



Example Next Generation Machine Translations

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Introduction

Most people's experience of using machine translation (MT) to translate text from one language into another is likely to be by using a service like Babel Fish (www.babelfish.altavista.com) to translate a block of text.

But if you have used one of these services, you'll know that the results are often far from perfect. These services generally provide a general understanding, but are often inaccurate and you certainly wouldn't want to use them to translate an important document from your language into another!

Why is the translation quality poor? The reality is that Babel Fish and similar services do not provide good examples of what MT technologies can achieve, because they do not provide any capabilities to improve the quality of the translation such as adding dictionary entries.

Translution create dictionaries for its customers which time after time have been shown to dramatically improve translation quality. They also train customers how to write for translation.

This document illustrates some examples of how much following the steps below can improve the translation quality.

Next Generation Machine Translation

In order to deliver next generation machine translation quality you need to follow these guidelines:

- a) Examine your source document for translatability, and re-write if necessary.

Translution publish on their website some simple tips on how to write for translation. Both Individuals and businesses should also take advantage of Translution's training courses on how to write for translation.

- b) Mark up any text that you do not want translated such as names, places (i.e. Proper nouns).

Translution provides a facility for individual users to mark up text within a specific document or e-mail that they do not want translated. It also provides Do Not Translate lists i.e. words which the user or the organisation would never want translated.

Businesses should use Translution's dictionary creation services which capture terms that should not be translated from existing contact databases.

- c) Create and use a dictionary which is "tuned" to your specific requirements.

Everyone uses words and phrases that, to them, have particular meanings. For example: parts lists, where a specific translation is required for an individual part description. All Translution users can easily set up their own User Dictionaries, which control how the translation is handled.

Businesses should also use Translution's dictionary creation services which can "capture" the vast majority of technical terms used in your organisation statistically from your businesses electronic data.

Methodology

The following sections show examples of:

- French to English translation

Each section shows:

1. The original text.
2. The machine translation output, with no quality process applied i.e. the "gist" translation. All errors are highlighted in yellow.
3. The original text with mark-up indicating the following steps:
 - a. Blue: Source rewritten for translation.
 - b. Red: Text marked as DNT (Do Not Translate).
 - c. Yellow: Terms that have been added to a dictionary
4. The next generation machine translation output, after implementing the guidelines.

Summary

The final machine translation clearly shows the effect that implementing these guidelines has on the translation quality.

Although next generation translation is not quite as good as human translation, next generation translation has many applications.

It can also further be improved through post editing the translations using tools like Translution Review Manager.

French to English

Source Text

Ordre du jour

Design et planning

1.0 Chambre 3 / couloir – rez jardin

Vérifier les descriptifs pour les luminaires – les envoyer à Eric
Détail du cabinet/meuble salle de bains d'Eric approuvé
A confirmer : armoire pharmacie avec miroir au dessus du lavabo – est-ce qu'on peut chauffer le miroir ?
Est-ce que la teinte du ciment poli pourra être modifiée plus tard ?
La couleur retenue pour le ciment poli est 12 Sienna CY030
L'échantillon bois plancher a été approuvé : Natural Wood Floor company 160x120 unsealed oak –(chêne non scellé).Mark va obtenir un échantillon supplémentaire et voir si Eric peut trouver le même en Suisse.
1 fauteuil ok
Plancher bois pour les couloirs.
Il faudra centrer les spots du couloir
Vérifier hauteur de la TV - il faudra peut-être la rehausser afin de pouvoir la regarder depuis le lit.
Etagère pour TV appréciée – la fabriquer en chêne pour être assortie au bois sol + console murale
Canapé approuvé
Table approuvée
Luminaires sur pied approuvés – faire idem pour les lampes de chevet
Mark va soumettre toutes les couleurs pour confirmation
Tissu canapé – DG mezzola nougat – idem pour rideaux
Echantillon CT 200 cuir pour chaise
Les plans de menuiserie pour la "kitchenette" seront envoyés à Eric
Tringle acier moderne avec anneaux acier souhaitée pour rideaux

