# The Translation of Noun from Non-English to English: A Systematic Literature Review

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## ABSTRACT

*Linguistic structures and cultural variations pose significant challenges in the field of translation studies. Understanding the translation of nouns is essential for bridging linguistic gaps and enhancing cross-cultural communication. However, there have been limited systematic reviews on the issue. This study aims to systematically review and analyze the existing literature on the translation of nouns from non-English language to English as a target language. In accordance with the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines, a systematic review was conducted utilizing two primary databases, Web of Science and Scopus. The process comprised three main stages: keyword identification, article screening, and final article determination. Primary searches from 2013 to 2023 revealed 1418 studies on the topic under investigation. After scrutinizing abstracts and eliminating duplicates, 16 studies were selected for further analysis. A thematic analysis was conducted to derive themes for the translation of nouns in these studies. The themes of the translation of nouns from non-English to English that emerged were: (1) the features of nouns; (2) linguistic scope; (3) the machine translation (MT) system; (4) hindrances in translation; (5) translation strategies. These five themes were further categorized into 20 sub-themes. The results provide linguists and translators with an in-depth overview of the published research on noun translation from other languages into English, the target language. This overview paves the way for the development of more efficient translation approaches. This systematic review enriches the field of noun translation from non-English to English, providing a robust foundation for future research. Given the limited number of existing studies on noun translation, there is a significant need for further investigation to explore this area more thoroughly. Future research initiatives should further scrutinize the challenges and strategies associated with noun translation, contributing to a more detailed understanding of this linguistic domain.*

# 1.    INTRODUCTION

Translation conveys thoughts, knowledge, or intentions from a source language to a target language. This process involves substituting the linguistic structure of the source language with that of the target language (Almijrab, 2020; Bauko, 2022; Jiang et al., 2022). It requires consideration of several limitations, including context, the grammatical regulations of both languages and idioms (De Sutter & Lefer, 2020; Elhadary, 2023). As Edmonds-Wathen (2019) points out, no two languages have a straightforward, literal correspondence. Translating nouns from various languages (source) into English (target) is particularly complex, especially with specific noun categories (Akan et al., 2019; Kizi, 2023; Tonja et al., 2023). Tursunovich (2022) highlights a primary dilemma faced by translators in transliterating names within texts, noting that while personal and geographical names can theoretically be translated, it is often the most effective method to maintain their original form in the target text. According to Maulidiyah (2018), proper nouns, abstract nouns, cultural nouns, and compound nouns present unique challenges. It is necessary to appropriately reproduce names while preserving their cultural or historical connotations by employing proper nouns. (Nyangeri & Wangari, 2019). Abstract nouns require a clear understanding of the underlying concepts and their equivalents in the target language (Günther et al., 2022). Cultural nouns necessitate consideration of cultural connotations, and compound nouns require thorough analysis and interpretation of their specific meanings (Taule et al., 2022). Nevertheless, translating proper names often involves inconsistencies and exclusions. Nigora and Mamasharif (2020) identified that proper names pose distinct challenges, unlike those commonly found in dictionaries. Consequently, the translation of proper names struggles to convey the source text's unique local flavour and nationality in the target text (Font & Costa-Jussa, 2019; Savoldi et al., 2021).

The challenges highlighted the necessity for various translating methods that consider the unique features and limitations related to each category of noun. Strategies range from literal translation to retaining the original meaning, which emphasises readability in the target language (Boase-Beier, 2019; Kotze et al., 2021). Alymova (2022) stated that cultural translation strategies also aim to preserve cultural information encoded in source language nouns. Literal translation is not used when translating German to English since German nouns are grammatically gendered, such as masculine, feminine, or neuter (Harris, 2023; Misersky et al., 2019; Nübling & Lind, 2021). When it comes to Arabic translation, the translation of nouns can be even more intricate due to differences in grammar structures and cultural backgrounds between Arabic and English (Abdelaal, 2020; Akan et al., 2019; Betti & Bsharah, 2023). In French, compound nouns are commonly used, while in English translation, it is essential to separate them into individual words or employ different expressions to make appropriate adjustments in the linguistic structure (Arnaud, 2018; Bauer, 2019; Van Goethem & Amiot, 2019). To effectively convey meaning, accuracy is essential when translating Chinese words into English (Meng, 2020). It takes cultural sensitivity to avoid misinterpretations resulting from accurate translations (Lin, 2023). It is important to translate specific words carefully to conform to standards in this field (Tsai, 2023). Despite many published articles on strategies and challenges for translating nouns into English, few studies have systematically reviewed the English translation of nouns. Therefore, this study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the research on translating nouns across multiple languages into English as a target language.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a systematic review as a scientific approach to obtain a comprehensive understanding of a specific research domain. It helped future studies identify gaps and trends in past and current research (Ab Manan Iskandar & Muhamad, 2022; Adams & Muthiah, 2020; Johari et al., 2019; Hiver et al., 2021). This study employed the publication standard proposed by Page et al. (2020), known as Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA), while conducting the systematic literature review. It adhered to the procedures specified by PRISMA, including detailed information on the inclusion and exclusion criteria used to select previous studies, the sources from which these studies were obtained, and the methodology used to collect and analyze data for the systematic literature review.

