

Comparing The Literal and Semantic Meanings: Analyzing Iqbal's 'Ahl E Hunar Sy' Using Humanized & AI Resources

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Abstract

The soul of literature is poetry. In the discipline of translation studies, which is a very ancient field known to humans, translating poetry is the most difficult process in all types of translation. The current research is held to see, that on what extent AI is reliable as a translating tool in comparison to human translation in term of Literary text. It includes the most common AI tool used by students which is ChatGPT-4 and traditional translating tool (Google Translator). The aim of this paper is to identify the efficiency of AI in the field of translation studies i.e. especially in poetry; by using one of the poems of Allama Iqbal i.e. Ahl-e-Hunar SY. The poem undergoes into firstly self-translation and secondly into machine (AI) translation and it was examined that there are very minor differences between the literal and semantic meanings of source text and the targeted text. After a critical examination of translations, it is revealed that the AI actually surpasses the humanized translation in term of literary text.

Keywords: Metaphorical Expressions, AI, Literal, Semantic

Introduction

Poetry is a creative art and the poem reflects the innermost feelings of its author. However, no poetry is either purely subjective or objective as its subject matter consists of what the poet feels about the object and the events around him. It is quite natural that the true feelings and the impressions, which they take from external environment or the society itself, must be expressed in its poetry. The language of poetry is quite different from the language we use commonly that's why the translation of poetry is most difficult in any kind of translation.

One of the most important Genre in literature is *poetry*. The value of poetry can never be dismissed. In East, whenever the term poetry occurs, the name of Allama Muhammad Iqbal is hard to relinquish. One of the greatest poets and philosophers of all the time, many people in East are aware of poetry because of Iqbal. The poetry of Iqbal contains deep semantic meanings that are difficult to be understood by everyone. In order to understand the poetry of Iqbal in true sense, one should have a true understanding of the concepts of Islamic culture and the other religions as well. He was a Sufi poet that wrote poetry as a way of guidance for the people living in internal darkness. For translation, mostly the knowledge of the source and target languages is crucial; but in translation of Iqbal's poetry, the understanding of the cultural background is also very compulsory.

Iqbal wrote his poetry in two languages, *Urdu* and *Persian*. English language is completely different from these languages in its cultural background, etymology and language family. Therefore, English translation of Iqbal is not without inadequacies. Translating Iqbal's poetry from Urdu/Persian to English poses significant challenges. The languages' horizontal differences create obstacles, while poetic constraints, such as maintaining rhyme and rhythm, limit the translator's creative freedom. Furthermore, Iqbal's work is deeply rooted in Islamic, Asian, and contemporary culture, making it difficult to replicate in English. Additionally, his poetry is characterized by complex vocabulary, including synonyms, cultural symbols, and idiomatic expressions, which are hard to translate accurately. Moreover, Iqbal's thoughts are deeply philosophical, drawing from various fields, which adds another layer of complexity to the translation process. Overall, these factors make it challenging to convey the original meaning and essence of Iqbal's poetry in English.

The present era is known as the era of electronics and AI. Lately the world has been totally dependent on AI. The work of AI in field of translation is also widely used and many translated works are machine based. This research paper examines the differences between AI and humanized translation processes. The thing that makes it unique is the evaluation of translation of literary text. AI is taking place of humans in all the fields, that are used to require human intellect, thought, and intelligence.

Literature Review

The results indicate that the methods for assessing machine translation (MT) outputs with human raters need to be re-examined. The authors propose recommendations, backed by empirical data, to improve the evaluation of human-machine parity and enhance overall MT assessment. While these suggestions aim to increase the validity of evaluations, they acknowledge the high costs involved, particularly when using professional translators for full documents. They encourage further research into more cost-effective evaluation protocols that still demonstrate validity.

