

Jezik niso samo besede, jezik obstaja v določenem kontekstu

Alison Rodriguez *Predsednica Mednarodne zveze prevajalcev vidi v umetni inteligenci le uporabno pomožno orodje*

Umetna inteligenca je lahko učinkovito pomagalo, vendar nič več in nič manj kot to, meni Alison Rodriguez, predsednica Mednarodne zveze prevajalcev (FIT), ki je bila nedavno na prvem obisku v Sloveniji.

PETER RAK

Očitno je za prevajalce danes glavno vprašanje vloga in pomen umetne inteligence, zaključek pa se zdi takšen, da je to orodje zdaj tukaj in da se moramo s tem sprijazniti.

Nedvomno, to je del našega življenja in dela, prinaša veliko pozitivnih stvari, moramo pa to področje postaviti v ustrezen okvir in kontekst. Najprej je treba ovreči prepričanje, da so programi umetne inteligence ustrezno nadomestilo za prevajalca, ker seveda niso. Imajo izjemno veliko pomanjkljivosti, pravzaprav so te tako številne, da prevodi s

izpopolnjenimi in sofisticiranimi orodji, pa še takrat bo na koncu prevajalskega procesa potrebna človeška preverba. Nekateri so navdušeni že danes, vendar imamo velikokrat pri uporabi tega orodja neprijetno izkušnjo, ko nam chatgpt ali kakšna druga aplikacija na vprašanje pogosto postreže s povsem napačnim odgovorom.

Kot da mu je nerodno, da česa ne ve?

Res je videti tako, sicer pa iz vašega vprašanja izhaja danes pogosta navada personificiranja teh orodij. To lahko marsikomu ustvari lažen občutek, da ima stroj tako rekoč človeške lastnosti. Seveda mu ni nerodno, ker nima čustev, četudi zna na naš ukaz sestaviti kakšno romantično pesem. To je bilo morda najbolj opazno pri projektih nudenja pomoči ljudem z duševnimi težavami, ki so hitro spoznali, da aplikacija ne premora



Umetna inteligenca pogosto ne zna dešifrirati niti temeljnih distinkcij pomenov določenih besednih zvez, je opozorila Alison Rodriguez. FOTO VORANC VOGEL

dešifrirati niti osnovnih distinkcij pomenov določenih besednih zvez.

Opraviti imamo tudi s precej bizarnimi pojavi, kot so spletne založbe, ki izdajajo zgolj romane, ki jih napiše umetna inteligenca, in imajo presenetljivo veliko bralcev.

Ljudje smo različni, se pa sprašujem, ali ni to bolj povezano z današnjimi trendi in radovednostjo, ta fascinacija pa ne bo trajala prav dolgo. Umetni inteligenci ne

imeli nekakšno normo prevodov pet strani na dan, številni založniki in uredniki pa zdaj ta tempo primerjajo z bliskovitimi prevodi umetne inteligence, čeprav so procesi neprimerljivi. Založniki in uredniki se morajo vedno znova odločiti, ali bodo imeli z uporabo umetne inteligence slab ali v najboljšem primeru povprečen prevod ali pa vrhunskega, slednjega je sposoben le človek. Morda bo tukaj odigral vlogo trg oziroma bralci, ki bodo odklanjali strojno prevedene knjige.

Umetni inteligenci ne manjkajo samo čustva, temveč tudi kreativnost, in ne nazadnje tudi realne izkušnje, na podlagi katerih lahko ustvarja zgodbe.

nostih orodij umetne inteligence, saj mnogi mladi ljudje mislijo, da se ni smiselno odločiti za poklic,

vprašanja. Mladi bodo imeli manj pomislekov, številni že danes menijo, da ne bi bilo slabo zgolj ležati ob bazenu in srkati martini. To nas morda lahko nekoliko skrbi. Mladi nimajo izkušenj z življenjem in delom pred razmahom digitalne tehnologije, zato bo skepsa morda umanjala. Kot rečeno, je prihodnost težko napovedati, morda se bo res število ljudi, ki jih bo zanimalo znanje jezikov in različnih kultur, zmanjšalo na srednjeveške številke, torej bo to le še manjšina (smeh). Ampak mislim, da se to ne bo zgodilo. Mladi

