

AI Translation in the Diplomatic Field: A Threat or a Tool for Human Translators?

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Abstract—This research explores the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the realm of diplomatic translation, specifically highlighting its potential as either a supportive tool for human translators or a threat to the quality of translation. As AI technology continues to evolve, its integration into translation practices raises important questions about its efficiency in the quality of diplomatic communication. This study aims to evaluate how AI tools assist human translators and the challenges they may pose, particularly in maintaining linguistic and contextual accuracy. Through a qualitative comparative analysis of AI-generated translations using Gemini, this research highlights the strengths and weaknesses of AI in translating diplomatic texts. The findings revealed that while AI tools can enhance efficiency, they often struggle with clarity and contextual accuracy in diplomatic communications, as these tools often mistranslate specific terminology and fail to maintain the nuanced tone crucial in diplomacy.

Index Terms—artificial intelligence (AI), diplomatic translation, Gemini, nuanced tone

I. INTRODUCTION

There is growing evidence that AI is beginning to influence various aspects of both professional and daily life, leading to changes in perceptions and practices across different sectors. It refers to "the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems, which include learning (the acquisition of information and rules for using it), reasoning (using rules to reach approximate or definite conclusions), and self-correction" (Russell & Norvig, 2020, p. 1). The outburst of such technology has led to numerous changes in the execution of tasks and quality enhancement, while raising concerns regarding job displacement, ethical implications and the necessity of the development of new competences (AL-Hemyari, 2023). Translation is one of the fields significantly influenced by advancements in neural machine translation, which is defined as "a type of deep learning that uses large amounts of data to train a neural network model that learns to translate text from one language to another" (Benbada & Benaouda, 2023, p. 16). As a result, many language service providers and professionals in the field are debating whether the integration of AI is a threat to the extinction of the profession, or a tool used to aid translators, especially in sensitive contexts that require careful attention (Bouguesmia, 2020).

Diplomatic translation is one field that has been influenced by AI, which necessitates not only linguistic accuracy but also an understanding of cultural nuances and diplomatic protocols (Akhmedov, 2024). There are various studies conducted to investigate the role or impact of machine translation and AI on academic or cultural translation (Kirov & Malamin, 2022; Mandarić, 2022), yet there is limited research evaluating AI tools in the diplomatic field. Given the geopolitical significance and the unique linguistic challenges of the Arabic language, it is important to stay in sync with the dynamics and urgency of the field. Hence, this study aims to evaluate the role of AI translation tools in the diplomatic field, whether they serve more as benefit for human translators or pose a potential threat to the quality of diplomatic communication. Furthermore, it will try to answer the following questions:

- 1- How do AI translation tools support human translators?
- 2- What ways might they threaten the quality of diplomatic communication?

The significance of the study is to provide valuable insights about the influence of AI translation tools within the context of diplomatic communication, particularly in the Arabic language, where research on this topic is limited. Additionally, the findings will try to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of AI in translating critical diplomatic texts as well as explore effective alternatives and strategies that align with the advancements in AI.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Technology has long played a paramount role in translation, and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) has

triggered a substantial debate regarding its impact in various translation contexts, including diplomacy. Recent advancements in AI-powered tools, particularly neural machine translation (NMT), have shown a remarkable development in translation quality across various domains (Imamov & Xamidova, 2024). Additionally, it has revolutionized translation practices by increasing accessibility to language service providers worldwide, as well as enhancing speed and adaptability to future advancements (Shahmerdanova, 2025).

As highlighted by Kirov and Malamin (2022) in their study on the attitudes of Bulgarian translators toward AI, such tools are viewed as an opportunity that creates new job roles, namely editors and AI teachers. The impact of AI extends beyond just changing the nature of the profession; it also improves efficiency. This positive influence on efficiency and quality was reflected in Bouguesmia's (2020) study, which indicated that the majority of participants attributed a significant role to AI in facilitating their daily tasks and enhancing the quality of translation. Similarly, Wang (2023) conducted a study to recognize the pros and cons of AI on the translation field. The study involved a diverse sample of 100 participants, both professional translators and non-experts. He utilized a rigorous methodology that involved a comprehensive comparative analysis of translations generated by AI and human translators over various text types, such as business documents and literary works. The results showed that humans outperformed AI in the accuracy of conveying the meaning, yet AI excelled in polished language style. Additionally, the study acknowledged the value of AI in translation by the collaboration between humans and machines to ensure time efficiency and high-quality translation.

