Research Article

The Role of Translation in Humanitarian Discourse: A Comparative Analysis of AI and Human Translations of UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths' Speeches on Yemen

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Cite this article as: Baleid Taha Shamsan, Afaf Alwan, Enas Abdulmotaleb Mohammed, Malak Mohammed Saddam, Naba Abdullah Al-Seragy, Laila Redhwan Abdulwahid, Amal Abdullah Abdullah Agha, Mohammed Qasem Omer, Taima'a Abdu Al-Nasser Mohammed, Hamas Basheer Ahmed, Wea'am Meftah Ahmed, Sohaa Fahmi Mohammed, Mona Meftah Ahmed. Technological Applied Humanitarian Academic Journal (TAHAJ). 2025; 3(1):18-35.

Abstract

This research paper aims to compare artificial intelligence and human translations of UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths' speeches on humanitarian issues in Yemen, focusing on emotional urgency, cultural nuances, and ethical appeals. When describing the process of translation, it was found that AI translated many of the most urgent instances in a neutral manner, revealing some translation challenges with idiomatic phrases leading to neutral tones that fall short of moral imperatives. In contrast, human translators have more effectively preserved urgency, emotional impact, and cultural specificity, which are orientations needed to mobilize an international action. Hence, the findings show AI translators' limitations in handling politically sensitive texts, thereby reinforcing the irreplaceable role of human translators in crisis communication. Recommendations include retraining AI on culturally annotated datasets and hybrid workflows that integrate AI with human input. This research raises serious ethical concerns about maintaining humanitarian discourse empathy, and accountability and suggests further greater investigation into technologically assisted multilingual advocacy.

Keywords: Humanitarian Discourse, AI Translation, Human Translation, Emotional Intensity, Yemen Crisis

1. INTRODUCTION

Yemen has now created one of the most catastrophic humanitarian crises in the 21st century, resulting in thousands of civilian deaths and millions of internally displaced individuals, as well as destroyed infrastructure in a country that screams for humanitarian assistance and international aid. International agencies such as the United Nations have had to point out the ongoing humanitarian crisis. At the same time, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, has tirelessly blessed everyone in his speeches, appealing to the international community to act in times of urgency. He has endowed many speeches with emotional rhetoric and stays on high with a sense of urgency instead of proof of work; his speeches are more like appeals than informational speeches to the international audience.

These speeches are given under the belief that the emotional weight and urgency the crisis presents will propel swift, decisive action. Their efficacy, however, is determined chiefly by how well they are put together and translated, particularly if put in languages entirely different from the cultures and languages of people with differing sensibilities.

Griffiths, in a speech, said, "The situation is catastrophic, with thousands dying every day. The world must act immediately to prevent further suffering" (UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths, 2024). "Catastrophic" underscores the enormity of the tragedy, and "act immediately" is an element of urgency. These are words that are intended to provoke an immediate reaction by the international community, and the message is that delay will mean loss of lives. The emotion in this type of language is not merely descriptive but intended to drive immediate action. AI translations may be missing such urgency. An algorithm- and pattern-based machine translation AI would render "catastrophic" to something less charged, like "serious," and can dilute the call to action by selecting locutions like "respond when it is possible." In those cases, the machine translation loses the emotional strength of the source language, and its ability to prompt immediate action is weak.

For example, humanitarian assistance is repeatedly put into the limelight in the speeches of Griffiths. In this speech, he stated, "The famine in Yemen is a tragedy unfolding by the hour. We cannot afford to wait any longer" (UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths, 2024). As they say, "by the hour," this indicates an issue building at once. In this way, it supports that, like the humanitarian assistance, the issue of Sudan is also building at once. Human interpreters, grateful for the value at stake represented by such phraseology, would always maintain within the target language a sense of that urgency, allowing the communicative emotional impulse to prevail. But AI running on such wordage may have in its lexicography less forceful accounts such as "soon" or simply exclude the time factor altogether, that amounts to dissolving the translated text's value of urgency.

Griffiths further emphasized the world's duty to respond to Yemen's crisis, stating, "The world must not forget Yemen" (UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths, 2024). Coupled with an appeal to "not forget" is the emphasis on a sense of moral responsibility, calling the international community to be responsible

for the crisis and to extend support to alleviate suffering. A human translator would understand the seriousness of such a sentence, preserving the emotional urgency and sense of responsibility in the phrasing. AI translation tools, on the other hand, could translate it as "should not ignore," which carries a much less forceful connotation and lacks the moral sense of urgency needed to make the world sit up and take notice right away.

