

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Definite or Indefinite? The Case of Arabic Product Names as Judged by Student Translators

Reima Al-Jarf

Full Professor of English and Translation Studies, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Corresponding Author: Reima Al-Jarf, E-mail: reima.aljarf@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Product names in Saudi Arabia are mostly written in both Arabic and English, whether they are imported or locally produced. Numerous errors in using the Arabic definite article are currently very common. This study aims to examine a sample of Arabic product names consisting of single and multi-word names to find out the percentage of indefinite and definite product names, the types of compound product names with the highest frequency in faulty definite article attachment, and whether they faulty {al-} attachment is a result of transfer from their English equivalents which in most cases are printed on the product boxes or bottles. A sample of 187 product names (food, teas, coffee, herbs, spices, supplements, and beauty products) was collected from supermarkets, shops, and pharmacies. A sample of undergraduate student translators made judgments about the correctness of the definiteness and indefiniteness of all the product names in the sample. A product name was confirmed as definite or indefinite if it received the same response from 70% of the participants. Results showed that 60% of the product names are definite and 40% are indefinite. 49% were judged correct ((38% indefinite and 11% definite) as برجر بقري Beef burger; توت مشكل mixed berries & دجاج كبة chicken kibbeh. 51% were judged incorrect (49% definite and 2% indefinite) as الزنك* the zinc). المشمش apricot fruit spread; شيش طاووق الدجاج shish tawook). In some cases, definite and indefinite forms of the same product names are used due to differences in the manufacturer. Few faulty indefinite forms should be definite (بهارات السمك fish spices instead of بهارات السمك), and few definite forms were considered correct (توابل المشويات BBQ spices). The highest frequency of faulty {al-} occurred in two-word product names. It seems that manufacturers are unaware of the rules of making product names definite/indefinite, especially those with a generic and ubiquitous reference as opposed to those referring to specific and unique entities as in oil names. Analysis revealed no transfer of definiteness/indefiniteness from English, in which product names are usually indefinite. Recommendations for the correct labelling and translation of product names are given.

KEYWORDS

Arabic Product names, Arabic definite article, definite article {al-}, indefinite product names, definite product names, unique reference, specific reference, generic reference, ubiquitous reference

ARTICLE INFORMATION

ACCEPTED: 01 March 2024

PUBLISHED: 11 March 2024

DOI: 10.32996/ijllt.2024.7.3.10

1. Introduction

In Arabic, nouns and adjectives are marked for definiteness مَعْرِفَةٌ ma'rifah or indefiniteness نَكْرَةٌ nakirah. An Indefinite Noun is a noun that refers to a non-specific entity. By contrast, a definite noun is a noun that refers to a specific entity. Definiteness¹ includes the following: (i) pronouns such as أنا "I", هُوَ "he", هِيَ "she"; (ii) demonstrative pronouns, such as هذا (this, M), هَذِهِ (this, F); (iii) relative pronouns, as الَّذِي (who, M, Sin), الَّتِي (who, F, Sing); (iv) proper nouns that refer to personal names (فاطمة Fatima, محمد Mohammed, علي Ali) and geographical names (بيروت Beirut, لبنان Lebanon, دجلة Tigris, بحيرة طبريا Tiberia Lake); (iv) the genitive or إِضَافَةٌ iDafah structure, where an indefinite noun is apposited to a definite noun (كتاب محمد Mohammad's book); (v) Nouns in

¹ ar.fekera.com/140840/المعرفة-وأنواع-المعارف/

vocative structures (يا أستاذ hey teacher!); (vi) nouns and adjectives attached to the definite article {al-}, which is a bound morpheme prefixed to the noun. {al-} is not marked for number, gender, or case as it is the case in French which has several definite articles used with nouns according to their number and gender (*le* for singular masculine, *la* for singular feminine, and *les* for plural masculine and plural feminine). Several types of definite articles with several meanings exist in Arabic such as the redundant {al-} which is attached to some proper nouns such as personal names الحسن *Al-Hassan*, المثنى *Al-Muthanna*, surnames السيسي *Al-Sisi*, الخطيب *Al-Khateeb*, النجار *Al-Najjar*, الحداد *Al-Haddad*, الجعفري *Al-Jaafar*, الأسد *Al-Assad*, المصري *Al-Masri*; geographical names (الرياض *Riyadh*; القاهرة *Cairo*, العراق *Iraq*, اليابان *Japan*, الفرات *Euphrates*, البحر الأحمر Red Sea). Many Proper Nouns are definite although they are not affixed to {al-} as in مصر (Egypt), تركيا (Turkey); مكة *Makkah*; دجلة (Tigris River). The superlative formed is definite as it is formed by adding the definite article {al-} to the comparative form الأخ الأكبر (the oldest brother), الأخت الكبرى (the oldest sister). According to Al-Sammira'ee² (2000) identified several types of {al-}: Genus {al-} or the all-inclusive {al-} as in الحليب مفيد للصحة (*milk is good for health*) which refers to all kinds of milk; هو الشجاع (*the brave*) which means that this person is brave in all situations. In أحب التفاح (*I love apples*), this is inclusive of all kinds of apples. In specificity {al-} as in انا ذاهبة الى السوق (I am going to the market) انا مسافرة اليوم (*I am leaving today*) and اشتريت السيارة (*I bought the car*); فاز هذا الطالب (*this student won*), ذهبت الى المتحف (*I went to the museum*), the definite noun has a specific identity that is known to both the speaker and listener, i.e., the definite noun refers to a specific *market, book, car, student or museum*. The definite noun with {al-} may also refer to something or someone that is unique as in النظرية النسبية (*the relativity theory*), الميزانية العامة للدولة (*the national budget*), تمثال الحرية *Statue of Liberty*; سيادة الرئيس Mr President. It refers to something or somebody that has already been mentioned as in رأيت سيارة بالأمس واشتريت السيارة اليوم (*I saw a car yesterday and bought the car today*) (Al-Samarrai, 2000; Alzamil, 2019; Al-Jarf, 2022; Al-Jarf, 1990; Al-Jarf, 1996; Al-Jarf, 1994a; Al-Jarf, 1994b; Al-Jarf, 2023c).

