An Empirical Study of Problems Faced by English-Arabic Translation Professionals: A Corpus Based Analysis
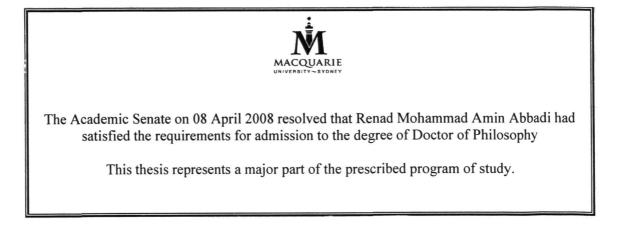
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A thesis submitted to Macquarie University
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This thesis represents a major part of the prescribed program of study.

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The work presented in this thesis is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, original except as acknowledged in the text. I hereby declare that I have not submitted this material, either in whole or in part, for a degree at this or any other institution.

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Dedication

To my mother and father who selflessly dedicated their lives to supporting and encouraging their children and who encouraged me to pursue my personal and academic interests from childhood

To my husband who believes in me; whose love has guided me through these last years

Acknowledgement

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to empirically examine translation problems encountered by English-Arabic translators. It sets out a practical approach to investigating real life translations. As the title suggests the study was based on the analysis of a translation corpus consisting of one hundred translations of source texts produced by professional translators for the purpose of this study. The analysis of errors indicative of translation problems at the lexical, grammatical and textual level was carried out. This thesis utilized additional procedures to analyze the errors present in the corpus, i.e. rater and target readership assessments. The underlying problems were then interpreted in the light of the inherent difficult nature of some categories as outlined by available literature and translators' competence.