Machine translation quality has improved significantly, sometimes matching professional human translation in studies. However, upon reviewing a 2018 study by Hassan et al. on translating Chinese to English news, we found that the perceived similarity was due to flaws in the evaluation methods used. Our analysis shows that professional translations had fewer errors, and how people judge quality can depend on who the raters are, the context provided, and the reference translations used. We recommend rethinking current evaluation practices for machine translation to better assess its quality and how it compares to human translation, based on our findings. (Läubli et al., 2020)

This study introduces a deep-learning translation system called CUBBITT, which shows that computer translations can match or even exceed human translations in meaning accuracy, more fluent, CUBBITT is much better than older systems. Many participants in a test found it hard to tell CUBBITT's translations from human ones. This suggests that deep learning might replace human translators in situations where keeping the original meaning is most important (Popel et al., 2020).

Recent studies show that ChatGPT excels in translating Chinese classical poetry compared to Google Translate and DeepL. In a comparison based on fidelity, fluency, language style, and translation style, ChatGPT performed better in all areas. When given specific prompts to maintain rhythm and rhyme, it effectively preserved the beauty of the original poems. The research highlights ChatGPT's ability to understand common symbols and imagery, making translations more coherent and fluent. This suggests new opportunities for using ChatGPT in translating ancient literary texts into other languages. (Gao, Lin, Zhao, & Cai, 2024).

The research explores the challenges of translating Iqbal's poetry, focusing on its philosophical and religious aspects. An analysis of verses shows that previous translations struggle to capture the original meanings and themes. The study highlights the difficulty of translating poetry accurately due to its complex language and form. As a result, it suggests that achieving the same impact as the original text is

nearly impossible, underscoring the limitations of translators in conveying Iqbal's ideas.(Mehmood & Ayaz, 2023).

Translating poetry is a difficult task that requires a deep understanding of both languages, cultural nuances, and poetic techniques. A translator who is also a poet, like Sir Muhammad Iqbal, may produce translations that are even better than the original poems.(Fasiullah, 2019)

This article examines how translators choose words and structure sentences in three English versions of Iqbal's poems "Shikwa" and "Jawab-e-Shikwa." It looks at how these translations compare to the original text. Using a specific analysis method, the researchers found that translators used different techniques, leading to various translation results, though some similarities exist as well. The study concludes that achieving a perfect line-by-line translation is difficult due to differences in language and culture. The translator's understanding of poetry is crucial in this process. It also notes that some meaning or beauty may be lost or gained during translation, as translators often have to choose between keeping the original meaning or the poetic quality. Finally, the article suggests that translators should aim for a balance between conveying content and preserving form.(Mehmood & Umar, 2019)

The critique of various translations shows that translators use different methods when adapting texts. For self-translation, complex themes are often simplified for better understanding. In translating the "Rubaiyat," some translators chose to translate only selected verses, while others used prose without rhythm or rhyme. Some maintained poetic elements, while others opted for free verse. In translating ghazals, some successfully preserved both meaning and rhythm. A few translators mixed prose and poetry. Overall, translating poetry verse by verse is challenging, and the quality of the translation largely depends on the translator's skill and knowledge of both languages.(Mehmood, 2022)

The study discusses the challenges of translating poetry between languages like English and Urdu, focusing on the skills required to maintain both form and meaning. Successful translation must preserve the poem's structure, rhythm, and emotional tone, but this can be difficult due to differences in vocabulary and syntax.

It highlights that while some translators prioritize form, leading to potential loss of meaning, others focus more on conveying content. The relationships between words in Urdu poetry add complexity, as they often connect in both sound and meaning. Three different translations of the same Urdu poem demonstrate how translators choose different structures and strategies, affecting line length and rhythm. Despite these differences, the core emotional message and themes remain consistent across translations, showing that even with varied approaches, the essence of the poem is preserved.(Mehmood & Umar, 2021)

The analysis looked at both the text itself and its context. At the text level, it examined aspects like style, rhyme, tone, and content. The translation is a non-systematic rhymed ode with varying stanza lengths, incorporating common structures from the original text, like certain verb tenses and clauses. The rhythm in the translated text makes it sound more literary and beautiful, although some rhymes feel forced. The translator also created effective alliterations, though they differ from the original. Lastly, the images and symbols from the original were mostly translated directly into English, with few exceptions. The article discusses how key symbolic concepts like "blood" and "red," representing innocence and valor versus tyranny and false pride, are effectively preserved in the translations of Iqbal's poetry. It notes that various figures of speech, such as metaphors and personification, are well maintained, though some stanzas have more complex vocabulary. The poem's tone, which is lyrical and serious, remains intact, conveying a deeper truth about the character of Imam Hosain as an enduring figure in Muslim culture. While the translation is author-focused, it lacks complete coherence at times. The researchers suggest that cultural concepts should be translated literally with additional explanations to enhance understanding. Ultimately, they emphasize that elements like rhyme, imagery, and emotional resonance contribute to the impact of the translation, while the reader's background influences their interpretation. The study proposes tentative

models for analyzing and assessing poetic translations, which can be refined with new insights. (Dastjerdi, Hakimshafaai, & Jannesaari, 2008)