Definiteness and indefiniteness in Arabic have received a lot of attention in the Arabic language literature due to their complexity and variability. A plethora of studies investigated the definite article in Arabic (Testen, 1998); the article and the concept of definiteness in language (Krámský, 2016); definition and determination in medieval Arabic grammatical thought (Sartori, 2019); a synchronic and historical perspective on the Arabic definite article (Heselwood & Watson, 2015); the Arabic noun phrase (Hoyt, 2008); definiteness and information trigger in Arabic (Jarrah & Zibin, 2016); definiteness, proper nouns for genera and 'asmā' mubhama 'ambiguous nouns' in Arabic (Sakaedani, 2019); the double function of language and product naming and industry terminology in Arabic localized websites (Kassawat, 2020); meanings and functions of the Arabic Article al-'the' with reference to the concept of definiteness (Kashgary, 2015); morphological realization of the syntactic head D (Definite) or a [DEF] feature of nouns attached to the definite marker in Arabic (Alqassas, 2013); definiteness and number ambiguity in the superlative construction in Arabic (Elghamry, 2004); definiteness and identifiability in Kitāb Sibawayhi (Marogy, 2009) and others.

A second group of studies focused on definiteness and indefiniteness in Standard as well as some Arabic dialects such as definiteness in Arabic dialects (Turner, 2018); definiteness systems and dialect classification (Turner, 2021); definiteness, genitives and two kinds of syntax in Standard Arabic (Dickins, 2013); genericity and definiteness in modern standard Arabic (Jaber, 2014); nominal determination in Moroccan Arabic (Maas & Procházka, 2022); contact, divergence, and semantic change in definiteness marking in Moroccan Arabic (Turner, 2013); definiteness, pronoun suffixes, genitives and two types of syntax in Sudanese Arabic (Dickins, 2023); towards a pragmatic account of the effect of definiteness in Najdi Arabic fiih-sentences (Alharbi, 2022); the syntax and semantics of definiteness in the Jordanian Bedouin Arabic construct state (Byrne, 2015); the semantics of the definite article and form-function mismatches in Jordanian Arabic (Jaber, Al-Momani & Omari, 2022); definiteness realization and function in Palestinian Arabic (Belyayeva, 1997); the treatment of the definite in the Central Semitic languages (Canaanite, Arabic, Aramaic, and Old South Arabian) (Rubin, 2005) and others.

A third group of studies compared definiteness and indefiniteness in Arabic and other languages as in common noun vs Isim Nakirah and Proper Noun vs Isim Ma'rifah in English and Arabic (Sa'adah, (2020); nominal determination and definiteness in English and Arabic (Sabra, 2014); a contrastive study of definiteness in English, French and Arabic: (Saeed, 2013) and others.

Few more studies examined the problems faced in translating the definite article in studies on the Qur'anic definite article in translation (Farghal & al-Zou'bi, 2004); translation of definiteness and indefiniteness from Russian Into English and Arabic (Khoshaba & Alsultan, 2021); error analysis of the translation of Arabic articles into English (Belarbi, (2022); problems of translating definite and indefinite articles from English into Arabic (al-Sulaimaan & Alsinjari, 2018); reasons for variations in rendering the Arabic In/definiteness into English (Abu-Hassoub, 2020) and so on.

Further studies explored how native speakers of Arabic transliterate first and last names containing the definite article {al-} to English on Facebook; what variations exist in transliterating the definite article itself; how Arabic speakers transliterate {al-} before sun and moon letters in their names; and which strategies they use in transliterating personal names with a definite article (Al-Jarf,

² <https://shamela.ws/book/17801/115>

2022b). Similarly, Al-Jarf (2021) analyzed the transliteration of the Arabic definite article in hotel names and found that the definite article is sometimes hyphenated and sometimes separated from the word. There was faulty agreement in definiteness/indefiniteness and lack of collocability between words. Some hotel names lack agreement between the component parts of the compound name in gender and definiteness/indefiniteness in some long hotels names as in *Manafe Althahabiya; Fal Aljadeed; Dar AlKhalil AlRushad, Najmat Sewar; Jawharet Dyar*. In analysing the use of the definite article in shop names, (Al-Jarf, 2023b) found that the Arabic definite article is misused (المنيو دوتتس) instead of instead of منيو الدوتتس; it is missing or misused as in: فاشن: بنك فاشن instead of (الأزياء) بنك الفاشن; بوتيك كاروهات instead of ; بوتيك الكاروهات ; قوركان شيف instead of قوركان الشيف - مهرجان صيف كول في جدة.

Regarding Arabic products names in Saudi Arabia, in most cases, they are written in both English and Arabic, whether they are imported or locally produced. In recent years, errors in the use of the definite article in Arabic product names have become very common and alarming due to the influx of precuts locally and internationally. Therefore, this study aims to examine a sample of Arabic product names (food, teas, coffee, spices, medications, frozen food, beauty and baby care products ... etc) consisting of single words and multi-word compounds collected from supermarkets, spice shops and pharmacies to find out the percentage of definite and indefinite product names, whether there are errors in attaching the definite article {-al} to Arabic product names and whether definiteness and indefiniteness in Arabic product names is a transfer from English especially in the case of imported products. Specifically, this study aims to find out which product name structures have the highest faulty definite article attachment (single words, two-word, three-words, four-words compound product names or longer ones), which product names mirror the English equivalents in definiteness and indefiniteness; sources of the definite article attachment errors in product names; and to give recommendations for correct and accurate product naming with regards to the definite article attachment and using the indefinite form.

Inaccurate product naming may not hinder communication but is a nuisance and distorts the Arabic language use in public spaces that need to be overcome. Young readers who read faulty product names will assume that this is the standard Arabic product naming practice and they will acquire this way of labelling products. This study aims to draw the attention of manufacturers, the Ministry of Commerce and Chambers of Commerce to faulty language practices as it is the responsibility of the whole society to preserve the purity of the Arabic language and maintain its correct use in all walks of life.

2. Methodology

1.1 Participants

A random sample of 20 undergraduate student informants majoring in translation at three universities in Saudi Arabia participated in the study. All the students are native speakers of Arabic, with English as their target language. They were in their sixth semester (junior/third year) of the translation program and were enrolled in a Semantics and Pragmatics course (3 hours) and Translation course. They had completed 8 hours of Arabic language courses (Syntax, Academic Writing, Stylistics Applications); 35 hours of Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Academic Writing, Vocabulary, Grammar, Syntax and Morphology; 4 hours of Language and Culture courses; 10 hours of Introduction to Linguistics, Text Linguistics, and Use of Dictionaries in Translation courses; 4 hours of Liaison and Consecutive Interpreting courses; and 17 hours of translation courses (Introduction to Translation, Computer-Assisted Translation, General Translation from English to Arabic, General Translation from Arabic to English, Political and Media Translation, Financial and Economic Translation, Scientific and Technical Translation).

