



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

# Investigating French Interference in Algerian Students' English-Arabic/ Arabic- English Translations of Collocations

Souhaila Messaoudi,  
Claire Brierley, and  
James Dickins

Email: [mlsme@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:mlsme@leeds.ac.uk)



# OUTLINE

- Theoretical Framework
- Collocations
- False Friends
- Algerian students and false friends between English and French
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion



# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

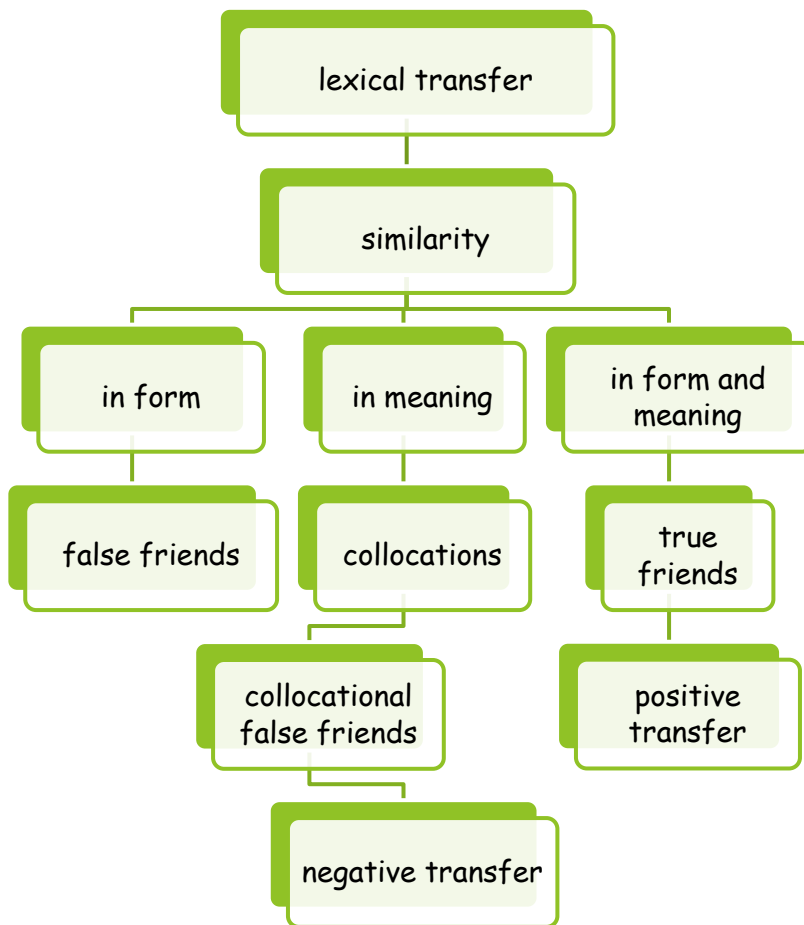


Figure 1: Relationship between Lexical Transfer, False Friends, and Collocations



# COLLOCATIONS

- ▶ The tendency of conventionalized lexical items to significantly and exclusively re-appear in the company of another word within specific grammatical patterns at a specified proximity in a given corpus data resulting in natural combinations.
- ▶ This definition draws on many existing definitions (Sinclair, 1991; Evert, 2008; McEnery and Hardie, 2012)

**WORD SKETCH**

person as noun 4,441,443×

modifiers of "person"

adjective predicates of "person"

<b>responsible</b>	...
the person responsible for	
<b>skilled</b>	...
a person skilled in the art	
<b>interested</b>	...
persons interested in	
<b>familiar</b>	...
a person familiar with the	
<b>guilty</b>	...
person is guilty of	



## FALSE FRIENDS: DEFINITION AND TYPES

False friends are pairs of words that exhibit similarities in terms of graphics and/or phonetics, but different meanings in different languages even if some of their meanings may coincide.



### Full False Friends


- Orthographically and sometimes also phonetically similar words in two languages.
- Semantically completely different with no sense shared in the two languages (e.g. injure Fr/ injury En).

### Partial False Friends

- Have similar spelling but different meanings in different languages.
- Some of their meanings may coincide (e.g. réaliser Fr/ realise En).



