A further requirement is reversibility, the possibility of being able to translate from one language to another, and vice versa.

Finally, just one dictionary should be usable for each pair of languages either way, which means that the words in the dictionary need to be written only once, with a few exceptions, so as to reduce the volume of the dictionary, and increase the speed of consultation and translation.

On the basis of the above considerations, Dr D’Agostini chose the Apple Macintosh as the operating computer, because of its simplicity and speed, and the Apple “Hypercard” interface, with its program language “HyperTalk”, as being simple for all to use.

The screen for translation displays two fields side by side scrolling vertically, and which can be compared in parallel, thus allowing direct comparison and rapid post-editing, this form of presentation being patented.

Document inputting and outputting is considerably simplified by the copying and pasting commands for the text being processed. The requirement for no limit on the volume of the dictionary, other than the capacity of the hard disk, has been met. All modifications concerning the composition of the dictionary and the revisions to the translated texts are automatically registered on the disk, thus avoiding any problems if there is a power cut.

The program does not have any substantial amount of internal grammatical instructions. The translation is done by means of a programmed dictionary (which allows user intervention), in which the words or groups of words are furnished with instructions defining their characteristics, so as to give a translation based on the analysis of phrases, rather than a word-for-word translation. Before the system is supplied to the user, each programmed dictionary is adapted to the specific requirements of the user and the field...
in which he is working. Prospective clients are invited to send typical documents he would translate as samples.

The program for revision of the draft translation allows for word-processing treatment, including a powerful search-and-replace function.

Dr D’Agostini lays great stress on the importance of adapting the dictionary to the client’s needs before the system is sold. For this reason he does not do demonstrations on general texts.

Non si fornisce alcuna prova di traduzione generale non avendo ciò alcun senso senza avera prima adattato il dizionario alle esigenze del cliente, come specificato.

Dr D’Agostini’s prices are quite low, ranging from five million liras for the simpler language pairs (French or Spanish to Italian) up to 18 million liras for pairs where German is one of the languages. The language pairs available are French/Italian; Spanish/Italian; Portuguese/Italian; French/Spanish; Spanish/Portuguese; English/Italian; English/French; English/Spanish; German/Italian; French/German; Spanish/German; and English/German.

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