jeziki majhnih narodov figurirajo kot enakopravni, vendar prevodi praviloma potekajo posredno, predvsem prek angleščine. Tako imenovano samoučeče strojno prevajanje se generira predvsem iz angleščine, pri večini drugih jezikov so tovrstni procesi skromni, saj je prenos podatkov zelo omejen, prevodi so slabi ali pristranski v smislu kulturoloških, jezikovnih, terminoloških, pa tudi rasnih ali spolnih definicij. Dominacija angleščine se bo tako zelo verjetno še stopnjevala, res pa smo se vsaj na zahodni polobli hočeš

pomanjkljivosti, pravzaprav so te tako številne, da prevodi s temi programi niso uporabni na nobenem pomembnem področju, torej recimo na področju pravnih, zdravstvenih ali tehničnih zadev, razen morda najbolj bazičnih, kot so različna formalna navodila. Enako velja seveda za prevode leposlovja.

Pri tem se pojavljajo tudi vprašanja pravne odgovornosti. Zagotovo, vendar ta ni nikjer definirana.

In vendar so se te aplikacije v zadnjih nekaj letih presenetljivo izpopolnile. Če bo tempo izboljšav ostal enak, bo to vendarle pomenilo potencialno relevantno prevajalsko konkurenco.

To je res, ampak nihče ne more napovedati, kaj se bo zgodilo v prihodnosti. Po mojem mnenju bi morda lahko čez dvajset ali trideset let res imeli opravka z zelo

z duševnimi težavami, ki so hitro spoznali, da aplikacija ne premore empatije in je zato za tovrstne naloge ne samo neprimerna, temveč v številnih primerih tudi škodljiva.

Če se osredotočimo zgolj na leposlovje, so tukaj skoraj neresljive prevodne uganke v smislu subtilne prepoznavne ironije, sarkazma in specifične simbolike, ki je pogosto pogojena z različnimi vzorci jezikovnih lokalizmov. Zagotovo, ne nazadnje gre za algoritme, ki so sicer sposobni prepoznati nekatere specifične, pri večini pa ostajajo na ravni dobeseidne prevajanja. Jezik niso samo besede, jezik obstaja v določenem kolektivnem habitusu, skratka v določenem kontekstu, prav ta kontekst pa je eno od pravih znanj, ki jih morajo obvladati prevajalci in tolmači. Zaenkrat je to nedosegljiv cilj za umetno inteligenco, ki pogosto ne zna

Številni menijo, da bo tehnologija opravljala umazano in naporno delo; morda se bo to res kdaj uresničilo, vendar to še ne pomeni, da bomo kar vsi ležali ob bazenu in srkali martini.

manjkajo samo čustva, temveč tudi kreativnost, in ne nazadnje tudi realne izkušnje, na podlagi katerih lahko ustvarja zgodbe. Brez vsega tega je besedilo zgolj dokaj spretno zasnovan spis, ki simulira literarno delo.

Popularnost orodij umetne inteligence je povezana tudi z učinkovitostjo. Prevajalci literarnih del so

knjige.

Tudi med prevajalci, četudi ne med uglednimi, se pojavljajo poskusi bližnjic z orodji umetne inteligence.

Seveda to marsikoga zamika, tudi učence, dijake, študente, vključno s študenti prevajanja in tolmačenja. Vendar se tukaj vedno spominjam besed češke kolegice, ki je poudarila, da lahko letalo odlično leti zgolj z avtopilotom, nihče pa si ne more predstavljati, da v kabini ne bi bilo pilota, ki intervenira, ko je treba. Če to prenesemo na področje prevajanja, seveda potrebujemo pilota, ki lahko upravlja letalo popolnoma samostojno, tudi če avtopilot ni na voljo, skratka, mora biti sposoben upravljati letalo tako kot v pionirskih časih letenja, ko ni bilo asistenčnih sistemov. V tem kontekstu je iskanje bližnjic povsem deplasirano. Veliko škode povzročajo senzacionalne novice o izjemnih prevajalskih sposob-

se ni smiselno odločiti za poklic, ki bo kmalu izumrl, ali da je odveč študirati jezike, ker bomo vsi imeli priročne naprave za univerzalno prevajanje. Čeprav seveda ni tako. Poklic prevajalca se bo nedvomno spremenil, ne bo pa izumrl.

