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Evaluating the Translation of Egyptian Colloquial Arabic Body Idioms into English: A Comparative Analysis of Four AI Tools

Abstract

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Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly being used in translation due to its speed and accessibility. However, idioms, particularly culturally specific ones like body idioms in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (ECA), pose significant challenges due to their non-compositional and context-dependent nature. This study evaluated the effectiveness of four AI tools—ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and DeepSeek—in translating ECA body idioms into English. Fourteen idioms were selected, and twelve expert translators were asked to evaluate AI-generated translations based on accuracy of meaning, naturalness, and cultural appropriateness using a Likert scale ranging from 0 (worst) to 5 (best). The results reveal notable variability among the tools. Gemini and ChatGPT showed nearly identical performance, scoring 3.53 and 3.52, respectively. DeepSeek performed moderately (3.15), while Claude scored lowest (2.60). Common issues included overly literal translations, reversal of meaning, tone misinterpretation, and outdated phrasing. Despite some successes, all tools struggled to consistently capture the figurative essence and cultural depth of the idioms. The study highlights the persistent difficulty of translating idioms with AI, particularly between culturally distant language varieties like ECA and English. While AI continues to improve, it is not yet reliable for independent idiom translation. Human expertise remains essential for ensuring accuracy, naturalness, and cultural appropriateness. The results advocate for a hybrid approach combining AI capabilities with human oversight and emphasize the need for further research into AI’s handling of figurative language and cultural nuances.

Keywords: AI translation, body idioms, Egyptian Colloquial Arabic, ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, DeepSeek



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تقييم ترجمة التراكيب الاصطلاحية المرتبطة بالجسد في اللهجة المصرية إلى اللغة الإنجليزية: دراسة تحليلية مُقارنة لأداء أربع من أدوات الذكاء الاصطناعي

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يتزايد الاعتماد على تقنيات الذكاء الاصطناعي في الترجمة يوماً تلو الآخر لسرعتها وسهولة الوصول إليها. ومع ذلك، فترجمة التراكيب الاصطلاحية، - خاصة تلك المرتبطة بالثقافة مثل تراكيب الجسد في اللهجة المصرية- ما زالت تمثل تحديًا كبيرًا بسبب طبيعة تركيبها التي لا تعتمد على الكلمات التي تشكلها مفردةً، إضافة إلى ارتباطها بالسياق. وقد هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى تقييم فعالية أربع أدوات من أدوات الذكاء الاصطناعي (هي تشات جي بي تي ChatGPT، وكلود Calude، وجيميني Gemini، وديب سيك DeepSeek) في ترجمة التراكيب الاصطلاحية التي ترتبط بالجسد من العامية المصرية إلى اللغة الإنجليزية. واعتمدت الدراسة على اختيار أربعة عشر تركيبًا اصطلاحيًا، وتقييم اثني عشر مترجمًا من ذوي الخبرة للترجمات التي أنتجتها هذه الأدوات وفقاً لثلاثة معايير، هي: دقة المعنى، والسلاسة، والملاءمة الثقافية، باستخدام مقياس ليكرت من صفر (الأسوأ) إلى ٥ (الأفضل). وقد أظهرت النتائج تباينًا ملحوظًا في كفاءة هذه الأدوات، حيث اتضح أن جيميني وتشات جي بي تي هما الأداتان الأفضل كما يتبين من متوسطي تقييمهما المتقاربين (وهما ٣,٥٣ و ٣,٥٢ على التوالي)، بينما حصل ديب سيك على متوسط تقييم بلغ ٣,١٥، وكلود على متوسط تقييم لم يتعد ٢,٦٠. وتتضمن المشكلات الشائعة في الترجمات التي أنتجتها الأدوات الأربع المذكورة الترجمة الحرفية الزائدة، وقلب المعاني، واستخدام النبرة الخاطئة (مثل تحويل النبرة السلبية إلى نبرة إيجابية)، واستخدام تعابير إنجليزية عفا عليها الزمن. ورغم أن كل الأدوات قد أنتجت ترجمات مقبولة من بعض الوجوه فإنها واجهت جميعًا صعوبةً في نقل المعنى المجازي والعمق الثقافي الكامنين في التراكيب الاصطلاحية. وقد ألقت الدراسة الضوء على الصعوبات المستمرة التي تواجه أدوات الذكاء الاصطناعي في ترجمة التراكيب الاصطلاحية، لاسيما بين أشكال لغوية تمثل ثقافات متباعدة مثل العامية المصرية واللغة الإنجليزية. مما يعني أنه لا يمكن الاعتماد على الذكاء الاصطناعي منفردًا في ترجمة التراكيب الاصطلاحية، وأن خبرة البشر ما زالت ضرورةً ضامناً للدقة والسلاسة والملاءمة الثقافية. وبناءً على هذه النتائج توصي الدراسة باتباع نهج هجين يجمع بين قدرات الذكاء الاصطناعي والإشراف البشري، وتؤكد أننا في حاجة لإجراء مزيد من الأبحاث عن كيفية تعامل الذكاء الاصطناعي مع لغة المجاز والدقائق الثقافية.

الكلمات الرئيسية: الترجمة من خلال أدوات الذكاء الاصطناعي، التراكيب الاصطلاحية المرتبطة بالجسد، اللهجة المصرية، تشات جي بي تي، كلود، جيميني، ديب سيك

Evaluating the Translation of Egyptian Colloquial Arabic Body Idioms into English: A Comparative Analysis of Four AI Tools

1. Introduction

In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become an integral tool in translation, with many chatbots used despite not being initially designed as machine translators. AI-driven tools are increasingly relied upon for their speed and accessibility. This study investigates AI's performance in translating Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (ECA) body idioms into English, examining whether AI-generated translations preserve meaning, naturalness, and cultural sensitivity.

Despite being widespread across many languages, idioms remain difficult to define (Grant, 2003). As a result, scholars have proposed different ways to categorize them, one of which is opaque idioms—combinations of words whose overall meaning is not directly linked to the meanings of their components (Lewis, 1997, p. 217). According to Baker (2018, p. 70), such opaque idioms are easily identifiable because they violate truth conditions (e.g., *It's raining cats and dogs*), have unusual grammatical structures (e.g., *trip the light fantastic*), or follow simile-like patterns (e.g., *like a bat out of hell*). These idioms, Baker (2018) writes, largely do not allow variation; they cannot be reworded, omitted, added to, or grammatically adjusted (p. 71).

Body idioms are figurative expressions that use parts of the human body as a source domain to convey meanings that go beyond their literal interpretations. This practice is widespread across languages, where body parts often serve as metaphors for emotions, actions, or abstract concepts (Kövecses, 2010). In many languages, body part names frequently appear in idioms that indicate emotions or other complex ideas (Ogarkova, 2013), such as *hand* for support (e.g., *to give a hand*) or *eye* for vigilance (e.g., *to keep an eye on*).

