

人工翻译与机器翻译应用的对比分析

——以散文翻译为例

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摘要

人工智能翻译技术的迅猛发展显著提升了文学翻译的工作效率。本研究选取散文文体作为研究对象, 采用对比分析法, 从词汇层面系统考察了传统人工翻译与当前主流AI翻译工具(包括有道、百度等平台)的翻译质量差异。研究发现机器翻译技术存在显著的局限性, 其译文往往过于拘泥于原文句子的字面意义, 导致翻译过程倾向于直接的字面对应和句子结构的机械转换, 而非深入理解语境与意图; 代词解析和词汇不一致, 对成语、谚语的理解不到位, 因此其译文不能完全准确地表达原文本的意思, 这些局限是机器翻译面临的挑战。AI翻译略有优势, 尤其是它支持实时互动对话功能, 能够及时解答译者的疑问与困惑, 从而助力译者更高效、准确地完成文本翻译工作。但在文学典故、词汇理解等方面仍有待改进。相比较而言, 人工翻译(张培基、徐新磊)在翻译质量上是最高的, 两位译者都能合理地调整语序并精准地翻译原文所表达的内容。从翻译时间来讲, 机器翻译和AI翻译耗时短, 几秒钟就能得出翻译结果; 人工翻译耗时最长。因此, 译员可以结合机器翻译和AI翻译的优点, 进行译后编辑, 从而使之成为提高工作效率的有力工具。

关键词

机器翻译, 散文翻译, 人工智能翻译

A Comparative Analysis of the Application of Human Translation and Machine Translation

—A Case Study of Prose Translation

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Abstract

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) translation software has, to a certain extent, enhanced the efficiency of translating literary works. Taking prose as an example, this paper compares human translation with popular AI translation tools, as well as Youdao and Baidu translation software, conducting an analysis from the perspective of vocabulary translation to summarize their respective strengths and weaknesses. The research reveals significant limitations in machine translation technology, which tends to adhere overly to the literal meanings of the original sentences, resulting in a process that favors direct word-for-word correspondence and mechanical conversion of sentence structures, rather than a deep understanding of context and intention. Issues such as improper pronoun resolution, inconsistent vocabulary usage, and inadequate comprehension of idioms and proverbs contribute to translated texts that fail to fully and accurately convey the meaning of the original text. These limitations pose challenges for machine translation. AI translation shows slight advantages, particularly in its real-time interactive dialogue feature, which promptly addresses translators' queries and concerns, facilitating more efficient and accurate text translation. However, it still requires improvement in areas like literary allusions and nuanced vocabulary understanding. In contrast, human translation (exemplified by the works of Zhang Peiji and Xu Xinlei) boasts the highest quality, with both translators adept at adjusting sentence order and precisely capturing the intended meaning of the original text. In terms of translation time, machine and AI translations are notably faster, often producing results within seconds, while human translation takes the longest. Consequently, translators can leverage the strengths of machine and AI translation by incorporating post-editing, transforming these tools into effective aids for enhancing their work efficiency.

Keywords

Machine Translation, Prose Translation, Artificial Intelligence Translation

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1. 引言

人工智能的飞速发展从很多方面便利了人类的生活及科学研究，其中也包括翻译；百度翻译，有道翻译等各种翻译软件的出现为翻译工作提供极大的便利，从而成为一种不可或缺的语言辅助工具。然而，翻译远非一项简单的任务，它深刻交织着语言、思维与情感的细腻纽带，跨越了文化的界限与时空的鸿沟，成为了一场不同文化间碰撞、交流与融合的壮丽旅程，也是译者逻辑思维的转换过程，它含有新思想、新概念、新词语的融汇与创造。在这个智能化的时代，人工翻译能否完全被智能翻译和机器翻译所取代，它自身的优缺点有哪些？本文将文学散文的翻译为例，对以上问题进行分析。

2. 散文的文章特征

散文是与诗歌、小说、戏剧并称的一种文学体裁，指不讲究韵律的散体文章，包括杂文、随笔、游记等[1]。是最自由的文体，不讲究音韵，不讲究排比，没有任何的束缚及限制，也是中国最早出现的行文体例。通常一篇散文具有一个或多个中心思想，以抒情、记叙、论理等方式表达[2]。

2.1. 形散而神不散

“形散”主要是说散文取材十分广泛自由，不受时间和空间的限制；表现手法不拘一格：可以叙述事件的发展，可以描写人物形象，可以托物抒情，可以发表议论，而且作者可以根据内容需要自由调整、随意变化[3]。“神不散”主要是从散文的立意方面说的，即散文所要表达的主题明确而集中，无论散文的内容多么广泛，表现手法多么灵活，无不为了更好地表达主题服务[3]。主题集中，立意明确，虽然表现手法不拘一格，但始终围绕一个中心思想展开。

