The Impact of Vision 2030 on the Translation Movement in Saudi Arabia: A Qualitative Study

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of Saudi Vision 2030 on the translation ecosystem in Saudi Arabia. It employs a qualitative document based analytical approach to investigate the developments in the translation activity and institutional support under the Vision framework. The study indicates an expansion and diversification of the translation practices across cultural, literary, tourism related and institutional contexts. However, it also identifies that the rear persistent challenges related to training, quality assurance, coordination and professional readiness. Furthermore, the study highlights the value of integrating policy and academic perspectives to understand translation as a developing professional and cultural field in Saudi Arabia. It concludes that translation under Vision 2030 reflects an ongoing transitional process rather than a fully consolidated transformation. This assessment is based on the uneven quality practices and training market gaps. It further reflects the variability in the institutional coordination identified in the analyzed policy document and academic studies. Finally, the study recommends further research to investigate this issue from different perspectives.

1. Introduction

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is a national framework that seeks to reshape the country's economic and cultural landscape. It generally aims to diversify the income sources and open broader channels of the international cooperation (Council of Economic and Development Affairs, 2016). Within this context, translation has assumed a strategic role in this transformational frame. It operates within the social and institutional frameworks that shape how societies organize and regulate the translation activities (Munday, 2022). Dickins *et al.* (2016) argue that the effective translation requires systematic decision-making that responds to the linguistic, cultural and communicative constraints. In other words, translation does not function as a neutral linguistic activity to mainly transfer information and knowledge from one language to another. Instead, it operates as a tool for the cultural dialogue and professional development. In addition, it is considered as a social practice that contributes to the construction of the narratives within specific political and institutional contexts (Baker, 2006). However, Newmark (1988) argues that different translation contexts require distinct priorities, taking into account both the communicative purpose and audience expectations. Therefore, the translation initiatives have multiplied across the publishing houses and cultural institutions in Saudi Arabia. For example, the projects sponsored by the Saudi Literature, Publishing and Translation (LPT) Commission along with the Ministry of Culture have integrated translation into the national strategies for cultural diplomacy and global engagement. These initiatives are not limited to literature and academia, encompassing tourism, heritage, media, Islamic affairs and education. Such initiatives also reflect a larger national effort to communicate Saudi culture in multiple languages and to import the global knowledge into the local contexts. With this in mind, it is worth mentioning that before Vision 2030, the translation efforts were fragmented and mainly confined to specific sectors. Many focused on selective literary works or academic materials often without institutional coordination or professional pathways. Moreover, the training programs were limited in number and scope, lacking a comprehensive policy that linked translation to the national development. Consequently, the lack of the structured mechanisms meant that the translation outcomes heavily depended on the individual initiatives rather than systemic planning.

However, the launch of Vision 2030 marked a pivotal shift in which translation emerged as a strategic cornerstone in building a knowledge-based economy and creative society. For example, the policies promoting culture, innovation and education positioned translation as a driver of reform and modernization. Furthermore, the establishment of the national bodies dedicated to translation and publishing reflected this strategic shift. Through these institutions, Saudi Arabia framed strategically translation as both a cultural bridge and an economic opportunity. This transformation is substantiated by recent research and government reports. For example, the Ministry of Culture (2019, 2021 and 2023) highlights the integration of translation into cultural programs, book fairs and digital platforms. Similarly, scholars including Alkahtani (2022), Alangari (2022) and Khuddro (2023) analyze translation as part of Saudi Arabia's global outreach and emphasize its role in tourism and literary diplomacy. These studies also reveal the continued challenges including skills shortages, quality control and uneven institutional coordination disparities. Therefore, within translation studies, national reform agendas like Vision 2030 offer a valuable context for examining how the translation practices are shaped out by the policy-driven cultural and economic transformation. In this sense, the Saudi case contributes to the international debate on the relationship between translation, language planning and state-led cultural reform.

