

Translating Arabic Culture-Specific Legal Terms Into English: Challenges and Insights From Saudi Laws

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Abstract—Legal translation is a complex practice that involves transferring legal materials between two legal systems. It plays a pivotal role in facilitating cross-border legal processes and international business. However, it is fraught with numerous challenges arising from the inherently culture-dependent nature of law. This corpus-based study aimed at exploring the challenges associated with the English translation of Arabic culture-specific legal terms (CSLTs) used in six Saudi laws. The terms investigated in this study were categorized into four main themes: religious terms, institutions' names, titles of laws, and miscellaneous terms. The qualitative analysis revealed four main challenges associated with translating these terms: the cultural gap between the source culture (SC) and target culture resulting from adopting different laws, being bound to the SC, the availability of more than one translation of an institution's name on its official website, and the non-availability of an official website for an institution. Some of these challenges are related to translating all CSLTs in a particular category or more, whereas others are associated with translating only one or two CSLTs in a certain category. Understanding and addressing these challenges is of utmost importance as it directly impacts the target readers' ability to comprehend translated legal texts accurately.

Index Terms—translation, legal, challenges, Saudi laws, culture-specific legal terms

I. INTRODUCTION

Law plays a crucial role in societies; without it, they would fall into chaos and anarchy. It comprises a set of rules and regulations that govern human behavior and interaction. Since law regulates every aspect of humankind in all its complexity, it has many branches and a vast number of specialized legal terms and concepts. Its language, known as legalese, is inherently complicated and obscure (Kordić, 2020). The scope of legal discourse, according to Cheng and Danesi (2019), includes not only written materials, such as contracts but also spoken ones, such as witness questioning, as well as non-verbal elements, for example, physical evidence. Lisina (2013) indicated that legal discourse represents a distinct language variety, distinguished by its highly technical lexis.

Considering that this type of discourse is of such a unique nature, the purpose of this study was to examine the translation of culture-specific legal terms (CSLTs) mentioned in Saudi laws (SLs). This study sought to answer the following research question:

What are the challenges related to translating the CSLTs used in some SLs from Arabic into English? And how to overcome these challenges?

Translating CSLTs can be challenging due to the linguistic, cultural, and legal considerations involved. The study's findings can inform legal translators and specialists in legal translation about the particular challenges that may arise when translating legal terminology used in Saudi legal documents. This knowledge can guide the development of strategies and procedures to promote producing more accurate legal translations and overcome translation challenges.

The study provided some valuable insights into the cultural nuances of CSLTs used in SLs. By exploring the challenges of translating these terms, this would facilitate a deeper understanding of the legal system and cultural context of Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the study highlighted the issue of inconsistency in legal translation. According to Cheng et al. (2016), inconsistent translations can lead to serious issues in the legal field. They indicated that mere comprehension of a specific provision or an entire law might not be adequate to grasp a particular legal matter; it might be crucial to understand relevant provisions among several laws systematically. Such understanding can be impeded by inconsistent translations.

In the following section, we review the literature and provide background on the Saudi legal system, as well as legal translation and related challenges.

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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Given that this study is concerned with examining the translation of various CSLTs used in different SLs, the following sections provide a brief background on the Saudi legal system and legal translation, as well as an overview of culture-specific terms and the challenges of legal terminology.

A. Saudi Legal System

Sharia (i.e., Islamic law) is the basis of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's legal system (Ansary, 2020). The main sources of reference for all SLs are Holy Qur'an and the Sunna of Prophet Muhammad (Basic Law of Governance, 1992). Saudi courts are obligated to apply Sharia provisions and State laws that do not conflict with the Holy Qur'an and the Sunna to all cases presented to them (Basic Law of Governance, 1992).

The legislative authority of the Kingdom is empowered to enact laws and regulations conducive to realizing public interest or preventing harm to the Kingdom's affairs, in accordance with Sharia principles; in addition, it should execute its powers in conformity with the Basic Law of Governance, the Law of the Council of Ministers, and the Shura Council Law (Basic Law of Governance, 1992).

All Saudi laws are issued and amended by royal decrees following review by the Council of Ministers and the Shura Council, which serve as the Kingdom's legislative bodies (see Basic Law of Governance, 1992; Law of the Council of Ministers, 1993; Shura Council Law, 1992). The Bureau of Experts (BOE) at Council of Ministers, i.e., the Council's legislative body, is responsible for reviewing and suggesting amendments to current laws (Bureau of Experts, 2018). It is also in charge of drafting laws and conducting their necessary studies in collaboration with the relevant agency (Bureau of Experts, 2018).

