The Causes Behind the Necessity of Human Translation

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Abstract:

This article highlights clearly how human translation surpasses machine translation through the examples given in the article, accompanied by elaborations, and it proves that the mind of a human translator is far better than all computational software. In other words, human translators are indispensable. It is demonstrated by examining and translating the provided sentences that, when done by professionals, human translations are more accurate than machine translations. Therefore, it aims to avoid machine translation as much as possible. You must use human translation as humans can interpret context and convey the same meaning as the source text. Human translation never translates word-for-word. It ensures translation with finer nuances. Hence, it would help if you used human translation for appropriate conveyance of the source's information.

Key words: Machine Translation, Human Translation, Source Language and Target Language.

الملخص

تسلط هذه المقالة الضوء بوضوح على كيفية تفوق الترجمة البشرية للترجمة الآلية من خلال الأمثلة الواردة في المقالة، مصحوبة بالتفصيل، وتثبت أن عقل المترجم البشري أفضل بكثير من جميع البرامج الحسابية. بعبارة أخرى، لا غنى عن المترجمين البشريين. يتضح من خلال فحص وترجمة الجمل المقدمة أن الترجمات البشرية، عندما يقوم بها المحترفون، تكون أكثر دقة من الترجمات الآلية. يجب أن تستخدم الترجمة البشرية حيث يمكن للبشر تفسير السياق ونقل نفس المعنى مثل النص الأصلي المصدر. الترجمة البشرية لا تترجم كلمة بكلمة. يضمن الترجمة بفروق دقيقة. لذلك، يجب عليك استخدام الترجمة البشرية لنقل المعلومات الأصلية بشكل مناسب.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الترجمة الآلية، الترجمة البشرية، اللغة المصدر، اللغة الهدف.

Introduction

Catford (1965: 120) views translation as a replacement of each textual element in the source language by an equivalent textual element in the target language [1]. Translation has become a very important necessity in our day-to-day interactions and is an essential communication tool between businesses, companies, customers, and countries. This research will clarify how the human translation outperforms the machine translation by providing empirical instances.

Historically, a translation would go through an agency or other trained translator, but in the past few years, machine translation tools have gained more traction as technology evolves. There is a time and a place for each type of translation, and understanding the benefits and limitations of each will help you determine your own specific translation and localization needs.

Standard machine translation

Standard MT engines, like Google Translate, work on Statistical MT, which essentially gathers data over time to statistically offer the best translation in a target language. There are distinct advantages and disadvantages to working with MT.

On the plus side, it is a free service (or minimal cost if used through an API). Services like Google Translate are conveniently available online, and translations are instantaneous and ready to use immediately. Machine translators offer a wide variety of languages, and the service is simple to use.

However, the disadvantages include the limitations that come along with the service and the fact that the output is not a comprehensive translation. Not every type of text can be translated by standard MT, and the result will not produce a natural, fluently readable translation. Standard MT spits out mechanical and direct translations of words without accounting for flow or context [2].

So, when would you want to use standard MT? Because a language can be automatically detected, and you don't need to spend time figuring out its native tongue, standard MT can come in handy when the goal is to simply understand the gist of a piece of content. You can easily translate your message into a different language, which is useful for quick and informal communication. Standard MT is appropriate for unofficial purposes, but due to the margin of error and lack of contextual translation, we recommend it be avoided for official use [3].

Human translation

Human translation involves a trained professional translating content, whether that is in person or not. Human translators are often native speakers of the target language and are also trained in the subject matter in which they are translating.

The advantages of human translation typically outweigh the disadvantages, especially in professional settings. When corresponding on an official level, human translation professionals are recommended since context is an extremely important aspect of communication and understanding. Translating web content, marketing copy, etc. doesn't boil down to a simple word-for-word translation. To convey a brand's identity and the appropriate message, a human needs to interpret what is being said – beyond the actual words – and then find the right way to say it in the target language. Each language has its nuances, details, and cultural rules, and working with a trained human translator will also ensure consistency in messaging across all languages.

The only real disadvantage to using a human translator would be in instances that require understanding or communicating the gist of something in unofficial correspondence. In these cases, you probably wouldn't want to spend the money or time on human translation.

Most of the time, though, human translation is the way to go. Humans are essential to making sure a translation makes sense in terms of grammar, slang, and language subtleties, which allows the translation to carry the same tone and meaning as the original text [4].

Method and Material

Despite human efforts to improve machine translation, it continues to face numerous challenges on a variety of levels. For example (Google Translate App) user encounters errors in translation once he/she relies on it. Therefore, some examples are given to reveal the disparity between machine translation and human translation to highlight the fact that human translation performs better than machine translation in every instance that is examined when translated into the target text:

Ali and Ahmed went to the university. They will be back in the afternoon

Machine Translation	سيعودون بعد الظهر
Human Translation	سيعودان بعد الظهر

The aforementioned example shows how the number and the verb are not harmonized in English. In other words, the equivalent of the English plural pronoun "they" is dual in Arabic (يعودان) Such a shift in number may be called an intra-system shift. Machines cannot recognize these differences between languages. Consequently, there was no modification made to this feature in the target language.

let the cat out of the bag

Machine Translation	دع القطة تخرج من الحقيبة
Human Translation	يفشي بالسر من غير قصد

It rains cats and dogs

Machine Translation	إنها تمطر قطط وكلاب
Human Translation	إنها تمطر بغزارة

The aforementioned instances highlight how machine translation fails to convey idioms' real meaning in the target language by translating them only literally.

They have been sitting here for two hours

Machine Translation	لقد كانوا يجلسون هنا لمدة ساعتين
Human Translation	مازالوا / لا يزالوا يجلسون هنا منذ ساعتين

The above-mentioned example's aspect is (Present Perfect Continuous), hence machine translation was unable to accurately translate that grammatical aspect into the target language. The present perfect continuous in English is used to indicate the duration often activity that began in the past and continues to the present or a general activity in progress recently. In Arabic the meaning of the present perfect continuous is expressed by using (مازال) plus the simple present form of the verb.

Conclusion

The examples provided in the article along with their elaborations demonstrate how:
1. Human translation outperforms machine translation.
2. Human translator's thinking is far superior to any computational software. Stated differently, human translators are essential.

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