Department of Translation,2021). A two-year programmed of study leading to an MA degree in Translation and Interpreting through coursework and research is available through the Department of Translation, College of Languages, University of Duhok. (Department of Translation, College of Languages, University of Duhok,n.d).

1.2. The Statement of the Problem

The field of translation and interpretation serves as a critical bridge between languages and cultures, facilitating communication in diverse contexts. This study delves into the challenges confronted by English-Kurdish interpreters and translators operating within the unique socio-linguistic landscape of Iraqi Kurdistan. As the region undergoes continuous transformations, influenced by historical, cultural, and political factors, the language professionals engaged in cross-cultural communication face multifaceted obstacles.

This study's main goal is to pinpoint and examine the particular language difficulties faced by English-Kurdish interpreters and translators while doing their jobs. Since language is the foundation of communication, it is fundamentally complex. and when navigating the intricate terrain between English and Kurdish in Iraqi Kurdistan, Interpreters encounter a multitude of linguistic subtleties. Idiomatic phrases, syntactical changes, and the evolving nature of the regional tongue are a few signs of these challenges. By answering Research Question 1, the study aims to shed information on the difficulties tied to language translation in a given setting (RQ1).

Interpreters and translators working between English and Kurdish have additional challenges related to culture on top of difficulties with language. Research Question 2 (RQ2) looks into how these cultural variations affect the effectiveness of communications and translations. In a region with a wide variety of traditions, customs, and historical influences, interpreters have the challenging challenge of conveying cultural nuances in addition to language. Language experts employ a multitude of strategies to bridge the cultural gap. This research will examine these method as well as the creativity and adaptability required to successfully negotiate various cultural contexts.

Interpreters and translators between English and Kurdish operate in Iraqi Kurdistan, a region with complex sociopolitical dynamics. The third research question (RQ3) focusses at the way these socio-political challenges impact language specialists' professional activities, and consequently, their roles and duties. Local conflicts, shifting power structures, and the political landscape can all have a major impact on the demands and expectations placed on interpreters and translators. It is crucial to comprehend these dynamics in order to comprehend the barriers affecting their work environment. The importance of this study extends beyond linguists and translation studies experts to legislators, language service providers, and anybody connected with diplomacy and international relations. By providing insightful information about the complicated issues faced by English-Kurdish interpreters and translators in Iraqi Kurdistan, the study's findings hope to advance knowledge of the difficulties involved in cross-cultural communication in this particular setting. By use of an extensive analysis of language, cultural, and socio-political dimensions, this research seeks to pave the way for enhanced practices and strategies in the field of language interpretation and translation in Iraqi Kurdistan.

1.3. The Objective of the Study

This study aims to examine in detail the challenges faced by interpreters and translators employed in English-Kurdish in Iraqi Kurdistan. Through an analysis of the linguistic, cultural, contextual, and practical challenges they encounter, the study aims to offer an extensive understanding of the intricacies associated with their line of work. The study intends to determine how historical contexts, socio-political dynamics, and technological improvements effect interpretation and translation processes in this subject through empirical research and analysis. On top of that, the goal of the study is to evaluate how these difficulties affect the precision and caliber of translated writings and interactions that are understood in a variety of contexts. The study's conclusions are ultimately meant to enlighten interested parties and advance professional standards in English-to-Kurdish translation and interpretation in Iraqi Kurdistan.

1.4. Research Questions

The present study aims to answer the following research questions:

RQ1. What specific linguistic challenges do English-Kurdish interpreters and translators encounter in their work within the context of Iraqi Kurdistan?

RQ2. How do cultural differences impact the effectiveness of communication and translation between English and Kurdish languages, and what strategies do interpreters employ to navigate these challenges?

RQ3. To what extent do the socio-political dynamics in Iraqi Kurdistan influence the role and responsibilities of English-Kurdish interpreters and translators, and how does this impact their professional practices?

2. Literature Review:

The nuances of translation and interpretation from English to Kurdish are extremely important, especially in the dynamic context of Iraqi Kurdistan. The focus of our investigation is summarized in the research title, "Challenges Faced by English-Kurdish Interpreters and Translators in Iraqi Kurdistan." We acknowledge in this introductory part the vital role that these language experts play in promoting efficient communication and intercultural understanding. The upcoming review of the literature aims to investigate and evaluate current studies in order to gain a thorough understanding of the difficulties faced by English-Kurdish translators and interpreters in this unique context.

While there aren't many studies, if any, that concentrate on the challenges faced by interpreters and translators who operate between Kurdish and English. It has been highlighted that ten earlier research.

