



## 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> Wiki hiji serikali ilitangaza kwamba wafanyakazi wote watapata ongezeko la mshahara.</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> Serikali ilitangaza kwamba wafanyakazi wote watapata ongezeko la mshahara wiki hiji.</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 nyeusi.</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> Shahidi alieleza kwamba mwizi ni kama kijana mwenye nywele nyeupe.</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>



**3. Unjustified addition:** An element of meaning that does not exist in the source text is added to the target text.

An unjustified addition can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.

**Source language text:** *would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement*

**Correct version:** ingehakikisha kwamba watu wanaoacha kazi wakiwa na umri wa kati ya miaka 60 na miaka 70 wataweza kustaafu na fedha ya kutosha.

**Incorrect version:** ingehakikisha kwamba watu wanaoacha kazi wakiwa na umri wa kati ya miaka 60 na miaka 70 wataweza kustaafu na fedha ya kutosha kwa mabaki ya miaka yao, licha ya urefu wa kuishi.

(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.)



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<b>4. Inappropriate register:</b> Incorrect variety of language or inappropriate vocabulary for the text type (e.g. inappropriate level of formality or informality).	<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>
<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.	<p><b>a) Source language text:</b> <i>After he failed to make contact he <u>despaired</u></i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> Baada ya kukosa kuwasiliana alikata tamaa.</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> Baada ya kukosa kuwasiliana aliona tamaa.</p> <p>(In this context, the correct idiom is “kukata tamaa”, but “aliona tamaa” can still be understood.)</p>
	<p><b>b) Source language text:</b> <i>subjected <u>to</u> intense criticism</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> alipatwa <u>na</u> malalamishi kali</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> alipatwa <u>pamoja na</u> malalamishi kali</p>



	(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.	<p><b>a) Source language text:</b> <i>the symptoms include <u>dizziness</u></i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> dalili ni pamoja na <u>kizunguzungu</u></p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> dalili ni pamoja na <u>mwenye kizunguzungu</u></p> <p>(Incorrect word form: use of adjective “mwenye kizunguzungu” instead of the noun “kizunguzungu”. The incorrect version is grammatically wrong.)</p>
	<p><b>b) Source language text:</b> <i>last month he <u>brought</u> me...</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> mwezi uliopita <u>aliniletea</u>...</p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> mwezi uliopita <u>ananiletea</u>...</p> <p>(Incorrect verb tense: present tense instead of past tense)</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>



Error Category	Examples of Errors
<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>d) Source language text:</b> <i>he picked up a chair and put <u>it</u> on the table</i>  <b>Correct version:</b> alichukua kiti na <u>kukiweka</u> mezani  <b>Incorrect version:</b> alichukua kiti na <u>kumweka</u> mezani  (Incorrect object infix to refer to the chair: “ki” must agree with “kiti” not “mw” which refers to a person.)
	<b>e) Source language text:</b> <i>they <u>have provided</u> the information</i>  <b>Correct version:</b> walileta maelezo <u>kamili</u>  <b>Incorrect version:</b> walileta <u>kamili</u> maelezo  (While the incorrect version would be understood, the sentence structure is sub-optimal as the adjective “kamili” must come after the noun “maelezo”.)
<b>7. Error of spelling:</b> Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.	<b>Source language text:</b> <i>That case will have to be tried in the <u>Supreme Court</u>.</i>  <b>Correct version:</b> Kesi ile lazima isikilizwe katika <u>Korti</u> Kuu.  <b>Incorrect version:</b> Kesi ile lazima isikilizwe katika <u>korti</u> Kuu.  (Capitalisation error: as “Supreme” is part of the name of the court, it should have a capital letter.)
<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.	<b>Source language text:</b> <i><u>The government</u> will change its policy on the taxation of company accounts.</i>  <b>Correct version:</b> <u>Serikali</u> itabadili sera yake kuhusu kutoza kodi akaunti za kampuni.  <b>Incorrect version:</b> <u>Serikali,</u> itabadili sera yake kuhusu kutoza kodi akaunti za kampuni.  (Incorrect comma usage: the comma incorrectly separates the subject from its verb.)

