

LINGUISTIC BRIDGE
ACROSS TIME:
AI EXPLORES
MOTZU'S CLASSICS

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AGENDA

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- ChatGPT and analysis and discussion
- Discussion and conclusion



INTRODUCTION

- ChatGPT
- Machine Translation
- Motzu
- AI Translation

Linguistic Bridge Across Time: AI Explores Motzu's Classics

Senior Project, Fall 2023

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1. Introduction

1.1 ChatGPT

Since November 30, 2022, the launch of the ChatGPT, the world has changed in a way which no one has expected. ChatGPT has more than one million users in only five days, 1.8 billion users currently. One of the most important functions which attracts people is its capability of language. Simply type in one text from another language than your mother tongue and it simultaneously generates a logical and meaningful text of yours. However, Chinese is always considered one of the most difficult languages in the world, ancient Chinese characters are even more difficult without any doubt. It is challenging for anyone to translate ancient classic Chinese books into English, because accuracy, and appropriateness are the feat of translating from English to Chinese for two biggest challenges for non-native Chinese readers who are interested in understanding and learning Chinese classics. Thus, the rise of ChatGPT brings hope, access, and convenience to render wisdom, written thousands of years ago to non-native Chinese language users.

1.2 AI and Machine translation

A crucial part of AI translation is machine translation. The machine translation is to do language translation through assistance of computer programs. In her article, "Machine Translation for Academic Purpose in the Proceedings of the International Conference on TESOL and Translation 2009", Grace Hui-Chin Lin mentions that machine translation

MOTZU AND HIS GLOSSAR Y

- Core philosophy of Motzu
- Overview of Motzu

MOTZ U

兼愛(universal love): To love others like one love oneself. To love another country like loving one's own country.

非攻(condemnation of offensive war): Be opposed to war. Opposing unjust wars of aggression, plunder, and conquest. Support righteous wars of self-defense and retribution.

尚賢(exaltation of the virtuous): Select the virtuous and the capable for the society. Oppose the monarch's appointment based solely on nepotism.

尚同(identification with the superior): Advocate for unity and harmony.

節用(economy of expenditures): Oppose extravagance and wastefulness. Promote a modest and frugal lifestyle.

節葬(simplicity in funerals): Oppose prolonged mourning and lavish funerals.

天志(will of heaven): Acknowledge the volition of the heavens. Anyone who defies the divine will face retribution.

明鬼(on ghosts): Have faith in the supernatural's ability to reward virtue and punish wrongdoing. It is believed that **on ghosts** is a means employed to caution and dissuade monarchs from capricious actions.

非樂(condemnation of music): Oppose recreational activities. Primarily oppose musical pursuits. **condemnation of music and simplicity in funerals** are to denounce the detrimental effects inflicted upon society by Confucianism.

非命(anti-fatalism): Refute the notion of predetermined fate, Advocate for subjective efforts and endeavors. It might be considered a contradictory concept to the concept of **ghosts**, but here it means people can change their social status by their own effort.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Original text

ChatGPT translation

ChatGPT professional translator
set

3. ChatGPT and Analysis and Discussion

The following text is from Universal Love I (兼愛 上篇)

3.1 Original text: Sage

聖人以治天下為事者也，必知亂之所自起，焉能治之，不知亂之所自起，則不能治。

ChatGPT translation: The sage , when undertaking the governance of the world, must understand the origins of chaos. Only by knowing where chaos arises from can it be governed. If one does not know the origins of chaos, then it cannot be governed.

ChatGPT professional translator set: The sage, in his pursuit of governing the world, must possess knowledge of the origins of chaos. How can one bring about order if they are unaware of its sources?

Analysis: The word sage is used in both translations, 聖人 means wise men. It is because Motzu believes that a country should be governed by a man who has a very high standard of wisdom and morality, so the sage here refers to a certain character of Motzu's ideal. During the Zhou Dynasty, blood ties were highly valued, and nepotism was frequently practiced. Hence, he repeatedly emphasized the concept of virtuous individuals. And there is

3.7 Original text: Ruthlessness

雖父之不慈子，兄之不慈弟，君之不慈臣，此亦天下之所謂亂也。父自愛也不愛子，故虧子而自利；兄自愛也不愛弟，故虧弟而自利；君自愛也不愛臣，故虧臣而自利。是何也？皆起不相愛。

(ChatGPT translation): Similarly, when parents do not love their children, when older siblings do not love their younger siblings, when rulers do not love their ministers, that is also what we call chaos in the world. When parents, driven by self-interest, do not love their children and exploit them, when older siblings, driven by self-interest, do not love their younger siblings and exploit them, when rulers, driven by self-interest, do not love their ministers and exploit them, what is the reason behind it all? It is all due to the absence of mutual love.

(ChatGPT professional translator set): Likewise, when a father does not love their child, an elder sibling does not love their younger sibling, and a ruler does not love their subjects, it is also considered chaos in the world. When a father, out of self-love, does not love their child, they harm the child for their own benefit. When an elder sibling, out of self-love, does not love their younger sibling, they harm the sibling for their own benefit. When a ruler, out of self-love, does not love their subjects, they harm the subjects for their own benefit. Why is this so? It is all because of the absence of mutual love.

SUMMARY

4. Discussion and Conclusion

In the analysis section, it is clear that the outcomes of both versions are very close to the original text, both are quite accurate and relatively easy to read and understand than some other Chinese classics. However, it is obvious that AI makes mistakes when translating some Chinese characters that which are rarely used in modern days. Overall, the professional version is closer to the original text, and it is possible that the normal version can create a slightly misunderstanding, but generally it still corresponds to the original meaning.

In summary of the translation and analysis within the article, AI has developed a considerable proficiency in translation, capable of conveying the meaning of a significant portion of classical literature. Although it currently lacks the ability to contextualize the translation based on the social context and historical background of the time, it can process and produce texts with a relatively high degree of precision. ChatGPT is a mature and qualified tool to provide non-native speakers with a basic understanding of classical literature, such as Motzu in English language.

THANK YOU