POST-EDITING MACHINE TRANSLATION: WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

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Agenda

Why PEMT?

Who can do it?

Which skills?

Which tools?

PE in education

Standards?

Q&A

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Why Post-Editing?

More than 50% of top global companies use MT solutions.

Digital content
Companies translate different content types into more languages.

Faster throughput
Companies have to translate more content quicker...

Lower costs
...and cheaper.
Post-editing: Who can do it?

**Linguists? Monolingual correctors? The public?**

**Language expert**
Who knows both source and target on a high if not native level.

**Translator**
Who has at least some practical experience in translation.

**Geek**
Who isn't scared of new technologies and of learning how to work with new applications regularly.

**“Half” Techie**
Who has a basic understanding on the principles of operation of an MT engine and how it comes about.

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# What does a post-editor need?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open-mindedness</th>
<th>Nobody is perfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Should not believe every common misconception about MT</td>
<td>Must refrain from over-editing - rewrites are no post-edits</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase in speed</th>
<th>Typical error patterns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main reason for MT is fast throughput – PE needs to be quicker than translation from scratch</td>
<td>Familiarity with typical patterns e.g. issues with negations, word order problems, agreement errors</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Affinity for Technology</th>
<th>Common PE guidelines</th>
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<tr>
<td>New environments and applications evolve constantly – the development not yet completed</td>
<td>Guidelines differ from project to project – but general concepts are the same</td>
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</table>
Other Skills

Relevant tools and metrics

- **Translation Memory Systems**
  - Typical post-editing environment: Translation Memory systems – since most translators are familiar with them

- **Integration of other applications**
  - Integration is key. Trends are going towards facilitating workflows so that TMS, term tools and PE environments work seamlessly.

- **Quality Metrics**
  - Sometimes error annotation is part of the task; even if not a knowledge of important error metrics (MQM/DQF) help post-editors to categorize and edit more efficiently.

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A solid ground

Post-editing in education

Good to know where MT comes from

A basic knowledge about the development of MT helps understand the importance of the technology and enhances goodwill for using it.

- Some facts about history of MT
- PEMT vs. translation: Pros & cons
- MT technologies: Overview
- Degrees of Post-Editing

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A training unit about Post-editing must contain a theoretical part as well as practical PE assignments (no less than 10,000 words per student).
And what about the old stagers?

It’s never to late to learn new skills

Formal PE course

• SDL
• TAUS
• Professional associations

Learning by doing

• Customers ask for help
• Collaboration with LSPs

Stay in tune

• Tool updates and new technologies
• Fairs, tools presentations, roadshows

Exchange with colleagues

• Online forums
• Local networks

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How to find common grounds

Do we need an international standard?

What can an ISO standard do for us?

- Easier collaboration between science and industry
- Wider acceptance among end-customers
- More consistent curricula across universities
- Fairer pricing for LSPs & freelancers

The International standard ISO/DIS 18587.2:2016 is still in draft stage and a release is currently not in sight. Maybe in 2017?
"Once you stop learning you start dying."
– Albert Einstein

Thank you!