

**Economic Performance
of the Arabic Translation Industry
in Saudi Arabia**

Final Report

Pr. Mamdouh ALKHAIB

Department of Economics
College of Administrative Sciences
King Saud University
Riyadh
E-mail:khatibm@ksu.edu.sa

August 2005

Executive summary

1 : Introduction

1-1 : Study objectives

1-2 :Time frame and data resources

1-2-1 :Data collected from books and previous studies

1-2-2 :Data collected through questionnaires

1-2-2-1: Experts, translators and academics questionnaire

1-2-2-2: Private publishers questionnaire

1-3 : Methodology

1-4 : Difficulties

2 : Quantitative analysis of Arabic translation industry

2-1: Arabic translated books trend

2-2: Arabic translated books distribution according to main sciences

2-2-1: Social sciences

2-2-2: Humanities

2-2-3: Applied sciences

2-2-4: General knowledge

2-2-5: Pure sciences

2-2-6: Literature books

2 -3 :Original translation languages

3 - Description of Arabic translation Industry

3-1: Main supplier actors of Arabic translation industry

3-2: Geographic Location of Arabic translation industry

3-3 ; Trend and structure of Arabic translation industry production

3-4 :Arabic translation industry description throughout questionnaires

3-4 -1: Description based on experts questionnaires

3-4-2: Description based on publishers questionnaires

4 - Performance of the Arabic translation Industry

5 – Arabic Translation industry obstacles

5-1 :Education and administrative obstacles

5-2 Technical obstacles

5-3 Economic and social obstacles

6 - Recommendations to promote Arabic Translation Industry

6-1 :General recommendations

6-2: Recommendations on national Saudi economy level

6-3: Recommendations on Arabic level

6-4: Recommendations for the World Bank

Appendix A: Tables

Table 1:Activities of the Translation Industry (Value Chain) covered by the study

Table 2: Number of Interviews for the translation industry of Arab Countries

Table 3:Economic Importance of the Translation Industry in Selected Arab Countries

Appendix B : Questionnaire of experts, translators and academicians

Appendix C: Questionnaire of publishers

Executive summary:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Arabian Peninsula. Saudi Arabia is not only the largest producer and exporter oil but also it has the largest oil reserve in the World. The economic development of the country depends in a large part on the oil revenues that fluctuate severely in function of the oil market components (supply, demand and market structure). The economic growth was very fast during the oil prices boom, and was accompanied with significant and fast changes in the economic structure, the society, the education and the environment of the country. During the last decades, Saudi Arabia has realized an important economic development. Nowadays, oil prices observe a spectacular record Saudi Arabia, is expected to live another oil and development boom.

Saudi Arabia has a special importance in the Arabian and Muslim countries. The presence of the two holy mosques affects clearly the public environment and culture. Millions of Muslims visit Saudi Arabia every year to accomplish the pilgrimage and the alomrat

English is the second language in Saudi Arabia after the native Arabic language. Also, English is obligatory learned in the different education levels (elementary, intermediate, secondary and university). The system of education is based on the English language, but in different intensities. In some universities (like King Saud University and King Abdulaziz University) medicine, dentistry, engineering, pharmacy and computer sciences are lectured exclusively in English. Other fields like law, economy, agriculture, literature, physics, mathematics, accounting etc. are lectured in Arabic. King Fahad University learns all sciences and disciplines in English. By consequence, the need to translate books to Arabic is not the same from a field to another. Students studying for example medicine or pharmacy do not need to read Arabic translated books in their disciplines because they do not have any difficulties to read English books and references.

The public administration has to use officially the Arabic language for secretary and correspondence needs. The closed relationships of the Saudi public administration with external world imply that some reports, studies, annual reports, development plans, publications, statistical yearbooks, etc. must be written in English and/or Arabic. Many publications were translated to Arabic or to English by the translators of the public administration. For examples, the annual reports of Saudi Arab Monetary Agency (SAMA), the development plans of the Ministry of economy and planning, many publications of the Supreme Commission for Tourism and the General Commission for Investment are published in English and Arabic.

The public sector participates actively in the translation activities. The Saudi universities support the Arabic translation industry in different ways. First, some universities like King Saud University has a college for Languages and Translation. Second, the Arabic translation is considered in the requisite credits to get a promotion of the teaching staff in the Universities. Third, most of the Saudi universities contain a Translation Center organizing the publishing of Arabic translated books in different sciences. Some ministries and public institutes have also great efforts in the translation activities (Public Administration Institute for example).

Most of the of the private sector companies like banks, supermarkets, tourism agencies and airlines agencies use English in their accounting, administration, transaction and correspondence. The medical sector like public hospitals, private hospitals, medical centers, pharmacies, etc. also use English as first language. For that, translation efforts are very necessary if these institutions deals with the public administration or the private sector that use Arabic language only.

The importance of the oil sector in the economy of Saudi Arabia, led a small importance to the industry and a very small importance to the Arabic translation industry. For this reason, the contribution of the Arabic translation industry in the economic activities is low. The economic openness policy followed by Saudi Arabia, permits to the translated books published in some Arab countries like Lebanon to inflow inside the country. The high costs of printing and publishing in Saudi Arabia compared to the competitive costs in the other Arab countries accentuates also the inflow of the imported Arabic translated books.

The labor activities of the Arabic translated books industry like the labor activities in the other sectors of the industry, are dominated by the foreign labor force. Furthermore, many translators in the Saudi universities and centers are also non Saudis. It is very difficult to estimate the part of the Saudi or the foreign translators to the total translation activities in Saudi Arabia. In fact, "guest workers" in Saudi Arabia play an important role in the economy in general and in the industry in particular.

The private sector of the Arabic translation industry is very concentrated. Only, a few private publishers allow the Arabic translated books a moderate importance in their activities. Jarir, Obeikan and Mars publishers are the most important private publishers of the Arabic translated books in Saudi Arabia.

During the period 1955-2004, the number of Arabic translated books is about 1260 books. The annual average of the Arabic translated books is about 52 books. This average is greater than other Arabic countries like Syria and Egypt, but it is very low compared to the number of books translated from English, in other countries like Russia, Japan, and Greece. Regarding the size of the economy, the number of the population, the magnitude of GDP per capita and the role of public education sector, the average number of Arabic translated books is Saudi must be greater than the mentioned figure.

To promote Arabic translation industry, divers measures can be taken in Saudi Arabia: adoption of a clear strategy for translation in the national level, integration of the national strategy with an Arabic level strategy for translation, offering public support and subsidies for translation industry, allowing translation activities more importance for the staff universities promotion, giving more importance to the subjects of translated books, reducing public administrative control, simplifying formalities for publishing translated books and protection of the Property Right for translators and publishers.

1 : Introduction

In the last few years, the World assists in un-preceded explosion in knowledge, information and data in the different languages. This explosion was accompanied with the innovation of new tools to transfer these information and knowledge from a language to others in a very high speed.

The Arab World needs to assimilate this huge volume of knowledge in the mother tongue and appoints it to develop the Arab societies. The Arab World stands outside the knowledge stream isolated from what happens in the world. Facing the critical shortage in the knowledge, requires local and national efforts in Arabic translation to make a jump in quality and quantity of the Arabic translation books and exploit information technology to overcome this shortage. The gap between Arab societies and developed countries is a knowledge gap before being economical or technical gaps.

Any scientific, cultural and social revival must be accompanied with a broad Arabic translation activities. Arabic translation take off in the Arab World needs to evaluate the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the Arabic translation activities, analyzing obstacles of their development and extract recommendations to improve and enhance this industry. This study of Arabic translation in Saudi Arabia represents an integral part of similar researches in Egypt, Morocco, Syria and Lebanon. The results of these researches can be used as guidelines to investigate similar studies for other Arab countries. The World Bank supports these studies to evaluate the performance of Arabic translations industry in the Arab World.

1-1 : Study objectives:

This study aims to describe the Arabic translation industry in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from its establishment in 1930 until 2004. In other words, the description of Arabic Translation activities in Saudi Arabia covers theoretically a period of 75 years. But because the starting of the Arabic translation activities were in 1955, the period covered by this study will be reduced to 1955-2004 (50 years) by excluding the period 1930-1954. This description attempts also to restrict the number of published translated books and their distribution according to some criteria like publication year, publication location, original languages, topics of translated books and publishers¹. Special attention will be done to the Arabic translation industry by focusing in supply, demand and market structure of this industry. The study aims also to determine the obstacles facing the translation industry in Saudi Arabia.

By analyzing Arabic translation activities in Saudi Arabia, the study aims to conclude some recommendations to help the efforts of the World Bank to develop and enhance the Arabic translation industry in the Arab World.

¹ - The term Arabic translated books (or translated books) means in all this study , books translated to Arabic language from other languages in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

1-2 :Time frame and data resources:

This study covers a the period from 1955 to 2004. It is based on two methodologies of collecting data and information:

- Collecting statistical information, (from previous studies, directories of libraries, publications etc..) to describe the translation activities in Saudi Arabia: number of Arabic translated books, topics, publishers and years of publication.
- Collecting data, information and opinions through questionnaires prepared for this purpose.

