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**ИСКУССТВЕННЫЙ ИНТЕЛЛЕКТ И ПЕРЕВОД АФОРИЗМОВ: СОХРА-  
НЕНИЕ СМЫСЛА И СТИЛЯ**

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шего образования «Южный федеральный университет»  
г. Таганрог**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND APHORISM TRANSLATION: PRE-  
SERVING MEANING AND STYLE**

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The translation of aphorisms presents a unique challenge for translators. What might initially appear to be a straightforward task often becomes a complex interplay of linguistic and cultural nuances. As human translators grapple with these complexities, the increasing sophistication of artificial intelligence (AI) in translation raises important questions: Can AI genuinely capture the essence of an aphorism? Can machine translation ever replicate the artistry of human translation in this specialized domain? This study aims to explore these questions, investigating the capabilities and limitations of machine translation when applied to aphorisms, and comparing its performance to that of human translators. The research will examine key aspects of aphorism translation, including the preservation of semantic accuracy, the conveyance of stylistic features, and the consideration of cultural context. Particular attention will be given to analyzing how machine translation algorithms handle ambiguity, wordplay, and other characteristic features of aphoristic expression.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines an aphorism as a succinct and insightful statement expressing a general truth. Aphoristic expressions are characterized by implicit meaning, inviting personal interpretation and reflection. The reader is encouraged to recognize the veracity of the aphorism within their own experiences. Key features of the aphoristic form include: brevity and conciseness, eliminating extraneous language and ornamentation; memorable phrasing, utilizing precise, imaginative, or rhythmic language to facilitate recall and dissemination; and wit and insight, frequently employing cleverness, humor, or unexpected turns of phrase.

The complete translatability of aphorisms remains problematic due to several inherent challenges. Semantic complexities arise from the frequent use of puns and

wordplay, which are often culture-specific and resist direct transfer. Choosing a single interpretation from multiple potential meanings can result in a loss of nuance and a flattening of the aphorism's multi-layered significance. Furthermore, the concise and often ambiguous nature of aphoristic language renders it particularly vulnerable to subtle shifts in wording. Minor alterations can drastically alter or even obliterate the intended meaning, especially when cultural nuances or wordplay are involved. Stylistic and cultural factors present further obstacles. Replicating stylistic devices across languages can be difficult, and the cultural context embedded within the aphorism is crucial for its proper understanding. Direct translation, without careful consideration of these cultural nuances, frequently leads to misinterpretations or a failure to fully appreciate the aphorism's impact. These challenges underscore the sophisticated skill set required for effective aphorism translation. It demands not only a deep understanding of both the source and target languages and cultures, but also a creative capacity to adapt the message while preserving its core essence and intended effect. The translator must act as a cultural mediator, navigating the intricate web of linguistic and cultural differences to forge a connection between the original aphorism and its audience in a new linguistic and cultural context.

While current AI translation models can identify the presence of certain stylistic features, accurately classifying and understanding their function within a text remains a significant challenge. AI systems are trained on vast datasets to recognize linguistic patterns, but they lack the capacity for deep stylistic analysis that human translators possess. Reproducing stylistic effects in the target language with comparable artistry is even more challenging. AI can serve as a valuable tool for preliminary translation drafts or generating alternative phrasing options. However, particularly in the case of stylistically complex texts like aphorisms, the nuanced interpretation of stylistic elements and their effective rendering in the target language necessitate human expertise. Therefore, final editing and revision by a human translator are crucial for ensuring accuracy, preserving stylistic intent, and capturing the overall essence of the source text. This human intervention is essential for refining the output of AI, addressing its limitations in stylistic sensitivity, and ultimately producing a translation that resonates with the target audience.

AI translation offers several distinct advantages, including exceptional speed, enabling the processing of large volumes of text significantly faster than human translators. This speed is particularly beneficial for time-sensitive projects or situations requiring rapid dissemination of information. Furthermore, AI demonstrates impressive multilingual capabilities, often facilitating translation between a wider range of language pairs than a human translator proficient in a limited number of languages. AI also excels in data handling, efficiently processing and translating extensive textual datasets that would prove overwhelming for human translators. However, despite these strengths, AI translation also presents limitations. A key weakness lies in its limited capacity for nuanced understanding. AI often struggles with subtleties like cultural nuances, irony, sarcasm, and other complex linguistic features crucial for accurate and effective translation. This deficiency becomes particularly

apparent when dealing with texts rich in figurative language, such as fiction, poetry, and aphorisms. Additionally, AI translation is inherently dependent on the training data used to develop its algorithms. The quality and diversity of this data directly impacts the accuracy and fluency of the translation output. If the training dataset lacks sufficient representation of specific text types, linguistic registers, or language pairs, the resulting translations may suffer from reduced quality and may not adequately capture the nuances of the source text.

