One of the best examples of where syntactic and dependency parsing really matters is in machine translation. When a computer translates from one language to another, it can’t just replace each word. It needs to actually understand how the words connect to each other. That’s what syntactic and dependency parsing help with — they basically give the system a map of how a sentence is built before it tries to say the same thing in another language.

For example, in English we say *“The student reads the book,”* but in Japanese the order would be more like *“The student the book reads.”* If the translation system doesn’t know that *student* is the subject and *book* is the object, it could easily mix things up. A parser can figure out those relationships and make sure the sentence still makes sense when the words get rearranged. The same thing happens between languages like English and German, where verbs often move to the end of the sentence — without parsing, a translation program could completely lose the meaning.

Parsing also helps with sentences that can have more than one interpretation. Take *“I saw the man with the telescope.”* That could mean I used a telescope, or that the man had one.Parsing helps the system see both possible structures so it can decide which one fits better in context. Another example would be *“Visiting relatives can be annoying,”* which could mean that you find visiting relatives annoying, or that relatives who visit you are annoying. These are small details for humans, but for computers they make a huge difference.

Even though modern translators like Google Translate or DeepL mostly use neural networks, having this structural information still makes a big difference, especially for languages with flexible word order or complicated grammar, like Russian or Turkish. Parsing helps the system understand not just what words are there, but how they actually fit together.

In simple terms, syntactic and dependency parsing help translation tools understand sentences more like humans do — not as a list of words, but as connected ideas. That’s what allows modern translation systems to sound smoother, more natural, and closer to how a real person would say it.