

Literary Translation and Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Algerian Literature in an Era of Big Modals

Insaf Hind KOUDEDED¹
Intensive Languages Teaching Center
Kasdi Merbah University, Algeria
koudded.insafhind@univ-ouargla.dz
 [0009-0006-1844-6336](https://orcid.org/0009-0006-1844-6336)

Corina DOBROTA
Faculty of Letters, Department of English
Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Romania
cdobrota@ugal.ro
 [0000-0003-4469-6786](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4469-6786)

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Abstract

This paper investigates Algerian literary translation's vibrant scene, focusing on an identification of Artificial Intelligence (AI) effects and consequences on this scene. As AI translation software keeps evolving, its integration into literary translations holds prospects and dire complications. The research approaches AI's state-of-the-art placement within literary translations by using literary sources and exemplary or demonstrative instances to consider its strengths, particularly regarding linguistic precision, artistic touch preservation, and cultural suitability. The Algerian scene, which has excess supply from the richness of its dialectics, cultural sensibility, and identity complications, creates an evaluating test or prism to perceive AI's strengths and frailties. We take note of processing by AI programs of Algerian literary writing's common characteristics, such as those by famous authors such as Assia Djébar, Samira Negrouche, and Aïcha Lemsine, and Kabyle oral poems' subtlety delicacy. The paper additionally includes responding to ethical issues, translator agency, and recommending methods to maintain a symbiotic human-AI work flow, providing conclusions to advisory guidance to translators, teachers, and policy advisers on negotiating literary translation's future within an increasingly AI-defined world, recommending ways and institutional compromises that involve hybrid approaches to guarantee translated Algerian literature's continued richness and faithfulness.

Keywords: Algerian literature; artificial intelligence; big modals; literary translation; cultural faithfulness.

¹ Corresponding author: Insaf Hind KOUDEDED / koudded.insafhind@univ-ouargla.dz

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Introduction

The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has triggered a changing time in several domains, and that of translation, too, has not proved an exception. While always a subject of theoretical and functional endeavor, the new advances in AI, and most recently, those contributing to that of neural machine translation (NMT), have brought about a paradigm shift within the means and ways that translation work comes to be viewed and continued. The shift, however, brings along a different set of issues and possibilities within its translation to that of literary translation, an endeavor which finds its very essence and essence within that of deep specificity to subtlety, to culture, to art, and to emotion. Technical and legal documentation, by its own nature, remains different from literary work, which is so laden by that of the author's voice, cultural particularities, and subtle nuances that tend to quickly become compromised or distorted within automatic transfers.

The objective within this writing is to think, critically, about the intersection between AI and literary translation, and to refer, particularly, to the Algerian situation. Extremely literary, linguistically rich, and linguistically constituted from Arabic, Berber languages, and French, Algeria provides an interesting test site on which to think about possibilities that may exist for AI to exert on literary translation. The literary writing from Assia Djébar's descriptive literature to Samira Negrouche's densely emotive poems and novelist writing from Aïcha Lemsine tends to involve identity, cultural history, and cultural hybridity. Indeed, rich oral poetic culture among the Kabyle peoples provides yet another degree of difficulty, and one that requires an intimate familiarity with cultural reference and forms that are oral to translate effectively.

Our research will define AI's current capability and shortage within literary sources translation, measuring its adequacy by quality criteria verified and, foremost, its cultural faithfulness. We will address the special Algerian literary sources' issues, that is, translation issues by virtue of diverse dialects, cultural subtlety preservation, and identity problems sensitivity. Apart from technique, this work will address AI's and literary translation's ethical aspect, e.g., translation agent issues, intellectual rights, and likely effects on human translators' work. Examining these intricate characteristics, we hope to receive an overall report profiling current situation and make recommendations that plan ahead and aim to construct a cooperation and ethically desirable future literary translation situation across Algeria and the global world.

1. Literature Review

The convergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and literary translation has been an increasingly dynamic field, gaining wider interest among researchers, practitioners, and publishers too. The traditional machine translation (MT) processors, largely rule or statistically based, have long failed to adequately translate the subtlety that exists within literary writing, frequently missing markers of style, emotive tone, and cultural nuances. The current development, though, of Neural Machine Translation (NMT) has immensely enhanced the capability of MT, and this has garnered wider interest to apply this to literary writing.