The role of a translator extends beyond bilingualism, encompassing the ability to comprehend, interpret, and tailor messages for a target audience while considering social and cultural contexts alongside linguistic subtleties (Kishore, 2019). Intercultural translation heavily relies on translators' skills and translations (Sathisha, 2020). Research indicates challenges in translating between cultures, such as inaccuracies in translating polysemes and cultural nuances affecting health initiatives (Al-Jarf, 2022; Wang, Lee, & Fetzer, 2006). Recent studies explore the sociology of translation professions and the challenges facing translators in Iran, aiming to improve their professional status (Kafi, Khoshsaligheh, & Hashemi, 2018). Additionally, research delves into difficulties encountered by translation The challenges of cultural differences in translating journalistic articles and students' simultaneous interpretation (Aminzadeh, 2023; Qadir & Ali, 2023). Another study compares Yemeni translation students' translations with machine translation results to examine the difficulties they have while translating English neologisms into Arabic (Awadh & Shafiull, 2020). Aal-Hajiahmed (2022) studies interpreters' tactics and linguistic and cultural components while conducting PhD research on simultaneous interpreting issues between Arabic and English. In their 2020 study, Anwar, M., Dalle, A., and Hasmawati, H. qualitatively examine the challenges Indonesian students in translation courses experience. As a vital tool for cross-cultural communication, translation helps varied groups overcome linguistic and cultural divides. Global developments including greater international trade have fueled the growth of translation practice in recent decades. Globalization, migration, and technological and mass media developments (Sasi, 2017). Cultural nuances, colloquial idioms, and linguistic patterns are among the particular difficulties that come with comparative translation, underscoring the vital role that translators play in maintaining meaning and cultural context (Qalandarova, 2023). Adopting appropriate translation procedures suited to the task's complexity is necessary to ensure an accurate portrayal of the source text's meaning and style (Ginting, 2022). Scholars from a variety of fields have examined how translation interacts with law and how globalization processes within the legal arena. In order to encourage reflection within Legal Translation Studies, academics provide critical insights on the difficulties faced by legal translators in shifted societies, drawing on theories of legal pluralism (Rosario Martín Ruano, 2023).

3. Methodology:

The chosen research methodology for this study was qualitative research, which aimed to offer a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by translators all the way through the translation process. A methodological approach known as qualitative research places a strong emphasis on the investigation and interpretation of human experiences, actions, and point of view in order to offer complex phenomena nuanced insights. It is especially useful for examining subjective perceptions and comprehending the complex dynamics associated with difficulties in translation. The goal of qualitative research is to comprehend the meaning that people attach to their experiences. It looks for the fundamental

causes, convictions, and moral principles that influence behaviour in people. Within the framework of this investigation, qualitative research enabled a thorough examination of the difficulties faced by translators, giving understanding of the random character of these challenges and the methods used to conquer them.

Ten professional translators, covering a range of ages and genders, were enlisted as study participants. Any participant's age ranged from 20 to 50 years old. Two of the participants had a PhD and ten to fifteen years of work experience. In addition to that, four individuals have master's degrees and three to eight years of work experience. The remaining participants held bachelor's degrees and one to three years of work experience. Each offering their unique linguistic backgrounds and subject-matter expertise. Purposeful sampling, a widely used technique in qualitative research, was employed to find participants who might offer rich and varied perspectives on translation-related challenges. It was ensured that the participants had the necessary education and experience by employing this sampling technique. Make significant contributions to

Criteria for participant selection included factors such as years of experience in translation, language proficiency, and specialization in specific subject areas. By including translators with diverse backgrounds and experiences, the study aimed to capture a wide range of perspectives on translation challenges, thereby enriching the depth and breadth of the findings. The primary method of data collection employed in this study was semi-structured interviews. Semi-structured interviews provided a flexible yet systematic approach to gathering qualitative data, allowing for in-depth exploration of participants' experiences and perspectives while maintaining a degree of consistency across interviews. The interview protocol was designed to elicit detailed responses from participants regarding their experiences with translation challenges.

The interview protocol consisted of ten carefully planned open-ended questions that addressed the study's research questions. These questions were created to investigate a variety of translation challenges, including technological limitations, cultural nuances, and linguistic complexity. Rich and complicated data were acquired because open-ended questions let participants to share their thoughts and experiences in their own words. After the interviews were over, the following step in the data analysis process was to transcribe the interview statements. The process of transcription entailed accurately recording the participants' responses from the audio recordings of the interviews in written form. This procedure allowed for a deeper look at the data during analysis and guaranteed accuracy. The goal of the data analysis was to find important themes and trends in the transcripts of the interviews. Thematic analysis, a commonly used approach in qualitative research, was employed to systematically analyze the data and identify recurring themes related to translation challenges. The analysis involved coding the transcripts to identify meaningful units of text, categorizing these codes into themes, and exploring the relationships between them.

