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| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Translating Resilience: A Study of ChatGPT and Google Translate on Palestinian Idioms from the Gaza Conflict 2023-2025

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| ABSTRACT
This study is primarily designed to evaluate and compare ChatGPT and Google Translate performance in translating Palestinian idioms used during the Gaza 2024 war. It also aims to compare the extent to which accuracy, context sensitivity and adaptability of the two translation tools can maintain cultural and contextual aspects of the idioms which can be challenging for machine translation tools. The researcher uses a qualitative research design and content analysis to examine the translation of 50 idioms selected from Al-Jazeera Mubashir interviews. The idioms were first categorized into socio-religious and social, and further subcategorized based on their context. Depending on their reflection of the source meaning, the translations were categorized as accurate, semi-accurate, or inaccurate. The study results demonstrate that ChatGPT significantly outperformed Google Translate, delivering 70% accurate translations compared to 48%. However, both ChatGPT and Google Translate did not accurately translate idioms containing implicit cultural and contextual meanings. ChatGPT's adaptability is a standout feature which allows users to refine semi-accurate and inaccurate translations through explanation prompts. On the contrary, Google Translate lack of this feature and its static translation limit its ability to accept immediate user feedback and refine translation output. Despite the advancement of the two tools in general and ChatGPT outperformance in particular, human intervention for post-editing purposes remains necessary to ensure translation accuracy. The study puts forward recommendations to integrate ChatGPT into academic and professional translation practices and make optimal use of its adaptability as an interactive feature to improve semi-accurate or inaccurate translations. AI developers can enrich training datasets with idiomatic expressions and propose adaptation mechanisms to promote ChatGPT cultural awareness. Despite the significant progress AI has achieved in translation, human expertise and intervention remain irreplaceable.

| KEYWORDS: idiom, ChatGPT, Google Translate, accurate, context

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1. Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT and Google Translate have significantly changed the translation landscape by bridging language barriers more efficiently than ever before between people speaking different languages (Almahasees, 2021). Machine translation (MT) and its varied platforms present a handy tool for people to use when carrying out different tasks such as writing, translation and, recently, interpretation.

Machine and AI translation tools have significantly advanced and are now better capable of handling different types of texts, be they cultural, religious or social. However, these tools and models may not effectively process cultural and idiomatic expressions because they, in many instances, cannot understand the cultural implications and non-literal meaning associated with the expressions. Palestinian idiomatic expressions are known to be rich in their cultural, social and religious references which can pose challenges to AI translation tools such as ChatGPT and Google Translate. Religious and social expressions used in Gaza 2023-2024 war can present difficulties for machine and AI translation tools and make the translation of such expressions a difficult task.

Because idioms are expressions whose meanings differ from their literal interpretation, their translation has remained problematic for translation systems which tend to translate such expressions literally (Dankers et al., 2022a). Toral and Way

(2018) explained that inaccurate translations of idioms can lead to incomprehensible translations. In addition, the translation of idioms posed challenges even prior to the introduction of neural machine translation (Wehrli, 1998) and most of the literature on this field was centered on identifying the problems in different linguistic systems (Baziotis et al., 2023; Dankers et al., 2022b).
Idiomatic expressions can pose a significant challenge for machine translation tools because of their non-literal meanings and cultural references (Liu et al., 2023). Although neural machine translation (NMT) systems such as Google Translate and large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT have shown significant progress in fluency and grammatical accuracy (Toral & Sánchez-Cartagena, 2017), they sometimes cannot account for the semantic intricacies of idioms when translating between distinct languages. This gap is particularly evident in Arabic-to-English translations, where cultural context plays a critical role in interpreting idiomatic language (El Khoury, 2024).

1.1. Significance of the study

The significance of this study lies in addressing the gap in the literature discussing AI machine translation (MT), focusing on the translation of idiomatic expressions. The huge continuous advancement which ChatGPT and Google Translate achieve in translation enhance their ability to handle the literal and contextual meanings. However, neither tool is yet fully capable of conveying the subtleties of idioms and culture specific expressions which points to the challenges this study aims to discuss. Palestinian socio-religious and social idioms used during the Gaza 2023-2025 war present specific linguistic challenges which ChatGPT and Google Translate are not able to effectively address due to the implicit meanings and contextual use of such expressions. Inaccurate translations of the idioms can distort the source meaning and therefore affect cross-linguistic communication.

The present study can be useful to translators and linguistics who may be interested in exploring the capabilities and limitations of AI translation tools like ChatGPT and Google Translate. In addition, academics and educators can update their curricula and include materials related to the performance and limitations of these two AI translations tools as well as the crucial role of human intervention. For AI developers, this study points to the need to enhance these translation tools in terms of adaptability and context to improve training datasets.

