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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Translating Arabic Free Poetry Texts into English by ChatGPT: Success and Failure

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine the success and failure of ChatGPT in translating some Arabic free poetry texts selected from Wahib's 'Hulm 'ala Nasiat Aljabin 'A Dream on the Corners of Nostalgia.' In this study, we examined ChatGPT's ability in the translation field. In particular, the focus is on translating in Arabic context. The free poetry texts were first translated by the authors and then by ChatGPT. Both translations were then analyzed and compared to find out to what extent ChatGPT translation deviates from human translation. A qualitative approach is adopted with the help of comparative and analytical methods. The results show that ChatGPT is, to some extent, successful in producing a natural English translation of the Arabic poems in this study. In contrast, humans adopt translation strategies like paraphrasing, adapting, recreating, and transliteration. ChatGPT adopts translation strategies like paraphrasing addition, word-for-word, and literal translation. However, there is no care for the aesthetic values in ChatGPT's translation, and many types of translation errors result from applying these strategies.

## KEYWORDS

ChatGPT, Translation, Arabic, free poetry/verse, translation strategies.

## ARTICLE INFORMATION

**ACCEPTED:** 02 August 2024

**PUBLISHED:** 07 September 2024

**DOI:** 10.32996/ijllt.2024.7.9.21

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## 1. Introduction

Translation is a process of transferring information, experience, and knowledge from one generation to another (Newmark, 1988). It has several theories, including linguistic theory (Catford, 1965), cultural theory (Geertz, 1973; Conway, 2012; Shormani, 2020), and Skopos theory (Flynn, 2004), among others. All these theories help in shaping translation as both a product and a process. Lexical equivalence is not everything in translation (Nida, 1964). With the developments of technology, the translation industry witnessed an important shift and entered the computer world, what has been known as Computer-assisted translation (CAT), which has several tools or models such as Google Translate. CAT tools develop paralleling technology developments. Artificial intelligence (AI) developments result in several models being used in the translation industry. One of these models is ChatGPT, which was developed by OpenAI in 2022. It is a language learning model (LLM) that outperformed and surpassed CAT tools.

In this study, we examined ChatGPT's ability in the translation field. In particular, we focus on translating a free poetry text in an Arabic context. The text is taken from a collection of poems entitled *Hulm 'ala Nasiat Aljabin* 'A Dream on the Corners of Nostalgia' by Najwa Kinana Wahib. The text was first translated by the authors and then by ChatGPT. We analyzed and compared both translations to find out to what extent ChatGPT translation deviates from human translation, where ChatGPT performed like humans, what the literary aspects that ChatGPT did not capture, and how it can be improved.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we provide a literature review of the relevant research. In section 3, we present the research design. In section 4, we tabulate the important results. In section 5, we elaborate on the most important findings and compare both translations: human and ChatGPT. Section 6 concludes the article.

## **2. Literature Review**

In human life, the term 'intelligent' is used to refer to someone who is special in doing complex tasks. Nowadays, it is also used to refer to machines. AI "refers to intelligent devices and software that can reason, absorb, gather knowledge, interact, control, and distinguish between objects" (Alafnan et al., 2020, p. 61). This is the main concern of this paper, focusing on the intelligence of ChatGPT (Chat-Generative Pre-Trained Transformer), an intelligent language model launched by OpenAI company in 2022. This AI model can learn and perform tasks like humans. As the name suggests, ChatGPT can be involved in chats with humans. Though ChatGPT has been investigated by a considerable number of scholars, studies concerning ChatGPT use in translation are still very few, especially in the Arabic context and, more especially, in the literary sphere. Therefore, this literature review will focus on studies concerning AI use in the translation industry.

Grace et al. (2018), for example, focused on the role of AI in reshaping the future in the upcoming years. They insisted on high-level machine intelligence (HLMI) achievement as unaided machines accomplishing tasks better and more cheaply than humans, expecting that AI machines may outperform human. They gave a timespan for each and every field of life and study to be replacing human within a couple of years. For example, AI would cover translating languages by 2024, and AI would also enter academia by 2026, whereby student in high school academic writing will change by 2026. By 2049, there will be no need for authors and writers as writing a bestselling book will be with the help of AI, stating that "[r]esearchers believe there is a 50% chance of AI outperforming humans in all tasks in 45 years and of automating all human jobs in 120 years" (Grace et al., 2018, p.1). They also go a step further; Asians expected changes 44 years before North Americans "displays a similar gap between the two continents with the most respondents in the survey: China (median 28 years) and the USA (median 76 years)" (Grace et al. 2018, p.5).

As for the use of ChatGPT, Songsingchai et al. (2023) explore the potential of AI and compare the effectiveness of English language learning among Thai students after implementing AI models like ChatGPT to facilitate English language learning. The participants were students aged 19-20 from first-year pre-service teachers in Bangkok. 120 students participated, 60 in the control and 60 in the experimental group. The feedback from the focus group interviews stated that the real-time feedback and interactive exercises offered by ChatGPT helped the students to understand and apply language concepts more effectively. They concluded their study with "students who used ChatGPT exhibited high motivation, self-confidence, and a positive attitude shift" (Songsingchai et al., 2023, p.75). One of the main obstacles faced by students is related to equitable access to AI technologies. It is not the same in all over the country. Students in the countryside had little time to be able to access the internet as opposed to the students in the cities.

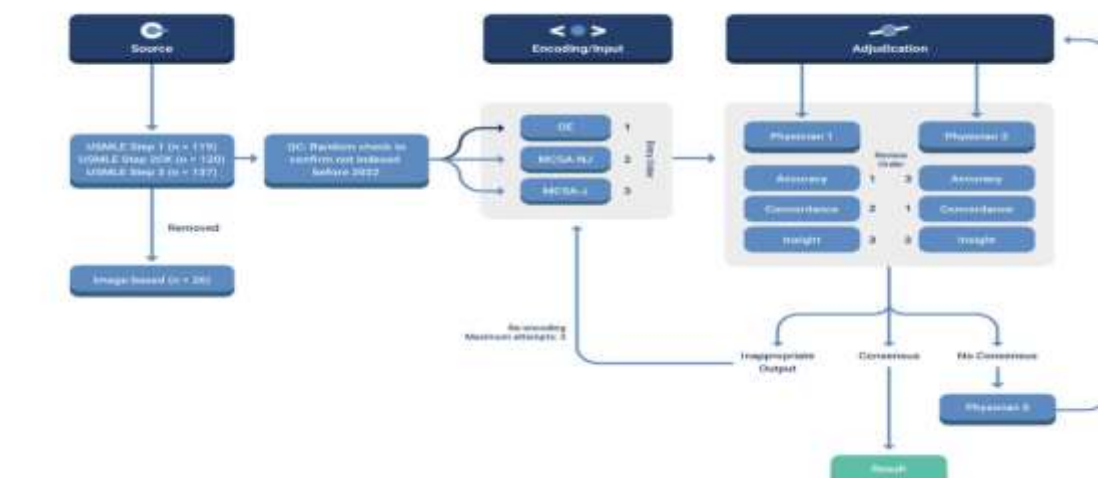
Dergaa et al. (2023) conducted a study exploring the potential benefits and threats of ChatGPT and other NLP technologies in academic writing and research publications, highlighting the ethical considerations involved in using these tools and considering the impact they may have on the authenticity and credibility of academic work. In an answer to the question: Will ChatGPT replace academic researchers? They argued that ChatGPT is a robust LLM with various capabilities, yet it also possesses limitations that make it unsuitable for certain academic research types. There are also researchers who strongly advocate the use of ChatGPT in the academic writing. For instance, Zohery (2023) argues that ChatGPT, as a powerful IA tool, can be used in first draft writing, article summarization, and translation into any intended language. There are several advantages of ChatGPT in academic writing and publishing, including speedy drafting, stimulating creativity, providing feedback and suggestions, and creating more fun and engaging scientific writing by imitating a natural dialogue format between writers and AI assistants (Brady et al., 2023; Fitria, 2021).