# ALGERIAN STUDENTS AND FALSE FRIENDS BETWEEN ENGLISH AND FRENCH

	English FL	French FL
English Native speakers		
French native speakers		
SL Learners of English		
SL learners of French		

How Does French Influence:

1. English-Arabic translation of English collocations involving adjectives which are false friends with corresponding French adjectives?
2. Arabic-English translation of Arabic collocations when the nodes of these collocations are synonymous to English false friends with corresponding forms in French?

(Algerian Master's Translation Students as Case Study)



# METHODOLOGY

- ❑ Self reporting questionnaire comprising 11 items.
- ❑ Translation test a 30-item translation test was devised.



# METHODOLOGY

	Type 1	Source	Type 2	English	French	Meaning of French	Semantic Category
1	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	Actual	actuel	Current	Politics, Business, and Economics
2	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	Candid	candide	naive or ingenuous but not honest or frank	Human Character, Emotions and Feeling
3	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	comprehensive	comprehensif	understanding et sympathetic	Education, Media, and Art
4	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	concurrent	concurrent	simultaneous in english but competing or rival In French	Education, Media, and Art
5	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	consistent	consistant	solid, thick,substantial but not coherent	Education, Media, and Art
6	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	eventual	éventuel	possible	Education, Media, and Art
7	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	excited	excité	aroused	Human Character, Emotions and Feeling
8	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	fastidious	fastidieux	boring or tedious	Human Character, Emotions and Feeling
9	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	formidable	formidable	wonderful but not powerful, enormous or alarming	Human Character, Emotions and Feeling
10	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	grand	grand	large	Aspects of Daily Life
11	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	rude	rude	harsh, hard or intimidating	Human Character, Emotions and Feeling
12	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	heinous	haineux	full of hate	Justcie, Law and Administration
13	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	inhabited	inhabité	not lived in	Aspects of Daily Life
14	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	jolly	jolie	beautiful	Human Character, Emotions and Feeling
15	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	rentable	rentable	profitable	Aspects of Daily Life
16	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	sensible	sensible	sensitive	Human Character, Emotions and Feeling
17	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	secular	séculaire	happening once every hundered years	Politics, Business, and Economics
18	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	sympathetic	sympathique	nice	Human Character, Emotions and Feeling
19	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	ulterior	ultérieur	not secret but later	Human Character, Emotions and Feeling
20	Strong	Thody& Evans	ADJ	petulent	pétulant	sulky and gloomy or full of energy	Human Character, Emotions and Feeling

FOCAL WORDS FOR ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS





# METHODOLOGY

- The grammatical pattern of the collocations to be constructed in this study is « adjective + noun ».
- Ten focal words representing synonymous words in Arabic to English and French False friends.

