1.2. Problem

It is widely known that a lot of people depend on MT to translate different kinds of documents for the two aforementioned reasons. Unfortunately, they are unaware of the grave consequences resulted from erroneous outcomes especially when precision in such documents is a priority.

Although *Google Translate*, the system under assessment, has won an international competition for English-Arabic and English-Chinese Machine Translation, translated texts can often include apparently nonsensical and obvious errors. This is due to the fact that *Google Translate* adopts a Statistical Machine Translation approach (SMT) rather than a dictionary/grammar approach.

1.3. Hypotheses

The thesis will adopt the following hypotheses:

a. It is hypothesized that MT and *Google Translate* in particular has not so far produced accurate translation even if the text type translated is formulaic such as legal language. The inaccuracies should be verified and classified according to the level they pertain to, i.e. lexis or syntax.

b. It is also hypothesized that *Google Translate* is able to provide a gist of the input rather than a functional equivalent of the legal source text.

1.4. Objectives

The current thesis aims at assessing the performance of *Google Translate* in handling legal discourse, particularly contracts. The research touches upon the main errors made by the system by categorizing such errors under two main categories: lexical and syntactic.