2.2. 意境深邃

作者运用丰富的想象与联想能力，通过层层递进的叙述方式，即由浅入深、由此及彼的构思技巧，巧妙地以某一具体而微的事物为载体，来象征或传达某种深刻的抽象概念、思想内涵或情感体验。它不仅表达个人的情感体验，还常常融入对生命、自然、社会等深层次问题的哲理思考。这种情感与哲理的交织，使得散文的意境超越了表面现象，触及到人类精神世界的核心，引发读者对人生、宇宙等深层次问题的共鸣和思考。

3. 翻译原文来源及研究方法

张培基的散文译著在翻译界影响广泛，有学者曾评价张培基先生的译文自然流畅，用词准确细腻，再现原作风格，但又着重语篇神韵的再创造[4]。社交平台的公众号“XXL1987”运营者徐新磊以其犀利的点评和化繁为简的翻译方式深受广大英语专业学生的喜爱。基于上述考虑，本文特地从翻译训练的经典之作《张培基散文(二)》《张培基散文(三)》及《英译中国现代散文选》中精选译文作为参照标准，随机抽取其汉译英部分的例句，以展示人工翻译的成果。鉴于当前市场上主流的翻译软件不仅操作简便且免费使用，本文决定采用有道翻译、百度翻译及 AI 翻译等工具，对同一原文进行机器翻译，以此作为对比分析中的机器译文部分。从词汇翻译和句法结构翻译的角度来对比分析人工翻译和机器翻译存在的优缺点。

4. 译文对比分析

4.1. 成语的翻译

成语是汉语词汇中定型的词，众人皆说，成之于语，所以叫成语。大多数的成语都是四字的，一小部分是三字，五字，也有一些七字以上的成语。成语是中国传统文化的一大特色，有固定的结构形式和固定的说法，表示一定的意义，在语句中是作为一个整体来应用的[5]。成语作为汉语的独特表达形式，大多源自古代典籍或历史典故，往往承载着特定的文化内涵与历史背景。从语言特征来看，成语具有以下显著特点：首先，其语义具有整体性，往往通过隐喻或引申表达深刻含义，不能简单地从字面意思推断；其次，在结构上呈现高度凝固性，不仅词序固定不变，其构成成分也不可随意替换或删减；此外，许多成语本身就是一个完整的语法单位，可以独立成句。这些特征使成语成为汉语表达中凝练而富有表现力的语言单位。

例句 1: 因此，从前是非有定评之书不读的，现在却**马勃牛溲**，一例的都想看看了，这大约总也是一种进步的现象。

徐新磊：Today, people read a wide range of books, including those that have already received positive or negative evaluations. Perhaps this is a sign of social progress.

张培基：Therefore, that people nowadays have taken to reading whatever books they like, trashy or not, including those already generally judged to be good or bad, is probably an indication of social progress.

百度翻译: Therefore, in the past, there were books with fixed reviews that were not read, but now they are all eager to read, and this is probably a progressive phenomenon.

有道翻译: Therefore, in the past, those who did not read the book of criticism, but now want to see a case of **deutzia**, this is about always a phenomenon of progress.

AI 翻译: Therefore, once upon a time is not a book of definite evaluation, now **Ma Bo Niu Po**, a case of all want to see, this is probably always a progressive phenomenon.

解析: “马勃牛溲”是一个成语,出自唐代文学家韩愈的《进学解》。这个成语的意思是指那些通常被人们认为无用或低贱的东西,在懂得其性能和用途的人手中,却可以变得非常有价值。徐新磊、张培基和百度翻译选择省译,均未翻译该成语。有道翻译将其译为“**deutzia**”,我在剑桥词典查阅该词的意思时,并未给出相应的解释;在有道词典里的解释为:“溲疏属植物”。AI 翻译将该成语用拼音译为“**Ma Bo Niu Po**”,我于是向 AI 提问:“译文能不能换一种更通俗易懂的表达?” AI 翻译给出了这样的翻译结果:“Therefore, in the past, books that did not have a fixed evaluation were not read, but now, everything is wanted to be seen, which seems to be a kind of progress.”同时还这样解释道:在语法方面,这句话没有明显的错误。但是,为了使表达更清晰,可以考虑将“马勃牛溲”替换为更具体的描述。例如,“马勃牛溲”可以替换为“各种类型的书籍”,这样句子就可以改为:“Therefore, in the past, books that did not have a fixed evaluation were not read, but now, all sorts of books are wanted to be seen, which seems to be a kind of progress.”此外,“马勃牛溲”这个词在现代汉语中并不常用,可能会让一些读者感到困惑。因此,在实际使用中,建议使用更通俗易懂的词语来表达类似的意思。

例句 2: 中国人的事业观,最羡慕“少年得志”,最伤感“大器晚成”。

徐新磊: This is a generally embraced viewpoint among the Chinese people. For them, the best scenario comes **when a man achieves his career ambition in his early years**, and the worst scenario comes **when he becomes successful until later than usual**.

