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Exploring the Efficiency of ChatGPT vs. Google Translate in
Translating Idioms and Idiomatic Expressions: “The Catcher in
the Rye” as a Case Study

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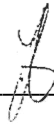


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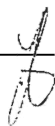
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Abstract

In a world where people delve into the use of idioms and view them as a way to express emotions that cannot be expressed through everyday language, it is critical to understand that idioms are more than just random expressions of languages; they are key pillars in conveying culture's traditions, beliefs, and shared experiences, as well as playing a vital role in influencing how people interact, think, and view the world. However, these idioms are difficult to communicate across cultures, making it difficult for translators to translate them, let alone machine translation (MT) tools, which many claim will only provide poor-quality translations. Given this, the purpose of this study is to compare ChatGPT and Google Translate's performance in translating idiomatic expressions from the first chapter of "The Catcher in the Rye." Furthermore, it aims to go further into the realm of idioms and assess the accuracy and effectiveness of these MT tools for translating idiom meanings from English to Arabic in order to establish cultural bonds through improved translation methods. This study incorporates both qualitative and quantitative analysis to examine the most common strategy employed by ChatGPT and Google Translate, according to Mona Baker's translation strategies, as well as assess translation quality in terms of accuracy, fluency, and cultural sensitivity. The results indicate that ChatGPT is more accurate than Google Translate when it comes to translating idiomatic expressions from English to Arabic.

Keywords: idioms, idiomatic expressions, machine translation tools, ChatGPT, Google Translate, Mona Baker's model, translation quality

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List of Abbreviations

MT	Machine Transaltion
ESL	English as a Second Language
TL	Target Language
ST	Source Text
TT	Target Text

Chapter I

Introduction

1 Introduction

When it comes to idioms, it is important to understand that they are not just random expressions of language; rather, they serve as the foundation for a culture's traditions, beliefs, and shared experiences, as well as play a vital role in influencing how people interact, think, and view the world. These complicated linguistic expressions create vibrant conversations with intensity, deeply touching the listeners' hearts through images and sentiments that do not necessarily reflect their literal meanings. However, because of these cultural distinctions and figurative aspects, translators confront major difficulties when rendering them into other languages. As *Hasan Ghazala* noted in his book, *Translation as Problems and Solutions*, "An idiom is a fixed phrase whose form is usually unchangeable, and whose meaning is always the same, inflexible, metaphorical and indirect." This classification emphasizes the difficulties involved in translating idiomatic expressions.

Translators must realize that certain meanings of idioms may only be completely understood when knowing the context of the language itself, therefore they must manage and fully comprehend the cultural idiosyncrasies and nuanced semantics of idioms. The use of idioms in cross-cultural interaction requires mastering language skills as well as cultural understanding and creative thinking, which is a challenging yet essential process in facilitating effective communication across languages.

Machine translation (MT) tools are one of the most commonly used methods by translators to translate idioms. ChatGPT and Google Translate are two major examples of MT that have made a revolution in the translation field.

ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI, is one of the most powerful natural language processing systems available today. It employs a cutting-edge language model trained on huge amounts of text data, allowing it to generate human-like responses and comprehend multifaceted contexts with remarkable precision.

On the other hand, Google Translate is a powerful tool that uses statistical MT algorithms to identify patterns in bilingual texts and generate translations. Its large and diverse database of multilingual languages and dialects makes it widely accessible and quick to produce translations.

It is important to investigate how the current translation tools translate idioms in order to overcome the barriers that language differences pose in different cultures, preserve the meaning and purpose of idiosyncratic expressions, and promote communication across cultures. Understanding how translation tools handle idiomatic expressions can help researchers design more accurate, culturally sensitive, and effective translation systems.

1.1 The Aim of the Research

This research aims to compare between ChatGPT and Google Translate in translating idiomatic expressions from the first chapter of the book “The Catcher in the Rye.” Moreover, it seeks to delve more into the world of idioms and evaluate the accuracy and effectiveness of these MT tools in translating the meanings of idioms from English into Arabic. This is driven by the goal of strengthening the bond between the two cultures through improved translation procedures.

1.2 The Objectives of the Research

The three main objectives of this research are:

- (1) To evaluate the performance of ChatGPT and Google Translate in translating idiomatic expressions.
- (2) To identify the processes used by ChatGPT and Google Translate when it comes to translating idiomatic language.
- (3) To determine each tool’s strengths and limitations.

1.3 The Research Question and Hypotheses

How accurate are ChatGPT and Google Translate when it comes to translating idiomatic expressions?

To answer this research question, this study will try to validate the following four main hypotheses:

- (1) ChatGPT outperforms Google Translate for accuracy.
- (2) The main strategy employed by ChatGPT is paraphrasing, whereas Google Translate uses literal translation.

- (3) MT tools are more accurate when the idiomatic expressions are literal.
- (4) MT tools lack fluency when translating idiomatic expressions.

1.4 The Outline of the Research

This research will start by conducting a literature review on the field of idioms, exploring various aspects such as examining their meaning according to some scholars, types, structure, and importance as well as the main challenges in translating them and the translation strategies.

In the methodology section, the rationale for selecting the first chapter of the book “The Catcher in the Rye” for idiom extraction will be explained. This research will employ a qualitative approach in order to examine and analyze how the two MT tools, ChatGPT and Google Translate, translate the selected idiomatic expressions.

Following the methodology, the outcomes will be analyzed to determine the effectiveness and accuracy of the two MT tools. After that, the findings will be discussed, emphasizing each tool’s strengths and limitations.

Chapter II

Literature Review

2 Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter will perform a literature review on the topic of idioms. It will be divided into two main sections: Understanding Idioms, which will include the definitions, types, and structure of idioms, as well as the importance of idioms, and Translating Idioms, which will include challenges and strategies.

2.2 Understanding Idioms

2.2.1 Definition of Idioms:

In contemporary literature on language teaching and applied linguistics, various scholars define idioms, each providing light on different aspects of these linguistic phenomena. As stated in the *Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*, the term *idiom* is defined simply as “an expression which functions as a single unit and whose meaning cannot be worked out from its separate parts. For example, She washed her hands of the matter means She refused to have anything more to do with the matter” (Richards & Schmidt, 2010: 270). This approach highlights the idiomatic nature of idioms as a cohesive semantic construct that cannot be translated literally given the individual words of which it is composed.

Seidl and McMordie expand on this notion, saying that “an idiom can be defined as a number of words which, when taken together, have a different meaning from the individual meanings of each word” (Seidl & McMordie, 1988: 12-13). This concept focuses on the creative potential created by combining words to form idiomatic expressions in which the whole makes more sense than the individual parts.

Similarly, *Brenner* contributes to the discourse by characterizing idioms as “two or more words together that, as a unit, have a special meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words separately” (Brenner, 2003: 5). This definition emphasizes how the collective meaning of an idiomatic unit differs from the meaning of its individual parts when viewed separately.