However, AI translation tools are not without limitations. Challenges persist particularly in capturing idiomatic expressions, cultural sensitivities and creative works (Shahmerdanova, 2025). According to a case study conducted by Mandarić (2022), machine translation tools are useful in translating technical texts, which can serve as a base for post-editing; however, significant errors were noted in literary texts. Furthermore, it was indicated that machine translation output was less acceptable to native speakers, which implies that the quality of human translation remains evident.

Given the broad implications of AI tools in translation, it is crucial to explore its application in specific contexts. Since there are limited research exploring the use of AI tools in the diplomatic field, the legal field serves as a relevant parallel, as both areas mandate precision and deep understanding of context. While neural machine translation has improved the fluency of translated texts, it frequently produced errors related to words omission, inconsistent use of terminology, inappropriate word choices and inability to recognize essential legal abbreviations (Bajčić & Golenko, 2024).

The need for accuracy in legal translation cannot be overstated, as any mistranslation can lead to significant consequences. This was evident in a study conducted by Hidayat and Hasyim (2024), which investigated the use of Google Translate for translating legal documents. Their findings indicated that Google Translation lacked accuracy in rendering legal terminology and context, which led to serious misunderstandings; thus, they emphasized the necessity of involving expert translators to ensure precise translations, as reliance on machine translation can undermine the integrity and clarity required in legal documents. In legal translation, integrity refers to preserving the original meaning and intent of the document. This is crucial because inaccuracies in translation can lead to serious legal consequences and disputes, as legal texts often contain specific terminology that must be accurately conveyed to maintain their intended effect (Prieto Ramos, 2015). Clarity also ensures that the translated text is easily understood by all parties, without altering the legal implications, which ensures that complex legal concepts are communicated effectively (Hernando-Garreta et al., 2023).

Likewise, Giampieri (2024) critically examined the evolving role of AI tools like ChatGPT and Gemini in legal translation to assess their quality and reliability when translating notice of default. The results showed various shortcomings regarding mistranslations and bizarre phrasing, which created confusion for the target audience; thereof, the author called for careful oversight of AI translations. Despite recent advancements in AI models, such as large language models (LLM), Chen (2024) highlighted that while AI can improve efficiency in legal translation, current models still encounter difficulties with complex legal concepts and terminology, as well as precision and consistency.

The linguistic challenges encountered in translating legal texts are mirrored in diplomatic contexts, where the stakes are equally high. The language used in diplomatic discourse is unique and characterized by its complexity, ambiguity, formality and cultural nuances. These texts encompass various forms such as treaties and official agreements that demand precision to facilitate effective international communications; therefore, translators should possess not only a profound knowledge of language, but also a thorough understanding of the socio-political contexts in which these texts occur (Shahmerdanova, 2025). Additionally, lack of expertise in the diplomatic field can hinder the precise conveyance of meaning as revealed by the researcher Zouba'a (2024) in his study to identify the challenges encountered by translators in the diplomatic contexts. He implied that limited knowledge of diplomatic terms in both source and target languages as well as the complexities of the language used in diplomacy and international relations are key issues for translators. Both studies emphasized the crucial role of collaboration between translators and specialists in the diplomatic field to ensure accuracy and successful communication.

In the realm of diplomacy and AI translation tools, very few scholars have looked into the impact of such tools in preserving the diplomatic context and overall quality of translation. In an investigation carried out by Khasawneh (2023) to explore the possibilities of AI in enhancing global communication through translation, it was revealed that while AI translation tools can significantly enhance translation processes and facilitate communication, they lack the ability to grasp cultural nuances and the subtleties inherent in diplomatic language, which may lead to misunderstanding. This study is considered rigorous due to its mixed methodology that combines qualitative interviews with professional translators and quantitative analysis of AI translation outcomes. The study utilized a diverse sample of diplomatic texts to ensure

that the results are applicable across various types of translation tasks. The comprehensive analysis not only evaluated the technical performance of AI tools but also recognized their cultural limitations which provided a thorough understanding of their effectiveness in diplomatic contexts. Nonetheless, Tohirova (2024) illustrated that although AI tools such as Google translate and DeepL need human intervention to aid in improving translations of complex and subtle texts, they have altered translation practices, especially in e-commerce, politics and media, by translating large volumes of content in a timely manner.

