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Comparing DeepL and Google Translate in Translating Arabic Expressive Speech Acts in *Masameer: al-Film*

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ABSTRACT

In cross-language communication, machine translation is an important tool that supports the understanding of meaning between speakers from different cultural backgrounds. This study compares the translation quality of expressive speech acts in the *Masameer* animation using two automatic translation engines: DeepL and Google Translate. Expressive speech acts rely heavily on pragmatic context and emotional expression, which presents a challenge due to the presence of implicit meanings, cultural values, and social nuances that are often difficult to translate automatically. This study employs a qualitative-comparative approach by analyzing 19 representative data. The translations were assessed by two experts using Nababan's model and validated through method triangulation, including interviews, content analysis, and theory-based discussions. The results show that Google Translate is superior in terms of accuracy (2.00 and 2.68) and acceptability (2.63), compared to DeepL, which scored 1.84 and 2.68 in accuracy and 2.36 in acceptability. However, both engines remain weak in translating metaphorical expressions and culturally specific contexts. This research fills a gap in comparative studies on Arabic-Indonesian machine translation and contributes to the development of translation technology and Arabic language learning, particularly in the areas of pragmatics and intercultural communication.

Keywords: DeepL, Expressive speech acts, Google Translate, Translation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Translation machines have become a crucial component of cross-language communication in the digital age (Widyanarti, 2024). Several platforms, such as Google Translate and DeepL, are already widely used because they offer easy access and instant translation results (Zahra et al., 2024). This popularity has driven numerous positive developments, including improved translation accuracy and algorithm enhancements (Mahendra et al., 2024). Despite the advancements in Google Translate and DeepL, both translation machines still have weaknesses that require further examination (Irawan & Delijar, 2024).

One linguistic aspect that is prone to distortion in machine translation is the expression of speech acts. According to Searle (1969), expressive speech acts are speech acts that serve to express or state the speaker's psychological attitude toward a situation implied in the illocution (Saifudin, 2019). Due to their highly contextual and socio-cultural nature, the translation of expressive speech acts requires pragmatic sensitivity to ensure that their meaning remains intact in the target language (TL). Speech acts are a topic of pragmatics, and by understanding the role of pragmatics in translation, translators can produce more accurate and acceptable texts (Suwandi, 2021).

A translation that emphasizes cultural meaning and reader awareness and has high quality is reliable (Harahap, 2014). According to Larson (1998), a quality translation must fulfill three aspects,

namely accuracy, acceptability, and readability. These three aspects are crucial in ensuring that the translated text is not only lexically correct but also aligns with the cultural norms and understanding of the target language. Therefore, the development of translation machines must consider the important aspects of translation and the socio-cultural aspects of target language, especially in texts containing pragmatic content, such as expressive speech acts.

In the translation approach used, Google Translate and DeepL often aim for formal equivalence, emphasizing structure or word-for-word correspondence (Nida & Taber, 1969). However, in expressive texts containing social and emotional meaning, this approach is often ineffective. Therefore, the application of the dynamic equivalence approach, which focuses on the message naturally understood by the target language reader, or communicative translation, is more appropriate for preserving the intent and communicative function of the original utterance (Newmark, 1988).

Research on the quality of machine translation, particularly Google Translate and DeepL, reveals various findings that highlight their limitations in accurately capturing the contextual and cultural meaning of the source language (SL). Gao et al. (2024) found that, despite these two engines' ability to translate Chinese literary works, they still produce grammatical errors, deviations in meaning, and overlook cultural context. Similarly, Asy-Syimā & Khalīfah (2020) noted that Google Translate struggles to translate Arabic figures of speech, especially those with religious connotations. Kudus (2024) added that meaning errors are still dominant in translation from Indonesian to Arabic, while Jumatulaini (2020) noted that Google Translate's syntactic structure in translating Arabic to Indonesian is still inaccurate. In the realm of legal texts, Noviany et al. (2024) showed that DeepL tended to be better at preserving meaning and readability, while Google Translate produced more generally acceptable translations despite having more syntax errors.

Meanwhile, several studies have highlighted the pragmatic and expressive aspects of translation, which are highly dependent on cultural and social contexts. Fitriana (2014) emphasizes that expressive speech acts require special attention as they are highly dependent on emotional context and cultural values. Toral and Way (2018) found that although DeepL produced more natural translations than Google Translate, both still struggled to translate expressive and idiomatic language styles in literary texts. Läubli et al. (2018) highlighted that in document-level translation, both engines were unable to maintain consistency of emotional meaning between sentences. Castilho et al. (2017) also noted a decline in translation quality when the engines were faced with complex idioms and cultural nuances. Poibeau (2020) highlighted the weak ability of translation systems to handle emotionally loaded utterances, such as prayers and sarcasm. In contrast, Sakamoto (2021) found that Google Translate and DeepL were not fully able to preserve pragmatic functions, including praise, hope, and sarcasm, in their translations.