Fitria (2021, p. 45) discussed the wide spread of ChatGPT on Twitter as a social network, stating that AI could be "one of the technological trends which are relevant to be developed for any purpose' ... a technology that is undergoing rapid development". Chatbots as conversational tools help students and all people to practice more activities and be more productive. One of the main benefits of the appearance of AI chatbots was their ability to generate texts, emphasizing the easiness of using Chatbot as ChatGPT.

ChatGPT has developed rapidly, and these developments have come up with several models such as ChatGPT-1, GPT-2, GPT-3, and the latest is ChatGPT-4 (Brady et al., 2023; Cascella et al. 2023; Sallam et al. 2023). ChatGPT-4 is considered the latest model, which has been reported to be the best model for translation (Jiao et al., 2023). ChatGPT versions, especially GPT-3, "have garnered significant attention and have the potential to revolutionize a wide range of language-related tasks" (Brady et al., 2023, p.5). Furthermore, ChatGPT is accused of plagiarism; however, they stressed 'ChatGPT-generated texts are based on published literature, and citation practice is encouraged in scholarly publishing' (Brady et al., 2023, p.10). However, the problem is who cites ChatGPT, a dangerous phenomenon for ethics and scholarship in general.

As for the performance of ChatGPT, it was reported that ChatGPT can perform competitively better than human adjudicators. As reported by Kung et al. (2023, p. 4) in a study protocol, two physician adjudicators, who were blinded to each other, utilize criterial data for accuracy, concordance, and insight. When ChatGPT was fed with the same criterial data, it performed better than the two

adjudicators, thus demarcating “high internal concordance”. Figure 1 showcases the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) utilized by human adjudicators and ChatGPT.



**Figure 1: Workflow for sourcing, encoding, and adjudicating** (adopted from Kung et al.’s (2023: 4), abbreviations: QC = quality control; MCSA-NJ = multiple choice single, answer without forced justification; MCSA-J = multiple choice single answer with forced justification; OE = open-ended question format. These abbreviations are Kung et al.)

In this complex task, ChatGPT performs better than humans. This experiment reveals that ChatGPT has the potential for learning in medical education, provided that it is trained on the tasks it is intended to do.

### 2.1. Technology and Translation

The development in technology leads to more advancement in the life of translators. The translation process involves “all the processes and methods used to render and/or transfer the meaning of the source language text into the target language as closely, completely, and accurately as possible” (Ghazala, 1995, p.1). technology in translation begins by employing CAT tools, which have different types such as ‘Machine Translation (MT), Machine Aided Translation (MAT), Machine Aided/Assisted Human Translation (MAHT), Human Aided/Assisted Machine Translation (HAMT), Fully Automatic High-Quality (Machine) Translation (FAHQT/FAHQMT) and Computer Aided/Assisted Translation (CAT)’ (Quah, 2006, p. 6). Technology integrates with all the fields of human life to support humans and facilitate their work. Palacz (2003, p.4) defines CAT tools as “Computer-Assisted Translation software comes into play and offers the opportunity to meet these demands. Powerful computer technology can enhance the uniquely human abilities of translators by coupling them with raw computing power”. They are further defined as “any type of computerized tool that translators use to help them conduct their jobs.” There are particular programs produced to support translators in their job, such as; Trados Workbench, Wordfast, memoQ, DéjàVuX, SDLX, Star Transit, MultiTrans, Similis, MetaTaxis, OmegaT (Bowker and Ciro, 2019, p. 184).

However, the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) has greatly affected translation as a direct way to support humans in fulfilling their jobs in less time and effort. But is AI going to support humans or replace humans in doing different tasks, such as translation? According to AlAfnan et al. (2020, p. 61), AI “refers to intelligent devices and software that can reason, absorb, gather knowledge, interact, control, and distinguish between objects”. As AI development is very huge, the lay man cannot imagine the huge development in AI technology. AI interaction with translators is active. Some researchers (Kirov & Malamin, 2022) refers to AI as ‘one of the major technologies leading the digital transformation and the fourth industrial revolution 1, and machine–human–computer symbiosis is a major feature of the phenomena, such as virtual reality, computer games, smartphone apps, smart watches, and information searches through voice recognition, etc.’ (Kirov & Malamin, 2022, p.2). AI development followed by the appearance of ChatGPT. ChatGPT is one of the AI companies which provide the AI results to the users. Translation is one of the services provided to all humans.

As a result of all these AI developments, ChatGPT comes to the surface. We will try to test its ability to translate a free poetry text.

## 3. Study design

### 3.1. Approach

This research is qualitative. It adopts the comparative and analytical approach.

### 3.2. Procedure

The study took place in three stages. The first stage was the data collection, in which we selected the Arabic free poetry text. The second stage is the translation of the text: first, the text was translated by the authors themselves, and second, it was translated by ChatGPT. The third stage is data analysis, in which we analytically compared both translations, viz., the human translation and ChatGPT translation, as a result of the appearance of different versions of ChatGPT. The version used in translating this text is ChatGPT 3.5, as it is the easiest to access. At the same time, it is the most commonly used.

### 3.3. Research Sample

The text selected to be translated by humans and ChatGPT is some excerpts and poems from a collection of poems in Arabic by Najwa Kinana Wahib, entitled 'A Dream on the Corners of Nostalgia' 'Hulm 'ala Nasiat Aljabin.' The text involves the title of the book, Item 1. some titles of poems items 2-5, acknowledgements items 6-8, and some excerpts from the poems entitled items 2-5. ChatGPT translations of these texts are given in Appendix A.

## 4. Results

The results of this study are tabulated in Table 1, which presents the verses of the poems in Arabic Language, human translation, and ChatGPT translation.