Aside from these viewpoints, Baker distinguishes between idioms and collocations, which provides an accurate picture of the flexibility and rigidity of language patterns. Baker emphasizes

the need to distinguish between idioms and collocations based on their specific characteristics. Idioms, according to *Baker*, are “frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components.” This demonstrates the fixed nature of idiomatic expressions and their resistance to change. Collocations, on the other hand, are viewed as more flexible language chunks that can be modified in form while still conveying the same meaning. She further states that, typically, there are limitations on what can be done to an idiom, except in cases of humor or wordplay. These limitations include alterations to the word order, removal of words, addition of extra words, substitution of words, or modifications to its grammatical structure (Baker, 1992: 63).

2.2.2 Types of Idioms:

In a study conducted by *Ahmed* in 2019, she delved into the world of idiomatic expressions, seeking to unravel their nuanced characteristics. Ahmed classified idiomatic expressions into three main groups, each with its own unique structural features: Pure, Semi-Pure, and Literal. Pure idioms are expressions that have a standardized, non-literal nature. They deviate significantly from the literal meaning of their individual words. For example, saying “spill the beans,” does not actually mean pouring a can of beans, instead, it refers to someone revealing a secret or a scandal. Semi-Pure idioms, on the other hand, have both literal and non-literal components. Take “foot the bill” as an example. The word foot does not refer to someone's foot, but rather to the process of paying a bill. Lastly, Literal idioms are the simplest type and closely related to the literal meaning. For instance, the expression “on foot” refers to walking. Similarly, the expression "on the contrary" means the opposite of what has been said (Ahmed, 2019).

Furthermore, *Ahmed's* research also discussed the communicative functions of idioms and their many roles in language usage, identifying three groupings. Firstly, Ideational idioms convey specific messages by describing various activities, events, feelings, and evaluations. Interpersonal idioms, on the other hand, are concerned with interactional functions in communication such as greetings, directives, agreements, and rejections. Lastly, Textual or Relational idioms serve as aid tools in structuring and organizing the written and spoken

language, boosting text coherence and cohesiveness. For example, phrases like “on the contrary,” “in addition to,” and “on the other hand” improve the text's clarity and flow (Ahmed, 2019).

Moreover, her research extends to discussing the encoding and decoding of idioms. Identifiable or Encoding idioms, such as “drive at 60 mph,” have clear meanings even when there are language barriers. In contrast, Non-Identifiable or Decoding idioms are expressions that have ambiguous meanings and cannot be easily interpreted without adequate cultural or linguistic background (Ahmed, 2019).

2.2.3 Linguistic Structure of Idioms:

Idioms are classified differently by various scholars, with some dividing them based on their meanings, as indicated in the previous section, and others classify them based on their linguistic structure, which will be explained in this section.

McCarthy and O'Dell (2002: 6) point out that idioms cannot be understood and interpreted only by looking at individual words, but rather by considering context and common sense. The authors illustrate this concept by saying, “If someone says: This tin opener’s driving round the bend! I think I’ll throw it away and get a new next time I’m in town.” The context indicates that the tin opener is causing problems for the person using it, therefore it is clear from the context that this idiom refers to driving one nut and has nothing to do with driving a car (McCarthy & Dell, 2002).

McCarthy and O'Dell (2002: 6) suggest a structural classification of idioms into seven categories:

- (1) **Verb+ Object/Complement (and/or adverbial)** such as: kill two birds with one stone, meaning that to produce two useful results by just doing one action.
- (2) **Prepositional Phrase** such as: in the blink of an eye, meaning in an extremely short time.
- (3) **Compound** such as: a bone of contention, meaning something which people argue and disagree over.
- (4) **Simile (as+ adjective+ as, or like+noun)** such as: as dry as bone, meaning very dry indeed.

- (5) **Binomial (word+ and+ word)** such as: rough and ready, meaning crude and lacking sophistication.
- (6) **Trinomial (word+ word+ and+ word)** such as: cool, calm and collected, meaning relaxed, in control, not nervous.
- (7) **Whole Clause or Sentence** such as: to cut a long story short, meaning to tell the main points, but not all fine details.

Cowie et al. (1983: xi) propose another classification of idioms in terms of their structural syntax, dividing them into two main groups – clause idioms and phrase idioms (Cowie, A. P., R. Mackin, 1983). Within these two major groupings, they provide several sub-categories:

The most common clause patterns are the following:

- (1) **Verb+ Complement** such as: go berserk.
- (2) **Verb+ Direct Object** such as: ease someone's conscience/mind.
- (3) **Verb+ Direct Object+ Complement** such as: paint the town red.
- (4) **Verb+ Indirect Object+ Direct Object** such as: do someone credit.
- (5) **Verb+ Direct Object+ Adjunct** such as: take something amiss.

The most common phrase patterns are the following:

- (1) **Noun Phrase** such as: a crashing bore.
- (2) **Adjective Phrase** such as: free with one's money.
- (3) **Prepositional Phrase** such as: in the nick of time.
- (4) **Adverbial Phrase** such as: as often as not.

2.2.4 Importance of Idioms:

Maisa and Karunakaran (2013) conducted a study emphasizing the significance of idioms in language teaching and learning, particularly in the field of English as a Second Language (ESL). They assured that formulaic language expressions such as idioms, collocations, and phrasal verbs play a crucial role in enhancing language fluency and motivating students.

In their research, they highlight the key role of idioms in reaching the levels of native-like fluency, stressing the importance of mastering idiomatic usage in order to be fluent in the target language (TL). In addition, they suggest that translators and teachers should not ignore idioms,

but rather integrate them in language education to improve interpersonal comprehension (Maisa & Karunakaran, 2013).

Maisa and Karunakaran's study also underscores the significance of idioms in language usage and acquisition. The research indicates that native speakers' fluency relies not only on the individual words that they know but also on their ability to employ idiomatic phrases and longer linguistic chunks that can be readily called into the memory (Maisa & Karunakaran, 2013).

Now, having learned about the importance of idioms as natives, the following paragraph will address why it is vital to translate these phrases into other languages, despite the fact that it is a difficult assignment for many translators.

In a research conducted by *Adelnia and Dastjerdi* in 2011 on the Translation of Idioms, the researchers stated that “idioms can be considered as a part of everyday language. They are the essence of any language and the most problematic part to handle with.” They believe that not all idioms have direct equivalents in other languages since they are regarded as culturally specific, hence it is important for the translator to maintain the pragmatic meaning rather than the literal meaning as this will result in extreme confusion and misunderstanding of the culture (Adelnia & Dastjerdi, 2011).

2.3 Translating Idioms

2.3.1 Challenges in Translating Idioms:

Many translators have long viewed translating idiomatic expressions from one language to another as a challenging process, mainly due to the complicated nature of cultural references underlying such structures. Scholars have thoroughly explored the complexities of this process, examining a range of aspects that determine the level of accuracy and effectiveness of idiomatic translation.

Strakšien (2009) points to the challenges in identifying direct equivalences for idioms during translating across languages. In particular, when the idiomatic expressions include culturally specific elements. *Oualif* (2017) supports this notion, arguing that translating idioms is deeply influenced by cultural roots, which result in diverse connotations and emotive associations across different linguistic and cultural contexts.

