


Chapter 10

Translating Subh- e-Azadi: ChatGPT, Gemini, and the Cultural Complexity of 1947 Partition Poetry

Priyanka Bisht

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3408-0454>

Christ University, India

Jyoti Prakash Pujari

Christ University, India

ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence has transformed the field of translation, yet concerns remain about its ability to handle culturally complex metaphors and nuances. This chapter addresses this issue and compares the capabilities of two AI models- ChatGPT 4o (free version) and Gemini 1.5 Flash (free version) in translating a culturally laden poem, “Subh-e-Azadi (The Dawn of Freedom)” by Faiz Ahmed Faiz, from Hindi to English. With an emphasis on accuracy and quality, this study compares the translations produced by ChatGPT and Gemini against a human translation of the poem. It explores how AI models handle linguistic subtleties, cultural adaptability, and emotional depth while also experimenting with prompting techniques to assess whether explicit instructions improve translation quality or not. The findings will provide an insight into the future of AI in translating literature with heavy contextual background.

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-0060-3.ch010

INTRODUCTION

“So, in the first part of the word “translation”, “trans” means “across”. The other part of the word – “lation” – comes from the Latin verb that means “to carry”. So, if we put the two elements together, we can see that “translation” essentially means “to carry across”.” (Bowker, 2023, p. 9).

The meaning of translation, as given by Lynee Bowker in her book *De-mystifying Translation Introducing Translation to Non-translators* (2023) makes it an act of carrying across the words from one language to another. However, this is not synonymous to merely replacing or substituting the word as it is, rather it also involves the pragmatic task of preserving the meaning, intent, and cultural nuances within specific contexts. This is so because, in the process of translation it is not just the words that are ‘being carried’ but along with that, the original context, nature and culture.

In this sense, a fair and accurate translation is the one which honors the thoughts, sentiments and intent of the original text along with its precise meaning. Translation, therefore, is a profoundly creative and intellectual undertaking rather than just a language exercise (Muñoz-Basols et al.). That is why, traditionally, human translators, equipped with cultural and intellectual expertise, have undertaken this task (Lee, 2023). However, globalization has driven demand for rapid and cost-effective translation, leading to the rise of AI-powered tools. This shift raises a crucial question: Can AI-driven translation tools effectively carry forward the cultural and emotional depth along with the translated words?

These automated machine translations began as complimentary to human translators but gradually started eliminating them. Though they were “...best suited for translating instruction manuals” (Khoshafah, 2023, p.1), the development of AI powered by machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing (NLP), has further altered the field (Gupta et al., 2021; Bhargava & Sharma, 2021). Tools like Microsoft Translator, DeepL, and Google Translate now provide real-time translation services. Beyond text translation, AI enhances accessibility, facilitates global communication, and supports speech-to-text and automatic subtitling (Sayers et al.). However, issues remain, including quality inconsistencies and biases stemming from training data, particularly for low-resource languages (Ousidhoum et al.). These restrictions, while important, remind one of the intricacies of the translation process itself and operate more as reflections than as restraints.

Building on these discussions this chapter compares the translating abilities of two cutting-edge AI models, ChatGPT 4o (free version) and Gemini 1.5 Flash (free version). It is done via the prism of a particular translation task: translating the Partition poem “Subh-e-Azadi (The Dawn of Freedom)” by Faiz Ahmed Faiz from Hindi, a low resource language to English, a high resource language. The study

24 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/translating-subh-e-azadi/377392

Related Content

Corporate Linguistic Rights through the Prism of Company Linguistic Identity Capital

Magdalena Bielenia-Grajewska (2014). *Computational Linguistics: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 1241-1256).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/corporate-linguistic-rights-through-the-prism-of-company-linguistic-identity-capital/108775

Natural Language Processing as Feature Extraction Method for Building Better Predictive Models

Goran Klepacand Marko Veli (2015). *Modern Computational Models of Semantic Discovery in Natural Language* (pp. 141-166).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/natural-language-processing-as-feature-extraction-method-for-building-better-predictive-models/133878

- (Jantra-Na Not-Machine) Can Only Feel (Jantrana Pain)!

Amitava Dasand Björn Gambäck (2013). *Technical Challenges and Design Issues in Bangla Language Processing* (pp. 328-345).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/jantra-not-machine-can-only/78482

LingoBee Mobile App: Connecting to Language Learners through Technology

Emma Procter-Legg, Sobah Abbas Petersenand Annamaria Cacchione (2014). *Computational Linguistics: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 740-762).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/lingobee-mobile-app/108749

Semantics-Based Document Categorization Employing Semi-Supervised Learning

Jan Žižkaand František Daena (2015). *Modern Computational Models of Semantic Discovery in Natural Language* (pp. 112-140).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/semantics-based-document-categorization-employing-semi-supervised-learning/133877