



The Power of *Humachine* Translation: A Posthumanist Approach to Investigating Transliteration Patterns of Arabic Toponyms into English

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Abstract

Toponyms are a prerequisite for a well-written news story. Adhering to a unified transliteration pattern of toponyms significantly helps avoid confusion and improves search engine optimization. This study explores inconsistencies among human translators affiliated with Arab news websites in transliterating Arabic toponyms into English. The study attempts to find answers to the following main questions: The study attempts to find answers to the following main questions: How do human-produced toponym transliteration patterns affect the consistency of toponym transfer from Arabic to English? How could machine-aided transliteration of toponyms improve current practices? A qualitative approach is adopted to analyze the transliteration patterns of Syrian cities mentioned in 22 news articles covering the earthquake that hit Syria in February 2023. The articles were retrieved from various English websites owned by Arab media institutions. The transliteration patterns were compared to a standard transliteration system issued by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (2007). The analysis revealed inconsistencies in human-produced transliteration patterns and conspicuous disregard for the standard system. The findings of the study were interpreted in light of the posthumanist approach espoused by O'Thomas (2017), which emphasizes the importance of incorporating the machine in the translator's workflow and highlights the benefits of posthumanism to enrich the field of Translation Studies. The study called for machine translation in toponym transliteration to guarantee high accuracy and consistency. Future research was recommended to test the machine's performance in this area.

Keywords: Machine Translation; Posthumanism; Standard System; Toponyms; Transliteration

Introduction

Translation practices have been changing over the last decades as a result of the exponential growth of technology. Translators are no longer bunched together in the same office as more and more translators work in cyberspace connected with their seniors, colleagues, and subordinates through virtual networks (Irimiea & Cornea, 2020, p.21). The fact that human translators have started to lose ground to machine translation with their role neglected to being post-editors has led to the belief that translation will eventually disappear (Cronin, 2003, p.115). However, not all translation scholars are content to see human translation taking a backseat indefinitely. Mark O’Thomas (2017) disavowed such a pessimistic view while at the same time, he called for rejuvenating translation theories to account for the asymmetrical power relations that have emerged between human translation and the machine. This study draws heavily on the argument presented by O’Thomas in his “Huamanum ex machina: Translation in the post-global, posthuman world” (2017).

The underlying premise is that adopting a posthumanist perspective allows translation scholars to develop a translation theory that can embrace the benefits of machine translation while emphasizing the role of human translators as indispensable in the translation process. This perhaps involves a new definition given to translation and modifications in the steps of the translation process to go beyond decoding and encoding messages across languages. Since a theory can only be shown effective when it is put into practice, the current study zooms in on the benefits of machine integration by examining what might be described as flaws in human translation.

News translation requires a high degree of meticulousness and precision. Translated news stories contribute to shaping public opinion and the way people from different cultures perceive the world around them (Guerrero, 2021, pp.231-232). Thus, a wrongly translated word or a misspelled geographical name can confuse the reader or lead to a comprehension problem. The current study investigates the issue of transliterating geographical names in news translation from Arabic to English. It compares a number of English websites owned by Arabic news institutions in terms of the way geographical places in the Arab region, specifically in Syria, is transliterated. The present study attempts to find answers to the following questions:

1. How do human-produced toponym transliteration patterns affect the consistency of toponym transfer from Arabic to English?
2. To what extent do the transliteration patterns followed by Arab news translators agree with the rules proposed by the Arabic Division of Experts on Geographical Names (2007)?

3. How could machine-aided transliteration of toponyms improve current practices?
4. How can a posthumanist approach to translation practices enrich Translation Studies?

Literature Review

Toponyms: Standardization Efforts

A geographical name or a toponym is a specific name assigned to a geographical entity (Rose-Redwood et al., 2010, p.690). It refers to “any named entity that labels a particular location” (Gritta et al., 2020, p.684). Gornostay and Skadiņa (2009, pp.41-42) classified toponyms into five categories, including hydronyms (bodies of water), oronyms (names of landforms), geonyms (general names for locations e.g., streets, squares, border points...etc), oconyms (names of residential places), and cosmonyms (names of heavenly bodies). They listed transliteration as one of the most common strategies adopted by translators to deal with toponyms and distinguished between two transliteration techniques: phoneme-based and grapheme-based. The former involves the conversion of a toponym from one language to another by the visual representation of sounds, while the latter refers to converting a toponym by using another word in the target language.

The Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names (2006, p.2) prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names underscored the importance of using standard geographical names selected by authoritative bodies from among a list of options. The document viewed standardizing geographical names as a necessity for international relations. Therefore, a country that uses a system of graphic symbols that is different from that of English needs to decide on a method of conversion and submit this method “for approval as the international system” (2006, pp.9-11). The manual also made a recommendation that if, in a certain language, a given geographical name has more than one variation, then the national authority responsible for standardizing geographical names in the country spoken by that language “should consider making one of those forms the official standard name” (2006, p.35).

During the third Arab Conference on Geographical Names that was held in Beirut in 2007, the UN Arabic Division of Experts on Geographical Names discussed creating a standardized transliteration system to write Arabic toponyms in English. The participants highlighted the importance of “conforming to a standard system for the transliteration of Arabic” in order to preserve the Arab heritage of toponyms (2007, pp.1-2). The result was establishing a database of Arabic toponyms

by devising a standard transliteration system based on sound files of the pronunciation of the names of cities in the Arab region.

The document issued at the end of the meeting classified the Arabic alphabet into two types: 1) basic letters that have counterparts in English, and 2) special letters that are unique to the Arabic language and have no similar phonetic letters in English. The document also devoted a separate section to the definite article (ال), which is transliterated in full when followed by lunar letters but assimilated in the case of solar letters.

All in all, geographical names, or the “Where” to use journalists’ jargon, are a prerequisite for a well-written news story. Readers are usually attracted to news related to where they live or wish to live or leave (Teitler et al., 2008, p.1). Li et al. (2011, p.133) pointed out that specifying the location of events is of high importance as readers most often like to read news about certain places, including those where they work or live. Therefore, adhering to a unified spelling or transliteration pattern for geographical names is significant. Attention to standardization gains further prominence in our digital era. Nowadays, the internet serves as the primary source of information for most readers, so a consistent pattern for transliterating toponyms facilitates navigating around the Web by improving search engine optimization.

Previous Studies on Translation of Toponyms

Several studies have focused on translating geographical names between diverse language pairs. The following is a brief overview of key contributions in this area. It is to be noted that while the part of the review concerning human translation of geographical names lists studies conducted only between English and Arabic, the part addressing machine translation includes studies across various language pairs, given the limited relevant research regarding English and Arabic. The review mainly focuses on the studies conducted within the past two decades, with one exception included due to its significance.

Among the relatively early contributions to the transliteration of proper nouns between English and Arabic is that of Aziz (1983, p.73). He pointed out that transliterating proper nouns into Arabic involves phonological-graphological problems related to the nature of English consonants and vowels, and graphological problems that include capitalization and prefixing. Aziz (1983, p.78) noted that there is inconsistency among Arab translators regarding the use of a given translation technique to render geographical names. Some countries prefer transliteration, while others opt for translation. As a general guideline, he recommended transliterating geographical names unless there is already an established translation for them in another language. He, however, warned that transliteration can be confusing due to

inconsistencies within the translators' community. Most transliteration attempts "are characterized by being whimsical and haphazard", and there is a need, therefore, for an authority to put forward rules to be followed by Arab translators (1983, p.83).

Falih (2009, pp.44-45) explored the problems posed by translating English geographical names into Arabic. He outlined five main possible techniques: 1) transliteration, 2) Arabization, 3) partial transliteration, 4) substitution, and 5) translation. Falih (2009, pp.49-51) stressed that there are inconsistencies among translators when translating geographical names due to the different methods they use. He also mentioned another significant factor that lies behind such inconsistencies, namely the absence of an international organization that can supervise and unify the translation of proper nouns in general and geographical names in particular. One of the recommendations he made in the conclusion of his study is the need for systematic and standard conventions among translators to deal with geographical names. He left the readers with a general brief note foreseeing the role of information technology in helping translators achieve accurate and consistent translation of proper nouns in general (2009, p.53).

