



## **Graduation Project Final Draft**

**The Problems of translation due to culture and religion  
and Importance of studying abroad for the Arabian  
student**

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# **Contents**

<b>Abstract</b>	3
<b>Introduction</b>	3-4
<b>Literature Review</b>	4-5
<b>Significance of Research</b>	5
<b>Research Question</b>	6
<b>Data Collection Methodology and Ethical Discretion</b>	6
<b>Limitation of Research</b>	6
<b>Expected Results</b>	6-7
<b>Conclusion</b>	7
<b>References</b>	8
<b>Appendix</b>	8-9

## Abstract

Translation problems and difficulties understanding is the eternal problems as long as there are cultural and religious differences between communities .There was many researches and books talked about this subject with more details. In this study i write about this problems from my point of view and i shed light on the positives receiving English as a secondary language for graduate students from high school In countries it's mother language is English and the strength and effectiveness of linguistic harvest Acquired and the impact of the culture of these countries and direct mixing with English people on their educational attainment and linguistic, which is evident through direct talks and understanding of linguistic methods to the spokesman, and I shed light on the category intended in this research "Arabian students" who have studied abroad and really gone through these problems, i conducted a questionnaire containing questions about the overall experience they went through and summarize the results of what i have studied and looked up for and written in this research .

## Introduction

In fact, the acquisition of English as a secondary language as bases , **grammar , structure,** installation and meanings are easy for the " Arabian student " even if he/she faced some difficulties during the learning , of course, these difficulties increase or decrease depending on how he/she receive the language, for example, learning under the supervision of a teacher who was not native speaker of English differs from the way learning from the native English speaker because learning from the native English speaker deeper and easier, and as such, learning English in country it's mother language are not English such as Saudi Arabia more difficult and less efficient than learning in country it's basic language is English as America. What distinguishes acquiring language from native speakers or countries that not only studying language as bases, grammars , vocab and meanings but also acquiring the culture, customs and traditions of this country and nation making it easier for him/her to fully understand and distance from misunderstandings due to cultural differences at times and the religious at other times.

Taylor's(1871)defines the culture as" complex of whole which includes knowledge , belief , moral , arts , customs and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a

member of society" , according to this definition of culture, we conclude that there are arguments and likes and expressions characteristic of every society and inherited down generation after generation and use them in their daily conversations, Contacting the Arabian student to these communities and these new cultures while receiving language will be erased many question marks about some of the phrases during mixing with them and make conversations, as an example- take a raincheck- this is an Americanism that dates back to the 1880s and references the practice of giving baseball game ticketholders a pass to game that must be rescheduled due to weather it's used as a metaphor for postponing a meeting between people to some later date that is more convenient, but it seems to the new listeners as rain check causing him messing up in understanding when they said to him "take a raincheck" , also there is another expression commonly used –when pigs fly – and they used it when they mean that this thing will never happen, it's seems like a famous Arabic expression but with different culture .

Religious differences between communities also one of many elements that may raise questions of the Arabian student about what does this man really Intended in this religious phrases or sentences that carry conviction with specific religious as an example "Merry Christmas" it's said by Christians, including one of religious rituals for their congratulatory it holds a particular religious meanings but seem to students ignorant of some things that it's like "Ead saeed" , and this example also applies to "Happy Valentine's Day" .

## **Literature Review**

"I always give tips my undergraduate students to replace studying abroad as a first point in their academic plans , because it makes difference in my own life." For Arabian students who studied abroad to improve or develop foreign language skills, experiencing a language firsthand in the streets of a foreign city, in a local university course or while living with local roommates made an indelible impact on their foreign language skills" (Julia Reinhard Lupton ,IES Freiburg 1983)

"The frequency of positive contacts on the international students with native students as well as with other international students as an active strategy for dealing with acculturation" (Ward and Kennedy, 1994)

" While two different languages are among them cultural friendliness and shared religious habits the translation problems will surely disappear at beginners or students , but when there is a big cultural difference between the two languages such as Arabic and English the student will face great difficulties that he/she must do an effort to overcome" (Bonsai Life: Cultural Issues in English Translation ,DR Pratima Roy)

"It seems that the use of the English language "social culture popular" . Teachers is the secret in the process of teaching and learning in secondary school English through the integration of popular social culture in tasks and activities that require direct communication with the people and that carry the meanings specified, it allows teachers the opportunity for students to use and speak English in realistic situations"( CK Cheung - ELT Journal, 2001) , from my point of view in this case, the teacher provides them with a mini environment similar in detail and people the US Environmental.

