



Book review

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In the ever-evolving world of translation, the abundance of tools and technologies available can be overwhelming for both novice and experienced translators. *Translation tools and technologies* is a groundbreaking book that aims to demystify the intricacies of computer-assisted translation (CAT) and machine translation (MT) technologies. Written in a straightforward and accessible manner, this book serves as a practical guide for translators, offering valuable insights and step-by-step guidance on selecting and mastering suitable tools for various translation tasks.

With 12 chapters covering diverse aspects, *Translation tools and technologies* takes readers on a journey through the history of translation technologies, project management, terminology research and corpora, audiovisual translation, website and software localization, games localization, and quality assurance (QA), catering to the multifaceted needs of both translators and translator trainers.

Chapter 1 highlights the systematic differences between languages, focusing on grammar, syntax, vocabulary structure, and distribution. It emphasizes the increasing need for translation technologies due to the growing volume of digital content and the limited availability of human translators. The chapter introduces the concept of utilizing parallel corpora and TM to automate the search and reassembly of phrases and text sections from previous translations, challenging the dominance of rule-based MT.

Chapter 2 explores CAT tools designed to handle various electronic documents. It discusses the evolution from using Microsoft Word as a bilingual CAT editor to the latest generation of streamlined browser-based CAT tools. The chapter also touches on the architecture differences in CAT tools, including where the program runs and the storage of translation resources.

Chapter 3 discusses CAT tools' storage of legacy translations in TM databases and retrieval from both TM and bitexts. It highlights the display of proposed translations and the tracking of changes between active and proposed segments. The chapter also mentions the language independence of CAT tools and the use of statistical alignment algorithms for leveraging legacy translations

and sophisticated searching algorithms for extracting reusable translation units from CAT corpora.

Chapter 4 highlights the importance of consistent terminology in translation work and introduces the use of termbases within CAT tools for managing terms. It discusses term extraction, both monolingual and bilingual, and the import/export capabilities of CAT tools for termbase data. The chapter also anticipates future advancements in real-time access to terminological resources within CAT environments.

Chapter 5 focuses on the use of electronic corpora and concordance tools in translation to enhance idiomatic expression and adherence to target culture norms. It presents methods for creating personal corpora through manual selection or targeted internet searches. The chapter also discusses the benefits of using corpus analysis tools for systematic language problem-solving in translation.

Chapter 6 introduces neural networks and their application in MT. It discusses the use of post-editing techniques to refine MT output for publishable translations. The chapter acknowledges the improved quality of MT with contemporary neural MT, particularly for well-supported languages.

Chapter 7 emphasizes two weaknesses of basic CAT tools: wasting useful translation information and the inability to provide leverage when no matches are found. It discusses how modern CAT tools have addressed these weaknesses through enhancements such as leveraging wasted equivalence, predictive typing, fuzzy match repair, automatic tag placement, and commercially confidential algorithms, some utilizing machine learning. The chapter anticipates future improvements in neural MT quality and the accuracy of TM retrieval.

Chapter 8 focuses on translation project management, including communication, accounts, and the translation process. It discusses the use of Translation Management Systems (TMS) and their translation editing environments. The chapter explores collaboration and project management features in tools like Wordfast Anywhere (WFA) and Phrase, highlighting their implementation across different platforms.

Chapter 9 introduces subtitling principles and discusses their implementation using representative tools. It highlights the growing trend of subtitling for equal access and the challenges faced by MT in producing usable subtitles. The chapter also addresses the demand for subtitlers, noting industry-wide shortages and the associated stress and burnout among practitioners.

Chapter 10 explores the growth of information technology tools in the 1990s, including the emergence of CAT tools, website localization, and game localization. It highlights the importance of adapting websites to different screens, browsers, and operating systems, and emphasizes the need for cultural alignment in game localization for success. The chapter acknowledges localization as a significant and expanding industry that facilitates global access to software, websites, and video games.

Chapter 11 examines the benefits of translation memory (TM) and terminology management tools in enhancing consistency across translators and projects. It addresses concerns about the impact on translation quality and discusses quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) tools at the enterprise level. The chapter highlights the shift towards translation quality management approaches that involve adapting to project processes and decentralized decision-making.

Chapter 12 elaborates on the challenges of studying freelance translators and the importance of achieving a state of “flow” in their work. It highlights the use of dedicated platforms by language service providers for workflow control

and data security. The chapter emphasizes the role of ergonomics in optimizing translators' working environment and efficiency.

The book stands out for several strengths that make it a valuable resource for both trainee translators and established professionals. Firstly, it addresses the overwhelming range of tools and technologies available in the field of translation, offering a straightforward and practical guide. By demystifying the workings of CAT and MT technologies, the book provides step-by-step guidance on selecting suitable tools, whether they are free or commercial, and quickly getting up to speed with them. The use of examples from a wide range of languages enhances the applicability of the guidance. Secondly, the book goes beyond text translation and covers a diverse range of topics that are relevant to the modern translation landscape. It explores the history of translation technologies, project management, terminology research and corpora, audiovisual translation, website localization, software and games localization, and QA. This breadth of coverage ensures that readers gain a comprehensive understanding of various aspects related to translation tools and technologies. Additionally, the book acknowledges the importance of professional workflows and integrates them into its narrative. It provides insights into the practical implementation of translation technologies within real-world projects, equipping readers with valuable knowledge and skills applicable to their professional endeavors. The book also addresses the legal and ethical considerations related to the reuse of translation data, reflecting the growing importance of these aspects in contemporary translation practice. Finally, the inclusion of targeted suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter is a valuable feature. It allows readers to deepen their knowledge and explore specific areas of interest or expand their understanding of translation tools and technologies.

While the book offers valuable insights into translation tools and technologies with its comprehensive coverage, practical guidance, diverse topics, and thoughtful suggestions for further reading, there are some limitations that should be considered. Firstly, the rapid pace of technological advancements means that some of the information provided in the book may become outdated over time. As new tools and technologies emerge, readers may need to supplement the book's content with additional resources or stay updated through other means to ensure they have the most current knowledge. Secondly, although the book covers various topics beyond text translation, such as project management, audiovisual translation, and localization, the depth of coverage for each topic may vary. Readers seeking in-depth knowledge in specific areas may find that they need to consult additional specialized resources for a more comprehensive understanding. Lastly, while the book acknowledges the legal and ethical considerations surrounding the reuse of translation data, the discussion on these topics may be limited. Readers looking for a more thorough exploration of the legal and ethical aspects of translation technologies may need to consult supplementary resources dedicated to these specific subjects.

In summary, *Translation tools and technologies* provides a much-needed bridge between theory and practice, offering a wealth of knowledge, practical advice, and valuable insights into the ever-evolving world of translation tools and technologies.