**Table 1: Arabic text, Human Translation, and ChatGPT translation**

Item No.	Arabic text	Human translation	ChatGPT translation
1	حلم على ناصية الحنين	A Dream on the Threshold of Nostalgia	'A Dream on the Corner of Longing.'
2	نوبة حنين	A Longing Fit	'Nostalgia Episode'
3	صلاة على شاطئ الحلم	A Prayer on the Shore of the Dream	'Prayer on the Shore of Dream,'
4	حكاية امرأة وحرف	A Tale of a Woman with a Letter	The story of a woman and a letter
5	من وحي الأمسيات	From the Evenings' Inspirations	Inspired by the Evenings
6	إهداء الى كل من لمح طيف الحلم..	I dedicate this to anyone glimpsing the shadow of the dream	Dedicated to all who caught a glimpse of the dream's shadow,
7	فنثر في سمائه نجمة..	Lightening a star in his sky	And scattered a star in its sky...
8	إلى كل من غرس في دربه شوكة..	To anyone planting a thorny tree in his way.	To all who planted a thorn in their path...
9	لكنه يملك قلباً يسافر على قدمين إلى غير وجهة.	But he has a heart for traveling on foot without destination	But he possesses a heart that travels on two feet to an unknown destination.
10	أصدافه، وقلمي، صخوره الصامدة والعنيدة.	Its shells, with my pen, its solid and hard rocks	Its shells, even my pen, its steadfast and stubborn rocks
11	و ملامحي الحنطية	and my corny looks	And my features, its shells
12	كفى ! ستكسر درجات سلمي	Enough! You will break my pride!	Enough! You will break the scales of my ladder.
13	تتميز بالوصف الدقيق و المشهدية الرائعة	She is distinguished by her lively, fabulous characteristics.	It is characterized by precise description and magnificent vivid imagery.

14	فأما الاستقراء برمز أو حدث أو قضية	Either elicited by symbol, and event, or a consensual issue	Either deduction through a symbol, event, or consensus-backed issue,
15	لها من الاجماع ما يغفر زلاتها الصياغية...	that overcomes its flaws	forgiving its stylistic flaws
16	و إما الإغواء عن طريق شتم الرموز الدينية و الدنيوية ، او...	Or seduction through disparaging religious and worldly symbols	It's either the method of inference through symbols, events, or issues that have a consensus forgiving its linguistic slips, or it .....
17	خالف تعرف	Argue for the sake of arguing	dissent to know'
18	وكم وددت الكتابة إليك .. لكني وفي لحظة سفر ..تهت .. ثم تراجعت.	I wanted to write to you .. but in my voyage, I lost my way. So, I returned back	And how I wished to write to you... but, in a moment of travel, I got lost... then hesitated. And how I wished to write to you... but I lost my way in a moment of departure...
19	فما عدت أجد حروفاً .. يقوام القلم ..	I could not find letters.. having the shape of a pen	Then I retreated. And now I can't find letters
20	تليق بمساحة القلب .. وترضي غرور	Fit the space of the heart and satisfies its arrogance	Worthy of the heart's space... or satisfying the pride
21	.. فضاء الورق. أو مداد .. يليق	The space of the papers .. Or the ink .. to suit the pen ....	Of the paper's expanse. Nor ink... fitting for the pen's form.
22	يحاكي في ملامحه خدود الورد ويجاري في عطره .. بساتين الحبق.	Simulate in its features the cheeks of the roses paralleling in its smell the gardens of basil	In his features, he resembles the rose's cheeks, and in his scent, he competes with the gardens of lavender.
23	و أبعد من كاتبها .. وأقرب من ملهمه ..	Farther than its writer closer to its inspirer	And farther than its writer... and closer than its inspirer,
24	إنها لحظة بوح خالد ...	It is a moment of permanent revelation ...	It's a moment of eternal confession...
25	كانت عقارب القلب فيها تشير الى موعد ..	The heart signs, referring to a date of	Where the heart's hands point to the time,
26	أذان الصمت .	?azan for silence.	The call of silence.

## 5. Discussion

ChatGPT has a conversational nature. It focuses on dialog and conversational ways of contact and communication with humans. It is easily used; it starts by telling it to do any command or prompt, for example, 'Translate the following English text into Arabic.' Then, it will do so. To facilitate the analysis of the data collected in the experiment, the translation generated by ChatGPT will be analyzed in one category, namely lexical problems.

As Table 1 shows, the first title, 'Hulm 'ala Nasiat Aljabin' حلم على ناصية الحنين was translated by ChatGPT as 'A Dream on the Corner of Longing'. We ask ChatGPT to translate the title another time; the generated translation is 'Dream on the Edge of Longing (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Screenshot of the translation generated by ChatGPT

ChatGPT has the ability to translate texts and generate more translations for the same text. The same title was translated for the third time, and the following translation was produced: 'Dream at the Corner of Yearning', as shown in Figure 3 below.

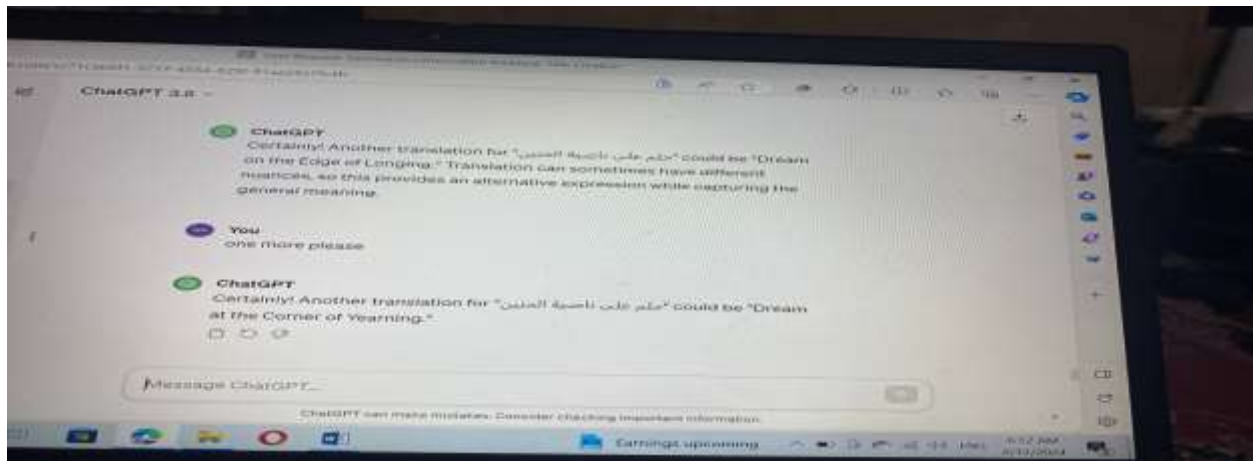


Figure 3: A third translation generated by ChatGPT

Although the three generated translations are somehow accepted, the human translation of the title 'Dream on the Corners of Nostalgia', is more touching and more attractive. As we are dealing with a literary text, both sense and meaning are important in the translation produced.

The second title is *Nawbat Hanian* نوبة حنين, translated by ChatGPT as 'Nostalgia Episode,' while human translate it as 'A Longing Fit.' Although the title was translated by ChatGPT may be accepted, it does not perfectly match the source text; the word *Nostalgia* has perfectly matched Hanian حنين. However, the word 'Episode' Nawbat does not perfectly match the Arabic word 'نوبة.' It is better if it is translated as 'Fit'. Additionally, the third title الحلم على شاطئ البحر was translated by ChatGPT as 'Prayer on the Shore of Dreams'. This translation is similar (but not identical) to human translation. The fourth and fifth titles من وحي and حكاية امرأة وحرف were translated by human as 'A Story of a Woman with a Letter' and 'From the Evenings' Inspirations,' respectively, and ChatGPT translated both as 'A tale of a woman and a letter' and 'Inspired by the Evenings', respectively. Although both translations in both human and ChatGPT are somehow acceptable, there is an aspect worth shedding light on. In Arabic, 'و' can mean 'and' and 'with,' the latter of which is what is intended in the Arabic text حكاية امرأة وحرف. This was not grasped by ChatGPT.

