

Law Students' Perception of AI in Legal Document Translation: Opportunities and Challenges

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Abstrak: Di era sekarang ini, AI telah mempengaruhi semua aspek kehidupan, bahkan dalam dunia penerjemahan. Penelitian ini penting dilakukan karena penggunaan AI dalam penerjemahan dokumen hukum dapat mempercepat proses penerjemahan. Dalam penelitian ini, para peneliti tertarik untuk menyelidiki persepsi mahasiswa hukum terkait AI dalam penerjemahan dokumen hukum. Penelitian ini menelusuri persepsi mahasiswa hukum terkait manfaat dan tantangan penggunaan AI dalam penerjemahan dokumen hukum. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif, dengan pengumpulan data melalui wawancara terhadap 2 orang mahasiswa hukum. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan metode analisis tematik. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa mahasiswa hukum menganggap AI sebagai alat yang bermanfaat untuk menerjemahkan dokumen hukum karena efisiensi dan aksesibilitasnya, tetapi sangat diperlukan tinjauan manusia untuk memastikan keakuratan kontekstual dan kepatuhan terhadap standar hukum. Untuk penelitian selanjutnya, disarankan untuk menambahkan jenis legal dokumen dari bidang yang berbeda dan lebih spesifik dalam meneliti aplikasi AI yang digunakan.

Kata kunci: Persepsi, Penerjemahan, Hukum, AI

Abstract: In this era, AI has influenced into all aspects of life, even in the world of translation. In this research, the researchers are interested in investigating law students' perceptions related to AI in legal document translation. This research is important because the use of AI in the translation of legal documents can speed up the translation process. This study examines the benefits of using AI in legal document translation according to law students and challenges in using AI in legal document translation according to law students. This study uses a qualitative study method, by conducting interviews with 2 law students. The data was analyzed using thematic method of analysis. In this study, the findings is law students perceive AI as a beneficial tool for translating legal documents due to its efficiency and accessibility, but emphasize the necessity of human review to ensure contextual accuracy and adherence to legal standards. For future research, it is recommended to add different fields of legal documents and be more specific in examining the AI applications used.

Keywords: Perception, Translation, Law, AI

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INTRODUCTION

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in language translation has revolutionized the way human communicate across languages. AI translation tools are able to provide more accurate and contextual translations than traditional methods by utilizing machine learning algorithms and natural language processing (NLP). This technology allows users to overcome language vocabulary barriers and improve efficiency and accessibility in global communication. According to Untara and Setiawan (2020), Google Translate has very promising benefits. AI in language translation also plays an important role in

enriching and preserving minority languages, as well as expanding the reach of digital content to a wider audience, thus creating a more connected and inclusive world.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) is a computer system that can do jobs that generally require human labor or human intelligence to complete a job. Artificial Intelligence-mediated communication (AI-MC) is interpersonal communication in which an intelligent agent acts on behalf of the communicator by changing, augmenting, or generating messages to achieve communication goals (Hancock, Naaman, & Levy, 2020). AI requires data to become smarter, just like humans that need study to become smarter. AI learn by itself based on AI experience when used by humans.

The definition of translation in English is a process of transferring meaning or message from the source language to the target language. Hatim and Munday (2004) define translation as the process of transferring written text from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL). They emphasize translation as a process. This process involves finding the equivalent meaning of the original text and transforming it into a text that can be understood by readers in the target language. The translator must understand the meaning intended by the original author and ensure that the target meaning should be equivalent to the source meaning, so the process is not only about changing words or sentence structures, but also about preserving the original meaning and ensuring that the resultant text can be well understood by readers in the target language.

The use of AI in legal document translation has become highly relevant in recent years, especially in the context of globalization and international communication. Even when using AI assistance, a translator must understand the meaning of certain technical terms in order to choose the right words that are easy to understand in the target language (Febryanto, Sulyaningsih, and Zhafirah (2021). AI can help in the legal document translation process by improving accuracy and efficiency. AI algorithms can understand the context and nuances of complex languages, such as laws and regulations, resulting in more accurate translations. AI can also speed up the translation process, allowing legal documents to be used immediately without a long wait. Keep in mind that AI cannot fully replace human expertise in legal document translation, as manual adjustments and verifications are still required to ensure the accuracy and validity of translations.