1.2 Research questions:

1. How does the performance of ChatGPT and Google Translate compare in terms of accuracy when translating culturally rich idiomatic expressions?
2. To what extent does ChatGPT's adaptability feature improve its translation accuracy for idiomatic expressions compared to the static translation approach of Google Translate?
3. To what extent does human intervention in post-editing improve the accuracy and contextual relevance of translations provided by AI tools for idiomatic expressions?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Machine and AI translation:

Since it was first conceptualized in the mid-20th century, Machine translation (MT), an Artificial Intelligence subfield, has developed significantly. The then rule-based machine translation (RBMT) models relied largely on predefined dictionaries, linguistic rules, and syntactic structures to translate among different languages. Although these models marked significant technological advancement in handling different text genres, they were not adequately prepared to deal with contextual subtilities and idioms (Okpor, 2014). The statistical machine translation (SMT) approached which was introduced in 1990s shifted toward data-driven models, which greatly depended on large parallel corpora to find probabilistic patterns. The introduction of neural machine translation (NMT) approach made a significant shift in machine translation and helped rendering human-like translations depending on deep learning techniques (Li & Chen, 2019). However, Zayed and Nuirat (2024) say that these machine translation models did not completely bridge the gap between human and machine translations.

Idioms, culture and context continue to pose significant challenges to different machine translation platforms despite the progress achieved in the field which limit the effectiveness of such platforms (Aldawsari, 2024). Furthermore, lexical relations such as polysemy, ambiguity of grammatical structures and different syntactic structures continue to make machine translation struggle with expressions the meaning of which significantly differs from their literal meaning and with grammatical structures which can have different interpretations (Okpor, 2014). In addition, Naeem (2023) explained that certain types of texts such as legal, technical and literary texts are among the texts which can be problematic for machine translation because AI models are not yet equipped with deep understanding and adaptation. Translation accuracy has witnessed significant improvements thanks to the machine translation tools and models. However, these models produced some inaccurate translations which are attributed to insufficient data training which highlights the need for human editing to address such translation inaccuracies. Therefore, there is a need to make use of machine translation capabilities along with human skills to ensure delivering quality translations (Zayed & Nuirat, 2024).

2.2 Palestinian figurative language:

The importance of studying Palestinian idioms which are rich in their cultural significance lies in the important contribution they add to the literature on linguistic and translation studies. They are important for their cultural representation and linguistic uniqueness. Idioms are considered a subcategory of figurative language and "has been considered derivative from and more complex than ostensibly straightforward literal language" (Glucksberg, 2001, p. 5). There is abundant literature on the Palestinian figurative language, particularly metaphors, proverbs and idioms, focusing on the discussion of linguistic or translation topics. Examples of studies on proverbs include Isleem (2005), Zibin and Altakhaineh (2014), Aqil (2016), Assi and Odeh (2020), Thawabteh and Mohammed (2021). There are also studies on metaphors relating to Palestine such as Rahmouni (2024), Sharaf Eldin (2024), Harrison (2024), and Alessandrini (2024). In the context of the current paper, below are some examples of studies on Palestinians idioms.

Zeyad, et al. (2022) conducted a study to examine the applicability of Baker's 2018 approach to translate Palestinian women's idioms from Arabic into English. 15 Palestinian women idioms were presented to certified Palestinian translators to render them into English. The translators mainly used three strategies: literal translation, paraphrasing and omission.

Abu Rahma (2018) examined the impact of using a context-based approach in translating idioms of distress, resilience and wellbeing (IDRW) on producing effective renditions from Arabic into English. The researcher adopted a comparative analytical methodology and textual analysis to analyze the translations of 43 IDRW on Gaza 2014 war collected from the electronic archive of *Palestine Today, Wafa, the Palestinian Information Center, Quds Net News,* and *Noon Post* and *Lives Under the Rubble*" published by *Ministry of Information-Gaza*. The idioms were divided into context and out-of-context categories and were afterwards given to two groups of experienced translators. The analysis demonstrates that Palestinian IDRW are based on religious and social values. The translators who translated IDRW out of their context largely depended on literal translation while the second group of translators adopted modulation to translate the idioms.

Alsattari (2019) categorized and analyzed Palestinian idioms of distress, resilience and wellbeing in the context of war against Gaza in 2014. The researcher adopted Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach and Halliday's transitivity analysis to determine the extent to which the use of such idioms reflect contexts of war and culture. The data were collected from local and international news agencies covering Gaza 2014 war. The study found that idioms of distress, resilience and wellbeing prevailed in Gaza summer 2014 affected communities in the religious, socio-economic and patriotic contexts. The study recommends focusing on the linguistic studies on idioms because they reflect reality.

Despite the wealth of research papers on Palestinian idioms, proverbs and metaphors focusing on linguistic, translation and literary topics, there seems to be a significant gap on academic literature related to the use of AI translation such as ChatGPT. This AI tool proved to be effective in various academic works and its potential to offer accurate translations and context interpretation; however, there is a shortage of academic research on its potential and the challenges it faces when handling Palestinian idioms which are considered culturally specific. This paper is primarily designed to fill the gap in this field and to provide insights to linguists, translators, educators, researchers, and AI developers who can be interested in the findings of this study.