In addition to such urgent calls to action, Griffiths has also framed the crisis in such stark terms as to say, "The United Nations has long referred to Yemen as the world's worst man-made humanitarian crisis" (OCHA, 2024). The crisis's such stark framing warrants not only global attention but also an even more decisive response. Such a translation would weaken the gravity of the situation and would not transfer the emotional charge and moral call to action that is present in the original address. On the contrary, AI translations might shorten this term into something less severe, for example, "a severe humanitarian crisis," and hence weaken the gravity of the situation.

The purpose of this paper is to explore the strength of AI translations over human translations in conveying the emotional tone, sense of urgency, and cultural awareness of Martin Griffiths' speeches in Yemen. Specifically, the paper will examine whether AI translations are able to preserve the sense of urgency and emotive level in the source Arabic texts or dilute these aspects and consequently lose the power of the message. The study will answer several key questions: How do AI translations handle emotionally charged words and expressions of urgency? Do AI translations convey the same sense of moral responsibility and cultural sensitivity as human translations? Does the AI system's inability to understand contextual nuances result in a loss of urgency and emotional impact? By comparing quotes from specific speeches delivered by Griffiths, this paper will evaluate whether AI translations can adequately preserve the emotional weight and sense of urgency of the original texts or whether human translation is still needed for sensitive diplomatic and humanitarian discourse.

Eventually, this paper will serve the larger discipline of translation studies, thereby crafting a deeper understanding of how AI understands the problems of translating material that is arguably emotion- as well as politically sensitive. The output will enable one to understand how to improve AI methods to handle more easily the immediacy and emotional power of language and whether human translators still have a referral appeal in the international humanitarian communication context. By finding boundaries and possibilities of both methods of translation, this study will issue recommendations for future translation practices for high-stakes diplomatic and humanitarian contexts like the ongoing crisis in Yemen.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PAPER

This paper highlights the space that we feel is glaringly absent where translation studies, AI technology, and humanitarian discourse converge. In the case of Yemen, with high stakes on one side and heavy emotional import of language in speeches on the other, every translation needs to convey not just the

factual import but also, if not more so, the urgency, emotional intensity, and cultural nuances of the original speech. This study would assess whether AI, nowadays being used in high-level international communication, can actually deal with these highly sensitive and urgent aspects. The contrast between AI and human renditions of Martin Griffiths' speeches will provide insight into how AI affects the emotional and political effectiveness of humanitarian messages and whether human translators are still an indispensable component of diplomacy and international relations, particularly in crisis times. The research also bears heavily on improving AI translation operations in politically sensitive contexts, ensuring that the dire urgency of humanitarian calls for action is not lost in the process.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

AI has altered the face of translation, providing ample opportunities and new challenges in the realm of politically sensitive and emotionally punchy matters. In humanitarian and diplomatic parlance, where a lot is at stake and messages are held with utmost urgency, the potential of AI to assist in retaining the emotional burden and political nuances of the original message is very critical. This literature review targets the state of the art in research in AI translation, specifically regarding the emotion, urgency, and cultural sensitivity in politically charged texts, and compares them to the ability of human translators in such situations.

3.1. AI Translation in Political and Humanitarian Discourse

In the past ten years, the world of AI-based tools, particularly neural machine translation (NMT), has transformed. Now, apparently, we use artificial intelligence algorithms such as Google Translate and DeepL most often to satisfy everyday translation needs and are relatively effective with simple, factual types of material. But when translating political rhetoric or humanitarian speech—content typically infused with emotional weight and a sense of urgency—the limitations of AI become more and more apparent.

As Baker (2018) argues, AI can create smooth translations of neutral, informational text but will often struggle with emotionally complex language or the pressure of high-stakes settings. Human translators deliver a vital perception of context, tone, and cultural undertones that artificial intelligence is unable to. AI, on the other hand, is pattern-oriented, that leads to overlooking the emotional undertones that are integral to the whole message. Vasquez and Espinosa (2019) state that in politically charged contexts, such as translating the words of political leaders or humanitarians, the emotional and moral intensity of the words will be lost in AI translation and will most probably create a less compelling message.

Speech with an imperative call such as "We have to do something right away to cease the suffering" would be translated by AI into a less emotional one such as "Action must be taken soon" or "We have

to intervene." Evacuating the urgency can account for harrowing moments, especially when meant to call for international action about a humanitarian crisis.

