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Case Study: Towns and Villages of Algeria**

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Translating Proper Nouns between Arabic and English:

Names of Countries and Towns, Case Study: Towns and villages of Algeria

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Kasdi Merbah of Ouargla

## **Dedication**

To myself

To my lovely Parents

To my supportive sisters and brothers

-Safia Kamar, Aicha Hind, Ali Yacine, Sofian, and Maisoun -

To all my great teachers and instructors of English and Arabic

To all my friends and colleagues

Including Sara Harbouche, Ikram Ataoua, Khawla Medjouja, Aouatef Benyahia,

Wissam Sellami, Naima Mnassria, and Mabrouka Karima Ouaggad

To my country, Algeria

To my Islamic nation

To all translators and interpreters

- Afaf KADRI –

## **Dedication**

I dedicate this modest work to:

The most kind and generous persons, the persons who lived with me my educational career step by step. To my dear parents.

My lovely sisters Assia and Khadidja and my supportive brothers Sohaib, Bilal, Ahmed and the horrid little boy Imad.

All my family members.

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All who knew me and supported me and wished me well.

- Sara HARBOUCHE -

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### **List of Abbreviations**

**ST.** Source text

**TT.** Target text

**SL.** Source language

**TL.** Target language

**PN.** Proper Noun

**GN.** Geographical Name

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**Introduction:**

Starting this introduction with a small imaginary anecdote of Georgia. One day, there was a famous poet called Brown who was always reciting beautiful poems about Georgia. Everybody expected him to be a lover for a girl named Georgia. However, the fact was that all his poems were written about the state of Georgia.

This story brainstorms so many questions about the problems that may happen through the use of PNs among PNs, between PNs and common nouns, between two languages, and even in the same language; regardless that they can be a sort of aesthetic features in poetry.

PNs seem to cause a serious problem and challenge that translators face frequently rather than the other parts of speech. Which makes many scholars argue about this issue. In this regard, Newmark stated: "proper name is a translation difficulty in any text."(Newmark.1993, p.15). In the sense that PNs are considered a source of problem for translators of all languages

In this research paper, the researchers tackle this issue with much focus on the difficulties of translating PNs of countries and cities between Arabic and English. Proper nouns of geographical names per se need a full separate study due to their importance in shaping the world through history, politics, literature, and even administrative effects. Both translators and interpreters of Arabic and English face different linguistic problems of proper nouns such as phonic and graphic differences in the two language systems; which makes it difficult for a translator to distinguish a proper name from a common name in the Arabic text, since Arabic language does not have any graphic signs for PNs. Also, it might be challenging for interpreters to catch a new proper noun or distinguish it from a common noun especially in the case of the

absence of context. In addition to that, in many cases, an PN can have more than one spelling form both in English and in Arabic. However, despite the fact that this topic has been widely observed, but it has rarely been studied thoroughly. For that sake, we are motivated to approach this subject matter of proper nouns of countries and cities.

To outline shortly, this research is separated into two chapters. The first chapter adequately explores the previous theories and researches that has examined PNs at large and Geographical names in particular. Whereas in the second chapter, we make a practical analysis on the translation of names of towns of the country Algeria as a case study. Working on different documents that have wrong PNs translations and comparing them to the correct ones which exist in the Arabic and French official lists of Algerian provinces and towns provided by Algerian civil law. In that, we spotlight and deeply analyse the strategies used, changes occurred, and other influences that are interfered in the process of translating those proper names.

### **Research Problem:**

Not all names of countries and cities and towns have the same pronunciation in both languages Arabic and English. So many of them change completely, others change partially, and others are translated; which makes it difficult to know the exact equivalence for each of them. Translators need to remove this confusion with some effective strategies that can assist them translate names of countries easily.

### **The Purpose of the Study:**

This research paper aims to facilitate the process of translating PNs of countries and cities for translators and to put the Algerian towns into investigation.



**The Objective of the Study:**

- This research will help translators know the problems that might be encountered when rendering an PN of a country or a city.
- This study would gather enough information about the problems of translating PNs of countries and cities so as to facilitate the process of research for next searches.
- This work will spot a light on the translation of names of the Algerian towns between Arabic and English and its nature.

**Literature Review:**

The study of PNs between Arabic and English has been widely generalized for person names, institution names, and place names, and it has frequently touched the subject of PNs of countries and cities partially. In this research, the researchers aim to limit their study to PNs of countries and towns in order to fully approach this point in particular and gather sufficient findings about it in one place.

It is been explained by different scholars that the translation of PNs is not just a process of transliteration, Albin (2003) said that in order to translate an PN into a target language, the translator should be aware of all the information associated with the name in the source-language text and culture. Therefore, it has been given so much importance recently in scientific research. However, it was very rare to study the PNs of countries and cities separately and deeply. Therefore, we seek to undertake this research in order to discover how translating names of countries and towns is important in this world.

The mixed methods approach seems to be the best suitable approach for our research because it gives enough data about the problems happening in the translation of names of provinces and towns of Algeria.

**Research Question:**

What are the difficulties of translating the names of countries and cities from Arabic into English and vice versa?

**Sub Questions:**

- 1- Should translators translate the meanings of names of countries and cities?
- 2- Do common nouns cause confusion in translating names of countries between Arabic and English?
- 3- What strategies are mostly adoptable to translate names of countries and cities?

**Hypotheses:**

There are miscellaneous difficulties in translating the names of countries and cities from Arabic into English and vice versa. Such as confusion of common nouns and PNs and unfamiliarity of the translator with the PN.

- 1- Yes, there are cases in which the meanings of names of countries should be translated; however, there are different strategies which are commonly adopted in addition to translation method such as transliteration and substitution methods
- 2- Yes, common nouns cause confusion in translating names of countries and cities.

**Methodology:**

We type common wrong spellings of different cities' names of Algeria; then, we take the results from different reliable resources such as books, articles, or government's websites. After that, we collect the data and we analyze them through comparing the wrong cities' names to the correct ones based on the Algerian law.

**Structure of Dissertation:**

This researcher paper is divided into two chapters, a theoretical chapter and a practical chapter.

The first chapter contains a theoretical study about translation in general and proper nouns in relation with translation. In which we review definitions and types of translation, definition of proper nouns, and the difference between proper nouns and proper names, and between the proper name and the common nouns in Arabic and English languages. Also, it discusses linguistically the problems of rendering PNs from Arabic into English and vice versa, and the methods suggested by researchers and linguists used in translating proper nouns in general and Geographical names in particular. Then, we discuss the classifications of changes and the categories that influence the names of countries and towns. Finally, we speak about the Abbreviation of PNs of GNs.

In The second chapter, we provide a practical study of the translations of Algerian towns names. We try to tackle the study case, so we take the translations of the names Algerian towns under study to show the difficulties of translating them from Arabic since of the nature of their naming and in which extent can the Arabic name pronunciation affect the translation. Then, we analyse them in accordance with the

methods used in translation, and we show the different spellings found in the translation of the same PN by referring to the spelling used in the Official Journal of Algeria.

**Limitation of the Study:**

This study can be followed by a research which studies the difficulties of interpreting PNs. i.e. Studying how PNs can be challenging in the interpreting process.

## **Chapter One:**

### **A Theoretical Study: Translation and PNs**

**Introduction:**

No one can deny today the importance of translation and what it gives to the modern world especially in language studies. Translation significance lies on the roles it plays in all fields either as being quite necessary to reach communication between people over all the world or in which it could get out of this traditional role to fit out the modern necessities in filling the vacuum to achieve the development in the various fields of life. Interestingly, the translation of proper nouns was raised as a controversial issue in the translation studies.

Proper names are used widely in great variety of human activities which makes scholars study them and give them special attention to achieve accuracy in translation. Many people expect proper names are taken for granted in translation since the fact that they should always be kept as they are and should not be translated in transmitting the ST into the TT ; on the contrary, translating proper nouns lately becomes one of the most challenges that translator may face. PNs need great attention due to their significance in which they cannot be just tools of appellation but a piece of information about place or person that need to be transferred to the target audience. This chapter represents the theoretical part of this research including a general review about translation definitions by different scholars and how they see the process of translation differently; in addition to the types of translation provided by Jacobson. Also, in this chapter, we will discuss proper nouns in relation with translation covering the main points that serve our research objective; definitions , distinctions, and linguistic aspects (of the fundamental points that can cause problems in translating proper nouns in both languages English and Arabic). After that, we will highlight methods of translating proper nouns that are suggested by some famous scholars when dealing with proper names at large and the case of geographical names

in particular. And with more development in the research study, much attention will be drawn to the classification of names of countries and cities disclosing the basic changes that occur when transferring them between Arabic and English. Finally, we end this chapter with sketching some categories of translating proper nouns of countries and cities and the factors which decide certain translation rather than others.

Thus, this chapter is a set of theoretical investigation on what previous scholars has said about translation and its relation to PNs and how those little items in the large systems of languages can cause great momentous problems in translation and then in people's lives.

### **1. Translation Definition:**

Translation is defined differently by so many scholars. Prof. Newmark's definition for translation is one of the most used ones. He defined it as follows: "Rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text" (Newmark,1988,p.5). In his definition Newmark emphasizes interpreting the meaning in translating from ST into TT.

Linguistically, the linguist Catford (1995) "translation is the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL)" (p.20). From the perspective of functional linguistic, he sees translation as the replacement of linguistic units from one language into another.

However, the scholars Nida and Taber view translation as generating an equivalence in the TL with same effect in the SL, they say that the successful translation is when the translated text is expected as an original. Namely, they argue:" Translation is reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of

the source language message, first in terms of meaning and second in terms of style." (Nida & Taber,1982,p.12), by means emphasizing the content and the form of the message to generate the same effect. Nida and Taber argue that translation is closely related to the problems of languages and equivalence.

Whereas, the scholars Hatim and Munday (2004) define translation as the process of transferring a written text from source language (SL) into target language (TL) (p.06), they do not explicitly express that the object being transferred is meaning or message they focus on translation as an activity.

From the above, we notice, however, that translation is reproducing the same content of SL text into another TL product. Also, it is the process of reproducing or transmitting SLT linguistic and semantic materials into other linguistic and semantic materials of TLT. In addition to that, translation is a field of study that studies, investigates and theorizes translation as a process and as a product.

## **2. types of translation according to Jakobson:**

Roman Jakobson states that there are three main types of translation. Intralingual translation, interlingual translation, and intersemiotic translation. (Johnson,2002,p.421)

- Intralingual translation: also known as rewording which is the same verbal signs interpreted into other verbal signs in the same language.
- Interlingual translation: or translation proper. It is transmitting verbal signs from one language into other languages.
- Intersemiotic translation: also called transmutation in which the verbal signs are interpreted by less or non-verbal signs.



### 3. Proper Nouns Definition:

From Oxford Advanced learner's Dictionary, a proper noun is a word that is a name of a person, a place, or institution. And it is written with a capital letter. As Prof. Alexander defines, a proper noun or a proper name is used for a particular person, place, and thing. Or a notion which is considered to be unique. (Alexander 1988, p. 38)

The scholars Greenbaum and Quirk said in their book *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*:

Proper nouns are basically names, by which we understand the designation of specific people, places, and institutions...Moreover, the concept of name extends to some markers of time and to seasons that are also festivals ( Monday, March, Easter, Ramadan, Passover)" (Greenbaum & Quirk 1990,p. 86-7)

This definition means that PNs are confined to particular people, places, and institutions. Which we cannot use for any other thing.

