



Human Translation vs Chat GPT's Translation of an Iraqi Colloquial accent

Al-Fawz Duraid Mahmoud

Department of English Language and Literature, College of Humanities,
Al-Hikma University College, Baghdad, Iraq

Alfauzduraid93@gmail.com

Abstract

This work examines two types of translation Chat GPT and Human's translation for a work to be subtitled. This research uses the comparison concept to find if the new tool of these chats can help to utilize the work on humans and would it be helpful for them or would it be a complete failure. The translations will be carried out on an Iraqi work called the Lost Wishes series to determine whether they are qualified to rely on and to recommend or whether it would remain for assistants and the human translators would be the only method of translation that can't be replaced despite the fact that AI-powered applications are supported. Additionally, can the AI be depended on for translating accents, specifically colloquial ones, as the human capability.

Keywords:

AI (Artificial Intelligence), Comparison, Machine Translation

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مقارنة بين الترجمة البشرية وترجمة Chat GPT للهجة العامية العراقية

الفوز دريد محمود

آداب اللغة الإنجليزية، آداب العلوم الإنسانية، كلية الحكمة الجامعة، بغداد، العراق

Alfauzduraid93@gmail.com

المستخلص :

يتناول هذا العمل نوعين من الترجمة: Chat GPT وترجمة الإنسان للعمل المراد ترجمته. يستخدم هذا البحث مفهوم المقارنة لمعرفة ما إذا كانت الأداة الجديدة لهذه الدردشات يمكن أن تساعد في الاستفادة من العمل على البشر وهل ستكون مفيدة لهم أم أنها ستكون فاشلة تمامًا. سيتم تنفيذ الترجمات على عمل عراقي يسمى سلسلة الرغبات المفقودة لتحديد ما إذا كانت مؤهلة للاعتماد عليها والتوصية بها أو ما إذا كانت ستبقى للمساعدين وسيكون المترجمون البشريون هم الطريقة الوحيدة للترجمة التي لا يمكن استبدالها على الرغم من دعم التطبيقات التي تعمل بالذكاء الاصطناعي. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، هل يمكن الاعتماد على الذكاء الاصطناعي في ترجمة اللهجات، وخاصة العامية منها، باعتباره القدرة البشرية.

الكلمات الأساسية:

الذكاء الاصطناعي، المقارنة، الترجمة الآلية .

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Introduction

(Translation has been used for centuries, dating back hundreds of years. When translators used the leather of animal for writing, it resembled an ancient method of cultural exchange; in response to this, tools were later developed, leading to the use of smart devices in modern translation. Sometimes it utilizes the translator's work; if not, it can sometimes replace his effort and save him time. Some of these smart AIs include Google Translate, Microsoft, UDictionary, and many more. Recently not so far, a revolution has come to exist, it is AI new invention like Chat GPT, these chats can provide you with almost everything you ask references links to certain to whatever you ask them for and even to teach you what to do at certain levels. These AI chats can teach, provide, and translate when asked. Many people have relied on this chat for this purpose, but it has some problems that we cannot entirely depend on. Many people have relied on this chat for this purpose, but it has some problems that we cannot entirely depend on. These AIs use literal translations, either word-for-word or unrelated to the topic, especially with video content on social platforms. The following chapter will reveal the weaknesses of ChatGPT by discussing these issues.

Audiovisual Translation

Although there are other terms that are used to characterize this discipline, AVT is the one that is most frequently used in academic circles. Other words, such as screen translation, multimedia and cinema translation, and cinema translation, have also been used.

The challenges of translating movies and other audiovisual materials are different. When working on AVT, you are not just translating dialogue; you are a part of a complicated process that entails taking into account the text as well as the accompanying visuals and audio in order to create a meaningful and cohesive



version. The responsibility is yours to ensure that the written words, visuals, and audio components all work together to convey the intended message.

(S. Agnieszka & J. Anna, 2025, P:4)

Machine Translation means

By using componential techniques to automatically translate text between languages, machine translation (MT) transforms linguistics communication. From early ruled-based system to contemporary neural networks, this game-changing technology is essential for bridging languages divides and promoting interconnectedness worldwide.

Subtitling Translation

Subtitle translation can not only facilitate English learners to learn English and promote cultural exchanges non-native, but also can provide English speakers with opportunities to watch foreign movies. Thus, subtitle translation is of numerous importance.

