

Bilingual Dictionaries: Their Importance and Role in Learning Other Languages

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Abstract:

Bilingual dictionaries rank among the most widely used reference tools in the modern lexical industry, because of the wide range of services they offer to the users. They are indispensable for learning foreign languages, as they serve as a bridge between the source language and the target language, making the learning process smoother and more effective, especially for beginners. This made them widely known among learners and students of various backgrounds and levels. They have appeared in different forms (print-electronic), and their importance has further increased due to the tremendous technological advancements that have significantly contributed to their modernization and digitalization. Consequently, major institutions have been working at a rapid pace to produce and publish this type of dictionary in service of their national languages. In this research paper, we seek to shed light on the concept of the bilingual dictionary, outline its types and categories, identify the essential information it should contain, highlight its importance in language learning, and explore its relationship to the field of computing and its role in translation.

Keywords: Bilingual; Dictionary; Language; Learning; Translation.

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Résumé:

Les dictionnaires bilingues sont parmi les types de dictionnaires qui ont le plus bénéficié, à l'époque contemporaine, des progrès réalisés dans le domaine de la lexicographie moderne, en raison des nombreux services qu'ils offrent à leurs utilisateurs. Ils constituent l'un des outils les plus importants pour l'apprentissage des langues étrangères, car ils servent de passerelle entre la langue source et la langue cible, rendent le processus d'apprentissage plus fluide et plus efficace, en particulier pour les débutants. Cela a conduit à leur large diffusion parmi les apprenants et les étudiants de divers horizons et niveaux. Ils se présentent sous différentes formes (imprimés et électroniques), et leur importance s'est encore accrue grâce aux avancées technologiques considérables qui ont largement contribué à leur modernisation et à leur numérisation. Ainsi, les grandes institutions travaillent à un rythme soutenu pour produire et publier ce type de dictionnaire au service des langues nationales. Dans cet article, nous tenterons de mettre en lumière le concept de dictionnaire bilingue, d'en présenter les types et les catégories, de préciser les informations essentielles qu'il doit contenir, de souligner son importance dans l'apprentissage des langues, ainsi que d'explorer son lien avec le domaine de l'informatique et son rôle dans la traduction.

Mots clés : Apprentissage, Bilingue, Dictionnaire, Langue, Traduction.

المعاجم الثنائية اللّغة: أهميتها ودورها في تعلّم اللّغات الأخرى

الملخص:

تعدّ المعاجم الثنائية اللّغة من بين أكثر المعاجم التي أخذت نصيبها في العصر الحديث في مجال الصناعة المعجمية الحديثة وهذا لما تقدمه من خدمات عديدة إلى مستعملها، فهي من أهم الأدوات المساعدة في تعلم اللّغات الأجنبية، حيث تشكّل جسرا بين اللّغة المصدر واللّغة الهدف، مما يجعل عملية التّعلم أكثر سلاسة وفعالية، خاصّة للمبتدئين. وهو ما جعلها تعرف انتشارا واسعا في أوساط المتعلمين والدارسين بمختلف أطيافهم ومستوياتهم، فظهرت بأنواع (ورقية - الكترونية)، وزادت أهميّة هذه المعاجم أكثر بفعل التطور التكنولوجي الهائل الذي أسهم بشكل كبير في تحديثها وعصرنتها، حتى أصبحت كبرى المؤسسات تشتغل على إنجاز وإصدار هذا النوع من المعاجم بوتيرة سريعة خدمة للّغاتها الوطنية. وسنحاول في هذه الورقة البحثية تسليط الضوء على مفهوم المعجم الثنائي اللّغة وذكر أنواعه وأصنافه، وتبيين المعلومات الواجب توفرها فيه، وأهميته في تعلّم اللّغات، وعلاقته بعالم الحوسبة ودوره في التّرجمة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: معجم ثنائي؛ لغة؛ ترجمة؛ تعلّم.

