

sound sentences in the TL. Since concord applies to the TL, it should fulfill the specific requirements of this language.

In a contrastive analysis study, As-Safi (1972) discusses concord and its peculiarities in English and Arabic. He divides concord into three subcategories: concord of person, gender, and number. In addition, he touches upon concord-deviances or peculiarities in both languages.

Concord rules are complicated and such complication becomes more obvious when attempting to design an MT system between languages that have great morphological variations and big differences in concord requirements. The English verb, for example, indicates in the present tense whether the subject is singular or plural in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person, but it does not give any information about gender. In other tenses, the English verb is completely neutral. English adjectives and determiners are also, to a great extent, neutral to number and/or gender. This poses a problem when translating English into Arabic, a language that is highly sensitive to agreement features. Arabic verbs, adjectives, and most determiners are highly reactive to the noun they modify, whether singular, dual, plural, feminine, masculine, human or non-human.

To achieve accurate concord in the output, MT systems can draw the information they need in some cases from the SL. In the SL, lexical items, especially proper nouns and titles, should be defined whether they are feminine or masculine, singular or plural. The SL should tell us that *Jack* is masculine while *Jill* is feminine. In other cases the information needed for agreement is derived from the TL. In the TL, lexical items, especially common nouns, should be defined, whether they are feminine or masculine, singular, dual or plural. The TL will tell us that "كتاب", which is the equivalent to *book*, is masculine while "كراسة",