Translating the approved SLs and regulations into various foreign languages is one of the responsibilities of the Official Translation Department (OTD) at the BOE (Bureau of Experts, 2022). All SLs and regulations are published on the official website of the National Center of Archives and Records (<https://ncar.gov.sa>). Translating and publishing SLs into different languages demonstrates the Kingdom's recognition of the significance of allowing citizens and foreigners to view its laws.

B. Legal Translation

Legal translation is intertwined with the culture of each language and involves more than rendering legal materials from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). Šarčević (1997) defined it as a "translation from one legal system into another – from the source legal system into the target legal system" (p. 13). Smith (1995) pointed out that legal translators must convey a specialized language unique to the source legal system into a distinct technical language that is specific to the target legal system. Thus, legal translation requires more than just linguistic expertise; it necessitates a profound understanding of the legal systems involved and cultural awareness. Not only must legal translators be well-versed in the differences between the legal systems concerned, but they must also possess a keen sensitivity to terminology usage and a deep appreciation for the precision of word structure within legal discourse (Smith, 1995).

Weisflog (1987) indicated that legal translation is difficult because of the technical and specific nature of legal language, as well as the fact that it is bound to a particular national legal system rather than universal. Altarabin (2018) pointed out that translating legal materials can be arduous when dealing with comparable legal systems and related languages, let alone the translation between Arabic and English. These two languages are distinct in terms of their linguistic, cultural, and legal origins. Arabic is classified as a Semitic language, whereas English belongs to the Indo-European family (Ghazala, 1995). Accordingly, lexical, syntactic, and textual challenges may arise for translators working between these languages.

In addition to the different language systems, the legal cultures pertinent to Arabic and English are remarkably distinct. Legal Arabic includes aspects of Islamic and civil laws, while legal English is linked to common law (EL-Farahaty, 2016). In addition, some Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, only follow Islamic law, whereas others, such as Egypt, adopt Islamic and civil laws (EL-Farahaty, 2016).

Precision and accuracy in legal translation represent a highly complicated issue, especially when there are significant religious, cultural, and linguistic differences between the source language (SL) and target language (TL) (Alhomoud, 2022). This remark can be linked to the two languages examined in this study because, as previously mentioned, the Arabic and English language systems and legal cultures are notably dissimilar.

Each country has its own distinct legal system (Eterno & Das, 2011), and the different legal systems have their own terminology (Tabory, 1980). Thus, accurate legal translations are required to ensure correct understanding and prevent serious potential liabilities brought on by faulty information or misleading translations. Accordingly, conducting this study that addressed issues related to translating legal terminology is of undeniable significance.

Legal translation is an indispensable part of society, ensuring seamless transitions between legal systems. Growing internationalization and globalization have contributed to a consistent rise in the need for legal translations over the last 10 to 20 years (Liimatainen et al., 2017). The significance of this type of translation and the growing need for it necessitate further examination.

The significant translation problems that translators of Saudi legal texts into English may face can be associated with "the imbalanced relationships in the legal concepts between the sharia law system and the common law" (Alhomoud,

2022, p. 2). Legal Arabic is interpreted and understood within the context of Islamic law and civil law, whereas legal English is interpreted and understood in the context of common law (EL-Farahaty, 2016). The differences between Islamic, civil, and common laws further complicate the process of translating legal texts and terms. Accordingly, this study addressed the challenges associated with translating various CSLTs used in different SLs from Arabic into English.

C. Culture-Specific Terms

Defining culture-specific terms (CSTs) can be challenging because “in a language everything is culturally produced, beginning with language itself” (Aixela, 1996, p. 57). Various definitions for CSTs were offered by different scholars, including Aixela (1996), who viewed these terms as a cause of translation issues and provided the following definition:

Those textually actualized items whose function and connotations in a source text involve a translation problem in their transference to a target text, whenever this problem is a product of the nonexistence of the referred item or of its different intertextual status in the cultural system of the readers of the target text. (p. 58)

Another more specific definition was given by González Davies and Scott-Tennent (2005). They defined CSTs as any verbal, non-verbal, textual, or audiovisual expression denoting a kind of manifestation that can be attributed to a specific community and would be accepted as a trait of that community by its members; such an expression may occasionally create a translation problem. Both definitions share the idea that CSTs are a potential source of translation difficulties.

