

Saudi Gazette

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KINGDOM

Translation in the Kingdom 'an important field'

Afnan Linjawi

Saudi Gazette

JEDDAH — Effat University's English and translation department concluded its second international conference on "Language: The Beacon of Culture and Thought" today (Thursday).

The conference aimed to promote the importance of translation in the Kingdom and the Arab world in general.

"The conference aims to promote the vision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in valuing translation," said the president of Effat University Dr. Haifa Jamal Alail.

The conference also aimed to break new grounds in translation in the Kingdom by learning from other advanced Arab countries in the field.

President of the Jordanian Translators' Association, keynote speaker, and Yarmouk University professor Abdullah Shunnaq recalled the first translation course in Jordan in 1989.

"It was a pioneering field at the time. "I was one of the believers and promoters of translation and we held conferences, seminars, and workshops in public places in Jordan such as schools, universities, ministries, and more."

The Jordanian Translators' Association was founded in 1993 and currently has 560 members.

The association is also a member of the Arab Translation Union and is internationally recognized by the International Federation of Translators.

Its activities have expanded to preparing academic translation programs.

"I urge the new generation of translators to look into Machine Translation as the field is lacking in the Arab world," said Shunnaq.

The conference had international contributors including University of Birmingham professor in English Language Susan Hunston, who will touch upon the culture of science and communication challenges.

She said: "It is my first time visiting Saudi Arabia and it is nice to visit a women's university.

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"It is quite impressive to see strong efforts put into improving education. "Placing an importance on languages and translation is paramount in maintaining both languages, English and Arabic, and opening new doors of knowledge."

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Wonderful University
 The two-day Conference on "Language: The Beacon of Culture and Thought" is really considered a success. Congratulation to the organizers and to the administration of the University.

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