

TRANSLATING ENGLISH NOMINAL COMPOUNDS
INTO ARABIC

KAIS AMIR KADHIM

ARKIB

rb
f PE1498.2
A65K13
2004

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA
2004

TRANSLATING ENGLISH NOMINAL COMPOUNDS
INTO ARABIC

BY

KAIS AMIR KADHIM

Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts

April 2004

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

The completion of this thesis has been made possible by the contribution of several individuals. I wish to express my gratitude to my meticulous supervisor Dr. Tengku Sepora bt. Tengku Mahadi for her advice, encouragement and invaluable comments through the research process.

Special thanks are also extended to Dr. Norhisham Mohamad, Dr.Salah Mahdi Shukri, Dr. Abbas Al karkhi, Dr.Namir Hassan, Salah Darwash, Miss Nura binti Elias, Mr. Enid Zureen bin Zainuabideen, Shamsuri, Kehder Humud, khaled Mohammad Al Akhali, Ali Al Warafi, Mohammad and all my friends.

My appreciation is also extended to many other individuals at the Centre for Languages and Translation who provided a lot of assistance to complete this research.

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this thesis to dearest one, my father for his patience and the encouragement he provided me with during the entire period of the study, and also to my mother (May the Almighty Allah rest her soul) who shared the stress, straits in my life, never failed to encourage me in times of discouragement, cheer me up in times of distress, and renew my hopes in times of despair. In addition, I would like to dedicate this thesis also to all my brothers and sisters

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| Acknowledgments | ii |
| List of Abbreviations | viii |
| List of Tables | ix |
| List of Figures | x |
| Abstrak | xi |
| Abstract | xiii |
| List of Appendices | xiv |
| | |
| Chapter 1 | 1 |
| 1.0 Description of research | 1 |
| 1.1 Introduction | 1 |
| 1.2 Objectives and research questions | 2 |
| 1.3 Organization of thesis | 3 |
| 1.4 Corpus | 4 |
| 1.5 Limitation of the study | 4 |
| 1.6 Scope of the study | 5 |
| 1.7 Rationale and significance of the study | 7 |
| 1.8 Major definitions | 8 |
| 1.8.1 Genitive case | 8 |
| 1.8.2 Gerund or Masdar | 8 |
| 1.8.3 Accusative case | 9 |
| 1.8.4 The nominative case | 9 |

| | | |
|------------|--|----|
| 1.8.5 | Adjective opposition | 9 |
| 1.8.6 | Infinitive (verbal noun) | 9 |
| 1.8.7 | Nunation (Tanween) | 10 |
| 1.8.8 | Abstract and concrete | 10 |
| 1.8.9 | Countable nouns | 10 |
| 1.8.9.1 | Non-countable nouns | 10 |
| 1.9 | Arabic in general | 11 |
| 1.9.1 | The alphabet: transliteration and pronunciation | 13 |
| 1.9.2 | Vowels | 13 |
| 1.9.3 | The article | 14 |
| 1.9.4 | Determination and indetermination of nouns | 16 |
| 1.9.5 | Adjectival annexation | 16 |
| 1.9.6 | Nouns | 17 |
| 1.9.7 | Verbs | 21 |
| 1.9.8 | Pronouns | 22 |
| 1.9.9 | Adverbs | 22 |
| 1.9.10 | Sentence structure | 23 |
| 1.10 | Development in Arabic translation | 25 |
| 1.10.1 | Development of translation into modern Arabic | 26 |
| 1.11 | English-Arabic translation | 26 |
| 1.11.1 | Semantic, syntax and cultural problems when translation from English into Arabic | 27 |
| 1.11.1.1 | Collocation | 27 |
| 1.11.1.2 | Idioms | 28 |
| 1.11.1.2.1 | Idiomatic use of numerals | 29 |
| 1.11.1.3 | Lexical lapse | 30 |
| 1.11.1.4 | Mistranslation | 32 |
| 1.11.1.5 | Misinterpretation | 34 |

| | |
|---|----|
| 1.11.1.6 Accuracy | 36 |
| 1.11.1.7 Language of greetings | 37 |
| 1.11.1.7.1 English terms | 38 |
| 1.11.1.7.2 Arabic terms | 39 |
| 1.11.1.8 Syntax | 42 |
| 1.11.1.8.1 Tense | 42 |
| 1.11.1.8.2 Modality | 43 |
| 1.12 Cultural problems | 44 |
| 1.12.1. Material culture | 45 |
| 1.12.2 Social culture | 46 |
| 1.12.3 Religious culture | 46 |
| Conclusion | 49 |
| | |
| Chapter 2: A survey of related literature | 50 |
| 2.0 Introduction | 50 |
| 2.1 Definition of English compounds | 50 |
| 2.1.1 Background to English compounds | 51 |
| 2.1.2 The categories of English compounds | 53 |
| 2.1.2.1 Compounds of nouns | 55 |
| 2.1.2.2 Compounds of adjectives | 57 |
| 2.1.2.3 Compounds of verbs | 57 |
| 2.2 Arabic compounds | 58 |
| 2.2.1 Categories of Arabic nominal compounds | 59 |
| 2.2.2 The structure of Arabic nominal compounds | 61 |
| | |
| 2.2 Meaning, compound and linguistic structure in | |

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------|
| | English-Arabic translation | 62 |
| 2.4 | Methods of translation | 64 |
| | 2.4.1 Precise translation | 65 |
| | 2.4.2 Translation by omission | 66 |
| | 2.4.3 Word for word translation | 68 |
| 2.5 | Vinay and Darbelnet methods | 69 |
| | 2.5.1 Borrowing | 69 |
| | 2.5.2 Calque | 71 |
| | 2.5.3 Literal translation | 73 |
| | 2.5.4 Transposition (shift) | 76 |
| | 2.5.5 Modulation | 78 |
| | 2.5.6 Equivalence | 80 |
| 2.6 | Conclusion | 83 |
| Chapter 3: Methodology | | 84 |
| 3.0 | Introduction | 84 |
| 3.1 | Corpus | 84 |
| | 3.1.1 Justification for choice of data | 85 |
| | 3.1.2 Selection methods | 86 |
| | 3.1.3 Linguistic analysis | 88 |
| 3.4 | Conclusion | 91 |
| Chapter 4: Findings | | 92 |
| 4.0 | Introduction | 92 |
| 4.1 | Types of Nominal compounds | 92 |
| | 4.1.1 Nominal Compounds of noun noun (N.N) | 93 |
| | 4.1.1.1. Nominal compounds of noun noun with non deverbativity | 93 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----|
| 4.1.1.2 | Deverbativity | 98 |
| 4.1.1.2.1 | Nominal compounds of noun noun with deverbal -er | 98 |
| 4.1.1.2.2 | Nominal compounds of noun noun with deverbal-ing,-ment,-ion | 105 |
| 4.1.1.2.3 | Nominal compounds of noun noun with countable | 108 |
| 4.1.1.2.4 | Nominal compounds of noun noun with deverbal deriving prepositions | 119 |
| 4.1.2 | Nominal compounds of adjective plus noun (A.N) | 121 |
| 4.1.3 | Nominal compounds of verb plus noun (V.N) | 124 |
| 4.1.4 | Nominal compounds of prepositions plus noun (P.N) | 125 |
| 4.2 | Nouns compounds morphology | 127 |
| 4.3 | Irregular cases in translating English nominal compounds into Arabic | 130 |
| 4.3.1 | Arabic head noun construction | 134 |
| 4.4 | Conclusion | 137 |
| Chapter 5: Conclusion | | 138 |
| 5.0 | Introduction | 138 |
| 5.1 | Summary and conclusion | 138 |
| 5.2 | Suggestions for future research | 139 |
| 5.3 | Applicability of findings | 140 |
| References | | 141 |

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| TL. Target language | 31 |
| SL. Source language | 34 |
| NPs. Noun phrase | 51 |
| Comps. Compounds | 54 |
| V. Verb | 53 |
| N. Noun | 53 |
| Adj. Adjective | 53 |
| P. Preposition | 53 |
| NC. Nominal compound | 56 |
| AC. Arabic Compound | 59 |
| EC. English compound | 59 |
| Eng.nom. English nominal | 96 |
| N1. First noun in English nominal compound refers to the modifier | 96 |
| N2. Second noun in English nominal compound refers to the head | 96 |
| N1. First noun in Arabic nominal compound refers to the head | 96 |
| N2. Second noun in Arabic nominal compound refers to the modifier | 96 |
| T.T. Target text | 67 |
| S.T. Source text | 67 |
| Aff. Affixes | 127 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | | Page |
|------------|--|------|
| Table 1.1 | The alphabet: translation and pronunciation | 13 |
| Table 1.2 | Vowels and transliteration | 14 |
| Table 4.1 | Translation of noun noun with non-deverbativity into Arabic | 96 |
| Table 4.2 | Alternative translations | 98 |
| Table 4.3 | Translation of deverbal noun with (-er) into Arabic | 99 |
| Table 4.4 | Alternative translations | 105 |
| Table 4.5 | Translation of deverbal noun noun with -ing, -er, -ion, into Arabic | 107 |
| Table 4.6 | Alternative translations | 108 |
| Table 4.7 | Translation of deverbal countable noun compound into Arabic | 110 |
| Table 4.8 | Other way of translations of deverbal countable noun compound | 111 |
| Table 4.9 | Alternative translations | 117 |
| Table 4.10 | Definite case in the SL | 119 |
| Table 4.11 | English deverbal compound with preposition | 120 |
| Table 4.12 | The adjectival nominal compounds | 123 |
| Table 4.13 | Irregular cases in English-Arabic nominal compounds | 133 |
| Table 4.14 | Using of preposition for the N1 of Arabic nominal compounds | 136 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | Page | |
|------------|---|-----|
| Figure 1.1 | Kinds of Plural form for Arabic and English | 20 |
| Figure 1.2 | Shows different meanings for Arabic word | 33 |
| Figure 1.3 | Shows different types of English greetings | 39 |
| Figure 1.4 | Shows different types of Arabic greetings | 41 |
| Figure 1.5 | Shows different types of Arabic greetings | 40 |
| Figure 2.1 | Categories of English nominal compounds | 54 |
| Figure 2.2 | Categories of compounds of nouns | 56 |
| Figure 2.3 | Kinds of compounds of adjectives | 57 |
| Figure 2.4 | Kinds of compounds of verbs | 58 |
| Figure 3.1 | Selkirk's theory | 86 |
| Figure 3.2 | Shows Vinay and Darbelnet's methods | 87 |
| Figure 3.3 | Shows the analysis of English nominal compounds according to Selkirk's theory in the English-Arabic article | 89 |
| Figure 3.4 | Shows the analysis when translating English nominal compounds into Arabic using Vinay and Darbelnet's methods | 90 |
| Figure 4.1 | Analysis of affixes in English nominal compounds | 127 |

**PENTERJEMAHAN KATA NAMA MAJMUK DARIPADA BAHASA INGGERIS
KE DALAM BAHASA ARAB.**

ABSTRAK

Penyelidikan ini merupakan kajian linguistik dan carian untuk terjemahan kata nama majmuk bahasa Inggeris ke dalam bahasa Arab. Binaan majmuk digunakan setiap hari dalam pertuturan dan semua jenis teks penulisan. Binaan majmuk dipilih sebagai kajian kerana masalah dan kesilapan yang dihadapi oleh penterjemah Arab dan juga disebabkan bidang linguistik dan pedagoginya. Oleh sebab bahasa Arab mempunyai binaan tatabahasa yang begitu kompleks, maka penterjemah baru mendapati sukar untuk menterjemah kata nama majmuk bahasa Inggeris. Untuk kajian ini, teori Selkirk dan kaedah Vinay dan Darbelent digunakan.

