



Challenges in Google Translation

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Abstract

Translation is not a new concept in present time. We have many examples of translation in ancient time. The translation of Bible was very popular and it is considered most translated book in the history. In the age of globalization, translation play very important role. Translation is the process of reworking text from one language into another to maintain the original message. It is used in many fields including literature and corporate world. Literary translation refers to the translation of literary texts. It is creative activity and has aesthetic function but there are many challenges during the process of translation because of the limitations of each language. In corporate or business world it is vastly used in advertising at national and international level. Machine translation or online translation is the product of technology. It is very useful but it is not considered as authentic and creative translation. The present paper challenges in google translation is an attempt to understand the problems in Google translation particularly from Marathi to English and vice versa.

Key words –

Google Translation – it is multilingual machine translation software developed by Google for translating text from one language to another

Introduction

Today's age is global age and all the countries in the world are come closer because of globalization, computerization and commercialization. In this unprecedented and unique situation in the human history every nation tries to know the others languages. So, we have to communicate with each other but the problem is language. In such situations translation plays an



important role in human communication. Translation is looked upon as a medium of unity and amalgamation of two or more different cultures. The British imperial rule in India paved the way for a meeting of two ways of life that is the East and the West, through various cultural aspects.

India is multi-lingual and multi-cultural country and translation is playing very significant role not only as a vehicle of reaching out the people but it serves to bridge between regional languages and people of India. English language and literature have played major role in this process of amalgam. Translation is challenge task and it is done by the translator or the Machine or software. There is much software or machine translation like Google translator, Amazon Translator, Microsoft translator etc. Now a days machine translator is used everywhere. It is time saving and easy to use. One coin has two sides like that machine translation also have some benefits and drawbacks. This research paper focuses on problems of Google translation particularly from English to Marathi and vice versa.

Translation is sometimes referred to as the fifth language skill alongside with the other four basic skill of language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Translation studies have been considered as interdisciplinary studies. There is a great need of translation in the fields of education, science and technology, mass communication, trade and business literature, religion, tourism etc. Translation of literature from one language into another language got significance and helpful to spread knowledge or culture of one nation to other nation. In fact, literary translation is very challenging activity because the translator has to sustain the right mood, purpose, feelings, and the sense of original writer.

Translation of literary work and other prose work is different. Literary translation is very challenging activity because the translator has to sustain the right mood, purpose feeling and sense of the original author. It has creative and aesthetic value. On the other hand, the aim of translation of other works such as prose, legal documents, and advertisements is different. There are various methods of translations. There are different methods of translation such as free translation, literal translation, semantic translation, communicative translation, idiomatic translation adaptive translation etc.



There have been different views towards translation processes, its method and quality assessment etc. Despite variety of viewpoints towards translation, we have normally three persons involved in the process: author, translator and reader in case of written translation and speaker, interpreter and listener in case of oral translation. Context can be a written piece or everything else that helps to understanding of meanings or messages. Translation is a multidimensional activity; it involves linguistic and extra-linguistic factors, so not a single method would be sufficient.

There are some challenges in translation. With the advent of science and technology, new methods or software are invented. Machine translation or Google translation is such invention in translation. Now a days Google translation is new trend used in translation. It is multilingual machine translation software developed by Google for translating text from one language to another. It is fastest and easy way translation. But there is controversy among the people about the appropriateness of Google translation.

The first problem is in use of expression and idioms. Expression and idioms are different in every language. The purpose of idioms is expressing the large meaning using minimum words. for example, *cat callis* idioms used in English language. Its meaning is a shrill cry expressing disapproval. Instead of that the two words are sufficient. If we translate this idiom in Marathi by machine translator it translated as *Majar call*. The meaning if idioms are not clear in machine translation. They are unable to translate in other language. The translator translate this idiom with references the context. Next example is *cut corners* means to do something badly or cheaply. It translates in Marathi as *koprekapun taka*. There is another idiom in English is *A piece of cake* its meaning is it is very easy. Machine translator translates it word by word. It translates in Marathi like *cake chatukda*. Machine translator did not find word for cake it remains as it is.

Compound words have the same problem in translation. Compound word means word is made with use of two or more words. Compound word the words which are joined together to create new word. For example, crosswalk seashore etc., compound words are formed in different way open compound word and closed compound words. In open compound word two separate words are used together for compound word and they use separately also like Post office, high



school. Another is close compound word here the words are not separated or there is no space like bedroom, keyhole, footballetc. hyphened compound words are used hyphen between two words like day – to- day, in - depth, one – footed. In the case of machine translation these words are not translated in a correct way. Compound word like handbook, overflow, is translated as it is in machine translation.

In language there are some words that with multiple meaning. In English language there are some words with sounds the same but spelt differently call this word as homophones. Like cite- sight, hole- whole, it's- its, incite- insight. They are not translated in their proper context.

There is no sub word or similar word in every language.like the names of food in Marathi *Khir, Jilaebi*. In English there is no proper word for that. Every translated face this problem. Even in machine translated has this problem.

Context of the sentence play very important role in conveying the proper message. A perfect understanding of the context, the nuances and tone is required for rendering a perfect translation which only a human being have. Machine or software are not intelligent enough to distinguish the word meaning based on context and may provide a confusing translation. For example, the word 'sister' has different meaning in different context and it has multiple layers of meaning. But in machine translation the context of using word is not properly considered. Another example, he is poor in English is translated into Marathi as '*to engrajitgaribahe*'. This meaning has different connotation.

Every language has different sentence pattern. The construction of sentences also different from language to language. The simple sentences are translated properly but there is confusion while translating complex and compound sentences. Machine or software translation doesn't go back to check its word for word accuracy from one language to another. Translation of jokes is very difficult to translate in google translation because jokes are based on homonyms, polysemy and double meaning. Translation of literary works have different problems. Poetry deals with emotion and it is complex form of literature. So, it is not properly translated using google translation. Translating dramatic text is also challenge in google translation. Dialogues in



drama which are context specific are very difficult to translate in another language using software.

Every language reflects their culture, some words are culturally specific and can be understood by only those who have knowledge of that culture. The socio-cultural background of the translator is different from the writer of the original. Machine or google translation tries to translate word by word or sentence to sentence. Machine or google translation face the problem of translating certain culture-based words into another language with a different culture. Sometime the meaning of cultural context is missing.

To conclude, it is simply impossible to transfer all the message of the original text into the target text using Google translation accurately. However, it tries to give general meaning or ideas about the source text. Though, it is not authentic, it is very useful in many fields.

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