International Journal of Translation and Interpretation Studies
ISSN: 2754-2602
DOI: 10.32996/ijtis
Journal Homepage: www.al-kindipublisher.com/index.php/ijtis

IJTIS
AL-KINDI CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Translating Resilience: A Study of ChatGPT and Google Translate on Palestinian Idioms from the Gaza Conflict 2023-2025

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| ABSTRACT
This study is primarily designed to evaluate and compare ChatGPT and Google Translate performance in translating Palestinian idioms used during the Gaza 2024 war. It also aims to compare the extent to which accuracy, context sensitivity and adaptability of the two translation tools can maintain cultural and contextual aspects of the idioms which can be challenging for machine translation tools. The researcher uses a qualitative research design and content analysis to examine the translation of 50 idioms selected from Al-Jazeera Mubashir interviews. The idioms were first categorized into socio-religious and social, and further subcategorized based on their context. Depending on their reflection of the source meaning, the translations were categorized as accurate, semi-accurate, or inaccurate. The study results demonstrate that ChatGPT significantly outperformed Google Translate, delivering 70% accurate translations compared to 48%. However, both ChatGPT and Google Translate did not accurately translate idioms containing implicit cultural and contextual meanings. ChatGPT's adaptability is a standout feature which allows users to refine semi-accurate and inaccurate translations through explanation prompts. On the contrary, Google Translate lack of this feature and its static translation limit its ability to accept immediate user feedback and refine translation output. Despite the advancement of the two tools in general and ChatGPT outperformance in particular, human intervention for post-editing purposes remains necessary to ensure translation accuracy. The study puts forward recommendations to integrate ChatGPT into academic and professional translation practices and make optimal use of its adaptability as an interactive feature to improve semi-accurate or inaccurate translations. AI developers can enrich training datasets with idiomatic expressions and propose adaptation mechanisms to promote ChatGPT cultural awareness. Despite the significant progress AI has achieved in translation, human expertise and intervention remain irreplaceable.

| KEYWORDS: idiom, ChatGPT, Google Translate, accurate, context

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

ACCEPTED: 01 May 2025 **PUBLISHED:** 02 June 2025 **DOI:** 10.32996/ijtis.2025.5.2.8

1. Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT and Google Translate have significantly changed the translation landscape by bridging language barriers more efficiently than ever before among speakers of different languages (Almahasees, 2021). Machine translation (MT) and its various platforms provide useful tools for carrying out tasks such as writing, translation, and, more recently, interpretation.

Machine and AI translation tools have significantly advanced and are now better capable of handling different types of texts, be they cultural, religious or social. However, these tools and models may not effectively process cultural and idiomatic expressions because they, in many instances, cannot fully account for the cultural implications and non-literal meanings associated with them. Palestinian idiomatic expressions are known to be rich in cultural, social, and religious references, which can pose challenges to AI translation tools such as ChatGPT and Google Translate. Religious and social expressions used during the Gaza 2023–2024 war can present difficulties for machine and AI translation tools and make their translation particularly challenging.

Because idioms are expressions whose meanings differ from their literal interpretation, their translation has remained problematic for translation systems, which tend to translate such expressions literally (Dankers et al., 2022a). Toral and Way

(2018) explained that inaccurate translations of idioms can lead to incomprehensible translations. In addition, the translation of idioms has posed challenges even prior to the introduction of neural machine translation (Wehrli, 1998), and most of the literature in this field was centered on identifying the problems in different linguistic systems (Baziotis et al., 2023; Dankers et al., 2022b).

Idiomatic expressions can pose a significant challenge for machine translation tools because of their non-literal meanings and cultural references (Liu et al., 2023). Although neural machine translation (NMT) systems such as Google Translate and large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT have shown significant progress in fluency and grammatical accuracy (Toral & Sánchez-Cartagena, 2017), they sometimes cannot account for the semantic intricacies of idioms when translating between different languages. This gap is particularly evident in Arabic-to-English translations, where cultural context plays a critical role in interpreting idiomatic language (El Khoury, 2024).

1.1. Significance of the study

The significance of this study lies in addressing the gap in the literature discussing AI machine translation (MT), focusing on the translation of idiomatic expressions. The huge continuous advancements which ChatGPT and Google Translate achieve in translation enhance their ability to handle the literal and contextual meanings. However, neither tool is yet fully capable of conveying the subtleties of idioms and culture-specific expressions, which point to the challenges this study aims to discuss. Palestinian socio-religious and social idioms used during the Gaza 2023–2025 war present specific linguistic challenges that ChatGPT and Google Translate are not able to effectively address due to the implicit meanings and contextual use of such expressions. Inaccurate translations of the idioms can distort the source meaning and therefore affect cross-linguistic communication.

The present study can be useful to translators and linguists who may be interested in exploring the capabilities and limitations of AI translation tools like ChatGPT and Google Translate. In addition, academics and educators can update their curricula and include materials related to the performance and limitations of these two AI translation tools as well as the crucial role of human intervention. For AI developers, this study points to the need to enhance these translation tools in terms of adaptability and context to improve training datasets.

