

**IMPACT OF MACHINE TRANSLATION ON UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS' TRANSLATION ABILITY: SOUTH EASTERN
UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA AS A MODEL**

**Volume 3 Issue 2
(August 2021)**

e-ISSN 2716-5191

doi: 10.30997/ijsr.v3i2.138

M.S. Zunoomy¹, F.H.A. Shibly¹

¹South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Srilangka

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received: 17-07-2021

Revised version received: 25-07-2021

Accepted: 23-08-2021

Available online: 30-08-2021

Keywords:

Machine translation; online translation; ability; source language; target language.

How to Cite:

Zunoomy, M. S. & Shibly, F. H..

(2021). IMPACT OF MACHINE TRANSLATION ON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' TRANSLATION ABILITY: SOUTH EASTERN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA AS A MODEL.

Indonesian Journal of Social Research (IJSR), 3(2), 121-127.

<https://doi.org/10.30997/ijsr.v2i3.138>

Corresponding Author:

M.S. Zunoomy

zunoomy@seu.ac.lk



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

ABSTRACT

Machine Translation (MT) is a unique tool in the field of translation. It is used all over the world. In accordance with, the undergraduates who are following Specialization in Linguistics and Translation at the department of Arabic language from South Eastern University of Sri Lanka face obstacles when they translate between Tamil, English & Arabic. Due to, they focus on MT to translate. According to this, the current research aims to identify the impact of MT on their translation activities. This research uses the descriptive analysis methodology. Primary data were collected from observation and questionnaire that was given to the undergraduates who are following Specialization in Linguistics and Translation at the department of Arabic language from South Eastern University of Sri Lanka in the academic year 2018/2019. Secondary data were gathered from research papers, books, research articles, and websites. The findings of this research declares that the undergraduates in the selected area have desires in the translation field and face the obstacles when translating. Thus, they try to use MT for getting accurate translation, idea of the source text, understanding the unknown words. Due to it, they couldn't omit the MT in their translation activities. Because, it is easy to use and helps to save the time. At the time, they assume that non-use of MT will effect negatively in their translation ability.

1. INTRODUCTION

Translation is now an unavoidable practice around the world, as it adds to the abundance of literacy and the wealth of information. Since the first half of the twentieth century, the notion of machines being able to understand common languages and converse with humans has been a staple of science fiction (Dhanesh, 2016).

Machine translation (MT) is described by Lawson (1986) as automatic translation performed by a computer with or without human assistance. While the advantages of MT are greater as it can be combined with word processing, telecommunications, electronic publishing systems, and other machine aids for human translation (in which humans understand and translate text), it is not computerized term banks or other machine aids for human translation (in which humans understand and translate text).

The main difference is that an MT software provides a complete sentence translation. Machine translation, as described by Dhanesh (2016), is the automated translation of one natural language text into another using a computer. Not only Google Translate, but even other types of machine translation exist. Babel Fish and AOL, for example. There are a number of free web-based MT systems available, including the following: Google Translate, SDL Automated Translation Solutions, Bing Translator, and Yahoo! Babel Fish (Yusran, 2017). There are some machine translate websites such as;

<http://www.freetranslation.com>

<http://www.targim.com>

<http://www.ajeeb.com>

<http://translate.google.com>

<http://www.microsofttranslator.com>

Now, internet users need a fast automatic translation system between languages. The first step in the process of translating the source language text is to find appropriate equivalents in the target language (Dhanesh, 2016). Yusuf (2010) categorizes machine translation into three forms based on human involvement: machine translation (MT), machine-aided translation (MAT), and machine-aided human translation (MAHT) (MAHT).

Thus, this research tries to identify the impact of machine translation among the undergraduates of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka who follow specialization in Linguistics and Translation.

1.1. Research Problem

The undergraduates who are following Specialization in Linguistics and Translation at the department of Arabic Language from South Eastern University of Sri Lanka face obstacles when they translate between Tamil, English & Arabic. Thus, they focus the machine translation to translate. According to this, the current research aims to identify the impact of machine translation among them.

1.2. Research Objective

To identify the impact of machine translation on their translation activities

1.3. Literary Review

“An Error Analysis of Legal Terminology Translation From English to Indonesian Using Google Translate”, Nurrifa Yusran, Nurrifa Yusran, Nurrifa Yusran, Nur
This study looks at the use of Google Translate to translate legal documents. When using Google Translate, many translation errors occur, particularly when translating legal

terminology. It's because Google Translate now offers "additional translation" and "translation suggestion," causing Google Translate users who don't understand legal terminology to choose the provided/suggested translation without knowing which one of the exact legal terminology translations is needed, despite the fact that legal terminology contains immutable terms.