The analysis of the source texts (STs) and target texts (TTs) shows a mix of similarities and differences in both poetic and linguistic aspects. Translators focus on capturing the overall meaning rather than just matching words, which helps convey the essence of the original Urdu poems. Although they generally preserve the structure, differences in line lengths and sentence styles highlight the difficulties of translating between Urdu and English. While the ideas are closely aligned, the original texts are more culturally specific, whereas the translations aim for a broader appeal. Some textual features, like opposites and connecting words, show only partial equivalence, which impacts the flow and clarity of the translations. Translators keep the poetic imagery but adapt cultural references to make them more relatable for English readers. Overall, the analysis shows how translators balance staying true to the original work with making necessary changes to reach a wider audience. (Ajmal & Warda Khan, 2024)

The study looks at how people respond to poetry created by the GPT-2 algorithm. Here are the main findings: 1. People generally dislike poetry written by machines, but knowing it's from an algorithm doesn't make them dislike it more. 2. Participants struggled to identify which poems were written by the algorithm, even when they were motivated to find out. 3. While people felt overconfident in their ability to spot machine-written poetry in an unmotivated setting, this overconfidence disappeared when they were incentivized to be accurate. 4. When humans are involved in choosing poems, they show less dislike for algorithm-generated poetry and have a harder time identifying it, but when they aren't involved, they perform better than chance at detecting it. These insights highlight the complex relationship between humans and algorithm-generated content. (Köbis & Mossink, 2021)

Research Questions

- 1) Does AI translation tools, Google translator and ChatGPT used most commonly by students, represent an advancement over humanized translation of Iqbal's poem? If so, in what aspects?
- 2) On what basis, does AI interpret the logic and meaning of language, especially in the field of translating poetry?
- 3) How well does AI interpret the intended message, mood, or tone, particularly when cultural or philosophical nuances are involved?

Research Objectives

The study includes the following aims.

- 1) To identify the compatibility of human and artificial intelligence translations with respect to Iqbal's poem
- 2) To evaluate the quality of AI translations of poetry
- 3) Semantic Approach of AI

Methodology

Based on the type of translation strategies discussed by (Saridaki, 2021), among the two types free and oblique translation, the current research follows the oblique translation procedure and the poem of Iqbal "AHL E HUNAR SY" is translated to English. The poem first translated by human translator than by AI translation tools and the clear differences were noticed. The poem of Iqbal carries deep semantic meanings which are hard to translate and understand by an ordinary person, a person having complete idea of cultural background can only understand the deep meanings of Iqbal's poems. In the era of AI where everything depends on machines, machine translation becomes a very popular need of the time and many people rely on it.

We compare humanized translation of poem with two famous and commonly used translation products: ChatGPT and Google Translator. Google Translate is an online tool that can translate text into over 130 languages. It's a popular service that helps people communicate across language barriers. ChatGPT is an AI chatbot developed by OpenAI, designed to have natural-sounding conversations. It's capable of understanding context and responding in a way that's coherent and engaging. We're using a specific version of this technology, GPT-4, to handle translations in our research.

Deep Analysis of Poem By Human Translation

To the Artists

”اہل بنرسے“

NO 1.

مہر و مہ و مشتری، چند نفس کا سرورغ
عشق سے ہے پائدار تیری خودی کا وجود

Mehr-o-Mah-o-Mushtari, Chand Nafs Ka Farogh
Ishq Se Hai Paidar Teri Khudi Ka Wujood

Translation:

Sun, moon and Jupiter have temporary time

Love is the only way of your permanent self-existence

Actual meaning:

In this poem, the poet has introduced formal and self-styled artists and has told the difference between them. In this verse, he says that the sun, moon, and Jupiter appear for a few breaths or moments, that is, they appear here and hide there, but! He who claims to be an Ahl-Fun-, your being is not temporary, unless you strengthen it through self-realization and through love.

