

**THE STUDY OF THE TRANSLATIONS OF
QURANIC INDEFINITENESS INTO
ENGLISH**

A THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Categorization in language is proved to be of various realizations on different linguistic layers (e.g. syntactic, morphological, lexical ,etc.). This means that languages exhibit variations, i.e. similarities and differences, as far as the realizations of categories are concerned. The definite – indefinite category is no exception where this holds true of Arabic and English. Therefore, it seems that this has its impact (positive or negative) on translation and learning.

The present study is concerned with finding out the translation difficulties, if any, emanating from the linguistic differences in rendering Quranic indefiniteness into English. The work has been based on three hypotheses; first, Arabic seems to have a more rhetorically elaborate network of indefiniteness than English does. Second, this linguistic gap may pose translation difficulties in transferring Quranic indefinites into English. Third, translation by paraphrasing seems to be the only alternative that translators could utilize in bridging the gap between both languages.

To verify the above hypotheses, fifty four Quranic verses have been randomly selected and six published translations have been consulted. The translations of the Quranic indefinites chosen

have been assessed in the light of the theoretical framework made on indefinites in both languages, and the model proposed.

The findings of the study have validated the above – mentioned hypotheses. In addition, it has been found out that indefinites and definites do not hold a one – to – one correspondence with generic and specific reference, respectively. Scholars in either language have paid much attention to the role of context in determining what is indefinite or definite. The study rounds off with some recommendations and suggestions for further research .