Some previous studies have analyzed the quality of machine translation between Arabic and Indonesian, but few have specifically addressed the challenges of translating expressive speech acts, which include conveying emotions, attitudes, and cultural nuances. Moreover, comparative studies between Google Translate and DeepL in this context are limited, especially in terms of pragmatic accuracy and context appropriateness. This study fills the void by analyzing how the two platforms translate expressive speech acts from Arabic to Indonesian, as well as highlighting their respective advantages and disadvantages. Thus, this research contributes to the development of the field of Arabic-Indonesian machine translation, especially in improving the accuracy, cultural sensitivity, and acceptability of translation results.

This research focuses on expressive speech acts in machine translation from Arabic to Indonesian, using the *Masameer* animation as the data source. The selection of *Masameer* is based on its distinctive expressive power and rich underlying meanings. The animation features unique and symbolic character portrayals—for example, characters with negative traits are depicted as animals—which enhances the expressive dimension while delivering social criticism in a satirical manner. In addition, the protagonists in *Masameer* are designed with diverse and complex personalities, adding emotional depth and nuance to the dialogue. Elements of local Saudi Arabian culture and satire on social realities are also prominent throughout the series. The diversity of emotional expression, cultural values, and strong social context makes *Masameer* a rich resource for analysis in machine translation studies, particularly in the area of expressive speech acts, which heavily rely on implicit meaning and pragmatic context.

2. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a comparative design. The purpose is to compare and analyze the accuracy and acceptability aspects of translating expressive speech acts from Arabic into Indonesian using automatic translation platforms, namely DeepL and Google Translate (Faridl & Dwimagistri, 2021). The data source is taken from an Arabic animation, *Masameer*. The *Masameer* animation was chosen because it has dynamic, expressive dialogue characteristics and is rich in cultural content and social satire, making it an ideal material for expressive speech act analysis.

There are 19 excerpts of expressive speech act dialog in the *Masameer* animation. The data were purposively selected based on the principle of representative selection, which involves selecting data that are considered to represent the variety of types and main characteristics of expressive speech acts (Sedghi, 2022). The selection criteria include: (1) containing communicative functions as expressive speech acts (e.g., expressions of gratitude, apology, or praise), and (2) representing a variety of expressive speech act types based on Searle's classification (Wardhana & Basuki, 2020). All data were then automatically translated into Indonesian using DeepL and Google Translate.

The assessment of translation quality was conducted using the evaluation model of Nababan et al. (2012), which focuses on two main aspects: accuracy and acceptability. Each element was assessed using a Likert scale of 1-3, where a score of 3 indicates a highly accurate and acceptable translation, a score of 2 indicates a less precise and acceptable translation, and a score of 1 indicates an inaccurate and unacceptable translation. The accuracy and acceptability aspects were assessed by two experts (E1 and E2) with academic backgrounds in translation and Arabic studies. The results were then calculated to reach an average value to produce the final score for each segment.

To ensure validity and reduce subjective bias, method triangulation was conducted through: (1) semi-structured interviews with the experts to explore the rationale for scoring and interpretation of the cultural context; (2) content analysis of the translations to identify error patterns and performance differences between machines; and (3) theory-based discussion by comparing the findings to the concepts in Nababan's translation theory and other relevant literature (Insani et al., 2021).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study include a description of the types of expressive speech acts contained in the movie *Masameer*, followed by a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the accuracy and acceptability results, as assessed by experts using Nababan's formula.

3.1 Results

3.1.1 Types of Expressive Speech

There are 19 data of Arabic expressive speech acts in the *Masameer* movie. The type of speech act that occurs with the highest frequency organizes the data. As listed in the Table 1.

Table 1 Types of Expressive Acts in Masameer Movie

No	Type of Expressive Speech	Code Data Findings	∑	Percentage
1	Salam Sapaan	01, 02, 07, 08, 12, 17	6	31.6%
2	Terima kasih	03, 04, 16	3	15.7%
3	Pujian	05, 06, 09	3	15.7%
4	Permintaan Maaf	11, 18	2	10.5%
5	Kecewa	10	1	5.3%
6	Syukur	13	1	5.3%
7	Menyesal	14	1	5.3%
8	Menyambut	15	1	5.3%
9	Ucapan perpisahan	19	1	5.3%

The Table 1 shows that there are nine types of expressive speech acts in the *Masameer* movie. Expressive speech acts that have the most frequency are greetings with 6 Data (31.6%), followed by gratitude and praise with 3 Data (15.7%), then apologies with 2 Data (10.5%), and disappointment, gratitude, regret, welcome, and farewell with 1 Data (5.5%). Thus, the variety of expressive speech acts in the *Masameer* movie demonstrates the diversity of characters expressing emotions and attitudes in different social contexts.

