

Translation Variances across Online Tamil News Platforms in Malaysia

Gomathi Batumalai, Manimangai Mani, Veeramohan Veeraputhran

Department of Foreign Language, Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2025.903SEDU0070>

Received: 22 January 2025; Accepted: 30 January 2025; Published: 04 March 2025

ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify and address translation issues in Malaysian Tamil online news platforms, with a focus on improving accuracy and reducing the spread of misinformation. The study is based on Peter Newmark's Translation Theory (1988), which provides a framework for analyzing translation accuracy and effectiveness. The research employs a text analysis method to examine translated content from various Malaysian Tamil online news platforms. The findings indicate that many translations on these platforms are inaccurate compared to the source text, leading to the dissemination of false information. The study highlights the challenges faced by translators and emphasizes the need for careful and precise translation to maintain the credibility and impact of news content across different language communities. The study suggests the importance of improving translation practices in media to ensure accurate communication and prevent the spread of misinformation. This research provides valuable insights into the quality of media translations in the context of Malaysian Tamil news platforms, contributing to the broader understanding of translation accuracy in digital media.

Keywords: news, Tamil, Malaysia, online, translation, accuracy

INTRODUCTION

The role of translation within the media is crucial, as it helps connect different languages and cultures, making a wide range of content accessible to global audiences. This applies to various areas like news, entertainment, and advertising. Precise translation guarantees that messages remain authentic when crossing borders. Media translation goes beyond linguistic accuracy, encompassing cultural awareness to convey subtle meanings and uphold context. Whether it's providing subtitles and dubbing for movies or adapting websites and social media platforms, effective translation in media promotes comprehension and eases cross-cultural interaction. In our highly interconnected world, it stands as a potent instrument that amplifies voices, nurtures understanding, and enhances the global media landscape.

Translation within the media, particularly in the context of news, holds immense importance as a means of facilitating the exchange of information across linguistic and cultural borders. In a time of rapid global interconnectedness, where news circulates swiftly and seamlessly, precise translation guarantees the timely and accurate dissemination of crucial information to diverse audiences. The process of translating news goes beyond mere linguistic conversion; it necessitates a profound grasp of cultural subtleties, political contexts, and idiomatic expressions. Translators must skillfully navigate intricate terminology and emotionally charged subjects while upholding the essence of the original message and ensuring it remains understandable to the intended recipients. Additionally, handling political and cultural sensitivities with care is essential to avert misunderstandings or interpretations that could escalate tensions.

From traditional print formats to digital platforms, the translation of news occupies a central role in shaping public sentiment and nurturing cross-cultural comprehension. It empowers individuals to access a wider array of perspectives, thereby encouraging a more knowledgeable and inclusive global conversation. Nonetheless, challenges such as swiftness, precision, and maintaining impartiality persist, underscoring the necessity for

adept translators capable of surmounting these obstacles. In an age where misinformation can propagate as swiftly as accurate news, precise translation functions as a safeguard against falsehoods, guaranteeing that precise and dependable information reaches every corner of the globe. As news transcends geographical boundaries, the role of translation in media emerges as an indispensable instrument for advancing an informed, interlinked global society.

There are many Tamil news platforms which are online platforms. General people are focusing more on Tamil online news platforms to get world and local news. However, there are many mistakes made by news media in translating news into Tamil language. Lack of accuracy spoils the news and brings wrong information to people.

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Translation is widely used in the media, especially in news media. There are various Tamil media in Malaysia. News media is one of the wide platforms that share content and the latest issues with general people. Tamil news media in Malaysia functions as a crucial conduit for spreading information, mirroring the voices and worries of the Tamil-speaking populace within the nation. Given the substantial Indian population, particularly among those of Tamil heritage, these media platforms possess a pivotal role in ensuring that this community remains well-informed about developments both local and global. These platforms for Tamil news media encompass various formats such as newspapers, TV channels, radio stations, and online portals. They furnish news coverage, analysis, and commentary in the Tamil language, catering to the linguistic preferences of the Tamil-speaking demographic. These media outlets encompass a wide spectrum of subjects including politics, economics, societal concerns, culture, and entertainment, serving to link the community with events on both local and worldwide scales.

The Malaysian Indian community boasts a rich cultural legacy, and Tamil news media contribute to its preservation and promotion. They frequently spotlight content related to customary practices, festivities, and communal gatherings, fostering a sense of solidarity and identity among Malaysians of Indian origin. Furthermore, these media platforms serve as advocates for the community's concerns. They shed light on issues that might not garner mainstream attention, such as societal disparities, cultural safeguarding, and representation. Through amplifying these concerns, Tamil news media contribute to molding public discourse and impacting policies that affect the lives of community members. In an era dominated by digital connectivity, numerous Tamil news outlets have embraced online platforms and social media, expanding their reach to a broader audience both within Malaysia and beyond. This digital transformation has enabled real-time news updates and heightened interactive engagement with readers and viewers.

There are some famous and well-known Tamil news media platforms in Malaysia. These Tamil news media are frequently sharing news in digital poster format on social media. They translated the news from English to Tamil for a general audience. However, many mistakes can be found in the translation of the news. This study is to identify the translation mistakes and rectify them with Peter Newmark's Translation Theory.