Data kajian ini diperolehi daripada laman web BBC berbahasa Inggeris dan juga versi bahasa Arabnya. Dapatan kajian memaparkan masalah yang dihadapi oleh penterjemah sewaktu menterjemahkan kata nama majmuk dalam bahasa Inggeris ke dalam bahasa Arab.

Selain itu, dapatan kajian ini juga memaparkan prosedur terjemahan yang boleh digunakan, sama ada terjemahan literal atau prosedur lain seperti pengubahan urutan,

pengguguran, "calque", peminjaman dan padanan. Dapatan kajian juga akan memaparkan pilihan terjemahan kata nama majmuk bahasa Inggeris ke dalam bahasa Arab yang boleh dilakukan, dan tetapi semua kata nama majmuk bahasa Inggeris ada persamaannya dalam bahasa Arab. Di samping itu, kajian ini juga menekankan sistem deklensi yang selalu digunakan dalam kata nama majmuk bahasa Arab terutamanya apabila merujuk deklensi yang perlu digunakan untuk penerang dan kata nama. Kajian ini juga menekankan aspek morfologi yang digunakan untuk kata nama majmuk bahasa Inggeris.

ABSTRACT

This research is both a linguistic study and a search for the translation of English nominal compounds into Arabic. Compound constructions are very common in everyday speech and all types of written texts. They have been selected for study because Arabic translators often find difficulty in translating English nominal compounds into Arabic. The reasons for conducting such research are also linguistic and pedagogic in nature. Fresh-translators will find it difficult to cope with the complex constructions that are absent in Arabic. To determine this problems of dealing with complex constructions of this nature in translating from English into Arabic, Selkirk's theory and Vinay's and Darbelnet's methods are followed.

The data for this study was obtained from BBC newspapers via the Internet and also its Arabic versions. The findings reflect the problems that the translator faces in translating English nominal compounds into Arabic and the translation procedures that he can adopt, whether it be literal translation or oblique translation or other procedures like transposition, omission and calque. The findings will also show where alternative translations are possible, and that not all kinds of English nominal compounds have equivalent structures in Arabic. In addition, this research highlights the declension system that Arabic compounds take particularly with reference to the declension that the modifier and the head noun should take. This research also highlights the morphological aspect that English nominal compounds take.

LIST OF APPENDICES

| | Page |
|----------------------------|------|
| Appendix 1A English Text | 147 |
| Appendix 1B Arabic Text | 148 |
| Appendix 2A English Text | 149 |
| Appendix 2B Arabic Text | 150 |
| Appendix 3A English Text | 151 |
| Appendix 3B Arabic Text | 152 |
| Appendix 4A English Text | 153 |
| Appendix 4B Arabic Text | 154 |
| Appendix 5A English Text | 155 |
| Appendix 5B Arabic Text | 156 |
| Appendix 6A English Text | 157 |
| Appendix 6B Arabic Text | 158 |
| Appendix 7A English Text | 159 |
| Appendix 7B English Text | 160 |
| Appendix 8A Arabic Text | 161 |
| Appendix 8B English Text | 162 |
| Appendix 9A English Text | 163 |
| Appendix 9B Arabic Text | 164 |
| Appendix 10 A English Text | 165 |
| Appendix 10B Arabic Text | 166 |
| Appendix 11A English Text | 167 |
| Appendix 11B Arabic Text | 168 |
| Appendix 12A English Text | 169 |
| Appendix 12B Arabic Text | 170 |
| Appendix 13A English Text | 171 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Appendix 13B Arabic Text | 172 |
| Appendix 14A English Text | 173 |
| Appendix 14B Arabic Text | 174 |
| Appendix 15A English Text | 175 |
| Appendix 15B Arabic Text | 176 |
| Appendix 16A English Text | 177 |
| Appendix 16B Arabic Text | 178 |
| Appendix 17A English Text | 179 |
| Appendix 17B Arabic Text | 180 |
| Appendix 18A English Text | 181 |
| Appendix 18B Arabic Text | 182 |
| Appendix 19A English Text | 183 |
| Appendix 19B Arabic Text | 184 |
| Appendix 20A English Text | 185 |
| Appendix 20B Arabic Text | 186 |
| Appendix 21A English Text | 187 |
| Appendix 21B Arabic Text | 188 |
| Appendix 22A English Text | 189 |
| Appendix 22B Arabic Text | 190 |
| Appendix 23A English Text | 191 |
| Appendix 23B Arabic Text | 192 |
| Appendix 24A English Text | 193 |
| Appendix 24B Arabic Text | 194 |
| Appendix 25A English Text | 195 |
| Appendix 25B Arabic Text | 196 |
| Appendix 26A English Text | 197 |
| Appendix 26B Arabic Text | 198 |
| Appendix 27A English Text | 199 |
| Appendix 27B Arabic Text | 200 |
| Appendix 28A English Text | 201 |
| Appendix 28B Arabic Text | 202 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Appendix 29A English Text | 203 |
| Appendix 29B Arabic Text | 204 |
| Appendix 30A English Text | 205 |
| Appendix 30B Arabic Text | 206 |
| Appendix 31A English Text | 207 |
| Appendix 31B Arabic Text | 208 |
| Appendix 32A English Text | 209 |
| Appendix 32B Arabic Text | 210 |
| Appendix 33A English Text | 211 |
| Appendix 33B Arabic Text | 212 |
| Appendix 34A English Text | 213 |
| Appendix 34B Arabic Text | 214 |
| Appendix 35A English Text | 215 |
| Appendix 35B Arabic Text | 216 |
| Appendix 36A English Text | 217 |
| Appendix 36B Arabic Text | 218 |
| Appendix 37A English Text | 219 |
| Appendix 37B Arabic Text | 220 |
| Appendix 38A English Text | 221 |
| Appendix 38B Arabic Text | 222 |
| Appendix 39A English Text | 223 |
| Appendix 39B Arabic Text | 224 |
| Appendix 40A English Text | 225 |
| Appendix 40B Arabic Text | 226 |
| Appendix 41A English Text | 227 |
| Appendix 41B Arabic Text | 228 |
| Appendix 42A English Text | 229 |
| Appendix 42B Arabic Text | 230 |
| Appendix 43A English Text | 231 |
| Appendix 43B Arabic Text | 232 |
| Appendix 44A English Text | 233 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Appendix 44B Arabic Text | 234 |
| Appendix 45A English Text | 235 |
| Appendix 45B Arabic Text | 236 |
| Appendix 46A English Text | 237 |
| Appendix 46B Arabic Text | 238 |
| Appendix 47A English Text | 239 |
| Appendix 47B Arabic Text | 240 |
| Appendix 48A English Text | 241 |
| Appendix 48B Arabic Text | 242 |
| Appendix 49A English Text | 243 |
| Appendix 49B Arabic Text | 244 |
| Appendix 50A English Text | 245 |
| Appendix 50B Arabic Text | 246 |
| Appendix 51A English Text | 247 |
| Appendix 51B Arabic Text | 248 |
| Appendix 52A English Text | 249 |
| Appendix 52B Arabic Text | 250 |
| Appendix 53A English Text | 251 |
| Appendix 53B Arabic Text | 252 |
| Appendix 54A English Text | 253 |
| Appendix 54B Arabic Text | 254 |
| Appendix 55A English Text | 255 |
| Appendix 55B Arabic Text | 256 |
| Appendix 56A English Text | 257 |
| Appendix 56B Arabic Text | 258 |
| Appendix 57A English Text | 259 |
| Appendix 57B Arabic Text | 260 |
| Appendix 58A English Text | 261 |
| Appendix 58B Arabic Text | 262 |
| Appendix 59A English Text | 263 |
| Appendix 59B Arabic Text | 264 |