1-2-1 :Data collected from books and previous studies:

Unfortunately, no accurate, authorized and published data of Arabic translated books are available in Saudi Arabia. Because of the shortage of information, this study depends on approximated data collected from two principal sources:

- The first source covered the period 1955 -1991. The data collected for this period depend on a previous study prepared by Mrs. Norah Saleh Alnaser as a thesis of Master Degree from Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University. This study was entitled "Study of Translation Fact in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" and published later as a book entitled: "Books' Translation to Arabic language in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: A Bibliometric study"

Alnaser's study counted the number of translated books without accurate criteria classification. In our study, we spent great efforts to categorize and classify the translated books according to some meaningful criteria to get a useful description for the translation activities in Saudi Arabia.

- The second source of data for the translated books in Saudi Arabia covers the period 1992 – 2004. The data are collected through individual, hard and long research to complete and update the data obtained from the first source.

Data and information about Arabic translated books are collected from the directories of some public libraries (King Fahad National Library, King Saud University Library). In addition some lists issued from publishers in Saudi Arabia about their translated books are used to update the previous data.

The researcher of this study depends on the directories of books deposited in King Fahad National Library in Riyadh. These directories include all the books translated into Arabic from all different languages, then the books translated outside the kingdom separated from books translated inside and classified according to topics, years, publishers and publisher' s location in the Kingdom.

Located in Riyadh, King Fahad National Library is considered as the National Library in Saudi Arabia. All published books in Saudi Arabia should get an ISBN number from this library before their publication and distribution in Saudi markets. Copies of each published book should be provided to this library to get the permission of printing, publishing and distributing. In this way, most (if not

all) of the books published in Saudi markets are registered in King Fahad National Library. Furthermore, the directory of King Fahad National Library is automatically updated.

In addition to King Fahad National Library lists, other lists from some publishers and publication centers are used. An accurate revision for these lists was done to prevent duplication from other sources (until the end of 2004).

Major difficulties were faced during data collection due to the absence of a unique and complete bibliographic list for the Arabic translated books in Saudi Arabia. We can say that, data collection and classification process can be described as personal efforts to provide the research with the necessary statistical data to accomplish the quantitative analysis.

Despite that, we believe that, all Arabic translated books in Saudi Arabia is not perfectly estimated in our study; we believe also that our data is underestimated of not more than 20% of the total number of translated items.

1-2-2 : Data collected through questionnaires:

Two types of questionnaires were prepared to serve the study purposes:

1-2-2-1:Experts, translators and academics questionnaire:

This questionnaire starts with general questions to detect job, site of work, major activities, the educational degree and specialization of the respondent.

The overall appraisal of translation activities (from the respondent point of view) are determined by questions with five digits Likert scale. The questionnaire aims to analyze the following aspects of the Arabic translation activities:

- The effect of some factors related to Arabic translated books like prices, market's size, quality, style weakness, topics, translator economic return, IPR expenses, publication difficulties, absence of supporting sectors and readers attention on translation activity.
- The major group readers concerned in buying translated books (school students, university students, general readers, and researchers)
- Translator motivations (educational, promotional, income revenue and celebrity or prestige motivations)
- Publishers' motivations (income revenue, educational, market size and products diversification).
- Factors acting as barriers in translation to Arabic (low revenue for publisher and translator, lower number of readers, administrative publication procedures, absence of foreign partnership, high IPR costs, copyright opportunity of the translated books, absence of governmental support and difficulties in finding the scientific terms).
- Topics of Arabic translated books that interest readers.

- Factors improving translation activities in Saudi Arabia (governmental support, increasing the market size, opening the external markets, reducing control and administrative publication procedures.)

(A copy of this questionnaire is annexed in the appendix B)

1-2-2-2: Private publishers questionnaire

This questionnaire contains the eight following major sections:

- General information: firm classification, general activity, year of establishment, number of employees, capital, productivity, volume and growth sales during the last five years.
- Economic performance of the firm: change in sales value, market share, number of employees, profits, exports, credit loans, number of translated and sold books between 2003 and 2004, and the effect of this change in firm's economic performance.
- Supply side: average number of employees, labor (current and by the end of 2004) .The percentage distribution of low, medium, high skilled labor .The percentage distribution of medium and top management.). Problems faced in finding different labor skills, labor training, sectors financing labor training. The finance problems in the firm are also detected: sufficiency, volume, source, reasons of choosing these sources, own debt ratio, evaluation of expense quality for the supportive services, and effect of different supply factors on the firm's economic performance.
- Demand side : target customers, internal demand sufficiency, external demand for the translated books, percentage of exported translated books, reasons to export (or not to export) of translated books, main factors affecting translated books demand and to what extent this factors affect the firm's economic performance.
- The contribution of supporting industries as well as their effect on firm's performance: educational companies, economic and trade newspapers, local institutions collecting and classifying data of translated books and advertising companies.
- Firm's strategies: translation competitions, presence of restrictions for new firms entrance to the translation markets, market share for foreign firms, major firm's concern in the last two years, firm's fields restructured periodically, IPR strategy and strategic problems in the firm.
- Governmental policies: governmental supports and procedures effect on the translation production.
- Expectations for the next two years: market share, sales size, profits, employees' number, product mix and internal and external market growth and the long-term outlook for the firm.

(A copy of this questionnaire is annexed on the appendix C)

1-3 : Methodology

The methodology of this study is based on two approaches. The first is a descriptive approach that analyzes the literature review and the previous studies of the Arabic translation activities in Saudi Arabia. It focuses on collecting data and information of Arabic translated books in Saudi Arabia then classified them according to certain criteria. The second approach is analytic, it aims to analyze the collected data from questionnaires distributed to experts, academics and publishers. The SPSS software is used to analyze the collected information. The first type of questionnaire is distributed and supported by personal interview. The number of questionnaires collected is about 32, while the number of the second type of questionnaire is only three. Most publishers refused to fill the questionnaire and to give any information about their activities.

1-4 : Difficulties

The study of Arabic translation industry in Saudi Arabia faced the following difficulties:

- Difficulties in obtaining relevant data about Arabic translated books in Saudi Arabia: number, classification according to subject, publishing date, publishers, publishing location, etc. In fact, there is no accurate bibliographic list for the Arabic translated books in the past. In addition, there is no unique responsible organization to coordinate, organize and enhance translation activities in the Kingdom.
- Difficulties of obtaining information from private publisher sector. The private publishers were not cooperative in providing useful information about finance, labor, projects, strategies, profits, exports, and costs. Most of them refused to fill questionnaire. They considered these information as confidential to maintain profit and competition in the market.
- Limitation of the private and public organizations participated in translation activities. In fact, the efforts of Arabic translation activities can be mostly described as individual and random.

2 : Quantitative analysis of Arabic translation industry

To evaluate Arabic translation activities, this study is based mainly on data and statistics of Arabic translated books in the studied period. To facilitate the analysis, Arabic translated books are divided into the following main groups (table 1):

- Social sciences divided into the following sub-groups: sociology, economy, political sciences, law, public administration, military sciences, education and instructions, commerce, mores and tradition.
- Applied sciences divided into the following sub-groups: medicine, engineering, agricultural, business administration and accounting.
- Pure sciences divided into the following sub groups: general pure sciences, mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology, zoology and botany.
- Literature divided into the following sub groups: letters and criticism studies, novels, poems, kids' stories, theaters and literature biographies.

- General knowledge divided into the following sub groups: scientific research, data analysis, computer sciences, bibliography, information and library sciences.
- Humanity sciences divided into the following sub groups: psychology, new philosophy, moral, biography, religions, languages, arts, sports, archeology, history and geography.

Table 1: Sciences' main groups and their sub-groups.

Social sciences	Applied sciences	Pure sciences	Literature	General knowledge	Humanity Sciences
Society	Medicine	General Pure sciences	Letters and criticism studies	Scientific research	History
Economy	Agriculture	Mathematic	Novels	Data analysis	Geography
Politics	Engineering	Physics	Poems	Bibliography	Archeology
Law	Business administration	Chemistry	Theaters	library science	Biography
General administration	Accounting	Geology	Kids' stories	Information	Moral
Military		Zoology	Literature biographies	Computer science	Psychology
Education and instructions		Botany			New philosophy
Mores and traditions					Religions
Commerce					Languages
					Arts
					Sports

2-1: Arabic translated books trend

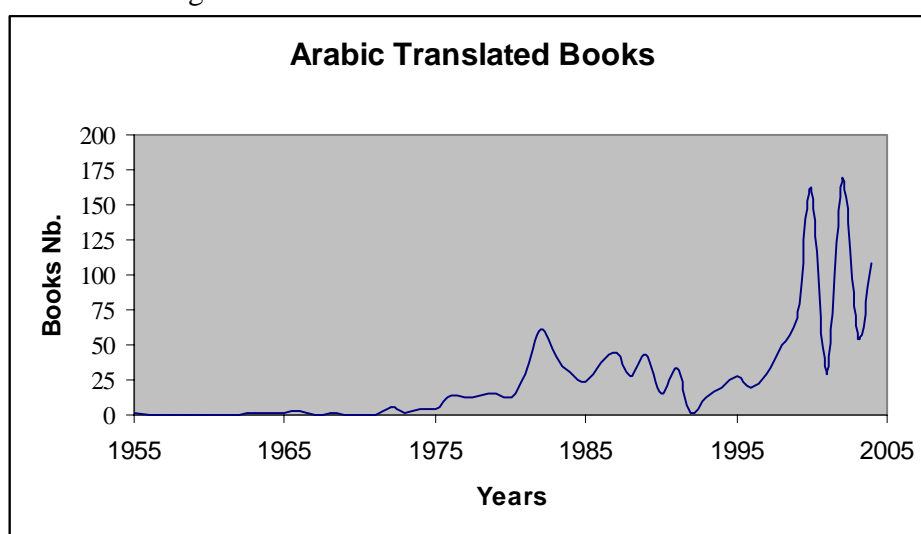
Table (2), shows the Arabic translated books' distributions, according to mains and sub-mains groups. The total number of Arabic translated books in Saudi Arabia during the period 1955-2004 reaches 1260 book. Considering the long period covered by this study, which is 75 years, this number can be qualified as "moderate" compared with the number of Arabic translated books in some Arab countries or with other foreign countries.