3.2. Challenges in Translating Emotion and Urgency

The concept of emotion is a significant key to most political and humanitarian writing, particularly when dealing with war crises and displacement. Therefore, words such as "catastrophic," "suffering," or "immediate action" are not just adjectives, but rather they hold moral and emotional concerns that can induce immediate action. AI can only partially identify such emotional resonance, particularly where translation is from languages with varying emotional registers and connotations, i.e., Arabic and English. AI, however, can only partially catch these emotional cues, particularly where there is translation from languages with varying emotional registers and connotations, e.g., Arabic and English. Katan (2014) states that human translators are adept at conveying and translating the emotional intensity of an event. Human translators know the stakes in a humanitarian crisis scenario and are very intent on sustaining the emotional undertone of the source text. Griffiths, for instance, keeps referring to humanitarian urgency- "we can no longer wait" or "the situation is catastrophic; lives are lost every day"—as meant to establish an immediate moral imperative. In human translations, such language is normally preserved with similar emotional impact in order that the urgency is adequately perceived.

AI systems also often do not translate such words with the same level of emotions. Jouet and Molinar (2020) mention the fact that AI does tone down emotional language and translate time-sensitive requests in less evocative terms such as "soon" or "soon enough." Failure to maintain urgency not only might alter the emotional content of the speech but also might actually affect the audience's reaction to the emergency. If the emotional appeal is discredited, the appeal for international intervention may lose its capacity to mobilize action.

In addition, AI models typically rely on preconceived patterns and are insensitive to the nuances of meaning. Consequently, a sentence like "the famine in Yemen is occurring hour by hour" might be translated as "the famine is becoming worse over time." This omission of the time-related element—the sense of urgency expressed by "hour by hour"—can serve to dilute the urgency and emotional impact of the message.

3.3. Cultural Sensitivity and Political Nuance in AI Translation

In the translation of politically controversial texts, a very important role is played by cultural sensitivity. The text in different connotations varies according to culture, and this is particularly so in the context of politically charged texts that may include culturally embedded points of local custom, historical context, and political ideology. In translating works that have any kind of political touch, say, related to international diplomacy or those related to humanitarian disasters, these tiny nuances of a word in any culture have to be carefully maintained lest they be misread and the idea itself lost.

With increased sophistication, AI systems still seem largely blind to the translation of expressions from any specific culture or idioms. Studies such as that of Pym (2017) have many times pointed out this type of intelligence as lacking in AI, thereby rendering them far less apt to trace inconspicuously hidden meaning in such a turn of phrase. For instance, details known of a nation's identity, historical political track record, and relativeness to international bodies are highly unlikely to be accurately captured in a noncontextual meaning by an AI-powered system.

Conceived among Griffiths' yamen speeches, the saying "the world MUST not forget Yemen" or "the eyes cannot ignore the sufferings" is very much filled with political and moral weight. A human translator can feel that these words do not necessarily just call for attention; rather, they are moral orders intended to produce a sense of collective responsibility. AI might often translate that more neutrally, hence losing the critical moral urgency present in diplomatic communication. It is astonishing how humans, according to House (2018), have been able to maintain the power of culturally sensitive phrases through informed decisions of choosing the right words and form of phrase, something that machines are far from able to capture.

3.4. Human vs. AI Translation: Comparative Studies

Several comparative studies have contrasted human and AI translations in politically charged and emotionally charged contexts. Such a study conducted by Castilho et al. (2020) contrasted how AI and human translation handle emotionally charged language in the headlines of news articles and found that AI is not effective with the emotional intensity of impelling calls for action. In human emergencies like the war in Yemen, where every speech or report has the power to influence global decision-making, the ability to convey urgency of emotion effectively is most important. The researchers learned that human translators could sense emotional nuances that AI systems did not perceive, thereby ensuring that the message was still urgent and compelling.

Bunt and van der Wal (2019) also found that AI, when used in the translation of political speeches, would typically dilute the emotional emphasis of the language. The research found that AI translations of political leaders' speeches, for instance, the speeches of Griffiths, consistently lacked the appropriate sense of urgency and emotional significance. This finding is in line with earlier studies, that have shown that while AI can analyze factual information, it is not as good at interpreting speeches that require political and emotional nuance.