Many languages contain a wide variety of body idioms, including English and Arabic

(Bataineh & Al-Shaikh, 2020). In English, there are idioms based on almost every body part. Some examples include: head (*to lose one's head* – to panic or become confused), eye (*in the blink of an eye* – very quickly or instantly), arm (*to twist someone's arm* – to pressure someone into doing something), hand (*to give a hand* – to help someone), leg (*to be on one's last legs* – to be very tired or near the end of something), back (*to have someone's back* – to support someone), tongue (*to bite your tongue* – to stop yourself from speaking or saying something), teeth (*to show one's teeth* – to show aggression or hostility), knee (*to bend the knee* – to submit or show respect), finger (*to point the finger* – to blame someone), nose (*to keep one's nose to the grindstone* – to keep working hard and focused), and so on. Idioms may differ across language varieties. For example, Moon (1998) highlights the differences between British and American body idioms as follows:

BrE	AmE	
<i>kick ONE's heels</i>	<i>cool ONE's heels</i>	p. 133
<i>not know ONE's arse from ONE's elbow</i>	<i>not know ONE's ass from ONE's elbow</i>	p. 133
<i>have green fingers</i>	<i>have a green thumb</i>	p. 133
<i>rub shoulders with</i>	<i>rub elbows with</i>	p. 134
<i>have ONE's hand/fingers in the till</i>	<i>have ONE's hand in the cookie jar</i>	p. 134

Arabic, as a diglossic language (Ferguson, 1959), includes such idioms in its (High) Standard¹ and (Low) Colloquial forms. For example, على رؤوس الأشهاد (lit. *on the heads of the witnesses*) is a Standard Arabic idiom meaning 'publicly,' whereas ECA uses على عينك يا تاجر (lit. *on your eye, oh merchant*) to express the same meaning. In ECA, a large number of body parts are also used as the basis of idioms, including heart (قلبه ميت, lit. *his heart is dead* – he is fearless), eye (عينه مليانة, lit. *his eye is full* – he is content), hand (ما حدش ضريك على إيدك, lit. *no*

¹ Daoud (2006) is an excellent treatment of idioms in Standard Arabic.

one hit you on the hand – no one forced you into it), tongue (حط لسانك في بَقَّك, lit. *put your tongue in your mouth* – keep your mouth shut), head (راكب راسه, lit. *he is riding his head* – he is stubborn), arm (أقطع دراعي, lit. *I cut off my arm* – it is impossible), leg (مطرح ما تحط راسك حط, lit. *where you place your head, place your feet* – nothing will change). Again, there are regional differences across Arabic varieties.

In general, idioms are challenging to translate. Baker (2018) outlines four key difficulties in translating idioms: 1) an idiom in the Source Language (SL) may not have a direct equivalent in the Target Language (TL), 2) even when a similar idiom exists, its usage may differ in terms of context, connotation, or pragmatic function, making a direct translation problematic, 3) some idioms are deliberately used in both their literal and figurative senses within the SL (such as “*to go out with*,” which can be interpreted literally or as a reference to a romantic or sexual relationship), creating wordplay that is difficult to replicate unless an equivalent idiom in the TL matches both in form and meaning, 4) the norms surrounding idiom usage vary between languages, particularly in written discourse, where their frequency and acceptability may differ, further complicating the translation process (pp. 73-77).

Another difficulty in translating idioms lies in the fact that they are deeply rooted in culture, often reflecting unique traditions, history, or societal norms (Glucksberg & McGlone, 2001) that may not be shared between the Source Culture (SC) and Target Culture (TC). For example, the ECA idiom القرد في عين أمه غزال (lit. *The monkey, in his mother's eye, is a gazelle*) conveys unconditional love, especially from a mother to her child. In Egyptian culture, the monkey symbolizes imperfection, while the gazelle represents beauty. The idiom highlights a mother's biased view of her child. Translating this idiom into English is difficult because its cultural metaphor and emotional nuances have no direct equivalent, making a literal translation unsuitable. Thus, translating idioms, as Duff (1989) noted, requires not just linguistic competence but also cultural awareness to preserve the meaning.

2. Objectives and research questions

As AI translation tools continue to evolve, their capacity to replace or complement human translators is debated, particularly in contexts requiring cultural adaptation (Falempin & Ranadireksa, 2024; Soysal, 2023). Idiomatic expressions present a significant challenge, as they often carry figurative meanings deeply embedded in cultural and linguistic frameworks. This study contributes to this ongoing discussion by providing empirical evidence on AI's capabilities and limitations in translating body idioms from ECA into English.

Given the increasing reliance on AI tools due to their cost-effectiveness and speed, it is essential to evaluate how these tools handle idioms, an area already complex for human translators.

Thus, this study addresses three key research questions:

1. How effectively do AI tools translate ECA body idioms?
2. What limitations do AI tools face in accurately conveying the intended meaning and figurative senses of these idioms?
3. To what extent does AI's grasp of cultural and contextual nuances impact the translation quality when moving from ECA to English?

3. Literature review

Idioms are integral to figurative language but present significant challenges in translation due to their non-compositional, culturally bound, and context-dependent nature (Li et al., 2024; Mughal et al., 2024). Their metaphorical structure requires greater cognitive effort than literal language, thereby complicating both human and machine translation (Dankers et al., 2022). Machine translation systems particularly struggle with the cultural and pragmatic nuances necessary for accurate interpretation. Furthermore, the extent to which an idiom maintains literal plausibility – that is, whether its constituent words could convey meaning without figurative interpretation – significantly influences its translatability across languages (Mancuso et al., 2020).

Translating idioms between Arabic and English is especially difficult due to deep cultural and linguistic differences. Al-Qahtani and Al Qahtani (2021) highlight that disparities in history, tradition, and worldview create a significant cultural gap, especially for idioms lacking direct equivalents. Even when equivalents exist, translators often prioritize meaning over stylistic fidelity by opting for non-idiomatic renderings. Cultural awareness is essential, as differences in metaphor and imagery, particularly in political discourse, add further complexity (Mohammed & Al-Azzawi, 2025). Alawi and Abdulhaq (2017) argue that successful idiom translation requires both linguistic competence and cultural sensitivity.

Cultural context is central to idiom translation because idioms exist at the intersection of language and culture. Almaaytah (2022) stresses that effective translation demands attention to form, meaning, context, and cultural expression rather than mere linguistic equivalence. Machine translation systems often fail in this regard. For example, Alawi and Abdulhaq (2017) found that tools like Google Translate struggle with context-bound idioms and implied meanings—a challenge persisting even in advanced AI systems.