### 2.1 Systematic Searching Strategies

*Identification.* The identification phase, which was the first step in the process, involved identifying articles. Shaffril et al. (2021) stated that the research question in the studies guided the selection of appropriate keywords. Consequently, this investigation initiated the retrieval of articles by identifying synonyms or terms related to the keyword "noun translation". Subsequently, after determining the keywords, various search strings incorporating Boolean operators (OR, AND), such as "nouns" AND "translation", were utilized throughout this process in two databases, namely Scopus and Web of Science (Refer to Table 1). Gusenbauer and Haddaway (2020) proposed the selection of these databases due to their prominent citation indexing systems and rigorous article quality control. Furthermore, following the recommendation of Misersky et al. (2019), the primary search strategy involved considering the title, abstract, and critical terms when employing these search functions. Next, a manual search was conducted by systematically examining articles page by page, then identifying and tracking the articles through citations and references. In summary, a total of 1418 articles were obtained, with 1365 articles in the Scopus database and an additional 53 articles retrieved from the Web of Science (WOS) database as shown in Figure 1.

Table 1: The Research Strings

| Database | Search String |
|---|---|
| **Web of Science** | TI=(("noun*") AND ("translation*")) |
| **Scopus** | TITLE-ABS-KEY (("noun*") AND ("translation*")) |

*Screening.* The screening phase, which was the second step in the process, involved including or excluding articles based on predetermined criteria. This determination was made either with the assistance of the database or through manual screening, as outlined in Table 2. In line with the concept of "research field maturity" highlighted by Kraus et al. (2020), this review limited the screening process to articles published from 2013 to 2023. This timeline was deemed appropriate as it provided a substantial number of published studies for conducting a comprehensive review (Snyder, 2019). This study focused on reviewing empirical research papers, as they offer primary data. Notably, only proceedings papers and articles written in English were considered. The study concentrated on English translations. It specifically targeted open-access publications featuring translated nouns in

English. As shown in Figure 1, 1296 articles were excluded from the review as they did not meet the inclusion criteria, leaving 122 articles for evaluation in the subsequent stage.

Table 2: Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

| Criteria | Inclusion Criteria | Exclusion Criteria |
|---|---|---|
| Timeline | 2013-2023 | 2012 and earlier |
| Publication Type | Article and conference paper (with empirical data) | Other than article and conference paper |
| Language | English | Non-English |
| Subject area | Nouns translation | Other than nouns translation |
| Translated noun | English | Non-English |
| Access | Open access or only content accessible to everyone | Non-open access or restricted access to content |

*Eligibility.* The final stage was eligibility, during which the remaining papers were manually scrutinized to ensure they met the required criteria. In the abstract screening phase, 95 more articles were eliminated. After thoroughly examining the content of the selected articles,  an additional 11 articles were excluded. In total, 106 articles were removed in this stage due to their insufficient focus on the translation of nouns from non-English languages to English as the target language. The quality appraisal stage involved assessing a final set of 16 articles, as illustrated in Figure 1.
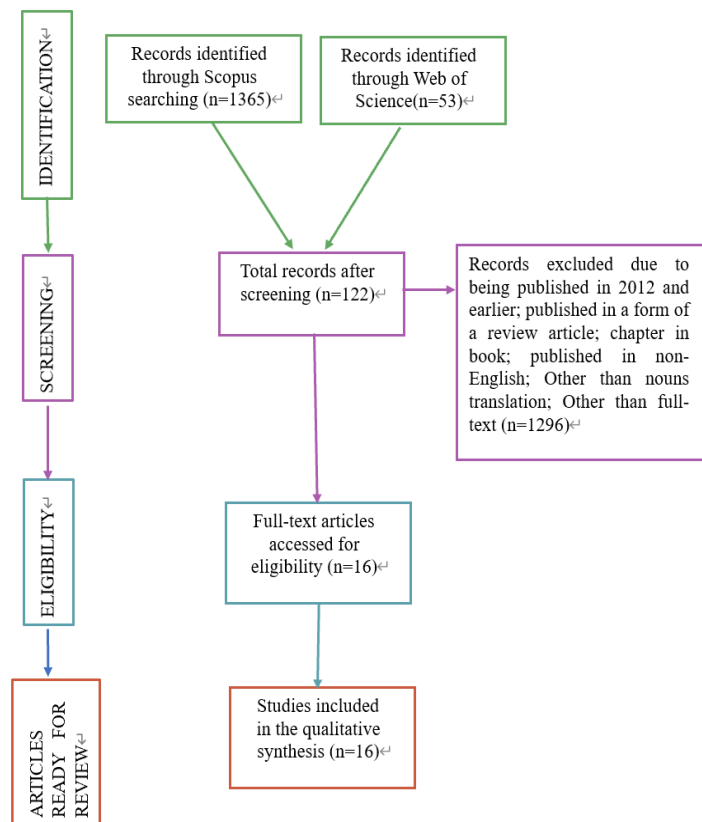


Figure 1: Flow Diagram of The Searching Process

## 2.2 Extraction and Analysis of Data

Thematic analysis was applied to assess the selected articles in this study. According to Goldsmith (2021), thematic analysis is an analytical technique that involves finding, analyzing, and presenting patterns, themes, and relationships within a particular dataset. This review followed the guidelines outlined by Lochmiller (2021) for conducting thematic analysis. First, the selected articles were read several times to become familiar with their content. Initial codes were created from this reading process, and any data relevant to the research questions were extracted. Next, themes related to the translation of nouns from non-English to English were inductively derived by discovering common interests, similarities, and connections within the extracted data.