The degree to which translating CSTs is challenging depends on how similar or divergent the cultures involved are (Ou-Hssata & Tounsi, 2019). Translating between culturally distant languages, such as English and Arabic, involves greater challenges compared to the translation between languages of related or similar cultures, such as English and German (Bahumaid, 2017). Abdel Fattah Salem (2020) pointed out that despite the problems and challenges associated with terms of this kind, they are, nevertheless, translatable. She added that the objective of translation is to convey the intended meaning rather than the specific words and structures that carry it.

One lexical feature of the Arabic legal discourse, according to EL-Farahaty (2015), is the use of CSTs; examples of these terms include “نسب” and “نفقة” (EL-Farahaty, 2015, p. 34). Along with Aixela (1996) and González Davies and Scott-Tennent (2005), EL-Farahaty (2015) also argued that CSTs pose difficulties in legal translation when translating between two different languages.

Considering that legal translation involves rendering CSTs from a source legal system into a target one, translators are often challenged by the gap between the two cultures involved. They need to perform their task very carefully to be able to translate the legal terms of the source system as accurately as possible. They can benefit from a compare and contrast approach to the legal systems involved as this enables them to identify the similarities and differences between the systems and make use of these aspects (Rotaru, 2019).

Due to the complexity of CSTs, different scholars have proposed various categorizations of strategies specifically for their translation. One categorization is Venuti’s (1995) domestication and foreignization strategies. When applying the domestication strategy, translators make themselves invisible in the target text (TT) so that target readers (TRs) do not realize it is translated (Oztemel & Kurt, 2017). They replace the cultural values and items of the source text (ST) with those of the target culture (TC), making the TT appear as though it was written in the TC.

On the other hand, the foreignization strategy makes the presence of the translator visible; thus, TRs will realize that the TT belongs to a different language and culture (Oztemel & Kurt, 2017). This strategy enriches the TL with new terms and expressions from the source culture (SC). Adopting it supports cultural exchange and increases the TRs’ knowledge of the SC (Ayyad & Mahadi, 2020).

Venuti’s (1995) domestication and foreignization were introduced to help translators overcome the challenges of translating CSTs. However, they are not without criticisms. Obeidat and Abu-Melhim (2017) supported this view, arguing that domestication and foreignization can be applied within the same text to be translated.

D. Challenges Related to Legal Terminology

It is due to the differences in the legal systems and legal cultures to which the ST and TT belong that challenges related to legal terminology usually arise. This statement is in line with Šarčević’s (1997) view, as she claimed that the dissimilarities between legal systems and legal cultures can pose challenges to legal translators. Altarabin (2018) pointed out that it is difficult, if not impossible, to translate legal terms between Arabic and English due to differences in the legal systems of the Arab world and the English-speaking countries. Legal terminology challenges occur, according to Alwazna (2018), when the ST contains CSTs that do not exist in the TL because of the different legal cultures from which the SL and TL are derived. In addition, the inherent lack of terminology match between the different legal systems affects the ability of translators to find natural equivalents in the legal system of the TL that correspond to their SL terms at the conceptual level (Šarčević, 1997). In the case of the absence of legal concepts or equivalents, the procedures of borrowing or creating new words can be applied (Jiang & Zhuang, 2019).

Few studies have tackled issues related to translating legal terminology. Al Aqad (2014) focused on the translation of five marriage contracts from Arabic to English and aimed to determine the linguistic and cultural equivalence. To compare the meanings of the ST in relation to the TT, the researcher employed a pragmatic approach. The results showed that translating some CSLTs literally resulted in vague and incorrect meanings. Therefore, the researcher pointed out that the functional translation method that achieves the intended purpose of the ST should be considered when translating legal texts.

Yankova (2015) shed light on the problems related to translating the legal terminology used in 120 pages of EU directives on copyright, intellectual property, and related rights from English into Bulgarian. The terminological problems discussed by the researcher include conceptual non-equivalence, specificity and generality of terms, and false cognates. When an adequate equivalent cannot be found in the TC, the researcher mentioned that preserving the ST term, creating a neologism, or providing a short explanation are the procedures that can be adopted. Yankova's view is similar to that of Jiang and Zhuang (2019), who indicated that borrowing or creating new words can be applied when translating concepts that do not exist in the TC.

Alwazna (2018) addressed the issue of the untranslatability of legal terminology between Arabic and English. He demonstrated that the conceptual asymmetry between legal terms is the main cause of untranslatability. However, he argued that this issue can be solved using certain procedures if they are properly applied. These procedures are loan translation, coinage, descriptive paraphrasing, and omission. Alwazna pointed out that the least commonly utilized among these procedures is omission, as it is only appropriate if preserving the ST term in the TT creates a sense of foreignness for readers and does not contribute to the intended meaning.

