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AI TECHNOLOGY IN TECHNICAL TRANSLATION COURSES

ZITA HAJDU[1] – JÁNOS FARKAS[2]

Abstract

This position paper examines the expanding role of machine translation and artificial intelligence in translation and translation training, highlighting both opportunities and limitations of using translation software and artificial intelligence that should be incorporated into university translation courses. Also, this paper provides a theoretical approach including new perspectives and personal viewpoints. The authors firmly believe there is a need for university translator-training programs incorporating AI literacy and featuring the importance of human linguistic, cultural, and contextual proficiency and machine-assisted translation tools. Literal translations, omissions, and incorrect or meaningless translations of terminology crucial in technical translation are the most frequent translation mistakes. The free versions of translation tools can only perform a limited number of tasks in a given time frame and have a limited vocabulary. Adaptation to different text styles is only achieved by the paid versions. After considering the lack of cultural background knowledge and other weaknesses, having a linguistically and technically competent translator to check the text is still essential. Ultimately, the paper follows a balanced approach that uses AI's benefits while highlighting the core competencies of human translators.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, machine translation, translation education, benefits and drawbacks of machine translation

Introduction

The recent decade saw a pivotal and fast development in intelligence technologies but also in the translation industry. Owing to this paradigm shift, it is worth reconsidering the fundamental role of human translators. As for educational context, it has to be investigated how students can integrate AI in their translation work and how educators (in our case, language for business purposes teachers) can prepare students of translation studies for the challenges of this unprecedented technological development, which has and will have a substantial effect on their career. The traditional role of human translators is evolving, and educators must be involved in translator training to equip future professionals with the necessary skills (Xiao, 2021).

Universities providing translator training should face this issue and re-evaluate and adjust their programs accordingly, ensuring that students excelling in

[1] Dr. Zita Hajdu lecturer, University of Debrecen, Hungary, Faculty of Business and Economics, Centre of Business Communication and Professional Language Studies; hajdu.zita@econ.unideb.hu; ORCID: 0009-0006-5562-4488

[2] Dr. János Farkas lecturer, University of Debrecen, Hungary, Faculty of Business and Economics, Centre of Business Communication and Professional Language Studies; farkas.janos@econ.unideb.hu; ORCID: 0000-0002-9756-6574

language use consciously and properly use AI technologies to improve their efficiency and accuracy. Incorporating AI tools presents both opportunities and challenges, requiring a balanced approach that acknowledges the strengths and limitations of these technologies (Zaim et al., n.d.). University instructors of translation skills are expected to encourage students to critically evaluate and adapt AI-generated content and understand the ethical considerations of AI use. The future of translation student training should aim at developing a workforce capable of collaborating with AI rather than being replaced by it (Golub et al., 2024). This means that educators help students acquire the necessary skills to use AI tools in machine translations and simultaneously help students understand the limitations, potential risks, and ethical issues of using AI technologies.

Besides the benefits of AI and machine translation technologies, this paper aims to reveal the challenges, including limitations in understanding context, nuance, and cultural references. Also, it supports a comprehensive perspective on how AI as a translation-helping tool is utilised and how the strengths of human translators are preserved. Until the human creativity element is not 100% replicated by AI, those who can fully utilise their creative skills and provide added value will continue to thrive. We are convinced that machines will not replace human translators, but we do have to take the time to understand what is going on and how powerful these tools are. Moreover, we have to remember that it is not only translation that will change, but many jobs will undergo an extreme makeover. According to a survey, many teachers believe that intelligent language translation tools are not ideal and that existing AI tools are fragmented and lack a comprehensive support system (Zhang, 2021).

To summarise, human translators are needed, especially in marketing-related content translations, where different styles and nuances are critical. The same applies to translating literary works where the authors' styles are pivotal.

Approach towards AI use in translations and the translator's role

A balanced approach towards AI use in translations is essential, which involves the preservation of the core competencies of human translators and, at the same time, utilising the efficiency and capabilities of machine translation and CAT tools. Suppose translation students learn the ins and outs of these technologies. In that case, they can translate a higher content volume within a short period, i.e. their productivity increases. The responsibility of educators is to equip translation students with the ability to critically evaluate machine translation output and apply appropriate editing strategies, which is becoming increasingly vital in translation work (Sharadgah-Sa'di, 2022).