1.2 Research questions:

1. How does the performance of ChatGPT and Google Translate compare in terms of accuracy when translating culturally rich idiomatic expressions?
2. To what extent does ChatGPT's adaptability feature improve its translation accuracy for idiomatic expressions compared to the static translation approach of Google Translate?
3. To what extent does human intervention in post-editing improve the accuracy and contextual relevance of translations provided by AI tools for idiomatic expressions?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Machine and AI translation:

Machine translation (MT), a subdivision of artificial intelligence, has evolved a lot since it was initially introduced in the middle of the 20th century. The rule-based machine translation (RBMT) models were mostly based on the use of preset dictionaries, linguistic principles, and syntactic frameworks to translate between the various languages. Even though these models were the first major technological breakthroughs in the processing of various types of texts, they were not sufficiently equipped to handle contextual nuances and idioms (Okpor, 2014). The statistical machine translation (SMT) approach, which was introduced in the 1990s, shifted toward data-driven models, which greatly depended on large parallel corpora to find probabilistic patterns. The introduction of the neural machine translation (NMT) approach made a significant shift in machine translation and helped render human-like translations based on deep learning techniques (Li & Chen, 2019). However, Zayed and Nuirat (2024) say that these machine translation models did not completely bridge the gap between human and machine translations.

Idioms, culture, and context continue to pose significant challenges to different machine translation platforms despite the progress achieved in the field, which limits the effectiveness of such platforms (Aldawsari, 2024). Furthermore, lexical relations such as polysemy, ambiguity in grammatical structures, and different syntactic structures continue to make machine translation struggle with expressions the meaning of which differs significantly from their literal meaning and with grammatical structures that can have different interpretations (Okpor, 2014). In addition, Naeem (2023) explained that certain types of texts such as legal, technical, and literary texts are among the texts that can be problematic for machine translation because AI models are not yet equipped with a deep understanding and adaptation. Translation accuracy has witnessed significant improvements thanks to machine translation tools and models. However, these models produce some inaccurate translations that are attributed to insufficient training data, which highlights the need for human editing to address such translation inaccuracies. Therefore, there is a need to make use of machine translation capabilities along with human skills to ensure delivering quality translations (Zayed & Nuirat, 2024).

2.2 Palestinian figurative language:

The importance of studying Palestinian idioms, which are rich in their cultural significance, lies in the important contribution they add to the literature on linguistic and translation studies. They are important for their cultural representation and linguistic uniqueness. Idioms are considered a subcategory of figurative language and "have been considered derivative from and more complex than ostensibly straightforward literal language" (Glucksberg, 2001, p. 5). There is abundant literature on Palestinian figurative language, particularly metaphors, proverbs, and idioms, focusing on the discussion of linguistic or translation topics. Examples of studies on proverbs include Isleem (2005), Zibin and Altakhaineh (2014), Aqil (2016), Assi and Odeh (2020), and Thawabteh and Mohammed (2021). There are also studies on metaphors relating to Palestine, such as Rahmouni (2024), Sharaf Eldin (2024), Harrison (2024), and Alessandrini (2024). In the context of the current paper, below are some examples of studies on Palestinian idioms.

Zeyad et al. (2022) conducted a study to examine the applicability of Baker's 2018 approach to translate Palestinian women's idioms from Arabic into English. Fifteen Palestinian women's idioms were presented to certified Palestinian translators to render them into English. The translators mainly used three strategies: literal translation, paraphrasing, and omission.

Abu Rahma (2018) examined the impact of using a context-based approach in translating idioms of distress, resilience, and wellbeing (IDRW) on producing effective renditions from Arabic into English. The researcher adopted a comparative analytical methodology and textual analysis to analyze the translations of 43 IDRW on the Gaza 2014 war collected from the electronic archive of *Palestine Today*, *Wafa*, the *Palestinian Information Center*, *Quds Net News*, *Noon* Post, and *Lives Under the Rubble* published by the Ministry of Information–Gaza. The idioms were divided into context and out-of-context categories and were afterwards given to two groups of experienced translators. The analysis demonstrates that Palestinian IDRW are based on religious and social values. The translators who translated IDRW out of their context largely depended on literal translation, while the second group of translators adopted modulation to translate the idioms.

Alsattari (2019) categorized and analyzed Palestinian idioms of distress, resilience, and wellbeing in the context of the war against Gaza in 2014. The researcher adopted Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach and Halliday's transitivity analysis to determine the extent to which the use of such idioms reflects contexts of war and culture. The data were collected from local and international news agencies covering the Gaza 2014 war. The study found that idioms of distress, resilience, and wellbeing prevailed in communities affected in Gaza during the summer of 2014 in the religious, socio-economic, and patriotic contexts. The study recommends focusing on linguistic studies of idioms because they reflect reality.

Despite the wealth of research papers on Palestinian idioms, proverbs, and metaphors focusing on linguistic, translation, and literary topics, there seems to be a significant gap in the academic literature related to the use of AI translation tools such as ChatGPT. This AI tool has proved to be effective in various academic works and has the potential to offer accurate translations and context interpretation; however, there is a shortage of academic research on its potential and the challenges it faces when handling Palestinian idioms, which are considered culturally specific. This paper is primarily designed to fill the gap in this field and to provide insights to linguists, translators, educators, researchers, and AI developers who may be interested in the findings of this study.

