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Emotional Semantic Shift in the Machine Translation of the Song *Qalbī fī al-Madīnah* by Maher Zain & Harris J through ChatGPT

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Abstract

This study departs from the assumption that emotional meanings such as affection, longing, and spirituality are highly sensitive to linguistic and cultural changes, and therefore often undergo attenuation or shift in the process of translation. The research examines the phenomenon of emotional meaning shifts in the machine translation of the Arabic religious song *Qalbī fī al-madīnah* by Maher Zain and Harris J into Indonesian using ChatGPT. Employing a descriptive qualitative method grounded in Munday's (2012) theory, this study analyzes how ChatGPT transfers affective and spiritual nuances from the source text to the target text. The data consist of Arabic song lyrics and their machine-generated translations, purposively selected based on their emotional and spiritual content. The analysis focuses on four types of emotional meaning shifts as outlined in Munday's (2016) semantic theory: intensification, attenuation, polarity change, and neutralization. Based on the findings, ChatGPT demonstrates strong grammatical accuracy and structural cohesion but tends to neutralize emotional intensity and spiritual resonance particularly in metaphorical and culturally bound expressions. It is concluded that, despite the high linguistic flexibility of generative language models, their ability to preserve emotional equivalence across languages and cultures remains limited. This research highlights the urgency of evaluating machine translation performance in conveying the emotional and spiritual content of religious texts to maintain meaning equivalence. The findings also pave the way for the development of a new evaluation framework that assesses not only semantic adequacy but also cross-linguistic emotional fidelity, thereby contributing to the theoretical advancement of semantic-pragmatic studies through the application of Munday's emotion-based meaning shift model in the context of AI-driven translation.

Keywords: Arabic song translation, ChatGPT, Emotional meaning shift, Munday Theory, Semantic study

A. Introduction

The semantic dimension particularly emotional or affective meaning plays a critical role

in textual communication. In literary works, poetry, or song lyrics, the choice of words and sentence structures carries meaning that is not merely denotative but also connotative, evaluative, and emotional (Beata, 2007). A shift in meaning occurs when the interpretation of a word, phrase, or proposition changes as it moves into a different linguistic or cultural system (Chen, 2013; Horn, 2008). When emotional and expressive contexts are involved, such changes may take the form of intensification, attenuation, polarity change, or emotional neutralization.

Each word and expression in the song lyrics contains dual meanings denotative and emotional directed toward the listener, making the translation process highly sensitive to changes in form and expression. According to Gritsenko, song translation involves both structural and expressive aspects that function as resources of meaning-making; any alteration in musical structure or expressive style may shift the emotional meaning in the target language (Gritsenko & Aleshinskaya, 2016)

Furthermore, Steuernagel explains that religious songs are inherently transnational and undergo a process of cultural translation that can alter their spiritual representation and affective intention when crossing linguistic and cultural boundaries (Steuernagel, 2021). This aligns with other studies emphasizing that the translation of religious songs demands equivalence not only at the semantic level but also in the emotional and spiritual effects perceived by the audience (Suharto & Subroto, 2014). Meanwhile, a cross-cultural study on musical emotion by Celen et al shows that musical emotional expressions cannot always be translated directly due to differences in affective perception systems across languages and cultures (Celen et al., 2025).

In religious songs such as *Qalbī fī al-madīnah* by Maher Zain and Harris J, the semantic elements become increasingly complex, as they encompass not only lexical meanings but also spiritual nuances, religious values, affective intentions, and musical rhyme all of which collaborate to form a holistic meaning. Previous studies have shown that song lyrics often carry profound cultural meanings beyond literal words (Izu, 2022) and contain layers of connotative or emotional meaning (Novianingsih et al., 2022). When religious songs are localized, they undergo verbal and non-verbal transformations that may alter their spiritual representation (Steuernagel, 2021).

