

**AN EVALUATION OF THE USE OF MACHINE TRANSLATION  
AMONG ARAB STUDENTS**

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## ABSTRACT

The last thirty years, the internet has come to govern our lives and has emerged as one of the main means of communication. Translation is one of the areas which has been greatly affected by the rapid progress in online communication. Research and development undertakings for machine translation systems focus more on the translation of English language to other languages more than other languages, dependence on these systems. Problems arise when Arab students in the Faculty of Islamic studies, University of Malaya, who conduct their researches in Arabic are required to furnish an English version of their abstract. Since they rely on free on-line translation, translation flaws have led to a lot of misunderstanding when their supervisors read the English version of their abstracts. With that in mind, this study will look at the perception of users towards machine translation, mainly free online translation by using Google translate engine.

This study employed the “Black-box” methodology to evaluate the quality of machine translation products (Hutchins and Somers, 1992). In the black-box evaluation, the evaluator has to look at the system’s input and output. Therefore, samples of students’ abstracts translated by the free on-line translation tools are evaluated for accuracy. The design of this study relies on a questionnaire and interviews to obtain information on the users’ perception on the use of machine translation tools.

This study concluded that free on-line translation tools, specifically the Google translation engine is not considered a reliable system which can produce accurate and acceptable Arabic- English translation output.

## ABSTRAK

Dalam dunia teknologi yang serba canggih pada masa kini, internet telah di ketahui umum sebagai salah satu teknologi yang kian berkembang dalam kehidupan manusia dan ia dianggap sebagai salah satu cara komunikasi utama manusia. Bidang penterjemahan merupakan salah satu bidang yang pesat berkembang kesan daripada kemajuan dalam komunikasi atas talian dengan terhasilnya mesin terjemahan (MT). Penyelidikan dan peningkatan yang dilakukan untuk menterjemahkan bahasa melalui MT memberi keutamaan kepada terjemahan dari Bahasa Inggeris (BI) ke bahasa lain berbanding dengan bahasa-bahasa lain. Dengan demikian, kajian ini akan mengkaji tentang persepsi pengguna ke atas penggunaan MT, terutamanya penterjemahan percuma yang disediakan dalam enjin carian Google.

Permasalahan dikenal pasti apabila terdapat pelajar-pelajar Arab yang menuntut di Fakulti Pengajian Islam, Universiti Malaya, menggunakan perkhidmatan penterjemahan percuma yang disediakan secara atas talian untuk menterjemah abstrak penyelidikan mereka daripada Bahasa Arab ke BI. Walaupun mereka menulis disertasi mereka dalam Bahasa Arab, mereka dikehendaki untuk menyediakan penulisan abstrak berbentuk BI sebagai terjemahan kepada abstrak Bahasa Arab yang menjadi salah satu keperluan fakulti.

Oleh kerana mereka tidak mahir dalam bahasa Inggeris, mereka bergantung sepenuhnya kepada MT yang disediakan secara percuma atas talian untuk membuat penterjemahan dari Bahasa Arab ke BI. Walau bagaimanapun, kualiti penterjemahan yang rendah memberi pelbagai kesalahan dari segi tatabahasa dan struktur ayat yang kadang-kala tidak dapat difahami makna yang dihasilkan. Ia juga memberi tekanan dan masalah kepada penyelia apabila tidak mampu untuk memahami maksud yang hendak disampaikan.

Kajian ini menggunakan metodologi "Black-box" yang merupakan salah satu kaedah yang digunakan untuk menilai kualiti produk-produk MT (Hutchins and Somers, 1992). Dalam penilaian "black-box", kedua-dua sudut input dan output perlu dinilai. Dalam kajian ini, kaedah ini digunakan untuk menilai sampel abstrak pelajar yang telah diterjemahkan

menggunakan penterjemahan percuma secara atas talian. Dua instrumen lain yang digunakan adalah berbentuk soal selidik (*questionnaire*) dan temu bual bagi mendapatkan maklumat tambahan yang bertujuan untuk mendapatkan persepsi pengguna terhadap penggunaan MT.

Kajian ini dapat disimpulkan bahawa perkhidmatan penterjemahan yang disediakan secara percuma, terutamanya melalui enjin carian Google, dari Bahasa Arab ke BI adalah tidak dianggap sebagai satu sistem yang berdaya maju dan boleh dipercayai untuk menghasilkan terjemahan output yang tepat dan boleh diterima. Oleh itu, MT dianggap sebagai satu alat yang kurang membantu pelajar-pelajar Arab dalam membuat penterjemahan hasil penyelidikan mereka ke BI.

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