**Letter of intent:**

**Why Ottawa University?**

The major incentive for which I have chosen Ottawa University for pursuing my studies is with no doubt its high level of scientificity. School of translation and interpretation alone is an appealing faculty with its own complete curriculum which appears a fascinating destination for almost any student of this field. Let alone the fact that Iran does not provide French language translation studies at doctoral level and in my country, we will have no other choice but to pursue our studies either in didactics or literature for PHD.

An additional relative advantage of Ottawa University is evidently the availability of both French and English, which are the two exact languages I am trying to master. That is to mean, there is always great potential for success of language students in the largest bilingual university of the world.

Another obvious reason is the faculty members; I have had some correspondence with professors at the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies who were all very competent in their field, among which Dr. Von Flotow was particularly the most significant to me. We have shared a few words about translation issues and cultural adversity of interlocutors in meaning-making processing of the translated discourse. In this regard, I have benefited a lot from her knowledge and would be honored if she agrees to guide me through my research project.

**Why it should be me?**

I have devoted my entire life to acquiring of new languages. I have an IELTS test result equal to band-score 8 (Listening:8.5, Reading:7.5, Speaking:8.5, Writing:6.5). Both my bachelor and master’s degree include French translation studies. My master project was an attempt to demonstrate interculturality and the probable cultural shock Persian readers may experience when reading Madame Bovary of Gustave Flaubert as a result of the distance between the approved value systems of the two societies. I have also published an article with support of my supervisor, in which I have tried to distribute different cultural aspects of translated texts into 2 major categories: afferent and inherent features.

inherent properties are pure cultural aspects that could be easily transferred into other languages. Lexical resources such as café, mask, résumé or Ivan the Terrible (Ivan le Terrible) are all prime examples as the reference of these entities are well-known and, therefore, accessible in the translated text.

Afferent properties, on the other hand, are less perceivable cultural aspects in the recipient language as similar but different concepts exist in the target language; for instance, although Christmas is referring to the same concept as Noel (birthday of Jesus) in French, it is clearly different from Nime Shaban[[1]](#footnote-1) (birthday of Imam Zaman) in Persian. In the same vein, Père Noel or Santa Clause are not the same as Haji Firouz[[2]](#footnote-2). Another example of afferent semes is where form changes in favor of the meaning in proverbs, expressions and slang words: Dickhead or tête de gland and its Persian equivalent kale khar (literally translated as donkey head), each are compound-nouns composed of different word-formation referring to the same concept.

**My future prospect:**

I would like to further expand my research in the framework of afferent and inherent semantic features and undertake a comparative study on both original and translated text, adopting a semantico-semiotic view in order to recognize and explain possible translation traps and hopefully disclose optimal solutions to tackle them. To do so, I may have to plunge myself into reading literature and find the most appropriate texts for the corpus of my study.

I would also achieve the actualization of a long-dreamed idea if I could run the PHD program for French translation studies in Iran with support of my compatriot scholars and researchers in order to instruct fellow high-flyers of my country towards doctorship without the need to send them overseas.

1. نیمه شعبان [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. حاجی فیروز [↑](#footnote-ref-2)