



Sudan University of Science and Technology
College of Postgraduate Studies
College of Languages



**Investigating the Difficulties Facing Students of Postgraduate Diploma at
University of Khartoum in Translating Preposition from Arabic into English**

تقصي الصعوبات التي تواجه طلاب الدبلوم العالي في الترجمة بجامعة الخرطوم في ترجمة
حروف الجر من اللغة العربية إلى اللغة الإنجليزية

**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for
M. A. Degree in English Language (Applied Linguistics)**

Submitted by:

Mohamed Mubarak Abuzaid Ali

Supervised by:

Dr. Tajelsir Hassan Bashoume



قال تعالى:

” ... يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١١﴾ ”

[سورة المجادلة]

“... Allah will raise up in ranks those who believed among you and those who have been given knowledge. And Allah is well-acquainted with what you do” (11)

[al-Mujaddalah]

I

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this piece of work to my parents, who have done their best, and sacrifice for the sake of us, and successfully shoulder the responsibility of bringing us up, lots of thanks go to them may Allah bless them. Also I would like to dedicate this work to my soul *Hadiyatallah* for her help and moral support.

I would like to express my deep indebtedness and profound thanks to my supervisor Dr. Bashoum for his patience and keen interest; he has exerted effort to complete this research with me but he could not due to his illness and Dr. Abbas Mukhtar for his help and cooperation. I thank my loving, tender parents who encourage me to arrive to this stage. Also, I would like to thank my sweetheart *Hadiyatallah* who stood beside me step by step towards success.

III

ABSTRACT

This study aims at investigating the difficulties facing the postgraduate diploma students in translation at University of Khartoum in translating the prepositions from Arabic Language into English Language; and that after the researcher observed the difficulties students are facing in translating the aforesaid prepositions which lead in the end to incorrect or mislead the translated meaning. The researcher has gone through Arabic Language and English Language preposition in details. The researcher assumed that the students are not aware of English Language preposition equivalent in Arabic Language, as he assumed that the first language (mother tongue) affects the students significantly and that the students makes errors in most of the prepositions. The researcher spots the light on eight prepositions.

يهدف البحث لتقصي الصعوبات التي تواجه طلاب الدبلوم العالي في الترجمة بجامعة الخرطوم في ترجمة حروف الجر من اللغة العربية إلى اللغة الإنجليزية وذلك بعد أن لاحظ الباحث وجود صعوبة في ترجمة الحروف والتي تتسبب عادة بانحراف في المعنى. وتناول الباحث حروف الجر في اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية بشيء من التفصيل، كما افترض الباحث عدم معرفة الطلاب المعرفة التامة بحروف الجر الإنجليزية وما يقابلها في اللغة العربية وافترض تأثير اللغة الأولى (الأم) على الطلاب بشكل واضح، إضافةً لافتراضه حدوث الأخطاء في أغلب حروف الجر، وسلط الباحث الضوء على ثمانية أحرف فقط من حروف الجر.

V

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Holy Quran Verse	I	
Dedication	II	
Acknowledgment	III	
Abstract (Arabic Version)	IV	
Abstract (English Version)	V	
Table of Contents	VI - VII	
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION		
1.0	Introduction	8

1.1	Statement of the Problem	9
1.2	Objectives of the Study	10
1.3	Significance of the Study	10
1.4	Questions of the Study	10
1.5	Hypotheses of the Study	11
1.6	Methodology of the Study	11
1.7	Limitation of the Study	11
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND RELATED STUDIES		
2.0	Introduction	12
2.1	Contrastive Analysis Between Arabic Language and English Language Prepositions	12
2.1.1	Preposition (on –Ala - على)	12
2.1.2	Preposition (From - min - من)	13
2.1.3	Preposition (like – as – Alkaf – الكاف)	14
2.1.4	Preposition (to – for - Allam - اللام)	14
2.1.5	Preposition (till – until – Hata – حتى)	14
2.2	Differences Between English and Arabic Prepositions (fii...in), (ala...on)	15
2.3	A Cross- linguistic Comparison Between English and Arabic Prepositional Systems	18
2.3.1	English Prepositional System	18
2.3.1.1	Forms of Prepositions in English Language	18
2.3.1.2	Functions of Prepositions in English	19
2.3.1.3	Usages of Prepositions in English	20
2.4	Arabic Prepositional System	27
2.4.1	Forms of Prepositions in Arabic Language	27
2.4.2	Functions of Prepositions in Arabic Language	30
2.4.3	Usages of Prepositions in Arabic	31
2.5	Review of Previous & Related Studies	35
2.5.1	The First Study	35
2.5.2	The Second Study	36

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY		
3.0	Introduction	38
3.1	Methodology of the Study	38
3.2	Sampling Techniques	38
3.2.1	The Study Population	38
3.2.2	Sampling of Population	38
3.2.3	Data Analysis Procedures	38

3.2.4	Validity of the Tool	39
3.2.5	Reliability of the Tool	39
3.3	Summary of the Chapter	39
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS		
4.0	Introduction	40
4.1	The Responses to the Diagnostic Test	40
4.2	Statistical Reliability	40
4.2.1	Alpha-Cranbach Coefficient	40
4.3	Statistical Reliability and Validity for student's test	41
4.4	Question One	42
4.5	Question Two	43
4.6	Question Three	44
CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATION, FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE STUDIES, SUMMARY AND REFERENCES		
5.0	Introduction	47
5.1	Conclusion	47
5.2	Recommendations	47
5.3	Findings of the study	47
5.4	Suggestions for future studies	48
5.5	Summary	48
5.6	References	48