Dhanesh.N., 2016. **“A Conceptual Framework for Automated English to Tamil Machine Translation System.”** This research looks at one such English to Tamil Machine Translation System. This paper examines translation issues and suggests an automated English to Tamil Machine Translation solution. The developed method parses the input sentence, reorders to get the target phrasal structure, replaces the words of the sentence with their target equivalence, and finally synthesizes the target word to get the full word form, just like every other rule-based system.

“An Empirical Study of Online Translation of Arabic Language into English Language: Implications on Student Learning Process”, Shibly, FHA., Nimsith, SI., and ARFS. Farwin., 2014. This research deals with the online translation process among the teaching-learning.

Harold L. Somers published a book in 1992 called **"Current Research in Machine Translation."** This paper's aim is to provide an overview of current Machine Translation research (MT). It is written with the assumption that most of the well-known current MT projects are familiar to readers, or that they can learn more about them by using the references provided. His goal is to make some potentially controversial comments regarding some of the programs.

Research gap is that the previous studies focused on the translation analysis, in the other hand the current research deals with the translation ability of the undergraduates who pursuit bachelor of Arts degree program at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research uses the descriptive analysis methodology. Observation and the questionnaire were collected from primary sources. Questionnaire was given to 30 undergraduates who follow Specialization in Linguistics and Translation at the department of Arabic Language from South Eastern University of Sri Lanka in the academic year 2018/2019. Secondary data were gathered from research papers, books, research articles, and websites. MS Excel is used to data analysis.

3. RESULT & DISCUSSION

This research deals with the undergraduates in the field of translation. According to this, when they were asked the desire of it, they answered that everyone has fully desire in the field. However, they face the obstacles while translating, they mentioned them such as unknown words in the Source Language & Target Language (SL & TL), getting proper words, meanings for terminologies, understanding the context, and lack of vocabularies. To handle these obstacles, they all use the MT usually or often or sometimes. 13% of them usually use it. 27% of them often use it. 60% of them use it sometimes. The graph (1) expresses it.

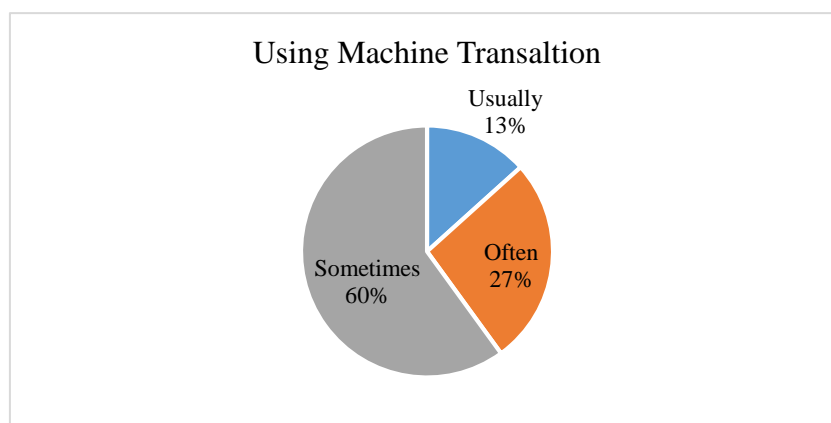


Figure 1 Graph (1) Using MT

They use MT for the reasons of accurate translation, meaning of unknown words, easy, and saving times. The graphs (2) & (3) describe the percentage of use of MT to getting accurate translation and understanding meaning of unknown words.