张培基: According to the Chinese outlook on life, it is most enviable “to achieve success in one’s early years” but most sorrowful “to fail to achieve it until one’s old age”.

百度翻译: The career outlook of Chinese people is the most envious of “achieving success in youth” and the most melancholic of “achieving greatness late”.

有道翻译: This statement can represent the common thoughts of the Chinese people in general. The Chinese view of career, the most envy “young achievement”, the most sad “late bloomer”.

AI 翻译: The Chinese people admire “early success” the most and are saddened by “late blooming”. For this reason, even those who have achieved success may have the intention to retire after the age of fifty.

解析: “少年得志”和“大器晚成”人工翻译和机器翻译均能准确地翻译。

例句 3: 开卷有益,是古人奖励读书的一句成语。

徐新磊: **Reading** is beneficial. This is an idiom used by our ancestors to spark interest in reading.

张培基: “**Reading** is always beneficial” is an old idiom first used by our ancients to urge people to do more reading.

百度翻译: **Opening a book** is beneficial, which is an idiom used by ancient people to reward reading.

有道翻译: **Open book** is beneficial, is the ancient people reward reading an idiom.

AI 翻译: **Open a book** is beneficial, is the ancients reward reading a idiom.

解析: 该句中的开卷有益是一个成语,出自《与子俨等疏》。它通常用来勉励人们要多读书,只要读

书就一定会从书中获益。2 位人工翻译根据成语的引申含义意思翻译为“Reading”；而 3 个机器翻译只是译出了成语的字面意思，把“开卷”译为“open a book”，译文显得生硬呆板。

“奖励读书”实指“鼓励读书”，人工翻译把“奖励”更侧重于“激起读书者的兴趣、敦促”之意，翻译为“spark interest in”和“urge”从而更加符合源文本的语义；3 个机器翻译均翻译为“reward”。

例句 4：从前读到一册坏书，读后每觉得为古人所欺；现在多了一点智识，反过来又觉得古人的不我欺了。

徐新磊：In the past, I felt **cheated** by them after reading a bad book. As I become more sophisticated and informed, it has occurred to me that they don't **cheat** me at all.

张培基：I used to blame the ancients for **misleading** me whenever I finished reading a bad book. Now I know better than to do that.

百度翻译：Once upon a time, I read a bad book, but after reading it, I always felt like I was being **deceived** by the ancients; Now that I have gained a little more intelligence, I feel that the ancients are not being **deceived** by me.

有道翻译：Once read a bad book, after reading every feel that the ancients **deceived**; Now I have a little more wisdom, and in turn I feel that the ancients have **deceived** me.

AI 翻译：Once upon a time, read a book of bad books, read every feel for the ancients; now a little more intelligence, in turn and feel that the ancients do not I **bully**.

解析：“为古人所欺”“欺”字本义为“欺骗”，在本句中更倾向于“被古人所误导”。徐新磊将其译为“cheat”。根据剑桥词典对 cheat 的解释：to act in a dishonest way in order to get what you want. 指用不正当的手段骗取所需之物，尤指占他人的便宜或钱财为目的的欺骗。张培基将其译为“mislead”，更符合源文本所表达的含义。百度翻译和有道翻译将其译为“deceive”。根据剑桥词典对 deceive 的解释：to persuade someone that something false is the truth, or to keep the truth hidden from someone for your own advantage, 指用虚假，哄骗，隐瞒等手段使人产生误解或错觉而上当受骗。AI 翻译并没有完整地译出。

“不我欺”的语义逻辑是不通顺的，需调整为“不欺我”。徐新磊和张培基都进行了语义的调整，并做了完整准确的翻译。百度翻译将该句译为“不被我欺”，这和原文所表达的含义大相径庭。有道翻译译为“欺我”，同样不符合原文的意思。AI 翻译没有做出相应的语序调整，使得译文不通顺连贯；且用“bully”一词表达“欺”的含义，根据剑桥词典对 bully 的解释：someone who hurts or frightens someone else, often over a period of time, and often forcing them to do something that they do not want to do, 并不符合原文所表达的含义。因此我对 AI 提出提问：能否调整语序然后重新翻译一下并进行润色呢？以下是 AI 的二次翻译：I used to read a bad book, and after reading it, I always felt that the ancients had deceived me. Now that I have gained a bit more knowledge, I feel that the ancients have not deceived me.