Perception is a psychological process that involves interpreting and processing sensory information from the surrounding environment into a subjective experience. According Slameto (2010) perception is a process that involves the entry of information into the human brain. Student perception refers to how students process and understand information provided by teachers or other learning resources. This process involves the selection, organization and interpretation of information, and is influenced by factors such as prior experience, knowledge and student motivation. Student perception plays an important role in effective learning and influences how students understand and apply the concepts learned

Research by Muravev (2020) explored the use of machine translation and legal technology in legal translation training, highlighting how these technologies can assist in the training of legal translators. Zalikha (2024) examined the accuracy and acceptance of DeepL Translate in translating legal documents, finding that while there are advantages in accuracy, there are still challenges in the acceptance aspect. Malbog et al. (2022)

developed MEDSCANLATION, an AI based scanner and translator for doctors' medical prescriptions, which demonstrated the effectiveness of AI in specific translation but not in legal context. Ubhayawardhana and Hansani (2023) evaluated the effectiveness of using Google Translate in legal translation with an focus on specific documents from the General Registration Department, finding that Google Translate has limitations in handling complex legal nuances. Nataraj et al. (2023) developed an AI-Chatbot for legal documents, demonstrating the potential of AI in providing legal document-related services through chatbots.

However, none of these studies specifically addressed law students' perceptions towards the use of AI in legal document translation. While previous studies have focused on the effectiveness and accuracy of AI technologies in legal translation or AI applications in non-legal contexts, this study will fill the gap by exploring how law students perceive the use of AI in legal document translation. This paper aims to find out law students' perceptions of the use of AI in legal document translation, including the benefits they get and the challenges they face. Their perceptions are important to understand as law students are the future practitioners who will interact directly with this technology in the future.

METHOD

This study employed a qualitative approach to gather in-depth insights into the perceptions of law students regarding AI in legal document translation. According to Creswell and Poth (2018), qualitative research methods are particularly effective for exploring complex phenomena and gaining detailed insights into participants' experiences and perspectives. Data collection method is semi-structured interviews. Semi-structured interviews allowed for flexibility in exploring specific areas of interest while maintaining consistency across interviews.

The participants for this study were two students from 8th semester and 6th semester which were selected from top universities with reputable law programs. Specifically, we targeted law students who has taken international law courses and was assigned to translate legal documents. This selection criterion ensures that the participants have a foundational understanding of the topic, making their insights particularly valuable for the study. According to Young and Smith (2021), engaging students with specific interests and experiences in technology provides a more accurate reflection of informed opinions within the academic context.

The qualitative data collected through interviews and focus groups were analyzed using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a flexible and robust method for identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns within qualitative data, making it suitable for this study (Braun & Clarke, 2019). This method involved coding the data to identify key themes and patterns related to the opportunities and challenges of AI in legal document translation as perceived by law students. Thematic analysis helped in organizing and interpreting the data systematically, providing a comprehensive understanding of the participants' views.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter presents the result and findings of the research and discuss their broader implications within the context of existing literature. To find out about the use, the benefits, and the challenges in the use of AI in translating some legal documents, two interview sessions was conducted with two university students. There are several questions provided to the students regarding the use of AI in the translating documents. After the interview sessions, here are some of their answers:

Do you use AI in your daily life?

Both students A and B stated that yes they are using AI in their daily life. They use AI mostly for school related subject.

"AI tools are helpful for doing my projects and translation works. And AI can provide me with instance law cases, which is a time-saver for me" - Student A

"I use AI to help me translation documents such as google translate to help me translate documents as they help to make sure it is accurate." - Student B

Do you ever use AI to translate any legal documents?

Both of the students stated that they did use AI to translate any legal documents. Because English is not their first language and they don't use English on their courses daily, it is pretty difficult for them to translate the documents. usually the documents they translated are related to international legal law. For example, law related to business between two company, which one of them is from abroad country. therefore, they practiced to translate the legal documents. It was found that AI translation can be quick and relatively accurate. however, the drawbacks are that the students have to review and reread the legal documents again to ensure that the translation given meets the standard and the accuracy of the original sentences.

Student A stated that he only use AI to translate any documents in the international law or business law because it is the only classroom where he used english. because he took criminal law as his sub-interest in the course where he will continuing to study about laws related to any criminal cases. Student A stated that in criminal law classes, they don't use English because bahasa indonesia is required. therefore he doesn't use AI to translate any documents.