1.2 Sample of Product Names

A sample of 187 Arabic product names (frozen foods, teas, coffee types, spices, jams, medications, beauty and baby products and others) were collected from some supermarkets, spice shops, convenience stores, and pharmacies. Images of all the products with Arabic names were taken by the author. The sample of product names consisted of single-word product names (14%); two-word product names (55%); three-word product names (22.5%); four-word product names (7%); five-word product names (1%) and more than 5 words (.5%). Many of the product names have English equivalents on the boxes or bottles and few have an Arabic name only.

1.3 Procedures

All the product names were printed on paper in the form of a list. Before the session, the students received some training in judging the definiteness and indefiniteness of some product names, especially those with a definite article by answering the questions "What is this" and "Do you carry so and so". After the training session, the students performed a judgment task in which they were required to indicate whether each product name was correct or incorrect in terms of definiteness and indefiniteness. They had to put a check mark ✓ if the product names is correct, whether it is definite or indefinite and a cross X if it is incorrect.

The author and another colleague with a Ph.D. in linguistics scored the responses. Each product name was confirmed as definite or indefinite, correct and incorrect if it received the same response from 70% of the students. Based on the students' responses,

the product names were sorted out into correct indefinite, incorrect indefinite, correct definite, and incorrect definite as shown in Tables 1 and 2 in the Results section below.

1.4 Data Analysis

Data analysis started by sorting out the product names according to whether they were correct or incorrect in terms of definiteness and indefiniteness depending on the students' judgments. In each category, product names were then sorted out according to their length, i.e., one, two, three, four, five-word compounds and longer product names. The data analysis focused on indefinite product names and those with a faulty Arabic definite article attachment. Transliteration and translation errors, faulty word order of the elements of the compound product names, agreement and plural formation errors, and Arabic transliteration variants were excluded as in العضوية بذور الكتان البني *Organic brown flax seeds*; بوب كورن الدجاج *Chicken pop corn*; رقائق السبرينج رول *Spring roll pastry*; بيتزا فجي دلايت *Veggie delight pizza*; رقائق سبرينج رول *Spring roll sheets*; سموسة *Samosa & sambousik*; ينسون & يانسون *aniseed*; خزامى & لافندر *Spring roll sheets*; بيتزا فجي دلايت *Veggie delight pizza*; رقائق سبرينج رول *Spring roll sheets*; لافندر & الخزامى

Percentages of the product names in the two main categories (definite and indefinite product names) and according to the name length categories were calculated.

3. Results

Results of the data analysis showed that 60% of the Arabic product names in the sample are definite as opposed to 40% definite product names. Data analysis also showed the 49% of the product names in the sample were judged correct by the participants (38% correct indefinite and 11% correct definite) as opposed to 51% incorrect product names (49% incorrect definite and 2% incorrect indefinite).

Table 1 shows examples of correct indefinite product names without the Arabic definite article {al-} as in *blackberries*; توت اسود (*blackberries*); فراولة *strawberries*; فلفل *falafel*, with more indefinite product names correctly used as in *black olives slices*; زيتون اسود مقطع شرائح *black olives slices*; مخلل مشكل *mixed pickle*; مطحونة حمراء فليفلة *crushed red pepper*; شرائح جين نباتي *bio vegan slices cheese*; جبنة حلومي *halloumi cheese*; زبدة مخفوقة *whipped cream*; كريمة الطبخ *cooking cream*; البتزا *pizza spices*. The students judged indefinite product names in this category as correct as they have a generic reference and there is no context to mandate the attachment of the definite article {al-} (See Table 1 for more examples).

On the contrary, the students judged 2% of the indefinite product names in the sample as incorrect, i.e., they should be definite as in *fish spices*; بهارات سمك (*fish spices*); *biryani spices*; بهارات برياني *biryani spices*; *Kabsa rice spices*; ابازير رز كبسة (*Kabsa rice spices*) as they refer to a specific and unique entities. In prepositional phrases as in *Organic and gluten free oat chocolate cookies*, the noun following the preposition is already definite (*من الغلوتين*) as it has a specific unique reference.

Table 1: Examples Of Correct Indefinite Product Names

Length	Examples
One-word product names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teas & spices: شيدر cheddar, صابون Soap, فراولة Strawberries, فلفل falafel, اورقانو معمول oregano, ينسون mint, نعناع moringa مورينجا ginger زنجبيل Pomegranate رمان, بابونج chamomile, بابريكا paprika, انيسون aniseed; سموسة Samosa.
Two-word product names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coffee & Tea: زنجبيل بالقرقة <i>ginger cinnamon</i>; زنجبيل بالكرم <i>ginger turmeric tea</i>; زنجبيل بالنعناع <i>ginger mint tea</i>; شاي اسود <i>black tea</i>; شاي الوزة <i>Swan tea</i>; بذور رمان <i>pomegranate arils</i>; بن الحموي <i>Al-Hamawi coffee</i>; بن شاهين <i>Shaheen Coffee</i>; بن نجار <i>Najjar coffee</i>; قهوة النعمان <i>Al-Numan coffee</i>. Spices: فلفل ابيض <i>white pepper</i>. Frozen foods: بطاطس كيرلي <i>Curly fries</i>; بطاطس مقلية رفيعة <i>Thin French fries</i>; بازيلا خضراء <i>Garden peas</i>; بجر بقر <i>Beef burger</i>; توت اسود <i>backberries</i>; توت مشكل <i>Mixed berries</i>; جبنة حلومي <i>Halloumi cheese</i>; جبنة حلومي لايت <i>light cyprus cheese</i>; مشكل <i>mixed vegetables</i>; زبدة مخفوقة <i>Whipped cream</i>; فطيرة سادة <i>Plain paratha</i> و <i>Whipped cream</i> قشطة مخفوقة <i>Whipped cream</i>; قطع اناناس <i>Pineapple chunks</i>; كبة دجاج <i>chicken kibbeh</i>; كفتة عربية <i>Arabic Kofta</i>; مخلل مشكل <i>mixed pickle</i>; مزيج <i>Tropical mix</i>; موزاريللا مبشورة <i>Shredded mozzarella</i>; دجاج <i>chicken nuggets</i>; ناغتس كيرلي <i>Curly nuggets</i>; بطاطس مقلية <i>French fries</i>. Others: حليب أطفال <i>baby milk</i>; اصابع شوكولاتة .