4.2. 文化负载词的翻译

文化负载词是语言中的一种独特现象，它们充分体现了一个地区或民族的文化、历史、价值观和社会习俗等。它是表示某一种文化所特有的事物和概念的词，其背后负载着本国的文化内涵，带有特定时期特定地域的文化特色。许多文化负载词例如“铁饭碗”“老油条”“铁公鸡”等是在经历中华上下五千年历史长河的洗礼后所保留下的独特的语言精华，成为许多外国人了解中国文化的窗口之一。

例句 1：决不视芝麻绿豆大的窘境如苏迷庐山般大。

徐新磊：Never fooling yourself into seeing a **trivial problem** as a formidable obstacle.

张培基：Never fret over **trifles**, nor take an attitude of cynical indifference towards life. That's the way to be long-lived.

有道翻译：Never regard **sesame mung bean big dilemma** as big as Su Mi Lu mountain.

百度翻译: Never let **the embarrassing situation** of sesame and mung beans be as big as Su Mi Lushan.

AI 翻译: Do not see **small problems** as huge mountains.

解析: 这句话是典型的形散而神不散, 内容比较多, 意群分散, 所以要进行断句和语序重组。徐新磊、张培基和 AI 翻译根据作者所表达的意思, 将源文本进行了合理的断句。而有道翻译和百度翻译则按照原文的结构直译, 译文显得杂乱松散。

“芝麻绿豆大”为物质文化负载词, 徐新磊、张培基和 AI 翻译都没有拘泥于它的字面意思, 而选择了意译进行阐述性翻译。我向 AI 提问: 为什么没有直译出“芝麻绿豆大”? AI 回答道: The phrase “芝麻绿豆大” is a Chinese idiom that refers to something that is very small and insignificant. In the original text, it was not used because it is a Chinese expression and would not be understood by English speakers. Therefore, the translation did not include it. 有道翻译和百度翻译只拘泥于“芝麻绿豆大”字面意思进行直译, 所以译文显得不够贴切上下文语境, 读者无法理解文字背后所表达的真正含义, 容易给外国读者造成理解负担。

例句 2: 假使你这一生缺少了吹牛的本领, 别说**好饭碗**找不到, 便连黄包车夫也不放你在眼里的。

徐新磊: Without this skill, you would find it rather difficult to find **a stable job** and even rickshaw pullers would show little respect to you.

张培基: Without the capacity for boasting, you will be looked down upon by even a rickshaw puller, to say nothing of finding **a good job**.

有道翻译: If you lack the ability to brag in this life, not to mention that you cannot find **a good job**, even the rickshaw driver will not put you in the eye.

百度翻译: If you lack the ability to brag in your life, not to mention not being able to find **a good job**, even a rickshaw puller won't take you seriously.

AI 翻译: If you lack the ability to brag in this life, not to say that you can not find **a good job**, even a rickshaw puller will not put you in the eye.

解析: “好饭碗”一词原本指“盛饭用的碗”, 现在有“好的职业”的引申含义。徐新磊、张培基、两个机器翻译和 AI 翻译均准确地译出了其意思。

4.3. 通假字的翻译

通假字是中国古代的用字现象之一, 它是用读音或字形相同或者类似的字来代替本字。在古代, 由于汉字数量有限, 人们常常使用有限的字来表达不同的意思。通假字的特点是“因音通假”, 即因为古代的字很贫乏, 所以用有限的字来表达意思。

例句 1: 因此, 从前是非有定评之书不读的, 现在却马勃牛溲, **一例的**都想看看了, 这大约总也是一种进步的现象。

徐新磊: Today, people read a wide range of books, including those that have already received positive or negative evaluations. Perhaps this is a sign of social progress.

张培基: Therefore, that people nowadays have taken to reading whatever books they like, trashy or not, including those already generally judged to be good or bad, is probably an indication of social progress.

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AI 翻译: Therefore, once upon a time is not a book of definite evaluation, now Ma Bo Niu Po, **a case of** all want to see, this is probably always a progressive phenomenon.