Table 2: Arabic translated books distribution in Saudi Arabia from 1955 to 2004.

Years	Number of Arabic translated books	Years	Number of Arabic translated books	Years	Number of Arabic translated books
1930-1954	0	1974	4	1992	1
1955	1	1975	4	1993	13
1956-1962	0	1976	14	1994	19
1963	1	1977	12	1995	28
1964	1	1978	14	1996	20
1965	1	1979	15	1997	29
1966	3	1980	13	1998	50
1967	0	1981	29	1999	70
1968	2	1982	61	2000	163
1969	0	1983	41	2001	29
1970	0	1984	31	2002	170
1971	0	1985	23	2003	56
1972	5	1986	37	2004*	109
1973	1	1987	44		
		1988	28		
		1989	43		
		1990	15		
		1991	33		
		Undated	27		
Total	15		488		757

- Note that 12 books are translated in the beginning of 2005 by Mars House Publisher, this number is added to 2004, because the public directories do not cover the Arabic translated books of 2005.

Fig.1: Arabic Translated Books trend 1955-2004



The annual average of the Arabic translated books over the period 1955-1979 is 3.12 books , 33.17 books over 1980-1991, 58.23 books over 1992-2004, and 25.2 books for all the period 1955-2004. These averages include all translated books to Arabic by different governmental sectors (commissions, universities, institutions, ministries and research centers), individuals and private publishers.

These numbers indicate also the weakness of translation activities in Saudi Arabia that can be considered as individual experiences or random efforts more than planned activities. Therefore, the translation process has no standards, criteria, or plans except the case of some private publishers like Mars, Jarir and Obeikan Bookshops.

A quick look at table 2 shows that the first translation work was in 1955 (25 years after the Kingdom establishment).The big change in number of translated books was in 1976 which became 14 books instead of 4 in 1975. This period was the beginning of economic boom, associated with high petroleum income and quick economic growth.

If we consider the year 1955, as the beginning of Arabic translation activity in Saudi Arabia then, the translation activity is distributed over only 50 years. Therefore, the average number of translated books is about 25 books per year, and 2 books per month that is also very small according to endowments, population and economic size of the Kingdom.

The following remarks can be concluded from table 2:

- The first Arabic translated book in Saudi Arabia was in 1955.
- The maximum number of Arabic translated books per year was 170 book in 2002.
- The number of translated books exceeded 50 books in the years: 1982, 1998-2000, 2002, 2004.
- There was a high fluctuation in books translation activities in the Kingdom. In other words, there is no clear trend of the translation products, but the variation from year to other was widely important.
- About 805 books were translated during the period 1990 - 2004 that represent 64% from the total number of translated books in Saudi Arabia.

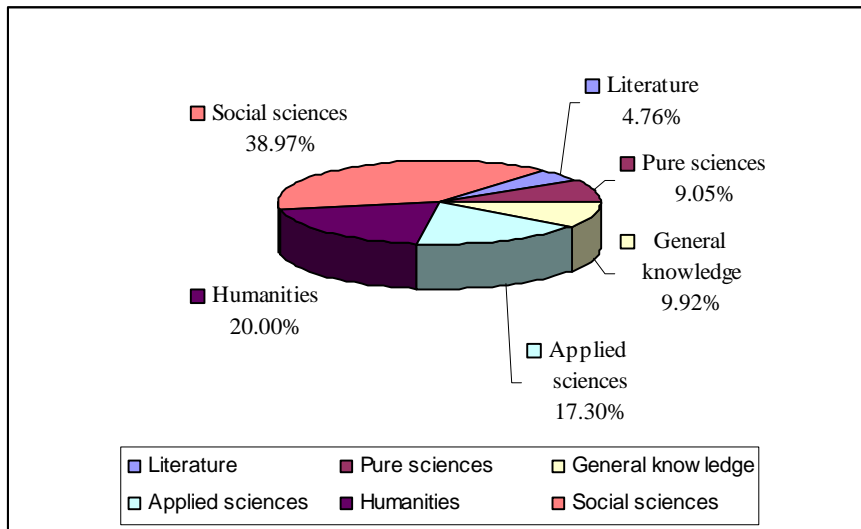
2-2: Arabic translated books distribution according to main sciences

Table 3 shows that the number of Arabic translated books according to main sciences and its percent distribution during the period 1955-2004 in Saudi Arabia:

Table 3: Arabic Translated books distribution according to main sciences.

Sciences main groups	Number of translated books	Percent (%)
Literature	60	4.64
Pure sciences	114	9.05
General knowledge	125	9.92
Applied sciences	218	17.3
Humanities	252	20
Social sciences	491	38.97
Total	1260	100

Fig. 2: Arabic Translated books distribution according to main sciences.



From table 3, the total number of translated books was 1260. About 38.97% from the translated books were in social sciences (491 books), 20% in humanities (252 books), 17.3% in applied sciences (218 books), 9.92% in general knowledge (125 books), 9.05% in pure sciences (114 books) while only 4.76% from the translated books were in literature (60 books).

Each science main group contains several sub- groups that can be described as follows:

2-2-1: Social sciences

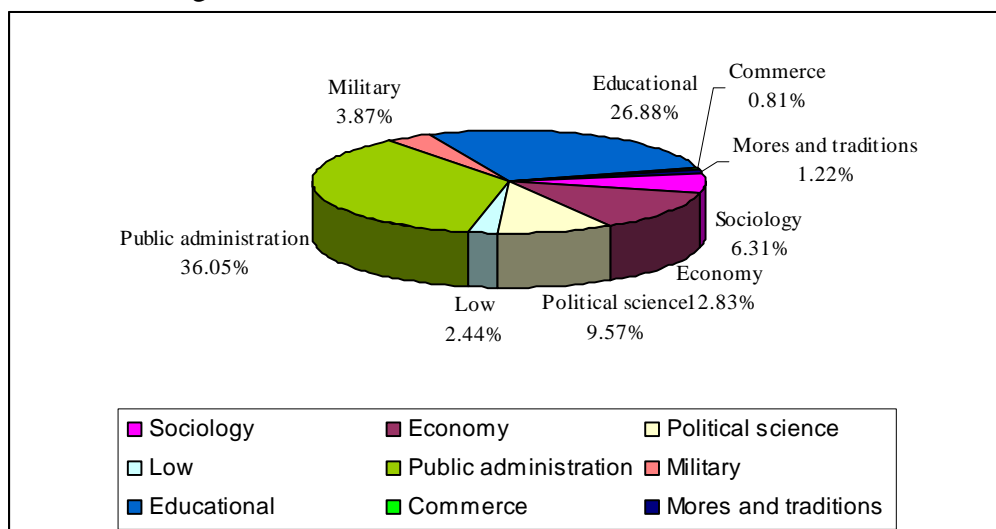
The social sciences occupied the first rank between the other sciences in the number of books translated to Arabic language. About 39% from all translated books were in this field this equals to 491 books.

The number of translated books in public administration was 177 books, which represent 36.05% from social sciences translated books and 14.05% from the total number of translated books. The books in education come in the second rank with 132 translated books representing 26.88% from social science translated books and 10.47% from the total number of translated books. Moreover, books in economy come in the third rank with 63 translated books that represent 12.83% from social sciences translated books and 5% from the total number of translated books.

Table 4 : Number and distribution of social sciences translated books

Social Sciences sub-groups	Number of translated books	% of social sciences translated books	%of total translated books
Sociology	31	6.31	2.46
Economy	63	12.83	5
Political science	47	9.57	3.73
Low	12	2.44	0.95
Public administration	177	36.05	14.05
Military	19	3.87	1.51
Educational	132	26.88	10.47
Commerce	4	0.82	0.32
Mores and traditions	6	1.23	0.48
Total	491	100	38.97

Fig.3: Distribution of Social Sciences Arabic Translated Books



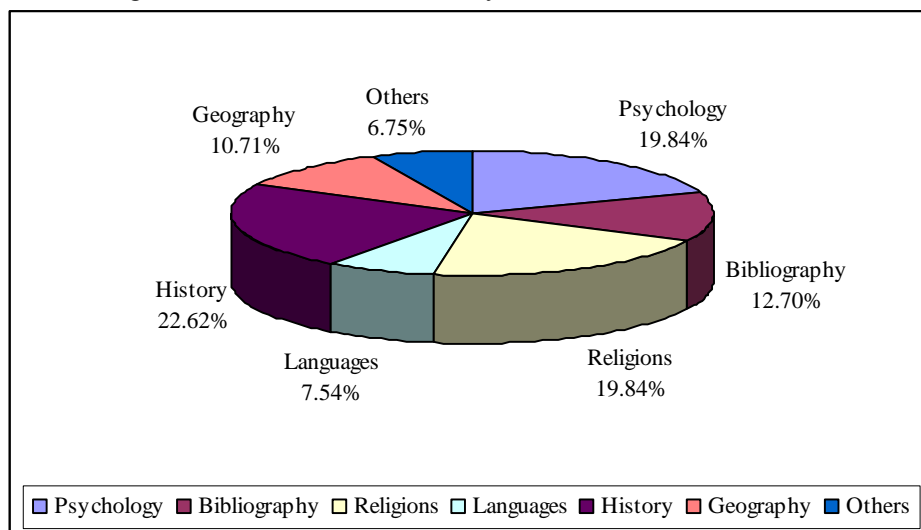
2-2-2: Humanities

Humanity books come in the second rank after social science books. The total number of books translated in humanity field reaches 252 books representing 20% from total translated books. 57 books that represent 22.62% from humanity translated books and 4.52% from the total number of translated books were in history while the religions and psychology books come in the second rank with 50 books each representing 19.84% from books translated in humanities and 3.97% from all translated books. The bibliographies books come in the third rank with 32 books representing 12.7% from books translated in humanities and 2.54% from all translated books.