Three-word product names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frozen Foods: بطاطس مقرمشة <i>Seasoned crosscut</i>; بطاطس نصف مقلية <i>French fries</i>; بطاطس <i>hash browns</i>; هاش براونز <i>pepperoni pizza special</i>; بيتزا ببيروني سبيشال; رقائق سبرينج رول <i>Spring roll sheets</i>; فاصوليا خضراء <i>Bio vegan slices cheese</i>; شرائح جبن نباتي; مقطعة <i>cut green beans</i>; لحم خروف <i>lamb kabab</i>; كبة لحم بقر; <i>Beef kibbeh</i>; مربعات بف بيستري; <i>puff pastry squares</i>; ميني برجر بقر; <i>Mini beef burger</i>; ناجتس دجاج بالجبنة; <i>Chicken Nuggets with cheese</i>; معمول ام صالح <i>Um Saleh's Maamoul</i>. • Tea; coffee; spices & oil: بصل ابيض ناعم <i>white onion powder</i>; بهارات عربية مشكل <i>Arabian mixed spices</i>; فلفل احمر حار <i>hot red pepper</i>; فليفلة حمراء مطحونة <i>Crushed red pepper</i>.
Four-word product names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee & tea: زيتون اسود مقطع شرائح <i>Black olives slices</i>; عدس اصفر مجروش عضوي <i>Organic yellow lentils split</i>; خلطة مصنع اهل الكيف <i>Ahl Al-Kayf Factory Coffee mix</i>; زنجبيل مع <i>instant filter coffee</i>; قهوة فلتر سريعة التحضير; شاي اسود سيلاني نقي <i>Ceylon Black tea</i>; شاي مع ينسون <i>chamomile & lemon tea</i>; زنجبيل مع <i>ginger & lemon tea</i>; قهوة الشيوخ الذهبية <i>Al-Shyoukhj Golden Coffee</i>; قهوة ببشة الذهبية <i>Beesha Golden Coffee</i>.

Regarding definite product names, Table 2 shows the definite product which were judged incorrect by the participants as they are incorrectly attached to the definite article {al-} in one or more constituents of the multi-word product name.

The highest product names with a faulty definite article attachment are those consisting of two-word compounds (55%), followed by three-word product names (20%), one-word product names (13.6%), four-word product names (8.4%), five-word product names (2%), and longer product names (1%) of the total faulty product names (See Table 2).

In the case of definite product names consisting of single words, these should be indefinite as indicated by the participants (زك, الميرامية *marjoram*; اليردقوش *sage*; الميرامية *the zinc* *instead of الزنك; مغنيسيوم, يانسون, زنجبيل, قرفة, شاي أبيض, كراوية, نعناع, بردقوش, ميرامية *the caraway*; النعناع *the white tea*; الشاي الأبيض; القرفة *the cinnamon*; الزنجبيل *the ginger*; البابونج *the chamomile*; اليانسون *the magnesium* and so as they have a generic, ubiquitous reference and there is no context that requires the use of the definite form (See Table 2).

In two-word product names in Table 2, the first constituent is apposed to a definite noun, i.e., they are genitive structures, as in *the apricot fruit spread* (مربى + ال + مشمس) *triple berry* (مربى + ال + توت) *the guava leaves* (ورق + ال + جوافة) *date maamoul* (معمول + ال + تمر). *In the original fries consist of a definite N + definite Adj*. In both cases, the whole product name is definite due to the faulty definite article {al-} attachment to the apposed noun and adjective. Both constituents should be indefinite as the whole product name has a generic reference with no context that mandates making it definite by adding the definite article {al-}.

In three-word product names, there are two genitives in which the first indefinite noun is apposed to the second indefinite N which is in turn apposed to a final definite N beginning with the definite article {al-}. Thus the whole product name is definite. In *the crunchy*, the compound consists of an indefinite N + a definite N + a definite Adj, making the whole name definite. In *the ginger green tea*, the product name consists of a definite N + a definite Adj + a PP, and *the chicken Shish Tawook* consists of an indefinite N + an indefinite N + a definite appositive N, which makes the whole compound definite. Here again, the three constituents of the product name should be indefinite without the definite article attached to any constituent as the full product name has a generic reference and there is no context that mandates the use of a definite article because the definite article implies specificity and reference to a specific type out of the whole genus (See Table 2).

In four-word product names, *shredded mozzarella cheese* consists of an indefinite N + a definite apposed N + a definite Adj + conjoined definite N. In *The chocolate cake*, the product name consists of a Proper N + a Proper N + indefinite N + definite apposed noun. In all of these cases, even if there is a single definite constituent, the whole multi-word product name becomes definite. As in the previous examples, all four-word product names in this category should be indefinite as they have a generic reference with no context that requires the use of the definite article (See Table 2).

In long product names as *organic tricolor quinoa* (حبوب الكينوا ثلاثية الالوان العضوية *Organic coconut chips (toasted)*, the product name consists of an indefinite N + a definite apposed N + an indefinite Adj + a definite appositive N + a definite Adj. *Organic and gluten free oat chocolate cookies* consists of (an indefinite N + a definite appositive N + a definite conjoined N + an indefinite adjective + PP + an indefinite adjective). These

combinations make the whole product names definite no matter how long it is. All of the constituents in each product name should be indefinite to make the whole product name indefinite as each has a generic reference with no context that mandates the use of the definite article (See Table 2).

On the contrary, the students judged 11% of the definite product names in the sample as correct and acceptable as in الكونجاك *Konjac rice*; معكرونة الكونجاك *Konjac Spaghetti*; بهارات اللحم *meat spices*; توابل البيتزا *pizza spices*; توابل المشويات *BBQ spices*; ارز *Konjac rice*; معكرونة الكونجاك *Konjac Spaghetti*; ناجت الدجاج المرح *Fun chicken nuggets*; زيت المرة *Myrrh oil*; زيت الشمطري *chamomile oil*; زيت اللبان *Frankincense oil*; زيت الآس *myrtle oil*; زيت الصبار *aloe vera oil*; زيت الصويا *soy oil*, in which the second element of the compound, i.e., appositived Noun, is definite by attaching it to {al-} which makes the whole compound definite. The product names herein refer to specific and unique entities that require the use of {al-}. Similarly, It is mandatory for زيت العشبة الهندي *Indian herb oil* (an indefinite N + a definite N + a definite Adj) to be definite as it also refers to a specific and unique entity. In اكيل الجبل *rosemary tea*, زيت جنين القمح *wheat germ oil*, & زيت الحبة السوداء *black seed oil*, the name of the plant is originally a compound noun consisting of an indefinite N + an appositived definite N. The definite article in the second element is obligatory as the whole name refers to a specific and unique entity. So when “oil” is added, the new product name should also be definite as it has a unique reference with which shoppers may not be familiar. In قهوة النعمان *Al-Numan coffee* & قهوة الشيوخ الذهبية *Al-Shyoukhj Golden Coffee*, the definite article {al-} is an integral part of the Proper Nouns *Al-Numan* & *Al-Shyoukhj*, which is called *redundant {al-}* by Arab grammarians.