The translation scholar Nord sees that proper nouns are considered as non-referential names; however, in either case they are non-functional. And this means that their basic function is to identify a specific individual or a referent. (Nord, 2003,p.183)

And finally, the linguist Huddleston donates the following definition for PNs in which they mean that a proper noun can stand alone definite without using the definite article "the":

The General definition of a proper noun is that it belongs to a grammatically distinct class of nouns which characteristically function as a head of NPs serving as proper names. Prototypical proper name is the institutionalized name of some specific person, place, organization, etc. institutionalized by some formal act of naming and/or registration. ( Huddleston, 1988, p.96)

By summing up these definitions from different scholars, we conclude that proper nouns are the words or names that we call or donate to particular entities.

#### **4. The Difference between Proper Nouns and Proper Names:**

According to Huddleston, (1988,p.96) proper noun is a grammatical noun subclass, whereas the proper name is the institutionalized name of some specific person place, organization, etc. Hence, proper names encompass all proper nouns in which it can have the form of proper nouns but not the opposite. For Goose, the proper name has no real meaning, no definition, it is not linked to what is designated by a semantic link but by a particular convention (Goose, 1986). However, the proper noun is seen as a single word while a proper name may consist of more than one word.

In literature, a proper noun can refer to more than one entity, however a proper name refers only to one entity. For example, Alexander the Great is a proper name that is proper to this one king. However, Alexander is a proper noun for all masculine men.

By these definitions, we can sum up that proper noun is a name in which its first letter is capitalized and it refers to a person, place or object whereas the proper name is a name in which it is a capitalized phrase noun denotes unique entities; However,

still we can see that there is no clear difference between a proper noun and a proper name, and that they both can be used interchangeably.

## 5. Proper Nouns and Common Nouns:

Basically, we can remark that the hub difference between a common noun and a proper noun is the capitalization of the first letter in the English language in one hand. However, in the other hand, in the Arabic language there is no capital letter identified. Haleem. H. Falih indicates in his article of Some Problems in the Translation of English Proper Nouns into Arabic that the more familiar you are with the Arabic language, the more you are able to identify the PN. ( Falih, 2009, p.48) This later may undertake a meaningful or meaningless construction in the language. Some proper nouns are constructed in a form of another language. Therefore, the more you are familiar with the Arabic language, the more it is becoming facile to the translator/or interpreter to recognize the PN.

### 5.1. In the Arabic Language:

The Arabic language does not make specific graphic linguistic distinctions between a common noun and a proper noun; rather, it is determined by its context. For example,

سافرت إلى المدينة

I travelled to Medina/ I went to the city.

A translator might find this PN challenging unless it is found in a given context because this word might have the meaning of a common noun or a PN.

In addition to that, in Arabic, PNs usually cannot be identified with -ال for they

are identified by their signified. Therefore, in this last example, -ال is original in the PN. This rule is also considered in the English language .i.e. The determiner is incompatible for PNs , unless it is an original unit of the PN, Chomsky defines them as " nouns with no determiner ", and he considers the use of the determiner with PN as optional and incompatible . (Sloat, 1969,p.27). This perception of PN as being incompatible with determiner is based on the notion of if PN has a determiner that is not original in the PN, it is considered as a common noun. Eg:

This is not the England that I know and love.

هذه ليست الإنجلترا التي أعرفها و أحبها

## 5.2. In the English Language:

Unlike the Arabic language, English capitalizes PNs, and it does not capitalize the common nouns which makes it clear for the reader to distinguish a PN from a common one due to the capitalization. Grammatically, PNs are different from common nouns in a way that proper nouns are definite on their own. Whereas, a common noun needs a definite article to be definite. However, English, also, can be misleading when it comes to listening to oral texts or interpreting practices.

## 6. Linguistic Aspects:

There are so many linguistic difficulties that may be encountered when translating PNs from Arabic into English and vice versa. The various changes that frequently and inconstantly occur make so much ambiguity in the mind of a translator.

### 6.1.Problems of Rendering PN from English into Arabic:

Arabization, in translation context, means the process of rendering from any foreign language into the Arabic language in regard to the Arabic language norms and nature.

Arabic and English languages are two different languages from different families. The phonic and the graphic systems are totally different. In translating proper nouns from English into Arabic, each letter can be replaced by more than one choice of letters. Starting from the letter "A", it can be replaced in Arabic alphabets by أ or آ or ع . The letter "C" can be replaced as س or ك . "D" may become either د or ض . And the letter "E" can be translated as إ or آ or أُ . Proceeding to the letter "J", it can be represented in Arabic as ج or ي or أ . The "H" letter may become ح or ه . While the letter "I" is translated like إ or ع . Also, the letter "G" is replaced by ق , ج , غ , or even ك . The letter "K" can be in Arabic language ك or ق or even خ sometimes. And one can translate the letter "O" as أُ as ع . "Q" is represented, also, in Arabic as ك or ق . Going for the letter "T", it could be ambiguous sometimes, for in cases it becomes ت and in other cases it is ط . In addition to all that, combination letters that shape one sound like " Ch, Sh, Ck, Ph, Gh, " all may be sources of obstacle for translators. So, "Ch" sometimes is read as "K" and transcribed ك , and in other times it is read as a "T and H" together so it is translated: تش . The letters " Gh" sometimes they are considered as silent letters so they are omitted in the Arabic translation, and in other times, they are translated as غ . "Ck" has the translations ك and خ .

So many new letters appeared in Arabic because of the influence of Latin letters and pronunciation on the Arabic letters. Such as: گ, ق, ژ, چ, پ, ف:

We can sum up the transcriptions of combination letters in English that are forming one sound in Arabic in this table:

Table1:

Examples of Translated Combination Letters into Arabic:

The combination letters in English for PNs	The pronunciation in English	The transcription in Arabic for PNs
CH	/tʃ/ , /k/	تش ، ش ، ك ،
SH	/ʃ/	ش
TH	/θ/ , /ð/ , /t/	ذ ، ث ، ت
PH	/f/	ف
GH	—	غ ، ق
DH	—	د ، ض ، ظ
KH	—	خ ، ك

This brief linguistic explanation to PN translation from English into Arabic, it demonstrates that even the smallest unit in translating PNs may create a problematique for the translator.

## 6.2. Problems of Rendering PN from Arabic into English:

Foreignization refers to the process of transmitting from the Arabic language into any other foreign language.

The obstacles that translators may come across when they are translating PNs from English into Arabic are not typically the same when they are taking those same PNs from Arabic into English. To disclose this, we illustrate this starting from Arabic alphabets into English language alphabets herein. أُ this letter takes more than one equivalent "O, U, or E". ا becomes either "I" or "E". ب can be either "P" or "B". ت equivalents the letters "T" and "Th". خ is represented as "K" or "Kh". ز translated as "S" or "Z". س goes for "S", "SS", "C". Proceeding to the letter ش we find the equivalents "Sh" "Ch". While the letter ض shows as "D" and "Dh" in so many proper nouns. Also, we find the letter ط is so similar to the ت letter's equivalents "T" "Th". The letter ع is translated in three letters "O", "I", "A", but when it is proceeded by ا it is represented as follows " 'a " as in Sana'a صنعاء . The next alphabetical letter غ is replaced by "Gh" and rarely as "G". ف is exchanged by "Ph" or "F". ق becomes "Q" or "k" , and finally, ك becomes in many forms such "k", "Q", "Ch", "Ck". Therefore, these were the main and the prominent changes that may occur when rendering PNs from Arabic into English.

The following table demonstrates the possible different spellings that may exist for one PN from Arabic into English. Pointing out that the first translation in second colon is the only correct translation according to the official documents of Algerian system. However, other translations can be found in other unofficial contexts such as social media.

Table2:

The Possible Spellings of Some Names of Towns of Algeria in English.

Arabic ST	Official translation 1	Unofficial Translation 2	Unofficial Translation 3	Unofficial Translation 4
ورقلة	Ouargla	Wargla	/	/
تقوت	Touggourt	Tougourt	Toggoort	Teggourt
غرداية/ غارداية	Ghardaia	Ghardaya	Gardaia	Gardaya
غيليزان	Relizan	Ghelizan	Ghilizan	Gelizan
سوق اهراس	Souk Ahras	Soug Ahras	Sogahlas	Sokahras
ام البواقي	Oum El Buaghi	Oum El Bouaki	Oum El Bewaghi	Oum Al Buaghi
وهران	Oran	Wahran	Ouahran	/

Prof. Dr Djamel Goui indicates, in his Arabic article, that when translating PNs from one language into another, particularly, from Arabic into French or English, a translator should be aware of the colonial influence on the spelling of PNs, and how each Arabic letter is transliterated in the French or English language.( Goui, 2017, p.459-479) taking the example of the city of "ورزازات" in Morocco which is translated "Ouarzazat" since the letter " و " is transcribed to "W" in the English alphabet, that mistake is frequently repeated in the countries that were under the French colonialism in the past because the colonialization made the priority to the



French spelling. Though, it is also acceptable to be transformed as Warzazat in English.

Additionally, Prof. Dr. Goui points to the correctness of the translation of proper nouns in his speech in Doha International Conference for Translation and Enculturation, in this regard, he says that we can determine the correctness of the translation of PNs in legal documents depending on the first time they were written in an official document. (Djamel, 2018, 8:25).

### **7. Methods of translating PNs:**

Translators face various problems in the process of translation and one of the most frequent problems is translating proper nouns between languages which are different in the language systems which makes the translation very challenging. Mostly, PNs have a great importance when it comes to language systems because of their minimal integration to it. (Hermans, 1988, p.12). In order to figure out an appropriate translation between two languages and to find a solution for the problem of translating proper nouns, scholars suggested some strategies in this regard.

Hervey and Higgins (1992:29) suggest three strategies: exoticism, transliteration and cultural transplantation.

- **Exoticism:** By using this strategy, we keep the proper noun in the TL as it is used in the SL. This strategy is literal translation but without any cultural adaptation. It makes the translation close and more bias to the source language and culture.

- **Transliteration:** In which the ST proper noun is transcribed to the pronunciation and the morphology of the TLT. Hervey and Higgins state that 'conversional conventions are used to alter the phonic/graphic shape of a ST name so that it comes more into line with TL patterns of pronunciation and spelling'. Like:

Moscow/Moskou/موسكو ; America/ أمريكا. Not all geographical names have standard transliteration.

- **Cultural transplantation:** SL proper nouns are replaced by a native TL proper noun that invokes a similar cultural connotative meanings for instance: Hungary/المجر .

The scholar Eirlys. E. Davies suggests seven strategies in translating proper nouns. They are as follows: (Davies, 2003, pp.72-89).

- **Preservation:** this procedure is used to translate PNs directly without any further explanation. Davies considered the literal translation and direct translation under this heading.

- **Addition:** This strategy is used when the translator wants to keep the original item, but he supplements the text with whatever information that is judged necessary. The theorist Davies emphasizes that this strategy needs sufficient background of TLT to be used. The extra information, here, can be inserted in different ways: within the text, in footnotes, gloss, introduction or notes. (Aixelà as cited in Davies 2003,p.77)

- **Omission:** the same theorist said that translators refer to this method, when they decide to omit a problematic element altogether which can negatively affect the SL message in the TL, so that no trace of it is found in the translation. It is a strategy in which the translator removes what can causes an ambiguity or confusion in meaning in TT.

