



# Translation and Training Situation in the Arab World

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| Por **Amer Al Azem**, presidente de la Asociación Árabe de Traductores (ArTA)

**T**he situation of translation in the Arab world nowadays is not a pleasant one. Great lack of consideration towards translation is apparent with the governments, associations, syndicates and unions.

Moreover, Arab countries have no effective laws or outputs to enhance and develop the level of translation. Add to this, the unavailability of training programs and the translators being less valued and accredited by companies and institutions.

Most of the translators and translation companies were forced to halt activities after ten or twenty years of work. Hence, Amer Al Azem's contribution becomes the most pioneering and influential ever accomplished in the world.

He founded the first international association of Arab translators and linguists (World Arab Translators Association, WATA) (2004-2010), which played a tremendous role in molding Arab translation movement.

Unfortunately, this was doomed to vanish due to the absence of Amer Al Azem from the translation scene for a long time, and the outbreak of the Arab Spring: revolutions, disasters, poverty and unemployment.

However, the Arab Translators Association (ArTA) appeared in September 2020 and inaugurated a new translation constitution, out of nowhere, taking into consideration the virtual world created by COVID-19, digital communication and E-Learning.

Significantly, universities are incapable of producing professional graduates due to the fact that translation departments comprise none of the professional entities that can execute practical teaching and perform relevant training.

## Amer Al Azem

Amer Al Azem is a legal translator, teacher, trainer, author, thinker, writer, marketer.

In 2008 he was the President of the World Arab Translators Association (WATA). He worked for a few years, and then he had to stop for personal circumstances.

He left the translation scene for ten years and worked as a global marketer. Now he is back and acts as the President of the Arab Translators Association (ArTA), playing a global role to activate and enrich the translation scene.

Amer Al Azem is a global translational and cultural figure.

Moreover, the lack of active translation companies, widespread unemployment, and free-of-charge culture do not enhance or support training. ArTA, despite all these shortcomings, did succeed in creating a considerable role in this stance.

Paid and free-of-charge training sessions, workshops, lectures, symposiums, and conferences were held by ArTA. A lot of training sessions are going on and many outstanding Arab and foreign figures are introduced to raise greater awareness and educate Arab translators.

To conclude, ArTA seeks collaboration with universities and translation associations to construct a strong translation and training scene worldwide. ■