The changes in translation work due to AI technologies make translator educators re-evaluate the translator's role. One of the most outstanding skills a translator needs is digital competence, which is the ability to interact with AI and use it for translation purposes (Golub et al., 2024). While machine translation does routine repetitive tasks, human translators can handle the complex and nuanced content that requires cultural understanding, linguistic creativity, and critical thinking. As a result, the translator is not solely a creator of translations but also an editor and quality controller. All this necessitates a broader skill set for translation students, including linguistic competence, technical proficiency, ethical awareness and adaptability.

Benefits of Integrating AI in Technical Translation Training

Machine translation technology has undergone tremendous development, and the fact that machine translation applications use artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms and incorporate artificial intelligence into technical translation training has some convincing benefits.

Before dwelling into the discussion of the potential benefits, let us consider the different approaches of a translation process of which there are two types:

1. A general approach in the translation process is when the translators translate the source text using machine translation in the very beginning. Then, human translators review and refine the machine-translated text (post-editing). The main advantages of this approach are that the translation process is short and cost-effective, and high-quality content is ensured as well.
2. The other approach is the so-called pre-editing one, when, during an optimisation process, human translators use machines to check and edit the source text, and that is how they can ensure the quality and efficiency of the translation. Furthermore, the number of errors in the final draft is reduced, and the output quality is enhanced.

In both approaches, machines help the translators work in different stages of the translation process.

Quality, speed and capacity

First and foremost, it is widely known that machine translation can significantly boost translation quality, speed, and capacity because machines automate repetitive tasks, such as terminology management, content alignment, and preparing the first drafts. Machines using AI technologies can handle large amounts of content, decrease turnaround times and meet tight deadlines. It is also known that machine translation offers speed and cost-effectiveness. However, it also struggles to handle the nuances of human language, often producing translations that lack the "faithfulness, expressiveness, and elegance" (Chen et al., 2023, p. 327) of human translation in cases where social background and cultural context are crucial.

Increased accuracy and terminology consistency

By harnessing vast databases and advanced algorithms, AI tools can provide more accurate translations (Golub et al., 2024). As a result, translation firms and companies using translation software expect high accuracy from machine translation, especially for common phrases, sentences, unique terminology, and terminology consistency. A lack of consistency can cause misunderstandings, confusion and errors. To avoid the above problems, translation trainers should teach translation trainees how to apply terminology management tools to ensure consistent translations of specific terminologies. Students can pre-load these tools on their computers with correct translations of technical terms and particular words and phrases, which the machine translation system can then use to ensure consistency.

AI algorithms can improve accuracy and consistency, especially when dealing with technical terms and complex terminology (Kruk-Kałużna, 2024). Translation accuracy can be reached by the continuously trained algorithms, which learn from

different data and improve the quality of translation through adaptive learning. This ensures that the text's content approaches the original meaning and that human translators can concentrate on more subtle meanings and aspects (accuracy, clarity, cultural appropriateness) of translation. AI-powered machine translation systems can process loads of text quickly and accurately, reducing turnaround times and enabling translators to handle more projects simultaneously (Kruk-Kałużna, 2024). This way, the number of errors and inconsistencies in the source text can be reduced, and better-quality translations are produced.

Moreover, AI can provide consistent translations; that is, it can identify and apply consistent terminology while the number of errors decreases and the quality of the translations meets the industry requirement. Therefore, in translator training, we find it pivotal to teach proper terminology management, as imagined by Bauer (Bauer, 2014), to the students who learn to identify errors and inconsistencies in the source text. Consequently, the overall quality of the translation output improves. This is especially beneficial for large-scale translation projects involving multiple translators, as maintaining consistency is challenging.

AI-driven terminology management systems help translators stay up-to-date and ensure accuracy because AI tools can identify and apply consistent terminology across large documents. Moreover, these AI systems can help translators acquire the latest business or technical terms and definitions.

AI-driven translation tools often incorporate translation memory systems (Alata et al., 2021), which store previously translated content, allowing translators to "recycle" them in future projects (Rendina, 2024). This approach increases time efficiency, saves time, and ensures consistency in the various documents, which is especially impressive in technical translation, where specific terminology is used repeatedly.

Improved collaboration

In addition, AI can facilitate collaboration among translators and translator trainees by providing a centralised platform for sharing terminology, translation memories, and different sources. Using such platforms promotes effective teamwork among translators and enhances translation output quality.