On the contrary, half of the students judged the definite form of some oil names as correct, and the other half accepted the indefinite form of the same oil names as correct as in زيت السمسم/السمسم *sesame oil*, زيت الزيتون/ زيتون *olive oil*, زيت لافندر/اللافندر *lavender oil* and some pharmacy products as *hair colorants*; صبغات الشعر/شعر *toothpastes* depending on the speaker’s familiarity/unfamiliarity with oil name, and whether there is bottles, tubes, or boxes of one brand or several brands on the shelf.

Table 2: Examples of Faulty Definite Shop Names with Definite Article Attachment

Length	Examples	Corrected Product Names
One word product names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbal Teas: البردقوش <i>marjoram</i>; البابونج <i>chamomile</i>; الزنجبيل <i>ginger</i>; السنمكي <i>sanamaki</i>; العضوي <i>organic</i>; القرفة <i>cinnamon</i>; الكراوية <i>caraway</i>; الميرامية <i>sage</i>; النعناع <i>mint</i>; اليانسون <i>aniseed</i>. Supplements: الزنك <i>zinc</i>; الكروميوم <i>Chromium</i>. 	<p>Herbal Teas: بردقوش <i>marjoram</i>; بابونج <i>chamomile</i>; قرفة <i>ginger</i>; عضوي <i>organic</i>; سنمكي <i>sanamaki</i>; زنجبيل <i>ginger</i>; كرفة <i>cinnamon</i>; كراوية <i>caraway</i>; ميرامية <i>sage</i>; نعناع <i>mint</i>; يانسون <i>aniseed</i>.</p> <p>Supplements: زنك <i>zinc</i>; كروميوم <i>Chromium</i>.</p>
Two-word product names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frozen foods: بذور الرمان <i>pomegranate arils</i>; أصابع الدجاج <i>Chicken fingers</i>; برجر الدجاج <i>Chicken burger</i>; بيرجر البطاطس الاصلية <i>Original fries</i>; بطاطس اصليّة <i>Chicken burger</i>; اصابع التمر <i>date fingers</i>; سمبوسة <i>Vegetable samosa</i>; سمبوسك الخضار <i>Vegetable sambousik</i>; سمبوسك الدجاج <i>Chicken sambousik</i>; كريمة الطبخ <i>cooking cream</i>; كفتة الدجاج <i>chicken kofta</i>; معمول التمر <i>date maamoul</i>; مقلبات <i>Chicken fries</i>; ناجت الدجاج <i>Chicken nuggets</i>. Beauty products: مزيل العرق <i>deodorant</i>; غسول الفم <i>mouth wash</i>; سائل الاستحمام <i>shower gel</i>; صبغات الشعر <i>Hair colorants</i>; معاجين الأسنان <i>Toothpastes</i>. Jams: مربى التين <i>Fig fruit spread</i>; مربى الفراولة <i>Strawberry fruit spread</i>; مربى المشمش <i>Apricot fruit spread</i>; مزيج التوت <i>Triple berry</i>. Oils: زيت الافوكادو <i>avocado oil</i>; زيت البابونج <i>chamomile oil</i>; زيت البصل <i>onion oil</i>; زيت اليلسم <i>watercress oil</i>; زيت الجرجير <i>coconut oil</i>; زيت جوز الهند <i>mustard oil</i>; زيت الحلبة <i>fenugreek oil</i>; زيت الخردل <i>lavender oil</i>; زيت الخروع <i>castor oil</i>; زيت الخزامى <i>glycerine</i>; زيت الجلجرين <i>olive oil</i>; زيت زيتون <i>hair oil</i>; زيت شعر <i>sesame oi</i>; زيت سدر <i>buckthorn oil</i>; زيت كركم <i>flax oil</i>; زيت كتان <i>tar oil</i>; زيت قطران <i>turmeric oil</i>; زيت لافندر <i>lavender oil</i>; زيت لوز حلو <i>sweet</i> 	<p>Frozen foods: أصابع <i>pomegranate arils</i>; أصابع دجاج <i>Chicken fingers</i>; برجر دجاج <i>Chicken burger</i>; بيرجر الدجاج <i>Original fries</i>; بطاطس اصليّة <i>Chicken burger</i>; اصابع تمر <i>date fingers</i>; سمبوسة خضار <i>Vegetable samosa</i>; سمبوسك خضار <i>Vegetable sambousik</i>; سمبوسك دجاج <i>Chicken sambousik</i>; كريمة معمول <i>cooking cream</i>; كفتة دجاج <i>chicken kofta</i>; معمول <i>date maamoul</i>; مقلبات دجاج <i>Chicken fries</i>; ناجت دجاج <i>Chicken nuggets</i>.</p> <p>Beauty products: غسول فم <i>deodorant</i>; غسول فم <i>mouth wash</i>; سائل استحمام <i>shower gel</i>; خيارات صحية <i>Healthy living</i>; صبغات شعر <i>Hair colorants</i>; معاجين <i>Tooth pastes</i>.</p> <p>Jams: مربى تين <i>Fig fruit spread</i>; مربى فراولة <i>Strawberry fruit spread</i>; مربى مشمش <i>Apricot fruit spread</i>; مزيج توت <i>Triple berry</i>.</p> <p>Oils: زيت افوكادو <i>avocado oil</i>; زيت بابونج <i>chamomile oil</i>; زيت بصل <i>onion oil</i>; زيت جرجير <i>watercress oil</i>; زيت زيتون <i>coconut oil</i>; زيت حلبة <i>fenugreek oil</i>; زيت خردل <i>mustard oil</i>; زيت خزامي <i>castor oil</i>; زيت خروع <i>lavender oil</i>; زيت جلجرين <i>glycerine</i>; زيت شعر <i>hair oil</i>; زيت زيتون <i>olive oil</i>; زيت سدر <i>buckthorn oil</i>; زيت سمسم <i>sesame oi</i>; زيت كركم <i>flax oil</i>; زيت كتان <i>tar oil</i>; زيت قطران <i>turmeric oil</i>; زيت لافندر <i>lavender oil</i>; زيت لوز حلو <i>sweet</i></p>

