

Computer Assisted Translation

Introduction

This course is designed to provide the student with an in-depth knowledge of the tools currently used in the translation industry together with the main strategies applied when dealing with these tools.

The increasing importance of the Information Technologies in the translation area reveals how these are in the core of the translation process and are applied in diverse areas such as project management, localization, language engineering, multilingual content management, quality control and management, website translation, adaptation of software and document applications to the global market, project coordination and the translation/edition/testing/verification of software, to name just a few.

In this sense, this course on *Computer Assisted Translation* focuses its interest in the following key points:

- **Development, management and exploitation techniques for corpora** as assistance tools during the translation process. During the last few years, the efficiency of using textual corpora has been demonstrated not only for studying translation patterns in various languages but also as authentic reference sources where the translator can find information as to how to translate a document during his daily work. This way, corpora can become an alternative to dictionaries.
- **Translation memories**
Ever since the mid 80s, the different actors who participate in the development of computer-assisted translation tools have focused their attention on translation memories as key factors in the so called translator's workstation. Because of how easily previous translations are retrieved and automatically inserted during the current translation project, translation memories have become a core technology during the translation process so much so that, now, it is not feasible to cater for the market needs without using them if the time restrictions, quality, work volume and offered rates are to be met.
- **Machine translation**
Setting aside doubts put forth by sceptics as to whether or not the translation process could be fully automated, the truth is that Machine translation, from its very first steps back in the 50s, has developed its methods and approaches to a degree where it can nowadays offer customized solutions to the various needs of the mechanization of the translation process (online translation, translation of emails, translation of chat sessions or translation settings in the automotive and aeronautic industries).
- **Software localisation**
In the area of translation technologies, software localisation is the specialisation field par excellence, not only because of the used methods and resources but also because of the translational problems faced by the translator when adapting software to the local markets.

Course/module Description

This is a hands-on course that offers the student the opportunity to work with translation tools such as *Trados*, *DVX*, *Systran*, *Engspan* and *Passolo*. They are expected to complete all practical sessions and read a number of selected essays on each of the training topics.

Training topics

- Introduction to Translation Technology
- Translation and the Internet
- Reference tools: dictionaries, glossaries and corpora
- Translation strategies I: alignment
- Translation strategies II: creation and management of translation memories
- Translation strategies III: translating different formats (html, ppt, xls, doc)
- Introduction to Machine translation
- Introduction to Software localisation