In the excerpts taken from the acknowledgements of the book under consideration, item 6 لمح طيف الحلم was translated by human as 'I dedicate this to anyone glimpsing the shadow of the dream' while ChatGPT translated as 'Dedicated to all who caught a glimpse of the dream's shadow'. ChatGPT used an adjectival expression, while human used a verbal one. Item 7 فنتر في سمانه نجمة was translated by humans as 'lightening a star in his sky' while ChatGPT translated it as 'And scattered a star in its sky...'. Human translation is more appropriate and reflects the sense of the poet. But ChatGPT translation is far from this sense, using the word 'scattered' because 'a star' can not be 'scattered.' Item 8 إلى كل من غرس في دربه شوكة was translated by human as 'To anyone planting a thorny tree in his way..', ChatGPT translated it as 'To all who planted a thorn in their path...'. Again,

ChatGPT translation is far from the sense of the SL text. The author intends to say, 'Even those who plant thorny trees, their efforts will not go in vein' because one day they will harvest fruits and flowers from this thorny tree.

In the excerpts from the poems, we find that item 9 *لكنه يملك قلباً يسافر على قدمين إلى غير وجهة* (from a Prayer on the shore of dream) was translated by human as 'But he has a heart traveling on foot without destination' and by ChatGPT as 'But he possesses a heart that travels on two feet to an unknown destination.' ChatGPT translation is inappropriate because it used the verb 'possesses' with 'heart.' A heart cannot be 'possessed' or not possessed by a human because it is simply there; a living creature has a heart. The translations item 10 *صخوره الصامدة و العنيدة و قلبي ، أصدافه ، وقلمي* by both human and ChatGPT are acceptable. Item 11 *و ملامحي الحنطية* was translated by human as 'and my corny looks' while ChatGPT translated it as 'And my features, its shells.' Translating *ملامحي* as 'features' by ChatGPT is not appropriate because the intended meaning in the SL text is 'looks' not 'features'; 'looks' is an outer thing while 'features' are an inner thing. Item 12 *ستكسر درجات سلمي ! كفى* was translated by ChatGPT as 'Enough! You will break the scales of my ladder'. This translation is not appropriate because it does not convey the intended meaning as it is in the SL, but it will be better if the translation was without the word 'ladder', as in the human translation of this sentence as 'Enough! You will break my pride!

In item 13, the ChatGPT translation of the first sentence used the pronoun 'it,' but the description is about a woman who said, 'Enough! You will break my pride!' The correct pronoun here is 'she,' which is not grasped by ChatGPT. The word *المشهدية* is one word but translated into English by ChatGPT as 'magnificent vivid imagery,' while what is intended is 'characteristics.' In item 14, the repetition of the linking words like 'or' in 'or consensus-backed issue forgiving its stylistic flaws, or seduction through insulting religious and worldly symbols, or' weakens the meaning. In Item 17, *خالف تعرف* was translated by ChatGPT as 'dissent to know.' However, it was translated by human as 'Argue for the sake of arguing,' a proverb is translated by another proverb in the TL. This happens due to the use of word for word translation by ChatGPT.

In item 18, there is a mismatch between a word and its meaning. The word *تراجعت* translated by ChatGPT into 'hesitated' does not reflect the intended meaning. However, the human translation for that word is 'returned back.' The sentence *أو مداد .. يليق بقوام القلم* was translated by ChatGPT as 'Nor ink... fitting for the pen's form...'. The translation here is word for word. The human translation here is 'Or the ink ... to suit the pen ....'. In item 19, *بقوام القلم فما عدت أجد حروفاً* was translated by human as 'I could not find letters.. having the shape of a pen' while ChatGPT translated it as 'Then I retreated. And now I can't find letters'. In item 22, the word *الحبق*, which refers to a plant, was translated by humans as 'basil,' but it was translated by ChatGPT as 'lavender,' which does not reflect the intended plant. Finally, in item 26 *أذان الصمت* was translated by human as '?azan for silence' while ChatGPT translated as 'The call of silence.' ChatGPT translation is not appropriate because *أذان* cannot be translated as 'call.' This is because the word *أذان* is used only in a prayer context; silence is an attribute of prayer. During prayer, speech is prohibited, and silence here is perhaps the same silence practiced during prayer. Human translated it as '?azan' by transliteration technique.

In brief, this work presents a preliminary study of ChatGPT as a modern way to translate Arabic free poetry texts into English. We find that ChatGPT provides a good and competitive product while translating literary texts. Although the text selected is free poetry/verse, which is much easier than formal verse, there is still a need for improving ChatGPT translation to overcome the problems encountered. There are serious errors in ChatGPT translation resulted mainly from the word-for-word technique, which is not appropriate in poetry translation. Thus, the role of the human translator is to review the translation for the emotional and sensational parts, to make sure if there is a mismatch of particular words, and to make sure of the meaning as a whole.

## 6. Conclusion

In brief, we noticed that grammatical errors are lesser than lexical errors. There are words with more than one meaning. This paper aims to investigate the problems translators encounter when they use ChatGPT to translate free poetry texts. Is ChatGPT sufficient for translators to use? Or there is a need for human translators to translate or post edit texts after translating texts by ChatGPT. The data are derived from different pieces from an Arabic collection of poems by Najwa Kinana Wahib, named 'Hulm 'ala Nasiat Aljabin.' Human translation seems to adopt blended types of strategies: adaptation, recreation, omission, addition, and transliteration. However, ChatGPT seems to adopt word-for-word addition (more than omission literal translation, which is not appropriate for free poetry translation. A human role in translation is needed to aid ChatGPT, especially while translating literary texts such as poetry. In this respect, some researchers, such as Kim (2023, p. 2), stressed that "any new ideas generated by ChatGPT should be validated through actual experiments, and their results should be verified by humans." For him, there is still a need for human in the translation process. Human may pre edit or post edit the texts. That is to say, human roles will integrate with machines till they reach perfection in their products. However, there are other researchers, such as (Brady et al., 2023, p.6), who stress 'GPT is a versatile tool that has been designed to perform various language-based tasks such as text generation, question answering, and translation'. Here, machines can replace humans in fulfilling different tasks.