3.1.2 Accuracy and Acceptability of Google Translate and DeepL Using Nababan's Formula

Based on the findings, the researcher presents the data collected and calculated using Nababan's formula. The results of the average scores for accuracy and acceptability of DeepL and Google Translate are as follows.

Table 2 Translation quality score of expressive speech acts

Machine Translation	Accuracy	Frequency E1 (Percentage)	Frequency E2 (Percentage)	Acceptability	Frequency (Percentage)
DeepL	Accurate	2(10.5%)	14(73.7%)	Acceptable	10(52.6%)
	Less Accurate	12(63.2%)	4(21%)	Less Acceptable	6(31.6%)
	Not Accurate	5(26.3%)	1(5.3%)	Not Acceptable	3(15.8%)
Average		1.84	2.68	2.36	
	Accurate	5(26.3%)	14(73.7%)	Acceptable	13(68.4%)

Machine Translation	Accuracy	Frequency E1 (Percentage)	Frequency E2 (Percentage)	Acceptability	Frequency (Percentage)
Google Translate	Less Accurate	9(47.4%)	4(21%)	Less Acceptable	5(26.3%)
	Not Accurate	5(26.3%)	1(5.3%)	Not Acceptable	1(5.3%)
Average		2.00	2.68	2.63	

Based on Table 2 above, translation quality is categorized into three levels of accuracy and three levels of acceptability. To maintain the objectivity and reliability of the data, the assessment of accuracy and acceptability was conducted by two experts (E1 and E2) who have backgrounds in translation and Arabic.

In terms of accuracy, DeepL received an average score of 1.84 by E1 and 2.68 by E2, while Google Translate received a score of 2.00 by E1 and 2.68 by E2. When viewed from each assessment from E1: DeepL obtained 2 data (10.5%) in the Accurate category, 12 data (63.2%) in the Less Accurate category, and 5 data (26.3%) in the Inaccurate category. Google Translate obtained 5 data (26.3%) that were rated Accurate, 9 data (47.4%) Less Accurate, and 5 data (26.3%) in the Inaccurate category. For each assessment of E2, DeepL and Google Translate obtained 14 data points (73,7%) in the Accurate category, 4 data points (21%) in the Less Accurate category, and 1 data point (5.3%) in the Inaccurate category. This difference indicates that there is variation in perception among experts regarding the accuracy of the translation. However, Google Translate is more accurate than DeepL.

For the acceptability aspect, the results show that Google Translate is superior, with an average score of 2.63, compared to DeepL, which achieves a score of 2.36. Google Translate produced 13 data (68.4%) that were rated Acceptable, while DeepL produced 10 data (52.6%). In the Less Acceptable category, Google Translate had 5 data (26.3%), while DeepL had 6 data (31.6%). For the Unacceptable category, Google Translate has 1 data (5.3%), while DeepL records 3 data (15.8%). This difference indicates that Google Translate tends to produce translations that are more natural, flexible, and in line with Indonesian language conventions.

3.1.3 Translation analysis of expressive speech act types

The analysis of each type of expressive speech act is included in each data example.

Table 3 Analysis of Salam Sapaan Speech Acts

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
07	السلام عليكم Captain Hikmah greeted the three friends when they arrived at their new base.	Damai sejahtera bagi Anda.	Halo.

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
08	وعليكم السلام ورحمةالله Kalb answers the greeting from the Captai Hikmah.	Dan atas kalian semua semoga damai sejahtera dan rahmat Allah tercurah.	Semoga damai dan rahmat Tuhan menyertai Anda.

Table 3 presents Data 07 and 08, which are greeting expressions commonly used in Arab and Muslim culture. Greetings such as *Asalamualaikum* and *Wa'alaikumu salāmu waraḥmatu Allāh* not only serve as formal greetings but also contain religious content in the form of prayers. In translation, DeepL translates Asalamualaikum as 'Damai sejahtera bagi Anda,' while Google Translate uses the Indonesian equivalent of the standard greeting, 'Halo.' E1 considered that although Google Translate and DeepL still retained the basic meaning of the greeting, both translations were considered culturally and contextually inappropriate and failed to convey the religious nuances and meaning of prayer contained in the phrase. Therefore, they both received the Inaccurate category.

Meanwhile, E2 assessed that DeepL translated the data literally, maintaining the meaning of the prayer and the original sentence structure, which was categorized as accurate. Meanwhile, Google Translate failed to translate the sentence, eliminating the religious value and prayer function contained in 'Asalamualaikum,' and was therefore judged inaccurate. From a pragmatic point of view, neither engine has been able to fully capture the social context and cultural values inherent in the expressive speech acts of greetings in target language. From here, it can be seen that both translation engines still often misread the meaning or context of Arabic terms and produce unnatural translations (Sri, 2023).

