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Beyond The Translator's Reason, AI Breaks Through The Translator's Vacuum Space

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Abstract: The emergence of AI is destroying the notoriously complicated translation empire.. AI's sensitivity to translation constraints makes it easier for a translator to complete their noble tasks. Artificial Intelligence as a technology product has proven to play a role in presenting more personal, interactive, and adaptive translation, so that it can be a solution to problems faced in the field of translation. The purpose of this study is to provide a broader view of AI used in the field of translation. In what aspects can AI help translators carry out their tasks, and how does the quality of translation produced by AI in translating controversial news texts about the Palestine and Israel war. The method used is a qualitative research method to answer all questions posed based on previous related research. The study concluded that AI very much escalates not only the effectiveness of translation time and cost, but also in terms of quality of accuracy and acceptability, it assists in analyzing language and provides constructive feedback to improve translation skills.

Keywords: *translation, AI, escalating points*

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Introduction

Translation, as a bridge of communication between cultures and nations, has been the backbone of human civilization for centuries. Traditionally, the translation process relied heavily on the skill and reasoning of human translators. They relied on a deep understanding of the two languages, cultural nuances, context, and linguistic intuition to transform meaning from one language to another. The concept of "The Translator's Reason" encapsulates this cognitive complexity: the ability to analyze, interpret, and reproduce text with high accuracy and fluency, while preserving the essence of the original message.

However, with the acceleration of globalization and the explosion of information in the digital age, the demands on translation have exceeded human capacity. The volume of data that must be translated continues to increase exponentially, from web content and business documents to real-time communications. In this context, "The Translator's Vacuum Space" has emerged, a gap or limitation that cannot be fully filled by the reason and capacity of human translators. This vacuum space encompasses several crucial aspects:

Human translators face limitations in terms of speed, volume, and consistency. Large-scale translation projects, such as translating an entire multinational company database or the rapid global localization of a digital platform, are nearly impossible for a team of human translators to handle without the aid of technology. Fatigue and potential terminology inconsistencies can also arise in long-term or repetitive projects, creating gaps in quality and efficiency.

Furthermore, in the digital age, communication is no longer limited to written text. Audio, video, and real-time interaction have become the dominant formats. Simultaneous speech translation at international conferences, providing subtitles or dubbing for films and series within hours of release, or instantly understanding cross-language conversations are highly demanding tasks and often exceed the capabilities of human translators without sophisticated tools. This "vacuum" refers to the inability of humans to process and reproduce multimodal information in real time with high accuracy.

Although human translators have access to dictionaries, glossaries, and translation memories, their ability to quickly process and analyze vast corpora of linguistic data (millions or billions of words) to find patterns and consistencies is severely limited. In the context of global companies, maintaining consistent terminology and style across multiple regions and projects is a significant challenge, often creating a "vacuum" in large-scale translation quality management.

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly through neural machine translation (NMT) technology and large language models (LLMs), has revolutionized the translation landscape. AI is now not only able to surpass "translator reasoning" in terms of speed and volume, but is also beginning to penetrate previously unreachable "vacuums." AI can process data at scale, produce increasingly natural and contextual translations, and adapt to multimodal formats and real-time needs. This marks a paradigm shift, where AI is no longer just a tool, but rather an entity that fundamentally changes the boundaries and potential of the translation field.

This research aims to explore in more depth how AI has and will continue to break through the existing "vacuum" in the world of translation, as well as its implications for the role of human translators and the future of global communication, especially in the translation of the controversial news text of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on October 7, 2023.

Translation research has undergone significant transformations with the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI). From simple tools to systems capable of producing increasingly human-like translations, AI has transformed the landscape of the translation profession and practice. This literature review will examine the evolving role of AI in assisting translators, explore aspects in which AI can facilitate translation tasks, and specifically discuss the quality of AI-generated translations of controversial news texts concerning the Palestine-Israel conflict.

1. Evolution and Role of AI in Translation

The history of machine translation (MT) has gone through several phases, from rule-based (RBMT) and statistical (SMT) systems to the dominance of Neural Machine Translation (NMT) and now Large Language Models (LLMs) (Hutchins & Somers, 1992; Bahdanau et al., 2014). NMT, in particular, has revolutionized translation quality with its ability to understand the context of sentences and even paragraphs, producing more natural and coherent output (Vaswani et al., 2017). This development allows AI to go beyond word-for-word translation tools to also attempt to capture context, grammar, and even idioms (Oracle Indonesia).

