Post-editing in an academic context and target text quality

As we are moving, for better or for worse, towards an era of artificial intelligence (AI) and complex task automation, the aim of this research project is to investigate a new form of human-machine collaboration: machine translation post-editing.

The new generation of machine translation called Neural Machine Translation (NMT) is considered a promising technology. It benefits from the recent advances in artificial intelligence such as deep neural networks (Deep Learning).

In such context, the post-editing task, defined as the human adjustment of machine-produced translations, is gaining increasing ground in the translation industry. This emerging task is leading to changes both in the professional practice and in the translation training.

The objective of this study is to assess and critically examine the effects of post-editing activity on the quality of a translation in an academic context.

Based particularly on the comparative study conducted by Ćulo and al. (2014), I advance the hypothesis that MT post-editing can have a significant influence on a target text quality and could have negative repercussions stylistically speaking.

In order to test this hypothesis, I intend to design and conduct an experimental research among translation trainees. This experiment will provide relevant data for comparative and statistical analysis.

In my presentation I would like to focus on my research method and to report on the pilot study I conducted earlier this year among translation students from the University of Liège.

References


Preliminary results : Translation times were lower for the post-editing