Greetings are a form of expression conveyed by speakers to speech partners with the aim of greeting, establishing closeness, and conveying positive feelings or intentions (Rahmawati et al., 2023). Within the framework of speech act theory proposed by Searle, greetings can be categorized as expressive speech acts because they convey speakers' psychological attitudes towards the existence or presence of their speech partners. In the greeting speech act, for example, DeepL tends to translate literally in order to maintain the meaning of the prayer and the original structure. In contrast, Google Translate chooses a more common greeting equivalent in Indonesian but removes the religious and cultural nuances. This finding aligns with research results indicating that DeepL excels in preserving literal meaning and cultural context, whereas Google Translate is more adaptable to target language habits, albeit sometimes compromising cultural meaning (Noviany et al., 2024).

Table 4 Analysis of Terima Kasih Speech Acts

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
16	شكرا لكم جميعًا على الحضور في هذه الليلة الغناء للمشاركة في هذا العرس الذي نحتفي فيه بقيم البطولة والشجاعة والإقدام.	Terima kasih atas kedatangan Anda semua pada malam nyanyian ini untuk berpartisipasi dalam pernikahan di	Terima kasih semuanya atas kehadiran Anda semua malam ini untuk bernyanyi dan ikut ambil bagian dalam

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
	The host thanked the guests for attending the prestigious awards ceremony.	mana kita merayakan nilai-nilai kepahlawanan, keberanian dan keberanian.	pernikahan ini, di mana kita merayakan nilai-nilai kepahlawanan, keberanian dan kepahlawanan.

In Table 4 there is Data 16 which is an expressive speech act in the form of gratitude which begins with the sentence Syukran lakum jamī'an. Both DeepL and Google Translate successfully translated the phrase without altering its meaning or illocutionary function. However, in the sentence as a whole, both engines had great difficulty in translating *Allaylatu alghinā'u*. Both translations translate it literally as 'malam nyanyian' or 'malam ini untuk bernyanyi,' which does not match the figurative meaning in the Arabic cultural context.

In Arabic culture, the phrase *Allaylatu alghinā'u* does not refer to the literal activity of singing but is a metaphorical form for a night of festivity, celebration, and joy. By translating it literally, both DeepL and Google Translate fail to convey the intended connotative meaning, leading the reader to a false understanding. This error demonstrates the limitations of machine translation in handling metaphorical meaning, which requires an understanding of the cultural context, language style, and conventions of expression in the SL.

In the expressive speech act types of gratitude and metaphorical phrases, both engines were able to translate literal phrases well. However, they failed to capture the connotative and metaphorical meanings contained in Arabic culture, resulting in a decrease in accuracy and acceptability scores. This is corroborated by research highlighting the significant challenges in the translation of idioms, metaphors, and cultural expressions by machine translation, where the translations tend to be literal or lose cultural meaning (Asy-Syimā' & Khalīfah, 2020; Fitriana, 2014).

Thank you is, an expression, used when the speech partner does something that makes the speaker feel appreciated, such as granting a request, praising, or showing another kindness (Sari, 2012). According to Searle, thank you are included in the category of expressive speech acts because it contains an expression of the speaker's psychological attitude in the form of gratitude and appreciation for the speech partner's actions.

Table 5 Analysis of Pujian Speech Acts

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
09	ماشاء الله. أرى أنكم جهزتم المقر وبدأتم بالعمل فورًا. Captain Hikmah praised the three friends when he saw that they had managed to get a new base and immediately	Masya Allah. Saya melihat Anda telah mempersiapkan kantor pusat dan segera mulai bekerja.	Tuhan memberkati. Saya melihat Anda telah mempersiapkan kantor pusat dan segera mulai bekerja.

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
	moved to save the city from Bandar's evil.		

In Table 5, the use of the *Mashaallah* phrase in the data above indicates that this data falls under the category of praise, where the *Mashaallah* phrase serves to admire the things owned by others, as well as acknowledge that these advantages are the will of Allah. DeepL can accurately and naturally capture the phrase that has been attached to the culture of the target language using the appropriate word equivalent of 'Masya Allah.' Thus, it is categorized as an Accurate and Acceptable translation. Meanwhile, Google Translate made a translation error into 'Tuhan memberkati,' which is not the right word equivalent. In this data, Google Translate is categorized as a less accurate and less acceptable translation because it alters the meaning of the phrase *Mashaallah* and does not align with the cultural and social translation.

Other studies have also found that DeepL is more consistent in preserving religious terms and idiomatic expressions, whereas Google Translate more often makes generalizations or culturally inappropriate adaptations (Gao et al., 2024). This difference underscores the importance of machine translation in selecting culturally appropriate word equivalents. DeepL can identify that the phrase Masya Allah has become part of the target language vocabulary. At the same time, Google Translate fails to capture this linguistic reality and instead uses a generic equivalent that changes the meaning significantly.