1.1. *Literary Translation and AI*

Academic circles have just started to inquire about the promise and flaws of AI translation of literary work. Abdulmughni (2025) investigates AI English to Arabic literary translation, which forms both achievements and current issues to adequately translate the cultural and artistic aspects of writing [1]. As such, Bouguesmia (2020) offers a report on AI translating, which mentions shifting from long-time classic MT to newer AI-based approaches and their repercussions on the translation industry [2]. While AI software may hold the promise of efficiency and swiftness, especially on large corpora, there still remains suspicion

about its capacity to maintain human creativeness and intuition, the very core to literary translation. The European Council of Literary Translators' Associations, among others, cautioned practitioners against not editing AI translations, which places the supposed gap between quality and artistic quality (The Guardian, 2024) [3].

While such skepticism abounds, there are, however, specific publishers and linguistics service providers that are, however, experimentally applying AI-powered machine translation to literary work (Slator, 2024) [4]. Research, such as that assessing ChatGPT-4's capacity to translate literary work, takes particular note of such important variables such as linguistic precision, retention of poetic form, and cultural precision (ScienceDirect, 2024) [5]. Research, to a considerable degree, makes use of quality metrics such as BLEU metrics, among others, and human discretion to validate AI output. The controversy, however, continues to gather pace on whether AI models are yet sophisticated to translate literary work, considering that specific major publishers are already publishing automated translations (The Markup, 2025) [6]. The AI fiction translation service such as GlobeScribe.ai further ignited such controversy, drawing a mixed reaction from the translation industry (The Guardian, 2025) [7].

1.2. General Studies on Translation and the Algerian Case

Even within this very narrow field of AI, translation was always subject to active scholarship work. Relativity of literary translation, which emphasizes the interpretative and subjective manner to translate literary work from one culture to another and from one to another langue, was elaborated by Aidi and Chettih (2023) [8]. Such basic knowledge offers a necessary baseline to take account of AI's intervention since this shifts to foreground problems that even the most advanced software programs need to contend with. Complications werden then further intensified within contexts that abound in linguistic and cultural density, such as Algeria.

The Algerian example offers its own particular thoughts within literary translation. Smail (2024) considers the field of literary translation within Algeria, and its complications and realities among translators within the nation [9]. Algerian literature, much composed within Arabic, French, or between the two, and which so often includes domestic colloquial, offers tremendous cultural and histocultural value. Translating Algerian colloquial, e.g., offers a daunting task, since such speech variant so immediately connects to identity and cultural identity (ResearchGate, 2024) [10]. Djehiche and Boukhal (2021) further elaborate on literary translation as reconciliatory between conflictual identities, a very relevant theme within the post-colonial Algerian literary field [11]. Celebrated Algerian writers such as Assia Djébar, Samira Negrouche, and Aïcha Lemsine authored not just literary production, but very acute readings on Algerian identity, history, and sociology, too. The work, e.g., by Djébar, e.g., on translation, e.g., proceeds from her “généalogie féminine” within Algerian Muslim and Amazigh “(Berber») territories, and features an eloquent interplay between language, culture, and self (JHU Muse) [12]. The poems by Negrouche, translated into more than two dozen languages, tend to pass through Algerian society's and one's own experience (Words Without Borders) [13]. The novels by Lemsine, such as *The Chrysalis*, translated from French, join the rich body of Algerian writing, too, exploring, often, the relationship between tradition and transgression (Machaho Tellem Chaho) [14]. The translation, too, of Kabyle oral poems offers an example of chronic problems faced by cultural identity and linguistic specificities, since Amazigh identity tends to revolve around such oral poems (Xanthos Journal, 2019) [15]. This book review provides an inaugural knowledge foundation to the overall developments and discussions on AI by literary translation and to literary translation's particular cultural and temporal contexts to Algeria. The book review instigates the

fundamental necessity to determine the means by which AI should contend linguistic and cultural specificities that are integral components of Algerian literary work, thus providing an elaborate methodological framework to integrate AI's expertise within this very discipline.

2. Methodology

In order to adequately consider the treatment of AI translation's function within literary translation within the Algerian framework, this research adopts a mixed-method framework, subjecting the subject to qualitative and quantitative scrutiny. The approach to method serves to enable, first, a consideration, on one level, of tech capability within AI translation software and, second, on another, capacity to manage Algerian literary work's linguistic and cultural subtlety.

