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**Faculty:** Arts, Human and Social Sciences  
**Department:** Translation  
**Class:** Master 1 – S 2 **Program:** Master Ar/En/Ar  
**Unit:** Methodology of translation (منهءفة ءءرءمة)  
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#### Tutorial 4

### CATEGORIES OF TRANSLATION

Because of the dramatic evolution of the professional translation industry, there are currently new terms and words being used to describe translation service specializations that don't fall under general categories:

1. **General translation (ءءرءمة العامة):** The simplest of translation types, a general translation allows a translator quite a lot of leeway because its source material mostly uses layman terms and ordinary, everyday speech. There's no need to understand special terminologies, and most translation work fall into this particular type.
2. **Literary translation (ءءرءمة الأدبفة):** This is probably the hardest of all the different kinds of translation, as obviously, the translator must first try to render the semantic content of the original text (as should be the case for the translation of any kind of text), and then in addition deal with a number of other difficulties, such as *Polysemy*, The author's own style, inferences, etc. A literary translator needs a good insight into the cultural background and development of the source language. *Literary translation* refers to translation done for literature such as poems, plays, short stories, and novels. Many people in the industry consider literary translation as the highest form of translation. The reason behind this is because literary translation goes beyond mere translation of context; a literary translator must be proficient in translating humor, cultural nuances, feelings, emotions, and other subtle elements of a given work. Conversely, there are those who allege that literary translation is impossible, as with the case of translating poetry. Rhythm and style are also even more important in literary texts, and this type of translation is more like an art.
1. **Judicial Translation (ءءرءمة القانونفة) :** Judicial translation, not to be confused with legal or certified translation, refers to legally-binding documentation. For example, this could be the translation of documents such as laws; regulations and decrees; general sales and purchase conditions; legally binding contracts such as labor; license and commercial contracts; partnership agreements, accords; protocols and conventions; internal regulations and insurance policies among others. The juridical translator must have a solid legal background in addition to their linguistic training.
2. **Legal/Certified translation (ءءرءمة الرسمفة) :** is being done by a certified translator who uses his signature to authenticate official translations. It covers a wide range of very different documents that usually require legal validation and are thus referred to as "certified". Certified translators often work in courtrooms as juridical translators, or act in the capacity of a legal expert, as well as providing translations (in their own offices) of civil status documentation, marital agreements, divorce settlements, technical documents such as expert opinions; and minutes of the meetings, etc.

A translation service is responsible for both understanding politico-legal and socio-cultural context behind a legal text and translating it in such a way that a target audience with a different cultural/political/societal background could readily understand. Even if you are familiar with the cultures and other aspects and are highly skilled at translation, you may need to consult legal professionals so as to ensure that your translation is completely error-free.

5. **Technical translation (الءرءمة الءءقففة):** in its most limited sense, technical translation refers to "technical" documentation of some specific fields such as engineering, IT, electronics, mechanics, manufacturing, and industry in general. It requires knowledge of the specialized terminology used in the sector originating the text. Thus, user guides, manuals, instruction booklets, training materials, marketing materials. All of this comes in the ambit of technical translation.  
These documents share the distinction of being for a specific and limited target audience and usually have a limited shelf-life. When choosing a translator, it is essential to check how well versed they are with the terminology and jargon used in your specific industry – if they are not as familiar with that stuff as you'd like but they are proficient in the translation as such, it would make sense to provide training for them to familiarize them with your industry in general, and your business in particular.
6. **Business Translation (الءرءمة المؤسساءفة):** it merely refers to translating managerial texts used in different corporations, businesses, and organizations. In its broadest sense, it is about translating user manuals, instructions leaflets, internal notes, company account, commercial, financial documents (bank records, account statements), several correspondences, minutes of proceeding and so forth. *Business translation* requires a translator to have specialist translation skills and business jargon knowledge. For example, when translating a financial document, you may be required to change the currencies – in which case, you would need to also convert the figures.
7. **Medical Translation (الءرءمة الءطففة):** related to any medical content that is patient related, like labels, packaging, instructions, and content that is product related like research papers, clinical trial paperwork, and quality management certificates. It is absolutely imperative that the translation service providers are experienced, have the requisite knowledge, and are in-country professionals. Translation of medical documents can also be very tricky as the requirements of translation can differ from country to country; a translator or company specialized in medical documents would be your best bet, as they would be familiar with the intricacies of all the different requirements.
8. **Audiovisual translation (ءرءمة السمعف بصرف) :** it includes "Subtitling", "Dubbing" and "voice over". The most frequent and more useful in the market is "Subtitling" because it provides visual language directly on the receiver's screen. A subtitler translates spoken language in films, TV programs and news broadcasts. He must be skilled at summarizing a large amount of information in a few words since the on-screen space for subtitles is extremely limited. The editing process is therefore at least as important as the actual translation.

## References

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