Consider different levels of language and different kinds of source-target pairs:
1. What would be easy/hard to translate with MT?

Machine Translation (MT) finds varying degrees of difficulty across different language pairs and levels of language due to differences in syntax, semantics, cultural context, and idiomatic usage. For example, translating between languages with similar grammatical structures and vocabulary (e.g., Spanish to Italian) might be easier than translating between languages with significant differences, such as English to Japanese, where sentence structure, writing system, and cultural context vary greatly.

MT tends to perform well with texts that have clear, straightforward language and well-established terminology, such as weather reports or technical manuals. However, it struggles with poetry, slang, and idiomatic expressions that rely heavily on cultural context and nuanced meanings, often leading to literal but inaccurate translations.

2. Have you seen failed/succesful usage or applications of MT?

Failed applications of MT often occur in contexts requiring high levels of nuance, cultural sensitivity, or creative language use, such as literary translations, legal documents, or complex technical materials, where inaccuracies can lead to significant misunderstandings or loss of intended meaning.

Successful applications of MT are prevalent in scenarios where rapid, broad understanding is more critical than nuanced accuracy, such as gisting websites in foreign languages, real-time communication tools for basic conversations across language barriers, and in the translation of straightforward, informational content where precision in terminology is paramount. These successes demonstrate MT's growing capability and its valuable role in bridging language divides in global communication.