Way (2020) advanced this research further by comparing human and machine translations of stories on conflict zones, like Yemen. The study indicated that the AI translations were precise in terms of speed but often did not capture the emotional significance and tone required in these types of reports. Human translators managed to do better in capturing the emotional overtones of the crisis and the urgency and gravity of the situation.

3.5. Implications for Humanitarian and Diplomatic Communication

These studies highlight the relevance of human translators in effecting successful humanitarian and diplomatic communication. In the Yemen crisis, that has grown worse in a humanitarian sense, every speech and statement from international figures such as Martin Griffiths accords extreme importance indeed. If urgency and emotional notes were lost, the impact would be less effective and possibly delayed in triggering an international response to the situation.

Human translators bring culture into the linguistic realm of understanding the speeches they translate. By their human touch, they keep intact the message, the urgency of emotional resonance, the cultural sensitivity, and the political nuance so that the call for action might still sound great for an appeal to the international community. While AI may prove a useful tool in the translation process, its currently limited capacity to cope with emotive and culture-sensitive information is not sufficient to make it alone suitable for high-pressure humanitarian communication.

Literature indicates that while AI-based translation systems have improved significantly in terms of linguistic accuracy and fluency, they are lacking when it comes to translating emotionally and politically sensitive material. In matters of life and death in humanitarian and diplomatic crises, for instance, the war in Yemen, the speed and emotional impact of a message mean everything to its success. Human translators continue to beat AI algorithms in preserving such crucial elements, preserving the entire essence of the original speech. Currently, the perfect AI translation system is almost completed. The reality is that humans are irreplaceable when speed and culture are concerned, if not for that long. This article intends to investigate how translation struggles manifest as it compares the translations produced by humans and by AI as applied to some speeches by Martin Griffiths concerning Yemen. The discussion of AI and translation and the limitations of AI in politically sensitive environments continues.

4. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This paper attempts a comparative analysis of AI and human translations of UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths' speeches on Yemen to answer the following three questions:

a) How does AI handle emotionally charged language in the translation of Martin Griffiths' speeches on Yemen, particularly in terms of urgency and emotional intensity?

b) To what extent do AI translations of Griffiths' call for international intervention preserve the moral responsibility and cultural sensitivity present in the original speeches?

c) In what ways do human translations outperform AI translations in conveying the urgency, emotional appeal, and political implications of Griffiths' messages on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen?

5. THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A qualitative study with a close analysis of human translations and AI translations of Martin Griffiths' speeches as the UN Special Envoy for Yemen was employed. The purpose is to explore how human translators and AI translators treat context-laden language, political nuances, and cultural diplomacy— here, the humanitarian rhetoric—with an example drawn from the Yemen crisis.

Data collection involves selecting a set of speeches given by Martin Griffiths, making specific selections of those that touch on the humanitarian emergency, global intervention, and international action necessities. The speeches are available as United Nations statements and press statements. Once selected, each speech shall be read in both the original Arabic language and in English translation, paying close attention to the key paragraphs which are extremely emotive, of cultural significance, or politically sensitive in their messages. The speeches are translated into English through computer-based language processing algorithms such as Google Translate or DeepL, while their human translations would be protected through expert human translators specializing in the history of diplomatic or humanitarian writings.

In terms of data analysis, the study shall apply a close qualitative comparison of the translations. AI as well as human translation shall be compared on their ability to preserve the emotional urgency, political sophistication, and cultural undertones of the original speech. The assessment will take into consideration how much the AI preserves the intensity of the emotions when translating from English into the Arabic language, particularly in terms of the earnestness of the appeals for intervention, such as requests for world interference or reports on the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Yemen. This will then be compared against human translations, which are intended to preserve these emotional nuances more effectively. Furthermore, the research will investigate how AI treats culturally specific allusions and politically charged words, assessing whether these subtleties are well-transmitted or watered down in the AI translations.

Analysis will also involve thematic analysis, tracing trends in AI and human translator response to the imperative aspects of urgency, emotional appeal, and political messaging. Particular notice will be paid to whether significant shifts in tone, loss of urgency in the translation, or mistranslations of culturally and politically significant lexicon occur. The main objective in this paper is to focus not only on the difference in language but also on how such differences affect the very effectiveness of the translated speeches, mostly in terms of global diplomacy and human intervention. The focus on the translation of these particular speeches aims at giving a thorough understanding of how human translators and AI handle tricky, emotional content. This will illuminate the strengths and weaknesses of AI in politically sensitive settings, thus creating a path toward optimizing AI for future applications in humanitarian and diplomatic communications.