Table 5: Number and distribution of humanity sciences translated books

Humanity sciences	Number of translated books	%of humanity sciences	%of total translated books
Psychology	50	19.84	3.97
Moral science	1	0.4	0.08
Philosophy	5	1.98	0.4
Archeology	3	1.19	0.24
Bibliography	32	12.7	2.54
Religions	50	19.84	3.97
Languages	19	7.54	1.5
Arts	4	1.59	0.32
Sports	4	1.59	0.32
History	57	22.62	4.52
Geography	27	10.71	2.14
Total	252	100	20

Fig.4: Distribution of Humanity Sciences Translated Books



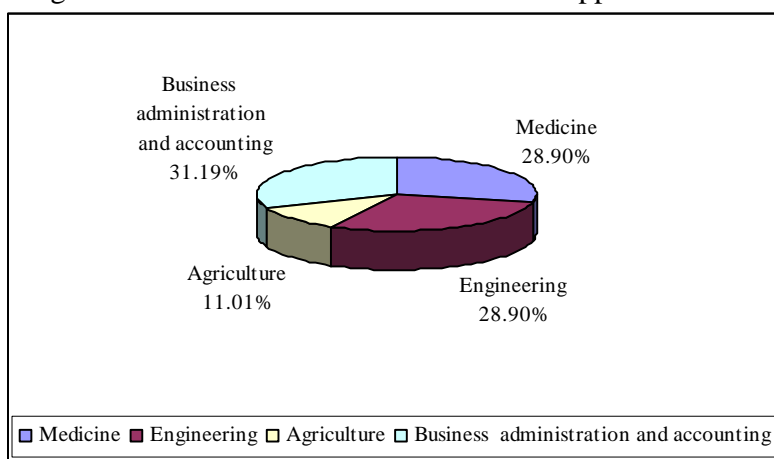
2-2-3: Applied sciences

The number of books translated in applied sciences reaches 218 books representing 17.3% from the total number of translated books (table 6). More specifically, the number of books in business administration and accounting translated to Arabic language were 68 this equals to 31.19% from translated books in applied sciences and 5.39% from the total number of translated books. The number of books translated in medicine and engineering was the same (63 books each) this represents about 28.9% from applied sciences translated books and 5% from the total number of translated books in Saudi Arabia. Translated books in agriculture come in the third rank (24 books) with 11.01% from applied science translated books and only 1.91 % from the total number of translated books.

Table 6: Number and distribution of books translated in applied sciences

Applied science branches	Number of translated books	% from applied science	% from total translated books
Medicine	63	28.9	5
Engineering	63	28.9	5
Agriculture	24	11.01	1.91
Business administration and accounting	68	31.19	5.39
total	218	100	17.3

Fig.5: Distribution of Books Translated in Applied Sciences



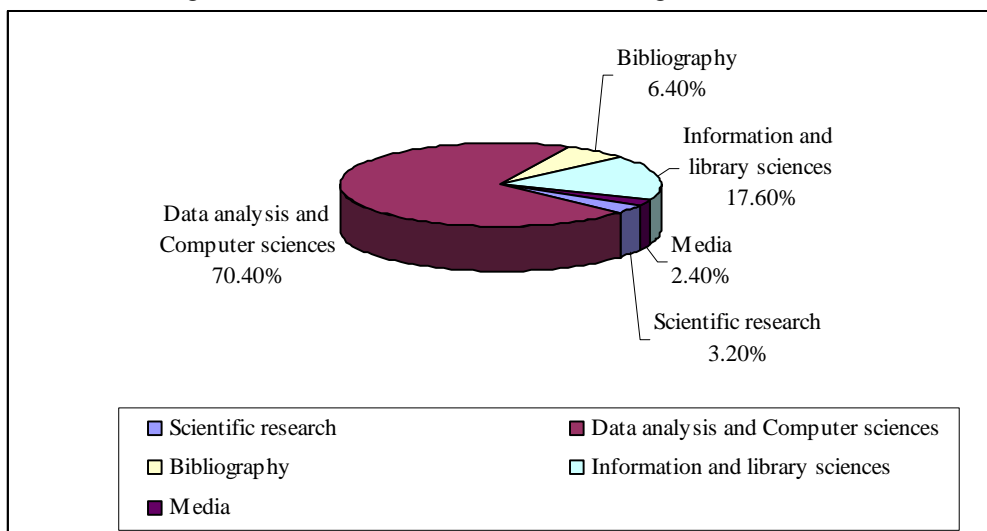
2-2-4: General knowledge

The total number of general knowledge books translated to Arabic language reaches 125 books (table 7). The majority of these books were in data analysis and computer sciences that reach 88 translated books representing about 70.4% from books translated in general knowledge and 6.98% from the total number of translated books. Moreover, 22 books translated in information and library sciences representing 17.6% from books translated in general knowledge and 1.75% from the total number of translated books. Bibliographic translated books come in the third order with 8 books only this make 6.4% from general knowledge translated books and 0.63% from the total number of translated books.

Table 7: Number and distribution of general knowledge translated books

General knowledge branches	Translated books number	% from general knowledge	% from total translated books
Scientific research	4	3.2	0.32
Data analysis and Computer sciences	88	70.4	6.98
Bibliography	8	6.4	0.63
Information and library sciences	22	17.6	1.75
Media	3	2.4	0.24
Total	125	100	9.92

Fig.6: Distribution of General Knowledge Translated Books



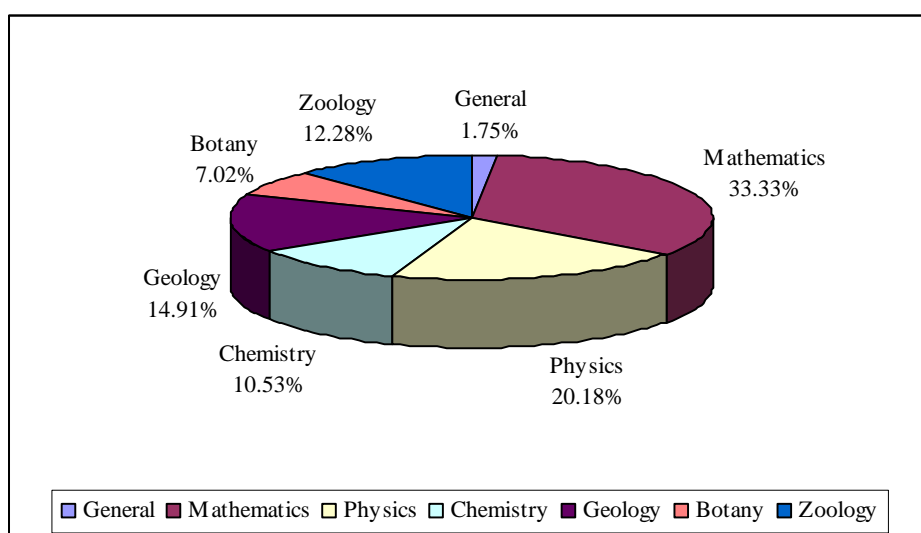
2-2-5: Pure sciences

The total books number translated to Arabic language in this field was 114 that represent about 9.05% from total books translated in all sciences. Mathematics translated books come in the first rank with 38 books this make 33.33% from pure sciences translated books and 3.02% from the total number of translated books. Physics books come in the second rank with 23 books making 20.18% from pure sciences translated books and 1.83% from the total number of translated books. The third rank occupied by translated books is in geology with 17 books representing 14.91% from pure sciences translated books and 1.35% from the total number of translated books.

