

## Public and Private Translation Sectors in Jordan

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**Abstract.** *The present paper aims to highlight the role of public and private sectors in the Jordanian translation movement. The paper starts with a general introduction about translation and interpretation in Jordan. The role of public and private sectors in prompting the translation movement in Jordan is thoroughly investigated through providing names, statistics and highlighting and commenting on the main activities carried out by these organizations. The Jordan Committee of Arabicization, Translation and Publication; Jordan Academy for Arabic; The Royal Scientific Society; The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Institute for Islamic Thought; Ministries and Governmental Institutions; The Ministry of Culture; The Ministry of Education; The Ministry of Communication; The Ministry of Awqaf; The Ministry of Information; The Ministry of Health; The Ministry of Tourism; The Jordanian Universities; and the Private Sector such as the Private Publishers are investigated. The paper concludes with some conclusion and recommendations that benefit translators, student of translation, researchers and people in charge of translation alike.*

**Keywords:** public and private Sectors, Jordanian translation movement, translation and publications, and Jordanian universities.

### 1. Introduction: Translation and interpretation in Jordan

A few studies tackled the status of translation as a profession in Jordan and even those studies did not provide concrete statistical data that may substantiate the situation. Some date back to the 1980s. An-Na'ouri (1985) wrote an article in *Dirasat 'an Waqi' al-Tarjama fi el-Watan al-'Arabi* (Studies on the Situation of Translation in the Arab World) pointing out that the translation situation in Jordan is not satisfactory. This article was written upon a request by The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization. Another article titled 'The Translation Situation in Jordan and The Role of the Jordanian Translators' Association' by Shunnaq (1998) in which he highlighted the sad situation of translation in Jordan and the unsuccessful attempts to promote this cultural activity. The status of the translation in Jordan has been discussed in different translation conferences, workshops, and lectures held by the Jordanian Translators Association (JTA), Yarmouk University, as well as other public and private universities. Some brief articles were written by people interested in the Jordanian cultural movement. A more recent and comprehensive work written of the Jordanian translation was a thesis titled "The Status of Translation as a Profession in Jordan: Regulations,

Limitations and Ethics" prepared by Hala Ayyoub in 2011. This study aims at mapping translation activity as a profession in Jordan and provides an overview on translation institutions and the status of translators who work in these institutions. The importance of this thesis lies in providing substantial facts and figures about the status of translation in Jordan. Other articles and statistics on the Jordanian translation movement are found in some websites.

The first attempt was carried by the Jordanian Committee for Arabicization, Translation and Publishing established in 1961. It carried out the responsibilities of translating different types of books till 1976 when the Arabic Language Academy in Jordan was established.

To start with, the translation and interpretation situation in Jordan has never been adequate. Further, the cultural movement in this country has not yet been established very well because Jordan is still a young country. It was established in 1921. Until 1993, there wasn't even an association for the Jordanian translators and interpreters to encourage them to promote the translation movement in this country. Translation and interpretation has been randomly practiced by individual translators and interpreters or commercial offices of translation and interpreting. That is why we could not find sufficient official records that could reflect the quantity and the quality of the translated or interpreted works.

Unfortunately, there isn't even a single well-known publisher for translated works in Jordan. In addition, there is no fully-authorized organization to control the translation and interpretation movement in this country. Moreover, the number of translators and interpreters is small and most of them do not have a good command of the source language and the target language they deal with. That is why the readers of the translated version may doubt the value of the translation. Full-time translators and interpreters are very few. Also, not all translated works are deposited in the National Library of the Ministry of Culture. Finally, records of translators as well as the translated works are insufficient.

Despite the gloomy picture given about the translation and interpretation situation in Jordan, there were/are some governmental and non-governmental organizations, associations, and institutions which give importance to the translation movement in this country.

## **2. Public and private translation sectors in Jordan**

### **2.1. The public sector**

Shunnaq and Sweirki (n.d.) point out that a number of governmental institutions appeared in Jordan after the first half of the twentieth century .They concerned themselves with translation, issued a good number of

translated works and sought to facilitate the translation process through the publication of their own records. Here are names of the most prominent of these institutions: The Jordan Committee of Arabicization, Translation and Publication (founded in 1961), The Jordan Academy for Arabic (founded in 1976), The Royal Scientific Society (founded in 1970), The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research which was founded in (1981) and some governmental institutions like The Ministry of Culture and the Jordanian public and private universities.

### **2.1.1. The Jordan committee of Arabicization, translation and publication**

An-Na'ouri (1972) points out that this committee was founded within The Ministry of Education after the First Conference of Arabicization, which was held by The Arab League for Education, Culture and Science Organization in Rabat in April 1961. As a representative of Jordan, Hafiz Touqan attended the conference in which the decision on the formation of local committees for Arabicization in every Arab country was declared. The committees work in cooperation with The Permanent Bureau in Rabat, Morocco. In 18/5/1961, Sheikh Mohammad Shanqiti, the Minister of Education introduced circular no. 59/2/8082 to announce the formation of a committee for Arabicization from a number of members working in the Ministry of Education: Mr. Qadri Tuqan, Sheikh Ibrahim Qattan, Husni Fraiz, Khalil Salim, Jirias Qussoos, SaifAddin Kilani, Wahib Bitar, Abd Al Karim Khalifa, Mohamoud Saif Eddin Al-Irani, Mohammad Hussein Ali, Najati Bukhari, Ehsan Daghstani and Issa An-Na'ouri.