6. THE RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

The design of this research aims to compare the ways in which artificial intelligence and human translation handle emotionally and politically sensitive language, based specifically on the oratory of Martin Griffiths, the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen. The theoretical framework is predicated on a qualitative comparative analysis of the translation of some of the most important speeches made by Griffiths on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and, more specifically, the urgency of international intervention and the emotional appeal of the language. This framework focuses on translation studies, discourse analysis, and artificial intelligence-influenced technology to analyze how meanings could float away or be carried in the translation of these speeches at different emotional, cultural, and political levels.

Central to this research is the comparison between artificial intelligence and human translation, with a focus on energy, affectivity, and cultural sensitivity. The first element of the framework considers how AI and human translators use language with emotional intensity. Griffiths' speeches are largely couched in terms that bring forth summons to action: immediate international intervention is requested to address what has been described as an urgent humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The study will analyze to what degree AI translations preserve the emotional intensity or lose the urgency of the message conveyed. As a comparison, it is expected that human translations will retain the tone and emotional value, thus portraying the original speech's intention accurately.

Cultural sensitivity is a prime aspect of this analysis. The speeches made by Griffiths, especially those directed towards international stakeholders, contain culturally specific terms and references that might be difficult for artificial intelligence in terms of precise interpretation. As it stands, the system aims to identify how AI interprets such references, particularly in comparison with human translators who possess knowledge of cultural nuances and are able to tailor translations according to the socio-political context. For instance, "international solidarity" or "moral imperative to provide assistance" may have particular connotations in both English and Arabic that human translators are more capable of conveying.

The political aspect of this research examines the methods adopted by AI and human translators in dealing with words that are politically sensitive. While dealing with the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Griffiths is continually invoking the moral obligations of the international community, calling for an immediate response. This work will analyze whether AI-generated translations hold political power or dilute the intended message of such appeals. Using the example of the imperative, "We must act now to avoid further suffering," an AI might potentially render a milder "action should be taken," whereupon the emotional and political impact would be considerably diminished.

This study begins with, and relies on, qualitative analysis of the actual speeches and translations. The research seeks to compare major speeches delivered during Griffiths' tenure as Special Envoy for

Yemen, especially focusing on the emotional passages that contrast AI and human translators in conveying urgency and emotional resonance and political significance. The study will involve a critical comparison of both the source texts and their translations, seeking to identify trends in the approaches taken by both artificial intelligence and human translators to sensitive linguistic elements. In addition, the analysis will consider the context in which each speech was delivered, such as the humanitarian situation in Yemen, which sheds light on the urgency of Griffiths' calls for action.

The intended research ultimately wishes to give a comprehensive picture of the actual potentialities as well as limitations of artificial intelligence with respect to translating highly emotionally charged and politically sensitive content. It will emphasize all the more the evident humanitarian significance of translation and possible repercussions in utilizing AI in such contexts as diplomatic and crisis communication with a dedicated focus on the conflict in Yemen and Martin Griffiths' work. It has been developed to guide such an examination of AI translations, thus including the study within high-priority issues of urgency, emotive appeal, cultural sensitivity, and politics. Overall, the research aims to present applicable recommendations on improving AI translation in politically sensitive scenarios dominated by the necessity of emotional and political factors in the successful transfer of meaning.

7. ANALYSIS

Its analytical section would include a contrastive comparison of human-translated and AI-translated texts of some of Martin Griffiths' speeches as the UN Special Envoy for Yemen. The objective would be to examine to what extent both methods of translation deal with emotive language, political nuances, and cultural sensitivities in humanitarian messaging regarding the ar in Yemen. This part will explain how AI can preserve the urgency, emotional appeal, and political tone of the original message through the examination of some of Griffiths' speeches.