The role of AI in translation has evolved from simply providing rough drafts to intelligent assistants that can speed up the process, improve consistency, and expand language reach (MotionPoint). Many researchers and practitioners agree that AI is not intended to completely replace human translators, but rather to transform the translator's role into that of a post-editor or validator (Cao et al., 2023; 1-StopAsia, 2025). This shift frees translators from repetitive tasks and allows them to focus on more nuanced aspects, such as validation, cultural adaptation, and handling highly sensitive content.

2. Aspects of AI Assistance for Translators in Carrying Out Their Tasks

AI provides significant assistance to translators in various aspects of their tasks, which can be categorized as follows:

- a. **Increased Speed and Scale:** AI enables the translation of vast volumes of text in record time, far surpassing the capabilities of human translators. This is crucial for global markets demanding rapid localization of digital content, e-commerce, or corporate documents (Lokalise, 2025; MotionPoint).
- b. **Improved Consistency of Terminology and Style:** With the ability to access and process massive translation memories and glossaries, AI can ensure consistent terminology across translation projects, a significant challenge for human translators at scale (Opera, 2025; MotionPoint).
- c. **Better Understanding of Context:** NMT and LLMs have demonstrated improved ability to understand the context of sentences and even paragraphs, resulting in more coherent and natural translations compared to previous MT methods (Lokalise, 2025). This reduces the need for extensive post-editing for basic errors.
- d. **Multimodal Support:** AI can now help translate not only text, but also speech (via speech-to-text and text-to-speech), as well as translate content in images or videos through OCR and automatic subtitling (ClickUp, 2024; Murf). This opens up new opportunities for multimedia content translation.
- e. **Cost Efficiency:** The use of AI in translation can significantly reduce the cost of translation services, making them more accessible to a wide range of users and businesses (Murf).
- f. **Access to Low-Resource Languages:** While challenges remain, AI can help bridge the gap in languages with limited data resources, which are often underserved by human translators due to scarcity or cost (ClickUp, 2024; 1-StopAsia, 2025).

3. AI Translation Quality of Controversial News Texts: The Case of the Palestine-Israel Conflict

While AI has shown remarkable progress in various text types, the quality of its translation of controversial or politically sensitive news texts, such as reports on the Palestine-Israel conflict, is an area that requires special attention and in-depth research. Such texts often involve:

- a. **High Emotional Content:** Controversial news is fraught with emotions, sentiments, and nuances that are difficult for AI to capture (1-StopAsia, 2025). AI tends to translate literally, which can diminish the emotional impact or even misinterpret the sentiment (Amara Blog, 2025).
- b. **Cultural and Idiomatic Nuances:** The Palestine-Israel conflict has a highly complex historical, cultural, and political context. The use of certain idioms, metaphors, or cultural references

can be a pitfall for AI, which may translate them too literally, losing their meaning or rendering them inappropriate (Amara Blog, 2025).

- c. Sensitive and Biased Terminology: News about this conflict often uses highly sensitive and biased terminology, depending on the perspective of the source. Words like "terrorist," "freedom fighter," "occupation," "settlement," etc., have strong and different connotations on each side. Studies have shown that AI, trained on potentially biased data, can produce biased translations, even without realizing it (MotionPoint).

A study by Al-Jarf (2025) specifically evaluated the accuracy of AI translations (Microsoft Copilot and Google Translate) for Gaza-Israel war terminology. The study found that while AI provided correct translations for some terms, it also encountered numerous semantic, syntactic, contextual, and orthographic errors. These findings highlight the challenges AI faces in handling political terminology, which is loaded with meaning and potential bias.