Table 8: Number and distribution of pure sciences translated books

Pure science branches	Number of translated books	% from pure science	% from total translated books
General	2	1.75	0.16
Mathematics	38	33.33	3.02
Physics	23	20.18	1.83
Chemistry	12	10.53	0.95
Geology	17	14.91	1.35
Botany	8	7.02	0.63
Zoology	14	12.28	1.11
Total	114	100	9.05

Fig.7: Distribution of Pure Sciences Translated Books



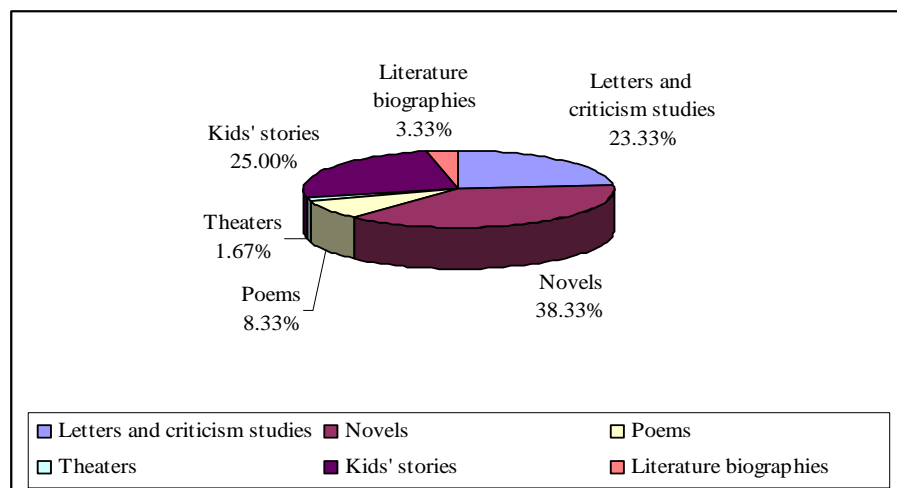
2-2-6:- Literature books

The total number of books translated in Literature equals to 60 books this represent 4.76% from the total number of translated books in Saudi Arabia. 23 books from the 60 translated were in novels, this represent 38.33 % from Literature books translated to Arabic language and 1.83% from the total number of translated books. Kids' stories come in the second rank with 15 books these represent 25% from Literature translated books and 1.2% from the total number of translated books. Number of books translated in letters and criticism studies were 14 books representing 23.33% from translated Literature books and 1.11% from the total number of translated books to Arabic.

Table 9: Number and distribution of literature translated books

Literature branches	Number of translated books	% from letters translated books	% from total translated books
Letters and criticism studies	14	23.33	1.11
Novels	23	38.33	1.83
Poems	5	8.34	0.4
Theaters	1	1.67	0.08
Kids' stories	15	25	1.19
Literature biographies	2	3.33	0.15
Total	60	100	4.76

Fig.7: Distribution of Literature Translated Books



2-3 :Original translation languages

No reliable information about translated books' original languages are available (for all books and products estimated) due to the absence of clear and particular databases. However, we are almost sure that more than 95% from translated books are translated from English to Arabic language. While the rest 5% is distributed between French, Germane, Russian , Urdu and other languages.

3 - Description of Arabic translation Industry

To analyze the structure of the Arabic translation activities, statistical information related to the number of translated books and their distribution according to publishers can be used. This distribution give a clear description to the supply side of the market of translated books. First, the period 1955-2004 is analyzed to describe the structure and the concentration of the industry. Second, the data related to the period 1992-2004 is used to examine the evolution of the translation activities of some publishers over the recent

years. A special attention will be given to inspect the translation activities location by focusing on the city of publication of the translated product.

3-1: Main supplier actors of the Arabic translation industry

It is useful to describe the distribution of Arabic translated books according to their publishers to give an appropriate idea about the structure of the Arabic translation industry in Saudi Arabia. This distribution of the Arabic translated books during the period 1955-2004 is summarized in table 10:

Table 10: Translated books according to publishers in Saudi Arabia

Publishers	City of Publication	Number of translated books
55 publishers each published 1 translated book	Different	55
22 publishers each published 2 translated books	Different	44
9 publishers each published 3 translated books	Different	27
9 publishers each published 4 translated books	Different	36
4 publishers each published 5 translated books	Different	20
4 publishers each published 6 translated book	Different	24
3 publishers each published 7 translated book	Different	21
King Fahad National library	Riyadh	8
King Abdul Aziz public library	Riyadh	9
General organization for technical education and vocational training	Riyadh	10
Immam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University	Riyadh	10
Dar Al-Olom for printing ,Pub. &Dist.	Riyadh	10
Dar Khalid Bashamag for Pub.&Dist	Jeddah	12
Okaz Est. for press & Pub.	Jeddah	16
Saudi House for Pub. &Dist	Jeddah	17
Ministry of communications Dep. of public relations	Riyadh	17
King Adul Aziz University –scientific publishing center	Jeddah	25
Tihama Publishing & bookstore	Jeddah	25
Individuals	Riyadh	34
Al-ma'arifa House for educational consults	Riyadh	39
Arab Bureau of Education for Gulf States	Riyadh	40
Institute of Public Administration	Riyadh	52
Jarir bookstore	Riyadh	99
King Saud University –printing press	Riyadh	141
Mars Publishing House	Riyadh	194
Obeikan Bookshop	Riyadh	275
Total		1260

From table 10, the following remarks can be extracted:

- Obeikan Bookshop is the first publisher in the translation industry in Saudi Arabia. It published about 275 translated books that represent 21.83% from the total number of translated books. 274 books from the 275 were translated after

1996. Translation activity does not make a significant figure in the whole of Obeikan Bookshop activities. In addition, this publisher is interested in cultural, politics and novels books translation oriented to a wide range of readers.

- Mars Publishing House published 194 translated books that represent 15.4% from the total. It is important to mention that the majority of books translated by Mars publishing House have educational and academic patterns that are oriented generally to the high education students. This Publishing House is specialized in the translated products prepared for academic universities staff and high education students.
- King Saud University comes in the third rank with 141 translated books representing 11.19% from the total. King Saud University translation center was established in 1973 (1393 H). The total number of books translated until the end of 2004 were 141 books, this number increased at the mid of current year to 160 books. About 200 additional books still under translation process. The translation center allows a translation period of less than 18 months for each book. Moreover, there are some exceptions if the translated product size is too big like encyclopedias.

King Saud University translation center considered as non-profit center aims to enhance the educational staff translation activity for the newly published books (not more than 5 years). The reward paid by the center is estimated according to three factors: the number of translated book pages, the scientific quality of the translated subject and the translation quality estimated by the jury. The rewards is ranged between 16,000 -50,000 S.R (4,250 -13,300 \$). For example: the center pays about 16,000 S.R (4260 \$) for a book of 200 translated pages, if the translation quality is evaluated as good.

The center pays also fees for WIPR to the foreign publishers, this amount range is between 1,000 and 3,000\$. In some cases the fees for the writer's rights may reach 10,000\$ according to the translation product size (encyclopedia for example).

King Saud University education staff is motivated to translate books for academic promotion. Each translated book is given one point counted to the translator, who has to get certain number of points to be promoted .The points given for the translation are the same as for Arabic authorship book and refried research. Two or more translators can participate in the same translation work, as well as in research or authorship, but the point in this case will be divided between the two translators.

The translated books distributed through King Saud University translation center are sold in the cost price only (ink, papers, finishing cost), without adding any translators' awards or fees for foreign publishers. For this reason, the translated books prepared through this center have lower prices compared with books translated by the private publishers.

- Jarir bookstores published 99 books representing about 7.86% from the total number of translated books. The books translated by this private firm have general cultural patterns and usually oriented to a wide range non-specialized

- readers. Those books are not considered generally under the scientific or academic books but they are a mixture of political books and novels.
- Institute of Public Administration comes in the fifth rank according to translated books number. 52 books were translated into Arabic language representing 4.13% from the total. The Institute of Public Administration is a non-profit governmental organization that provides training courses for the governmental employees to improve their performance. The relationship between the education staff in Institute of Public Administration and their promotion are the same as in King Saud University.
 - Arab Bureau of Education for Gulf States takes the sixth rank in the publishers list in Saudi Arabia with 40 books translated to Arabic (3.7% from the total).
 - The number of commissions and publishing centers that translated two books was 22 commission and center.
 - The number of commissions and publishing centers that translated one book only was 55 commission and center.
 - Large amount of private publishing centers stopped their translation activities especially after the nineteenth of the last century and restricted their works in publishing and distributing Arabic books like Tihama Publishing & bookstore in Jeddah, that published around 25 translated books before the year 1990.

3-2: Geographic Location of Arabic translation industry

Translation activities to Arabic language is not distributed geographically in similar way in Saudi Arabia. This was a result of unequal distribution of the governmental and educational commissions, universities and publishers in different Saudi regions, which reflects the geographical distribution of the translated books.

Table 11 shows that Riyadh city, which is the economic and politic capital of Saudi Arabia, comes in the first rank in publishing translated books, leading all the other cities. The number of books published in Riyadh equals to 1084 books from 1260 books, this represents 86.03% from the total number of translated books. While 123 books were translated in Jeddah (9.76%) and 10 books only translated in Dhahran (1.11%).

Table 11 : Geographical distribution of translated books

City	Books number	% from total translated books
Joof	1	0.08
Khobar	1	0.08
Madannah	3	0.24
Abha	3	0.24
Dammam	6	0.48
Makkah	7	0.56
Taif	8	0.63
Dhahran	10	0.79
Other regions	14	1.11
Jeddah	123	9.76
Riyadh	1084	86.03
total	1260	100

3-3 ; Trend and structure of Arabic translation industry production

In the previous sections, Arabic translation industry was described basing on data related to the whole studied period 1955-2004. During the last recent years , the structure of this industry was submitted notable changes. So, our analysis must take into consideration the recent patterns of the Arabic translation industry in Saudi Arabia.