2.3 Previous studies

The ongoing and significant technological advancement in AI and MT has made cross-linguistic communication easier. Despite The ongoing and significant technological advancement in AI and MT has made cross-linguistic communication easier. Despite these advancements, the translation of idiomatic expressions has remained a constant difficulty for various machine translation platforms because these expressions can reflect meanings which vary from their literal meaning. There are continuous improvements in neural machine translation (NMT) systems and advanced tools like ChatGPT in terms of handling translated texts. However, they still cannot fully convey idiomatic phrases compared to human translators. A number of recent studies have looked into the strengths and limitations of AI translation.

Toral and Sánchez-Cartagena (2017) conducted a study on the accuracy of NMT and compared the results to those of phrase-based machine translation (PBMT). The researchers used translations from advanced systems evaluated in the WMT16 translation task. They aimed to assess performance across nine language pairs from four language families. Similarity, reordering, sentence length, fluency, and error analysis related to word inflection and word choice were adopted in the study. The researchers applied human and automatic evaluation measures, such as BLEU scores and perplexity. Besides that, they performed finer analyses with such tools as chrF1 and Kendall's tau distance. They discovered that the NMT model was superior to PBMT in terms of fluency and reordering. However, NMT was not adequately prepared to deal with longer sentences. The research advised optimizing the NMT model to work well with longer sentences and improve word choice accuracy.

Koehn and Knowles (2017) explained the issues of NMT in relation to SMT. The six difficulties that were identified were domain mismatch, lack of sufficient training data, handling long sentences, word alignment, and the shortcomings of beam search decoding. The research took examples from the empirical assessment of English, Spanish, and German associated sets of information. The study results proved that NMT was more effective than SMT with rare words, but it was not effective with

longer-sentence texts. To overcome these challenges, the researchers proposed the improvement of NMT with the help of domain adaptation and decoding methods.

Liu, et al. (2023) described the way in which the non-literal meaning of idioms may create difficulties for MT, which requires addressing these difficulties to guarantee the production of proper translations. This is because the translation of idioms needs a lot of knowledge and comprehension of the original cultural and linguistic subtleties. The study analyzed approximately 4,000 sentences containing idioms in French, Finnish, and Japanese, employing a synthetic experimental model to assess the reliability of idiomatic translations produced by MT systems. The paper concludes by recommending giving priority to training loss for idiomatic expressions and using retrieval models to improve the translation of idioms. The results demonstrate that there was a significant improvement in the level of accuracy of idiomatic translation.

El Khoury (2024) assesses the ChatGPT level of accuracy when translating thirty selected Arabic proverbs and slang expressions to account for culture and context factors. The researcher explained that the translation of such Arabic proverbs can be challenging because of culture, region, and context, which AI models are not yet ready to deal with. In the first phase of the study, the researcher used ChatGPT 3.5 with the prompt "Translate the following Arabic proverb into English taking into consideration its cultural context." In the second phase, Google Translate was used to translate the same selected sentences. The researcher classified the translations produced by ChatGPT and Google Translate as: 11 accurate (37%), 16 inaccurate (53%), and 3 examples (10%) reflecting ChatGPT outperformance. The study concludes that using ChatGPT in the classroom to teach Arabic proverbs can enrich vocabulary and improve cultural awareness and critical thinking. However, this model should be used together with traditional teaching methods to account for context and ensure accuracy.

Li and Chen (2019) used Google Translate, Baidu Translate, Microsoft Translate, and Youdao Translate to assess machine translation in terms of efficiency, operating mode, and condition. The researchers selected a text from the first passage of Chinese-English translation in *Model Test and Analysis for Translation Level 2* published by Foreign Languages Press to be used for the China Accreditation Test for Translators and Interpreters (CATTI). The assessment method adopted a "6-4" model proposed by Xiao (2012). Information accuracy has a 6-point scale, with 6 exactly the same as the original and 1 not the same as the original. Expression style has a 4-point scale, with 4 as a clear statement and 1 as no syntactic structure or missing statement. The results of the study show that Google Translate performed better than the other three translation tools. In addition, the four machine translation tools reflected higher speed and better handling of complex grammatical structures. However, their performance in relation to handling idiomatic expressions was not satisfactory. The researchers recommend post-editing to ensure good output quality.

Mohsen (2024) assessed the level to which Google Translate can be effective when compared to ChatGPT 3.5 and 4. The data consisted of translating 20 abstracts extracted from the *Journal of Arabic Literature* and *Al-Istihlal Journal*, which are peer-reviewed journals indexed in the Clarivate Web of Science. The evaluation criteria were the semantic integrity, syntactic coherence, and technical adequacy of the output of the translation. The quantitative and qualitative analyses show that ChatGPT 4 delivered better results than ChatGPT 3.5 and at the same time outperformed Google Translate. Moreover, ChatGPT 4 was better contextually and stylistically aware.