Expressive speech acts of praise are commonly used in various communication situations to express admiration, motivate, and foster positive relationships (Sistiadinita, 2021). Within the framework of Searle's speech act theory, compliments are classified as expressive speech acts because they reflect the speaker's psychological attitude in the form of admiration or satisfaction with specific circumstances or actions. The expression of praise shows the speaker's emotional involvement and efforts to strengthen social solidarity.

Table 6 Analysis of Permintaan Maaf Speech Acts

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
11	لذا، أنا آسف لا مكان لكما لدينا. Kalb apologized to Dana and Captain Hikmah for not accepting their presence in his community.	Jadi, maaf, kami tidak memiliki tempat untuk Anda.	Jadi, saya minta maaf kami tidak punya tempat untuk Anda.

Table 6 presents Data 11 which begins with the phrase Anā āsif, this phrase shows that this data belongs to the apology type. Both machine translators managed to translate this phrase correctly, without making ilocutionary shifts. However, there is an error in translating the word *Lakumā*, which means 'untuk kalian berdua.' Both DeepL and Google Translate translate it as 'untuk Anda' in the singular, thus shifting the plural to the singular. This error causes both engines to score Less accurately overall. For the acceptability aspect, both translation engines can be categorized as

Acceptable because the translations are natural and follow the structure of the target language. Grammatical errors, such as changing plurals to singulars or selecting inappropriate word equivalents, have also been documented in previous studies, highlighting the limitations of machine translation in capturing the morphological and syntactic nuances of the SL (Chen et al., 2020).

Apology is a type of expressive speech act that functions to improve social relations or to express politeness (Lailiyah, 2021). The primary function of this expression is to admit mistakes, show regret, and restore harmony in interpersonal relationships. In the theory of speech acts proposed by Searle, apologies are classified into expressive types because they reflect the speaker's psychological condition or attitude toward the events that have occurred.

Table 7 Analysis of Kecewa Speech Acts

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
10	كيف تفعل بنا ذلك؟ Dana felt disappointed with Kalb for not appreciating her efforts in helping Captain Hikmah with the community.	Bagaimana Anda melakukan itu kepada kami?	Bagaimana Anda melakukan itu kepada kami?

In Table 7 there are Data 10 which is a speech act of disappointment. Both translation engines give the same result in terms of grammatical structure. Google Translate and DeepL translate disappointed utterances literally, so no meaning is lost or shifted. However, according to E1, the translation of *Kaifa* needs to be considered because *Kaifa* here is not *adāwāt al-istifhām* or a question word but rather an expression of disappointment. In Arabic literature, especially in balaghah, it is common that *istifhām* does not only mean a question word, but one of them can be an expression of disappointment. Therefore, E1 considers Google Translate and DeepL to be less accurate on this data.

Research related to Haifa has been discussed in Pasaribu (2022), which says that there are deviations in the meaning of Haifa phrases in the translation of 70 verses of the Qur'an. Therefore, translators must comprehend the principles of balaghah and the context of word usage in Arabic. Disappointment is a form of anger. It is usually said when something is not as expected (Kusmanto, 2019). According to Searle, expressive speech acts, such as expressing disappointment, aim to convey the speaker's inner condition directly and implicitly, thereby affecting the response and social relationship between the speaker and the speech partner.

Table 8 Analysis of Syukur Speech Acts

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
13	لكن الحمد لله. تلك الليلة عندما زرتكم قابلت رجلا غاية في الطيبة، نصحني وكلمني كلاما طيبًا.	Tapi Alhamdulillah. Malam itu ketika saya mengunjungi Anda, saya bertemu dengan seorang pria yang sangat baik hati yang menasihati	Tapi terima kasih Tuhan. Malam itu ketika saya mengunjungi Anda, saya bertemu dengan seorang pria yang sangat baik. Dia

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
	A person's gratitude to Adel for changing himself from a cheater to a better person.	saya dan mengucapkan kata-kata yang baik kepada saya.	menasihatiku dan mengucapkan kata-kata yang baik kepadaku.

In Table 8, the opening phrase *Lākinna Alḥamdulillāh* in this data is a form of gratitude expression commonly used by Muslims to express praise and gratitude to God. DeepL correctly translates the phrase as 'Alhamdulillah,' which has been fully integrated into the target language and is commonly used in various religious expressions. Whereas Google Translate translates it as 'Terima kasih Tuhan,' which semantically still falls within the expression of gratitude, but 'Terima kasih Tuhan' does not explain the core message contained in the word *Alhamdulillāh*, which is a message of praise addressed to God. Phrases like *Alhamdulillah* should have been semantically adapted to suit the context of Muslim culture and tradition in Indonesia (Misbahuddin & Simbuka, 2023).