To analysis the recent market structure of the Arabic translation industry, published books data for the period 1992-2004 are presented in table 12 and the information from the type (1) questionnaire, will be considered.

Table 12: Distribution of published translated books by publishers 1992-2005

Years	Obeikan	KSU	Jarir	Mars	Knowledge for Humanities Development	Institute of Public Administration	Bashamag	King Abdulazia Library
1992		1				1		
1993	1	2				2		
1994		5				2		
1995		3				1		
1996		10	1	1				1
1997	5	20	3			2		
1998	10	11	7	3		6		
1999		31	19	1	8		3	8
2000	11		57	6	10	3	10	
2001	25	13		3				
2002	92		12	17	21			
2003	48			8				
2004	82			27				
Total	274	96	99	66	39	18	13	9

- The Saudi Publisher Directory of King Fahad National Library reveals that the total number of all publishers having an (ISBN) in Saudi Arabia equals to 417 publishers. Some publishers working in translation industry (like the Knowledge for Humanities Development house) is not mentioned in this Directory.
- The number of publishers published more than 10 books in the last 13 years, equals to 7 publishers: Obeikan, King Saud University, Jarir, Mars, Knowledge for Humanities Development, Public Administration Institute and Dar Bashamag. It can be concluded that the Arabic translation Industry in Saudi Arabia is highly concentrated in six publishers, four from the private sector (Obeikan, Jarir, Mars, Knowledge for Humanities Development) and two from the public sector (King Saud University, Public Administration Institute).
- Although Obeikan and Jarir are the most important Arabic translated books publishers in Saudi Arabia, their activity as Arabic translation publishers is small comparing to their others activities (Arabic books publishers, stationary, electronic administration equipments, etc.). Unfortunately, our research does not have precise comparative figures between Arabic books and translated Arabic books edited by these two publishers, As indicator, the total number of published books in Obeikan until the end of 2003 equals to 592 books, between them only 192 are translated Arabic books. Therefore, the percentage of translated Arabic books is about the third of the total published books.
- Mars publishing house is the main publisher specialized in academic and scientific Arabic translated books. This publisher began its activities 27 years ago. But the economic size of Obeikan and Jarir is more important than Mars house. As mentioned before, Obeikan and Jarir are more than publishers and bookstores.
- The Arabic translation is not a stable activity, from year to year the number of Arabic translated books is highly varied. As example, the number of translated books published by Obeikan was 25 in 2001, 92 in 2002, 48 in 2003, and 82 in 2004. Therefore, there is no clear trend in the number of the Arabic translated books edited specially by the private sector. This remark can be easily generalized for the other private and public Arabic books publishers, as mentioned in table 12.
- The private sector publishers, assumes the principal role in the Arabic translation industry in Saudi Arabia. From 757 Arabic translated books during the period 1992-2004, the private sector translates 600 books and the public sector translated 157 books. So, the percentage of the Arabic translated books by the private sector is about 79% while the percentage of the public sector is 21%.

3-4 Arabic translation industry description throughout questionnaires

Two types of questionnaire were used, the first is addressed to experts, translators and academicians, the second is addressed to the publishers.

3-4 -1: Description of Arabic Translation Industry based on experts questionnaires

The number of questionnaires filled by direct interview is 32. During the interview, many problems were discussed with the respondents. Most of them are at the same time translators and teaching staff at the Universities or at the Institute of Public Administration. Their opinions were very useful to evaluate and describe the Arabic translation activities in Saudi Arabia.

After the collect of the questionnaires, SPSS was used to summarize and analyze the filled questionnaires. The introduction of the detailed results in this research makes the presentation very long and heavy. For this reason, this research tried to focus on the most important conclusions describing Arabic translation industry, that will be presented as follow:

- The respondents agreed that high prices of translated books, smallness of market size, subject of translated books, weakness of translation style, high publishers profits, absence of supporting sectors, absence of categories interested in reading, are obstacles in publishing the translated books in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Moreover, they were strongly agreed that the low translators income is the most important obstacle to develop this industry.
- Researchers and general readers are the main interested categories in buying translated books.
- Translators motivations for translation activities are: science, knowledge and culture diffusion, academic promotions, income profit and celebrity.
- Publishers motivations for translation activities are: income profits, increasing market share and diversification of published products.
- The respondents agreed that low income return for translators and publishers, low number of Arabic readers, formalities in publishing procedures, absence of qualified translators, high IPR translation fees, copyrights for the translated books, publication piracy of translated books, absence of governmental support and difficulties to find the appropriate scientific terms are the most important factors restricting the translation to Arabic language.
- The translated books topics that interest the readers can be ranked as the following: Textbooks, politic and media, novels, general culture and pure sciences, kids and schoolbooks.
- Factors enhance translation activities are: governmental support, increase internal and external market, reduce of control procedures and simplify the administrative publishing procedure.
- The translated books (from the respondents point of view) are 25 -50 % higher in prices than authoresses Arabic books.

3-4-2: Description of Arabic Translation Industry based on publishers questionnaires

To complete understanding of Arabic translation industry, an other questionnaire was designed. This second questionnaire was addressed to the publishers of Arabic translated books. Most of them refused to fill the questionnaire because it contains confidential information related to their activities. Small number of publishers was a little cooperative and give the questionnaire special attention.

The number of questionnaires filled by direct interview is 3. During the interview, many problems were discussed with the respondents. Their suggestions were very useful to understand the supply problems of the Arabic translation activities, and to formulate some recommendations.

After collecting the small number of questionnaires, SPSS was used to summarize and analyze the filled questionnaires. This research focus on the most important conclusions describing Arabic translation industry, that will be presented as fellow (see appendix C)

- The questioned firms exert many activities at the same time: publishing, distributing, selling books and electronic equipments.
- All firms were satisfied about their economic performance.
- The labor force in Arabic translated industry is distributed according to the qualification level as: 10% low skill labor, 50% medium level labor, 40% high level labor.
- Labor skill types have strong effect on the firm's economic performance.
- All firms have good financing resources. This means that the firms don't complain from financial problem.
- Firms' debt to equity ratio decreased to less than 25%.
- Own capital is the basic firms financing resource.
- The firms' financial state affects strongly the economic performance.
- Cost factors have bad effects on the firm economic performance.
- The local demand is enough to absorb the total production.
- Firms are oriented to satisfy all groups of consumers, but it paid more attention to medium income group.
- Firms are aware of external market demand when they have translating projects of new books.
- Firms that publish translated book pay special attention for exportation and external markets.
- Exports from translated books are estimated to less than 50% from the total sales.
- Maximizing profits and minimizing costs are the main goals of the Arabic translated books exportation strategy.
- The strong competition in the external markets is a main obstacle for translated books exportations.

- The main determinant demand factors of translated books are: cost, cultural quality and topics of translated books.
- Demand factors affect strongly firm's economic performance.
- There are less than nine firms working in translation production industry and only three of them are dominant.
- There is a high degree of competition in Arabic translation book production.
- Entry to the books' translation market is described as normal.
- There are some obstacles and restrictions on the entrance of new firms to Arabic translation industry.
- The main obstacles faced by the new firms entry to the translation production market are technical and legal obstacles
- There are some significant obstacles for the foreign firms to enter the local translation production market.
- Firms have clear strategies for translating books to Arabic language.
- The market share of foreign firms in local markets is medium.
- Firm's strategies for Arabic translation books are prepared by special work team.
- The firm's manager paid more attention for marketing strategy in the last two years.
- Nowadays, the firms pay more attention for external competition.
- All firms update systematically their production techniques, the mixture of production factors and the administrative organization.
- Firms have a complete IPR strategy.
- Firms suffer from IPR problems.
- IPR has strong effect on the firm economic performance.
- The government supports translation production through :Human resources development, scientific and technological improvements, maintenance and infrastructure improvement, enhancing the product industry demand, promoting investments, helping to open external markets and promoting exports. While it neglects IPR protection, competition promoting, reviewing legislations concerning translation industry and controlling price levels.
- In the next two years, firms expect the decrease of their market share, the profit level and the Arabic market growth.
- In the next two years, firms expect the stability of production factors combination, the employees' number, the sales size and the growth of external markets.
- The future expectations of the firms are good.

4 : Performance of the Arabic translation Industry

Saudi Arabia is the biggest country in the Arabic peninsula. It is also the most important member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). It has the biggest production and reserves oil in the World. So, the economy of Saudi Arabia is based mainly on the oil revenues. The economic growth and the development plans depend also on the oil revenues injected throughout of the public expenditures.

Saudi Arabia has realized during the last decades a very important economic development. Development of education, health, transport, communication and infrastructure was paid a special attention from the government. All of the economic sectors (agriculture, industry and services) realized a sensible growth. The big size of the oil sector led to the other economic sectors a weak importance. In spite of the public support to industrial sector, its contribution in the GDP can not exceed 10%. Being a sub-sector of the industry, the Arabic translation industry has a minimum importance in the structure of the Saudi economy.

The economy of Saudi Arabia is an open economy. The import restrictions are very limited and the degree of competition is very high. The Saudi industry in general, and the Arabic translation industry in particular, are dominated by the foreign labor force. By opposite, the capital, as a second production factor, can not be considered as very scarce. The finance capacity in the economy is high, and the firms in general do not complain from financing problems. The Saudi industry is technically well equipped. The industrial firms produce by applying high technology. The industrial products have a good quality and satisfy generally the international standards.

