

Translating From Arabic into English

Strategy of Translating from Arabic into English

1. Make sure that the name of organizations and institutions is correctly translated by referring to official web sites, for example:

The University of Aleppo جامعة حلب

The Institute of Arab Scientific Heritage معهد التراث العلمي العربي

Chester Beatty Library مكتبة تشستر بيتي

2. Make sure the names of non-Arab scholars, scientists and places are written correctly, for example:

Suter سوتر

Mordtmann موردتمان

Euclid إقليدس

Orontes River نهر العاص

Donald Hill دونالد هيل

Stierneborg ستيرينبورغ

Archimedes أرشميدس

3. Make sure to arrive at the correct translation of technical terminology. Some expressions are Arabic translation of English terminology. so you have to find the exact English terminology. For example:

Exact sciences العلوم الدقيقة

overshot wheels دواليب الضرب من الأعلى

undershot wheels دواليب الضرب من الأسفل

4. Sometimes there are spelling mistakes in the Arabic text, avoid them in translation. For example:

Badi' al-Zaman al-Jazari البديع الجزري

Tycho Brahe تيكوبراهي

Uraniborg اورانيبورع

5. Make sure that the names of books is translated exactly as they are know in scientific circles

The Sublime Methods of Spiritual Machines الطرق السنية في الآلات الروحانية

Almagest الماجسطي

The Book of knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices كتاب في معرفة الحيل الهندسية

6. Looking up the meaning of old Arabic terms and expressions in classical Arabic dictionaries. For example:

الزيج : كل كتاب يتضمن جداول فلكية يعرف منها سير النجوم و يستخرج بواسطته التقويم (قاموس المحيط)

بنكाम : ١ . ساعة الرمل . ٢ . أداة تتخذ مقياساً زمنياً لطهي البيض و ما ذلك .

القنب (بضم القاف و كسر ها) : نبات حولي زراعي ليفي من فصيلة القنبية ، تفتل لحاؤه حبلاً

7. Looking up the names of technical expressions from authentic references. For example:

علم أنباط المياه : هو علم يتعرف منه كيفية استخراج المياه الكامنة في الأرض و اظهارها .

سناجق : الولاية تتكون من سناجق بما يعادل اليوم محافظة ([Http://www.Mesopotamia4374.Com/adad4/4.Htm](http://www.Mesopotamia4374.Com/adad4/4.Htm)).

8. Sometimes the translation of some terms cannot be found except in other book on the same topic.

For example:

Block of timber إسطامه

Cubit ذراع

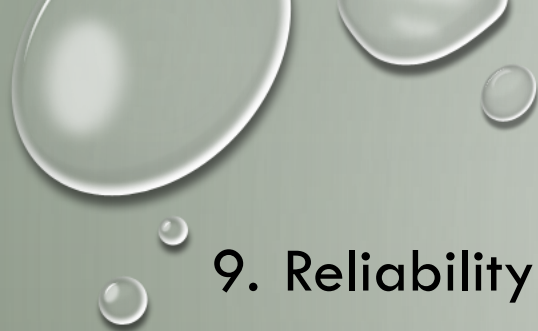
Paddles فراشات

Rod سهم

Palm شبر

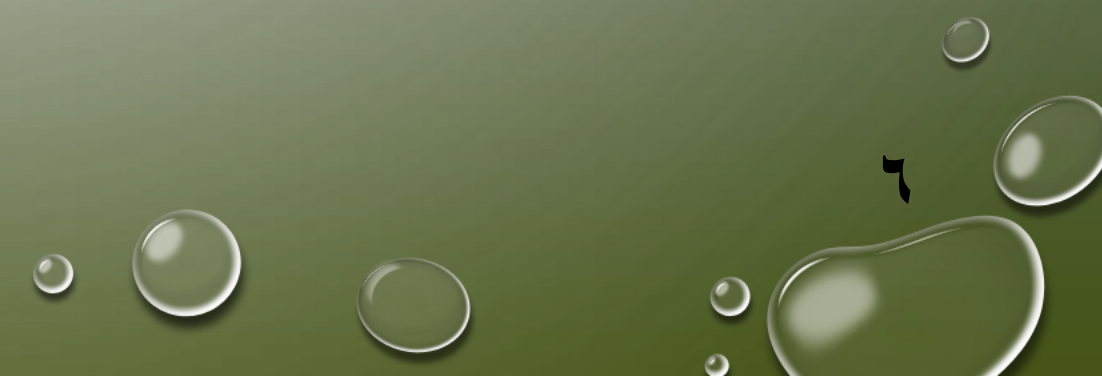
Noria ناعورة

Drum قفص



9. Reliability must be maintained and ensured in writing the names of people and places all through. Make sure that a certain name is not spelled differently in different locations of the book. Consistency must also be maintained in technical terminology.

10. Try to make the style and language of output text close to the jargon and style of books and papers published in the field. This can be done by reading a lot about the topic before starting to translate.



Comments on style and structure in translation from Arabic into English

1. Stick to the same tense throughout the same sentence:

Past => past continuous => past perfect.

Present => present continuous => present perfect.

Sample mistake: The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to lay his head toward `A'ishah to comb his head while she is inside her apartment and he is in the mosque.

2. Don't use needless complex expressions.

Sample: He used to betake himself (go) to them.

3. Don't use (to) after (and).

Sample mistake: He used to pray and to go to....

4. Pay attention to the position of modifiers.

Sample mistake: Also it is called.

5. Observe proper preposition with nouns and verbs.

Sample mistake: Leaning his back to (against) it.

6. Transliteration should be followed by an explanation once at the beginning.

Example: Ihram [state of ritual consecration] is required at the beginning of Hajj [pilgrimage].

7. Whenever speaking about past events (history) stick to the past tense.

8. The flow of a sentence or sentences should be regulated either by points or commas.

Sample mistake: The Prophet (peace be upon him) stayed in Medina for ten years offering sacrifice every year but did not perform Hajj.

Correct: The Prophet (peace be upon him) stayed in Medina for ten years, offering sacrifice every year, but did not perform Hajj.

9. Driving so many consecutive pronouns may be confusing. So, it is better to mention nouns when necessary.

Sample mistake: The zebra was hunted by someone not in the state of Ihram and came in person to the Prophet (peace be upon him) who found out with certainty that he was not in the state of Ihram.

Correct: The zebra was hunted by someone not in the state of Ihram. He came in person to the Prophet (peace be upon him), who found out with certainty that the hunter was not in the state of Ihram.