Dweik and Al-Sayyed (2016, p.186) tested the ability of university students to translate geographical names along with other proper nouns from Arabic to English. The results showed that students believed that dealing with toponyms is challenging because their translation is not always listed in dictionaries and, therefore, opens room for inconsistency due to variations in translation techniques and transliteration patterns.

Mizher and Mahadin (2023, pp.113-115) focused on the translation of toponyms in literature. They traced the techniques used when translating the English novel, *A Song of Ice and Fire* into Arabic. The analysis indicated that transliteration was the most common strategy. The reason behind such preference, according to the translator himself, is that leaving names of places intact in literary texts helps maintain the vividness of the narrative world in the readers' minds.

Departing from research on the human translation of toponyms, Fattah and Ren (2008, p.1677) examined the quality of machine translation of geographical names between English and Arabic. They proposed an approach for proper-noun transliteration-pairs creation that uses a tool to extract all proper nouns in an Arabic document. They then romanized these proper nouns to convert them into a format similar to English characters. The third step is to compare each converted Arabic name with a list of English names to measure the similarity between them. If both the Arabic and the English names are similar, they are considered a potential match. That is, they represent the translation of the same name in both English and Arabic.

The experiment showed varying though promising results in terms of precision and recall.

By contrast, Gornostay and Skadiņa (2009, p.43-45) explored the difficulties involved in the machine translation of toponyms for the English-Latvian language pair by developing a machine translation system that differentiates between the toponyms that have Latvian counterparts listed in the dictionary and those that do not have dictionary counterparts (called “out-of-vocabulary”). The system they invented translates the out-of-vocabulary toponyms according to linguistic patterns and rules. The accuracy of the experiment did not exceed 67%. They, therefore, announced their plan to compile a corpus of toponyms between the two languages to enhance the performance of the system.

Santos et al. (2018, p.6) Santos et al. (2018, p.6) devised an approach based on deep learning to improve the performance of machine translation to match toponyms across languages. The proposed approach analyzes the sequence of characters in a toponym and can be trained to identify different dialect or historical variations of the same toponym within a single language. They used a large dataset extracted from the GeoNames gazetteer to test the efficiency of the approach. The performance of their approach was significantly better than other approaches that do not depend on deep learning.

Emphasizing the importance of standardization in translating geographical names, Ren et al. (2020) devised a tool to transliterate toponyms between English and Chinese automatically. The results were encouraging, and they recommended measuring its performance with other languages, including Arabic.

Despite the efforts of Arab and foreign scholars in toponym transliteration in both human and machine translation practices, the number of studies is still limited, especially in machine translation of Arabic toponyms. This study attempts to address this knowledge gap by probing into the potential benefits of machine translation to create consistent Arabic toponym transliteration patterns that conform with the standard system developed by the Arabic Division of Experts on Geographical Names (2007). The study also proposes that interaction between translation and posthumanism can be mutually enriching.

A Posthumanist Turn in Translation Studies

Posthumanism is a philosophy that sees humans as the outcome of interaction with the surrounding environment. It rests on the premise that technology is one of the main factors that “directs, and constraints human action” (Keeling & Lehman, 2018, p.16). Posthumanism is mainly concerned with examining the relationship

between humans and nonhumans be them creatures or machines and is generally defined as “any worldview, belief, or ideology that is critical of traditional humanism and associated theories about the superiority of humanity” (Kopnina, 2020, pp.1-2). This section gives a brief account of the concept of “posthumanism” and then explores the gains that this paradigm can offer to the discipline of Translation Studies. The argument presented draws heavily on ‘Humanum ex machina: Translation in the post-global, posthuman world’ (2017) by Mark O’Thomas.

O’Thomas (2017, pp.3-4) maintained that in the coming era, the translation process would have to be re-defined to account for the way translators interact with new technologies. Such a change in translation will be mirrored in the tasks that translators undertake throughout the process, as most of the active contributions made by translators will be at the post-editing stage. This requires a new theoretical framework to embrace the dynamic interaction between translators and the machine. O’Thomas (2017, p.287) argued that with more and more translators incorporating computer-aided translation tools into their routine tasks, shifting their roles from translators into post-editors, re-defining both “a translator” and “translation” will soon become a necessity. He pointed out that posthumanism is a philosophical movement whose main focus is imagining a future beyond the existing human traits and limitations. It is a future where asymmetrical power relations between human translators and machines emerge thanks to the exponential growth of technology. This is the case because research in the field of AI applications in translation has so far been mainly concerned with finding tools that can generate accurate, human-like translation, with little awareness that creating such tools can eventually lead to a world where everyone is free to translate any text the way they desire without the need for professional translators. In order to survive such a future, translation theory will have to change (2017, p. 294).