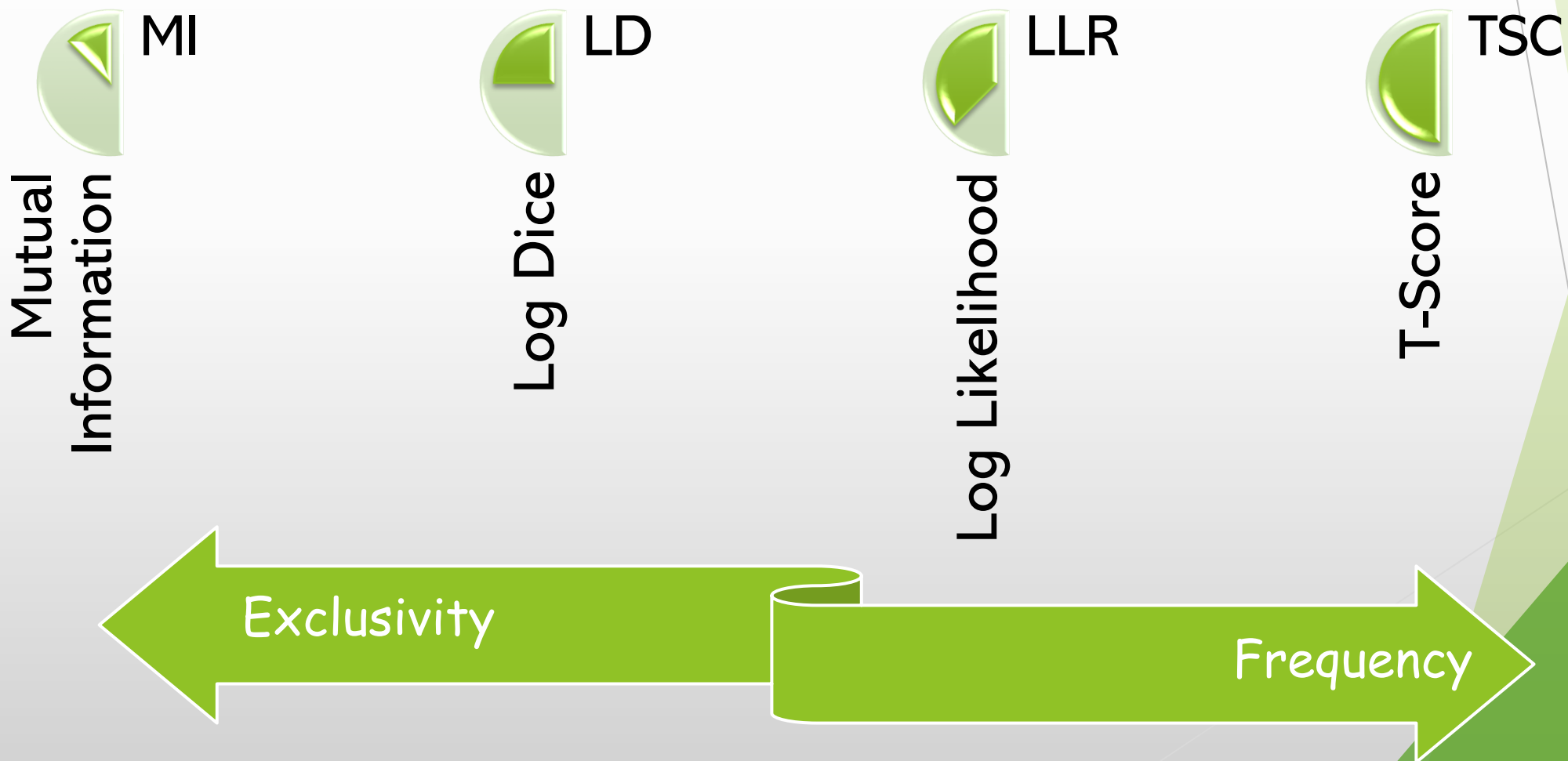
## FOCAL WORDS FOR ARABIC COLLOCATIONS

Meaning in French	Words in French	Words in English	Translations in Arabic
Disappointment in French	déception	deception	خداع
Means only amusement	humour	humour	مزاج
Tendencies in French	sensibilités	sensibilities	توجهات
crippled in French	impotence	impotence	عجز
Means wonderful in French	fomridable	formidable	كؤود
Fan, follower in French	adepte	Adept/adeptness	مهارة
Also means debate, quarrel in English	argument	argument	حجة
Also, competence in French	professionalisme	professionalism	احترافية
Insult in French	injure	injury	جرح
(The Latin sense) defence of an action	apologie	Apology	أعذار



# METHODOLOGY

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COLLOCATIONAL DIMENSIONS AND ASSOCIATION MEASURES





---

Using sketch engine

---

Arabic Web 2012(arTenTen12)/ English Web 2015  
(enTenTen15)

---

A window approach of (1L,0R)

---

English adjectival false friends with French / synonymous  
words in Arabic to English and French False friends.

---

Top ten collocates highlighted by Log Likelihood and Log  
Dice Scores.



