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Subject: Translation

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Textbook: Ghazala, H. (2008). *Translation as Problems and Solutions: A Textbook for University Students and Trainee Translators*.

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## **Translation of the Verb "DO":**

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The verb "do" in English can be challenging to translate into Arabic, especially when it functions as an auxiliary verb. Below are the common problems and their respective solutions when translating "do."

#### **Problem 1: "Do" in the Negative Form**

In English, "do" is used to form the negative of all verbs except "be," "have," and modal verbs. "Do" and "does" are used with the present simple, while "did" is used with the past simple. These forms do not carry meaning in Arabic but serve to indicate the tense of the verb. In Arabic, only the negative particle "not" (لا or لم) is translated.

#### **Examples:**

1. English: "He does not like coffee."

- Arabic: لا يحب القهوة.

2. English: "Some people do not smile."

- Arabic: بعض الناس لا يبتسمون.

3. English: "That girl does not comb her hair."

- Arabic: تلك الفتاة لا تمشط شعرها.

#### **Problem 2: "Did" in the Negative Form**

The translation of "did not" follows the same principle. The word "not" is usually translated into "لا" for the present tense and "لم" for the past tense.

#### **Examples:**

1. English: "She did not eat much."

- Arabic: لم تأكل كثيراً.

2. English: "We did not find the money."

- Arabic: لم نجد المال.

3. English: "The horse did not fall down."

- Arabic: لم يسقط الحصان.

### **Problem 3: "Do" in Questions**

"Do" is used to form questions in English for all verbs except "be," "have," and modal verbs. When translating into Arabic, the question particle "هل" is used, regardless of whether the sentence is in the present or past tense.

#### **Examples:**

1. English: "Do you sleep early?"

- Arabic: هل تنام مبكراً؟

2. English: "Does John play football?"

- Arabic: هل يلعب جون كرة القدم؟

3. English: "Did Ali wait for you last night?"

- Arabic: هل انتظر عليك الليلة الماضية؟

### **Problem 4: Misunderstanding "Do" as a Substitute Verb**

"Do" is often used as a substitute verb to avoid repetition in responses, particularly in answers to questions. This usage can confuse students, as "do" can substitute for any verb that requires "do" in the interrogative form.

#### **Solution:**

The general approach is to translate "do" as (نعم) or (لا) depending on the context. However, a better solution is to translate it by repeating the main verb from the first sentence.

### Examples:

1. English: "Do you admit that? Yes, I do."

- Simple Arabic: نعم، أفعل.

- Better Arabic: نعم، أعترف بذلك.

2. English: "Did she swear? Yes, she did."

- Simple Arabic: نعم، فعلت.

- Better Arabic: نعم، أقسمت.

3. English: "Do they work at night? No, they don't."

- Simple Arabic: لا، لا يعملون.

- Better Arabic: لا، لا يعملون ليلاً.

### Problem 5: "Do" as a Main Verb

When "do" functions as a main verb, it is usually meaningful in translation and is often translated into Arabic as (يفعل). However, in some contexts, it can be translated differently depending on the specific action implied.

### Examples:

1. English: "I will do my best."

- Arabic: سأبذل قصارى جهدي.

2. English: "Mary does her job well."

- Arabic: ماري تقوم بعملها جيداً.

3. English: "We did it yesterday."

- Arabic: فعلنا ذلك أمس.

In certain cases, "do" can be translated as (يكتب) when it implies writing.

**Example:**

- English: "Some students do their homework quickly."

- Arabic: بعض الطلاب يكتبون واجباتهم بسرعة.

**Problem 6: "Do" as an Emphatic Device**

"Do" can be used for emphasis in English. When used this way, it is translated into Arabic using various emphatic particles and phrases.

**Examples:**

1. English: "Muslims do recite the Holy Koran every day."

- Arabic: المسلمون حقاً يتلون القرآن الكريم كل يوم.

2. English: "That woman does fear Allah."

- Arabic: تلك المرأة تخشى الله فعلاً.

3. English: "The girls did behave well."

- Arabic: الفتيات تصرفن بشكل جيد بالفعل.

The emphatic nature of "do" in these examples can be translated using Arabic emphatic expressions like (فعلاً), (حقاً), and (بالفعل).