**Funding:** This research received no external funding.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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## Appendix A The chosen texts and their translation by ChatGPT

حلم على ناصية الحنين

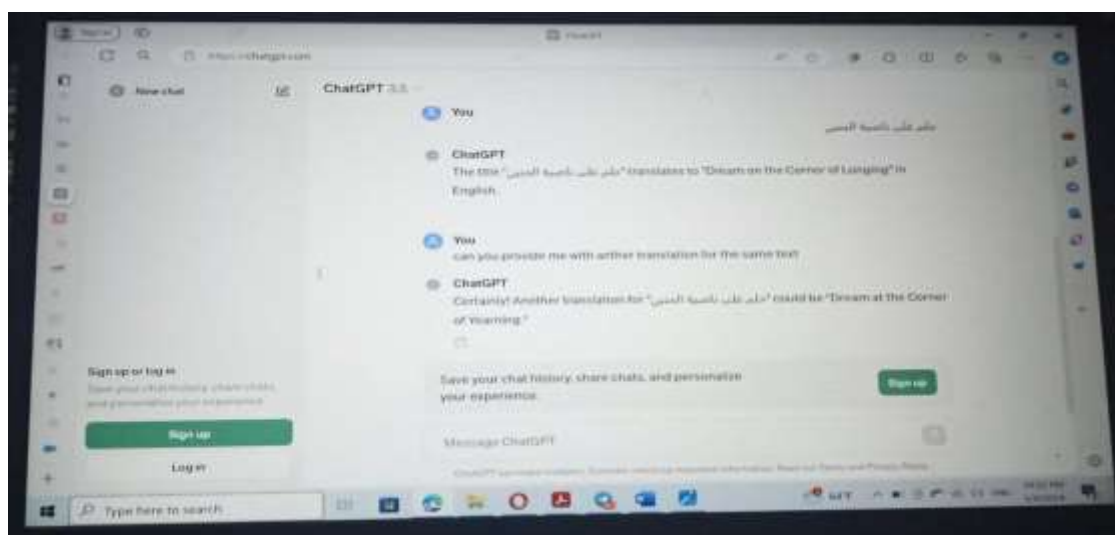
"A Dream on the Corner of Longing."

"Dream on the Edge of Longing."



حلم على ناصية الحنين

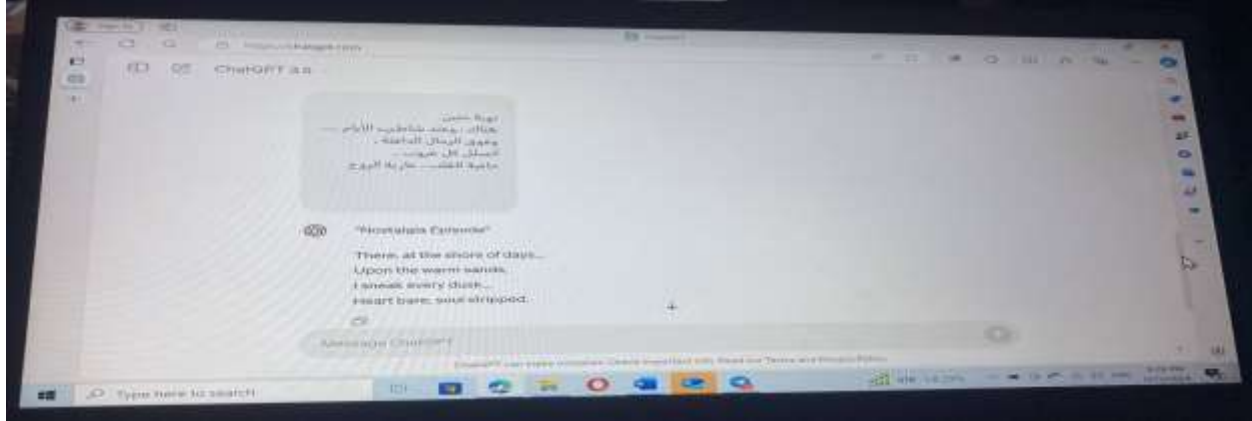
"Dream at the Corner of Yearning."



نوبة حنين  
..... هناك ، وعند شاطئ الأيام  
وفوق الرمال الدافئة ،  
.. أتسلل كل غروب  
حافية القلب ، عارية الروح

"Nostalgia Episode"

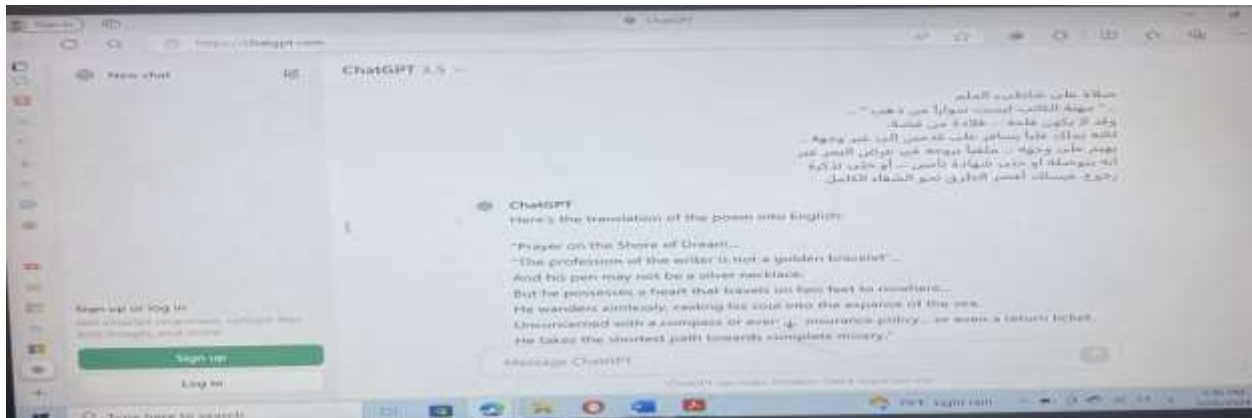
There, at the shore of days...  
Upon the warm sands,  
I sneak every dusk...  
Heart bare, soul stripped.



صلاة على شاطئ الحلم  
.. مهنة الكاتب ليست سواراً من ذهب ..  
وقد لا يكون قلمه .. قلادة من فضة  
.. لكنه يملك قلباً يسافر على قدمين إلى غير وجهه  
يهيم على وجهه ... ملقياً بروحه في عرض البحر غير  
آبه ببوصلة أو حتى شهادة تأمين ... أو حتى تذكرة  
رجوع. فيسلك أقصر الطرق نحو الشقاء الكامل

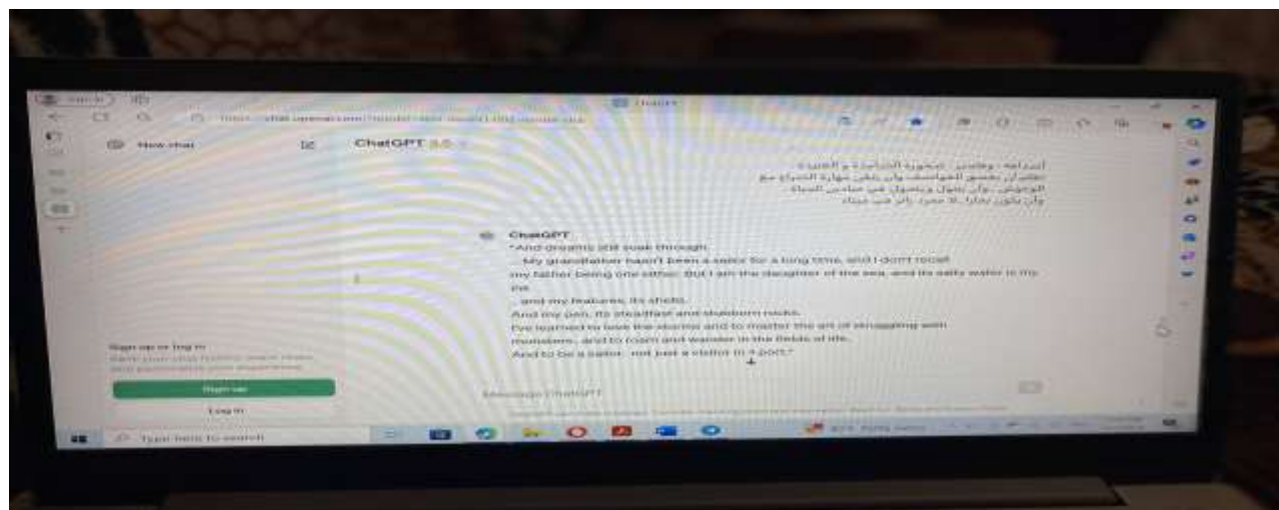
#### "Prayer on the Shore of Dream...

