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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LITERARY TRANSLATION: A BLESSING OR A THREAT

Everyone is aware of AI as a tool that yields high-speed outputs and is cost- and time-sufficient, but in contrast, it may miss the nuanced richness and depth of human language that literary works often convey. The European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL) also disputes the idea of AI as a tool for easier access to scholarly works. The association members have been observing the rapidly changing landscape of using generative AI in translation. In their statement, they claim that "AI usage standardises translations, impoverishing written cultures and languages in general through, among other things, priming bias (the tendency to be influenced by the first option given to us by the machine) and self-pollution (the machine learning from itself)"[4]. One more concern is that people seem fascinated by the outputs of AI in translation and are using it in falsifying texts and academic writings. The members of the European Writing Council called AI writer a "writoid", provided with typewriters would, in a few eternities, produce all the books in the British Museum"[4]. Translators should not be transformed into "writoids", who "are incredibly fast monkeys with the added ability to compose answers to the prompts that users give them with no intelligence but combinatory power, because "writoids" don't write but compile" [2].

AI translation models are trained on vast amounts of text data, prioritising frequently used words and phrases. As a result, stylistically and culturally marked words and phrases, rare or archaic words, regional dialects, or specialised vocabulary may only sometimes appear in training data. This leads AI to favour more standard, generic words and underrepresent the ones mentioned above. Consequently, this could lead them to gradually disappearance from translation use, diminishing language diversity.

Standard or conventional language patterns become more prevalent than the original linguistic inventiveness. For instance, in 2024, artificial intelligence expert Jeremy Nguyen shared on Twitter an observation: for some reason, the unremarkable word "delve" is used unexpectedly often in the texts generated by ChatGPT. So much so that Paul Graham (also on Twitter), co-founder of Y Combinator and a well-known IT evangelist, considers the presence of this word a sign that AI generates the text. The lexical item "delve" is a household word in the "general" Internet, but it is prevalent in its African segment, particularly in Nigeria. Africans created the dataset on which ChatGPT was trained [1]. It concludes that whatever language is in the dataset, that's what ChatGPT speaks. In addition to "delve", there are a few more AI parasite words that language models use too often: explore, captivate, tapestry, leverage, embrace, resonate, dynamic, testament, and elevate [3].

Additionally, less commonly used words, such as colloquial language that denote geographical surroundings, culture, everyday realities, and socio-historical specifics of a people, nation, country or tribe, often carry historical, regional, and cultural

significance. These unique linguistic choices convey the time and place of a story and give literary works their distinctive style and voice. If AI models replace these with modern or more universal terms, translations might lose essential layers of meaning that give the text depth and authenticity. As a result, the AI-translated texts may lose the author's style, causing a subtle but significant shift in how the text is perceived.

The third point to mention is that literary language often relies on units of creative potential, such as irony, metaphor, wordplay and puns, phrasal verbs, neologisms, creation of proper names, lexical variety (number of the adjectives before the noun and use of adverbs), unusual punctuation, rhyme and metrics, etc. AI may simplify these complexities due to limitations in understanding implied meanings or creative language use, which tends to change the emotional impact of literary texts on their addressees. AI translations may need more emotional precision and interpretive choices than a human translator brings, potentially diminishing the impact of the text on the reader.

Translating literature involves subjective choices about conveying aesthetic or ethical elements of the source text. AI-translated texts need a more personal perspective and may fail to make the interpretive decisions that human translators carefully consider. Literary translators translate texts within their cultural, social, and historical contexts for readers with unique backgrounds. Effective translation demands a deep understanding of these contexts and high creative writing skills. No machine can achieve this without substantial human involvement [2; 4]. While translating, humans may doubt, think over, and change their formal or informal perspectives and language use, but machines do not. AI systems offer just “functional” solutions, and people should have the right to create them.

ЛІТЕРАТУРА

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