The industrial sector has benefited during the economic development plans from a considerable public support and subsidies. Financial loans, industrial cities, infrastructure are offered by the government to develop and promote the industry that has two objectives: imports substitution and exports promotion.

Description of the industry position in the whole of the Saudi economy permits to understand the characteristics of the Arabic translation industry as an integral part of this sector. These characteristics can be summarized as follows:

4-1: Size and performance industry

Because of the importance of Saudi economy in the regional, national and international levels, the huge size of the oil sector, the size of the Arabic translation industry reveals very small compared to other sectors and sub-sectors of the economy. Regarding the number of Arabic translated books (1260 books during 50 years), the overall performance of this industry can be considered as poor.

4-2 : Production factors:

By examining the structure of the Saudi economy, the performance of the industry in general and the performance of the Arabic translation industry in particular, the role of labor as determinant of the supply in the last industry can be evaluated as poor. The most important part of the industrial labor force is guest worker. The Saudization policy adopted by the government to replace the foreign labor force by a national labor force does not realize a notable success in the industry.

The role of the capital can be evaluated as good (the capital is available in the Saudi market especially after September 11 and the return of the Saudi capital flow to the local market). The publisher firms do not complain generally of the scarcity of financing.

4-3: Economic contributions

Basing on a rough estimation for the year 2000, we estimate the percentage of the added value of Arabic translation industry of the GDP at 0.0.3%, the percentage of the exported Arabic translated books of exportations at 0.0.3%, the percentage of the labor force working in the Arabic translation activities of the total labor force at 0.02%. The information related to the importations of Arabic translation books are not available.

4-5: Local demand

Local demand for Arabic translated books is good. The few number of publishers working in this industry do not complain from insufficiency of their local consumers. The external demand is evaluated as poor. The increase of the production costs and the high degree of competition are the most important reasons for the weakness of the Arabic translated book exportations.

4-6 :Related industries

The relationship of the Arabic translation industry with the upstream industry is poor. The industries based on the products of Arabic translation activities as production inputs are almost neglected. The relationship with the downstream industry is good (paper, carton, plastic, packing, ink, ..), and with other firms is poor. The paper and ink industries in Saudi Arabia are highly developed. These national industries provide to the printing industry in general, and to the translation industry in particular, an important part of its production inputs.

4-7 :Competition

The competition of the Arabic translation Industry in Saudi Market is good. The industry is highly concentrated. Three principal publishers are working in the Arabic private translation industry. The public institutions producing the Arabic translated books (universities, institutes, etc.,) are non-profit institutions. The foreign competition is very high. The books translated in Lebanon, Egypt and Syria are cheaper than those translated in Saudi Arabia.

4-8 :Government sector role

The government of Saudi Arabia has establish many training programs to replace the guest workers by the national workers. The saudialization programs met relative success in some disciplines, but the structure of the labor force in the industry in general does not varied sensibly. The role of public policy related to human resources and technology in the Arabic translation industry can be qualified as poor, because there is no clear national strategy to promote the translation activities. By opposite, the government has realized a great success in the infrastructure construction (electricity, water, roads, communication, transport, etc..). The efforts of the public sector were a vital element in the industrial development. So, the public policy of the infrastructure and investment can be evaluated as good.

4-9: Public stimulation demand

The demand volume in Saudi Arabia depends on the level of the GDP that depends in its turn by the oil incomes. These incomes are injected into the economy via the public expenditures. If the oil prices are low, the GDP and the demand decrease and vice versa when the oil prices increase. Nowadays, the demand is stimulated automatically by the increasing of oil revenues. So there is no clear public strategy to stimulate the demand in general and the demand of Arabic translated books in particular. The evaluation of the public policy role can be evaluated as very poor.

4-10 : Enforcement of IPR

The ministry of culture and information controls efficiently the publishing and editing activities in Saudi Arabia. There is a joint collaboration between this ministry and King Fahad National Library for the issue of the temporal and final permission allowed to publishers. This ministry observes and controls the diffusion of publications in the country and prohibits any piracy acting. The nearly expected adherence of the Saudi Arabia to the WTO implies the respect and the application of the Intellectual Property Rights treatments. We can conclude that, the enforcement of IPR's is good in Saudi Arabia.

4-11: Firms expectations

The Saudi economy realizes nowadays an oil boom similar to the previous oil boom of the seventeenth. The Barrel of oil attains 70 dollars. The public budget realizes an important surplus. The real economic growth rate is estimated at 8% for 2005. The economists expect the continuing of the economic growth with the increase of the oil prices. The firms' expectations in the Arabic translation industry, as in the other economic sectors, can be qualified as good.²

5 – Arabic Translation industry obstacles

Arabic translation production obstacles in Saudi Arabia can be classified into three groups:

- Education and administrative obstacles.
- Technical obstacles.
- Economic obstacles.

5-1: Education and administrative obstacles:

Educational and administrative obstacles of the Arabic translation activities in Saudi Arabia can be presented as follows:

- Disturbance of cultural and intellectual development in all citizens and high rate of illiteracy especially between females.
- Closed nature of the social and culture activities, accompanied with the absence of local readers' awareness about other cultures. While religion, literature and

² - Global results related to the economic performance are presented in Appendix A.

heritage books make the majority of sales in the book's exhibitions, the scientific and specialized books demand still low.

- Education system in Saudi Arabia is based on dictation and not on improving abilities and learning curiosity to reach and research for the information. Also there is no motive to learn about other societies' knowledge and cultures.
- The foreign languages education in Saudi Arabia is restricted in English language only at the low and high education levels. Although the English is the easiest language, the education system is ineffective to produce a generation manipulates perfectly this language.
- Most of the universities depend on Arabic textbooks, decided by the professor who is usually the author .This makes the University similar to a large secondary school. Swapping the decided Arabic book with the translated references that has English language origins specially and covers the basic sciences in excellent qualities.
- The university and high education in Saudi Arabia depend on one educational language. Some departments use the Arabic as educational language for studying like literature, religions, administrative sciences and pure sciences. The others restrict the use of English language like medicine, dentistry, engineering, pharmacology and applied medicine sciences. The unitary of educational language in Saudi Arabia makes a basic barrier in translation and distribution improvement. Students learning in English language only do not use translated books to help them in studying and reading from books written in foreign languages. While, students learning in Arabic language use the decided Arabic books that contain the required sufficient scientific topics for passing the exams without any further need to go back to other Arabic or English references.
- Translated books in Saudi Arabia are submitted to political, information and administrative control. This let many translators away from translating some books that may not get the necessary permissions from information and controlling sectors.

5-2 : Technical obstacles:

The most important technical obstacles to promote Arabic translation activities are:

- Random personal patterns in the selection of translated books and the absence of collaboration in the translation efforts cause that some books might be translated more than one time by different translators without knowing and some times after many years.
- The absence of national center specialized in translation, providing the required level of improvement and translation efforts arrangement in the Kingdom. It would be recommended that the expected center will be affiliated to the ministry of high education or the ministry of culture and information.
- The translation efforts, in the Arabic World generally and in Saudi Arabia specially, faced a major problem in finding the appropriate terms to translate

engineering, medicine, applied sciences and computer sciences. The absence of coordination, at the Arabic countries level and even at the local level, produce disturbance and imperfection in the translation activities added to the presence of multiple terminology for the same translated word. This creates confusion and misunderstanding for the readers (especially for specialized fields). So, the readers prefer to read in the foreign language used to continue their high education in.

- The lack or deficiency in the number of expert translators qualified, at the same time, in foreign and Arabic language. These translators must have the ability to translate the ideas in a precise manner, easy style and comprehensive sentences. The translators have to avoid the word by word or textual translation. Also there is a lack in the number of Saudi translators capable to translate from languages other than English.
- Most of the translators exercise translation as an additional job to their education profession in the universities and institutions. Thus, the translation activities constitute additional load for them. Some Saudis education staff takes a sabbatical vacation to complete their researches for academic promotion purposes. As a way to improve translation activity, some Universities systems allow the Saudis education staff a period of one or two terms for translation activities. In addition, These systems have to promote the researchers (nationals and foreigners) to work as a team work, especially if the translated product has a big size (like encyclopedia) that cannot completed by a single person.
- The absence of translators IPR protecting comities may lead some translation products to be stolen. Many translated books copied totally or partially in illegal way. Sometimes other publishers may publish the translated book without translator's or origin publisher's permission.
- Foreign publishers contacts need a long period to get the translation permission. The fees to get the property rights for translation are sometimes very expensive.
- Long period is required for translation and revision the translated product. Some translators and jury do not finish their work at the end of the allowed time by some institutions.
- Translated products printing period is usually long; due to printing difficulties and technical obstacles.

5-3 Economic and social obstacles

- The increase in translating, printing and publishing costs of translated books in Saudi Arabia compared with the neighboring countries (Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon) which have higher contributions in translation (due to presence of qualified translators and low costs). Many authors and translators look for publishers outside the Kingdom to publish and distribute their translated books due to low cost.
- The translators feel that their income from the translation process is low. The income given to translators is very low compared with publisher or distributor

profits. For this reason, many translators prefer to spend their efforts into other fields that guarantee more profits to them like authorship and research projects.

- The authorized book holds the author's name, while the translated book holds the author's name and the translator's name. For this reason, the translation activity is less attractive than the authorship from the scientific celebrity side. Moreover, translation requires sometimes more efforts and time than authorship activities.