Real-time services

Also, AI-driven CAT (Computer Assisted Translation) tools can provide real-time feedback and suggestions to translators, helping them improve their accuracy and efficiency (Alazemi, 2024).

The easy access to AI-supported real-time services, particularly in multilingual environments (e.g., multinational companies and global firms), enables real-time translation of various content and eases collaboration. AI offers tools to help educators create inclusive environments by breaking down language barriers and providing tailored support (Fitas, 2025).

AI-powered translation tools can also be utilised in various platforms and applications, such as video conferencing software and instant messaging apps, making communication easy. This can promote inclusivity and facilitate global collaboration in multiple fields, including business, education, and healthcare (Golub et al., 2024).

Scalability

Machine translation is also highly scalable, meaning that machines can process a large amount of text without deteriorating quality. This feature makes machine translation particularly suitable for companies that need to translate large volumes of text quickly and efficiently, mainly when working with tight deadlines.

Constant accessibility

Machine translation systems are available anytime and anywhere. This handy feature can help companies to communicate with customers worldwide outside working hours or in different time zones.

Competitive advantage

By using machine translation, companies can gain a competitive advantage over competitors reluctant to incorporate AI into their daily translation work. Additionally, those human translators who can professionally use these technologies have an advantage over those colleagues who stick to traditional translation (machines excluded) methods.

Customisation

There are AI tools that companies can use to tailor translations to match their specific brand. This ensures that the resulting content aligns with brand messages and requirements, is consistent and bolsters customer confidence.

Cost-effectiveness and savings

AI translation tools lower translation costs, making translation services more accessible to companies and people. Machine translation can significantly reduce the costs of hiring professional translators. With machine translation, companies can quickly and easily translate large volumes of text with few human translators. Besides its flexibility, it is cost-effective and time-effective, especially when the content is translated into multiple languages.

In summary, integrating AI in technical translation training programs offers numerous benefits, including enhanced efficiency, improved consistency, and increased accessibility. AI tools can quickly produce accurate, human-like translations (Jaworski, 2023; Sharadgah-Sa'di, 2022). By utilising AI as a technology which complements human capabilities, translation programs can adequately prepare students for the future challenges of the translation industry and empower them to become more effective and successful translators.

Drawbacks and limitations in AI-Assisted technical translation

First of all, the increasingly apparent over-reliance on technology can be mentioned as a challenge when using AI or MT for translations. It also hinders the development of fundamental translation skills as well (Vall-Araya, 2023). Due to this deskilling of the translation profession, translators may become mere editors of machine-generated texts, which can devaluate the work and recognition of human translators. Due to this, translation programs should ensure that their courses focus on human

creativity, cultural sensitivity, and technical expertise in translation. Students may become dependent on AI-generated translations without fully understanding linguistic concepts and cultural nuances. This process might decline their ability to analyse and evaluate translations critically and impair their creativity. Translation trainers need to emphasise the importance of human judgment and critical evaluation in the translation process, ensuring that students understand the limitations of AI and can identify and correct errors. It is also worth mentioning that the free versions of translation tools can only perform a limited number of tasks. Furthermore, the adaptation to different text styles can only be achieved by the paid versions.

What is Hindering Accuracy in AI Translations?

Insufficient knowledge of technical vocabulary and language use in the target language

Although MT- and AI-driven translation programs can boast ongoing, day-by-day improvements, several factors hinder their accuracy, particularly in technical translation. The language used by different professions often involves very special technical terms, complex sentence structures, and implicit assumptions. Without sufficient training data, AI algorithms often find it difficult to accurately translate technical texts or select the correct meaning depending on the context. For example, translating scientific texts in Latin involves the difficulties of specialised technical terminology, language evolution over time, abbreviations and symbols, complex sentence structures, the knowledge of cultural background or a lack of contextual information (Bistafa, 2023). Regarding modern languages and industries, the lack of standardisation in terminology across different languages and industries and the fact that AI programs can only rely on obsolete or inaccurate terminology glossaries can all result in inaccurate translations. As AI algorithms cannot keep up with the ongoing technological changes, technical translation students should be involved in terminology research and consistently use technical terms when applying AI tools (Sivtseva et al., 2019). *Table 1.* presents that the translation of some technical terms by MT or AI has not yet reached perfection.

