ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LITERARY TRANSLATION: PRESERVING AUTHORIAL STYLE IN THE ERA OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

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Abstract

The rapid development of artificial intelligence has significantly influenced the field of literary translation. Large Language Models (LLMs), particularly ChatGPT, have demonstrated remarkable capabilities in translating texts across languages. However, preserving an author's unique literary style remains one of the greatest challenges for AI-assisted translation. This paper explores the effectiveness of ChatGPT in translating literary prose while maintaining authorial style. Using selected narrative features characteristic of the works of the Uzbek writer O'tkir Hoshimov as a case study, the study examines lexical choices, syntactic structures, emotional tone, cultural references, and stylistic nuances. The paper proposes a qualitative analytical framework for evaluating AI-generated literary translations and discusses the opportunities and limitations of large language models in literary translation.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Literary Translation, ChatGPT, Authorial Style, Large Language Models, O'tkir Hoshimov

Introduction

Artificial intelligence has rapidly transformed language-related disciplines, including translation studies. Recent advances in Large Language Models (LLMs) have enabled systems such as ChatGPT to generate fluent and coherent translations across multiple languages. Despite these advancements, literary translation remains a particularly demanding task because it requires preserving not only semantic meaning but also the author's stylistic identity, emotional tone, and cultural background.

Unlike technical or informational texts, literary works are characterized by expressive language, figurative expressions, rhythm, narrative voice, and culturally embedded meanings. These features make literary translation a creative process rather than a simple linguistic transformation.

Among contemporary Uzbek writers, O'tkir Hoshimov is recognized for his natural narrative style, emotionally expressive language, realistic dialogues, and subtle representation of Uzbek culture. These stylistic characteristics provide an appropriate context for evaluating the capabilities of AI-based translation systems.

Previous studies have emphasized the importance of preserving authorial style during translation and highlighted the growing role of artificial intelligence in translation studies. However, limited research has investigated how Large Language Models reproduce stylistic features in Uzbek literary texts. This study aims to contribute to this emerging field.

Literature Review

Authorial style has long been considered one of the most complex aspects of literary translation. Researchers argue that literary translation requires reproducing not only lexical meaning but also the aesthetic and emotional characteristics of the original work.

Recent developments in artificial intelligence have introduced new possibilities for literary translation. Large Language Models can generate context-aware translations and adapt language according to stylistic prompts. Nevertheless, scholars continue to debate whether AI systems can adequately preserve an author's individual voice.

Earlier research has also shown that maintaining stylistic equivalence involves lexical accuracy, syntactic flexibility, cultural adaptation, and pragmatic interpretation. These findings suggest that AI should be viewed as an assistive tool rather than a replacement for professional literary translators.

Results

The analysis indicates that ChatGPT effectively preserves the overall meaning and narrative coherence of literary texts. The generated translations are generally fluent and grammatically accurate, enabling readers to understand the storyline without significant difficulty. The system demonstrates strong performance in translating straightforward descriptive passages and common conversational structures.

However, several stylistic features characteristic of O'tkir Hoshimov's prose present greater challenges. The emotional intensity conveyed through subtle lexical choices is occasionally weakened in the English translations. Culture-specific expressions, traditional forms of address, and idiomatic language often require interpretative adaptation rather than direct translation. As a result, some nuances of interpersonal relationships and cultural identity become less explicit in the translated version.

The analysis further shows that ChatGPT tends to produce syntactically balanced and standardized sentences. While this improves readability, it may reduce the stylistic individuality reflected in the author's original sentence rhythm and narrative flow. Figurative language, particularly metaphors rooted in Uzbek cultural experience, is generally translated into semantically equivalent but stylistically neutral expressions.

Overall, the findings suggest that ChatGPT performs effectively in conveying semantic information but demonstrates limitations in reproducing distinctive stylistic and cultural elements that contribute to the author's literary identity.

Discussion

The findings support the growing body of research suggesting that Large Language Models have become valuable tools for literary translation but cannot yet fully replicate the creative decisions of human translators. Literary translation extends beyond linguistic equivalence; it requires preserving the author's unique voice, emotional expression, and cultural perspective.

The observed challenges are particularly evident in passages where O'tkir Hoshimov employs emotionally rich narration, culturally embedded metaphors, and colloquial expressions reflecting everyday Uzbek life. These stylistic elements rely heavily on cultural knowledge and contextual interpretation, which remain difficult for AI systems to reproduce consistently.

At the same time, the study demonstrates that ChatGPT can significantly reduce the time required for producing an initial translation draft. Professional translators may therefore benefit from using AI-generated translations as a preliminary version while retaining responsibility for stylistic editing, cultural adaptation, and refinement of literary language.

These observations are consistent with previous studies emphasizing that artificial intelligence should be regarded as a collaborative instrument rather than a substitute for human literary translators. Human expertise remains essential for preserving artistic intention, narrative rhythm, and stylistic authenticity.

From a practical perspective, integrating AI into literary translation workflows may increase productivity while maintaining translation quality, provided that careful human revision follows machine-generated output.

Conclusion

This study explored the potential of ChatGPT to preserve authorial style in the translation of literary texts, using stylistic characteristics associated with the works of O'tkir Hoshimov as an analytical context. The analysis demonstrates that ChatGPT successfully preserves the general meaning, grammatical coherence, and readability of literary texts. Nevertheless, the system

encounters difficulties in reproducing stylistic individuality, emotional nuances, figurative language, and culturally specific expressions that define literary authorship.

The findings indicate that Large Language Models can serve as valuable assistants during the translation process, particularly in generating high-quality preliminary drafts. However, human translators remain indispensable for ensuring stylistic fidelity, cultural appropriateness, and artistic quality.

Future research may extend this investigation by comparing multiple AI translation systems, examining larger literary corpora, and combining qualitative stylistic analysis with quantitative evaluation methods. Such studies will contribute to a deeper understanding of the evolving relationship between artificial intelligence and literary translation.

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19. Multilingual educational environments are becoming increasingly important in promoting cross-cultural communication and knowledge exchange. Previous studies have demonstrated that multilingual curricula strengthen international collaboration in education and facilitate interdisciplinary communication (Sodiqov et al., 2025).