Workshop: Drafting effective machine translation post-editing guidelines

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Intertranslations

A few words about the moderators

Lucía Guerrero

Lucía Guerrero is Machine Translation Specialist at CPSL and affiliated teacher at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. She holds a degree in Translation and Interpreting as well as in Humanities.

With more than 20 years' experience in the localization industry as a linguist and Project Manager, she is currently in charge of CPSL's MT strategy.

She is an occasional speaker at events such as MT Summit, Asling and GALA, and member of the GALA MTPE Training Initiative Steering Committee.

Viveta Gene

Viveta Gene is Translation & Localization Industry Specialist at **Intertranslations S.A.** Having more than 15 years of experience as a Linguist and Vendor Manager, she recently decided to combine her expertise and know-how to become a Language Solutions Specialist.

With an MA in Translation and New Technologies from the Ionian University, her focus is to promote the new trends in the industry, where translation skills meet MT technology. Machine Translation Post-Editing tools, techniques and training are amongst her fields of interest and the key fields of her PhD research.

She is member of the GALA MTPE Training Initiative Steering Committee.

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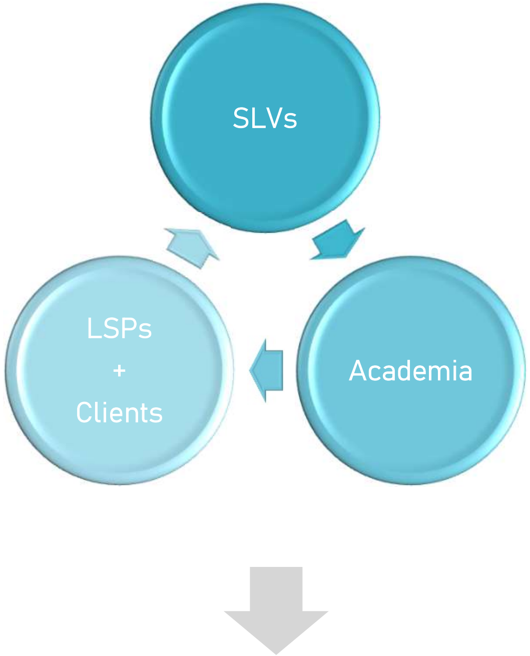
The MTPE Training GALA SIG

Members



Topics

- Skills and competencies of post-editors
- Current setting
- The service of MTPE
- Current gaps and “pains”
- Match profile and skills of the post-editor
- Training model for professional translators

Drafting a common MTPE training protocol in the form of a handbook, made by and for all stakeholders

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Structure of the workshop

PART 1

- Introduction
- Current research
- Current gaps
- Objectives
- Polls

PART 2

- Questionnaire analysis
- Discussion

Collaborative task

What are post-editing guidelines anyway?

The post-editing guidelines

“Every post-editing project needs to have specific guidelines for translators to comply with, since **the guidelines may help clients and LSPs to set clear expectations, and save time and effort for translators**.” (Hu and Cadwell, 2016)

“So **specifying PE guidelines involves deciding on text quality acceptance** which, in turn, depends on aspects such as client expectations, turnaround time or document life cycle, among others.” (Díaz and Rico, 2012)

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The post-editing guidelines

Why do we need post-editing guidelines?

Shortlist of all voted ideas during the MTPE Training GALA SIG (sorted by the number of votes they got):

6 votes
1. How much effort is expected and what shouldn't be corrected

3 votes
2. Client expectations for MTPE and cost savings

3 votes
3. Error typology list/ Expected MT behaviour/ Error to be reported

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How do post-editing guidelines fit into the rest of instructions of a job?

PE guidelines as part of an assignment

Isolated environment	Multimodal interface
Post-editing tool	CAT tool
	TM
	Glossaries
	Style guides

Current research

Existing research is:

- Language-dependent
- Domain-based
- Outdated (RBMT, SMT)
- Comparative studies
- Focused on the two levels of post-editing (light and full)

Some references:

- “A Comparative Study of Post-editing Guidelines” (Hu, K.; Cadwell, P.: 2016)
- “D4.1.4-Annex I: EDI-TA: Post-editing methodology for machine translation” (Díaz, P.; Rico, C.: 2012)
- “Estudio de viabilidad para la implantación de la traducción automática en la empresa VITAE” (Córdoba, i; Rico, C.; Ortiz, M.; Doquin, A.; Arevalillo, J. J.; Arcedillo, M.; Cabero, J.: 2014)
- “MT Post-editing Guidelines” (TAUS: Massardo, I.; van der Meer, J.; O’Brien, S.; Hollowood, F.; Aranberri, N.; Drescher, K.: 2016)
- “Manual MT post-editing: if it’s not broken, don’t fix it!” (Guzmán, R.: 2007 [https://www.translationjournal.net/journal/42mt.htm])
- “ Machine Translation Post-Editing Levels: Breaking Away from the Tradition and Delivering a Tailored Service” (Nunziatini, M.; Marg, L.: 2020)

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Current gaps

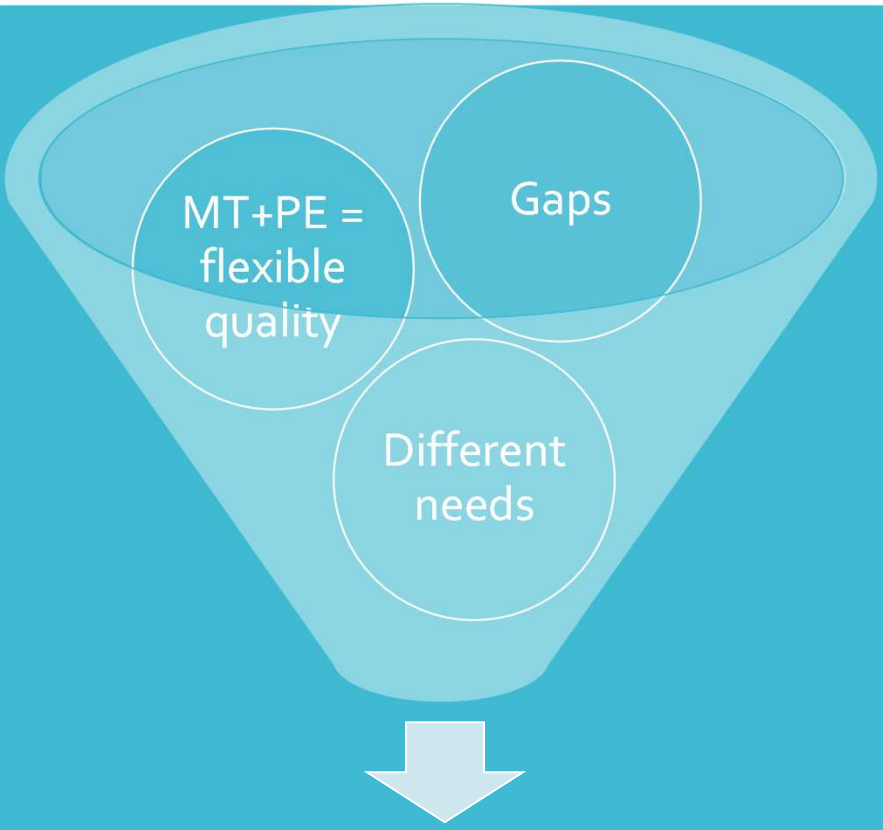
Grey areas

- Lack or inconsistent standards
- Existing PE guidelines are kept for internal use only, and are inconsistent
- Overlapping with already existing translation assignment instructions
- Subjectivity
- Light vs full post-editing classical distinction blurred

Current gaps: light vs full post-editing

- Misunderstanding about the scope
- Lack of agreement on style between the guidelines available
- Post-editors tend to engage in full post-editing
- More flexibility needed