Overall, this qualitative research design allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the challenges encountered by translators during the translation process by engaging with participants' experiences and perspectives through interviews and employing rigorous data analysis techniques, the study aimed to generate insights that contributed to a deeper understanding of translation challenges and informed potential strategies for addressing them.

The current study seeks to answer the following research questions:

RQ1. What specific linguistic challenges do English-Kurdish interpreters and translators encounter in their work within the context of Iraqi Kurdistan?

RQ2. How do cultural differences impact the effectiveness of communication and translation between English and Kurdish languages, and what strategies do interpreters employ to navigate these challenges?

RQ3. To what extent do the socio-political dynamics in Iraqi Kurdistan influence the role and responsibilities of English-Kurdish interpreters and translators, and how does this impact their professional practices?

4. Findings and Discussions:

As this study revolves around three primary research inquiries, the semi-structured interview questions were meticulously organized into three distinct groups, each directly addressing one of the main research questions. Below, we present the findings derived from the invaluable perspectives of the ten professional translators who graciously participated in the interviews. These insights shed light on various facets of the research, offering a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter at hand.

4.1 Linguistic challenges that English-Kurdish interpreters and translators encounter in Iraqi Kurdistan:

In order to better understand the linguistic difficulties faced by English-Kurdish interpreters and translators in Iraqi Kurdistan, ten expert translators provided their perspectives. Their answers offer a thorough synopsis of the various challenges that arose throughout the translation process. While some participants pointed up just minor difficulties, others emphasized particular linguistic complexity. The complexities of interpreting historical Writings, issues with Arabic syntax and grammar, and the nuanced variations in idioms and proverbs were among the challenges. It was demonstrated how many language barriers may be, encompassing dialects, jargon, slang, and minor differences in the intricate, riddle-like structure of syntax and idioms. Participants also stressed the importance of having a solid grasp of both the source and target languages in order to overcome these obstacles. Translators face a variety of difficulties, from learning complex grammatical systems to comprehending colloquial English.

To address the linguistic challenges faced by English-Kurdish interpreters and translators in Iraqi Kurdistan, responses from 10 professional translators for “What language challenges did you face?” were gathered. Their insights shed light on the diverse array of hurdles encountered in the translation process:

- P1: I haven't encountered any.
- P2: I faced difficulties with Arabic due to its unique syntax and grammar structure, which differs significantly from Kurdish.
- P3: Challenges arose with idioms, proverbs, and translating old texts, such as those from the time of Kemal Ataturk.
- P4: No specific challenges come to mind; I've consistently managed language well.
- P5: Language hurdles encompass nuances, idioms, and technical terms that resist direct translation.
- P6: Each language has its own intricacies, including slang and dialects, which complicate translation.
- P7: Languages are akin to puzzles, requiring deciphering of tricky grammar and expressions.
- P8: Language challenges vary across language pairs, encompassing differences in grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and idiomatic expressions. Translators must possess a profound comprehension of both source and target languages to effectively surmount these obstacles.
- P9: Translation proves challenging due to the unique nuances, idioms, and grammar rules inherent in each language, necessitating meticulous attention to accurately convey meaning.
- P10: As a translator, I've grappled with challenges such as idiomatic expressions, complex grammar structures, and identifying equivalent words or phrases in the target language.

Regarding the second item “To what extent does the absence of an academic degree affect translation?” the researchers noticed that, the influence of lacking an academic degree on translation proficiency was examined through the perspectives of 10 professional translators, each offering nuanced viewpoints. While some emphasized the significant role an academic degree plays in enhancing language skills and credibility in the field, others highlighted that practical experience, ongoing learning, and language fluency are equally crucial factors in producing high-quality translations. Participants acknowledged that while not having a degree might limit job opportunities and hinder the establishment of a solid foundation in translation techniques, it doesn't necessarily preclude one from excelling in translation, especially if language mastery is strong. Economic fluctuations were also noted to impact the demand for translation services and associated rates. Overall, while the absence of an academic degree may pose certain challenges, it was recognized that experience, skills, and language proficiency remain pivotal in determining translation success.

The impact of lacking an academic degree on translation prowess was explored through the perspectives of 10 professional translators, each offering nuanced insights:

- P1: An academic degree holds significant sway over translation quality, enriching language proficiency and specialized skills. Furthermore, it fosters client trust, bolstering credibility in the translation realm.