History of Tamil News Media in Malaysia

The history of Tamil news media evaluation in Malaysia is a fascinating journey that spans over a century. It reflects the evolution of Tamil journalism in a multicultural and multi-lingual society. This article provides an overview of the key milestones and developments in the evaluation of Tamil news media in Malaysia. In the late 19th century, Tamil newspapers made their debut in Malaysia, catering primarily to the Indian Tamil-speaking community. The early newspapers played a vital role in connecting the Tamil diaspora with news from their homeland and addressing local issues within their community.

During the British colonial era, Tamil newspapers started to emerge in different parts of Malaysia, such as Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh. These newspapers were influential in shaping public opinion and advocating for social and political issues affecting the Tamil community, including labor rights and education. In the early 20th century, the Tamil press expanded its reach and influence, with newspapers like 'Tamil Murasu' and 'Tamil Malar' gaining prominence. These newspapers provided a platform for writers and intellectuals to

express their views on various societal matters, contributing to the social and cultural development of the Tamil-speaking community. The period following Malaysia's independence in 1957 saw a significant transformation in the Tamil news media landscape. As the country adopted a policy of promoting unity among its diverse population, Tamil newspapers played a crucial role in fostering interethnic understanding and promoting the national agenda. However, they continued to address issues unique to the Tamil community, such as the preservation of Tamil culture and language.

The 1980s and 1990s marked a period of modernization and diversification for Tamil news media in Malaysia. The introduction of television broadcasting and the establishment of private radio stations allowed for the expansion of Tamil-language content in the electronic media. This change not only catered to a wider audience but also provided a platform for Malaysian Tamil journalists and broadcasters to develop their skills. The advent of the internet in the late 20th century further revolutionized the Tamil news media landscape. Tamil-language news websites emerged, offering a new way for the Tamil diaspora in Malaysia to access news and information. This digital transformation not only increased the reach of Tamil news but also posed challenges in terms of credibility and the spread of misinformation.

One of the critical aspects of evaluating Tamil news media in Malaysia is the role it plays in promoting the welfare of the Tamil community and addressing their unique needs. Tamil newspapers and media outlets have often championed issues such as education, social equality, and cultural preservation. They have served as a platform for community leaders to voice concerns and advocate for change.

However, the evaluation of Tamil news media in Malaysia also highlights some challenges. One such challenge is maintaining journalistic integrity while catering to the interests of the community. Striking a balance between serving as a voice for the Tamil community and adhering to journalistic ethics can be a delicate task. Another challenge is the rise of sensationalism and the spread of fake news in the digital age. With the proliferation of social media, Tamil news outlets have had to grapple with the responsibility of verifying information before disseminating it to the public. Ensuring accuracy and credibility has become a paramount concern. Despite these challenges, Tamil news media in Malaysia continues to be a vital source of information and a platform for the expression of Tamil culture and identity. It has played a significant role in bridging the gap between the Tamil-speaking community and the wider Malaysian society.

In conclusion, the history of Tamil news media evaluation in Malaysia reflects a dynamic and evolving landscape. From its humble beginnings in the late 19th century to its digital transformation in the 21st century, Tamil news media has been a cornerstone of the Malaysian Tamil community's identity and a crucial source of information. As it continues to adapt to the changing media landscape, its role in shaping public discourse and advocating for the needs of the community remains as vital as ever.

Scope and Limitation

This study, titled "*Translation Variances Across Online Tamil News Platforms in Malaysia*," focuses on the analysis of translation practices within online Tamil news platforms operating in Malaysia. The primary objective is to identify and understand the translation issues that exist in the content provided by these platforms. It uses Peter Newmark's Translation theory (1988) as the framework for evaluation and insight. The study involves data collection from a selection of Malaysian online Tamil news platforms and aims to provide recommendations for improving the accuracy and quality of translation practices on these platforms. It also emphasizes the importance of precise translation for maintaining the credibility and impact of news content among diverse language communities.

Despite its objectives, this study has certain limitations. The findings are based on a specific sample of online Tamil news platforms in Malaysia, which may not fully represent all such platforms in the country. Additionally, the study specifically addresses translation issues within the Tamil language and may not encompass concerns related to other languages used in Malaysia. While Peter Newmark's Translation theory offers valuable insights, it may not cover all aspects of translation practices. Data collected from online sources might not always reflect the most current content or practices on these platforms. The study's conclusions and recommendations are context-specific and may not be directly applicable to other forms of media or regions. It

primarily focuses on news content and does not extensively assess translation quality or translator competence. Nonetheless, the study aims to shed light on translation challenges and opportunities in the context of online Tamil news platforms in Malaysia, to enhance translation practices and accuracy in media translation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are various studies carried out regarding Tamil news media. All the previous studies were analyzed to identify the research gap for this study.

Firstly, '*Code-mixing of English in the Entertainment News of Chinese Newspaper in Malaysia*' by (Lau Su Kia & etl, 2011). This phenomenon is prevalent in Malaysia's diverse society, leading to the creation of a unique linguistic blend. While code-mixing is observed not only in spoken interactions but also in sentences within Malaysian Chinese entertainment news, this study aims to recognize English components integrated into such news. The research gathers a maximum of 1,000 sentences from different sources and qualitatively examines English words, abbreviations, and their impact. The presence of English abbreviations like "CD," "DVD," and adjectives such as "high" and "cool" simplifies understanding, adds modern flair, and sometimes leads to ungrammatical constructs influenced by Chinese grammar rules. The transformation of English nouns and verbs into adjectives when code-mixed, along with the inclusion of commonly code-mixed words from conversations, further contributes to code-mixing's prevalence in Chinese entertainment news, often driven by quotes from entertainment figures.