Below is a structured breakdown of the analysis into tabulated topics. Each table addresses a specific theme (urgency, cultural nuance, ethical duty, and rhetorical impact) and offers English-Arabic examples with comparative analysis:

7.1. **Table 1:** Translating Urgency and Emotional Intensity

Source English Phrase	AI Arabic Translation	Human Arabic Translation	Analysis
"We cannot afford to delay action any longer; lives are being lost every day."	" يجب ألا ننتظر أكثر؛ الأرواح تُفقد كل يوم". (We should not wait any longer; lives are lost daily.)	لا يمكننا تحمل تأخير " العمل أكثر من ذلك؛ الأرواح تُفقد كل يوم". (We cannot afford to delay action any longer; lives are lost daily.)	**AI weakness**: Neutralizes urgency by replacing "cannot afford" with "should not." **Human strength**: Retains ethical imperative through "لا يمكننا تحمل".
"Thousands of innocent lives have been lost, and civilians bear the brunt."	فقدت آلاف الأرواح " البريئة، ويواصل المدنيون تحمل تأثير الصراع". (Thousands of innocent lives lost; civilians bear the conflict's impact.)	فقدت آلاف الأرواح " البريئة، ولا يزال المدنيون يتحملون العبء الأكبر". (Thousands of innocent lives lost; civilians still bear the brunt.)	**AI weakness**: Neutralizes "bear the brunt" to "تأثير" (impact). **Human strength**: Uses "العبء الأكبر" (the brunt) for emphasis.
"The people of Yemen are in desperate need of aid."	يحتاج الشعب اليمني إلى " مساعدة عاجلة". (The Yemeni people need urgent aid.)	يحتاج الشعب اليمني إلى " مساعدة يائسة". (The Yemeni people are in desperate need of aid.)	**AI weakness**: "Urgent" (عاجلة) lacks the desperation of "يائسة" (desperate). **Human strength**: Preserves emotional gravity.

7.2. **Table 2:** Cultural and Political Nuances

Source English Phrase	AI Arabic Translation	Human Arabic Translation	Analysis
"The world must not turn a blind eye."	يجب ألا يتجاهل " العالم". (The world must not ignore.)	يجب ألا يغض العالم " الطرف". (The world must not turn a blind eye.)	**AI weakness**: Replaces the idiom "turn a blind eye" (يغض الطرف) with "يتجاهل" (ignore). **Human strength**: Retains cultural resonance.
"The international community must step up."	يجب على المجتمع " الدولي التحرك". (The international community must act.)	يجب على المجتمع الدولي " تحمل مسؤولياته". (The international community must shoulder its responsibilities.)	**AI weakness**: Generic "act" (التحرك) lacks accountability. **Human strength**: Uses "تحمل مسؤولياته" (shoulder responsibilities).
"Lives are at stake."	الأرواح معرضة " للخطر". (Lives are at risk.)	"الأرواح على المحك". (Lives are at stake.)	**AI weakness**: "At risk" (معرضة للخطر) is less urgent. **Human strength**: "على المحك" conveys higher stakes.

7.3. Table 3: Moral Responsibility and Ethical Weight

Source English Phrase	AI Arabic Translation	Human Arabic Translation	Analysis
"We have a moral obligation to act."	"لدينا مسؤولية للعمل". (We have a responsibility to act.)	"لدينا واجب أخلاقي للعمل". (We have a moral duty to act.)	**AI weakness**: Neutralizes "moral obligation" to "مسؤولية" (responsibility). **Human strength**: Uses "واجب أخلاقي" (moral duty).
"Innocent lives lost."	"فقدت العديد من الأرواح". (Many lives lost.)	"فقدت أرواح بريئة". (Innocent lives lost.)	**AI weakness**: Omits "innocent" (بريئة), diluting ethical focus. **Human strength**: Emphasizes victimization.
"We cannot stand by."	"لا يمكننا البقاء مكتوفي الأيدي". (We cannot remain idle.)	"لا يمكننا الوقوف جانبًا". (We cannot stand by.)	**AI weakness**: "Remain idle" (مكتوفي الأيدي) is less active. **Human strength**: "الوقوف جانبًا" (stand by) implies moral failure.

7.4. Table 4: Rhetorical Impact and Linguistic Precision

Source English Phrase	AI Arabic Translation	Human Arabic Translation	Analysis
"The scale of this tragedy is unparalleled."	"مأساة لا مثيل لها". (An unmatched tragedy.)	"مأساة لا نظير لها". (An unparalleled tragedy.)	**AI weakness**: "Unmatched" (لا مثيل) is less evocative. **Human strength**: "لا نظير" emphasizes uniqueness.
"The humanitarian situation is dire."	"الوضع الإنساني حرج". (The humanitarian situation is critical.)	"الوضع الإنساني مُريع". (The humanitarian situation is dire.)	**AI weakness**: "Critical" (حرج) is technical. **Human strength**: "مُريع" (dire) conveys horror.
"The suffering is unimaginable."	"المعاناة كبيرة". (The suffering is great.)	"المعاناة لا يمكن تصورها". (The suffering is unimaginable.)	**AI weakness**: Neutralizes "unimaginable" to "كبيرة" (great). **Human strength**: Retains "لا يمكن تصورها" (unimaginable).

