Deference and Social Dynamics Across English-Hindi Translation
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Unlike English, the Hindi language uses different pronouns for familiar and formal address and reference. The Hindi singular form connotes familiarity and the plural, formality. This familiar/formal distinction also extends to the third-person, and the second-person division is actually a tripartite very familiar/familiar/formal distinction. The English language lacks these pronominal distinctions, so this information must be added when translating any English document into Hindi. How, then, does English-Hindi translation go about determining which second- and third-person pronouns to use?

To answer this question, I looked at parallel English and Hindi data from the book *Harry Potter and the Prisoner and Azkaban* and its Hindi translation. I examined the social relationships established between characters in the English text and predicted what pronouns would be used in the same relationships in the Hindi text based on age difference and social status of the characters. Initial results appear to show that while differences in age and social status provide an adequate baseline for predicting formality in Hindi pronoun usage, both emotional states, relationship changes, and revealing new information about relationships can change the pronouns used.