

الذكاء الاصطناعي والترجمة البشرية في الترجمة الأدبية من الإنجليزية إلى الكردية: دراسة
مقارنة لقصة "هدية المجوس" للكاتب أو. هنري

¹ شنه احسان عزالدين

² بشير محمود محمد

^{٢،١} قسم الترجمة ، كلية اللغات ، جامعة صلاح الدين – أربيل، اقليم كردستان العراق.

shna.izzadeen@su.edu.krd
basheer.mohammed@su.edu.krd

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Artificial Intelligence and Human Translation in English–Kurdish Literary Translation: A Comparative Study of *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry's

¹Shna Ihsan Izzadeen

²Basheer Mahmood Mohammed

^{1,2} Department of Translation, College of Languages, Salahaddin
University-Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq

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خلاصة

أثر التطور السريع للذكاء الاصطناعي بشكل كبير على ممارسات الترجمة، إذ وفر حلول
ترجمة سريعة ومتاحة بسهولة عبر مختلف أزواج اللغات. ورغم هذه التطورات، لا تزال ترجمة
النصوص الأدبية تشكل تحدياً كبيراً، نظراً لتجذر اللغة الأدبية في معانٍ ثقافية وأسلوبية وعاطفية
تتجاوز في كثير من الأحيان التكافؤ الحرفي. تتناول هذه الدراسة الأداء المقارن للذكاء
الاصطناعي والترجمة البشرية في ترجمة قصة "هدية المجوس" للكاتب أو. هنري من الإنجليزية
إلى الكردية. وتهدف إلى بحث كيفية ترجمة كل من النهجين للتعبيرات الثقافية الخاصة، واللغة
الاصطلاحية، واللغة المجازية، والخصائص الأسلوبية، مع الحفاظ على الخصائص الأدبية
والأسلوبية والثقافية للنص الأصلي. وبالاستناد إلى نظرية لورانس فينوتي (2018) حول التوطين
والتغريب، تستكشف الدراسة استراتيجيات الترجمة التي يستخدمها كل من الذكاء الاصطناعي

والمترجمين البشريين، وتقيّم فعاليتيهما في تحقيق الدقة اللغوية والتكافؤ الثقافي والدقة الأسلوبية. يتبنى هذا البحث منهجاً نوعياً مقارناً، حيث يقارن بشكل منهجي مقاطع مختارة من النص الإنجليزي الأصلي مع ترجمات كردية مؤلدة بواسطة الذكاء الاصطناعي وأخرى مؤلدة بواسطة مترجمين بشريين. يُظهر التحليل أن الترجمات المؤلدة بواسطة الذكاء الاصطناعي فعالة في إنتاج ترجمات دقيقة نحويًا ومتناسكة دلاليًا، إلا أنها غالبًا ما تواجه صعوبة في نقل الفروق الثقافية الدقيقة، والعمق العاطفي، والرمزية، والأسلوب الأدبي المميز للمؤلف. في المقابل، تُظهر الترجمة البشرية مرونة أكبر في تفسير السياق، وتكييف التعبيرات ذات الصلة الثقافية، والحفاظ على الوظائف الجمالية والتواصلية للنص الأصلي من خلال تطبيق متوازن لاستراتيجيات التوطين والتغريب. وتخلص الدراسة إلى أنه على الرغم من أن الذكاء الاصطناعي أصبح أداة قيمة لدعم الترجمة الأدبية، إلا أنه لا يمكنه أن يحل محل المترجمين البشريين تمامًا، الذين يظل وعيهم الثقافي وإبداعهم وحكمهم التفسيري أساسيًا لإنتاج ترجمات أدبية عالية الجودة من الإنجليزية إلى الكردية.

Abstract

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) has significantly influenced translation practices, providing fast and readily available translation solutions across various language pairs. Despite these advancements, translating literary texts remains a major challenge, as literary language is deeply rooted in cultural, stylistic, and emotional meanings that often transcend literal equivalence. This study examines the comparative performance of AI and human translation in translating O. Henry's short story "*The Gift of the Magi*" from English into Kurdish. It aims to investigate how both approaches translate culturally specific expressions, idiomatic language, figurative language, and stylistic features while preserving the literary, stylistic, and cultural characteristics of the original text. Drawing on Lawrence Venuti's (2018) theory of domestication and foreignization, the study explores the translation strategies employed by both AI and human translators and evaluates their effectiveness in achieving linguistic accuracy, cultural equivalence and stylistic fidelity. This research adopts a comparative qualitative design, systematically comparing selected passages from the original English text with AI-generated and human-generated Kurdish translations. The analysis shows that AI-generated translations are effective in producing grammatically accurate and semantically coherent translations; however, they often struggle to convey subtle cultural nuances, emotional depth, symbolism, and the author's distinctive literary style. In contrast, human



translations demonstrate greater flexibility in interpreting context, adapting culturally relevant expressions, and preserving the aesthetic and communicative functions of the original text through a balanced application of domestication and foreignization strategies. The study concludes that while AI has become a valuable tool for supporting literary translation, it cannot fully replace human translators, whose cultural awareness, creativity, and interpretive judgment remain essential for producing high-quality literary translations from English into Kurdish.

1. Introduction

Translation is a fundamental means of intercultural communication, enabling the transfer of knowledge, literary expression, and cultural values across linguistic boundaries. It is not simply a matter of replacing words from one language into another, but rather involves interpreting and reconstructing meaning in a way that preserves the communicative purpose, stylistic features, and cultural significance of the original text (Munday, 2022; Baker, 2018). In literary translation, this task becomes even more challenging because literary texts possess aesthetic, emotional, and cultural dimensions that require translators to balance linguistic accuracy with artistic expression. Literary translation is therefore both a linguistic and cultural endeavor, where translators mediate between global perspectives and diverse cultural traditions (Bassnett, 2013; Venuti, 2018). The relationship between language and culture has become a central focus in contemporary translation studies. Since the emergence of the cultural turn, translation has increasingly been viewed as an interactive process between cultures rather than merely a linguistic transfer. Translators are expected to convey not only lexical meaning but also cultural references, social values, idiomatic expressions, figurative language, and the pragmatic functions inherent in the source text (Bassnett & Lefevere, 1998; Munday, 2022). This perspective is particularly important in literary translation, where preserving the author's style, tone, symbolism, and emotional impact often require creative decisions rather than literal translation. Recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) have also revolutionized translation practice. The development of neural machine translation and, more recently, large-scale language models has significantly improved the fluency, coherence, and grammatical quality of machine translations. AI-powered translation systems, such as Google Translate, DeepL, Microsoft Translator, and ChatGPT, are capable of producing translations quickly and with increasing linguistic accuracy, making them valuable tools for both professional translators and language learners (Koehn, 2020; O'Brien,