With the advancement of artificial intelligence technology, ChatGPT has emerged as one of the most sophisticated generative language models capable of producing flexible and cohesive translations. This model employs transformer architecture and is trained on massive datasets, enabling it to generate grammatically accurate and contextually natural translations. However, despite its proven reliability in structural and linguistic aspects, ChatGPT's ability to faithfully convey emotional meaning remains questionable. Early studies indicate that generative language models tend to flatten emotional intensity in favor of generality or output

“neutrality” (Jiao et al., 2023).

In the context of songs, the challenge for ChatGPT lies not merely in translating the literal meaning of Arabic lyrics into the target language, but also in preserving emotional resonance, spiritual connotation, and expressive style in translation. ChatGPT must “read between the lines,” grasping the religious nuances, spiritual passion, metaphors, as well as rhythmic and assonant patterns, then reconstruct the translation so it continues to resonate with the target audience.

The distinction between this study and previous research lies in its focus. While most prior studies emphasize linguistic accuracy and lexical equivalence in machine translation, this research offers an approach that highlights the emotional and spiritual dimensions in the translation of Arabic religious songs through the generative language model ChatGPT. This study introduces the concept of emotional semantic shift as an indicator of cross-linguistic emotional fidelity, a perspective that has rarely been applied in AI-based Arabic–Indonesian translation studies. The approach expands Munday’s semantic–pragmatic framework by integrating Sufi and spiritual contexts, thereby establishing a new analytical model that bridges linguistic, affective, and religious dimensions in AI-driven translation (Munday, 2016).

Although machine translation research for general texts has advanced rapidly, few studies have explored emotional semantic shifts in song translation especially from Arabic religious lyrics into Indonesian using ChatGPT as the translation tool. This study focuses on how semantic shifts occur in the translation of Arabic songs into Indonesian. The translation is carried out using a machine translation tool, namely ChatGPT, with particular attention to vocabulary that conveys emotional aspects. The translated data are then analyzed using Munday’s semantic theory on the intensity of meaning shifts.

B. Method

This study employs a qualitative approach. This approach was chosen because the research focuses on providing an in-depth description of the phenomenon of emotional semantic shift that occurs as a result of automatic translation by an artificial intelligence system namely, ChatGPT.

The research adopts a descriptive qualitative method, aiming to depict the types of emotional meaning shifts that occur in machine translation outputs and then compare them between the Arabic source text and the Indonesian target text. The analysis centers on two main aspects: (1) identifying the types of emotional meaning shifts intensification, attenuation, polarity change, and neutralization, as proposed by Munday ; and (2) exploring pragmatic factors influencing these shifts, such as spiritual context, religious intention, and interpersonal function within the song’s textual structure (Munday, 2016).

The research sample consists of the Arabic lyrics of “Qalbī fī al-madīnah ” by Maher Zain and Harris J, along with its automatic Indonesian translations produced by ChatGPT. This song was selected because it meets the criteria of being textually rich in emotional and spiritual nuances, employing religious metaphors and affective expressions with high semantic density, and possessing cross-cultural and cross-linguistic appeal. The lyrics represent a fusion of religious values, spirituality, and deep emotional experience, making them an ideal object for studying emotional meaning shifts in machine translation. In addition to the main translation, several alternative outputs generated through prompt variations were also examined to evaluate the model’s consistency in maintaining emotional nuances.

Data selection was carried out through purposive sampling, that is, sampling based on the research objectives and theoretical considerations. The researcher deliberately selected segments of text that contained significant emotional and spiritual values. The analyzed data units consisted of words, phrases, or clauses with affective meaning such as *qalbī* (my heart), *ḥubb* (love), *madīnah* (holy city), and *nūr* (light) as well as sentences expressing feelings of longing, gratitude, love, or inner peace. Linguistic units without relevant emotional function were excluded to ensure that the findings remained focused on semantic affective objectives.

The data collection process involved three main stages. The first stage was documentation, in which the Arabic lyrics were gathered from official sources such as Maher Zain’s YouTube channel and verified lyric databases. The second stage was machine translation experimentation, where the Arabic lyrics were input into ChatGPT to generate Indonesian translations. This process was repeated several times with different prompts to obtain stable, natural, and representative results. The third stage was coding and data reduction, which involved comparing each line of the source and target texts to identify segments exhibiting emotional meaning shifts. These linguistic units were coded according to the type of shift to facilitate further analysis.

