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*Ярослава ФЕДОРИВ, к. філол. н., доцент  
Національний університет «Києво-Могилянська академія»  
Світлана ІВАНОВА, к. філол. н., доцент  
Київський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка*

## LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF HUMAN VS. MACHINE TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH-UKRAINIAN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATION

**Introduction.** Sustaining international relations, diplomatic communication serves to shape partnerships, negotiations, and the resolution of global challenges. From the viewpoint of maintaining clarity, precision, and cross-cultural sensitivity in diplomatic interactions, we can assert that precise translation of diplomatic discourse is crucial to secure effective communication and build mutual understanding within diverse linguo-cultural contexts, especially in times of crises.

While the development of artificial intelligence and machine translation has significantly transformed the translation process, opening new possibilities based on systems automatically translating text or speech between languages (e.g., *Google Translate*, *Microsoft Translator*, *DeepL* and the like [1; 2]), it has also created discouraging challenges related to producing accurate, contextually relevant translations. Particularly, while human translators are aware of cultural specifics and linguistic disparities, the increasing reliance on machine translation raises concerns regarding efficacy and security when translating sensitive diplomatic content.

In this context, the **research problem** of our study is to examine the linguistic factors that influence the effectiveness and security and define potential pitfalls associated with human vs machine translation within the framework of the English-Ukrainian diplomatic communication. To mitigate security risks in diplomatic

communication, it is essential for translators, interpreters, diplomats, and policymakers to recognize these aspects, ensuring that translations are grounded on informed decisions regarding the choice of translation methods, which substantiates the **relevance** of this study in terms of securing accuracy and transparency in diplomatic interactions.

In the described conditions, our **research aim** is to outline and compare the linguistic competencies of human-performed and capacities of machine translation in English-Ukrainian diplomatic communication, focusing on the implications for security and accurate rendering of meanings from the angle of cultural, idiomatic, and profession-related complexities. Additionally, by juxtaposing the human and machine translation in terms of word choice precision, syntactic and semantic accuracy, handling formality levels and pragmatic considerations, this study seeks to identify criteria for enhancing the effectiveness and security of translating diplomatic discourse, encompassing official statements, press releases, treaties, agreements, conventions, protocols, speeches, and negotiation outcomes.

#### **A comparative analysis of linguistic aspects of human vs machine translation**

In our observation, the key aspects of human and machine translation methods include, but are not limited to, word choice, diplomatic terminology, syntactic and semantic accuracy, cultural and contextual appropriateness, idiomatic expressions and figurative language, the register and formality levels, and pragmatic strategies.

We recognise that a crucial factor in conveying diplomatic messages is word choice. Experienced human translators select precise and contextually accurate vocabulary to convey the intended message. In contrast, machine systems, despite automation advantages, retain inherent imperfections and may fail to achieve the same level of precision, potentially leading to unintended meanings. We have also observed that diplomatic terminology presents a specific aspect of insecurity of the machine translation systems. While human translators, possessing contextual awareness, accurately operate with specific terms and adhere to the required formality levels, artificial intelligence lacks such awareness, potentially mishandling diplomatic terms and affecting the communication process.

We consider syntactic and semantic accuracy as another crucial aspect of translation. Skilled human translators thoroughly maintain these features, preserving the conventional grammatical structures and intended meanings of the diplomatic texts. On the contrary, machine systems commonly use basic grammar rules and may overlook the specifics of diplomatic language, leading to grammatical or structural inaccuracies.

Additionally, experienced human translators possess cultural understanding and skillfully manage cultural nuances when dealing with idiomatic expressions and figurative language which is occasionally used by diplomats to create emphasis (e.g., *extend an olive branch*, *read between the lines*, *burn bridges*, *break the ice*, etc.), preserving the intended meaning and securing effective cross-cultural communication. Conversely, the literal nature of machine translation algorithms might result in the loss of idiomatic meanings, leading to unwanted misinterpretations.

We believe that the level of formality and register may also impact the overall diplomatic tone of communication. Pragmatic considerations, such as politeness, formality, and appropriate language use, pose no apparent challenges to skilled human translators. They can adjust the register and formality levels to match the appropriate diplomatic tone and degree of politeness that contribute to the overall effectiveness of diplomatic communication. In contrast, machine systems may fail to recognize cultural nuances, potentially leading to inappropriate or contextually incorrect content and thus hindering the communication process.

**Conclusion and perspectives.** As we can see, a comprehensive understanding of the capacity of human and machine translators to adhere to linguistic standards is essential for English-Ukrainian diplomatic communication. Proceeding from the analysis of translated diplomatic texts with a focus on cultural appropriateness, idiomatic expressions, and pragmatic considerations alongside syntactic, semantic, and lexical accuracy, further research will substantiate practical recommendations to avoid potential risks associated with different translation methods. In the final account, we anticipate that applying the results of this study will enhance cross-cultural understanding and secure effective communication in diplomatic contexts.

## References:

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*Ярослава ФЕДОРІВ, к.філол.н., доцент НаУКМА*

*Алла ШУГАЙ, ст. викладач НА СБ України, ст. викладач НаУКМА*

*Ірина ПІРОЖЕНКО, ст. викладач НА СБ України, ст. викладач НаУКМА*

*Наталія СОЛОМАШЕНКО, ст. викладач НаУКМА*

*Алла ЩЕНЯВСЬКА, провідний спеціаліст НаУКМА*

## МЕТОДОЛОГІЧНІ ПІДХОДИ ДО ВИВЧЕННЯ ДОСВІДУ УЧАСНИКІВ ОСВІТНЬОГО ПРОЦЕСУ В КОНТЕКСТІ ВОЄННОГО СТАНУ

У кризових ситуаціях, — і, зокрема, у контексті воєнного стану — вивчення досвіду учасників освітнього процесу є **актуальною** і важливою проблемою, оскільки воно **має на меті** дати розуміння та обґрунтувати використання різних методологічних підходів для отримання інформації, необхідної для практичного використання задля забезпечення якості освіти. Це вимагає розуміння наукових парадигм досліджень та застосування відповідних методологічних підходів згідно з поставленою метою та завданнями [1].

Філософія досліджень і дослідницькі парадигми — це терміни, які часто вживаються взаємозамінно. Вони вказують на систему уявлень, гіпотез та принципів, які лежать в основі підходу до наукового дослідження. З одного боку, філософське припущення може полягати в тому, що існує зовнішня реальність, яка існує незалежно від спостерігача — іншими словами, абсолютна об'єктивна