#### **The committee's responsibilities**

This committee is the "National Division for Arabicization" and it follows Arabicization bodies by forming a link between them and The Permanent Bureau in Rabat. The members of the Committee shoulder the following responsibilities: they have the duty of sending all of the (general and educational) works and literary magazines issued in Jordan to the Permanent Bureau for free; they watch over the translation movement for books and literature, making records of all the translated works and informing The Permanent Bureau; and they should implement the decisions of the Arabicization Conference held in Rabat in 3-4/7/1960.

Consequently, after launching this committee, The Minister of Education, Sheikh Mohammad Shanqiti, sent a letter to Mr. Abdel Hadi Tazzi, who was in charge of the coordination among the Arab countries in Rabat. The letter included an item about the formation of a committee for

Arabicization along with the names of its members. The Committee held its first meeting on Saturday 3 June 1961, with the presence of eight of its thirteen members. It was then decided to have Qadri Tuqan as a Chairman of the committee, An-Na'ouri set as its Secretary and also the permanent representative of the committee in The Permanent Bureau in Rabat with regard to communication and correspondence. There was also cooperation between the committee and the Directorate of Publications, to make records of all the translated works in Jordan.

### **The committee's achievements in the first two years**

According to its decisions in its first meeting, the Committee, in cooperation with The General Directorate of Publications, set out a list of the translated books from both Banks of Jordan up until that year, in addition to making it available to The Permanent Bureau in Rabat. It also bought a number of scientific dictionaries and made a list of the translated books in both sides of Jordan till 1962. The Committee saw that its work could extend to include translation and publication along with Arabicization, so that it decided to expand its works and changed its name into "The Jordan Committee for Arabicization, Translation and Publication". However, it did not start its publications until 1964. Its first publication was "The Antiquities of Jordan" – a book for Lancaster Harding, The English Director of Antiquities in Jordan, which was translated by Suleiman al-Musa. It also published "Tagore" which was translated from English by Hosni Fareez, published in Beirut and The Ministry of Education also put the publication in its libraries.

A week on Arabicization was also held in Rabat from 3 to 9 January 1963, and its representative was Abdul Karim Khalifa. On its first day Khalifa, representing Jordan, talked about Arabicization and was subsequently interviewed on radio and T.V. Jordan was the only Arab country which has sent its representatives to that event as the others were represented only by their ambassadors or attachés. Five of the members were assigned to develop a law for the Committee. Those five were: Saif Eddin Zeid Kilani, Thouqan Hindawi, Abdul Karim Khalifa, Hikmat Lubbad and Issa An-Na'ouri. That committee initiated a comprehensive law project called "The Project of the Law of The Jordan Committee of Arabicization, Translation and Publication". The project included twenty-five articles over seven chapters, which consist of general definitions, the formation of the committee, membership conditions, committee works and aims, the work plan, working conditions, financial affairs and general provisions.



An-Na'ouri (1985) points out that from 1961 to 1976, The Jordan Committee of Arabicization, Translation and Publication continued to work as a mini language academy, and then it was transformed into "The Jordan Academy of Arabic" which was founded in 1976. It then has published a good number of written and translated books. The Basic Aims of the Committee was to help the Arab countries of North Africa to arabicize language to meet all the purposes for which it is used in various aspects of life; to translate a number of universal masterpieces; and to cooperate with the other Arab countries to Arabicize foreign terms. The Committee Works in the Field of Translation, Arabicization and Publication.

The committee's limited financial allocations did not allow it to publish more than seven translated books. Two of them are: "*The Antiquities of Jordan*" by Lancaster Harding, translated by Mr. Suleiman Al-Musa; and "Tagore" translated from English by Hosni Fareez. Below are the titles of some of the books which were published by the Committee.

"*The Names of the Geographical Sites in Jordan and Palestine*" by Hussein Abdel Qadir, 1973; "*The catalogued table of the translated books translated by Jordanians and Palestinians from 1950-1974*" by Mahmoud Al Akhras; and "*Methods for developing scientific Arabic language*" by Abdel Karim Khalifa, 1974.

Accordingly, the total number submitted to the Committee to be studied and adopted was ten translated books, five of which were rejected because of infringement of committee rules, although their costs were paid.

Shunnaq and Sweirki (n.d.), An-Na'ouri (1972) point out that the Committee has continued studying a number of dictionaries from the Permanent Bureau in Rabat, and a number of terms from the committee that coordinates between UNESCO committees and the cultural directorate of The League of Arab States by establishing committees for studying, criticizing, making notes and suggestions and editing and reporting. Below is a list of the names of some of the dictionaries that were studied by the committee: *The Glossary of Al Maliki Fiqh*; *The Glossary of Physics*; *The Glossary of Chemistry*; *The Glossary of Grinding, Baking and Cooking*; *The Glossary of Handcrafts*: reviewed by Mr. Nabih Younis and Dr. *The Glossary of Mathematics*; *Letters and Symbols Used in Standards and Specifications for Cultural Management*); *Terminology of Mathematical Terms in the Compulsory level*; *UNESCO Terms*; and *Management Terminology*.

This report was discussed in the meetings of the committee for final approval before being sent to the Cultural Directorate and The Permanent Bureau. The bulk of the financial allocations were devoted for these reports as the Committee believed that it was performing a worthy national service.

Despite its limited capacity, the efforts of The Jordan Committee of Arabicization, Translation and Publication, gained great appreciation and recognition in the various circulars of the Cultural Directorate of The League of Arab States (Arab Organization for Education, Science and Culture) and the Permanent Bureau in Rabat. Moreover, it was a model for the other Arabicization committees in the rest of the Arab countries and the only committee whose reports and debates were consistently published in "*Al Lisan Al Arabi Magazine*".