Both Google Translate and DeepL translate the word *Lākinna* as 'tapi.' In fact, in this context, Lākinna functions not as an *Istidrāk* letter (denial or mild contradiction) but as an *Isti'nāf* letter, which marks the beginning of a new sentence or topic transition. The translation into 'tapi' creates an irrelevant logical connection and disrupts the flow of the sentence. Furthermore, both translators repeated the pronominal 'saya' excessively in a relatively short sentence, which decreased efficiency and disrupted the fluency of the reading. The translation would be better if this repetition was minimized and pronominal choices such as 'mengunjungimu' were used instead of 'mengunjungi Anda' to make it feel more natural and emotionally appropriate.

Gratitude is an expression of gratitude to God. Although it shares similarities with the expression of gratitude, gratitude exhibits a deeper form of appreciation (Fitriana, 2014). In the perspective of speech acts, according to Searle, gratitude is included in the category of expressive speech acts because it expresses the speaker's psychological attitude and feelings towards certain circumstances. This expression not only plays a role in the context of human relations but also reflects the vertical relationship between humans and God.

Table 9 Analysis of Menyesal Speech Acts

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
14	لقد ارتديته في جنازة أبي. Abu Hasam knew the harsh reality behind the medal he had received, and he regretted wearing it at his father's funeral.	Saya memakainya ke pemakaman ayah saya.	Aku memakainya saat pemakaman ayahku.

In Table 9, the translation of DeepL shows a change in the meaning of the letter *jar Fī* to 'ke.' Grammatically, the letter *jar Fī* functions as *Ẓarfiyyah* (place/time indicator) which means ‘di’ or 'pada.' This error creates an ambiguity of direction as if the speaker is heading to the location rather than being in the situation. This shows a mistake in understanding the grammatical function of the letter *jar*. Google Translate, on the other hand, translates it as 'saat pemakaman,' which, although

not a literal translation, is more in line with the context of use in target language, as it shows the natural timing of the event. The grammatical shift of prepositions in machine translation has been discussed in Fitria (2022), and it shows that, in this case, Google Translate performs *Tawassu'* (expansion of meaning) based on context.

Data 14 does not contain any precise verbs or phrases that indicate regret. However, the context of the previous dialog provides an emotional charge that shows this sentence as an expressive speech act of regret. According to Searle, expressive speech acts do not always require specific lexical characteristics to convey the speaker's psychological attitude toward the conditions or events being expressed (Nurjanah, 2020). In particular, regretful utterances express the speaker's feelings of regret, sadness, or disappointment over certain situations. It aims to convey subjective emotional states so that speech partners can understand the speaker's inner feelings and attitudes.

Table 10 Analysis of Menyambut Speech Acts

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
15	سيداتي سادتي، اصحاب المعالي والسعادة، أسعد الله مساءكم. Welcome from the host to the invited guests who have attended.	Hadirin sekalian yang saya hormati, Yang Mulia, semoga Tuhan memberkati malam Anda	Hadirin sekalian, Yang Mulia, semoga Tuhan memberkati Anda dengan malam yang baik

Data Number 15 in Table 10 contains elements of respect, greeting, and prayer. DeepL and Google Translate successfully convey the general structure and literal meaning of the utterance. However, both translators changed the word Allah to 'Tuhan,' thus failing to preserve the religious and cultural context of the text. Furthermore, both translation engines failed to translate the word *Masā'kum* correctly; both made plural to singular shift in the word *Masā'kum*, which should be 'malam kalian semua.' This finding aligns with the research of Al-Khalifa et al. (2024), who identified that errors in handling plural-single forms remain a common problem in machine translation, particularly in Arabic, which has a complex morphology. Such grammatical errors have the potential to lead to meaning distortion and, therefore, deserve special attention in the development of automatic translation technology.

Then, in terms of structure and diction, there are some differences used. DeepL uses the phrase 'Hadirin sekalian yang saya hormati, Yang Mulia', which reflects a literal approach but still sounds familiar in English. Google Translate uses 'Hadirin sekalian, Yang Mulia,' with a structure that is less common in foreign language greetings. An assessment of acceptability reveals that DeepL's translation appears more natural and closer to the Bsa norm, whereas Google Translate tends to be less contextualized and rigid (Satria et al., 2025). Nonetheless, neither is entirely in line with the official speech style used in Indonesian speech texts.

Greetings have a function as an honor in an event. Although it is often related to greetings, "welcome" and "greeting" are two different things (Sulistyaningrum, 2018). In the perspective of Searle (1979) speech act theory, welcome belongs to the category of expressive speech acts because it expresses the speaker's psychological attitude towards an event or audience, such as respect,

excitement, or support. This speech act plays a crucial role in fostering positive social relationships and reflecting cultural and ethical values within the context of public communication.

Table 11 Analysis of Salam Perpisahan Speech Acts

No Data Findings	SL	DeepL	Google Translate
19	مَعَ السَّلَامَةِ Kalb hung up with the mayor and bid him farewell.	Sampai jumpa.	Selamat tinggal.

