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LEXICAL PROBLEMS IN ARABIC-ENGLISH SUBTITLING

The present paper is designed to shed some light on the lexical problems in Arabic-English subtitling as illustrated by the translation output of 15 MA translation Arab students at Al-Quds University for the academic year 2010/2011. The data comprises an Egyptian movie entitled *is-Safara fil-'Imarah* translated as 'The Embassy is in the Building'. The paper reveals that subtitling students are faced with several lexical problems that are attributed not only to the fact that Arabic and English are poles apart in terms of lexis, but they are also akin to the technical dimension, very much prominent in audiovisual translation, e.g. dubbing, voiceover, subtitling, etc. The study shows that the technical aspect has an impact on subtitler's lexical choice, and deleterious effect on communication. The study concludes with some pedagogical implications that will hopefully help subtitling students deal with the problems in question.

Key words: *audiovisual translation, subtitling, lexical problems, technical problems, Arabic, English*