The data analysis stage was conducted systematically. The researcher applied Munday’s Semantic Shift theory to identify changes in emotional intensity, polarity, or value from the source to the target language. The results were then interpreted to evaluate the extent to which ChatGPT could maintain emotional equivalence between the two languages. Validation was performed through peer review by experts in applied linguistics and translation studies to ensure the reliability of the interpretations.

In the final stage, the researcher drew conclusions by highlighting general patterns of emotional meaning shifts observed in the data. This study is expected to contribute to the advancement of applied linguistics research, particularly in understanding the limitations and potential of generative language models such as ChatGPT in preserving the emotional and

spiritual dimensions of source texts during cross-linguistic and cross-cultural translation processes.

C. Result and Discussion

1. Identification of Emotional Lexicons in the Original Arabic Text

Based on the findings, there are seven segments in the song “*Qalbī fī al-madīnah* ” that contain emotional lexicons.

No	Arabic Lyrics “ <i>Qalbī fī al-madīnah</i> ”	Emotional Element
1	سَالَ دَمْعِي شَوْقًا	شَوْقًا
2	فَاضَ قَلْبِي عَشْقًا	عَشْقًا
3	طَارَتْ رُوحِي حُبًّا	حُبًّا
4	رَامَ كُلِّي قُرْبًا	قُرْبًا
5	يَا أَبَا الزَّهْرَاءِ كَمْ أَحْنُ إِلَيْكَ	أَحْنُ
6	طَهَّ نُورَ الْعَيْنِ	نُورَ الْعَيْنِ

The data above show that the Arabic version of *Qalbī fī al-madīnah* contains a rich network of emotional lexicons and metaphorical expressions, reflecting profound spiritual affection toward the Prophet Muhammad. Words such as شَوْقًا (longing), عَشْقًا (deep love), حُبًّا (love), السَّكِينَةَ (tranquility), أَحْنُ (I deeply yearn), and نُورَ الْعَيْنِ (light of the eye, denoting cherished love) collectively form an emotional field that conveys religious yearning, divine love, and inner peace.

These lexicons carry not only affective meanings but also high religious–pragmatic intensity, evoking an intimate spiritual bond between the speaker and the Prophet. Overall, the tone of the source text is ecstatic and spiritual, blending humility with complete emotional surrender.

2. Emotional Meaning Shifts in Machine Translation

No	Arabic Lyrics “ <i>Qalbī fī al-madīnah</i> ”	ChatGPT Translation	Type of Shift
1	سَالَ دَمْعِي شَوْقًا	Air mataku mengalir karena rindu	Attenuation & Neutralization
2	فَاضَ قَلْبِي عَشْقًا	Hatiku meluap karena cinta	Neutralization
3	طَارَتْ رُوحِي حُبًّا	Jiwaku terbang karena kasih	Attenuation
4	رَامَ كُلِّي قُرْبًا	Seluruh diriku merindukan	Attenuation & Neutralization

	kedekatan		
5	يا أبا الزهراء كم أحنُّ إليك	Wahai Aba-Zahrā	betapa Intensification aku merindukanmu
6	طَهْ نُورَ الْعَيْنِ	Wahai Tāhā,	cahaya Neutralization mataku

Each emotional shift identified in the table is discussed below.

Data 1

<i>Source Text</i>	<i>Literal Translation</i>	<i>Machine Translation</i>
سَالَ دَمْعِي شَوْقًا	My tears flowed with longing	My tears flow because of longing

Lexically, the verb سَالَ means *to flow, drip, or pour forth*, often used for liquids such as tears or blood carrying connotations of overflowing, uncontrollable emotion. The noun دَمْعِي means *my tears*, and شَوْقًا signifies *profound yearning*, accompanied by an intense desire for union. Hence, the phrase literally means “*My tears flowed with longing.*”

In the Sufi poetic tradition, this expression depicts the emotional manifestation of spiritual yearning tears not as a symbol of sorrow but as a representation of love (maḥabbah) and veneration (taʿzīm) toward the sacred beloved, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Thus, this verse signifies not merely personal longing but also a transcendental outpouring of faith and devotion.