Furthermore, *Baker* (1992) delves into fundamental challenges confronting translators, such as the lack of equivalence in the TL and the need to deal with idioms that have similar forms but differ culturally. As she emphasizes, “the main problems that idiomatic and fixed expressions pose in translation relate to two main areas: the ability to recognize and interpret an idiom correctly and the difficulties in rendering various aspects of meaning that an idiom or a fixed expression conveys into the target language” (Baker 1992: 65).

Expanding upon these challenges, *Newmark* (1988) explores another issue when translating idioms. He points out that matching the meaning of idioms with their equivalent occurrences in the TL is a difficult process, citing lexical issues such as words, collocations, and settled phrases or idioms as major barriers for translators. *Baker* (2011) elaborates on the difficulties in effectively detecting and translating idioms, as well as the challenges in transmitting the different parts of meaning contained in idiomatic expressions into the TL.

Translators may find it difficult to correctly identify idiomatic expressions, as *Mollanazar* (2004) emphasizes. According to *López Rodríguez* (2009), cultural factors make it difficult to directly translate idioms between languages. These findings illustrate the multifaceted challenges that translators confront when accurately and effectively translating idiomatic language, emphasizing the significance of cultural understanding and linguistic skills in navigating these complexities.

2.3.2 Strategies for Translating Idioms:

To address the challenges that translators face while translating idioms, *Baker* (1992: 72-78) presents the following strategies for translating idiomatic expressions:

- (1) **Using an idiom of similar meaning and form:** This strategy involves employing an idiom in the TL that conveys roughly the same meaning as the source-language idiom and consists of equivalent lexical items. However, achieving such a match can only occasionally be accomplished.
- (2) **Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form:** In this approach, translators may find an idiom or fixed expression in the TL that has a meaning similar to that of the source idiom or expression, but with different lexical items.

- (3) **Translation by paraphrase:** This strategy is the most common when a suitable match cannot be found in the TL, or when using idiomatic language in the translated text may not be appropriate due to stylistic differences between the source and TL.
- (4) **Translation by omission:** Similar to omitting single words, an idiom may sometimes be omitted altogether in the translated text. This could occur because there is no close match in the TL, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reasons.

In addition to the above strategies, *Baker* (1992) provided another one that can be used in translating idioms; however, she could not elaborate on this strategy due to space constraints. The strategy of compensation is a method that implies omitting or downplaying a feature in the source text (ST), such as idiomaticity, and then adding it later in the target text (TT). Compensation is not limited to idiomatic or fixed expressions; it may also be used to make up for any loss of meaning, emotional impact, or stylistic effect that cannot be replicated directly in the TT (Baker, 1992).

This research will be adopting Baker's model of translating idioms in order to analyze and interpret the results of translating the idioms by ChatGPT and Google Translate.

2.4 Conclusion

This chapter delved into the realm of idioms, exploring different articles and scholars who provided a deep understanding of idioms as well as expressed the main challenges and strategies in translating them. The next chapter will introduce the methodology that will be used in this research.

Chapter III

Methodology

3 Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter will discuss the research methodology that will be used in the analysis. The chapter will be divided into four main sections, which are the research material, selection of idioms, translation process, and evaluation criteria.

3.2 Introduction to Research Material

The novel "The Catcher in the Rye" by the American author J.D. Salinger was chosen as the subject of the research. The novel is narrated by teenager Holden Caulfield and depicts two days in his life at the age of sixteen. After being expelled from prep school, Holden, who is confused and disillusioned, seeks the truth and rails against the "phoniness" of the adult world, leaving him weary and mentally unstable (Lohnes, n.d.).

The novel is filled with colloquialisms, slang, and colorful idiomatic expressions and phrases typical of its 1950s setting, making it an excellent resource for studying language and culture from that era. Based on this, the novel was chosen as the subject of this research, which aimed to compare ChatGPT and Google Translate in translating selected idioms from English into Arabic.

In this research, the first chapter of "The Catcher in the Rye" was chosen strategically since it sets the tone and introduces the major themes and characters of the novel. Focusing on this chapter, the research can offer an overview of "The Catcher in the Rye" for those who are unfamiliar with it.

3.3 Selection of Idioms

A total of ten idiomatic expressions and two semi-idiomatic expressions were found and extracted from the first chapter of "The Catcher in the Rye" that are culturally specific and could pose translation challenges from English into Arabic using ChatGPT and Google Translate.

3.4 Translation Process

The ten idiomatic expressions and two semi-idiomatic expressions from the first chapter of "The Catcher in the Rye" were organized into tables from 1 to 12, where each table is divided into two sections named A and B. In section A of each table, the idiom was associated with one of the three types of idioms: pure, semi-pure, and literal according to Ahmed (2019), as well as the structure of idioms according to McCarthy & Dell (2002: 6). On the other hand, Section B shows both versions of each idiom translated by ChatGPT and Google Translate, as well as the research's suggested translation. After that, the rendered translations were analyzed based on Baker's model of translating idioms to determine the best MT tool for translating such idioms.

The research used a qualitative approach – which aims to collect non-numerical data such as texts, pictures, and videos – in order to analyze the quality and effectiveness of the translations of idioms rendered by ChatGPT and Google Translate. Moreover, the research used a quantitative approach, seeking to determine the most commonly utilized strategy by MT tools when translating idiomatic language.

3.5 Evaluation Criteria

The main evaluation criteria for assessing the translation of idioms rendered by both ChatGPT and Google Translate are:

- (1) **Accuracy:** How closely the translations of idioms by ChatGPT and Google Translate match the original meanings of the idiomatic expressions.
- (2) **Fluency:** The naturalness and coherence of the translations for target readers.
- (3) **Cultural sensitivity:** Assess how well the translations consider cultural nuances and contexts, when relevant.

3.6 Conclusion

This chapter delved into the research methodology, addressing the research material and the process of extracting the idioms and translating them as well as the evaluation criteria. After having defined the research methodology, the next chapter will analyze the corpus according to the research's methods.

Chapter IV

Analysis

4 Analysis

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the idiomatic expressions will be displayed in two types of tables. The first table will categorize each idiom according to its types and structure and then analyze them. The second table will provide translations of the idioms by ChatGPT, and Google Translate, as well as suggested translations by the researcher. After that, an analysis will be provided showing the strategies used and the criteria achieved for each idiom.

4.2 Idiomatic Expressions

Table 1- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 1.

Idiom	Type	Structure
I don't feel like going into it	Literal	Whole Sentence

Table 1- A displays the idiomatic expression “I don't feel like going into it” as well as its type and structure. As shown in the table, the expression was identified as a literal idiom, which means the literal meaning is highly close to the intended meaning. “I don't feel like” indicated a lack of desire, and “going into” referred to discussing a topic further.

From the last column of Table 1- A, it can be seen that the structure of the idiom was defined as a whole sentence. “I don't feel like going into it” delivered a full meaning and can stand alone, making it a complete sentence. It expressed the lack of desire to delve into a subject or issue.