Consequently, this research emphasizes the necessity for ongoing exploration of AI translation tools, particularly in the context of Arabic diplomatic communication. By addressing the challenges identified in this study, my research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of current AI tools in translating sensitive diplomatic texts. This evaluation will focus on identifying gaps in accuracy and context sensitivity, ultimately proposing strategies to enhance the effectiveness of these technologies. Through this investigation, the work seeks to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing discussion about AI translation tools, offering recommendations that can improve their application in diplomatic settings.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study evaluated the role of AI translation in the diplomatic field, specifically examining whether it serves as a threat or a tool for human translators. A qualitative method was employed to investigate the role of AI translation in diplomatic communication. The choice of a qualitative approach stemmed from the complex nature of the research questions, how do AI translation tools support human translators, and in what ways they might threaten the quality of diplomatic communication, of which they require an examination of language, terminology, and context.

Through in-depth comparative analysis of AI-generated translations from the specific tool used in this study, Gemini, the research explored how this tool can assist human translators by enhancing efficiency and providing immediate access to specialized terminology. Additionally, the research assessed potential threats posed by AI translation tools, such as the risk of inaccuracies, loss of nuance, and the challenge of maintaining an appropriate diplomatic tone. These concerns are critical, as minor errors in translation can have significant implications in diplomatic contexts. By analyzing these aspects, the study provided insights into both the benefits and limitations of AI translation in supporting and potentially undermining the quality of diplomatic communication.

The context of this study centered on the analysis of documents from *the General Assembly of the United Nations*, a crucial platform for international relations and diplomacy. The documents selected for this study were important in diplomatic discourse as they addressed significant global and political issues that require careful wording and precision. They were also available in both English and Arabic, which was essential for the comparative analysis. Moreover, these documents contained specialized diplomatic terminology and served as communicative tools. Understanding the language used in these documents was vital, as it reflected the complexities of international relations and the potential implications for translation accuracy.

Purposive sampling was utilized to select two texts that embodied a diplomatic tone and specific terminology relevant to diplomacy and international relations. The criteria for selection ensured that the texts addressed international issues. Additionally, they were required to be available in both English and Arabic to facilitate a comprehensive comparative analysis. For this study, the selected sample included the draft resolution from the United Nations General Assembly titled "The Occupied Syrian Golan" (A/C.4/79/L.15), which was discussed in the Seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly. This resolution was presented by a coalition of countries, which highlighted the collective diplomatic stance concerning Israeli practices affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs in the occupied territories. The other sample included the draft resolution "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" (A/C.4/79/L.8), which addressed the urgent need for decolonization and the recognition of the rights of colonized peoples.

To conduct the analysis, the AI tool Gemini, developed by Google, was utilized. Gemini is an advanced tool known for its language processing abilities and contextual awareness, which is suited for translating complex diplomatic texts. This tool was employed to generate translations of the selected United Nations resolutions from English to Arabic. The specific prompt used for translation was: "Translate the attached document to Arabic. Consider any cultural references and political or diplomatic terminology". This instruction was designed to ensure that the translation would accurately reflect the intended meaning and context.

The process began with generating translations, where the selected English resolutions were translated into Arabic using the AI tool Gemini. The AI-generated translations were then compared to the English texts to assess accuracy and to the official Arabic version for validity. This comparison was crucial for evaluating the effectiveness of the AI translations and for highlighting scopes where the AI tool could support human translators.

The analysis focused on aspects like assessing the appropriateness of specific terms and phrases that carry significant diplomatic weight. The AI translations were examined to determine whether they accurately conveyed these crucial terms and that the subtleties of diplomatic language were preserved. This aspect highlighted potential risks, such as inaccuracies or loss of nuances. Additionally, the analysis considered the contextual accuracy of the AI-generated translations. This included examining if the translations retained the intended tone of these resolutions. This examination was crucial for understanding how well the AI-generated translations could facilitate comprehension and whether any shortcomings might result in misunderstandings in sensitive discussions.

IV. RESULTS

This section presents the results derived from the comparative analysis of AI-generated translations using Gemini against both the English texts and the official Arabic texts. The results are organized according to two main themes: evaluation of critical terminology and contextual accuracy, in attempt to explore how AI translation tools can support human translators and the potential threats they pose to the quality of diplomatic communications.

A. Evaluation of Critical Terminology

The evaluation of critical terminology highlighted significant differences between AI-generated translations and official texts. The analysis included two key aspects, clarity of terms and precision in legal and diplomatic language.

(a). Clarity of Terms

The findings indicated that while the AI tool generally conveyed meanings correctly, it struggled with clarity, particularly in terms of specificity and intensity.