Vzporednice lahko potegnemo do 19. stoletja in pojava ludizma. Tudi v drugi polovici prejšnjega stoletja je bilo strahov o prevladi strojev veliko, nazadnje pa so se pokazali za neutemeljene.

Tehnologija nas ne bo nadomestila. Morda je problem v velikih korporacijah, ki imajo veliko denarja, država pa si jih ne upa regulirati. Številni menijo, da bo tehnologija opravljala umazano in naporno delo; morda se bo to res kdaj uresničilo, vendar to še ne pomeni, da bomo kar vsi ležali ob bazenu in srkali martini (smeh).

Morda je naša generacija med zadnjimi, ki si še postavlja ta

slim, da se to ne bo zgodilo. Mladi imajo želje in aspiracije. Tudi tisti, ki menijo, da je poležavanje ob bazenu in srkanje martinija ultimativni življenjski cilj, se kmalu zavedo, da brezdelje vodi v apatijo in naveličanost, četudi se navzven, na družbenih omrežjih, predstavlja kot hedonistično zajemanje življenja z veliko žlico.

Problem umetne inteligence je tudi dominacija svetovnih jezikov, predvsem angleščine. Na videz

se vsaj na zahodni polobli hočeš nočeš sprijaznili s tem, da je naša lingua franca.

Ena od slabih plati umetne inteligence je v tem, da je zasenčila večino drugih prevajalskih tem. Vsi govorijo predvsem o tej temi. Se povsem strinjam. Včasih smo se s kolegi in kolegicami pogovarjali o jezikovnih in kulturoloških vprašanjih, zdaj pa se pogovarjamo in pogosto tudi prepiramo zgolj o tehnoloških izzivih.

FORUM MEDNARODNE ZVEZE PREVJALCEV

Alison Rodriguez je v Sloveniji gostila Viktorija Osolnik Kunc, profesorica na ljubljanski filozofski fakulteti, prevajalka in tolmačka ter članica FIT. Ob njenem obisku je opozorila na prvi forum te organizacije pri nas, ki bo potekal marca prihodnje leto, zbrani člani sveta FIT bodo osvetlili vprašanja avtorskih pravic, avdiovizualnega prevajanja, umetne inteligence, študija prevajanja in pogled na stanje tega področja v svetu.

Tiskana tradicija, digitalna širina – kakovostne vsebine vedno pri roki

Uživajte ob kakovostnih in verodostojnih informacijah. Vstopite v svet vsebin, ki vam bodo popestrile vsakdan, vam ponujale širok pregled nad dogajanjem v Sloveniji in na tujem,

vam razkrivale ozadja in zanimivosti ter vam prinašale zgodbe iz zakulisja. Ostajamo zvesti načelom objektivnosti in kakovosti, hkrati pa osvežujemo naše medijske kanale s sodobni-

mi pristopi, ki na digitalnih platformah zmagujejo s privlačnimi multimedijskimi zgodbami. Nadaljujemo poslanstvo, da bralcem ponudimo najboljše – v tiskani in digitalni obliki.

Zagotovite si letno zalogo raznolikih vsebin: za vas smo pripravili cenovno ugodno ponudbo za letno naročnino. Z Zlatim paketom za dostop do vseh platform vam kakovostnega branja nikoli ne bo zmanjkalo – privoščite si ga kjer koli in v katerem koli trenutku dneva.

Predstavljena ponudba velja za obstoječe naročnike, ki boste letno naročnino za leto 2025 plačali do vključno 12. 12. 2024.

Več o letnih naročninah na <https://trgovina.delo.si/ceniki>.



