



AI Translation and Meaningfulness Translation: A Comparative Translation (Proverbs as a Model/ Gemini as an AI Translation)

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Abstract

This research highlights the differences between the meaningfulness translation (human translation) and AI translation (Gemini translation). The research approach is qualitative, descriptive, and analytical, also its methodology is a descriptive and analytical depends on comparing meaningfulness translation (human translation) and AI translation (Gemini translation) using proverbs as a sample. The final results show that the meaningfulness translation stills the superior method to reach the exact meaning of the source text into the target text, despite the fact that AI translation (Gemini translation) has many advantages upon the aforementioned, which they clearly shown in this research.

الترجمة الآلية والترجمة المعنوية: ترجمة مقارنة (الأمثال إنموذجاً/ جيميني كأداة للترجمة الآلية)

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المستخلص

يسلط البحث الضوء على الاختلافات بين الترجمة المعنوية (ترجمة الإنسان) وترجمة الذكاء الاصطناعي (ترجمة جيميني). منهج البحث نوعي وصفي تحليلي، كذلك منهجيته وصفية تحليلية تعتمد على مقارنة الترجمة المعنوية (ترجمة الإنسان) للأمثال وترجمة الذكاء الاصطناعي (ترجمة جيميني كنموذج). أظهرت النتائج ان الترجمة المعنوية تبقى لها اليد العليا كأفضل طريقة للوصول إلى أدق معنى لنص المصدر في نص الهدف، على الرغم من أن ترجمة الذكاء الاصطناعي (ترجمة جيميني) تمتلك العديد من المميزات على ترجمة الانسان، والتي تم عرضها بوضوح في البحث.

Introduction

“To have a second language is to possess a second soul”

“Charlemagne” (Trust, 2022)

A profound phrase expresses the great impact of learning a second language, identifying one's perception and how deeply he is embedded in the world. The phrase shows that acquiring an additional language is not only a tool of communication but also adopting a new way of thinking, feeling, and experiencing life. Learning another language opens gates of communication to new ideas, emotional expressions, cultures, and deep cognition by being familiar with another language. That is why the quote describes acquiring a second language as “a



second soul.” Thus, this “second soul,” which conveys the meaning of one language to another, is presented by “translation,” which enables us to initiate with each other easily.

One of the crucial ways to convey the meaning from one language to another is proverbs. Proverbs have a significant value in all societies as a concise way to express traditional wisdom, social values, and life lessons. They help enhance individuals to communicate and promote social fabric. Proverbs are considered the ideal way in conveying the source idea into target one clearly, smoothly for the intended community better than other ways due their ability in condensing and transmitting experiences of generations briefly, easy-to-remember phrase that conveys information and moral lessons by a metaphorical symbol. Therefore, proverbs serve as a vessel for preserving a culture, civilization and the continuity of nation’s identity (Fayzullayevna, P. T. M., 2025).

1-2 Research Problem: Many researches have dealt with the topic of translation tools and most of the common views nowadays prevail that AI translation outdoes human translation. The research targets the challenges that AI translation (Gemini) faces when dealing with texts holding deep cultural connotation, like proverbs, in comparison with human translation.

1-3 Research Objectives: The main objectives of the research are:

- Analyzing the gap between AI translation (Gemini) and meaningfulness translation of proverbs.
- Assessing the quality of AI translation (Gemini) of proverbs according to accuracy, cultural context, and fluency.
- Identifying common mistakes of proverb translation by AI tools.
- Promoting recommendations for boosting AI translation (Gemini) performance in this field.

1-4 Research Significance: The importance of this research lies in finding a better way of communication through pointing the best precise tools of translation that conveys the exact meaning of original text.

1-5 Research Questions:

- What is the difference between Gemini translation and meaningfulness translation?
- What is the best one between the two types (Gemini Translation and meaning based-translation)?
- Does AI translation (Gemini) is better than human Translation?



1-6 Research Samples: The samples used here are:

Translation tools: Gemini as AI translation, and human translation.

Proverbs: 1) Law doesn't protect fools, 2) healthy mind in healthy body, 3) barking dogs seldom bite, 4) a monkey in his mother's eyes is a gazelle, 5) Charity begins at home, 6) birds of feather flock together, 7) had his chips, and 8) It rains dogs and cats.