Baker's (2018) taxonomy identifies key strategies for translating idioms: using an equivalent idiom, paraphrasing, or omission. Adelnia and Dastjerdi (2011) emphasize the need for flexibility in applying these strategies to account for cultural specificity. In English-Arabic translation, Abu-Ssaydeh (2004) found paraphrasing to be the most common approach since literal translations often result in unnatural or nonsensical outcomes.

Despite advances in AI, idiom translation remains a persistent challenge. Baziotis et al. (2022), working with English-Greek and English-French pairs, found that systems still favor literal over figurative meanings. Recent studies show mixed results among AI tools. Obeidat et al. (2024), examining English-Arabic translation, examined AI systems translating English idioms into Arabic, revealing notable differences in translation methods. Google Translate relied on literal translations 76% of the time, while ChatGPT did so 53%, and Gemini only

21%. Gemini performed best with sense-based translations, achieving 63%, followed by ChatGPT at 35% and Google Translate at 11%. When it came to figurative language, Gemini again took the lead with 16%, followed by ChatGPT at 13%, and Google Translate at 12%. Similarly, Hidayati and Nihayah (2024), studying English–Arabic pairs, found that ChatGPT and Gemini offered more context-sensitive translations than Google Translate. However, Manakhimova et al. (2023), focusing on German–English, English–German, and English–Russian, noted that idioms remain a weak point for Large Language Models (LLMs). Liu and Li (2024), analyzing Chinese–English translation through a cognitive lens, found that while ChatGPT handled implicit metaphors well, human editing was still necessary for cultural adaptation. These results highlight the added complexity of translating idioms between low-resource, culturally distant language pairs like English and Arabic, compared to high-resource, closely related ones.

Current research highlights a significant gap in studies on colloquial Arabic varieties and body idioms despite their prevalence in daily interactions, media discourse, and dialectal fiction. While human translators struggle with the non-compositionality and cultural specificity of such idioms (Mughal et al., 2024), the potential of AI tools to bridge this gap remains underexplored. This study addresses whether AI tools can effectively bridge this gap by evaluating their ability to translate body idioms from ECA into English while preserving meaning and cultural nuance, focusing on this underexplored area of culturally embedded expressions.

4. Method

This study employed a mixed-methods approach to evaluate the effectiveness of AI-generated translations of ECA body idioms. The methodology consisted of three key components:

4.1. Selection of idioms

A list of 14 commonly used ECA body idioms was embedded in a written dialogue between three family members: Maha (mother), Hind (daughter), and Rabie (father). The researcher specifically composed the dialogue for this study, structuring it like a play with stage directions to convey the characters' emotions as they discuss a marriage proposal for Hind from an old neighbor. The idioms were contextualized through the dialogue to reflect their natural usage in everyday speech. To ensure its naturalness, the dialogue was reviewed by five highly educated native ECA speakers, selected based on their native proficiency in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (specifically from Cairo and nearby regions), their possession of at least a bachelor's degree, and their familiarity with natural spoken discourse through academic or professional backgrounds. All reviewers confirmed the dialogue's naturalness. The selected idioms involve ten body parts: ear, eye, tongue, foot, brain, head, back, hand, nose, and neck. They were chosen based on their frequency, cultural significance, and potential difficulty for AI translation.

4.2. AI-generated translations

Four AI tools—ChatGPT-4o-mini, Claude 3.7 Sonnet, Gemini 2.0 Flash, and DeepSeek-R1—were selected for their accessibility, popularity, and free availability. Each tool was provided with the same detailed prompt, instructing them to translate the dialogue from ECA into English. Research suggests that prompts containing clear details about the task, context, and tone tend to produce more accurate translations (Gao et al., 2023; Gu, 2023; Sadiq, 2025). The translations were recorded for later comparison. The prompt used is as follows:

Translate the following dialogue from Egyptian Arabic into natural English. The dialogue contains idiomatic expressions related to body organs, which convey wisdom, emotions, or life lessons in Egyptian culture. When translating, aim to retain the cultural depth of the idioms by either finding equivalent idioms or providing an adaptation that preserves their meaning. Ensure the dialogue remains fluid and natural for an American audience.

4.3. Human evaluation

Since automated evaluations have been found to evaluate text similarity at a superficial level, often conflating fluency with content accuracy (Finch & Choi, 2020), a panel of twelve expert translators specializing in Arabic–English translation was asked to complete an evaluation questionnaire (Appendix 1). The questionnaire included the full Arabic dialogue, AI-generated translations, and an evaluation table. The table listed the body-related idioms, their literal translations, and their intended contextual meanings. As some idioms could have different pragmatic functions, these meanings were provided to ensure consistency among evaluators. For example, *البحث ده طلع عيني الأسبوع اللي فات* (*this paper took my eyes out last week*) expresses exhaustion, while *والله لأطلع عينيك لو كلمت الواد ده تاني* (*By Allah, I will take your eyes out if you talk to this boy again*) conveys a threatening tone. The AI tools were not named² to prevent evaluator bias. The evaluators rated the translations based on three criteria: (1) accuracy of meaning, (2) naturalness, and (3) cultural appropriateness, using a Likert scale from 0–5, with 0 being the lowest/worst and 5 the highest/best. A total score of 15 was used as an indicator of overall translation quality. The evaluators also provided qualitative feedback on challenging cases.

5. Results

The evaluation of AI-generated translations of ECA body idioms revealed marked differences among the four AI tools evaluated—ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and DeepSeek—across three criteria: accuracy of meaning, naturalness, and cultural appropriateness. Table 1 presents the overall average scores assigned to each tool by the evaluators. All ratings were given on a scale from 0 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

² In the questionnaire, Chatbot 1 corresponds to ChatGPT, Chatbot 2 to Claude, Chatbot 3 to Gemini, and Chatbot 4 to DeepSeek.

Table 1. Overall Averages Assigned by Evaluators to AI-generated Translations Based on Evaluation Criteria

AI Tool	Accuracy	Naturalness	Cultural Appropriateness	Overall Average
ChatGPT	3.54	3.5	3.52	3.52
Claude	2.49	2.56	2.74	2.6
Gemini	3.44	3.56	3.58	3.53
DeepSeek	2.92	3.29	3.26	3.15

As is clear in Table 1, Gemini received the highest overall average (3.53), closely followed by ChatGPT (3.52). DeepSeek and Claude scored lower, with overall averages of 3.15 and 2.60, respectively. Although Gemini and ChatGPT showed relatively stronger performance, the results suggest that even the best-performing AI tools have not yet achieved high levels of accuracy or proficiency in translating ECA body idioms. The modest differences between the AI tools across all evaluation criteria are summed up in Table 2 by showing the ranges between the highest and lowest overall averages for each criterion.