Methodology

Data Collection

Google search engine and the internal search bar specific to English-language news websites owned by Arab media institutions were used to find articles about the earthquake that hit Syria in February 2023. Among the keywords used in the search were: Syria earthquake 2024, casualties in Syria earthquake February 2024, relief efforts in Syria earthquake 2024, Syria earthquake aftermath. The search yielded 36 articles, which were then scanned and limited to only those containing cases of transliterated Syrian cities. The scanning process resulted in 22 articles, in which six

Syrian countries were repeatedly mentioned to comprise the present study's data. The selected articles were posted on Ahram Online, Aljazeera, Arab News, Enab Baladi, Jusoor, Khaleej Times, Qatar Tribune, and Syrian Observer. The reason for examining articles posted on websites belonging to different countries is to show the discrepancies in the transliteration patterns among them. It is to be noted that the researcher experienced difficulty finding relevant articles that contain names of the same chosen cities due to the many variations used to transliterate them in English.

Framework of Analysis

This qualitative study aims to describe the transliteration patterns adopted by news websites within the framework of the standard transliteration system proposed by the Arabic Division of Experts on Geographical Names (2007). The study follows a comparative approach to identify variations in transliteration patterns across the selected websites to highlight the capabilities of machine translation to produce an efficient and consistent toponym transliteration system. The findings of the study are interpreted in light of O'Thomas's posthumanist approach (2017), which serves as a solid theoretical underpinning for interdisciplinary studies in translation technology.

Data Analysis

In what follows, a number of examples that show distinct transliteration patterns across Arab media institutions. The examples include six Syrian cities mentioned in 22 news articles.

Example (1)

The first example to be discussed is related to the Syrian city of "اللاذقية", which is one of the fourteen Syrian governorates, and situated in western Syria. The city was severely affected by the earthquake and was, therefore, repeatedly mentioned in news coverage. This geographical name has two consonants that have no existence in English, namely "ذ" and "ق". According to the standard Arabic transliteration system that was issued by the UN Arabic Division of Experts on Geographical Names based on sound files of the pronunciation of the names of cities in the Arab region, these letters are represented by "dh" and "q" respectively (2007: 1). A survey of the English news articles posted by Arab websites revealed two transliteration variations for the city: it was rendered as "Lattakia" with double "t" in articles from the Syrian Observer and Egypt Today while "Latakia" with one "t" was preferred by Daily News Egypt, Iraqi News, and Khaleej Times (Table 1). The five news websites did not observe the rules of the standard Arabic system as they

transliterated this toponym with the letter “t” for “ذ”, while “ق” was represented by “k”.

Table 1

Transliteration Variations of “اللاذقية”

Standard Arabic System	Daily News Egypt Iraqi News Khaleej Times	Syrian Observer Egypt Today	اللاذقية
Ladhaqia	Latakia	Lattakia	

Example (2)

The Syrian city of “إدلب” garnered special media attention during the earthquake due to its high death toll. Although all the letters in this toponym have equivalents in the English language, a discrepancy arose concerning the transliteration of the diacritical mark “كسرة” underneath the consonant “ل”. The Syrian Observer rendered it with “e” while the Daily News Egypt and the Syrian website Enab Baladi opted for “i” (Table 2). According to the standard Arabic transliteration system, the appropriate transliteration for this mark is “i” (2007: 1). This conforms with the transliteration form of Daily News Egypt and Enab Baladi but does not align with that of the Syrian Observer.