"The profession of the writer is not a golden bracelet."  
And his pen may not be a silver necklace.  
But he possesses a heart that travels on two feet to nowhere...  
He wanders aimlessly, casting his soul into the expanse of the sea,  
Unconcerned with a compass or even an insurance policy... or even a return ticket.  
He takes the shortest path towards complete misery."



. و لا تزال الأحلام على قيد بلل  
لم يكن جدي بحارا منذ زمن مضى ولا أذكر ...  
ابي كذلك . لكني إبنة البحر ، وحبري ماؤه المالح  
و ملامحي الحنطية ..  
. أصدافه ، وقلمي ، صخوره الصامدة و العنيدة  
تعلم أن يعشق العواصف وأن يتقن مهارة الصراع مع  
الوحوش ..وأن يجول ويصول في ميادين الحياة ،  
. وأن يكون بحارا ..لا مجرد زائر في ميناء

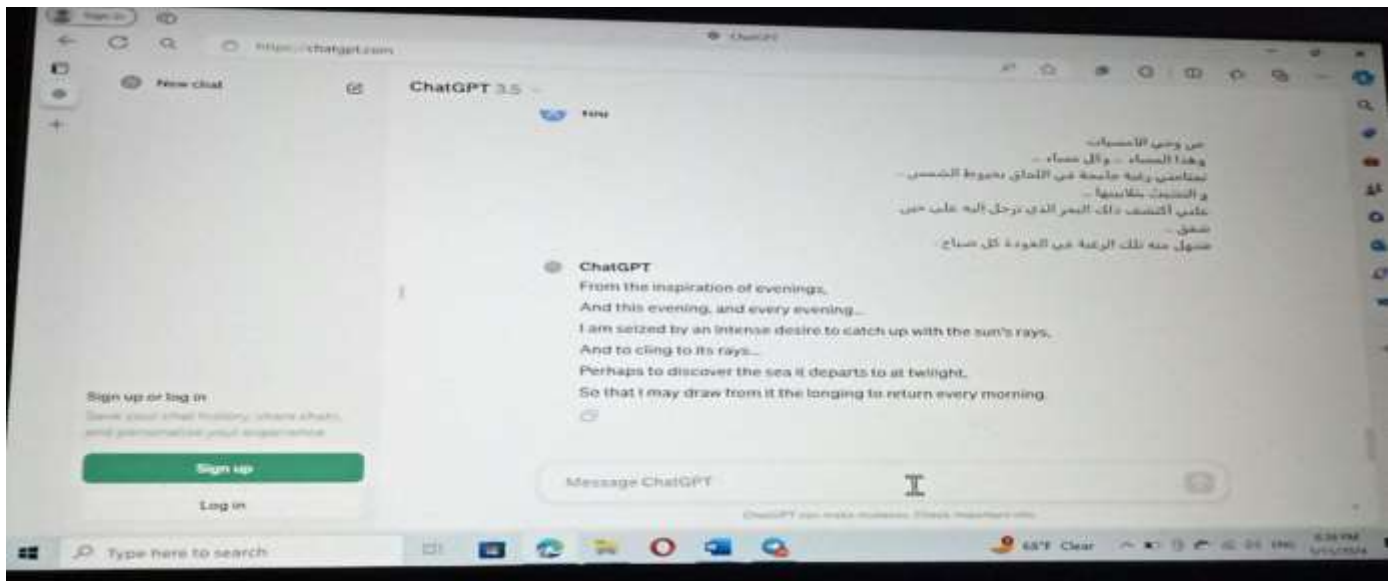
"And dreams still soak through.  
 ... My grandfather hasn't been a sailor for a long time, and I don't recall  
 my father being one either. But I am the daughter of the sea, and its salty water is my  
 ink  
 .. and my features, its shells,  
 And my pen, its steadfast and stubborn rocks.  
 I've learned to love the storms and to master the art of struggling with  
 monsters.. and to roam and wander in the fields of life,  
 And to be a sailor.. not just a visitor in a port."



من وحي الأمسيات

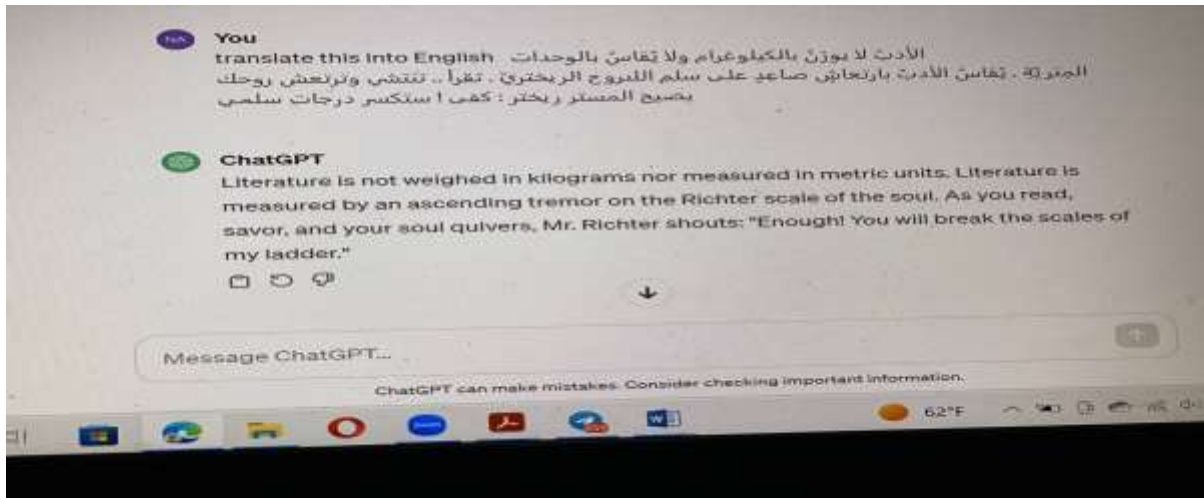
... وهذا المساء ،، وكل مساء  
 .. تجتاحني رغبة جامحة في اللحاق بخيوط الشمس  
 ... و التشبث بتلابيبها  
 علني أكتشف ذلك البحر الذي ترحل إليه على حين  
 .. شفق  
 فتنهل منه تلك الرغبة في العودة كل صباح ،

From the inspiration of evenings,  
 And this evening, and every evening...  
 I am seized by an intense desire to catch up with the sun's rays,  
 And to cling to its rays...  
 Perhaps to discover the sea it departs to at twilight,  
 So that I may draw from it the longing to return every morning.