解析: “一例的”为通假字, 其本字为“一律的”。徐新磊、张培基、百度翻译和 AI 翻译的译文均译出了本字的意思。即“全部、一律的”, 而有道翻译仅仅翻译了原通假字的意思“a case of”, 很明显这并不符合原文所表达的意思。

4.4. 句式结构的调整

英汉语在句式结构上分别被比喻成“葡萄式”与“竹节式”结构。英语句子中最主要的框架为 SV (主-谓) 框架, 次要成分通过从属关系、修饰关系等搭在 SV 主架上。汉语句子则按照逻辑、时间顺序排列, 句子间的关系呈隐性, 结构上如竹节, 构成一种线性横向排列式结构[6]。

例句 1: 他跑来跑去的寻。他想寻一个窟穴, 躲了身子, 将石子堵了穴口, 隐隐的蛻壳。

徐新磊: He ran around to look for a cave. He wanted to block the mouth of the cave with sands, so that he could change his shell in secret.

张培基: He dashed here and there in search of a cave to hide. He was going to block up the mouth of the cave so that he could moult in secret.

有道翻译: He ran around looking for it. He wanted to find a hole, hid himself, blocked the hole with stones, and faintly shed his shell.

百度翻译: He ran back and forth in search. He wanted to find a hole, hid himself, blocked the opening with a stone, and faintly molted his shell.

AI 翻译: He runs around looking for a hole. He wants to find a cave to hide in, block the entrance with stones, and slowly shed his shell

解析: 原句通过“跑、寻、想、躲、堵、蛻”一系列动作串联, 句子呈现为并列式结构, 而且第二句话“一逗到底”, 为典型“竹节式”结构。徐新磊和张培基译文的主干结构为“He wanted to...”和“He was going to...”通过“so that”连接从句, 使译文看起来自然流畅。而两个机器翻译和 AI 翻译都拘泥于原文的结构, 用了很多逗号把各个短句隔开, 译文看起来不够连贯。

5. 讨论

笔者通过对以上译文的对比分析和研究, 发现机器翻译、AI 翻译和人工翻译各有其优势和局限性:

机器翻译软件如百度翻译、有道翻译等已经实现了多平台、多语言的支持, 用户只需简单操作即可获得翻译结果, 其最大的优势在于高速度。用户能够在极短的时间内完成大量文本的翻译工作, 帮助译者节省时间, 提高整体工作效率。但是机器翻译往往过于拘泥于原文句子的字面意义, 难以深入理解语境与意图, 导致译文生硬、不准确。在处理代词解析、词汇不一致、成语谚语等方面存在困难, 经常出现译文不通顺、表达不准确的问题。例如, 在翻译成语“马勃牛溲”和“开卷有益”时, 机器翻译无法准确传达其背后的文化内涵和寓意, 仅仅停留在字面意思的翻译上。对于富含文化内涵的词汇, 机器翻译往往不能精准地传达其深层含义, 导致译文失去原文的文化色彩。如“铁饭碗”“好饭碗”等, 机器翻译难以准确捕捉其引申含义, 导致译文无法被目标语言读者准确理解。

相比传统的机器翻译, AI 翻译具有更强的学习能力和自我优化能力, 它可以根据用户的反馈和使用习惯不断优化翻译质量。同时支持实时互动对话功能, 能够及时解答译者的疑问与困惑, 提高翻译的准确性和效率。而且 AI 翻译可以提供翻译建议、语法检查等辅助功能, 帮助译者更高效地完成翻译工作。

尽管 AI 翻译在智能化方面取得了显著进步,但是它的准确性和智能化程度高度依赖于训练数据的质量和数量,对于某些罕见或新颖的词汇和表达方式无法准确翻译。但在文学典故、词汇理解等方面仍有待改进,无法完全替代人工翻译。

人工翻译能够深入理解原文的语境、意图和文化内涵,确保译文准确传达原文的意思和风格。译者在翻译过程中能够发挥创造性,对原文进行艺术再加工,使译文更加生动、自然。

同时,译者可以根据不同的翻译目的和读者需求灵活调整翻译策略和方法,确保译文符合目标语言的文化和表达习惯[7]。但是人工翻译的局限性在于相比机器翻译和 AI 翻译,人工翻译需要耗费更多的时间和精力来完成翻译工作,翻译成本相对较高。人工翻译在一定程度上受到译者个人语言水平、文化背景和主观理解的影响,可能存在翻译风格不一的问题。

综上所述,尽管机器翻译和 AI 翻译能够从一定程度上提高了翻译效率,减轻译者的翻译负担,但是人工翻译是不能够被取代的,文学翻译还需要由优秀的翻译家来继续翻译。因此,译员可以结合机器翻译和 AI 翻译的优点,进行译后编辑,从而使之成为提高工作效率的有力工具。

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