Table 2

Transliteration Variations of “إدلب”

Standard Arabic System	Daily News Egypt Enab Baladi	Syrian Observer	إدلب
<u>Idlib</u>	<u>Idlib</u>	<u>Idleb</u>	

Example (3)

The Arabic toponym جنديرس, a town situated in northern Syria within the Afrin District of Aleppo, was also transliterated differently by Arab news websites. The discrepancy lies in the way the websites rendered the vowel “ي”. The Syrian Observer rendered it as “i”, while the Egyptian Ahram Online represented it by “e” in one article and “ay” in another. Aljazeera and Qatar Tribune transliterated it as “a”, while Al-Arabiya as “ay” (Table 3). Referring to the document of the Arabic Standard System, the recommended forms for this vowel are either “Y” or “i”, but not “ay” or “e”.

Table 3

Transliteration Variations of “جنديرس”

Standard Arabic System	Al-Arabiya Ahram Online	Aljazeera Qatar Tribune	Ahram Online	Syrian Observer	جنديرس
Jindayris/Jindires	Jindayris	Jandaris	Jinderis	Jindires	

Example (4)

The fourth example is pertinent to the border crossing point “باب الراعي”. Once again, this toponym exhibited varying transliteration forms across the news websites. The distinction comes from how the translators dealt with the letter “ع” which has no equivalent in English, and the vowel “ي”. The Syrian Observer, Ahram Online, and Arab News transliterated this toponym as “Bab Al-Rai” with “ai” for both the consonant and the vowel, while Aljazeera and Khaleej Times opted for “a” for “ع” and double “e” for the vowel “ي” - “Bab Al Ra'ee” (Table 4). Consulting the Arabic Standard System document, two cases can be identified. Firstly, the system advises writing the Arabic letter “ع” with the letter “a’ ” and an apostrophe-like marker (2007: 1). This is the form adopted by Aljazeera and Khaleej Times. As for the vowel “ي”, none of the five news websites followed the standard system, which, as previously mentioned in example (3), should either be transliterated as “Y” or “i”.

The other case worth considering in this example is the distinction drawn by the standard system between solar and lunar letters. If a toponym has the definite article “ال”, the transliteration depends on the type of letter following the article. Thus, when there is a lunar letter, the definite article is transliterated as it is pronounced, and the letter after has its original pronunciation. However, when the definite article comes before solar letters, it should be assimilated (2007:12). Therefore, the recommended transliteration for “الراعي” is “Ar-Rai”. Moreover, the system sets a rule for writing toponyms with definite articles, emphasizing that “the first letter of the article and the first letter of the name should be capitalized. No signs should be used to form part of names” (2007: 13). Thus, “الراعي” should be written as “Ar Rai” not the hyphenated form “Ar-Rai”.

Table 4

Transliteration Variations of “باب الراعي”

Standard Arabic System	Khaleej Times Aljazeera	Syrian Observer Ahram Online Arab News	باب الراعي
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Bab Ar Rai	Bab Al Ra'ee	Bab Al-Rai	
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Example (5)

The fifth example is related to the other border crossing "باب السلامة". This case arouses confusion concerning the correct name of the crossing: whether it is "باب السلامة" as named in the Syrian Observer and the Syrian website Jusoor, or "باب السلام" as mentioned by Aljazeera and Arab News. The likelihood leans towards the former, given that a toponym in Syria is unlikely to be wrongly named by a Syrian website. However, this ambiguity has significantly affected search engine optimization and confused the researcher due to the discrepancies in the hits generated. The discrepancy extends beyond the name of the crossing, comprising the way the definite article is transliterated across distinct news websites, which all contradict the rule stipulated by the Standard System document (2007:12), as highlighted in example (4).

Noteworthy in this example is the inconsistency spotted within the same website. The location "باب السلامة" was transliterated as "Bab Al-Salama" in one article but as "Bab Al-Salam" in another article on the same Arab News website. Similarly, Aljazeera transliterated it as "Bab Alsalama" once, but as "Bab al-Salam" in another sentence in the same news article. Jusoor stuck to one form, "Bab al-Salamah", while the Syrian Observer chose "Bab al Salama" (Table 5).