In ChatGPT’s translation, the line becomes “*Air mataku mengalir karena rindu.*” The translation is lexically and semantically equivalent, maintaining grammatical structure, the central metaphor (tears), and the basic emotion (longing). However, from the perspective of Munday’s Emotional Shift Theory, there is a slight attenuation of spiritual depth (Munday, 2016). In the Arabic text, *shawq* evokes sacred longing that connects the self to God and His Messenger, whereas the Indonesian term *rindu* tends to connote personal and human emotion, rather than spiritual devotion.

Consequently, while surface-level meaning and structure remain intact, the transcendental emotion is replaced by an interpersonal sentiment, indicating a subtle semantic drift from the spiritual to the sentimental. According to Munday, this is a form of neutralization, in which affective meaning remains but divine context weakens. This phenomenon is consistent with Munday’s findings, which emphasize that cross-linguistic translation often preserves general emotional meaning while losing transcendental ideological and cultural orientation (Munday, 2016).

Overall, ChatGPT’s translation exhibits high semantic fidelity, yet reduced spiritual

resonance, confirming that while machine translation preserves linguistic form, it often fails to capture the intensity and orientation of Sufi emotional expression. This observation reinforces the arguments of O’Hagan (2019), who assert that AI-based translation systems tend to excel in formal equivalence but remain limited in representing implicit affective, cultural, and religious dimensions (Parsa, 2021).

Data 2

<i>Source Text</i>	<i>Literal Translation</i>	<i>Machine Translation</i>
فَاضَ قَلْبِي عِشْقًا	My heart overflowed with love	My heart overflowed because of love

In the verse فَاضَ قَلْبِي عِشْقًا, lexically, the word عِشْقًا in al-Ma‘ānī Dictionary denotes passionate love, ardor, or deep affection. In both classical and Sufi Arabic traditions, ‘ishq signifies a transcendental form of spiritual love, one that surpasses worldly affection and embodies emotional devotion toward a sacred object in this context, the Prophet Muhammad (Lumbard, 2007).

However, in ChatGPT’s translation, the line is rendered as “Hatiku meluap karena cinta” (“My heart overflowed because of love”). This transformation reveals an emotional semantic shift from ‘ishq a term rich in spiritual and mystical connotation to cinta (“love”), which in Indonesian conveys a more sentimental and culturally neutral affection. According to Munday’s semantic shift framework, this represents a case of neutralization, where the emotional intensity of the source diminishes as it is adapted into the target language (Munday, 2016).

The spiritual fervor embedded in ‘ishq a symbol of divine yearning and total surrender becomes softened into a human-centered sentiment of love. A similar phenomenon has been observed in Qur’anic translation studies using large language models (LLMs), which often fail to capture implicit meanings, religious metaphors, and cultural contexts, warning of the risk of spiritual nuance loss when relying solely on machine translation (Omar & Kadhim, 2025). This finding underscores the limitations of machine translation systems in interpreting the emotional and spiritual dimensions intrinsic to Arabic religious texts.

In conclusion, although ChatGPT successfully maintains syntactic structure and general meaning, it remains insensitive to the religious semantic nuance and affective depth inherent in Sufi expressions. This shift highlights the necessity of adopting a hybrid translation approach combining artificial intelligence with human intuition to preserve emotional fidelity and spiritual resonance in the translation of sacred or devotional texts (Budimir, 2025).