## 3. FINDINGS

### 3.1 Background Information of the Selected Studies

*Source Languages.* Figure 2 illustrates the total number of articles according to their source languages. The findings revealed that six papers focus on Chinese as a source language, as shown in Figure 2 (Cao et al., 2018; Li et al., 2014; Pu et al., 2017; Shi, 2023; Tang, 2021; Zhou et al., 2012). Two papers focus on Arabic as a source language (Abdullah, 2018; Qassem, 2021). Meanwhile, one study focuses on German (Al Salem et al., 2023), Hindi (Harsh et al., 2015), Indonesian (Raharjo et al., 2020), Malay (Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014), Polish (Lewandowski, 2015), Spanish (Espunya, 2020), Swedish (Ullman & Nivre, 2014), Russian (Mirzoyeva, 2023).
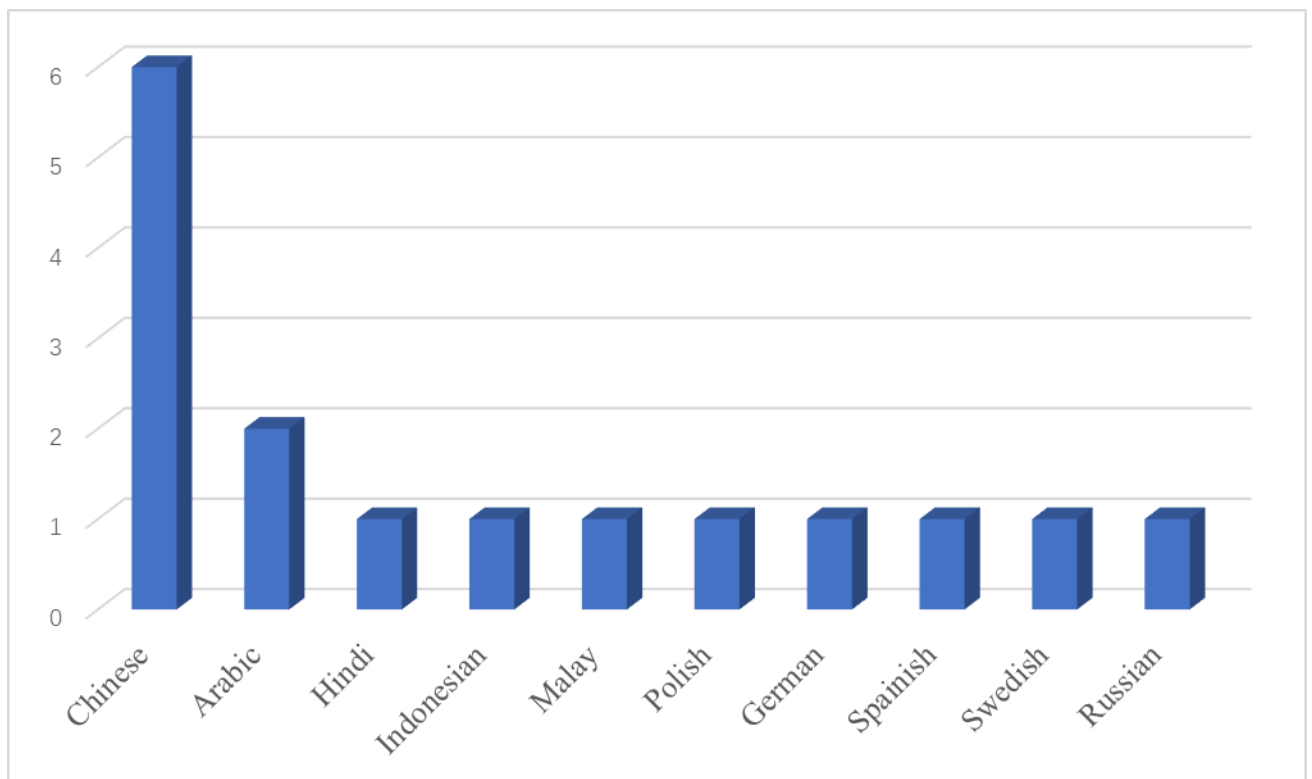


Figure 2: The Total Number of Articles According to Source Language

*Publication Years.* In terms of publication year, Figure 3 shows that one article was published in 2012 (Zhou et al., 2012), three articles were published in 2014 (Li et al., 2014;

Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014; Ullman & Nivre, 2014), two articles in 2015 (Harsh et al., 2015; Lewandowski, 2015), one article in 2017 (Pu et al., 2017), two studies in 2018 (Abdullah, 2018; Cao et al., 2018), two studies in 2020 (Espunya, 2020; Raharjo et al., 2020), two studies in 2021(Tang, 2021; Qassem, 2021), and three articles in 2023 (Al Salem et al., 2023; Mirzoyeva, 2023; Shi, 2023).
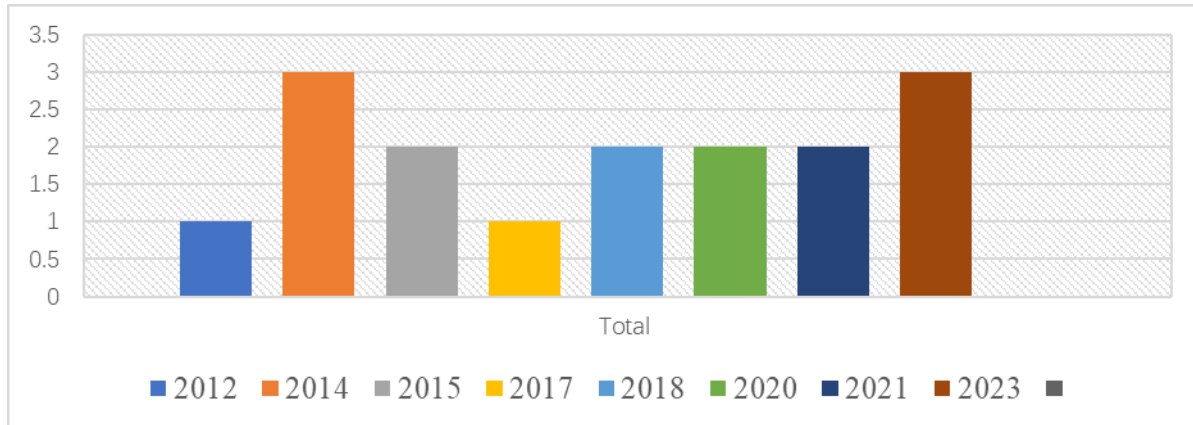


Figure 3: The Total Number of Articles by Year of Publication

***Classification of noun.*** In reference to noun classification, four studies specifically examined proper nouns (Cao et al., 2018; Raharjo et al., 2020; Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014; Tang, 2021). Another four studies focused on compound nouns (Li et al., 2014; Qassem, 2021; Ullman & Nivre, 2014; Zhou et al., 2012). Additionally, eight articles investigated various other types of nouns, including two articles on noun phrases (Lewandowski, 2015; Shi, 2023) and one article each on cultural nouns (Mirzoyeva, 2023), repeated nouns (Pu et al., 2017), property-denoting nouns (Espunya, 2020), similar plural nouns (Al Salem et al., 2023), Hindi nouns (Harsh et al., 2015), and Arabic nouns (Abdullah, 2018).
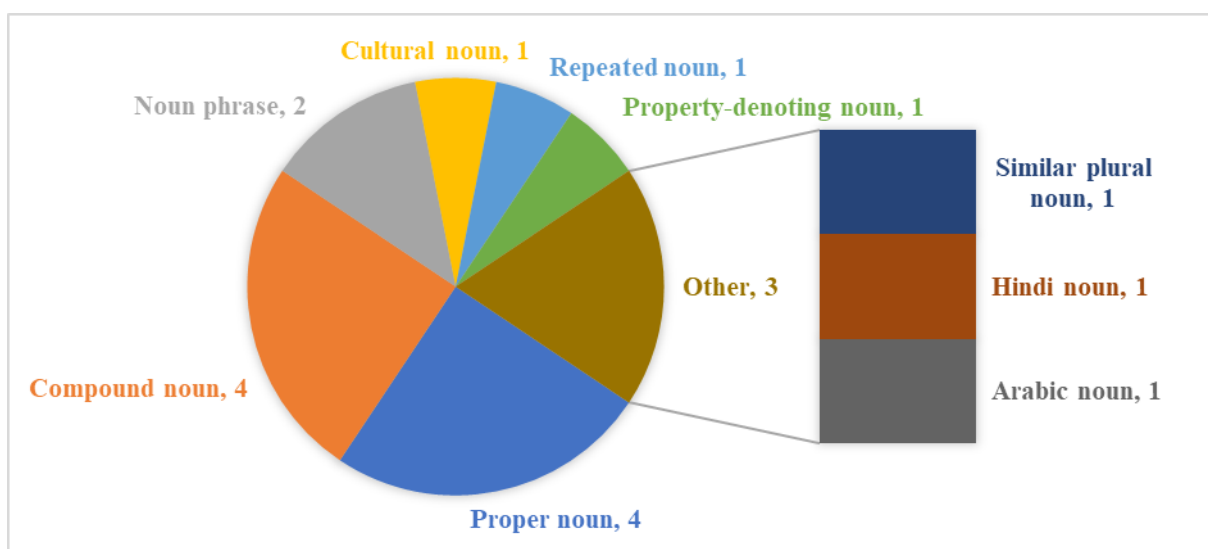


Figure 4: The Total Number of Articles by Classification of Noun

***Data Source.*** The data sources in the 16 selected articles included a range of text types, including corpora, patent texts, essays, legal texts, novels, dialects, lyrics, Chinese Opera, research papers, websites, and albums. Four papers examined the corpora, such as the

Swedish Europarl corpus and the subset of Swedish Wikipedia (Ullman & Nivre, 2014), the phrase corpus (Shi, 2023), the British National Corpus (BNC) and the Russian National Corpus (RNC) (Mirzoyeva, 2023), and the UN Corpus (Pu et al., 2017). Two studies focused on patent texts (Li et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2012), and three focused on essays (Al Salem et al., 2023; Qassem, 2021; Raharjo et al., 2020). Meanwhile, one study each explored legal texts (Tang, 2021), novels (Espunya, 2020), dialects (Harsh et al., 2015), lyrics (Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014), Chinese Opera (Cao et al., 2018), and the management and economy domain (Abdullah, 2018), as well as research papers, websites, and albums (Lewandowski, 2015).