Alwazna (2018) also mentioned that using a combination of translation procedures in legal translation to convey the intended meaning of ST terms is normal given that applying one technique may not be sufficient to achieve the desired purpose. Xuan-Nghi and Son (2019) examined some major difficulties in the Vietnamese translation of English legal terminology. They indicated that the differences between legal systems and cultural problems are examples of those issues. They further added that cultural differences in legal translation are related to the laws to which the SL and TL are connected.

Tang (2021) addressed the translation of proper nouns from legal English into Chinese, noting that such nouns have posed a challenge for legal English translators for a long time. The reason for this issue, according to the researcher, could be attributed to the fact that these nouns are manifestations of a given culture. However, he pointed out that they should not be deleted and further explained that transliteration should be applied to translate names of people or places, whereas names of institutions or books should be translated semantically after identifying their meanings. Regarding the translation of institutions' names, Chirilă (2014) holds a different opinion. She pointed out that if the institution itself has provided an officially established translation of its name, this translation should be used whenever needed. Otherwise, the only option is borrowing the name and adding a descriptive translation or a calque.

Fantin (2023) also provided a similar opinion to that of Chirilă (2014). She pointed out that the official translation of an institution's name should be used if there is one. However, in the absence of such translation, she indicated that translators should leave the name as it is in the original language and provide an approximate translation in parentheses, as this may enable TRs to understand the institution type. It can be noted that Tang's (2021), Chirilă's, and Fantin's opinions regarding the translation of institutions' names differ. The lack of consensus on the procedures used to translate such terms indicates that translating them seems challenging.

The previous section shows that various scholars have shed light on challenges related to translating legal terms, and some of them have provided solutions to overcome some of the challenges. It also illustrates that different language pairs were examined to analyze the challenges. These pairs are Arabic-English, English-Bulgarian, English-Vietnamese, and English-Chinese. It is notable that all pairs include the English language. This could mean that this language was of interest to several researchers. Yet, there seems a notable research gap in exploring the challenges associated with translating CSLTs from Arabic into English. The scarcity of previous studies focusing on this particular area highlights the significance and originality of this research endeavor. Exploring this area is hoped to contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances involved in translating CSLTs from Arabic into English. By shedding light on the challenges and potential solutions, it is anticipated that this research will pave the way for improved translation practices, fostering effective cross-cultural communication and enhancing the comprehension of translated legal texts.

III. METHODOLOGY

The present descriptive study adopted a mixed-methods approach to answer the research question. The following sections provide a description of the data collection and analytical methods used.

A. Data Collection

(a). Identifying CSLTs

To examine the translation of various terms used in the Saudi legal system, CSLTs were extracted from different SLs: Companies Law (2015), Enforcement Law (2012), Labor Law (2005), the Basic Law of Governance (1992), the Law of Civil Procedure (2013), and the Law of Criminal Procedure (2013). The official website of the BOE (<https://laws.boe.gov.sa/boelaws/laws/>) is the source of these Arabic laws and their official English translations.

The above six laws were included in this study because they are listed among the top 10 most-read laws, as indicated on the BOE's webpage titled "Most Read Laws" (see Bureau of Experts, n.d.). Moreover, they are the only laws in this top 10 that have English translations. CSLTs were extracted through a manual and meticulous process, which involved reading the six laws thoroughly and carefully identifying the relevant terms. Gaining a deeper understanding of the legal and cultural context in Saudi Arabia was essential to this process, as was consulting legal books and references.

CSLTs were extracted from the selected laws based on the definition of CSTs provided by Aixela (1996) and the one of legal terms mentioned in Collins Dictionary (Collins. n.d.). Since the extracted terms align with Aixela’s definition, mentioned in Section C of the literature review, they were considered culture specific. This definition was adopted by several researchers (see, for example, Ayyad & Mahadi, 2020; Echihi & Salah, 2017; Narváez & Zambrana, 2014; Olk, 2009; Oztemel & Kurt, 2017; Pralas, 2012; Rezaei & Kuhl, 2014). Additionally, given that these terms are utilized in legal discourse, they were deemed legal. According to Collins Dictionary, legal terms refer to expressions or words that are used in the context of law.