The next study is, '*Hybrid Machine Translation with Multi-Source Encoder-Decoder Long Short-Term Memory in English – Malay Translation*' by (Yin Lai & ETL, 2018). Statistical Machine Translation (SMT) and Neural Machine Translation (NMT) are the leading machine translation methods. SMT relies on statistical analysis of text data, while NMT employs neural networks for translation. SMT excels with limited parallel data, but NMT performs better with more data. SMT prevails when domain training and testing differ. SMT is advantageous for longer sentences, yet error detection in NMT is tough. A hybrid approach combining SMT and NMT for English-to-Malay translation is explored, using a dual-encoder LSTM structure. SMT's output acts as a "suggested translation" for NMT. Experiments show significant BLEU score improvements in computer science and news domains.

There are various studies carried out on news translation however, it is hard to find studies on Tamil news translation. Therefore, this study is mainly to analyze the translation contrast in Tamil news, especially in Malaysia.

METHODOLOGY

Research Methodology and Data Analysis

This qualitative study aims to examine translation errors in Tamil news media platforms, focusing on mistranslations found in digital news posters from Malaysian online Tamil news sources. The study employs a qualitative approach as it allows for an in-depth analysis of linguistic and translation issues, emphasizing the contextual and cultural aspects of news translation. Since translation involves intricate linguistic, cultural, and contextual elements, qualitative research provides the necessary framework to analyse the errors comprehensively.

The data for this study was collected primarily through surveys, where respondents provided insights into translation inconsistencies found in digital Tamil news posters. Additionally, digital news posters containing translation errors were systematically gathered from various Malaysian online Tamil news media platforms. These posters were selected based on their noticeable mistranslations from English to Tamil, which could potentially lead to misinformation or misinterpretation among readers. A total of 13 news posters with translation errors were chosen as the primary dataset for analysis in the findings and discussion section.

To analyse and rectify these translation errors, the study applies Peter Newmark's Translation Theory (1988), which offers various translation methods and strategies to ensure accuracy and coherence. Newmark's theory

emphasizes different approaches to translation, such as communicative and semantic translation, which help maintain the meaning and intent of the original text while adapting it appropriately to the target language. By applying this theoretical framework, the study identifies specific translation errors, categorizes them based on their nature, and proposes corrections to improve the accuracy of the translated news content.

The study focuses on identifying common mistranslation patterns, such as incorrect word choices, structural inconsistencies, contextual misinterpretations, and grammatical errors. It also highlights the challenges faced by Tamil news translators, including linguistic limitations, cultural differences, and the influence of English syntax on Tamil sentence structures. By analysing these errors, the study provides insights into the impact of mistranslations on news comprehension and credibility, particularly in the Malaysian Tamil-speaking community.

The findings of this study aim to contribute to the improvement of Tamil news translation practices by providing recommendations for more effective translation strategies. Additionally, it seeks to raise awareness among Tamil news media professionals about the importance of linguistic accuracy and cultural sensitivity in news translation. The study's insights can also be beneficial for translators, journalists, and media organizations in enhancing the quality of Tamil news content, ensuring that accurate and well-translated information reaches the audience.

In conclusion, this research highlights the significance of accurate translation in Tamil news media and the potential consequences of mistranslations. By applying Peter Newmark's Translation Theory, the study systematically analyses and corrects translation errors, ultimately aiming to enhance the reliability and readability of Tamil news content in Malaysia.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Translation mistakes in Tamil News posters

Digital posters are essential tools for delivering news to people in a creative and visually appealing manner. Many Tamil news media outlets have embraced this approach by sharing news in the form of digital posters. This approach has made it easier for people to comprehend and engage with news content. However, a concerning issue arises when inaccuracies creep into the translation of news presented in these digital posters. These inaccuracies can lead to the dissemination of incorrect information among the audience. While digital posters enhance accessibility and engagement with news, it's crucial to ensure that the content they contain is accurate and reliable. Inaccurate translations can distort the intended message of news articles, potentially causing misunderstandings or misinterpretations among readers. To maintain the effectiveness of digital posters in delivering news, Tamil news media need to prioritize accuracy in translation. This way, they can continue to provide news in a visually appealing and easily understandable format while ensuring that the information they convey remains trustworthy and informative. In a world where information spreads rapidly through digital platforms, accuracy is paramount in keeping the public well-informed.