Table 2. Range of Average Scores Across Evaluation Criteria with Highest – and Lowest-Rated AI Tools

Criterion	Highest Average	Lowest Average	Range (difference)
Accuracy	ChatGPT (3.54)	Claude (2.49)	1.05
Naturalness	Gemini (3.56)	Claude (2.56)	1
Cultural Appropriateness	Gemini (3.58)	Claude (2.74)	0.84
Performance Overall Average	Gemini (3.53)	Claude (2.60)	0.93

As shown by Table 2, the differences in overall averages between the AI tools are relatively modest across all evaluation criteria. The observed narrow range of averages (0.84–1.05) suggests that no single AI tool outperforms the others to a meaningful extent, thus suggesting caution in selecting one tool over another for translating idioms. Even the highest overall averages reflect only moderate success in producing accurate, natural, and culturally appropriate translations of ECA body idioms. Claude consistently receives the lowest averages, indicating it struggles more than the other tools with idioms. These results indicate that current

AI still struggles to fully capture the subtlety and complexity of idiomatic expressions.

Table 3. Evaluators' Average Scores for AI-generated Translations of Each Idiom

Body part	Idiom and AI translations		Average	Body part	Idiom and AI translations		Average
ear	لما يشوف حلمة ودنه	ChatGPT	4.39	head	راسك وألف سيف ما أخذش حد فيهم	ChatGPT	4.06
		Claude	1.83			Claude	0.56
		Gemini	1.72			Gemini	4.28
		DeepSeek	4.83			DeepSeek	2.22
Overall Average			3.19	Overall Average			2.78
eye	عينيه ما بتترفعش من عالارض	ChatGPT	1.89	back	أنا في ضهرك	ChatGPT	4.50
		Claude	2.89			Claude	4.28
		Gemini	3.56			Gemini	4.50
		DeepSeek	3.50			DeepSeek	4.50
Overall Average			2.96	Overall Average			4.44
tongue	لسانه زي السكر	ChatGPT	3.06	hand	أنا من إيدك دي لإيدك دي	ChatGPT	2.89
		Claude	3.17			Claude	4.28
		Gemini	3.78			Gemini	1.94
		DeepSeek	3.61			DeepSeek	2.50
Overall Average			3.40	Overall Average			2.90
tongue	لسانه زي المبرد	ChatGPT	2.83	nose	أنا روعي بقت في منخيري	ChatGPT	4.94
		Claude	2.44			Claude	3.61
		Gemini	2.94			Gemini	3.61
		DeepSeek	3.33			DeepSeek	3.61
Overall Average			2.89	Overall Average			3.94
foot	أبوه قدمه نحس	ChatGPT	2.50	head/ foot	مش عارفة راسها من رجليها	ChatGPT	4.28
		Claude	3.06			Claude	2.33
		Gemini	2.89			Gemini	3.56
		DeepSeek	2.89			DeepSeek	3.50
Overall Average			2.83	Overall Average			3.42
head	كبري دماغك	ChatGPT	3.06	neck	ذنبيها في رقبتك	ChatGPT	3.00
		Claude	2.17			Claude	2.83
		Gemini	4.33			Gemini	3.78
		DeepSeek	1.44			DeepSeek	3.56
Overall Average			2.75	Overall Average			3.29
eye	العرسان اللي اتقدمولك يسدواعين الشمس	ChatGPT	4.39	nose	حاطين منخيرهم في السماء	ChatGPT	3.50
		Claude	1.56			Claude	1.33
		Gemini	3.72			Gemini	4.78
		DeepSeek	4.06			DeepSeek	0.61
Overall Average			3.43	Overall Average			2.56

Table 3 provides a more detailed breakdown of the overall averages assigned to each

AI tool for every idiom. The results reveal notable variability in performance, both across idioms and among the tools. For example, DeepSeek received a high average score of 4.83 for *لما يشوف حلمة ودنه*, whereas Gemini and Claude scored significantly lower (1.72 and 1.83, respectively). Conversely, Gemini performed very well on *حاطين منخيرهم في السماء* (4.78), while DeepSeek received only 0.61. ChatGPT also demonstrated considerable variation, excelling in some cases and underperforming in others. It achieved a near-perfect average score of 4.94 for *أنا روجي بقت في مناخيري*, but just 1.89 for *عينيه ما بتترفعش من عالارض*. These differences highlight that strong performance on one idiom does not guarantee similar success with others, even those related to the same body part.

6. Discussion

6.1. Addressing research questions

This study addressed three main research questions through the analysis of AI-generated translations and expert evaluators' feedback. The results reveal key limitations in AI's handling of figurative language, cultural nuance, and context. Each question is addressed in turn below.

- *How effectively do AI tools translate ECA body idioms?*

The results obtained highlight both the potential for and limitations of AI in translating ECA body idioms into English. While ChatGPT and Gemini performed relatively well, producing translations that were often accurate, natural, and culturally appropriate, none of the four AI tools delivered consistently high-quality results across all idioms. The varying performance underscores AI's challenges in processing figurative language deeply rooted in cultural context. Although these tools demonstrate an ability to interpret and translate such expressions, their outputs still fall short in achieving reliability in accuracy, fluency, and cultural adaptation.

-
- *What limitations do AI systems face in accurately conveying the intended meaning and figurative senses of these idioms?*

AI systems face significant challenges in accurately conveying the intended meaning and figurative sense of expressions when translating ECA body idioms. A primary limitation lies in the opacity of idioms, where the meaning is not derivable from the literal sum of its parts. AI often treats idioms as compositional phrases rather than holistic units, resulting in overly literal translations that fail to capture their figurative essence. This can lead to a reversal of meaning or misinterpretation of subtle contextual cues.

Also, AI struggles with figurative and pragmatic aspects of language. For example, it may confuse emotional connotations, such as mistaking positive expressions for negative ones, or employ outdated phrases that no longer resonate with modern audiences. These issues stem from AI's difficulty in understanding the tone, context, and cultural pragmatics, all of which are critical for preserving the intended figurative meaning.

Moreover, the prioritization of fluency exacerbates these challenges. AI tools often prioritize grammatically correct and fluent output at the expense of semantic and/or pragmatic accuracy, producing translations that appear polished but depart from the intended figurative sense. This tendency further weakens the accuracy of translation

- *To what extent does AI's grasp of cultural and contextual nuances impact the translation quality when moving from ECA to English?*

The limitations discussed above are intensified by AI's limited grasp of cultural and contextual nuances, which significantly impact translation quality when moving from ECA to English. Despite extensive training on diverse datasets, AI tools exhibit a bias toward Western-associated entities and lack awareness of less-resourced languages like Arabic, particularly dialectal variants such as ECA (Arora et al., 2023; Naous et al., 2024).