- **Globalization:** this strategy is the process of replacing culture-specific references with elements which have more neutral or more general meaning. By means, using a term in TT which is more general in use; and that is what the scholar Mouna Biker called « Translation by a more general word”.

- **Localization:** It is used when trying to focus on a reference closely in the culture of the target audience. Phonological and grammatical adaptation of names and use of gender endings are included in this strategy. Eg: Saudi Arabia/ العربية السعودية.

The strategy of localization includes grammatical adaptations of the original names in order to create a name more familiar to the target reader like: France/ فرنسا.

- **Transformation:** “alteration or distortion of the original”. It has to be done based on the audience tastes, aptitudes and capacities.

- **Creation:** Creating new item that does not exist in ST and which is totally different from the ST.

Fernandes suggested also strategies for translating PNs and the followings are some of them:

- **Transcription:** The PN in ST is transcribed to the pronunciation and letters of TL. Fernandes sees that the transcription is the other name of transliteration.

- **Recreation:** The translator recreates a new name in TT with keeping similar effect of ST in TLT.

- **Rendition:** It is used when the PN is not confusing and it has no explicit meaning.

- **Transposition:** Changing the PN of ST with common noun in TT with keeping the same meaning and message.

- **Phonological replacement:** The proper name in ST is imitated phonologically in TT Fernandes (2006.p,54).

- **Substitution:** ST proper name and TT proper name are formally and semantically unrelated. This type of procedure is a substitute in the target text for any

name that exists in the source text. (Fernandes. 2006.p,52). By means the proper name is already established in the TL in which it coincides with the PN in ST.

- **Conventionality:** The translation of a certain PN in ST is conventionally accepted. Usually, this procedure is used with historical, literary and geographical proper nouns.

### 7.1. Methods in translating PNs from Arabic into English:

Methods of translating PNs from English into Arabic or vice versa are almost the same. However, in translating from Arabic into English there are three methods that have been suggested by Ghazala:

- **Transcription:** It is transferring the word purely as it is to the TT without any changing, (Ghazala, 2006) for example: ليبيا/ ليبيا Libya. However, in case they refer to ordinary persons, they are transcribed rather than naturalized. Eg : Aaron/ أرون

- **Transcription/Naturalization:** It used in translating names of religion by referring to the name as it is known in the TL not SL, for instance: داود/ David

- **Naturalization:** this method is used in translating famous scientists, leaders and philosophers like the Arabic name أرسطو in English we have Aristotle.

### 7.2. Methods used in translating geographical names:

Ghazala suggested some methods for translating geographical names in which he divided the geographical terms as following:

- **Names of countries:** in this type he uses transcription, naturalization or translation as illustrated in the following examples:

Transcription: Mali/مالي

Naturalization: Switzerland /سويسرا/ England/ إنجلترا

Translation: the United Kingdom المملكة المتحدة

- **Names of cities:** According to Ghazala, the transcription is the larger method used in translating names of cities from Arabic into English for example:

عنابة/Annaba , مراكش/Marrakesh

- **Names of seas and oceans:** Ghazala sees that the names of seas and oceans are translated like: البحر الأحمر /The Red Sea , المحيط الهندي /The Indian Ocean

Also, The United Nation Group of Geographical names Experts established methods for translating geographical names in the “Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical names”. Considering the names which consist of one-word toponyms, they took as methods **transliteration, transcription and exonymization**. However, for the translation of more complex words (first part called generic component, it has a semantic meaning like: bridge, new..., and the second part is called specific component not necessarily has a lexical), the translation should be as follows:

The translator must check the toponyme’s meaning and isolate its translatable parts, if the name is a composite one, then it will provide three possibilities:

- We translate just the generic element as in: South Korea/ كوريا الجنوبية.
- We translate only the specific element or elements of the name as in: Sierra del Sur (Spanish)/ Southern Sierra.
- Both generic and specific elements are translated.

Here are some other methods suggested by different scholars and translators.

- **Transference:** This method is used by not making any changing in the PN in the TT. It is suggested by other scholars: Nord ( 2003.p,194) and Pym (2004.p,92), Hermans (1988.p,13), Newmark (1988.p,81,82), Hervey and Higgins (1992.p,29), Vermes (2001.p,112), Fernandes (2006.p,50,51), Van Coillie(2006.p,125).

- **Internationalisation:** There are some unified terms and accepted translation for proper names including geographical names. this strategy was described by: Newmark (1988.p,89), Vermes(2001.p,112), Nord(2003.p194), Fernandes (2006.p,55), Van Coillie (2006.p126)

- **Literal translation:** Translating PNs literally: Newmark(1988.p84), Vermes (2001.p,112), Nord (2003.p,194), Pym (2004.p,92), Van Coillie (2006.p,127).

- **Descriptive equivalent:** Supplementing the proper name in ST with adding extra information or explanation. And this is what is known as descriptive translation.

## 8. Classifications of PNs of Countries and Cities:

This shows the resulting changes that may occur when rendering geographical names between Arabic and English.

- **Unchanged PNs:** the majority of geographical names are transcribed as they are in ST such as:

London → لندن

Kenya → كينيا

Libya → ليبيا

Niamey capital → نيامي

Armenia → أرمينيا

Bern capital → برن

Baku capital → باكو

Tunis → تونس العاصمة

- **Word-for-word translated PNs:** translating each semantic word by an equivalent semantic word for an PN. For instance:

Ivory coast → ساحل العاج

Central African Republic → جمهورية أفريقيا الوسطى

Cape Verde → الرأس الأخضر

- **Remote countries:** there are countries, towns, and cities which are quite unknown, so this unfamiliarity causes many variations in the equivalent of translation.

For example:

Papua New Guinea → بابوا غينيا / بابوا نيو غينيا / غينيا بابوا الجديدة / غينيا الجديدة الجديدة

Haut-Karabagh/ Haut-karabakh/ Nagorno-Karabakh/ Upper Karabakh → ناغورني-

جمهورية مرتفعات باغ / جمهورية مرتفعات قوة باغ / مرتفعات باغ / كاراباخ

- **Arabization:** some foreign names of countries are not translated nor transcribed, they are arabicized and naturalized in the Arabic language (Falih,2009,p49.). i.e. A translator tries to translate the PN by adding a certain Arabic flavour on it. Such as Names ending with (-land) arabicized by adding (لـ) at the end of the PN as follows as:

Scotland→سكوتلندا

Poland→بولندا

Holland→هولندا

Ireland→ايرلندا

Switzerland→سويسرا

Finland→فينلندا

Except for Thailand –ending with (-land)- is transcribed as تايلند not تايلندا

Also, Arabic language naturalizes some names of countries and cities by adding (يا) at the end of the PN which sounds as [iə] sound in English. For Example:

Ukraine→أوكرانيا

Turkey→تركيا

Spain→إسبانيا

Italy→إيطاليا



In the other hand, the opposite happens in some countries from Arabic into English like الجزائر, تونس, الصومال, are translated by adding (-ia) at the end of the PN like this; Algeria, Tunisia, Somalia.

- **Full Change:** it is quite common to have totally different namings between Arabic and English for the same geographical place. Here are some names exemplified:

Germany → ألمانيا

Hungary → المجر

Egypt → مصر

Greece → اليونان

Morocco → المغرب

Bosnia and (Herzegovina) → البوسنة و الهرسك

Jerusalem → القدس

Tripoli → طرابلس

China → الصين

Austria → النمسا

- **Changes at letter level:** Other places are named similarly but with slight difference on some letters; by adding, removing, or exchanging some letters of the name. it is facile for the listener to explore the equivalent geographical name despite the changes.

Examples:

Japan → اليابان

Jordan → الاردن

Madagascar → مدغشقر

Rome → روما

Sweden → السويد

Palestine → فلسطين

Belgium → بلجيكا

Macedonia→ مقدونيا	Brussels→ بروكسل
Athènes→ أثينا	France→ فرنسا
Lebanon→ لبنان	Toledo→ طليطلة
Norway→ النرويج	Cairo→ القاهرة
Beijing→ بكين	Damascus→ دمشق

In the same regard, some European towns and cities' names are basically Arabic. Their pronunciation and meaning are so close to the Arabic language, and they have meaningful Arabic equivalents.

Examples:

Algeciras (Spain) → الجزيرة الخضراء

بلد الوليد → Valladolid

Alcira → جزيرة شقر

البندقية → Venice

- **More than one equivalent:** Many countries, towns, and cities have more than one name. So, they are called differently by different people due to different reasons.

Examples:

Ivory Coast/ or Côte d'Ivoire → ساحل العاج/ كوت ديفوار

Vatican City/ or Holly Seed → الفاتيكان

The Netherlands / Holland → هولاندا/ ناذرلاندر

East Timor/ Timor-Leste → تمور الشرقية

- **The article "the" and the plural "s":** (Grammarly,2014)

The English language adds the definite article on the names of emirates, states, republic, and kingdom.

Examples:

The United Arab Emirates/ The Emirates → الإمارات العربية المتحدة

The United States of America → الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

The United Kingdom → المملكة المتحدة

The United Republic of Tanzania → جمهورية تنزانيا الاتحادية

Both Arabic and English language add the definite article to express geographical areas as in:

The Middle East → الشرق الأوسط

In the English language, names of countries usually do not contain the article "the", but it is commonly found in the Arabic language. When the name of country is definite in English, it is indefinite in Arabic.

Examples:

Algeria → الجزائر

Doha → الدوحة

Sudan → السودان

Mosco → موسكو

Yemen → اليمن

Albania → البانيا

Senegal → السينيغال

Manama → المنامة

Riyadh → الرياض

El Salvador → السلفادور

The Gambia → غامبيا

The Netherlands → هولندا/نذر لاندز

Groups of islands have the plural "s", in addition to that, they can include the definite article "the". The Arabic equivalent PN always has the definite article in the singular form; usually followed by the word جزر which means "islands".

Examples:

Maldives/ The Maldives → جزر المالديف

Comoros/The Comoros → جزر القمر

Seychelles/ The Seychelles → جزر السيشل

The Bahamas → جزر البهاما

Philippines → الفليبين

The Netherlands → هولندا

- **Partial translation:** there are some countries, constructed of more than one word, which are partially translated and partially transcribed/transliterated. Falih

assigns in his article that some geographical names are consisted of a descriptor(s) opponent, which is the translated part, and the central proper noun element which is transliterated.

Examples:

New Zealand → زلاندا الجديدة

New Cairo → القاهرة الجديدة

East Timor → تمور الشرقية

North Korea → كوريا الشمالية

- **Nuances that make the difference:**

Around the globe, there are so many countries and cities that hold the same geographical name; however, so many of them are acquainted with different descriptors and other slight differences.

Examples:

Oman → سلطنة عُمان / Amman → عاصمة عمان (الأردن)

Panama City → باناما سيتي (عاصمة) / Panama → بنما (البلد)

Algeria → الجزائر / Algiers → الجزائر العاصمة

Kuwait → الكويت / Kuwait City → عاصمة الكويت

Mexico → المكسيك / Mexico city → عاصمة المكسيك

Vatican City→ الفاتيكان / Vatican City→ عاصمة الفاتيكان

Brazil→ البرازيل / Brasilia→ برازيليا

Guatemala→ غواتيمالا / Guatemala City→ غواتيمالا سيتي (عاصمة)

The Principality of Monaco→ إمارة موناكو / Monaco→ موناكو (عاصمة)

Republic of the Congo→ جمهورية الكونغو / Democratic Republic of the Congo→

جمهورية الكونغو الديمقراطية

### 9. Categories of translating PNs (cities/ countries):

As we mentioned above, not all countries has one name. There are so many countries which have more than one name. Each name may have certain background or viewpoint. There are different factors that make the translator choose one equivalent rather than another for a specific country. Historical changes affect the naming, political factors or the translator political ideology take a place on deciding which equivalent proper name is appropriate for that country in the TL. Also, Formal or informal context is important for choosing the right equivalent PN. The followings disclose this notion using some examples for some countries:

#### Political Category:

When we previously mentioned that there are some countries and cities which have different manes depending on specific reasons, the political effects can one of them. The political ideologies are very widespread on affecting the names of countries and cities.

