THE ROLE OF CAT TOOLS
IN TRANSLATION: ENHANCING EFFICIENCY AND ACCURACY

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Abstract. The article observes the issues related to implementation of computer technologies into translation process. The advantages and disadvantages of computer-assisting translation tools are revealed and basing of these findings some recommendations are developed. There is also a brief outline of existing software, which translators may find convenient.

Keywords: CAT, translation, equivalence, technology

In the realm of translation, efficiency and accuracy are paramount. Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT) tools have revolutionized the workflow of translators by providing a set of features and functionalities that streamline the translation process. These tools leverage technology to aid translators in producing high-quality translations in a more efficient and consistent manner. "The latest technology often determines the types of text to be translated. In addition to the demand for translation of texts in traditional industries, for example, economic or technical, new areas are constantly emerging, in which the volume of translations is increasing". [1; 714] Therefore, the role of CAT is difficult to overestimate and they should be widely used in translational procedures.

First, let's start from defining the CATs. CAT tools are software applications designed to assist translators in the translation of texts. These tools provide a range of features such as translation memory, terminology management, alignment tools, and quality assurance checks. Translation memory, in particular, stores previously translated segments of text for reuse, which not only improves consistency but also speeds up the translation process by reducing repetitive tasks. Additionally, terminology management ensures the correct usage of specialized terminology throughout the translation. According to M.Kornacky, "By their nature, CAT tools also reduce the use of translation procedures in general. If a CAT tool finds a match in a translation memory, it propagates the match in translation (frequently translators have the option to change propagation settings) automatically applying it throughout the target document (or project). What it means is that it also results in propagation of errors, if there are any in the translation memory. Since the translation was done automatically, the translator could not use any procedures, resorting to use a previous translation (by himself or by some third party)". [2; 93] It means that a number of advantages and drawback exist, which should be deeply analyzed before exploitation each CAT.

One of the key advantages of using CAT tools is the significant increase in translation efficiency. By leveraging translation memory, translators can quickly access and reuse previously translated content, saving time and effort. [3; 16] This feature is especially beneficial in projects with repetitive or similar content, enabling translators to focus on more challenging or nuanced aspects of the text. Moreover, CAT tools facilitate collaboration among translators by enabling them to work on the same project simultaneously and share translation resources.

CAT tools contribute to improved translation accuracy by ensuring consistency in terminology and style throughout the translation. With features like glossaries and terminology databases, translators can access approved terms and phrases, reducing the risk of errors and ensuring that translations align with the client's specific requirements. Additionally, CAT tools

offer quality assurance checks that help identify and correct errors, ensuring that the final translation meets the highest standards of quality.

CAT tools are particularly valuable in specialized fields such as medical, legal, and technical translation where precision and terminology accuracy are critical. By maintaining consistent terminology and style, CAT tools help translators deliver accurate and reliable translations that meet the unique requirements of these specialized fields. Furthermore, the ability to create custom glossaries and translation memories tailored to specific domains further enhances the quality and accuracy of translations in these areas.

While the advantages of using CAT tools are substantial in terms of efficiency and consistency, there are certain limitations that translators should be aware of when incorporating these tools into their workflow. Speaking about disadvantages, the following problems should be mentioned.

Initial Learning Curve. New users may experience a learning curve when adopting CAT tools, which can potentially slow down the initial translation process.

Complex Formatting. Transferring complex formatting, such as those in desktop publishing or graphic designs, can be challenging in some CAT tools.

Cost of Software. Some professional CAT tools can be expensive to purchase or license, especially for freelance translators or smaller businesses.

Overreliance on Memory. Overreliance on translation memory can lead to potential errors if the translator does not review and ensure the accuracy of reused content.

Lack of Contextual Understanding. CAT tools may not always understand context as a human translator does, potentially leading to inaccurate translations in very specific or nuanced situations.

Maintenance of Translation Memories. Regular maintenance of translation memories and terminology databases is necessary to ensure their relevancy and accuracy, which can be time-consuming.

Also, the translator must know the vocabulary and terms specific to a particular industry, which will significantly improve the quality of the final result. In the absence of the necessary knowledge, editing a text translated with a CAT program becomes more difficult since the translator is somewhat disoriented. [4]

Definitely, these problems mostly depend on the translator's responsibility and attentiveness. CAT aim to assist, but not to do the whole work instead of a human.

There are just a few examples of the many CAT tools available in the market today. Each tool has its strengths and unique features, catering to the diverse needs and preferences of translators and translation agencies. The following CATs are the most popular and widely used by translators:

- ✓ SDL Trados Studio: SDL Trados Studio is one of the most popular CAT tools used by professional translators worldwide. It offers a comprehensive set of features such as memory, terminology management, project management, and quality assurance checks.
- ✓ MemoQ:Q is a versatile CAT tool that provides translators with advanced translation memory and terminology management capabilities. It also offers integration with other tools and platforms, making it a favorite among translation professionals.
- ✓ Wordfast: Wordfast is a user-friendly CAT tool that offers translation memory and glossary management features. It is often used by freelance translators and small translation teams for its simplicity and cost-effectiveness.

- ✓ Deja Vu: Deja Vu is a CAT tool that combines powerful translation memory and terminology management functionalities with an intuitive user interface. It is known for its flexibility and customizable features.
- ✓ Across: Across is a CAT tool that focuses on facilitating collaboration and improving translation quality. It offers features such as integrated project management, terminology management, and quality assurance checks to streamline the translation process.
- ✓ OmegaT: OmegaT is an open-source CAT tool that is free to use and offers basic translation memory and terminology management capabilities. It is a popular choice for translators looking for a cost-effective solution.

Summing up, we can conclude that CAT tools play a crucial role in modern translation by enhancing efficiency, improving accuracy, and facilitating collaboration among translators. By leveraging technology to streamline the translation process and ensure consistency and quality, CAT tools empower translators to deliver high-quality translations that meet the diverse needs of clients and industries. As the demand for multilingual content continues to grow, the use of CAT tools will remain indispensable in the field of translation, helping professionals meet the evolving challenges of the globalized world.

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