Appendix 60 A English Text

265

Appendix 60 B Arabic Text

266

CHAPTER 1

1.0 Description of research

1.1 Introduction

Translation is generally viewed as the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL), (Catford, 1965:20). The translator's task is therefore to establish translation equivalence, thus explicitly or implicitly aiming for the actualization of the equivalent effect principle, that is, the TL text should have effects on the TL audience (Farghal, 1995). Linguists have suggested many theories and methods in order to avoid pitfalls that occur in incorrect translation.

More specifically, this research focuses on the problems of English-Arabic translation and the importance of understanding some methods for translating English nominal compounds into Arabic. In addition, to understand morphological, syntactical, semantical peculiarities and differences between languages in the translation process.

The underlying assumption for this research is that the translator must understand the grammatical structure of English and Arabic in order to translate English nominal compounds into Arabic effectively, since translation, which is generally viewed as the process of establishing equivalence between the source language, target language and

equivalence, depends mainly on the closeness or remoteness of the source language to the target language.

It is important to ensure that the surface meaning of the two languages are approximately similar and that the structure of the source language is preserved as well as possible but not so closely that the target language structure will be seriously distorted.

1.2 Objectives and research questions

English and Arabic have a category of lexis that is referred to as nominal compounds. Maalej (1994) suggests that two word English nominal compounds such as adjectivability, non deverbativity, and deverbativity and its branches such as deverbal (with -er, -ing, -ment, -ion), deverbal noun countable and deverbal noun deriving from preposition can be accommodated by Arabic. Thus, the main objectives of this research are

1-to identify what kinds of two word English nominal compounds can be found in newspaper articles, and to what extent are they used.

2-to find out whether translation methods suggested by Vinay and Darbelnet (via their comparative analysis of French and English) that are explained in chapter 2 such as transposition, literal translation, borrowing, modulation, calque, and equivalence may be used in translating English two word nominal compounds into Arabic and also, to find

out whether one method for example translation by omission is more suitable than others to translate or accommodate English nominal compounds in Arabic.

3-to find out whether the translator has choices for translating English nominal compounds into Arabic and

4-to find out whether Arabic syntactical structures (which may be affected by the genitive, the nominative and the accusative) embody the intended meanings of English syntactical structures.

1.3 Organization of thesis

In chapter 1, a general idea about the problems of translating English nominal compounds into Arabic will be given. Also, chapter one describes the objectives, corpus, limitation of the study, scope of the study, rationale and significance of the study and some definitions of major terms. In addition, a general idea about Arabic language and its syntax will be offered. The idea behind giving this background is to enable the reader to have an idea of the structure and the syntax of Arabic to understand this thesis better. Then, this chapter will also highlight problems of translation from English into Arabic as suggested by translation researchers.

In chapter 2, a literature review of theories and work on English nominal compounds, Arabic compounds, and the structure of each compound for both languages will be presented. In addition, the translation methods and procedures which may be used in

translating English nominal compounds into Arabic concentrating on methods of translation, which are proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) will be described. Selkirk's theory (1982) regarding the types of English nominal compounds will be considered in this chapter.

In chapter 3, methodology, corpus, selection methods, and article analyses will be described in detail.

In chapter 4, the analyses of English nominal compounds when translated into Arabic by using the methodology described in detail will be presented. Finally, relevant conclusions will be drawn and recommendations made, for future studies.

1.4 Corpus

The corpus of this investigation is composed of 60 political articles from five international newspapers namely BBC newspaper, Emirate newspaper, Oman newspaper, Algeria newspaper and Jordan newspaper. This is conceived to be suitable for such an investigation when translating English nominal compounds into Arabic. Such a corpus is selected on the assumption that daily newspapers may embody a high number of English nominal compounds.

1.5 Limitation of the study

This study has been chosen for the main reason that English texts contain different kinds of nominal compounds constructions, which may cause problems for the Arabic

translator when he/she translates them into Arabic. Thus, this study has limited itself to investigate how the translator has translated English nominal compounds into Arabic and what are the suitable methods for translating them. Thus, the newspaper articles are studied as examples to illustrate the challenges in translating English nominal compounds into Arabic. This study excludes examination of multi-word English nominal compounds since these compounds may occur less frequently than two-word English compounds in the newspaper articles and their analysis may make this research too wide and not focused. Although there are many translation theories, this study uses Selkirk's theory and Vinay and Darbelnet's methods as the core theoretical tools.

