



Assessing the Qualities of Human and Machine Translation with Reference to Five Selected Poems

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ABSTRACT

This study compares human and machine translations of five poems: "My Mother at Sixty Six," "The Road Not Taken," "A Thing of Beauty," "An Introduction," and "Keeping Quiet." It focuses on how well each translation preserves literary devices such as metaphors and similes. We explore the challenges of translating these elements, noting that cultural and emotional nuances often get lost in machine translations like Google Translate. The concept of literary untranslatability highlights these difficulties. Human translators generally do a better job maintaining the original text's depth and beauty. However, advances in machine translation are also considered. This research contributes to understanding how technology and human efforts intersect in literary translation, showing both strengths and limitations in preserving the essence of poetry.