**Holy See (Vatican) → الفاتيكان**

Holy See is the jurisdiction of the [Bishop of Rome](#) the Holy See. It exercises exclusive dominion over the independent [Vatican City](#). So people start to call Vatican by Holy See.

**Myanmar/ Burma → ميانمار / بورما**

The name Burma refers to the largest ethnic group in the country, whereas Myanmar refers to the Myanmar Armed forces.

### **Historical Category:**

Names of countries change over time. Translators should be up to date about the news. In addition to that, when translating PNs in historical documents, a translator should respect the geographical PN of that era and provide an equivalent of that same era.

Examples:

Andalusia → الأندلس (in the past)      Spain → اسبانيا (now)

East Pakistan → باكستان الشرقية (in the past)      Bangladesh → بنغلاديش (now)

Dahomey → داهومي (in the past)      Benin → بنين (now)

British Ceylon → سيلان البريطانية (in the past)      Sri Lanka → سريلانكا (now)

Swaziland; Kingdom of Swaziland changed to Eswatini; Kingdom of Eswatini.

In 2018 → مملكة إسواتيني

Removed 'Democratic' from state title of Somalia to become Federal Republic of Somalia. In 2013 → حكومة الصومال الاتحادية

State title of Bolivia altered from Republic of Bolivia to Plurinational State of Bolivia. In 2009 → دولة بوليفيا المتعددة القوميات

### **Official/ Unofficial Category:**

In official contexts like courts, governmental documents, or certificates, PNs are used and translated in their official form. However in unofficial texts, the ST and the TT may tend to use unofficial names. Including, spelling, form, or pronunciation. For Example: when someone refers to The United States of America, he/she may only say: "America".

### **Literary category:**

Cultural knowledge is very important in literary documents, particularly, when it comes to names of places. In literary documents some cities are called by their nicknames. For example: "the mother of life" which is Egypt. Additionally, in factious literature, imaginary PNs may exist. Translators might use any of the strategies of translating proper nouns and they may even create a new one.

In other cases, a translator may encounter a geographical name which is named upon a person name or there might be a name of a city which is used to naming girls and boys which makes it hard to be distinguished if the author of the ST meant a name of person or meant a name of geographical place. However, the context might save the translator from falling into the mistake. An example, here, from Arabic language. Asia is a name of a continent but in Arabic culture it has the meaning of a name of a continent and a person: آسيا=Asia / Assia .



Often, to remove confusion, most of the names people, places and streets, states, and institutions are preceded by their PN type item name Such as:

مدينة الشيخ زايد في القاهرة

البنيت آسيا

قارة آسيا

ولاية سيدي بوزيد في تونس

#### **Abbreviation of PNs (Countries/ Cities):**

In Arabic language the use of abbreviation in all its forms may be dated to the influence of translating these forms from the different forms of European languages. The Arabs did not tend to use abbreviation and did not hence have any rules concerning this tool because they are mainly related to writing and this latter was not given real importance since Arabic is read more than it is written. (Amina. 2014)

From U.S. Government Publishing Office Style Manual that is authorized to determine the form and the style of government printing, we extracted some rules concerned with the use of Abbreviation of countries and cities.

The words; County, Fort, Mount, Point, and Port are not abbreviated. Saint (St.) and Sainte (Ste.) should be abbreviated.

In other than formal usage all States of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are abbreviated immediately following any capitalized geographic term such as: arsenals, airbases, and airports.

Examples:

Prince George's County, MD

International Airport, MD

Stone Mountain, GA

The Postal Service style of two-letter State, Province, and freely associated State abbreviations should be used.

Code postal abbreviation of all countries is always copied in English and is not translated.

### **Conclusion**

In this chapter, we aimed to provide a theoretical review of our topic. Firstly, we tackled the translation definitions and its types that were given by some scholars. Then, we went through proper nouns in relation with translation; in which the chapter discusses the distinction of proper nouns from proper names, then common names criteria in both English and Arabic languages that makes the translator to recognize them from proper nouns. After that we dealt with the differences of English and Arabic languages in regard of the graphic and the phonic features and how can small units create obstacles for the translator, when he deals with two languages that do not belong to the same family. Moreover, we emphasized, in this context, that the translation of proper nouns are not as any

other parts of speech as it could seem at first glance ; subsequently, the translator should be aware of all of these when dealing with PNs to be able to achieve accuracy in translation and avoid causing illusion to the reader. Also, this chapter attempts to identify the methods of translating PNs that have been suggested by many scholars and widely used by translators, as well as it stressed the methods of translating geographical names . in addition to this, broaching to the classification of PNs, in which we discuss how PNs are classified with reference to the different changes that may happen in their names during the process of translation in accordance with what fits in the TL features. In that, we provided various examples for each case. Lastly, we conclude that translators should be up to date of all the names since the fact that the changes of geographical names will keep happening over time. Thus, We finished this chapter by setting how certain categories can affect the translation of names of countries and cities.

This chapter was a review of some aspects that concern proper nouns in relation with translation. It shows how it is important to study PNs in the light of translation as translating PNs through multiple different strategies can be a solution or a dilemma for different aspects of life.

## **Chapter Two:**

### **A Practical Study: Algerian Towns and villages**

#### **Names under Study**

**Introduction:**

The Arabic language is known as one of the eldest and most organized language in the world which is preserved through all the civilizations. Therefore; translating from it or into it needs to be well-considered and well-thoughtful. Herein, we tend to concentrate our study on the translation of proper nouns, particularly, on PNs of countries and cities taking Algeria as a case to study.

Translating names of Algerian cities in whatever field either it is economic, scientific, or even administrative can be devoted for falling into the mistake, since there is no official list for them in English in the Algerian law. This makes authors or translators not subject to restrictions.

In the previous chapter, we presented a theoretical study of translating proper nouns by stating the translation definitions, types, and the proper nouns in relation with translation in wider view.

This chapter is devoted to the practical study in which we collect a corpus of texts and translation samples of names of Algerian cities and towns; in which they has been mentioned and translated in a wrong way due to different factors. Deeply, we analyze them separately and give the correct form since the fact that the first foreign translation of these names was into French during colonization period; then, Algerians considered the French spelling as the only foreign spelling up till now. Therefore, we try to sketch to what extent the English authors are aware about the English forms and we spot light on some of names that are commonly unknown.

**Patterns:**

Depending on the book "Administrative Subdivisions of Countries: A Comprehensive World Reference" by Gwillim Law Algeria that the names of cities of Algeria differ depending on the method of rendering that is used by the translator. (Gwillim. 2010, p.26) As seen in the following figure, the author of the book provides all the possible spellings for all the different cities of Algeria referring to them as variant for cities of more than one name and absolute for cities with fixed names.

Algeria • American Samoa	26
them as <b>city</b> names. Also note that diacritical marks may be different, depending on the method of transliteration used.	
Adrar: Duperré (obsolete)	Illizi: Polignac, Fort Polignac (obsolete); Illizi (variant)
Alger: Dzayer, Djezaïr (variant); Algeri (Italian); Algiers (English); Algier (Danish, German); Argel (Portuguese, Spanish); al-Jazair, al-Djazair (Arabic)	Jijel: Djidjel (variant); Djidjelli (obsolete)
Annaba: Bône (obsolete)	Khenchela: Khenchla (variant)
Béchar: Colomb-Béchar (obsolete)	Mascara: Mouaskar (variant)
Béjaïa: Bougie, Bedjaya (French); Bidjaia (variant); Bugia (Italian)	Médéa: El Mediyya, Lemdiyya (variant)
Biskra: Beskra (variant)	Mostaganem: Mestghanem (variant)
Blida: El Boulaïda, al-Boulaida (variant)	Oasis: Oasis Sahariennes (variant); Saharan Oases (English)
Bordj Bou Arréridj; Bordj Bou Ariridj (variant)	Oran: Ouahran, Ouahrane, Wahran (variant); Orano (Italian)
Boumerdès: Boumerdas (variant)	Ouargla: Wargla (variant)
Chlef: El Asnam, Orléansville (obsolete); Chelif, Ech Cheliff (variant)	Oum el Bouaghi: Oum el Bouagui (variant); Canrobert (obsolete)
Constantine: Costatina (Italian); Qoussantina, Qacentina (variant)	Relizane: <b>Ghelizane</b> , Ghilizane (variant)
Djelfa: El Djelfa (variant)	Sétif: Stif (variant)
El Bayadh: El Bayad, El Beyyadh (variant); Géryville (obsolete)	Skikda: Philippeville (obsolete); Skidda (variant)
El Oued: El Ouadi, El Wad (variant)	Souk Ahras: Souq Ahras (variant)
El Tarf: Et Tarf (variant)	Tamanghasset: Tamanrasset, Tamenghest (variant); Fort Laperrine (obsolete)
Ghardaïa: Ghardaya (variant)	Tébessa: T'bessa (variant)
	Tiaret: Tihert (variant)
	Tissemsilt: Vialar (obsolete)
	Tlemcen: Tilimsene, Tlemsane, Tilimsen (variant)

*Figure 1: the Absolute and Variant names of the Cities of Algeria in 1999 Depending on the book Administrative Subdivisions of Countries: A Comprehensive World Reference" by Gwillim Law.*

**1- Ain Beida (Oum El Bouaghi), Ain El Baidha (Ouargla), and Ain Ben Baida (Guelma), Ain El Beida (Oran) towns:**

Compare the following figures:



Figure2: Dissertation Title Page with a Title Contains Ain El Baidha Town of Ouargla.



Figure 3: Radio Algerienne Online Article in French Contains the Name of Ain Ben Baida Town of Guelma Province.



Figure 4: Radio Algerienne Article in French Contains the Name of Ain Beida Town of Oum El Bouaghi.



Figure 5: Rdio Algerienne Article in French Contains the Name of Ain El Baida Town of Oran.

### Analysis:

Ain *El Baidha* Town of Ouargla.

Ain Ben *Baida* Town of Guelma Province.

Ain *Beida* Town of Oum El Bouaghi.

Ain *El Baida* Town of Oran.



Here we are going to analyse with reference to the Algerian official journal : عين البيضاء in Ouargla is spelled in wrongly in the figure 2. The correct spelling is Ain Beida (see figure 29). عين بن بيضة in Guelma is also spelled wrongly in figure 3; the correct one is Ain Ben Beida. However the spelling of Ain Beida in Oum El Bouaghi in figure 4 is correct. The final Ain El Baida is wrong because if we look at the previous PNs are all written in the same form so definitely it is translated the same way as Ain El Beida.

