Task 2 – Machine Translation (linking words)

A. Read the task and the model given. Complete the missing information using the words/phrases in the box below. THERE ARE TWO EXTRA WORDS YOU DO NOT NEED TO USE.

especially	because	for instance	on the contrary	since
it seems to me	for example	in order to	due to	as
similarly	of course	for these reasons	however	only

Machine translation (MT) is slower and less accurate than human translation and there is no immediate or predictable likelihood of machines taking over this role from humans. Do you agree or disagree? Write at least 250 words.

It is true that there have been great advances in technology over the last forty years. (1) _____ , the use of mobile phones and e-mail communication are common these days. (2) _____ , machines that translate from one language to another are still in their early stages.

(3) _____ that a machine could never do as good a job as a human, (4) _____ when it comes to interpreting what people are saying. (5) _____ , machines can translate statements such as '*Where is the bank?*', but even simple statements are not always straightforward (6) _____ the meaning depends on more than just words. (7) _____ , the word 'bank' has several different meanings in English. How could a translating machine know which meaning to take?

(8) _____ understand what people are saying, you need to consider the relationship between the speakers and their situation. A machine cannot tell the difference between the English expression 'Look out!' meaning *be careful*, and 'Look out!' meaning *put your head out of the window*. You need a human being to interpret the situation. (9) _____ with written language, it is difficult for a machine to know how to translate accurately (10) _____ we rarely translate every word. (11) _____, we try to take into consideration how the idea would be expressed in the other language. This is hard to do (12) _____ every language has its own way of doing and saying things.

(13) _____ , I feel that it is most unlikely that machines will take the place humans in the field of translating and interpreting. If machines ever learn to think, perhaps then they will be able to take on this role.

(+/- 278 words)

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