



CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATING METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS IN MACHINE TRANSLATION

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Abstract

Language is wealthy with metaphors that add depth and color to communication. Yet, when it comes to translation, these metaphorical expressions create unique difficulties. Moreover, metaphorical expressions pose a challenging obstacle for machine translation systems because of their nuanced and context-specific nature. The problem arises from the fact that metaphors are not always directly translatable word-for-word between languages due to the cultural and conceptual differences they mean. This article explores the certain challenges experienced when translating metaphors using machine translation tools, studying the limitations of present-day machine translation technologies in managing metaphorical content effectively.

Key words: metaphorical expressions, difficulties, machine translation, challenges, cultural nuances, linguistic resources, context modeling, accuracy, cross-lingual communication

In an interrelated world where useful communication bridges linguistic and cultural divides, the accurate translation of metaphorical language grasps leading importance. Metaphors, common in human communication, carry abstract concepts and emotions clearly. While machine translation has made considerable boost in enabling coherent communication across languages, the translation of metaphorical expressions continues a tough and elusive task for mechanized systems. In addition, it should be mentioned that metaphors, enormously rooted in culture and language, add layers of meaning that often avoid literal translation. This article aims to resolve the difficulties of translating metaphors in machine translation, highlighting the struggles faced by automated systems and investigating innovative approaches that could alter the accuracy and effectiveness of translating metaphorical content.

Machine translation has revolutionized communication, breaking down language barriers and fostering global understanding. Additionally, machine translation is instrumental in academic research and collaboration across borders. Scholars can translate research papers, articles, and academic texts quickly, enabling the global dissemination of knowledge and fostering international academic partnerships. Machine translation offers a fast and cost-effective solution for



translating large volumes of content in a short amount of time. It can streamline workflow processes, reduce translation costs, and improve productivity in various industries. When it comes to the importance of machine translation, it lies in its ability to facilitate cross-cultural communication, promote inclusivity, support economic growth, enhance accessibility to information, and foster global collaboration and understanding in a diverse and interconnected world. However, machine translation struggles with nuances of human language, and one of the biggest hurdles is metaphor. Metaphors, where we describe something by comparing it to something else, are fundamental to human expression. They add flavor, depth, and creativity to language. However, machine translation systems grapple with a myriad of challenges when confronted with translating metaphorical expressions. The foremost obstacle lies in the cultural and contextual nuances embedded within metaphors, which are often culture-specific and context-dependent. Automated systems, lacking the cultural understanding and contextual grasp of human translators, struggle to decode the underlying meanings and connotations of metaphors, leading to mistranslations and loss of intended messages. Moreover, the hard, rule-based structures of machine translation often fall short in capturing the poetic and figurative essence of metaphors, resulting in translations that lack the depth and creativity of human interpretation.

Besides, metaphors serve as powerful tools in language, enabling speakers to convey abstract concepts and emotions. The challenge lies in not only translating the literal meaning of words but also capturing the underlying conceptual metaphors that shape the source text's meaning (Charteris- Black, 2004). A new, and most challenging sight of metaphor toward this so strong traditional theoretical approach was first developed in a systematic way by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson in 1980 in their seminal and pioneering work: *Metaphors We Live By*. Metaphor is for most people a device of the poetic imagination and the rhetorical flourish a matter of extraordinary rather than ordinary language. Moreover, metaphor is typically viewed as characteristic of language alone, a matter of words rather than thought or action. (Lakoff, Johnson, 1980). For this reason, most people think they can get along perfectly well without



metaphor. In contrast, that metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language, yet, in thought and action.

Furthermore, numerous studies emphasize the importance of metaphors in language and translation. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) argue that metaphors are not merely linguistic phenomena but are fundamental to human thought and conceptualization. The challenge in machine translation lies in capturing the underlying conceptual metaphors embedded in source texts and accurately rendering them in the target language. Also, several scholars have identified specific challenges in translating metaphors using machine translation. Likewise, language barriers can be an obstacle to accessing information in the globalized context in which we find ourselves. Such is the abundance of information generated that it is on occasions impossible to satisfy the demand for translations by relying solely on professional human translators (Lagarda et al., 2015; Way, 2018). Even though there are many researches about metaphors or metaphorical expressions, there is still less investigation related to the problems of translating metaphorical expressions with the help of machine translation. Thus, this article aims to observe the ways of translating metaphorical language and the implications for automated translation technologies.

To solve the complications of translating metaphorical expressions, this study adopts a mixed-methods research approach that integrates qualitative linguistic analysis with computational techniques. By using a varied corpus of text containing metaphorical language, the research aims to evaluate machine translation systems' performance in capturing the underlying meanings of metaphors across languages. This methodology seeks to reveal insights into the strengths and limitations of automated translation tools in grappling with metaphorical expressions. For instance, by examining machine translation tools like Yandex or Reverso Context, we can identify how translations by automated systems works properly and translates accurately without changing the original meaning. The data analysis phase focuses on assessing the accuracy, fluency, and cultural appropriateness of machine translation systems in translating metaphorical expressions. Results indicate that automated tools often



struggle to capture the nuanced meanings of metaphors, leading to inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the translated output. By examining the performance of these systems in conveying metaphorical language, the study aims to identify patterns and challenges that disrupt the effective translation of metaphors across languages.

The findings highlight the significant differences and limitations faced by machine translation systems when translating metaphorical expressions. Automated tools often fail to understand the underlying meanings and nuances of metaphors, resulting in translations that lack the richness and depth of the original language. Through specific examples with translations, the discussion delves into the specific challenges faced in translating metaphorical language and underscores the implications for cross-linguistic communication. By clarifying these challenges, the article aims to activate further research and advancements in automated translation technologies.

The search to conquer metaphorical expression in machine translation is a chase for a more nuanced and culturally aware future. While challenges persist, progresses in including context, building knowledge graphs, and using high-level language models offer promising solutions. As machine translation technology develops, its ability to navigate the complexities of metaphors will not only improve communication accuracy but also preserve the artistic spark and cultural richness embedded within figurative language. Eventually, achieving perfect translation of metaphors will bring us closer to a world where understanding overpass language barriers, allowing us to value the full choice of human expression across cultures.

All things considered, translating metaphorical expressions in machine translation stands at the crossroads of technological alteration and linguistic difficulty, causing a formidable yet achievable challenge for automated systems. By addressing the limitations of current machine translation technologies and applying the power of linguistic resources and modern algorithms, it is possible to bridge the gap between the intricacies of metaphors and automated translation. This article underlines the significance of refining machine translation capabilities to capture the richness and



nuances of metaphorical expressions, facilitating more accurate and culturally sensitive cross-lingual communication in the era of technology.

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ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A WEBQUEST IN TEACHING STUDENTS

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Abstract

The purpose of this article is to prove by generalizing our own experience the expediency of using WebQuests in teaching English at universities. The article is an attempt to analyze an extremely promising trend in the methodology of teaching English in the modern computer world, which requires solving problems at all levels of education and makes it necessary to use Web resources. Given the problems outlined above, we have the opportunity to describe our experience in creating WebQuests. It is noted that the results of the quests, depending on the material being studied, can take many different forms. The article describes the process of creating a WebQuest template in some detail. In addition, the teacher needs to rely on the individual characteristics of students.

Key words: English language, WebQuest, Web resources, communicative language teaching, modern educational technologies.