Table 1: Types of Mistakes Found in Tamil Translation in News

Num	News Collected from Various Tamil News Media	Mistakes				
		Grammatical Errors	Sentence Context	Wrong Information	Lack of Information	Usage of words
1	Car crashes onto electric pole; man died & 1 injured. மின் கம்பத்தில் கார் மோதியது; ஆடவர் மரணம் இருவர் காயம் add roman		/	/		
2	Europe's 8,000-year-old lakeside village discovered by archeologists. 8,000 ஆண்டு பழமையான		/		/	

	ஐரோப்பாவின் மிக பழமையான நீர்நிலை கிராமம் கண்டுபிடிப்பு					
3	Govt will provide aide for the victims of Elmina plane crash. விமான விபத்தில் உயிரிழந்தவர்களின் குடும்பங்களுக்கு அரசாங்கம் உதவும்; பிரதமர் உத்தரவாதம்	/			/	/
4	Mysterious fish fell from the sky and caused power outage in New Jersey? வானத்தில் இருந்து விழுந்த மர்ம மீனால் மின்சார விநியோகம் தடைபட்டதா?				/	/
5	World's largest Ferris Wheel mysteriously stop turning in Dubat. சுழல்வதை நிறுத்திய துபாயின் உலகின் மிகப்பெரிய 'பெர்ரிஸ்' சக்கரம்		/		/	/
6	Why 10,000 steps? Walking 2,337 steps a day is enough to keep us healthy. ஆரோக்கியத்திற்கு ஒரு நாளைக்கு 2,337 அடிகள் நடப்பதே போதுமானது, 10,000 அடிகள் தேவையில்லை	/	/		/	/
7	Bridge collapsed within a seconds நொடிப் பொழுதில் வெடு வைத்து தகர்த்தப்பட்ட பாலம்			/		/
8	Usage of 'Sayang' & 'dear' among civil servants can lead to disciplinary action 'சயாங்' & 'டியர்' என்று கூப்பிட்டால் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படும்!				/	
9	Vanishaantini from Seremban. Won '2023 Mrs Malaysia World' title சிரம்பான் அழகி வனிஷாந்தினி; 2023 மலேசிய உலக அழகியாக மகுடம் சூடினார்		/	/		/
10	Conference to eradicate 'Sanathana' in Tamil Nadu; Malaysia Hindu Sangam condemns தமிழும் இந்து சமயமும் ஒருங்கே வளர்ந்த தமிழ்நாட்டில் சனாதன தர்மத்தை ஒழிக்க மாநாடா? மலேசிய இந்து சங்கம் கண்டனம்!		/	/		
11	Indian national sentenced 10 month jail for biting off co-worker's finger சிங்கப்பூரில் நண்பரின் விரலைக் கடித்த இந்திய நாட்டவருக்கு 10 மாதம் சிறை		/	/	/	

12	Heavy rain in Chennai; 23 flights delayed சென்னையில் கனமழை 23 விமான சேவைகள் பாதிப்பு பயணிகள் அவதி			/		
13	Plane crashed in Brazil's Amazon forest; 14 killed பிரேசில் அமேசன் காட்டில் சுற்றுப் பயணிகளை ஏற்றிச் சென்ற விமானம் விபத்து; 14 பேர் பலி			/		

Table 1 presents a list of common mistakes seen in Tamil news translations that appear on digital posters. It's striking to note that a large portion of Tamil news suffers from translation errors. These errors mostly revolve around issues with grammar, sentence structure, getting the context right, maintaining accurate information, choosing the right words, and understanding the content as a whole.

These translation mistakes can lead to problems because they result in news that isn't entirely accurate. This means that when Tamil news media shares these digital posters on online platforms such as Facebook, websites, Instagram, and Twitter, people might end up with incorrect information. When grammar and sentence structure are off, it can change the meaning of news articles, making it hard for readers to understand what's happening. Mistakes in context and information can add to the confusion, leading to a distorted view of events. Even the choice of words can create misunderstandings.

This is a significant issue because many people rely on digital posters and social media for their news. So, when the information is not accurate, it can mislead them, which is not good for making informed decisions and understanding the world. To address this problem, Tamil news media needs to work on fixing these errors promptly. This way, they can ensure that the news they share through digital posters remains a reliable and trustworthy source of information for their audience. In today's world, where online platforms have a big impact on how people see and understand the news, accurate reporting is more critical than ever.

Rectifying the mistranslated news

Many news articles in Tamil are prone to translation errors. Scholars have proposed corrections using Peter Newmark's Translation theory (1988) as a guide. This theory offers principles for improving translation accuracy and effectiveness. By applying Newmark's guidelines, scholars aim to rectify mistranslations in news, ensuring that the content is more faithful to the original meaning. This approach can enhance the quality of Tamil news translation and help convey information more accurately to the readers. This article come up with a suggested translation version of the Tamil news.

News 1

Original News

Car crashes onto electric pole; man died & 1 injured.

Translated Tamil News

மின் கம்பத்தில் கார் மோதியது; ஆடவர் மரணம் இருவர் காயம்

Corrected Version

மின் கம்பத்தில் கார் மோதியதில் ஒருவர் மரணம் இன்னொருவர் காயம்

Justification

The original news reported a car crashing into an electric pole, resulting in one person's death and another person being injured. However, the translated Tamil news inaccurately stated that "two people were injured." This translation error introduces confusion by suggesting that there were two injured individuals instead of one. Accuracy in news reporting is essential to ensure that readers receive the correct information. In this case, the mistranslation can potentially lead to misunderstandings about the number of casualties in the accident. It is crucial for translations to faithfully represent the original news to prevent misinformation and maintain clarity for the readers.

News 2

Original News

Europe's 8,000-year-old lakeside village was discovered by archeologists.

Translated Tamil News

8,000 ஆண்டு பழமையான ஐரோப்பாவின் மிக பழமையான நீர்நிலை கிராமம் கண்டுபிடிப்பு

Corrected Version

ஐரோப்பாவின் 8,000 ஆண்டுகள் பழமையான நீர்நிலை கிராமம் தொல்லியல் ஆய்வாளரால் கண்டுபிடிப்பு

Justification

The original news reported the discovery of an 8,000-year-old lakeside village in Europe by archaeologists. However, the translated Tamil news omitted the mention of archaeologists, a crucial piece of information. This omission results in a lack of clarity and context in the translation. Additionally, the sentence structure in the translated version seems like a direct word-for-word translation, making it less coherent. In news reporting, it's vital to convey all relevant details accurately to provide a clear and complete picture of the story. The corrected version ensures that the archaeologists are credited for the discovery, enhancing the accuracy and comprehensibility of the news for the readers. Accurate and contextually sound translations are essential in conveying the intended message to the audience.

News 3

Original News

Govt will provide aid for the victims of the Elmina plane crash.

Translated Tamil News

விமான விபத்தில் உயிரிழந்தவர்களின் குடும்பங்களுக்கு அரசாங்கம் உதவும்; பிரதமர் உத்தரவாதம்

Corrected Version

எல்மினா விமான விபத்தில் உயிரிழந்தவர்களின் குடும்பத்தினருக்கு அரசு உதவும் எனப் பிரதமர் உறுதி

Justification

The corrected Tamil news translation improves upon the initial version by offering a more accurate and contextually relevant representation of the original news. It explicitly states that government aid will be

provided to the families of the Elmina plane crash victims, clarifying the incident's name. Furthermore, it mentions the Prime Minister's statement, enhancing the understanding for Tamil-speaking readers. The improved version maintains clarity and conciseness, ensuring that the news is easily comprehensible. In news translation, precision and context are vital, and the correction achieves this by providing a more accurate and informative version that conveys the essential details of the government's support for the affected families.

News 4

Original News

Mysterious fish fell from the sky and caused a power outage in New Jersey.

Translated Tamil News

வானத்தில் இருந்து விழுந்த மர்ம மீனால் மின்சார விநியோகம் தடைப்பட்டதா?

Corrected Version

நீயூ ஜெர்சியில் வானத்திலிருந்து விழுந்த மர்ம மீனால் மின்சாரம் பயன்பாடு தடைப்பட்டதா?

Justification

The corrected Tamil translation of the news is an improvement over the initial version. However, it still has room for further enhancement. It accurately conveys the mysterious fish falling from the sky and its impact on power usage. Yet, it lacks vital information found in the original news, notably the location, which is New Jersey. The absence of this important detail in the translation can confuse readers. Additionally, some word choices and phrasing could be further refined for better clarity and understanding. In news translation, it's crucial to faithfully reproduce all key information while ensuring that the language used is clear and accurate.

News 5

Original News

World's largest Ferris Wheel mysteriously stop turning in Dubai

Translated Tamil News

சுழல்வதை நிறுத்திய துபாயின் உலகின் மிகப்பெரிய 'பெர்ரிஸ்' சக்கரம்

Corrected Version

துபாயிலிருக்கும் உலகின் மிகப்பெரிய 'பெர்ரிஸ்' சக்கரம் சுழல்வதை நிறுத்திய மர்மம்

Justification

The corrected Tamil translation makes the news more accurate and comprehensible. However, the initial translation had several issues. It didn't convey the mysterious aspect of the Ferris Wheel's sudden stoppage in Dubai, which is a key element in the original news. The corrected version rectifies this by including the word "மர்மம்," which means mysterious. Additionally, the corrected version reorganizes the sentence structure, placing the location (Dubai) at the beginning of the sentence for clarity. In news translations, maintaining the essence and context of the story is crucial to ensure readers fully grasp the news, and the correction achieves this by preserving the mysterious nature of the event and improving sentence structure.

News 6

Original News

Why 10,000 steps? Walking 2,337 steps a day is enough to keep us healthy.

Translated Tamil News

ஆரோக்கியத்திற்கு ஒரு நாளைக்கு 2,337 அடிகள் நடப்பதே போதுமானது, 10,000 அடிகள் தேவையில்லை

Corrected Version

ஒரு மனிதன் ஆரோக்கியமாக வாழ ஒரு நாளுக்கு 10,000 அடிகள் நடக்கத் தேவையில்லை, 2,337 அடிகள் போதுமானது.

Justification

The corrected Tamil translation addresses several issues found in the initial version. The primary error was a grammatical one, where "நாளுக்கு" (a day) was initially spelled incorrectly as "நாளைக்கு" (for a day). This correction ensures proper grammar and clarity in the translation. Furthermore, the corrected version restructures the sentence to provide a more accurate context. In the initial translation, the sentence context was unclear due to a direct word-for-word approach. However, the correction presents a clearer statement, emphasizing that a person does not need to walk 10,000 steps a day for a healthy life but can achieve it with 2,337 steps, aligning better with the original news. In news translation, linguistic precision and context are essential to convey the intended message accurately to the audience.

News 7

Original News

Bridge collapsed within a seconds

Translated Tamil News

நொடிப் பொழுதில் வெடு வைத்து தகர்த்தப்பட்ட பாலம்

Corrected Version

நொடிப் பொழுதில் இடிந்து விழுந்த பாலம்

Justification

The original news reported a bridge collapsing within a second, but the translated Tamil version inaccurately mentioned a "bomb explosion" as the cause of the bridge's collapse, which was not part of the original news. This error introduces misleading information, as the original news did not specify the cause of the bridge collapse. The main point of the news is the sudden bridge collapse, and the translation's addition of a bomb explosion is both misleading and irrelevant. The corrected version accurately conveys the bridge's immediate collapse within seconds, staying faithful to the original news and eliminating the inaccuracies introduced by the initial translation, thus ensuring clarity and accuracy for the readers.

News 8

Original News

Usage of 'sayang' & 'dear' among civil servants can lead to disciplinary action

Translated Tamil News

‘சயாங்’ & ‘டியர்’ என்று கூப்பிட்டால் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படும்!

Corrected Version

பொதுப்பணியாளர்களிடையே ‘சயாங்’ & ‘டியர்’ என்று அழைப்பதால் ஒழுக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படும்.

Justification

The initial translation of this news had some issues with missing key information. The original news was about the usage of words like 'sayang' and 'dear' among civil servants that could result in disciplinary action. However, the translated version omitted the reference to civil servants, leading to a lack of clarity. This omission could potentially cause misunderstanding among readers, as the core subject of the news, which is civil servants, was not explicitly mentioned in the translation. To ensure that the news is accurate and conveyed, it's important to include all relevant information, especially when it pertains to specific groups or individuals, as in this case.

News 9

Original News

Vanishaantini from Seremban. Won ‘2023 Mrs Malaysia World’ title

Translated Tamil News

சிரம்பான் அழகி வனிஷாந்தினி; 2023 மலேசிய உலக அழகியாக மகுடம் சூடினார்

Corrected Version

சிரம்பானை சேர்ந்த வனிஷாந்தினி, 2023 மலேசிய உலக அழகியாக மகுடம் சூடினார்.

Justification

The initial translation of this news presented inaccuracies and confusion. The key information in the news is that Vanishaantini, from Seremban, won the title of '2023 Mrs Malaysia World.' However, the translation altered the sentence context, stating "Seremban beauty," which is not aligned with the original news. This change created confusion and misrepresented the core message of the news. The corrected version rectifies this by accurately conveying that Vanishaantini, who is associated with Seremban, won the '2023 Mrs Malaysia World' title. Precision in translation is crucial to ensure that the reader receives the correct information and context, as demonstrated in the correction.

News 10

Original News

Conference to eradicate ‘Sanathana’ in Tamil Nadu; Malaysia Hindu Sangam condemns

Translated Tamil News

தமிழும் இந்து சமயமும் ஒருங்கே வளர்ந்த தமிழ்நாட்டில் சனாதன தர்மத்தை ஒழிக்க மாநாடா? மலேசிய இந்து சங்கம் கண்டனம்!

Corrected Version

தமிழ்நாட்டில் 'சனாதன' தர்மத்தை ஒழிக்க மாநாடு; மலேசிய இந்து சங்கம் கண்டனம்.

Justification

The original news reported a conference in Tamil Nadu to eradicate 'Sanathana' and highlighted the condemnation of this event by Malaysia Hindu Sangam. However, the translated version introduced exaggerations and additional words like "Hinduism" and "Tamizh," which were not part of the original news. This alteration to the news context can introduce controversy and sensitive content that wasn't present in the original message. In news translation, it's important to maintain the integrity of the original news and avoid adding extraneous information that could change the tone or meaning of the story. The corrected version accurately conveys the core information, ensuring clarity and precision in the report.

News 11

Original News

Indian national sentenced to 10-month jail for biting off co-worker's finger

Translated Tamil News

சிங்கப்பூரில் நண்பரின் விரலைக் கடித்த இந்திய நாட்டவருக்கு 10 மாதம் சிறை

Corrected Version

உடன் பணிபுரியும் பணியாளரின் விரலைக் கடித்த இந்திய ஆடவருக்கு 10 மாதம் சிறை

Justification

The initial translation of this news contained errors in both sentence context and information. It introduced inaccuracies by mentioning a "Singapore friend" instead of the original "co-worker." The essential information in the news is about an Indian national being sentenced to 10 months in jail for biting off a co-worker's finger, not a friend. These translation errors can lead to misunderstanding and create a lack of clarity in the news statement. Accurate and contextually relevant translations are crucial to convey the intended message and provide readers with a clear understanding of the news, as demonstrated in the corrected version.

News 12

Original News

Heavy rain in Chennai; 23 flights delayed

Translated Tamil News

சென்னையில் கனமழை 23 விமான சேவைகள் பாதிப்பு பயணிகள் அவதி

Corrected Version

சென்னையில் கனமழை காரணமான 23 விமானங்கள் தாமதம்

Justification

The initial translation of this news contained inaccuracies and additional information that altered the original message. The core information is about 23 flights being delayed in Chennai due to heavy rain. However, the

translation introduced the idea of "service disruption" and "passenger suffering" caused by the rain. These additional details were not part of the original news, and their inclusion led to a misinterpretation of the situation. Such inaccuracies can mislead readers and create confusion. The corrected version rectifies this by accurately conveying the cause of the flight delays, which is heavy rain, without adding extraneous information. Clear and precise news reporting is crucial to ensure that readers receive the correct and intended message.

News 13

Original News

Plane crashed in Brazil's Amazon forest; 14 killed

Translated Tamil News

பிரேசில் அமேசன் காட்டில் சுற்றுப் பயணிகளை ஏற்றிச் சென்ற விமானம் விபத்து; 14 பேர் பலி

Corrected Version

பிரேசில் அமேசன் காட்டில் விமான விபத்து; 14 பேர் பலி

Justification

The initial translation of this news introduced unnecessary additional information that led to a misrepresentation of the original news. The core information is about a plane crash in Brazil's Amazon Forest, resulting in 14 fatalities. However, the translation mentioned the victims as "tourists" without any such specification in the original news. This extra detail was unwarranted and potentially misleading, as the original news did not specify the identity of the individuals involved. Accurate and concise news reporting is essential to ensure that readers receive the correct information, as demonstrated in the corrected version, which accurately conveys the plane crash and the number of casualties without introducing irrelevant details.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To enhance the accuracy and quality of Tamil translations across online news platforms in Malaysia, media outlets, translators, and policymakers must take proactive steps. One of the key recommendations is the implementation of standardized translation guidelines. Media organizations should establish comprehensive style guides that address linguistic consistency, cultural nuances, and journalistic integrity. These guidelines should be developed in consultation with experienced translators and Tamil language experts to ensure clarity and accuracy. Additionally, regular training sessions for translators and journalists can help bridge gaps in understanding complex terminologies, idiomatic expressions, and contextual relevance in Tamil news reporting.

Another critical step is leveraging technology to improve translation quality. Media outlets should invest in AI-assisted translation tools and hybrid translation models that combine machine learning with human expertise. While automated translation tools can enhance efficiency, human oversight remains crucial in preserving the accuracy and cultural sensitivity of news content. Policymakers can support this initiative by funding research and development in Tamil-language AI models, ensuring they cater to the linguistic diversity of Malaysian Tamil speakers. Additionally, implementing a peer-review mechanism where translated content is cross-checked by multiple professionals can help reduce errors and maintain credibility. Collaboration between media houses, academic institutions, and linguistic bodies is also essential to strengthen translation practices. Universities offering Tamil and translation studies can work closely with news agencies to provide expert consultations, internships, and specialized training programs. Policymakers should encourage such partnerships by introducing accreditation programs for Tamil translators in the media sector. This would not only enhance professionalism but also create a pool of qualified translators who adhere to high standards.

Furthermore, establishing an independent regulatory body to monitor translation accuracy in Tamil news platforms can help uphold language integrity and prevent misinformation.

Public engagement and feedback mechanisms should also be prioritized to improve translation quality. News portals can introduce interactive platforms where readers can report translation inconsistencies and suggest corrections. This crowdsourced approach would foster accountability and continuous improvement. Moreover, encouraging bilingual journalists and translators to contribute opinion pieces on translation challenges can help raise awareness and promote best practices. By integrating these recommendations, online Tamil news platforms in Malaysia can significantly enhance the accuracy, credibility, and impact of their translated content, ultimately benefiting the Tamil-speaking community and preserving linguistic authenticity.

CONCLUSION

In a multicultural society like Malaysia, where diversity is celebrated and different languages coexist, the role of accurate translation in online Tamil news platforms is not merely important; it is paramount. These platforms serve as bridges between different communities and linguistic groups, making information accessible to a broader audience. However, the variances observed in translations across different news reports underline the significance of providing precise, contextually appropriate translations. Malaysia's rich tapestry of cultures and languages necessitates a high degree of sensitivity in translating news content. Minor errors or misinterpretations can have significant consequences, leading to misunderstandings among readers from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Inaccurate translations can distort the intended message, resulting in misinformed readers and eroding the credibility and trustworthiness of these news platforms.

To address this issue effectively, news platforms must prioritize the use of experienced and knowledgeable translators who not only possess proficiency in the languages but also understand the cultural nuances and contexts that influence news content. Translators play a crucial role in ensuring that news is not just linguistically accurate but also culturally sensitive. This approach goes beyond word-for-word translations; it involves capturing the essence and intended impact of the original news. Implementing stringent quality control processes is another essential step in enhancing the accuracy of translations. News organizations should have editors and reviewers who are well-versed in both the source and target languages, and capable of identifying and rectifying any errors or discrepancies. These checks and balances help maintain consistency and precision in the translated content.

The consequences of inaccurate translations extend beyond linguistic concerns. They can misrepresent facts, alter the tone of a news report, and, in some cases, lead to misinformation. Such inaccuracies can harm the reputation of online Tamil news platforms, making readers skeptical about the reliability of the information they provide. Accurate and clear translations are not only critical for linguistic and cultural accuracy but also effective communication and trustworthy journalism. In a multicultural society like Malaysia, where people from various backgrounds rely on these platforms for news, the responsibility is even greater. Inaccurate translations can perpetuate stereotypes, and misunderstandings, and even lead to unintended offense. On the other hand, precise translations contribute to greater understanding and harmony among the diverse communities. As we continue to navigate a globalized world where information knows no boundaries, the importance of accurate translation becomes increasingly evident. Language should not be a barrier to accessing news and information. In Malaysia, where languages like Tamil are vibrant and integral parts of the cultural fabric, online Tamil news platforms have a significant role to play in promoting effective communication and cross-cultural understanding. It is incumbent upon online Tamil news platforms in Malaysia to recognize the importance of their role and the impact of their work on the broader society. They should strive for the highest standards of precision in their translations, adopting a commitment to delivering news that is clear, accurate, and true to the source. This commitment extends beyond linguistic accuracy; it encompasses cultural sensitivity, contextual understanding, and a dedication to bridging linguistic divides in a harmonious and informative manner.

In conclusion, the role of accurate translation in online Tamil news platforms in Malaysia is of utmost importance in a multicultural and multilingual society. The variances in translations underscore the need for precision and sensitivity in delivering news content. By prioritizing experienced translators, stringent quality control, and a commitment to clear and accurate communication, these platforms can enhance their credibility

and trustworthiness, ultimately fostering greater understanding and cohesion among Malaysia's diverse communities. In a world where information transcends borders, the responsibility of online Tamil news platforms in Malaysia is clear to be beacons of linguistic accuracy, cultural sensitivity, and reliable journalism.

REFERENCES

1. Alivi, M. A., Ghazali, A. H. A., Tamam, E., & Osman, M. N. (2018). A review of new media in Malaysia: Issues affecting society. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 8(2), 12-29.
2. Bawden, R., Bogoychev, N., Germann, U., Grundkiewicz, R., Kirefu, F., Barone, A. V. M., & Birch, A. (2019). The University of Edinburgh's Submissions to the WMT19 News Translation Task. arXiv preprint arXiv:1907.05854.
3. Bielsa, E. (2016). News translation: global or cosmopolitan connections? *Media, Culture & Society*, 38(2), 196-211.
4. Conway, K. (2010). News translation and cultural resistance. *Journal of international and intercultural communication*, 3(3), 187-205.
5. Fayaza, M. F., & Ranathunga, S. (2020, July). Tamil News Clustering Using Word Embeddings. In 2020 Moratuwa Engineering Research Conference (MERCon) (pp. 277-282). IEEE.
6. Fengling, L. (2017). A comparative study of Nida and Newmark's translation theories. *International Journal of Liberal Arts and Social Science*, 5(8), 31-39.
7. Justin, B., & Chinnappa, D. (2022, November). Analyzing Tamil News Tweets in the Context of Topic Identification. In *International Conference on Speech and Language Technologies for Low-resource Languages* (pp. 169-182). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
8. Kia, L. S., Cheng, X., Yee, T. K., & Ling, C. W. (2011). Code-mixing of English in the entertainment news of Chinese newspapers in Malaysia. *International Journal of English linguistics*, 1(1), 3.
9. Leong, S. (2013). *New media and the nation in Malaysia*. Malaysian: Routledge.
10. Murugesan, S., & Kaliyamurthi, K. P. (2023). A Machine Learning Framework for Automatic Fake News Detection in Indian Tamil News Channels. *Ingénierie des Systèmes d'Information*, 28(1).
11. Newmark, P. (1991). About translation (Vol. 74). *Multilingual matters*.
12. Orenge, A. (2005). Localizing news: Translation and the 'global-national' dichotomy. *Language and intercultural communication*, 5(2), 168-187.
13. Pan, L. (2018). Investigating institutional practice in news translation: An empirical study of a Chinese agency translating discourse on China. In *Chinese Translation Studies in the 21st Century* (pp. 151-169). Routledge.
14. Popel, M., Tomkova, M., Tomek, J., Kaiser, Ł., Uszkoreit, J., Bojar, O., & Žabokrtský, Z. (2020). Transforming machine translation: a deep learning system reaches news translation quality comparable to human professionals. *Nature communications*, 11(1), 4381.
15. Ramraj, S., Arthi, R., Murugan, S., & Julie, M. S. (2020, July). Topic categorization of Tamil news articles using pre-trained word2vec embeddings with a convolutional neural network. In 2020 International Conference on Computational Intelligence for Smart Power System and Sustainable Energy (CISPSSE) (pp. 1-4). IEEE.
16. Sankaran, C., & Pillai, S. (2011). Transnational Tamil television and diasporic imaginings. *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 14(3), 277-289.
17. Selvi, C. K., Induja, N., Lakshmi, S. L., & Nagammai, S. (2022, January). Topic Categorization of Tamil News Articles. In 2022 International Conference on Computer Communication and Informatics (ICI) (pp. 1-6). IEEE.
18. Tsai, C. (2005). Inside the television newsroom: An insider's view of international news translation in Taiwan. *Language and Intercultural Communication*, 5(2), 145-153.
19. Valdeón, R. A. (2014). From adaptation to appropriation: Framing the world through news translation. *Linguaculture*, 5(1).
20. Vuorinen, E. (1997). News translation as gatekeeping. *Benjamins translation library*, 20, 161-172.
21. Wok, S., & Mohamed, S. (2017). Internet and social media in Malaysia: Development, challenges and potentials. In *The evolution of media communication*. IntechOpen.
22. Xia, L. (2019). *A discourse analysis of news translation in China*. Routledge.