

Language Guide to Transfer Errors

Languages covered in alphabetical order:

- Arabic
- Bengali
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- French
- German
- Greek
- Gujarati
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- Creole
- Hebrew
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- Korean
- Portuguese
- Russian
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- Swahili
- Thai
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Hindi

Language Guide to Transfer Errors

Language – Arabic

This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p>ARTICLES</p> <p>No indefinite article with profession.</p> <p>Definite article with days, months, places, idioms.</p>	<p><i>He is student.</i> <i>She lawyer.</i></p> <p><i>She is in the bed.</i> <i>He lives in Peru.</i></p>
<p>VERBS AND VERBALS</p> <p><u>Be</u> can be omitted.</p> <p>Past perfect form will <u>be</u>.</p> <p>Different tense boundaries from English.</p> <p>No – ing (gerund) / infinitive distinction.</p>	<p><i>India more religious than Britain.</i> <i>She working now.</i> <i>He always cheerful.</i></p> <p><i>They were arrived.</i></p> <p><i>I study here for a year.</i> <i>He has left yesterday.</i></p> <p><i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.</p> <p>Verb precedes subject.</p> <p>Coordination favored over subordination.</p> <p><u>That</u> clause rather than infinitive.</p>	<p><i>Good grades received every student in the class.</i></p> <p><i>- frequent use of <u>and</u> and <u>so</u>.</i></p> <p><i>I want that you stay.</i> <i>I want that they try harder.</i></p>
<p>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS.</p> <p>Personal pronouns restate.</p> <p>No human / non human distinction for relative pronoun (who / which).</p> <p>Pronoun object added at end of relative clause.</p>	<p><i>My Father he lives in</i></p> <p><i>Here is the student which you met her last week.</i> <i>The people which arrived.</i></p> <p><i>The house that I used to live in it is big.</i></p>

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‘Keys for Writers’ by Ann Raimes

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – BENGALI
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> Verb last (when) the teacher the money collected.
<u>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS</u> No distinction between he/she, his/her	<i>My sister dropped his purse.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors

Language – Chinese

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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES No articles	<i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i>
VERS AND VERBALS. <u>Be</u> can be omitted. No intense inflections No inflection for person or number. Different tense boundaries from English. No – ing (gerund) / infinitive distinction.	<i>India more religious than Britain.</i> <i>She working now.</i> <i>He always cheerful.</i> <i>He have a good time yesterday.</i> <i>When I was little, I always walk to school.</i> <i>The singer have big band.</i> <i>I stay here for a year.</i> <i>He has left yesterday.</i> <i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE. Relative clause or restrictive phrase precedes noun it modifies. Inversion of subject and verb rare. Conjunctions occur in pairs. Subject can be omitted (especially pronoun)	<i>The enrolled in community college student.</i> <i>A nine-meter high impressive monument to Lenin.</i> <i>She is leaving and so am.</i> <i>Although, she is rich but she wears simple clothes.</i> <i>Even if I had money, I would also not buy that car.</i> <i>Is raining.</i>
NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS No distinction between subject and object forms of pronouns. Nouns and adjectives have same form.	<i>I gave the forms to she.</i> <i>She is very beauty woman.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors

Language – Chinese

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No plural form after a number.	<i>They felt very safety on the train.</i>
No plural (or optional) forms of nouns.	<i>Four new lamp.</i> <i>Several good book.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors

Language – Farsi

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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p>ARTICLES No articles</p> <p>No-ing (gerund) / infinitive distinction.</p>	<p><i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i></p> <p><i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> Conjunctions occur in pairs.</p>	<p><i>Although, she is rich but she wears simple clothes.</i></p> <p><i>Even if I had money, I would also not buy that car.</i></p>
<p><u>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS</u> No human/non human distinction for relative pronoun (who/which).</p> <p>Pronoun object added at end of relative clause.</p> <p>No distinction between he/she and his/her.</p> <p>No plural form after a number.</p>	<p><i>Here is the student which you met her last week.</i></p> <p><i>The house that I used to live in it is big.</i></p> <p><i>My sister dropped his purse.</i></p> <p><i>Four new lamp.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors Language – French

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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES No indefinite article with profession Definite article used for generalization. Definite article with proper noun.	<i>He is student.</i> <i>She is lawyer.</i> <i>The photography is an art.</i> <i>The books are more expensive than the disks.</i> <i>The professor Brackett teaches in Frankfurt.</i>
VERBS AND VERBALS. No progressive forms. Different tense Boundaries from English No-ing (gerund) / infinitive distinction	<i>They still discuss the problem.</i> <i>When I walked in, she slept.</i> <i>I study here for a year.</i> <i>He has left yesterday.</i> <i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE. Verb subject order in dependent clause. Adverb can occur between verb and object or before verb. That clause rather than infinitive.	<i>I knew what would decide the committee.</i> <i>I like very much clam chowder.</i> <i>They efficiently organized the work.</i> <i>I want that you stay.</i>
NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS. No human / non human distinction for relative pronoun (<i>who / which</i>)	<i>Here is the student which you met her last week.</i> <i>The people which arrived.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors

Language – German

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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES	
Definite article used for organization.	<i>The photography is an art. The books are more expensive than the disks.</i>
Definite article with proper noun.	<i>The professor Brackert teaches in Frankfurt.</i>
VERB AND VERBALS	
No progressive forms	<i>They still discuss the problem. When I walked in, she slept.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.	
Commas set off a dependent clause.	<i>He knows, that we are alright.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
 Language – Greek
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES	
Definite articles used for generalization.	<i>The photography is an art. The books are more expensive than the disks.</i>
Definite article with proper noun.	<i>The Professor Brackett teaches in Frankfurt.</i>
VERBS AND VERBALS.	
No progressive forms.	<i>They still discuss the problem. When I walked in, she slept</i>
No – <u>ing</u> (gerund) infinitive distinction.	<i>She avoids to go. I enjoy to play tennis.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.	
Verb last (in dependent clause).	<i>... (when) the teacher the money collected.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – GUJARATI
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<u>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES,</u> <u>ADVERBS</u> Personal pronouns restate No distinction between subject and object forms of pronouns No distinction between he/she and his/her	<i>My father he lives in.</i> <i>I gave the forms to she.</i> <i>My sister dropped his purse.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
 Language – HAITIAN CREOLE
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p><u>ARTICLES</u> No indefinite article with profession</p> <p>No article used for generalization</p>	<p><i>He is student.</i> <i>She lawyer.</i></p> <p><i>Bird can fly.</i></p>
<p><u>VERBS AND VERBALS</u> <u>Be</u> can be omitted</p> <p>Different tense boundaries from English</p>	<p><i>India more religious than Britain.</i> <i>She working now.</i></p> <p><i>I study here from a year.</i> <i>He has left yesterday.</i></p>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u></p> <p>Verb-subject order in dependent clause</p> <p>Adverb can occur between verb and object or before verb.</p> <p><u>That</u> clause rather than infinitive</p>	<p><i>I knew what would decide the committee.</i></p> <p><i>I like very much clam chowder.</i> <i>They efficiently organized the work.</i></p> <p><i>I want that you stay.</i> <i>I want that they try harder.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – HEBREW
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> Verb precedes subject	<i>Good grades received every student in the class.</i>
<u>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS</u> Pronoun object added at end of relative clause	<i>The house that I used to live in it is big.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – HINDI
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<u>ARTICLES</u> No definite articles	<i>Store on corner is closed.</i>
<u>VERBS AND VERBALS</u> Overuse of progressive nouns	<i>I am wanting to leave now.</i>
<u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> <u>that</u> clause rather than Infinitive Verb last	<i>I want that you stay.</i> <i>I want that they try harder.</i> <i>.... (when) the teacher the money collected.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
 Language – Japanese
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES	
No articles	<i>Sun is hot. I bought book. Computer has changed our lives.</i>
No indefinite article with profession.	<i>He is student. She lawyer.</i>
VERBS AND VERBALS	
No inflection for person or number.	<i>The singer have big band.</i>
Different limits for passive.	<i>They were stolen their luggage.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.	
Verb last	<i>...(when) the teacher the money collected.</i>
Relative clause or restriction phrase precedes noun it modifies.	<i>The enrolled in community college student... A nine-meter high impressive monument to Lenin.</i>
Subject can be omitted (especially pronoun)	<i>Is raining.</i>
No equivalent of 'there is / there are.'	<i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas. In the garden has many trees.</i>
NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS.	
Nouns and adjectives have some form.	<i>She is very beauty woman. They felt very safety on the train.</i>
No plural (or optional) forms of nouns.	<i>Several good book .</i>

Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Korean
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES	
No Indefinite article with profession.	<i>He is student. She lawyer.</i>
No Indefinite article (uses <u>one</u> for <u>a</u> and depends on context)	<i>He ran into one tree.</i>
VERBS AND VERBALS	
No inflection for person or number.	<i>The singer have big band.</i>
Different limits for passive.	<i>They were stolen their luggage.</i>
Infinitive not used to express purpose	<i>I go out for having my dinner.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE	
Verb last	<i>...(when) the teacher the money collected</i>
Relative clause or restrictive phrase precedes noun it modifies.	<i>The enrolled in community college student. A nine-meter high impressive monument to Lenin.</i>
No equivalent of <u>there is</u> / <u>there are</u>	<i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas. In the garden has many trees.</i>
NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS	
No distinction between subject and object forms of pronouns.	<i>I gave the forms to she.</i>
No plural form after a number.	<i>Four new lamp.</i>
No plural forms of nouns.	<i>Several good book.</i>
No relative pronouns.	<i>The book is on the table is mine.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors

Language – PORTUGUESE

This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<u>ARTICLES</u> Definite article used for generalization	<i>The photography is an art. The books are more expensive than the disks.</i>
<u>VERBS AND VERBALS</u> No – ing (gerund) / Infinitive distinction	<i>She avoids to go. I enjoy to play tennis.</i>
<u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> No equivalent of <u>there is</u> / <u>there are</u>	<i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas. In the garden has many trees.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Russian
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES No articles	<i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i>
VERBS AND VERBALS Be can be omitted No progressive forms No inflection for person or number Different limits for passive	<i>India more religious than Britain</i> <i>She working now.</i> <i>He always cheerful.</i> <i>They still discuss the problem.</i> <i>The singer have big band.</i> <i>They were stolen their luggage.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE Verbs precedes subject Relative clause or restrictive phrase proceeds noun it modifies <u>That</u> clause rather than infinitive <u>Commas</u> set off a dependant clause No equivalent of <u>there is/ there are</u>	<i>Good grades received every student in the class</i> <i>The enrolled in community college student.</i> <i>A nine meter high impressive monument to Lenin.</i> <i>He gave a too difficult for me book.</i> <i>I want that you stay.</i> <i>I want that they try harder.</i> <i>He knows, that we are right.</i> <i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas.</i> <i>In the garden has many trees.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Russian
This list is not definitive

<p>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS No human/nonhuman distinction for relative pronoun (who/which)</p>	<p><i>Here is the student which you met her last week. The people which arrived.</i></p>
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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Spanish
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES	
Definite articles used for generalization.	<i>The photography is an art. The books are more expensive than the disks.</i>
Definite article with proper noun.	<i>The Professor Brackett teaches in Frankfurt.</i>
VERBS AND VERBALS	
No – <u>ing</u> (gerund) / Infinitive distinction.	<i>She avoids to go. I enjoy to play tennis.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.	
Verb precedes subject.	<i>Good grades received every student in the class.</i>
<u>That</u> clause can be omitted (especially pronoun)	<i>Is raining.</i>
No equivalent of <u>there is</u> / there are.	<i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas. In the garden has many trees.</i>
NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS.	
Personal pronouns restate.	<i>My Father he lives in California.</i>
No-human / nonhuman distinction for relative pronoun (who/which).	<i>Here is the student which you met her last week. The people which arrived.</i>
No distinction between subject and object forms of pronouns.	<i>I give the forms to she.</i>
Adjectives show number.	<i>I have helpfu<u>l</u> friend<u>s</u></i>
Double negatives are routinely used.	<i>They don't know nothing.</i>
Pronoun subjects can be omitted.	<i>My boss complained when she saw the mess.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Swahili
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<u>ARTICLES</u> <u>No Articles</u>	<i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – THAI
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p><u>VERBS AND VERBALS</u> No tense inflections</p> <p>No inflection for person or number</p> <p>Voice</p>	<p><i>We have a good time yesterday.</i> <i>When I was little, I always walk to school.</i></p> <p><i>The singer have big band.</i></p> <p><i>My name based on Chinese characters.</i> <i>A miracle was happened.</i></p>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u></p> <p>Subject can be omitted (especially pronoun)</p> <p>No equivalent of <u>there is / there are</u> (Thai uses adverb of place and have)</p>	<p><i>Is raining.</i></p> <p><i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas.</i> <i>In the garden has many trees.</i></p>
<p><u>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS</u></p> <p>No human/non human distinctive for relative pronoun (who/which)</p> <p>No distinction between subject and object forms of pronouns</p> <p>No distinction between he/she, his/her</p> <p>No plural (or optional) forms of nouns</p> <p>Pronoun subjects can be omitted</p>	<p><i>Here is the student which you met her last week.</i> <i>The people which arrived.</i></p> <p><i>I gave the forms to she.</i></p> <p><i>My sister dropped his purse.</i></p> <p><i>Several good book.</i></p> <p><i>My boss complained when she was the mess.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – TURKISH
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<u>ARTICLES</u> No definite article	Store on corner is closed.
<u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> Verb last	... (when) the teacher the money collected.

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors

Language – Urdu

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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES No articles	<i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i>
VERBS AND VERBALS. Overuse of progressive nouns.	<i>I am wanting to leave now.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE. Adverb can occur between verb and object or before verb.	<i>I like very much clam chowder.</i> <i>They efficiently organised the work.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – VIETNAMESE
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p><u>VERBS AND VERBALS</u> No tense inflections</p> <p>Voice</p> <p>No – ing (gerund / infinitive distinction)</p>	<p><i>He have a good time yesterday.</i> <i>When I was little, I always walk to school.</i></p> <p><i>My name based on Chinese characters.</i> <i>A miracle was happening.</i></p> <p><i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> Conjunctions occur in pairs</p>	<p><i>Although, she is rich but she wears simple clothes.</i> <i>Even if I had money, I would also not buy that car.</i></p>

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