

Efficiency of Google Translate and Bing Translator in Translating Persian-to-English Texts

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Abstract : Machine translation is a new subject increasingly being used by academic writers, especially students and researchers whose native language is not English. There are numerous studies conducted on machine translation, but few investigations have assessed the accuracy of machine translation from Persian to English at lexical, semantic, and syntactic levels. Using Groves and Mundt's (2015) Model of error taxonomy, the current study evaluated Persian-to-English translations produced by two famous online translators, Google Translate and Bing Translator. A total of 240 texts were randomly selected from different academic fields (law, literature, medicine, and mass media), and 60 texts were considered for each domain. All texts were rendered by the two translation systems and then by four human translators. All statistical analyses were applied using SPSS. The results indicated that Google translations were more accurate than the translations produced by the Bing Translator, especially in the domains of medicine (lexis: 186 vs. 225; semantic: 44 vs. 48; syntactic: 148 vs. 264 errors) and mass media (lexis: 118 vs. 149; semantic: 25 vs. 32; syntactic: 110 vs. 220 errors), respectively. Nonetheless, both machines are reasonably accurate in Persian-to-English translation of lexicons and syntactic structures, particularly from mass media and medical texts.

Keywords : machine translations, accuracy, human translation, efficiency

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