This cultural knowledge gap leads AI systems to struggle with accurately translating

culturally specific content. Consequently, outputs often fail to resonate with the target audience, as idiomatic expressions tied to Egyptian social contexts may be mistranslated, erasing their unique cultural identity. In addition, AI's inability to adapt to the contextual subtleties of ECA, such as tone, and situational pragmatics, further diminishes translation quality. Together, these factors result in translations that often feel unnatural or misaligned with the original message.

6.2. Examining the performance of AI in translating ECA body idioms into English

Due to space limitations, only a selection of examples and accompanying comments is provided below. The complete translations can be found in Appendix 1 (the questionnaire distributed to evaluators).

6.2.1. Examples of AI translation failures

The examples in Table 4 represent the lowest-scoring translations, as reflected in their low average scores. Example 1 (via Claude) is overly literal, producing the phrase “*with a thousand swords,*” which lacks meaning in English due to the tool's failure to account for idiomatic and cultural nuance. Example 2 (via DeepSeek) reverses the idiom's intended negative connotation (i.e., arrogance), demonstrating AI's difficulty with subtle contextual cues and resulting in a distorted meaning. Example 3 (via Claude) misreads tone, rendering a positive sentiment (i.e., integrity) instead of the original negative one (i.e., arrogance), underscoring challenges in conveying emotional nuance. Example 4 (via DeepSeek) attempts an idiomatic equivalent—“*Don't get too big for your britches*”—but mismatches the cultural meaning, as the ECA idiom كبري دماغك conveys indifference or detachment rather than arrogance that is expressed by the English idiom. Example 5 uses an outdated expression—“*block the sun*”—in a modern context, resulting in a temporal mismatch that could confuse the audience and weaken the original impact.

Table 4. Examples of AI Failures in Translating ECA Body Idioms

	Idiom	Translation ³	AI Tool	Average	Issue
1	إني راسك وألف سيف ما أخذش حد فيهم	even with a thousand swords, no one's touched your hand yet	Claude	0.56	Literal translation
2	حاطين منخيرهم في السماء	they're decent. Not stuck-up at all.	DeepSeek	0.61	Reversal of meaning
3	حاطين منخيرهم في السماء	They're as upright as can be	Claude	1.33	Misinterpreting tone: Negative vs. positive
4	يا بنتي، كبري دماغك بقي	Don't get too big for your britches.	DeepSeek	1.44	Idiomatic mismatch between SL and TL &
5	العريسان اللي اتقدمولك يسدوا عين الشمس	These suitors would block out the sun	Claude	1.56	Outdated phrases lost on modern audiences

6.2.2. Examples of AI translation successes

The examples in Table 5 represent the highest-scoring translations, as reflected in their high average scores. Four of the five highest-scoring AI translations are documented idioms that successfully captured the figurative meanings of the ECA body idioms. These translations demonstrated strong alignment between the source and target idioms, preserving the intended message while maintaining naturalness and cultural resonance. One notable exception is Gemini's translation of حاطين منخيرهم في السماء (Example 4). Gemini's output—"they're stuck-up"—is not an idiom but rather a paraphrase. Nevertheless, it effectively conveys the intended meaning of arrogance implied in the ECA idiom. According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 'stuck-up' is an informal adjective meaning "snobbish; conceited" (2016, p. 1731), making it feel natural and appropriate in English. It thus fulfills the primary goal of translation: communicating the core message in a way that resonates with the target audience. Although the vivid imagery of the ECA idiom (lit. *they're placing their noses in the sky*) is lost, such trade-offs are often necessary when adapting culturally specific idioms

³ Punctuation issues in the table stem from copying the translations from the full translation provided in Appendix 1.

for a different linguistic context. As is evident, the translation strategies used in these successful AI translations mirror those identified by Baker (2018), namely, the use of equivalent idioms and/or paraphrasing.

Table 5. Examples of Successful AI Translation of ECA Body Idioms

	Idiom	Translation ⁴	AI Tool	Average	Issue
1	أنا روجي بقت في منخيري منك!	you're driving me up the wall!	ChatGPT	4.94	idiom (Spears, 2005, p. 175)
2	لما يشوف حلمة ودنه.	Over my dead body!	ChatGPT	4.94	idiom (Spears, 2005, p. 484)
3	لما يشوف حلمة ودنه.	That'll happen when pigs fly!	DeepSeek	4.83	idiom (Ammer, 2013, p. 896)
4	حاطين منخيرهم في السماء	they're stuck-up	Gemini	4.78	paraphrase (Editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries, 2016, p. 1731)
5	أنا في ضهرك.	I've got your back	Gemini/DeepSeek	4.5	idiom (Editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries, 2016, p. 130)

6.3. Comparison with previous results

The results of this study are consistent with prior research (Dankers et al., 2022; Li et al., 2024; Mancuso et al., 2020; Mughal et al., 2024), which emphasizes the persistent difficulty of idiom translation, particularly between culturally and linguistically distant languages such as Arabic and English (Al-Qahtani & Al-Qahtani, 2021). While AI tools have made considerable progress in general translation tasks, the translation of figurative language continues to pose significant challenges due to misalignment with cultural and pragmatic nuances, as noted by Baziotis et al. (2022). This study affirms these observations. This study partially aligns with the results of Obeidat et al. (2024), who evaluated AI translations of English idioms into Arabic. In both the present study and that of Obeidat et al. (2024), Gemini, Gemini ranked highest; however, unlike their results, which showed a wide performance gap

⁴ Punctuation issues in the table stem from copying the translations from the full translation provided in Appendix 1.

between Gemini and ChatGPT, the results of this study reveal nearly identical overall averages (3.53 vs. 3.52). DeepSeek and Claude, which were not included in their study, received the lowest scores (2.60 and 3.15, respectively). The reversed translation direction in this study—translating from ECA into English—may account for some of these differences.

6.4. Limitations

This study is limited by several factors, including the small number of idioms analyzed (14), their specific semantic domain (body-related idioms), the focus on a single language variety (ECA), the nature of the source text (a dialogue between family members discussing a marriage proposal for their daughter). Other limitations include the physical location where AI tools were asked to translate the source text (Egypt), the prompt design, the relatively small pool of human evaluators (12 evaluators), the specific evaluation criteria (see Appendix 1), the versions of the AI tools tested, and their varying stages of development and training.

