A Critical Evaluation of Google Translation: The Case of English-Sorani Kurdish Translation

Sabir H. Rasul [1]

[1] Department of English Language, College of Languages, University of Human Development, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

ABSTRACT

Google Translate is a machine translation service that is frequently and actively utilized worldwide. Sorani Kurdish, otherwise known as Central Kurdish, was officially added to Google Translate in May 2022. At the outset of the launch of Sorani Kurdish translation services, it is crucial to evaluate the quality of the translation and pave the way for improvements, if necessary. Taking into consideration both linguistic and cultural aspects, this paper aims to critically assess the accuracy of English-Sorani Kurdish translations produced by Google Translate. For this purpose, the paper has adopted a textual analysis approach based on the notion of equivalence to critically analyze samples of translations generated by Google Translate. The results suggest that Google Translate is largely accurate at morphological and syntactic levels but improvements are needed to overcome the minor deficiencies detected in rendering future perfect and perfect progressive tenses, third conditional sentences and passive tenses (especially in the case of progressive and perfect progressive tenses). With regard to the semantic level, Google Translate has proved accurate in processing non-equivalence terms and polysemous words, but it has assumed an utter failure in translating idioms and proverbs. With regard to the cultural level, in over third-fourths of instances, Google Translate renders English cultural terms into Sorani Kurdish accurately, whereas in nearly one-fourth of instances, it offers inappropriate translation. As far as English into Sorani Kurdish translation is concerned, Google Translate can be deemed effective as a supportive translation tool but it is far from being perfect, and continuous improvements will be needed to respond to the errors and deficiencies unearthed in this study.

KEY WORDS: Google Translate, English-Kurdish translation, Sorani Kurdish, linguistic level, Cultural level

1. INTRODUCTION:

Advances in digital technology in the last two decades or so have influenced almost all aspects of human life. Modern digital technology helps us not only in communications and social life, but also in professional life, including translation profession. While translators in the past relied entirely on their translation competence and utilized traditional translation aids such as dictionaries and human expertise, with the turn of the new millennium, digital technology has come to play an increasingly important role in translation services. Translation in the digital age is characterized by:

The omnipresence of online translation options, the proliferation of smartphone translation apps, the relentless drive towards automation in large-scale translation projects, the fundamental changes in literacy practices as reading migrates from page to screen, the unforgiving instantaneity of electronic communication as responses are demanded 24/7, the ever-changing wardrobe of digital translation props such as endlessly mutating translation memory software. (Cronin, 2013, p.1)

Notwithstanding, the role of digital technology is not assumed to fully replace human competence and expertise but to accelerate the translation process by finding equivalents for words, expressions, phrases, etc. in a rather automated and mechanical way by means of computerized algorithms. The algorithms are designed "to analyze the sentence structure, sentence composition and part of speech of the original sentence, and complete the translation task after understanding the complete syntactic structure" (Qu, 2021, p. 1). Among the many computer-aided translation tools and machine translation services, the role and significance of Google Translate is remarkable.

1.1 Research Questions and Hypotheses

This paper sets out to critically evaluate the quality of English-Sorani Kurdish translations produced by Google Translate. Taking a textual analysis approach based on the notion of equivalence, the study specifically aims to answer the following questions:

1) To what extent are English-Sorani Kurdish translations produced by Google Translate accurate at the linguistic as well as cultural level?

2) What are the linguistic and/or cultural areas that particularly require improvements?

The research hypothesizes that Google Translate can be a useful auxiliary tool to accelerate the translation process and help producing translation quickly and efficiently; however, the translation products will require human translators' intervention and editing to ensure translation accuracy.

1.2 Significance of the Study

There are approximately 10 million Sorani Kurdish speakers in the world and thousands of them use Google Translate for all sorts of purposes. In fact, "Kurdish speakers demanded the inclusion of Sorani in Google Translate for years" (Lucente, 2022). As Sorani Kurdish is currently available in Google Translate, the quality of the translation is crucially important to make sure the end-users of the service get accurate translation of the information they want to translate from and into Sorani Kurdish. Covering both linguistic and cultural levels, this paper is a timely effort to identify deficiencies and inaccuracies, if any, in English-Sorani Kurdish translations generated by Google Translate. The results of the paper are hoped to ultimately pave the way for the improvement of the quality of such translations.

2. MACHINE TRANSLATION AND GOOGLE TRANSLATE

Thanks to advances in technology, several computerized programs are currently available to offer translation services in dozens of languages. Machine translation (henceforth MT) is done automatically by finding equivalents of source language translation units in the target language. MT may find the correct meaning or multiple meanings of a translation unit, but it may fail to select the right usage or sense of polysemous words and idiomatic expressions in a given context. Therefore, the translation is often mechanical and not artistic or communicative, i.e. the basic principle of the 'art' of translation is often missing. Professional translators use their skills, competence and experience to find the right meaning and they employ their craft to compose the resultant translation in an adequate and communicative way. MT tools, on the other hand, are thought to be less effective when dealing with semantically complex and aesthetically composed texts.

Google Translate is today one of the most popular online translation services used by millions of people worldwide seeking information written in other languages. It is considered a true game-changer in the realm of translation for practitioners as well as information consumers. Google Translate currently supports 133 languages spoken around the globe. In daily life, "the practical utility of Google Translate and similar technologies is undeniable" (Hofstadter, 2018). Google statistics show that around 200 million people use Google Translate on a daily basis.

3. MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

The material used in this study consists of representative examples of English-Sorani Kurdish translations produced by Google Translate. Sufficient examples are chosen to address particular linguistic or cultural areas of concern. The resultant translations are directly taken from Google Translate without any modification and presented for analysis. Where necessary, the Kurdish examples are also presented in Latin alphabet and morphemic analysis is provided to illustrate particular morphological discrepancies. In addition to highlighting errors and mistranslations, correct translation of terms, expressions and utterances are provided, where necessary.

As noted above, the paper explores both linguistic and cultural aspects of translation. As far as the linguistic aspect is concerned, the three linguistic levels of morphology, syntax and semantics, which are relevant in translation studies, are brought to discussion. Pragmatics is excluded in the study because pragmatics is concerned with meaning beyond literal meaning, which is a complicated and problematic area in human translation let alone in machine translation. Relevant examples of English-Sorani Kurdish translations are taken from Google Translate to explore the three chosen linguistic levels and their sub-levels. Based on the notion of translation equivalence, the resultant translation is designated as 'accurate' where the meaning of a translation unit is effectively conveyed and the translation choice is expected to be the option normally used by human translators. On the other hand, the translation is designated as 'inaccurate' where a translation unit gives a different or wrong meaning.

With regard to the cultural aspects, three selected extracts are taken from Kate Fox's (2014) book, *Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour*, which explores the British society and is impregnated with cultural terms. The extracts are translated into Sorani Kurdish using Google Translate and the cultural terms are highlighted in both the source and target languages (see the Appendix). Based on the notion of translation

equivalence, the translation of the cultural terms is examined to ascertain whether each cultural term is translated correctly (designated as 'accurate') or mistranslated (designated as 'inaccurate').

In conducting the study, a textual analysis approach based on the notion of translation equivalence is adopted. This is considered to be the most appropriate approach to gauge the accuracy of target text translation segments compared with their source text counterparts. The notion of equivalence, which means 'equal value', focuses on the text and context rather than external factors. It is viewed "a key concept in translation theory and a useful yardstick in translation practice" (Rasul, 2015, p. 68). The approach tends to be more practical than other alternative approaches that take into consideration extra-textual factors such as the author, author's intention, readership, medium, place, time, motive and function (cf. Nord, 2005, p. 82).

4. ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH-SORANI KURDISH GOOGLE TRANSLATION

4.1 Linguistics Level

Three linguistic levels are particularly relevant in translation studies, viz. morphology, syntax and semantics. These three linguistic levels will be thoroughly examined below.

Morphology: it is defined as "the branch of grammar which studies the structure or forms of words, primarily through the use of the morpheme construct" (Crystal, 2008, p. 314). Morphology is divided into two major branches: inflectional and derivational.

Inflectional morphology: this branch deals with various types of functional and grammatical forms of the same word, created through inflectional affixes added to words/lexemes. In English, inflectional suffixes have several grammatical functions, such as creating plural form, forming possession and processing verb conjugations. These inflectional morphological functions will be elaborated on and exemplified below:

(a) Plural form: regular form of pluralization in English is simply to add the plural marker *s* to the end of singular nouns, e.g. *flower* > *flowers*. Regarding nouns that end with *y,* if the penultimate sound is a consonant, the noun will be pluralized by changing the *y* to *i* and then adding *es*, e.g. *library* > *libraries*. In Kurdish, on the other hand, singular nouns are pluralized by adding the plural marker suffix ان - to the end of nouns, e.g. گوڵ > گوڵان. However, Kurdish plural nouns are normally expressed in the definite state, with the definite article هکه - preceding the plural marker ان - and forming the definite plural form مکان -, e.g. گوڵ > گوڵهکان. To check the accuracy of Google Translate in processing pluralization, consider the ensuing examples:

(1)   a. She read <u>the book</u>. > کتیبهکهی خویندهوه
   Ktêb-eke-y   xwênd-ewe.
   Book-DEF-3rd SG   read.PST-ITERATIVE
b. She read <u>the books</u>. > کتیبهکانی خویندهوه.
   Ktêb-ek(e)-an-y   xwênd-ewe
   Book-DEF-PL-3rd SG   read.PST-ITERATIVE
(2) a. I visited <u>the library</u>. > سهردانی کتیبخانهکهم کرد.
   Serdan-i   ktêbxane-ke-m   kırd.
   visit-IZF   library-DEF-1st SG   do.PST
   b. I visited <u>the libraries</u>. > سهردانی کتیبخانهکانم کرد.
     Serdan-i   ktêbxane-ka-n-ım   kırd.
     visit-IZF   library-DEF-PL-1st SG   do.PST

As can be seen, the plural form is accurately reproduced in the Kurdish translation. These examples suggest that Google Translate is effective in processing plural forms when rendering from English into Sorani Kurdish. It is worth mentioning that Kurdish naturally uses singular form of nouns when they are preceded by cardinal numbers (cf. Rasul, 2019, p. 88). It is observed that Google Translate makes a shift from plural to singular and respects this grammatical convention when rendering from English into Sorani Kurdish, as shown in the example below:

(3) Ari has visited <u>five countries</u> > ئاری سهردانی پێنج وڵاتی کردووه.
   Ari serdan-i penc   wllat-i   kırdwe.
   Ari visit-IZF five   country-1st SG   do.PST-PRF

(b) Possessive construction: in English, there are two different ways to form possession constructions: *of* phrase and possessive *'s*. Both constructions correspond to the Kurdish Izafa ی- possessive structure, in which the possessee is linked to the possessor through the Izafa particle ی-. The following examples demonstrate the translation of possessive constructions between English and Sorani Kurdish by Google Translate:

(4)   Kamaran<u>'s</u> father > باوکی کامهران
   bawk-<u>i</u>   Kameran
   father-IZF   Kameran
(5)   future <u>of</u> the world > داهاتووی جیهان
   dahatw-<u>i</u>   cihan
   future-IZF   world

The examples above reveal that Google Translate accurately renders English possessive constructions into Sorani Kurdish. When translating from the opposite direction, it was observed that باوکی کامهران was inaccurately translated into *of phrase* construction as *father of Kamaran*, given the fact that *of phrase* is typically used in the case of inanimate possessors. However, this inaccuracy occurs only at the phrasal level; when the phrase باوکی کامهران is used in a proper sentence, as in the following instance, Google Translate correctly processes the possessive construction:

(6) Kamran<u>'s</u> father is a carpenter. > باوکی کامهران دارتاشه.
   Bawk-<u>i</u>   Kameran   dartaş-e.
   Father-IZF   Kameran   carpenter-PRST

(c) Verb conjugations: this refers to how a verb changes to show different states, such as a different person, number or mood. In Table 1 below, both transitive and intransitive verbs are used to check the accuracy of Google Translate in processing verb conjugations from English into Sorani Kurdish.

Table 1
Translation of verb conjugations from English into Sorani Kurdish by Google Translate

	Grammatical Person	English Sentence	Kurdish Translation
Intransitive verb	1st person singular	I arrived.	گەشتم Geşt-ım Arrive.PST-1st SG
	1st person plural	We arrived.	گەیشتین. Geyşt-in Arrive.PST-1st PL
	2nd person singular	You arrived.	تۆ گەیشتیت. To geyşt-it You arrive.PST-2nd SG
	2nd person plural	You arrived.	تۆ گەیشتیت. To geyşt-it You arrive.PST-2nd SG
	3rd person singular	He arrived.	ئەو گەیشت. Ew geyşt He arrive.PST.3SG
	3rd person plural	They arrived.	گەیشتن. Geyşt-ın Arrive.PST-3rd PL
Transitive verb	1st person singular	I sent the email.	ئیمەیڵەکەم نارد. Imeyll-eke-m nard.
	1st person plural	We sent the email.	ئیمەیڵەکەمان نارد. Imeyll-eke-man nard. Email-DEF-1st SG send.PST
	2nd person singular	You sent the email.	تۆ ئیمەیڵەکەت ناردووه. To imeyll-eke-t nardwe. You Email-DEF-2nd PL send.PST
	2nd person plural	You sent the email.	تۆ ئیمەیڵەکەت ناردووه. To imeyll-eke-t nardwe. You Email-DEF-2nd SG send.PST-PRF
	3rd person singular	He sent the email.	ئەو ئیمەیڵەکەی نارد. Ew imeyll-eke-y nard. He Email-DEF-3rd SG send.PST
	3rd person plural	They sent the email.	ئیمەیڵەکەیان نارد. Imeyll-eke-yan nard. Email-DEF-3rd PL send.PST

First of all, Kurdish is a pro-drop language; pronouns are normally dropped in Kurdish sentences. Kurdish has two types of personal pronouns: free and bound. The free pronouns correspond to English subject pronouns and the bound pronouns agglutinate to the verb (in case of intransitive verbs) and the object (in case of transitive verbs) to indicate person and number (cf. Rasul, 2015, p. 96). Kurdish free pronouns are normally dropped in a sentence and are referred to by their corresponding bound pronouns. In the translation above, on three occasions the independent personal pronoun is dropped (first person singular, first person plural and third

person plural) and the pronoun is retained in three cases (second person singular, second person plural and third person singular). This has been consistent for both the transitive and intransitive verbs. It is crucial to highlight that Google Translate does not seem to differentiate between second person singular and second person plural in the Kurdish translation – both cases are expressed in first person singular by default. However, Google Translate has an editing service, in which alternative options are given and users can choose the most appropriate one for a given context. In the example *you arrived*, the second person singular translation is given by default and the second person plural is also available as a second option, as shown in Figure 1 below:

Fig. 1.
Kurdish translation options for the sentence *you arrived* by Google Translate
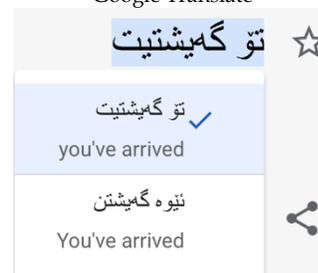
As is clear, the two options in the figure above are followed by English translations in the past perfect tense while the original Kurdish entry was in the simple past tense. This can be ascribed to the fact that past simple in Kurdish normally corresponds to present perfect in English.

Another deficiency has occurred in the translation of the sentence *I arrived*, which is translated as گەشتم. While this form of the verb is used in spoken language, the standard grammatical form is گەیشتم.

Derivational morphology: this is concerned with the formation of new words through affixation, which results in a change in the word class. Derivational morphology involves a process in which derivational morphemes (affixes) are added to words/lexemes to create new words with different word classes (cf. Mayer and Alexander 2016: 129). To ascertain the accuracy of Google Translate in processing derivational morphology between English and Sorani Kurdish, a wide range of possible word class changes are explored below:

1. noun > adjective (-al)
- I like <u>nature</u>. > من حەزم لە سروشتە.
 Mın ħez-ım le srwşt-e.
 I like-1st SG in nature-PRST
- I like <u>natural</u> environment. > من حەزم لە ژینگەی سروشتییە.
 Mın hez-ım le jinge-y srwşty-e.
 I like-1st SG in environment-IZF natural-PRST

2. noun > adjective (-ly)

- He is a <u>friend</u>. > ئەو هاورێیە.
  Ew <u>hawrrê</u>-ye.
  He friend-3ʳᵈ SG.PRST
- He is <u>friendly</u>. > ئەو دۆستانەیە.
  Ew <u>dostane</u>-ye.
  He friendly-3ʳᵈ SG.PRST

3. adjective > adverb (-ly)

- He is <u>happy</u>. > ئەو کوڕە دڵخۆشە.
  Ew kurr-e   <u>dılxoş</u>-e.
  that boy-DEF   happy-3ʳᵈ SG.PRST
- He left <u>happily</u>. > ئەو بە خۆشحاڵیەوه ڕۆیشت.
  Ew   <u>be xoşhalli-yewe</u>   royşt.
  He   with   gladness   go.3ʳᵈ SG.PST

4. adjective > noun (-ness)

- The seminar hall is <u>bright</u>. > هۆڵی سیمینارەکە ڕووناکە.
  Holi   siminar-eke   <u>rrwnak</u>-e.
  Hall-IZF seminar-DEF light-3ʳᵈ SG.PRST
- The <u>brightness</u> comes from outside. > ڕووناکیەکەی لە دەرەوه دێت.
  <u>Rrwnak-i</u>-yeke-i   le   derewe dêt.
  Light-DEF-3ʳᵈ SG   from   outside come.PRST-3SG

5. verb > adjective (-ing)

- The movie <u>fascinated</u> us. > فیلمەکە سەرسامی کردین.
  Film-eke   sersam-i   kırd-in.
  Film-DEF   surprise-3ʳᵈ SG   do.PST-2ⁿᵈ PL
- The movie was <u>fascinating</u>. > فیلمەکە سەرنجراکێش بوو.
  Film-eke   <u>serıncrrakêş</u> bu.
  Film-DEF   fascinating was

6. verb > adjective (-ed)

- The lesson <u>interested us</u>. > وانەکە جێگەی سەرنج بووین.
  Wane-ke   jêge-y   serınc   bu-in.
  Lesson-DEF place-IZF attention was-2ⁿᵈ PL
- We were <u>interested</u> in the lesson. > ئێمه حەزمان لە وانەکە بوو.
  Eme ḣez-man   le   wane-ke   <u>bu.</u>
  We   like-2ⁿᵈ PL   in   lesson-DEF   was

7. verb > noun (-ion)

- A local company <u>constructed</u> the bridge. > کۆمپانیایەکی ناوخۆیی پردەکەی دروستکرد.
  Kompanya-yeki   nawxoyy pırd-eke-y <u>drustkırd.</u>
  Company-INDEF-IZF   internal bridge-DEF-3ʳᵈ SG
  build.PST
- The <u>construction</u> of the bridge took three years.> دروستکردنی پردەکە سێ ساڵی خایاند.
  <u>Drwstkırdn</u>-i pırd-eke sê   salli xayand.
  Building-IZF bridge-DEF three year-3ʳᵈ SG
  last.PST

8. adjective > verb (-ize)

- In some countries hunting is <u>legal</u>. > لە هەندێك وڵاتدا ڕاوکردن یاساییە.
  Le hendêk wllat-da   rrawkırdn <u>yasayy</u>-e.
  In some   country-CASE hunting legal-3ʳᵈ
  SG.PRST
- Some countries have <u>legalized</u> hunting. > هەندێك وڵات ڕاوکردنیان بە یاسایی کردووە.

Hendêk wllat   rrawkırdnyan <u>be   yasayy</u>
<u>kırdwe</u>.
   Some   country   hunting-3ʳᵈ PL with legal do.PST-
   PRF

As far as derivational morphology is concerned, Google Translate generally offers accurate translation in rendering different English word classes into their Sorani Kurdish counterparts. However, improvements are needed to respond to minor errors. For instance, in point 2, the word *friendly* is translated as دۆستانە, which is not wrong *per se*, but it had better be translated as هاورێیەتی خۆشە or ڕووی خۆشە. Likewise, improvement is required in point 4, in which *the brightness* is translated as ڕووناکیەکەی, with the Izafa marker being redundant. The only outright inaccurate translation occurs in point 6, where the sentence *The lesson interested us* is mistranslated into Kurdish as وانەکە جێگەی سەرنج بووین [the lesson we were interesting]. There are also a few cases that are not translated by direct equivalents, yet they demonstrate accurate translation. Consider point 3, where the adverb *happily* is translated into the phrase بە خۆشحاڵیەوه [with pleasure]. This can be considered an acceptable translation, which is likely to be used in human translation as well. Likewise, the verb *legalized* in point 8 is translated into the verb phrase بە یاسایی کردووه [has been made legal], which can be deemed an acceptable translation.

Syntax: refers to the formation of proper sentences based on combining words, phrases and clauses. Syntax occupies a wide area of the grammar of any language. It obviously is beyond the scope of this paper to cover the entire syntax of English and Kurdish. Therefore, three crucial aspects of syntax will be investigated, namely: tenses, passive form and conditional sentences.

Tenses: different languages have different grammatical systems with regard to tenses. English has 12 tenses, few of which have one-to-one counterparts in Kurdish: some tenses are expressed by means of some other tenses. For example, Kurdish does not have future tenses but uses present tenses (sometimes making use of adverbs of time) to indicate futurity; the meaning of present progressive in Kurdish is accomplished through the adverb 'wa'. Table 2, below, shows the translation of the 12 English tenses into Sorani Kurdish generated by Google Translate.

As is obvious, the personal pronoun *I* is reproduced in the translation, which does not sound natural because, as stated above, Kurdish is a pro-drop language. Regarding the tenses, in the translation above, the Kurdish present simple tense is used to translate 'present simple', 'present progressive', 'future simple' and 'future progressive' tenses. Normally, time expressions are used to indicate progressiveness (e.g. لە ئێستادا، وا، ئەوە / *at the moment*) and futurity (e.g. سبەی /

tomorrow)، but this is not the case in the Google Translate examples.

Table 2
Translation of tenses from English into Kurdish by Google Translate

	Tenses	English Sentence	Kurdish Translation
Present	Simple	I <u>play</u> football.	<u>من یاری تۆپی پێ دەکەم.</u>
	Progressive	I <u>am playing </u>football.	<u>من یاری تۆپی پێ دەکەم.</u>
	Perfect	I <u>have played</u> football.	<u>من یاری تۆپی پێم کردووه.</u>
	Perfect progressive	I <u>have been playing</u> football.	من ماوەیەکە <u>یاری تۆپی پێم</u> <u>کردووه.</u>
Past	Simple	I <u>played</u> football.	<u>من یاری تۆپی پێم کرد.</u>
	Progressive	I <u>was playing</u> football.	<u>من یاری تۆپی پێم دەکرد.</u>
	Perfect	I <u>had played</u> football.	<u>من یاری تۆپی پێم کردبوو.</u>
	Perfect progressive	I <u>had been playing</u> football.	من ماوەیەکە <u>یاری تۆپی پێم</u> <u>دەکرد.</u>
Future	Simple	I <u>will play</u> football.	<u>من یاری تۆپی پێ دەکەم.</u>
	Progressive	I <u>will be playing</u> football.	<u>من یاری تۆپی پێ دەکەم.</u>
	Perfect	I <u>will have played</u> football.	<u>من یاری تۆپی پێم کردبێت.</u>
	Perfect progressive	I <u>will have been playing</u> football.	<u>من یاری تۆپی پێم دەکرد.</u>

Present perfect tense is accurately translated into its Kurdish counterpart, namely past perfect. Present perfect progressive tense, however, is translated into present perfect tense and the adverb of time ماوەیەکە [for a while] is added. This suggests that Google Translate is programmed in such a way that sets Kurdish 'present perfect progressive' tense apart from 'present perfect' tense by adding an adverb of time to indicate progressive meaning. It is questionable, however, why this is not done in the case of 'present progressive' tense. The three tenses of 'past simple', 'past progressive' and 'past perfect' are accurately rendered into their Kurdish counterpart tenses. These three past tenses do not pose difficulty either in Google Translate or human translation. On the other hand, 'past perfect progressive' is translated into 'past progressive' and the adverb of time ماوەیەکە [for a while] is added to retain the sense of progressiveness. The 'future perfect' tense is inconveniently translated as من یاری تۆپی پێم کردبێت [(if) I would have played football], which obviously expresses a hypothetical state. Kurdish does not have a counterpart for English 'future perfect' tense, and it is possible to translate the tense only by taking a larger context into consideration. Interestingly, when the same sentence is used in a larger context, the Google Translate accurately rendered it by 'present perfect' tense used in a future context, as in the example below:

(7) *By the time you arrive, I will have played football.*
تا ئەو کاتەی دەگەیت، من یاری تۆپی پێم کردووه.

Finally, the English 'future perfect progressive' tense is translated into Kurdish 'past progressive' tense, which is an obvious translation error.

Passive form: different languages have different grammatical structures to form passive tenses. Passive tense in English is constructed by using *verb to be* followed by past participle of the main verb. In Kurdish, the past passive tense is constructed by adding the suffix ‑را to the present stem of a transitive verb (e.g. شکێنرا < *was broken*), while the present passive tense is formed by adding the suffix ‑رێ to the present stem (e.g. دەشکێنرێ < *is (being) broken*) (cf. Thackston, 2010, p.63). In the following, a variety of representative examples are analyzed to check the quality of Google Translate in processing passive tenses between English and Kurdish.

Table 3
Translation of passive form from English into Kurdish by Google Translate

English Sentence	**Kurdish Translation**
The computer is repaired.	کۆمپیوتەرەکە چاک دەکرێتەوه.
The computer is being repaired.	سەرقاڵی چاککردنەوەی کۆمپیوتەرەکەیه.
The computer has been repaired.	کۆمپیوتەرەکە چاک کراوەتەوه.
The computer was repaired.	کۆمپیوتەرەکە چاککرایەوه.
The computer was being repaired.	خەریکی چاککردنەوەی کۆمپیوتەرەکە بوو.
The computer had been repaired.	کۆمپیوتەرەکە چاککرابووەوه.
The computer will be repaired.	کۆمپیوتەرەکە چاک دەکرێتەوه.

Kurdish does not make differentiation between the zero and first conditionals; it makes use of the zero conditional structure for both types. In the examples above, both zero and first conditionals are accurately translated into Kurdish. Likewise, the second conditional is effectively rendered into Kurdish, conveying the same hypothetical sense. The problem, however, occurs in translating the third conditional sentence, which has resulted in a mistranslation. Whereas the consequence clause in the English sentence is translated into its Kurdish counterpart effectively, the past perfect conditional clause is mistakenly translated into present conditional clause ئەگەر زوو بخەوم [if I sleep early]. Thus, there is a mismatch between the tenses of the two clauses that has resulted in a nonsensical hypothetical situation. The correct translation of the sentence would be as follows:

(10) If <u>I had gone</u> to bed early, <u>I would have caught</u> the train.

ئەگەر زوو بخەوتبوومایه، شەمەندەفەرەکەم دەگرت.

Semantics: translation is first and foremost concerned with meaning, thus semantics is at the core of translation theory and practice. Semantics covers a wide range of elements that are obviously beyond the scope of this paper. Therefore, this study specifically focuses on three crucial elements that are thought to pose translation difficulties, namely: non-equivalence terms, polysemous words and idioms and proverbs, on the other. Idioms can cause grave difficulties in human translation let alone machine translation. "Idioms … are challenging to translate particularly from English into Kurdish because Kurdish is art-oriented" (Rahimi, Rasul and Mohammed, 2022, p. 93).

Non-equivalence terms: lack of equivalence at the lexical level (otherwise known as *lacuna*) is a constant problem in translation between many language pairs, especially English and Kurdish "which are distant in terms of linguistic systems and incongruent in terms of sociocultural norms and values" (Rasul, 2019, p. 60). To attest the efficacy of Google Translate in rendering lexical non-equivalence between English and Kurdish, a set of English words that do not have one-to-one counterparts in Kurdish are contextualized and translated by Google Translate, as follows:

Table 5
Translation of non-equivalence terms from English into Kurdish by Google Translate

English Sentence	Kurdish Translation
We took <u>taxi</u> to get to the <u>conference</u> venue.	به تهکسی ڕۆیشتین بۆ ئەوەی بگەینه شوێنی کۆنفرانسەکه.
Akar wants to get a <u>part-time</u> job in a <u>media</u> outlet.	ئاکار دەیەوێت له دەزگایەکی میدیایی کارێکی نیوەکاتی بەدەست بهێنێت.
Shilan is different from her <u>siblings</u> in that she has the <u>potential</u> to become a great figure.	شیلان جیاوازه له <u>خوشک و براکانی</u>، چونکه توانای ئەوەی هەیه ببێته کەسایەتییەکی گەوره.
The <u>company</u> has made changes in its <u>system</u> of operation.	کۆمپانیاکه گۆڕانکاری له <u>سیستەمی</u> کارکردنی خۆیدا کردووه.
The <u>ambulance</u> did not stop at the <u>traffic light</u>.	<u>ئەمبولانسەکه</u> له <u>ترافیك لایتەکه</u> نەوەستا.

The ten underlined words in the English sentences in Table 5 above are considered non-equivalence terms, as they do not have literal equivalents in Kurdish. When translators encounter lacunae or lexical gaps, they resort to procedures other than literal translation. Google Translate seems to have been programmed to effectively do the same thing. Seven out of the ten selected terms are translated by borrowing, as follows:

- taxi > تەکسی
- conference > کۆنفرانس
- media > میدیا
- company > کۆمپانیا
- system > سیستەم
- <u>ambulance</u> > ئەمبولانس
- <u>traffic light</u> > ترافیك لایت

Here, translation by borrowing can be considered an acceptable option since this is what we expect from human translation as well. Besides, borrowing "is used as a practical translation procedure to tackle lacunae in the lexicon" (Rasul, 2015, p. 247). Google Translate has also effectively implemented other translation procedures, such as 'expansion' (*sibling* > خوشک و براکان [sisters and brothers]) and 'generalization' (*potential* > توانا [ability]). However, it has failed to correctly translate the term *part-time*, rendering it literally as نیوەکات – which makes sense but sounds unfamiliar in the Kurdish lexicon. The term is tricky to translate; it does not have a direct equivalent in Kurdish and its borrowing (پارت تایم) is restricted to spoken language. All in all, Google Translate has been effective in translating nine out of

tern chosen English terms that do not have literal equivalents in Kurdish.

Polysemous words: polysemy is a semantic phenomenon defined as "one form (written or spoken) having multiple meanings that are all related by extension" (Yule, 2010, p. 120). To exemplify polysemy, Yule (*ibid.*) refers to three viable examples, namely: *head* (the object on top of your body, person at the top of a company or department), *foot* (of person, of mountain) and *run* (person does, water does). To ascertain Google Translate's accuracy in translating polysemous words, these three polysemous words are chosen, with each term being used in different senses in separate sentences.

Table 6
Translation of polysemous words from English into Kurdish by Google Translate

English Sentence	Kurdish Translation
After the car accident, John felt pain in his <u>head</u>.	دوای ڕووداوی ئۆتۆمبێلەکه جۆن هەستی به ئازار کرد له <u>سەری</u>دا.
We visited the organization and the newly appointed <u>head</u> welcomed us.	سەردانی ڕێکخراوەکەمان کرد و <u>بەرپرسی</u> تازه دەستنیشانکراو پێشوازی لێکردین.
After the game, Hiwa found bruises on his <u>foot</u>.	دوای یارییەکه هیوا کێشەی له <u>پێ</u>یدا دۆزیەوه.
The farm is located at the <u>foot</u> of a very high and rocky mountain.	کێڵگەکه دەکەوێته <u>دامێن</u>ی شاخێکی زۆر بەرز و بەردین.
A typical athlete can <u>run</u> 15 miles per hour.	وەرزشوانێکی ئاسایی دەتوانێت له کاتژمێرێکدا ١٥ میل <u>ڕابکات</u>.
After David's death, his son started to <u>run</u> the family's dairy business.	دوای مردنی دەیڤد، کوڕەکەی دەستی کرد به <u>بەڕێوەبردنی</u> کاروباری شیرەمەنی

Interestingly, Google Translate has effectively distinguished between the two senses in each of the three chosen polysemous words. The context plays a great role in determining the correct sense of polysemous words. The occurrence of the two words *pain* and *head* in the first sentence helps Google Translate to choose the first sense of the word *head* (i.e. the top of human body). Likewise, the occurrence of *organization* and *head* in the second sentence indicates that the second sense of the word *head* is applied, i.e. someone in charge of an organization. In the case of the word *foot*, it seems that it is normally translated as the part of the body at the lower extremity of the leg. However, when it is used as a phrase (*at the foot of*), the second meaning is applied, i.e. the bottom part of a hill or mountain.

Idioms and proverbs: these are fixed expressions whose applied meaning goes beyond the literal meaning of their constituent words (Rasul, 2018, pp. 121-122). To check Google Translate's accuracy in rendering English idioms and proverbs into Sorani Kurdish, a set of 15 fairly common English idioms and proverbs are chosen and translated into Sorani Kurdish, as demonstrated in Table 6 below:

Table 7
Translation of idioms/proverbs from English into Kurdish by Google Translate

English Idiom/Proverb	Kurdish (Google Translation)	Kurdish (Human Translation)
a piece of cake	پارچەیەکێک	وەك ئاو خواردنەوە وایە
a wolf in sheep's clothing	گورگێك بە جل و بەرگی مەڕەوە	گورگە لە پێستی مەڕدا
don't bite the hand that feeds you	ئەو دەستە مەگەرە کە خۆراکت پێدەدات	کانیەك ئاوت لێ خواردوە بەردی تێفڕێمەدە
every cloud has a silver lining	هەموو هەورێك ناوپۆشێکی زیوینی هەیە	دوای هەموو ناخۆشیەك خۆشی دێت
if it ain't broke, don't fix it	ئەگەر نەشکاوە، چاکی مەکە	چاکی مەکە با خراپ نەبێت
let the cat out of the bag	با پشیلەکە لە کیسەکە دەربچێت	نهێنیەکەی درکاند
lies have short wings	درۆکان باڵیان کورتە	پەتی درۆ کورتە
once in a blue moon	جارێک لە مانگێکی شین	وەك ئەستێرەی سیوەیل وایە
out of sight, out of mind	بەدەر لە بەرچاو بەدەر لە زەین	ئەوەی لەبەر چاوانە لەبەر دڵانە
Rome was not built in a day	ڕۆما لە ڕۆژێکدا دروست نەکرا	لەپڕێك نابیت بە کوڕێك
to cost an arm and a leg	بۆ تێچووی قۆڵ و قاچێک	نرخی زۆر گرانە
to feel under the weather	بۆ ئەوەی هەست بە ژێر کەشوهەوا بکەیت	هەستکردن بە کەمێك ناساغی
to kill two birds with one stone	بۆ کوشتنی دوو باڵندە بە یەک بەرد	بە بەردێك دوو چۆڵەکە دەکوژێت
when pigs fly	کاتێک بەرازەکان دەفڕن	کە شەممە لە مانگ برا
you reap what you sow	ئەوەی دەیچێنیت دەچنیتەوە	چی بچێنیت ئەوە دەدرویتەوە

Strikingly, no single idiom/proverb is rendered by Google Translate appropriately; the constituent words in each idiom/proverb are translated literally. As Larson puts it, "the real danger comes in translating an idiom literally, since the result will usually be nonsense on the receptor language" (1998, p.126). The Kurdish translations of the English idioms/proverbs above are largely nonsensical. This is evident when the Google translation is compared with the human translation provided in column 3. Therefore, translating idioms/proverbs between English and Kurdish Sorani appears to be the most acute deficiency in Google Translate. Some of the chosen English idioms/proverbs have standard counterparts in Kurdish, such as *Rome was not built in a day* > لەپڕێك نابیت بە کوڕێك. Others do not have one-to-one counterparts but can be rendered by paraphrase, such as *to feel under the weather* > هەستکردن بە کەمێك ناساغی. Google Translate has failed not only in rendering idioms/proverbs that have counterparts of dissimilar form (e.g. *when pigs fly* > کە شەممە لە مانگ برا), but also in cases where the idiom/proverb has a counterpart of fairly similar form (e.g. *you reap what you sow* > چی بچێنیت ئەوە دەدرویتەوە).

4.2 Cultural Level

Translation is both an interlingual and intercultural activity; therefore, both linguistic discrepancies and cultural incongruities can cause translation difficulties and constraints. In fact, "differences between cultures may cause more severe complications for the translator than do differences in language structure" (Nida, 1964/2004, p. 145). Cultural aspects of translation have already been explored by many translation scholars and researchers, such as: Bassnett (2013), Davies (2003), Dickins (2012), Franco Aixelá (1996), Ivir (1987), Katan (2009), Newmark (1988/2010) and so forth. Newmark (1988, pp. 96-102) proposes a comprehensive and practical model of categories of culture and distinguishes nine cultural categories (as listed below). This paper adopts Newmark's (*ibid.*) model of categories of culture in identifying and designating cultural terms.

- Ecological/geographical culture (names of places and peculiar ecological or geographical features), e.g.: *Scotland, Yorkshire Dale, etc.*
- Material culture (foods, clothes, artefacts, etc.), e.g.: *sausage, T-shirt, Sumerian cylinder seals*, etc.
- Social culture (social settings, social classes, etc.), e.g.: *café, teahouse, aristocrats*, etc.
- Social organization (political and administrative), e.g.: *10 Downing Street, State Department*, etc.
- Historical terms, e.g.: *WWI, Victorian age*, etc.
- Institutional terms (national and international), e.g.: *National Assembly for Wales, European Union*, etc.
- Religious terms, e.g.: *Christmas, Easter, mosque*, etc.
- Artistic terms, e.g.: *pope music, jazz*, etc.
- Gestures and habits, e.g.: *give a thumbs-up to signal OK; winking to indicate that something is secret*, etc.

To check the degree of accuracy in English-to-Kurdish (Sorani) translations produced by Google Translate, selected extracts are taken from Kate Fox's (2014) book *Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour*, which is laden with cultural terms. Based on Newmark's (1988) model of categories of culture, 43 cultural terms (excluding repetitions) identified in the selected excerpts. After translating the excerpts using Google Translate, the source and target texts are aligned and the cultural terms in both texts are highlighted and numbered (see the Appendix).

After a thorough analysis of the translation of the 43 cultural terms occurred in the chosen extracts, it was found out that 33 instances are translated accurately and ten cases inaccurately, nine of which are translated by borrowing and one instance by literal translation. Overall, 20 cultural terms translated by cultural borrowing can be considered as accurate translations both in terms of the translation procedure implemented and the pronunciation of the borrowed terms in the target language.

In such instances, the translation offered by Google Translate is what we expect from human translators. The instances are tabulated below:

Table 8
English cultural terms accurately transferred into Kurdish by
Google Translate

No.	English Cultural Term	Kurdish Translation
1.	Britain	بەریتانیا
2.	British Empire	ئیمپراتوریەتی بەریتانی
3.	London	لەندەن
4.	Parliament	پەرلەمان
5.	Scotland	سکۆتلەندا
6.	Wales	وێڵز
7.	Ireland	ئێرلەندا
8.	BBC	بی بی سی
9.	Europe	ئەوروپا
10.	Holland	هۆڵەندا
11.	France	فەرەنسا
12.	Eurostar	یۆرۆستار
13.	Dover	دۆڤەر
14.	Schengen visa	ڤیزەی شنگن
15.	Pound	پاوەند
16.	Pence	پێنس
17.	Toast	تۆست
18.	Christmas	کریسمس
19.	Hallowing	هاڵۆوین
20.	Easter	ئیستەر

As can be seen, the list covers several cultural categories: geographical location (*London, France*, etc.), institutional term (*BBC*), material culture (*pound, toast*) and religious terms (*Christmas, Halloween* and *Easter*).

Whether Google Translate is programmed to translate these cultural terms or it automatically suggests the translation based on the pronunciation of the terms, the resultant translation is accurate. In his translation norms, Toury (2012, p. 79) refers to such translations as 'adequate', i.e. adherence to source culture norms. It is worth mentioning that, while *Halloween* has been accurately translated by cultural borrowing as هاڵۆوین, the whole noun phrase *Halloween and Guy Fawkes' Night* has syntactically been processed incorrectly.

The phrase is translated as شەوی هالۆوین و گای فۆکس [Halloween Night and Guy Fawkes], which is obviously a mistranslation. Moreover, while the transference of the term *Guy Fawkes* can be accepted, a more common and natural translation would be شەوی یاری ئاگرین [Fireworks Night].

The remaining accurate translations (13 instances) are rendered by means of different translation procedures, such as:

  - Calque, e.g.: *United Kingdom* > شانشینی یەکگرتوو ; *Mother's Day* > رۆژی دایکان ; *New Year's Eve* > جەژنی سەری ساڵ

  - Recognized translation, e.g.: *Valentine's Day* > رۆژی خۆشەویستی

  - Literal translation, e.g.: *queen* > شاژن

One the other hand, there are 7 other cultural terms that are inconveniently translated by borrowing, which can be deemed inaccurate translations, as follows:

Table 8
English cultural terms inaccurately transferred into Kurdish by
Google Translate

ST Cultural Term	Kurdish Translation
House of Commons	ئەنجومەنی کۆمۆنەکان
Scandinavia	سکاندیناڤیا
Channel Tunnel	تونێلی کەناڵ
St Pancras	سانت پانکراس
EEA	EEA
bacon	بیکۆن
sausages	سۆسیس

The word *commons* in the term *House of Commons* is translated by borrowing, which sounds unnatural and unfamiliar to Kurdish readers. The term *House of Commons* could be better rendered by its standard, recognized translation as پیران ئەنجومەنی. 'Recognized translation' is defined as "the official or the generally accepted translation of any institutional term" (Newmark, 1988, p. 89). The proper noun *Scandinavia* is translated by borrowing but with an awkward and unfamiliar pronunciation. It seems Google Translate has mechanically translated the individual letters of the word into their closest counterparts in Kurdish. The word is normally translated by borrowing but with a familiar, modified pronunciation: ئەسکەندەناڤیا. The term is commonly translated by cultural explicitation as ولاتانی ئەسکەندەناڤی [Scandinavian countries]. The term *Channel Tunnel* is again rather awkwardly translated by borrowing and the resultant translation is unfamiliar to the target readers. The term is normally rendered by recognized translation in the Kurdish media as کەناڵی ئینگلیز [the English Channel].

The term *St Pancras* seems to have been mechanically translated by replacing individual letters of the term by their closest counterpart letters in Kurdish. The problem here is specifically with the abbreviation *St*, translated as سانت [sant], which does not make sense. The term should have simply been borrowed with the original pronunciation – ست پانکراس. The acronym *EAA* seems not to have been recognized by Google Translate, it is then transferred into Kurdish intact, which is obviously unfamiliar to Kurdish readers. The acronym stands for *European Economic Area*, which can be best translated by a calque as ناوچەی ئابووری ئەوروپا, given that "calque is a special kind of borrowing whereby a language borrows an expression form of another, but then translates literally each of its elements" (Vinay and Darbelnet, 1995, p. 32). The food term *beacon* is again incorrectly translated by cultural borrowing. It is normally referred to as گۆشتی بەراز in Kurdish, which is translation by descriptive equivalent. Finally, the food term *sausage* is commonly translated by borrowing as سۆسج. However, Google Translate has rendered it with inaccurate pronunciation as سۆسیس [/sɒsɪs/], which does not make sense in Kurdish.

As far as cultural aspects are concerned, other

inaccurate translations have also been observed. The most striking one is the translation of the food term *marmalade* as مارمێلكه [lizard]. The translation is an obvious mistake and the only common thing between the two words is the sound/pronunciation. It is questionable as to why and how the Google Translate algorithms are designed to choose a target language counterpart word with completely different meaning but similar pronunciation.

Finally, there is only one instance of inaccurate literal translation, which occurs in the translation of the cultural term *May Day*, rendered as ڕۆژی ئایار , which is not a familiar term in Kurdish. The term has a standard recognized translation in Kurdish: یەکی ئایار [1st of May].

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The inclusion of Sorani Kurdish in the Google Translate is a crucial endeavor that serves thousands of Sorani Kurdish speakers. Taking into account both linguistic and cultural aspects, a considerable number of examples translated from English into Sorani Kurdish by Google Translate are critically and meticulously analyzed. The results unearthed that Google Translate is generally accurate at morphological and syntactic levels but improvements are needed to respond to minor deficiencies found in the translation of 'future perfect tense' and 'third conditional sentences'. Likewise, deficiencies were detected in processing passive tenses, specifically in the case of 'present progressive' and 'past progressive' tenses, which are unnecessarily translated by active voice. As for the semantic level, Google Translate has assumed effective in processing polysemous words but resulted in a total failure in rendering idioms and proverbs. Regarding the cultural aspects, in the majority of cases Google Translate offers accurate translations, whereas in the minority of cases it translates English cultural terms into Sorani Kurdish inconveniently.

All in all, the quality of Google translation from English into Sorani Kurdish is good as a first draft but far from being perfect. The translation can be completed only with the contribution and involvement of human translators. Competent translators can choose the right words and figure out the meaning of cultural terms to produce an accurate and natural-sounding translation and demonstrate their skillfulness and creativity. These features are, at the current time, missing in Sorani Kurdish translations produced by the Google Translate.

Given the deficiencies highlighted in this study and thanks to the editing services offered by Google Translate, it is recommended that English-Sorani Kurdish translators, lexicographers and linguists work in collaboration to constantly improve the quality and accuracy of the translation. With regard to translation direction, this paper has mainly focused on translations carried from English into Sorani Kurdish. It is recommended that scholars and researchers will also focus on the opposite direction, i.e. Sorani Kurdish into English translations produced by Google Translate. This will provide a complete picture of the quality of Google Translate products between the two languages.