TABLE 1
ANALYSIS OF CLARITY OF TERMS IN TRANSLATIONS

Official English Resolution	Official Arabic Resolution	Gemini Translation to Arabic	Analysis
"to desist from changing the physical character"	أن تكف عن تغيير الطابع العمراني	ان تكف عن تغيير الطابع المادي	The official Arabic resolution used "الطابع العمراني", specifying the context. The AI translation "الطابع المادي" was broader.
"of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons"	لاتفاقية جنيف بشأن حماية المدنيين	لاتفاقية جنيف المتعلقة بحماية الأشخاص المدنيين	The official translation used "المدنيين", which is straightforward. The AI version translated literally (civilian persons) as "الأشخاص المدنيين".
"all others that may be or may have been affected by colonialism"	"جميع الأقاليم الأخرى التي قد تتضرر أو التي تكون قد تأثرت بالاستعمار"	"جميع الأقاليم الأخرى التي لم تنل استقلالها"	The AI translation shifted focus to territories without independence, and omitting affected regions.
has been under continued Israeli military occupation	لا يزال تحت الاحتلال العسكري الإسرائيلي المستمر	لا يزال خاضعاً للاحتلال العسكري الإسرائيلي	The AI translation omitted "المستمر".
expressing grave concern about the stalling of the peace process	وإذ تعرب عن بالغ القلق إزاء توقف عملية السلام	وإذ تعرب عن قلقها إزاء توقف عملية السلام	The AI translation lacks the modifier "بالغ", and diminished the intensity of concern expressed.

(b). Precision in Legal and Diplomatic Language

The findings indicated that while the AI tool demonstrated efficiency in translating legal and diplomatic language, it struggled with precision and specificity as shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2
ANALYSIS OF PRECISION IN LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE

Official English Resolution	Official Arabic Resolution	Translation to Arabic	Analysis
to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration	بفرض قوانينها وولايتها القضائية وإدارتها	بفرض قوانينها وولايتها وإدارتها	The AI translation omitted "القضائية".
"Decides to entrust the Special Committee"	"تقرر أن تعهد إلى اللجنة الخاصة"	"تقرر أن تدفع قدماً"	The AI version simplified the decision but lost the specificity of entrusting a committee with a task.

B. Contextual Accuracy

This theme evaluated the accuracy of AI-generated translations in maintaining the context by examining two key aspects, faithfulness to the original message and reflection of diplomatic tone.

(a). Faithfulness to Original Message

The AI-generated translations showed the ability to generate translations that are faithful to the original message, particularly in straightforward contexts and complex terms as presented in Table 3.

TABLE 3
ANALYSIS OF FAITHFULNESS TO ORIGINAL MESSAGE

English Resolution	Official Arabic Resolution	Translation to Arabic	Analysis
Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981	وإذ تؤكد من جديد مرة أخرى عدم قانونية القرار	وإذ تعيد التأكيد مرة أخرى على عدم قانونية قرار إسرائيل المتخذ	The AI translation maintained the intended meaning.
Recalls its previous relevant resolutions	وإذ تشير إلى قراراتها السابقة ذات الصلة	وإذ تشير إلى قراراتها السابقة ذات الصلة	The AI translation accurately conveyed the intent.
implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence	تنفيذ إعلان منح الاستقلال	تنفيذ إعلان منح الاستقلال	The AI translation accurately conveyed the intent.
"eradicating colonialism in all its forms and manifestations"	"القضاء على الاستعمار بجميع أشكاله ومظاهره"	"القضاء على الاستعمار بجميع أشكاله ومظاهره"	The AI translation maintained.

(b). Reflective of Diplomatic Tone

The analysis of AI-generated translations in terms of diplomatic tone reflection revealed significant findings regarding how different terms can change the meaning or urgency of the message as demonstrated in Table 4.

TABLE 4
ANALYSIS OF REFLECTION OF DIPLOMATIC TONE

Official English Resolution	Official Arabic Resolution	Translation to Arabic	Analysis
aimed at the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace that purport to alter	بهدف إقامة سلام عادل وشامل ودائم	بهدف تحقيق سلام عادل وشامل ودائم	The choice of "إقامة" versus "تحقيق" changed the focus from the process to the outcome.
rescind forthwith its decision	بأن تلغي قرارها على الفور	بأن تسحب قرارها فوراً	The AI translation introduced skepticism with "بتدعي".
Calls upon Israel	تطلب إلى إسرائيل	تهيب بإسرائيل	"تلغي" implied immediate action, while "تسحب" suggested a gradual process.
Requests the Special Committee to continue to examine	"تطلب إلى اللجنة الخاصة أن تواصل دراسة"	"تقرر أن تواصل دراسة"	"تهيب" suggested a softer approach compared to "تطلب". The AI translation removed the request tone.