Religious terms, names of institutions, names of positions, titles of laws, and miscellaneous terms are the five categories into which the extracted terms were divided. The first four categories include terms with common features, whereas the fifth one includes those that lack a shared feature. A Google form including all extracted terms, their translations, their categories, and the criteria adopted to extract them from the selected laws was created and sent to two Assistant Professors at King Saud University with over 10 years of experience in teaching legal translation, and to a Saudi senior legal advisor with 25 years of litigation expertise and a Ph.D. in law. The purpose of creating such a form was to enhance data accuracy and reliability, while reducing the potential for inaccuracies or subjectivity in the analysis.

This study only focused on the CSLTs that were approved by all three experts to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the analysis. The category of names of positions was omitted because the experts did not agree upon any of its terms. Therefore, 44 CSLTs were included in this study. The limited scope of the analysis and the rigorous selection process helped in conducting a thorough analysis of the translation of CSLTs in the context of SLs.

(b). Corpus Compilation

To examine translation of the CSLTs across the selected laws, a cloud-based translation management system, Phrase TMS (<https://phrase.com/products/phrase-tms/>), was used to compile a parallel corpus. This corpus includes all six Arabic laws and their English translations. Cloud-based systems ensure high accessibility as data can be accessed from any location and on any device. In addition, the post-translation alignment feature in these systems enables users to build corpora from previously translated documents.

The first step in creating the parallel corpus was copying the Arabic laws from the BOE’s website, then pasting them into a Word document. Their English translations were obtained from the same website as PDF files, which were then converted and compiled into a single Word document. The next step involved pasting the contents of the two Word documents into two parallel columns on an Excel sheet. This corpus contains 65,542 Arabic tokens and 81,723 English ones, comprising 3,980 aligned segments. Tokens, as used in corpus linguistics, describe all words appearing in a corpus, regardless of how often they are repeated (Al-Khalafat & Haider, 2022). The size variation between the Arabic and English corpora could be attributed to the use of definitions in translating some CSLTs or to the application of more than one translation procedure, such as cultural borrowing and definition. The last steps before analyzing the translations of the CSLTs involved importing the parallel corpus into Phrase TMS after thoroughly reviewing it for any inaccuracies.

B. Analytical Procedures

Searching for CSLTs in the parallel corpus was conducted using the bilingual concordancer tool. This tool displayed all contexts in which the CSLTs appeared, facilitating the analysis of the translations. Concordance lines (CLs), also known as concordances, are a compilation of all occurrences of a term in a document or corpus, as well as the surrounding words (Wynne, n.d.). CLs in Phrase TMS are illustrated in Figure 1 below.

6. تزويج من لا ولي لها، أو من عضلها أولياؤها.	6. marrying off women who have no guardians or are deprived of marriage by their guardians.
ز - ما يتعلق بالمجور عليهم إلى الأوصياء أو الأولياء بحسب الأحوال.	g) With respect to interdicted persons: to their trustees or guardians as the case may be.
ويسري وجوب الإيداع المشار إليه آنفًا على الوصي والولي والناظر.	The aforementioned mandatory deposit shall also apply to trustees, guardians and administrators.

Figure 1. CLs in Phrase TMS

The process of identifying the challenges involved examining the CSLTs and their translations, as well as the contexts in which they were used. Additionally, consulting similar studies and relevant websites was essential for enhancing our understanding of these challenges.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The identified CSLTs were divided into four categories: religious terms, names of institutions, titles of laws, and miscellaneous terms. The translations of the terms included in each category were counted and analyzed qualitatively.

A. Religious Terms

Table 1 below contains all religious terms found in the six laws, along with their frequencies and translations.

TABLE 1
TRANSLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS TERMS

CSLT	Frequency	Translation
ولي	20	guardian
الناظر	8	administrator
محرمة شرعاً	1	illegal
نفقة	10	1- alimony 2- alimony and child support 3- support 4- financial support
إجازة عدة	2	1- 'iddah leave' 2- the leave
دعوى حسبة	1	public interest lawsuit
الولاية على النفس أو المال	1	custody over a person or property
الخلع	1	khul' (divorce at the insistence of the wife)
الرجعة	1	revocation of divorce
عضل	3	1- deprived of marriage 2- prevention of a woman from marriage 3- deprivation of marriage
محرم	2	1- mahram (i.e., a male relative precluded from marrying her) 2- mahram
التفريق بين الزوجين	2	1- dissolution of marriage 2- separation of spouses
ولي الأمر	5	1- the King 2- State 3- —
قصاص	9	qisas
حد	3	1- hadd 2- hadd cases 3- hadd (Sharia prescribed punishment)
تعزير	6	1- ta'zir 2- ta'zir (discretionary punishment) 3- punish
بيعة	4	pledge of allegiance
الوقف الأهلي	1	private endowment
جهة ير لا تنقطع	1	continuing charity cause
أجرة المثل	1	due fees
إبراء الذمة	7	1- discharge ... from liability 2- relieve ... from liability
كفالة	6	1- guarantor 2- guarantee 3- bail
كفالة عينية	1	in-kind security
كفيل ملىء	2	solvent guarantor
كفيل غارم ملىء	2	solvent guarantor

