

TRANSLALIA: A Possible Future for Translation with GenAI

By Matthew Reynolds

Large Language Models (LLMs) are biased, error-prone, and bad for the environment; they reinforce the dominance of English and generate large amounts of terrible writing; and they are associated with a simplistic, functional conception of translation. But they can also represent language variety in unprecedentedly fluid ways, and enable new kinds of translational creativity that nurture an ethical awareness of difference. I call this potential 'translalia': in the talk I will explain what it is and how it relates to the history of translation, and show how anyone can practise it.