2.3 Previous studies

The ongoing and significant technological advancement in AI and MT has made cross-linguistic communication easier. Despite these advancements, the translation of idiomatic expressions has remained a constant difficulty for various machine translation platforms because these expressions can reflect meanings which vary from their literal meaning. While neural machine translation (NMT) systems and advanced tools like ChatGPT have improved fluency and grammar significantly, they still struggle to capture the essence of idiomatic phrases as well as human translators do. Recent studies have explored both the strengths and limitations of AI in this area, along with innovative techniques that could make these systems better at handling idiomatic language.

Toral and Sánchez-Cartagena (2017) discussed the accurate and inaccurate translations of neural machine translation (NMT) and compared the results to those of phrase-based machine translation (PBMT). The researcher used outputs from advanced systems evaluated in the WMT16 translation task to assess performance across nine language pairs from four language families. The study adopted similarity, reordering, sentence length, fluency and errors analysis related to word inflection and word choice. The study utilized human and automatic evaluation metrics, including BLEU scores and perplexity, and conducts detailed analyses using tools like chrF1 and Kendall's tau distance. The researchers found that NMT model performed better than PBMT with regard to fluency and reordering. However, NMT was not adequately prepared to deal with longer sentences. The study commended optimizing NMT model to perform better with longer sentences, word choice accuracy.

Koehn and Knowles (2017) explored the main challenges of neural machine translation (NMT) compared to statistical machine translation (SMT). The six major challenges are: domain mismatch, insufficient training data, rare word translation, long sentence handling, word alignment issues, and the limitations of beam search decoding. The study adopted examples of empirical evaluation of English, Spanish and German related sets of information. The findings of the study demonstrate that NMT

performed better than SMT when using rare words but it did not perform well with texts containing longer sentences. The researchers recommended enhancing NMT through domain adaptations and decoding techniques to address any challenges.

Liu, et al. (2023) explained how non-literal meaning of idioms can pose challenges to MT which necessitates addressing challenges to ensure rendering accurate translations. This is due to the fact that the translation of idioms requires considerable knowledge and understanding of the original cultural and linguistic subtilties. The study analyzed approximately 4,000 sentences containing idioms in French, Finnish, and Japanese, employing a synthetic experimental model to assess the reliability of idiomatic translations produced by MT systems. The paper concludes by recommending giving priority to training loss for idiomatic expressions and using retrieval models to improve translating idioms. The results demonstrate that there was a significant improvement in idiomatic translation level of accuracy.

El Khoury (2024) assesses ChatGPT level of accuracy when translating selected thirty Arabic proverbs and slang expressions to account for culture and context factors. The researcher explained that the translation of such Arabic proverbs can be challenging because of culture, region and context which AI models are yet ready to deal with. In the first phase of the study, the researcher used ChatGPT 3.5 with the prompt "Translate the following Arabic proverb into English taking into consideration its cultural context." In the second phase, Google Translate was used to translate the same selected sentences. The researcher classified the translations produced by ChatGPT and Google Translate as: 11 accurate (37%), 16 inaccurate (53%), and 3 examples (10%) reflecting ChatGPT outperformance. The study concludes that using ChatGPT in classroom to teach Arabic proverbs enrich vocabulary, improve cultural awareness, and critical thinking. However, this model should be used together with traditional teaching methods to account for context and ensure accuracy.

Li and Chen (2019) used Google Translate, Baidu Translate, Microsoft Translate, and Youdao Translate to assess machine translation in terms efficiency, operating mode and condition. The researchers selected a text from the first passage of Chinese-English translation in *Model Test and Analysis for Translation Level 2* published by Foreign Languages Press to be used for China Accreditation Test for Translators and Interpreters (CATTI). The assessment method adopted a "6-4" model proposed by Xiao (2012). Information accuracy has 6 points scale with 6 exactly the same as original and 1 not the same as original. Expression style has 4 points scale with 4 as clear statement and 1 as no syntactic structure or missing statement. The findings of the study reveal that Google Translate outperformed the three other translation tools. In addition, the study demonstrated that the four machine translation tools reflected higher speed and better handling of complex grammatical structures. They struggled with idiomatic expressions. The study highlights the need for post-editing to ensure quality.

Mohsen (2024) conducted a study to assess the effectiveness of Google Translate compared to ChatGPT 3.5 and 4 when translating 20 abstracts extracted from the Journal of Arabic Literature and Al-Istihlal Journal, peer-reviewed journals indexed in the Clarivate Web of Science. The adopted assessment rubric focused on semantic integrity, syntactic coherence, and technical adequacy. The quantitative and qualitative analyses of the results reveal that ChatGPT deliver better results than ChatGPT 3.5 and at the same time outperformed Google Translate. In addition, ChatGPT demonstrates a better understanding of context and style.

