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Subject: Translation

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Translation of the Verb "HAVE"

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The verb "have" in English, like "be" and "do," functions both as an auxiliary verb and as a main verb. While its use as an auxiliary verb is relatively straightforward in translation, its role as a main verb can present several challenges for students of translation. The difficulties arise from the various meanings and uses of "have" in different contexts.

Problem 1: "Have" as an Auxiliary Verb

When "have" is used as an auxiliary verb, it primarily serves grammatical purposes, particularly in forming tenses such as the present perfect and past perfect. In these cases, "have" does not carry lexical meaning in Arabic and can often be omitted in translation.

Examples:

1. English: "The workers have left early today."

   - Arabic: غادر العمال مبكراً اليوم.

2. English: "Two girls had finished knitting fast."

   - Arabic: أنهت فتاتان الحياكة بسرعة.

3. English: "The patient has had the medicine."

   - Arabic: تناول المريض الدواء.

In these examples, the auxiliary "have" is omitted in Arabic because its role is purely grammatical in English and does not directly translate into Arabic.

Problem 2: "Have" as a Main Verb

As a main verb, "have" can be more complex because it carries different meanings depending on the context. A common mistake students make is translating "have" uniformly as "يملك" (to possess), which does not always fit the intended meaning.

Solution: Understanding the Various Meanings of "Have"

Students need to recognize that "have" can take on several meanings depending on its usage in a sentence. The meaning often depends on the word that follows it (i.e., its object), which helps form a specific collocation in Arabic.\

Examples of Different Meanings and Translations:

1. English: "She has money."

  - Arabic: لديها مال / تمتلك مالاً / تملك المال / عندها مال.

  - Explanation: Each of these translations is possible, though "لديها مال" is the most common, while "تملك المال" might be less frequent.

2. English: "She has her breakfast at 7 o'clock every day."

  - Arabic: تتناول إفطارها في السابعة صباحاً كل يوم.

  - Explanation: Here, "has" is translated as "تتناول," indicating the act of eating.

3. English: "She has the tablets on time."

- Arabic: تتناول الأقراص في الوقت المحدد.

   - Explanation: Similar to the previous example, "has" refers to the act of taking medication.

4. English: "She has just had the ticket."

   - Arabic: حصلت للتو على التذكرة.

   - Explanation: "Has had" is translated as "حصلت" indicating possession or acquisition.

5. English: "She had a telephone call this morning."

   - Arabic: تلقت مكالمة هاتفية هذا الصباح.

   - Explanation: "Had" is translated as "تلقت," indicating the act of receiving a call.

6. English: "She has to speak two languages."

   - Arabic: يجب عليها أن تتحدث لغتين.

   - Explanation: Here, "has to" is translated as "يجب عليها," indicating obligation.

7. English: "She had a nice holiday."

   - Arabic: قضت إجازة ممتعة.

   - Explanation: "Had" is translated as "قضت," indicating the experience of spending time.

8. English: "Have a good journey."

   - Arabic: رحلة سعيدة.

   - Explanation: In this context, "have" is implied in Arabic, and the expression is translated to wish someone a pleasant journey.

9. English: "Have a bash."

  - Arabic: احتفل / استمتع بالوقت.

  - Explanation: Depending on the context, "have a bash" can be translated as "استمتع بالوقت" or "احتفل," capturing the idea of having fun or celebrating.

Guidance for Students:

To accurately translate "have" as a main verb, students should consider the object that follows it. This object often helps determine the appropriate Arabic collocation or phrase. For example, while "يملك" may be suitable in some contexts, it is not appropriate for all uses of "have." Instead, translating "have" requires a flexible understanding of its various meanings, such as possession, consumption, obligation, experience, or acquisition.

Therefore, recognizing the different meanings of "have" and how it pairs with its objects in English is essential for producing accurate and contextually appropriate translations in Arabic.