1. 1 Introduction: The discussion of bilingual dictionaries is not a product of the modern era; the idea of producing his type of dictionary dates back to ancient times. Referring to books and sources that dealt with this topic, we find that the expansion of the Islamic State through conquests had a significant impact on the spread of the Arabic language everywhere, to the extent that it supplanted the languages of those regions such as Hebrew, Syriac, Persian, and Turkish, among others. This situation compelled scholars of those languages to compile dictionaries that combined their languages with Arabic, in order to preserve and safeguard them. An example is the book of Barbahloul, a dictionary of Syriac and Arabic. After the fragmentation of the Abbasid Caliphate into smaller emirates and the domination of the Persians and Turks over most of them, particularly in the Arab East- these groups tried to revive their original languages, which led to the production of Arabic-Persian and Arab -Turkish dictionaries. Among them is the dictionary of Muntaha al-Arb fi lughat al-Turks, al-Ajam and Arabs by Ahmad bin Muhammad bin Arabshah (854 AH).

Turning to Egypt, we find Arabic dictionaries that most researchers did not notice them. When the Arabic language spread among Egyptians, it shook the foundations of the Coptic language, prompting the Copts to defend their language as much as possible by composing small dictionaries that included certain Coptic words and their translation into Arabic. These dictionaries became known as Al-salalim (lit. "The Ladders"). The name "Ladders" has an explanation: a ladder is a tool that allows a person to climb and progress upward step by step, these works similarly helped learners gradually understand the language. Among these Salalim, we mention: (Sullam al-Samanudi) by Father Younis, Bishop of Samanoud, which is a compilation drawn from the Four Gospels and Ecclesiastical Books. and (al-Sullam al-Mugaffawa al-Dhahab al Mussafa) by Aby Ishaq ibn al-Assal.

With the rise of the Orientalist movement, interest in studying the Arabic language increased in order to know its treasures, open the markets of the Arab East and pave the way for its colonization. Several dictionaries appeared during this period, such as the Dictionary of Raphelengius (16th century), the Dictionary of William Bedwell (1561-1632 AD), the Dictionary of Julius (1596-1667 AD), and the Meninsky Dictionary. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, dictionaries multiplied and expanded in linguistic scope, encompassing French, German, English, and Russian

among the Western Languages, Turkish and Persian among the Eastern Languages, and Hebrew and Syriac among the Semitic languages.

With the increase in the translation movement in the twentieth century, the scope of bilingual dictionaries has expanded and continued to evolve to this day (Nassar, n.d., pp. 91-95). The idea of compiling bilingual dictionaries is not a new or modern concept in the field of lexicography, but rather an old and deep-rooted idea that was in the minds of early linguists.

2. The Concept of Bilingual Dictionaries: Bilingual dictionaries have been given several concepts and definitions, and they include several types and categories. A Bilingual dictionary is one in which the language of explanation differs from the language of the headword entry. In other words, it is based on presenting words in a certain language, along with their meaning and interpretation in another language. Bilingual dictionaries are more concerned with providing information about the explained language than about the explaining language. (Fathallah, 2008, p.135).

As for the types of bilingual dictionaries, they can be divided into several categories, depending on the purpose the dictionary aims to achieve and the target audience. (Al-Qasimi, 2003, p.231) Among these types are:

2.1 The Dictionary Dedicated to Understanding a Foreign Language: This type starts with headwords in the foreign language (Known as the entry language or target language) and then provides their equivalents in the national language (known as the explanation language or source language). In this case, the user seeks to understand the foreign language, such as purchasing a French/Arabic dictionary in order to understand French. Such as the dictionary of Al-Manhal by Jabour Abdel Nour and Suhail Idris.

2.2 The Dictionary Dedicated to Expression in a Foreign Language: This type starts with headwords in the national language (the entry language or target language) and then provides their equivalents in the foreign language (the explanation language or source language). Here, the user may consult an Arabic/French dictionary, which is the opposite of the first example.

If we compare the first and second types, we can observe differences in both form and content. In terms of form, each type has its own starting point. In terms of content, the dictionary dedicated

to comprehension includes a greater number of entries than its counterpart dedicated to expression, which includes entries of a general productive nature, followed by detailed morphological and grammatical information that helps the reader to employ the searched vocabulary properly.