- P2: Indeed, in the political sphere, adherence to specified terms and conditions is crucial for translators.
- P3: While an academic degree furnishes comprehensive knowledge of translation techniques, lacking one doesn't necessarily hinder translation proficiency, particularly if language mastery is strong.
- P4: Academic degrees are advantageous but not singular determinants of translation ability. Experience, specialization, ongoing learning, and language fluency are equally vital for producing top-tier translations.
- P5: While a lack of degree may constrain job opportunities, experience and skills remain paramount in translation.
- P6: The absence of a degree might limit job prospects, yet practical skills hold primacy in translation endeavors.
- P7: Economic fluctuations influence the demand for translation services and corresponding rates.
- P8: The absence of an academic degree may impede a solid foundation in language and translation techniques. Nonetheless, practical experience and language proficiency can offset this deficiency.
- P9: Securing translation work may be more challenging without a degree, but excellence in translation remains attainable.
- P10: The absence of an academic degree can impact translation to some extent, but it's not the sole determinant. Experience and skills also significantly contribute. Thus, while notable, it's not everything.

The Kurdish interpreters and translators who participated in this study, were asked either “Have proverbs and idioms posed challenges for you in translation?”. The experiences of 10 professional translators shed light on the intricacies of translating proverbs and idioms, revealing a consensus on the challenges posed by these linguistic elements. Participants acknowledged the difficulties arising from cultural disparities and nuanced meanings inherent in proverbs and idioms, likening the task to solving puzzles or navigating traps. Some emphasized the necessity of finding suitable equivalents to facilitate effective communication, particularly in educational contexts. Others highlighted the importance of drawing on linguistic expertise, cultural knowledge, and creativity to overcome these challenges. Cultural and linguistic specificity emerged as a common obstacle, underscoring the need for translators to exercise creativity and sensitivity to convey the intended meaning to the target audience. Despite the difficulties encountered, the participants recognized the significance of these efforts in ensuring accurate and meaningful translations of proverbs and idioms.

The challenges posed by translating proverbs and idioms were explored through the perspectives of 10 professional translators, revealing a range of insights:

- P1: Yes.
- P2: As a teacher, I've grappled with translating proverbs and idioms, emphasizing the importance of finding suitable equivalents for effective communication among students.
- P3: Certainly, yes. It's normal to encounter resistance, especially when dealing with unfamiliar idioms and proverbs.
- P4: Undoubtedly. Overcoming these challenges required drawing on linguistic expertise, cultural knowledge, and creative skills.
- P5: Proverbs and idioms present challenges due to cultural disparities and nuanced meanings.
- P6: Translating proverbs and idioms accurately can be akin to solving puzzles.
- P7: Even seasoned translators can find themselves ensnared by the intricacies of proverbs and idioms.
- P8: The cultural and linguistic specificity of proverbs and idioms often poses translation challenges, necessitating creativity and cultural sensitivity to resonate with the target audience.
- P9: The reliance of proverbs and idioms on cultural context can make them challenging to translate, requiring careful consideration to convey their intended meaning effectively.

- P10: Proverbs and idioms indeed present translation challenges due to their cultural and linguistic nuances.

These responses collectively underscore the complexities involved in translating proverbs and idioms, highlighting the need for linguistic expertise, cultural sensitivity, and creative approaches to ensure accurate and meaningful translations.

The linguistic challenges encountered by English-Kurdish interpreters and translators in Iraqi Kurdistan resonate with previous research findings across various contexts. While some participants noted minimal challenges (P1), others highlighted difficulties with syntax and grammar differences between languages (P2), reminiscent of findings by Smith (2017) on syntactic challenges in translation. The intricacies of translating idioms and proverbs (P3) align with research by Johnson (2018) on the cultural complexities of translating such linguistic elements. Additionally, the consensus on the importance of a deep understanding of both source and target languages (P8) mirrors findings by Brown (2019) on the significance of language proficiency in overcoming translation challenges. These parallels underscore the universality of linguistic hurdles in translation and the importance of linguistic expertise in navigating them effectively.

4.2 Cultural differences: Communication and Translation Challenges Between English and Kurdish:

The question delves into the influence of cultural disparities on communication and translation efficacy between English and Kurdish languages, while also exploring strategies utilized by interpreters to overcome these hurdles. To address this inquiry, insights were gathered from 10 professional translators and interpreters, each offering valuable perspectives on the complexities inherent in bridging cultural gaps during linguistic exchange. Their diverse experiences and strategies provide valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of cross-cultural communication and translation.

In exploring the cultural challenges encountered during translation and responses to “What cultural challenges did you encounter during translation?”, insights from 10 professional translators illuminate the complexities inherent in bridging linguistic and cultural divides. Participants noted struggles with grasping nuanced aspects of language, particularly in translating humor texts, where preserving the original sense and feeling necessitated careful consideration of cultural nuances and references. Encounters with idioms, proverbs, and folklore highlighted stark contrasts between cultures, prompting deeper exploration and understanding. Additionally, the preservation of local cultural specificity posed challenges, emphasizing the intricacies of localization. Variances in customs, beliefs, and expressions emerged as significant factors contributing to cultural hurdles in translation, demanding sensitivity and fidelity to convey meaning accurately while respecting cultural appropriateness. These experiences collectively underscore the importance of cultural sensitivity and nuanced understanding in navigating the intricate terrain of cross-cultural translation.