Table 1- B. Translations of Idiom 1.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: I don't feel like going into it	TT1: ليس لدي الرغبة في التطرق إلى ذلك	TT: لا أشعر برغبة في الخوض فيه	TT: لا أرغب في الحديث عن هذا

	TT2: لا أشعر برغبة في الانخراط في ذلك		
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Table 1- B shows both translations generated by ChatGPT and Google Translate as well as a suggested translation. ChatGPT’s translations followed Baker’s strategy of “using an idiom of similar meaning and form,” with the two versions of the translated idiom conveying the same idea using equivalent lexicons in Arabic. Similarly, Google Translate’s version followed the same strategy. The suggested translation, on the other hand, used the “using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form” strategy, where “الحديث عن هذا” used a different form than “going into it.” As shown, the suggested translation was equivalent to translations by ChatGPT and Google Translate, implying that all translations were viable, with the suggested one serving as simply an alternative.

In both tools and the suggested translation, it can be seen that the criteria “Accuracy” and “Fluency” were successfully achieved, in which all of them conveyed close meaning to the ST and sounded natural to the target audience. The third criterion, “Cultural sensitivity,” did not apply in this expression.

Table 2- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 2.

Idiom	Type	Structure
Touchy as hell	Pure	Simile

In Table 2- A, the idiom “Touchy as hell” was categorized as a pure idiom with a non-literal nature. The word “Touchy” alluded to being easily offended or sensitive, while "hell" indicated excessive, having nothing to do with the place "hell".

In terms of structure, this idiom was classified as a simile that involves a comparison using “adjective + as” or “like + noun.” “Touchy as hell” compared someone’s sensitivity to the intensity of hell, indicating that the person is extremely sensitive or easily offended.

Table 2- B. Translations of Idiom 2.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: Touchy as hell	TT1: حساس للغاية TT2: سريع الغضب TT3: سهل الاستفزاز	TT: حساس كالبحيم	TT1: شديد الحساسية TT2: سريع الانفعال

As seen in Table 2- B, ChatGPT produced three different versions of translations. All three versions were possible translations of the expression “Touchy as hell,” and all conveyed the intended meaning. The translation by Google Translate, however, was less accurate since the second component “hell” was translated literally, despite the fact that the connotation was different for the place “hell, الجحيم.” The two suggested versions were also other possible translations, conveying a similar meaning to the original expression. Although all of the translations by ChatGPT and the suggested translations were possible and alternative translations, the best choices in this particular context “They're nice and all--I'm not saying that--but they're also touchy as hell” were TT1 by ChatGPT and TT1 by the suggested translation, implying the parents were extremely sensitive.

According to Bakers’s strategies, the strategy used in TT1 “حساس للغاية” was “using an idiom of similar meaning and form,” that is, a direct translation was used to deliver a similar meaning and form as in “Touchy as hell”. On the other hand, TT2 “سريع الغضب” and TT3 “سهل الاستفزاز” followed the second strategy “using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form.” Moreover, all three versions involved some level of paraphrasing which is the third strategy. The translation offered by Google Translate “حساس كالبحيم” did not follow any of the strategies as it was translated literally. Lastly, TT2 “سريع الانفعال” by the suggested translation utilized the second method “using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form,” expressing the same idea but with a different form. Furthermore, both TT1 “شديد الحساسية” and TT2 “سريع الانفعال” by the suggested translation applied the third strategy “translation by paraphrasing.”

It can be seen that the translations by ChatGPT as well as the suggested translations had satisfied the “Accuracy” and “Fluency” criteria, indicating that the translations conveyed the correct meaning and sounded natural to the ears. The translation offered by Google Translate only fulfilled the first criterion “Accuracy” as the meaning could be understood, however, in terms of “Fluency”, the translation did not sound as natural as the previous ones. The third criterion, “Cultural sensitivity,” did not apply in this idiomatic expression.

Table 3- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 3.

Idiom	Type	Structure
Madman stuff	Semi-Pure	Compound

Table 3- A shows that the idiomatic expression “Madman stuff” was identified as a semi-pure idiom in terms of type. The expression combined the literal word “madman,” which means something insane, and the non-literal word “stuff,” which could refer to things, actions, or events associated with a madman.

When it comes to structure, it was classified as a compound idiom that consists of individual words that work together to form a whole. The “stuff” such as actions, or events were associated with a madman, making them one unit.

Table 3- B. Translations of Idiom 3.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: Madman stuff	TT: أمور غريبة أو غير عادية	TT: أشياء مجنونة	TT: أحداث غريبة

In Table 3- B, the translations of the idiom “Madman stuff” “أمور غريبة أو غير عادية” and “أحداث غريبة” by ChatGPT and the suggested translation reflected the same meaning as the original one – unusual or insane events or occurrences. However, the translation rendered by Google Translate was closer to the literal translation, making it less effective than the previous ones.

ChatGPT's translation “أمور غريبة أو غير عادي” did not employ a direct idiomatic expression in Arabic, but rather used a third method, “translation by paraphrasing,” which explains the same notion through different words. Google Translate, on the other hand, employed the first method, “using an idiom of similar meaning and form,” in which the words chosen were equivalent to those in English and conveyed a similar meaning; nonetheless, this method may be incorrect for translating this idiom. The suggested translation applied the method of “using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form,” in which the expression was expressed differently from the original while, conveying the same meaning as intended.

Both translations by ChatGPT and the suggested translation carried the desired meaning while remaining natural to the target audience, indicating that the two criteria “Accuracy” and “Fluency” were met. On the other hand, while Google Translate’s translation may convey the same concept, it sounded awkward and lacked naturalness. The third criterion, “Cultural sensitivity,” did not apply in this idiomatic expression.

Table 4- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 4.

Idiom	Type	Structure
I got pretty run-down	Literal	Verb + Complement

Table 4- A shows that the idiomatic expression “I got pretty run-down” was classified as a literal idiom, indicating that the expression is closely related to the literal meaning. The idiom referred to someone, who is physically or emotionally exhausted, so “run-down” in this context remained its literal meaning.

The structure of the idiom “I got pretty run-down” as shown in the table was defined as a verb + complement, which normally makes a full idea or action. The verb “get” was followed by the adverb “pretty,” which intensified the complement “run-down,” forming a notion that is becoming extremely exhausting.

Table 4- B. Translations of Idiom 4.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested
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			Translation
ST: I got pretty run-down	TT1: تدهورت بشكل كبير TT2: تدهورت ظروفياً بشكل كبير	TT: حصلت على الجري إلى أسفل	TT: أصبحت سيء الحال

As shown in Table 4- Table **4- B**, there are two versions of translations of the idiom “I got pretty run-down” rendered by ChatGPT TT1 “تدهورت بشكل كبير” and TT2 “تدهورت ظروفياً بشكل كبير”. Both versions in addition to the suggested translation “أصبحت سيء الحال” carried similar meanings to the intended one in English, therefore they were acceptable and alternate translations. However, the translation by Google Translate did not deliver the meaning of being extremely exhausted, instead, it was a literal translation of the idiom that was not understandable and did not make sense.