2.3 The Dual or Reciprocal Dictionary: It is a dictionary consisting of two sections: the first presents words in one language along with their equivalents in another language, while the second reverses the process by presenting words in the second language along with their equivalents in the first. One of these dictionaries is: *Al-Sabil* by Daniel Rigg' (1993), an Arabic/French/ French/Arabic dictionary that includes modern Arabic vocabulary used in political circles, ministerial departments, administrative offices, economic business, newspapers, books, education, manufacturing, literature, the arts, and the sciences (Fathallah, 2008, p.138). The importance of this type of dictionary lies in its ability to help users understand ambiguous words in another language, as well as to comprehend scientific, literary, and artistic terminology in foreign languages.

2.4 Pocket Dictionaries (Tourist Dictionaries): The tourism sector is among the fields that most require the presence of specialized bilingual tourist dictionaries. Tourist are in great need of such dictionaries to learn about the country they are visiting or planning to visit, its culture, and its most prominent regions and tourist sites. Therefore, such dictionaries serve practical, functional, and cultural purposes aimed at assisting tourists. They should include a set of functional and practical words and expressions that tourists are likely to need in specific situations that may encounter and they should be concise and very simple. (Ahmed Mokhtar, 1998, p.42). This type of bilingual dictionary should feature bilingual headwords and provide a phonetic transcription for each entry to facilitate correct pronunciation and reading. It should also be illustrated, as image can often convey meaning more effectively than words alone. Furthermore, modern technology should be exploited by making the tourist dictionary available in electronic form or an application for smartphones.

3. Information to be Available in the Bilingual Dictionary: When compiling a bilingual dictionary, the lexicographer faces several difficulties and challenges, which necessitates careful consideration of several important things throughout the process. This is because it deals with two

different languages, each with its own semantic, grammatical, and phonetic characteristics. If these aspects are handled with care, the resulting dictionary will be characterized by accuracy and quality. The key types of information are as follows: (Al-Qasimi,2003, pp.241-250):

3.1 Semantic Information: Semantic information is the most important information provided by a dictionary, as the reader consults it primarily to know the meanings and significance of words. It is based on two important aspects:

a) Accuracy of Equivalents: The lexicographer is required to choose the equivalents accurately in order to faithfully convey the meaning of the headwords in the entry language. Such accuracy serves the specialized researcher more than the general reader. Accurate equivalents prevent specialists from falling into confusion or error. Moreover, adding explanation, notes and clarifications about the equivalents would remove confusion for both general readers and specialists.

b) Semantic Distinction: A lexicographer may sometimes be confused to determine the intended meaning of a polysemous word, and in such cases may resort to using semantic markers to facilitate the reader's understanding. This can be achieved by modifying the form of the word (for instance, changing a vowel) or by adding another word to specify the intended meaning, such as: 'Ayn (spring of water), Amalyiyya (surgical operation) and Amalyiyya (military operation).

Through this, it becomes clear that the semantic level holds particular importance in linguistic research in general and lexical research in particular. Semantics (la sémantique) is the most important branch of linguistics linked to vocabulary, as it focuses on the study of word meanings and senses, the semantic relation that organize the lexicon, and the ways in which meanings are organized and branched. This field is at the core of the lexicographer's concerns, since meaning is the primarily element sought by dictionary users. However, it is also the greatest difficulty faced by compilers of bilingual dictionaries, and it tends to be more complex than in monolingual dictionaries. (Meziti, n.d.pp.428-429).

The difficulty in bilingual dictionaries does not lie in explaining the meaning, but also in determining how to choose the most appropriate equivalent for the word in question, and one what basis that equivalent is selected over another. All of these are difficulties that the lexicographer must

address in this type of dictionary. Therefore, the compiler of a bilingual dictionary must have thorough knowledge of what is suitable for the target audience and the level of the dictionary's intended users.

Linguistics in general, and applied linguistics in particular, have sought to find effective solutions for learning languages through useful methods and approaches that enable individual to achieve positive results, allowing them to learn and master other languages effectively. Among the fields of applied linguistics that have contributed to his objective, we mention:

- **Sociolinguistics:** Sociolinguistics has provided a significant contribution to the field of language teaching, based on the fact that language is a social phenomenon and words acquire their meanings and connotations through context and usage. Consequently, it is necessary to take into account the semantic difference between languages. For example, a single word may have different meanings in English or French depending on the society that speaks this language and how it uses that word. Therefore, the lexicographer is obliged to clarify these differences, so that the learner of a second language is aware of and understand these semantic differences.