Alkhawaja (2024) evaluates the effectiveness of using ChatGPT to translate between English and Arabic. The primary aim of the paper is to assess ChatGPT translation quality against Google Translate. In addition, the researcher aims to find out the extent to which ChatGPT's translation efficacy differs from human translation. To conduct the study, 1000 English sentences and their corresponding Arabic translations were selected to evaluate the difference between machine and human translations. The sentences were selected from Tatoeba, an open online platform and underwent electronic assessment using the BLEU (Bilingual Evaluation Understudy) metric. The findings reveal a slightly better performance for ChatGPT compared to Google which highlights the advanced translation capacities which ChatGPT integrates. However, machine and AI translation platforms cannot outperform human translations in different contexts.

Al-Salman and Haider (2024) conducted a study to evaluate Google Translate, Gemini, and ChatGPT accuracy when used to translate multidisciplinary Arabic research titles in the Humanities and Social Sciences into English. The study aims to assist researchers in identifying which tool delivers better translations of their research titles. The analysis demonstrated that the three tools produced various meaning or sentence structure errors. Gemini was more accurate in terms of grammar and vocabulary.

Işım & Balcioglu (2023) evaluated ChatGPT focusing on translation prompt and translation performance. The researchers selected a total of 50 paragraphs consisting of Turkish educational papers texts consisting on 3050 words. The study indicates that ChatGPT was effective in the translation of the fifty paragraphs. Furthermore, the evaluation of the translation shows that ChatGPT can potentially become a dependent translator and demonstrated a high level of accuracy in translation.

Yilmaz et al. (2023) explained that there are risks which artificial intelligence (AI) tools bring to human employment, particularly for translators. The researchers examined ChatGPT's translation capabilities and the neural network-based translation system. The findings show that these technologies work on fewer translation tasks requiring analytical translation as opposed to emotional or cultural translation.

Khoshafah (2023) compared human translation to ChatGPT's translation to assess the ChatGPT accuracy in translating English and Arabic texts of different genres. The results showed that ChatGPT can only interpret straightforward settings which

require human. This stresses the importance of human intervention when using this AI tool to translate texts requiring human intervention to assess the output translation and ensure its accuracy.

Obeidat and Jaradat (2024) say that their study aims to examine Google Translate and ChatGPT inaccuracies when translating resistance literature. The study's data relate to two translations of Ghassan Kanafani's Arabic short story "Until We Return." One of the translations was performed by Google Translate and the other by ChatGPT. The researchers adopted quantitative and qualitative research methods to analyze the translations. The study reveals that Google's translation exhibited seven out of twelve tendencies, accounting for 114 cases of deformation, while ChatGPT's translation exhibited nine tendencies, totaling 197 cases. Rationalization was the most frequent tendency, with 41 instances (36% of total occurrences). Qualitative impoverishment instances amounted to 39 (32% of the total). Destruction of rhythms was found in 12 instances (10%). Lastly, quantitative impoverishment was noted in nine cases, representing 8% of occurrences. The study concludes by highlighting the need for human translators who can properly account for the embedded emotional aspects of the source text. In addition, the advanced technologies which AI models integrate do not disregard the need for human expertise in translation. Furthermore, there is a need to explore alternative translation techniques for resistance literature and to preserve the integrity of the original text to reflect the voices of the oppressed and marginalized.

Given the previous research gaps, the present study adopts a qualitative methodology along with content analysis to assess how ChatGPT and Google Translate's perform when used to translating idiomatic expressions. The methodology section below is designed to assess accuracy, context sensitivity, and adaptability.

3. Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research design in addition to content analysis to compare ChatGPT and Google Translate translations of Palestinian idioms into English. This qualitative approach suits the purposes of this research which aims to analyze the selected idioms and their translations.

3.1 Data Collection

Al-Jazeera Mubasher, one of the world's most widely watched news channels in the Arab world and beyond, is the only source of the publicly available data which are collected from interviews with Palestinians experiencing Gaza war in 2024. For the purposes of the study, only idiomatic expressions with cultural references were selected.

3.2 Procedures:

The study examines ChatGPT and Google Translate translations of the collected idioms. First, idioms with cultural references were selected from the videos. Second, the idioms were categorized into socio-religious and social. In addition, the two categories were further subcategorized according to the contextual usage of the idiomatic expressions. Third, ChatGPT and Google Translate renderings of the selected idioms were divided into accurate, semi-accurate and inaccurate. The criterion for assessing the translation accuracy here lies in the extent to which the translations reflect the source meaning. In addition to accuracy, the translations were assessed to determine how far they reflect context sensitivity and adaptability. Explanations were provided to ChatGPT to refine semi-accurate and inaccurate translations to highlight the adaptability of this continuously evolving AI translation tool.

3.3 Anonymity:

The researcher does not know the people interviewed by Al-Jazeera Mubasher and does not provide any personal or identifiable information of the interviewees.

3.4 Study Delimitations:

- Data collection source: the data used in this study were exclusively collected from Al-Jazeera Mubashir.
- Time: the study analyzes idioms which were selected from videos dated 2024.
- Type of data: only idioms will be selected to the current study.
- Translation tools: only ChatGPT and Google Translate were selected for the study.