Gaining insight into the cultural dynamics of translation, 10 professional translators shared their encounters with cultural challenges:

- P1: Navigating cultural differences becomes challenging, especially when grasping nuanced aspects of the English language, leading to potential misunderstandings.
- P2: Translating humor texts poses specific cultural challenges, requiring careful consideration of cultural nuances and references to preserve the original sense and feeling.
- P3: Encountering difficulties with idioms and proverbs highlights the stark contrast between European and local cultures, prompting exploration and discovery of different cultural perspectives.
- P4: Localization challenges, particularly with proverbs, jokes, and folklore, underscore the intricacies of preserving local cultural specificity.
- P5: Differences in customs, beliefs, and expressions between languages contribute to cultural challenges in translation.
- P6: Explaining culturally-specific jokes presents a significant challenge, as some humor may not translate effectively across languages.
- P7: The constant navigation of cultural mazes emerges as translators encounter diverse traditions and customs.

- P8: From variances in values and norms to context-specific references, cultural challenges in translation demand sensitivity and fidelity to convey meaning while respecting cultural appropriateness.
- P9: Idiomatic expressions, humor, and context-specific references pose notable challenges in translation, requiring meticulous consideration.
- P10: Various cultural hurdles, including disparities in customs, traditions, idioms, and references, punctuate the translation process, demanding careful navigation.

These responses collectively underscore the multifaceted nature of cultural challenges in translation and highlight the importance of cultural sensitivity and nuanced understanding in bridging linguistic and cultural divides.

The experiences of 10 professional translators provide valuable insights into the realm of political challenges encountered during translation. For answers of "Have you encountered political challenges while translating?", While some participants have primarily engaged with academic or non-political content, others have navigated the complexities of political translation, emphasizing the need for adherence to terms, neutrality, and professionalism. Sensitivity to sensitive topics and ideologies emerged as a recurring theme, with translators highlighting the importance of accurately conveying meaning without bias. Despite varied experiences, the consensus underscores the significance of careful consideration and impartiality when handling political content, ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of translated communication. Examining the experiences of professional translators' sheds light on the nuanced landscape of political challenges encountered in translation:

- P1: Political challenges have been absent in my translation work, which primarily focuses on academic topics.
- P2: Functioning as a translator in political contexts necessitates strict adherence to terms and conditions, underscoring the importance of navigating political nuances.
- P3: I have not encountered political challenges in my translation endeavors.
- P4: My translation portfolio, comprising documentaries and entertainment content, has spared me from political involvement.
- P5: Politics can indeed impact translation, particularly when handling sensitive or biased material.
- P6: Navigating political content can be cumbersome, especially when dealing with contentious issues.
- P7: Political hurdles arise, especially with controversial content demanding delicate handling.
- P8: Political challenges, especially concerning sensitive topics or ideologies, demand translators' professionalism and neutrality to ensure unbiased communication.
- P9: While I haven't directly faced political challenges, translations involving sensitive political subjects require careful handling to maintain accuracy and impartiality.
- P10: Political challenges are not uncommon in translation, emphasizing the need for neutrality and accurate message conveyance devoid of personal biases.

These responses underscore the diverse array of political challenges encountered by translators, highlighting the importance of professionalism, neutrality, and careful consideration when navigating sensitive political content.

Insights from 10 professional translators provide a comprehensive understanding of the complexities inherent in religious translation and the considerations surrounding job acceptance. The researchers provided item "What are your thoughts on religious translation? Have you ever declined a job due to its religious nature?", While some translators, like P1 and P2, have primarily focused on non-religious or academic texts and thus haven't encountered religious translation projects or declined them based on their nature, others, such as P3, P5, and P7, emphasize the importance of sensitivity and understanding in handling religious content. P8 further elaborates on the complexity of religious translation, stressing the need for deep knowledge and respect for religious context. While some, like P4, express a lack of enthusiasm for religious translation, others, such as P9 and P10, highlight the potential for personal beliefs

or ethical considerations to influence job acceptance. These diverse perspectives underscore the multifaceted nature of religious translation, emphasizing the significance of careful consideration and respect for religious content in translation endeavors. Exploring the perspectives of 10 professional translators' sheds light on the nuanced landscape of religious translation and the considerations surrounding job acceptance:

- P1: Limiting their scope to academic texts, religious translation has not been a part of their portfolio.
- P2: Having no experience with religious translation, declining jobs based on religious nature hasn't been a factor.
- P3: While they haven't declined any religious translation projects, they acknowledge the complexity of such tasks, emphasizing the need for accuracy and restoration without modification.
- P4: Expressing a lack of enthusiasm for religious translation, they note their company's focus on non-religious contexts.
- P5 & P7: Highlighting the need for sensitivity and understanding in religious translation, they acknowledge the potential for some translators to decline jobs based on personal beliefs or ethical considerations.
- P8: Recognizing the complexity of religious translation, they stress the importance of respect, understanding, and deep knowledge of religious context. While some may decline based on personal beliefs or ethics, others approach these projects with careful consideration.
- P9: Acknowledging the complexity of accurately conveying sacred texts, they personally don't decline jobs but note that others might do so based on personal beliefs or ethical concerns.
- P10: Emphasizing the importance of respect and cultural understanding in religious translation, they note that job acceptance may vary based on individual considerations.

These responses collectively highlight the diverse perspectives and considerations surrounding religious translation, underscoring the need for sensitivity, respect, and understanding in navigating such projects.

Drawing insights from the findings of 10 professional translators, the discussion delves into the complexities of cultural, political, and religious translation, comparing these findings with previous studies in other contexts. Cultural differences present significant challenges in translation, resonating with Chen's (2018) comparative study on cultural challenges. Participants highlighted struggles with idiomatic expressions, humor, and context-specific references, echoing Rodriguez's (2016) observations on navigating cultural nuances in translation. These experiences underscore the importance of cultural sensitivity and understanding, aligning with previous research on cross-cultural communication. Political challenges, as highlighted by the respondents, mirror Rodriguez's (2016) findings on the complexities of political translation. While some translators navigate sensitive political content with professionalism and neutrality, others emphasize the need for careful handling of contentious issues, aligning with Rodriguez's observations.

Insights on religious translation echo Khan's (2019) research on the ethics and practice of religious translation. Participants underscore the importance of sensitivity and respect in handling religious content, resonating with Khan's emphasis on deep knowledge and understanding of religious context. Overall, the findings from the professional translators' responses align with previous studies on cultural, political, and religious translation, highlighting the multifaceted nature of translation challenges and the importance of cultural sensitivity, professionalism, and ethical considerations in the translation process.

4.3 Socio-Political Threads: The Impact on English-Kurdish Interpreters and Translators in Iraqi Kurdistan:

Exploring the interplay between socio-political factors and the professional landscape of English-Kurdish interpreters and translators in Iraqi Kurdistan, insights were gathered from 10 professionals in the field. Their perspectives offer valuable insights into the extent to which socio-political dynamics shape the roles, responsibilities, and practices of interpreters and translators, shedding light on the complexities inherent in navigating this multifaceted environment.

Insights from 10 professional translators shed light on the critical importance of political and social security in their profession. "How significant is political and social security for translators?" "While some, like P1 and P2, emphasize the essential role of social security in safeguarding rights and enabling confident message delivery, others, such as P4 and P9, highlight the paramount significance of both political and social security. They stress its role in ensuring safety, freedom of expression, and the ability to handle

potentially sensitive content with professionalism. This sentiment is echoed by P5, P6, and P10, who underscore the impact of political stability and safety on translators' ability to work freely, especially in volatile regions. Across the responses, a consensus emerges on the pivotal role of political and social security in creating a conducive environment for translation work, allowing translators to focus on their tasks without undue concerns. Gaining insights from 10 professional translators offers a multifaceted view of the significance of political and social security in their profession:

- P1: *Emphasizing the importance of social security, they highlight its role in safeguarding translators' rights and providing essential support.*
- P2: *Asserting the vital role of political and social security, they stress its empowerment in conveying messages with confidence and accuracy, ensuring effective resonance with the audience.*
- P3: *Expressing a differing view, they indicate insignificance regarding political and social security.*
- P4: *Highlighting the paramount importance of political and social security, they underscore its role in facilitating effective and safe translation work, preserving freedom of expression, access to information, and professional reputation.*
- P5: *Recognizing the impact of political stability and social security on safety and freedom to work, they highlight its significance for translators.*
- P6: *Echoing the sentiment, they emphasize the crucial nature of political stability and safety, especially in volatile regions.*
- P7: *Affirming the necessity of political stability and social safety nets, they stress their role in ensuring translators' well-being and job security.*
- P8: *Stressing the crucial role of political and social security, they emphasize its importance in ensuring safety, well-being, and conducive work environments for translators.*
- P9: *Underlining the significance of political and social security, they note its impact on safety, freedom to work without interference, and the ability to handle sensitive content with neutrality and professionalism.*
- P10: *Reiterating the importance of political and social security, they emphasize its role in providing a stable and safe environment for translation work, preserving freedom of expression, and enabling uninterrupted task execution.*

These responses collectively underscore the multifaceted significance of political and social security for translators, emphasizing its role in ensuring safety, well-being, freedom of expression, and professional efficacy in diverse environments.

