

## Lecture 4: Translation at Word-level

### 1.1. An Overview

A word is a speech sound or a combination of sounds, or its representation in writing, that symbolizes and communicates a meaning and may consist of a single morpheme or a combination of morphemes.

### 1.2 Translation of Nouns:

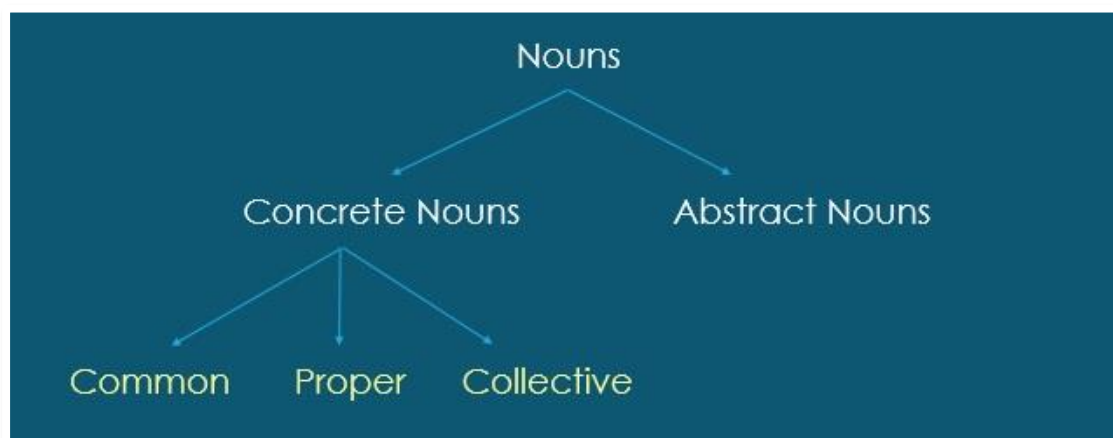
Nouns are divided into two types: Concrete Nouns and Abstract Nouns.

1. **Concrete Nouns** are nouns that can be identified through one of the five senses (taste, touch, sight, hearing, or smell).

For instance: كلب - dog / كهرباء - electricity / علي - Ali

النيل - Nile / كرسي - Chair

"Concrete Nouns" are sub-divided into: Common nouns, Proper nouns and Collective nouns.



❖ A Common Noun is the generic name for a person, place, or thing in a class or group. Unlike proper nouns, a common noun is not capitalized unless it either begins a sentence or appears in a title.

For instance: شجرة - tree / نهر - river / يوم - day / كرسي - chair / رجل - man

❖ A Proper Noun is a specific name for a particular person, place, or thing. Proper nouns are always capitalized in English, no matter where they fall in a sentence. Because they endow nouns with a specific name, they are also sometimes called *proper names*.

For instance: احمد - Ahmed / القاهرة - Cairo / افریست - Everest

- ❖ A collective noun is a singular noun that refers to a group of people, animals or things and can be used with *either* a singular *or* a plural verb.

For instance: فريق - team / قطيع - herd / جيش – army

2. **Abstract nouns** are words that name things that are not concrete. Your five physical senses cannot detect an abstract noun – you can't see it, smell it, taste it, hear it, or touch it. In essence, an abstract noun is a quality, a concept, an idea, or maybe even an event.

For instance: الجمال - beauty / الصحة - health / السعادة – happiness

A gerund is a noun made from a verb by adding "-ing." The gerund form of the verb "read" is "reading." You can use a gerund as *the subject*, *the complement*, or *the object of a sentence*.

For instance: القراءة - Reading / التدخين - Smoking ... etc.

Translating common nouns doesn't pose difficulties if an equivalent is found in the TL. Similarly, translating Proper Names is not difficult because what we usually do is to turn the Arabic letters into the English ones or vice-versa.

### Names of Places:

الاسم العربي	الاسم الانجليزي	الاسم العربي	الاسم الانجليزي
بلجيكا	Belgium	النمسا	Austria
الجزائر (الدولة)	Algeria	روسيا	Russia
الجزائر (العاصمة)	Algiers	روسيا البيضاء	Belarus
المغرب	Morocco	اليونان	Greece
طرابلس	Tripoly	قبرص	Cyprus
سوريا	Syria	الصومال	Somalia
دمشق	Damascus	القدس	Jerusalem
حلب	Aleppo	تونس	Tunisia
(نهر) دجلة	Tigris	(نهر) الفرات	Euphrates
المحيط الهادي	Pacific Ocean	بلاد ما بين النهرين	Mesopotamia

### Translating Collective Nouns:

الاسم العربي	الاسم الانجليزي	الاسم العربي	الاسم الانجليزي
فريق	team	طاقم (طائرة او سفينة)	crew
اسطول (السفن)	fleet	لجنة	committee
قطيع (الجاموس)	herd	حشد، جمع (من الناس)	crowd

Such collective nouns as committee, government, jury, parliament, etc. are considered singular when the concept of the unity as a group is emphasized, but when the concept of the individuals or numbers is emphasized they are treated as plural.

### **Names of Organizations and Agencies:**

- منظمة الاغذية و الزراعة  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية  
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- منظمة الصحة العالمية  
World Health Organization (WHO)
- منظمة حلف الشمال الاطلسي  
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- منظمة التجارة العالمية  
World Trade Organization (WTO)
- منظمة الدول المصدرة للبترول  
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- منظمة مراقبة حقوق الانسان  
Human Rights Watch (HRW)
- منظمة الدول العربية المصدرة للنفط  
Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)
- وكالة المخابرات المركزية  
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

### **1.3 Translation of Adjectives:**

There are some differences between English Adjectives and Arabic ones:

1. Adjectives in Arabic come after the noun, whereas in English they precede the noun.

For example: اكلت المرأة العجوز عشاءها البارد:

The old woman ate her cold supper.

2. Participle Adjectives come before the noun, but they are also used after the noun (i.e. a reduced Relative Clause)

For instance: الرجل المبتسم هو جاري

The smiling man is my neighbour.

الرجل الذي يبتسم هو جاري

The man smiling is my neighbour.

3. Nouns are overloaded with adjectives.

For example: فقدت معطفي الصوفي البني القديم امس

I lost my old brown woollen overcoat yesterday.

اشتريت اربعة كرسي بلاستيكية زرقاء اللون

I bought four blue plastic chairs.