The following section offers a detailed analysis of ChatGPT and Google Translate translations, highlighting accuracies, inaccuracies, context sensitivity and adaptability.

4. Analysis:

The table presents the percentages of ChatGPT and Google Translate accurate, semi-accurate and inaccurate translations of 50 Palestinian idiomatic expressions used in Gaza 2024 war.

	ChatGPT	%	Google Translate	%
Accurate	35	70%	24	48%
Semi-accurate	6	12%	4	8%
Inaccurate	9	18%	22	44%

4.1 Category (1): Socio-religious expressions

Table (1.1): Prayers for protection and relief

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
1.	يا رب استرنا	1. Oh Lord, protect us
		2. Oh God, cover us
2.	الله يفرجها علينا يا رب	1. Oh Lord, relieve us of our burdens
		2. May God make it easy for us, Lord
3.	يا رب تدينا الصبر والايمان	1. Oh Lord, grant us patience and faith
		2. O Lord, give us patience and faith
4.	يا رب تعوض علي فيك يا حبيبي	1. Oh Lord, let me find solace in You, my beloved
		2. May God compensate me for you, my love
		3. O Lord, grant me solace and reward for the loss of my beloved son, a martyr.
5.	يا رب داخلة عليك	1. Oh Lord, I entrust this matter to You
		2. Oh God, I am entering upon you

Examples Arabic idiomatic expressions (1-5) are social and religious prayers used during hardships, as in Gaza 2024 war, to seek divine protection, relief and patience. Examples 1, 2, 3 were accurately translated by ChatGPT and Google Translate. In example 4, a woman was making a prayer to Allah to give her patience and reward her for the loss of her son as a martyr. The Arabic word فيك, literally in you, refers to her son but ChatGPT misinterpreted the word as *in you* as Lord, while Google Translate used *for you*. حبيبي means "my beloved" also refers to her son who was a martyr. ChatGPT and GT rendered it without making a clear reference to this implicit meaning which is context dependent. A command prompt explaining the implicit meaning and structure of the expression was entered into ChatGPT which produced an accurate translation. Example 5 is used when someone is in dire need for protection and help. The idiom was accurately rendered by ChatGPT but GT was not able to account for the meaning.

Table (1.2): Prayer for praise and gratitude

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
6.	حمد الله على السلامة	1. Praise be to Allah for safety
		2. Thank God you are safe
7.	الله يصبحكم بالخير	1. May Allah give you a good morning
		2. Good morning
8.	كنا نايمين في رعاية الله	1. We slept under Allah's protection
		2. We were sleeping in God's care
9.	يا رب ارضى عن محمد	1. Oh Lord, be pleased with Muhammad
		2. O God, be pleased with Muhammad

Examples 6-9 are idiomatic expressions with transparent meaning reflecting prayers for praise and gratitude. Both ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered the four expressions accurately. However, Google Translate did not make reference to God in example 7; however, the translation can still be accepted.

Table (1.3): Prayer for divine retribution

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
10.	الله ينتقم منهم	1. May Allah take revenge on them
		2. May God take revenge on them
11.	يا رب بعظمتك وقدرتك تفرجينا عجائب قدرتك فيهم	1. Oh Lord, with Your greatness and power, show us Your wonders upon them
		2. O Lord, by your greatness and power, show us the wonders of your power in them
		3. Oh Lord, with Your greatness and power, show us the wonders of Your might in punishing them.
12.	الله يدوقهم النار إلي دقناها	1. May Allah make them taste the fire we have tasted
		2. May God make them taste the fire that we have burned
		3. May Allah make them experience the suffering we have experienced

Table (1.3) presents 3 examples of idiomatic expressions which are used as a prayer for divine retribution. While ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered expression (10) accurately, they rendered examples 11 literally and inaccurately which led to losing the implicit meaning related to prayer to divine retribution. An explanation of the intended and implicit meaning was entered into ChatGPT which rendered an accurate translation in 11.3. ChatGPT rendered a literal semi-accurate translation in 12 while Google Translate rendered an inaccurate translation. The word النار, literally fire, refers to the Palestinians' suffering which was caused by the Israeli army, the implicit meaning of which was not accounted for. Additionally, Google Translate rendered an opposite meaning showing that the Palestinians themselves caused the suffering. In 12.3, the meaning was explained to ChatGPT which then rendered an accurate translation.

Table (1.4): Patience and faith

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
13.	الله يصبركم	1. May Allah give you patience
		2. May God give you patience
14.	يصبر قلبي	1. May my heart find patience
		2. My heart is patient
15.	ما الهم غير الله	1. They have no one but Allah
		2. I have no concern but Allah
16.	رحمة الله على روحه	1. May Allah's mercy be upon his soul
		2. May God have mercy on his soul

Examples 13-16 are idiomatic expressions reflecting a prayer for patience, faith and mercy. ChatGPT rendered the four Arabic expressions accurately into English and reflected the source meaning. While ChatGPT rendered the four expressions accurately, Google Translate rendered only two (13 and 16). The source expression in 14 is a prayer asking Allah for patience which Google Translate inaccurately rendered as an answered prayer. The expression in 15 means that Allah is their only supporter, the meaning of which was not accounted for by Google Translate.