Proceeding from the foregoing, translation under Vision 2030 emerges as both a reflection of reform and a mechanism of change. It embodies movement toward openness, modernity, creativity and soft power. At the same time, it exposes areas that need further investment. These areas include the translator training and technological adaptation. Against this backdrop, the present study examines how Saudi Vision 2030 has influenced the translation

movement in the Kingdom by analyzing documented developments in the translation activity and institutional support. It, therefore, explores the impact of Saudi Vision 2030 on translation ecosystem in Saudi Arabia. Methodologically, the study employs a qualitative document-based analytical approach, analyzing *the National Strategy for (LPT)* officially published (Ministry of Culture, 2023) alongside five peer-reviewed academic studies published between 2017 and 2025. It aims to assess how Vision 2030 has influenced the translation practices and development in Saudi Arabia. The following research questions will help to address the objective of the research study:

- What impact has Saudi Vision 2030 had on the expansion and diversification of the translation ecosystem in Saudi Arabia?
- What forms of institutional support have emerged under Vision 2030 to organize and sustain the translation activity in the Kingdom?
- What challenges and opportunities have come into play alongside these developments, particularly with regard to the professional practice, training and quality assurance?

2. Literature Review

2.1. Historical Background: Translation in Saudi Arabia before Vision 2030:

As previously noted, before Vision 2030, translation in Saudi Arabia was active but limited in scope and breadth of activities. The efforts remained fragmented and coordination between the agencies or universities was rare. Moreover, most initiatives focused on translating selective academic works and few literary titles. Yet, few comprehensive policies existed to guide translation as part of the national development. The training programs, while available, remained theoretical as there was no unified framework to connect the universities and publishing houses. This fragmented state aligns with the findings of Alangari (2024) who observes that prior to the current time of reform, translation research and practice in the Kingdom often lacked the strategic institutional support necessary for a cohesive national movement. Such a translation landscape captured the attention of the translation scholars in the Arab world. For example, Abdulla (2020) notes that translation across the Arab world had long been tied primarily to the educational and religious institutions rather than to the cultural industries. This was largely the case in Saudi Arabia where institutional support existed but lacked systematic planning or sustained funding. As a result, translation remained peripheral to the national development. In addition, the absence of clear quality standards and professional pathways created a gap between academic training and real-world practice. This persistent misalignment was documented by Abu-Ghararah (2017) who argues that the universities programs often fail to meet the specific technical and professional demands of the Saudi translation market. This earlier phase serves as a baseline for understanding the transformation brought about by Vision 2030. The reform program reframes translation as both a cultural and developmental tool. It also links it to the tourism sector, publishing houses, education and global communication.

2.2. Vision 2030 and Reorientation of Translation:

Vision 2030 fundamentally transformed the cultural and institutional environment governing translation practice. This transformation manifests across multiple domains. For example, translation integrated into national planning under Ministry of Culture and its specialized commissions. The national Strategy for Literature, Publish, and translation (2023) institutionalized this role. It articulated objectives aimed at supporting translators and fostering international partnership. The strategy further implemented measures to professionalize the sector. Alsolami *et al.* (2023) contend that this shift fundamentally restructured the Saudi market by elevating professional standards and technological competence above mere linguistic transfer. Furthermore, the strategy prioritized competency based training, quality assurance mechanisms, and enhanced collaboration among cultural institutions and private sector. It positioned translation as an instrument for cultural mobility facilitating expanding Saudi knowledge beyond the Arabic speaking world. This is especially salient with the tourism sector, as evidenced by Hazaea *et al.* (2025), who underscores that translation serves as abridge facilitating projecting Saudi identity for international visitors. Consequently, translation transitioned from auxiliary function to a strategic pillar of cultural policy. This shift catalyzed investment in digital platforms and cross sector initiatives linking culture across education and tourism. However, this transformation has encountered obstacles, since implementation varies significantly across sectors and professional translation standards are still evolving. Consequently, scholars consistently identify disparities between policy ambitions and practical implementation, particularly regarding training and assessment.

2.3. Prior Studies: Key Findings and Remaining Gaps:

Research on translation in Saudi Arabia has proliferated significantly since the launch of Vision 2030. Recent scholarship has investigated translation practices from multiple perspectives, thereby underscoring the heightened significance of the discipline within the Kingdom's broader cultural and institutional transformation. For example, Abu-Ghararah (2017) identified an enduring gap between university curricula and market expectations. He observed that training programs prioritized theory but provided limited exposure to computer-assisted translation tools and industry practice. This concern was later echoed by Alkhatani (2022), whose study of Riyadh-based translators revealed that many practitioners persistently lack practical competencies commensurate with professional demands.