Data 3

<i>Source Text</i>	<i>Literal Translation</i>	<i>Machine Translation</i>
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طَارَتْ رُوجِي حُبًّا	My soul flew [with] love	My soul flies because of affection
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In the verse طَارَتْ رُوجِي حُبًّا, the lexical element حُبًّا carries deep emotional meaning. Literally, the line means “My soul flew because of love.” In classical Arabic, the verb طَارَتْ denotes motion that is free, soaring, or elevated; when paired with رُوجِي (“my soul”), it forms a powerful spiritual metaphor the soul ascends in ecstasy due to profound divine love. The noun حُبًّا, while generally meaning love, in a religious context such as Qalbī fī al-madīnah represents pure love for Allah and His Messenger, evoking an intense sense of spiritual devotion and transcendence.

In ChatGPT’s translation, the line becomes “Jiwaku terbang karena kasih” (“My soul flies because of affection”). Although the translation is grammatically accurate, a significant emotional semantic shift occurs. The word ḥubb, which in Arabic conveys a spiritual–transcendental nuance, is rendered as kasih (“affection”) a term that connotes interpersonal, worldly emotion. Within Munday’s framework, this change constitutes attenuation (Munday, 2016), where the affective intensity of divine love becomes softer and more profane. The sense of spiritual ecstasy is also partially neutralized, since the translation of ṭārat (“flew”) highlights a physical image rather than a metaphysical experience transcending material boundaries.

This shift aligns with broader patterns in AI-based translation, which tends to convert figurative expressions into literal forms, thereby neutralizing the emotional and spiritual depth of the text. As a result, the transcendental meaning is transformed into a more physical and profane image, causing the rhetorical intensity of spiritual ecstasy to diminish (Metwally & Bin-Hady, 2025).

Thus, while ChatGPT succeeds in preserving the metaphorical beauty and structural elegance of the original, it fails to fully capture the emotional depth and spiritual devotion inherent in the source text. This phenomenon suggests that machine translation models often normalize intense emotional expressions in religious texts into culturally and affectively neutral forms. Studies on machine translation have similarly shown that emotional intensity tends to weaken through the translation process. Troiano et al identified a general trend of “toning down” emotional content (Troiano et al., 2020), while Gaanoun and Alsuhaibani observed an increase in neutral sentence proportions in Qur’anic translations, indicating that strong emotional nuances are not fully conveyed into the target language (Gaanoun & Alsuhaibani, 2025).

This evidence reinforces the conclusion that AI translation models, though reliable at the literal semantic level, tend to diminish transcendental emotional meanings—particularly those

characteristic of Sufi expressions of divine love (Bağ, 2023).

Data 4

<i>Source Text</i>	<i>Literal Translation</i>	<i>Machine Translation</i>
رَامَ كُلِّي قُرْبًا	My whole being desired closeness	My whole being longs for closeness

Lexically, the verb رَامَ means *to desire, to long for, or to strive earnestly toward something*, while كُلِّي signifies *my whole being or my entire self*, and قُرْبًا denotes *closeness, intimacy, or nearness (to someone or something)*. Thus, the phrase رَامَ كُلِّي قُرْبًا literally means “*My whole being longs for closeness (to You)*.”

In Sufi and religious Arabic discourse, this line reflects the totality of spiritual love and longing, in which the subject dissolves the self to attain divine proximity. The structure of the phrase conveys holistic emotional intensity, expressing not merely partial love or longing, but the entire essence of the soul oriented toward a single object of devotion God or His Messenger.

However, ChatGPT renders this line as “*Seluruh diriku merindukan kedekatan*” (“*My whole being longs for closeness*”). Although this translation appears grammatically and semantically equivalent, a subtle shift occurs in emotional and spiritual intensity. The verb رَامَ, which in Arabic connotes a strong, striving desire imbued with struggle and devotion, is translated as *merindukan* (“*to long for*” or “*to miss*”), which carries a softer, more passive emotional tone in Indonesian. The transition from active, fervent yearning to contemplative longing demonstrates a form of emotional attenuation, as classified by Munday (Munday, 2016).

