

2.9. Google Translate.

Google Translate is a free online MT service that enables users to translate sentences, documents, and even websites instantly. It functions when a user types or pastes the material in the SL and *Google Translate* detects the ST and translates it into English as a default language. However, *Google Translate* has its drawbacks just as any other MT. Though it helps the reader to comprehend the content of ST, it does not usually produce accurate results. The accuracy depends on the language pair being used. For example, the accuracy of *Google Translate* increases substantially when translating a text from English into a European Language. Results of analyses were reported in 2010, showing that French into English translation is very accurate (Shen, 2010).

Another condition which could affect *Google Translate's* accuracy is the length of the sentence or paragraph of the ST. The future is just as bright as the present for online translation systems as Hutchins (2004:171) anticipates that “[U]sers of online translation systems (whether charged or free) will expect continued improvements, and this will be more likely with specialized services than with non-specialized ones.”

According to Wikipedia, *Google Translate* has gone through different stages of improvement (27 stages). In the first stage, the tool could translate the following pairs: English into German, English into Spanish, French into English, Spanish into English, and German into English. Arabic into English and English into Arabic was launched in the 5th stage in April 2006. It is worth noting that Google Inc. has recognized since an early stage that Arabic is one of the prominent languages which is targeted by millions of users around the globe. Arabic was introduced before many important languages in *Google Translate*.