Nevertheless, there has been a reorientation in the scope of research within Saudi Arabia towards applied contexts aligned with Vision 2030 objectives. For example, Alangari (2022) investigated translation in the tourism sector, underscoring its role in projecting Saudi heritage and global outreach. Her findings demonstrated substantive progress in multilingual content production. However, she identified a notable absence of unified quality standards. In a parallel field, Khuddro (2023) analyzed the English translation of *Girls of Riyadh*. He contended that literary translation contributes significantly to cultural diplomacy but continues to be constrained by inconsistent evaluation practices and editorial intervention. This issue of quality control and professional mediation pervades beyond literary translation across specialized fields. For example, Alharbi and BinMasad (2023) underscored the complexities of translating Saudi legal terminology into English and emphasized the imperative for specialized training in this domain. Furthermore, Boulaares (2025) contextualized Saudi translation initiatives within a wider geopolitical framework connecting these initiatives to the global promotion of Arabic and nascent strategies of cultural influence. Boulaares suggested that the Kingdom's growing engagement with translation reflects a good deal of effort to position Arabic as a language of knowledge and global presence. However, despite the value of these studies, most of them examine individual sectors or themes in isolation. None provides a cross-sectional analysis that systematically links Vision 2030 policy directions with developments across multiple translation domains. This gap justifies the present study which integrates the 2023 National Strategy with peer-reviewed research to assess translation as both a policy instrument and a professional field within the Vision 2030 framework. In this

regard, prior studies reveal a pattern of sector-specific progress accompanied by structural fragmentation. Thus, while individual domains such as tourism, literary translation and legal translation demonstrate increased visibility under Vision 2030, the literature remains largely compartmentalized. Consequently, this body of research continues to portray translation as a collection of separate initiatives rather than a coordinated institutional system. In addition, the existing research tends to examine the isolated practices without systematically linking them to the national policy architecture or cross-sector institutional coordination. From this perspective, the limited integrative focus helps explain why documented expansion can coexist with the observations of fragmentation and uneven reform. Therefore, the present study addresses this gap by integrating policy-level discourse with scholarly analysis across multiple domains. In doing so, it profiles translation both as a collection of sectoral practices and as a policy-mediated professional field undergoing coordinated and uneven reform under Vision 2030.

3. Research Methodology

The study adopts an analytical qualitative design that is both descriptive and interpretive. More specifically, it employs a qualitative document-based policy analysis approach and a structured analytical literature review. This approach focuses on desk-based research exclusively and explicitly excludes field-based qualitative inquiry. The study aims to evaluate the impact of Vision 2030 on the translation movement in Saudi Arabia. Therefore, the analysis focuses only on two domains guided by the research questions: the expansion of the translation movement and the forms of the institutional support that underpin it. Within each domain, challenges and opportunities come out as cross-cutting insights from the selected sources rather than being treated as a separate layer of analysis. Accordingly, the study does not claim by any means broad field-wide qualitative evidence. Rather, it examines the framework and evaluation of translation in the official policy discourse and peer-reviewed research under Vision 2030.

3.1. Data Sources:

The corpus is a target purpose set to align with the concise scope of the study. It consists of one official policy document issued by the Saudi Ministry of Culture and five peer-reviewed academic articles from relevant journals. The official document is the National Strategy for (LPT) made officially available (Ministry of Culture, 2023) which sets out the current institutional framework and strategic orientation of translation under Vision 2030. The five academic studies complement this policy document by offering empirical and analytical perspectives on the translator training, sector-specific translation practices and the broader positioning of the Saudi translation initiatives. In conjunction, the policy text and the academic articles provide a combined view of the institutional intent and professional reality and form the empirical basis for the present analysis. Table 1 and Table 2 show the details of the selected sources respectively.

Table 1. Ministry of culture document

Report Title	Year	No. Used	Rationale
National Strategy for Literature, Publishing and Translation	2023	1	Outlines institutional architecture and translation programs

Table 2. Peer reviewed journal articles

Article (Author, Title)	Journal / Issue	Year	Rationale
Abu-Ghararah, B.A. The gap between translator training and the translation industry in Saudi Arabia.	AWEJ-TLS	2017	Examines challenges in translating Saudi legal terminology into English, focusing on accuracy, equivalence, and implications for legal translation practice
Alkahtani, A. Training needs analysis of professional translators working in translation agencies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.	AWEJ-TLS, 4(1)	2022	Reviews curricular misalignments with industry needs and recommends competency-based syllabi and closer university—industry linkages
Alangari, E. Cultural Mediation in Tourism Translation: Saudi Arabia as a Case Study	AWEJ-TLS, 6(3)	2022	Examines translation's role in promoting Saudi tourism, a flagship Vision 2030 sector, while noting quality and coordination challenges
Alharbi, B.F. and BinMasad, S. A Critical Analysis of Saudi Legal Terms and their English Translations	AWEJ-TLS, 7(1)	2023	Identifies professional translators' skill gaps and training needs, showing a gap between Vision 2030's human capital ambitions and workplace realities
Boulaares, D. M. Strategic horizons of Arabic: a comparative and geopolitical analysis of Saudi Arabia's role in global language promotion	Current Issues in Language Planning, [online ahead of print]	2025	Frames Arabic within global policy and soft power, situating Saudi efforts in a wider geopolitical context

3.2. Data Selection Criteria:

The selection of the sources followed three main criteria designed to ensure focus and methodological coherence. First, relevance to the research questions was essential. Accordingly, each chosen work needed to address translation in Saudi Arabia in explicit relation to the national reform, cultural policy or sectoral practice under Vision 2030. This criterion guided the inclusion of studies that examine the translator training, tourism translation, literary visibility, legal translation and the geopolitical framing of Arabic. Second, the credibility and reliability of each publication were two key requirements. Therefore, only peer-reviewed academic articles and an official state strategy document were part of the research sample. This condition was employed to ensure that the data reflect the recognized scholarly standards and authoritative institutional positions rather than informal commentary or non-reviewed material. Third, coverage of the two analytic domains, the expansion of the translation movement and institutional support, was necessary. With this in mind, each source had to contribute evidence to at least one of these domains and offer material from which challenges and opportunities could come into play.

In this context, the 2023 *National Strategy for* (LPT) was selected as the sole official document. This is because it represents the most recent and consolidated policy framework governing translation under Vision 2030. It also offers a clearer and more coherent basis for examining how the institutional support for translation is currently conceived. By combining this strategy document with the five peer-reviewed articles, the study brings together policy-level direction and scholarly analysis. Therefore, this combination allows for a qualitative evaluation of how the translation landscape has been shaped under the Saudi vision 2030 as proposed in the study.

3.3. Data Processing and Analysis Procedure:

The analysis followed a qualitative thematic approach. It examined the selected corpus that consists of the National Strategy for (LPT) officially available (Ministry of Culture, 2023) and five peer-reviewed academic studies. The analysis aimed to identify patterns related to the impact of Vision 2030 on the translation movement in Saudi Arabia. The procedure followed and worked towards the research questions and the two analytic domains defined in the methodology. The analysis began with repeated close reading of the policy document and the academic studies to establish familiarity with their content and scope. It also focused on the explicit manifestations of the translation activities, institutional structures, training, professional practice and international engagement. The preparation

of the relevant passages for analysis followed. In the next step, the selected excerpts underwent certain coding through concise descriptive labels. These labels reflected recurring ideas present across the sources such as translation training, publishing support, sector-specific translation practices, quality concerns and institutional coordination. Thereafter, the analysis applied coding consistently across the policy document and the academic studies to allow meaningful comparison between policy-level direction and scholarly observations. Grouping coded data followed into broader themes through an iterative process. In this step, codes fell into similar sets together to form coherent thematic categories. The categories underwent close review and refinement to ensure that they were clear within boundaries and descriptions, non-overlapping and related to the research questions. Subsequently, the resulting themes fell into the two overarching analytic domains identified earlier. The first domain, the expansion of the translation movement, captured evidence related to the widening scope of the translation activities across cultural, literary, tourism and professional contexts. The second domain, the institutional support, encompassed material related to policy frameworks, funding mechanisms, training initiatives and strategic planning for translation under Vision 2030. Within each domain, challenges and opportunities came into play from the same body of the evidence rather than treated as a separate analytical category. For example, references to increased translation activity came into close scrutiny alongside issues of the quality assurance and professional capacity. Similarly, the institutional initiatives underwent a deep analysis in relation to the implementation gaps and skills development needs. This approach was employed to ensure that the interpretation remained grounded in the data closely linking to the study's objectives. Finally, the themes received a close review against the original sources to confirm their consistency with both the national strategy document and the academic literature. This step strengthened the analytical coherence and ensured that the interpretations reflected the content of the selected corpus. However, to enhance the methodological transparency and consistency, thematic interpretations were cross-checked across the corpus. Furthermore, the themes remained unchanged only when supported by converging evidence from both document types (policy text and peer-reviewed studies). The outcome of this process forms the basis for the findings and discussion presented in the following sections

4. Findings

This chapter presents the findings of the qualitative analysis based on two selected corpora; the National Strategy for (LPT) officially made available (Ministry of Culture, 2023) and the five peer-reviewed studies as detailed earlier in the tables in the last chapter. Of a good note, the findings are reported descriptively to reflect on the main purposes of the study. Thus, it exclusively focuses on the developments in the translation activity and the institutional support under Vision 2030 without interpretation or evaluative commentary. With this descriptive focus in mind, the findings below outline the main patterns that recur across the selected policy document and academic studies. Accordingly, the analysis of the selected corpora indicated that there is a marked shift in the scope and visibility of the translation activity in Saudi Arabia under Vision 2030. It was clear that there is an expansion of translation beyond earlier concentration in religious and academic domains and that it has become increasingly integrated into cultural, literary, tourism-related and institutional contexts. This integration signals a broader functional role within the national cultural programs especially in relation to the widening range of the translation outputs and operational settings. In line with this broader role, the analysis also revealed that the 2023 strategy explicitly situates translation within publishing, cultural exchange and the international engagement while academic studies document parallel developments in practice. In sector specific-context, the research focusing on tourism translation reports the growing volume of the multilingual materials associated with heritage sites, public events and destinations targeting international audiences. Similarly, studies on literary translation pointed to the increased visibility of the Saudi narratives in translation, particularly into English, which aligns with the policy references to international circulation and cultural outreach.

Alongside this expansion in scope, the data also indicated greater sectoral diversification in the translation practice. The academic studies showed that the translation activity spans literary, legal, tourism and institutional domains marking a clear shift away from more narrowly defined practices. However, although each of these domains involves different functional demands, they are all situated within the broader context of the national reform. In this respect, literary translation is associated to cultural representation and international visibility where as tourism translation shows an association with mediation and accessibility. Legal translation, by contrast, enjoys a closer association with precision and domain-specific expertise. These domain-specific patterns point to a broader understanding of translation as a complex professional activity. This broader understanding, in turn, is reflected implicitly in the 2023 strategy which approaches translation as a multifaceted field rather than a single-purpose service. At the same time, the findings revealed recurring patterns related to the professional capacity and training. In particular, the studies examining the translator education and workplace competence consistently report a gap between the academic preparation and industry requirements. This gap is not confined to a single period or institution as similar observations appear across different years and institutional contexts. As a result, the issue persists despite the growing attention to translation within policy discourse. More specifically, the academic literature identifies limited exposure to applied skills, professional tools and specialized training as a recurring weakness. Closely connected to this point is the issue of the quality management. Several studies refer to inconsistencies in evaluation practices and editorial oversight, particularly in literary and tourism translation. However, while the expansion of the translation activity is evident, the data showed that unified standards and systematic quality-control mechanisms remain uneven across sectors. This pattern is also clear indirectly in the strategy document which emphasizes the professionalization and institutional coordination and suggests that quality assurance remains an ongoing concern rather than a resolved condition.

Furthermore, the findings indicated that institutional support emerged as another prominent theme across the corpus. The 2023 national strategy articulates clear objectives for organizing and supporting translation through structured programs and defined institutional roles. It frames translation as part of a larger cultural infrastructure encompassing publishing, training and international cooperation. In this respect, the policy articulation contrasts with pre-Vision contexts described in earlier academic work in which translation initiatives appeared more fragmented and less systematically supported. This shift is also reflected in academic literature as several studies pointed to the increased institutional engagement with translation whether through curriculum reform discussions, sector-focused initiatives or broader debate about the professional standards. Nevertheless, the findings revealed variation in how the institutional support is experienced at the level of practice. Thus, while the policy frameworks signal alignment and coordination, empirical studies highlight differences in implementation across the sectors and institutions. Beyond this implementation gap, the findings also situate translation within

broader cultural and geopolitical narratives and link the Saudi translation initiatives within efforts to promote Arabic internationally and enhance the cultural presence on a global scale. At the same time, this positioning appears alongside more localized concerns regarding training, specialization and professional practice. Viewed as a whole, these perspectives indicated that translation operates simultaneously at policy, institutional and professional levels. As a result, the findings show that translation under Vision 2030 features expansion, diversification and the increased institutional attention accompanied by persistent challenges related to training, the quality assurance and implementation consistency. These patterns are not considered as outcomes or evaluations; but emerge directly from the convergence of policy discourse and scholarly observations within the selected corpus.