## 2- Ain Madhi town:

Ain Madhi , this is the correct form to write the name of the town. The following figure contains an entry of name of the town Ain Madhi written in the wrong form. This entry is extracted from the Geographical Dictionary of the World in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century with Pronouncing Gazetteer by Moonis Raza, page 23. This slight mistake may not sound

**Ain-Madi**, in-mā'dee', a town of Algeria, built on a hill, about 40 miles W. of Laghouat.

*Figure 6: Wrong Spelling of Ain Madhi Extracted from Geographical Dictionary by Moonis Raza.*

## 3- Chrea and Chria:



*Figure 7: Plaque of Road Direction in Blida Shows the Correct Spelling of Chrea.*



Figure 8: Plaque of Road in Tebessa Shows the Wrong Spelling of Chrea.

Chrea is located in Blida province. And also, Chrea is located in Tebessa province. the two have the same spelling in Arabic "الشريعة". So, they are going to be translated the same. However, in the plaque provided in previous figure 8 shows the incorrect use of the PN. Yet the next figure contains the correct spelling of Chrea, Tebessa .

09 – WILAYA DE BLIDA			
CODE	COMMUNE	POPULATION	NO
01	BLIDA	163.587	
02	CHEBLI	29.660	
03	BOUINAN	31.070	
04	OUED EL ALLEUG	40.710	
05	OULED YAICHE	87.131	
06	CHREA	783	

12 – WILAYA DE TEBESSA			
	COMMUNE	POPULATION	NOM
	TEBESSA	196.535	
	BIR EL ATER	77.727	
	CHREA	75.344	
	STAH GUENTIS	3.689	
	EL AOUINNET	21.682	

Figure 9: Table Captured from the Official Journal of Algeria publication number 51 Shows Correct Spelling of the PN of Chrea in Both municipalities Blida and Tebessa provinces.

#### 4- Djelfa province:



*Figure 10: Plaque of Welcome of the Province Djelfa Shows the Correct Spelling of the PN.*

Djelfa is another proper name that is used with more than one form in translation. Regarding the method used in translation here, we can notice that it is the most common one ‘transcription’. Because of the different pronunciations of the letter (ج) in Arabic and with using transcription in translation we can conclude that if it is pronounced as (جـ), it will be transcribed to (DJ). Then, we will have the official writing “Djelfa”; or if it is pronounced as (ج), then it will be transcribed as just (J). However, that what gives the wrong writing “Jelfa” which is wrong since the first writing in Roman alphabets was “Djelfa”.

This mistake of writing is widely made. Example:

The killings were said to have occurred in **Jelfa** province in western Algeria.

Algerian newspapers also quoted security sources as saying that gunmen also injured an unspecified number of others, mainly children, in the attack carried out against people celebrating New Year's Eve.

In a separate incident, an army officer and a laborer working for the National Gas Company were also killed when two bombs went off in al-Akhdariya province.

*Figure 11: Passage Captured from URP Breaking News Website Shows the Wrong Spelling of Djelfa PN*

This passage is taken from an article written in URI Breaking News website titled in “More Political Killings Reported in Algeria”. It shows the wrong use of the spelling of “Djelfa” that is reasoned from the use of the wrong method in translating proper nouns and unfamiliarity with the ST.

### 5- Jijel province



Figure 12: Plaque of Welcome of Wilaya of Jijel: correct spelling of the PN.

The province number 18 of Algeria. “Jijel” is its official writing as it is shown in the figure 12. Another writing has appeared of this PN due to the dialect people talk in this province in which they pronounce (ج) in the word (جيجل) in (دج) in which it is transcribed in (DJ) by the ignorance of the original naming. Therefore, this one example of the wrong spelling (Djijel).



Figure 13: Passage Captured from ICD’s Member States Business Guides of Algeria Country shows the M4isspelling of Jijel PN.

This figure shows the wrong spelling of Jijel in the ICD's Member States Business Guides.

## 6- In /Ain

Algeria is full of diversities. As a country is it rich of old history and many different 4distinctly notice and the variation in the translations of the same name of different regions. This phenomenon is about to be conventional due to these multifarious dialects that make the pronunciations of the same PN different.

"Ain" and "In" are the transliteration of the Arabic word "عين" which means a spring that comes from a groundwater and considered as a source of water for people who lived in those places as a generic component of a geographical PN. Also, the word 'bir' means a deep well which is a source of groundwater to the residents in the area.

If we go through all the PNs of the municipalities of the 48 provinces we will distinguish two translations forms of the generic "عين":

The first possible translation is 'In' and it presents 5% from the total number of the municipalities that has this form of generic component naming; including the municipalities of the following provinces:

- Adrar : with one municipality.

عين زغمير/عين زغمير/ان زغمير => In Zeghmir

ANNEXE II  
REPARTITION DES SIEGES DES ASSEMBLEES POPULAIRES DE COMMUNES  
1 - WILAYA D'ADRAR

CODE	COMMUNE	POPULATION	NOMBRE DE SIEGES
01	ADRAR	64.783	23
02	TAMEST	8.266	13
03	CHAROUINE	11.347	15
04	REGGANE	20.402	19
05	IN ZGHMIR	16.185	15
06	TIT	4.417	13

*Figure 14: Picture of a Table Contains In Zghmir Captured from the Official Journal of Algeria Publication Number 51 : Correct Spelling of the PN.*

- Tamanghasset : with four municipalities

عين غار/ان غار/اينغر => In Gher/ Inghar



*Figure 15: Plaque Road Shows the Correct Spelling of the PN Inghar*

عين قزام/ان قزام => In Guezzam



*Figure 16: Plaque Directions Road Shows the Correct Spelling of the PN In Guezzam.*

عين صالح/ان صالح => In Salah



*figure 17: Plaque Road shows the Correct Spelling of the PN In Salah*

عين امقل/ ان امقل => In M'guel/ In Amguel



*Figure 18: Plaque Road Shows the Correct Spelling of the PN In Amguel*

- Ilizi : with one municipality

عين أميناس/ ان اميناس => In Amenas



*Figure 19 : Plaque Road Shows the Correct Spelling of the PN In Amenas.*

As we have seen above the generic component 'In' is transcribed into Arabic into 'ان' due to its pronunciations by the native people of the Regions which are located in the south of Algerian desert area.

As for the second possibility of translating the generic component 'عين' is taking the form 'Ain' for the residual municipalities which present 94% of the total number of all the municipalities with the generic component 'عين', What is noticed is that they are located in north desert region in which people there clearly pronounce the letter 'ي' in the word 'عين'. Accordingly, it is transcribed into 'Ain'.



We find in the municipalities, names that start with 'Ain' that there are places with complex names that share the same spelling name in both languages. For instance:

Ain Soltane/عين سلطان: is the official name of municipality in the province of Souk Ahras as well as Ain Defla province .The following example is the mistranslation for the PN of 'عين السلطان'.



*Figure 20 : Picture Captured from the AccuWeather Website Shows the Temperature in Ain Soltane Region : Wrong Spelling of the PN Ain Soltane.*

As we can notice the figure shows the misspelling of the complex PN 'Ain Soltane'.

#### **7- Khoubana town:**

Khoubana is a town located in M'ssila Province. The Correct spelling to this name in Arabic is خبانة. However, so many times people make wrong spelling when writing it in Arabic. The following picture shows wrong spelling of this PN in Arabic which is the transcription writing from the English language:



*Figure 21: Arabic Wrong Spelling for Khoubana town Captured in a Weather Website.*

## 8- Arbaouat:

This town name is عرباوات in Arabic, so it is transliterated into Fnech and English as Arbaouat. The coming figure shows the wrong way of translating Arbaouat town extracted from Google Maps:

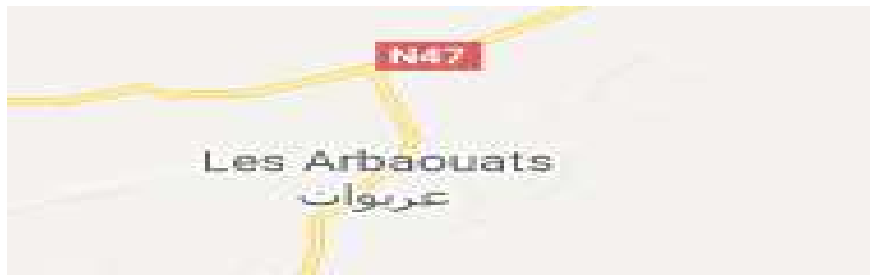


Figure 22: Arbaouat Translated Wrongly in Google Maps.

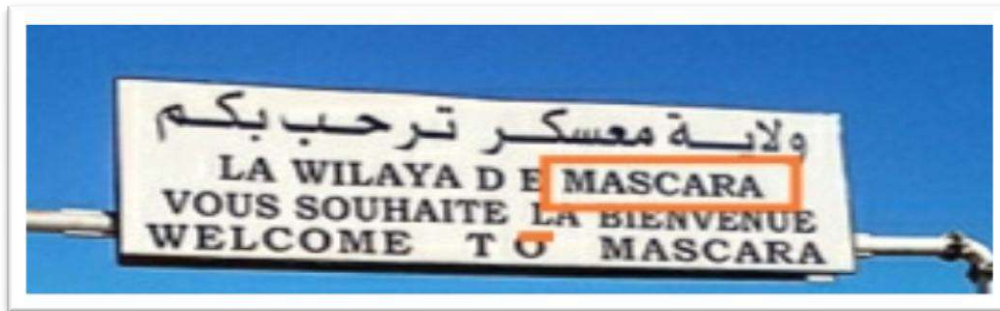
From figure 15, this town name is Naturalized in the French language through adding the plural signs "les" and "-s" to keep the same effect on the French listener.

Arbaouat is exposed to confusion in translation in both Arabic and English. In City Population website, we found the wrong spelling in the Arabic name which is عرباوة. It is clear that this mistake is due to unfamiliarity with the name of the town. View figure 16:

ARBAOUAT			
Commune in El Bayadh			
Commune			
The population development of Arbaouat.			
Name	Status	Population Census 1998-06-25	Population Census 2008-04-14
Arbaouat (عرباوة)	Commune	3,252	4,321
Area: 1,370 km <sup>2</sup> – Density: 3.154/km <sup>2</sup> [2008] – Change: +2.94%/year [1998 → 2008]			
Arbaouet: commune and town in El Bayadh Province, Algeria – Postal code: 32350			
El Bayadh (البيضان)	Province	168,789	228,624
<small>Source: Office National des Statistiques de l'Algérie (web), La Direction Technique Chargée des Statistiques Régionales, l'Agriculture et de la Cartographie (web).</small>			

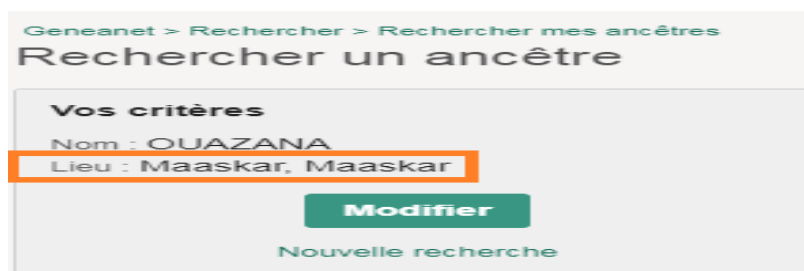
Figure 23: Arbaouat Commune Correctly Spelled in English and Wrongly Spelled in Arabic in City Population Website.