6.5. Future research directions

This study suggests several potential avenues for future research. Evaluating newer AI tools and architectures could provide insights into advancements in idiom translation. Investigating strategies to improve AI's ability to handle figurative language, such as incorporating cultural knowledge bases or fine-tuning models on idiomatic data, deserves further exploration.

7. Conclusion

This study explored how well some AI tools—ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and DeepSeek—translate body-related idioms from ECA into English. The results showed that these tools vary in performance. Gemini had the highest overall average (3.53 out of 5), with ChatGPT close behind (3.52). DeepSeek performed moderately (3.15), but it struggled with cultural meaning and matching idioms. Claude scored the lowest (2.60).

Some of the key problems observed in the translations were overly literal translation, accidental

changes in meaning, incorrect tone (such as turning a negative message into a positive one), selecting inappropriate English idioms, and using old-fashioned language that may confuse contemporary readers.

The significance of this study lies in examining how AI deals with culturally loaded language, particularly in underrepresented dialects like ECA. Despite significant progress in AI translation, idioms remain a major challenge. This highlights the continued need for skilled human translators to review AI outputs, especially when the language involves cultural depth or complexity. The study also highlights the value of combining AI tools with human feedback to achieve better outcomes. This hybrid approach can significantly improve the accuracy and naturalness of translations. Given that idioms carry substantial cultural identity, preserving their meaning and emotional tone during translation is crucial. Without this attention to detail, the intended message risks being lost or misinterpreted.

Despite the study's limited scope in terms of the number of idioms and evaluators, it establishes a solid foundation for future research. Further studies could broaden the scope by incorporating a larger variety of idioms, diverse dialects, and newer versions of AI tools to track their progress and improvements over time. Revisiting the tools tested in this study would also offer valuable insights into how their performance evolves with ongoing advancements.

In conclusion, while AI can assist in translation tasks, it is not yet dependable for translating idioms independently. Human expertise remains essential to ensure translations are both accurate and culturally sensitive. This study provides valuable direction for the development of translation tools and promotes improved cross-cultural communication.

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Appendix 1

Translation Evaluation Form

Study Title: Evaluating the Translation of Egyptian Colloquial Arabic Body Idioms into English: A Comparative Analysis of Four AI Tools

Researcher: Saudi Sadiq

Introduction

Thank you for participating in this study. The purpose of this questionnaire is to evaluate the quality of AI-generated translations of body-related idioms from Egyptian Arabic into English. Your ratings will help determine how well these AI systems capture the accuracy of meaning, naturalness, and cultural appropriateness.

You will be asked to evaluate each translation based on three key criteria: accuracy of meaning, naturalness, and cultural appropriateness. Each criterion is rated on a 0-5 scale on a 0-5 scale (0 being the lowest and 5 being the highest), with a total possible score of 15 per translation.

Instructions for evaluators

1. Read the original Egyptian Arabic idiom in the dialogue, then review its literal translation and intended meaning as provided in the evaluation table.
2. Review the AI-generated translations provided.
3. Rate the translations based on the three criteria below.
4. Provide any optional comments on the translation's quality.
5. Feel free to consult any general or specialized dictionaries.

Please evaluate each translation independently and objectively. If you are unsure about a rating, provide an explanation in the comments.

Evaluator's information

- **Name:**
- **Familiarity with Egyptian Arabic Idioms:** how far?

Thank you for your time and contribution to this study! If you have any questions, please contact me at saudi.sadiq@mu.edu.eg

About idioms

To ensure consistency in rating, please consider the following:

- An idiom is a phrase or expression whose meaning cannot be understood from the literal definitions of its words. Some idioms may not have a direct English equivalent but can be expressed with a similar meaning.
 - Example: In English, “*turn a deaf ear*” means “*to ignore something deliberately*,” which is similar to the Egyptian Arabic idiom *يطنش*. Another example: “*to keep one's nose clean*” means “*to stay out of trouble*,” which is similar to the Egyptian Arabic idiom *يمشي جنب الحيط*.
 - A good translation should either find a culturally equivalent phrase and/or maintain the intended meaning fluently and naturally.
-

Evaluation Criteria**1. Accuracy of meaning**

This criterion evaluates how well the translation captures the meaning and nuances of the source SL idiom.

- 5: Perfect Semantic Equivalence: The translation perfectly captures the full meaning and nuances of the SL idiom.

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- 4: Highly Accurate Meaning: The translation accurately conveys the core meaning and most nuances of the SL idiom.
 - 3: Mostly Accurate Meaning: The translation captures the general meaning of the SL idiom but may lack some nuance.
 - 2: Partially Conveyed Meaning: The translation conveys certain elements of the SL idiom's meaning, but some aspects are missing or misinterpreted.
 - 1: Severely Distorted Meaning: The translation significantly alters or misrepresents the SL idiom's meaning.
 - 0: No Meaning Conveyed: The translation bears no resemblance to the SL idiom's meaning.

2. Naturalness

This criterion evaluates how natural and fluent the TL translation sounds.

- 5: Perfectly Natural and Fluent: The translation sounds completely natural and idiomatic, as if it were a native expression.
- 4: Mostly Natural: The translation sounds natural and idiomatic to most TL speakers.
- 3: Moderately Natural: The translation is understandable but could be more natural.
- 2: Noticeably Unnatural: The translation is somewhat awkward and doesn't flow smoothly.
- 1: Extremely Awkward: The TL translation sounds very unnatural and forced.
- 0: Completely Unnatural: The translation is incomprehensible or sounds like gibberish to native TL speakers.

3. Cultural appropriateness

This criterion evaluates how well the translation aligns with the cultural norms and values of the target audience.

- 5: Perfectly Culturally Equivalent: The translation aligns perfectly with the cultural

norms and values of the target audience.

- 4: Mostly Culturally Appropriate: The translation is culturally appropriate and avoids significant misunderstandings.
- 3: Culturally Neutral: The translation avoids cultural offense but doesn't necessarily align culturally.
- 2: Noticeable Cultural Inappropriateness: The translation contains elements that are culturally inappropriate or misaligned with the target audience's norms.
- 1: Significant Cultural Misunderstanding: The translation reflects a clear lack of cultural awareness, leading to misinterpretations.
- 0: Highly Offensive/Culturally Inappropriate: The translation is clearly misaligned with the target culture's values and norms.

Source and Target Texts

In the following Arabic dialogue (Source Text), Maha is anxious about her daughter's marriage proposal from an old neighbor. Hind (the daughter) rejects the idea, while Maha insists that the proposer, Haitham Abu Al-Einain, is a good match. Rabie, Hind's father, supports his daughter, saying it's her choice.