2024). These technologies have expanded access to multilingual communication and reduced the time and cost of translation, leading to their widespread adoption in academic, professional, and business settings. Despite these technological advancements, the role of the human translator remains indispensable, particularly in literary translation. Literary texts often contain figurative language, metaphors, symbols, irony, humor, subtle emotional nuances, and cultural specifics that require contextual interpretation and creative adaptation. Although AI systems excel at recognizing linguistic patterns and producing fluent texts in the target language, they often struggle to interpret the nuances, cultural connotations, stylistic variations, and authorial voice required in literary works (Castilho, 2017; Guerberofof-Arenas & Toral, 2022). In contrast, human translators rely on their linguistic competence, cultural knowledge, literary awareness, and interpretive judgment to produce translations that preserve both the aesthetic qualities and communicative functions of the original text. The growing capabilities of artificial intelligence have sparked considerable debate about its relationship to human translation. Some researchers argue that modern AI systems have significantly narrowed the gap in quality between machine and human translation, particularly in the translation of general and technical texts. Others maintain that literary translation remains an area in which AI cannot fully replicate human's creativity, cultural competence, and interpretive flexibility (Bowker, 2019 & Bassnett, 2013). Rather than replacing human translators, AI is increasingly viewed as a complementary technology whose effectiveness depends on human oversight, post-editing, and critical evaluation. This debate is particularly relevant to language pairs that have not received sufficient attention in AI development, such as English and Kurdish. Compared with more widely studied language pairs, including English–French and English–Spanish, translation from English into Kurdish presents additional linguistic and cultural challenges arising from structural differences, rich idiomatic expressions, culturally embedded concepts, and variation among Kurdish dialects. These factors make literary translation exceptionally difficult and raise important questions about the ability of AI systems to produce linguistically accurate, culturally appropriate, and stylistically faithful translations. O. Henry's short story *The Gift of the Magi* provides an appropriate literary text for examining these challenges. First published in 1905, the story remains one of the most celebrated works of American literature, renowned for its emotional depth, narrative irony, symbolism, and universal themes of love, sacrifice, and generosity. At the same time, it contains culture-specific expressions, figurative language, and stylistic



features that require careful interpretation during translation. These characteristics make it an ideal text for comparing the performance of artificial intelligence and human translators in literary translation. Accordingly, this study examines the similarities and differences between AI-generated and human translation of *The Gift of the Magi* from English into Kurdish. It explores how each approach handles lexical choices, grammatical structures, cultural references, figurative language, stylistic features, and pragmatic meaning while assessing the extent to which each preserves the literary quality and communicative function of the original text. By evaluating the strengths and limitations of both AI and human translation, this study contributes to the growing body of research on AI in literary translation and offers insights into the opportunities and challenges of applying AI to literary translation from English into Kurdish. Ultimately, the study seeks to determine whether AI can serve as a reliable tool for literary translation or whether human expertise remains essential for producing translations that achieve linguistic accuracy, cultural appropriateness, and literary excellence.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed contemporary translation practice by introducing sophisticated neural machine translation systems capable of producing fast, fluent, and increasingly accurate translations. AI-powered translation tools are now widely available and are frequently used in academic, professional, and everyday communication. Despite these technological advancements, the application of AI in literary translation remains a subject of considerable academic debate. Unlike technical or informational texts, literary works embody aesthetic expression, figurative language, cultural symbolism, emotional depth, and a distinctive style. These characteristics require interpretive judgment and creative decision-making that extend beyond mere linguistic equivalence. This challenge is particularly evident in literary translation from English into Kurdish because of the significant linguistic, cultural, and stylistic differences between the two languages. Literary texts often contain culture-specific expressions, metaphors, symbols, and pragmatic meanings that cannot always be translated literally without compromising the artistic and communicative value of the original work. Although modern AI systems have demonstrated remarkable improvements in grammatical accuracy and textual fluency, they continue to struggle to preserve these literary and cultural nuances. In contrast, human translators rely on linguistic competence, cultural knowledge, literary sensitivity, and contextual interpretation to produce

translations that are both meaningful and culturally appropriate. The choice between domestication and foreignization, as proposed by Venuti (2018), represents one of the central debates in literary translation. Domestication adapts the source text to the linguistic and cultural norms of the target audience, whereas foreignization deliberately preserves elements of the source culture to maintain its distinctive identity. These strategies play a crucial role in literary translation because they influence the extent to which cultural meaning, stylistic features, and the author's voice are preserved or adapted in the target language. However, little empirical research has examined how AI-generated translations differ from human translations in their application of these two strategies, particularly in the context of literary translation from English into Kurdish. Furthermore, despite the growing interest in AI in translation studies, existing research has primarily focused on technical, legal, commercial, or general translation. Comparative studies examining AI-generated and human translations of literary texts involving Kurdish remain scarce. Consequently, our understanding of how artificial intelligence (AI) performs in translating culturally rich literary works into Kurdish remains limited, as does our understanding of its ability to achieve a level of translation quality comparable to that of experienced human translators. To address this gap, the present study conducts a comparative analysis of AI-generated and human translations of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi* from English into Kurdish. Using Venuti's (2018) theory of domestication and foreignization as an analytical framework, the study examines how each translation approach handles cultural elements, literary style, and translation strategies. It also assesses the extent to which both AI-generated and human translations preserve the linguistic, cultural, and aesthetic characteristics of the original text, thus contributing to the field of AI-assisted literary translation and English-to-Kurdish translation studies.

This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1. How do Artificial Intelligence and human translators differ in applying domestication and foreignization strategies in the English–Kurdish translation of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*?
2. To what extent do AI-generated and human translations preserve the linguistic, cultural, and stylistic characteristics of the original text?
3. What are the strengths and limitations of Artificial Intelligence compared with human translation in English–Kurdish literary translation?