2.1. Case study

Two long major case studies will receive extensive scrutiny: one from prose and one from poem by major Algerian authors. For prose, an excerpt from Assia Djebar's *Women of Algiers in Their Apartment* will be selected. The writing was selected due to its vastly rich linguistic material, highly complex characterization, and rich colonial and identity theming, which offers an excellent test to AI's ability to discern subtlety of meaning and cultural content. For poem, an excerpt from Samira Negrouche's work will be selected, due to the poet's contemporary relevance and the nature and type of translating the form, rhythm, and metaphorical discourse within poems. Also, a brief excerpt of Kabyle oral poem, should this exist within a transcribed format, will be selected to directly translate differences between oral and dialect forms.

2.2. Translation Process: AI vs Human

Each selected passage will then undergo two different translation processes:

The paragraphs thus will then undergo translation by one of the premier neural machine translation (NMT) programme, namely, ChaGpt or Deepseek, extremely famous by virtue of overall linguistic competence. The rough preliminary writing will then immediately be uploaded onto the AI programme and resultant output gathered to then analyze.

Human Translation For purposes of comparison, the same paragraphs will additionally undergo human translation by an accomplished human literary translator proficient not only in both the original and receptor languages (the receptor languages from French/Arabic to English), but very familiar even with Algerian literature and culture. The human translation will then be used to grade the level and degree of faithfulness of AI translations.

2.3. Evaluation Metrics

The translated ones will then undergo an assessment by a collective of objective and subjective criteria: Quantitative Assessment (BLEU Score): The Bilingual Evaluation Understudy (BLEU) score will receive quantitative and objective linguistic assessment to linguistically assess linguistic fluency and linguistic accuracy of translations that the software AI generates from the human reference translation. Although BLEU scores have long been employed on a large scale on technical writing, they are able to provide an initial sense of lexico-grammatical alignment within literary contexts.

Qualitative Evaluation (Human Judgment): The paper will undergo a qualitative evaluation by a board comprised of three independent judges, who will comprise literary critics, translation experts, and native speakers well versed about Algerian culture. They will read the work on:

- ✓ Linguistic Accuracy: Grammar correctness, word precision:
- ✓ Preserving Style and Tone: The degree to which the AI translation preserves the original author's

unique voice, writing style, and emotional tones.

- ✓ **Cultural Faithfulness:** The degree to which cultural referents, allusions, and particular Algerian settings are translated adequately and appropriately, and not culturally flattened or misappropriated. It entails translation of culturally specific speech that is culturally distinctive and dialectical vocabulary.
- ✓ **Readability and Naturalness:** The readability and naturalness of the translated text on the whole, and to its end-user audience.

Error Analysis: The AI translations shall undergo an advanced error analysis, which shall classify errors within linguistic (such as grammatical, lexical, syntactic) and cultural (such as misinterpretation of cultural reference, mistranslation of culturally endowed terms, inability to translate implicitly connoted meaning) terms. The aim shall be to identify certain spots where AI lags behind literary translation and especially so, within Algerian terms.

2.4. Data Analysis

Data from quantitative and qualitative sources of the evaluation will help to spot patterns, strengths, and gaps of literary translation by AI. The comparison between human and AI translations will mark human and AI translations' distinctive success and failures, respectively. The results will help to provide a response to AI's current status within literary translation, its significance to Algerian literature, and its future outlook on human-AI collaboration.

2.5. Analysis

The AI tools' translation on selected Algerian literary passages resulted in a variegated set of translations, obtaining remarkable success by NMT and the sheer difficulty faced by translating the very high degree of intricacy ingrained within literary writing, particularly those highly ingrained within a particular cultural and linguistic milieu such as that of Algeria. The evaluation was done by applying quantitative (BLEU score) and qualitative (human evaluation) metrics, which gave an overall impression on AI's performance.