1.6 Scope of the study

According to The Encyclopedic World Dictionary by Hanks (1971:343) the word "compound" means (1) words which consist of two or more parts which are also, words, but distinguished from a phrase by special phonetic features. (2) words which are composed of two or more parts, elements or involving two or more actions, functions etc. (3) something formed by compounding or combining parts, elements etc. (4) words made or formed by combining parts, elements etc.

To put clearly, this study focuses only on compound which is a type of word structure made of two constituents, each belonging to one of the categories; noun, adjective, verb or preposition.

Compound constructions are common in everyday speech and all types of texts. This has been supported by Kharma and Hajjaj (1989:48) that compounds constitute a considerable part of English vocabulary and the process is very productive in the sense that new compounds are being invented everyday.

This study is a syntactical and semantical search in forming the text on the understanding that compounds share semantic and syntactic features between the head and the non-head (modifier) in giving complete meaning in the text (Selkirk, 1982:22).

Quirk et al (1985) cited in Maalej(1994) adopted a lexico-semantic approach, which links compounds to sentential or clausal paraphrases. This claim is supported by the evidence that compounds share syntactic structures with sentences (Selkirk, 1982) in using the same lexical categories of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Further, the head and the non-head (modifier) of compounds are involved in complex grammatical functions (thematic and non-thematic) of subject, verb, object, complement and adverbial exactly like clauses and sentence (Maalej, 1994). This fact has been supported by Kharma and Hajjaj (1989:39) when they say that the most disturbing fact regarding English compounds is their higher complexity of their methods of composition, and of the syntactic and semantic relations that hold between the elements composing each word.

The present study focuses only on translating English two word nominal compounds into Arabic. It is a linguistic study and search for a method of translating English nominal compounds into Arabic, since translating necessarily requires 'a contrastive competence'

whose essence is "to use the best available means in the target language for expressing the same or similar meaning" (Helbec, 1989:136) cited in Maalej (1994).

This study defends the view that translating compounds into Arabic is essentially investigating the valence of compounds constituents that involves the relations between the head and the non-head (modifier) in order to fill the gaps between the head and non-head (modifier) Maalej (1994).

Consequently, this study purports to create for awareness of linguistic mechanisms, and offers guidelines for translating English nominal compounds into Arabic based on objective linguistic criteria that would assist fresh translators to come up with better translation quality.

1.7 Rationale and significance of the study

The idea behind this study is that, English consists of different kinds of nominal compounds which range widely compared to Arabic compounds. The researcher has chosen two word nominal compounds in order to understand how these English nominal compounds will be translated into Arabic and to describe the basic methods of translation which can be applied in translating English nominal compounds into Arabic. In addition, this study has been chosen, as has been mentioned in 1.5, to know what are the suitable methods for translating English nominal compounds into Arabic.

A research that can highlight implications of the occurrence of English two word compounds in texts can help us to select appropriate translation to produce quality translation.

1.8 Major definitions

To enhance understanding of this thesis, below are given definitions key terms used in this thesis. In addition, the following terms are included the definitions of “genitive”, “nominative” and “accusative”, since the texts of newspapers that have been chosen do not reflect declensions signs (genitive “kasrah”, nominative “fatha” and accusative “damah”). The Arabic speaker knows these signs are meant for native speaker. The Arabic speaker can read without these signs.

1.8.1 Genitive case:

A noun in the genitive case governed by another noun expresses the relationship between the two in which the preceding noun, the regent, is closely determined by the following genitive noun. The function of this genitive relationship is of specifying the governing noun, giving it a new aspect or circumstance in order to enlighten, to clarify, or to determine the idea expressed by the noun. (Cantarino, 1975: 9).

1.8.2 Masdar or gerund

A masdar or gerund is an abstract noun expressing the action of the corresponding verb. (Ziadeh and Winder, 1957:69)

1.8.3 Accusative case

It expresses the aim, the goal, or any other modification of the verbal action. It is the verbal case *par excellence*, contrary to the genitive, which is the nominal case. (Cantarino, 1975:161)

1.8.4 Nominative case

This case is used to indicate that a noun's function is that of agent, topic, or predicate of the sentence. (Versteegh, 1997:78).

1.8.5 Adjective opposition

It is the syntactical relationship of an adjective to a substantive, which the adjective modifies and with which it agrees. The adjective opposition does not represent a new constituent of a sentence but must be considered as a single syntactical unit together with the substantive to which the adjective refers. (Cantarino, 1975:48)

1.8.6 Infinitive (Verbal noun)

It is an abstract verbal noun which presents the name of action. The action can eventually be attributed to complements-subject and object. In addition, the infinitive has no relationship to any specific temporal stage, not even to the actual occurrence of the action expressed by the infinitive itself. (Cantarino, 1975: 401).

1.8.7 Nunation (Tanween)

It is appended to the Arabic nouns, to indicate that the word is indefinite.

1.8.8 Abstract and concrete

An abstract noun is a noun, which names anything, which you cannot perceive through your five physical senses, and is the opposite of a concrete noun .

A concrete noun is a noun, which names anything (or anyone) that you can perceive through your physical senses: touch, sight, taste, hearing, or smell. A concrete noun is the opposite of an abstract noun.

1.8.9 Countable nouns

A countable noun (or count noun) is a noun with both a singular and a plural form, and it names anything (or anyone) that you can *count*. Countable nouns are the opposite of non-countable nouns and collective nouns

1.8.9.1 Non-countable nouns

A non-countable noun (or mass noun) is a noun, which does not have a plural form, and which refers to something that you could (or would) not usually count. A non-countable noun always takes a singular verb in a sentence. Non-countable nouns are similar to collective nouns and are the opposite of countable nouns.