5. Discussion

The findings indicated that Vision 2030 has reshaped translation in Saudi Arabia by expanding its scope and diversifying its areas of practice. Equally important, the findings also revealed that the Vision embedded translation more clearly within the national cultural programs. This discussion seeks to interpret these findings in light of study's research questions - with particular attention to how policy articulation aligns with, and at times differs from, evidence reported at the level of practice. In this regard, these findings can be more explicitly linked to the literature reviewed earlier. For example, the observed gap between the academic preparation and professional requirements aligns with Abu-Ghararah (2017) and Alkahtani (2022) while the sector-specific expansion in tourism and literary translation reflects patterns discussed by Alangari (2022) and Khuddro (2023). However, by integrating policy discourse with multi-domain scholarly evidence, the present study extends these works and shows that the progress remains uneven across the sectors and is shaped out by the institutional coordination and implementation constraints. These findings reveal the underlying issues in how different sectors define and assess the translation quality as emphasized by Nida (1964). Within this interpretive frame, one of the most significant implications of the findings concerns the observed expansion of translation beyond its earlier concentration in religious and academic domains. Under Vision 2030, translation appears increasingly integrated into cultural, literary, tourism-related, and institutional contexts. This shift suggests a transformation in how translation develops within the national agenda moving from a specialized or supportive activity to a more visible and functional component of the cultural development. Rather than operating at the margins, translation has become embedded in settings that directly address international audiences and public engagement including heritage and museums contexts, media-related settings and the associated public communication platforms. In connection with this development, translation has also diversified across multiple sectors, each entailing distinct professional demands. This diversification is evident in the prominence of literary, tourism, legal and institutional translation within the same reform context indicating that translation no longer acts as a single-purpose service. Instead, it functions as a multifaceted professional activity that responds to varied communicative, cultural, institutional, professional and technical requirements. Interpreting this pattern suggests that Vision 2030 has not only increased the volume of the translation activity but has also contributed to redefining its professional contours. As a result, translation needs to serve different audiences and purposes simultaneously which places new demands on the practitioners and institutions alike.

Alongside these changes in the professional practice, the institutional support emerges as a central element that shapes the translation movement under Vision 2030. At the institutional level, the discussion highlights the role of the 2023 National Strategy for (LPT) in articulating a more structured approach to supporting translation. The strategy presents translation as part of a broader cultural infrastructure that includes the publishing, training, public cultural programs and international cooperation. When interpreted alongside the academic studies, this policy articulation signals a departure from the earlier contexts in which the translation initiatives appeared fragmented and unevenly supported. In this sense, the presence of a consolidated strategy suggests greater clarity in the institutional intent and a stronger framework for organizing the translation-related activities. However, this institutional clarity does not show uniformly in practice. In particular, the empirical studies reveal differences in how the institutional support comes into action across the sectors and institutions. This variation does not negate the significance of the institutional attention. Rather, it highlights the complexity of translating policy direction into consistent professional practice. Against this backdrop, interpreting this gap suggests that the institutional support under Vision 2030 operates unevenly shaped out by sector-specific conditions, levels of specialization and existing professional structures. Such variation helps explain why the expansion and diversification can coexist with the persistent challenges. These challenges become especially evident in relation to the professional capacity, training and quality assurance which consistently emerge in the findings. Nevertheless, despite the increased visibility and institutional attention, the academic literature consistently points to gaps between the academic preparation and industry requirements. This pattern reinforces earlier observations by Abu-Ghararah (2017) and Alkahtani (2022). It also suggests that policy-level recognition of translation does not automatically resolve issues of professional readiness or standardization. Instead, the expansion appears to intensify existing challenges by increasing the demand for specialized skills and quality control mechanisms. In this context, the study employs the term "consolidated transformation" as a specific analytical framework. This concept becomes clear by certain identifiable conditions. These include consistently applied quality-assurance frameworks across translation domains, closer alignment between university training programs and market requirements and the sustained institutional coordination among cultural, educational and professional bodies. Viewed as evaluative criteria, these conditions allow the current state of translation under Vision 2030 to be examined systematically. Accordingly, when the findings of the present document-based analysis are considered against these conditions, translation under Vision 2030 demonstrates substantial expansion and increased institutional recognition. However, the sector continues to exhibit uneven quality practices, persistent training—market gaps and sector-specific variations in implementation. These ongoing challenges suggest that the translation sector has not yet reached a fully consolidated stage and remains in a transitional phase. From this perspective, the coexistence of the growth and constraint reflects an ongoing transition rather than a completed transformation. This transitional character is further evident in the position of translation within broader cultural and international narratives under Vision 2030. Specifically, the findings indicate that this translational condition has become clearer in the way translation in Saudi Arabia operates across multiple and interconnected levels. It operates within the policy discourse as a means of strengthening the cultural presence and international engagement. Furthermore, it receives further support institutionally through articulated strategies and realized through professional practices that give it an operational form. Thus, the interpretation of this multilevel operation helps clarify why translation under Vision 2030 presents both new opportunities and ongoing tensions. It also underscores the value of examining translation through an integrated analytical perspective as adopted in this study.