**SKETCH  
ENGINE**

**METHODOLOGY**



# METHODOLOGY

Top ten collocates for the noun formidable sorted by LL

Collocates	<u>Co-occurrence count</u>	<u>Candidate count</u>	<u>T-score</u>	<u>MI</u>	<u>Log Likelihood</u>	<u>Log Dice</u>
<b>A</b>	21,263	329,105,715	139.751	4.587	104,550.37	1.081
<b>challenge</b>	3,504	4,959,106	58.969	8.038	32,319.87	4.518
<b>opponent</b>	1,750	436,142	41.804	10.543	22,151.31	6.883
<b>task</b>	1,656	2,226,300	40.546	8.112	15,380.41	4.575
<b>foe</b>	954	80,636	30.879	12.103	14,129.82	7.908
<b>most</b>	2,203	16,233,850	46.006	5.657	13,056.38	2.148
<b>force</b>	1,694	5,192,640	40.819	6.923	12,956.66	3.404
<b>obstacle</b>	1,054	359,688	32.435	10.09	12,663.15	6.399
<b>barrier</b>	684	766,479	26.074	8.375	6,587.59	4.779
<b>reputation</b>	560	491,200	23.608	8.728	5,665.68	5.085

Top ten collocates for the noun formidable sorted by LD

Collocates	<u>Co-occurrence count</u>	<u>Candidate count</u>	<u>T-score</u>	<u>MI</u>	<u>Log Likelihood</u>	<u>Log Dice</u>
<b>foe</b>	954	80,636	30.879	12.085	14,104.96	7.901
<b>opponent</b>	1,750	436,142	41.804	10.525	22,105.36	6.881
<b>adversary</b>	330	65,024	18.156	10.864	4,314.28	6.553
<b>obstacle</b>	1,054	359,688	32.435	10.071	12,635.68	6.397
<b>holmes</b>	300	108,725	17.303	9.984	3,555.84	5.952
<b>intellect</b>	167	67,169	12.908	9.834	1,944.17	5.544
<b>competitor</b>	449	324,872	21.147	8.987	4,702.65	5.294
<b>reputation</b>	560	491,200	23.607	8.709	5,651.18	5.083
<b>substitute</b>	310	296,567	17.56	8.584	3,073.08	4.873
<b>barrier</b>	684	766,479	26.073	8.356	6,569.87	4.778



# METHODOLOGY

Top ten collocates for the noun خداع  
xidāf sorted by LD

collocates	Co-occurrence count	Candidate count	T-score	MI	Log Likelihood	Log Dice
بصري	621	151,645	24.876	9.169	6,663.06	6.592
اساليب	832	323,831	28.764	8.496	8,154.68	6.153
استراتيجي	295	144,153	17.115	8.168	2,754.73	5.571
استراتيجي	77	8,632	8.767	10.292	945.592	5.217
بصري	67	6,009	8.18	10.614	852.801	5.073
ضروب	68	30,626	8.219	8.286	645.796	4.632
فنون	110	107,871	10.414	7.163	874.259	4.431
ذاتي	153	192,226	12.258	6.806	1,140.87	4.317
خطة	384	601,703	19.377	6.487	2,696.82	4.25
لفظي	50	31,327	7.039	7.81	441.917	4.178

Top ten collocates for the noun خداع  
xidāf sorted by LLR

collocates	Co-occurrence count	Candidate count	T-score	MI	Log Likelihood	Log Dice
و	37,645	582,826,773	172.659	3.182	125,696.03	1.081
اساليب	832	323,831	28.764	8.496	8,154.68	6.153
,	6,440	239,679,113	59.008	1.917	8,050.62	-0.184
بصري	621	151,645	24.876	9.169	6,663.06	6.592
.	3,432	140,046,391	41.581	1.784	3,723.21	-0.317
او	1,468	27,663,111	33.179	2.899	3,385.82	0.795
من	3,470	164,164,810	39.086	1.571	3,047.13	-0.53
الذي	1,247	22,854,008	30.71	2.939	2,932.91	0.834
استراتيجي	295	144,153	17.115	8.168	2,754.73	5.571
خطة	384	601,703	19.377	6.487	2,696.82	4.25



# METHODOLOGY

► The bilingual list demonstrated that the collocates of both sides of the list can belong to different semantic categories one of which might be shared which is the case with the collocates of 'jolly', 'petulant'. Sharing the same semantic category can be evident by sharing the same collocate as in 'sensible'

► for 'rentable' and 'fastidious', the bilingual list did not evoke any shared semantic category between the collocates on both sides of the list. .i.e the collocates appearing in the two languages do not share any generic word they can fall under. In this case, the chosen noun collocates for rentable and fastidious (Space, person) were generic nouns belonging to the prominent English semantic category on the English part pf the list