Table 5

Transliteration Variations of "باب السلامة"

Standard Arabic System	Arab News Aljazeera	Aljazeera	Jusoor	Syrian Observer	باب السلامة
Bab As Salama	Bab Al-Salam/ Bab Al-Salam Bab al-Salam	Bab Alsalama	Bab al-Salamah	Bab al-Salama	

Example (6)

The last example to be discussed here is the toponym "طرطوس", a city on the Mediterranean coast of Syria. This name contains the Arabic letter "ط" for which no direct English counterpart exists. The standard system recommends transliterating this letter with an underlined "ṭ" (2007:1). However, none of the news agencies adopted this pattern. Another disagreement is identified between the transliteration patterns of the news websites and the standard system regarding the vowel "و".

According to the system, this vowel should be transliterated as “w” or “u”. This rule was observed by only one website but overlooked by the other two (Table 6).

Table 6

Transliteration Variations of “طرطوس”

Standard Arabic System	Enab Baladi	Syrian Observer Daily News Egypt	طرطوس
Tartus	Tartus	Tartous	

Discussion

The analysis showed inconsistencies in the transliteration patterns followed by human translators of the news stories across the websites. The disparities did not correlate with the countries these institutions belong to. For example, the toponym, “اللاذقية” was transliterated differently by two Egyptian websites, and “إدلب” had variations in two news websites although they are both of Syrian origin. This finding resonated with the warning raised by Aziz (1983, p. 3) regarding the confusion that can result from a lack of consistency among translators about transliteration rules. This also agreed with the results of Falih (2009, p. 49), who identified considerable discrepancies among translators in transliterating geographical names. Furthermore, the lack of consistency in transliterating a given toponym had negative implications for its searchability. This is clear in examples (4) and (5), where the transliteration variations resulted in the failure to retrieve news stories that refer to “باب الراعي” and “باب السلامة”.

The analysis also revealed that the selected news websites did not comply with the recommendations outlined by the Standard Arabic System for Transliteration of Geographical Names (2007). While a few cases conformed with the standard system, others showed significant deviation. The observed discrepancies underscore the need for standardized transliteration practices. This mirrored the argument presented by Dweik and Al-Sayyed (2016, p. 190) that transliterating geographical names is challenging and should be governed by conventional rules imposed by an authority. Considering inconsistencies in human-produced transliteration patterns, machine translation seems a promising solution to address this problem if trained to use a standard system. This consolidated the viewpoint of Falih (2009, p.53) highlighting the benefits of machine translation as a tool to eliminate inconsistencies among translators when translating geographical names. However, it should be acknowledged that the efficiency of machine translation in this context cannot be

asserted without relevant studies that test its ability to produce consistent transliteration patterns for toponyms according to a standard system.

The findings of the study highlighted the importance of approaching translation within a posthumanist framework. They supported the conviction of O’Thomas (2017, p. 287) that the machine will become indispensable in future translation practices, and its output should, therefore, be studied within the field of Translation Studies. Translation Studies has much to gain from an engagement with posthumanism as machine translation technologies are expected to advance significantly in the near future, enabling anyone to use technological tools to translate any text they need (O’Thomas, 2017, p.291). Furthermore, Translation Studies as a discipline has been predominantly concerned with evaluating the quality of human translators. Should this trend persist in the coming years, a flux of translated content will probably escape scholarly inquiry, thus trapping translation scholars within a labyrinth of duplicated research contributions. This situation emerges due to the exclusive evaluation of translations made by human translators, whose number is expected to diminish over time. Adopting a posthumanist approach would allow scholars to go beyond the conventional focus on evaluating the translation of literary texts, which are likely to continue to be exclusively mastered by humans, towards an exploration of the quality of machine-translated legal, administrative, and scientific texts (Cronin, 2020, p.288). This shift is very much related to the fact that with the ongoing advancement of machine translation, what was once an artful skill owned by a group of trained bilinguals will give way to becoming a routine, automated activity. Thus, linguistic equivalence that has so far been the concern of Translation Studies will no longer be the main criterion for evaluating translations; other terms will take place, such as “velocity, accuracy and interface” (O’Thomas, 2017, pp.295-296).

Moreover, posthumanism accrues from being investigated within the discipline of Translation Studies. As the two converge, robust theoretical frameworks and clearly defined research methodologies will be developed, prompting translation scholars to conduct interdisciplinary studies to develop innovative machine translation tools and systems that ensure further accuracy and efficiency of translation.

