Navigating linguistic distances among European languages through AI analysis of the Bible

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is drastically transforming scientific research, inclusive of the humanities and religious studies. The Bible, across its many translations, is a pivotal resource for investigating written and oral language evolution. However, aspects of language frequently overlooked by linguists, such as proper names, are equally crucial for a comprehensive understanding of language progression.

Historically, proper names have been omitted from linguistic analysis due to their perceived arbitrary and meaningless nature. Yet, large corpora of proper names may serve as rich sources of information on language diversity. Shared linguistic features become discernible by comparing the frequency of proper names across various languages.

AI remains an underutilized tool in Biblical text analyses. However, its application could illuminate various theological aspects in novel ways. For instance, comparing the frequency of proper names across different Bible versions can reveal shared linguistic, logical, and theological characteristics. This study harnesses the power of AI to analyze an extensive corpus of Biblical proper names in major European languages. The findings from this analysis will offer fresh perspectives on numerous theological matters.