

CURRENT ISSUES OF MODERN LINGUISTICS AND TRANSLATION

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Abstract

This paper explores contemporary challenges in the field of linguistics and translation studies. With the increasing influence of globalization, artificial intelligence, and multilingual digital communication, the demands placed on linguists and translators have evolved significantly. The article presents current theoretical debates, practical applications, and statistical trends, highlighting the pressing issues faced by professionals and researchers in both fields.

Keywords. Linguistics, Translation, Artificial Intelligence, Multilingualism, Globalization, Language Technology.

Introduction

In the 21st century, the fields of linguistics and translation have undergone a paradigm shift, driven by technological advancements, socio-political changes, and the evolution of communication platforms. Modern linguistics is increasingly interdisciplinary, involving psychology, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, and even sociology. Meanwhile, translation is no longer a purely human-centered activity, with machine translation and computer-assisted tools changing the landscape of the profession.

Recent developments in cognitive linguistics show a strong correlation between language processing and mental representation. Research by Lakoff and Johnson (2003) demonstrates how conceptual metaphors shape our worldview, indicating that language is not only a communication tool but a cognitive framework. Language policies, minority languages, and linguistic imperialism remain controversial topics. According to UNESCO (2023), over 40% of the world's 7,000 languages are endangered, highlighting the urgent need for linguistic preservation and revitalization. AI-powered applications such as speech recognition, chatbots, and grammar checkers heavily rely on linguistic theories. The field of Natural Language Processing (NLP) alone has grown by over 200% in publications from 2018 to 2023 (Scopus, 2024). The rise of Google Translate, DeepL, and ChatGPT has redefined translation practices. While MT systems are improving, they still struggle with context, idiomatic expressions, and cultural nuances. A 2022 study by the European Language Industry Association (ELIA) found that 67% of translators use machine translation in some form but spend up to 40% of their time on post-editing. Specialized translation in fields such as medicine, law, and technical documentation requires high accuracy and deep domain knowledge. Errors can lead to serious consequences, especially in cross-border contexts.



Translators face ethical dilemmas, particularly when working with politically sensitive texts or ideologically loaded content. Skopos theory (Vermeer, 1989) emphasizes that translation must align with the purpose and cultural expectations of the target audience.

Table 1. Current Statistical Data in the Field of Linguistics and Translation
Statistical Overview

Area	Data Source	Key Figures (2023)
NLP research growth	Scopus	+210% (2018–2023)
Use of MT in translation	ELIA	67% of professional translators
Time spent on post-editing	ELIA	30–40% of total project time
Languages endangered	UNESCO	~3,000 of 7,000 languages
MT accuracy vs human	TAUS Benchmarking	~75% accuracy for general texts

Table 1 illustrates current trends and quantitative indicators in the field of modern linguistics and translation. It highlights:

- *the growth dynamics of scientific research (especially in the field of NLP — Natural Language Processing),*
- *the widespread use of machine translation (MT) and post-editing,*
- *the threat of language extinction,*
- *the comparison between machine and human translation quality.*

Modern linguistics is moving toward integration with neuroscience, AI, and multilingual education. Translation studies, on the other hand, are likely to focus on quality assurance, automation, and cross-cultural communication. Training programs must evolve to equip specialists with hybrid skills.

Conclusion

The intersection of linguistics and translation has never been more dynamic. As technology reshapes both fields, professionals must adapt by embracing interdisciplinary approaches, ethical awareness, and continuous learning. Despite the rise of machine translation, human expertise remains essential for preserving linguistic diversity and ensuring high-quality communication.

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