The two translations by ChatGPT followed Baker’s second approach of ‘using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form,’ in which the message was conveyed using different words and structures than the original. The suggested translation, on the other hand, followed the first method “using an idiom of similar meaning and form,” where the words in the translation “أصبحت سيء الحال” were extremely close to those in the original idiom. All three translations contained some sort of paraphrase of the English expression. The provided translation by Google Translate “حصلت على الجري إلى أسفل” did not align with any of Baker’s strategies, instead, it used a direct/literal translation that expressed the same words of the English expression; however, the meaning was not conveyed along with the words, making it a weak and inaccurate method to translate such an idiom.

The two criteria “Accuracy” and “Fluency” were fulfilled in the translations using ChatGPT and the suggested translation, as all translations mirrored the same meaning of the ST and sounded natural to the intended readers. Google Translate’s translation, on the other hand, failed to meet any of the criteria since it employed a literal translation without regard for accuracy or naturalness in the TL. The third criterion, “cultural sensitivity,” was not applicable to this idiomatic expression.

Table 5- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 5.

Idiom	Type	Structure
It killed me	Literal	Verb + Object

Table 5- A shows the type and structure of the idiomatic expression “It killed me,” which was considered as literal and verb + object, respectively. The intended meaning of the idiom “It killed me” was close to the literal meaning – an expression where “killed” is used figuratively referring to something extremely funny; however, the words “killed” and “me” still maintain their literal meaning.

In terms of structure, this expression was classed as verb + object, with "killed" serving as the verb and "me" as the object. The expression was meant to be taken figuratively, where it was used to convey the idea that something was very funny.

Table 5- B. Translations of Idiom 5.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: It killed me	TT: أضحكني كثيراً	TT: لقد قتلتني	TT: كان مضحكاً للغاية

Table 5- B displays the translations of the idiom “It killed me” by ChatGPT “أضحكني كثيراً”, Google Translate “لقد قتلتني”, and the suggested translation “كان مضحكاً للغاية.” Both translations by ChatGPT and the suggested translation expressed similar meanings that were close to the intended one in English, thus the suggested translation in this case functioned as an alternative because all were acceptable translations. However, Google Translate’s translation was away from the intended meaning, where it conveyed the literal meaning of the expression.

Baker’s strategy for the ChatGPT translation was “using an idiom of similar meaning and form,” which means that the idiom in Arabic is similar to the one in English in terms of meaning and structure. In contrast, the suggested translation employed the second approach “using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form,” indicating that the meaning of the English expression stayed the same in the translated version but with a different structure. Lastly, Google

Translate did not apply Baker's strategies, instead opting for a literal translation with equivalent terms; nonetheless, the intended meaning was not preserved. Sometimes people say "قتلني" for something hilarious, as translated by Google Translate, but it is used in everyday conversation and may not be understood in other contexts.

In terms of criteria, both translations by ChatGPT and the suggested translation succeeded in achieving both “Accuracy” and “Fluency” because they both conveyed the correct meaning while sounding natural in the TL. Google Translate’s translation, on the other hand, failed to deliver the meaning accurately and naturally. The final criterion, “cultural sensitivity,” did not apply to this idiomatic expression.

Table 6- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 6.

Idiom	Type	Structure
Strictly for the birds	Pure	Prepositional Phrase

As shown in Table 6- A, the idiomatic expression “Strictly for the birds” had a non-literal nature, where the intended meaning was far away from the individual words, making it a pure idiom. “Strictly for the birds” did not literally mean intended for the birds; however, it referred to something that is worthless.

In regards to its structure, the expression “Strictly for the birds” was categorized as a prepositional phrase since it comprised the preposition “for” followed by the noun phrase “the birds,” which together conveyed a different meaning than the literal one. The idiom contained the prepositional phrase “for the birds,” which indicated anything worthless or useless.

Table 6- B. Translations of Idiom 6.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: Strictly for the birds	TT: مجرد كلام فارغ	TT: بدقة للطيور	TT: مجرد هراء

Table 6- B shows the three different translations of the idiom “Strictly for the birds” by ChatGPT “مجرد كلام فارغ”, Google Translate “بدقة للطيور,” and the suggested translation “مجرد هراء.” As seen, the translations by ChatGPT and the suggested translation conveyed the intended meaning of something being worthless or useless, whereas, the translation by Google Translate conveyed the literal meaning of the expression, making it inaccurate. Furthermore, it is important to note that the suggested translation was an alternative and equivalent in meaning to the translation offered by ChatGPT.

In terms of Baker’s strategies, both translations by ChatGPT and the suggested transition used “translation by paraphrasing” as there were no direct translations available in Arabic for the one in English. The translations used different words to convey the intended meaning since the same words might not make sense. On the other hand, Google Translate’s translation did not apply Baker’s methods, in which it used word-for-word translation.

The translations by ChatGPT and Google Translate expressed the intended meaning correctly while remaining natural, making them successful in achieving the two criteria “Accuracy” and “Fluency.” Google Translate; however, failed to render the idiomatic expression accurately and naturally. The final criterion, “cultural sensitivity,” did not apply to this idiomatic expression.

Table 7- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 7.

Idiom	Type	Structure
Drove you mad with desire	Literal	Verb + Object/Complement

Table 7- A shows the classification of the idiom “Drove you mad with desire” in terms of type and structure. The idiom was defined as a literal idiom, which means that the literal interpretation closely approximates the expression’s original meaning. The expression “Drove you mad with desire” was used to describe something or someone that evoked incredible sensations of desire, driving someone insane. The terms “drove,” “mad,” and “desire” were employed literally in the context, despite the fact that “mad” was used metaphorically to describe an overwhelming feeling.

Regarding its structure, the idiomatic expression “Drove you mad with desire” was classified as a verb + object/complement idiom, with the verb “drove” followed by the object “me” and the compliment “mad with desire,” all of which formed one thought - something triggered an extreme feeling of desire.

Table 7- B. Translations of Idiom 7.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: Drove you mad with desire	TT1: يجعلك تجن بها TT2: جعلك تهيم بالشهوة	TT: لقد دفعتك للجنون بالرغبة	TT: تُثِيرُ فِيكَ الشَّهْوَةَ

As shown in Table 7- B, different versions of translations were produced by ChatGPT, Google Translate, and the suggested translation. All versions, TT1 “يجعلك تجن بها,” TT2 “جعلك تهيم بالشهوة” by ChatGPT, “لقد دفعتك للجنون بالرغبة” by Google Translate, and “تُثِيرُ فِيكَ الشَّهْوَةَ” by the suggested translation were able to convey the intended meaning of the original expression in English, even though Google Translate’s translation did not sound natural in the TL. Therefore, the translations by ChatGPT and the suggested translation were better and more acceptable equivalents, with the suggested translation serving as simply an alternative.