### 3.2 The Noun Translation of the Selected Studies

Table 3 presents the findings from the thematic analysis of 16 articles about noun translation into English from 2013 to 2023. Five themes and twenty sub-themes were identified as follows: (1) the features of nouns (accuracy, ambiguity, formality, and expertise); (2) linguistic scope (morphology, syntax, and semantics); (3) the machine translation (MT) system (identification of nouns, paraphrase, and shallow segmentation); (4) hindrances in translation (complexity, lack of professional knowledge, and mistranslation); and (5) translation strategies (literal translation, liberal translation, transliteration, addition, omission, substitution, and generalization, and changing the order and the word class).

Table 3: The Main Themes and the Sub-themes

| Authors and Years | The Features of Nouns | | | | Linguistic Scope | | | The MT System | | | Hindrances in Translation | | | Translation Strategies | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | AM | F | E | M | S | SE | IN | P | SS | C | LPK | MI | LT | LIT | T | A | O | SG | COW |
| Zhou et al., (2012) | √ | | √ | √ | | | √ | √ | | | | | √ | | | | | | | |
| Li et al., (2014) | √ | | √ | √ | √ | | √ | √ | | | | | | | | | | | | √ |
| Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, (2014) | | √ | | √ | | | √ | | | | | | | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | |
| Ullman & Nivre, (2014) | | | √ | √ | √ | | | | √ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harsh et al., (2015) | | √ | | | √ | | √ | √ | | | | | | | | | | | √ | |
| Lewandowski, (2015) | | | √ | √ | | | | | | | | | | √ | √ | | | | √ | √ |
| Pu et al., (2017) | | √ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abdullah, (2018) | | | | √ | | √ | √ | | | | √ | | √ | | | | | | | |
| Cao et al., (2018) | √ | | | | | √ | √ | | | √ | | √ | | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | |
| Espunya, (2020) | | | | √ | | | √ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Raharjo et al., (2020) | | √ | | √ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tang, (2021) | √ | | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | | | √ | | | √ | √ | √ | √ | | √ |
| Qassem, (2021) | | √ | | √ | | | √ | | √ | | | | √ | √ | | | | √ | | |
| Al Salem et al., (2023) | | √ | | | √ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mirzoyeva, (2023) | | | | √ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shi, (2023) | √ | | | | | √ | √ | √ | | | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | | | | |

| The Features of Nouns | Linguistic Scope | The MT System | Hindrances in Translation | Translation Strategies |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A=Accuracy | M=Morphology | IN=Identification of Nouns | C=Complexity | LT=Literal Translation |
| AM=Ambiguity | S=Syntax | P=Paraphrase | LPK=Lack of Professional Knowledge | LIT=Liberal Translation |

| F=Formality | SE=Semantics | SS=Shallow Segmentation | MI=Mistranslation | T=Transliteration |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| E=Expertise | | | | A=Addition |
| | | | | O=Omission |
| | | | | SG=Substitution and Generalization |
| | | | | COW=Changing the Order and the Word Class |

### 3.2.1 The Features of Nouns

Four sub-themes under the theme of the features of English translated nouns were identified in this study: accuracy (A), ambiguity (AM), formality (F), and expertise (E). In these sub-themes, accuracy refers to the degree of correctness and faithfulness with which a translated text conveys the meaning of the original text (Cao et al., 2018). For deeper comprehension in translation, one should acquire the unique characteristics of nouns, particularly proper nouns (Shi, 2023). Li et al. (2014), Tang (2021), and Zhou et al. (2012) emphasized that in the legal and patent literature, it is crucial to maintain a high level of authority and seriousness, indicating that ensuring accuracy in special terms is a fundamental principle in the translation. Ambiguity arises in traditional cultural language when cultural conceptions of particular domains do not accurately correspond to specific domains, resulting in misunderstandings, especially in novels, lyrics, and essays (Al Salem et al., 2023; Espunya, 2020; Qassem, 2021; Raharjo et al., 2020; Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014). In novels, complex topics including society, morality, and human nature must be examined in the translation, prompting the reader to think about deeper meanings by introducing ambiguities of cultural concepts into the story (Espunya, 2020). Preserving ambiguity in lyrics during translation helps maintain the aesthetic qualities of the original and provokes similar aesthetic feelings in the target language (Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014). Ambiguity plays an important role in essays by enriching the text, conveying the intention, and stimulating the reader's thinking (Al Salem et al., 2023; Harsh et al., 2015; Pu et al., 2017; Qassem, 2021). The formality inherent in legal English conveys the gravity and professionalism closely linked to legal matters. Legal professionals employ an official tone to communicate their expertise, reliability, and a sense of seriousness (Tang, 2021). Implementing formal language in the translation enhances the opera's universal attraction, ensuring it remains comprehensible and valued by a wide range of audiences (Cao et al., 2018). Overall, the significance of formal style in translation depends on the characteristics of the original text and the requirements of the target reader (Li et al., 2014; Lewandowski, 2015; Ullman & Nivre, 2014; Zhou et al., 2012). Expertise includes a deep understanding of the subject and culture, as well as the ability to accurately and appropriately convey the meaning of the original text in the target language (Abdullah, 2018; Li et al., 2014; Qassem, 2021; Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014; Zhou et al., 2012). The key to expertise in translation lies in preserving the style of the source text and gaining a profound understanding of the subject of the translated text (Espunya, 2020; Lewandowski, 2015; Mirzoyeva, 2023; Raharjo et al., 2020, Ullman & Nivre, 2014).