On the other hand, student B took the islamic economic law course and business law courses as her sub-interest. she stated that in some of her courses, she had to translate some documents into english. the AI that was usually used is usually google translate, quillbot, grammarly, and chatgpt. Google translate and quillbot help to translate the texts from bahasa indonesia into the english language, while grammarly is to check the accuracy of the grammatical structure, and chatgpt is mostly use for doing a research. such as a law case, articles, or sections of the law.

What do you think is the benefits of using AI in translating documents?

Both students stated that the efficiency of AI in translating so many paragraphs and sentences is the benefits in utilizing AI translator. using AI could save time instead of doing it manually. Thus, the consistency in the use of the legal terms also can be beneficial for the accuracy and integrity of the documents.

"Using AI is also very easy to access and most of them are free to use" - Student B

What are the challenges in using AI to translate legal documents?

Even though using AI has many beneficial features, but there are still some obstacle in utilizing AI for translating legal documents. The translation of the targeted language sometimes is not the right context within the first language. it can happen because AI may lack the ability to have the concept of a certain legal context. Therefore there might be ambiguities in the language where it is the correct translation but not the accurate context. Hence, because of this the post-editing or review after using the AI is still needed. The review is often done by human translator to ensure that the translation context is meet with the the necessary legal standard.

What do you suggest for the students who use AI to translate legal documents?

It is important to use the AI tools that have been provided to use the time effectively. AI translation also important for students to have the grasp of the targeted language and to understand it better. But it is important to note that the human translator or the reviewing part is still required to ensure that all the documents are correct and accurate.

Discussion

The result of the interview with the two university students provided some importance information about the use of AI in translating legal documents. Both of the students like the efficiency and easy access AI provides and often use it for their academic tasks. Including the time-saver AI do with the translation, it can also provide translations and relevant cases which can help them save lots of time. The main problem of utilizing AI is that sometimes it doesn't provide the appropriate context of the translation. Therefore, the post editing and review is needed in the end.

Additionally, the students' experiences highlight the importanceof combining AI with human expertise, especially in areas where precise language and contextual accuracy are required. The interviews indicate that while AI can be a valuable asset for initial translations and research, it must be supplemented by thorough human review to meet the required legal standards. Thus, students are encouraged to use AI for its efficiency and consistency but must be cautious in reviewing and refining AI-generated translations to ensure they are reliable and accurate.

The interview responses show that both students, despite their different legal specializations, consider AI an essential tool in their studies. Student A, focusing on international and business law, and Student B, specializing in Islamic economic law and business law, both depend on AI tools to overcome the linguistic challenges in their coursework. AI helps them bridge the gap between Bahasa Indonesia and English by providing initial translations that they can then fine-tune. This demonstrates that AI is an effective preliminary tool, streamlining the initial stages of translation and research.

However, students also emphasize the importance of human reviewer in the translation process. AI tools like google translate or quillbot are efficient to translate but often missed the legal context or nuance of the source language. This process is a crucial because it can reduce some mistakes to meed the standard required for legal documents. Hence, while AI can help to save time in the translation process, human expertise still remains essential to verify the translations.

The interviews underscore a balanced approach to using AI in legal translations. While AI tools offer significant benefits in terms of efficiency, consistency, and accessibility, they are not without their limitations. Students are encouraged to use AI as a supplementary tool, taking advantage of its speed and convenience, but always complementing it with careful human review. This hybrid approach ensures that the final translations are both accurate and contextually appropriate, maintaining the high standards required in legal documentation. As AI technology continues to evolve, its role in legal translation will likely expand, but the importance of human expertise will remain indispensable.

CONCLUSION

This research highlights the dual role of AI in the translation of legal documents as both a powerful tool and a supplementary aid. The interviews with the university students demonstrate that AI significantly enhances efficiency and accessibility, particularly in academic settings where quick and consistent translations are often required. However, the findings also underscore the limitations of AI, particularly in its ability to accurately capture the nuances and context-specific details inherent in legal language. While AI can serve as an effective preliminary translator, the necessity of human oversight remains clear. To ensure the accuracy, integrity, and legal compliance of translated documents, a thorough review and refinement process by human translators is indispensable. Moving forward, as AI technology continues to advance, its role in legal translation is likely to expand, yet it will always need to be complemented by human expertise to achieve the high standards required in the legal field. This balanced approach will allow both AI and human translators to contribute their strengths, leading to more accurate, efficient, and reliable legal translations.

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