Aphorism translation typically employs three distinct approaches: literal, semantic, and literary (or artistic). The selection of the most appropriate method is particularly crucial for aphorisms, given their inherent reliance on stylistic nuances and cultural context. Literal translation, while potentially useful for initial analysis, is generally unsuitable for conveying the full impact of an aphorism due to the frequent use of figurative language and culturally specific expressions. A purely literal rendering often results in awkward or nonsensical phrasing, failing to capture the intended meaning or the stylistic elegance of the original. Semantic translation prioritizes conveying the central meaning of the aphorism but may not fully capture its stylistic features, emotional impact, or cultural resonance. While ensuring comprehensibility, a solely semantic approach can flatten the aphorism's richness and diminish its artistic qualities. In contrast, literary translation strives to reproduce not only the semantic content but also the style, emotional coloring, and imagery of the source text. This approach recognizes the integral role of stylistic devices in conveying the aphorism's full meaning and impact. Literary translation seeks to achieve a balance between accuracy and artistry, creating a target text that resonates with the reader in a manner similar to the original. This often requires creative adaptation and interpretation, going beyond mere semantic equivalence to recreate the stylistic effects and cultural nuances that contribute to the aphorism's overall power and memorability.

Examining the application of AI in Russian-to-English translation, let's analyze three approaches to rendering Maxim Gorky's proverb "Ум имей хоть маленький, да свой." A literal translation yields "Have even a small mind, but your own." While grammatically sound, this rendition lacks naturalness and fluency in English, highlighting the limitations of a purely literal approach. A semantic translation, focusing on conveying the core meaning, might produce "It's better to have your own understanding, however limited." While accurately capturing the essence of the proverb, this version loses some of the original's stylistic vibrancy and conciseness. An alternative semantic rendering, "Better a small wit of your own than a large one borrowed," more closely approximates the proverb's original spirit and rhetorical structure. Finally, a literary translation strives to preserve both meaning and stylistic impact. Options such as "A little wit of your own is better than a great deal of borrowed wisdom" or "Better your own small mind than another's great one" aim for greater elegance and idiomatic expression while retaining the proverb's core message. This approach demonstrates the potential of AI to leverage its vast linguistic database to generate diverse translation options, offering a range of stylistic choices. However,

human evaluation remains crucial for selecting the most effective rendition, considering factors such as cultural context, target audience, and desired stylistic effect. While AI can facilitate the generation of multiple possibilities, human expertise is essential for nuanced stylistic judgment and ensuring the translated proverb resonates appropriately in the target language and culture.

Conversely, examining English-to-Russian translation using AI, let's consider the rendering of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's phrase "Into each life some rain must fall." A literal translation results in "В каждую жизнь должен упасть какой-то дождь," which sounds unnatural and fails to capture the intended figurative meaning in Russian. Semantic translations offer more effective options. "Всякому приходится пережить невзгоды" provides a common and natural expression of the sentiment, while "В жизни каждого человека бывают и трудности" offers a gentler, less dramatic rendition. Exploring literary translations allows for more stylistic variation. "Никто не избежит жизненных бурь" utilizes a stronger, more evocative metaphor, while "Дождь печали неизбежен для каждого" evokes a more poetic and melancholic tone. This example demonstrates how AI can assist in generating diverse translations that capture different facets of the original phrase's meaning and stylistic potential. However, just as in the previous example, human judgment remains essential for evaluating the nuances of each translation and selecting the most appropriate option based on the specific context and desired effect. AI serves as a powerful tool for generating possibilities, but human expertise remains crucial for navigating the complexities of stylistic choice and ensuring cultural appropriateness in the target language.

In summary, AI exhibits significant capabilities in aphorism translation, particularly in conveying basic meaning, efficiently processing large datasets, and identifying lexical equivalents. However, challenges persist in handling idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and culturally embedded nuances, often resulting in translations that sound unnatural or distort the original intent. While advancements in machine learning hold promise for enhancing the quality of automated translation, the role of human oversight remains critical, particularly in assessing nuanced meaning, refining stylistic elements, and ensuring cultural appropriateness. The optimal approach to aphorism translation currently involves a collaborative partnership between AI and human translators. AI can efficiently handle the initial stages of the translation process, generating potential renditions and identifying lexical correspondences. Human translators then play a crucial role in evaluating these options, refining the language, ensuring stylistic coherence, and capturing the subtle nuances of meaning and cultural context that AI often struggles to grasp. This synergistic approach leverages the strengths of both AI and human intelligence, combining computational efficiency with human linguistic and cultural expertise to achieve translations that are both accurate and stylistically effective. This collaborative model not only enhances the quality of individual translations but also contributes to the ongoing refinement of AI translation models by providing valuable feedback and data for continuous improvement.

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