In Table 11 above, DeepL translates it as 'Sampai jumpa,' while Google Translate chooses 'Selamat tinggal.' Both translations convey the illocutionary function well and still maintain the meaning that expressive speech acts as a form of farewell—the difference between the two lies in the pragmatic aspects or nuances of use in a social context. The translation of 'Sampai jumpa' from DeepL tends to be used in informal situations or temporary farewells, while 'Selamat tinggal' from Google Translate is more often associated with more formal or permanent farewells. Both DeepL and Google Translate are effective for translating simple, formal, or commonly used phrases, especially in informative or factual contexts (Telaumbanua et al., 2024).

Although the translations produced by Google Translate and DeepL in this data are functionally correct, it is essential to recognize that machine translation serves as a tool in the translation process (Sugiharto & Anshori, 2024). Machine translation is unable to fully capture the social context and emotional nuances that accompany a conversation. In this context, parting phrases not only convey literal messages but also contain elements of politeness, social relations, and level of formality. Therefore, instead of translating briefly as 'Sampai jumpa' or 'Selamat tinggal,' a translation option such as 'Sampai jumpa, semoga keselamatan menyertai Bapak' would better reflect the implicit meaning contained in the phrase *Ma'a ssalāmah* and be more in line with the cultural values in the target language. This aligns with Voita et al. (2021) research, which suggests that machines cannot provide specific and practical information during the translation process and, therefore, cannot pay attention to context.

3.2 Discussion

To strengthen the argument and increase the objectivity of the results, the analysis of accuracy and acceptability scores has been supplemented with descriptive statistics, including the mean and standard deviation (std), for each translation engine and scoring category. The results are summarized below:

Table 12 Average (Mean) and Standard Deviation (Std)

Aspects	DeepL E1	DeepL E2	Google E1	Google E2	DeepL (Acceptability)	Google (Acceptability)
Average (Mean)	1.84	2.68	2.00	2.68	2.37	2.63
Standard Deviation (Std)	0.60	0.58	0.75	0.58	0.76	0.60

Based on the data in Table 12, it can be seen that, in terms of accuracy, rater E2 assigned the same score to both DeepL and Google Translate, which is 2.68. This shows that both translation engines are considered capable of accurately conveying the meaning of expressive speech acts in Arabic into Indonesian. However, evaluator E1 gave a higher score to Google Translate (2.00) than to DeepL (1.84), which indicates that, in E1's view, Google is considered closer to the source meaning than DeepL. This difference in perception between evaluators shows the element of subjectivity in assessing accuracy, especially in data that has implicit or contextual meaning.

Meanwhile, in terms of acceptability, Google Translate obtained an average score of 2.63, higher than DeepL, which obtained a score of 2.37. This result indicates that, in general, Google Translate's translations are considered more natural, by Indonesian language rules, and more easily understood by readers than those of DeepL's. In terms of assessment consistency, all standard deviation values were below 1, indicating that the assessments given by both evaluators were relatively stable. Evaluator E2 showed very high consistency with a standard deviation value of 0.58 for both translation engines. Evaluator E1 exhibited slight variations in his ratings, particularly for Google Translate (0.75), which may be attributed to variations in the quality of specific data.

For acceptability, the standard deviation of DeepL is higher (0.76) than that of Google (0.60), indicating that the perceived acceptability of DeepL translations varies more across data. Overall, the findings show that Google Translate tends to produce more accurate (according to E1) and more acceptable (based on the overall mean score) translations, with a reasonable degree of consistency in ratings from both evaluators. This result supports previous findings that Google Translate is superior in producing translations that are not only meaningful but also sound natural in the target language.

This finding is noteworthy when compared to the results of Noviany et al. (2024), which showed that DeepL outperforms Google Translate in translating English legal texts into Indonesian, both in terms of accuracy (2.2 vs. 1.9) and acceptability (2.4 vs. 1.9) based on Nababan's scale. However, differences in context and text type have a significant influence on the performance of the translation engine. In the context of pragmatic texts such as Arabic expressive speech acts, the results of this study show that Google Translate provides more accurate and acceptable results.

A visualization of the average score comparison can be seen in the Figure 1:

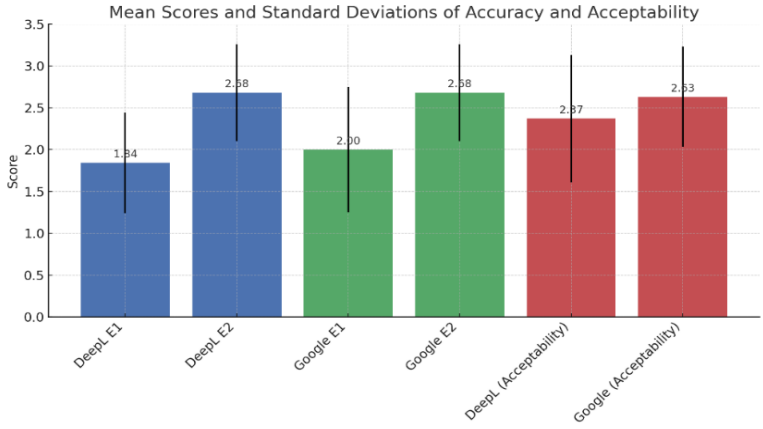

Figure 1. Mean scores of accuracies and acceptability for DeepL and Google Translate