1.9 Arabic in general

The learner of Arabic will be impressed by the difference between the structure of Arabic and that of English. Ziadeh and Winder (1957:20) say that "The beginning student of Arabic who has had no previous acquaintance with Semitic languages will be impressed by the difference between the structure of Arabic and that of English or other Indo-European languages which he may know". The most important feature of Arabic is that its words are built up from (or can be analyzed down into) roots each of which consists of three consonants. The following text, which is quoted from Ziadeh and Winder, shows the idea of radicals and the case ending of Arabic:

"By using these radicals as a base and by varying the three vowels and adding prefixes, infixes, and suffixes, according to certain patterns, the actual words are produced. In general it may also be observed that Arabic like Latin is a synthetic, or inflectional language rather than a language like English which is predominantly analytic. In simple terms this means the syntactical relationship of nouns is indicated by Case ending and that verbs are inflected by means of prefixes, infixes, and suffixes to indicate the various persons, numbers, genders, derived forms, mood, and tenses, in contrast to English where, for example, a separate word (noun or pronoun) is required to indicate the person."

Ziadeh and Winder(1957:20)

Another feature of Arabic is that its roots are mostly trilateral. Words have shades of meaning, firstly, by varying the vowelling of simple root and secondly, by the addition of prefixes, suffixes, and infixes.

Arabic is usually classified as classical Arabic, modern literary Arabic, and modern spoken or colloquial Arabic. Classical Arabic dates from the 6th century A.D.

According to Haywood and Nahamad, Arabic is:

“The language of the Qur’an and of the great writers and poets such as al-Mutanabbi, Ibn Khaldun, and others. The modern literary language is exemplified by writers like Taha Husain, Taufiq al- Hakim, and newspapers and the radio. It varies in idiom and vocabulary from the Classical, but the differences are infinitesimal compared with the changes in the European languages over the same period-e.g. the difference Chaucer’s English and Kipling’s. This is because Classical Arabic was hallowed as the vehicle of God’s Revelation in the Qur’an, and was not permitted to change to any marked extent.”

Haywood and Nahmad (1965:2)

The parts of speech of Arabic grammar are: nouns, verbs and particles. The concept of a verb is the same in Arabic as in English. In addition, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns as well as nouns proper are classified as nouns. Particles consist of conjunctions, prepositions and interjections.(Haywood and Nahmad 1965:2)

The following sections will discuss the pronunciation, the vowel of Arabic letters, article, determination and indetermination of nouns, and adjectival annexation. The noun, verb, pronoun, adverb and sentence structures are also described in detail.

1.9.1 The alphabet: transliteration and pronunciation

The Arabic alphabet consists of twenty-eight characters, written from right to left. All twenty-eight characters represent consonants. In addition, there are vowel signs and various orthographic signs. Table 1.1 and table 1.2 show the Arabic alphabets and the vowel signs respectively.

Table 1.1 The alphabet: translation and pronunciation (Basil, 1997:1)

| Arabic | Transliteration | Arabic | Transliteration |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| أ | A | ط | T |
| ب | B | ظ | Z |
| ت | T | ع | ' |
| ث | Th | غ | GH |
| ج | J | ف | F |
| ح | H | ق | Q |
| خ | Kh | ك | K |
| د | D | ل | L |
| ذ | Dh | م | M |
| ر | R | ن | N |
| ز | Z | ه | H |
| س | S | و | W |
| ش | Sh | ي | Y |
| ص | S | ء | ' |
| ض | D | | |

1.9.2 Vowels

In Arabic, there are three kinds of vowel namely *Faiha* (a), *Damah* (u) and *Kasrah*. These vowels are referred to as the declension. The *Fatha* refers to nominative, *Damah* refers to accusative and *Kasrah* refers to genitive. These three vowels symbolized in the following :

l-*Fatha*, is a small diagonal stroke above the consonant, and it is pronounced as بَ [ba].

2-Damah, is a small “waw” (و) above the consonant, it is pronounced as ُ [bu]

3-Kasrah, is a small diagonal stroke under the consonant, it is pronounced as ِ [bi].

The pronunciation of the Fatha is the same as that of ‘a’ as in English ‘cat’, ‘fat’ or ‘add’.

The pronunciation of the Damah is similar to that of the ‘oo’ as in ‘boot’ or ‘root’, but

‘much shorter’. The pronunciation of the kasrah is the same as that of the ‘i’ in ‘admit’ or

‘habit.’

Table 1.2 Vowels and transliteration (Basil, 1997:1)

| Vowels Arabic | Transliteration |
|---------------|-----------------|
| — | A |
| — | I |
| — | U |
| ا | Aa |
| ي | Ii |
| و | Uu |

1.9.3 The article

The article in Arabic can be prefixed to nouns regardless of their substantival or adjectival character. Thus, it is found with substantives and infinitives, adjectives and participial forms. When the article is prefixed to a noun, the noun becomes definite or determined (Cantarino 1975:10). In general, the articles are used in Arabic grammar:

- A) to indicate a specific person or thing the speaker has in mind or has already mentioned.

For example:

“He put some **dust** on his head ...he entered his house with dust on his head.”

رمى على رنسه ترابا...دخل الى بيته و التراب على رنسه."
"One of them said.... but I did not look at **the speaker**."
قال احدهم... فلم ارفع عيني نحو المتكلم."
- "Where is **the shepherd**?"
اين الراعي

Cantarino (1975:11)

B) to indicate nouns that are specified by the situation itself.

For example:

" I returned **home**." تثبت الخطى الى البيت

"The whole day and a great part of **the night**."

" طوال النهار و قسما كبيرا من الليل "

"What **the reader** can imagine."

ما يستطيع القارئ ان يتصوره

Cantarino (1975:12)

C) to indicate nouns as referring not to an individual but rather to a species. This general determination can be used with substantives and adjectives in a substantival function.

For example:

" A poet sees **beauty** in everything."

