# Code of Ethics for the use of AI in Translation

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*Abstract: The development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has brought significant changes to the field of translation, offering ease and efficiency in the translation process. However, its use raises various ethical issues that need to be regulated through a clear code of ethics. This study discusses the **Code of Ethics for the Use of AI in Translation**, encompassing key principles such as accountability, transparency, privacy, fairness, and cultural respect.The code of ethics aims to optimize AI's potential while minimizing negative impacts, such as algorithmic bias, loss of cultural meaning in translations, and the declining role of human translators. Through literature reviews and case studies, this research recommends steps such as regular AI system audits, human-AI collaboration, and compliance with data privacy laws. By implementing this code of ethics, the use of AI in translation is expected to operate responsibly, support linguistic diversity, and uphold professional standards in the field of translation.*

*Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Code of Ethics, Translator.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology has significantly impacted various fields, including the world of translation. AI enables the translation process to become faster, more efficient, and more affordable, reaching users on a global scale. AI-powered translation tools such as Google Translate and DeepL have become practical solutions for individuals and organizations requiring translation services in a short amount of time. However, alongside the benefits offered, various ethical challenges demand serious attention. One major issue in the use of AI for translation is algorithmic bias, which can affect the accuracy and fairness of translation results. Additionally, user data privacy and sensitivity to cultural contexts are often overlooked. AI-generated translations also tend to lack the linguistic and emotional nuances typically captured by human translators. This raises concerns about the diminishing role of humans in the translation profession.

In this context, the existence of a code of ethics for the use of AI in translation becomes an urgent necessity. This code of ethics aims to provide ethical guidelines that ensure the responsible, fair, and professional use of AI. Thus, AI not only serves as a tool to expedite the translation process but also supports linguistic diversity and respect for cultural values. This study aims to examine the key principles of the code of ethics for the use of AI in translation, including accountability, transparency, privacy, fairness, and cultural sensitivity. Furthermore, this research seeks to identify strategic measures to

address potential ethical risks, such as system audits, collaboration between humans and AI, and compliance with applicable regulations. Through this approach, the ethical and sustainable use of AI in the field of translation can be realized.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive method to explore and analyze ethical principles in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for translation. The research begins with a literature review of relevant sources, including scholarly journals, books, research reports, and policy documents, to identify existing ethical principles, challenges, and recommendations in a global context. Secondary data is then collected from case studies and documents discussing the impacts of AI on translation, such as algorithmic bias, data privacy issues, and cultural sensitivity. The collected data is analyzed using content analysis to identify key themes related to the code of ethics for AI use and to evaluate proposed mitigation strategies. Based on the findings, the study formulates a draft code of ethics that includes principles such as accountability, transparency, privacy, fairness, and cultural respect, serving as a guideline for AI developers, service providers, and users. To ensure validity, the findings are compared with insights from experts in AI technology, linguistics, and ethics through additional literature reviews or informal interviews. This comprehensive method aims to develop a practical framework for ensuring the ethical and responsible use of AI in translation.

## 3. RESULST DAN DISCUSSION

### The History of Translation

The history of translation spans thousands of years, beginning with the translation of ancient texts such as the Bible and classical Greek and Latin literature. The Middle Ages marked a significant period of advancement, particularly through Arab scholars who translated Greek works, thereby preserving and disseminating knowledge. The Industrial Revolution and the globalization of the 19th and 20th centuries transformed translation practices, particularly for legal, scientific, and technical documents. These developments necessitated more precise and specialized translation techniques. By the late 20th century, the emergence of machine translation introduced a technological shift in the field, providing new tools to support human translators. Modern translation integrates cultural, linguistic, and technological aspects, with an emphasis on accuracy and relevance across various contexts. As translation evolved, scholars identified four key periods in its history.

The foundational period, influenced by figures like Cicero and Horace, established early theories of translation. A notable milestone during this era was Livius Andronicus' translation of Homer's Odyssey into Latin around 240 BC, which enriched Roman literary culture and provided access to Greek texts.