As for the financial situation of the Committee, it depended on the budget of The Ministry of Education and had no permanent annual allocations. Consequently, the Committee could not attain great achievements. As a result of the fact that the allocations were insufficient for buying, publishing and reviewing books, the greater part of the allocation was given back to the state treasury at the end of each year due to its underuse. Consequently, the General Budget Department reduced the committee's allocations year after year. The following table shows the annual financial allocations (in Jordanian dinar) of the committee (in Jordanian dinar) between 1961-1971.

Committee Allocations

Allocations	Year	Allocations	Year
700	1961,1962	2000	1967
1300	1962,1963	2500	1968
890	1963,1964	2000	1969
1300	1964,1965	2000	1970
680	1966	550	1971
<b>TOTAL</b>	13920 JD		

### 2.1.2. Academy for Arabic

The idea of the establishment of an Academy for Arabic language in Jordan started in the third decade of the twentieth century. Since the first years of the foundation of the Emirate of Transjordan, Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, founder of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, ordered the launch of a scientific academy in Amman in January 1924. Sheikh Saeed Al Karmi was elected to be its chairman with the membership of Ridha Tawfiq Baik, the famous Turkish philosopher, Sheikh Mustafa Ghalayini, Rashid Baik Baqdounis and Mohammad Baik .Shariqi- the director of As

Sharq Al Arabi Journal. Moreover, some members of honour were also elected including Ahmed Zaki Basha Al Azhari, Father Anstanius Al Karmali and Es'aaf Nashashibi. The Academy was committed to revive the Arabic language, to establish a printing house and to issue a monthly magazine. The Jordan Academy was the second academy in the Arab world, coming after The Arab Scientific Academy in Damascus which was founded in 1919. However, as a result of the lack of financial and scientific resources, the Amman Academy was closed.

In 1961, the Jordan Committee of Arabicization, Translation and Publication was established within The Ministry of Education in response to one of the recommendations of the first conference for Arabicization held in Rabat, from which the idea of establishing an academy was arose in 1973. The Cabinet approved sending of three delegations from the members of The Jordan Committee of Arabicization, Translation and Publication to visit the Arabic academies in Damascus, Cairo and Baghdad in order to study their works, regulations and working methods and staff. In late 1973, the Cabinet approved, in principle, the request of the Minister of Education to establish the academy. The Jordan Committee of Arabicization, Translation and Publication continued its work till 1976, when A Royal Decree was issued to establish The Jordan Academy of Arabic with financial and administrative independence. And from the first day of its official opening in October 1976, the Academy started to undertake its work.

The Academy has the following objectives: to carry out studies and research pertaining to the Arabic language; to encourage authorship, translation, publication, and conduct scholarly contests for that purpose and also establish a library for the Academy; to translate universal masterpieces and publish books translated from and into Arabic; to hold language conferences inside and outside the Kingdom, and also to hold cultural seasons and symposia; to publish new terms that are duly unified into the Arabic language in various mass media and disseminate them to the government departments; and to issue a periodical journal, called "*The Journal of the Jordan Academy of Arabic*".

Moreover, on the basis of the Academy's belief of the necessity to Arabicize scientific university education, it was decided to adopt, in the light of its limited financial means, a project in the field of Arabicization of Scientific University Education. The project included the translations of all scientific books that were taught in scientific faculties in The University of Jordan and Yarmouk University. The faculties of science were chosen because they are the base of the other faculties of Applied

Sciences such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering, Agriculture and others.

The main reasons behind the Arabicizing scientific university education are: Arabic language represents the basic foundation shaping the identity of the Arab nation and its character, so that teaching sciences in Arabic would increase pride in the Arabic language and its scientific and intellectual heritage; The Arabic language will be enriched with new scientific terms and new vocabulary; standardizing scientific and technical terms in the scientific and educational institutions in the Arab world would help in creating a unified standard of scientific language in the Arab world; Teaching science in Arabic in universities and other educational institutions would deepen scientific thought leading to creativity, innovation and a wealth scientific activity in terms of authorship, translation and publication; Arabic language is able to absorb the new scientific and cultural development; Arabicizing scientific university education would lead to activating the translation, authorship and publication movement in Arabic. This in turn would save huge amounts of money that might otherwise go to foreign markets; and enriching the Arab treasury of scientific sources and references in various disciplines would be of lasting cultural benefit.

The Academy adopted two parallel methods in translation: the first one was the translating of scientific books in cooperation with specialized professors and then overseeing their printing; the second was by supporting authorship, translation and publication.

Regarding the process of translating scientific books, the Academy adopted the following steps: assigning a committee of specialists from among Jordanian university professors to select the scientific books of specific levels which are taught in the most prestigious universities in various scientific disciplines; full coordination and cooperation between all the concerned Arab bodies in order to know what books have been translated or are intended to be translated to avoid duplication and repetition and to unify the effort to accomplish the noble objective; contacting the authors and publishers of the scientific books in order to obtain the license of translation and publication; translating every book with a team of specialists, having it edited scientifically by another specialist and having it checked grammatically by a third to finally have it printed by a fourth; and the Academy provides the translators and editors with the latest issues of other Arab scientific and linguistic academies, Arabicization conferences and specialized scientific institutions to allow them to benefit from them in the standardization of scientific terms in the Arab world.

With regard to supporting authorship, translation and publication, the Academy stated the following instructions:

Article (1): these instructions are called: "The Instructions for Supporting Authorship, Translation and Publication in The Jordan Academy of Arabic" for the year 1986 under Article (13), paragraph D of the law of Jordan Academy of Arabic No. 49 for the year 1976 starting 1/2/1986.

Article (2): The following words and expressions, wherever they occur herein, shall have the meanings specified below unless the context indicates otherwise:

The Academy: The Jordan Academy of Arabic.