The paper by Alkhawaja (2024) studies the efficiency of the utilization of ChatGPT as a tool for English–Arabic translation. The primary goal of the author was to evaluate the quality of ChatGPT's translation in comparison with Google Translate. Moreover, the study also seeks to determine the extent to which the translation efficacy of ChatGPT can be dissimilar to human translations. In order to carry out the research, the researcher selected 1000 English sentences and the Arabic translations of these sentences. They were chosen from the open online platform Tatoeba and were evaluated electronically with the BLEU (Bilingual Evaluation Understudy) metric. The results indicate that ChatGPT was slightly better than Google Translate, and this reveals the superior translation capabilities that ChatGPT incorporates. However, the researcher points out that machine and AI translation platforms cannot outperform human translations in different contexts.

Al-Salman and Haider (2024) conducted a study to evaluate Google Translate, Gemini, and ChatGPT accuracy when used to translate multidisciplinary Arabic research titles in the Humanities and Social Sciences into English. The study aims to assist researchers in identifying which tool delivers better translations of their research titles. The analysis demonstrated that the three tools produced various meaning and sentence structure errors. Gemini was more accurate in terms of grammar and vocabulary.

Işım & Balcioglu (2023) evaluated ChatGPT focusing on translation prompts and translation performance. The researchers selected a total of 50 paragraphs consisting of Turkish educational paper texts consisting of 3050 words. The study indicates that ChatGPT was effective in the translation of the fifty paragraphs. Furthermore, the evaluation of the translation shows that ChatGPT can potentially become a dependent translator and demonstrated a high level of accuracy in translation.

Yilmaz et al. (2023) explained that there are risks that artificial intelligence (AI) tools bring to human employment, particularly for translators. The researchers wanted to identify the translation capabilities of ChatGPT and the neural network-based translation system. The findings of their study show that these technologies work on fewer translation tasks requiring analytical translation as opposed to emotional or cultural translation.

Khoshafah (2023) used different text genres in order to compare human translation to ChatGPT's translation and to find out to which level ChatGPT can be accurate when translating English and Arabic texts. The results showed that ChatGPT can only

interpret straightforward settings that require human intervention. This stresses the importance of human intervention when using this AI tool to translate texts requiring human intervention to assess the output translation and ensure its accuracy.

Obeidat and Jaradat (2024) conducted a study which aimed to identify Google Translate and ChatGPT inaccuracies when translating resistance literature. The data relate to two translations of Ghassan Kanafani's Arabic short story "Until We Return." While ChatGPT was used to render one of the translations, Google Translate was used to translate the second. The scholars took both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies in studying these two translations. The research indicates that Google Translate demonstrated seven out of twelve tendencies, which covered 114 cases of deformation. The translation of ChatGPT had nine tendencies, which covered 197 cases. The most common tendency was rationalization, and there were 41 cases (36% of all cases). The researcher indicated the finding of destruction of rhythm in 12 cases (10%). The research paper ends with a conclusion that human translators are required to ensure that the emotion that is inherent in the source text is well taken into consideration. Moreover, the sophisticated technologies, which AI models incorporate, do not overlook the necessity of human skills in translation. Besides, one has to consider other translation methods for resistance literature and maintain the quality of the original text to consider the voices of the oppressed and marginalized.

Considering the research gaps mentioned above, the given study will utilize the qualitative research approach and content analysis to examine the performance of ChatGPT and Google Translate in terms of comparing their performance when applied to the task of translating idiomatic expressions. Accuracy, context sensitivity, and adaptability are meant to be evaluated in the methodology section below.

3. Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research design in addition to content analysis to compare ChatGPT and Google Translate translations of Palestinian idioms into English. This qualitative approach suits the purposes of this research which aims to analyze the selected idioms and their translations.

3.1 Data Collection

Al-Jazeera Mubasher, one of the world's most widely watched news channels in the Arab world and beyond, is the only source of the publicly available data that were collected from interviews with Palestinians experiencing the Gaza war in 2024. For the purposes of the study, only idiomatic expressions with cultural references were selected.

3.2 Procedures:

The study examines ChatGPT and Google Translate translations of the collected idioms. First, idioms with cultural references were selected from the videos. Second, the idioms were categorized into socio-religious and social categories. In addition, the two categories were further subcategorized according to the contextual usage of the idiomatic expressions. Third, ChatGPT and Google Translate renderings of the selected idioms were divided into accurate, semi-accurate, and inaccurate. The criterion for assessing the translation accuracy here lies in the extent to which the translations reflect the source meaning. In addition to accuracy, the translations were assessed to determine how far they reflect context sensitivity and adaptability. Explanations were provided to ChatGPT to refine semi-accurate and inaccurate translations to highlight the adaptability of this continuously evolving AI translation tool.

3.3 Anonymity:

The researcher does not know the people interviewed by Al-Jazeera Mubasher and does not provide any personal or identifiable information about the interviewees.

3.4 Study Delimitations:

- Data collection source: the data used in this study were exclusively collected from Al-Jazeera Mubasher.
- Time: the study analyzes idioms that were selected from videos dated 2024.
- Type of data: only idioms were selected for the current study.
- Translation tools: only ChatGPT and Google Translate were selected for the study.