2. Literature Review

2.1 Literary Translation

Literary translation is widely considered one of the most complex and intellectually demanding fields of translation, as it goes beyond simply transferring meaning from one language to another. It requires the translator to reinterpret the artistic, stylistic, emotional, and cultural dimensions of the source text in a way that preserves its meaning and literary impact. Unlike technical or scientific translation, literary translation aims to convey the author's voice, imagery, symbolism, tone, narrative structure, and aesthetic qualities while producing a natural, coherent, and meaningful translated text for the reader (Bassnett, 2013; Munday, 2022). Scholars of translation have long emphasized that literary translation cannot be reduced to lexical or grammatical substitution. Newmark (1988) argues that literary translators must balance semantic accuracy with aesthetic value, as the literary function of a text is as important as its informational content. Similarly, Baker (2018) points out that translators must constantly negotiate between fidelity to the source text and the linguistic and cultural expectations of the target audience. This means that literary translation requires not only linguistic competence but also literary sensitivity, cultural awareness, and interpretive judgment. A defining characteristic of literary texts is their use of figurative language and culture-specific language. Literary works often incorporate metaphors, idioms, irony, symbolism, humor, allusions, and culture-specific references whose meanings are closely tied to the historical and social context of the source language. Because these expressions often lack direct equivalents in the target language, translators must make careful interpretive decisions to preserve both their meaning and their literary effect. For this reason, literary translation is often regarded as a process of achieving functional and aesthetic equivalence rather than literal correspondence (Munday, 2022; Venuti, 2018). Another essential aspect of literary translation is the preservation of stylistic features such as rhythm, tone, dialogue, characterization, and narrative voice. These elements contribute to the uniqueness of a literary work and shape the reader's experience of the text. Therefore, translators must reproduce the distinctive style of the original author while ensuring that the translated text conforms to the linguistic norms and cultural traditions of the target language. This balance reflects the translator's dual responsibility to remain faithful to the source text while delivering a smooth and aesthetically pleasing translation (Boase-Beier, 2020). In contemporary translation studies, literary translation is increasingly examined from cultural, cognitive, and technological perspectives.

Following the cultural turn in translation studies, researchers regard translation not merely as a linguistic act but as an intercultural practice shaped by ideology, cultural values, the translator's subjectivity, and the broader social contexts (Bassnett & Lefevere, 1998; Venuti, 2018). More recently, the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Neural Machine Translation (NMT) has introduced both new opportunities and new challenges for literary translation. Although AI systems can produce fluent and grammatically accurate translations, they often struggle with implicit meaning, emotional nuance, stylistic variation, humor, symbolism, and culture-specific expressions that are essential to literary discourse (Kenny, 2022; Guerberof-Arenas & Toral, 2022). These challenges are particularly significant in literary translation from English into Kurdish, where linguistic and cultural differences require a high degree of interpretation and creativity. Literary texts often contain culture-specific expressions, religious references, figurative language, and pragmatic meanings that cannot be adequately conveyed through literal translation alone. Therefore, comparing AI-generated translations with human translations provides valuable insights into the strengths and limitations of both approaches in preserving literary quality and cultural authenticity. In this study, literary translation serves as the main analytical framework because O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi* is a culturally and stylistically rich short story characterized by irony, symbolism, emotional narrative, dialogue, religious references, and culturally specific expressions. These characteristics make the text suitable for examining how artificial intelligence and human translators apply domestication and foreignization strategies in literary translation from English into Kurdish and for evaluating their effectiveness in preserving the linguistic, cultural, and aesthetic qualities of the original work.

2.2 Artificial Intelligence in Translation

Artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed contemporary translation through the development of neural machine translation and, more recently, large-scale language models. Unlike statistical and rule-based machine translation systems, AI-powered models learn from massive multilingual datasets to produce translations with increasing fluency, contextual coherence, and linguistic accuracy (Koehn, 2020; Sujiyani et al., 2025). These advancements have broadened the application of AI to education, business, healthcare, and professional translation. Modern AI systems, including ChatGPT, demonstrate enhanced capabilities in contextual inference, discourse processing, and stylistic adaptation,



making them valuable tools for multilingual communication (Sujiyani et al., 2025; Yusmalinda, 2022). However, literary translation remains one of the most challenging applications of AI because literary texts rely heavily on figurative language, symbolism, emotional expression, cultural references, and the author's distinctive style. These characteristics demand interpretive judgment that goes beyond simply recognizing linguistic patterns (Kenny, 2022). Research indicates that AI-generated translations generally achieve high levels of grammatical accuracy and semantic coherence. However, their performance often declines when translating metaphors, idioms, humor, irony, symbolism, and culturally specific elements. While AI systems effectively identify statistical relationships between languages, they often struggle to preserve the subtle cultural nuances and distinctive aesthetic and stylistic features of literary texts (Castilho, 2017; Guerberof-Arenas & Toral, 2022). Consequently, contemporary translation studies increasingly view AI as a complementary rather than a replacement technology for professional translators. AI is particularly effective in supporting translation through text generation, terminology management, and post-editing, whereas culturally sensitive and stylistically complex decisions still require human expertise (Bowker, 2019; Kenny, 2022). This distinction is particularly important for low-resource languages such as Kurdish, where limited digital datasets and linguistic resources continue to affect the quality of AI-generated translations (Ahmad & Ali, 2023).

2.3 Human Translation

Human translation remains the central approach for literary translation because it combines linguistic competence, cultural knowledge, interpretive judgment, and creative expression. Unlike artificial intelligence systems, human translators possess the cognitive ability to understand context, infer implicit meanings, perceive symbolism, and reproduce the aesthetic and emotional dimensions of literary texts. Consequently, literary translation is widely regarded as an interpretive and creative activity rather than a purely linguistic process (Bassnett, 2013; Bowker, 2019). A defining characteristic of human translation is its interpretive flexibility. Literary translators evaluate multiple translation alternatives before selecting the expressions that most accurately convey the author's intended meaning, style, and emotional impact. This process requires not only linguistic competence but also literary competence, cultural awareness, and critical judgment (Boase-Beier, 2020). Human translators are particularly adept at conveying idiomatic expressions, metaphors, irony, humor, symbolism, and culture-specific references

because they understand the historical, social, and cultural contexts underlying these expressions. Furthermore, they consciously employ translation strategies such as domestication and foreignization to balance fidelity to the source text with accessibility for target readers (Venuti, 2018). Recent studies indicate that human translations are generally considered more culturally appropriate, stylistically authentic, and emotionally effective than AI-generated literary translations. Despite significant improvements in AI's fluency and linguistic accuracy, human translators remain indispensable for preserving the artistic, cultural, and communicative functions of literary works. Therefore, current research increasingly views artificial intelligence and human translation as complementary approaches, with AI serving as a valuable tool while human translators provide the creativity and intercultural competence necessary for producing high-quality literary translations (Kenny, 2022; Guerberof-Arenas & Toral, 2022).