In sum, the discussion demonstrates that Vision 2030 has had a substantial impact on the translation movement in Saudi Arabia by expanding its scope, diversifying its functions and embedding translation within a clearer institutional framework. At the same time, the persistence of training gaps, quality assurance challenges, coordination issues, and implementation challenges underscores the complexity of the reform processes in the professional and cultural fields. By interpreting these patterns, the study addresses its research questions and offers a cohesive account of translation under Vision 2030 linking the policy direction to the developments evident in academic research.

6. Conclusion

This study examines the impact of Saudi Vision 2030 on the translation movement in Saudi Arabia through a qualitative analysis of the National Strategy for (LPT) officially made available (Ministry of Culture, 2023) and five selected peer-reviewed academic studies. By synthesizing policy discourse with scholarly research, the study aims to provide a coherent framework for understanding developments in translation activity and institutional support under Vision 2030. The findings indicate that Vision 2030 has contributed to a notable expansion of the translation practices in several ways. Specifically, the findings highlight that translation activity has become increasingly integrated into cultural, literary, tourism-related and institutional contexts which reflects a broader functional role within the national cultural programs. The findings also show that the institutional support for translation has gained greater clarity under Vision 2030 as the 2023 national strategy frames translation as part of a broader cultural infrastructure that includes the publishing, training, cultural institutions and international cooperation. Furthermore, the findings reveal that issues related to professional capacity, training, quality assurance, coordination and professional readiness continue to surface in the academic literature. Pym (2013) links such persistence gaps to the poor alignment between the policy objectives and training structures and labor market realities in contexts where governments pursue reforms agendas. At the same time, the coexistence of expansion and constraint suggests that translation under Vision 2030 is undergoing a process of transition rather than reflecting a fully consolidated transformation. These findings reflect the pattern described by Toury (1995) who explains that the translation system develop through a gradual norm formation shaped by the institutional and socio-cultural forces rather than through the immediate structural consolidation. However, in this study, "*consolidated transformation*" comes in view of identifiable indicators. These indicators include nationally unified quality assurance mechanisms, measurable narrowing of the training—market gap and sustained cross-sector institutional coordination. When considered against these indicators, the evidence suggests that translation under Vision 2030 has expanded significantly but remains in a liminal phase rather than a fully consolidated transformation.

In conclusion, the study underscores the importance of examining translation through a combined focus on policy direction and practice-level evidence. It further provides a basis for future research on translation as a developing professional and cultural field within the context of the national reform.

7. Limitations and Recommendations

While this study provides an integrated perspective on translation practices in Saudi Arabia under Vision 2030, it is constrained by certain limitations. Specifically, the analysis relies on a single national policy document and five peer-reviewed studies. Furthermore, document-based analysis, the study excludes first hand perspectives from practicing translators, I institutional decision-makers, or other stakeholders involved in implementation. Additionally, the analysis captures a specific stage of Vision 2030 implementation and may not account for future policy adjustments or longitudinal developments. These constraints limit the scope and generalizability of the study. Consequently, future research could extend this study by integrating empirical data from practitioners, institutions, or specific translation sectors to enhancing understanding of practice-level dynamics. Furthermore, comparative or longitudinal studies could further elucidate how translation policies and practices evolve over time within the context of cultural reform.

Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Biographie

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