Raw MT Output

Key: Text highlighted in yellow is incorrectly translated

Agenda

Design and planning

1.0 Room 3/corridor - rez garden

To check the descriptions for the luminaries - to send to Eric
Detail of the cabinet/piece of furniture bathroom of approved Eric
To confirm: cupboard pharmacy with mirror with the top of the wash-hand basin - can one heat the mirror?
Could the hue of polite cement be modified later?
The color retained for polite cement is 12 His CY030
The sample drink floor was approved: Natural Wood Floor company 160x120 unsealed oak - (oak not sealed) .Mark will obtain an additional sample and will see whether Eric can find the same one in Switzerland.
1 armchair ok
Floor drink for the corridors.
It will be necessary to center the spots of the corridor
To check height of the TV - perhaps it will be necessary to raise it in order to be able to look it since the bed.

Rack for appreciated TV - to manufacture in oak to be matched with wood ground + mural console
Approved settee
Count approved
Luminaries on foot approved - to make idem for the bedside lamps
Mark will subject all the colors for confirmation
Fabric settee - DG mezzola noughtat - idem for curtains
Sample CT 200 leather for chair
The plans of joinery for the "kitchenette" will be sent to Eric
Line out modern steel with rings steel wished for curtains

Marked-up Source Text

Key: Text highlighted in **Blue** has been re-written for translation
Text highlighted in **Red** has been marked as a DNT (Do Not Translate)
Text marked in **Yellow** has been added to the dictionary.

Ordre du jour

Design et planning

1.0 **Chambre 3 / couloir – rez jardin**

Vérifier les descriptifs pour les luminaires – les envoyer à Eric
Détail du cabinet salle de bains et meuble salle de bains d'Eric a été approuvé
A confirmer : armoire pharmacie avec miroir au dessus du lavabo – est-ce qu'on peut chauffer le miroir ?
Est-ce que la teinte du ciment poli pourra être modifiée plus tard ?
La couleur retenue pour le ciment poli est 12 Sienna CY030
L'échantillon bois plancher a été approuvé : Natural Wood Floor company 160x120 unsealed oak –(chêne non scellé).Mark va obtenir un échantillon supplémentaire et voir si Eric peut trouver le même en Suisse.
1 fauteuil ok
Plancher bois pour les couloirs.
Il faudra centrer les spots du couloir
Vérifier hauteur de la TV - il faudra peut-être la rehausser afin de pouvoir la regarder depuis le lit.
Etagère pour TV a été appréciée – la fabriquer en chêne pour être assortie au bois sol + console murale
Canapé a été approuvé
La table a été approuvée
Luminaires sur pied ont été approuvés – faire idem pour les lampes de chevet
Mark va soumettre toutes les couleurs pour confirmation
Tissu canapé – DG mezzola noughtat – idem pour rideaux
Echantillon CT 200 cuir pour chaise
Les plans de menuiserie pour la "kitchenette" seront envoyés à Eric
Tringle acier moderne avec anneaux acier souhaitée pour rideaux

Final Next Generation Machine Translation Output

Agenda

Design and planning

1.0 **Room 3/corridor - garden floor**

To check the descriptions for the up lights - to send to Eric

Detail of the bathroom cabinet and bathroom furniture of Eric was approved

To confirm: medicine cabinet with mirror with the top of the wash-hand basin - can one heat the mirror?

Could the hue of the polished cement be modified later?

The color retained for the polished cement is 12 His CY030

The wood floor sample was approved: Natural Wood Floor company 160x120 unsealed oak - (oak not sealed) .Mark will obtain an additional sample and will see whether Eric can find the same one in Switzerland.

1 armchair ok

Wood floor for the corridors.

It will be necessary to center the spots of the corridor

To check height of the TV - perhaps it will be necessary to raise it in order to be able to look it from the bed.

Rack for TV was appreciated - to manufacture in oak to be matched with the wooden floor + wall console

Sofa was approved

The table was approved

Free-standing lights were approved - to make idem for the bedside lamps

Mark will submit all the colors for confirmation

Sofa fabric - DG mezzola noughat - idem for curtains

Sample CT 200 leather for chair

The joinery plans for the "kitchenette" will be sent to Eric

Modern steel track with steel loop holes wished for curtains