The next generation translator's workbench: post-editing in CASMACAT v.1.0

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Aims of the study

- To identify, analyze and consolidate the needs of translation professionals with regard to post-editing.
- To uncover areas of improvement to expand the possibilities of the existing CASMACAT prototype.
- To reveal post-editing processes in need of:
  - greater automation;
  - better machine-based support.
The CASMACAT Project

- EU 7th framework project.
- Participants: Celer Soluciones SL, Universitat Politècnica de València, University of Edinburgh, and Copenhagen Business School.
- Overall goal is to “build the next generation translator’s workbench to improve productivity, quality, and work practices in the translation industry”.
The CASMACAT Workbench

- Web-based technology.
- Visual and functional resemblance to commercial CAT tools.
- Direct integration of state-of-the-art translation technology such as
  - exploitation of machine translation;
  - interactive translation prediction.
- Integration of new input devices (e-pen).
- Extensive logging and playback of translator behaviour (key logging and eye-tracking).
First field trial description

- June-July 2012.
- 5 professional translators from Celer Soluciones SL.
- English to Spanish.
- Post-editing guidelines.
- 18 texts were both translated from scratch and post-edited (12,000 words in total).
- 1 translator monitored with eye-tracking technology.
- More than 30 hours of user activity data (process).
Proyecto CASMACAT

- El proyecto se enmarca en el contexto del Programa de Investigación en Economía y Administración de Empresas (EIAE) de la Universidad de Barcelona.
- El objetivo del proyecto es analizar las redes de mercado de servicios y sus implicaciones en el ámbito empresarial.
- Se prevé una duración de cinco años, con un presupuesto de aproximadamente 5 millones de euros.
- Se espera que el proyecto contribuya a la revitalización de la economía catalana a través de la creación de nuevas empresas y el desarrollo de tecnologías emergentes.
- El proyecto cuenta con la participación de importantes empresas y universidades de la región.
First field trial description

Questionnaire 1

Training session

Post-editing tasks
(with and without CASMACAT workbench)

Questionnaire 2

Participants were introduced to the CASMACAT project giving them specific post-editing guidelines and basic training on how to use the workbench.

Over 12,000 words post-edited using the CASMACAT workbench v.1.0.

INTERVIEWS

Feedback from post-editors on the functional aspects of the CASMACAT workbench v.1.0.
The CASMACAT Workbench (Prototype 1)

- URL: http://cbs.casmacat.eu/

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Tech Toys to Keep Your Gift Budget in Balance

While the leading candidate for this year’s most marvelous toy is the iPad, followed by, perhaps, a Microsoft Kinect video game system, both can put a significant dent in your gift budget.

Consider that for the price of one iPad, you can buy five $99 BMX bicycles, and that one Kinect game costs the same as 10 classic beaded jump ropes, or about 48 cans of Play-Doh.

But there are ways to keep your gift budget in balance.

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Pero hay maneras de mantener su regalo de presupuesto en equilibrio.

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I recently visited three national toy sellers - a Wal-Mart, a Toys 'R' Us and a BJ’s Wholesale Club - to see what electronic toys I could buy for less than $80.

It was immediately clear that Moore’s Law has been at work; this year’s technology toy is likely to have more power, while costing the same if not a bit less compared with last year’s.

In addition, while there are generally fewer new toys with...
Methodology: semi-structured interviewing

- Individual retrospective interviews
- Venue: Celer Soluciones SL (Madrid)
- Interviewees: 5 professional post-editors
- Duration: 30 min approx.
- Grounded Theory approach
Methodology: semi-structured interviewing

- STRUCTURED PART OF THE INTERVIEW
  - Welcome and introduction.
  - Signature of informed consent.
  - General comments on the first field trial.
  - CASMACAT workbench prototype 1:
    - Functional aspects:
      - The editor
      - The process of post-editing in the workbench.
      - Comments on the implemented functionalities:
        » two-column layout;
        » keyboard shortcuts;
        » text formatting.
  - Comments on the futures functionalities to be implemented.
Methodology: semi-structured interviewing

- UN-STRUCTURED PART OF THE INTERVIEW
  - Room for open comments and feedback from the participants in regard to any post-editing issues that may arouse.
Findings: Wish list of functional aspects

POST-EDITING ENVIRONMENT (THE EDITOR)

- Visual track of changes
- Comments in rows
- Real-time word counters and progress bars
- Indicators of work performed
Findings: Wish list of functional aspects

PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT FEATURES

- Systematic search and replace
- Copy from source to target segments
- Sort segments
- Record of editing patterns / Macro support
- Autowrite/Autocomplete functions
- Automatic segment propagation
- Translation memory module (MT > TM cycle)
- Full glossary and black list integration
Findings: Wish list of functional aspects

QUALITY CONTROL

- QA checks
  - end-of-segment punctuation
  - correct numbers
  - double spaces (op.)
  - length of segments (op.)
Conclusions

- First field trial successful in uncovering post-editor’s needs.
- Wish list to be implemented in future versions of the CASMACAT workbench (June 2013).
- Further research in post-editing processes is needed to inform the development of advanced translation assistance tools.
- Real needs should be the basis for a more successful interaction between the human post-editor and the technology in use.
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