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Translation services - Post-editing of machine translation output - Requirements

Services de traduction - Post-édition d'un texte résultant d'une traduction automatique - Exigences

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Services de traduction — Post-édition d'un texte résultant d'une traduction automatique — Exigences

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 37, *Terminology and other language and content resources*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Translation, interpreting and related technology*.

Introduction

The use of machine translation (MT) systems to meet the needs of an increasingly demanding translation and localization industry has been gaining ground. Many translation service providers (TSPs) and clients have come to realize that the use of such systems is a viable solution for translating projects that need to be completed within a very tight time frame and/or with a reduced budget. When an MT system is used, clients can have material translated that can otherwise not be translated; translation costs can be decreased and the launch of products on specific markets, as well as the flow of information, can be accelerated. On the other hand, TSPs are able to:

a) improve translation productivity;

b) improve turn-around times;

c) remain competitive in an environment where clients show an increasing demand for using MT in translation.

However, there is no MT system with an output which can be qualified as equal to the output of human translation and, therefore, the final quality of the translation output still depends on human translators and, for this purpose, their competence in post-editing.

The rate at which MT systems are changing renders it impractical to produce an overarching International Standard on these systems, which could stifle innovation or be ignored by the translation technology development industry.

This document therefore restricts its provisions to that part of the process that begins upon the delivery of the MT output and the beginning of the human process that is known as post-editing.

Translation services — Post-editing of machine translation output — Requirements

1 Scope

This document provides requirements for the process of full, human post-editing of machine translation output and post-editors' competences.

This document is intended to be used by TSPs, their clients, and post-editors.

It is only applicable to content processed by MT systems.

NOTE For translation services in general, see ISO 17100.

2 Normative References

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

3.1 Concepts related to machine translation

3.1.1
machine translation
MT
automatic *translation* (3.4.2) of *text* (3.2.6) from one natural language to another using a computer application

[SOURCE: ISO 17100:2015, 2.2.2, modified – reference to translation of speech has been deleted as it is not relevant to this document; also "automated has been replaced by "automatic" in order to avoid confusion with translation memory tools]

3.1.2
machine translation output
MT output
result of *machine translation* (3.1.1)

[SOURCE: ISO 17100:2015, 2.2.3, modified – "outcome" has been changed to "result"]

3.1.3
machine translation system
technology used to perform *machine translation* (3.1.1)

3.1.4
post-edit
edit and correct *machine translation output* (3.1.2)

[SOURCE: ISO 17100:2015, 2.2.4, modified – the note has been deleted]

3.1.5
full post-editing
process of *post-editing* (3.1.4) to obtain a product comparable to a product obtained by *human translation* (3.4.3)

3.1.6
light post-editing
process of *post-editing* (3.1.4) to obtain a merely comprehensible text without any attempt to produce a product comparable to a product obtained by *human translation* (3.4.3)

3.2 Concepts related to language and content

3.2.1
content
information in any form

EXAMPLE Text, audio, video, etc.

3.2.2
source language
language of the *content* (3.2.1) to be *translated* (3.4.1)

3.2.3
source language content
language *content* (3.2.1) to be *translated* (3.4.1)

[SOURCE: ISO 17100:2015, 2.2.3]

3.2.4
target language
language into which *source language content* (3.2.3) is *translated* (3.4.1)

[SOURCE: ISO 17100:2015, 2.3.6]

3.2.5
target language content
language *content* (3.2.1) *translated* (3.4.1) from *source language content* (3.2.3)

[SOURCE: ISO 17100:2015, 2.3.3]

3.2.6
text
content (3.2.1) in written form

[SOURCE: ISO 17100:2015, 2.3.4]

3.2.7
natural language
NL
language with its origin unknown, but continuously developing sometimes in idiosyncratic ways as is used conventionally for human communication

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 24620, 2.12]

3.2.8
controlled natural language
controlled language
CNL
subset of *natural languages* (3.2.7) whose grammars and dictionaries have been restricted in order to reduce or eliminate both ambiguity and complexity

Note 1 to entry: As a generic, CNL is an uncountable noun that refers to the abstract properties of all controlled natural languages and not to a particular natural language or application for a specific purpose. It is engineered (i.e. constructed) with a view to reducing or eliminating ambiguity and complexity and aims both to make it easier for human readers (particularly non-native users, non-experts and people with limited comprehension) to read a *text* (3.2.6), and to improve the computational processing of a text.

Note 2 to entry: CNL is an engineered (i.e. constructed) language that is based on a particular natural language, but is more restrictive as regards lexicon, syntax, or semantics, while at the same time preserving most of its natural properties. Here, CNL is a countable noun.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 24620, 2.6]

3.2.9
segment
unit of *text* (3.2.6) produced for a computer application to facilitate translation

Note 1 to entry: A segment can be a sentence, heading or other unit of text, such as phrase, word or a single character.

3.2.10
locale
set of characteristics, information or conventions specific to the linguistic, cultural, technical and geographical conventions of a target audience

3.2.11
language register
variety of language used for a particular purpose or in a particular social or industrial domain

3.3 Concepts related to people or organizations

3.3.1
client
customer
person or organization that commissions a service from a *TSP* (3.3.5) by formal agreement

Note 1 to entry: The client can be the person or organization requesting or purchasing the service and can be external or internal to the *TSP*'s (3.3.5) organization.

[SOURCE: ISO 17100:2015, 2.4.3]

3.3.2
translator
person who *translates* (3.4.1)

[SOURCE: ISO 17100:2015, 2.4.4]

3.3.3
reviser
person who revises *translation output* (3.4.4)

[SOURCE: ISO 17100:2015, 2.4.5, modified – no need to specify that it is against source language content as it is explained in the definition of "revision"]