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PONUDBE ZA LETNO NAROČNINO ZA DELO

Srebrni paket (DE pon-sob., DE Digital premium)	Zlati paket (DE pon-sob., Nedelo, DE Digital premium)	Osnovni paket (DE pon-pet., DE Digital premium)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dostava vseh izvodov tiskanega Dela od ponedeljka do sobote zajamčena cena do konca plačanega obdobja ne glede na podražitve dostop do digitaliziranih izdaj dnevnega časopisa Delo in prilog na spletni strani in v aplikaciji Delo neomejen dostop do zaklenjenih vsebin na delo.si in do digitaliziranega arhiva brezplačen dostop do podkastov na delo.si dostop do dnevne križanke v aplikaciji Delo obogatene spletne vsebine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dostava vseh izvodov tiskanega Dela od ponedeljka do sobote, tednika Nedelo zajamčena cena do konca plačanega obdobja ne glede na podražitve dostop do digitaliziranih izdaj dnevnega časopisa Delo, Nedelo in prilog na spletni strani in v aplikaciji Delo neomejen dostop do zaklenjenih vsebin na delo.si in do digitaliziranega arhiva brezplačen dostop do podkastov na delo.si dostop do dnevne križanke v aplikaciji Delo obogatene spletne vsebine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dostava vseh izvodov tiskanega Dela od ponedeljka do petka zajamčena cena do konca plačanega obdobja ne glede na podražitve dostop do digitaliziranih izdaj dnevnega časopisa Delo in prilog na spletni strani in v aplikaciji Delo neomejen dostop do zaklenjenih vsebin na delo.si in do digitaliziranega arhiva brezplačen dostop do podkastov na delo.si dostop do dnevne križanke v aplikaciji Delo obogatene spletne vsebine
CENA: 581,46 €	CENA: 685,15 €	459,96 €
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Interview with Alison Rodriguez, President of the International Federation of Translators,

By Peter Rak

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Translated by Jasna Uršič

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Language is not just words; it does not exist without a context

Alison Rodriguez, President of the International Federation of Translators, sees artificial intelligence as being nothing more but a useful auxiliary tool.

“Artificial intelligence can be an effective tool, but no more and no less than that,” says Alison Rodriguez, President of the International Federation of Translators (FIT), who recently made her first visit to Slovenia.

By Peter Rak

The main issue for translators today is the role and importance of AI, and the key point seems to be that this tool is here to stay and that we need to work out how to deal with it.

Undoubtedly, it is becoming a part of our lives and work, bringing many positive things; however, we must put it in a suitable frame and context. First, we have to counter the conviction that artificial intelligence software can always adequately replace a translator because it cannot. It has many risks, so numerous that the translations made only with this software are not always useful in every relevant field, be it in the legal, medical, or technical fields, except perhaps the most less complex ones, such as various formal instructions. The same can be said for literary translations.

This also raises questions concerning legal liability.

Indeed, this question of liability is ambiguous.

And yet, these applications have improved amazingly over the last few years. If the pace of improvement remains the same, this will still mean potentially relevant competition for translators.

This is true, but no one can predict what will happen in the future. In my opinion, in twenty or thirty years' time, we could be dealing with very advanced and sophisticated tools, but

even then, there will still be a human check required at the end of the translation process. It's already impressive. Still, often, we are left with an unpleasant experience with this tool when ChatGPT or some other application answers our question completely wrong.

As if it was embarrassed that it did not know something?

It does seem that way, yes, but the way you posed your question also highlights the habit we have acquired of personifying this technology. It gives people the false impression that the machine has human qualities, so to speak. Of course, it is not embarrassed because it has no emotions, even if it can compose a romantic poem when prompted. This was most clearly visible in projects aimed at offering support to people with psychological issues, who quickly realised that the application cannot feel any empathy and is not only inappropriate for such a task, but can also be harmful in many cases because it does not care.

If we focus on fiction alone, there are almost insoluble translation puzzles in the subtle recognition of irony, sarcasm, and specific symbolism, often layered with different patterns of linguistic localization.

Certainly, after all, these are algorithms that, while they are able to identify some of the specificities, for most of them, they remain on the level of literal translation. Language is not just words; language exists in a certain collective habitus, that is, in a certain context, and it is this context that is the real source of knowledge that translators and interpreters have to master. At the moment, this is unattainable for artificial intelligence, which often cannot decipher and distinguish even between fundamental meanings of certain phrases.

We are also dealing with some rather bizarre phenomena, such as online publishers that only publish novels written by AI, which have a surprisingly large audience of readers.

