**Homework**

**Find seven examples of lexemes that exist in one language (say Arabic) but are absent in another language (English, for example) due to differences in cultures or lack of concepts. This is referred to in linguistics as “a lexical gap”.** Here are some examples to get you started:

The semantic field of temperature in English consists of the terms: cold, cool, warm, hot. In Arabic, semantic field of temperature involves three terms where a lexical gap is easy to recognize. This could be shown diagrammatically as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cold | Cool | Warm | Hot |
| بارد | ----- | دافئ | حار |

This lexical gap has its negative impact on translation from English into Arabic where cool and cold are rendered the same in contexts where they turn to be antonyms.

1. He fell into the cool waters of the lake

سقط في مياه البحيرة الباردة

1. The winners were given a cold welcome when they arrived home.

لقي الفائزون استقبالاً بارداً عند عودتهم للوطن

The same holds true of the semantic field of kinship relations where there is a huge gap between both languages in that in Arabic eight kinship relations (i.e.ابن/بنت العم، ابن/بنت العمة, ابن/بنت الخال، ابن/بنت الخالة) are inadequately matched in translation by one lexical kinship term' cousin'. This lexical gap can only be bridged by paraphrasing written in form of footnotes or comments within the body of the text under translation

Moreover, it is not necessary that lexical gaps arise only within semantic fields: for instance the word “**Nerd”** is found in English to refer to a person who is highly well-versed in computer science and lacks social skills, yet this word is not found in Arabic where paraphrasing is the only choice for translators to make.