



# TRANSLATORS



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## I . RESEARCH QUESTION

"Which English modal verbs most frequently lead to pragmatic misunderstanding in Korean machine translation outputs?"

## II . BACKGROUND

- English modal verbs have multiple meanings depending on context.
- Korean expresses these nuances differently, using verb endings and adverbs.
- Machine Translators often fail to capture the correct tone or intent.

I am **eating** an apple because I am hungry

## III . INTRODUCTION

- Then, I interviewed 2 native English speakers and asked them:
  - What does the sentence really mean?
  - Is it advice, command, or something else?
  - How strong is the modal verb? (from 0% to 100%)

## IV . RESULTS

- Loss of Idiomatic Meaning:
  - "You should have seen his face!" was translated as advice, not an exclamation.
  - Emotional meaning was lost.
- Wrong speech act:
  - "Might I trouble you...?" was a very polite request, but Papago changed it into a kind of offer, which changes the speaker's role.
- Advice vs. Obligation:
  - "You should see a doctor" sounds advice in English, but the Korean translation sounded like a obligation.

## V . CONCLUSION

- Major MT platforms are grammatically strong but still consistently fail to interpret pragmatic nuances.
- This limitation can lead to communication errors.
- Our product, 'Translators', was developed to address this problem by providing comparative analysis and context.