According to Baker’s strategies in translating idioms, the two versions TT1 and TT2 by ChatGPT as well as the suggested translation utilized the third method “translation by paraphrasing” since there were no equivalent idioms available in Arabic. All versions TT1 “يجعلك تجن بها,” TT2 “جعلك تهيم بالشهوة,” and “تُثِيرُ فِيكَ الشَّهْوَةَ” communicated the intended meaning in the SL using alternative words and expressions in the TL, rather than directly or literally translating “Drove you mad with desire,” which may not make sense. Google Translate, on the other hand, opted to use the literal approach rather than Baker’s method, in which the idiom “Drove you mad with desire” was translated into Arabic word-for-word as “لقد دفعتك للجنون بالرغبة,” making it less accurate.

All versions successfully met the criterion “Accuracy,” where the intended meaning was conveyed through them; however, in terms of “Fluency” only ChatGPT and the suggested translation succeeded in that as Google Translate’s version did not sound natural. The third criterion, “cultural sensitivity,” was not applicable to this idiomatic expression.

Table 8- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 8.

Idiom	Type	Structure
Horse manure	Semi-Pure	Compound

Table 8- A displays the type and structure of the idiomatic expression “Horse manure,” where it was categorized as a semi-pure and compound idiom. The expression contained both literal and non-literal components that joined together to deliver one meaning – something that is nonsense, lie, or exaggerated. So, the word “manure,” which means the feces of the horse, had its literal meaning to refer to something nonsense while “horse” was used figuratively.

“Horse manure” was classified as a compound idiom, where two or more words function together to produce one meaning. The expression combined the word “horse,” which means an animal, and the word “manure,” which means the waste of that animal, and used them metaphorically to convey the image of something absurd or false.

Table 8- B. Translations of Idiom 8.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: Horse manure	TT: هراء أو كذب	TT: سماد الحصان	TT: كلام زائف

Table 8- B demonstrates the translations of the idiom “Horse manure” rendered by ChatGPT, Google Translate, and the suggested translation. The expression “horse manure” is one of those idioms that is difficult to interpret when the intended meaning is unclear. Both ChatGPT and the suggested translation correctly expressed the intended message; however, Google Translate failed to do so.

Both “هراء أو كذب” by ChatGPT, and “كلام زائف” by the suggested translation employed Baker’s third strategy “translation by paraphrasing” as there was no direct or one accurate equivalent of the idiom in Arabic, but rather it had several possible translations. Both translations used different words and structures while maintaining the original meaning of the idiom. However, Google Translate “سماد الحصان” failed to follow any of Baker’s strategies, where it used the literal approach to translate the idiom. The literal approach was not appropriate in this case since the literal meaning of the idiomatic expression differed from its intended meaning.

In terms of criteria, the translations by ChatGPT “هراء أو كذب,” and the suggested translation “كلام زائف” met the two criteria “Accuracy” and “Fluency,” where the translations rendered accurately and naturally. “سماد الحصان” by Google Translate, on the other hand, failed to match any of the two criteria, making it an unlikely translation. The third criterion, “cultural sensitivity,” did not apply to this idiomatic expression.

Table 9- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 9.

Idiom	Type	Structure
Got the ax	Pure	Verb + Object / Whole Sentence

Table 9- A classifies the idiomatic expression “Got the ax” in terms of type and structure. As shown in the table, the expression was identified as a pure idiom, which implies that the intended meaning cannot be derived from the individual words. The expression referred to being fired or dismissed from a school or job. The word “ax” did not mean literally the tool of chopping wood, but rather the action of letting go.

According to structure, the expression had two possible structures; verb + object and whole sentence. The idiom “Got the ax” was made up of the verb “got” and the object “the ax,” which combined conveyed the notion of someone being fired or dismissed. Furthermore, the expression may be considered as a whole sentence, in which the idiom delivered its entire meaning and could stand alone.

Table 9- B. Translations of Idiom 9.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: Got the ax	TT: تم طرده أو فصله	TT: حصلت على الفأس	TT: طُرد أو فُصل

Table 9- B shows the translations of the idiom “Got the ax” by the ChatGPT, Google Translate, and the suggested translation. As illustrated in the table the translations rendered by ChatGPT “تم طرده أو فصله” and the suggested translation “طُرد أو فُصل” were similar to the intended meaning of the expression “Got the ax,” being fired or dismissed. However, Google Translate’s translation delivered the literal meaning of getting the tool “the ax.” Moreover, it is worth noting that the suggested translation was an acceptable alternative to ChatGPT’s translation, so all could be possible translations.

According to Baker’s model in translating idioms, ChatGPT’s translation “تم طرده أو فصله”, and the suggested translation “طُرد أو فُصل” used the third approach “translation by paraphrasing,” meaning that the intended meaning was preserved using different words and expressions. This method was employed as there was no direct translation of the idiom in Arabic. Google Translate’s version “طُرد أو فُصل;” however, used the literal method, where the idiom “Got the ax” was rendered into Arabic word-for-word, that is, the literal meaning of getting the tool “the ax.”

The ChatGPT’s translation and the suggested translation fulfilled the “Accuracy” and “Fluency” standards; the only difference was in structure. Google Translate, on the other hand, failed to meet either of the two criteria, as the intended meaning was lost and the expression sounded unnatural. The third criterion, “cultural sensitivity,” did not apply to this idiomatic expression.

Table 10- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 10.

Idiom	Type	Structure
Cold as a witch's teat	Pure	Simile

Table 10- A displays idiom 10 and its type and structure. As seen, “Cold as a witch's teat” was classified as a pure idiom, which means the intended meaning has a non-literal nature and

deviates from the literal meaning of its individual words. The expression was used metaphorically to describe something that is very cold.

In terms of structure, the expression was classified as a simile, involving a comparison using the adjective + as. The expression compared the coolness to a witch's teat, signifying severe cold.

Table 10- B. Translations of Idiom 10.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: Cold as a witch's teat	TT1: بارد للغاية TT2: بارد كالرياح الشمالية	TT: باردة كحلمة الساحرة	TT: بارد كالثلج

Table 10- B demonstrates the translations of the idiomatic expression “Cold as a witch's teat” by the two MT tools as well as the researcher’s suggested translation. ChatGPT produced two possible translations TT1 “بارد للغاية,” and TT2 “بارد كالرياح الشمالية,” where both conveyed the intended meaning of the idiom in different ways. Similarly, the suggested translation “بارد كالثلج” delivered the intended message; this phrase is commonly used in everyday language making it a more common expression to use. Therefore, all of ChatGPT's translations and the suggested translation were acceptable, with the latter serving as an alternative. Google Translate, on the other hand, could not render a suitable translation, in which the translation “باردة كحلمة الساحرة” did not make sense.

As observed, different methods were employed to translate the expression “Cold as a witch's teat.” Both TT2 by ChatGPT “بارد كالرياح الشمالية,” and the suggested translation “بارد كالثلج” followed Baker’s second approach “using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form.” While neither used a direct translation of the idiom, they did employ another Arabic idiom with a similar meaning. Moreover, both had the same structure as in English “simile,” where the letter "ك" was used to compare the coldness with “الرياح الشمالية,” and “الثلج.” TT1 “بارد للغاية” by ChatGPT, on the other hand, used the third method “translation by paraphrasing,” in which the

expression was not translated directly but rather provided a description of the meaning to convey the same idea of extreme coldness. Google Translate’s translation “باردة كلمة الساحرة” however, opted for the literal translation, where the components of the expression were translated literally without paying attention to the intended meaning, resulting in having a nonsense translation.