- d. Political Persuasion and Rhetoric: Controversial news texts often have persuasive or rhetorical goals. AI may struggle to replicate rhetorical style, tone, or persuasiveness in translation, which can diminish the impact of the original message. Ambiguity and Polysemantics: Words with multiple meanings (polysemantics) or contextual ambiguity are very common in news narratives, especially complex ones. AI, which relies on statistical patterns, may misinterpret these meanings without the "real-world" understanding that humans possess

The quality of AI translations of texts such as news stories about the Palestine-Israel conflict is crucial because even the slightest error or bias can exacerbate misunderstandings, trigger negative emotional reactions, or even significantly influence public opinion (Bennett Institute for Public Policy). Therefore, rigorous evaluation and often post-editing by human translators with a deep understanding of the relevant political and cultural context is essential.

AI has revolutionized the field of translation by bringing unprecedented efficiency, speed, and capacity, assisting translators in many routine tasks. However, when dealing with highly complex, controversial, and emotionally charged texts such as news stories about the Palestine-Israel conflict, the "vacuum" left by AI becomes even more apparent. The challenges of capturing emotional nuances, terminological biases, and deep cultural context demonstrate that while AI has surpassed "translator reason" quantitatively, the role of human translators in providing qualitative nuance remains indispensable, especially for sensitive and high-impact material. Further research is needed to systematically quantify the extent to which AI can address these challenges and how human-AI collaboration can be optimized for controversial news translation.

Based on the background and literature review described above, this research will focus on the role and quality of AI in translating controversial news texts, specifically regarding the Palestine-Israel conflict. The primary data source for this research is AI-generated translations of controversial news stories about the Palestine-Israel war, compared to human translations.

The following research questions will guide this research:

1. How can AI assist translators in carrying out translation tasks, particularly in the context of controversial news stories about the Palestine-Israel war?
2. What is the quality of AI-generated translations of controversial news stories about the Palestine-Israel war, in terms of accuracy, objectivity, and cultural nuance?

This research question is designed to explore not only the technical capabilities of AI, but also its ethical and practical implications in the context of highly sensitive and potentially polarizing news translation.

Research Method

This study uses a qualitative approach with content analysis to evaluate the quality of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated translations of controversial news texts. This study will employ a comparative case study design to analyze news translations from two primary sources: AI-generated translations and human translations (where available and relevant), or translations that have undergone human post-editing. This approach will allow for an in-depth comparison of the quality, accuracy, and nuance of the translations across both sources.

The primary data source for this study is a controversial news text discussing the Palestine-Israel war from BBC London dated October 23, 2024, and its translation on MetroTV.com. The research data consists of sentences from the controversial news. Twenty sentences from the controversial news about the Palestine-Israel war, each with a high emotional content, were purposively selected for in-depth analysis. The instruments used in this study were Google Translate and DeepL Translation. Data validation was conducted through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and raters with specific requirements.

Results & Discussion

AI significantly increases the speed of the translation process, especially for large volumes of constantly updated news. When comparing the time required for AI versus human translation, AI provides a much more concise and shorter time-frame, often in seconds. If a human translator completes a single page of text in 12 hours, AI significantly improves time efficiency and speeds up the transfer of meaning. AI enables translation at a scale that humans would never achieve in a short time, such as translating hundreds of news articles per day. The two software tools used, Google Translate and DeepL Translation, can complete translations at a much higher volume than human translation.

However, there is a noticeable obstacle, namely the consistency of terminology. The software has shortcomings in terminology recognition. If the term discussed is new, the software may not be able to provide an accurate translation. However, this is not a problem if the translation device or machine has already recognized these terms.

Table 1 Example of Comparative Data

N o.	Source Text	Human Translation	Google Translate	DeepL Translation
1	The military had chosen a "conflict management" approach to dealing with Gaza, it says. And had assumed that Hamas was "neither interested [in] nor preparing for a large-scale war" - a perception reinforced by Hamas's own deception tactics.	Militer mengatakan telah memilih pendekatan manajemen konflik terkait Gaza. Mereka juga berasumsi bahwa Hamas tidak tertarik ataupun mempersiapkan perang berskala besar- sebuah persepsi yang	Militer telah memilih pendekatan 'manajemen konflik' untuk menghadapi Gaza, katanya. Dan telah mengasumsikan bahwa Hamas 'tidak tertarik maupun mempersiapkan perang besar-besaran' - persepsi yang diperkuat oleh taktik	Militer telah memilih pendekatan 'manajemen konflik' untuk menangani Gaza, demikian laporan itu. Dan telah mengasumsikan bahwa Hamas 'tidak tertarik maupun mempersiapkan diri untuk perang besar-besaran' - suatu persepsi yang diperkuat oleh taktik penipuan Hamas sendiri."

