

Graduation Project

Final Draft



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The title --{ **The Role of Translation in Improving the Acquisition of English as a Foreign Language for The Middle School Students** }.



I certify that every material in this project is my personal work. But, I quoted from some researchers their view.

Signature: (.....).

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Abstract:

In this study, we have stressed upon the need to create an atmosphere of creativity and to open up opportunities for our students to improve their English language by learning to translate. Translation helps the students to develop knowledge and information, and acquaint them with various cultures. In addition to that translation contributes to transfer of information and knowledge between cultures. It affects and enhances their knowledge outcome, classroom interaction, and ability to develop their language proficiency in the long term, creating a new way of thinking for our students. To achieve the goal of this study and to know whether translation has an efficient and active role in improving the students' English, a group of 30 female students was selected from Middle School 113 in Riyadh. The researcher gave the girls some texts to translate so that we can illustrate if there is an operative relation between translation and improving English in order that we may know the advantages of using translation in developing English language proficiency. Subsequently, we can use translation for different educational purposes side by side with other traditional language teaching skills (reading - writing - speaking - listening).

Introduction:

English is a universal language and a dominant language that helps us to understand messages and information. Besides, everyone wants to be a part of the global community by learning the correct English language to improve their lives at the professional and personal levels. In fact, we do not exaggerate when we say that using English fluently in our career can make a big difference in several aspects of our personal lives.

Therefore, it is pertinent that students acquire a fair amount of English language proficiency, because it is a lingua franca, the common link language of the modern world. Student should continue learning English in all stages of their academic career, in order to become stronger in using the correct language rules. Besides, the aim of this study is to find out how to translate correctly without any mistakes. Another objective of the study is to discover the ways and means to teach students how to translate properly. In this way, we build confidence in the language learners which would help them in improvement of their English.

There is no limit to learning a language, in general and English language in particular. The sky is the limit. Learning English is not only learning vocabulary. There are many other language components that need to be focused on, in a much larger

context. The first of these things and the most important is the idioms that we need to know about in order to do the correct translation. In the English language, a word has many synonyms, and conversely a single word may have different meanings in a contextual perspective. When a student translates an individual word, he may make many mistakes when translating the sentence from and to Arabic. From this standpoint, the importance of learning the correct language usages and a proper knowledge of the idiomatic phrases goes a long way in improving the students' knowledge of the target language and his ability to translate. This is the successful educational outcome of teaching language through translation.

Thanks to the Ministry of Education which gives much attention to this aspect of language improvement. In fact it is trying hard to evolve a comprehensive task-based language program to remove the difficulties facing English Learners, and has been, from time to time, offering various professional, technical, and research-based assistances to help them. It is, however, a correct approach to promote students from one grade to the other in accordance with their abilities in producing correct translations, free from spelling errors. Also, translation is the most important foundation for the success of the communication between two different languages. Moreover, translation depends largely on the ability to express meanings and re-drafting the texts in a clear and smooth manner. In fact, translation is the art of conveying the message from the source language to the target one.

Translation happens anywhere, everywhere, and anytime. It happens, for example, on signs, instructions, and messages sent to friends and relatives. Accordingly, translation is real-life. Many learners use it on a daily basis either formally or informally. We should help students to understand the problems they face with respect to their native language. We can do that by discussing the differences and similarities between languages. Also, we should develop and improve the language level of our students starting from young age, because the world is a small village. There is an old saying: "Early Start, Grow Smart".

Literature review:

There are many studies about the role of translation in improving the acquisition of English as a foreign language. Some translators and researchers proved that the act of translation is an imperative, and students should learn the basis of translation. Newmark (1988), showed that "Translation is something that has to be discussed in several schools and universities. English language teaching still requires an exercise where the

students are taught how the messages in the original text should never get neglected. Does the teacher impose a fair copy? Does he present a 'model' of rather than proposing a version for discussion, commentary, and criticism by students, some of whom will be brighter than the others?"¹ Newmark (1988), proved that translation helped students to discussion and criticism.

In addition to that, researcher Ross (2000), states that "translation is generally accepted as a fifth skill. Also, it helps in the improvement of multiple necessary social skills. It also improves communication and understanding. As a form of communication, translation enhances interaction and cooperation between people, which makes it a helpful tool in foreign language teaching".²

Some researchers agreed on the importance of the use of translation in the schools and universities.

For example; Schaffner (1998), claims that "the translation and related exercises could be beneficial to foreign language learning, in order to:

- To improve verbal ability.
- To expand students' vocabulary in the foreign language.
- To perfect their style.
- To develop their understanding of how languages works.
- To establish coherence in foreign language structures for active use.
- To identify and improve the comprehension of foreign language".³

According to Duff (1994), "Recently there has been a renewal of interest in translation. This has resulted in turning the focus on using the original language as a resource for the advancement of language learning. Translation teaching methodologies have produced three characteristics essential to any language learning, e.g., accuracy, clarity, and flexibility".⁴

Duff (1994), provides an evidence to the above mentioned aspect of translation teaching in his research and writes, "The translation process produce three features essential to any language learning: accuracy, clarity, and flexibility."

Consequently, we can convincingly and definitely say that translation is a remarkable a valid language skill to improve foreign language proficiency. These studies are very definitive and empirical in guiding researchers to show people how to study translation and when? They suggest that translation must be taught at the intermediate school level. They also guide us how to improve English language and why is it important to teach translation at the middle school.