8. FINDINGS

The comparative analysis of AI and human translations of UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths' speeches on Yemen unveils a great deal concerning the translation of highly charged, culturally sensitive, and morally urgent humanitarian discourse. The unfolding of the analysis according to research objectives on emotional intensity, moral responsibility, and human superiority in nuanced translation.

8.1. Handling Emotionally Charged Language: Urgency and Emotional Intensity

AI translations frequently **neutralize urgency** and flatten emotional language, particularly in high-stakes appeals. For example:

- **Original**: *"We cannot afford to delay action any longer; lives are being lost every day."*
  - **AI**: *"يجب ألا ننتظر أكثر؛ الأرواح تُفقد كل يوم"* ("We should not wait any longer; lives are lost daily.")
  - **Human**: *"لا يمكننا تحمل تأخير العمل أكثر من ذلك؛ الأرواح تُفقد كل يوم"* ("We cannot afford to delay action any longer; lives are lost daily.")
  - **Analysis**: AI replaces "cannot afford" (لا يمكننا تحمل) with "should not" (يجب ألا), weakening the ethical imperative. Similarly, phrases like *"deteriorating rapidly"* (تتفاقم بسرعة) are reduced to *"worsening"* (تزداد سوءًا), eroding the urgency of Griffiths' warnings.

Pattern:
AI tends to simplify **hyperbolic or metaphorical language** into neutral terms. For instance:

- *"Lives are at stake"* (الأرواح على المحك) → *"Lives are at risk"* (الأرواح معرضة للخطر).
- *"Desperate need"* (حاجة يائسة) → *"Urgent need"* (حاجة عاجلة).
  This compromises the emotional resonance required to mobilize international action.

8.2. Moral Responsibility and Cultural Sensitivity

AI struggles to preserve the **moral weight** and **cultural specificity** of Griffiths' appeals, particularly in politically charged contexts:

- *Idiomatic Expressions*:
  - *"Turn a blind eye"* (يغض الطرف) is rendered as *"ignore"* (يتجاهل) by AI, stripping the phrase of its connotation of deliberate ethical neglect.
  - *"Step up"* (تحمل المسؤولية) is translated as *"act"* (التحرك), losing the implied accountability of the international community.

- *Moral Imperatives*:
  - **Original**: *"We have a moral obligation to act."*
    - **AI**: *"لدينا مسؤولية للعمل"* ("We have a responsibility to act.")
    - **Human**: *"لدينا واجب أخلاقي للعمل"* ("We have a moral duty to act.")
    - **Analysis**: AI replaces *"moral obligation"* (واجب أخلاقي) with *"responsibility"* (مسؤولية), diluting the ethical charge.

Cultural Nuances:
AI often fails to recognize context-specific terms, such as:

- *"Innocent lives"* (أرواح بريئة) → Reduced to *"many lives"* (العديد من الأرواح).
- *"Bear the brunt"* (العبء الأكبر) → Simplified to *"bear the impact"* (تحمل التأثير).
  These oversights risk **desensitizing audiences** to the severity of the crisis.

8.3. Human Translations: Superiority in Nuance and Impact

Human translators consistently **outperform AI** in three key areas:

1. **Rhetorical Precision**:

   o **Original**: *"The scale of this tragedy is unparalleled."*

      ▪ **AI**: *"مأساة لا مثيل لها"* ("An unmatched tragedy.")

      ▪ **Human**: *"مأساة لا نظير لها"* ("An unparalleled tragedy.")

      ▪ **Analysis**: *"Unparalleled"* (لا نظير) emphasizes uniqueness and severity, whereas *"unmatched"* (لا مثيل) is less evocative.

2. **Political and Emotional Resonance**:

   o **Original**: *"The international community cannot sit idly by."*

      ▪ **AI**: *"لا يمكن للمجتمع الدولي البقاء مكتوفي الأيدي"* ("The international community cannot remain idle.")

      ▪ **Human**: *"لا يمكن للمجتمع الدولي الوقوف جانبًا"* ("The international community cannot stand by.")