Human Translation vs Chat GPT's Translation of an Iraqi Colloquial accent

AI emerged as a result of studies aimed at enabling machines to perform these abilities, which are defined as intelligence in humans. AI seeks to replicate the cognitive abilities of human brain including problem-solving, decision-making, prediction, and inference.

Human Translation vs Chat GPT translation on an Iraqi Series.

Translating a text into a foreign tongue necessitates significant responsibility and effort from the translator to accurately transmit the meaning to the readers of a different nation. The translator must take utmost caution when translating terms lacking an exact equivalent in the target language.

Machine translation involves the use of computer algorithms powered by artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to automatically translate texts from one language to another.



The study will have Copilot Chat as an example to show the difference in translation between machine and a human one, which it has already been subtitled and published three years from now.

The name of the series is the Lost Wishes. What is going to be translated is the colloquial accent of the Iraqi actors. To examine whether it proves that Copilot or other ChatGPTs can translate.

As a native Arabic speaker and experienced interpreter, I will compare the two translations and will determine the proper one.

I will display a few sentences from episode 7, and then I will demonstrate both translations to discuss.

Arabic Phrases	Human Translation	Copilot Translation
شفت عيني	Have you seen my sweetie	I saw my eye
كُرة عين امك	You're your mother's proud	Eyeball – your mother
مازن عقد	Mazin married officially	Mazen is a necklace
هسه يطلع معدنه الحقيقي ويكتشفوا	His true intention will reveal and they'll find out	Now his true nature will appear and they'll discover it
هي ورقة عقد لا تاكل ولا تشرب	It's a contract paper doesn't have an influence	It's just a contract paper it doesn't eat or drink
كلي هسه احنه بحال العمارة لو بحال هم اكبر منه	tell me , should we care about the building or care about the dilemma beggar than that?	Tell me now, are we in the situation of the building, or in the situation of something bigger than it?"
والمماطلة التجينة منا لو منا	What about any procrastination	"And the procrastination—did it come to us from here or from there?"
يعني لو بالمرضاة وريح الخواطر	but getting things by satisfaction and wining hearts	And the procrastination .. did it come to us from here or from there



احسن كثير من الكوة والعناد	a lot better than posing power and stubborn	Much better than stubbornness and obstinacy
معليك بجميل هذا الشيء ما يخصة	this thing is none of his business	Don't worry, this thing doesn't concern him

As we have seen above, there is a difference between the two translations. The human translator knows the meaning behind the phrase; we can even tell that he is a native speaker of the Iraqi accent.

While ChatGPT has translated it literally, this has resulted in a completely different meaning than what was intended. For example, (شفت عيني):

"شفت عيني" is a phrase in Arabic got translated to "I saw my eye" or "I saw my eyes" in English. However, in Iraqi or Gulf Arabic many dialects—it's often used idiomatically to mean:

- "I saw it with my own eyes"
- "I witnessed it myself"

In this way, the speaker emphasizes that they personally experienced or saw something firsthand.

The phrase "How delighted your mother is of you" conveys the meaning of the original phrase, expressing not just the mother's happiness but also her delightfulness.

"How delighted your mother of you" this translation carries the meaning of the phrase not only expresses how the mother is being happy as an expression.

The term "how delighted" translates to (كُرة عين), while "your mother" means (أمك); the remaining part "of you" refers to the manner of addressing the person, indicating whom you are speaking to. As for the machine translation of (Eyeball – to your mother), is extremely literal word-for-word, and is not advised. Copilot clarified, stating:

"كُرة عين أمك" in Arabic literally translates to "the apple of your mother's eye" in English.



Let us break it down:

- **كُرّة عين**: literally means "eyeball" or "apple of the eye" — a term of deep affection.
- **أمك**: means “Your mother”

The full phrase is a poetic or affectionate way of describing someone as being very precious or loved by their mother. It's frequently used to describe someone who is cherished or deeply loved.

The third expression (**مازن عقد**) has been well translated by the translator, while the machine is not even close; in fact, it has written a completely different meaning.”

"مازن عقد" is a bit ambiguous in Arabic without context, but an interpretation is possible:

- **مازن**: is male name, commonly used in Arabic-speaking countries.
- **عقد**: This word can mean depending on context a "necklace" or "contract/agreement", it can also refer to a "decade" (ten years) some usages.