Target Texts				Source Text
Chatbot 4	Chatbot 3	Chatbot 2	Chatbot 1	
(In the apartment living room, Maha paces anxiously while Hend sits flipping through a novel.)	(In the apartment's living room, Maha paces back and forth anxiously, while Hind sits reading a novel.)	(In the apartment living room, Maha paces back and forth anxiously, while Hind sits reading a novel)	(In the apartment's living room, Maha is pacing anxiously, while Hend sits flipping through a novel.)	(في صالة الشقة، تسير مها ذهابًا وإيابًا بقلق، بينما تجلس هند وتقلب صفحات الرواية.)
Hend: Mom, what's wrong?	Hind: Mom, why are you pacing	Hind: Mom, what's going on? Why are	Hend: Mom, what's wrong? You're	هند: ماما، مالك رايحة جاية كده؟

Why are you pacing like this?	like that? What's going on?	you walking around like this?	pacing back and forth like crazy. What's going on?	فيه إيه؟
Maha: I couldn't sleep last night—my eyes are burning from all the overthinking.	Maha: I couldn't sleep a wink worrying. My eyes are swollen from staying up so late.	Maha: I couldn't sleep a wink, my eyes are heavy from staying up so late thinking.	Maha: I couldn't sleep from all the thinking. My eyes are so puffy from staying up all night.	مها: معرفتش أناام كويس من التفكير، عيني واردة من كتر السهر.
Hend (sets the book aside and leans in): Overthinking what? Tell me. Is something bothering you?	Hind (puts the novel down and looks at her mother intently): Worrying about what? Tell me, is something bothering you?	Hind (puts down her book and looks at her mother intently): What are you thinking about? Tell me, is something bothering you?	(Hend puts the book aside and looks at her mother intently.) Hend: Thinking about what? Tell me—what's bothering you?	هند (تضع الرواية جانبًا وتنظر إلى أمها بتركيز): تفكير في إيه؟ قوليلي، فيه حاجة مضايقي؟
Maha (sighs): A suitor has asked for your hand. A wealthy young man from a prominent family.	Maha (sighs): There's a suitor for you, a rich young man from a prominent family.	Maha (sighs): A suitor has come forward for you. He's a wealthy young man from a prominent family.	Maha (sighs): There's a suitor who proposed to you. He's wealthy and comes from a well-known family.	مها (تتنهد): فيه عريس متقدم لك، شاب غني ومن عائلة كبيرة.
Hend (startled): A suitor?! Who on earth is it?	Hind (surprised): A suitor?! And who might this be?	Hind (with surprise): A suitor?! And who might this be, God willing?	Hend (shocked): A suitor?! Who is it, for heaven's sake?	هند (باندعاش): عريس؟! ومين بقى ده إن شاء الله؟
Maha: Hatem Abu El-Enein.	Maha: Haitham Abu El-Enein.	Maha: Haitham Abu El-Aynayn.	Maha: Haitham Aboul-Einin.	مها: هيثم أبو العينين.
Hend (exploding): What?! Hatem?! Our old neighbor?! That'll happen	Hind (exasperated): What?! Haitham?! Our old neighbor?! He's got another	Hind (excitedly): What!! Haitham?! Our old neighbor?! He wouldn't know decency if it hit him in the face.	Hend (outraged): What?! Haitham?! Our old neighbor?! He'll marry me over my dead body!	هند (بانفعال): إيه!! هيثم؟! جارنا القديم؟! ده لما يشوف حلمة ودنه.

when pigs fly!	think coming!			
Maha: Why, sweetheart? He's respectable! He's down-to-earth and sweet as honey.	Maha: Why, honey? He's a respectable young man, very polite, and speaks so sweetly.	Maha: Why, my daughter? He's a respectable man whose eyes stay lowered and whose words are as sweet as sugar.	Maha: Why, sweetheart? He's a respectable young man, keeps his head down, and speaks as sweet as honey.	مها: ليه يا بنتي؟ ده شاب محترم وعينيه ما بتترفعش من عالارض ولسانه زي السكر.
Hend (angrily): "Respectable"? His tongue's like sandpaper!	Hind (angrily): Respectable? Please! His words are like sandpaper!	Hind (angrily): Respectable? His tongue is like a file—sharp and cutting!	Hend (angrily): Respectable? Mom, his words are like sandpaper!	هند (بغضب): محترم إيه يا ماما؟ ده لسانه زي المبرد!
Maha (calmly): Don't be so hardheaded. His family's impeccable—you won't find better these days.	Maha (calmly): Honey, don't be so stubborn. His family is very respectable; you won't find their like these days.	Maha (calmly): Don't be so narrow-minded, sweetheart. These days, you won't find a family as honorable as his.	Maha (calmly): Sweetheart, don't be so stubborn. His family is well-respected—you don't find people like them these days.	مها (بهدهوء): يا بنتي ما تبقاش دماغك ناشفة. ده أهله ناس محترمين ما تلاقيش زيهم اليومين دول.
Hend (fuming): Mom, the neighbors say his father's bad news!	Hind (irritated): Well, I heard from the neighbors his father is bad news.	Hind (nervously): I swear, Mom, I've heard from the neighbors that his father brings bad luck.	Hend (frustrated): Mom, I heard from the neighbors that his father is bad luck!	هند (بعصبية): والله يا ماما سمعت من الجيران إن أبوه قدمه نحس.
Maha (clutching her cheeks): Oh, my rotten luck! Don't get too big for your britches, girl! You've got suitors lined up around the	Maha (putting her hands to her cheeks): Oh, my luck! Honey, just let it go. You've had so many suitors, and you've turned them all down	Maha (placing her hands on her cheeks): Good grief! Daughter, open your mind. These suitors would block out the sun, and even with a thousand swords,	(Maha puts her hands on her cheeks, distressed.) Maha: Oh, my luck! Sweetheart, just be reasonable for once. You've had so many suitors—more than	مها (وهي تضع يديها على خديها): يا لهوي على حظي! يا بنتي، كبري دماغك بقي، دي العرسان اللي اتقدمولك يسدوا عين الشمس