Table (1.5): Martyrdom idioms

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
17.	الشهيد حبيب الله	1. The martyr is beloved by Allah
		2. Martyr Habib Allah
18.	بده الشهادة والله نوله إياها	1. He wanted martyrdom, and by Allah, he was granted it
		2. He wants a certificate, I swear to God we will give it to him
		3. He wanted martyrdom, and Allah granted it to him
19.	نلتقي فيهم في جنان النعيم	1. We will meet them in the gardens of bliss
		2. We meet them in the gardens of bliss
20.	رحت للأحسن مني	1. You have gone to someone better than me
		2. I went to someone better than me
21.	طلبها ونالها عبد الله	1. Abdullah sought it and attained it
		2. Abdullah asked for it and got it
22.	بزف في عرس ابني	1. I'm celebrating at my son's wedding
		2. I am going to my son's wedding

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
		3. I am bidding farewell at the wedding of my martyred son
23.	ربي يشفعني فيه في الجنة	1. May my Lord allow me to intercede for him in Paradise
		2. May God intercede for me in heaven
		3. May my Lord allow him to intercede for me in Paradise.

The idiomatic expressions 17-23 reflect faith, spiritual conviction, and an acceptance of martyrdom. In example 17, ChatGPT rendered an accurate translation while Google Translate did not because it transliterated two words (beloved by Allah). Example 18 means that the martyr wanted martyrdom and Allah granted it to him. ChatGPT rendered a semi-accurate translation and misinterpreted the meaning of و, literally and, as an article used for swearing. In 18.3, ChatGPT was prompted with the explanation which helped produce an accurate translation. While ChatGPT rendered an accurate translation of 19, Google Translate rendered a semi-accurate translation because it did not account for the future tense implied in the source text. Example 20 means that the martyr went to Allah who is better than humans. This meaning was accurately rendered by ChatGPT. Google Translate used the pronoun *I* which completely changes the meaning from a martyr going to Allah into a speaker himself saying that he went to Allah. ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered an accurate translation of example 21. In example 22, a mother is saying that she is celebrating the farewell procession of her son who is a martyr. Socially, Palestinian martyrs' mothers resemble the final farewell as a wedding procession. ChatGPT and Google rendered semi-accurate translations because they did make refence to martyrdom. In 22.3, ChatGPT was promoted with the implicit meaning and an accurate translation was therefore rendered. In 23, Muslims believe that martyrs intercede for their families on the judgment day. Both ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered inaccurate translations. While ChatGPT translation reflects that the mother is the one who intercedes, Google Translate translation reflects that God intercedes. In 23.3, ChatGPT was prompted with the explanation which helped produce the accurate translation.

4.2 Category (2): Social Terms

Table (2.1): Grief and Loss

N.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
24.	آخر مرة بدي اشوفه وحيدي	1. It's the last time I want to see him, my only son
		2. The last time I want to see him alone
25.	ابني راح	1. My son is gone
		2. My son is gone
26.	مع السلامة مع رفة كل طير سارح	1. Farewell, with the flutter of every wandering bird
		2. Goodbye with the flutter of every wandering bird
27.	مع السلامة يا مسك فايح	1. Goodbye, oh fragrant musk
		2. Goodbye, Musk Fayeh
28.	حرقوا قلبي عليه	1. They broke my heart over him
		2. They burned my heart for him
29.	شقى العمر راح	1. A lifetime's toil is gone
		2. The hardship of life is gone

Examples 24-29 are social idiomatic expressions used to reflect grief and loss. While ChatGPT rendered all the expressions accurately, Google Translate rendered two semi-accurately (24, 27) and one inaccurately (29). All the expressions were translated accurately using ChatGPT. In 24, the Arabic word وحيدي means my only son which Google Translate misinterpreted as 'alone.' In 27, مسك فايح which means fragrant musk was inaccurately rendered into a transliteration. However, the main part of the source, goodbye, was rendered accurately. In 29, شقى which means toil was inaccurately transliterated by Google Translate which cost a complete loss of meaning.

Table (2.2): Hardships

N.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
30.	احنا لمين نشكي همنا	1. To whom do we tell our troubles?
		2. Who do we complain to about our problems?
31.	العالم عم بيتفرجوا علينا	1. The world is watching us
		2. The world is watching us
32.	أنا ما ليش دخل في الي صار	1. I have nothing to do with what happened
		2. I have nothing to do with what happened