Addressing the gaps



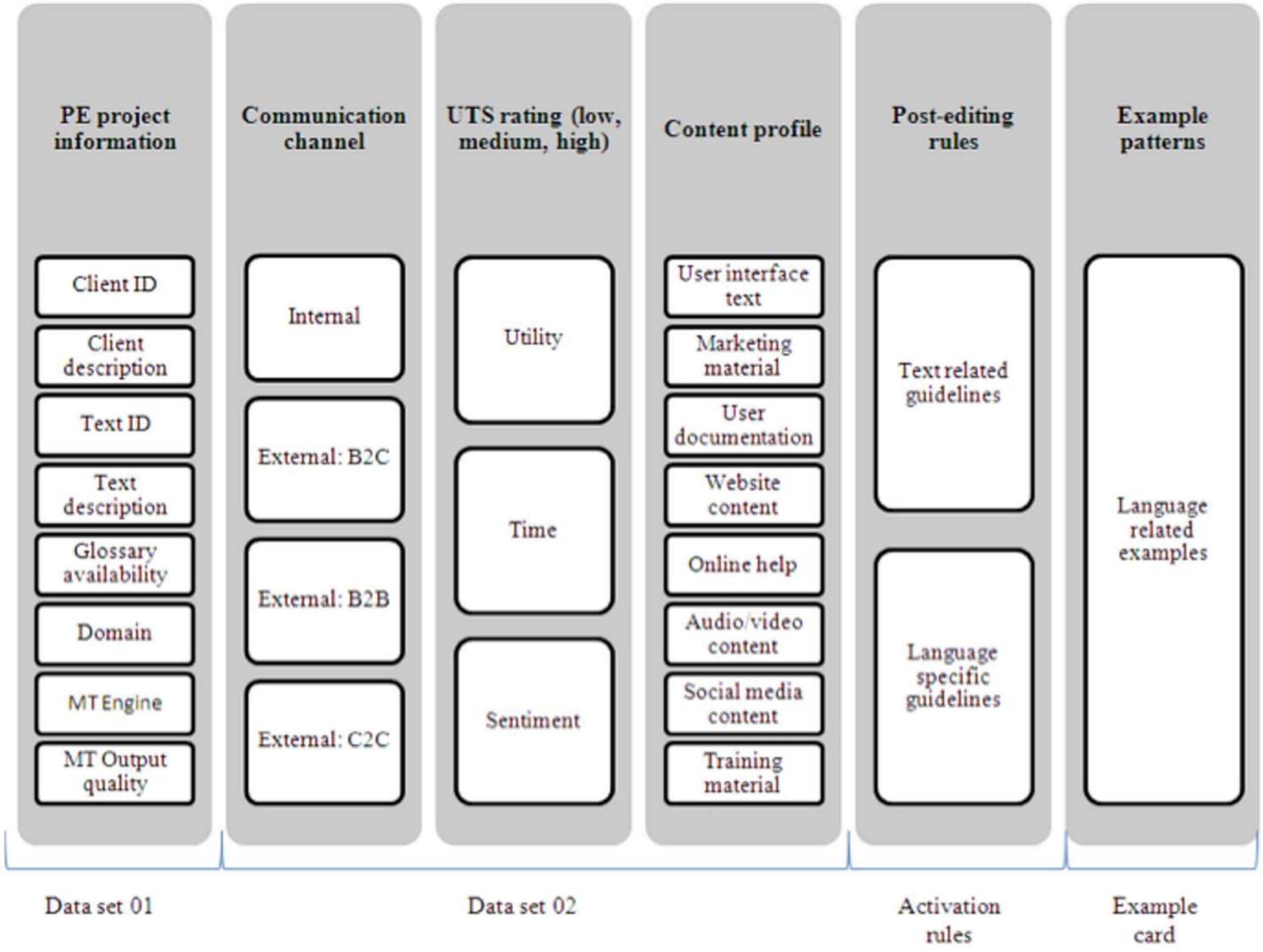
MT+PE = flexible quality

Gaps

Different needs

Flexible tool

Addressing the gaps



PE project information
- Client ID
- Client description
- Text ID
- Text description
- Glossary availability
- Domain
- MT Engine
- MT Output quality

Communication channel
- Internal
- External: B2C
- External: B2B
- External: C2C

UTS rating (low, medium, high)
- Utility
- Time
- Sentiment

Content profile
- User interface text
- Marketing material
- User documentation
- Website content
- Online help
- Audio/video content
- Social media content
- Training material

Post-editing rules
- Text related guidelines
- Language specific guidelines

Example patterns
- Language related examples

Data set 01

Data set 02

Activation rules

Example card

Objectives of the workshop

- Create awareness of the importance of sending accurate instructions to the post-editors to be able to carry out the post-editing task according to the customer's expectations, focusing on the aspects that are needed to do so

- Create a flexible and granular approach in the form of a draft template for writing effective NMT post-editing guidelines including:
  - ✓ Sections
  - ✓ Contents
  - ✓ Length
  - ✓ Format

Are you a (potential) writer of post-editing guidelines?

Are you a (potential) user of post-editing guidelines?

Slido polls and discussion

THANK YOU!

Would you like to share some more feedback?

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