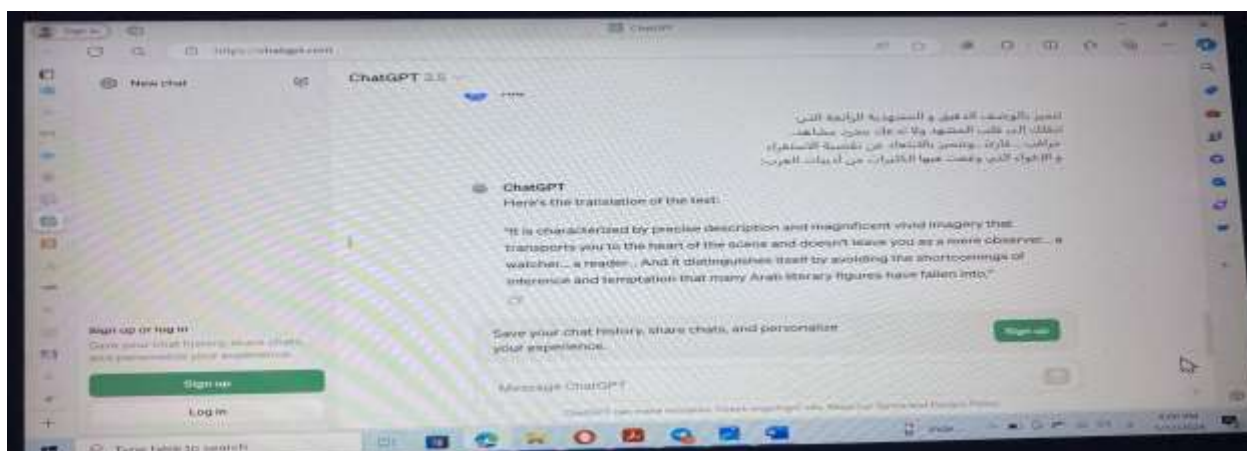
الأدب لا يوزن بالكيلوغرام ولا يُقاس بالوحدات المترية .  
يُقاس الأدب بارتعاش صاعِد على سلم الروح الريختريّ  
. تقرأ .. تنتشي وترتعش روحك  
حتى يصيح المستر ريختر : كفى ! ستكسر درجات سلمي

Literature is not weighed in kilograms nor measured in metric units. Literature is  
Literature is measured by an ascending tremor on richer scale of the soul. As you read, savor, and your soul quiver, Mr. Richter  
shout: "Enough! You will break the scales of my ladder."



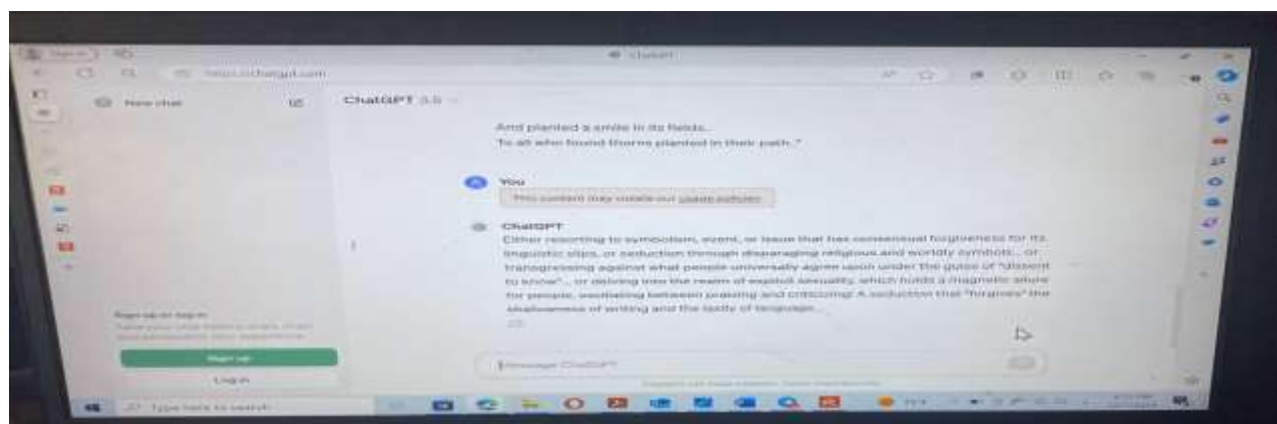
تتميز بالوصف الدقيق و المشهية الرائعة التي  
تنقلك إلى قلب المشهد ولا تدعك مجرد مشاهد..  
مراقب .. قارئ .. وتتميز بالابتعاد عن نقصية الاستقراء  
و الإغواء التي وقعت فيها الكثيرات من أدبيات العرب:

"It is characterized by precise description and magnificent vivid imagery that transports you to the heart of the scene and doesn't  
leave you as a mere observer... a watcher... a reader... And it distinguishes itself by avoiding the shortcomings of inference and  
temptation that many Arab literary figures have fallen into."



فإذا الاستقراء يرمز أو حدث أو قضية لها من  
الاجماع ما يغفر زلاتها الصياغية، و إما الإغواء عن طريق  
شتم الرموز الدينية و الدنيوية .. أو التناول على ما أجمع  
الناس عليه من باب " خالف تعرف " .. أو الغوص  
في منطقة الجنس الفاضح بما لهذه الأمور من قوة جذب  
لناس، ما بين ماذق وقادح!  
إغواء " يغفر " ضحالة الكتابة ورخاوة اللغة.

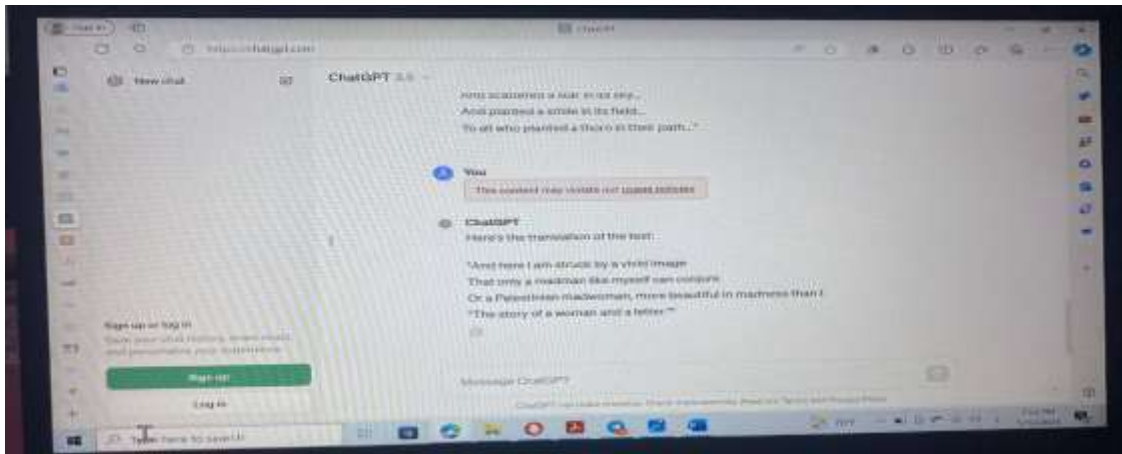
Either resorting to symbolism, event, or issue that has consensual forgiveness for its linguistic slips, or seduction through disparaging religious and worldly symbols... or transgressing against what people universally agree upon under the guise of "dissent to know"... or delving into the realm of explicit sexuality, which holds a magnetic allure for people, oscillating between praising and criticizing! A seduction that "forgives" the shallowness of writing and the laxity of language...