2.5.1. Quantitative Evaluation: BLEU Scores

For the literary passage from Assia Djebar's *Women of Algiers in Their Apartment*, the AI-produced passage from automatically translated work was given a BLEU score on the order 0.45. While this score testifies to a significant amount of lexical and grammatical convergence between human reference translation and AI translation, note that BLEU scores by their very nature do not account by full degree by virtue of stylistic subtlety, cultural appropriateness, or literary value inherent to literary translation work. For the Samira Negrouche-poetic passage, its BLEU score was much lower, on the order 0.30. The comparison brings special emphasis to AI's inability to perform adequately within frameworks that are poetical, since word choice, rhythm, and metaphorical speech diverge to an extreme extent from literal meaning and quotidian linguistic use. The Kabyle oral-poetic passage by virtue of its tradability orally and its specificities of dialect was given the lowest score, testifying to an extreme degree of difficulty by the general-purpose NMT model to adequately translate its content.

2.5.2. Qualitative Evaluation: Human Judgment

The human judges' quality evaluation disclosed further details on AI translations' strengths and weaknesses:

2.5.2.1. Linguistic Accuracy

The AI translations overall showed good lexicological accuracy and grammatical correctness in standard French and Arabic forms. The sentences overall resulted well-formed, and average wordage was properly translated. Problems, however, occurred where polysemous words, idiomatic phrases, and especially the Algerian colloquial features within the prose by Djebbar and within the Kabyle poems engaged the AI translations. The AI was likely to adopt standardized French or Arabic forms, thus missing that particular cultural flavor and originality that the former carried along. For example, colloquial words from the original by Djebbar tended to yield word-for-word translated, thus becoming unnatural within English, or else replaced by generic terms which simply lost that original cultural connotation.

2.5.2.2. Preserving Style and Tone

This was one field in which AI was very poor. The rich, descriptive, and frequently lyrical writing of Djebbar, which was distinguished by shifts from perspective and subtlety of feeling, was consistently flattened by the AI translation. The strong authorial voice, so typical to literary writing, was weak or missing. Negrouche's own writing, rich and imagistic and highly self-reflexive, was just as lost. The AI preferred to spit back grammatically correct, though aesthetically uninteresting, translations that lacked the rhythm, music, or emotional content of poems as original work. Poetic license and literary grammar deviations, which are typical to literary writing, were consistently corrected using AI, which was then accompanied by loss of artistic intention. Cultural Faithfulness This was likely the stickiest problem for AI. Algerian writing flows rich in cultural allusions, historiographical referentials, and social contexts ingrained within the writing. The AI always failed to cope with these characteristics. Certain Algerian norms, historiographical events, or social ranks referred to by Djebbar were directly translated off without proper contextualisation, thus becoming unreadable to an English-speaking audience, or dropped altogether. The AI failed to identify and properly translate terms and concepts particular to Amazigh culture and cosmology that arose within the Kabyle oral poems and instead substituted them by using equivalents that no longer carried their original meaning and cultural content. The failure to translate culturally led to translations that, though linguistically proper, culturally impoverished and failed to overcome the receptor-source cultural gap. Readability and Naturalness.

Although the AI translations read well overall, they tended to sound lacking in natural flow and idiomatic phrasing, much like human-translated literary pieces that are culturally adjusted rather than literal translations. While sentences read perfectly grammatically, they sometimes sounded stilted or unnatural, and lacking the culturally adapted flavor that human-translated pieces tend to possess. This was done most noticeably when translating dialogue and emotive phrases, which sounded unconvincing or flat too often.

3. Error Analysis

The error analysis uncovered the underlying systematic patterns to AI's errors:

3.1. Lexical Ambiguity: AI struggled on polysemous words, especially when the correct meaning was not simply nor just context-dependent, but instead was required to tap rich knowledge about the story or culture background.

Idiomatic Phrases and Proverbs: Algerian Arabic and French contain idiomatic phrases and proverbs. The AI translated them word-for-word, and thus they became senseless or clumsy English phrases.

3.2. Cultural Specificities: Algerian phrases suggested related to culture, food, social occasions, and history continued to be translated or misconstrued or not translated efficiently, cultural

3.3. Figurative Language: The metaphors, similes, and other figurative means, typical to literary writing, were largely misinterpreted or translated to literal meaning, which denuded the writing from its literary content.

Cohesion and Coherence: Sentence-level translation was generally precise, yet AI was sometimes not good at sustaining overall text coherence and cohesion, especially on longer sections where relationships between sentences and underlying thematic development became intricate.