	<p><i>flax oil</i>; زيت الكركم <i>turmeric oil</i>; زيت اللافندر <i>lavender oil</i>; زيت <i>sweet almond oil</i>; زيت اللوز الحلو <i>bitter almond oil</i>; المر <i>aniseed</i>; ينسون/اليانسون <i>aniseed</i>; الشاي الابيض <i>ginger & turmeric</i>; زنجبيل الكركم Tea; ورق الجوافة <i>green tea</i>; الشاي الاخضر <i>white tea</i>; Guava leaves; قشر الرمان <i>pomegranate peel</i>.</p>	<p><i>bitter almond oil</i>; زيت لوز مر <i>balsam oil</i>; زيت بلسم <i>almond oil</i>; ينسون/يانسون <i>aniseed</i>. Tea: شاي ابيض <i>ginger & turmeric</i>; زنجبيل الكركم <i>white tea</i>; شاي اخضر <i>green tea</i>; ورق جوافة <i>Guava leaves</i>; قشر رمان <i>pomegranate peel</i>.</p>
Three-word product names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frozen foods, spices, jam, oils, teas: شيش <i>shish tawook</i>; قطع البطاطس <i>shish tawook</i>; كباب الدجاج التركي <i>Turkish chicken kebabs</i>; كفتة السبانخ والجبنة <i>Spinach & cheese cutlets</i>; ناجت الدجاج المرح <i>Fun chicken nuggets</i>; ناجت الدجاج بالخضار <i>chicken nuggets with vegetable</i>; كرات لحم الدجاج <i>Chicken meat balls</i>; أصابع الدجاج (البقسماط) <i>Chicken fingers (breaded)</i>; أصابع الدجاج والجبنة <i>Chicken and cheese fingers</i>; برجر الدجاج بالبقسماط <i>Breaded chicken burger</i>; بطاطس كريسكت مقرمشة <i>Seasoned crosscut</i>; بطاطس وجز متبلة <i>Seasoned wedges</i>; بوب كورن <i>Chicken pop corn</i>; رقائق سبرينج رول <i>Spring roll pastry</i>; ستربس دجاج حار <i>spicy chicken strips (breaded)</i>; أصابع <i>maamoul date fingers</i>; تمر مربي توت <i>mulberry jam</i>; الشاي <i>green tea with ginger</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> قطع بطاطس <i>shish tawook</i>; كباب دجاج تركي <i>Turkish chicken kebabs</i>; كفتة سبانخ وجبنة <i>Spinach & cheese cutlets</i>; ناجتس دجاج بالخضار <i>chicken nuggets with vegetable</i>; كرات لحم دجاج <i>Chicken meat balls</i>; أصابع دجاج (البقسماط) <i>Chicken fingers (breaded)</i>; أصابع الدجاج والجبنة <i>Chicken and cheese fingers</i>; برجر دجاج بالبقسماط <i>Breaded chicken burger</i>; بطاطس كريسكت مقرمشة <i>Seasoned crosscut</i>; بطاطس وجز متبلة <i>Seasoned wedges</i>; بوب كورن دجاج <i>Chicken pop corn</i>; رقائق ستربس دجاج حار <i>Spring roll pastry</i>; سبرينج رول <i>spicy chicken strips (breaded)</i>; أصابع <i>maamoul date fingers</i>; تمر مربي توت <i>mulberry jam</i>; الشاي أخضر بالزنجبيل <i>green tea with ginger</i>.
Four-word product names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Organic brown flax seeds</i>; بذور الكتان البني العضوية <i>shredded natural mozzarella cheese</i>; جبن الموزاريللا الطبيعي والمبشور <i>Organic red quinoa</i>; حبوب الكينوا الحمراء العضوية <i>Organic back quinoa</i>; حبوب الكينوا السوداء العضوية <i>sara lee chocolate cake</i>; سارة لي كيك الشوكولاتة. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Organic brown flax seeds</i>; بذور كتان بني عضوية <i>shredded natural mozzarella cheese</i>; جبن موزاريللا طبيعي مبشور <i>Organic red quinoa</i>; حبوب كينوا حمراء عضوية <i>Organic back quinoa</i>; حبوب كينوا سوداء عضوية <i>sara lee chocolate cake</i>; سارة لي كيك شوكولاتة.
Five-word product names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Organic tricolor quinoa</i>; حبوب الكينوا ثلاثية الالوان العضوية <i>Organic coconut chips (toasted)</i>; رقائق جوز الهند المحمص العضوي (المحمصة). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Organic tricolor quinoa</i>; حبوب كينوا ثلاثية الالوان عضوية <i>Organic coconut chips (toasted)</i>; رقائق جوز هند عضوية محمص (المحمصة).
Long names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> كوكيز الشوفان والشوكولاتة خالية من الغلوتين عضوية <i>Organic and gluten free oat chocolate cookies</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> كوكيز شوفان وشوكولاتة خالية عضوية من الغلوتين <i>Organic and gluten free oat chocolate cookies</i>.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

Findings of the current study indicated that about 60% of the product names in the current sample are definite, i.e., have the definite article {al-} attached to it and 40% are indefinite. Faulty definite product names with {al-} have become very common in the past few years. In most cases, the Arabic product names should be indefinite as they are so ubiquitous that they do not require a definite article. They are essential components of our everyday world, and their names have become universally known and recognized. They are understood as general concepts rather than specific instances. Using the definite article with every product name would make communication cumbersome and unnatural as the definite article should be attached to the product name in specific contexts. By omitting {al-}, we streamline product names. The simplicity of using the indefinite labels on boxes and bottles adds to clarity and conciseness.

A comparison of the Arabic product names with their English equivalents on the box or bottle, whether Arabic is the source or target language and whether the Arabic product names are original or translated revealed no transfer of definiteness/indefiniteness from English as English labels on products boxes and bottles are usually indefinite (without "the"). This is probably because the English product names are non-count nouns and they refer to a generic, ubiquitous, and unspecified entity. For example, names

refer to all *marjoram, mint, caraway, tea, cinnamon* in general, not a specific type or instance of each. It is also more concise to use the indefinite.

This finding is contrary to other translation situations in which student-translators translated imitatively rather than discriminately, as indicated by students' errors in translating English and Arabic plurals (Al-Jarf, 2020); English and Arabic common names of chemical compounds (Al-Jarf, 2022c); English and Arabic numeral-based formulaic expressions (Al-Jarf, 2023a); translation of English and Arabic color-based metaphorical expressions (Al-Jarf, 2019); SVO word order errors (Al-Jarf, 2007); grammatical agreement errors (Al-Jarf, 2000). Some faulty transliterations of product names reflect faulty pronunciation of product names (المقرمشة بطاطس كريست كريسكت *seasoned crosscut*; اورقانو *oregano*). This is similar to student's foreign proper noun pronunciation errors in English-Arabic and Arabic-English interpreting (Al-Jarf, 2022d).