2.4 English–Kurdish Translation Studies

English–Kurdish translation has received increasing scholarly attention in recent years due to the growing demand for intercultural communication, literary exchange, and translation education. Nevertheless, compared with widely studied language pairs such as English–French or English–Arabic, English–Kurdish translation remains an underexplored area, particularly in literary translation and AI-assisted translation. Existing studies have primarily examined translation equivalence, cultural references, idiomatic expressions, political discourse, and religious texts, while comparatively little research has investigated the application of artificial intelligence to English–Kurdish literary translation (Ahmad & Ali, 2023). The complexity of English–Kurdish translation arises from significant linguistic and cultural differences between the two languages. Kurdish is characterized by rich morphology, dialectal diversity, lexical variation, and syntactic characteristics that often require translators to make context-sensitive and culturally informed decisions. Consequently, literary translation between English and Kurdish demands not only linguistic competence but also extensive cultural knowledge and interpretive ability (Mohammad & Najim, 2024). Recent advances in artificial intelligence have stimulated growing interest in evaluating AI-assisted translation for Kurdish. Although AI systems have demonstrated improvements in grammatical accuracy, lexical selection, and textual fluency, they continue to encounter difficulties when translating figurative language, culture-bound expressions, symbolism, and stylistic features that are fundamental to literary texts. These challenges are



particularly evident in low-resource languages such as Kurdish, where limited multilingual corpora and linguistic resources constrain the performance of AI-based translation systems (Kenny, 2022). Despite increasing interest in AI-assisted translation, empirical research comparing AI-generated and human literary translations in the English–Kurdish context remains limited. Moreover, few studies have examined these translations through established literary translation theories such as Venuti's (2018) domestication and foreignization framework. The present study addresses this gap by comparing AI-generated and human translations of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*, thereby contributing to English–Kurdish literary translation studies and contemporary research on artificial intelligence in translation.

2.6 Domestication and Foreignization: Venuti's Translation Theory

Lawrence Venuti's theory of Domestication and Foreignization is one of the most influential approaches in contemporary translation studies. Introduced in his book *The Translator's Invisibility* (1995) and subsequently developed in later editions, the theory views translation as a simultaneous linguistic and cultural practice, in which translators negotiate the relationship between the source and target cultures (Venuti, 2018). Domestication refers to a translation strategy that adapts linguistic expressions and cultural references to the norms of the target language, aiming to produce a smooth, natural, and easily understandable translation. Through this strategy, terms specific to a particular culture can be replaced with equivalent terms in the target language that are more familiar to readers, thus improving readability and comprehension. However, excessive Domestication can diminish the cultural distinctiveness of the original text and obscure the author's original cultural identity (Ghafur, 2024). In contrast, foreignization preserves the linguistic and cultural characteristics of the source text by retaining the expressions, names, concepts, and stylistic features specific to the source culture. Rather than minimizing cultural differences, Foreignization encourages readers to engage with the foreign nature of the original work and promotes cultural diversity in translation. Venuti (2018) argues that this strategy resists the assimilation of foreign texts into the dominant norms of the target culture and preserves the cultural identity of the source text. The distinction between domestication and foreignization is particularly important in literary translation because literary works often contain symbols, metaphors, idioms, humor, irony, religious references, and other culture-specific elements that require careful interpretive decisions (Mohammad & Najim, 2024). Translators must therefore

determine whether these elements should be adapted to the target culture or retained to reflect the cultural identity of the source text (Munday, 2022). In the context of artificial intelligence, applying Venuti's theory provides an effective framework for evaluating translation strategies. Unlike human translators, AI systems produce translations by identifying linguistic patterns extracted from massive multilingual datasets, rather than making conscious cultural or ideological decisions. Consequently, AI-generated translations often prioritize fluency and naturalness, which can resemble linguistic Domestication, while neglecting the cultural and stylistic significance of the source text. In contrast, human translators deliberately choose linguistic Domestication or linguistic Foreignization based on the communicative purpose, literary style, and cultural context of the translation (Kenny, 2022). This study employs the Venuti's framework to compare AI-generated and human translations of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi* from English into Kurdish. By identifying instances of linguistic domestication and linguistic foreignization in both translations, the study assesses how well each approach preserves the linguistic, cultural, and stylistic features of the source text and evaluates their effectiveness in producing a high-quality literary translation.

2.7 Previous Studies

The rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has stimulated extensive research comparing AI-assisted translation with human translation across various domains. Recent studies have shown that advances in Neural Machine Translation (NMT) and Large Language Models (LLMs) have significantly improved translation quality in terms of grammatical accuracy, lexical selection, and textual fluency. However, literary translation continues to present considerable challenges because literary texts contain cultural references, figurative language, symbolism, emotional expression, and stylistic features that require interpretation beyond mere linguistic equivalence (Castilho, 2017; Kenny, 2022). Several studies have investigated the performance of AI systems in literary translation. Castilho (2017) concluded that neural machine translation systems produce fluent and semantically coherent translations but often struggle to preserve figurative language, idiomatic expressions, and stylistic diversity. Similarly, Guerberof-Arenas and Toral (2022) reported that although AI-generated translations often achieve acceptable levels of linguistic accuracy, they tend to simplify cultural differences and reduce the stylistic richness of literary texts. Their findings suggest that human intervention remains essential when translating culturally and aesthetically complex materials. With the emergence of Large Language



Models such as ChatGPT, researchers have become increasingly interested in evaluating AI-generated literary translations. Ghafur (2024) demonstrated that these models possess better contextual understanding and discourse-level processing than previous machine translation systems. However, recent studies indicate that AI-generated literary translations still struggle to reproduce the author's voice, emotional depth, symbolism, and culturally specific meanings as effectively as human translators (Kenny, 2022). According to Boase-Beier (2020), literary translators rely on cultural awareness, interpretive judgment, and stylistic competence to reproduce the literary effects of the original text. Similarly, Venuti (2018) emphasizes that translators consciously employ strategies such as domestication and foreignization to overcome cultural differences between the source and target texts. Making such strategic decisions remains challenging for AI systems, which generate translations primarily on the basis of learned linguistic patterns rather than cultural or ideological considerations. Although current literature shows increasing interest in AI-assisted translation, studies examining AI-generated literary translation through Venuti's framework of domestication and foreignization remain limited. Furthermore, few studies have examined these issues in the context of literary translation from English into Kurdish (Ghafur, 2024). To the best of the researcher's knowledge, no previous study has systematically compared AI-generated and human translations of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi* from English into Kurdish using Venuti's theory as the principal analytical framework. Therefore, this study seeks to fill this gap by conducting a comparative analysis of AI-generated and human translations of *The Gift of the Magi*. Through the lens of domestication and foreignization, the study examines how each translation approach handles culture-specific elements, figurative language, stylistic features, and literary meaning. In doing so, it contributes to the growing field of AI-assisted literary translation and enriches the relatively limited body of research on literary translation from English into Kurdish.