2- Research Approach

The research follows the qualitative, descriptive, analytical and comparative approach. Descriptive, it is to describe the samples of the proverbs and their different translations. Analytical, it is to analyze mistakes and its types in AI translation. Comparative, it is to compare between AI translation (Gemini) and human translation.

3- Research Methodology

Following the analytical descriptive approach, the research compares AI translation (Gemini) and meaningfulness translation (human translation) with a focus on proverbs as a practical model to get their efficiency and quality. The methodology depends on comparative analysis of the samples of proverbs manually and automatically translated, focusing on the exact meaning, cultural equivalent, and contextual agreement. The results will be assessed according to how much they are right, like fluency, accuracy, and acceptability, to conclude the extent of nowadays automated systems' ability to handle figurative and cultural expressions.

4- Definition of Key Terms

Meaningfulness (المعنية): According to Collins, Cambridge and Oxford dictionaries, this word (Meaningfulness) derived from the word "meaningful" which means the quality or act of having great value, significance, a serious purpose, or a clear meaning. It describes something that is important, useful, or emotionally expressive and eloquent.

Chapter ONE

With significant differences in process, strength, and application, AI translation and human translation share the same purposes.

Human Translation

Human translation, or as known as manual translation, provides a vivid cultural understanding and deep linguistic knowledge to their work. The interpreting process is not only related to the words but also the meaning, intent, context and



tone behind the message, then adapt them naturally into the target audience. Human translation is vital for sensitive, medical, literary, creative, or legal texts where the exactness, emotional resonance, and cultural nuances have significance. Humans manage idioms, humour, ambiguity, and culturally specific references significantly better than AI does (+ Human Translators Are Better Than AI | GLOBO, n.d., and Comic, 2025)

AI Translation

Employing artificial intelligence, AI translation uses huge models of languages in order to transform a certain text into another language. AI translation is a time-saving and money-saving process that works swiftly and quickly managing a mass of data in few seconds. By exceling contents and words patterns like technical manuals, basic customer care information, and produce descriptions. However, this type of translation faces challenges to reach masterful and precise meaning, cultural context, idioms, tone, and emotions, which lead to uncomfortable language or blunders, and sometimes disaster. Briefly, we conclude the AI translation continually requires human touch and post-editing to have the exact and relevant needed meaning (Why Human Translators Are Better Than AI | GLOBO, n.d., Comic, 2025, and Crangasu, 2023).

Gemini as a tool of AI Translation

Gemini is an advanced and developed AI-powered tool by Google that regularly and importantly enhances the potentiality of translation. On the contrary of traditional translation machine, Gemini involves a sophisticated understanding of context, cultural nuances, complex grammatical structures, and idiomatic expressions, seeking the exactness and meaningfulness and human-like of original text into target text. Gemini supports real-time translation, creating it particularly beneficial for live communications such as customer service, business meetings, and multilingual conferences.

Through processing and integrating multiple types of data of texts, images, audios, videos and codes Gemini make it resourceful not only for the translation of a certain text but also for multimodal communication actions. Gemini supports a great number of languages and offers made-to-order translation memory features, authorizing users to sustain consistency in phrases and terms significant to specific brands or industries. Additionally, its translations deeply mimic human-level proficiency by reaching subtle meaning and tonal variations (Gemini Impact on Machine Translation, n.d., Luisa, 2024b, Goldsmith, 2025, and Google Gemini أم (الترجمة الآلية: أيهما يقدم أداءً أفضل؟، 2024 .



Thus, we conclude Google Gemini boosts a cutting-edge AI translation tool that combines real-time translation, broad language support, and contextual understanding, making it a powerful resource for both professional translation and everyday needs.

Chapter Two Analysis and Discussion

1. The process of translating proverbs between a human and AI translation

As mentioned previously, the translation is significant and it is the art and science of transforming the idea from one text to another. This complex process considered the limited domain of human translators and professional linguists who understand the entire mission of the idioms, cultural contexts, and nuances behind the original text (Tetraepik_Admin, 2020).

Translating proverbs is considered a unique and challenging mission when dealing with such experience that shed lights the basic differences between AI translation and human translation process (Romaniuk-Cholewska, Dominika., 2024) proverbs are cultural expressions that concise traditional wisdom and they deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of the language in question, and their meanings are almost figurative, not literal, showing that word-to-word translation ineffective (Wang et al., 2025, and Shalevska et al. (2025).

Human Translator's Process

A human translator's approach is a multi-faceted process that relies basically on cultural knowledge, creativity, and intuition, and these briefly are:

1. **Cultural and contextual Understanding**, the initial and the most critical step in a human translated text is understanding and absorbing the proverb's exact meaning in accordance with its cultural background. For example, the English proverb "Law doesn't protect fools" is not about legal terms and foolish. A human translator knows well it's about being clever, awake, and informed towards any situation or attitude and being not familiar and ignorant with some issue does not absolve you from having the consequences (Romaniuk-Cholewska, D., 2024). The human understand the cultural value and this deep understanding is not derived from dictionaries but comes from deep engagement and exposure to the language, its literature, and its cultural norms (Mounadil, 2023).
2. **Finding an equivalent proverb**, finding the same meaning, the translator searches for a proverb in the target language that equals the source language message. For example "Charity begins at home" which suggests that helping other starts when we help ourselves and those we are connected with and close to, and



the Arabic equivalent is “الأقربون أولى بالمعروف” which has similar contextual meaning with the English one (Dweik & Thalji, 2016)

3. **Paraphrasing or defining meaning**, if the proverb has no direct equivalent, a human translator paraphrases the original meaning, defining it clearly into the target language in many ways, for example, “Don’t count your chickens before they hatch”, a translator might render it as “من الغباء ان تقيم خططك على شيء لم يحدث حتى” or “لا تفرح بالغلة قبل الحصاد” or “لا تستبق الاحداث” (Dweik & Thalji, 2016).

4. **Literal Translation**, sometimes, the translator chooses to use literal translation, particularly in academic or literary texts, to maintain the original image of the proverb, putting a footnote or parenthetical comment for its meaning, giving the reader insight into the original cultural way of thinking, for example, and “healthy mind in healthy body” equals “العقل السليم في الجسم السليم”. (Dynamic Language, 2020).

AI Translator’s Process (Gemini)

Gemini as AI model of translation uses fundamental differences and data-driven methodology. Gemini’s process is relied statistical probability and pattern recognition rather than an innate understanding of culture, as the following:

1. **Pattern recognition from a Massive Corpus**, Gemini is one of the AI models that are trained a large datasets of multilingual inputs, like websites, articles and books. AI translator detects it as a set of words that is usually followed by a certain pattern of words in the target language, instead of a sentence with hidden meaning based on its training data. So, the proverb “The early bird catches the worm” has highly statistical correlation with “مَنْ سَبَقَ لَبِقَ” this was the literal result for Gemini when I asked to give me the Arabic equivalent, with no other options. On the other hand, human translator provide a few options to this proverb like “فاز بالذات من كان جسورا” , and “خير الأمور في بكورها” which is the exact equivalent for the proverb in question, where a source language idiom may have more than an equivalent in the target ones, but this can’t be achieved by AI translator (Farghal, M., & Haider, A. S. (2024).

2. **Literal vs. Figurative interpretation**, AI distinguishes between literal and figurative expression whereas the traditional machine translating system would fail to do such, resulting comical and illogical literal translations. Supported by neural networks, modern AI models have great potentiality to define figurative language. They mostly uses an “attention mechanism feature” that allows them to deal with the context of the words, helping them to get that “had his chips” is not about eating action nor chips as material but it is an idiom expressing misfortune, failure, or being killed, as a euphemism, (Proverbs Run in Pairs: Evaluating Proverb Translation Capability of Large Language Model, 2025)

3. **Generating Probability output**, depending on the most likely used equivalent found in its training data, AI creates a figurative or metaphorical



expression. This is why AI systems regularly suggest a two-part translation of proverbs: a direct, literal translation followed by an accepted equivalent or an explanation, what gives a clear indication that AI is “aware” the metaphorical nature of the text but is still depending more on a statistical best guess instead of genuine comprehension of meaning (Ibid.)

4. **Limitations and Inconsistencies**, though it speeds, AI process is sometimes inconsistent and unreliable. When the proverb is unique or have nothing alike in the training data, the AI may translate the proverb literally, leading to inaccurate or confusing results. It may also create a well-defined grammatical sentence but ill-defined and awkward culturally or it not a proverb in the target language (Shalevska, Elena & et al. 2025)

2. Applying Translation Techniques and Its Types on Proverbs

To effectively transfer meaning from a source language to a target language, translators used many techniques. By using the techniques of translation, translators easily address cultural and linguistic differences, to ensure that the translated text is adequate and contextually convenient. In general, translation techniques are divided into two types: direct translation techniques and indirect translation techniques.

2.1 Direct Translation Techniques (تقنيات الترجمة المباشرة)

The techniques of direct translation are employed if the source language and target language share the elements of grammar and concepts which granting simple and accurate transfer (Khaled, 2025)

- **Borrowing (or Transliteration أو النسخة):** to use a word (or expression) from the original language (e.g., Hello, Radio, telephone, Facebook, hamburger, café, kimono) this happens when the target language has no equivalent (Kráľ D., 2021), or there is an equivalent in the original word conveys a better meaning than the target equivalent, and the translator wants to preserve the sense of the original language (Asialocalize, 2024). Farther more, the English words that have Arabic origin are: Algebra (الجبر), Alcohol (الكحول), Alkali (القلوي), Sugar (سكر), Zero (صفر), Coffee (قهوة), whereas the Arabic words that have English origin are: Computer (كمبيوتر), Internet (أنترنت), supermarket (سوبرماركت), Mall (مول), Film (فلم) (Alharbi and Shariq, 2024).
- **Calque/ Loan (الإقتراض):** When the phrase is literally transformed from one language into other one at the phrase or idiomatic level instead of word-for-word, this process called “Calque” (Postan, 2023) which creates a new word in the target



language (Ibid.). The proverb “Law doesn’t protect fools” (القانون لا يحمي المغفلين) is a vivid example of the Calque process (Khaled, 2025, and)

• **Literal Translation (الترجمة الحرفية):** Translators usually follow this process (word-for-word translation) as both languages (source and target) have similar sentence structures. The general English sentence pattern is “Subject + verb+ object” (SVO (comp.)) “Hassan reads a story” (Samir, 2024), but it has a rare structure of “Verb+ comp. ” in “Imperative sentence” (الجملة الأمرية) where the subject is implied as “you” like “Don’t shout” (You, don’t shout) ;but the Arabic Language has two main patterns: nominal sentence (جملة أسمية), like “حسن يقرأ قصة” (S+V+ O) and verbal sentence (جملة فعلية), like “يقرأ حسن قصة” (V+ S +O.) (Ibid). Thus, English Language and Arabic Language have similar patterns can translate some proverbs literally, like “healthy mind in healthy body” (العقل السليم في الجسم) (السليم) and “People who live in glass houses should not throw stones” (مَنْ بَيْتُهُ مِنْ زجاج فلا يرمي الناس بالحجر). This method has the same technique of the Calque in two aspects, in considering the pattern of the source language words, and emphasizing on following similar number of words and kind.

2.2 Indirect (Oblique) Translation تقنيات الترجمة غير المباشرة

These techniques are used when the source language and target language culturally and linguistically different, so the direct translation will not convey the original meaning of the source to the target (Khaled, 2025).

1. **Transposition (التبديل):** This technique is done when the translator manipulating the words order but keeping the exact meaning of the original sentence, for example “barking dogs seldom bite” which is the transposed proverb of the Arabic one “الكلب الذي ينبح لا يعض” (Ibid.).
2. **Modulation (التعديل):** This technique is connected with the adjustment of the perspective of the original language but maintain the aim of the text. Here, the translator intends conveying the suitable meaning of the source text by using alternative text (Khaled, 2025). For example, “A monkey in his mother’s eyes is a gazelle” or “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder” (Amba, 2022) which means that beauty is something subjective not absolute. This meaning is found in its Arabic proverb equivalent “القرد بعين أمه غزال”, so the target proverb holds the same idea of the both original proverb.
3. **Equivalence (التكافؤ):** Some called it “Reformulation” and it is concerned with translating idioms, fixed expressions, and proverbs through seeking the exact equivalent that conveys the needed idea in the target language no matter how much they differ from each other. For example, “It rains dogs and cat” referring to heavy rain. This phrase has the same idea of the Arabic phrase “تمطر بغزارة” (Kostas, 2021).



4. **Adaptation (التكييف والملاءمة):** If the cultural reference in the original language has no equivalent in the target one, the translator uses this technique to fetch a substitutional text in the target cultural fit with the source text. For example, “Thanksgiving” in the American culture is a famous celebration and holiday in America and Canada (Thanksgiving, 2025), if a translator translates it into Arabic, he will not translates it as “شكراً للعطاء” (as a literal translation) since Arabic culture has no such term for any occasion nor tradition, so the translator brings an Arabic equivalent has the exact idea of the original text and it would be “Eid Al-Fitr” (Elmadbouly, 2025). On the same context, the English proverb “Birds of feather flock together” is culturally equals the Arabic one “وفاق شئ طبقة”, and “الطيور على أشكالها تقع”.

5. **Compensation (التعويض):** This technique is activated if the word, in the original text, has many interpretations or forms but it has one interpretation in the original language. By this technique, a translator compensates the subtle differences of the source text by recalling the intended idea in the transformed (target) text (Khaled, 2025), e.g., the aforementioned proverb “had his chips” is the compensation of the Arabic ones “فات الأوان”, or “ولات حين مندم” and the colloquial Iraqi accent proverb “إذا فات الفوت ماينفع الصوت”.

3. Gemini Translated Proverbs vs. Human Translated Ones

In this part of the peer-reviewed research, the researcher will apply Gemini translation on the stated previously proverbs, and copy Gemini answers literally, and write human translation to compare both processes, according to my command “ترجم للعربية”:

The Proverb	AI Translation (Gemini)	Human translation
1. Law doesn't protect fools.	"القانون لا يحمي المغفلين، والقانون لا يوفر حماية للأغبياء، ولا يوجد في القانون ما يحمي السذج."	القانون لا يحمي المغفلين.
2. Healthy mind in healthy body	" الترجمة الأكثر شيوعاً والأقرب للمعنى الأصلي هي: العقل السليم في الجسم السليم"	العقل السليم في الجسم السليم.
3. Barking dogs seldom bite.	"الكلاب التي تنبح قليلاً ما تعض" و "هذه العبارة تعادل المثل العربي: كثرة الكلام لا تفعل شيئاً."	الكلب الذي ينبح لا يعض تهديدات فارغة.
4. A monkey in his mother's eyes is a	" توجد عدة ترجمات لهذه العبارة، لكن أفضلها وأكثرها تعبيراً عن المعنى	القرود بعين أمه غزال، وعين الرضا عن كل عيب كليله (شطر



gazelle	الأصلي هو المثل العربي: القرد في عين أمه غزال. "	بيت للشافعي)
5. It rains dogs and cats	" لا يعني حرفياً "تمطر قططاً وكلاباً"، بل هو تعبير مجازي يصف المطر الغزير جداً. لذلك، أفضل ترجمة عربية له هي: تمطر بغزارة أو مطر غزير جداً. وهناك مثل شعبي يقابل هذا المعنى في بعض اللهجات العربية: الدنيا عم بتشتي رشا. "	تُطرُ بغزارة. إنهم علينا المطر بغزارة.
6. Had his chips	" هو تعبير عامي بريطاني يعني أن شخصاً ما قد وصل إلى نهايته، أو أنه في وضع سيء جداً، أو أنه انتهى أمره. لذا، فإن أفضل ترجمة عربية له تعتمد على السياق: انتهى أمره، لقي حتفه، توفي. (إذا كان السياق يشير إلى الموت، انتهى. وصل إلى نهايته. "	فات الأوان، اذا فات الفوت ماينفع الصوت، ولات حين مندم.
7. Birds of feather flock together	" هذه العبارة هي مثل إنجليزي شهير، وترجمتها الحرفية هي "طيور من نفس الريش تتجمع معاً. " المعنى المقصود هو أن الأشخاص المتشابهين في الطباع أو الأفكار أو الميول يميلون إلى التجمع والتآلف مع بعضهم البعض. أفضل ترجمة عربية تعبر عن هذا المعنى هي: الطيور على أشكالها تقع. "	الطيور على أشكالها تقع، كل نفس مع بني جنسها تصفو، صاحب ساحب، المرء على دين خليله، إن القرين الى المقارن يُنسبُ.
8. Charity begins at home.	تُترجم عبارة إلى العربية بعدة طرق، وأكثرها شيوعاً واستخداماً: "الأقربون أولى بالمعروف". هذه الترجمة هي الأكثر دقة لأنها تعبر عن المعنى الأصلي للمثل. (ملاحظة جواب جيمناي في الكمبيوتر يختلف عن جيمناي كتطبيق على جهاز الموبايل، لا أعرف السبب، والجواب المنقول هنا من الموبايل)	الأقربون أولى بالمعروف، إبدأ بنفسك وأهلك أولاً، ما يحتاجه البيت يحرم على الجامع.

Summarized Comparison

Aspect	AI Translation	Human Translation
Speed	So fast, and almost	Slow, depending on



	instantaneous	content complexity
Cost	Suitable for large volumes and low.	Higher, depending on project scope and expertise
Accuracy	Beneficial for straightforward content (70- 85%)	Very high, especially for nuanced content (95-100%)
Handling Nuance	Restricted, Struggles with idioms and cultural contexts	Excellent, adapts cultural references, tone, and intent
Cultural Sensitivity	Needs deep cultural understanding	Rich cultural and contextual adaption
Best Use Cases	Bulk translation, internal documents, UI text (user Interface text)	Literary, marketing, legal, sensitive, medical or creative content

Key Results

- **Qualitative Performance Disparity:** Meaningfulness translation (or as known human translation) usually has the upper hand on Machine translation (Gemini), especially in challenging contexts like “proverbs”, in which cultural understanding is needed to maintain aesthetic value, cultural connotations, and tone.
- **Challenges of MT (AI translation) in Proverbs:** the demonstration being got by the Gemini model shows its ability for providing the exact cultural equivalents for proverbs, and most of the time leaning straight to literal and explanatory translation, unlike meaningfulness translation (human translation) in which it definitely elects the equivalent proverb in the target text.
- **Efficiency in Speed and Volume:** AI translation (Gemini) importantly particularizes in terms of the ability and speed process of large volumes texts, suggesting it a valuable tool for preliminary translation (drafts) or non-contextually sensitive texts.
- **Gemini Role as an Assistive Tool:** Gemini recently seen as a titanic tool to assist human translators by providing them with the preliminary drafts or alternatives for the target texts which may be improved and refined later.

Recommendations

- **Fusion and integration:** It is beneficial to combine AI translation “Gemini” (especially Gemini if no more advanced AI tool appears) with human translators' process review and editing, particularly for text with high cultural sensitivity like proverbs.



- **Continuous Translator Training:** Training is crucial procedure for translator to elevate their skills on how to efficiently utilize AI tools (like Gemini) to rise the productivity without sacrificing quality.
- **AI Model Improvement:** Improving and developing machine translation models is essential to meet current requirements for building AI models that understand implicit connotations and cultural contexts, especially when idiomatic expressions and proverbs are involved, by enhancing them with larger and more precise databases of cultural and literary materials.
- **Defining Appropriate Usage:** Making decision the right type of translation, whether this translation is of human or machine or even hybrid, by users depending on the significance of the text, the target audience and its cultural context and connotation.

4. Conclusion

Having proverbs as a sample for comparing the process of translation by AI translation (Gemini) and human translation, this research discussed, as possible, all aspects of both processes and examined them, and it is clearly shown that the translation of proverbs is a perfect example for comparing human translation and AI (Gemini). The results show that Gemini is extremely fast and efficient at producing and locating the most common proverbial equivalents, but it fails to catch “the Meaningfulness” (the deep cultural awareness, creativity, and problem-solving susceptibility skills) that human translators have. Gemini is perfect in managing mass documents to provide insightful file management and document understanding capabilities, as well as acting as a personal assistant to assist users in summarizing, organizing, and extracting key information out of huge sets of files, PDFs, folders, videos, and documents.

To conclude, human translation strongly remains the superior for tasks where nuance, high quality, and cultural sensitivity are indispensable despite the fact the (AI translation) is the powerful tool for efficiency and volume. The future lies in combining both procedures for optimal translation outcomes.

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