- **Psycholinguistics:**

The importance of the psychological aspect of language learning is manifested in the ability of the learner and his psychological readiness to acquire a language other than his mother tongue, and in the mental lexicon' capacity to incorporate a linguistic stock of vocabulary other than the vocabulary of his first language and integrate it with the existing knowledge. Naturally, the linguistic system of the second language differs from that of the first language in several aspects: Phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic. This requires that the learner be placed in a psychologically conducive environment for learning another language. As has been stated, " Acquiring a foreign tongue is not merely a matter of usage; it requires living within the community that speaks the language one wishes to learn." (Robert, 2007, p.65). This immersion allows the learner to gain a general understanding of the target language and to form mental representations of the meanings of words that are foreign to them.

- **Textual Linguistics:** It is known that the vocabulary does not acquire its true meaning unless it is used within a text, discourse, or communicative context. "The function of a word in a text is not

limited to completing meanings or filling semantic gaps, rather, it extends to constructing discourse and directly contributing to the coherence of the text both in form and content. (Khattabi, 2006, p.12). This obliges the lexicographer to know the contextual meanings of one word in order to be able to choose the appropriate vocabulary for the meaning that he meets in the second language. The meaning of the word changes from one context to another.

3.2 Grammatical and Morphological Information: A dictionary is closely related to grammar, as it is affected by the volume of grammatical information it contains. Therefore, the lexicographer must be aware of the volume of this information, depending on the target audience and the intended purpose. It is essential to be very careful about the way of morphological and grammatical information is presented and organized, as this is a necessary entry to determine the lexical meaning of words on the one hand, and it also promotes a sense of order in the mind of the dictionary user on the other hand. The importance of organization is shown in the fact that it is a hallmark of scientific thinking and an indispensable methodological tool." (Amrir, n.d. p.256). For example, if a French-Arabic dictionary is designed to serve an Arab reader or translator in translating into their mother language, there is a little need of grammatical information about the French entries. Consequently, if an Arabic-French dictionary is intended to help the Arabic reader or translator work into French, the lexicographer should provide extensive grammatical information about the French equivalents rather than Arabic headwords, in order to enable the translator to use the vocabulary correctly.

As for morphological information, the lexicographer should determine the structure of words (noun, verb, particle, etc.) and specify the number and gender (singular, plural, dual, feminine, masculine, etc.) in order to be able to determine their meaning precisely. Knowledge of the morphological structure of the word helps a lot in explaining its functional aspect. "Determining the morphological structure of a word as whether it is a noun, verb or otherwise, is a necessary step in the process of explanation because one cannot associate a word to its lexical meaning without identifying its morphological structure and, consequently its functional meaning." (Tamam, 2006, p.326). This ensures the removal of any confusion for the dictionary user.

3.3 Phonetic Information: Phonetic information is also among the important types of

information that should be provided in a bilingual dictionary. It encompasses everything related to the pronunciation of the headwords in the dictionary. It helps the reader primarily to pronounce the words in a foreign language correctly. "Just as the dictionary is an authentic source for spelling, it is also a guide that helps to show the correct way to pronounce them. Since most European languages adopt the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to solve this difficulty, a bilingual dictionary should follow suit. For example, in English words such as: (knowledge, know, write and daughter) show significant discrepancies between their spelling and pronunciation. An English speaker with the correct pronunciation of these words would not be able to produce it accurately without referring to the IPA transcription provided alongside the entries in the dictionary. (Amrir, n.d. p.253).

Typically, these phonetic transcriptions are placed between parentheses or square brackets immediately after the word. They are particularly helpful for beginners learning foreign languages. While some may think that the written translators do not need such information, experience shows the opposite: knowing the pronunciation of a word helps to memorize it and is useful while speaking that foreign language. "Phonetic information is therefore an integral part of what the dictionary provides, as one of its basic functions is to explain the pronunciation of a word or its pronunciation variants, while distinguishing between standard and formal registers." (Ahmed Mokhtar,1998, p.150). This illustrates the importance of phonetic information in bilingual dictionaries, an element that should never be overlooked or omitted.

