

Google Translate and Children's Literature Translation

CAN GOOGLE TRANSLATE COMBINED WITH POST-EDITING
PRODUCE A HIGH QUALITY HUMAN-LIKE TRANSLATION ?

BY: ASMA ALAMRI

Machine Translation:

Is It RELIABLE ?!

- ▶ “all we want from the computer is some kind of draft quality translation: something which is more or less faithful to the original, understandable in its own right, and which is a reasonable starting point for a polished translation” (Arnold, 2003:113).

What is the Process?

- Children's story (509 words) by Carol Moore
- Its title is "It Could Happen"
- English → Arabic
- From scratch translation
- Using Google translate and manual editing
- Comparing both texts



Why children's literature?

- Simple and direct with simplified vocabulary and grammar.
- cultural and ideological adjustment.
- The tone and the stylistic and aesthetic aspects of the stories' presentation.
- Taking the "dual readership" into consideration.

Why Google Translate?

- It uses neural machine translation NMT engine.
- It is available for free.
- It has a good pre-translated database.
- It is widely used.
- **GT** boasts more than 500m daily users worldwide and offers 103 languages.



Post Editing:

Phase 1 edits: Essential edits, include grammatical, semantic and lexical corrections to be done relating to word meaning due to lexical ambiguities.

- O'Brien 2001's PE guidelines.
- Does not consume more than 30m for one page.
- Keep raw MT if it is read easily.

Essential edits represent 80% of the total edits.



Phase 2 edits: Stylistic and aesthetic edits, to improve the reader experience.

- Changing the punctuations and reproducing sentences.
 - Change the word endings to create rhyme.
 - Changing the character names to meet the target audience norms.
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Stylistic and aesthetic edits represent 20% of the total edits.

Appendix:

Source text from: <http://www.magickeys.com/books/happen/page3.html>1- ST: It Could Happen
by Carol Moore

Illustrated by Aura Moser

قد تحصل
بواسطة كارول مور
يتضح من هالة موسرBT: It could Happen
By Carol Moore
Explains from Hala Moser

2- ST: One day, overnight, the world turned violet. Just about everything turned violet from the sky and ocean and mountains to the trees and animals and people and from the tallest skyscrapers to the tiniest ant.

يوم واحد، بين عشية وضحاها ، تحول العالم البنفسجي. لقد تحول كل شيء بنفسجي من السماء والمحيط والجبال إلى الأشجار والحيوانات والأشخاص ومن أطول ناطحات السحاب إلى أصغر نملة.

BT: One day, between day and night, the violet world turned. Just about everything turned violet from the sky and ocean and mountains to the trees and animals and people and from the tallest skyscrapers to the tiniest ant.

3-ST: People sat around looking at one another wondering if they were dreaming

جلس الناس حول بعضهم البعض Missing phrase وهم يتساءلون عما إذا كانوا يحلمون.

BT: People sat around wondering if they were dreaming

4-ST: But nobody woke up and things stayed violet, all except for a single Blue Jay who hadn't changed colour and stayed the brightest blue.

لكن لم يستيقظ أحد وبقيت الأمور بنفسجية، كل هذا باستثناء جاي بلو الذي لم يتغير لونه وبقي اللون الأزرق اللامع.

BT: But nobody woke up and matters stayed violet, all except for a single Blue Jay who hadn't changed colour and stayed the shiny blue.

5-ST: Being the only thing in the world that wasn't violet, he was caught and put in a cage.

كونه الشيء الوحيد في العالم الذي لم يكن البنفسجي تم القبض عليه ووضعه في قفس.

BT: Being the only thing in the world that wasn't the violet, he was caught and put in a cage.

6- ST: People were shocked. Some were afraid and some were amazed and a few thought it funny, because along with everyone else, the President was very violet.

أصيب الناس بالصدمة. كان البعض خائفًا وكان البعض مندهشًا، واعتقد البعض أنه أمر مضحك، لأن الرئيس مع الجميع كان بنفس اللون البنفسجي.

BT: People were shocked. Some were afraid and some were amazed and some thought it funny, because along with everyone else, the President was very violet.

7- ST: Whole families were violet as were teachers, movie stars, doctors, nurses, gas station attendants, the Queen of England, the President of Mozambique, taxi-drivers, everybody.

كانت أسر بأكملها بنفس اللون مثل المعلمين و نجوم السينما والأطباء والممرضات والقابلات في محطات الوقود ومكة إنجلترا ورئيس موزمبيق وسائقى سيارات الأجرة والجميع.

BT: Whole families were same as were teachers, movie stars, doctors, nurses, birth attendants in gas stations, the Queen of England, the President of Mozambique, taxi-drivers, everybody.

8- ST: They went from place to place in their violet cars and buses and rode violet bikes and sat on violet furniture and ate violet food.

ذهبوا من مكان إلى آخر في سياراتهم والباصات البنفسجية وركبوا الدراجات البنفسجية وجلسوا على الأثاث البنفسجي وأكلوا الطعام البنفسجي.

BT: They went from place to place in their cars and violet buses and rode violet bikes and sat on violet furniture and ate violet food.

9- ST: Even Hershey's candy bars had turned all violet as had Skittles and M&M's. Girls generally thought this yucky, but some boys thought it was pretty neat.

حتى حبات الحلوى في هيرشي قد حولت اللون البنفسجي تمامًا مثلما كانت لعبة Skittles و M&M. اعتقدت الفتيات (Missing words) هذا بشكل عام ، ولكن بعض الأولاد اعتقدوا أنه كان أنيقًا جدًا.

BT: Even Hershey's candy pubs had turned the violet colour as had Skittles and M&M's. Girls generally thought this yucky, but some boys thought it was pretty neat.

10-ST: The smartest scientists in the world gathered to figure it out. Was something wrong with people's eyes or was it a trick of nature? They did studies and tests and analyzed and evaluated and debated and wrote article after article, but couldn't explain it.

تجمع أذكى العلماء في العالم لاكتشاف ذلك. كان هناك شيء خاطئ في عيون الناس أم أنها خدعة من الطبيعة؟ لقد قاموا بدراسات واختبارات وقاموا بتحليلها وتقييمها ومناقشتها وكتبوا مادة تلو الأخرى لكنهم لم يتمكنوا من شرحها.

BT: ST: The smartest scientists in the world gather to explore it. Was something wrong with people's eyes or was it a trick of nature? They did studies and tests and analysed and evaluated and debated and wrote object after another, but couldn't explain it.

11- ST: And no longer could people say they felt "blue" or were "green" with envy or had a "green" thumb. So what they said and how they said it began to change.

ولم يعد بإمكان الناس قولهم إنهم يشعرون "باللون الأزرق" أو "الأخضر" بالحسد أو لديهم إبهام "أخضر". إذن ما قالوه وكيف قالوا إنه بدأ يتغير.

BT: And no longer could people say they felt "blue" or were "green" with envy or had a "green" thumb. So what they said and how they said it began to change.

12- ST: Some people said violet was now the most important colour in the world because it was everywhere. Others said that violet had no importance at all because there was too much of it.

Findings:

- GT used fixed Arabic idioms.
- Mistranslated words, phrases and sentences.
- Word order problems.
- Omission.

To conclude ...

MT combined with PE can produce a high quality human like translation in reasonable time.

Thank you all for listening :)

Any Questions ?