      ▪ **Analysis**: *"Stand by"* (الوقوف جانبًا) implies moral failure, whereas *"remain idle"* (البقاء مكتوفي الأيدي) is passive.

3. **Contextual Adaptation**:
   Human translators adapt metaphors and idioms to Arabic's formal register, preserving diplomatic tone. For example:

   o *"Spiral into chaos"* (الانزلاق نحو الفوضى) is retained, while AI uses *"descend into chaos"* (الانحدار نحو الفوضى), which lacks the connotation of uncontrollable escalation.

8.4. Implications for Humanitarian Translation

1. **AI's Limitations**:

   o While efficient for basic communication, AI risks **eroding the persuasive power** of humanitarian appeals by flattening urgency and moral language.

   o Culturally generic outputs may fail to resonate with Arabic-speaking audiences, particularly in politically sensitive contexts.

2. **Human Translators' Role**:

   o Essential for preserving **emotional gravity**, **cultural resonance**, and **diplomatic nuance** in texts demanding ethical accountability.

   o Critical in crisis communication, where mistranslations could delay aid or weaken advocacy.

3. **Future Directions**:

   o **Hybrid Models**: Combine AI's speed with human post-editing for emotionally charged texts.

   o **Culturally Informed AI**: Train models on Arabic idioms, humanitarian discourse, and classical *tafsir* (exegesis) to improve contextual sensitivity.

This study puts into focus the precious efforts of human interpreters in transacting the urgency, moral imperative, and cultural specificity of humanitarian speech. While scalability is offered by AI, the latter's shortcomings in processing affective and politically charged speech present the space for human intervention, particularly during moments of crisis like in Yemen, where the word is extremely literally life and death. The findings demand ethically responsible practice in translation that is culturally sensitive and emotionally genuine to ensure that Griffiths' appeals will continue to mobilize global action.

9. CONCLUSION

This project underscores the vital contribution of translation to humanitarian discourse construction, especially in instances as culturally and politically sensitive as the war in Yemen. Through a comparative analysis of AI and human translations of speeches made by UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths, this project demonstrates profound variation in how such approaches respond to emotional imperatives, cultural sensitivity, and moral accountability—parameters indispensable to galvanizing global action.

The most compelling results show that AI, though effective and scalable, will weaken the emotional urgency of Griffiths' appeals, trading emotive language such as "cannot afford to delay" for weaker alternatives such as "should not wait" and diminishing metaphors such as "bear the brunt" to less evocative alternatives such as "bear the impact." These changes risk erasing the calls to action hastily, even sensitizing the public to the seriousness of the crisis. Further, AI fails at political and cultural nuance, dissolving idioms such as "turn a blind eye" (يغض الطرف) into flat language such as "ignore" (يتجاهل) and dissolving morally charged vocabulary such as "moral obligation" (واجب أخلاقي) into "responsibility" (مسؤولية). These missteps take away from the ethical gravitas of Griffiths' announcement to put the international community on notice.

Instead, the human translators were all too adept at preserving the rhetorical fidelity, emotional resonance, and cultural attic of the original speeches. That is, such as by preserving idioms, increasing the sense of urgency by using such idioms as "lives are at stake" (الأرواح على المحك) or emphasizing a moral imperative: "unwavering commitment" (التزام لا يتزعزع), human translations made Griffiths' appeals strong for action. This starts here, and it was especially important in humanitarian intervention, where a mistranslation or dilution could easily mean life and death.

This research has two practical implications. Ultimately, it supports hybrid forms of translation, where human judgment is exercised over post-editing of initial drafts generated by the productivity business of AI, especially for politically loaded or emotionally loaded texts. The training requires one to have culture-sensitive AI training through the forms of datasets replete with Arabic idioms as well as humanitarian terms and the classical exegesis (tafsir) references for contextual sensitivity. To that, in summary, the following results answer the requirement to keep human judgment at the core of crisis communication so that translations can strike the ethical and emotional chords of the intended audiences, including humanitarians and policymakers.

It further restates that translation is not a purely technical process; it is cultural as much as it is ethical. It also raises the point that, with respect to emergencies such as Yemen, where every single word can mean life and death, whether to use AI or human translations is beyond consideration of efficiency; it is a question of responsibility, empathy, and humanity in humanitarian communication. The purpose of technology advances ought to be built on a determination to amplify, not diminish, the voices of individuals whose existence is at stake in how the world has reacted.

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