The examination of the religious terms revealed that there is one challenge related to their translation, i.e., the cultural gap between the SC and TC resulting from adopting different laws. The SC is associated with Islamic law, whereas the TC is linked to common law, with all religious terms being bound to Islamic law.

B. Names of Institutions

The translations of five institutions' names were analyzed in this study. Table 2 shows the translations and frequencies of these names.

TABLE 2
TRANSLATIONS OF NAMES OF INSTITUTIONS

CSLT	Frequency	Translation
ديوان المظالم	4	Board of Grievances
الهيئة العامة للأوقاف	1	General Endowment Council
هيئة كبار العلماء	1	Board of Senior Ulema
إدارة البحوث العلمية والإفتاء	1	Department of Religious Research and Fatwa
مجلس الشورى	2	Shura Council

The analysis of the institutions' names showed that one reason for the difficulty in translating them is that they are bound to the SC. Among them, "ديوان المظالم" appears the least difficult to translate because there is only one official English translation for this name. Thus, the difficulty of translating it was overcome by using that translation. In contrast, translating "هيئة كبار العلماء", "الهيئة العامة للأوقاف", and "مجلس الشورى" appears more challenging, and it seems difficult to judge the adequacy of the translations of these names. This is either because there is more than one translation on an institution's official website, as in the case of "الهيئة العامة للأوقاف" and "مجلس الشورى", or because there is no official website for an institution, as in the instance of "هيئة كبار العلماء". Judging the acceptability of the translation of "إدارة البحوث العلمية"

”والإفتاء” seems problematic, as it may be the only one provided for this term, with no other authentic translations available for comparison.

C. *Titles of Laws*

The translations of six titles of laws were also examined (see Table 3). All titles appear once in the corpus, except “نظام” “المرافعات الشرعية”, which occurs eight times.

TABLE 3
TRANSLATIONS OF TITLES OF LAWS

CSLT	Frequency	Translation
نظام المرافعات الشرعية	8	1- Law of Civil Procedure 2- Law of Civil Procedures
نظام هيئة البيعة	1	Succession Commission Law
نظام مجلس الشورى	1	Law of the Shura Council
نظام الهيئة العامة للولاية على أموال القاصرين ومن في حكمهم	1	Law of the General Commission for Guardianship over Property of Minors and those of Similar Status
نظام ديوان المظالم	1	Law of the Board of Grievances
النظام الأساسي للحكم	1	Basic Law of Governance

Even though translating the titles seems challenging because they are bound to the SC, this difficulty was overcome using various procedures. All six titles of laws are the official ones; however, only some were rendered into the TL using their official translations. These titles are “نظام هيئة البيعة”, “نظام الهيئة العامة للولاية على أموال القاصرين ومن في حكمهم”, and “نظام ديوان المظالم”. “Law of Civil Procedure” is the title of the official translation of the Arabic document of “نظام المرافعات الشرعية”. However, this Arabic title was translated using another similar translation in the various Saudi legal articles in which it appears. This translation is “Law of Civil Procedures”. Despite the similarity between the two translations, using both to translate the title may cause confusion regarding which is the correct one. Similarly, the translation of the Saudi legal article including “نظام مجلس الشورى” contains a translation of this title that differs from the official one.

All translations of the titles were acceptable except “Law of Civil Procedures” and “Law of the Shura Council”. This is because, unlike the others, these two translations are not the official ones.

D. *Miscellaneous Terms*

In Table 4, the translations and frequencies of eight CSLTs that do not have a common feature are shown. Analyzing the translations of the eight miscellaneous terms revealed that rendering them into the TL seems difficult because they are bound to the SC.

TABLE 4
TRANSLATIONS OF MISCELLANEOUS TERMS

CSLT	Frequency	Translation
العمالة السائبة	1	-
بطاقة الهوية الوطنية	1	national identification card
مرسوم ملكي	9	royal decree
أمر ملكي	6	royal order
الدعاوى البسيطة	1	petty cases
الصكوك التمويلية + الصكوك	16	sukuk
إمارة	3	governorate
المرتبة الممتازة	1	“Grade Excellent”

The analysis of all CSLTs included in this study showed that there are four challenges related to translating the CSLTs. Table 5 below summarizes the categories of the CSLTs, the challenges, and the number of terms related to the challenges.

