



All CCS and Cross-sectoral Literature & Books Advocacy Initiatives Artificial Intelligence Cross- Sectoral Policies and Governance

“Books cannot be translated in a click!”

Following Amazon's announcement on AI-powered tool Kindle Translate, the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL) and the European Writers' Council (EWC) call on the global book sector to protect culture and human creativity, against the logics of mere profit.

Monday 24 November - Representing around 260.000 individual authors and translators from 91 associations and across literary genres, [CEATL](#) and [EWC](#) issued a joint letter calling on writers, agents, publishers and readers, to stand in solidarity with human literary translators against "incredibly worrying" AI-related threats.

Their [initiative](#) aims to mobilise [ALL players in the global book sector](#):

"Let's protect writers' and translators' work, their diverse creativity and their livelihood.

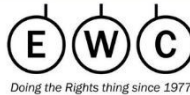
Let's protect culture and champion rich human creativity.

Let's defend ourselves against the logics of mere profit".

JOINT LETTER



CEATL
European Council of Literary
Translators' Associations



European
Writers'
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WE

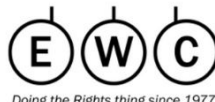
STAND UP FOR HUMAN TRANSLATORS

OUR RIGHTS, OUR WORK, OUR MINDS

The statement comes in response to [Amazon's recent announcement](#) of the AI-powered translation tool Kindle Translate, initially between English and Spanish and from German into English. The new tool follows a series of similar products launched, such as [Audible's new AI service](#) translating into English, audiobooks of Dutch publisher Veen Bosch & Keuning's.



CEATL
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BOOKS CANNOT BE TRANSLATED IN A CLICK!

CEATL and EWC are deeply troubled by the recent announcement from Amazon to launch Kindle Translate, a new AI-powered translation “service”, for Kindle Direct Publishing authors

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“Many AI-powered translation services claim to provide perfectly accurate translations but there is no such thing,” reads the letter.

“Every author must be aware that a machine translation might harm their text, style, and hence their reputation,” warn the signatories.

“Imagination, creativity and sensitivity are intrinsically human [...] AI does not grasp humour and metaphors, cannot experience the emotions, nor interpret the intention behind the words,” the letter continues.



European
Writers'
Council

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Let's keep fostering an industry that nurtures A LOVE OF READING OF WORKS WRITTEN, TRANSLATED, ILLUSTRATED & PUBLISHED

Signatories highlight that “most AI models have been unlawfully trained on copyright-protected works without consent, attribution or remuneration of the writers and translators”

They note that “AI raises many questions in terms of accountability of the automated, non-protected output that is remixed and generated by an AI model” and that reports suggest that “AI reinforces biases and stereotypes, and increases the risk of inaccuracies and errors”.

Signatories voice a wake-up call for all players in the global book sector against the increasing threats that AI poses to their life-long development of profession and to the creation of high-quality translations, “which respect the writer’s sense of storytelling and style as well as enrich the reader’s experiences”.

Find the letter [here](#)

Image by [zoha noor](#) from [Pixabay](#)