الشاعر يرى الجمال في كل شئ

"as proverb : A **friend** in need is a friend indeed "

الصديق لوقت الظيق

Cantarino (1975:12)

1.9.4 Determination and indetermination of nouns

Arabic has morphological elements in order to contrast the determination and indetermination of nouns, for example, 'the man' and 'a man'. Determination is expressed by a prefix usually called 'the definite article', e.g: *Al-ragul*, 'the man'. Indetermination is achieved by a suffix 'n', which has become part of the noun's ending and forms an indefinite declension, 'a man', 'ragulan', 'ragulen', 'ragul'. The determination is equivalent to the English 'man' = 'men' without the article. According to Cantarino

"The use of the suffix of indetermination, the nunation, should not be considered as an indefinite counterpart of the definite article. Although it is an indefinite ending, it is not used with all the indefinite nouns and its actual usage is always determined by grammatical rules, which may or may not convey the same indefinite effect to the meaning. Since Arabic no longer has a form of the noun in an 'absolute' state, i.e.-without either a definite article or nunation except where the nunation is excluded by the morphological structure of the noun, the form with nunation has become the normal form without the article for the majority of Arabic nouns".

Cantarino (1975:7)

1.9.5 Adjectival annexation

Arabic frequently uses an adjective followed by a substantial determination in the genitive case, where we would normally expect an adjective apposition to the noun.

- 1) The adjective of Arabic has a substantial function and it mostly expresses an abstract idea. It is always in the masculine singular form :

for example:

“in various countries في مختلف البلاد

“in the old chronicles that I told you about”
فيما حدثك من قديم الزمان

Cantarino (1975:107)

2) The adjectives and participles used with an adjectival function frequently take a determination in the genitive case. According to Cantarino:

“The adjective is then in agreement with its governing noun, although it logically refers to the genitive it governs. In such construction, the construct state is not considered as being defined by the following genitive case. The genitive seems to be necessarily defined, either by definite article or by an appropriate suffixed pronoun referring to the governing noun”.

Cantarino (1975: 109)

Strictly speaking, only a substantive adjective can be definite or indefinite, defined or undefined; adjectives are defined only in a direct and formal relationship to the substantive. Therefore, when the adjective takes the definite article, its determination is not changed, it is based on its relationship to its governing noun; the article in this case is no more than a formalism of the language

1.9.6 Nouns

In Arabic, nouns can be derived from the root of a verb. Ziadeh and Winder give an example regarding the root of noun from which we can produce many nouns:

“ In Arabic language from the root *kataba*, ‘write’, are formed, among others, the following nouns: *katib* ‘writer’, *maktub* ‘something written’, *kitaba* ‘writing’, *kitab* ‘book’, *maktab* ‘office’, (place where one writes) *maktabah* library, *mukatabah* ‘correspondence’”.

Ziadeh and Winder (1957:22)

This phenomenon is not unfamiliar in English because we are accustomed to analogous affixes, for example, ‘writing’, ‘writer’, ‘writable’, ‘write-off’, and ‘write up’.

In Arabic, the derivation of noun should be systematic because it uses the trilateral verb for the derivation of the noun. The following quotation from (Ziadeh and Winder) shows the idea of derivation:

“In Arabic the process of deriving nouns is relatively systematic, for instances, from both the root and each of the derived verb forms both an active and passive participle, may be derived according to regular patterns. From the root *qatala*, for example, *qatil* ‘killer’, is the active participle and *maqtul* ‘killed one’ is the passive participle. It will be noted that these two words correspond in form to *katib* and *maktub* cited from the *kataba* above. According to other patterns, participles may be formed from each of the derived verb forms. Gerunds, or *masdar*, may also be derived according to regular patterns from each verb form; in fact, from the root form there are potentially some forty *masdar* patterns”.

Ziadeh and Winder (1957:22)

Another aspect of the Arabic noun is less familiar namely: singular, dual and plural formation. Arabic has three kinds of plural form namely masculine plural, feminine

plural and broken plural where the latter one is considered irregular. In English most plurals are formed by the addition of the suffixes, although others are 'irregular', such as:

" ox, oxen; mouse, mice; foot, feet; man, men; opus, opera."

Ziadeh and Winder (1957:22)

In Arabic the situation is approximately reversed. These are 'regular plural' suffixes which are similar to the English 'irregular' formed by combinations of certain prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and vowel changes. A few common examples will illustrate the point :

" *wald, awlad* 'boy (s)'; *qalb, qulub* 'heart(s)'; *kalb, kilab* 'dog(s); *kitab, kutub* 'book(s); *nahr, anhur* 'river(s)".

Ziadeh and Winder (1957:22)

The following diagram shows the kinds of plural form for Arabic and English

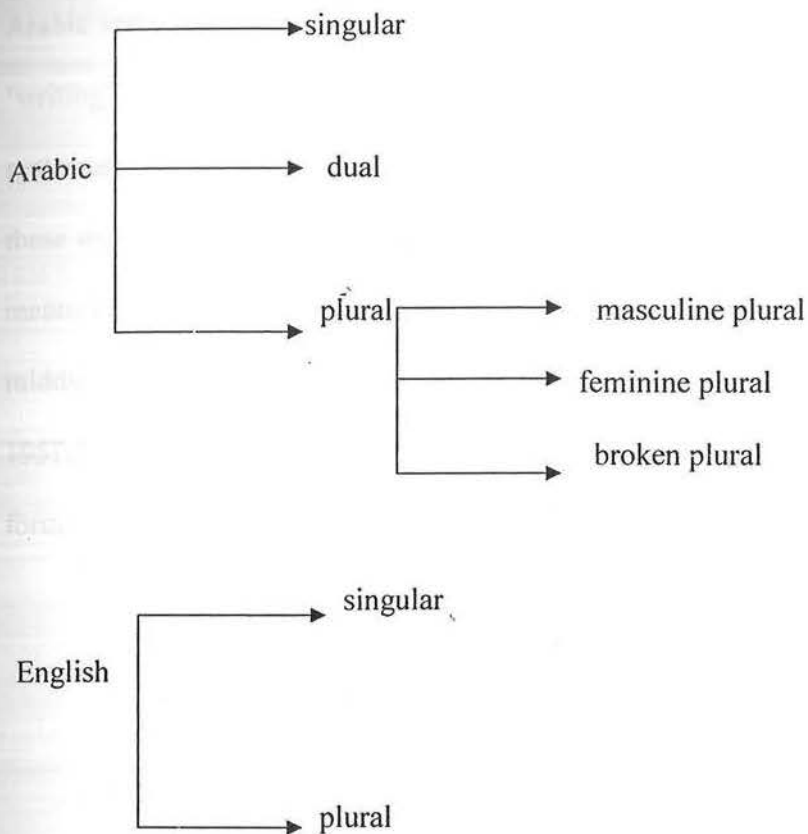


Figure 1.1 Kinds of plural form for Arabic and English:

Examples:

Singular in Arabic as “جاء طالب” ‘the student came’

Dual in Arabic as “جاء الطالبان” ‘the two students came’

Plural in Arabic as “جاء الطلاب” ‘the students came’

Masculine plural in Arabic as “جاء الطلاب” the students came or “رأيت طالبين” I saw two students

Feminine plural in Arabic as “جاءت طالبتان” two girls came or “رأيت طالبتين” I saw two girls.

Broken plural in Arabic as “جاء طلاب” ‘the students came’.

Abdul- Rauf (1977-85)

1.9.7 Verbs

Arabic verbs are trilateral; they are based on roots of three consonants. Thus, the root of 'writing' is by *K-T-B* where each consonant has the potential of expanding by the systematic addition of one or more affixes, into any one of nine "derived forms". Each of these derived forms has semantic relationship to the simple verb. As an example, "*qatala* means kill but *qattala* (with "doubling" of the middle radical) means slaughter" when the middle radical is doubled, the meaning of the root is intensified (Ziadeh and Winder, 1957:21). The following text quoted from Ziadeh and Winder explain the derived verb forms:

"There are two additional facts to be noted about the derived verb forms. First, it is seldom in actual practice that all the derived forms of a given root are used. Second, in not a few cases the meaning of the derived forms have deviated considerably from what one might expect if he knew only the meaning of the root and the semantic increment which the particular derived form requires."

Ziadeh and Winder (1957:21)

Benmamoun (1998) comments

"Arabic verbs occur in two major forms distinguished by agreement and mood morphology. The perfect form is exclusively suffixal and is used mainly in the past tense. The imperfective form is both prefixal and suffixal with the person feature realized as a prefix while the number feature is realized as a suffix, except in the first plural where it is realized as a prefix."

Benmamoun (1998)

Finally, Arabic verbs have only two “tenses”, perfect and imperfect for the distinction between them is not basically that of time. They indicate whether an action is completed or not. The perfect indicates completed action, and the imperfect indicates incomplete action –irrespective of time.

1.9.8 Pronouns

In Arabic, there are four kinds of pronouns namely personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, relative pronouns and interrogative pronouns. According to Hashim (1969):

“A noun has its number, gender, person and case. A noun may be singular, dual or plural. It may be masculine or third person, the first person, the speaker, second person, the present or third person, and the absent. It may be nominative, accusative or genitive.”

Hashim (1969:37)

Personal pronouns such as ‘أنا’ ‘I’, ‘هو’ ‘he’ and ‘هو’ ‘it’ could be the subject of the sentence. Some examples on demonstrative pronouns like هذا ‘this boy’, هذه ‘this girl’, and هذان ‘these two boys’ and of relative pronouns like الذي ‘the man’, التي ‘the lady’, and الذين ‘the boys’. Lastly, there are interrogative pronouns like من ‘who?’, ماذا ‘what?’, ما ‘what?’. We can say that Arabic and English pronouns have similar kinds of inflection.

1.9.9 Adverbs

In English, the majority of adverbs are formed by adding the suffix –ly to the adjective or participles to make adverbs (e.g. seriously, knowingly). In Arabic to make adverbs is to put nouns or adjectives into the accusative case. In addition, there are a number of

instances where in English an adverbial idea is expressed by a prepositional phrase, whereas in Arabic a single word in the accusative is sufficient.

For example:

“He came **quickly** جاء بسرعة”

Haywood and Nahmad (1965:426)

Other examples regarding Arabic adverbs are:

“He did not take a **long** لم يدم طويلا
“Let’s stay a **little while** دينا نمكث قليلا”

Cantarino (1975:246)

1.9.10 Sentence structure

There are two basic types of sentences in Arabic: verbal and nominal. The verbal sentence begins with a verb and it is considered the dominant type. Thus, for example, in a verbal sentence, one says

“Read Ahmad the book, not Ahmad read the book.”

قرأ أحمد الكتاب وليس أحمد قرأ الكتاب

Ziadeh and Winder (1957:22)

A nominal sentence begins with a noun (or pronoun), and does not have verb. This has been confirmed by Ziadeh and Winder that:

“Nominal sentences have no verb by definition but only a subject and a predicate. However, it frequently happens that the predicate itself contains a verb. Thus, for example, the sentence ‘The man came his father’ would be normal way of saying The man’s father came. In this case the word ‘man’ is the subject of the nominal sentence, and the whole clause, came his father, is the predicate. The clause itself is verbal (because it begins with a verb) and father is the subject of the verb. One may also say ‘The man came’ where ‘man’ is the subject and the clause came is the predicate. The clause is verbal with a verb and an understood subject referring back to man. In such nominal sentences the subject is used first for emphasis”.

Ziadeh and Winder (1957:23)

There are three common varieties of predicate for nominal sentences:

1-The predicate may be a noun or an adjective as in the following example:

“Muhammad the prophet of God” (meaning Muhammad is the prophet of God)

Ziadeh and Winder (1957:22)

2- The predicate may be prepositional phrase, for example:

“Peace on you” (meaning peace be on you);
“To Ahmad a book” (meaning Ahmad has a book).

Ziadeh and Winder (1957:22)

In addition, the predicate may be a clause, which may be

1) Verbal, for example:

“The man came his father or the man came.”

Ziadeh and Winder (1957:22)