Both criteria “Accuracy” and “Fluency” were fulfilled in the translations by ChatGPT as well as the suggested translation, in which the translations were accurate and sounded natural in the TL. Google Translate; however, failed to meet any of the criteria as the intended meaning was not preserved and lacked naturalness. The third criterion, “cultural sensitivity,” did not apply to this idiomatic expression.

4.3 Semi-Idiomatic Expressions

The following are two collocations that are considered semi-idiomatic expressions.

Table 11- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 11.

Idiom	Type	Structure
Heavy smoker	Literal	Compound

Error! Reference source not found. shows the classification of the expression “Heavy smoker” in terms of type and structure. “Heavy smoker” was defined as a literal idiom, which means the intended meaning is highly close to the literal meaning of the individual words.

The expression was categorized as a compound because it combined two components “heavy,” and “smoker” to function together and produce one unit and one meaning – it means that someone smokes a lot or is addicted to smoking.

Table 11- B. Translations of Idiom 11.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: Heavy smoker	TT: يدخن بكثرة	TT: مدخن شره	TT: مدمن على التدخين

Table 11- B displays each tool’s translation in addition to the suggested translation. As seen in all translations, “يدخن بكثرة” by ChatGPT, “مدخن شره” by Google Translate, and “مدمن على التدخين” by the suggested translation, the intended meaning of the expression “Heavy smoker,” that someone smokes a lot, was successfully delivered in different words and expressions. In this case, the suggested translation was merely an alternative and equivalent in meaning to the translations provided by ChatGPT and Google Translation, thus any of the possibilities may be utilized depending on the translator's stylistic preferences.

The method utilized in both the ChatGPT’s translation and the suggested translation was “translation by paraphrasing,” in which the meaning of “Heavy smoker” was communicated using different Arabic words and expressions. “يدخن بكثرة” used a verb instead of the adjective, as in the English idiom “Heavy smoker,” whereas “مدمن على التدخين” used an adjective but with a different word. Google Translate, on the other hand, used the “using an idiom of similar meaning and form” strategy, where the expression in Arabic “مدخن شره” was a possible equivalent of the expression in English.

Both translations by the two MT tools as well as the suggested translation communicated the intended meaning accurately while remaining natural, resulting in achieving the two criteria “Accuracy” and “Fluency.” However, the third criterion, “cultural sensitivity,” did not apply to this idiomatic expression.

Table 12- A. Type and Structure of Idiom 12.

Idiom	Type	Structure
Frozen to death	Literal	Verb + Complement

Table 12- A categorizes the expression “Frozen to death” based on its type and structure. As seen, “Frozen to death” was classed as literal because the meaning of the expression can be understood from its components. The expression was used metaphorically to symbolize dying due to the intense cold, therefore the words "frozen" and "death" retained their connotations.

When it comes to structure, the expression “Frozen to death” was considered as verb + complement, where the verb “frozen” followed by the complement “death” to deliver one meaning which is extreme coldness.

Table 12- B. Translations of Idiom 12.

Idiom	ChatGPT	Google Translate	Suggested Translation
ST: Frozen to death	TT: تجمد حتى الموت	TT: مجدة حتى الموت	TT: يكاد يتجمد من البرد

Table 12- B shows the translations of the expression “Frozen to death” by the MT tools as well as the suggested translation. All translations, “تجمد حتى الموت” by Chat GPT, “مجدة حتى الموت” by Google Translate, and “يكاد يتجمد من البرد” by the researcher, conveyed the intended meaning of being extremely cold; however, the suggested translation might be more commonly used in Arabic.

All three translations used Baker’s third strategy “translation by paraphrasing,” where the intended meaning was paraphrased with different words and expressions in Arabic, instead of being translated directly or literally. This method was used as there were no direct translations of the expression, so it used different words and expressions while maintaining clarity and relevance.

In fact, all translations by ChatGPT, Google Translate, and the suggested translation were accurate and sounded natural, which means they achieved the two criteria “Accuracy” and “Fluency.” Nevertheless, the suggested translation sounded more natural and human, making it a more suitable translation. The third criterion, “cultural sensitivity,” did not apply to this idiomatic expression.

4.4 Conclusion

This chapter provided an analysis of the 12 idioms from the first chapter of “The Catcher in the Rye.” The next chapter will discuss the outcomes of this chapter and provide a conclusion of this research.

Chapter V

Discussion and Conclusion

5 Discussion and Conclusion

5.1 Introduction

After analyzing the ten idiomatic expressions and the two semi-idiomatic expressions in the previous chapter, this chapter aims to discuss and conclude the outcomes of the study on translating idiomatic expressions from English into Arabic and to explore new perspectives.

5.2 Overall Comparison of Translation Effectiveness

The major findings of the study demonstrated significant differences between ChatGPT and Google Translate in Translating idiomatic expressions from English into Arabic from the first chapter of “The Catcher in the Rye.”

Overall, the translations provided by ChatGPT were more accurate to human speech and the intended meanings of the idioms than those produced by Google Translate based on the two criteria of “accuracy” and “fluency.” Furthermore, ChatGPT could produce several versions of translations when they were less accurate or unsatisfactory, whereas Google Translate only supported one version.

5.3 Translation Strategies

The study also identified the translation strategies for each idiom employed by ChatGPT and Google Translate according to Mona Baker.

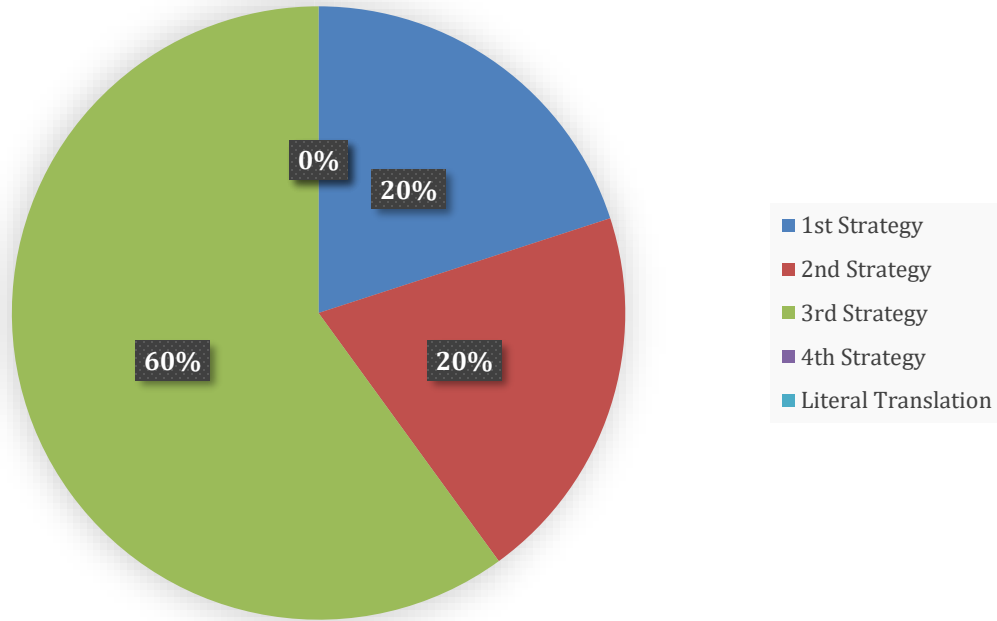


Figure 1. Translation Strategies by ChatGPT.