3.4 Encyclopedic (Cultural) Information: This refers to the information that introduces the reader to an aspect of the culture of the language that he is trying to understand, and provides him with sufficient knowledge about it to enable him to recognize the language, its origins, the communities that speak it and its various levels. It also includes the most prominent literary and linguistic works in that language. This type of information is not considered redundant filler; on the contrary, it is often necessary to stimulate the reader's knowledge about the external world in order to clarify the linguistic information. In fact, linguistic information often includes a description of the world itself, which is why linguists ask: Is it possible to formulate a definition without including something from the world? (Ahmed Mokhtar,1998, pp.160-161). This information is consistently present in both Arabic or Western dictionaries, whether ancient or modern, because of its

importance. Encyclopedic information includes the following elements:

- Information about proper nouns such as person, places, animals, plants, etc.
- Information about historical events and facts.
- Information about scientific terms including their emergence and uses.

3.5 Historical Information: This level of information is very important in bilingual dictionaries, as it provides the dictionary user with valuable information about the vocabulary included in the dictionary. By identifying the historical aspect of the appearance of a word, by adjusting its meanings acquired over time and use, and by determining its common meaning, the dictionary user is enabled to distinguish between meanings that are used and those that have become neglected. Indeed, dating the appearance of a word or one of its meanings, offers limitless benefit for tracing the emergence and development of ideas, concepts, and terminologies. This is precisely what we are in dire need of for our Arabic lexicon, which has not yet paid attention to this aspect. The little effort it has devoted lies merely in occasionally indicating whether a term is innovative, coined, Islamic or figurative. (AL-Wadghiri, 1989, p198).

If we examine our Arabic dictionaries, we find that they lack such information and have not given sufficient, unlike their Western counterparts that have devoted significant care to this type of data for a long time. This issue has, however, drawn the attention of a number of researchers who have directed their efforts towards preparing a historical dictionary of Arabic language- a project still in progress to this day. Historical information also encompasses the domain and registers of word usage, as it provides dictionary users with guidelines on how words are to be used, the limits of their usage and the contexts in which they are appropriate. The function of this information is to indicate the social group, field of knowledge, or type of discourse in which a particular term is used, thereby ensuring specificity and precision." (Amrir, n.d. p.257)."

According to Ahmed Mukhtar Omar this type of information may include: (Ahmed Mokhtar, 1998, pp.155-160).

- Information regarding the antiquity and modernity of a word: Obsolete, abandoned (archaic), old, modern, newly coined, and currently in use.
- Information regarding the degree of prevalence and usage: common, widely used, rare.

- Information concerning usage restrictions :prohibited, vulgar, or acceptable.
- Information related to the field of specialization: literary language, scientific language, poetic language, or by a specific discipline such as the language of chemistry, the language of astronomy, the language of agriculture, etc.
- Information regarding the standardness or non-standardness of a word: whether it belongs to standard literary Arabic or to colloquial and dialectal varieties.
- Information related to the place where the word is used: Egyptian, Levantine, Gulf, Algerian, Iraqi, Tunisian, etc.

4. Bilingual Dictionaries and the Computer: Lexicography, like other sciences and arts, has been affected by the technological revolution brought about by globalization. Where dictionaries were once limited to paper-based editions, the so-called electronic or computerized dictionary has appeared. Dictionaries are now stored in computer memory, or distributed on compact discs (CSs), or made available in the form of handled devices commonly referred as pocket computers. These resources are constantly developing in both quantity and quality. Some of them are not limited to presenting words and their equivalents, but also provide common expressions and phrases together with their counterparts in the foreign language. It is also no secret that bilingual dictionaries are among the types most affected by the use of computer technologies. They have been subjected to computerization, and lexicographers have resorted to the use of computers at various stages of their production process, including storage, analysis, and processing.