Table 1. Translation of some technical terms by MT or AI

Technical term in English	Translation into Hungarian by Chat GPT/DeepL	Terminology used by Hungarian professionals
form-locked linkage	DeepL: formabiztos összeköttetés	alakzáró kapcsolat
plane bearing	DeepL: síkcsapágy	siklócsapágy
cable with terminals	DeepL: kábel csatlakozókkal	saruval ellátott kábel
electric lowering device	DeepL: elektromos leeresztő berendezés	elektromos mozgató berendezés
floating bearings	DeepL: úszó/lebegő csapágyak	csapágyazás
capacitor package	ChatGPT: kondenzátorcsomag	kondenzátor
bolt parallel guide	Chat GPT: párhuzamos vezetőcsavar	egyenes bevezető rúd
Torque for Aluminium Screw Connections-	Chat GPT -nyomaték alumínium csavarkötésekhez-	Aluminium csavarok meghúzási nyomatéka

Source: Authors own contribution, 2025

Lack of context, words embedded in culture

Another factor that can weaken accuracy is the lack of context and background knowledge. AI algorithms are typically built on statistical patterns and machine learning models, and they do not possess the necessary contextual information or background knowledge needed to provide a text's intended meaning. This is especially true in profession-specific texts with ambiguous or figurative language. Translation courses need to equip students with the necessary skills to identify potential ambiguities. Furthermore, students are to complete at least basic studies in the given profession. *Table 2.* presents translation failures (in italics) by MT and AI due to the lack of knowledge about the relevant professional systems (the system of accounting and education) in the target language.

Table 2. Examples for mistranslations due to a lack of context

Technical term in Hungarian	**Translation by MT/AI**	**The right technical term in English**
Mérlegképes könyvelő	*Certified public accountant (Google Translator)* *Chartered accountant* + alternative: qualified accountant (DeepL) ✓ *Certified accountant, balance sheet accountant (Chat GPT)*	(Qualified) accountant

Source: Authors own contribution, 2025

Context analysis is crucial when translating culture-specific words and phrases or when connotations are used. The lines in italics in *Table 3.* highlight some mistranslations of words or phrases that are strongly related to the culture of the source language.

Table 3. Mistranslations of culture-specific words or phrases

WORDS EMBEDDED IN THE CULTURE OF THE SOURCE LANGUAGE	**TRANSLATION BY MT/AI (DeepL, Google Translator, ChatGPT)**	**REAL MEANING IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE**
Public school	*állami iskola vagy közoktatási intézmény, nyilvános iskola (DL)* 1. állami iskola 2. magániskola (GT) ✓ *állami iskola (CGPT)*	Anglia: bentlakásos, nagyon drága magániskola Skócia, USA, Ausztrália: állami iskola
A Big Wig	*egy nagy paróka (DL)* *egy nagy parókát (GT)* A Big Wig" kifejezés angolul egy szleng, amely fontos	Nagyágyú

	vagy befolyásos személyekre utal…(CGPT) ✓	
To learn/know the ropes	Megtanulni a dolgok menetét (DL) ✓ *Megtanulni a kötelet (GT)* Megtanulni, hogyan kell csinálni valamit (új munkát/feladatot), amelyhez idő és tapasztalat szükséges; leginkább a "belejönni a dolgokba" vagy … (CGPT) ✓	Beletanulni valamibe
He had a good inning	*Volt egy jó inningje. (DeepL)* Sporteseményekre vonatkozik, az „inning" egy játékidőszakot jelent; nem sportkörnyezetben jelenthet egy sikeres vagy eredményes időszakot is. (CGPT) ✓ *Jó bevezetése volt. (GT)*	Szép/hosszú/eredményes élete/időszaka volt.

Source: Authors own contribution, 2025

Due to the above arguments, translation programs should emphasise the importance of context analysis and background research in the translation process. Students must develop the skills to identify potential ambiguities and contextualise technical terms to ensure their translations are accurate and appropriate. Cultural appropriateness is especially important when translating promotional materials, as many words have different secondary meanings or connotations in the target language and the source language. This linguistic ignorance can lead to costly marketing failures. Despite their continuous development, AI and MT programs still lack extensive knowledge of the culture of the languages they are working with. Therefore, human oversight remains essential for ensuring appropriateness in technical translation. The role of human translators is still important because of their linguistic proficiency and cultural understanding (Golub et al., 2024). It is hard for machines to translate things perfectly because of nuances and different ways of saying things in different languages (Lihua, 2022). Also, AI cannot understand humour or how people from different cultures communicate (Anik et al., 2025).

