

Part IV

Key steps

How to do a little bit better

- Things to avoid
- How to get links coded
- What to say in a disclaimer
- HTML: What does/doesn't get translated?
- MT-friendliness explained to lay users

Things to avoid

- Text in graphics, and certain types of HTML construct
- Complex HTML or java that
 - Doesn't get translated
 - Messes up the layout when translated
- Instructions in English
- Linking to the translation service

Bypassing the translation service

- The “translate” link can include an instruction to generate the translation directly

<http://babelfish.altavista.com/> [urltrurl?url=http://www.mypage.html/](http://www.mypage.html/) [&lp=en_es](#)

Free online MT service used

Web page to be translated

Language
pair

The disclaimer

- Should be in the TL
- Should acknowledge the MT vendors
- May have legal implications
- Should not be too wordy, but also not too oversimplified
 - “The translations may not be perfect”
- A good chance to educate the public ?
- Should be skippable

HTML

What gets translated (or not)?

- Depends on the MT system
- Most are HTML-aware
- Simpler web pages are usually OK

TRANSLATED OK

- Alt text
- Layout, fonts respected
- Drop-down menus

NOT TRANSLATED

- URLs in href links
- Text in graphics etc.
- Text across mark up
 - e.g. `Bold`
- Buttons (sometimes)

MT-friendly text

- Studies (and inside knowledge) tells us what sort of things cause difficulties for MT
 - Bad spelling/grammar/punctuation, slang, (some) abbreviations
 - Overly long, complex sentences
 - Certain constructions (eg headless relatives, anaphora)
 - Jokes, idioms
 - Single words out of context

Архив номеров						
пн	вт	ср	чт	пт	сб	вс
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
◀ Август						

Archive Rooms										
Mon	W	avg	what	wk	S	Sun				
		1	2	3	4	5				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26				
27	28	29	30	31						
◀ August										

Explaining MT-friendliness to webpage designers

- Studies of “MTranslatability” describe problem/solutions in linguistic terms
- Need to explain these to non-linguists
- Need explicit advice, not just ...
 - “Keep sentences simple”
 - “Don’t use unusual expressions”
- Good idea to explain (a little) why these rules are needed