NO 2.

تیرے حرم کا ضمیر اسود و احمر سے پاک
تنگے تیرے لیے سُرخ و سپید و کبوتر

Tere Haram Ka Zameer Aswad-o-Ahmar Se Paak
Tang Hai Tere Liye Surkh-o-Spaid-o-Kubood

Translation:

Your Holy Place is free from any Racism or color
Ashamed of your differences in White, black, or blue!

Meaning:

Addressing the people of art in this poem, the poet says that the interior of your Kaaba heart is free from the distinction between black and red, and if you allow the distinction of red, white, blue and black in your art, then it is a shame for your claimant. Even if your self-existence has been sustained by your love and you understand the correctness of Islam correctly, then you will not create an art that distinguishes between color, race, country, etc.

NO 3

تیری خودی کا غیااب کہ ذکر و فکر
تیری خودی کا حضور عالم شعر و سرود

Teri Khudi Ka Ghayaab
Maarka-e-Zikr-o-Fikr
Teri Khudi Ka Huzoor Alam-e-Shair-o-Surood

Translation:

Spend your solitude in recitation and meditation, Your
self-emergence lies in your verse and songs!

Meaning:

Poet says that If you are really skilled in art and you have acquired it through love If I have strengthened myself, then when I am alone, I should be engaged in meditation and meditation. This is the appearance of your inner self and the appearance of your self will be seen in your poetry and your song, that is, art without self does not exist in the world of real art.

NO 4

رُوحِ اَکْرَبِ تَرَمِ رَنْجِ غَلَامِ سَے زَار
تیرے شُرکِ کَا جہاں دَیرو طَوافِ و سَجود

Rooh Agar Hai Teri Ranj-e-
Ghulami Se Zaar
Tere Hunar Ka Jahan Dair-o-Tawaf-o-Sujood

Translation:

If your soul is depressed because of slavery,
Your world lies in idol-temple, circumambulate and prostration

Meaning:

In these lines the poet says that, O claimant of art, if your soul is alienated from itself and has become weak due to slavery, then the world of your art will be limited to the temple and its turning and prostrating before it, that is, you will create such art that these, It will be devoid of the attributes that have been mentioned in the above verses, and your art will be a representative of falsehood instead of truth.

NO 5.

اور اکر بآخب بر اپنی شرافت سے ہو
تیری سپہ انس و جن، تو ہے امیر و حنبوز

Aur Agar Bakhabar Apni Sharafat Se Ho
Teri Sipah Ins-o-Jinn, Tu Hai Ameer-e-Junood!

Translation:

And if you are aware of your greatness Horde
of men and Jinn obey you!

Meaning:

In the final verse of the poem, poet says that, O claimant of art, if as a human being I have the correct knowledge of my honor and dignity, then the jinn and humans will be subject to you in the same way that the commanders of an army are their knowledge bearers.

The poem conveys a profound message about the true essence of art and the qualities of genuine artists. According to the Iqbal, authentic art emanates from within, stemming from self-realization and a deep understanding of love. This inner awareness enables artists to transcend superficial distinctions of color, race, and nationality, creating works that promote unity and inclusivity.

Translation by AI tools:**By CHATGPT:**

Ahl e Hunar Se (Skilled People)

The sun, moon, and Jupiter are but brief illuminations,

It is through love that the existence of yourself endures.

The essence of your sanctuary is free from black and red,

It is a shame for you to be limited by distinctions of color.

The absence of your self is a battleground of thought and remembrance, The

presence of your self is the universe of poetry and song.

If your soul is distressed by the suffering of enslavement, the world of your skill is confined to rituals and prostration.

But if you are aware of your own nobility and honor, your army is made of humans and jinn; you are the leader of forces.

Translation By Google Translator

The moon, the moon, and Jupiter are the growth of a few souls Your

existence is sustained by love

Your sanctified conscience is free from black and red!

