

The Contribution of Translation to Arabic and Islamic Civilization during the Golden Age (661-1258)

Authors : Smail Hadj Mahammed

Abstract : Translation is not merely a process of conveying the meaning from one particular language into another to overcome language barriers and ensure a good understanding; it is also a work of civilization and progress. Without the translation of Greek, Indian and Persian works, Arabic and Islamic Civilization would not have taken off, and without the translations of Arabic works into Latin, and then into European languages, the scientific and technological revolution of the modern world would not have taken place. In this context, the present paper seeks to investigate how the translation movement contributed to the Arabic and Islamic Civilizations during the Golden Age. The research paper consists of three major parts: the first part provides a brief historical overview of the translation movement during the golden age, which witnessed two important eras: the Umayyad and Abbasid eras. The second part shows the main reasons why translation was a prominent cultural activity during the Golden Age and why it gained great interest from the Arabs. The last part highlights the constructive contribution of translation to the Arabic and Islamic Civilization during the period (661-1258). The results demonstrate that Arabic translation movement was unprecedented in the transmission of knowledge in the whole history of humankind and that translation during the Golden Age had significantly assisted in enriching the Arabic and Islamic civilizations, which had absorbed major and important scientific works of old Greek, Indian and Persian civilizations.

Keywords : Arabic and Islamic civilization, contribution, golden age, translation

Conference Title : ICAIC 2023 : International Conference on Arabic and Islamic Civilization

Conference Location : Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Conference Dates : November 20-21, 2023