## 9- Mascara



*Figure 24: Plaque of Welcome Shows the Correct Spelling of the PN Mascara.*

Mascara is the name of the province number 29 of Algeria. Many people make mistakes when they translate it from Arabic because it changes at the letter level. Therefore, if the translator is not aware of it, by using transliteration method, it would have two possibilities to be transformed on either “Maaskar” or “Maasker”. Hence, this is one example -that can be committed by anyone- of the wrong spelling which should be avoided, since the province has one official name in the Algerian law which is “Mascara”:



*Figure 25: Picture Taken from Geneanet Website used the Name of Mascara in a Wrong Spelling.*

As we can see above in the figure 8 which is taken from the website of Geneanet a website for reinventing genealogy, it has used the name of the Algerian province “معسكر” misspelled in English.

#### 10- Mostaganem province:



*Figure26: Mostaganem's Plaque of Welcome. Proper Name Written in its Official Form.*

Mostaganem is the province number 27 of Algeria, regarding to the replacement of letters in the process of foreignization the letter (غ) is replaced by the English letter (GH), but in some cases as in the proper name “Mostaganem” the Arabic letter in “مستغانم” is replaced the letter (G) . thus, that is why people frequently commit this error in translating this province name as in the following figure:

Arab Airlines and Tunis Air.  
International airports: Algiers (ALG) (Houari Boumedienne) in Dar-el-Beida is 20 km East of Algiers, Oran airport (ORN) in Essénia is 10 km from Oran, Annaba airport in El Mellah is 12 km from the city and Constantine airport in Ain El Bey is 9 km away from the city.  
There are other airports in Ouargla and Tlemcen.

#### III.4 MARITIME TRANSPORTS

The main ports are located in Algiers, Annaba, Arzew, Béjaia Oran, Ghazahouet, Béni Saf, Ténès, Djedjen, **Mostaghanem**, Cherchell, Zemmouri, Djijel and in Skida.  
The two major shipping lines are Entreprise Nationale de Transport Maritime de Voyageurs ferries (ENTMV) and Compagnie de Navigation Mixte.  
Other maritime companies of Mediterranean ports serve Algiers.

#### III.5 TELECOMMUNICATIONS

*Figure27: Passage Captured from ICD's Member States Business Guides of Algeria country Demonstrates a Common Mistake in Writing the Name of Mestaganem.*

As we can see in figure 11, it has been mistaken the official name of “Mostaganem” province which is wrong spelling.

### 11- Municipalities of Ouargla:

This figure is going to be used to reference a couple of towns later in which we will discuss the misspelling of their names:

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#### B. Result of the sixth period from 2043 to 2048

The final fit model for the last five years of the study found that most of the lands of Ouargla Suitable for the production of solar hydrogen, with an average of 8 of 10 representing 16.5 % with an area of 25576.76 square kilometer of the total area, except of municipalities Sidi Sulaiman, El Burma, El Alia and Hassi Ben Abdallah they have a low on hydrogen demand and that because of low in growing the market penetration rate of hydrogen vehicles.

---

*Figure28 : Passage Captured from Master Dissertation Includes some Municipalities PNs of Province of Ouargla : Wrong Spelling of PNs*

And the figure 29 was used to reference, and will be used as well for the correct writing for the PNs that are taken from the Official Journal of Algeria publication number 51.

01	OUARGLA	13
02	AIN BEIDA	19
03	N'GOUSSA	16
04	HASSI MESSAOUD	45
05	ROUISSAT	58
06	BALADIET AMOR	14
07	TEBESBEST	35
08	NEZLA	51
09	ZAOUIA EL ABIDIA	19
10	SIDI SLIMANE	8
11	SIDI KHOULED	8
12	HASSI BEN ABDALLAH	4
13	TOUGGOURT	39
14	EL HADJIRA	14
15	TAIBET	20
16	TEMACINE	20
17	BENACEUR	10
18	M'NAGUER	14
19	MEGARINE	13
20	EL ALLIA	7
21	EL BORMA	3

Figure29: Table Captured from the Algerian Official Journal Publication

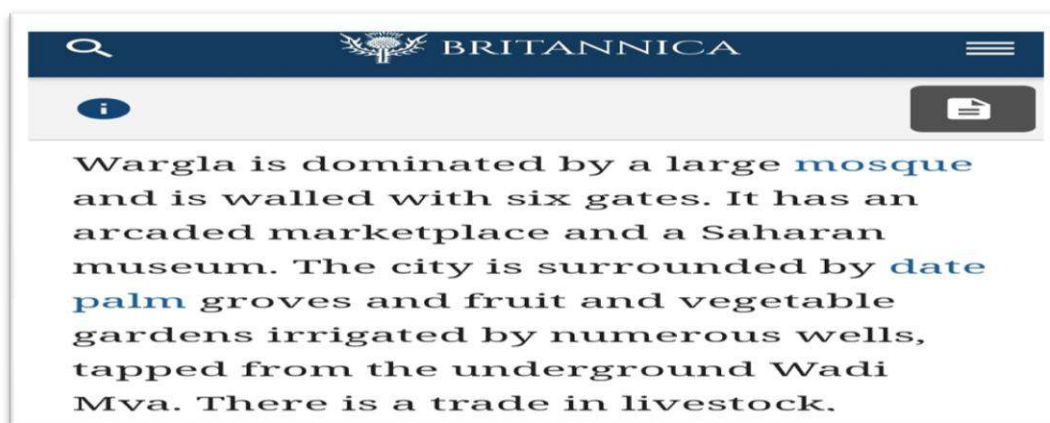
Number51: The Correct Spelling of the PNs of Town Located in Ouargla and Touggourt Provinces.

### 11.1. Ouargla Province:

One of the names that are widely written wrongly either in textbooks, in official documents, or in writing articles in English is « Ouargla ». Ouargla is the province

number 30 in Algeria, and it is located in the north-east of its Sahara. Many people, who write about it even in the official documents that are recommended in foreign companies, use the form of «Wargla » rather than the correct form « Ouargla » (See figure 29). That is due to the transformation of the literal pronunciation in English spelling. The pronunciation of the first letter in Arabic (و) has an equivalent pronunciation letter in English which is « W » which leads to the wrong use of translation method of transcription rather than translation since there are an already existing term which is Ouargla.

Here are some pictures where we could capture some writings where we could notice



the wrong writing

*Figure 30: Passage Captured from Britannica Website. Wrong Spelling "Wargla".*

This is one of the examples of the wrong writing of the name of this province. Also, there are a lot of this mistake in so many different texts such as books and articles. Especially at schools in exam sheets, it is written like this repeatedly. Thus, it became accepted over time as a formal name of this province.

We can see in figure 29 the official writing form of Ouargla in the Algerian Official Journal the formal writing accredited by the law of Algeria, and it is used like that in English or French text .

### 11.1. Touggourt Province and Taibet town :

Touggourt is a Province (depending on the new division). Taibet town is located in Ouargla province (see figure 29). In a French research article about Enquête sociolinguistique presented by Cherfaoui Fatma-Zohra in the University of Ouargla, we found a misspelling in the PNs Touggourt and Taibet. . Here is the quotation:

L'interférence syntaxique et lexicale chez les élèves de primaire, cas de l'école Said Outba Ouargla

Pratiques langagières des pharmaciens ; exemple de Touggourt

Pour une étude comparative des difficultés de la lecture en FLE : Taybet et Touggourt (Faima-Zahra.2014, p.03)

Also, in a French article entitled Makri Happy for Growing Awareness among Citizens *Posted on 12/04/2015* in the website Movement of Society for Peace, we found a set of cities of the same area including mentioned in raw as follows: "Touggourt, Ouargla, Hassi-Messaoud, Tebesbest, Zaouia de **Taybet**, **Aïn-el-Baidha** and N'Goussa." We quote:

Il est à noter que, lors de sa visite dans la wilaya d'Ouargla, le chef du parti a rencontré les militants dans de nombreuses communes (Touggourt, Ouargla, Hassi-Messaoud, Tebesbest, Zaouia de Taybet, Aïn-el-Baidha et N'Goussa) où il a touché une excellente préparation pour le travail afin de réussir les projets du parti. Ces visites ont constitué également une occasion d'expliquer les visions et les objectifs du Mouvement.



Taib0et town is written in a wrong spelling; Touggourt, Ouargla, Hassi Messaoud, and Tbesbest are written correctly according to the Algerian law; but for Ain El Baidha check the first pattern. (See Pattern 01)

### 11.2. Baladiet Amor:

Baladiet Amor is a commune located near the provincial capital of Ouargla. This geographical name makes confusion in translating its generic component into English. In this geographical name, the Algerian Official Journal provided the following administrative naming as an official foreign spelling of the PN "بلدية عمر" as it is shown in figure 29.

As we notice the translation was in accordance to the Arabic word بلدية but not بلدة as it is pronounced in the dialect of its people. Hence, the following figure shows an example of the wrong translation that comes as a result of the transcription of this different pronunciations:



Figure 31: Map Captured from Google Map: Wrong Spelling of the PN.

As it is shown above بلدية عمر is not correctly spelled to Blidet Amor rather than Baladiet Amor due to the lack of knowledge of the exact equivalent which is already provided by the Algerian law.

### 11.3. Benaceur

Benaceur town has a geographical name which is exposed for mistakes from translators because the spelling is common in use in Arabic with people's names. i.e. The town is called with a name of a person name.

When we move from English into Arabic "Benaceur" could be read in more than one possibility. One may be read it as (benashor) with (ج) so the following transcription would be as an equivalent in the Arabic language (بن عاشور) which is totally different from the origin name (بن ناصر) , others may read it as (benassur) with (س) so the transcription of the equivalent would be as (بن ناسور / بن الناصور) which are unlike the origin PN (بن ناصر) . In the opposite, when we move from Arabic into English one possible translation emerges "bennacer" or "benacer" which are also far away from the administrative name of the PN. That's to say, using transliteration method in translating such a geographical name can lead to mistranslation and may change the meaning that is given to the original name or may touch in its identification.

Figure33 shows one possible misspelling of the PN in English language used in a material dissertation in expressing numbers of pollution and hydrogen vehicle in some municipalities in Ouargla province entitled "GIS-based Sites Selection Methodology for Efficient Hydrogen Fuel Deployment" by Azzouz Abdelkader and Babahammou Hammou Ridha in comparison with figure 29 which provides "Benaceur" as the administrative spelling of the geographical place "بن ناصر".

<b>Bennaceur</b>	128	328	628	1064	1684	2543
------------------	-----	-----	-----	------	------	------

*Figure 32 : Benaceur Table Raw Cictured from GIS-based Sites Selection Methodology for Efficient Hydrogen Fuel Deployment Dissertation :Wrong Spelling of the PN.*

#### **11.4. El Alia:**

As we can notice in figure 28, we can clearly see the wrong spelling of the PN of “El Allia” village written in one (L) though it has an official administrative spelling as it is shown in figure 29.

#### **11.5. El Borma:**

El Borma is a village in Ouargla province. This geographical PN is spelled wrongly repeatedly due to the unfamiliarity in dealing with it in English. In figure 28 we notice students at Kasdi Merbah University also make mistakes in the PN spelling even if they themselves belong to the province, as we notice in the figure 28 “البرمة” is wrongly spelled due to the wide using of the transcription method in translating the PN from Arabic.