In addition, a large amount of data is documented within databases that can be easily accessed by researchers at any time. One of the advantages of the electronic bilingual dictionary is that it offers users variety of services, most notably the possibility of choosing both the source and target language. For example, a user can compare Arabic and English by selecting Arabic as the source language and English as the target language English, or vice versa. The electronic bilingual dictionary also enables the user to choose both the display language and the content language. For example, an Arabic-English bilingual dictionary includes two content languages, while the display language is the one in which all linguistic information is formulated. If Arabic is chosen as the display language, definitions, usage instructions, and other linguistic information are all provided in Arabic. The

importance of bilingual dictionaries computerized form can therefore be highlighted through the services they provide to users:

- Machine translation: Bilingual dictionaries are employed in translation systems to interpret words and phrases across different languages, such as: Google Translate and DeepL.
- Language Learning: Electronic bilingual dictionaries help language learners to achieve fast and accurate translations. They also facilitate linguistic research into equivalents between languages, the analysis of lexical correspondences, and the study of semantic relations between words.
- Integration into smart applications: Especially those related to voice aids accompanying words and showing how to pronounce them correctly, as available in the Google Translate application. In addition to machine translation, which also allows voice reading of translated words and texts.
- Learn more about the source language equivalents in the target language and the recognize differences between the two.

Computer based bilingual dictionaries face several challenges, the most important of which are:

- The variation between languages in terms of the grammatical and semantic system of each language, which complicates the process of alignment.
- Contextual variability of meaning, where we find that the meaning of the word changes according to the field of knowledge in which it was used, such as medical or legal terms, etc.
- Resource limitations in some languages, which causes a shortage of data about them and makes it difficult to create training models for their learning.
- Continuous updating, since languages are constantly evolving with new terms emerging and others disappearing, which requires constant and regular updates of these dictionaries.

4.1 Examples and Models of Pioneering Projects in Bilingual Computational Dictionaries:

There are pioneering models in the field of bilingual computational dictionaries that have achieved great success, including:

- a- **EuroWordNet**: a European project that connects lexical networks across several European and world languages.
- b- **Apertium**: an open-source platform used for machine translation between convergent languages.
- c- **BabeNet**: a multilingual lexical database that combines WordNet with other dictionaries.

Among computerized Arabic dictionaries, we may mention Al-Qamoos Al-Jami' (the Comprehensive Dictionary) published by Al-Zuhri Software Foundation, which includes an English-Arabic dictionary, a French-Arabic dictionary, and a German-Arabic dictionary, in addition to a computer terminology dictionary of and other extensive Arabic lexicons such as: Lisan Al-'Arab and Al-Qamoos El-Muheet, etc.

From the above, we may conclude that in the computer age, bilingual dictionaries are no longer mere word lists, rather, they have become intelligent systems based on big data and artificial intelligence technologies. The challenges are considerable, especially for less widely spoken languages, but recent advancements open new horizons to enhance intercultural communication. It is therefore essential that bilingual dictionaries take full advantage of all the features provided by computers and exploit computational linguistics for their updating and renewal. Nevertheless, such dictionaries still require greater and broader attention, as well as in-depth research by lexicographers, linguists, and computer specialists, so that users may benefit from more efficient services with less effort and time.

5. Bilingual Dictionaries and Translation: Translators are among the most widely used categories of bilingual dictionaries. The translator's work is similar to the purpose for which bilingual dictionaries were created. Therefore, the translator must have the mechanisms and tools to render one language into another accurately and appropriately. In this regard, Faiza Al-Qasim states:

"The translator works on having conceptual tools and bearing the expectations of the ultimate recipient who adds information to ensure the clarity of the message. It is considered a technical rhetoric that reflects an integrated system of cultural references to make the message understandable to a large audience. The translator's path involves resorting to new formulations by imitating the foreign original, using colloquial terms to designate unknown concepts, coining new terms while taking into account the rules of classical Arabic, as well as interpretation or explanation, derivation, and the appropriate methodology. This includes knowledge of the subject matter, a readiness for analysis and synthesis, a good understanding of the foreign language, mastery of the mother tongue, and the development of terminology cards." (Al-Qassim, 2000, pp.109-120).

The translator's work is not easy; it is the essential link between the author and the reader. He

conveys the content of the author's text in its original language to a recipient reader who speaks another language. Translation is not just a transfer of a set of words and vocabulary from one language to another, but it is a process of transferring the civilizational, cultural, intellectual and linguistic components of the text from one culture to another that differs from it in many respects. Therefore, translation is regarded an intertextual dialectic that connects different worlds (the world of the writer, the translator and the receiver). It requires fidelity and adequacy, quality and elegance imitation and contrast, knowledge and languages, as well as dialogue and interaction between cultures, languages and texts. Translation is also both an art and a science, an art insofar as it is subject to the conditions of creativity, and a science insofar as its process necessitates specific conditions. (Hossam El-Din, 2011).