One of the most significant topics in translation history is the translation of the Bible, which has been rendered into numerous languages since the 7th century. The process has produced various versions and sparked debates regarding the choice of source texts. Translations like the King James Version have profoundly influenced the English language and literature. The methods used in translation have also evolved over time. Two primary approaches are formal equivalence, which prioritizes fidelity to the source text, and dynamic equivalence, which focuses on conveying meaning and context in the target language. These approaches often reflect the challenges faced by translators in balancing the structure and meaning of the source material. For example, Bible translations showcase this dichotomy, with some opting for word-for-word renderings while others prioritize accessibility and readability for the audience. In contemporary practice, translation is a collaborative process that involves teams of experts working to ensure cultural sensitivity and linguistic precision. Literary translation, in particular, has benefited from advancements that allow for richer and more diverse expressions. Translators today must navigate complex cultural and linguistic nuances while utilizing technological tools to enhance their work. Despite the availability of machine translation, human oversight remains essential to ensure accuracy and cultural appropriateness.

**The Importance of the Code of Ethics in AI Translation**

The integration of AI in translation, especially through tools like machine translation (MT) and AI-based translation assistants, has revolutionized the industry. These tools offer speed, cost-effectiveness, and scalability that human translators alone cannot match. However, as AI becomes more prevalent, the role of human translators is being challenged, which raises important ethical concerns. The potential for errors whether technical, linguistic, legal, or cultural—becomes more pronounced. This makes adherence to a Code of Ethics in AI-assisted translation even more critical. Here's an explanation of why a strong ethical framework is necessary. First, AI and the Reduction of Human Roles. While AI tools enhance translation processes, they also reduce the demand for human translators in certain areas, particularly for routine, general, or large-volume translations. However, relying solely on AI can lead to the

Loss of Nuance: AI tools, even advanced ones, can miss the subtleties, emotions, and cultural nuances present in the source text. Literary, legal, or medical translations demand a depth of understanding that machines struggle to replicate. Professional translators are still necessary to ensure that these subtleties are accurately conveyed. Quality Control: Even though AI systems can produce translations quickly, they can still generate inaccurate or culturally inappropriate translations. Human translators must review and edit AI-generated translations to ensure the quality, accuracy, and appropriateness of the final output. Without professional oversight, the risk of poor-quality translations increases, undermining trust in the service. Ethical Responsibility: AI systems are trained on vast amounts of data, which may include biased or problematic language. A professional translator ensures that the AI does not perpetuate harmful stereotypes or errors by identifying and rectifying them. Ethical oversight is essential in preventing the AI from replicating biases present in its training data. Second, The Risk of Serious Consequences from Translation Errors. Even small translation errors can lead to significant consequences, especially in critical areas like law, healthcare, or international diplomacy. This highlights the importance of an ethical framework to guide AI-assisted translations. Some of the potential consequences include:

Legal Implications: In legal settings, a minor mistranslation can alter the meaning of a contract, court ruling, or agreement, leading to legal disputes, financial losses, or even legal liabilities. For example, in a contract, misinterpreting a clause or using an incorrect legal term can have far-reaching consequences. Social and Cultural Impact: Mistranslations in sensitive cultural or social contexts can lead to misunderstandings, offense, or damage to reputation. For instance, AI-generated translations that don't account for cultural sensitivity could perpetuate stereotypes, create diplomatic tensions, or alienate target audiences. Medical and Health Risks: In medical translations, errors can lead to catastrophic outcomes. Misinterpreting medical terminology, dosage instructions, or patient history could result in incorrect treatments, adverse reactions, or even death. AI systems that aren't supervised by professionals in healthcare-related translation contexts are especially prone to this risk. Security and Privacy Concerns: AI tools processing sensitive data (such as personal health or financial information) can expose clients to data breaches or violations of privacy laws (such as GDPR). Without human oversight, AI systems could mishandle or misuse sensitive data, leading to legal and reputational damage.

**Collaboration Between Humans and AI in Translation**

Given the risks associated with AI in translation, the future of the industry should emphasize collaboration between human translators and AI, where each complements the other. While AI offers speed and efficiency, humans provide crucial oversight, cultural expertise, and contextual understanding. This combination can be highly effective if approached ethically. Human supervision is essential, as even the most advanced AI systems are prone to errors, especially in complex or high-stakes translations. Professional translators can identify mistakes, cultural missteps, or subtle inaccuracies that AI may overlook. AI should be viewed as a tool to assist human translators, not as a replacement. While AI can enhance productivity, the translator's expertise remains indispensable for ensuring accuracy and appropriateness. Human adaptability and critical thinking also play a key role; unlike AI, translators can resolve ambiguities, make judgment calls, and select culturally appropriate equivalents for idiomatic expressions, where AI might offer literal translations.