وهنا تستوقفني صورة مشهدة  
لا يقدر على الاتيان بها إلا مجنون مثلي  
: او مجنونة فلسطينية أجمل مني جنونا  
" حكاية امرأة و حرف "

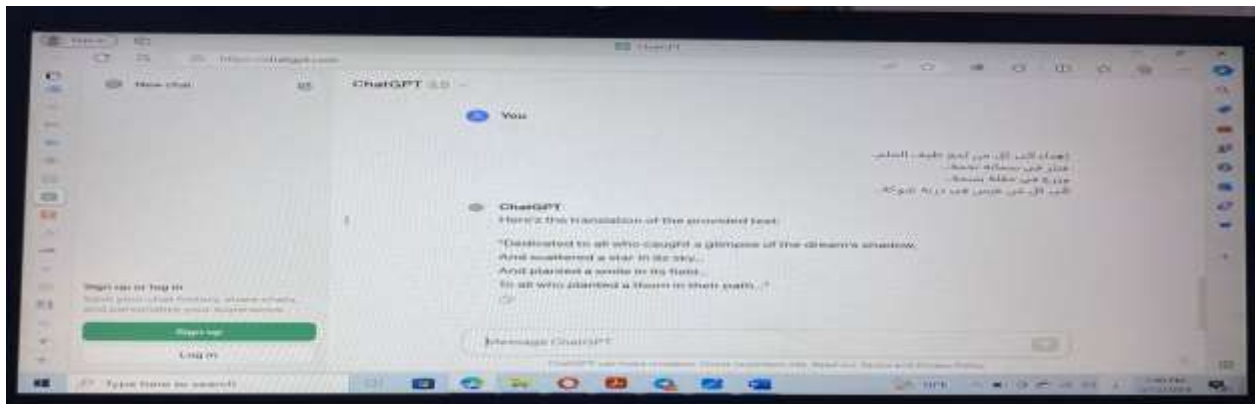
"And here I am struck by a vivid image  
That only a madman like myself can conjure  
Or a Palestinian madwoman, more beautiful in madness than I:  
"The story of a woman and a letter."





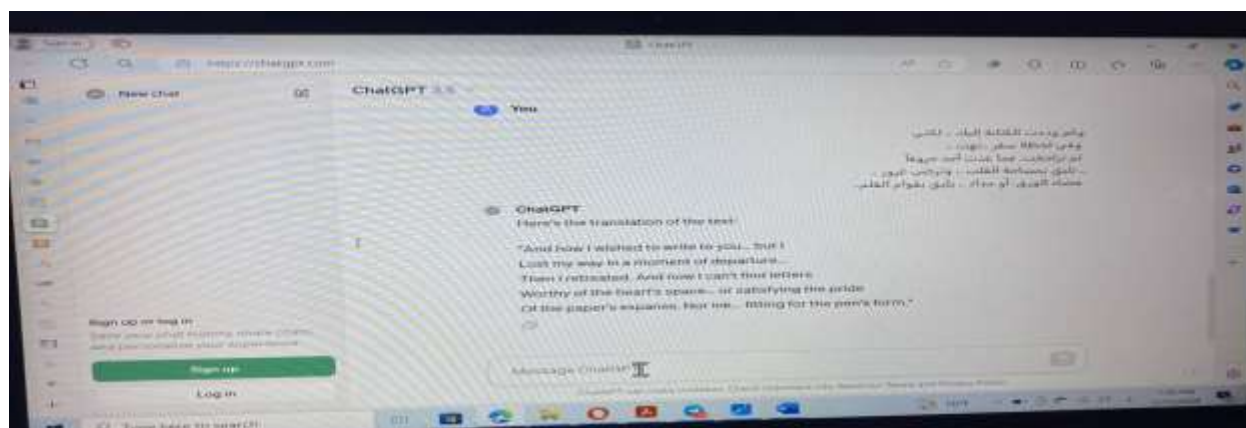
إهداء الى كل من لمح طيف الحلم  
..فنثر في سمائه نجمة  
..وزرع في حقلة بسمه  
إلى كل من غرس في دربه شوكة

"Dedicated to all who caught a glimpse of the dream's shadow,  
And scattered a star in its sky...  
And planted a smile in its field...  
To all who planted a thorn in their path..."



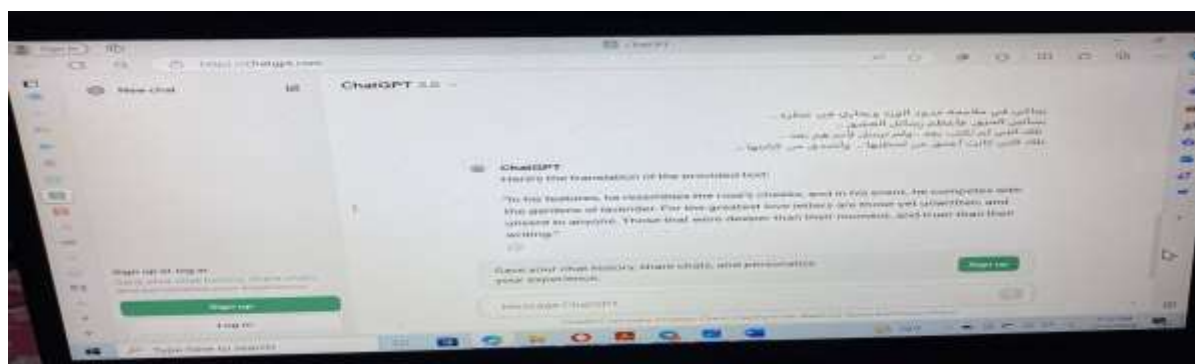
وكم وددت الكتابة إليك .. لكنني  
وفي لحظة سفر .. تهت ..  
ثم تراجعته. فما عدت أجد حروفاً  
.. تليق بمساحة القلب .. وترضي غرور ..  
فضاء الورق. أو مداد .. يليق بقوام القلم..

"And how I wished to write to you... but I  
Lost my way in a moment of departure...  
Then I retreated. And now I can't find letters  
Worthy of the heart's space... or satisfying the pride  
Of the paper's expanse. Nor ink... fitting for the pen's form."



يحكي في ملامحه خدود الورد ويجاري في عطره ..  
 بساتين الحق. فأعظم رسائل العشق ..  
 تلك التي لم تكتب بعد .. ولم ترسل لأحدهم بعد ..  
 تلك التي كانت أعمق من لحظتها .. وأصدق من كتابتها ..

"In his features, he resembles the rose's cheeks,  
 and in his scent, he competes with the gardens of lavender.  
 For the greatest love letters are those yet unwritten, and unsent to anyone.  
 Those that were deeper than their moment, and truer than their writing."



و أبعد من كاتبها .. وأقرب من ملهمه  
 ..إنها لحظة بوح خالد  
 ...كانت عقارب القلب فيهل تشير الى موعد  
 ..أذان الصمت.

"And farther than its writer... and closer than its inspirer,  
 It's a moment of eternal confession,  
 Where the heart's hands point to the time,  
 The call of silence."