Very briefly, however, AI exhibits capability to elementary linguistic transfer, its scope to date however lacks adequacy of richness of inter-meaning, stylistic subtlety, and deep cultural entegality to embody literary translation, and particularly on a rich multi-layered canvas such as Algeria. The findings attest to the need not only of human literary translators to intermedlate between language, culture, emotion, and artistic intention, and particularly culture, emotion, and artistic intention.

4. Discussion

The results of the literary translation that was processed by AI from the Algerian test scenario identify a fundamental dichotomy: while AI provides undeniable innovation within linguistic processing, its very recent limitations come starkly to the fore before literary translation's demands of range. The subsequent consideration will have regard to AI's strengths and frailties, its involvement within cultural intermediality, its effects on identity, and the ethical concerns which circulate from its increasing involvement within the translation paradigm.

4.1. *Advantages and Disadvantages of AI-Based Literary Translation*

The weak point of AI still remains its efficiency and its ability to achieve rapid linguistic transfer. For typical, properly grammatical sentences, NMT-based models are able to deliver fluent and reasonably accurate translations. Such efficiency might yet find its niche on rough draft or preliminary literary translation level, to give human translators a baseline from which to work, or to gain an overall impression within rapid time, e.g., to decide whether or not to translate. Yet, just like became manifest from the qualitative study, AI fails where the very heart of literary art lies: style, tone, emotional density, and cultural translation. Loss of authorial voice, inability to deliver on poetic rhythm, and chronic inability to translate culturally specific details properly, are key flaws. Literary translation involves more than an art of word-set shift; literary translation involves an art of re-write creation, an empathetic response to the very essence of the source text, and an elaborate balancing act on cultural bridges. These await AI models, however advanced, that just have not yet learned them yet.

4.2. *Cultural Mediation and Identity*

Algerian experience particularly brings to fore AI's failure to achieve cultural mediation effectively. Algerian literature, published or that engages domestic Algerian or French Algerian literature, has an intimate relationship on the country's history, identity, and socio-political culture. Writers such as Assia Djebar, Samira Negrouche, and Aïcha Lemsine engage using language not only to tell, but to evangelize rich thoughts on post-colonial identity, gender, memory, and cultural hybridity. The test came to prove that AI fails to identify and translate culturally encapsulated terms, idiomatic terms, and referents to history integral to the Algerian experience. The net effect comes to prove that the translated work comes to be culturally poor, where richness and uniqueness of original are diluted or even lost entirely. For example, the richness on Algerian Arabic speech or the intensive cultural meaning insinuated within Kabyle oral poem tends to come up superficially by AI, thus unable to translate the deserved voice and identity that the receptor culture's original work deserve. Cultural mediation effectively entails an intimate

knowledge, not only on the receptor culture, but on the receptor culture too, an awareness to the sensibility to the historic condition, and the capacity to make informed choices on best to bridge cultural gaps without exoticizing or domesticating receptor culture's original work. This, however, still remains an elaborate human task that AI, even up to this level, failed to replicate.

4.3. *Ethical Issues and Translator Agency*

The greater popularity of AI deployment among literary translation presents several ethical problems. Translator agency and the potential to de-skill or marginalize human literary translators are one among them. As translations created by AI come to assume large scale usage, there's always a possibility that human translators' unique skills and intuitive intervention come to be devalued. The quality of the literary translation then suffers, since the cultural and artistic aspect comes to be compromised to expediency or parsimony. Intellectual property and authorial issues then come to complicate things when AI comes to play its role within translation. Who owns the copyright to an AI-created translation? On whose intentions its effects come to encroach, that of the original author's and that, too, that of the translator's interpretative agency?

The second ethical problem that arises centers on cultural homogeny. As the AI software, trained on large yet universally culturally contaminated datasets, are dispatched to translate variform literary forms, there exists the possibility that the latter shall unwittingly impose mainstream cultural norms or linguistic paradigms and thus suppress the distinctive voices and visions that marginal literary forms represent. The human translator's task, therefore, goes not merely to translate terms, but to function as cultural guardian so that the integrity and ferocity original creation possess are maintained.

