

“يجوز” and “لايجوز” respectively and therefore the two verbs can be used interchangeably (Hatim, 1997:45).

Sabra (1995:32) lists some examples on the matter above:

1. The minister of petroleum may enter into concession agreements with foreign companies for petroleum exploration.
يجوز لوزير البترول ان يبرم اتفاقيات امتياز مع شركات اجنبيه للبحث عن البترول.
2. The United Nations may hold fund, gold, or currency of any kind.
يجوز للامم المتحده ان تحتفظ بأموال أو ذهب أو عمله من أي نوع.
3. The Contractor may not assign the contract to a third party without the prior written consent of the Employer.
لا يجوز ان يتنازل المقاول عن العقد للغير بدون موافقه خطيه مسبقه من صاحب العمل.

The researcher has attempted to feed the above examples into *Google Translate* and found out that the system was able to translate the sense of *may* as “يجوز” in the first sentence while erroneously translated *may* in the second and third example as “قد”.

Test Example Analysis

The articles are analyzed to locate instances where the modal “*shall*” or “*may*” are mentioned. *Google Translate*’s output is examined to determine whether the system is able to handle the modality in the legal context.

“*Shall*”, as a binding modal, is mentioned ten times in the fourteen articles. None of which is *Google Translate* able to render into a simple Arabic present tense of the verb to which the modal is attached. *Google Translate* opts for utilizing a different verb in different contexts such as: