



## Revision of a Non-Specialised Translation: List of Error Categories for Candidates (English into Swahili)

The translation includes errors at word, phrase or sentence level across the following categories:

Error Category	Examples of Errors
<p><b>1. Distortion:</b> An element of meaning in the source text is altered in the target text.</p> <p>A distortion can occur in an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p><b>a) Source language text:</b> <i>This week the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise.</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> <u>Wiki hiji</u> serikali ilitangaza kwamba wafanyakazi wote watapata ongezeko la mshahara.</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> Serikali ilitangaza kwamba wafanyakazi wote watapata ongezeko la mshahara <u>wiki hiji</u>.</p> <p>(Moving “wiki hiji” changes the time reference from the announcement to the pay rise, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)</p> <p><b>b) Source language text:</b> <i>The witness described the thief as a young man with <u>black</u> hair.</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> Shahidi alieleza kwamba mwizi ni kama kijana mwenye nywele <u>nyeusi</u>.</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> Shahidi alieleza kwamba mwizi ni kama kijana mwenye nywele <u>nyeupe</u>.</p> <p>(Incorrect translation of the adjective, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)</p>
<p><b>2. Unjustified omission:</b> An element of meaning in the source text is not transferred into the target text.</p> <p>An unjustified omission can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p><b>Source language text:</b> <i>The largest increases in soil carbon levels are obtained in the first 6–8 years after changes in land management, <u>and after 35 years the rate of change drops to zero.</u></i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> Ongezeko katika kiasi cha kaboni katika udongo lililo kubwa zaidi linapatikana katika miaka 6 hadi 8 ya kwanza kufuatana na mabadiliko ya utunzaji wa ardhi, <u>na baada ya miaka 35 mwendo wa badiliko unapungua hadi sifuri.</u></p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> Ongezeko katika kiasi cha kaboni katika udongo lililo kubwa zaidi linapatikana katika miaka 6 hadi 8 ya kwanza kufuatana na mabadiliko ya utunzaji wa ardhi.</p> <p>(Omission of the underlined clause results in a major loss of meaning in the context of the whole sentence.)</p>



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<p><b>3. Unjustified insertion:</b> An element of meaning that does not exist in the source text is added to the target text.</p> <p>An unjustified insertion can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p><b>Source language text:</b> <i>would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> ingehakikisha kwamba watu wanaoacha kazi wakiwa na umri wa kati ya miaka 60 na miaka 70 wataweza kustaafu na fedha ya kutosha.</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> ingehakikisha kwamba watu wanaoacha kazi wakiwa na umri wa kati ya miaka 60 na miaka 70 wataweza kustaafu na fedha ya kutosha <u>kwa mabaki ya miaka yao, licha ya urefu wa kuishi.</u></p> <p>(The underlined words were not found in the original text, nor were they implied, and inserting them has a major impact on the transfer of meaning.)</p>
<p><b>4. Inappropriate register:</b> An expression or variety of language considered by a native speaker to be inappropriate to the specific context in which it is used.</p>	<p><b>a) Source language text:</b> <i>The journalist questioned the Minister of Education – “Sir, have student numbers increased in our schools?”</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> Mwandishi wa habari aliuliza Waziri wa Elimu – “Je, <u>Mheshimiwa</u>, idadi ya wanafunzi imeongezeka katika shule zetu?”</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> Mwandishi wa habari aliuliza Waziri wa Elimu – “Je, <u>ndugu</u>, idadi ya wanafunzi imeongezeka katika shule zetu?”</p> <p>(Titles are important in Swahili settings. “Ndugu” is informal and “Mheshimiwa”, meaning “honourable”, is much more polite.)</p> <p><b>b) Source language text:</b> <i>[in minutes of board meeting] The Chairman expressed his <u>extreme displeasure.</u></i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> [Kwenye kumbukumbu ya mkutano wa bodi] Mwenyekiti alionyesha <u>hasira yake kwa nguvu.</u></p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> [Kwenye kumbukumbu ya mkutano wa bodi] Mwenyekiti alionyesha <u>alisikia kusumbuliwa.</u></p> <p>(The phrase “alisikia kusumbuliwa” conveys the correct meaning but is not strong enough in this context.)</p>



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<b>5. Unidiomatic expression:</b> An expression sounding unnatural or awkward to a native speaker irrespective of the context in which the expression is used, but the intended meaning can be understood.	<b>a) Source language text:</b> <i>After he failed to make contact he <u>despaired</u></i>  <b>Correct version:</b> Baada ya kukosa kuwasiliana alikata tamaa.  <b>Incorrect version:</b> Baada ya kukosa kuwasiliana aliona tamaa.  (In this context, the correct idiom is “kukata tamaa”, but “aliona tamaa” can still be understood.)
	<b>b) Source language text:</b> <i>subjected <u>to</u> intense criticism</i>  <b>Correct version:</b> alipatwa <u>na</u> malalamishi kali  <b>Incorrect version:</b> alipatwa <u>pamoja na</u> malalamishi kali  (The incorrect version would be understandable but is unidiomatic and awkward.)
<b>6. Error of grammar, syntax:</b> Error in structuring words, clauses and phrases of a language. E.g. incorrect word type/form; incorrect verb tense/form; agreement error between subject- verb, noun-pronoun, adjective- noun, etc.	<b>a) Source language text:</b> <i>the symptoms include <u>dizziness</u></i>  <b>Correct version:</b> dalili ni pamoja na <u>kizunguzungu</u>  <b>Incorrect version:</b> dalili ni pamoja na <u>mwenye kizunguzungu</u>  (Incorrect word form: use of adjective “mwenye kizunguzungu” instead of the noun “kizunguzungu”. The incorrect version is grammatically wrong.)
	<b>b) Source language text:</b> <i>last month he <u>brought</u> me...</i>  <b>Correct version:</b> mwezi uliopita <u>aliniletea</u> ...  <b>Incorrect version:</b> mwezi uliopita <u>ananiletea</u> ...  (Incorrect verb tense: present tense instead of past tense)



Error Category	Examples of Errors
<p><b>6. Error of grammar, syntax (continued):</b> Error in structuring words, clauses and phrases of a language. E.g. incorrect word type/form; incorrect verb tense/form; agreement error between subject- verb, noun-pronoun, adjective- noun, etc.</p>	<p><b>c) Source language text:</b> <u>strokes</u> are quite common</p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> <u>mishtuko ya ubongo inatokea</u> mara nyingi</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> <u>mishtuko ya ubongo kinatokea</u> mara nyingi</p> <p>(In the incorrect version, “stroke” is rendered in the singular and is followed by an agreement error: “ki” is the incorrect subject prefix. Correct Swahili must pay attention to correct noun classes and subsequent agreements of the various parts of the sentence.)</p> <hr/> <p><b>d) Source language text:</b> <i>he picked up a chair and put <u>it</u> on the table</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> alichukua kiti na <u>kukiweka</u> mezani</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> alichukua kiti na <u>kumweka</u> mezani</p> <p>(Incorrect object infix to refer to the chair: “ki” must agree with “kiti” not “mw” which refers to a person.)</p> <hr/> <p><b>e) Source language text:</b> <i>they <u>have provided</u> the information</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> walileta maelezo <u>kamili</u></p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> walileta <u>kamili</u> maelezo</p> <p>(While the incorrect version would be understood, the sentence structure is sub-optimal as the adjective “kamili” must come after the noun “maelezo”.)</p>
<p><b>7. Error of spelling:</b> Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.</p>	<p><b>Source language text:</b> <i>That case will have to be tried in the <u>Supreme Court</u>.</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> Kesi ile lazima isikilizwe katika <u>Kortj</u> Kuu.</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> Kesi ile lazima isikilizwe katika <u>kortj</u> Kuu.</p> <p>(Capitalisation error: as “Supreme” is part of the name of the court, it should have a capital letter.)</p>



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<p><b>8. Error of punctuation:</b> Error in use of marks that separate sentences and their elements, and clarify meaning. E.g. incorrect comma, full-stop, apostrophe, inverted commas, etc.</p>	<p><b>Source language text:</b> <i>The government will change its policy on the taxation of company accounts.</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> <i>Serikali itabadili sera yake kuhusu kutoza kodi akaunti za kampuni.</i></p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Serikali, itabadili sera yake kuhusu kutoza kodi akaunti za kampuni.</i></p> <p>(Incorrect comma usage: the comma incorrectly separates the subject from its verb.)</p>