V. DISCUSSION

This discussion presents the findings of the comparative analysis of AI-generated translations using Gemini tool within the context of diplomacy. The research seeks to evaluate whether AI translation serves as a support instrument for human translators or poses a threat to the quality of diplomatic communication. The results highlighted significant challenges in clarity, precision, and contextual accuracy.

The analysis indicates that AI-generated translations often struggle with inaccuracies that compromise the clarity, tone and precision necessary for diplomatic communication. Such inaccuracies can alter the intended meaning of diplomatic discourse, which raises questions about the reliability of AI tools like Gemini in sensitive contexts. Although, the findings suggest that AI tools can assist human translators by enhancing the translation process, especially in straightforward or less complex texts. Therefore, human oversight is crucial to ensure that diplomatic nuances are conveyed precisely.

These findings align with existing literature on the role of AI in translation, specifically in high-stakes domains like diplomacy. The research by Imamov and Xamidova (2024) emphasizes that while AI tools have improved translation quality, they may not properly capture the nuances required in diplomatic discourse. This is reflected by Mandarić (2022) who found that while AI tools can handle straightforward translations, they struggle with conveying complex meanings and cultural sensitivities. The current study extends these findings by focusing particularly on diplomatic texts, and recognizing the risks associated with relying solely on AI for translating texts that require deep understanding of context, tone, and intent.

The intricacies observed in the AI-generated translations can be referred to the limitations of current AI tools in understanding the subtleties of human language and diplomatic protocols. For instance, Gemini's failure to accurately render diplomatic or legal terms as shown in Table 4 can change the intended tone and urgency of diplomatic messages, which are crucial in conveying the appropriate diplomatic stance. This also aligns with Hidayat and Hasyim's (2024) observations concerning the importance of precise terminology in legal translations, where inaccuracies can lead to serious misunderstandings.

The indications of these findings are significant for translation in the diplomatic field. They emphasize the necessity for human oversight in the translation process, particularly when dealing with sensitive texts that carry ample political weight. As Khasawneh (2023) pointed, AI can facilitate communication yet lack the nuanced understanding required for effective diplomatic discourse. This study advocates a collaborative approach, where human translators alongside AI tools can enhance the translation process to meet the demands of diplomatic communication.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study aimed to evaluate the role of AI translation tools in the diplomatic field and explore whether they serve as a beneficial support for human translators or pose a potential threat to the quality of diplomatic communication. Given the unique linguistic challenges of the Arabic language and the importance of diplomatic language, this research sought to provide insights into how AI technologies impact translation, particularly in sensitive contexts.

The findings of this research highlighted that AI Tools like Gemini can enhance the speed of human translators by providing quick access to specialized terminology, yet the analysis revealed significant issues with clarity, contextual accuracy, and the preservation of diplomatic tone. While AI tools can manage straightforward translations effectively, they struggle with complex diplomatic language and tone, often resulting in inaccuracies and omissions that diminish the urgency and nuance required in diplomatic communication.

The implications of these findings are essential for various stakeholders in the diplomatic field. For translators, the study underscores the importance of evaluating AI-generated translations to ensure that they accurately reflect the intended messages. Policymakers and diplomatic organizations should recognize the potential pitfalls of over-reliance on AI translation, as misunderstandings arising from inaccurate translations could jeopardize international relationships.

The potential limitations of this study may include irrelevance of findings by the time of submission due to the rapid

advancements in AI translation technology, similar to the developments observed with DeepSeek. Additionally, the use of AI tools may raise ethical concerns regarding confidentiality of sensitive diplomatic information.

Future research should explore several key areas to build upon the findings of this study. Conducting comparative analyses of AI translation tools across different languages would provide deeper insights into their effectiveness and limitations. It is also essential for future research to address the ethical considerations linked to AI in translation, specifically in sensitive domains like diplomacy. Concerns about confidentiality, data security, and algorithmic bias must be prioritized as the integration of AI technologies in translation continues to evolve.

APPENDIX

The documents used in this research to conduct the comparative analysis will be provided upon request.

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