33.	ايش دخل الأطفال	1. What do children have to do with it?
		2. What does it have to do with children?
34.	بعيد عنكم ناقص الزبالات يفتشوا فيها الناس	1. Far from you, people are searching through the trash
		2. Far from you, there is no more garbage for people to search through
		3. May God keep mischief away from you, the only thing remaining for people to do is search through trash cans.
35.	طلعوني بطولي	1. They let me go alone
		2. They made me look tall
		3. They let me leave with nothing but myself.
36.	كانوا يشلحو الزلام في الطريق	1. They used to strip men on the road
		2. They were pulling the strings on the road
37.	الحلابة	1. The taker
		2. Milking
38.	والله ما الهم بحاجة	1. By Allah, they are in no need
		2. I swear I don't need anything
		3. By God, they have nothing to do with it.
39.	يا وردي علي	1. Oh, the weight on me
		2. Oh my rose
		3. Oh, the woe upon me

The idiomatic expressions 30-39 express the hardships which the Palestinians are experiencing due to the ongoing war in Gaza. Examples 30-33 were accurately translated using ChatGPT and Google Translate. In example 34, بعيد عنكم is a shortened form of بعيد الشر عنكم which literally translates into as "May God keep mischief away from you." The phrase was literally and inaccurately translated into English by ChatGPT and Google Translate as 'far from you.' The word ناقص, meaning the only thing remaining, was not translated into English by ChatGPT. However, it was translated as 'there is no more' by Google Translate. الزبالات, literally meaning trash cans, was translated as 'trash' and garbage by ChatGPT and Google Translate. Therefore, ChatGPT and Google Translate rending of this example are inaccurate. 34.3 is ChatGPT accurate translation after explaining the source meaning. (numbering)

The expression طلعوني بطولي in 35 means that the Israeli army let a man leave the area alone without any belongings. While ChatGPT translation was semi-accurate because it did not account for the word belongings, Google Translate of the same was inaccurate. 35.3 is ChatGPT accurate translation after explaining the source meaning to ChatGPT. The expression in 36 was accurately rendered by ChatGPT; however, Google Translate rendered an irrelevant meaning. الحلابة in example 37 refers to the metal detector which is used to check if the people who pass through it carry any metals. The term was inaccurately translated as 'the taker' by ChatGPT and 'Milking' by Google Translate. Example 38 which means that the people who were killed do not have any political affiliations was inaccurately translated as 'they are in no need' by ChatGPT and 'I don't need anything' by Google Translate.' 38.3 is ChatGPT accurate translation after being provided with the explanation of the source meaning. The expression يا وردي علي in 39 which means 'What a woe upon me' was inaccurately translated into Arabic as 'the weight on me' by ChatGPT and 'Oh my rose' by Google Translate. 39.3 is ChatGPT accurate translation after explaining the source meaning.

Table (2.3): Steadfastness

N.	Expression	**ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2**
40.	مش حنسيبها – قاعدين فيها	1. We're not leaving – we're staying here
		2. We won't leave it - we are staying in it
41.	احنا صامدين	1. We are steadfast
		2. We are steadfast
42.	احنا وهوا فداء للوطن	1. He and we are sacrifices for the homeland
		2. We and him are a sacrifice for the homeland
43.	كلنا شهداء مع وقف التنفيذ	1. We are all martyrs waiting
		2. We are all martyrs with a stay of execution

Expressions 40 – 43 express the steadfastness of the Palestinians experiencing the war in Gaza. These expressions convey a sense of steadfastness, determination and will to protect the Palestinian land and are accurately translated by ChatGPT and Google Translate.

Table (2.4): Family expressions

N.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
44.	بكري يما كبيري يما	1. My eldest, oh mother, my eldest
		2. My dear, my dear
45.	يا عمي احنا هينا طالعين	1. Oh uncle, we're heading out
		2. Oh uncle, we are going out
46.	قوم يمه البسك الترينق الجديد	1. Get up, mom, put on the new tracksuit
		2. Come on, I'll put on your new tracksuit
		3. Get up, mom, let me put the new tracksuit on you.
47.	هي اطلع العيال	1. Take the kids out
		2. She took the kids out
		3. Here, look at the kids and wife.

The social idiomatic expressions 44-47 are family expressions. While ChatGPT rendered three accurate translations (44, 45, 46) and one inaccurate (47), Google Translate rendered two accurate translations (45, 46) and two inaccurate translations (44, 47). ChatGPT translation of 46 is semi-accurate and there is a need for a minor correction to properly reflect the word البسك, literally meaning "I put the tracksuit on you." The source text means that the mother wants to put on the tracksuit on her son while the English translations reflects that the mother is asking her son, who is a martyr, to put on the tracksuit which reflects a structural and semantic inaccuracy here. 46.3 is ChatGPT accurate translation of the expression after explaining the source text structure. The Arabic expression هي اطلع العيال in 47 literally means 'look at the wife and kids' and was inaccurately translated into English as 'take the kids out' by ChatGPT and 'She took the kids out' by Google Translate. 47.3 is ChatGPT accurate translation of the expression after explaining the source meaning.

Table (2.6): Support

N.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
48.	لو خيمة دبرولنا	1. If only they would arrange a tent for us
		2. If you had a tent, they would have fixed it for us
49.	أنا الزلمة والمرة إلهم	1. I am both man and woman to them
		2. I am the man and the woman is theirs
		3. I am everything to them, both man and woman.
50.	ويطل على الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة بنظرة	1. He looks at disabled people with a certain view
		2. He looks at people with disabilities with a look
		3. I want him to provide support to people with disabilities.