**Adhering to Ethical Principles in AI-Assisted Translation**

To address the challenges of AI in translation, a Code of Ethics is crucial. Ethical principles ensure that AI-generated translations are accurate, reliable, and contextually appropriate. Human oversight is necessary to verify the quality of translations, preventing errors that could have serious legal or medical consequences. Transparency is also vital; clients must be informed when AI tools are used in the translation process, allowing them to understand the roles of both AI and human translators. Accountability remains with the human translator, ensuring the final output meets professional standards. Furthermore, AI systems may perpetuate biases, making it essential for human translators to address any discriminatory language or stereotypes in AI-generated translations. Data security is another key concern, with translators responsible for adhering to data protection regulations to safeguard sensitive information. Lastly, cultural sensitivity must be maintained, as AI might not capture the nuances of different cultures. Human translators ensure that the final translations respect cultural contexts, particularly in fields like marketing and localization, where cultural insensitivity can have negative consequences. The integration of AI in translation offers significant potential, but it is critical that human expertise and ethical considerations remain central to the process. By combining the efficiency of AI with the oversight and judgment of human translators, the translation industry can maintain accuracy, cultural relevance, and ethical integrity.

**The Principles of Ethics in AI-Based Translation** a

Are crucial to ensure that translation practices, assisted by technology, maintain integrity and high quality. One of the main principles is confidentiality, which refers to the obligation to protect sensitive information from unauthorized access. In the context of translation services, translators are responsible for safeguarding the data they handle, whether it be personal, medical, legal, or business-related. This includes protecting against unauthorized access and ensuring that the information is used solely for the purposes authorized by the client. Similarly, in the AI context, confidentiality focuses on protecting personal data processed by the system. Users should be clearly informed about how their data is processed, stored, and used, ensuring that it is only utilized for the intended and consented purposes. Another essential principle is responsibility for quality in translation. While AI tools can speed up the translation process, human translators still hold the responsibility to verify and ensure the accuracy and context of the final translation. Translators must correct errors that may arise from AI's limitations in understanding nuances of language, idioms, or cultural connotations. Human responsibility also includes ensuring that the translation remains relevant to the context and original intent of the source text, as well as maintaining high-quality output to prevent errors that could have significant consequences, especially in fields like law or medicine where precision is critical.

Lastly, transparency is an important principle in the implementation of AI in translation services. Clients have the right to know how AI is involved in the translation process, from the use of machine translation tools to the editing performed by human translators. The use of AI in translation should be disclosed openly, including explaining the level of human involvement in reviewing and correcting translations. This transparency not only helps manage client expectations but also ensures that clients understand who is responsible for the final outcome and how their data is processed. In this way, these ethical principles serve as a foundation for creating a safe, accurate, and accountable AI-based translation environment. Second, Responsibility for Translation Outcomes. Transparency also involves clearly defining who is ultimately responsible for the quality of the translation, especially when AI is involved. This includes:

**Non-Discrimination in AI-Based Translation**

Non-discrimination is a critical ethical principle in both human and AI-driven translation. It ensures fairness and inclusivity, protecting against bias, stereotypes, and

discrimination in the translation process. AI systems, trained on large datasets from a variety of sources, can unintentionally reflect inherent biases present in the data. These biases may manifest in AI-generated translations in several ways, such as gender bias, cultural stereotypes, racial bias, and age bias. For example, AI systems may continue to use male pronouns for professions like "doctor" or "engineer" due to the predominance of male references in training datasets, or they may perpetuate harmful cultural stereotypes through incorrect or insensitive translations.

**The Role of Human Translators in Mitigating Bias**

Human translators have a crucial role in identifying and mitigating biases that may appear in AI-generated translations. They must review AI outputs carefully, ensuring that the language used is free from gender assumptions, racial stereotypes, or other forms of discrimination. Additionally, translators must ensure that the final product is culturally sensitive and contextually appropriate, especially when dealing with content that may involve marginalized or sensitive communities. This includes using inclusive language and respecting the diverse cultural norms of the target audience, avoiding translations that might inadvertently offend or marginalize specific groups.