The following section offers a detailed analysis of ChatGPT and Google Translate translations, highlighting accuracy, inaccuracies, context sensitivity, and adaptability.

4. Analysis:

The table presents the percentages of ChatGPT and Google Translate accurate, semi-accurate and inaccurate translations of 50 Palestinian idiomatic expressions used in Gaza 2024 war.

	ChatGPT	**%**	**Google Translate**	**%**
Accurate	35	70%	24	48%
Semi-accurate	6	12%	4	8%
Inaccurate	9	18%	22	44%

4.1 Category (1): Socio-religious expressions

Table (1.1): Prayers for protection and relief

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
1.	يا رب استرنا	1. Oh Lord, protect us
		2. Oh God, cover us
2.	الله يفرجها علينا يا رب	1. Oh Lord, relieve us of our burdens
		2. May God make it easy for us, Lord
3.	يا رب تدينا الصبر والايمان	1. Oh Lord, grant us patience and faith
		2. O Lord, give us patience and faith
4.	يا رب تعوض علي فيك يا حبيبي	1. Oh Lord, let me find solace in You, my beloved
		2. May God compensate me for you, my love
		3. O Lord, grant me solace and reward for the loss of my beloved son, a martyr.
5.	يا رب داخلة عليك	1. Oh Lord, I entrust this matter to You
		2. Oh God, I am entering upon you

Examples of Arabic idiomatic expressions (1–5) are social and religious prayers used during hardships, as in the Gaza 2024 war, to seek divine protection, relief, and patience. Examples 1, 2, and 3 were accurately translated by ChatGPT and Google Translate. In example 4, a woman was making a prayer to Allah to give her patience and reward her for the loss of her son as a martyr. The Arabic word فيك, literally "in you," refers to her son, but ChatGPT misinterpreted the word as referring to the Lord, while Google Translate used "for you." حبيبي means "my beloved" and also refers to her son, who was a martyr. ChatGPT and GT rendered it without making a clear reference to this implicit meaning, which is context dependent. A command prompt explaining the implicit meaning and structure of the expression was entered into ChatGPT, which produced an accurate translation. Example 5 is used when someone is in dire need of protection and help. The idiom was accurately rendered by ChatGPT, but GT was not able to account for the meaning.

Table (1.2): Prayer for praise and gratitude

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
6.	حمد الله على السلامة	1. Praise be to Allah for safety
		2. Thank God you are safe
7.	الله يصبحكم بالخير	1. May Allah give you a good morning
		2. Good morning
8.	كنا نايمين في رعاية الله	1. We slept under Allah's protection
		2. We were sleeping in God's care
9.	يا رب ارضى عن محمد	1. Oh Lord, be pleased with Muhammad
		2. O God, be pleased with Muhammad

Examples 6-9 are idiomatic expressions with transparent meaning reflecting prayers for praise and gratitude. Both ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered the four expressions accurately. However, Google Translate did not make a reference to God in example 7; however, the translation can still be accepted.

Table (1.3): Prayer for divine retribution

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
10.	الله ينتقم منهم	1. May Allah take revenge on them
		2. May God take revenge on them
11.	يا رب بعظمتك وقدرتك تفرجينا عجائب قدرتك فيهم	1. Oh Lord, with Your greatness and power, show us Your wonders upon them
		2. O Lord, by your greatness and power, show us the wonders of your power in them
		3. Oh Lord, with Your greatness and power, show us the wonders of Your might in punishing them.
12.	الله يدوقهم النار إلي دقناها	1. May Allah make them taste the fire we have tasted
		2. May God make them taste the fire that we have burned
		3. May Allah make them experience the suffering we have experienced

Table (1.3) presents 3 examples of idiomatic expressions that are used as prayers for divine retribution. While ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered expression (10) accurately, they rendered examples 11 literally and inaccurately, which led to losing the implicit meaning related to prayer for divine retribution. An explanation of the intended and implicit meaning was entered into ChatGPT, which rendered an accurate translation in 11.3. ChatGPT rendered a literal semi-accurate translation in 12, while Google Translate rendered an inaccurate translation. The word النار, literally "fire," refers to the Palestinians' suffering that was caused by the Israeli army, the implicit meaning of which was not accounted for. Additionally, Google Translate rendered an opposite meaning, showing that the Palestinians themselves caused the suffering. In 12.3, the meaning was explained to ChatGPT, which then rendered an accurate translation.

Table (1.4): Patience and faith

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
13.	الله يصبركم	1. May Allah give you patience
		2. May God give you patience
14.	يصبر قلبي	1. May my heart find patience
		2. My heart is patient
15.	ما الهم غير الله	1. They have no one but Allah
		2. I have no concern but Allah
16.	رحمة الله على روحه	1. May Allah's mercy be upon his soul
		2. May God have mercy on his soul

Examples 13–16 are idiomatic expressions reflecting prayers for patience, faith, and mercy. ChatGPT rendered the four Arabic expressions accurately into English and reflected the source meaning. While ChatGPT rendered the four expressions accurately, Google Translate rendered only two (13 and 16). The source expression in 14 is a prayer asking Allah for patience, which Google Translate inaccurately rendered as an answered prayer. The expression in 15 means that Allah is their only supporter, the meaning of which was not accounted for by Google Translate.

