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Introducing a Cat Tool to Translate: Wordfast

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ABSTRACT

This article aims at introducing CAT tools to those prospective translators who are familiar with the tools for the first time. Some of the CAT tools must be paid for while some others are free. This article is to inform the readers about the list of free and paid CAT tools, advantages and disadvantages of those tools. One does not need special training for using a free CAT tool while using the paid CAT tools, one needs some special preparation. This article is going to focus more on Wordfast Pro as the second most widely used CAT tools after SDLTrados. Wordfast Pro is a paid software the functioning of which is based on the creation of a Translation Memory which facilitates and speeds up the translator's work. This article is going to briefly explain the advantages of Wordfast Pro and the steps of using it. The translation example is presented to reveal the different translation results of Wordfast Pro as a paid CAT tool and OmegaT as a free CAT tool. Therefore, the article will facilitate those who intend to know more about Wordfast Pro and start using it.

Keywords: CAT tools, OmegaT, Wordfast Pro

INTRODUCTION

Computerized translation has attracted the attention of a large number of people who work directly or indirectly on translational issues such as professional translators, teachers, linguists, researchers and future translators. A CAT tool is generally defined as a computer program that helps to translate text documents more efficiently. The decision-taking task does not correspond to the computer but the decision-taking is the human translators' duty (Carrove, 1999).

In a commercial setting, the combination of machine translation and human collaboration needs to have some advantage over machine translation and human translation taken independently. Otherwise, this combination will be abandoned. Some of the advantages that Melby (1996) in Carrove (1999) saw are (1) lower cost, (2) higher speed and (3) increased quality through consistent use of terminology.

When using CAT tools, it is immediately clear which parts of the text must be translated; the unchanging portions are transferred accurately and directly; the time savings due to repeating expressions is huge; and expressions are translated consistently. However, there are many other functions that offer the translator a number of other advantages.

When using CAT tools, it is immediately clear which parts of the text must be translated because CAT tools use segmentation. CAT tools *segment* the text to be translated in segments (sentences) and present the segments in a convenient way, to make translating easier and faster. In Wordfast Pro, for example, each segment is presented in a special box, and the translation can be entered in another box in the right side of the source text. Through special "fuzzy search" features the search functions of Wordfast Pro even find segments which do not match 100%. This saves a lot of time and effort and

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