## BILINGUAL LISTS

**fastidious** (*adjective*) Alternative PoS: [noun](#) (freq: 35)  
 English Web 2015 (enTenTen15) freq = 4,032 (0.21 per million)  
 Use another candidate translation: [attentif](#) [Traité détail](#) [séance député aussi vous](#) [s](#)  
 Click on collocates to access reciprocal bilingual search or find [translated collocations](#)

nouns modified by "fastidious"			nouns modified by "fastidieux"		
	24.60			33.29	
<b>attention</b>	110	2.13	<b>travail</b>	782	5.23
fastidious attention to detail			un travail fastidieux		
<b>organism</b>	60	3.69	<b>tâche</b>	622	7.46
fastidious organisms			tâche fastidieuse		
<b>taste</b>	60	3.15	<b>recherche</b>	256	4.31
the fastidious taste			recherches fastidieuses		
<b>bacterium</b>	47	3.49	<b>démarche</b>	157	4.79
fastidious bacteria			démarches fastidieuses		
<b>nature</b>	43	0.72	<b>opération</b>	156	4.57
fastidious nature of the			opération fastidieuse		
<b>microorganism</b>	16	4.71	<b>étape</b>	104	3.69
of fastidious microorganisms			étape fastidieuse		
<b>preparation</b>	16	0.50	<b>manipulation</b>	103	6.24
fastidious preparation			manipulations fastidieuses		
<b>folk</b>	14	0.64	<b>lecture</b>	97	4.30
fastidious folk no more			la lecture fastidieuse		
<b>dresser</b>	13	5.07	<b>calcul</b>	94	5.38
a fastidious dresser			calculs fastidieux		
<b>eater</b>	12	3.59	<b>processus</b>	89	4.04
fastidious eater			un processus fastidieux		

**sensible** (*adjective*) Alternative PoS: [noun](#) (freq: 10,593)  
 English Web 2015 (enTenTen15) freq = 120,304 (6.54 pe  
 Use another candidate translation: [sensé](#) [raisonnable](#) [judicieux](#) [intelligent](#) [rati](#)  
 Click on collocates to access reciprocal bilingual search or find [translated collocation](#)

nouns modified by "sensible"			nouns modified by "sensible"		
	61.13			43.88	
<b>way</b>	3,333	4.19	<b>peau</b>	7,589	10.08
a sensible way			les peaux sensibles		
<b>approach</b>	2,403	4.69	<b>zone</b>	7,387	8.71
a sensible approach			zones sensibles		
<b>thing</b>	2,303	4.13	<b>sujet</b>	4,896	8.38
sensible thing to do			un sujet sensible		
<b>policy</b>	2,255	4.01	<b>donnée</b>	4,352	8.52
<b>people</b>	1,993	2.99	des données sensibles		
A lot of sensible people share our feelings			<b>image</b>	3,322	8
<b>solution</b>	1,714	4.10	image sensible au survol et		
sensible solution			<b>information</b>	3,276	7.10
<b>decision</b>	1,429	4.76	des informations sensibles		
sensible decision			<b>point</b>	3,089	7.07
<b>choice</b>	1,374	5.12	points sensibles		
a sensible choice			<b>âme</b>	2,954	8.94
<b>option</b>	1,146	3.74	âmes sensibles		
sensible option			<b>être</b>	2,414	7.43
<b>person</b>	1,089	4.56	êtres sensibles		
any sensible person			<b>personne</b>	2,399	6.50
<b>reform</b>	858	4.66	les personnes sensibles		



