



## TRANSLATING IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS: A CORPUS-BASED STUDY

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**Abstract:** *Idiomatic expressions are an integral part of language, but they pose a significant challenge to machine translation systems due to their non-compositional nature. This thesis presents a corpus-based study that investigates the translation of idiomatic expressions from English to Arabic and vice versa. The study uses a parallel corpus of news articles and focuses on three types of idioms: verb-based, adjective-based, and noun-based. The aim of the study is to identify the translation strategies used by machine translation systems and to evaluate their effectiveness in rendering idiomatic expressions accurately.*

**Key words:** *idiomatic expressions, translation, corpus-based study, figurative meaning*

**Introduction:** Idiomatic expressions are a common feature of any language, and they pose a significant challenge for translators. These expressions often have a figurative meaning that cannot be translated word-for-word. Instead, translators must rely on their knowledge of the target language and its idiomatic expressions to convey the intended message accurately. This article presents a corpus-based study of translating idiomatic expressions.

The study uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze the translation output of two machine translation systems: Google Translate and Microsoft Translator. The quantitative analysis involves measuring the accuracy of the translation output using a set of predefined metrics, while the qualitative analysis involves examining the translation strategies used by the systems and comparing them to human translations.

The results of the study show that machine translation systems struggle to accurately translate idiomatic expressions, particularly those that are culturally specific. Both Google Translate and Microsoft Translator tend to produce literal translations of idiomatic expressions, which often result in errors or incomprehensible translations. The study also identifies some of the translation strategies used by the systems, such as transliteration, paraphrasing, and omission.

The findings of the study have implications for machine translation research and development. The study highlights the need for improved translation strategies for idiomatic expressions, particularly those that are culturally specific.



The study also emphasizes the importance of using parallel corpora in machine translation research to improve the accuracy of machine translation systems.

The study analyzed a corpus of texts in English and Spanish to identify the most commonly used idiomatic expressions in each language. The researchers then examined how these expressions were translated from one language to another in various contexts. The results showed that idiomatic expressions were often translated using equivalent idioms in the target language or by using literal translations that conveyed the same figurative meaning.

The study also found that cultural differences played a significant role in how idioms were translated. For example, an English idiom that refers to baseball might not be easily understood by speakers of other languages who are not familiar with the sport. In such cases, translators may need to find alternative ways to convey the same idea.

Translating idiomatic expressions is a complex task that requires an understanding of both the source and target languages' idioms and cultural contexts. A corpus-based study can help identify common idiomatic expressions and provide insight into how they can be effectively translated.

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