THE CHALLENGES OF PHILOLOGY IN THE DIGITAL ERA AND CURRENT ISSUES IN ARABIC TRANSLATION STUDIES

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Annotation: This article examines the impact of digitalization on philology and highlights the current challenges in Arabic translation studies. It discusses key transformations in the preservation of texts, digital linguistics, and the loss of cultural context. Additionally, the article explores issues such as machine translation limitations, dialectal variations, and challenges in translating religious and literary texts. Proposed solutions include enhancing AI models for Arabic, contextual approaches to translation, and promoting Arabic digital literacy.

Key words: Philology, digitalization, Arabic translation, cultural context, machine translation, dialects, linguistic heritage, Quranic Arabic, AI in translation.

Annotatsiya (Arab tilida):

الترجمة دراسات في الحالية التحديات على الضوء وتسلط اللغة فقه على الرقمنة تأثير المقالة هذه تتناول إلى بالإضافة .الثقافي السياق وفقدان الرقمية واللغويات النصوص حفظ في الرئيسية التحولات تناقش .العربية الدينية النصوص ترجمة في والتحديات ،اللهجات اختلافات ،الآلية الترجمة قيود مثل قضايا المقالة تستكشف ،ذلك ،الترجمة في السياقية الأساليب ،العربية للغة الاصطناعي الذكاء نماذج تحسين المقترحة الحلول تشمل .والأدبية .العربية الرقمية الثقافة وتعزيز

Key words (Arab tilida): المفتاحية الكلمات

العربية ،اللغوي التراث ،اللهجات ،الآلية الترجمة ،الثقافي السياق ،العربية الترجمة ،الرقمنة ،اللغة فقه .الترجمة في الاصطناعي الذكاء ،القرآنية

Аннотация: В этой статье рассматривается влияние цифровизации на филологию и освещаются текущие проблемы в арабских переводческих исследованиях. В ней обсуждаются ключевые преобразования в сохранении текстов, цифровой лингвистике и потере культурного контекста. Кроме того, в статье рассматриваются такие вопросы, как ограничения машинного перевода, диалектные вариации и проблемы перевода религиозных и литературных текстов. Предлагаемые решения включают улучшение моделей ИИ для арабского языка, контекстные подходы к переводу и продвижение арабской цифровой грамотности.

Ключевые слова: Филология, цифровизация, арабский перевод, культурный контекст, машинный перевод, диалекты, языковое наследие, коранический арабский язык, ИИ в переводе.

Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqola raqamlashtirishning filologiyaga ta'sirini o'rganadi va arabcha tarjimashunoslikdagi dolzarb muammolarni yoritadi. U matnlarni saqlash, raqamli tilshunoslik va madaniy kontekstni yo'qotishdagi asosiy o'zgarishlarni muhokama qiladi. Bundan tashqari, maqolada diniy va adabiy matnlarni tarjima qilishda mashinali tarjima cheklovlari, dialektal o'zgarishlar va qiyinchiliklar kabi masalalar o'rganiladi. Taklif etilayotgan yechimlar orasida arab tili uchun AI modellarini takomillashtirish, tarjimaga kontekstli yondashuvlar va arabcha raqamli savodxonlikni oshirish kiradi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *Filologiya, raqamlashtirish, arabcha tarjima, madaniy kontekst, mashina tarjimasi, shevalar, lingvistik meros, Qur'on arab, tarjimada AI.*

Introduction In the age of digitalization, philology—a discipline focused on the study of language, literature, and textual analysis—faces both unprecedented opportunities and complex challenges. The integration of technology into linguistic studies has revolutionized how we preserve, access, and interpret texts. However, it also brings forth significant issues, especially in the realm of translation studies, including Arabic translation. This article explores the broader implications of digitalization on philology and highlights critical problems in Arabic translation studies with relevant examples.

Digitalization and Philology: Key Transformations

The digital era has introduced new tools and platforms, reshaping the landscape of philological research.

1. Preservation and Accessibility of Texts

Digital archives allow for the preservation of ancient manuscripts and rare texts, making them accessible to scholars worldwide.

Example: Classical Arabic works, such as Al-Muʿallaqāt, the pre-Islamic Arabic odes, are now digitized and available in online libraries like Alwarraq or Dar al-Mandumah.

However, these projects often face issues like the loss of original formatting or mistranslation of classical Arabic phrases during digitization.

2. Digital Linguistics and Corpus Analysis

Corpus linguistics, powered by computational tools, enables the analysis of massive datasets.

Example: The Arabic language corpus, such as the Corpus of Contemporary Arabic, allows researchers to study linguistic trends across diverse dialects.

Despite its utility, challenges arise due to the lack of standardized Arabic orthography, making it difficult to process variations in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and regional dialects.

3. Loss of Cultural Context

One of the most critical challenges in the digitalization of philology is the potential loss of cultural context.

Example: Translating Quranic Arabic into English often results in multiple interpretations of verses like:

< وَٱلۡأَرۡضِ ٱلسَّمَـٰوَٰتِ نُورُ ٱللَّهُ (Surah An-Nur: 35)

This verse's translation as "Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth" fails to capture the spiritual nuances and metaphoric layers in Arabic

Arabic Translation Studies in the Digital Age Arabic, as a Semitic language with a rich linguistic and cultural heritage, presents unique challenges in translation studies, especially in the context of digitalization.

1. Machine Translation Limitations

Automated tools like Google Translate struggle with the complexity of Arabic grammar and semantics.

Example: The Arabic word كتاب (kitab) can mean "book" or "scripture," depending on context. Machine translations often fail to disambiguate such polysemy.

Sentences with idiomatic expressions, like:

< ألقى الحبل على الغارب

Translating this literally as "He threw the rope on the camel's back" misses the idiomatic meaning: "He gave up control completely."

2. Dialectal Variations

Arabic is not a monolithic language; its dialects vary significantly across regions. Machine translation systems are primarily trained in MSA, neglecting dialectal subtleties.

Example: The Egyptian colloquial phrase:

< إيه اللي؟ حصل

(What happened?)

might be mistranslated as "What is the thing that obtained?" due to literal processing.

3. Challenges in Translating Religious and Literary Texts

Religious texts like the Quran or classical Arabic poetry demand not only linguistic accuracy but also cultural and theological sensitivity.

Example: The famous line from Al-Mutanabbi:

< إذا غامرتَ في غامرٍ شرفٍ مروم >

Is often translated as:

"If you venture for a noble goal..."

But fails to convey the poet's intended grandeur and aspiration for eternal glory.

Proposed Solutions to Translation Challenges

1. Enhanced AI and NLP Models

Developing AI models tailored specifically for Arabic, including dialects, could improve translation accuracy.

Example: Efforts like the QCRI Arabic Corpus aim to enhance AI's understanding of Arabic's syntactic and semantic complexities.

2. Contextual and Collaborative Approaches

Combining machine translation with human expertise can address cultural and contextual nuances.

Example: Tools like CAT (Computer-Assisted Translation) enable human translators to refine AI-generated texts, preserving cultural depth.

3. Promoting Arabic Digital Literacy

Investing in digitized resources, such as online Arabic lexicons or bilingual platforms, would support translators and researchers.

Conclusion

The digital era has brought significant advancements to philology and Arabic translation studies. While challenges remain—ranging from the loss of cultural depth to dialectal complexities—continued collaboration between linguists, technologists, and translators can mitigate these issues. With further refinement of digital tools and an emphasis on preserving linguistic heritage, the field can thrive in this transformative age.

Digitalization, therefore, offers not just challenges but also a unique opportunity to elevate Arabic language studies and translation to unprecedented levels of precision and accessibility.

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