Table (2.6) presents examples relating to seeking or providing support. While ChatGPT rendered 48 accurately and conveyed the source meaning, Google Translate rendered an inaccurate translation with a completely different meaning. In 49, a woman was saying that she became the only supporter of the family after her husband was killed. ChatGPT rendered the accurate translation in 49.3 after explaining the meaning. ChatGPT rendered a literal semi-accurate translation while Google Translate rendered an inaccurate translation. ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered an inaccurate translation of example 50. In 50.3, the source meaning was explained to ChatGPT which rendered an accurate translation.

The analysis and findings highlight how ChatGPT and Google Translate performed when translating the Palestinian idiomatic expressions. The following discussion adds to the findings by focusing on capabilities, adaptability and limitations.

5. Discussion:

The study adopted a comparative analysis approach to compare ChatGPT and Google Translate performance in rendering 50 Palestinian idiomatic expressions used in 2024 during Gaza 2023-2025 war. The analysis reveals that ChatGPT significantly outperformed Google Translate in context and culture sensitivity. Data analysis shows that ChatGPT delivered 35 accurate translations (70%) compared to 24 (48%) for Google Translate. The semi-accurate translations are 6 (12%) and 4 (8%) for ChatGPT and Google Translate respectively. In contrast, ChatGPT rendered 9 inaccurate translations (18%) compared to Google Translate 22 inaccurate translations (44%).

ChatGPT reflected superior accuracy when accurately translating the selected Palestinian idiomatic expressions which highlights its capability of retaining literal meaning, contextual meaning and cultural significance. When considering prayers for praise and gratitude like حمدا لله على السلامة Praise be to Allah for safety, we can see that both ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered accurate translations. However, ChatGPT revealed a better contextual understanding of examples like يصبر قلبي May my heart find peace, ما الهم غير الله they have no one but Allah and كانوا يشلحوا الزلام في الطريق they used to strip men on the road. ChatGPT was able to render accurate translations of these examples and accounted for their contextual meaning without

promoting it with explanations. However, Google Translate did not account for the contextual meaning and, therefore, rendered contextually irrelevant translations for the previous examples and other additional examples explained in the analysis section.

Another interesting aspect which the comparative analysis highlights is context adaptability which enables ChatGPT users to add explanations for certain text. Using this ChatGPT standout feature helps produce accurate translations of translations which were rendered semi-accurately or inaccurately due to the lack of source text explanation. For example, this feature helped produce an accurate translation of الحلابة (metal detector) which was inaccurately rendered by ChatGPT and Google Translate. This ChatGPT interactive feature which Google Translate lacks can help refine semi-accurate translations and fix inaccurate translations in order to capture meaning subtleties. Google Translate does not allow user feedback and provides static translations which do not allow any improvements. This can lead to less accurate translations which are contextually irrelevant.

Semi-accurate and inaccurate translations point to the need for human intervention to ensure improvement which can lead to accurate translations. For example, ChatGPT literally rendered "الله يدوقهم النار إلي دقناها" into "May Allah make them taste the fire we have tasted" which demonstrates certain loss of the contextual impact of the idiom which relates to the Palestinians' suffering. Google Translate rendered a completely inaccurate translation due to the literal meaning and target text structure issues. Although ChatGPT outperformed Google Translate in many instances, it struggled with some expressions the translation of which heavily depend on implicit cultural meanings. For example, ChatGPT inaccurately rendered " يا رب تعوض علي فيك يا حبيبي" as "Oh Lord, let me find solace in You, my beloved" because it misinterpreted the second person pronoun ك in the word "فيك" ("in you") as referring to Allah (You) rather than her son who was a martyr. This highlights that while ChatGPT offers advanced capabilities compared to Google Translate, human intervention remains important in order to refine semi-accurate as well as inaccurate translations which retain cultural meanings.

Recommendations:

Despite its inaccuracies, ChatGPT offers an advanced AI translation tool which is better capable of understanding context helping it outperform Google Translate. In addition, ChatGPT adaptability present a significant AI translation tool for students, academics and professionals.

Translators can benefit from ChatGPT adaptability to provide context explanation for opaque culturally rich expressions. This standout feature helps translators save time when entering the explanations along with the text to ensure accuracy. Despite the advantage this feature offers, human post-editing remains important. In addition, academics and educators can design courses by incorporating ChatGPT in translation courses to familiarize students which its advanced features and usability in translation.

AI specialists and developers can train ChatGPT datasets by enriching them with cultural idiomatic expressions and incorporate user feedback to improve translation accuracy. In addition, there is a need to provide real-time adaptation mechanisms which can help this AI tool to infer cultural subtleties. It is also necessary to encourage users to provide explanation prompts to refine the translation output. Given these recommendations, it remains important to consider human intervention through post-editing translated texts when necessary to ensure the highest translation quality possible.

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