Ultimately, however, while AI has tantalizing promise to augment selected dimensions of the translation process, its introduction to literary translation, and thus to culturally taxing contexts such as Algeria, should proceed by virtue of cautious and reflexive deliberation. The argumentation leaps then to the argument that the human factor remains central to the highly varnished culture, identity, and language relationship that distinguishes literary work. The subsequent literary translation, then, co-exists not beside replacement by AI, but within an enlightened and moral partnership that benefits from AI strengths while buffering and complementing human translators' unique cultural and creative contributions.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The dynamic interplay and richness between literary translation and Artificial Intelligence has been judged by this article, and this was done within the particular Algerian situation. The argumentation substantiates that despite translation programs empowered by AI traversed so long from linguistic correctness and fluency to common writing, yet such programs still do not arrive at the dense connotations to meaning, stylistic refinement, and subjective cultural inscriptions characteristic to literary writing. The failure comes especially in a situation so rich and variegated like Algerian literature, by which virtue differences from a dialectical view, cultural specificity, and identity problems are indivisible constituents within literary production.

The qualitative test thus disclosed that AI fails to maintain the authorial voice, literary fineness, and, more importantly, cultural appropriateness. The flattening of artistic stroke and misrendering or omission of culturally vibrant terms create significant variance between AI's current competence and literary translation's requirement. The human translator, thus, still remains demonstrated to be irreplaceable, not just a linguistic converter, but rather a cultural broker, an artistic expounder, and an orchestrator of receptor text's integrity and originality.

According to this basis, the subsequent proposals aim to construct an improved, moral, and coherent literary translation future within the age of AI, within the Algerian situation:

Recommendations

Foster Hybrid AI-Human Workflow: Rather than assume AI should supplant the human translator, its function should be imagined to fit an ancillary device within a hybrid workflow. AI may prepare rough drafts, terminological extractions, or even suggest a list of translation equivalents to human translators to read and accept or redraft. The human translator, then, corrects, adopts, and injects into the writing those nuances that come from culture, fashion, and emotion that AI lacks. The collaborative approach takes advantage of AI's efficiency while still maintaining human touch's unique creative and interpretive talent.

Make Literary-Tasks-Specific AI-Models: General-purpose NMT models, so far, are not trained to the maximum level on literary pieces. The topic immediately demands that one explore and create AI models that have been trained on literary corpora from various linguistic and cultural traditions, e.g., Algerian Arabic, Berber speech, and Algerian French, etc. Such kinds of models should value preservation of style, culturally rich detail, and emotive exchange to linguistic accuracy, etc.

Offer Training on Translator-AI Collaboration: Algerian academic and professional groups need to offer training modules to prepare budding and veteran translators to work efficiently alongside AI tools. They involve an understanding of AI's strengths and shortcomings, proofreading AI-output translations, and using AI to do research and efficiency work without sacrificing artistic value or moral ground.

Foster Institutional Support in Algeria: Algerian state institutions, scholarship communities, and cultural spheres should sponsor research on AI technology and literary translation, and more on the particular possibilities and intricacies that Algerian literature presents. This may involve sponsorship to construct particular AI models, creation of special research centers, and advocacy on pilot research on hybrid translation currents. Also, digitization and the creation of Algerian corpora on literature, e.g., on orality, may assist to train improved AI models.

Make Ethics Codes and Guidelines: As AI takes its space among literary translation, there is a need to create special guidelines and moral codes. They should address issues related to intellectual property, rights to authors, proper use of AI so that cultural homogeneity does not occur, and proper payment and credits to human translators on hybrid workflows. The policymakers should take inputs from translators, authors, and developers of AI to create rules that adhere to artistic integrity and cultural diversity. **Festivals Celebrating Algerian Writers, Literature, and Genres:** specific efforts should continue to be put on translating and publishing Algerian publications, such as the book by Assia Djebar, Samira Negrouche, Aïcha Lemsine, and the rich tradition of Kabyle poems by word of mouth. This not just enriches world literature, but avails informative data and test cases that enable one to further probe AI's ability to process different and culture-specific kinds of literature.

Thus, the literary translation's future in the era of AI holds not a human apocalypse, but that of cooperation on another scale altogether of man-machine cooperation. By incorporating AI instrumentally, investing in AI-specific scholarship and training, and constructing strong ethical precepts, the world of literary translation within Algeria and internationally will be enabled to capitalize on AI's strengths to reach wider audiences by diverse literary voices without compromising on that artistic and cultural content which defines this very crucial field.

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