Insights from the selected professional translators shed light on the profound influence of employer confidence on the translation profession and the answer for "How does employer confidence impact translation?", Participants unanimously underscore the pivotal role of employer trust in shaping translator performance, career trajectories, and professional success. Confidence from employers not only instills translators with a sense of privilege and responsibility, as noted by P1, but also drives performance standards and resource allocation for accurate and reliable translations, as highlighted by P2. Moreover, the significance of self-confidence, as articulated by P3, underscores the personal attribute essential for demonstrating capability and progress in the field. Importantly, employer confidence impacts job opportunities, rates of pay, and levels of trust and responsibility given to translators, shaping their professional reputation and success, as outlined by P9. Overall, these insights collectively emphasize the multifaceted impact of employer confidence on translation, underscoring its critical role in shaping the translator's career trajectory and overall success in the field. Examining the perspectives of 10 professional translators illuminates the significant impact of employer confidence on translation:

- P1: *Emphasizing the importance of employer confidence, they highlight its role in instilling translators with a sense of privilege and responsibility.*
- P2: *Affirming the pivotal role of employer confidence, they note its influence on translator performance, quality, communication, and resource allocation.*
- P3: *Stressing the importance of self-confidence for translators, they assert its role in demonstrating capability and progress, essential for success in the field.*
- P4: *Highlighting the implications of employer confidence on a translator's career path, they note its effects on work quality, motivation, growth opportunities, relationship building, and feedback mechanisms.*
- P5: *Noting its impact on job opportunities and reputation, they underscore the significance of employer confidence in shaping a translator's professional trajectory.*
- P6: *Linking employer trust to increased opportunities and better pay, they highlight its role in securing desirable projects.*

- P7: Echoing the sentiment, they emphasize how employer confidence can lead to enhanced prospects and opportunities in translation.
- P8: Stressing the significance of employer confidence, they highlight its reflection of trust in a translator's abilities and professionalism, which can lead to improved working relationships and job satisfaction.
- P9: Addressing the question directly, they outline how employer confidence influences job opportunities, rates of pay, trust levels, and overall professional reputation, shaping a translator's success in the field.
- P10: Affirming the importance of employer confidence, they emphasize its impact on trust, support, work quality, and project success.

These insights collectively underscore the critical role of employer confidence in shaping translator success, influencing job opportunities, rates of pay, trust levels, and overall professional reputation in the translation field.

Insights from population of this study illuminate the intricate relationship between economic conditions and the translation industry. We asked them, "Does the economic situation affect translation work?". Participants unanimously acknowledge the significant impact of economic factors on translation work, with responses highlighting how economic conditions affect demand, budgets, pay rates, and job stability for translators. As noted by several respondents, economic fluctuations can lead to changes in the volume and nature of available translation projects, requiring translators to adapt their strategies accordingly. Furthermore, the consensus underscores the influence of economic conditions on client demand and affordability for translation services. Whether during periods of growth or downturns, economic shifts directly shape the landscape of translation work, emphasizing the need for translators to remain adaptable and resilient in response to changing market dynamics. Insights from 10 professional translators shed light on the nuanced relationship between economic conditions and translation work:

- P1: Acknowledging the influence of economic conditions on translation work.
- P2: Highlighting the broader implications, they note how economic factors affect demand, budgets, and job stability for translators.
- P3: Affirming the impact of economic conditions on translation work.
- P4: Underlining the multifaceted effects, they suggest that economic conditions alter the volume, pricing, and nature of available translation work, prompting translators to adapt strategies and offerings.
- P5: Noting the influence on demand and pay rates for translation services.
- P6: Expressing agreement, they emphasize how economic downturns can lead to decreased work opportunities or lower pay.
- P7: Echoing the sentiment, they observe how economic fluctuations affect both demand for services and translation rates.
- P8: Detailing the ramifications, they explain how economic shifts impact demand, rates, and the volume and types of projects available, necessitating adaptability from translators.
- P9: Affirming the correlation, they note how economic conditions influence client demand and affordability for translation services.
- P10: Recognizing the cyclical nature, they describe how economic downturns and upswings directly impact demand for translation services.

These responses collectively highlight the multifaceted impact of economic conditions on translation work, encompassing changes in demand, rates, project volume, and client affordability. Such insights underscore the need for adaptability and resilience among translators in response to fluctuating economic landscapes.

independence's importance in allowing for an objective, genuine interpretation of content devoid of outside influence. The integrity and correctness of translations are considered to be critically dependent on translator independence, which can be achieved in two ways: by opposing linguistic manipulation and guaranteeing quality assurance, as defined by P4, or by retaining the original meaning, format, and tone, as underlined by P3.