### **Significance of Research**

The importance of this research is to highlight the most important problems that the Arabian student who studies English as a second language may fall in when he translate what he here from English native speakers or what are they saying to him because of the big differences between this tow communities or societies ( Arabian , American ) Culturally and religiously , and the reasons that leads him/her to fall in such mistakes or errors , and the first of this reasons are the way of studying or receiving the language which will surely be easier for him/her to choose the best way of it after reading this lines , and he/she will develop his/her self by using different means not only formal education so they can make any conversation in future without fear , frequency or shyness from making mistakes.

## **Research Question**

My research study is willing to clarification this questions..

What are the difficulties facing the Arab student when studying English abroad? ,What are the common translation mistakes or problems that the student may fall in and the reason of it? and how he/she can develop his/her self to avoid these mistakes forever?

## **Data Collection Methodology and Ethical Discretion**

I designed a questionnaire and sent across Social Media programs for 14 students between the ages of 21-23 years for both males and females from different regions of Saudi Arabia and was a requirement for answering the questionnaire that each one of the students completed his/her studying abroad or external scholarship , and returned to continuation of life in his country, and this questionnaire contains eight questions revolve around their real gains from their study , Linguistic stocks and their fluency in conversation , and the translation's problems that they fall in, and the advantages of this experiment .

## **Limitation of Research**

This questionnaire was conducted on a very small section of student who passed this experience "studying abroad" in Saudi Arabia , while it must not be only in Saudi border but in all Arab countries, and that cannot be counted easily and that certainly will give results more accurate and credible, and also when i include students who doesn't tried this experience but they speak English well to this questionnaire the differences and the results will be more clear and it will be there more details .

## **Expected Results**

Based on the questionnaire results, it turns out that the receipt of the English language from original contact with people in different cultures, religious, social and form relationships with them and their conversation all the time and everywhere from the University , office ,

markets, parks or public places and others have large and positive impact on the Arabian students where 80% of them confirmed that what they had learned in the street more and faster preserved and **indelible impact**, than what they learned at the university, and also argue that the mixing with people at night is a complement to what they learned in the morning at the university like a practical application of what is studying and agreed that was no difficulty in precisely beginnings during the dialogue with one of them as it is forced to translate everything he hear, interpret it in his mind first, and then arrange the necessary response and with the passage of time has become easier to understand the situation where they became directly without the need for mental processes of translation and accommodating, and became their use of examples and common English idioms and phrases naturally without costing.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion I can give advice from the reality of personal experience and also from what i searched for in this research , in order to increase your passion for the English language and mastery of it and your success out at all levels, you must carefully choose the way you receive language, if you have the ability to choose studying abroad or maybe you get a scholarship from your GOV ,go for it because it's the better choice , if you can't then look for alternative but the best alternative among the substitutes like high-level Institutes and constant search for everything that enriches your knowledge and enhances your language during a speech and also the follow-up programs, films, English serials and last but not least to gain friends native English speakers and make a daily conversation with them about several topics, whether face to face or by social media programs and apps it's the famous and available way nowadays .

## References

\* Ward, C. and Kennedy, A., (1994), “Acculturation strategies, psychological adjustment, and sociocultural competence during cross-cultural transitions”, *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, Vol. 18, No.3, pp. 293–328.

\* Roy, D. P. (2016). *Bonsai Life: Cultural Issues in English Translation*. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGLISH: LITERATURE, LANGUAGE & SKILLS*, 2278, 0742.

\* Cheung, C. K. (2001). The Use of Popular Culture as a Stimulus To Motivate Secondary Students' English Learning in Hong Kong. *ELT Journal*, 55(1), 55-60

## Appendix

How do you evaluate your experience of studying in United States?

- Excellent
- Good
- Not too bad

How do you enriched your linguistic stock?

- From the university only
- From contact with people in the street
- Both together

Do you got problems in translation and understanding the dialogue between you and American people ?

- Yes , more than what you expect
- Yes, but not that much
- At all , i already have a background of their language and culture

Do you see the friendships and dialoguing with people outside the walls of the university expanded the circle of your knowledge?

- Yes sure
- Advised me a little
- Did not constitute a difference

Which of the following was more difficult?

- Reading
- Conversation
- Writing

Do you understand and master the everyday English idioms?

- I realize a lot of them
- I realize little ones
- I don't realize i at all

Do you use these expressions in your everyday conversations?

- I use it fluently
- I use a little common ones
- I dont use it at all

When someone said to you " don't spill the beans" what will you say ?

- Don't worry, I'll save your secret
- Did you mean the real beans ?
- I don't see any beans to spill it