Based on Table 12 and Figure 1 above, the comparison between Google Translate and DeepL in translating expressive speech acts is not only shown quantitatively, but also analyzed in depth to understand the causes of score differences on certain types of speech acts. In the greeting speech act, for example, DeepL tends to translate literally in order to maintain the meaning of the prayer and the original structure, whereas Google Translate chooses a more common greeting equivalent in Indonesian, but removes the religious and cultural nuances. This finding aligns with research results indicating that DeepL excels in preserving literal meaning and cultural context, whereas Google Translate is more adaptable to target language habits, albeit sometimes at the expense of cultural meaning (Noviany et al., 2024).

In the expressive speech act types of gratitude and metaphorical phrases, both engines were able to translate the literal phrases well; however, they failed to capture the connotative and metaphorical meanings inherent in Arabic culture, resulting in a decrease in accuracy and acceptability scores. This is corroborated by research highlighting the major challenges in the translation of idioms, metaphors, and cultural expressions by machine translation, where the translations tend to be literal or lose cultural meaning (Asy-Syimā' & Khalīfah, 2020; Fitriana, 2014; Lisan An Nathiq, 2024).

Meanwhile, in religious expressions such as praise and thanksgiving, DeepL more often retains terms that have been absorbed in the target language. At the same time, Google Translate tends to use generic equivalents that are less appropriate to the cultural and social context. Another study also found that DeepL was more consistent in preserving religious terms and idiomatic expressions, while Google Translate more often made generalizations or adaptations that were less culturally appropriate (Gao et al., 2024).

In addition, in some data, both engines made errors in translating plural to singular or other grammatical aspects. However, Google Translate was slightly superior in adapting the sentence structure to Indonesian customs and thus obtained a higher acceptability score. Grammatical errors, such as changing plurals to singulars or selecting inappropriate word equivalents, have also been documented in previous research, highlighting the limitations of machine translation in capturing the morphological and syntactic nuances of the source language (Chen et al., 2020).

Thus, this analysis confirms that the differences in translation strategies between Google Translate and DeepL are strongly influenced by literal versus adaptive approaches, sensitivity to cultural context, and the ability to capture idiomatic and expressive meanings from the source language to the target language (Noviany et al., 2024; Asy-Syimā' & Khalīfah, 2020).

4. CONCLUSION

This study compares DeepL and Google Translate in translating Arabic expressive speech acts in the *Masameer* animation. The purpose is to determine the quality of both in translating expressive speech acts that are closely related to pragmatics. The results show that DeepL excels in terms of translation accuracy, maintaining the semantic meaning of the source language more precisely, mainly when translating religious expressions and literal phrases. However, the translations tended to lack naturalness and structure in the target language, resulting in a low average score from the expert ratings. On the other hand, Google Translate produces translations that are more readily accepted by Indonesian readers, but often sacrifices the accuracy of meaning, mainly when translating expressive phrases that contain cultural and religious content.

Based on the analysis of the translation of Arabic expressive speech acts, it is evident that the failure of DeepL and Google Translate in translating expressive speech acts is due to their lack of sensitivity to pragmatic and cultural contexts. The translation engine is unable to capture the social and emotional functions of the utterance, such as the implied meaning in religious greetings, expressions of gratitude, or expressions of regret. Common errors found include literal translations of idiomatic phrases and a lack of understanding of the grammatical function of Arabic. This complex language results in failing to capture the metaphorical meaning of source language into target language, as well as the selection of word equivalents that do not fit the context.

This study demonstrates that machine translation has not yet been able to fully replace the role of humans in translating expressive speech acts. The results of this study make an essential contribution to enriching the study of Arabic translation, especially in the pragmatic aspect, which has not been widely discussed in the context of automatic translation. This study also provides input for translation technology developers to consider cross-cultural communication aspects and illocutionary functions in AI-based translation. This study can also serve as a contextualized learning resource in Arabic language teaching, particularly in enhancing students' pragmatic awareness of social and emotional meanings in Arabic utterances.

Due to the limited discussion of expressive speech act variations in this study, it is suggested that the translation of Arabic expressive speech acts be investigated further to reveal more about the topic of Arabic pragmatics. And add the relationship between expressive speech acts and translation. Additionally, this study shows a significant difference between the two experts, making it a fascinating topic for analysis. Again, expressive speech acts are speech acts that are bound by context, so there are different views on the results of this expressive speech act.

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