TABLE 5
CHALLENGES RELATED TO TRANSLATING THE CSLTs

Category	Challenge	Number of terms related to the challenge
Religious terms	1- The cultural gap between the SC and TC resulting from adopting different laws	All 25 religious terms
Names of institutions	1- Being bound to the SC	All five names
	2- The availability of more than one translation on an institution’s official website	Two names
	3- No official website is available for an institution.	One name
Titles of laws	1- Being bound to the SC	All six titles
Miscellaneous terms	1- Being bound to the SC	All eight miscellaneous terms

Table 5 shows that some of the challenges relate to translating all CSLTs in a particular category or more. These challenges are the cultural gap between the SC and TC resulting from adopting different laws, as seen in the case of religious terms, and being bound to the SC, as in the instance of names of institutions, titles of laws, and miscellaneous terms. The above table also shows that some of the challenges are associated with translating just one or two terms in a

category. These challenges are the availability of more than one translation of an institution's name on its official website and the non-availability of an official website for an institution.

A detailed discussion of the results and their implications is presented next.

V. DISCUSSION

The findings of this study revealed that there are four main challenges related to translating the examined CSLTs. The challenge relevant to translating religious terms is the cultural gap between the SC and TC resulting from adopting different laws. This challenge can be linked to the two issues of translating legal terminology mentioned in Xuan-Nghi and Son's (2019) study: the differences between the legal systems and the cultural problems. In translating the examined religious terms, cultural problems arise because of the different laws associated with the SC and TC. What results from having different laws related to the cultures involved in the translation process is the issue of the cultural gap. This argument supports Xuan-Nghi and Son's view regarding the cultural differences in legal translation. They indicated that these differences are related to the laws to which the SL and TL are connected. Even though the present study and Xuan-Nghi and Son's study examined different language pairs, both highlight the correlation between laws and cultural gaps.

Another challenge related to translating the CSLTs in the other three categories in this study is that the terms belonging to them are bound to the SC. This challenge and the one mentioned in the previous paragraph prove Šarčević's (1997) view that legal translators face challenges due to the dissimilarities between legal systems and legal cultures. These differences led to having CSLTs bound only to one of the cultures involved in the translation process. Alwazna's (2018) opinion regarding the challenges of legal terminology can also be linked to the two challenges. According to Alwazna, legal terminology challenges occur when the ST contains CSTs that do not exist in the TL because of the different legal cultures linked to the SL and TL. Because the terms in all four categories are bound only to Islamic law or Saudi culture, rendering them into the TL seems problematic.

The remaining two challenges revealed by this study are the availability of more than one translation of an institution's name on its official website and the non-availability of an official website for an institution. Both challenges are related to translating institutions' names. The fact that more than one such challenge exists supports Tang's (2021) remark that proper nouns have posed a challenge for legal English translators for a long time. Even though the language of the institutions' names analyzed here differs from the one in Tang's study, translating them seems challenging.

Although translating the CSLTs examined in this study appears challenging, various procedures were applied to render them into the TL. This argument confirms part of what Altarabin (2018) said about translating Arabic legal terms into English. He contended that it is difficult, or even impossible, to translate legal terms between these languages due to the differences in the legal systems. The findings of this study highlight the difficulty of translating these terms, not the impossibility.

The challenges of translating the CSLTs could be one of the reasons for the inconsistencies found in translating some of them. Ten CSLTs were translated using several translations in the relevant TTs; nine are religious and one is a title of a law. Even if similar translations were provided for a given CSLT, such as those of "إبراء الذمة", the lack of consistency in translation would confuse TRs, as indicated by Samadi et al. (2011). Their full understanding of the TTs could be hindered because they may think that the different translations refer to different terms in the STs.

The results of this study confirmed that inconsistent translations can cause significant problems in the legal field, aligning with Cheng et al.'s (2016) view. Therefore, it is essential to ensure consistency in legal translation to prevent potential complications.

VI. CONCLUSION

The present study aimed to examine the challenges associated with the English translation of 44 Arabic CSLTs used in six Saudi laws. A parallel corpus including the SLs and their official English translations was created using Phrase TMS. The CSLTs were categorized into four main themes: religious terms, names of institutions, titles of laws, and miscellaneous terms.