The role of bilingual dictionaries in translation is highlighted through:

- Semantic alignment:** It helps in choosing the accurate translation of the word according to the context.
- Differentiating between multiple meanings of a single word:** I help in resolving ambiguities between these multiple meanings.
- Cultural mediation:** Bilingual dictionary explains cultural terms that do not have direct equivalents in the target language.

For this reason, it was necessary to develop programs to help translators in their work. This was embodied in the so-called (multilingual or bilingual text processing programs), which provide translators with a bilingual automatic dictionary in addition to spell-checking tools. Thanks to these programs, a translator can retrieve the required text, make the necessary adjustments, and then generate a ready translation. These programs are frequently used on the Internet, especially Google Translate.

However, the use of bilingual dictionaries in translation faces a number of difficulties and challenges, including:

- The difficulty of literal translation, which often leads to errors, especially when the context of the original text is not taken into account.
- The linguistic development and semantic change of words: Some words may become old and fall

out of use, while others change their meaning over time. For instance, in Arabic, there are many examples, as many old words no longer exist in current usage, and other words have shifted semantically, *Sayyara*, for example, once used to refer to any caravan, but now it designates a specific means of transportation: the automobile.

Therefore, the bilingual dictionary remains an indispensable tool for translators. Its effectiveness depends largely on the user's competence and ability to balance linguistic accuracy with contextual flexibility. With today's technological development, electronic dictionaries now combine speed with informational richness, opening new and promising future horizons in the field of translation.

6. The Importance of Bilingual Dictionaries and Their Role in Language Learning: Bilingual dictionaries reflect openness to other cultures and exposure to foreign literatures. They help to understand languages and play an effective and positive role by saving learners' effort and helping them acquire new knowledge in foreign languages. They thus serve both an educational and a cultural role. The most prominent aspects of their importance and role in learning languages include:

- a) They provide direct translation of words between the mother tongue and the target language, enabling learners to quickly understand the meanings without the need for complex explanations.
- b) They are useful for beginners who do not yet have enough knowledge to use monolingual dictionaries (written only in the target language).
- c) They help in memorizing new words and associating them with their meanings in the mother language, thus strengthening linguistic memory. They also sometimes provide contextual examples, which help learners understand how words function in real sentences.
- d) They reduce the possibility of misunderstandings resulting from literal translation, especially when there are semantic differences between the two languages. They also clarify distinctions between synonyms and similar words, thereby promoting greater precision in language use.
- e) They foster learners' autonomy by enabling individuals to search for and understand words without the need for a teacher at every step. They also serve as a quick reference during reading or writing in a foreign language, thus supporting the process of self-learning.
- f) Some bilingual dictionaries provide information on pronunciation, grammatical conjugations (such as plural of nouns or conjugation of verbs), and appropriate usage contexts. They may also

include specialized terms (scientific, technical, literary...) that are useful to learners in specific fields.

g) Bilingual dictionaries act as a bridge between different cultures, as they are not limited to translating words, but also contribute to understanding cultural expressions, customs, and traditions associated with the target language.

7. Conclusion:

Based on the previous discussion of bilingual dictionaries, we can summarize the following key conclusions:

- The compiler of the bilingual dictionary should clearly identify the target audience and the intended language.
- The peculiarities of the foreign language - phonological, grammatical, or semantic, and so on- must be taken into account.
- Avoidance of excessive synonymy is essential in order to facilitate the task of the reader and the specialized researcher.
- This type of dictionary is more concerned with providing information about the explained language rather than the explaining language.
- They save learners effort and time gain in acquiring foreign languages and knowledge.
- They are considered as support for specialized researchers who need to translate certain terms or texts encountered in their fields.
- The computerization of bilingual dictionaries is one of the challenges of the modern era, necessary to keep pace with technological development and the demands of speed.
- In the Arab world, the bilingual lexicography is witnessing a great delay, as it needs a significant leap forward in order to achieve genuine progress especially when compared with advances made elsewhere.
- The need for great coordination between institutions specialized in the lexicography to build effective strategies and to benefit from the expertise and experiences of international institutions working in this field.

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