Red, white, and blue are your colors

Your absence is a battle of remembrance and thought

Your presence is the world of poetry and song

If your soul is free from slavery, your range is a place of demur, circumambulation, and prostration

And if you are aware of your nobility, you are the commander of the army!

Rating Scale for different aspects of Translation:

	ChatGPT	Google Translate
1.Fidelity (The degree of exactness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Good fidelity ➤ Good ➤ Low ➤ Good ➤ Good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low fidelity ➤ Low fidelity > no accuracy ➤ Low ➤ Moderate ➤ Good
2.Fluency (The quality of being fluent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Good ➤ Good ➤ Excellent ➤ Good > 95 ➤ Moderate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Good ➤ Moderate ➤ Good ➤ Good ➤ Good
3.Language style (A unique way of using language)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Change in use of vocabulary/ Complex vocabulary ➤ Complex vocabulary ➤ Machine translation style high ➤ No machine translation style only changes of vocabulary ➤ Explained form of lines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Direct translation ➤ Not picking semantic meaning ➤ Direct translation ➤ Machine translation style ➤ Direct translation

Results

In this research paper, we held a comparison among humanized and ChatGPT-4, Google Translator in above mentioned criteria. Since Google Translator cannot be provided with instructions as detail as ChatGPT-4. We only compare the translation performance of these two systems. Difference in performance among the machine translation systems were examined.

As mentioned above the table, ChatGPT-4 attained a superior fidelity score relative to Google Translator in English translation of Urdu poetry. Further in-text analysis reveals that ChatGPT's superior fidelity is due to its proficiency in interpreting and semantic understanding.

Iqbal's poem "Ahl e Huner SY" typically employs symbolic imagery, allusions, metaphors, and deep semantic meaning. Unlike Google translator, CHATGPT-4 consistently recognizes and accurately translate commonly used imagery in Iqbal's poem, whereas Google Translate often opt for literal translation.

So, the basis for interpreting logic and meaning of language, becomes the three major aspects that are

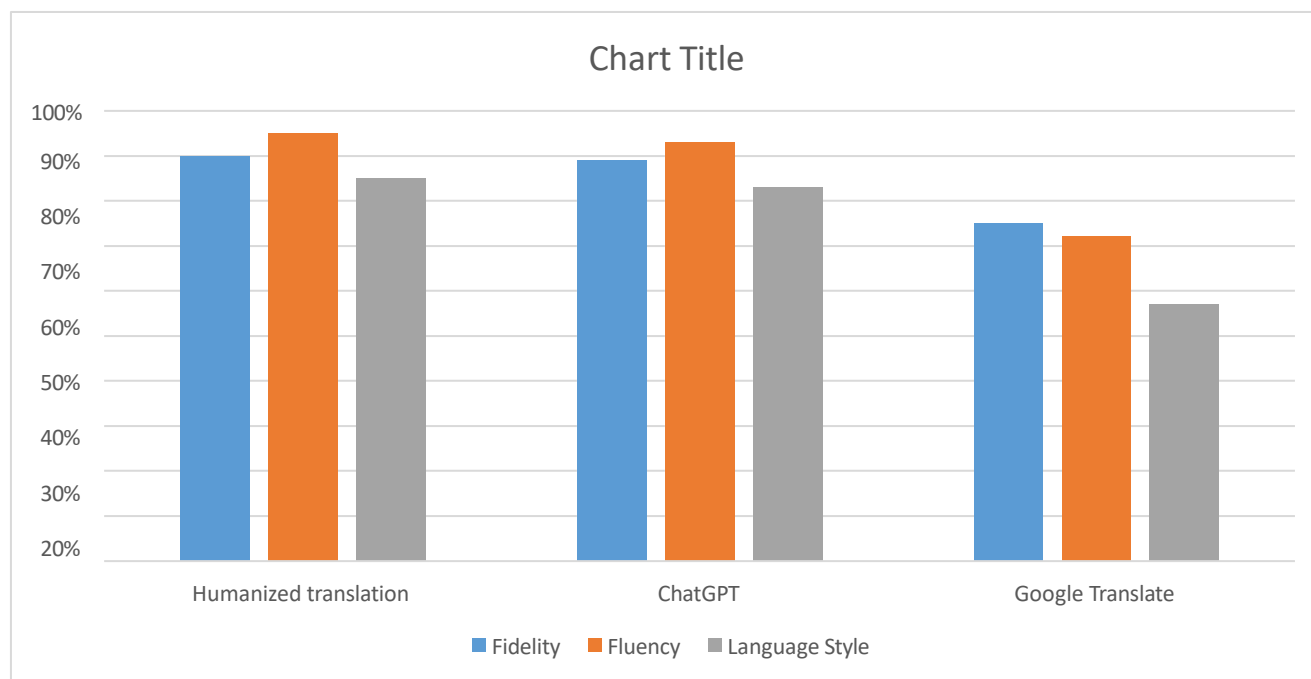
fidelity, fluency, and language style, which are also the main components of a good poetry work. As mentioned clearly in table 1, this research clearly shows the efficiency and accuracy of AI translation resources. And hence it was concluded that, in this electronic world AI is quite accurate in term of translating literary texts. ChatGPT's efficiency in term of understanding the semantic meaning of Urdu language is seen clearly which clarifies the dependence of growing world on ChatGPT-4. The pure Urdu language words like " Aswad-o- Ahmar" translate accurately as " Free from distinction " is quite fascinating.