#### **11.6. Hassi Ben Abdallah:**

Hassi Ben Abdallah is one of municipalities of Ouargla. The following figure shows the misspelling of its geographical name in comparison with the administrative name (figure 28) that is supposed to be the one used as the exact spelling,

<b>Localisation</b>		Région Sud - Est
<b>Wilaya</b>		Ouargla
<b>Commune</b>		Hassi Ben Abdellah
<b>Superficie</b>		500 hectares
<b>Délimitation</b>	au Nord	Terrain vague
	au Sud	Carrière Karet El Chouf
	a l'Est	Terrain vague

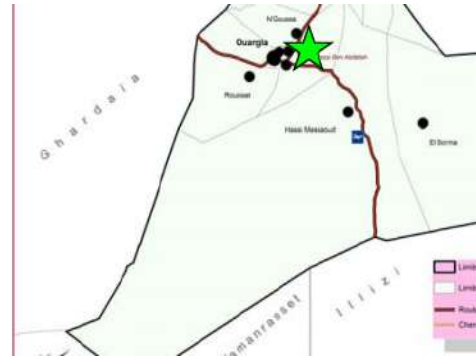


Figure 33: Picture and Table Captured from Technical data Sheet of Hassi Ben Abdallah written in French: Wrong Spelling of the PN.

### 11.7.M'nagueur:

M'nagueur is another name of municipality in the south of Algeria. Because of not dealing so much with the PN so widely, it is common to see the misspelling of this PN everywhere and this is one of the examples we could find that presents the mistake done on maps and scientific studies:

world > Africa > Algeria > Ouargla > M'nagueur

**M'nagueur Map**  
— **Satellite**  
**Images of M'nagueur**

original name: M'nagueur

geographical location: Ouargla, Algeria, Africa

geographical coordinates: 33° 7' 0" North, 6° 24' 0" East

Figure 34: Picture taken from Maplandia Website: Shows the Geographical Location Information of M'nagueur Wrong Spelling of the PN.

However, we can find the correct spelling of this geographical name in the administrative form used in the Official Journal of Algeria N°51 which shows that “M’Naguer” is the official spelling name of the municipality (figure29).

### 11.8. Sidi Slimane:

Another municipality's name in Ouargla province is frequently typed incorrectly as Sidi Soulaïman as it is shown in figure 28 or also into Sidi Solimane as it pronounced in some regions.

The figure 29 shows the Administrative naming of the municipality of Sidi Slimane in the Official Journal of Algeria p46.

### 12. Oran Province:

Usually, Oran is used in its correct form. Few translators fall in the mistake of transliteration. That's because of the partial change in pronunciation of the English or French equivalent. Or, trying to be more bias to the Arabic language and culture. The possible mistakes or variations would be " Wahran" or "Ouahran". Mind the following figure:



Figure 35: Screenshot for Tripadvisor Website Presenting a Picture for Oran City under the Two Namings: Oran and Wahran.

Clearly, the translator aims to present the source culture and pronunciation to the recipient.

### 13. Ouled/Olad/Oulad

Many geographical places in Algeria has been named in specific way in which there are names share similar namings. For example, in the first part of the PN (generic component) as : Sidi, Ouled, Ouad, Ain...etc and here are some illustrations of wrong spellings of these parts of PN.

“أولاد” or “ولاد” is translated in administrative documents into OULED due to the first writing of this word in Roman alphabets of French. However, because of the wide use of the transcription method people use the wrong equivalent of this PN in the TL in which it used as Olad or Oulad. The following figures shows the correct spellings which is used officially and the wrong ones.

### 14. Ouled Djellal:



*Figure 36: Plaque of Road Shows the Correct Spelling of the PN Ouled Djellal.*

Ouled Djellal is a town located in Biskra province. The previous figure demonstrates the correct spelling of it.



Figure 37: A Screenshot Shows a Misspelling of the PN Ouled Djellal of PN in YouTube.

## 15. Ouled Said/ Oulad Said

“أولاد السعيد” is a common name for more than one place in Algeria country.

and one of them refer to a municipality located in Adrar province and it take ‘Ouled’ as an official writing as we can see in the following figure:

### 1 – WILAYA D'ADRAR

CODE	COMMUNE	POPULATION	NOMBRE DE SIEGES
01	ADRAR	64.783	23
02	TAMEST	8.266	13
03	CHAROUINE	11.347	15
04	REGGANE	20.402	19
05	IN ZGHMIR	16.185	15
06	TIT	4.417	13
07	KSAR KADDOUR	4.742	13
08	TSABIT	14.895	15
09	TIMMIMOUN	33.060	19
10	OULED SAID	8.219	13
11	ZAQUIET KOUNTA	17.116	15

Figure38: List of the Municipalities of Adrar in the Algerian Official Journal publication number 51. Shows the Official Writing of the PNs.

this generic component has to be misspelled in many places depending on the transliteration .It is translated as “Oulad Said” with (a) as we can see in the following figure:



*Figure 39: Google Map Screenshot Shows the Misspelling of the PN Oulad Said of Adrar Province.*

#### **16. Relizane province:**

Relizane is the province number 48 of Algeria. The following figure shows the official writing of its name.



*Figure 40: Plaque Road Shows the Correct Spelling of the PN Relizane.*

We can find it as “Ghelizane” in some occasions which is wrong and doesn’t exist in the Algerian law. That happens because of the pronunciation of the Arabic letter (غ) since it has two possibilities either (G) or (GH) in English, as we have mentioned before in chapter one. The translator should be aware of the correct naming of such proper nouns, since the method of transliteration does not work always with different



proper names. Especially, if there is already an existing term in the TL. Figure 4 shows the wrong spelling of the PN Relizane.



*Figure 41: Passage Captured from the National Agency of Investment Development Website Shows the Official and Non-official Spelling of the PN Relizane.*

The figure is taken from the National Agency of Investment Development from an article written on Tuesday, 17 January 2017 shows the wrong spelling of the PN “Relizane” written with (GH) rather than (R).

## 17. Tamenghasset



*Figure 42: Plaque Road Shows Another Possibility of the Spelling of the PN Tamanghasset.*

Tamenghasset has another form in writing which is very common and wide in use. “Tamenghasset is the official naming of the province 11 of Algeria this spelling is used in the Algerian official journal and in the Administrative Subdivisions of Countries: Comprehensive World Reference by Gwillin Law but also we can find it written with both (R) and (GH) (see figure 01) in accordance with the French letter that describes the pronunciation of Arabic letter (Ġ) a long with the original pronunciation of this word in Amazighian language .

### 18. Tindouf province:

« Tindouf » is another city that has a name which is exposed for mistakes while transferring it into English. It has two adopted writings : the first one is « Tindouf » with ‘ou’ which is the official naming for the province number 37 of Algeria country, and the other one is the mistaken one « Tinduf » with no ‘o’ before the letter ‘u’. This form is used by many writers especially on the net in writing articles and the video reports. In the following figure one of the examples of wrong spelling of ‘Tinduf’



*Figure 43: Tindouf Wrongly Spelled in an Article Tittle Captured from The Diploma Website.*

This figure shows an article title in The Diploma website using the wrong spelling « Tinduf » rather than the use of the correct one « Tindouf » which is considered in the Algerian Administration. In the following picture, we can see the official name of this province in the welcome banners when entering the state.



*Figure 44.: The Official Writing of Tindouf Province Written in the Welcome Banner.*

## 19. Ain Turk and Ain Tork

"عين الترك" is an PN of two different Algerian municipalities that belong to two different provinces.

Translators should take attention of the different spellings of translation since both of them transformed by transliteration method:

- Ain Turk: is the equivalent of "عين الترك" the municipality of Oran province, its official spelling which is provided by the Algerian law as it is shown in the following figure which indicate its administrative writing:

31 – WILAYA D'ORAN			
CODE	COMMUNE	POPULATION	NOMBRE DE SIEGES
01	ORAN	609.940	43
02	GDYEL	37.315	19
03	BIR EL DJIR	152.151	33
04	HASSI BOUNIF	59.671	23
05	ES SENIA	96.928	23
06	ARZEW	70.951	23
07	BETHIOUA	17.758	15
08	MARSAT EL HADJADJ	12.729	15
09	AIN TURK	37.010	19
10	EL ANCEUR	10.882	15

Figure45: Table Captured from the Algerian Official Journal Publication Number 51:

Shows the Official Writing of Ain Turk in Oran province: Correct spelling of the PN

- Ain Tork: is the Equivalent of "عين الترك" the municipality of the province of Ain Defla and it is its official spelling which is provided by the Algerian law.

The following figure shows the administrative writing of the PN Ain Tork which as it indicated in the Official Journal of Algeria in the following figure:

22	BORDJ EMIR KHALED	8.598	13
23	AIN TORK	9.546	13
24	SIDI LAKHDAR	20.970	19
25	BEN ALLEL	9.068	13

29 Chaoual 1433 16 septembre 2012		JOURNAL OFFICIEL DE LA REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE N° 51		59
44 - WILAYA DE AIN DEFLA (suite)				
CODE	COMMUNE	POPULATION	NOMBRE DE SIEGES	
26	AIN BENIAN	5.488	13	

Figure46: Table Captured from the Official Journal of Algeria Publication

Number51: Correct Spelling of the PN Ain Tork of Ain Defla province.

Here is an example of confusing the spellings of Ain Turk of Oran province with the the spelling of Ain tork of Ain Defla province.

**Réhabilitation de la Place 05 Juillet (2ème Tranche) APC Ain El Turk de la wilaya de Oran**

Appel d'Offres National 2017-03-08 à 00 h (\*)

Identifiant : 137507  
Code : 01/2017  
Catégories : [72110000] - Travaux de construction de bâtiments résidentiels - Residential building construction services  
Publiée le : 2017-02-21  
Localisation : Oran

Annateur : APC - Commune d'Ain Turk Wilaya D'Oran  
A créé : 28 publication(s)  
Voir plus de publications de cet annateur

Adresse : Bureau des marchés de l'APC de Ain El Tork - wilaya de Oran

Description : AVIS D'APPEL D'OFFRES NATIONAL OUVERT Numéro : 01/2017 APC de Ain El Tork de la wilaya de Oran lance un avis d'appel d'offres National pour : Réhabilitation de la Place 05 Juillet (2ème tranche) APC Ain El Tork de la wilaya de Oran. Le Dossier d'appel d'offres peut être retiré à l'adresse indiqué Ci-dessous : Bureau des marchés de l'APC de Ain El Tork - wilaya de Oran La date limite de dépôt des offres par les soumissionnaires ou leurs représentants dûment mandatés est

Hors-ligne

Figure47: Web Page Captured from Rhinotenders Website for a National Tender in Ain El Turk: Wrong Spelling of the PN.

The figure above which is taken from a website that is for national tender in Ain Turk Oran province shows the misspelling of the GN mixed with the spelling of the name of municipality Ain Turk in Ain Defla province which explain the unknown of the official writing of such GNs that share the same spelling name in Arabic but with different spelling in TL.

## 28 Lac des Oiseaux:

Lac des oiseaux/lake of birds/بحيرة الطيور

COMMUNE	البلديات
EL TARF	الطارف
BOUHADJER	بوحجار
BEN M'HIDI	ابن مهدي
BOUGOUS	بوقوس
EL KALA	القالة
AIN EL ASSEL	عين العسل
EL AIOUN	العيون
BOUTELDJA	بوتلجة
SOUAREKH	السوارخ
BERRIHANE	بريخان
LAC DES OISEAUX	بحيرة الطيور

Figure48: Table Captured from the Algerian Official Journal: Correct Spelling of the PN Lac des Oiseaux.