People are different, but I wonder whether this has more to do with today's trends and curiosity; this fascination won't last long. Artificial intelligence does not only lack emotions but creativity as well, and - last but not least- real experiences on which to base and create stories. Without this, the text only boils down to a cleverly conceived essay, simulating a literary work.

[**Photo**; Text: Artificial Intelligence is often unable to decipher and distinguish even between basic meanings of specific phrases, as pointed out by Alison Rodriguez, photo taken by: Voranc Vogel]

Many people think technology will do the dirty and hard work; maybe that will come true, but it does not mean we will all be lying by the pool sipping martinis.

The popularity of AI tools is also linked to efficiency. Translators of literary works have had a translation norm of five pages a day, and many publishers and editors now compare this pace to the incredibly fast translations of artificial intelligence, even though the processes are incomparable.

Publishers and editors must always decide whether to use artificial intelligence to produce a poor or a mediocre translation or an inspired one, which only a human being is capable of. Perhaps the market and the readers will play a role here, and they will reject books that have been machine translated.

Even among the translation community there are attempts to use AI tools to create shortcuts.

Of course, many people are tempted by this, including pupils, students, translation students, and interpreters, who are not excepted. However, this always reminds me of the words of my Czech colleague, who pointed out that we are perfectly happy for a plane to fly with autopilot alone, however no one can imagine that there is not a pilot in the cockpit ready to intervene if the aircraft fails. If it fails, we need a pilot who can fly autonomously without the aid of autopilot. We can also apply this to the field of translation. In short, the expert must be able to manage without the assistance of technology. In this context, the search for shortcuts is entirely uncalled-for. Much of the damage is caused by the hype around the remarkable translation abilities of artificial intelligence tools, meaning many young people think that it is pointless to choose a profession that will soon become extinct or that it is redundant to study languages since we will all be provided with handy universal translation devices. Although, of course, none of this is true. The translation profession will undoubtedly change, but it will not die out.

Artificial intelligence lacks emotions, creativity, and, last but not least, authentic experiences to base the creation of stories on.

Parallels can be drawn back to the 19th century and the emergence of Luddism. In the second half of the last century, too, fears about the dominance of machines were abundant but ultimately proved unfounded.

Technology is not a replacement for humans. Perhaps the problem lies with the big corporations, which have a lot of money, and the state does not dare to regulate them. Many people think that technology will do the dirty and tiring work; maybe that will come true, but it does not mean that we will all be lying by the pool sipping martinis (*laughs*). It will cause a lot of societal problems, posing the question ‘what kind of world do we want to live in’?

Perhaps ours is one of the last generations to ask these questions.

Young people will have fewer concerns, and many people today think it would not be a bad idea to lie by the pool and sip martinis.

This may be of some concern to us. Young people do not have life experiences or know how work used to be before the advancement of digital technology, so they may not be sceptical. We know the future is hard to predict. Perhaps the number of people interested in languages and different cultures will indeed fall, literacy was low in the medieval era, so we will become rare (*laughs*). But I do think that this will not happen. Young people have hopes and aspirations. Even those who consider lying by the pool and sipping martinis their ultimate motivating goal in life will soon get bored, even if outwardly, on social media, everyone looks to be enjoying the time of their life.

Another problem with AI is the dominance of global languages, especially English. On the face of it, the languages of the smaller nations are treated as equals, but translations are usually done indirectly, mainly through English.

The so-called self-learning machine translation is mainly generated from English. At the same time, in most other languages, data can be limited, and translations are poor or biased in terms of cultural, linguistic, terminological, racial, and gender where data is limited. The dominance of English could increase further, with English language as our lingua franca, whether we like it or not.

One of the downsides of AI is that it has overshadowed most other translation topics. Everybody is talking about this topic predominantly.

I totally agree. We used to discuss linguistic and cultural issues with colleagues, but now we are discussing and often arguing only about technological challenges.

Forum of the International Federation of Translators

Alison Rodriguez was hosted in Slovenia by Viktorija Osolnik Kunc, a professor at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana, who is a translator, interpreter, and member of FIT. She drew attention to the upcoming first forum of this international organization in Slovenia, which will take place in March next year, at which the gathered FIT Council members will highlight and deliberate on the issues of copyright, audiovisual translation, artificial intelligence, the study of translation and look at the current situation in this field worldwide.