Book: a study or a compilation of a text from printed or published origin in a single folder or folders.

Committee: the committee of authorship, translation and publication in the Academy.

Fund: the fund for supporting authorship, translation and publication.

Article (3): the Academy supports writing and translating books as follows:

- A. university textbooks in fundamental and applied sciences; and
- B. other books the committee sees that serve the Academy's mission.

Article (4): the executive office decides to support each written or translated book. The amount of the support shall be decided in consultation with the committee.

Article (5): the translator should submit a request for support to publish his/her book to the Chairman of the Academy, and in this case three copies of the draft, to be translated, printed by computer in its final form should be submitted.

If the committee sees that the manuscript is adequate, it may pass it to one or more referees to study and write reports which include: the degree of accuracy and modernity of the scientific material; to what extent the manuscript matches with the material which was created for; and the language of the manuscript in terms of symbols issued by the Academy or the other Arab academies and Arabicization conferences; and the Academy is not obliged to provide support to every book proposed to it.

Article (6): The Committee determines the amount and the kind of financial support either by funding or by buying a number of copies or both; in all cases, the author should provide the Academy with twenty copies of the funded book after publication; the Academy, in some appropriate conditions, may subsidize the expenses of preparing a book or a manuscript; and in all cases, financial support should be given only to the author.



Article (7): the Academy can assign one or more authors to write a book to be used in university teaching. In this case, the Academy has the right to publish it.

Article (8): The following sentence should be written on the cover and the first page of every book supported by the Academy: "Published with the support of The Jordan Academy for Arabic".

Article (9): the Academy should establish a fund called "Fund for Supporting Authorship, Translation and Publication" and assign a committee of at least three people from inside and outside the Academy called "The Committee of the Fund for Supporting Authorship, Translation and Publication" to be responsible for collecting the money for the fund.

Article (10): the fund consists of the following: the amount of donations allocated from the budget of the Academy every year; and donations and grants given by agencies and individuals inside and outside Jordan approved by the executive office.

Article (11): the Academy Chairman and the executive office are hereby obligated to implement the provisions of this law.

### **Translated scientific books**

The Academy issued nineteen references in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology, Geology and Health Science translated from English into Arabic which had a good scientific reputation among specialists and members of the teaching staff at Arab universities. Moreover, some of these books had already been adopted to be taught in some Arab universities.

Due to its interest in the Arabicization of higher education, the Academy has published thirteen international references in various scientific specializations.

Keen on making these translations the result of a team effort, the Jordan Academy of Arabic formed a team of translators from specialists in the field for each book, and designated a scientific and a language reviewer for each book. It is worth stating here that the following publications won awards as the best scientific books translated into Arabic.

*a. Biology*, By Richard Goldsby (2 vols.)—translated by Drs. Adnan Alawi; Hameed Al-Haj; Ahmed Al Deecy, Naji Abu-Irmaileh and Sami Abdul-Hafeth. This translation was granted the award for the best scientific book translated into Arabic by the Kuwait Foundation for Scientific Progress at the Scientific Book Exhibition, set up in Kuwait, 1981.

*b. Biochemistry and Physiology of the Cell*, by N.A. Edward and K.A. Hasal was translated by Dr. Ilyas Baydhoon and reviewed by Dr. Adnan Alawi. It won the award for basic sciences granted by the Union of Arab Council of Scientific Research for the years 1986-1989.

c. Bailey and Love's *Short practice of Surgery* (4 vols.) This is a voluminous reference work consisting of 2000 pages- translated by a team of forty two Jordanian surgeons, assisted and supervised by an editorial board comprising Prof. Ahmad Sheikh Srujiyeh. Prof. Mahmud Abu Khalaf, Prof. Akram Al-Dajani, and Prof. Abdullah Al-Basheer, with Prof. Haytham Al-Khayyat as the scientific reviewer. The translation won the award for the best book translated into Arabic in the field of science for the year 1998, in the twenty- third Arab Book Exhibition set up by the Kuwait Foundation for Scientific Progress.

#### **The Academy's efforts in Arabicizing scientific terms**

The Academy has so far issued more than twenty one thousand terms and has also issued more than twenty catalogues of terms.

#### **Evaluation of the Academy project in translation and Arabicization**

After the great effort that was made in translating scientific books in order to adopt them in the process of teaching science in Arabic in the Jordanian universities, the project was canceled as it was implemented only in 1981 and 1982. Then the translated books were no longer taught and the colleges returned to the approach of teaching science in English. Various studies were conducted to find out the reasons for discontinuing the process of teaching scientific books in Arabic in the Jordanian universities and concluded that it was for the following reasons: the lack of confidence among the members of teaching staff of the scientific faculties in the Arabic language and in the process of adopting it as a language that accommodates up-to-date knowledge. Moreover, there was no serious effort made to Arabicize some of the important references; the absence of a single central body to plan the policy of Arabicization, in addition to the financial obstacles and the lack of speedy translation units to translate the latest in scientific developments; the lack of efforts in translating books, the lack of co-ordination of these efforts and the fact that the scientific terms were therefore not standardized; and the project had been implemented for only one year, which was not enough to trial it effectively and judge its success or failure.

### **2.1.3. The Royal Scientific Society**

The Royal Scientific Society was founded in Amman in 1970 and is considered one of the leading scientific institutions in Jordan. It includes several sections and centers involving elite groups of researchers and specialists. The Department of Scientific Culture in the Society has had a major role in scientific Arabicization, along with the Centre for Construction Research. The Society has contributed to the releasing of a number of school scientific books for The Ministry of Education in Jordan and in translating a number of scientific books for children. What follows is a review of its scientific effort in the process of translation and Arabicization.

