## SUMMARY

**[004]** Various embodiments described herein provide for systems and methods that relate to multi-lingual communications between multiple users, possibly where the users are at two or more client systems. Modes of communications facilitated by embodiments may include Internet-based chat (e.g., Apple® iMessage, Windows® Live Messenger, etc.), e-mail (e.g., embedded forum messaging, Yahoo® mail, RFC 5322, etc.), text-based mobile phone communications (e.g., SMS messages or MMS messages), postings to online forums (e.g., postings to a web-based hobby forum), and postings to online social media services (e.g., Twitter®, Facebook®, etc.). For example, systems and methods may implement a multi-lingual, multi-user chat system.

**[005]** In one aspect, there is provided a method comprising identifying a first language and a second language, receiving an initial message in the first language from a first person at a first chat client system who communicates in the first language, and querying a data store for a first corresponding message, in the second language, that is based on the initial message in the first language, wherein it is determined if the first corresponding message is found in the data store. If the data store includes the first corresponding message, the method may then assist in sending the first corresponding message to a second person at a second chat client system who communicates in the second language. If the data store does not include the first corresponding message, the method may utilize a transformation engine to attempt to transform at least a portion of the initial message to a transformed message in the first language. The method may then query the data store for a second corresponding message, in the second language, that is based on the transformed message in the first language.

**[006]** Depending on the embodiment, the initial message may comprise text, an emoticon, ASCII-based art, or other content suitable or customary for a human-readable message sent over a network. Additionally, the initial message may be part of a larger message being communicated between chat client systems (e.g., the initial message is one sentence in a multi-sentence message).

**[006a]** In another aspect, there is provided a system comprising:

a language module configured to identify a first language being used by a first person at a first chat client system who communicates in the first language, and to identify a second language being used by a second person at a second chat client system who communicates in the second language;

a communications module configured to receive messages from the first chat client system;

a data store configured to store a mapping between messages;

a transformation module configured to transform messages; and

a controller configured to cause the system to:

utilize the language module to identify the first language and the second language,

utilize the communication module to receive an initial message in the first language from the first chat client system,

query the data store for a first corresponding message in the second language, the first corresponding message being based on the initial message in the first language, wherein it is determined if the first corresponding message is found in the data store,

if the data store includes the first corresponding message, then assist in sending the first corresponding message to the second chat client system,

if the data store does not include the first corresponding message, then:

utilize the transformation module to attempt to transform at least a portion of the initial message to a transformed message in the first language, and

query the data store for a second corresponding message in the second language, the second corresponding message being based on the transformed message in the first language.

**[006b]** In another aspect, there is provided a system comprising:

means for identifying a first language and a second language;

means for receiving an initial message in the first language from a first person at a first chat client system who communicates in the first language;

means for querying a data store for a first corresponding message in the second language, the first corresponding message being based on the initial message in the first language, wherein it is determined if the first corresponding message is found in the data store;

means for assisting in sending the first corresponding message to a second person at a second chat client system who communicates in the second language, when the data store includes the first corresponding message;

means for utilizing a transformation engine to attempt to transform at least a portion of the initial message to a transformed message in the first language, when the data store does not include the first corresponding message; and

means for querying the data store for a second corresponding message in the second language, the second corresponding message being based on the transformed message in the first language, when the data store does not include the first corresponding message.

**[007]** For certain embodiments, the system or method may attempt transforming the initial message using a series of transformation operations before querying the data store is queried for a second corresponding message that is based on the transformed message. Alternatively, in some embodiments, the system or method may perform the transformation and query iteratively, whereby the initial message is transformed using a subset of available

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

identifying a first language and a second language;

receiving an initial message in the first language from a first person at a first chat client system who communicates in the first language;

querying a data store for a first corresponding message in the second language, the first corresponding message being based on the initial message in the first language, wherein it is determined if the first corresponding message is found in the data store;

if the data store includes the first corresponding message, then assisting in sending the first corresponding message to a second person at a second chat client system who communicates in the second language;

if the data store does not include the first corresponding message, then:

utilizing a transformation engine to attempt to transform at least a portion of the initial message to a transformed message in the first language, and

querying the data store for a second corresponding message in the second language, the second corresponding message being based on the transformed message in the first language.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising assisting in translating the initial message or the transformed message to a third corresponding message in the second language.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the transformed message is translated to the third corresponding message in the second language if the data store does not include the second corresponding message.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the initial message is translated to the third corresponding message in the second language if the transformation engine does not transform at least a portion of the initial message.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein transforming the portion of the initial message comprises:

identifying a chatspeak word or phrase in the initial message; and

replacing the chatspeak word or phrase with a non-chatspeak word or phrase.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the portion flagged comprises a proper noun, a common noun, a diminutive, an abbreviation, or an acronym.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the data store comprises an untransformed translation or a transformed translation.

17. A system comprising:

a language module configured to identify a first language being used by a first person at a first chat client system who communicates in the first language, and to identify a second language being used by a second person at a second chat client system who communicates in the second language;

a communications module configured to receive messages from the first chat client system;

a data store configured to store a mapping between messages;

a transformation module configured to transform messages; and

a controller configured to cause the system to:

utilize the language module to identify the first language and the second language,

utilize the communication module to receive an initial message in the first language from the first chat client system,

query the data store for a first corresponding message in the second language, the first corresponding message being based on the initial message in the first language, wherein it is determined if the first corresponding message is found in the data store,

if the data store includes the first corresponding message, then assist in sending the first corresponding message to the second chat client system,

if the data store does not include the first corresponding message, then:

utilize the transformation module to attempt to transform at least a portion of the initial message to a transformed message in the first language, and

query the data store for a second corresponding message in the second language, the second corresponding message being based on the transformed message in the first language.

replacing the colloquial word or phrase with a word or a phrase representing the colloquial word or phrase.

26. The system of claim 17, wherein transforming the portion of the initial message comprises:

identifying a profane word or phrase in the portion of the initial message; and

replacing the profane word or phrase with a non-profane word or phrase or removing the profane word or phrase.

27. The system of claim 17, wherein the initial message comprises text.

28. The system of claim 17, wherein the initial message comprises an emoticon.

29. The system of claim 17, wherein the initial message is part of a larger message.

30. The system of claim 17, wherein transforming the portion of the initial message comprises flagging the portion of the initial message to not be translated.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the portion flagged comprises a proper noun, a common noun, a diminutive, an abbreviation, or an acronym.

32. The system of claim 30, wherein the data store comprises an untransformed translation or a transformed translation.

33. A system comprising:

means for identifying a first language and a second language;

means for receiving an initial message in the first language from a first person at a first chat client system who communicates in the first language;

means for querying a data store for a first corresponding message in the second language, the first corresponding message being based on the initial message in the first language, wherein it is determined if the first corresponding message is found in the data store;

means for assisting in sending the first corresponding message to a second person at a second chat client system who communicates in the second language, when the data store includes the first corresponding message;