Table (1.5): Martyrdom idioms

No.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
17.	الشهيد حبيب الله	1. The martyr is beloved by Allah
		2. Martyr Habib Allah
18.	بده الشهادة والله نوله إياها	1. He wanted martyrdom, and by Allah, he was granted it
		2. He wants a certificate, I swear to God we will give it to him
		3. He wanted martyrdom, and Allah granted it to him
19.	نلتقي فيهم في جنان النعيم	1. We will meet them in the gardens of bliss
		2. We meet them in the gardens of bliss
20.	رحت للأحسن مني	1. You have gone to someone better than me
		2. I went to someone better than me
21.	طلبها ونالها عبد الله	1. Abdullah sought it and attained it
		2. Abdullah asked for it and got it
22.	بزف في عرس ابني	1. I'm celebrating at my son's wedding
		2. I am going to my son's wedding
		3. I am bidding farewell at the wedding of my martyred son
23.	ربي يشفعني فيه في الجنة	1. May my Lord allow me to intercede for him in Paradise
		2. May God intercede for me in heaven
		3. May my Lord allow him to intercede for me in Paradise.

The idiomatic expressions 17–23 reflect faith, spiritual conviction, and an acceptance of martyrdom. In example 17, ChatGPT rendered an accurate translation, while Google Translate did not because it transliterated two words (beloved by Allah). Example 18 means that the martyr wanted martyrdom and Allah granted it to him. ChatGPT rendered a semi-accurate translation and misinterpreted the meaning of و, literally "and," as an article used for swearing. In 18.3, ChatGPT was prompted with the explanation, which helped produce an accurate translation. While ChatGPT rendered an accurate translation of 19, Google Translate rendered a semi-accurate translation because it did not account for the future tense implied in the source text. Example 20 means that the martyr went to Allah, who is better than humans. This meaning was accurately rendered by ChatGPT. Google Translate used the pronoun "I," which completely changes the meaning from a martyr going to Allah into a speaker himself saying that he went to Allah.

ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered an accurate translation of example 21. In example 22, a mother is saying that she is celebrating the farewell procession of her son, who is a martyr. Socially, Palestinian martyrs' mothers perceive the final

farewell as a wedding procession. ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered semi-accurate translations because they did not make reference to martyrdom. In 22.3, ChatGPT was prompted with the implicit meaning, and an accurate translation was therefore rendered. In 23, Muslims believe that martyrs intercede for their families on the Judgment Day. Both ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered inaccurate translations. While ChatGPT's translation reflects that the mother is the one who intercedes, Google Translate's translation reflects that God intercedes. In 23.3, ChatGPT was prompted with the explanation, which helped produce an accurate translation.

4.2 Category (2): Social Terms

Table (2.1): Grief and Loss

N.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
24.	آخر مرة بدي اشوفه وحيدي	1. It's the last time I want to see him, my only son
		2. The last time I want to see him alone
25.	ابني راح	1. My son is gone
		2. My son is gone
26.	مع السلامة مع رفة كل طير سارح	1. Farewell, with the flutter of every wandering bird
		2. Goodbye with the flutter of every wandering bird
27.	مع السلامة يا مسك فايح	1. Goodbye, oh fragrant musk
		2. Goodbye, Musk Fayeh
28.	حرقوا قلبي عليه	1. They broke my heart over him
		2. They burned my heart for him
29.	شقى العمر راح	1. A lifetime's toil is gone
		2. The hardship of life is gone

Examples 24–29 are social idiomatic expressions used to reflect grief and loss. While ChatGPT rendered all the expressions accurately, Google Translate rendered two semi-accurately (24, 27) and one inaccurately (29). All the expressions were translated accurately using ChatGPT. In 24, the Arabic word وحيدي means my only son, which Google Translate misinterpreted as 'alone.' In 27, مسك فايح, which means fragrant musk, was inaccurately rendered as a transliteration. However, the main part of the source, goodbye, was rendered accurately. In 29, شقى, which means toil, was inaccurately transliterated by Google Translate, which caused a complete loss of meaning.

Table (2.2): Hardships

N.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
30.	احنا لمين نشكي همنا	1. To whom do we tell our troubles?
		2. Who do we complain to about our problems?
31.	العالم عم بيتفرجوا علينا	1. The world is watching us
		2. The world is watching us
32.	أنا ما ليش دخل في الي صار	1. I have nothing to do with what happened
		2. I have nothing to do with what happened
33.	ايش دخل الأطفال	1. What do children have to do with it?
		2. What does it have to do with children?
34.	بعيد عنكم ناقص الزبالات يفتشوا فيها الناس	1. Far from you, people are searching through the trash
		2. Far from you, there is no more garbage for people to search through
		3. May God keep mischief away from you, the only thing remaining for people to do is search through trash cans.
35.	طلعوني بطولي	1. They let me go alone
		2. They made me look tall
		3. They let me leave with nothing but myself.
36.	كانوا يشلحو الزلام في الطريق	1. They used to strip men on the road
		2. They were pulling the strings on the road
37.	الحلابة	1. The taker
		2. Milking
38.	والله ما الهم بحاجة	1. By Allah, they are in no need
		2. I swear I don't need anything
		3. By God, they have nothing to do with it.
39.	يا وردي علي	1. Oh, the weight on me
		2. Oh my rose
		3. Oh, the woe upon me

