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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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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*.

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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.

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

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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)

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