And the other question highlights the reliability of AI resources over humanized translation. The advanced sources of AI performing a high-quality work. As mentioned in above paragraph the reliability of humans over AI is increasing day by day. Now we can say without any doubt that AI is more reliable than humans. Humans can perform errors but machine will work as many times as we give the prompt. And also give multiple aspects of one point.

On the other hand, the quality of google translate has modifies to a great level. As the research duration last longer and after 6 months, when the translation of google translate checked again it shows much variation then the first one. This point highlights the quality of google translate in the field of literary texts.

In the poem, the third stanza which is "Teri Khudi Ka Ghayaab Maarka-e-Zikr-o-Fikr" translates as "Spend your solitude in recitation and meditation". ChatGPT-4 translates this as " The absence of your self is a battleground of thought and remembrance" And Google translate as " Your absence is a battle of remembrance and thought" Marks a clear understanding of not just ChatGPT-4 but Google Translator as well.

Categorizing the techniques of Translation Tools:



Discussion

In this work, we have shown that among AI translating tools, the results of ChatGPT are almost equal to human translation. Humans have the ability to grasp the sense and meaning of text, both at the same time. It is surprisingly very interesting to know that ChatGPT is also able to grasp the real and intended meaning of text. The latest AI tool ChatGPT is advanced and modified translator tool as compare to traditional translating tool i.e. Google translator. ChatGPT considerably narrowed the gap in translation fluency to human, markedly outperforming Google Translator. The fact that the main advantage of ChatGPT is improved adequacy, which can be seen as an advancement of AI technology and make it more reliable as compared to other traditional resources.

The value of ChatGPT cannot be denied in this era of computers, where machines are working side by side with humans, and they are about to replace humans. However, the traditional tool of translation is unable to grasp the true concepts of the poem and more focused on word for word translation. Google translator is not as accurate and reliable as the latest ChatGPT as a translator. ChatGPT utilizes advanced language models that can comprehend context and nuances in language, allowing for more accurate translations of idiomatic expressions and cultural references. Google Translate often struggles with context, leading to literal translations that may ignore the intended meaning. With ongoing updates and training, ChatGPT improves over time, learning from user interactions and feedback to enhance its translation abilities.

To summarize, it can be said that the latest version of ChatGPT has outperformed the translations by human translator and the Google translator as well. Therefore, the reliability of students, and other people using ChatGPT for various purpose, is said to be permissible. The authenticity and quality of information driven by ChatGPT is up to the mark and well organized. Moreover, about 86% of the students or users have claimed that the ChatGPT is very helpful for their research and translation purposes.

Limitation

We used limited resources for the collection of data for this article and there is only one poem analysis therefore the results and factors may vary according to the writing style and semantic meanings or cultural backgrounds of the poet or author. Researchers can also use other genres, except that of poetry, for their research in translation or they can compare the results of two poems for better understanding.

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