The idiomatic expressions 30–39 express the hardships that the Palestinians are experiencing due to the ongoing war in Gaza. Examples 30–33 were accurately translated using ChatGPT and Google Translate. In example 34, بعيد عنكم is a shortened form of بعيد الشر عنكم, which literally translates as "May God keep mischief away from you." The phrase was literally and inaccurately translated into English by ChatGPT and Google Translate as "far from you." The word ناقص, meaning the only thing remaining, was not translated into English by ChatGPT. However, it was translated as "there is no more" by Google Translate. الزبالات, literally meaning trash cans, was translated as "trash" and "garbage" by ChatGPT and Google Translate. Therefore, ChatGPT's and Google Translate's renderings of this example are inaccurate. Example 34.3 is ChatGPT's accurate translation after explaining the source meaning.

The expression طلعوني بطولي in 35 means that the Israeli army let a man leave the area alone without any belongings. While ChatGPT's translation was semi-accurate because it did not account for the word "belongings," Google Translate rendered the same expression inaccurately. 35.3 is ChatGPT's accurate translation after explaining the source meaning to ChatGPT. The expression in 36 was accurately rendered by ChatGPT; however, Google Translate rendered an irrelevant meaning. الحلابة in example 37 refers to the metal detector that is used to check if people who pass through it carry any metals. The term was inaccurately translated as 'the taker' by ChatGPT and 'Milking' by Google Translate. Example 38, which means that the people who were killed do not have any political affiliations, was inaccurately translated as 'they are in no need' by ChatGPT and 'I don't need anything' by Google Translate. 38.3 is ChatGPT's accurate translation after being provided with the explanation of the source meaning. The expression يا وردي علي in 39, which means 'What a woe upon me', was inaccurately translated into English as 'the weight on me' by ChatGPT and 'Oh my rose' by Google Translate. 39.3 is ChatGPT's accurate translation after explaining the source meaning.

Table (2.3): Steadfastness

N.	Expression	**ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2**
40.	مش حنسيبها – قاعدين فيها	1. We're not leaving – we're staying here
		2. We won't leave it - we are staying in it
41.	احنا صامدين	1. We are steadfast
		2. We are steadfast
42.	احنا وهوا فداء للوطن	1. He and we are sacrifices for the homeland
		2. We and him are a sacrifice for the homeland
43.	كلنا شهداء مع وقف التنفيذ	1. We are all martyrs waiting
		2. We are all martyrs with a stay of execution

Expressions 40–43 express the steadfastness of the Palestinians experiencing the war in Gaza. These expressions convey a sense of steadfastness, determination, and the will to protect the Palestinian land and are accurately translated by ChatGPT and Google Translate.

Table (2.4): Family expressions

N.	**Expression**	**ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2**
44.	بكري يما كبيري يما	1. My eldest, oh mother, my eldest
		2. My dear, my dear
45.	يا عمي احنا هينا طالعين	1. Oh uncle, we're heading out
		2. Oh uncle, we are going out
46.	قوم يمه البسك الترينق الجديد	1. Get up, mom, put on the new tracksuit
		2. Come on, I'll put on your new tracksuit
		3. Get up, mom, let me put the new tracksuit on you.
47.	هي اطلع العيال	1. Take the kids out
		2. She took the kids out
		3. Here, look at the kids and wife.

The social idiomatic expressions 44–47 are family expressions. While ChatGPT rendered three accurate translations (44, 45, 46) and one inaccurate translation (47), Google Translate rendered two accurate translations (45, 46) and two inaccurate translations (44, 47). ChatGPT 's translation of 46 is semi-accurate, and there is a need for a minor correction to properly reflect the word البسك, literally meaning "I put the tracksuit on you." The source text means that the mother wants to put the tracksuit on her son, while the English translation reflects that the mother is asking her son, who is a martyr, to put on the tracksuit, which reflects a structural and semantic inaccuracy here. 46.3 is ChatGPT 's accurate translation of the expression after explaining the source text structure. The Arabic expression هي اطلع العيال in 47 literally means 'look at the wife and kids' and was inaccurately translated into English as 'take the kids out' by ChatGPT and 'She took the kids out' by Google Translate. 47.3 is ChatGPT 's accurate translation of the expression after explaining the source meaning.

Table (2.6): Support

N.	Expression	ChatGPT 1, Google Translate 2
48.	لو خيمة دبرولنا	1. If only they would arrange a tent for us
		2. If you had a tent, they would have fixed it for us
49.	أنا الزلمة والمرة إلهم	1. I am both man and woman to them
		2. I am the man and the woman is theirs
		3. I am everything to them, both man and woman.
50.	ويطل على الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة بنظرة	1. He looks at disabled people with a certain view
		2. He looks at people with disabilities with a look
		3. I want him to provide support to people with disabilities.