The Department of Culture has issued a set of scientific books in Arabic at various levels in order to contribute to establishing a huge Arabic library which meets the ambitions of the nation in the cultural, intellectual and spiritual domains. Moreover, the Department has made great efforts in the Arabicizing of scientific books which contribute in the development process and it has launched several projects that help to achieve this goal.

Some of the most prominent projects are:

#### **The Project for the series of scientific studies and research**

It aims at building a library that meets the requirements of the social and cultural developments in the Arab world and issued fourteen books in Arabic between 1983 and 1986.

#### **The Project for the series of science and mathematics translation**

The publication of this project is divided into two sections.

A. This section is concerned with The British School Mathematics Project (SMP) which composed of five volumes by A.H. House. The purpose of translating it was to develop the teaching of mathematics in the preparatory and secondary levels. Some of the titles of these volumes issued by the Department are set out here.

B. The second section was concerned with Chemistry as an investigative approach. It is an American book in five chapters. The Society has issued the titles below. (The following are literal translations for the names of the original works.)

*Chemistry as an Investigative Approach*, translated by Jarias ArRihani 1986; *what is Chemistry?* Translated by Jarias ArRihani, 1982. *The Project of Scientific Reading Book for Children and Youth*. The project has issued thirty three books, seven of which are translated and twenty six are written in Arabic. Here are the literal translations of some

names of these books: *Straight, Parallel and Perpendicular Lines*, translated by Fahmi Othman, 1978; *Health and Disease*, translated by Nailah ArRahhal and Haithm Abu Raghieb, 1979; *Counting and Measuring*, Translated by Fahmi Othamn, 1979. *Oxygen and Life*, translated by Nailah ArRahhal, 1979; *Laser*, translated by Jerias Ar-Rihani; *Right Angles and Learning Geometry*, translated by Fahmi Othman, 1982; and *Blood*, Translated by Haitham Abu Raghieb.

It is noticeable that these translated books were interesting, and simplified to the appropriate levels for the purpose and contained an appropriate number of pages.

### **The Project of the series of mid-scientific and cultural books**

The project aims at simplifying science without compromising its accuracy and depth of meaning. The series has issued two books in Arabic.

### **The role of the Center of Construction Research in Arabicization**

This is one of the scientific centers of The Royal Scientific Society which aims at developing an advanced construction industry in Jordan by setting accurate, local and unified bases for those who deal with the construction industry. A national committee was set up by the Center of to translate national building codes into Arabic. Two groups have worked in translating the codes and translated approximately 32 of them, some of which are: *Prevention of Fire Code*, 1985; *Central Heating Code*, 1985; *Mechanical Ventilation and Air Conditioning Code*, 1988; *Prevention of Lightning Code*, 1988. *Interior lighting Code*, 1988; *Construction materials Code*, 1988; *Water Supply to Buildings Code*, 1988; *Steel Construction Code*, 1988; *Waste Code*, 1988; *Natural Lightning Code*, 1992; *Normal and Armed Arsenal Code*, 1993; *Fire Warning Code*; and *Shelters Code*, 1993.

### **2.1.4. The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research (Aal Al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought)**

This academy was established in 1980 under the name of “The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research (Aal Al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought)” by King Hussein Bin Talal, and commenced its activities in 1981. The institute is an autonomous international body, financially and administratively. The institute aims at spreading the knowledge of Islam and highlighting its enlightened aspects and ensuring that its purity is maintained.

Moreover, it also aims at presenting a modern integrated Islamic conception of the values and system of society, as well as anticipating future developments, to underscore Islamic veneration of the values of Aal Al-Bayt, and their contribution to history and to the building of Islamic civilization. It also promotes and enhances dialogue and cooperation among Islamic schools of thought (*madhahib*) bringing them closer to achieve a maximum *rapprochement*.

One of the projects and plans was to create *The Encyclopedia of Islamic Civilization* and facilitate the presentation of the Arab and Islamic heritage to non-specialists, intellectuals and youth.

The institute has issued a good number of books and catalogues which have been translated into English, including the following:

*Treatment of non-Muslims in Islam; Contemporary Social and Economic Conditions in Muslim World and the Process of Social Change*, Amman, 1984; *Problems of Research in Islamic Economics*, Amman, 1986; *Investment Strategy in Islamic Banking*, 1987; *A Guide to Photographs and Documents Pertaining to Jordan (1870-1975)*; *Religious Education and Modern Society*, Rome, 1989; *The Rights and Education of Children in Islam and Christianity*, 1990; *Women in Society According to Islam and Christianity*, 1992; *Nationalism Today: Problems and Challenges*, 1994; *Religion and the Use of the Earth's Resources*, 1996; *The Educational System in Islam and Christianity*, 1996; and *Education for Understanding and Co-operation*, 1994.

### **2.1.5. Ministries and governmental institutions**

Some governmental bodies concerned with translation include those which follow.

#### **The Ministry of Culture**

In the field of translation, the Ministry established a separate section for translation in 2008 but it was later closed. The Ministry has issued some books translated into Arabic and others translated into other languages. Here is the literal translation of some of the titles of these: *The philosophy of language*. 1995; *Area Works in the East of Jordan*, 2006; *The Art of the Actor and the Director: Lectures and Articles* 1996; *Songs of an Arab Prince - Selections from Abu Firas al - Hamdani Poetry*. Abu Firas al - Hamdani, 1988; *Selections translated from the poetry of Abu Tayeb Al Mutanabbi*, 1992; *Palestine in the Islamic Era*, 1970; *The Brink of Jordan*. Charles Johnston, 1970; *Greeks and Romans Myths*. 1976; *Throughout Jordan*, 1974, *Constantinople during the reign of Justinian*.