# METHODOLOGY

N	Association Measures Collocations	T score	MI	Log Likelihood	Log Dice
01	Heinous crime	88.227	12.374	121.960.295	7.422
02	Sensible person	/	/	/	/
03	Actual Cost	88.995	5.642	48.433.387	6.087
04	Concurrent enrollment	66.983	11.434	62.484.954	8.464
05	Candid camera	19.681	10.223	4.728.330	6.183
06	Comprehensive approach	137.653	6.976	148.509.366	7.326
07	Consistent manner	60.222	8.119	33.908.168	6.576
08	Eventual winner	57.106	8.987	34.373.167	6.380
09	Excited anticipation	19.354	10.792	4.866.526	6.313
10	Fastidious person	/	/	/	/
11	Formidable opponent	35.638	11.458	17.690.542	7.538
12	Rude awakening	49.293	14.641	44.810.151	9.648
13	Grand prize	132.041	10.282	215.334.403	9.035
14	Inhabited Island	2.445	9.395	66.267	6.144
15	Jolly woman	/	/	/	/
16	Rentable space	/	/	/	/
17	Secular humanism	45.481	13.153	33.780.162	8.548
18	Sympathetic ear	37.348	9.110	14.915.143	6.139
19	Ulterior motive	75.497	16.426	125.291.875	10.080
20	Petulant boy	/	/	/	/



# METHODOLOGY

N	Association	T score	MI	Log Likelihood	Log Dice
	Measures				
	Collocations				
01	مزاج متعكر	9.11	18.488	1,980.11	9.147
02	خداع بصري	24.876	9.169	6,663.06	6.592
03	توجهات سياسية	41.867	10.147	21,414.35	6.020
04	عجز مالي	42.641	8.164	17,103.40	7.008
05	عقبة كؤود	24.412	15.285	11,935.70	7.208
06	احترافية عالية	34.136	9.749	13,514.97	6.255
07	مهارة فائقة	45.648	11.796	30,055.65	8.915
08	حجة دامغة	35.089	11.705	17,681.21	7.088
09	جرح نازف	37.905	14.038	25,514.64	8.47
10	أعدار واهية	28.773	13.864	14,330.54	9.151





# METHODOLOGY

- ▶ The setting of this study was three main institutions: Abu AL Kassem Saadallah Algiers 2 University, the High Arab Institute of Translation, and Ahmed ben Bella Oran 2 University.
- ▶ A total number of 89 Master One students majoring in English translation was targeted including those involved in the pilot study. The participants were chosen randomly based on their actual presence to their classes.
- ▶ The percentage of participants in each of the above-mentioned institutions was approximately 40% of the population .



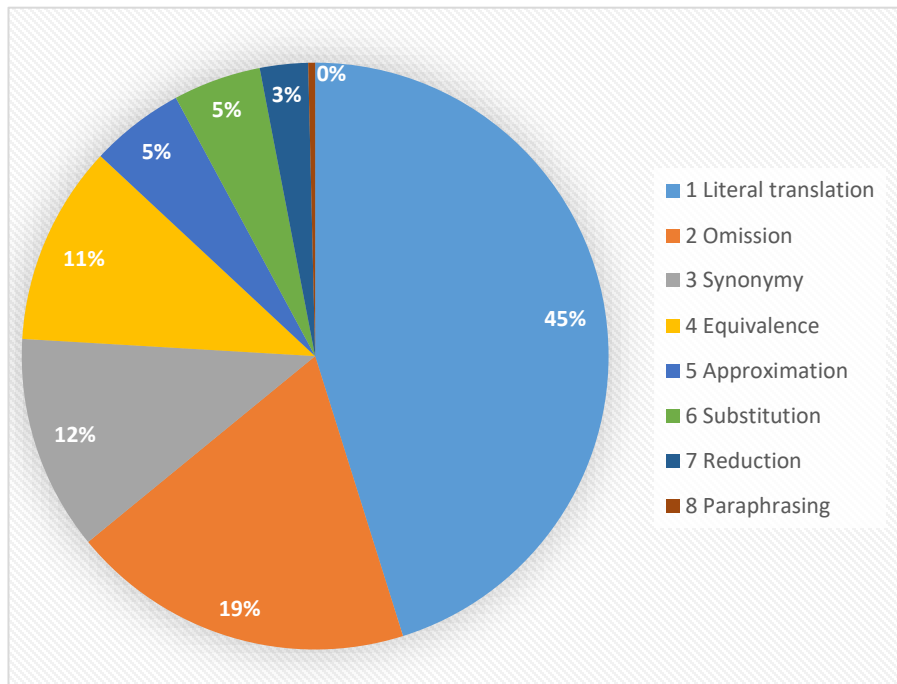
# RESULTS

Summary of the classification of the students correct and incorrect responses based on the acceptability scale