3. Comparative Analysis of AI-Generated and Human Translations of *The Gift of the Magi*

3.1 Comparative Analysis of AI-Generated and Human Translations

This chapter presents the comparative analysis of the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated translation and the human translation of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi* from English into Kurdish. The analysis is based on Lawrence Venuti's (2018) theory of domestication and foreignization. It focuses particularly on the strategies employed by both

translation approaches in conveying cultural elements, stylistic features, idiomatic expressions, metaphors, dialogue, and proper nouns. The aim is to examine how each translation approach manages linguistic and cultural differences while preserving the literary qualities of the source text.

3.2 Domestication

Linguistic adaptation is one of the most common strategies employed in human translation. Human translators often adapt culturally unfamiliar expressions into natural and culturally meaningful linguistic forms for Kurdish readers. This strategy enhances readability while preserving the communicative function of the original text. A clear example of this strategy is found in the story's title. AI translates *The Magi* as مهگیهکان, a literal transliteration that does not carry an established meaning in Kurdish, making it difficult for readers to understand. In contrast, the human translator renders it as مهجووسهکان, a culturally recognized term referring to the Magi in Christian tradition. This is a clear example of domestication, as the translator selects an expression that is familiar in Kurdish religious and cultural discourse. Another example occurs in the phrase *furnished rooms*. AI translates it literally as ژووریکه کریمی, which fails to convey the intended meaning of a furnished apartment. In contrast, the human translator uses شوقه (apartment), a common term in Kurdish society, thereby producing a more natural and contextually appropriate translation. Similarly, when Della says *Be good to me*, AI-generated translation provides a literal translation, whereas the human translator translates it as لهگهلم توند مهبه, preserving the pragmatic meaning rather than the literal wording. The same strategy is evident in the translation of *cold-eyed*, where AI produces the literal translation چاویکی ساردی, while the human translator uses the idiomatic Kurdish expression خوین سارد بوو, which conveys the intended characterization more effectively. An additional example of domestication is observed in the translation of *newborn Christ-child*. AI-generated translation renders it literally as مهسیحی منداڵ, whereas the human translator uses ههزهرتی عیسی, reflecting Kurdish cultural and religious conventions. Furthermore, the human translator adds a footnote explaining the story of the Three Magi, making the biblical reference easier for Kurdish readers to understand. The analysis indicates that the human translator deliberately applies domestication strategies to enhance cultural accessibility and preserve communicative meaning. In contrast, AI-generated translation rarely employs cultural adaptation and generally produces literal or semi-literal translations.





4.3 Foreignization

Both the AI-generated and human translations employ foreignization as a translation strategy by preserving the cultural elements from the source text. This is particularly evident in the translation of proper names, scientific names, and culture-bound references, where both translation approaches retain the original English forms rather than replacing them with Kurdish cultural equivalents. This strategy enables target readers to recognize the foreign identity of the text while preserving its original American cultural context. One of the most prominent examples of foreignization is the preservation of personal names such as *Della*, *Jim*, *James Dillingham Young*, and *Sofronie*. In both translations, these names remain unchanged, reflecting the translators' intention to maintain the characters' original identities and avoid cultural substitution. Since these names are closely associated with the social and cultural background of the story, retaining them allows Kurdish readers to experience the narrative within its authentic American context rather than adapting it to the target culture. Similarly, both translations preserve the American currency terms, including *dollar* and *cent*, instead of replacing them with Kurdish or Iraqi currency units. Maintaining these lexical items reflects a clear application of foreignization because the economic and cultural context of the source text remains intact. Replacing these terms with local currency would alter the historical and geographical context of the story, whereas retaining them preserves the authenticity of the original narrative. Despite this common use of foreignization, a comparison reveals significant differences in the quality of phonetic transliteration. The AI-generated translation often relies on direct letter-by-letter transliteration, which does not always conform to Kurdish phonological and orthographic conventions. For example, the surname *Young* is transliterated by AI as *یانگ*, whereas the human translator renders it as *یونگ*, a form that more accurately reflects English pronunciation and aligns with established Kurdish transliteration practices. This demonstrates that, although AI preserves the foreign element, it does not consistently adapt the spelling to Kurdish linguistic norms, resulting in forms that may appear unfamiliar or less natural to Kurdish readers. A similar pattern appears in the translation of the word *Christmas*. The AI-generated translation transliterates the term as *کریسماس*, closely following the English spelling. In contrast, the human translator uses the established Kurdish form *کریسمس* and further expands it to *جەژنی کریسمس* ("Christmas festival"). This translation preserves the original cultural reference while simultaneously providing additional contextual information that facilitates comprehension for Kurdish readers.

Therefore, the human translator combines foreignization with a limited degree of domestication, ensuring that the foreign concept remains recognizable without reducing readability. These findings indicate that both translations successfully preserve the foreign cultural identity of *The Gift of the Magi* by maintaining names, cultural references, and currency terms. However, the human translation demonstrates greater linguistic awareness by adhering to Kurdish phonetic transcription rules and, where necessary, integrating linguistic and interpretive adaptation. In contrast, the AI-generated translation tends to preserve the forms of the source text automatically, sometimes resulting in phonetic transcriptions that are less consistent with Kurdish pronunciation and writing standards. Consequently, while both translations retain the cultural identity of the source text through foreignization, the human translation achieves a better balance between cultural authenticity, linguistic accuracy, and reader comprehension, making the foreign elements more accessible to the target audience.