Moreover, قُرْبًا, which in Arabic conveys mystical nearness or spiritual union, is rendered simply as “*kedekatan*” (closeness) in its general sense, thereby undergoing semantic neutralization a reduction of its religious and symbolic depth. Al Sharoufi emphasizes that machine translation systems face substantive challenges in handling pragmatic and cultural contexts when transferring cultural meaning into the target language (Sharoufi & Al-fadhli, 2025).

In conclusion, the verse رَامَ كُلِّي قُرْبًا experiences two types of emotional shifts simultaneously: Attenuation in the affective dimension (a weakening of emotional force), and Neutralization in the spiritual dimension (a dilution of mystical meaning). Other studies on film translation strategies have found that preserving cultural and emotional nuances requires approaches beyond direct lexical equivalence, an aspect that is often insufficiently addressed in automatic machine translation (Viriyapanyanont, 2025).

ChatGPT successfully conveys the surface message of yearning for nearness, but it fails

to retain the intense emotional depth and mystical resonance embedded in the original text. This finding reinforces the broader pattern observed across religious poetic translations: machine translation tends to preserve literal semantic equivalence while diminishing the expressive emotional and spiritual profundity characteristic of Arabic devotional poetry.

Data 5

<i>Source Text</i>	<i>Literal Translation</i>	<i>Machine Translation</i>
يَا أَبَا الزُّهْرَاءِ كَمْ أَجْنُ إِلَيْكَ	O father of al-Zahrā', how I long [for you].	O Abal-Zahrā', how I miss you

In the verse يَا أَبَا الزُّهْرَاءِ كَمْ أَجْنُ إِلَيْكَ, the literal meaning is “O Aba al-Zahrā', how I long for you.” Semantically, يَا أَبَا الزُّهْرَاءِ is an honorific epithet for the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, meaning “the father of Fāṭimah al-Zahrā'.” This appellation functions not merely as a form of address but as an expression of love, reverence, and spiritual closeness. Meanwhile, كَمْ أَجْنُ إِلَيْكَ is a hyperbolic expression that conveys deep emotional yearning. The verb أَجْنُ denotes gentle affection, tender longing, and soothing yearning.

In the Qur'anic context, a related term حَنَّان (ḥanān), as found in Surah Maryam (19:13), expresses compassion and tenderness. This semantic connection indicates that أَجْنُ belongs to a lexical field of soft, affectionate longing—evoking comfort and love rather than intense or aggressive emotion. Linguistic studies on Surah Maryam affirm that ḥanān represents dimensions of consolation and mercy, consistent with classical exegesis that interprets وَحَنَّانًا as raḥmah (mercy) and maḥabbah (love) (Zaid, n.d.).

In ChatGPT's translation, the line appears as “Wahai Aba-Zahra, betapa aku merindukanmu.” While syntactically accurate and communicative, semantic analysis reveals a case of emotional intensification. This occurs because the Indonesian expression “betapa aku merindukanmu” explicitly amplifies the sense of longing through the intensifier betapa, thus strengthening the affective tone compared to the Arabic source. In Arabic, the particle كَمْ in this devotional context denotes a polite, spiritually refined softness, rather than a heightened or sentimental exclamation (Miraxatova, 2025).

Accordingly, the translation reflects a shift from gentle, reverential longing to a more explicit and affectively intense yearning. Within Munday's framework, this represents intensification, where emotional expression is rendered with greater force in the target language (Munday, 2016).

This phenomenon suggests that ChatGPT effectively reproduces syntactic and denotative accuracy but remains less sensitive to the religious register and emotional politeness intrinsic to Arabic devotional language. Pragmatically, the translation accentuates human affection but

attenuates the spiritual courtesy and Sufi reverence embedded in the original. This reinforces a broader pattern observed in machine translation research: AI systems tend to amplify surface-level emotion while neutralizing deep religious or spiritual affect, thus altering the emotional-spiritual balance of the text.