While analyzing multi-word product names in the sample, their structures sounded as if they were translated, created or labelled by Google Translate (GT) as in عضوية من الغلوتين خالية والشوكولاتة كوكيز الشوفان والحبوب *Organic and gluten free oat chocolate cookies*; زنجبيل الكركم Indian Herb; العضوية *Organic brown flax seeds*; معمول أصابع التمر *maamoul date fingers* (Al-Jarf, 2021; Al-Jarf, 2016). Those who label products should avoid using Google Translate in translating long product names from English to Arabic as GT produces translation inaccuracies such as word order and agreement errors.

The addition of the definite article {al-} to 60% of the product names in the sample is probably due to lack of proficiency in Arabic on the part of the persons who labels the products in some factories and companies who are probably non-native speakers of Arabic, or because they think that the use of the definite article would make the product sound more standard-like.

To overcome the faulty definite article attachment errors in product names, this study recommends that a labelling guide be prepared by the Ministry of Commerce and/or Chambers of Commers to which manufacturers and factory owners can refer before labelling their products. Factories and companies can also seek the help of professional translators and Arabic and English language specialists to make sure that product names are indefinite, accurately transliterated, and translated with correct structure, word order, agreement, and collocability among the constituents of compound names.

Furthermore, translation and linguistics students may collect product labels, shop signs and linguistic landscapes, and identify and fix linguistic, transliteration and translation errors in them. They can also help in compiling lists of product names, shop names and street signs together with their equivalents.

Finally, during the product name data analysis, it was noted that errors in product names are not limited to definiteness and indefiniteness and the incorrect attachment of the definite article {al-}; many other errors in translation, word order, agreement, collocability, plural formation, and transliterating names rather than translating them were noted as (*Curley, crosscut, special, nuggets, mini, lavender, puff pastry, spring rolls, samosa, sambousak, vegie delight* فيجي دلايت *cookies* كوكيز, light cyprus cheese لايت (جبنة حلومي لايت *okra extra* بامية اكسترا *hash browns* هاش براونز and variant spelling (يانسون & ينسون); and polysemous words (توت مشكل instead of مزيج التوت) which need to be investigated in detail by Arab researchers in the future (Al-Jarf, 2024; Al-Jarf, 2022a).

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6255-1305>

Publisher's Note: All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, editors and reviewers.

References

- [1] Abu-Hassoub, A. (2020). Reasons for Variation in Rendering the Arabic In/definiteness into English. *Egyptian Journal of Linguistics and Translation*, 3(1), 1-16.
- [2] Alharbi, B. (2022). Definiteness effect in Najdi Arabic fiih-sentences: Towards a pragmatic account. *Journal of Arab Sciences and Humanities*, 15(3), 53-80.
- [3] Al-Jarf, R. (2024). To translate or not to translate: The case of Arabic and foreign shop names in Saudi Arabia. *International Journal of Translation and Interpretation Studies*, 4(1), 33-40. DOI: 10.32996/ijtis.2024.4.1.5. [Google Scholar](#)
- [4] Al-Jarf, R. (2023a). Numeral-based English and Arabic formulaic expressions: Cultural, linguistic and translation issues. *British Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 3,1, 25-34. <https://doi.org/10.32996/bjal.2023.3.1.2>. ERIC ED628151. [Google Scholar](#)
- [5] Al-Jarf, R. (2023a). Semantic and syntactic anomalies of Arabic-transliterated compound shop names in Saudi Arabia. *International Journal of Arts and Humanities Studies (IJAHs)*, 3(1), 1-8. DOI: 10.32996/ijahs.2023.3.1.1. [Google Scholar](#)
- [6] Al-Jarf, R. (2023b). The interchange of personal names in Muslim communities: An onomastic study. *Journal of Gender, Culture and Literature*, 3(1), 42-56. DOI: 10.32996/jgcs.2023.3.1.5. [Google scholar](#)