N o.	Source Text	Human Translation	Google Translate	DeepL Translation
2	Evidence from 2018 onwards suggesting that Hamas - which is proscribed as a terrorist group by Israel, the US, UK and other countries - was indeed developing an ambitious plan was interpreted as "unrealistic or unfeasible", reflecting "Hamas's long-term aspirations rather than an actionable threat".	diperkuat oleh taktik kebohongan Hamas sendiri. Bukti yang diperoleh sejak tahun 2018 hingga kini menunjukkan jika Hama, kelompok terorist yang terlarang bagi Israel, AS, Inggris dan negara lain - memang benar-benar sedang mengembangkan rencana ambisius yang oleh negara-negara tersebut dianggap tidak realistis atau tidak layak. Rencana itu dianggap berjangka panjang dan tidak akan ditindaklanjuti.	penipuan Hamas sendiri." "Bukti dari tahun 2018 dan seterusnya yang menunjukkan bahwa Hamas - yang dilarang sebagai kelompok teroris oleh Israel, AS, Inggris dan negara-negara lain - memang sedang mengembangkan rencana ambisius diinterpretasikan sebagai 'tidak realistis atau tidak layak', mencerminkan 'aspirasi jangka panjang Hamas daripada ancaman yang dapat ditindaklanjuti'."	"Bukti dari tahun 2018 dan seterusnya yang menunjukkan bahwa Hamas - yang dikategorikan sebagai kelompok teroris oleh Israel, AS, Inggris, dan negara-negara lain - memang sedang mengembangkan rencana ambisius, diinterpretasikan sebagai 'tidak realistis atau tidak dapat dilaksanakan', yang mencerminkan 'aspirasi jangka panjang Hamas daripada ancaman yang dapat dilaksanakan'."
3	The report identifies a broad streak of complacency within the military about Hamas's intentions and how to deal with the threat it posed.	Laporan tersebut mengidentifikasi kecenderungan berpuas diri di dalam militer Israel dan mengabaikan niatan Hamas dan ancaman yang akan ditimbulkannya.	Laporan tersebut mengidentifikasi adanya rasa puas diri yang luas di dalam militer tentang niat Hamas dan bagaimana menghadapi ancaman yang ditimbulkannya."	"Laporan itu mengidentifikasi adanya kecenderungan rasa puas diri yang luas di dalam militer terkait dengan niat Hamas dan bagaimana menangani ancaman yang ditimbulkannya."

Translation Results Analysis:

Data number 1, the three translations have slight differences in wording and sentence structure, but overall, they convey the same meaning. DeepL Translation tends to be more accurate in translating complex sentences and has better structure.

Analysis of translation differences between Google Translate and DeepL Translation:

Google Translate:

A. The phrase "menghadapi Gaza", it uses "menghadapi" which is not totally accurate under this context.

B. In a long phrase "tidak tertarik maupun mempersiapkan perang besar-besaran", GT uses word "maupun" which may not be entirely appropriate in this context)

DeepL Translation:

A. For a phrase "menangani Gaza", DeepL Trans uses "menangani" which is more accurate in this context.

B. The phrase "tidak tertarik maupun mempersiapkan diri untuk perang besar-besaran" is translated into "mempersiapkan diri" which is more accurate in this context.

These differences indicate that DeepL Translation tends to be more accurate in translating complex and well-structured sentences. DeepL Translation also pays more attention to context and linguistic nuances, resulting in more natural and accurate translations. In this case, DeepL Translation is better at translating these sentences because it uses more accurate words and better sentence structure.

Data number 2, the differences between the two translations are relatively slight, but DeepL Translation tends to be more accurate in translating words like "proscribed" (categorized) and "actionable" (can be implemented). Furthermore, DeepL Translation also has better and more natural sentence structure in Indonesian.

Google Translate:

A. "Bukti dari tahun 2018 dan seterusnya" is somewhat accurate to "Evidence from 2018 onwards".

B. Phrase "yang dilarang sebagai kelompok teroris" is somewhat accurate to "which is proscribed as a terrorist group", but the word "dilarang" may not be appropriate in the context. Also the word "dikategorikan" or "ditetapkan" will be more accurate.