4.4 Stylistic Analysis

Comparative analysis reveals clear stylistic differences between the AI-generated and human translation, particularly in literary expression, narrative fluency, and the preservation of the author's stylistic intentions. Although both translations convey the core meaning of the source text, they differ significantly in how they reproduce O. Henry's narrative style. The AI translation generally adopts a literal, sentence-by-sentence approach, preserving the grammatical structure of the original text but often showing limitations in reproducing its literary qualities. In contrast, the human translator demonstrates greater stylistic flexibility by adapting expressions to Kurdish literary conventions while maintaining the original narrative voice, emotional tone, and aesthetic impact. One of the most notable stylistic differences is the AI system's tendency to preserve the grammatical structure of the English text. This results in grammatically acceptable translations that often sound rigid and unnatural in Kurdish. Since English and Kurdish differ significantly in sentence structure, the direct transfer of English grammatical patterns frequently produces expressions that lack the fluency and rhythm expected in Kurdish literary writing. The human translator, on the other hand, restructures sentence according to the grammatical and stylistic conventions of Kurdish, resulting in a smoother and more coherent narrative without altering the intended meaning. This difference is clearly evident in the translation of the sentence "*It always happened like that.*" The AI-generated translation renders it almost literally, producing a



Kurdish expression that conveys the situational meaning but lacks the natural rhythm and emotional resonance of literary Kurdish. The human translator, however, renders the phrase as *ئێتر ئهمه ژيانه و همروا بووه*, an expression that extends beyond literal equivalence to recreate the reflective and conversational tone of the original narrative. Instead of translating each lexical item individually, the human translator focuses on reproducing the communicative and stylistic function of the sentence, resulting in a translation that appears more natural to Kurdish readers while preserving O. Henry's storytelling style. A similar pattern can be observed in the translation of the phrase "*master this art.*" The AI-generated translation renders it as *ئهم هونهره ی باش فیر بوو*, closely following the lexical choices of the English text. While this translation is linguistically understandable, it feels mechanical and does not fully capture the figurative meaning of the phrase within its literary context. In contrast, the human translator renders the same phrase as *شارمزاری لهم خۆبینیندا پهیدا کردبوو*, selecting a Kurdish idiomatic expression that conveys both the intended meaning and the stylistic nuance of the original text. This choice reflects a deeper understanding of contextual meaning and demonstrates the translator's ability to recreate literary language rather than merely transferring lexical content. The analysis also shows that AI-generated translation consistently prioritizes semantic accuracy and grammatical correctness, often at the expense of literary style. Its translations tend to reflect the lexical and syntactic patterns of the source text, resulting in informative but stylistically neutral language. While this approach ensures a high degree of formal correspondence, it often reduces the expressive richness and narrative fluency that characterize literary texts. Consequently, the emotional impact and artistic qualities of O. Henry's writing are only partially conveyed in the AI translation. In contrast, the human translator employs a range of rhetorical techniques, including paraphrasing, restructuring, idiomatic substitution, and contextual adaptation, to produce a translation that reads as an authentic Kurdish literary text. These techniques enhance the textual cohesion, improve its readability, and preserve the emotional tone of the source text without sacrificing its meaning. Such stylistic decisions are particularly important in literary translation, where the translator's task extends beyond lexical equivalence to include the reproduction of the author's voice, narrative rhythm, and aesthetic effect. From the perspective of this research, these findings demonstrate that stylistic equivalence cannot be achieved through literal translation alone. Although AI can produce linguistically accurate translations, it still struggles to reproduce the stylistic and artistic features that characterize literary discourse. The

human translator, by combining linguistic competence with cultural and literary awareness, succeeds in preserving both the semantic content and the stylistic identity of *The Gift of the Magi*. Therefore, the analysis indicates that while AI performs effectively at the grammatical and lexical levels, human translation remains more effective in conveying the literary style, emotional depth, and narrative aesthetics of the original text.

4.5 Cultural References

Translating cultural references is one of the most significant challenges in literary translation from English into Kurdish, as many culture-specific concepts lack direct equivalents in the target culture. In *The Gift of the Magi*, O. Henry incorporates numerous cultural and religious references closely associated with American Christian society, including *The Magi*, *Christmas*, *Christ-child*, and American currency terms. Successfully translating these expressions requires not only linguistic proficiency but also cultural knowledge and an understanding of the target readers' cultural background. Therefore, a comparison between AI-generated and human translations reveals fundamental differences in the way each approach handles culture-specific elements. The analysis shows that AI-generated translation generally adopts a foreignization-oriented approach by preserving cultural references through literal translation or transliteration. This strategy maintains the cultural identity of the source text but provides limited assistance to readers who may be unfamiliar with the historical, religious, or cultural connotations of these references. For example, terms such as *The Magi*, *Christmas*, and *Christ-child* are translated directly into Kurdish without additional explanation or contextual adaptation. Although the original cultural elements remain intact, their intended meanings and symbolic significance may not be fully understood by Kurdish readers who do not share the same cultural or religious background. In contrast, the human translator demonstrates greater cultural awareness and interpretive ability when translating culture-specific expressions. Rather than relying solely on literal translation, the human translator employs explanatory techniques that help bridge the cultural gap between the source and target audiences. A notable example is the translation of *The Magi*, where the translator adds a footnote explaining the biblical story of the Three Magi and its significance in Christian tradition. This additional information enables Kurdish readers to understand the symbolic importance of the story's title and its connection to the themes of wisdom, generosity, and sacrifice. The inclusion of such explanatory footnotes reflects the translator's



understanding that effective literary translation is not merely about conveying words but also about facilitating intercultural understanding. A similar difference can be observed in the translation of the word *Christmas*. While the AI-generated translation simply renders the word literally, the human translation uses the established Kurdish expression and, where appropriate, provides contextual clarification that makes the cultural reference more accessible. Likewise, references associated with the *Christ-child* retain their religious identity in both translations; however, the human translation presents them in a way that is more comprehensible and meaningful within the cultural context of Kurdish readers. The treatment of American currency terms, such as *dollar* and *cent*, also reveals differences between the two approaches. Both the AI-generated and human translations retain these monetary terms rather than replacing them with local currencies, thereby preserving the historical and geographical authenticity of the original text. However, the human translator integrates these foreign terms more naturally into Kurdish sentence structure and narrative style, whereas the AI-generated translation tends to reproduce them automatically without sufficient attention to stylistic fluency. From the perspective of this study, the findings indicate that the fundamental difference between AI-generated and human translation lies not in preserving cultural references but in the degree of cultural mediation. The AI-generated translation focuses primarily on transferring the linguistic forms of the source text, preserving cultural elements without providing sufficient contextual support for the target audience. In contrast, the human translator functions as a cultural mediator by combining translation with annotation, contextual adaptation, and reader-oriented strategies whenever necessary. This approach enables Kurdish readers to understand both the literal meaning and the cultural significance of the source text. Overall, the analysis shows that while both translations preserve the foreign cultural identity of *The Gift of the Magi*, the human translation achieves a higher degree of cultural equivalence by balancing faithfulness to the source culture with the communicative needs of Kurdish readers. Consequently, the human translation provides a richer and more accessible literary experience, whereas the AI-generated translation remains primarily a linguistic transfer of cultural elements with limited contextual interpretation.