- [7] Al-Jarf, R. (2022a). Challenges That undergraduate student translators' face in translating polysemes from English to Arabic and Arabic to English. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation (IJLLT)*, 5,7, 84-97. DOI: 10.32996/ijllt.2022.5.7.10. ERIC ED620804.
- [8] Al-Jarf, R. (2022b). English transliteration of Arabic personal names with the definite article /al/ on Facebook. *British Journal of Applied Linguistics (BJAL)*, 2(2), 23-37. DOI: 10.31926/bjut.pcs.2022.64.15.2.2. Google Scholar
- [9] Al-Jarf, R. (2022c). *Issues in translating English and Arabic common names of chemical compounds by student-translators in Saudi Arabia*. In Kate Isaeva (Ed.). *Special Knowledge Mediation: Ontological & Metaphorical Modelling*. Springer. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-95104-7. [Google Scholar](#)
- [10] Al-Jarf, R. (2022d). Student-interpreters' foreign proper noun pronunciation errors in English-Arabic and Arabic-English media discourse interpreting. *International Journal of Translation and Interpretation Studies (IJTIS)*, 2(1), 80-90. Doi: 10.32996%2Fijtis.2022.2.1.11. ERIC ED619940. [Google Scholar](#)
- [11] Al-Jarf, R. (2021). An investigation of Google's English-Arabic translation of technical terms. *Eurasian Arabic Studies*, 14, 16-37. [Google Scholar](#)
- [12] Al-Jarf, R. (2021). Linguistic-cultural characteristics of hotel names in Saudi Arabia: The case of Makkah, Madinah and Riyadh Hotels. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation (IJLLT)*, 4(8), 160-170. DOI: 10.32996/ijllt.2021.4.8.23. [Google Scholar](#)
- [13] Al-Jarf, R. (2020). Issues in translating English and Arabic plurals. *The Journal of Linguistic and Intercultural Education - JoLIE*, 13(1), 7-28. <https://doi.org/10.29302/jolie.2020.13.1>. [Google Scholar](#)
- [14] Al-Jarf, R. (2019). *Issues in translating English and Arabic plurals*. Conference on Linguistic and Intercultural Education (CLIE) (9th, Alba Iulia, Romania, Jul 4-6, 2019. ERIC ED638756. [Google Scholar](#)
- [15] Al-Jarf, R. (2019). Translation students' difficulties with English and Arabic color-based metaphorical expressions. *Fachsprache*, 41 (Sp. Issue), 101-118. Doi: 10.24989/fs.v41iS1.1774. ERIC ED622935. [Google Scholar](#)
- [16] Al-Jarf, R. (2016). *Issues in translating English technical terms to Arabic by Google Translate*. 3rd International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies for Education and Training (TICET 2016), pp. 17-31. Khartoum, Sudan, March 12-14. [Google Scholar](#)
- [17] Al-Jarf, R. (2007). SVO word order errors in English-Arabic translation. *META*, 52(2), 299-308. <https://doi.org/10.7202/016072ar>. ERIC ED623835. [Google Scholar](#)
- [18] Al-Jarf, R. (2000). Grammatical agreement errors in L1/L2 translation. *International Review of Applied Linguistics*, 38, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1515/iral.2000.38.1.1>. [Google Scholar](#)
- [19] Al-Jarf, R. (1996). Contrastive Semantics for Translation Students. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/284177703>. [Google Scholar](#)
- [20] Al-Jarf, R. (1994a). Contrastive semantics for translation students. DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.1.5182.1280](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.1.5182.1280). <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281003229>. [Google Scholar](#)
- [21] Al-Jarf, R. (1994b). English and Arabic inflectional systems for translation students. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281003416>. [Google Scholar](#)
- [22] Al-Jarf, R. (1990). A contrastive analysis of English and Arabic morphology for translation students. *King Saud University, KSA*. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312193999>. [Google Scholar](#)
- [23] Alqassas, A. (2013). The Definite Marker in Arabic: Morphological realization of the syntactic head D or a [DEF] feature. In *Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, 39(1), 2-15).
- [24] Al-Samarrai, F. S. (2000). *Meanings of grammar*. Dar Al-Fikr for Printing, Publishing and Distribution. Amman, Jordan (In Arabic).
- [25] Al-Sulaimaan, M. & Alsinjari, A. (2018). Problems of translating definite and indefinite articles from English into Arabic. *International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences*, 3(6).
- [26] Belyayeva, D. (1997). Definiteness realization and function in Palestinian Arabic. *Amsterdam Studies In The Theory And History Of Linguistic Science Series 4*, 47-68.
- [27] Belarbi, A. (2022). *Translating Arabic articles into English and error analysis investigation*. Doctoral dissertation. Kasdi Merbah Ouargla University, Algeria.
- [28] Byrne, R. (2015). *The Syntax and Semantics of Definiteness in the Jordanian Bedouin Arabic Construct State*. Thesis. The Ohio State University.
- [29] Dickins, J. (2023). Definiteness, pronoun suffixes, genitives and two types of syntax in Sudanese Arabic¹. *Journal of Semitic Studies*, fgac035.
- [30] Dickins, J. (2013). Definiteness, genitives and two kinds of syntax in Standard Arabic. *Nicht nur mit Engelzungen: Beiträge zur semitischen Dialektologie. Festschrift fuer Werner Arnold zum 60. Geburtstag*, 59-72.
- [31] Elghamry, K. (2004). Definiteness and number ambiguity in the superlative construction in Arabic. *Lingua*, 114(7), 897-910.
- [32] Farghal, M. & al-Zou'bi, I. (2004). The Qur'anic definite article in translation. *Contrastive rhetoric: Issues, insights, and pedagogy*, 61-67.
- [33] Heselwood, B. & Watson, J. (2015). The Arabic definite article: A synchronic and historical perspective. *Arabic and Semitic linguistics contextualized: A festschrift for Jan Retsö*, 157-176.
- [34] Hoyt, F. (2008). *The Arabic noun phrase*. The Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics. *Leiden: Brill*.
- [35] Jaber, A. (2014). *On genericity and definiteness in modern standard Arabic*. Doctoral dissertation. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- [36] Jaber, A., Al-Momani, R., & Omari, O. (2022). Form-function mismatches: The semantics of the definite article in Jordanian Arabic. *Lingua*, 266, 103169.
- [37] Jarrah, M., & Zibin, A. (2016). On definiteness and information trigger in Arabic. *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*, 7(2), 55-67.
- [38] Kashgary, A. (2015). Meanings and Functions of the Arabic Article al-'the'with Reference to the Concept of Definiteness. *Journal of Semitic studies*, 60(1), 93-110.
- [39] Kassawat, M. (2020). The double function of language: an analysis of product naming and industry terminology in Arabic localized websites. *Language for International Communication: Linking Interdisciplinary Perspective*, 3, 31-41.
- [40] Khoshaba, L. M., & Alsultan, M. (2021). Problems of Translating Definiteness and Indefiniteness from Russian Into English and Arabic. *Qalaai Zanist Journal*, 6(3), 1018-1036.

- [41] Krámský, J. (2016). *The article and the concept of definiteness in language* (Vol. 125). Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG.
- [42] Maas, U., & Procházka, S. (2022). Nominal determination in Moroccan Arabic. *Studies in Language*, 46(4), 793-846.
- [43] Marogy, A. (2009). Definiteness and identifiability. In *Kitāb Sibawayhi: Syntax and Pragmatics* (pp. 95-149). Brill.
- [44] Rubin, A. (2005). Definite Articles. In *Studies in Semitic Grammaticalization* (pp. 65-90). Brill.
- [45] Sa'adah, N. (2020). *Comparative Study of English and Arabic: Common Noun vs Isim Nakirah and Proper Noun vs Isim Ma'rifah*. Doctoral dissertation. Universitas Islam Negeri Kiai Haji Achmad Siddiq Jember, Indonesia.
- [46] Sabra, Y. (2014). *On Definiteness and Beyond: a Contrastive Analysis of Nominal Determination in English and Arabic*. Doctoral dissertation. Université de Toulon; École doctorale des lettres et des sciences humaines et sociales, France.
- [47] Saeed, L. (2013). Definiteness in English, French and Arabic: A Contrastive Study. *Adab AL Rafidayn*, 43(66). [0c7eed307d749f1c \(iasj.net\)](https://doi.org/10.1080/00021430.2013.834444)
- [48] Sakaedani, H. (2019). What is Definiteness in Arabic? Focusing on Proper Nouns for Genera and 'asmā' mubhama 'Ambiguous Nouns'. In *The Foundations of Arabic Linguistics IV* (pp. 233-252). Brill.
- [49] Sartori, M. (2019). Definition and determination in medieval Arabic grammatical thought. In *The Foundations of Arabic Linguistics IV* (pp. 253-273). Brill.
- [50] Testen, D. (1998). On the definite article. In *Parallels in Semitic Linguistics*, pp. 135-182. Brill.
- [51] Turner, M. (2021). Definiteness Systems and Dialect Classification. *Languages* 6: 128. *The Classification of Arabic Dialects*, 235.
- [52] Turner, M. (2013). *Definiteness marking in Moroccan Arabic: Contact, divergence, and semantic change*. MA. Thesis. The University of Texas at Austin, USA.
- [53] Turner, M. (2018). *Definiteness in the Arabic dialects*. Doctoral dissertation. Ph.D. Thesis. The University of Texas at Austin, USA.