block, and you act like they're all beneath you!	flat.	no one's touched your hand yet.	you can count—and you're still dead set against all of them!	وإني راسك وألف سيف ما أخذش حد فيهم.
(Rabie, Hend's father, enters, sniffing the molokhia Maha cooked for lunch.)	(At that moment, Rabie, Hind's father, enters and smells the Molokhia that Maha cooked for lunch.)	(At that moment, Rabie, Hind's father, enters and catches the aroma of the molokhia Maha has prepared for lunch.)	(At that moment, Rabie, Hend's father, walks in, catching the scent of the molokhia Maha made for lunch.)	(في تلك اللحظة، يدخل ربيع، والد هند، ويشم رائحة الملوخية التي طبختها لها للغداء.)
Rabie (cheerfully): Smells like a masterpiece, Maha!	Rabie (happily): That Molokhia smells amazing, Maha!	Rabie (happily): Looks like an amazing molokhia, Maha!	Rabie (cheerfully): Maha, this molokhia smells amazing!	ربيع (بسعادة): شكها ملوخية تحفة يا مها!
(Noticing the tension, he approaches Hend.)	(After a few moments, Rabie notices the tension and approaches Hind.)	(After a moment, Rabie notices the tension and approaches Hind.)	(After a moment, Rabie senses the tension in the room and walks over to Hend.)	(بعد لحظات، يلاحظ ربيع التوتر في الجو ويقترّب من هند.)
Rabie (gently): Hend, you know I've got your back, right?	Rabie (gently): Hind, you know I've got your back, right?	Rabie (tenderly): Hind, you know I've always got your back, right?	Rabie (gently): Hend, you know I've got your back, right?	ربيع (بحنان): هند، إنت عارفة إني في ضهرك ولا لأ؟
(Hend nods, her eyes betraying her frustration.)	(Hind nods, her eyes revealing everything.)	(Hind nods, her eyes speaking volumes.)	(Hend nods, her eyes saying it all.)	(تهز هند رأسها، وتظهر عيناها كل شيء.)
Rabie: If you're not into this guy, we'll drop it. No pressure.	Rabie: If you don't like this guy, that's the end of it. Leave it to God.	Rabie: If you don't like this guy, forget about him. Leave it in God's hands.	Rabie: If you don't want him, then forget it. Leave it to God.	ربيع: لو مش عاجبك الواد ده، بلاش منه، وسيبها على الله.
Hend: Dad, I'd walk through	Hind: Dad, I'm in your hands, but	Hind: Dad, I'm with you all the way—	Hend: Dad, I trust you completely, but	هند: يا بابا أنا من إيدك دي لإيدك

fire for you—but not for Hatem.	please, not Haitham.	just keep Haitham away from me.	please—anyone but Haitham.	دي بس بلاش هيثم ده.
(After lunch, Maha confronts Rabie.)	(After lunch, Maha confronts her husband, Rabie.)	(After lunch, Maha confronts her husband Rabie.)	(After lunch, Maha confronts her husband.)	(بعد الغداء، تواجهه مها زوجها ربيع.)
Maha (accusingly): Rabie, I'm at my wit's end with you! She's a kid who doesn't know her head from her heels! Why indulge her? Her mistakes will be on your head!	Maha (scolding Rabie): Rabie, I'm at my wit's end with you! She's a young girl who doesn't know what's up from down. Why do you always listen to her? You'll be held responsible, Rabie.	Maha (reproaching Rabie): Rabie, I'm at my wit's end with you! She's just a young girl who doesn't know her head from her feet. Why are you going along with what she says? Her mistake is on your shoulders!	Maha (frustrated): Rabie, you are driving me up the wall! She's just a kid who doesn't know what's best for her! Why are you letting her have the final say? This is on your conscience now!	مها (وهي تلوم ربيع): ربيع، أنا روجي بقت في منخيري منك! دي بنت صغيرة مش عارفة راسها من رجليها. ليه ماشي ورا كلامها؟ ذنبها في رقبتك يا ربيع.
Rabie (calmly): But I did the right thing. I looked into his family—they're decent. Not stuck-up at all.	Rabie (calmly): But what she's doing this time is right. I actually asked around about the suitor's family, and they're stuck-up.	Rabie (calmly): But what she's doing this time is right. I actually investigated this guy's family thoroughly and found they're as upright as can be.	Rabie (calmly): But this time, she's right. I actually looked into the guy's family, and they've got their noses so high in the air, they think they own the world.	ربيع (بهدوء): بس اللي بتعمله المرة دي هو الصبح. أنا فعلاً سألت على أهل الواد اللي متقدم لها كويس وعرفت إنهم حاطين منخيرهم في السماء.
Maha (clutching her face in despair): I can't believe my ears!	Maha (putting her hands to her cheeks in dismay): I can't believe what I'm hearing.	Maha (placing her hands on her cheeks in disbelief): I can't believe what I'm hearing.	Maha (putting her hands on her cheeks in disbelief): I can't believe what I'm hearing!	مها (وهي تضع يديها على خديها بحسرة): مش مصدقة اللي بأسمعه.

Evaluation

Now that you have read the full AI-translated dialogue, please evaluate each idiom's AI-generated translation individually in the table below. If in doubt, please refer to the full translation above.

Idiom and AI translations	Accuracy of Meaning (0-5)	Naturalness (0-5)	Cultural appropriateness (0-5)	Comments
لما يشوف حلمة ودنه				
Lit. <i>When he sees the nipple of his ear</i>				
Intended meaning: impossibility				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
عينيه ما بتترفعش من عالارض				
Lit. <i>His eyes do not lift from the ground.</i>				
Intended meaning: humility				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
لسانه زي السكر				
Lit. <i>His tongue is like sugar.</i>				
Intended meaning: politeness				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				

لسانه زي المبرد				
Lit. <i>His tongue is like a file.</i>				
Intended meaning: impoliteness				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
أبوه قدمه نحس				
Lit. <i>His father's foot is bad luck.</i>				
Intended meaning: bad luck				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
كبري دماغك				
Lit. <i>Make your head big.</i>				
Intended meaning: indifference				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
العrsan اللي اتقدمولك يسدوا عين الشمس				
Lit. <i>The suitors who proposed to you block the eye of the sun.</i>				
Intended meaning: abundance				
Chatbot 1				

Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
راسك وألف سيف ما أخذش حد فيهم				
Lit. <i>Your head and a thousand swords I do not accept any of them.</i>				
Intended meaning: stubbornness				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
أنا في ضهرك				
Lit. <i>I am in your back.</i>				
Intended meaning: support				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
أنا من إيدك دي لإيدك دي				
Lit. <i>from this hand of yours to that hand of yours</i>				
Intended meaning: obedience				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
أنا روجي بقت في منخيري				
Lit. <i>My soul has become in my nose.</i>				

Intended meaning: frustration				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
مش عارفة راسها من رجليها				
Lit. <i>She doesn't know her head from her feet.</i>				
Intended meaning: confusion; ignorance				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
ذنبيها في رقبتك				
Lit. <i>Her sin is on your neck.</i>				
Intended meaning: responsibility; rebuke				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				
حاطين منخيرهم في السماء				
Lit. <i>They are placing their noses in the sky.</i>				
Intended meaning: arrogance				
Chatbot 1				
Chatbot 2				
Chatbot 3				
Chatbot 4				

Additional Comments (Optional)

Saudi Sadiq

 If you have any feedback on why a translation was good or bad, please write it here:
