

Lesson 2: How to Translate an Abstract from French to English – Step by Step

Objectives:

Students will learn a clear translation strategy, avoid common errors, and produce a high-quality translated abstract.

1. Step-by-Step Translation Method

Step 1 — Read the whole French abstract

Understand the topic, aim, method, and conclusion.

Step 2 — Identify the 5 main parts

1. Aim
2. Problem / context
3. Method
4. Results
5. Conclusion

Step 3 — Translate ideas, NOT sentences

Avoid literal translation.

Example:

Incorrect: This study has for objective

Correct: This study aims to...

2. Common Mistakes Students Make

Mistake: Translating word by word

Correction: Translate meaning

Mistake: Using "study" for everything

Correction: Use research, paper, investigation

Mistake: Wrong verb tenses

Correction: Use past simple or present simple

Mistake: Overuse of "in order to"

Correction: Use: to / in order to / aims to

3. Useful Sentence Starters

Aim:

- This study aims to explore...
- The objective of this paper is to examine...

Method:

- A mixed-methods approach was used...
- Data were collected through...

Results:

- The findings indicate that...
- The results reveal that...

Conclusion:

- This research emphasizes the importance of...
- These results suggest that...

4. Real Master 2 Dissertation Abstract (Didactics of FLE)

Original Abstract (French):

Cette recherche s'inscrit dans le domaine de la didactique du FLE et vise à analyser l'impact de l'intégration du numérique sur la motivation des apprenants universitaires.

L'étude a été menée auprès de 40 étudiants inscrits en Master 2. Une approche mixte a été adoptée : un questionnaire a été distribué et des observations de classe ont été réalisées.

Les résultats montrent que l'utilisation des outils numériques favorise l'engagement, facilite l'interaction et contribue à l'autonomie de l'apprenant.

La recherche conclut que l'intégration réfléchie du numérique peut améliorer la qualité de l'enseignement/apprentissage du FLE.

Translation (Model Answer):

This research falls within the field of FLE didactics and aims to analyze the impact of digital integration on university learners' motivation.

The study was conducted with 40 Master 2 students. A mixed-methods approach was adopted: a questionnaire was administered, and classroom observations were carried out.

The findings show that the use of digital tools enhances engagement, facilitates interaction, and contributes to learner autonomy.

The study concludes that the thoughtful integration of digital technology can improve the quality of FLE teaching and learning.

5. Guided Translation Activity

Translate this mini abstract:

Cette étude examine l'impact de l'apprentissage collaboratif sur le développement des compétences communicatives chez les étudiants universitaires.

Une approche mixte a été utilisée, combinant un questionnaire et des entretiens semi-directifs.

Les résultats montrent que la collaboration améliore la participation et la motivation des apprenants.

L'étude conclut que l'apprentissage collaboratif peut renforcer la performance linguistique.

6. Production Task

Students bring a French abstract from their thesis and translate it using the steps above.

Check:

- Structure
- Vocabulary
- Academic tone
- Verb tenses