C. "memang sedang mengembangkan rencana ambisius" is somewhat accurate translation to "was indeed developing an ambitious plan".

D. "diinterpretasikan sebagai 'tidak realistis atau tidak layak'" is somewhat accurate to "was interpreted as 'unrealistic or unfeasible'", but the word "tidak layak" may not be entirely appropriate in this context. Word "tidak dapat dilaksanakan" will be more accurate.

E. "mencerminkan 'aspirasi jangka panjang Hamas daripada ancaman yang dapat ditindaklanjuti'" is somewhat accurate to "reflecting 'Hamas's long-term aspirations rather than an actionable threat'", but the word "ancaman yang dapat ditindaklanjuti" may not be entirely appropriate in this context. word "ancaman yang dapat dilaksanakan" will be more accurate.

DeepL Translation:

A. "Bukti dari tahun 2018 dan seterusnya" is more accurate for "Evidence from 2018 onwards".

B. "yang dikategorikan sebagai kelompok teroris" is more accurate for "which is proscribed as a terrorist group" dibandingkan dengan Google Translate.

C. "memang sedang mengembangkan rencana ambisius" is more accurate for "was indeed developing an ambitious plan".

D. "diinterpretasikan sebagai 'tidak realistis atau tidak dapat dilaksanakan'" is more accurate translation for "was interpreted as 'unrealistic or unfeasible'" compared to Google Translate.

E. "yang mencerminkan 'aspirasi jangka panjang Hamas daripada ancaman yang dapat dilaksanakan'" is more accurate for "reflecting 'Hamas's long-term aspirations rather than an actionable threat'" compared to Google Translate.

Overall, DeepL Translation provides more accurate and natural translations in Indonesian than Google Translate. DeepL Translation pays more attention to context and language nuances, resulting in better translations.

In the third data set, the difference between the two translations is relatively small, but DeepL Translation tends to be more accurate in translating words like "broad streak" (kecemendian) and "deal with" (menangani). Furthermore, DeepL Translation also has better and more natural sentence structure in Indonesian. In this case, DeepL Translation is better at translating these sentences because it uses more accurate words and better sentence structure.

Google Translate:

- A. "Laporan tersebut mengidentifikasi" is more accurate translation for "The report identifies".
- B. "adanya rasa puas diri yang luas" is more accurate translation for "a broad streak of complacency", but word "rasa puas diri" might not be appropriate in this context. Phrase "kecenderungan rasa puas diri" will be more accurate.
- C. "di dalam militer" is more accurate translation for "within the military".
- D. "tentang niat Hamas" is more accurate translation for "about Hamas's intentions".
- E. "bagaimana menghadapi ancaman yang ditimbulkannya" is more accurate translation for "how to deal with the threat it posed", but the word "menghadapi" might not be appropriate in this context. Word "menangani" will be more accurate.

DeepL Translation:

- A. "Laporan itu mengidentifikasi" is more accurate translation for "The report identifies".
- B. "adanya kecenderungan rasa puas diri yang luas" is more accurate translation for "a broad streak of complacency" compared to Google Translate.
- C. "di dalam militer" is more accurate translation for "within the military".
- D. "terkait dengan niat Hamas" is more accurate translation for "about Hamas's intentions".
- E. "bagaimana menangani ancaman yang ditimbulkannya" is more accurate translation for "how to deal with the threat it posed" compared to Google Translate.

In data 1, 2, and 3 above, it appears that DeepL Translation provides more accurate and natural translations in Indonesian compared to Google Translate. DeepL Translation pays more attention to context and linguistic nuances, resulting in better translations. However, when compared to translations produced by human translators, there are profound differences, such as: '..... dan mengabaikan niatan

Hamas dan ancaman yang akan ditimbulkannya' can only be produced by a human translator because of the complexity of the intended sentence.

Conclusion

The immense benefits and power of AI in the field of translation are undeniable. However, it's also worth discussing aspects where AI shows great potential, perhaps even approaching human quality for more factual or technical news items, in addition to time and energy efficiency. While AI remains reliable to date, human intervention is necessary for controversial news, given the potential for bias and fatal errors in future translation research.

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