

シンポジウム

Translation: Final Frontier for Artificial Intelligence?

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Description: We seem to have entered a period when artificial intelligence promises, or threatens, to supersede merely human intellectual ability in a wide range of activities. The recent defeat of a top human Go player by a computer program, for example, came as a surprise to many who thought that such an achievement was still years away. Media reports often give the impression that similar advances in other fields are just around the corner. Might AI even challenge humans in a field like translation, which tests the limits of language as a communicative medium to the fullest? This symposium will explore that question first by illustrating some of the practical problems that arise when relying upon machine translation. This will be followed by an overview of the current state of machine translation that may serve as a useful corrective to common misperceptions surrounding the technology. Finally, we will have an on-the-ground report from the field of English-language journalism in Japan, which relies heavily on human translation. The overall goal is to provide a better understanding of the current context of real-world translation from both the AI and human perspectives.