Additionally, independence empowers translators to make autonomous linguistic and cultural decisions, as noted by P8, fostering an environment where translators can focus solely on fidelity to the source text, as emphasized by P9. Overall, these insights underscore the indispensable nature of translator independence in facilitating unbiased, accurate, and culturally sensitive translations, thereby upholding the standards of professional translation practice. Examining the perspectives of 10 professional translators reveals the critical role of translator independence in the translation process:

- P1: Highlighting its significance, they emphasize how independence enables unbiased and authentic

interpretation of content.

- P2: Echoing the question, they prompt further exploration into the role of translator independence.
- P3: Expounding on the translator's duty to preserve the original meaning, format, and tone, they underscore the importance of independence in conveying full meaning.
- P4: Articulating the empowering nature of independence, they highlight its role in faithfully conveying the source text, adapting it to the target audience, and resisting linguistic manipulation.
- P5: Emphasizing its importance, they assert that translator independence allows for unbiased and accurate translations, free from external influence.
- P6: Stressing the practical benefits, they note how independence enhances job performance without external pressure.
- P7: Reiterating the theme, they affirm that translator independence ensures unbiased and accurate translations without external influence.
- P8: Describing its crucial role, they explain how translator independence maintains the integrity and accuracy of translations, allowing for autonomous linguistic and cultural decisions.
- P9: Underlining its importance, they assert that translator independence ensures unbiased and accurate translations, free from external influences like politics or personal biases.
- P10: Affirming its significance, they highlight how translator independence allows for the unbiased execution of the translation process.

All of these comments highlight how important it is for translators to be independent in order to provide objective, accurate, and genuine translations while preserving the process's integrity. We talked about the different language barriers that English-Kurdish translator's face. Participants noted that proverbs and idiomatic phrases were difficult to understand (P3, P9), highlighting the challenges of communicating language features that are culturally distinctive. This is consistent with the findings of Ahmad (2017), which highlight the difficulties in translating idiomatic expressions. Some participants also highlighted Arabic's distinct syntax and grammatical structures, which presented additional language challenges (P2). Because of these difficulties, translators must be skilled in negotiating language intricacies in order to guarantee accurate and culturally relevant translations. The discussion disclosed the crucial part employer trust plays in determining translator success. The importance of employer trust on translators' employment security, advancement The participants emphasized opportunities and general job satisfaction (P4, P8). This is in line with the results of Smith's (2015) study, which emphasizes the connection between employer confidence and translation performance. Meanwhile, by showing how employer confidence impacts translators' performance and resource allocation, participants underscored the critical role that employer confidence plays in ensuring high-quality translations (P2). Our analysis of economic factors showed that they had a significant influence on translation rates and demand. Participants emphasized that earnings, job prospects, and the quantity of accessible translation assignments have all been directly impacted on shifts in the economy (P2, P7). These insights demonstrate the dynamic interaction between economic conditions and translation activity, which is consistent with the findings of Jones et al. (2019). Participants also emphasized the need of flexibility in response to changing economic landscapes, underscoring the challenges translators face in navigating fluctuating market conditions.

Ultimately, our discussion showed the intricacy of translating activity, encompassing linguistic, professional, and affordable aspects. Comparing our findings with those of other studies may help us understand the common challenges and pressures that shape the translation profession, which ultimately emphasizes the need for continued development and research efforts in the field.

5. Conclusion:

The detailed analysis of the linguistic challenges faced by English-Kurdish interpreters and translators in Iraqi Kurdistan, encompassing linguistic, political, and cultural issues, is summarized in the study's conclusion. Through the insights gathered from ten professional translators, a more nuanced understanding of the intricate challenges encountered during the translation process has emerged. The participants listed a range of difficulties, including the difficulties in translating proverbs and idioms as well as linguistic variances in syntax and grammar. The study also underlined how crucial it is to completely comprehend both the source and target languages in order effectively use these challenges.

A comparative of available research from different contexts revealed striking similarities in translation challenges, underlining the universality of language obstacles and the critical role that language skill plays

in overcoming them. The findings underscored the significance of possessing cultural sensitivity, linguistic fluency, and creativity to facilitate fruitful cross-cultural communication and surmount linguistic obstacles. Moving forward, overcoming these challenges necessitates a multimodal approach that includes financing for language education, instruction in cross-cultural communication, and the development of tools and resources tailored to the particular needs of interpreters and translators in diverse linguistic contexts. By prioritizing these efforts, stakeholders may increase the effectiveness of translation attempts and facilitate better interaction, understanding, and cross-cultural exchange in a world grown more interconnected by the day.

6. References

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