Application of the TOEFL Test to the Evaluation of English-Japanese MT

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Recently we did some comparative evaluation of commercial English-Japanese MT systems using the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) examination. Questions in Section III (reading comprehension) of TOEFL were translated into Japanese by three different MT systems, and 60 native Japanese students were asked to take the translated test (Japanese comprehension test).

The scores achieved by the students should reflect the systems’ ability to convey the semantic contents of the input text as a whole into Japanese. The talk will describe what we have learned from these experiments.