	Good collocations and good translations	Acceptable collocations and acceptable translations	Acceptable translations but unacceptable collocations	Acceptable collocations but unacceptable Translations	Unacceptable collocations and unacceptable translations	Blanks
	Acceptable	Partially acceptable		Unacceptable		
	Correct Answers			Eroneous Answers		
	869	274	4	571	389	493
<b>Total</b>	1147			960		
<b>Overall number of attempts</b>	2107					



# RESULTS



**Figure 2 Adopted Strategies by the Participants in the Translation Task**

## Classification of produced errors

Types of errors	Number	Percentage %
lexical	874	91.04
grammatical	52	5.41
spelling	34	3.54
Total	960	100



# RESULTS

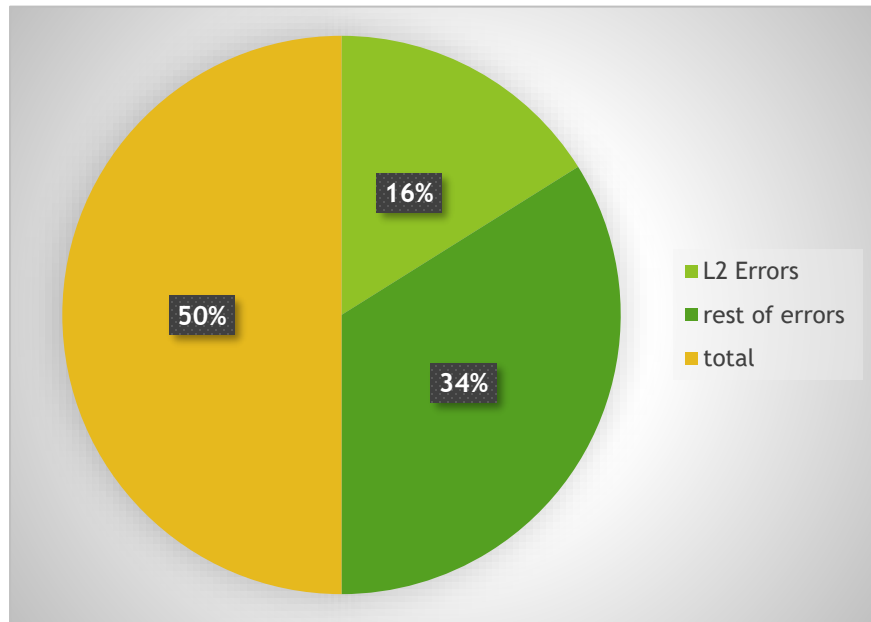


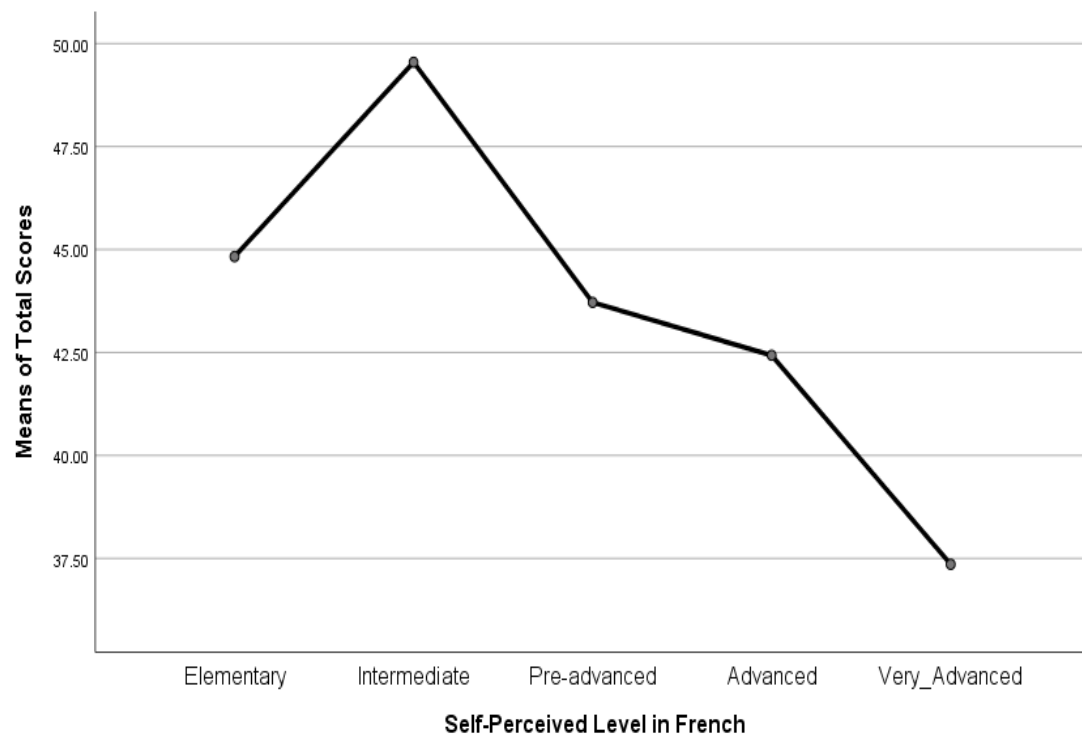
Figure 3 L2 Interference Errors

How does Algerian EFL learners' L2 affect their proficiency in translating English Arabic/ Arabic- English translations of collocations ?

- L2 interference errors made a third of the total errors
- They led to wrong choices of collocates/nodes rather than grammatical errors



# RESULTS



**Figure 4 Mean Percentages of the Participants based on their Self-Perceived Level in French**

A one-way ANOVA test showed that there was no statistically significant difference in means according to the different groups representing the respondents' self-perceived level French  $F(4,84) = .56, p = .69 > .05$



## CONCLUSION

- ❑ Subjects used eight different translation strategies, the most common of which is literal strategy (45%).
- ❑ Lexical errors were the dominant errors with 874 (91.04%), spelling errors and grammar-related errors totaled just 34 (3.54%) and 52 (5.41%) respectively.
- ❑ French interference instances (309 instances) made a third of the errors committed and were either lexical or spelling errors.
- ❑ More errors occurred in the rendition of the English collocations into Arabic than those from Arabic to English.