Glanville; *Westerners in the Arab Countries*, 1969; and *Between America and Palestine*, 1967.

### **The Ministry of Education**

Here are the literal translations of the titles of some of the translated books issued by this Ministry of Education: *Decimal Classification System*, 1975; *The Principles of Islam: Abu Ala Mawdudi*, 1980; and *Education and Art; Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1963.

**Other Ministries of Communication, Awqaf, Information, Health and Tourism** issued one translated work per each. The books are respectively as follows: *The Training Manual of ICIDL*; *The religion of all People: from the book of the Islamic Call*; *Britain and the Arabs: the need for a new beginning*; *Primary Health Care: Physician Advisor in the Management and Supervision*; and *Traditional housing in Jordan: Eima Village and Dhana and Khirbet An-Nawafleh*, 1993.

### **2.1.6. Jordanian universities**

In this section, some light will be shed on the biggest public universities in Jordan and their works.

#### **The University of Jordan**

It was founded in Amman in 1961 and has issued a number of translated books into Arabic (including the titles listed below which were translated literally): *Cultural Shift: comparative studies in newly industrialized countries*, 1979; *Israel's Population: the Challenge of Pluralism*, 1986; *Settlements and Borders: Israeli perceptions for a permanent solution*, 1996; *Introduction to Politics*, 1997; *Democracy and Security in the Case of Persistent Conflict*, 1996; *Radical Changes in Palestine 1856-1888: Studies on the Economic, Social and Political Development*, 1988; *Public Administration: a Comparative Perspective*, 1983; *Supervision on Teachers: A Guide to Improve Teaching*, 1993; *Analytical Tools for Sector Work in Education*, 1996; *Islamic Weights and their Equivalent in the Metric System*, 1970; *Gaia : A New Look for Life on Earth*, 1993; *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Attempts*, 1991; *Geography of Tourism and Leisure Time*, 1991; and *Jerusalem in History*, 1992.

#### **Yarmouk University**

It was founded in Irbid in 1975. Its Deanship of Scientific Research and Higher Education has published some translated books which include the following: *Behavior Analysis*, 1988; *Village between Growth and*

*Planning: Studies of the Jordan Valley*, 1990; *National Socialism in the Near East between the years 1933-1993*, 1996; *Basics of Measurement and Evaluation in the Teaching of Science*, 1985; and *Plaster Aramaic Inscription from Deir Alla* , 1997.

### **Mutah University**

This university was founded in Karak in 1986 as a National Institute for Higher Education. It has published some books in translation, including the following:

*Eima Village; Tafilah Province, a case study of a village in the south of Jordan.*

#### **2.1.7. The Jordanian Translators' Association (JTA)**

**The Jordanian Translators' Association (JTA)** is the first and the only Jordanian national professional association of translators and interpreters. It was established in November 1993 in Amman (Its main office is now in Irbid). Uptil that time there was no single national professional association, although there were several public and private professional bodies. JTA plans to have branches in the main cities of Jordan (i.e. Zerka, Kerak, and Al-Sult, among others). The affairs of JTA are controlled by its Administrative Board subject to its statute and any resolution passed by the Association at its General Annual Meeting. The JTA was admitted to the membership of the Arab Translators Federation in June 2001 and to the membership of **FIT** (the International Federation of Translators) in April 1998. Fifteen members, out of its eighteen founding members, are university professors whose specialization is in Linguistics and/or Translation. Currently, JTA has more than six hundred full-members, thirty- five associate members and twenty- five honorary members. The Association is a non-profit organization and has no political, regional, sectarian or tribal objectives.

The major objective of the association is the promotion of translation Arabicization and Arabic translation theories all over the world. Towards this end JTA has published academic and cultural books on translation such as '*Alam al-tarjamah* (in Arabic), *Issues in Translation* (in English), *Stories from World Literature* (in Arabic), *altarjama fi Khidmat al hadhara*(in Arabic), *Papers in Arabic – English Translation Studies*, *Studies in Translation* (in English, Arabic and French), and a refereed research journal, which is the official vehicle of **JTA**. The journal, entitled *Studies in Translation*, brings contributions from the international community of translation and interpretation, with a focus on Arabic language.

**The Association aims at the following:** to promote the importance and activate the practice of translation in Jordan from various languages into Arabic and vice –versa, so as to contribute to the development of the cultural movement on a national, Pan-Arab, and international basis; to elevate the quality standards of translation and interpretation in Jordan by framing and standardizing quality, and developing translators' and interpreters' professional efficiency; to exchange relevant translation and interpretation expertise and information, and to maintain close relations between members of the Association themselves on the one hand and between the Association and other similar associations on the other; to co-ordinate with the competent bodies to guarantee the professional rights of translators and interpreters; to train and prepare accredited translators and interpreters; and to provide official and non-official institutions with working expertise and counsel.

**The Association operates to maintain its purposes** by delivering lectures and holding seminars and conferences, monitoring educational programs, encouraging educational institutions, and providing public libraries and information centers with data about translation and translated wJTA has contacted individuals and institutions and formed committees to achieve the main goals of the Association; it has approached many governmental bodies (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Information, Universities etc.) as well as Diplomatic Corps to brief them on the activities of the association and its role in promoting translation and interpretation in the country, it has obtained subsidies for publishing the translated works of its members and the Ministry of Culture.

## **2.2. Private sector**

This section surveys the main contribution of the publishing houses, institutions, institutes, and private libraries in the translation movement in Jordan.