Data 5

<i>Source Text</i>	<i>Literal Translation</i>	<i>Machine Translation</i>
طَهَّ نُورَ الْعَيْنِ	O Ṭāhā, light of my eyes	O Thaha, light of my eyes

In the verse طَهَّ نُورَ الْعَيْنِ, the literal meaning is “O Ṭāhā, light of my eyes (heart).” Within the tradition of religious Arabic, طَهَّ is one of the honorific titles of the Prophet Muhammad, signifying nobility and sanctity often interpreted as “O Pure One” or “O Chosen One.” The phrase نُورَ الْعَيْنِ is an Arabic idiom that culturally symbolizes love, affection, and the highest form of honor toward someone deeply cherished emotionally equivalent to “beloved,” “apple of my eye,” or “soother of the heart.”

As explained by Omar, expressions of love and reverence in Arabic, such as Ṭāhā and nūr al-‘ayn, exhibit phonetic and semantic harmony that reflects purity, tenderness, and spiritual depth. This dimension is often lost in literal translation, since paronomastic (sound-meaning) interplay and pragmatic implicature construct an expression of love that is both sacred and reverential (Dawood, 2025).

ChatGPT renders the line as “Wahai Thaha, cahaya matakū.” Grammatically, this translation maintains literal structural equivalence, preserving the vocative element (wahai), the sacred name (Thaha), and the affective metaphor (cahaya mata). However, semantically, a neutralization of emotional meaning occurs. In the Arabic source, the idiom nūr al-‘ayn embodies deep emotional and spiritual resonance not merely a symbol of affection but a metaphor of inner purity and divine closeness. In Indonesian, however, the phrase “cahaya matakū” is generally perceived as sentimental and tender, lacking the spiritual and prophetic reverence embedded in the source text.

According to Munday’s framework, this shift represents neutralization, where the originally religious-transcendental emotion becomes personal and humanized (Munday, 2016). The vertical spiritual emotion (directed toward God and His Messenger) is transformed into a horizontal affective emotion (interpersonal affection). In other words, while ChatGPT preserves aesthetic form, it diminishes the spiritual depth of the metaphor.

This phenomenon exemplifies the broader tendency of machine translation systems to align religious expressions with universally acceptable poetic equivalents, yet fail to transmit

the faith-based emotional resonance inherent in sacred language. The finding reinforces previous research conclusions that ChatGPT excels in syntactic equivalence and lexical cohesion, but remains limited in handling emotional and sacred nuances in religious texts.

D. Conclusion

The research findings indicate that ChatGPT is capable of maintaining grammatical structure and surface-level semantic equivalence, yet it tends to neutralize or diminish the emotional and spiritual depth of the source text. Religious lexicons such as *‘ishq*, *ḥubb*, *shawq*, and *sakīnah* rich in spiritual connotations are often transformed into more general and sentimental equivalents in the target language. This reflects the limitations of generative language models in capturing the affective and spiritual resonance inherent in Arabic Sufi discourse.

From a theoretical perspective, this study expands the field of semantic–pragmatic research by introducing a systematic analytical model to identify emotional shifts in AI-based translation. The study reaffirms that translation systems built on Large Language Models (LLMs) excel in syntactic cohesion and naturalness but remain inadequate in representing religious emotion and complex spiritual metaphors.

From a scientific standpoint, these findings provide a strong justification for the need for a hybrid translation approach one that integrates the linguistic precision of machines with human emotional sensitivity and intuition, particularly in translating spiritual or religious literary texts.

Practically, the results of this study can be utilized to Develop emotion-aware translation models that account for affective resonance and spiritual nuance, Enrich Arabic–Indonesian translation pedagogy by incorporating cultural and spiritual contexts and Enhance translators’ awareness of emotional and affective layers across source and target languages.

For future research, it is recommended to Conduct comparative studies between ChatGPT and other machine translation systems such as Google Translate or DeepL to assess the degree of emotional fidelity, Perform corpus-based analyses using emotion lexicons to quantitatively map the level of affective intensity and Undertake expert validation involving specialists in Arabic linguistics, translation studies, and Islamic scholarship to ensure a more comprehensive interpretation of religious emotional meanings.

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