ChatGPT relied significantly on paraphrasing when translating idioms, demonstrating that this machine translation tool was capable of comprehending, breaking down, and then translating idioms into Arabic using different words and expressions. The third strategy, "translation by paraphrasing," was the most frequently used by ChatGPT in translating idiomatic expressions, with a 60% success rate as shown in Figure 1. Additionally, ChatGPT occasionally used the first and second strategies, scoring 20% for each.

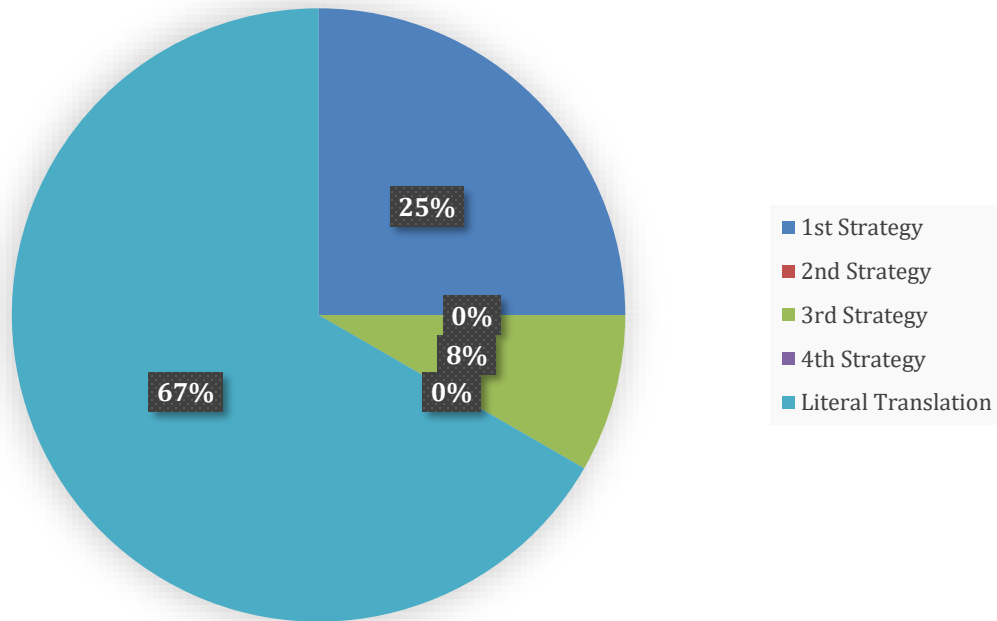


Figure 2. Translation Strategies by Google Translate

Google Translate, on the other hand, opted for the literal approach, employing this strategy eight times when translating the extracted idiomatic expressions. This demonstrates that this MT tool was unable to accurately convey the desired meanings; that is, the translations given by this technique were word-for-word, rendering the idioms in the TL inaccurate most of the time. The study found that this MT tool utilized the literal approach more often when the idioms were pure or semi-pure, implying that Google Translate was unable to comprehend the context and hence adopted the literal approach, scoring a rate of 67% as shown in Figure 2.

5.4 Translation Quality

This study assessed the translation quality based on three criteria: accuracy, fluency, and cultural sensitivity. The result shows that ChatGPT consistently satisfied both “accuracy” and “fluency.”

On the other hand, Google Translate's translations were rarely accurate or fluent. It struggled to convey the idea correctly and naturally, especially if the idioms were pure or semi-pure.

Furthermore, the third criterion did not apply to all of the translations produced by ChatGPT and Google Translate. These findings suggest that utilizing ChatGPT as an MT tool is more effective and accurate than Google Translate.

5.5 Comparison with the Suggested Translations

The research demonstrated that the translations of the idiomatic expressions by ChatGPT were closely aligned with the suggested translations, conveying the same meaning but employing different strategies. Sometimes, the translations by ChatGPT were less accurate to human speech, and it was best to utilize the suggested translations. Google Translate, on the other hand, produced translations that were notably different from the suggested translations, making it less credible as an MT tool.

5.6 Conclusion

This research aimed to assess the accuracy and effectiveness of the MT tools ChatGPT and Google Translate in translating idiomatic expressions extracted from the first chapter of the novel “The Catcher in the Rye” from English into Arabic.

Ten idiomatic expressions and two semi-idiomatic expressions were found in the first chapter and categorized into tables. Each idiom was classified according to its type and structure and then was translated by ChatGPT and Google Translate as well as by the researcher.

The study found ChatGPT to be more accurate in translating idiomatic expressions from English into Arabic and could produce multiple versions of translations when necessary, unlike Google Translate's one-version support.

Moreover, the study revealed that ChatGPT and Google Translate employed different translation strategies for Arabic idioms. ChatGPT used paraphrasing, with a 60% success rate, and occasionally used the first and second strategies. On the other hand, Google Translate used the literal approach, eight times, but was unable to accurately convey meanings due to its word-for-word nature. The study found that Google Translate used the literal approach more often when idioms were pure or semi-pure, scoring 67%.

The discussion also evaluated translation quality using accuracy, fluency, and cultural sensitivity. ChatGPT consistently met these criteria. Google Translate, on the other hand,

struggled with accuracy and fluency, suggesting ChatGPT as a more effective tool. Furthermore, it was found that ChatGPT's translations of idiomatic expressions were consistent with suggested translations, while Google Translate's translations were less credible.

In conclusion, the study suggests using ChatGPT as an MT tool is more reliable and closer to the original meaning than using Google Translate in translating idioms from English into Arabic. ChatGPT is easy to use and can suggest other translations if the provided one is inaccurate. Although this research shed light on the capabilities and limitations of MT tools such as ChatGPT and Google Translate in translating idiomatic expressions from just one chapter of “The Catcher in the Rye,” it is worthwhile to note that this represents only a small portion of the vast potential of AI-driven translation. This attracts readers’ interest and raises questions regarding the realm of AI-powered translation in a variety of sectors, including literature, legal documents, medical reports, technical manuals, and more. Further research should focus on multiple aspects to improve the accuracy and efficiency of AI tools such as ChatGPT, while also considering the ethical implications and the role of human oversight in assuring excellent translations. This creates a new revolution in the realm of translation, and perhaps one-day humans will be able to completely rely on AI tools for communication across cultures and languages.

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