**Efforts to Combat Bias in AI Training**

While human translators play an essential role in addressing biases in translation output, efforts are also being made to reduce bias in AI systems at the development stage. AI developers are working to identify and mitigate biases in training data, ensuring that datasets represent a diverse range of cultures, genders, and social groups. Regular audits and updates to the training models, along with techniques like adversarial debiasing, help ensure that AI systems make decisions without amplifying societal biases. Ethical guidelines focused on non-discrimination should be followed by AI developers and translation service providers to prevent AI tools from perpetuating inequalities or harming marginalized communities.

**Ethical Responsibility of Translators**

Translators have an ethical responsibility to avoid perpetuating discrimination or bias, regardless of whether the translation is generated by AI or created entirely by humans. They must ensure that the translated content respects all groups, avoiding language that could reinforce harmful stereotypes or discrimination. Furthermore, translators should

strive to produce accurate, culturally sensitive translations that consider the diverse identities and experiences of the people represented in the text. By actively engaging with tools and resources designed to detect and mitigate bias, translators can contribute to a translation process that is fair, inclusive, and ethical.

Non-discrimination is essential in both human and AI-driven translation to ensure that the final translated content is fair, inclusive, and free from harmful biases or stereotypes. AI systems, due to their training data, may inadvertently reflect societal biases, but human translators play a crucial role in identifying and correcting these biases. By reviewing AI-generated translations, promoting inclusive language, and ensuring cultural and social sensitivity, translators can mitigate the risk of perpetuating harmful stereotypes and contribute to a more equitable and responsible translation process. Ultimately, both AI developers and human translators share the responsibility for ensuring that translation work does not reinforce discrimination or bias, but instead supports fairness and inclusivity across all cultures and communities.

**Honesty and Integrity in Translation**

Honesty and integrity are the foundational ethical principles that guide the work of translators. These principles demand that translators remain faithful to the meaning, intent, and tone of the original text, ensuring no distortion or alteration. Upholding these values is critical for maintaining client trust, preserving translation quality, and ensuring the profession's ethical standards. Translators must ensure that every translation accurately conveys the original message, without adding or omitting details, and without changing the core meaning of the text. This includes several key considerations: First, Maintaining the Meaning and Intent of the Original Text. Translators are responsible for conveying the exact meaning of the source text, which includes preserving the context, tone, and author's intent. Altering these elements even slightly can lead to serious misunderstandings or misinterpretations. For example, in specialized fields like legal or medical translation, even a small inaccuracy can lead to significant consequences.

Translators must avoid altering the facts, terminology, or instructions that could compromise the accuracy and integrity of the text. Furthermore, respecting the author's intent is crucial, especially in literary or creative translations, where emotional nuances and stylistic choices must be maintained. Second, Not Altering for Technical Convenience or Efficiency. While technical constraints like word limits, deadlines, or format requirements may pressure translators to streamline their work, these considerations

should never come at the expense of accuracy. Simplifications or omissions that make the translation easier to process could result in misleading information, especially in technical, medical, or legal contexts where precision is essential. Translators should never take shortcuts that could alter the original meaning or omit vital details simply for convenience or speed.

Third, Honesty in Cultural Adaptation. While certain cultural adaptations may be necessary for the translation to resonate with the target audience, these changes should never compromise the core meaning of the original text. Translators may adjust idiomatic expressions or cultural references to ensure relevance but must avoid changing the substance of the message to fit cultural expectations. For example, replacing an idiomatic expression with a culturally relevant equivalent is acceptable, but inventing new content or modifying the original message is dishonest. Fourth, Adhering to Ethical Standards. Translators are bound by a code of ethics that emphasizes truthfulness, transparency, and respect for the original work. They must ensure that they do not manipulate or alter the text for personal gain or to align with a particular agenda. If translators are unsure about specific translation decisions, they should communicate openly with clients to ensure the translation stays true to the original content.

Fifth, Professional Reputation and Trust. Honesty and integrity are vital for building long-term professional relationships. A translator who consistently delivers accurate and faithful translations earns the trust and respect of clients and colleagues. Conversely, altering meanings for convenience risks damaging one's reputation and misleading clients, which can ultimately harm the profession's credibility.