- ❑ The dominant presence of the lexical errors in the students' produced translations of *adjective+noun* collocations included wrong choice of both adjective and noun, which was in many cases because of L2 interference or L1 interference via literal translation strategy, and in other cases because of the adoption of other strategies, mainly substitution and approximation, and to a lesser extent synonymy and reduction.
- ❑ Grammatical errors may be due to either overgeneralization by generalizing grammatical rules, or L1 interference, when an Arabic structure is transferred into English, misplacing the adjective after the noun in the rendition of English collocations into Arabic.



# REFERENCES

- ▶ Evert, S. 2008. Corpora and collocations. *Corpus linguistics. An international handbook*, Vol 2, pp.1212-1248
- ▶ Gries, S. T. 2010. Useful statistics for corpus linguistics. *A mosaic of corpus linguistics: Selected approaches*, 66, pp.269-291.
- ▶ Kilgarriff, A., Baisa, V., Bušta, J., Jakubíček, M., Kovář, V., Michelfeit, J., Rychlý, P. and Suchomel, V., 2014. The Sketch Engine: ten years on. *Lexicography*, 1(1), pp.7-36. [Accessed 1 November 2017 and thereon]. Available from: <https://www.sketchengine.eu>
- ▶ McEnery, T. and Hardie, A. 2012. *Corpus linguistics: method, theory and practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- ▶ Pecina, P. 2010. Lexical association measures and collocation extraction. *Language Resources and Evaluation*, 44(1), pp.137-158.
- ▶ Sinclair, J. M. 1991. *Corpus, concordance, collocation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- ▶ Thody, P., Evans, H. 1985. *Faux amis and key words: A dictionary-guide to French language, culture and society through lookalikes and confusables*. London: The Athlone Press
- ▶ Van Roey, J., Granger, S. and Swallow, H., 1998. *Dictionnaire des Faux Amis/Dictionnaire of Faux Amis Français-Anglais English-French*.



pronominal objects  
of "thank"

modifiers of  
"thank"