Table (2.6) presents examples relating to seeking or providing support. While ChatGPT rendered 48 accurately and conveyed the source meaning, Google Translate rendered an inaccurate translation with a completely different meaning. In 49, a woman was saying that she became the only supporter of the family after her husband was killed. ChatGPT rendered an accurate translation in 49.3 after explaining the meaning. ChatGPT rendered a literal semi-accurate translation, while Google Translate rendered an inaccurate translation. ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered inaccurate translations of example 50. In 50.3, the source meaning was explained to ChatGPT, which then rendered an accurate translation.

The analysis and findings highlight how ChatGPT and Google Translate performed when translating the Palestinian idiomatic expressions. The following discussion adds to the findings by focusing on capabilities, adaptability, and limitations.

5. Discussion:

The paper took a comparative analysis approach, where it compared the performance of ChatGPT and Google Translate in translating 50 Palestinian idiomatic expressions related to the war in Gaza (2023–2025) in 2024. The discussion of the research demonstrates that ChatGPT was superior to Google Translate in terms of context and cultural sensitivity. Moreover, the analysis of the data indicates that ChatGPT provided 35 correct translations (70 percent) in comparison with 24 (48%) by Google Translate. The semi-accurate translations were 6 (12%) and 4 (8%) for ChatGPT and Google Translate respectively. ChatGPT, on the other hand, made 9 incorrect translations (18%) out of 50 translations (100%), and Google Translate made 22 incorrect translations (44%).

ChatGPT reflected superior accuracy when accurately translating the selected Palestinian idiomatic expressions, which highlights its capability of retaining literal meaning, contextual meaning, and cultural significance. When considering prayers for praise and gratitude like حمدا لله على السلامة "Praise be to Allah for safety," we can see that both ChatGPT and Google Translate rendered accurate translations. However, ChatGPT revealed a better contextual understanding of examples like يصبر قلبي "May my heart find peace," ما الهم غير الله "they have no one but Allah," and كانوا يشلحوا الزلام في الطريق "they used to strip men on the road." ChatGPT was able to render accurate translations of these examples and accounted for their contextual meaning without being prompted with explanations. However, Google Translate did not account for the contextual meaning and, therefore, rendered contextually irrelevant translations for the previous examples and other additional examples explained in the analysis section.

Another interesting aspect that the comparative analysis highlights is context adaptability, which enables ChatGPT users to add explanations for certain texts. Using this ChatGPT standout feature helps produce accurate translations of expressions which were rendered semi-accurately or inaccurately due to the lack of source text explanation. For example, this feature helped produce an accurate translation of الحلابة (metal detector), which was inaccurately rendered by ChatGPT and Google Translate. This ChatGPT interactive feature, which Google Translate lacks, can help refine semi-accurate translations and fix inaccurate translations in order to capture meaning subtleties. Google Translate does not allow user feedback and provides static translations, which do not allow any improvements. This can lead to less accurate translations that are contextually irrelevant

Semi-accurate and inaccurate translations point to the need for human intervention to ensure improvement, which can lead to accurate translations. For example, ChatGPT literally rendered "الله يدوقهم النار إلي دقناها" into "May Allah make them taste the fire we have tasted," which demonstrates certain loss of the contextual impact of the idiom, which relates to the Palestinians' suffering. Google Translate rendered a completely inaccurate translation due to the literal meaning and target text structure issues. Although ChatGPT outperformed Google Translate in many instances, it struggled with some expressions, the translation of which heavily depends on implicit cultural meanings. For example, ChatGPT inaccurately rendered " يا رب تعوض علي فيك يا حبيبي" as "Oh Lord, let me find solace in You, my beloved" because it misinterpreted the second person pronoun ك in the word "فيك" ("in you") as referring to Allah (You) rather than her son, who was a martyr. This indicates that ChatGPT offers advanced capabilities compared to Google Translate. However, there is a need for human intervention to refine semi-accurate as well as inaccurate translations to accurately retain cultural meanings.

Recommendations:

Despite inaccuracies, ChatGPT is considered an advanced AI translation tool which reflects better understanding of context compared to Google Translate. In addition, ChatGPT adaptability presents it as a significant AI translation tool for students, academics, and professionals.

Translators can make use of ChatGPT adaptability to provide context for opaque expressions. This unique feature saves translators' time when entering explanations along with the text to ensure accuracy. However, human post-editing remains important to ensure textual accuracy. In addition, academics and educators can design courses by incorporating ChatGPT in translation courses to familiarize students with its advanced features and usability in translation. This can improve students' understanding of AI translation tools and improve their skills by properly adopting these tools in their work.

Technically, AI specialists and developers can train ChatGPT datasets by enriching them with idiomatic expressions and incorporating user feedback to improve translation accuracy. In addition, it is important to provide real-time adaptation mechanisms that can help this AI tool infer cultural references. It is also necessary to encourage users to provide explanation prompts to refine the translation output. Despite these suggested recommendations, human intervention through post-editing translated texts remains important to ensure the highest translation quality possible.

Funding: This research received no external funding.
Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.
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