This study recommended the use of official translations for proper nouns, such as names of institutions and titles of laws, because this practice helps preventing any confusion that translators may face. Although official translations were used for four proper nouns, two were not translated using their official ones. Additionally, since one noun did not have any official translations, it was translated using different translation procedures. Moreover, there is more than one official translation for two proper nouns; one noun was translated using an official version, while the other was translated differently.

Four challenges were identified in translating the CSLTs, including the cultural gap between the SC and TC resulting from adopting different laws, being bound to the SC, the availability of more than one translation of an institution's name on its official website, and the non-availability of an official website for an institution. These challenges may have contributed to the inconsistency observed in some translations. Such inconsistency could confuse TRs and impede their understanding. Despite the difficulties involved, translating CSLTs is not impossible.

Given that this study sheds light on analyzing the translation of the CSLTs used in some SLs, its results have important implications for legal translators, officials at Saudi institutions, professional translators, translators at the OTD, and legal

translation experts and instructors. The present study revealed that in the CSLTs' translation, two challenges are related to culture. Therefore, legal translators responsible for translating any legal documents should develop cultural and legal awareness. They must possess an extensive knowledge of the cultures and legal systems involved in the legal translation process and must take the differences between the relevant cultures and legal systems into consideration to avoid translating improperly.

The findings revealed two challenges related to translating names of institutions mentioned in SLs, including the availability of more than one translation on an institution's official website and the non-availability of an official website for an institution. These two issues can make the translation process more challenging and lead translators to make individual efforts to choose the best from the available translations for an institution's name or come up with the best translation. What could result from these efforts is having different translations of the same name. To avoid this issue, officials at Saudi institutions that have an official website that includes more than one translation of the institution's name are urged to assign professional translators to approve the best from the available translations or provide a new one if none of them can be approved. In addition, officials at Saudi institutions that do not have an official website are encouraged to create their own and cooperate with professional translators to translate the names of their institutions in the best possible way.

The present study identified inconsistencies in some of the CSLTs' translations. Translators at the OTD need to consider this issue. They are recommended to revise all inconsistencies and prepare a comprehensive term bank including all CSLTs mentioned in SLs, along with the approved translations. The inconsistency issue and all other potential difficulties that translators may encounter when translating CSLTs in Saudi legal documents could be resolved with the help of this term bank. All translators seeking the translation of CSLTs should be granted access to it to establish a standardized approach to translating these terms.

Legal translation experts are encouraged to organizing regular courses and training sessions that specifically address the connection between legal translation and culture. These courses and sessions can effectively equip legal translators and students of legal translation with the essential cultural and legal knowledge and skills required to deliver accurate translations of legal documents.

Interactive workshops led by legal translation experts that address all aspects related to the relationship between legal translation and culture are also of great importance. Such workshops could enable all individuals interested in legal translation—such as legal translation experts, researchers, instructors, and students—to exchange their views on various matters, such as the challenges of translating CSLTs in legal documents. These workshops may provide solutions for existing legal translation issues.

The pedagogical implications of this study pertain to legal translation instructors. The findings underscore the challenges inherent in translating CSLTs, necessitating that instructors ensure their students are well-versed in the range of challenges associated with translating these terms, as well as the strategies and procedures that can be effectively employed for accurate translation. Furthermore, it is advised that legal translation instructors offer comprehensive training to their students, encompassing the translation of CSLTs within diverse authentic legal contexts. Such training would enable students to acquire the necessary qualifications for proficiently handling the translation of these terms. Despite all these findings and implications, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of this study. The present study limited itself to examining the translation of 44 CSLTs used in six SLs only. The representativeness of the sample size and context selection with respect to all CSLTs and legal contexts may be limited. Therefore, there may be limited generalizability of the findings. Additionally, the CSLTs were classified into four broad groups in this study, including religious terms, names of institutions, titles of laws, and miscellaneous terms. The complexity and diversity of CSLTs may be oversimplified in this classification, leading to the overlooking of specific strategies, procedures, and challenges related to them.

Future research directions involve investigating the challenges of the Arabic-English translation of SLs from the translators' perspective. Such an investigation can contribute to the professional development of legal translators as it may allow for an additional understanding of the relevant challenges. Future work may also examine the CSLTs in the laws of Muslim countries other than Saudi Arabia to understand how linguistic and cultural diversity may influence the translation of these terms. Finally, future research may consider the translation of SLs by novice legal translators to compare their translations with the official ones, identify the translators' legal translation weaknesses, and equip them with the needed skills and knowledge.

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