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APPENDIX

English Extracts	Kurdish Translation
People in the UK[1] 21st century **Britain**[2] has a very diverse population. The UK has always welcomed immigrants and in the past fifty years numbers have dramatically increased, initially from former **British Empire**[3] countries and more recently from **EU**[4] partners. Britain has also welcomed many refugees. The biggest changes have been in cities, where shops and restaurants sell food from many different cultures. Pupils in some **London**[5] schools have more than 50 different home languages. **Politics** The **Queen**[6] is officially head of state and has an active role in Government. Britons are not citizens, but subjects of the Queen. The London-based government and **Parliament**[7] were responsible for the whole UK until 1999 when stronger local government was introduced in **Scotland**[8], **Wales**[9] and **Northern Ireland**[10]. Now the **Scottish Parliament**[11], the **National Assembly for Wales**[12], and the **Northern Ireland Assembly**[13] decide many policies, including education and health. The UK Parliament, which sits in the **House of Commons**[14] in London, has **Members of Parliament (MPs)**[15] representing every area of the UK, including Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. **Media and communications** The British media is dominated by the public service broadcaster, the **BBC**[16]. Anyone who owns a television set must buy an annual television licence, which funds the BBC. **Travelling outside the UK** The UK is a perfect base for travelling in **Europe**[17]. There are ferry ports along the east and south coasts, with direct services to **Scandinavia**[18], **Holland**[19] and **France**. It is also easy to get to France through **the Channel Tunnel**[20], either on the **Eurostar train**[21] from **London St Pancras**[22] or driving from **Dover**[23]. Europe is a short flight from most airports and many airlines offer low-cost tickets. A **Schengen visa**[24] allows non-**EEA**[25] nationals the right to enter any of the 25 Schengen countries as a visitor for a maximum stay of 90 days in a 6 month period. The **United Kingdom**[26] is not currently a member of the Schengen Visa Scheme. **Money matters** Everyone in the UK uses British currency. One UK **pound**[27] (£) is worth 100 **pence**[28]. Every British coin and bank note has a picture of the Queen on one side. The most common banknotes are £5, £10 and £20. £50 notes are usually available from banks rather than cash machines. **Breakfast Rules – and Tea**[29] **Beliefs** The traditional English breakfast – tea, **toast**[30], **marmalade**[31], eggs, **bacon**[32], **sausages**[33], tomatoes, mushrooms, etc. – is both good and filling, and breakfast is the only aspect of English cooking that is frequently and enthusiastically praised by foreigners. **Calendrical Rites and other Transitions** Calendrical rites include big celebrations such as **Christmas**[34] and **New Year's Eve**[35], and others that occur at the same time every year, such as **Easter**[36], **May Day**[37], **Harvest Festivals**[38], **Halloween**[39] and **Guy Fawkes' Night**[40], as well as **Mothers' Day**[41], **Valentine's Day**[42] and **Bank Holidays**[43].	**خەڵک لە بەریتانیا**[1] **بەریتانیا**[2] لە سەدەی بیست و یەکەم ژمارەی دانیشتوانێکی زۆر هەمەچەشنی هەیە. بەریتانیا هەمیشە پێشوازی لە کۆچبەران کردووە و لە پەنجا ساڵی رابردوودا ژمارەکان بە شێوەیەکی سەرنجڕاکێش زیادیان کردووە، سەرەتا لە وڵاتانی پێشووی **نیمپراتۆریەتی بەریتانیا**[3]وە و لەم دوایانەشدا لەلایەن هاوبەشەکانی **یەکێتی ئەوروپا**[4]وە. هەروەها بەریتانیا پێشوازی لە زۆرێک لە پەنابەرانی کردووە. گەورەترین گۆڕانکاری لە شارەکاندا بووە، کە دوکان و چێشتخانەکان خواردنی چەندین کولتوری جیاواز دەفرۆشن. قوتابیانی هەندێک لە قوتابخانەکانی **لەندەن**[5] زیاتر لە ۵۰ زمانی جیاوازی ماڵەویان هەیە. **سیاسەت** **شاژن**[6] بە فەرمی سەرۆکی دەوڵەتە و ڕۆڵێکی چالاک لە حکومەتدا هەیە. بەریتانییەکان هاوڵاتی نین، بەڵکو ڕەعیەتی شاژنن. حکومەت و **پەرلەمان**[7] کە بنکەکەی لە لەندەنە، بەرپرسیار بوون لە هەموو بەریتانیا تا ساڵی ۱۹۹۹ کە حکومەتی ناوخۆیی بەهێزتر لە **سکۆتلەندا**[8] و **وێڵز**[9] و **نێرلەندای باکوور**[10] خرایە بواری جێبەجێکردنەوە. ئێستا **پەرلەمانی سکۆتلەندا**[11] و **ئەنجومەنی نیشتمانی بۆ وێڵز**[12] و **ئەنجومەنی نێرلەندای باکوور**[13] بڕیار لەسەر زۆر سیاست دەدەن، لەوانە پەروەردە و تەندروستی. پەرلەمانی بەریتانیا کە لە نەنجومەنی **کۆمۆنەکان**[14] لە لەندەن دادەنیشێت، ئەندامانی **پەرلەمانیان**[15] هەیە کە نوێنەرایەتی هەموو ناوچەکانی بەریتانیا دەکەن، لەوانە وێڵز، سکۆتلەندا و نێرلەندای باکوور. **میدیا و پەیوەندییەکان** میدیاکانی بەریتانیا لەلایەن کەمپانیای **بی بی سی**[16]وە بااڵدەستن. هەرکەسێک خاوەنی تەلەفزیۆنێک بێت، دەبێت مۆڵەتی ساڵانەی تەلەفزیۆن بکڕێت، کە پارەی بی بی سی دەدات. **گەشتکردن بۆ دەرەوەی بەریتانیا** بەریتانیا بنکەیەکی تەواو و گونجاوە بۆ گەشتکردن لە **نەوروپا**[17]. بەندەری کەشتی بەدرێژایی کەناراوەکانی ڕۆژهەڵات و باشوور هەیە، کە خزمەتگوزاری ڕاستەوخۆیان بۆ وڵاتانی **سکاندینافیا**[18] و **هۆڵەندا**[19] و **فەرەنسا**[20] هەیە. هەروەها ئاسانە لە ڕێگەی **توێنلی کەناڵ**[21]وە بگەیتە فەرەنسا، یان بە شەمەندەفەری **یۆرۆستار**[22] لە لەندەن سانت **پانکراس**[23]وە یان لە **دۆڤەر**[24]وە بە ئۆتومبێل. ئەوروپا گەشتێکی کورتە لە زۆربەی فڕۆکەخانەکانەوە و زۆرێک لە هێڵە ئاسمانییەکان بلیتی هەرزان پێشکەش دەکەم. **فیزەی شنگن**[25] ڕێگە بە هاوڵاتیانی غەیرە **EEA**ـی دەدات مافی چوونە ناو هەریەکێک لە ۲۵ وڵاتی شنگن وەک سەردانکەرێک بۆ زۆرترین ماوەی ۹۰ ڕۆژ لە ماوەی ۶ مانگدا. **شانشینی یەکگرتوو**[26] لە ئێستادا ئەندامی پلانی فیزەی شنگن نییە. **پارە گرنگە** لە بەریتانیا هەموو کەسێک دراوی بەریتانی (£) بەکاردەهێنێت. یەک **پاوەند**[27]ـی بەریتانیا بەهای ۱۰۰ پێنسەیە[28]. هەموو دراو و دراوێکی بانکی بەریتانی لە لایەک وێنەی شاژنی لەسەرە. باوترین دراوەکان بریتین لە ۵ و ۱۰ و ۲۰ پاوەند. بەگشتی پارەی ۵۰ پاوەند لە بانکەکانەوە دەستدەکەونت نەک لە ئامێری کاش. **یاساکانی نانی بەیانی – و بیروباوەڕی چا**[29] نانی بەیانی ئینگلیزی تەقلیدی – چا، **تۆست**[30]، **مارمێلکە**[31]، هێلکە، **بیکۆن**[32]، **سۆسیس**[33]، تەماتە، قارچک و هتد. ـ ـ ـ هەم باشە و هەم پڕکەرەوەیە، و نانی بەیانی تاکە لایەنی چێشتلێنانێکی ئینگلیزییە کە زۆرجار و بە جۆش و خرۆشەوە لەلایەن بیانییەکانەوە ستایشی دەکرێت. **ڕێورەسمی ساڵانەو گواستنەوەکانی تر** ڕێورەسمەکانی ساڵانە بریتین لە ئاهەنگی گەورە وەک **چەژنی کریسمس**[34] و **شەوی سەری ساڵ**[35]، و ئەوانی دیکە کە هەموو ساڵێک لە هەمان کاتدا ڕوودەدەن، وەک **چەژنی نیستەر**[36]، **ڕۆژی نایار**[37]، **فیستیڤاڵەکانی درونینە**[38]، **شەوی هالۆوین**[39] و **گای فۆکس**[40]، هەروە **ڕۆژی دایکان**[41]، **ڕۆژی خۆشەویستی**[42] و **پشووی بانکی**[43].