### 3.2.2 Linguistic Scope

This section focused on the linguistic scope. The scope of linguistics would be divided into three sub-themes: morphology (M), syntax (S), and semantics (SE). Word and structure formation were the subject of morphology (Li et al., 2014; Tang, 2021). The morphological

structure of words was essential in both non-English and English languages. Word formation and meaning were influenced by how morphemes were joined and modified. A similar methodology was used with the Swedish data, as with the English compound nouns in Ullman and Nivre's (2014) study. Harsh et al. (2015) emphasized that the first stage in linguistic translation between Hindi and English was the transformation of inflected nouns into pure form, which was subsequently translated into the target language according to the target language's linguistic rules. Furthermore, Al Salem et al. (2023) suggested that translators should carefully examine each plural noun, considering its morphological pattern. Syntax and morphology were closely connected because word structure determined how they were joined in sentences (Abdullah, 2018; Cao et al., 2018; Tang, 2021). The arrangement of morphologically generated words influences the grammatical structure of sentences in both non-English and English (Shi, 2023). Syntax and morphology both had a role in semantics, and morphological structure influenced word meaning, and the way words were arranged in a sentence determined how those meanings combined to convey a larger message (Abdullah, 2018; Cao et al., 2018; Espunya, 2020; Li et al., 2014; Tang, 2021; Zhou et al., 2012). Hence, understanding figurative language and cultural references in addition to referential meaning was crucial (Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014). Qassem (2021) argued that the translator would recognize the intertextual signs and understand the Qur'anic metaphor's denotation and connotation through linguistic analyses. Harsh et al. (2015) conducted a study on Hindi compound nouns, and the findings indicated that the bilingual dictionary included compound nouns based on their meanings in both languages. Specific compound nouns had a single-word meaning, while others had many meanings.

### 3.2.3 The MT System

This section describes the Machine Translation (MT) system, focusing on the identification of nouns (IN), paraphrase (P), and shallow segmentation (SS). In the context of code-mixed or code-switched language, it is crucial to identify the languages being used and their corresponding components (Li et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2012). Accurate syntactic and semantic translations of code-mixed sentences necessitate the implementation of translation rules and POS labeling techniques (Harsh et al., 2015). High-quality phrase production requires precise identification and comprehension of functional noun phrases, which are word clusters that alter the meaning of a noun by carrying out a grammatical function within a sentence (Shi, 2023). According to Shi (2013), current research on translating Chinese noun phrases into English focuses on recognizing Base Noun Phrases (BNP) and Maximum Noun Phrases (MNP). Ullman and Nivre (2014), however, investigated the impact of paraphrasing noun-noun compounds in statistical machine translation from Swedish to English. Their findings suggested a slight improvement in translating paraphrased compound nouns but a modest decrease in the overall BLEU score. The transfer-based approach to translating long Arabic noun phrases into English involves three phases: syntactic analysis, abstract representation of input language, and grammatical rules of both languages (Qassem, 2021). Abdullah (2018) reports that noun sentences with accurate titles of 100 theses were segmented into noun phrases separated by prepositions, conjunctions, or quantifiers, and the separated phrases were translated individually. The results of testing the system showed that this method was efficient with most of the particles used in noun sentences.

### 3.2.4 Hindrances in Translation

The hindrances in the translation theme produced a further three sub-themes: complexity (C), lack of professional knowledge (LPK), and mistranslation (MI). Translation complexity is influenced by two main factors: the variability of languages and the difficulty of determination. Shi (2023) identified that these obstacles stem from the considerable diversity of linguistic patterns across different languages and cultures. Functional noun phrases, which carry a wealth of contextual information, are influenced by cultural factors and exhibit structural variations across languages. Additionally, determining the meanings of titles of publications, institutions, and official positions is crucial in semantic translation. In addition, determining the pronunciation and meaning of these proper nouns is particularly challenging; translators encounter difficulties in faithfully conveying their literal meaning or English pronunciation (Cao et al., 2018; Shi, 2023). Lack of professional knowledge is a significant obstacle in the domain of translation. Insufficient expertise in specific translation aspects frequently leads to less precise and contextually appropriate (Shi, 2023). Cao et al. (2021) highlighted the inherent challenges in translating Chinese Opera, exacerbated by the lack of standardized methods for translating proper nouns. Similarly, Tang (2021) argued that translators who lacked a profound comprehension of legal language unintentionally made translation mistakes due to phonetic or literal interpretations. Mistranslation involves inaccuracies or imperfections in translating a source text into another language, leading to misinterpretation or misunderstanding of the original content (Shi, 2023; Zhou et al., 2012). The implications of mistranslation are particularly significant for nouns, encompassing a range of linguistic elements, including the precise translation of nouns (Abdullah, 2018; Qassem, 2021). Since nouns are critical components of language with distinct semantics, their inaccurate translation can result in substantial misconceptions or misinterpretations. Qassem (2021) found that lacking exegetical analysis in translating the Qur'anic verse leads to broad and imprecise translations, thereby losing the original meaning in the translation process. Additionally, Abdullah (2018) observed that errors in translating Arabic sentences into English typically arise from misinterpreting the meaning of the particles or from misjudging the context in which they are used.

### 3.2.5 Translation Strategies

This subsection focuses on the translation strategies for nouns from 2013 to 2023. The strategies are categorized into seven sub-themes: literal translation, liberal translation, transliteration, addition, omission, substitution, and generalization, as well as changing the order and the word class.

***Literal Translation (LT).*** Literal translation is a form of translation in which the translator is required to have broad knowledge of both the culture of the source language and the culture of the target language (Qassen, 2021; Shi, 2023). Shirinzadeh and Mahadi (2014) stated that literal translation is the method by which the translator utilises the proper noun from the source text into the target languages without implementing any modifications. The literal translation aims to maintain word-for-word correspondence between the target and source languages (Lewandowski, 2015; Shi, 2023). Cao et al. (2018) highlighted that although the English and Chinese languages are linguistically unrelated, literal translation can be effective, particularly in traditional Chinese patterns like opera translation. This method preserves the source language's exact words, phrases, and sentences thereby maintaining the original meaning (Cao et al., 2018). However, Lewandowski (2015) claimed that there are circumstances where the literal translation, while grammatically

correct, may not accurately reflect the natural usage in the target language. Furthermore, Qassem (2021) argued that using literal translation for the Qur'an can distort hidden meanings and mislead readers.

*Liberal Translation (LIT).* Liberal translation allows the translator more freedom to interpret and modify the text in a way that correctly conveys the idea of the original message, even if it involves using different words from the original text. Cao et al. (2018) pointed out that a significant amount of vocabulary in Chinese opera refers to the country's distinguished ethnic characteristics or customs. This category of words is more accurately conveyed in English through liberal translation, such as "枪" / "spear," "布城"/ "City Wall as Setting". Furthermore, Tang (2021) suggested the importance of precise semantic translation in avoiding misinterpreting of the original proper nouns' intended meanings. Adopting a liberal approach enables translators to use creative meaning, especially when confronted with language barriers (Cao et al., 2018; Lewandowski, 2015; Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014; Tang, 2021).

*Transliteration (T).* Transliteration is often used for names, technical terms, or specific words that lack direct equivalents in another script (Cao et al., 2018). This technique helps bridge the gap between different writing systems, allowing for a more accurate representation of the original sounds. It is crucial to note that transliteration does not involve altering the meaning of words; instead, it merely conveys the sounds of the original words using a different writing system (Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014). According to Tang (2021), transliteration plays a crucial role as a foundational translation technique, particularly with proper nouns like names of places or individuals. It serves as a notable method for translating English nouns, and within the context of legal English, transliteration is frequently utilized for translating specific new words and names of individuals or locations.

*Addition (A).* The addition strategy is a translation technique that involves introducing additional information into the target language that was not present in the source language (Cao et al., 2018; Qassem, 2021; Tang, 2021). This technique ensures that the content is fully understood in all aspects of the target language by adding details, explanations, or clarifications. Shirinzadeh and Mahadi (2014) emphasized the importance of translators thoroughly understanding the author's intention to effectively receive and convey information. This understanding requires a deep knowledge of the cultural context associated with specific names. In his work, Qassem (2021) demonstrated this approach by incorporating rhyme and rhythm into the text, providing the Surahs with introductions, and supplementing the content with explanatory notes.

*Omission (O).* Omission is a translation strategy where nouns, or parts of them, in the source language, are removed from the target language. Translators may eliminate the original noun or a segment of it from the translated text for various motives (Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014). Harsh et al. (2015) found that when translating Hindi nouns with the post position "kA or kI or kE" into English, these post positions should be omitted. Lewandowski (2015) discovered, through corpus data analysis, that reducing complex noun phrases often involves deleting words from three categories: nouns, participles, and relative clauses. However, Tang (2021) discovered that translators omit specific proper nouns in legal English, which could result in a direct repetition of the original text. Nevertheless, it was sometimes necessary to add descriptive phrases before or after the

original text to guarantee that the translated version accurately conveys the target language's meaning and allows readers to understand it clearly and thoroughly.

***Substitution and Generalization (SG).*** In the generalization translation strategy, the translator would replace a specific term in the source language with a more general noun in the target language. This strategy involves replacing nouns with super-ordinate noun counterparts. Substitution, on the other hand, occurs when the conventional equivalent of the noun in the source text is used in the target text. For instance, twenty proper nouns in the source Persian text were replaced with their equivalent in the translated version (Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014). Modification in translation entails substituting the original noun in the target text with a replacement that indirectly aligns with the noun conventions or logic of the source language. This process can lead to significant changes in the structure or implied meanings of the translated text.