4.6 Idiomatic Expressions

Analysis of idiomatic expressions reveals one of the most significant differences between AI-generated and human translation in the English–



Kurdish translation of *The Gift of the Magi*. Idiomatic expressions are culturally specific, and their meanings cannot always be accurately understood or translated through the literal meanings of their individual words. Consequently, successful translation requires the translator to identify the intended figurative meaning and reproduce it through an equivalent idiomatic expression in the target language. The findings of this study indicate that, while the human translator consistently adopts this approach, AI translation often relies on literal lexical transfer, resulting in grammatically acceptable but stylistically unnatural and less effective translations. One example is the expression *Her face lost its color*. The AI-generated translation renders this phrase literally as *رووخساری ههموو ڕهنگی لهدهست دابوو*, which accurately conveys the semantic meaning of the source text but does not align with the traditional way of expressing this emotional state in Kurdish. The literal translation feels unnatural because it reproduces the English lexical structure rather than the idiomatic patterns of the target language. In contrast, the human translator renders the same phrase as *ڕهنگ له ڕووخساری پهری بوو*, a common Kurdish idiomatic expression that naturally expresses fear, shock, or emotional distress. This translation successfully preserves not only the original meaning but also its emotional intensity and literary effect, making it more accessible and familiar to Kurdish readers. A similar difference is observed in the translation of the phrase *Be good to me*. AI translation follows the lexical meaning of the English words, producing a direct and literal rendering that conveys the basic message but fails to capture the intended emotional and interpersonal nuance of the original dialogue. The human translator, however, translates the expression as *لهگه‌لم توند مه‌به*, choosing an idiomatic Kurdish expression that conveys the speaker's intended request in a natural and culturally appropriate manner. Instead of translating individual words, the human translator focuses on the communicative function and emotional implication of the phrase, producing a linguistically fluent and pragmatically equivalent translation. These examples demonstrate that the AI-generated translation operates primarily at the level of lexical equivalence, attempting to preserve the individual meanings of words without sufficient consideration of their figurative or idiomatic functions within context. As a result, many idiomatic expressions lose their naturalness and expressive force in the target language. Although the translated sentences remain understandable, they often sound mechanical because they reflect the grammatical and lexical patterns of English rather than the established expressions used by native Kurdish speakers. In contrast, the human translator adopts a functional and communicative





approach, replacing English idioms with culturally and linguistically equivalent Kurdish idiomatic expressions. This strategy ensures that the translation reproduces not only the literal meaning but also the emotional, stylistic, and pragmatic effects intended by the source-text author. Such translation choices enhance the readability of the target text and preserve the literary quality of O. Henry's narrative, which relies heavily on subtle emotional expression and natural dialogue. From the perspective of this research, these findings indicate that translating idiomatic expressions remains a major limitation of current AI translation systems in literary texts. While AI-generated translation performs effectively in conveying literal meaning, it often struggles to recognize figurative language and select appropriate idiomatic equivalents in Kurdish. In contrast, human translation demonstrates greater sensitivity to context, culture, and pragmatic meaning, enabling the translator to reproduce idiomatic expressions in a natural, culturally appropriate, and stylistically consistent manner that aligns with Kurdish literary conventions. Therefore, the analysis confirms that human translation achieves a higher degree of idiomatic, pragmatic, and communicative equivalence, whereas AI-generated translation remains largely dependent on literal lexical correspondence.

4.7 Metaphorical Language

Translating metaphorical language is one of the most challenging aspects of literary translation, as metaphors convey meaning through imagery, symbolism, and emotional associations rather than through literal linguistic meaning. Consequently, translating metaphors requires the translator to preserve not only the semantic content of the source text but also its aesthetic, stylistic, and emotional effects. The findings indicate that both AI-generated and human translation attempt to preserve O. Henry's metaphorical language; however, they differ significantly in their accuracy and effectiveness in conveying literary imagery in Kurdish. One of the most representative examples is O. Henry's description of Della's hair as "*like a falling stream of brown water*." This metaphor creates a vivid visual image that emphasizes the beauty, length, and movement of Della's hair. In the paragraph describing Della's hair, both AI and human translations use a combination of foreignization and domestication to translate the expression "*like a falling stream of brown water*." This is done to preserve the tone and metaphorical quality of the writer's description. However, AI uses the word "river," whereas the human translator uses "waterfall." The same difference is evident in the translation of the word *dress*, which describes Della's hair covering her

body. The human translator uses the Kurdish word کراسیک, whereas the AI-generated translation uses بۆشاکیک. This choice reflects a creative adaptation that preserves the aesthetic function of the metaphor while making the image more natural and expressive within the Kurdish literary tradition. Another important example is the expression "*with the bright light still in her eyes.*" The human translation employs foreignization because an equivalent figurative expression exists in Kurdish and carries the same literary effect. In contrast, the AI-generated translation renders the expression as هێشتا تیشکی هیوا له چاو مەکانیدا دەدرەوشایەمۆه. In this case, the AI inserts the word "hope," thereby changing the original metaphorical meaning. Although the added word appears to clarify the intended feeling, it is not present in the source text and therefore changes the author's stylistic intent. This unnecessary semantic addition shifts the focus of the metaphor from a subtle literary image to an explicit emotional interpretation, reducing the openness and artistic ambiguity that characterize O. Henry's writing. A human translator, on the other hand, preserves the original figurative expression without adding any semantic content, allowing the metaphor to convey its meaning through imagery rather than explanation. This approach maintains the stylistic integrity of the source text and respects the author's narrative style. The comparison demonstrates that AI-generated translation generally attempts to preserve metaphors through literal semantic transfer, closely following the lexical structure of the source text. While this strategy often retains the figurative meaning, it does not always reproduce the artistic impact of the original metaphor or stylistic effectiveness. Furthermore, the AI system sometimes introduces interpretive additions that modify the original image, thereby affecting the literary style of the translation. In contrast, the human translator adopts a more contextual and literary approach, carefully selecting figurative language that recreates the visual imagery, emotional resonance, and stylistic qualities of the original text. Instead of translating individual words, the human translator focuses on preserving the communicative and aesthetic functions of the metaphor, ensuring that Kurdish readers experience imagery comparable to that intended by O. Henry. These findings demonstrate that metaphorical language remains an area in which human translation significantly outperforms AI translation. Although AI-generated translation can identify and convey many figurative expressions, it still encounters difficulties to reproduce their literary and aesthetic dimensions. Human translation, supported by linguistic creativity, cultural awareness, and contextual interpretation, is better able to preserve the symbolic meaning, emotional depth, and artistic imagery of the source text. Consequently,





the human translation achieves a higher degree of stylistic, semantic, and aesthetic equivalence, making the literary experience of *The Gift of the Magi* more faithful to the original work while remaining natural and expressive for Kurdish readers.