Although these findings can hardly be taken as a generalization due to the very small dataset used, they are a preliminary indicator of the flaws of toponym transliteration produced by humans and an indication of the efficient performance of the machine in this context. Therefore, further studies in the future on larger datasets are highly required.

Conclusion

Toponym transliteration in news discourse needs to be accurate and consistent to avoid confusion and ensure web searchability. This study identified examples of inconsistencies in the transliteration patterns used by human translators when rendering Syrian toponyms into English. They hardly followed a unified transliteration system despite the efforts made by the Arabic Division of Experts on Geographical Names in this regard. Therefore, the use of machine translation in this area appears necessary. Future studies on the quality of machine-generated transliteration on large datasets are highly recommended.

The findings of the study underscored the belief that integrating a posthumanist approach within Translation Studies can enrich both fields. It will encourage interdisciplinary research, leading to the invention of advanced technologies that can enhance translation quality, streamline translators' workflow, and increase their productivity. When researching translation issues in the digital age, the point of departure should be the view that machines are extensions of human translators rather than threatening replacements.

There is a need to conduct further research to address the limitations of the present study, including the focus only on Arabic to English transliteration patterns and the limited sample size. An enriching and insightful aspect that Translation Studies can offer to the posthumanist approach is exploring the ethical implications of using technology in the translation process. These implications extend beyond issues of privacy and data ownership, which can be extensively addressed within the theoretical frameworks of Translation Studies to produce guidelines for the ethical use of technology in translation practices.

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قوة الترجمة البشرية-الآلية: مقارنة ما بعد الإنسانية لدراسة أنماط النسخ الحرفي للأسماء الجغرافية من العربية إلى الإنجليزية

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المستخلص:

تعد الأسماء الجغرافية شرطًا أساسيًا في كتابة المقالات. يؤدي الالتزام بنمط نسخ حرفي موحد للأسماء الجغرافية إلى تجنب اللبس وتعزيز دقة نتائج البحث على المواقع الإلكترونية. تبحث هذه الدراسة في التباين بين المترجمين الصحفيين أثناء النسخ الحرفي للأسماء الجغرافية العربية إلى الإنجليزية. تتناول الدراسة السؤالين الرئيسيين: تحاول الدراسة العثور على إجابات للأسئلة الرئيسية التالية: كيف تؤثر أنماط النسخ الحرفي للأسماء الجغرافية في الترجمة البشرية على اتساق نسخ هذه الأسماء من العربية إلى الإنجليزية؟ وكيف يمكن أن تساهم الترجمة الآلية في تحقيق الدقة والاتساق في ترجمة الأسماء الجغرافية؟ تستند الدراسة إلى منهجية نوعية لتحليل أنماط النسخ الحرفي لمدن سورية مذكورة في 22 مقالًا إخباريًا عن الزلزال الذي ضرب سوريا في فبراير 2023. تم نشر هذه المقالات على مواقع إلكترونية مختلفة تابعة لمؤسسات إعلامية عربية. ركزت الدراسة على مقارنة أنماط النسخ الحرفي التي يتبناها المترجمون بنظام النسخ الحرفي القياسي الذي وضعته الشعبة العربية للخبراء المعنيين بالأسماء الجغرافية التابع للأمم المتحدة. كشف التحليل عن وجود تباين كبير في أنماط النسخ الحرفي في الترجمة البشرية وتجاهل للنظام القياسي الموحد الذي تتبناه الأمم المتحدة. تم تفسير نتائج الدراسة في ضوء نهج ما بعد الإنسانية الذي يدعمه أوتوماس (2017) الذي يؤكد على ضرورة إدماج الآلة في عمل المترجم ويسلط الضوء على أهمية هذا النهج في إثراء دراسات الترجمة. أوصت الدراسة بإعداد أبحاث مستقبلية في إمكانية استخدام الترجمة الآلية في النسخ الحرفي للأسماء الجغرافية لضمان الدقة والاتساق.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الترجمة الآلية؛ ما بعد الإنسانية؛ النظام القياسي؛ الأسماء الجغرافية؛ النسخ الحرفي

Appendix

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