***Changing the Order and the Word Class (COW).*** Altering the order and word class is essential in the translation process. This theme gives rise to two sub-themes: recasting and recategorization. The recasting strategy is often used when the structure of the target language requires a reorganization of sentence fragments in a manner different from the sequence in the source language (Tang, 2021). Lewandowski (2015) claims that due to syntactic differences, Polish clauses, have a unique structure and are not typically placed in a pre-head position in English. Recategorization on the other hand, is a translation process designed to attain meaning or sense equivalence by modifying a specific word or phrase's word class or part of speech (Li et al., 2014). In the context of Polish-English translation, Lewandowski (2015) identified five categories of recategorization: abstract non-finite verb, empty verb-clause subject, nominalization-verb, noun phrase-non-infinite verb, and noun-adjective. These strategies are indispensable for guaranteeing both accuracy and fluency in the translated text.

## 4. DISCUSSION

The statement outlines concerns related to the translation of nouns from non-English to English, referencing specific studies by Cao et al. (2018), Tang (2021), and Qassem (2021). The sixteen studies mentioned focus on various aspects, including challenges in translating nouns, their linguistic characteristics, machine translation (MT) systems for noun translation, distinctive features of nouns, and translation strategies. The translation of nouns is significant in professional fields, as researchers investigate specific language characteristics that impact accurate noun translation. The studies suggested that nouns must be translated clearly and accurately to provide exact communication and understanding of technical terminology. Proper noun translation is essential in professional settings such as law, science, and technology because it explains particular concepts, preserves correctness and avoids misunderstandings. This is necessary to maintain information integrity and clarity in research papers, reports, or other materials, contributing to effective connections in professional settings. Ralli & Rouvalis (2022) highlight that nouns frequently convey specific linguistic characteristics, such as gender, number, and case, which vary significantly between source and target languages. Blanco-Elorrieta and Caramazza (2021) suggest that studying how certain characteristics contribute to translation challenges could improve the understanding of language complexities. Several studies reveal concerns with translation strategies for conveying word meaning from non-English to English as a target language due to cultural differences (Al Salem et al., 2023; Lewandowski, 2015; Qassem, 2021; Shirinzadeh & Mahadi, 2014). Five of the seven sub-themes in noun translation—

literal translation, liberal translation, transliteration, addition, and omission—are commonly used. The other two sub-themes, substitution and generalization, and altering the word class and order, are less frequently employed in translations because they were limited to the translation of specific language nouns, such as Chinese (Tang, 2021; Li et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2012), as well as Hindi (Harsh et al., 2015). Kolev (2016) notes the complexity of translation as a task that requires a comprehensive consideration of linguistic, cultural, and grammatical factors. Translators must skillfully balance these elements to ensure accurate communication while navigating the nuances of the target context. However, in the translation of nouns, the translation strategies used by the translators do not mention the two translation strategies of foreignization and domestication. Terminology translation often employs strategies that are closer to literal translation, transliteration, or other techniques that priorities conveying a term's specific meaning (Cao et al., 2018; Lewandowski, 2015). Foreignization and domestication are regarded as principles applicable to translating texts in general, including considerations beyond individual terminology (Obeidat & Mahadi, 2019; Zuhaerana et al., 2021). Sabzalipour and Pishkar (2015) discuss the importance of cultural awareness in accurately translating proper names, necessitating knowledge of both the source and target languages' cultures. Ningsih (2016) found that foreignization is a dominant approach in proper noun translations, indicating its ideological orientation.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The present study has conducted a comprehensive analysis of previous studies on the translation of nouns from non-English to English spanning 2013 to 2023. This literature review enhances understanding of the studies conducted on English-translated nouns, identifying knowledge gaps and opening up new avenues for future investigation. This study evaluated sixteen papers using a systematic literature review approach. These sixteen articles that were selected for thematic analysis yielded five major themes: (1) the features of nouns; (2) linguistic scope; (3) the MT system; (4) hindrances in translation; and (5) translation strategies. A total of twenty sub-themes emerged from these primary themes. The interconnectedness of these themes was evident as the significance of these responsibilities extended from one to another. Under many circumstances, nouns are crucial in translation because they signify key concepts, persons, and places. The translation must be accurate to convey the intended content and context. Translators pay close attention to morphological, syntactic, and semantic elements to ensure readability in the target language. As a whole, the connection of the text was much enhanced by accurate noun translations. While this thematic analysis of previously published studies on noun translation from non-English to English is comprehensive, research in this area, especially on the translation of cultural nouns on tourism websites remains scarce. This gap indicates a need for more research to fully understand the quality of cultural noun translation and its implications on intercultural communication strategies. The meticulous translation of cultural nouns serves to afford target readers a deep and immersive understanding of diverse cultural paradigms, thereby fostering the advancement of cross-cultural exchange and comprehension. Thus, future studies should explore translation strategies in other word classes, particularly foreignization, and domestication, even though current findings show a limited focus on noun translation strategies from Chinese to English. There is potential for further research and development of theoretical frameworks in the field of translation studies.

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## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

The initial draft of the paper was written by Shang Xiaoyan. The article was edited and reviewed by Teh Hong Siok and Nur Huslinda Che Mat. The final draft of the paper has been read and approved by all authors.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

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