Significance of Research:

It is obvious to many English learners how important and significant translation is as a viable language teaching tool. Furthermore, its importance has increased recently. Translation is an effective means of learning. It is also a way of communication for the people who are both proficient and fluent in English. Translation is the key to gain access to science and culture of Western countries. Also, it is the key to gain access to know Western heritage and traditions. It is the key to gain access to what they produced from their thought, in science and literature in order for us to make use of them to take what is suitable to our religion and our morals. In fact, translation has an influential and active role in the evolution of the language of our students. Hence such aims promote the students' foreign language skills, improve the strategies of the translation, and the study of English. Accordingly, they save time and effort.

Research Question:

This study provides us with answers to the following questions:

- What is the role of translation in improving acquisition of English as a foreign language for middle school students?
- What are the translation difficulties facing the middle school students?
- How many times should translation classes be represented at the Middle School Level?
- The most significant question is whether there needs be a longer time to improve their language by using translation?

Research Methodology:

In this study, there will be interviews with 30 students from Intermediate School 113 in Riyadh. They will be given some selected texts consisting of 10 phrases; the first five paragraphs of the texts will be the translated from Arabic into English. These paragraphs will be short. The other five paragraphs of the texts will be those translated from English into Arabic. These texts must include common words. They should be neither too long nor complex linguistically, so that students can reveal their skills and linguistic outcome. Also, they will be taught that the translator must read between the lines and understand what the intended meaning of the original text is, so that the translator can translate it into the other language. When the translation is completed, the students will be given a model of correct answers to compare with the differences in their responses. Then they correct errors and discuss them. In the end, a conclusion will be reached in accepting, elucidating, and practically and scientifically

proving that we can successfully improve our English language proficiency by learning how to translate properly and meaningfully.

Ethical Considerations:

Before we begin, we need to obtain approval from the students who will participate in this study without affecting their opinion under any pressure. Also, we need to explain to them the objectives of this study with all the credibility and visibility. Also, it has to be verified and ascertained that their decision to take part does not affect them in any way. This study is a scientific study for educational purposes only.

Limitation of the Research:

The study has been made in the Middle School 113 for girls in Riyadh. It was undertaken for a limited period. I experienced some difficulties during my search for participants who believe that the translator should acquire some skills and some language outcome. The translator should master the source language and the knowledge of the target one. However, we might be able to develop the target language through practice and more reading concerning the new terms so that there will be no confusion between the linguistic concepts of the recipient and the translator. Our students can achieve better in their education if they are encouraged to use the translator skills correctly with a follow-up of teachers who are specialists in translation and if they are adopted mainly as a means of education in schools and universities over the coming years.

Expected Results:

There was positive feedback after the end of the posts in this study. So it is necessary to intensify such activities to obtain a high level of linguistic competence in our students at a young age. To know what surrounds them of similar texts, and to gain access to the understanding they are required to be lexically and linguistically very clear to others because that will help to improve and strengthen their language, forcing them to disseminate the culture and civilization and knowledge of various sciences over the next five years, God willing. In this way, they become empowered to formulate texts like the ones written in this language. There was some degree of variation in the

answers, but most of the samples have succeeded in achieving mastery in translating correctly.

Here is the answer by one student from among the participants.

A- Translate these texts from Arabic into English.	B- Translate these texts from English to Arabic.
1. تشرق الشمس كل صباح. The sun rises each morning.	1. The teacher punished the whole class yesterday. المعلم عاقب الفصل كامل
2. كان علي يلعب التنس حينما رن الهاتف. Ali was playing tennis when the phone rang.	2- You should read the lesson before you go to school. ينبغي عليك قراءة الدرس قبل أن تذهب إلى المدرسة.
3 - كان أصدقاؤني يبحثون عني لمدة ساعة. My friends were looking for me for an hour.	4- Islam respected the woman a great respecting. احترم الإسلام المرأة احتراماً كبيراً.
5 - هل يمكنني استعارة كتابك؟ Can I borrow your book?	5- They love money so much. إنهم يحبون المال كثيراً.
6 للقراءة هوايتي المفضلة. Reading my favorite hobby.	7- The students stood up to respect the teacher. قام الطلاب احتراماً للمعلم.

However, the female students liked this experience, and they had a desire to repeat them. Also, the quality of the English Language of the students will become very useful when teachers focus on their education.

References:

¹ Newmark, P.,(1988). A Textbook of Translation.

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² Ross, N. J.,(2000). Interference and Intervention: Using Translation in the EFL Classroom.

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³ Schaffner, C.,(1998). Qualification for Professional Translators. Translation in Language Teaching

Versus Teaching Translation. Manchester. St. Jerome Publishing .

⁴ Duff, A.,(1994). Translation: Resource Books for Teachers. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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Appendix:

Here are the methods which show how this study will be administrated. Two types of texts are given to the students which are the translated and untranslated texts given to female students in this study.

NAME: AGE:

1- Translate these texts from Arabic into English.

a- تشرق الشمس كل صباح.

.....

b- كان علي يلعب التنس حينما رن الهاتف.

.....

c- كان أصدقائي يبحثون عني لمدة ساعة.

.....

d- هل يمكنني استعارة كتابك؟

.....

e- القراءة هوايتي المفضلة.

.....

2- Translate these texts from English to Arabic.

a- The teacher punished the whole class yesterday.

.....

b- You should read the lesson before you go to school.

.....

c- Islam respected the woman a great respecting.

.....

d- They love money so much.

.....

e- The students stood up to respect the teacher.

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