6 - Recommendations to promote Arabic Translation Industry

According to the theoretical descriptive and quantitative analysis, this research suggests four types of recommendations to motivate Arabic translation in Saudi Arabia. The first is general, the second can be applied by national Saudi sectors, the third is to apply on Arabic level and the fourth can be supported through the World Bank contributions and participations.

6-1 :General recommendations:

- Creating scientific, technical, medical and engineering terms dictionaries is an important and necessary work. Also, the unification, the updating and the revision of these terms should be periodically.
- Increasing morale and economic translators' motives through increasing economic translators rewards and opening the opportunities for private sectors (companies, banks and firms.) to support translation activities by rewards and donations either directly to the translators or indirectly to the governmental translation centers in universities and institutions. In addition to author, translator and publisher names, the supporting sector name should be mentioned when the translated book is printed.
- Preparing appropriate book lists to be translated and classify them according to their importance and finding a mechanism to unifying and updating the scientific terms. These lists should cover university and general culture books.
- Increasing the general cultural of people and the reading interests. Emphasizing on the media role in showing the importance of translated books by offering special sites for translated books in the internet. Organizing translated book's exhibitions in universities and academic institutions, in addition to specify independents sections in private publishers and libraries for Arabic translated books.
- Preparing qualified human resources able to translate in efficient way, devoting translators' efforts in the translation, and preparing a timetable to promote the team work translation activities instead of the individual translation efforts.
- Using cheap and modern materials to save and diffuse the translated products. In other words, the use of computer CDs must be considered as an economic form to save the translated books. Translated books should also exist in printed matter for readers want to possess them. The CDs cost is less than printed books. Moreover one CD may contain tens or more of translated books.

6-2 :Recommendations on the Saudi economy level

- The establishment of multi foreign languages and cultures educational system. The Saudi educational system is based on English language (as principal or second language) and the majority of postgraduate students referred to English speech countries to continue their studies.
- This isolation makes Saudi society away from other different cultures and knowledge written in languages other than English and makes the translation from those languages (French, Germany and Spanish) to Arabic in Saudi Arabia something cannot be reach.
- Establishing a national independent center concerned in translation activities, draws its objectives and strategies, provides financing sources, selects and attracts qualified human and technical experts, arranges public and private official efforts and simplifies the technical and administrative translation procedures.
- Increasing the universities' and institutions' work efficiency in a good manner, providing economic, administrative and technical facilities to the researchers and education staff and motivating them to translate scientific books. Further more, the possibility to give them vacations to achieve books' translation in their specialization fields.
- Giving special interest and care for people who continued their high education level in foreign countries and having experience in other languages, perfecting their knowledge to Arabic language and motivating them to translate. This create generations able to deal with Arabic and foreign languages in an efficient way. Also, supporting the concept that Arabic language is sufficient and apt to translate science and knowledge from other languages and cultures.
- The establishment of Saudi scientific translation center to support translation activities and research centers. These centers collect national qualified persons in translation activity from different languages, study the problems faced during translation process at the local level, seek for translation financing resources to support translators' efforts, suggest policies that make administrative procedures easier and decrease translation product control.
- Simplify publishing procedures: reduce control over translated items, accelerate the first and final permissions giving for printed products generally and translated books especially, accelerate providing the ISBN to the translated books from King Fahad Library, allowing the permission to the translated books to cross the borders without any control or custom obstacles and increase the concern to publish through internet.
- Giving more credits to the teaching universities staff to get their academic promotions by working in translation books, compared with credits allowed to authorship or published researches, as a policy to motivate the academicians to pay more attention to the translation activities. This policy will increase the number of translated books and vary their topics.
- Authorship process is usually more simple and easier than academic books translation. This is due to the ability of the author to adapt himself with the

selected contents of the authorized book. The author collects, control and choice the ideas, elements and references without the restriction of the translated book. In addition, there is more flexibility for the academic author in the topics book selection according to scholar or university programs. Moreover, the authorship process is more attractive than translation process for education staff. So, the non economic obstacles should also be treated by allowing more advantages to the translation activities.

- In academic promotions process, the number of points given to the educational staff for a translated book, authorized book and judged research are equals. While the translation efforts are greater than those required to complete a research. Also, the spent period to complete a research is less than the required time to translate a book. For this, the researchers prefer working in judged researches for promotions more than in book authorship or translation. This means that translation motivations for academic promotions come in the last position of education staff concerns. This fact explained by comparing the number of translated or authorized books with the number of researches produced for promotional purpose For example in King Saud University, the teaching staff in economic department produced about 100 researches and 10 authorized books in Arabic language (related to scholar programs in the department) for promotional purposes. While the number of translated books was only two, one of them published in the translation center and the other published by a private publisher. For this, the promotional system in Saudi Universities should be changed to give translated books additional credits appropriate with the required efforts.

6 -3: Recommendations on the Arabic level

- Increasing economic support of translation activities by Arabic, regional and international institutions, because the translation activity advantages spread from local level to regional and Arabic level. The translation activity must be supported by regional organizations like Gulf Heritage and Culture, the GCC council and the universities of Arabic countries. It is very wise that supporting translation activities be under the control of an appropriate strategic plan, for example: establishing Gulf translation center and Arabic translation center.
- Coordinating the translation activities in all the Arabic countries. Considering the weakness in Arabic translation activity as a national problem at the Arabic world level and not only at the local level, Arabic translation strategic plan should be decided and connected with education translation efforts.

6-4: Recommendations for the World Bank

- The common governmental sector ideology is to refuse any support or award. This behavior is justified by the believe that the government is not poor to accept any external support. This idea began to be changed and some academic departments in the university started accepting economic helps, awards and supports to establish libraries or upgrading computers (provided by some private banks). This open-minded thinking can play an important role in the translation

production motivations and preparing the road to the acceptance of award from international institutions. The World Bank has to clarify its objectives in the field of Arabic translation activities promotion to facilitate acceptance of its project by the public and private sectors in the Arab World.

- The governmental institutions working in translation activities (like King Saud University translation centers or Public Administration Institute) have limited economic resources. The important obstacles in translation production are related to the weakness of translators' income. For this reason, the public sector is suffering from certain budget restrictions making this sector unable to increase the rewards for education staff translators. The translation economic obstacles can be face by getting an external material support from international institutions like the World Bank.
- Translations of some foreign books require some special technical facilities for printing and finishing. For example, chemical formula, mathematical equations and engineering graphs need special techniques and appropriate tools for printing and finishing. In authorized books case, it is possible to adapt with the available facilities. While in translated books, the translator should work within the original book content without excluding or deleting any part. This makes the printing and finishing process more difficult due to the importance of comparing translated book with the original one. Technical support for printing and finishing for translated books should be provided through advanced printers and copying machines in addition to appropriate software to edit and print special scientific books (like books in chemistry, mathematics and engineering fields). The World Bank can motivate the translation activities by offering the technical supports like printer, software and computers.
- The Arabic translated books are spread throw Arab World. Many Arab countries have considerable translation activities. To avoid duplication of translation, and to inform students, readers, academicians and researcher, data base of the Arabic translated books must be designed to count, classify and update the Arabic translated list books. Also, the World Bank can offer the technique, scientific and material supports to establish this data base and open a web site in the internet to permit the use of this data base.
- Improving the use of the auto-translation (translation based and done by computers), supporting the researches and projects that facilitate the use of these techniques in books translation. As we know, the auto-translation is used now between many languages (English, French, Spanish, Germany...etc.).It is important to the Arabic countries to participate in financing researches that provide immediate translation like the auto-translation between other languages. This types of project may be financed by international institutions like the World Bank in coordination with other software companies (like Microsoft).

Appendix A: Tables

**Table 1: Activities of the Translation Industry (Value Chain) covered by the study
(X: covered by the national case study;
O: not covered by the national case study)**

	Morocco	Saudi -Arabia	Egypt	Syria	Lebanon
Initiation of a translating idea, including funding		X			
The act of translation		X			
Production of translation		X			
Distribution		O			
Retail [sale]		O			
Etc.					

Table 2: Number of Interviews for the translation industry of Arab Countries

	Morocco	Saudi-Arabia	Egypt	Syria	Lebanon	Total
Firms		3				
Experts		32				
Total		35				

Table 3: Economic Importance of the Translation Industry in Selected Arab Countries

	Morocco	Saudi-Arabia		Egypt	Syria	Lebanon
Share in GDP (in %)		0.03%				
Share in Employment (in %)		0.02%				
Share in Exports and Imports (in %)	in X in M	in X 0.03%	in M ?	in X in M	in X in M	in X in M

Table 4: Synthesis of Results for the Translation Industry

Indicators	Countries				
	Morocco	Saudi-Arabia	Egypt	Syria	Lebanon
Overall performance		-			
Role of Supply					
Labor		-			
Capital		+			
Role of Demand					
Domestic demand		+			
Export market		?			
Role of Related Industries					
Upstream		-			
Downstream		+			
Other firms		-			
Role of Market Structure					
Domestic competition and strategies		+			
Foreign competition		++			
Role of Public Policy					
Development of human resources and technology		-			
Infrastructure and investment		+			
Stimulation of demand		--			
Enforcement of IPRs		+			
Firms' Expectations		+			

Note: 0 = None

- = Poor

-- = Very poor

+ = Good

++ = Very good

(?) = Cannot be determined