So, "مازن عقد" could mean:

- "Mazen is a necklace" — possibly metaphorical or poetic.
- "Mazin signed a contract" —if used in a sentence like "مازن عقد الاتفاق".
- "Mazen decade" — if speaking of a period of time connected to Mazen.

Copilot added: would you mind sharing the entire statement or a little additional context? That would make the intended meaning more clear.

The chat above is asking for more details to deliver a more accurate translation; this clarifies for us that we need to understand better the topic of the work we are translating so it might improve the given translation.

I have personally chosen incorporate additional description to explain what (**عقد**) means according to the story of the series to have the AI understand what is meant to be said.



(مازن عقد الزواج) The phrase that has the potential to make Copilot understand and translate better.

The result was:

"مازن عقد الزواج" translates to:

"Mazen signed the marriage contract" or "Mazen officiated the marriage contract" — depending on context.

- مازن: A male name.
- عقد: Verb meaning "to sign" or "to officiate".
- عقد الزواج: "Marriage contract"

In many Arab cultures, signing the marriage agreement announces someone's official marriage. During weddings or engagements, it's common to share a celebratory statement.

With a bit of enhancement, an accurate translation was delivered by Copilot.

Machine translation is quite challenging when it comes to the fourth sentence I subject to examination. The human one had (معدنة الحقيقي) as (his intention). The translation was brilliantly done by comprehending the meaning of the words from the series' story. Even though AI translated the text accurately, it does not satisfy the criteria of a series work and does not effectively communicate the content of the story.

The phrase "هسه يطلع معدنه الحقيقي ويكتشفوا" translates from Iraqi Arabic to:

"Now his true character will show, and they'll find out."

Explanation:

هسه: now

يطلع معدنه الحقيقي: his true character or nature will come out (literally: his true metal will appear)

ويكتشفوا: and they will discover (it)

When someone is about to be tested or exposed, it's frequently used to reveal their true identity -- whether it's good or bad



Fifthly, the word (لا تاكل ولا تشرب) has been translated literally as it is written (it doesn't eat or drink), which is not related to what is being said in the series. However, the human translator accurately translated the word.)

"هي مجرد ورقة عقد لا تاكل ولا تشرب" translates to:

"It's just a contract paper—it doesn't eat or drink."

The contract is considered a formality or symbolic because it lacks any life, emotion, or real power on its own, according to this colloquial way of saying it. It's often used to downplay the importance of a signed document, especially in emotional or personal contexts like marriage, divorce, or business deals.

This feature indicates that the AI translates sentences as literally as possible, resulting in word-for-word translations; however, it generally struggles to understand the Iraqi colloquial accent.

Sixth expression (كلي هسه احنه بحال العِمارة لو بحال هم اكبر منه):

"Tell me, are we in the situation of the building or in the situation of something bigger?"

Nuanced a bit:

"كلي" means: "tell me."

"هسه" is colloquial for: "now."

"احنه" means: "we."

"بحال العِمارة" literally means "situation of the building / in the state."

"لو بحال هم اكبر منه" means: "situation of something even bigger than it/ in the state of."

Copilot added: It seems like a casual or conversational statement that might be used to compare two scenarios, one involving a building and the other involving something bigger.



The human translation was more accurate in terms of meaning, as he had (هسه) (احنه بحال) "do we care about..", which is precisely mean caring about a certain matter not currently in a condition of, so another fail attempt of the AI.

Seventh one: (والمماطلة التجينة منا لو منا) the AI had (المماطلة) correctly translated, while (التجينة منا لو منا) had it literally as it is. As for the human did not translate the phrase of (التجينة منا لو منا).

“And the procrastination .. did it come to us from here or from there?”

Wording Breakdown:

"والمماطلة" = "and the procrastination"

"التجينه" (colloquial) = "reached us" / "came to us"

"منا لو منا" = "from here or from there"

Copilot Added: It's a slang term from Iraqi Arabic that's frequently used in casual conversation to inquire about the cause of stalling or delays.

Eighth Phrase is (يعني لو بالمرضاة وريح الخواطر احسن كثير من الكوة والعناد).

I could say that the AI was successful; by translating the eighth phrase, Copilot had the Arabic phrase translated accurately and closely enough.

"I mean, only if its about appeasement and pleasing feelings."