The role and breadth of these bodies range from private publishing houses; libraries; societies; cultural associations; research and study centers; translation offices and translation associations; religious, political, cultural, and administrative institutes; educational, medical, and cultural institutions; political, and administrative corporations and organizations to intellectual, cultural, and religious offices and institutions. These entities have contributed 751 translated books during the period 1921-2006, with numbers of publications distributed as follows:

Publishing houses: 594; libraries: 12; cultural societies and associations: 11; research and study centers: 28; translation houses and associations: 6; different institutions: 7; cultural institutions: 7; political and administrative corporations and organizations: 14; religious offices and institutions: 15; and different intellectual cultural institutions: 59. These works cover different fields of knowledge, with literary works at the top of the list.

### Private publishers

Below are tables of contributions from the private sector in the number of published works. The main source is Shunnaq and Sweirki (2008) (unpublished research in Arabic).

### Statistical tables

#### Contribution of the private sector in the field of translation

Table 1. Publishing houses

Publishing House	No. of Books	Publishing House	No. of Books	Publishing House	No. of Books
Al-Ahliyyah	115	Daaru l-Amal	3	Daar Jaad	1
Daaru l-Jalil	74	DaarHunayn	3	Daaru l-Bayariq	1
Markizu l-Kitaabi l-Urduni	65	Daaru l-Furqaan	3	Al-Jawharah	1
Daar Azminah	54	Daaru l-Kutub	3	Daaru d-Daleel l-Watani	1
Daaru l-Basheer	40	Daaru l-Kutbi	3	Shuqayrwa Ukashah	1
Daaru l-Fikr	23	Daaru l-Kindi	4	Daaru s-Sabaah	1
Baytu l-Afkaar d-Dawliyyah	22	Daaru l-Ibdaa'	2	Daaru s-Sabaah	1
Daaru l-Karmil	19	Daaru l-Jaahiz	2	Daaru d-Diyaa'	1
Daaru An-Nisr	16	Daar Majdalaawy	2	Daar Tabariyyah	1
Daaru l-Kitaabi l-Hadeeth	17	Daaru l-Madaa	2	Daar Ammar	1
Daaru Ath-	13	Daaru l-	2	Daaru l-	1

Thaqafah		Maseerah		Fadeen	
Daaru l-Hilaal	3	Daar n-Nagham	2	Al-Jawharah	1
Yanbou' l-Hayah	10	Daaru n-Nafaa's	2	Daar Philadelphia	1
Daar Manaarat	11	Daaru l-Yanabee'	2	Daaru l-Mustaqbal	1
Daaru l-Faaris	7	Daar Wael	2	Daar l-Yazuri	1
Daar Ibn Rushd	5	Daar Usamah	1	Daaru l-Mahd	1
Ad-Daaru l-Arabiyyah	5	Daar Ibn Khuldoun	1	Mu'assasat Amoun	1
Daar Qudsiyyah	5	Daar Amjad	1	Daar Nassar	1
Daaru Ash-Shuruq	28	Daar Noon	1	Daaru l-Manahij	3
Total					594

Table 2. Bookshops

Bookshop	No. of Books	Bookshop	No. of Books	Bookshop	No. of Books
Ash-Shabaab	4	Al-Manaar	1	Ar-Raed al-Ilmiyyah	1
Al-Aqsaa	3	Al-Hijaawi	1	Al-Kittani	1
Al-Muhtasib	1				
Total					12

Table 3. Cultural associations and societies

Association/ Society	No. of books
Jordanian Library Association	4
Jordanian Calligraphers Association	1
Jordanian Writers Society	14
Total	19



Table 4. Research and study centers

Center	No. of Books	Center	No. of Books
Jordan New Center for Studies	17	Scientific Center for Political Studies	2
Jineen Center for Strategic Studies	1	Training Center	1
French Cultural Center	1	Middle East Studies Center	1
Arab Center for Vocational Training	1	Al-Furqaan Cultural Center	1
Jordan Book Center	1	Jesus Center	1
Total			27

Table 5. Translation and association houses

House	No. of Books	House	No. of Books
Al-Amer Translation House	3	Al-Hammad Office	1
Jordanian Translators' Association	6	World Office for Translation	1
Total			11

Table 6. Different scientific institutions

Institute	No. of Books	Institute	No. of Books
Institute for Administration Development	2	Jordan Judicial Institute	1
Institute of Diplomacy	2	World Institute for Islamic Thought	1
World Watch	1		
Total			7

Table 7. Cultural institutions

Institution	No. of Books	Institution	No. of Books
Frederick Noman Institution	2	Rum Institution for Studies and Research	1
British Institution	1	Al-Taraf Scientific Institution	1

for Vocational and Commercial Education			
Khaldoun Institution	1	Abdul Hameed Sharaf Institution	1
Total			7

Table 8. Political and administrative corporations and organizations

House	No. of Books	House	No. of Books
Arab Institute for Administrative Sciences	11	Arab Jordanian Cooperative Organization	1
Palestine Liberation Organization	2		
Total			14

Table 9. Religious offices and organizations

Organization	No. of Books	Organization	No. of Books
Biblical Nasiriya Church	12	General Islamic Conference Office for Baytu l-Maqdis	1
The Catholic Press	1	Latin Patriarchy	1
Total			15

Table 10. Ideological and cultural institutions

Institution	No. of Books	Institution	No. of Books
UNICEF	5	Al-Karmil for Advertisement	5
Arab Thought Club	2	International Commerce Chamber	6
Danya International	3	General Consulate of the Denmark Kingdom	7
Commerce House for Publications	4	Computer City	8
UNICEF	9	Irbid Cultural Forum	10
Total			59

Table 11. Summary table showing the total contribution of private institutions in the translation movement