**Data Security in Translation**

Data security is a paramount concern in the translation industry, especially when handling personal or sensitive information. With the increasing reliance on digital tools, including AI-assisted translation, ensuring that client data is securely managed and protected from unauthorized access or misuse is crucial. Translators are ethically and legally responsible for safeguarding client information, especially under regulations like the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Europe. Here's a detailed approach to ensuring data security in translation: First, Protecting Personal Data and Sensitive Information. Translators regularly handle documents containing personal data (e.g., names, addresses) and sensitive information (e.g., medical, legal, or financial records). It is essential to ensure confidentiality throughout the translation process. This includes

encrypting sensitive data during transmission and storage, limiting access to authorized individuals, and securing physical copies of documents in locked storage. Second, Complying with Data Protection Regulations (e.g., GDPR). Translators must adhere to data protection regulations like the GDPR when processing personal data. This includes ensuring that personal data is processed legally, with a valid reason (such as client consent or fulfillment of a service agreement). Translators must also respect clients' rights to access, correct, or erase their data, and report data breaches within 72 hours to the relevant authorities. It is crucial to work with third-party service providers who comply with these regulations, including cloud storage providers or machine translation tools.

Third, Implementing Secure Practices in AI-Assisted Translation. As AI-driven tools are increasingly integrated into translation processes, there are additional security concerns. Translators must ensure that the AI tools they use comply with data protection laws, ensuring that sensitive data is not misused or shared without the client's consent. Using secure platforms and anonymizing data, where possible, helps protect sensitive information from breaches. Fourth, Transparency with Clients. Clients should be informed about the measures taken to secure their data. Translators should clearly explain how data is handled, stored, and protected throughout the translation process, especially when dealing with sensitive or personal data. Transparency fosters trust and reassures clients that their data is handled securely and in compliance with relevant data protection regulations.

**Ethical Challenges in AI-Based Translation**

The use of AI in translation presents several significant ethical challenges that require careful attention. Balancing accuracy with AI's potential for bias is one such challenge. While AI can provide fast translations, it often lacks the nuance and contextual understanding needed for accuracy, especially in complex cultural contexts. AI systems are also prone to inherent biases, which can skew translations, leading to misinterpretations or reinforcing harmful stereotypes. Additionally, Accountability for Translation Errors is a major concern. Determining responsibility for errors in AI-generated translations—whether it lies with the human translator overseeing the process or the developers of the AI system—is still unclear. Establishing clear guidelines regarding roles and responsibilities is essential to ensure accountability in the translation process. The Potential Misuse of AI also raises ethical concerns. AI-powered translation tools could be used for unethical purposes, such as spreading misinformation or manipulating public

opinion. To mitigate these risks, both translators and developers must ensure that AI-generated translations are used responsibly and do not contribute to harm or deception.

**References for the Code of Ethics in Translation**

Several established codes of ethics and regulations guide the ethical use of AI in translation. The International Federation of Translators (FIT) provides ethical guidelines that emphasize responsible technology use in translation. Similarly, the American Translators Association (ATA) upholds a code of ethics focused on professionalism and integrity. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) offers important guidelines on securing client data, especially in AI-assisted translation. Additionally, books like Translation and Technology by G.S.K. Venkateswaran (2021) explore the transformative impact of technology on translation, providing valuable insights into both its benefits and ethical

## 4. CONCLUSION

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the field of translation offers significant benefits such as efficiency, speed, and accessibility. However, the application of AI also presents various ethical challenges that must be addressed to ensure its responsible and fair use. This study highlights the importance of a code of ethics for AI use in translation, emphasizing key principles such as accountability, transparency, privacy, fairness, and cultural sensitivity.Through literature analysis, secondary data collection, and thematic evaluation, this research identifies major risks, including algorithmic bias, privacy violations, and the potential loss of cultural meaning in translations. To mitigate these risks, measures such as regular AI system audits, collaboration between humans and AI, and compliance with data privacy regulations have been recommended. The proposed code of ethics aims to create a balance between the benefits of technology and ethical values, while supporting sustainability and inclusivity in translation practices. By implementing this code, it is hoped that the use of AI in translation will not only be an efficient technological solution but also preserve linguistic diversity, respect cultural values, and adhere to professional standards.

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