Breaking it down:

"بس يعني" = "just / I mean, only "

"لو بالمرضاة" = " appeasement / if it's about reconciliation "

"وربح الخواطر" = " pleasing feelings / and winning hearts "

This term is used informally in Iraqi Arabic. It may be expressed as follows in more conversational English:

"I mean, only if it's about keeping the peace and making people feel good."

Nineth phrase:

"Much better than stubbornness and obstinacy."

"احسن كثير" = much better



"من" = "than"

"الكوة" = "obstinacy / stubbornness"

"العناد" = "insistence / obstinacy"

So, in more fluid conversational English, it might be:

"It's way better than being stubborn and obstinate."

As we have noticed already, AI has suggested a day-to-day conversation-style translation.

The human translator was not bad, but the AI was close to describing how the feelings are going to be triggered. Both the human translator and the AI accurately conveyed the intended meaning.

Th last phrase would be: (معليك بجميل هذا الشيء ما يخصة).

"Don't worry, this thing doesn't concern him."

"معليك بجميل" = (literally: "no favor upon you") "don't bother yourself /

Don't worry"

"عذا الشيء" = "this thing"

"مايخصة" = "has nothing to do with him / doesn't concern him"

A simpler conversational way might be: **"It's fine, this has nothing to do with him."**

Again, the human translator has had the meaning well conveyed, while the Machine has stumbled in doing so.

The word (بجميل) was incorrectly translated by AI; it couldn't recognize the Arabic name.

The name consisted of two parts: a preposition (ب) and an Arabic name (جميل).

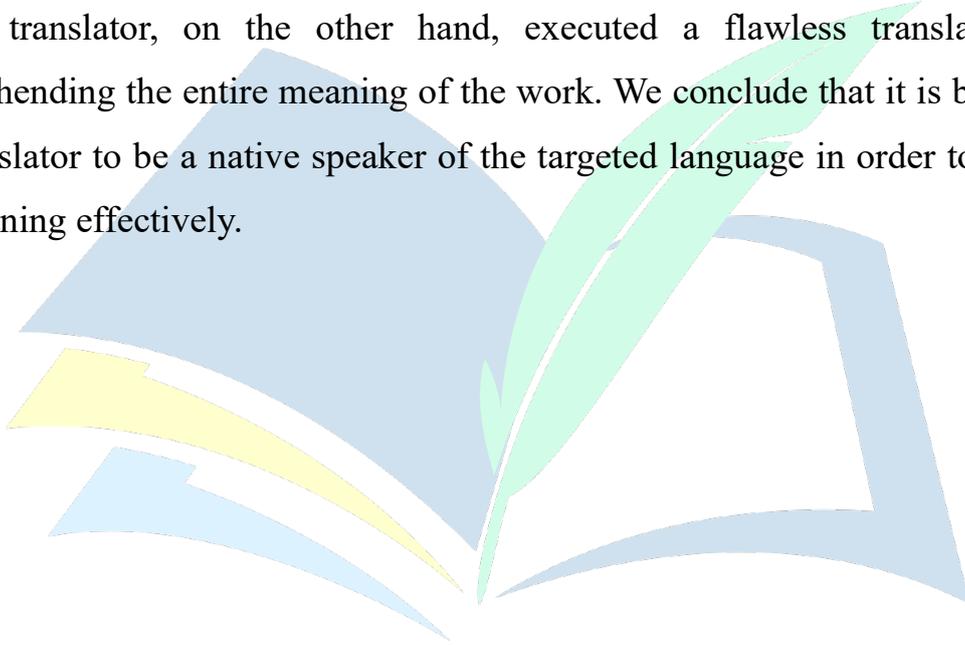
The human was able to recognize it, while the machine was not; on the contrary, it has totally got it as repaying a favor for something, and it was way off the meaning.

Therefore, it is risky to depend blindly on the AI to translate a colloquial work.



Conclusion

A long time ago humans were using translation to translate books and to address other people. Later on, tools were created, and now applications are starting to be employed to enhance translation. As we've discussed, Copilot was not able to give a professional English translation; sometimes it's the wrong one and sometimes. It needs more details to understand and improve its translations, but ultimately this chat completely failed to provide accurate or relevant sentences. Therefore, it would be a waste of time for the translator to rely on. The human translator, on the other hand, executed a flawless translation by comprehending the entire meaning of the work. We conclude that it is better for the translator to be a native speaker of the targeted language in order to deliver the meaning effectively.





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