This PN has been dealt completely with translation method. The name of this municipality which located in El Taref province has a translated equivalent in which its two component have been translated from 'بحيرة الطيور' into 'Lake of birds' word for word translation, and this figure is taken as example of this case :



Figure49 : Passage Captured from Wikipedia :Correct Spelling of the PN Lac des Oiseaux

## 29 Ogla/Ougla :

'العقلة' is found in two municipalities in the province of Tebessa, this word has been translated by using two forms to transcribe the letter 'ع' :

In 'العقلة' the municipality number 13 it is translated into 'Ogla' with (O) thus the spelling writing take the form of 'El Ogla'.

In 'العقلة المالحة' the municipality number 15. It is translated into 'Ougla' with (OU) thus the spelling writing take the form of 'Ougla Melha'

The following figure shows the wrong spelling of 'Ougla Melha' resulted from the mixing between the two writings in which we can notice the misspelling of writing 'Ougla Malha' resulted from the use transcription as it is pronounced whereas in the

official translation it is not transcribed the definite article as we see in the following example :



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*Figure50 : Map Pictured from Michelin Website : Wrong Spelling of the PN Ougla  
Melha.*

**Conclusion:**

Since the Algerian provinces and towns are considered only in the Arabic and French languages according to the civil law of Algeria, we found various mistakes in different documents when rendering those PNs into English. Although there is one official list for the names of Algerian provinces and towns, people in general - not only translators - make mistakes and commit errors carelessly or unknowingly in typing geographical names of Algeria in English, in French, and even in Arabic. Some translators are unfamiliar with the Algerian regions. Also, the government is not serious about the issue of writing the names of regions correctly. Thus, people should be aware of the importance of correctness in typing PNs of geographical names.

In this chapter, we collected a set of wrong PNs of Algerian cities and towns; then, we analysed them and shed light on them. Most of them were Plaques, Articles, and websites. Algeria has a diversity in cultures and languages which affects the way on how cities and towns are named. When we read the Algerian names of towns we remark that there are many towns that are named upon people names, and there are many others contain words such as: Sidi-, Ain-, In-, Ouled -, Ksar-.Bir-, Djbel-, Hassi-, these words usually refer to famous people in the past, or they are named regarding to the geographical nature of that area. However, these signal words are transliterated, while in fact they handle a meaningful sense in the Arabic language, so the transliteration method in some way breaks that sense. In addition to this, we discovered linguistic confusions and interference that occur when the translator transcribes a PN. i.e. when people translate into English or French, they do not give much importance to nuances of different vowels and different consonants that differentiate between different towns having the same Arabic name or pronunciation.



Since the Algerian law does not provide any absolute English translation for all its names of cities and towns, and just keeping the French spelling and pronunciation, it is going to be always expected that there would be a lot of variations in their English equivalents made by different translators. The Algerian Law need to provide an English list that coincides with the English language system.

**Conclusion:**

We aimed in this research paper to highlight the methods used in translating GNs particularly names of Countries and towns. We take, as case study of our work, the names of Algerian towns in which we analyse some of the translation possibilities of those GNs. The existence of different translations for one GN comes as result of using the same strategies in translating any PN or using literal translation even though there exists an official naming for it.

Through this work, We tried to clarify the misperception in translation field of keeping GNs as they are when translating them into the TL and to clarify what leads to the mistranslation which is attributed to the non-knowing of the use of the appropriate strategies that should be applied when dealing with GNs.

Owing to the importance of GNs in which it can be a key for the well knowing of the region and all what is related to its history, culture, language and people, translating it into other languages should be well-considered as sign of showing respect for preserving its essence. Leonard Carol Jean an assistant professor at the Saint John Campus of the University of Alberta and a president of Canadian Society for the study of Names pointed to the importance of translating toponymes. He said that misleading of translation can destroy the identification of a toponymic heritage minority in two ways: one way that the translation does not give a reasonable base to suspect its existence, or that it includes a semantic deviation that eventually fades the link with the meaning given to the name of the origin.

To reach our objectives we organized our work in gathering a number of names of Algerian towns in which they cause confusion in their translations due to multiple choices of equivalents in TL for the same PN. We gathered, as well, some GNs and gave our observations to the translation methods used in the translation. Then, we analysed the wrong spellings in accordance with those methods, mentioned in chapter one, along with giving the correct spelling provided by the Algerian Official Journal that should be adopted by all the translators. Also, we discovered that these multiple choices are attributed due to the effect of the French language use in the country. Because of that, the official writing of those names were by the France colonial which was that the first to put a translation for the Algerian GNs. People who are not aware of this official writing misspell the name in English language due to the different morphological and phonological systems.

We see that this kind of studies should be given more attention by the researchers especially for the remote GNs that people are not familiar with. Therefore, we highly recommend the Algerian government to provide an Official English translation that coincides with English language system for the Arabic names of Algerian cities, towns, and villages. We also recommend the Algerian translators and writers in general to consider the only official form of writing the GNs of Algeria.

## ملخص البحث:

يهدف هذا البحث لدراسة ترجمة اسم العلم و ذلك لما يحمله اسم العلم من أهمية في تغيير العالم؛ و بالأخص ترجمة أسماء البلدان و المدن.

يسعى الكاتب لعرض أساليب تسهل عملية ترجمة أسماء البلدان للمتروجم. و جمع ما يكفي من المعلومات التي تصب في ميدان ترجمة البلدان و المدن في بحث واحد، و التي من شأنها أن تلخص و في نفس الوقت تكون شاملة لترجمة هذه الأسماء خاصة بين اللغة العربية و اللغة الانجليزية.

ينقسم هذا البحث الى قسمين؛ القسم الاول وهو جزء نظري يعتمد على طرح تعريفات للترجمة و اسم العلم و الفرق بينه و بين اسم الجنس و كثير من النظريات اللسانية و الترجمة التي ألفها علماء اللغة عبر التاريخ ، و كذا تطرقنا في نفس القسم الى مختلف الأساليب التي تستعمل في ترجمة اسم العلم و بالأخص أسماء البلدان و المدن. و بشكل معمق، حاولنا شرح التغيرات التي يمكن أن تحدث على مستوى اسم البلد او المدينة أثناء عملية الترجمة. وقد تم عرض ما يكفي من الأمثلة لتوضيح ذلك. كما أننا درسنا ترجمة اسم العلم في نص السياق. أي، كيف يمكن لاسم البلد او المدينة أن يتغير كلياً فقط بتغيير مجال الموضوع.

أما في القسم الثاني فتطرقنا لدراسة تطبيقية عن ترجمة مدن و ولايات الجزائر. وكنا قد اعتمدنا قائمة الولايات و البلديات الموجودة في الجريدة الرسمية للبلاد كمرجع لصحة الترجمة. فقمنا باختيار نصوص كانت ترجمة اسم العلم فيها خاطئة او إبداعية أو صحيحة و

تمت المقارنة بينهما. و قد كانت الاستراتيجية المعتمدة في هذا هي كتابة قوالب خاطئة مختلفة لاسماء الولايات و المدن بشكل عشوائي في غوغل و اختيار ما يكفي من وثائق مختلفة و من ثم دراستها وتحليلها بناء على ما تم الوصول له في القسم النظري.

اتخذ الكاتب الاسلوبين النوعي و الكمي معا من أجل الوصول الى نتائج اضمن في البحث و يعطي معلومات كافية لطرح المشكل بشكل اوضح عن ترجمة الولايات و المدن الجزائرية بين اللغة العربية و الانجليزية.

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## Abstract:

This research is held to spotlight the problems that occur when translating proper nouns of countries and towns between Arabic and English, and the procedures or strategies that are undertaken by translators in order to produce solutions or facilitate the process of translating PNs at large. We achieved a great concentration on the translation of geographical names of countries and towns. The paper is divided into two chapters; the first chapter was a theoretical study about Translation and proper nouns in which we contributed with some definitions and differences that concern the proper noun in the translation context. Also, there was a theoretical analysis of the methods used to render an PN largely and names of towns and cities particularly along with the classification of the changes that frequently result due to the different methods used in the geographical names of countries and cities translation. Moreover, we categorized different translations by different fields that influence the equivalents of proper names of cities and countries. Finally, briefly, we tackled the abbreviation use of geographical names in the world. However, in the second chapter, it was a mere practical study on the translation of the names of the towns and cities of Algeria between Arabic and English and the effect of the French language on that translation.

**Key words:** Translation, Country, Town, Transliteration, Transcription, Proper name.

## المخلص:

أسس هذا البحث من أجل تسليط الضوء على المشاكل التي تحدث عند ترجمة أسماء علم البلدان و المدن بين اللغة العربية و الإنجليزية و الإجراءات او الاستراتيجيات التي يتخذها المترجمون لخلق حلول او تسهيل لعملية ترجمة أسماء العلم بصفة عامة. وقد ركزنا بشدة على ترجمة الأسماء الجغرافية للبلدان و المدن. فقد قسمت هذه المذكرة إلى قسمين، أولهما كان عبارة عن دراسة نظرية عن الترجمة و أسماء العلم أين عرضنا بعض التعريفات و الإختلافات التي تخص أسماء العلم في سياق الترجمة. كما تضمن هذا البحث أيضا تحليل نظري عن الطرائق المستعملة لترجمة أسماء العلم بشكل واسع و أسماء المدن الصغيرة و الكبيرة بشكل ضيق. و ذلك مع تصنيف للتغيرات التي تطرأ بشكل متكرر نتيجة لإختلاف الطرائق المستعملة في ترجمة الأسماء الجغرافية للبلدان و المدن. علاوة على ذلك قمنا بتصنيف الترجمات المختلفة بناء على المجالات المختلفة التي تؤثر على المقابل لإسم العلم المدن و البلدان . و أخيرا تطرقنا بشكل مختصر إلى إستعمال الإختصارات مع الأسماء الجغرافية في العالم. أما القسم الثاني فقد كان محض دراسة تطبيقية لترجمة أسماء المدن الكبرى و الصغرى لدولة الجزائر بين اللغتين العربية و الإنجليزية و تأثير اللغة الفرنسية على تلك الترجمة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** ترجمة، بلد، مدينة، نقحرة، نسخ، اسم علم.

## Résumé:

Cette recherche a pour but de mettre en lumière les problèmes qui se produisent lors de la traduction des noms propres des pays et des villes entre l'Arabe et l'Anglais, et les procédures ou stratégies mises en œuvre par différents traducteurs afin de produire des solutions ou de faciliter le processus de traduction des NPs en général. Ensuite, nous nous sommes concentrés sur la traduction des noms géographiques des pays et des villes. La recherche comprend deux chapitres; le premier chapitre s'agissait d'une étude théorique sur la traduction et les noms propres dans laquelle nous avons apporté quelques définitions et différences concernant le nom propre dans le contexte de la traduction. En outre, il y avait une analyse théorique sur les méthodes utilisées pour présenter le NP en générale et les noms des villes et les grandes villes en particulier avec la classification des changements qui résultent fréquemment en raison des différentes méthodes utilisées dans la traduction des noms géographiques des pays et des villes. De plus, nous avons mentionné les différentes catégories, par domaine, qui influencent les équivalents des noms propres des villes et des pays. Enfin, brièvement, nous avons abordé l'utilisation des abréviations des noms géographiques dans le monde. Cependant, le deuxième chapitre s'agissait d'une simple étude pratique sur la traduction des noms des villes et des grandes villes de l'Algérie entre l'Arabe et l'Anglais et l'effet de la langue Française sur cette traduction.

**Mots clés:** Traduction, pays, ville, translittération, transcription, nom propre.