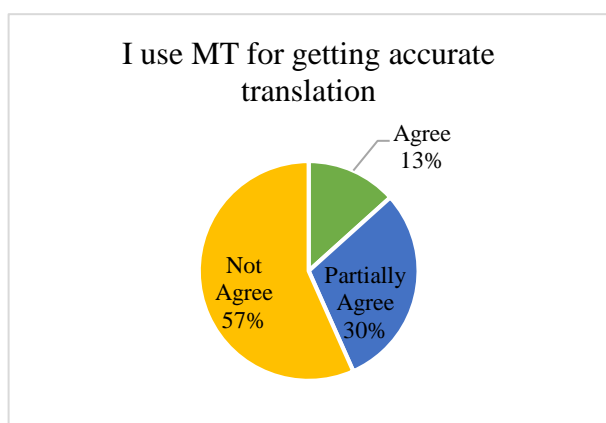


Figure 2 Accurate Translation

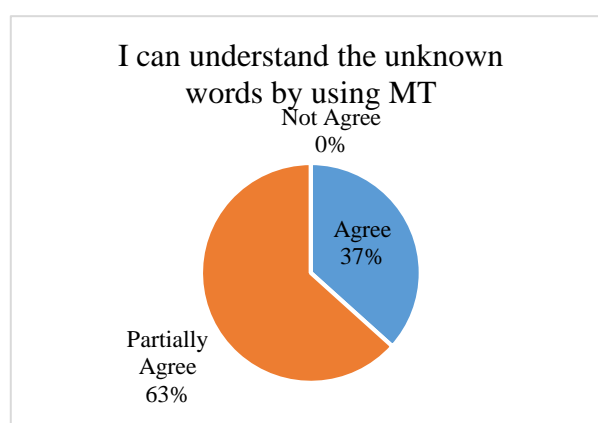


Figure 3 Meanings of Unknown Words

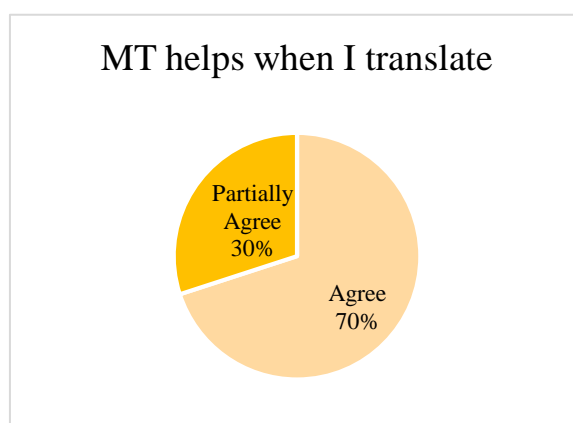


Figure 4 Use of MT

At the time, they agree with that the MT help to them when they translate. No one of them didn't disagree it. Thus, the most of them use Google Translate to translate and some of them use U Dictionary and AlMaany to know the meaning of the words. According to this, they are familiar with Google Translate. The graph (4) declares it.

When they were asked the purpose of using it, they noted that they use MT for educational activities such as writing assignments, preparing presentations, translating article in the practical lectures. Because, 10% & 77% of them agree completely and partially respectively with improvement of translation skill through using MT. Minimum of them 13% didn't agree with it. The graph (5) explains it.

