

LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF MACHINE TRANSLATION

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Abstract: The purpose of this work is to analyze the limitations and disadvantages of automated translation systems, as well as to consider possible solutions to overcome them. Despite significant advances in machine translation, current technologies still face many challenges, including insufficient understanding of context, difficulties in translating complex language constructions and stylistic features, as well as regional and cultural nuances. To solve these problems, various approaches have been proposed, such as using more specific methods of contextual analysis and semantic analysis. The importance of using feedback from readers is also discussed. The implementation of these measures can significantly improve the quality and reliability of automated translation, making it more applicable in various fields.

Key words: Automated translation systems, contextual analysis, semantic analysis, cultural and regional characteristics.

Today, machine translation is becoming increasingly popular. This is due, firstly, to the huge stream of information, and, secondly, to the fact that automated translation systems can be used by anyone, regardless of their level of foreign language proficiency. However, despite the widespread use of such systems and their frequent use, the quality of translation often leaves much to be desired.

This article is devoted to the study of machine translation and examines the problem of using automated translation systems in various functional styles. The topic is relevant because it is important to demonstrate the quality of machine translation and show that its use does not always lead to positive results, even if the translation is needed only for a general understanding of the text. The purpose of the article is to identify the main problems and errors that arise in the process of machine translation.

As material for the study, excerpts from texts of the main functional styles were taken: artistic, colloquial, journalistic, official business and scientific and technical; and their translation performed using popular automated translation systems: Google Translator and PROMT online.

As an example of the artistic style, an excerpt from the book by E. Gilbert "Eat, Pray, Love" was taken. A translation made by a machine is not only illiterate, but also significantly different in meaning from the original. First, the passage is about a woman, not a man, and the machine, unable to analyze the context, interprets the pronoun "I" in its own way. Secondly, instead of paying divorce compensation, divorce "payback" appears in the Google Translator translation, and instead of paying attorney fees, legal bills appear in the PROMT translation.

As for vocabulary, the correct option for a given context is not always selected (for example, "given my house" instead of "given my apartment" - given up my house, given up my apartment). Also, when choosing an option for a modal verb, the wrong meaning is often chosen (for example, "I would lose all my money" - I would lose all my money, where would is used to mean the future in the past). A machine translator is not able to apply translation transformations, if necessary, for example, when the literal translation of a phrase from English will be incorrect for the Russian language (for example, "enough [money] to buy me a year of life" - enough of it [money] to buy me a year of life). Translation performed by a machine is characterized by literalism: the machine translates absolutely all words, including those that are usually omitted when translated into Russian, for example, linking verbs ("The apartment I found is a quiet studio"). Machine

translators do not always recognize fixed expressions and homonymous free phrases (“the ancient Romans used to race their chariots”). If a word is not in the machine translator's dictionary, it remains in its original form in the foreign language.

As for grammar, translations as a whole cannot be called coherent texts. Firstly, there is no agreement between tenses (“A few weeks later I live in Italy”), and secondly, there is no agreement between words (“Everything turned out, in other words, as the Indonesian healer predicted”). The words are arranged in a chaotic order or in the order presented in the original. In Russian, the order of words is not fixed and the position of a word in a sentence affects the overall meaning of the statement, so the order of words can and should be changed, but a machine is not able to do this (“where the ancient Romans used to race their chariots” - the ancient Romans used to race their chariots).

The punctuation is completely transferred from the original to the translation, but the rules for placing punctuation marks in two languages are different, so in the translation the punctuation marks are placed out of place (“In a few weeks, I live in Italy”). The overall design of the text also noticeably suffers: words that are written with a capital letter in English (for example, the personal pronoun I) are also written with a capital letter in the translation.

Another example of a dialogue transmission sample is taken from the book by W. Sallinger “The Catcher in the Rye”. The formatting dialogue in Russian and English is different, but machine translators do not take this feature into account. In English, dialogues, as a rule, are framed in quotation marks, and a new quotation is not placed on the next line, while in Russian, a statement is formatted without quotation marks and a dash is highlighted at the beginning, each new phrase is on a new line, which was not taken into account in machine translation. In English, punctuation marks for direct speech remain inside quotation marks (“Hello, sir,” I said.); in Russian, commas and dashes are placed outside quotation marks.

As for the style of conversational speech, the first phrase of both translations immediately catches the eye: “Hello, sir,” I said. For some reason, both automated translation systems translated the rather formal English “hello” into an informal “hello”, which does not correspond to the situation of communication between a teenager and an elderly man, his teacher (M’boy, old Spencer). In addition, in oral speech, the author conveys not only the content of the speech, but also its manner, characteristic of a particular character. For example, the address “my boy” in the character’s oral speech was reduced to “m’boy”, which the machine was not able to recognize as a reduced form and left it in that form.

As for vocabulary, the same errors are observed as for literary translation: incorrect interpretation of the tense of the verb form (“I came to say goodbye anyway” - I'd have come over to say goodbye anyway), inability to recognize a stable phrase and find its equivalent, accordingly apply lexical transformation. Some phrases are translated literally (“Have a seat there, boy”) while the meaning of that phrase was as to let someone know what he is really worth. Moreover, some inaccurate translation options led to factual errors (“I was in his office for around two hours”).

In addition, if we talk separately about syntax, it should be noted that oral speech is characterized by short sentences, which in English can be reduced to abbreviated answers to questions and various remarks that do not make sense out of context (It is. I am. Yes, we did.). Due to the fact that machine translators translate each sentence separately, they cannot combine them into one coherent text. It should also be noted that in these translations there is no longer a chaotic word order, as was the case in the literary text, but, most likely, this is due to the peculiarity of oral speech in the use of short phrases with direct word order.

The study shows that automated translation systems, despite significant advances in technology development, still have serious limitations and disadvantages. The considered examples of

translations of texts of various functional styles demonstrated that machine translation is not capable of completely replacing human translation.

Key issues identified during the analysis include:

- incorrect choice of lexical meanings: machine translators often cannot correctly select the desired meaning of a word in the context, which leads to distortions of the meaning;
- grammatical errors: machine translations contain many grammatical errors, such as inconsistent tenses, incorrect word agreement and incorrect word order;
- inability to take into account stylistic features: automated systems do not always recognize and correctly convey the stylistic features of texts, which is especially noticeable in artistic and colloquial styles;
- problems with punctuation and text formatting: the rules for placing punctuation marks differ in different languages, and machine translators do not always take these differences into account;
- literalism and inability to apply translation transformations: machine translators tend to translate literally, which often makes the text unnatural and difficult to understand in the target language.

To improve the quality of automated translation systems and reduce their limitations and disadvantages, the following solutions can be applied:

- integration of human participation: including the stage of checking and editing translations by professional translators can significantly improve the quality of the final product;
- contextual understanding and semantic analysis: developing methods that better understand the context of the text and take into account semantic connections between words and sentences;
- Discourse analysis: incorporating discourse analysis to better understand the structure and logic of the text;
- expanding the database of lexical meanings and synonyms: increasing the diversity of lexical data will help machine translators choose the most suitable words and expressions;
- user feedback: using user feedback to adjust and improve translation models.

The implementation of these solutions can significantly improve the accuracy and adequacy of automated translation systems, making them more useful and reliable for a wide range of tasks. As a result, despite their usefulness for general understanding of text or quick translation of individual phrases, automated translation systems cannot provide high quality translation, especially for texts of complex functional styles. For professional use and to ensure accurate translation, the work of qualified translators who are able to take into account the context, stylistic features and cultural nuances of the language is still required.

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