Publisher	No. of Books	Publisher	No. of Books
Publishing Houses	594	Different Scientific Institutions	7
Bookshops	12	Cultural Institutions	7
Cultural Societies and Associations	19	Political and Administrative Organizations	14
Research and Studies Centers	27	Religious Offices and Organizations	15
Translation Houses and Associations	11	Ideological and Cultural Institutions	59
Total			765

### 2.1.8. Prominent Jordanian translators

This section presents some prominent translators. It introduces some main figures in translation who rendered a remarkable service to the translation and Arabicization movement in Jordan. Due to difficulties in obtaining data about Jordanian figures in translation, the present work sufficed with the figures stated below. A form was addressed to the translators or their families to be filled about them with the following introduction: “A project funded by SRF aims to highlight the translation and Arabicization Movement in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The project is being conducted by an academic group at some Jordanian universities. The members of the group kindly request you to fill the form below, provide a picture and give them to the member who is interviewing you or send them to the main researcher (i.e. the present researcher). Below are some of the people the researchers managed to get information about (the order does not reflect any priority): Ahmad Se’dan, Ahmad Awedi Al Abadi, Abdul Kareem Abdul Rahman Khaleefah, Abdulmajeed Nusayer, Adil Ahmmad Jarrar, Amer Othman Smadi, Albert J. Butros, Ali Mohamad Odeh, Aref Ahmad Zghoul, Basem Ibraheem Al Zuo’bi, Ehsan Abbass, Fawwaz Abdel Haq, Jihad Hamdan, Shehdeh Fareh, Fayez Suyyagh, Hasan Sa’eed Alkarmi, Humam Bishara Ghassib. Ghazi Kamel Alsa’di, Hosni fariz, Isa Ibraheem Al Nao’ri, Ismail Abu Albadora, Jawdat Ahmad Al- Sa’d, Mahmoud Ahmed Ibrahim, Mahmoud Saif Aldeen Al Irani, Mohammad Asfour, Mohammed Ali Farghal, Mohammad Yousef Shaheen, Sa’eed Mustafa Al-Tal, Salah Mohammad Mahmoud Jarrar,

Sadeq Odeh, Salma Khadra Jaiyousi, Sulaiman Al Mousa, Yousef Bakar, Zuhair Mahmoud Alkarmi, and Abdullah Talal Shunnaq.

The above figures contributed a lot to both public and private sectors in translation and Arabicization in Jordan.

### **3. Conclusions and recommendations**

Having surveyed major activities of the translation and Arabicization movement in the public and private sectors in Jordan since the establishment of the Emirate in 1921 up to the year of 2013, the researcher would like to conclude with the following conclusions and recommendations.

#### **3.1. Conclusions**

1. The translation and Arabicization movement in Jordan is noticeably weak, as it is the case in many other Arab countries, which should be activated at all levels.
2. The persons who were interviewed expressed their dissatisfaction about the translation situation in Jordan and appealed to the public and private sectors to give utmost care to this scientific and cultural movement as it is a sign of the country's development.
3. Many translation offices and translators were not cooperative and refused to give information about their office or the nature of their work.
4. Not all translated books were deposited at the National Library in Amman and this of course added to the obstacles being faced by the researcher.
5. The situation of teaching translation and terminology at Jordanian public and private universities is not satisfactory.
6. Arabicization of university's textbooks was very poor.

#### **3.2. Recommendations**

The followings are recommended:

1. Establishing a national translation data bank in Jordan in cooperation with the competent translation public and private sectors to be accessible to all those interested in translation inside and outside Jordan. The bank can include data bases for documentation and information, statistical data on what has been translated in each Arab country every year;
2. calling upon public and private institutions in Jordan to give interest to translation as it is the cultural bridge between the Arab nation and the other nations and peoples of the world;

3. The Jordanian Translators' Association (JTA), which is accredited by Jordanian official bodies and the international ones, is an active association in translation which rightly deserves more attention and fund by the government to enable it of carrying out its tasks and responsibilities towards its country;
4. Organizing translation competitions to grant awards to prolific translators. Such encouragement, care and support must definitely help in improving the translation and Arabicization movement in Jordan;
5. Efforts of constantly updating different institutions concerned with translation and Arabicization should be reviewed;
6. Experts and correspondents on translation of Jordanian nationals living abroad as well as western orientalists should be approached to know their contributions in translation and to benefit from their western experience in the field of translation;
7. Giving interest to the publications of translation of the Jordanian bodies and calling upon public and private bodies in Jordan such as the ministries of Culture, Higher Education & Scientific Research, Arabic Language Academy, among others to give interest to such publications and support these publications financially and morally to assist the translation associations in carrying out their duties in the future;
8. Putting a translation plan about Jordan translation movement which completes the National Plan put by The Arab Organization for Education, Cultures and Sciences in 1995;
9. Honouring Jordanian pioneering translators for their great efforts they exerted in the field of translation and culture;
10. Completing Jordanian legislations and regulations that show the translator's rights and tasks, enhance his/ her role and protect his/her rights;
11. Calling on the Jordanian universities to develop field and theoretical research on Translation and to include language computer processing and machine translation courses in the teaching plans of Translation Departments;
12. Appealing to Jordanian universities who have translation programs to reconsider their plans to establish translation departments to award BA, MA, and PhD degrees in Translation Studies to satisfy the translation movement in the Arab world with qualified translators; and



13. Establishing new translation journals that publish research papers. The Journals should be refereed by distinguished professors in the field of translation.

It is hoped that this study fills a gap in the translation movement in Jordan and that further studies and research related to this topic would be carried out by other colleagues to promote translation and translation studies in Jordan and other Arab countries.

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