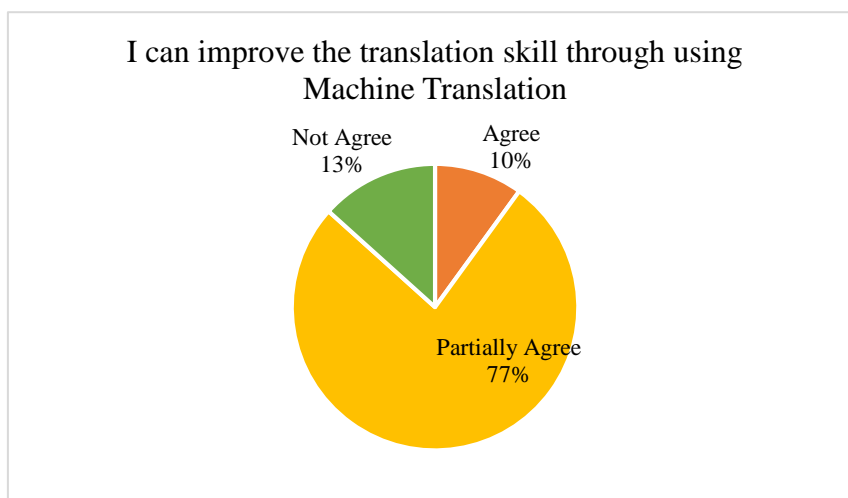


Figure 5 Improvement of Translation Skill

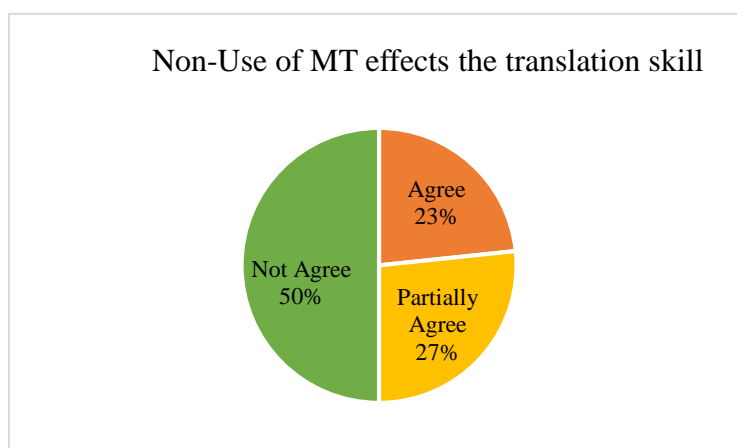


Figure 6 Non-use of MT

Accordingly, 50% of them agree with non-use of MT effecting the translation skills. Depending on MT partially increases the ability of translation among the undergraduate. Thus, even they are the students of linguistics and translation, they want MT as support tool to translate the text. The graph (6) describes it.

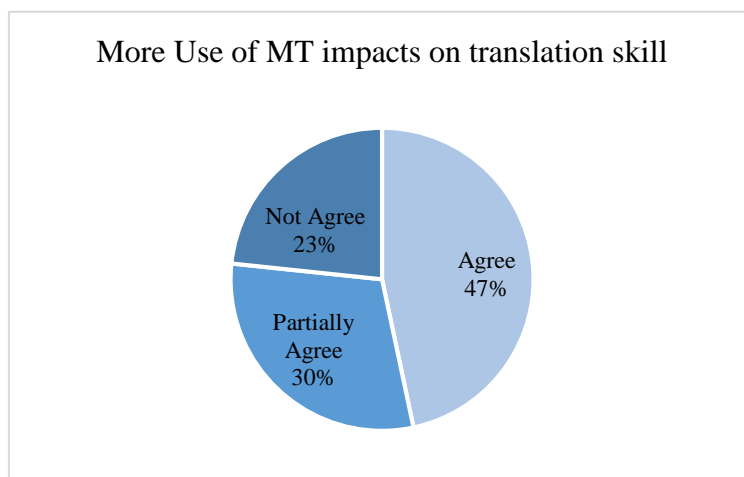


Figure 7 More use of MT

In the other hand, depending on using MT effects the translation ability. But, 23% of them disagree with it. 30% of them agree partially. 47% of them agree strongly. The graph (7) describes it. This declares that some of the undergraduate depends on MT when they do the translation works. Overly, the selected target group couldn't be away from MT. it impacts on their translation activities.

4. CONCLUSION

This research tried to identify the impact of machine translation on their translation activities. In accordance with the findings of this research declares that the undergraduates in the selected area have desires in the translation field and face the obstacles when translating. Thus, they try to use MT for getting accurate translation, idea of the source text, understanding the unknown words. Due to it, they couldn't omit the MT in the translation activities. Because, it is easy to use and helps to save the time. At the time, they assume that non-use of MT will effect negatively in their translation ability. Accordingly, the undergraduates should be guided to use MT properly, instructed to use various kinds of MT to translate the most suitable translations and taught the detailed subject of MT.

REFERENCES

- Dhanesh, N. (2016). A Conceptual Framework for Automated English to Tamil Machine Translation System. *International Journal for Trends in Engineering & Technology*. Volume 16 Issue 1 – August 2016. P.5-8.
- Lawson, V. (1986). The Background to Practical Machine Translation. *Computers and Translation*, 1(2), 109-112. Retrieved March 2, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25469867>
- Shibly, F.H.A., Nimsith, SI., and ARFS. Farwin. (2014). An Empirical Study of Online Translation of Arabic Language into English Language: Implications on Student Learning Process. *1st International Symposium, Faculty of Islamic Studies and Arabic Language, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka*.

Somers, H. (1992). Current Research in Machine Translation. *Machine Translation*, 7(4), 231-246.
Retrieved March 1, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40008299>

Yusran, N. (2017). *An Error Analysis of Legal Terminology Translation Using Google Translate From English to Indonesian*. Jakarta: State Islamic University of Syarif Hidayatullah.

Yusuf, D. L. (2010). At-Taufiq wal-Ihsan baina Insan wal Aalam fee 'amaliyyatit Tarjama. *Journal of Damascus University*. Vol.26. Issue. 1&2. P. 709-725.

<http://www.freetranslation.com>

<http://www.targim.com>

<http://www.ajeel.com>

<http://translate.google.com>

<http://www.microsofttranslator.com>