4.8 Dialogue

Dialogue analysis reveals another fundamental difference between AI-generated and human translation in the English–Kurdish translation of *The Gift of the Magi*. Dialogue in literary texts serves multiple functions beyond the simple exchange of information. It conveys emotions, interpersonal relationships, social situations, and the personalities of the characters. Therefore, successful dialogue translation requires the translator to preserve not only the literal meaning of the utterances but also their pragmatic function, emotional tone, stylistic fluency, and communicative intention. The results demonstrate that, while the AI system generally transfers the implicit meaning of the dialogue accurately, the human translator reproduces its emotional and interpersonal dimensions more effectively. AI-generated translation relies primarily on the lexical and syntactic structures of the source text, resulting in grammatically acceptable and semantically accurate dialogue. However, this literal approach often produces expressions that sound formal, mechanical, or unnatural in Kurdish conversation. Since English and Kurdish differ considerably in their conversational styles, direct lexical transfer frequently fails to reflect the spontaneity and emotional warmth that characterize natural Kurdish dialogue. Consequently, although the translated conversations remain understandable, they do not fully reproduce the interactive effect intended by O. Henry. In contrast, the human translator adapts the dialogue to Kurdish conversational norms, selecting expressions that reflect the natural speech patterns of native Kurdish speakers while preserving the communicative purpose of the original text. This approach enhances the authenticity of the conversations and enables readers to engage more closely with the emotions and relationships portrayed in the narrative. Rather than translating each utterance literally, the human translator considers the social context, the relationship between the speakers, and the emotional states conveyed in the dialogue. A clear example is the translation of the expression "*Be good to me.*" AI-generated translation renders it literally, conveying its basic semantic meaning but failing to fully capture the emotional impact of the original dialogue. As a result, the personal effect of the expression is weakened. The human translator, however, renders the same utterance as *له‌گه‌لم توند مه‌به*, an idiomatic Kurdish expression that

naturally conveys affection, emotional sensitivity, and a plea for kindness. This translation reflects the speaker's pragmatic intention rather than the individual meanings of the source-language words, thereby preserving both the emotional tone and the personal connection between the characters. The findings indicate that the human translator consistently prioritizes communicative and pragmatic equivalence, ensuring that the dialogue remains natural within the linguistic and cultural conventions of Kurdish. In contrast, the AI-generated translation focuses primarily on semantic equivalence, which, despite its lexical accuracy, often produces dialogue that lacks the expressive qualities expected in literary discourse. From a literary translation perspective, the successful translation of dialogue depends on the translator's ability to reproduce the emotional atmosphere, character interactions, and conversational rhythm of the source text. In this context, the human translator demonstrates greater sensitivity to contextual meaning, cultural expectations, and stylistic variation, producing dialogue that is both linguistically natural and emotionally convincing for Kurdish readers.

Conclusion

This study investigated the comparative performance of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated and human translation in the English–Kurdish translation of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*, with particular emphasis on the application of Venuti's (2018) domestication and foreignization strategies. Through a qualitative comparative analysis of selected passages, the study examined how AI-generated and human translations preserve the linguistic, cultural, and stylistic characteristics of the source text. The findings show that AI-generated and human translations differ considerably in their application of domestication and foreignization. AI predominantly employs a foreignization-oriented approach by preserving proper names, cultural references, and source-language structures through literal translation and transliteration. While this strategy maintains the foreign identity of the original text, it often provides insufficient cultural adaptation or contextual interpretation needed for Kurdish readers. In contrast, human translators apply domestication and foreignization strategically according to the communicative purpose and cultural context of each expression. Foreignization is used to preserve the cultural authenticity of the source text, whereas domestication is employed to render idiomatic expressions, dialogue, stylistic features, and cultural concepts in a natural and comprehensible way for Kurdish readers. The analysis also reveals that both AI-generated and human translations successfully convey the general meaning of the original text; however,



they differ fundamentally in their ability to preserve its literary characteristics. AI demonstrates effective performance in producing grammatically accurate, coherent, and semantically faithful translations. Nevertheless, it exhibits clear limitations in translating idiomatic expressions, metaphorical language, cultural references, stylistic variation, emotionally expressive dialogue, and other contextual literary features. Its tendency toward literal translation frequently reduces the naturalness, emotional depth, and aesthetic impact of the target text. In contrast, the human translator is more successful in preserving the narrative voice, literary imagery, pragmatic meaning, and emotional resonance of the original through contextual interpretation, cultural mediation, and stylistic adaptation. The findings also identify the strengths and limitations of both AI-generated and human translations in literary translation from English into Kurdish. AI offers significant advantages in terms of speed, consistency, and linguistic accuracy, making it a valuable tool for supporting the translation process. However, it remains limited in its ability to interpret figurative language, cultural symbolism, and the subtle stylistic features that characterize literary discourse. Human translation, on the other hand, demonstrates superior cultural competence, interpretive flexibility, and the capacity for creative decision-making, enabling translators to preserve both the semantic content and the literary and aesthetic qualities of the source text. In conclusion, this study confirms that, despite the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, human translators remain indispensable in literary translation from English into Kurdish. Literary translation extends beyond the transfer of linguistic meaning and requires cultural awareness, pragmatic understanding, stylistic sensitivity, and creative interpretation. Therefore, while AI can serve as an effective assistive tool that improves translation efficiency, it cannot fully replace the expertise and interpretive judgment of human translators in producing high-quality literary translations. The findings contribute to the growing body of research on AI-assisted literary translation and provide valuable insights into the current opportunities and limitations of AI in the context of English–Kurdish literary translation.

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