Nuances and connotations

Nuances are subtle differences in meaning that can be conveyed through tone, emphasis, or word choice. AI or MT programs are usually unable to detect these differences, and thus, translation will miss the intended emotional or contextual meaning (Golub et al., 2024). Connotations are emotional or cultural associations that are attached to words or phrases. The challenges of translating nuances, connotations, and cultural words highlight the importance of human judgment and

cultural sensitivity in the translation process. Translation students must be provided thorough and advanced language training to familiarise themselves with the subtle aspects of the foreign language they are translating into. They must also be able to identify the possible connotations and differentiate between words with similar denotations, i.e., literal meanings, but different connotations, i.e., emotional associations.

As a summary of the shortcomings of MT or AI-driven translations, even today, in 2025, we can agree with Xiao, who established in 2021 that Machine Translation had been substantially improved, but it had not been perfect. Its development is geared toward diminishing human intervention. However, this is not yet the case (Xiao, 2021).

Summary

This paper summarises the role of artificial intelligence in translation training, emphasising its benefits and challenges. It highlights the need for translation training programs incorporating AI literacy. Trainers should emphasise that AI tools contribute to translation efficiency and quality. The paper mentions two main approaches in AI-assisted translation: post-editing and pre-editing. Both approaches demonstrate improved productivity, speed, and cost-effectiveness besides limitations. However, AI cannot replace the human element, especially in content requiring cultural sensitivity, stylistic nuance, or literary quality. Human translators are indispensable for tasks that demand linguistic creativity and critical thinking. Therefore, the successful integration of AI into translation curricula needs careful attention, and educators have to encourage students to keep their human skills while utilising AI's strengths in routine tasks.

In conclusion, translator educators should condition and promote technical proficiency, cultural awareness, and critical evaluation skills, ensuring that students can collaborate effectively with AI rather than be replaced by it. Ultimately, the goal is to construct a symbiotic relationship between human expertise and machines. The overall message the paper conveys is that AI will complement, but not supplant human translation skills, provided that educators approach this integration thoughtfully and ethically.

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A MESTERSÉGES INTELLIGENCIA HASZNÁLATA A SZAKFORDÍTÓI KÉPZÉSBEN

HAJDU ZITA – FARKAS JÁNOS

Ez a tanulmány a gépi fordítás és a mesterséges intelligencia (AI) egyre növekvő szerepét vizsgálja a fordításban és a fordítás oktatásában, kiemelve a gépi fordítás és a mesterséges intelligencia használatának lehetőségeit és korlátait, amelyeket hasznos lenne beépíteni az egyetemi fordítási kurzusokba. A tanulmány új perspektívákat és személyes nézőpontokat tartalmazó elméleti megközelítést nyújt. A szerzők szerint olyan egyetemi fordítói képzési programokra van szükség, amelyek magukba foglalják a gépi fordítási eszközök és a mesterséges intelligencia ismeretét, ugyanakkor hangsúlyozzák a humán fordítók nyelvi, kulturális és kontextuális jártasságának fontosságát. A szó szerinti fordítások, a kihagyások és a szakfordításban kulcsfontosságú terminológia helytelen vagy értelmetlen fordítása a leggyakoribb fordítási hibák közé tartozik. Korlátozó tényező, hogy a fordító programok ingyenes változatai csak limitált számú feladatot tudnak elvégezni egy adott időkeretben, és szűk szókinccsel rendelkeznek. A különböző szövegstílusokhoz való alkalmazkodás szintén csak a fizetős verziókkal érhető el. A gépi fordítás és mesterséges intelligencia hiányosságait figyelembe véve elmondható, hogy még ma is elengedhetetlen a nyelvileg és szakmailag kompetens humán fordítók munkája. Az elméleti jellegű tanulmány a fordítási folyamat olyan jellegű megközelítését ajánlja, amely kihasználja a gépi fordítás és a mesterséges intelligencia előnyeit, ugyanakkor hangsúlyozza az emberi fordítók alapvető kompetenciáinak szükségszerűségét.

Kulcsszavak: mesterséges intelligencia, gépi fordítás, fordítóképzés, gépi fordítás előnyei és hiányosságai