PRESENTATION OF LANT TECHNOLOGY

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1.   The Company Lant

Lant is a knowledge based company specialized in the development of solutions in the field of multilingual documentation and communication. Lant was incorporated in 1993 by Dr. Herman Caeyers with the objective to become a significant player in the high-tech market of computer based Natural Language Processing products (NLP) ranging from electronic dictionaries to automatic translation (MT). The company is partly a spin-off of the Linguistic Research and Development Department of Siemens Nixdorf Information Systems.

Lant concentrates on two international markets: language related activities within large and middle-sized organizations and corporations and the Intranet/Internet market. The business of Lant is project-oriented. This means that Lant provides global solutions for the multilingual documentation and communication problems of its customers by integrating and customizing its basic product modules.

2.   The Lant®mark Translation System

In April 1996, Lant obtained the usage, sales and development rights as well as the final ownership of the METAL technology, based on a contractual agreement with Siemens-Nixdorf. It is further developed and marketed by Lant under the trademark Lant®mark. The language pairs covered are: English into German, French and Spanish; French into English and Dutch; German into English, French and Spanish; Dutch into French.

The system has a Client-Server architecture and can be integrated in most existing networks. The server software has been ported recently to Solaris 2 and runs on a UNIX platform. Several Client interfaces on PC are offered allowing Lant to integrate Lant®mark in the customer's documentation workflow and its multilingual communication network.

Converters have been implemented for the following text systems: ASCII Text, Framemaker 3.1, Interleaf 5, Ventura, Word '95 and Wordperfect 5.1. Markup standards as SGML, HTML and RTF are supported.

3.   The Lant®master Checker for Simplified English

Lant®master is a high-quality conformance checker allowing for diagnosis and correction of deviations from a set of controlled English rules and a standardized vocabulary, both defining an ideal compromise between authors' expressivity and documents' readability and translatability. It makes use of exactly the same English analysis module as in the Lant®mark system. However, it substitutes the conventional transfer and generation modules with a specific diagnosis and autocorrection module, thus translating uncontrolled English into controlled English. In this way, a complete consistency of the English analysis is warranted between the checking of English input and its translation into different languages. Lant has a library of customizable rules for Simplified English. The AECMA set of rules used in the aeronautics is standard available.

4.   The Translation Memory

In April 1996 Lant took over the usage, sales and development rights of the Eurolang technology from Site Sonovision Technologies France, commercialized under the name Eurolang Optimizer. The kernel of the system is a translation memory in which sentences that have been translated before, are stored. Lant has integrated the basic technology modules of the system in its global market solution.

5.   The Multilingual Database

Technical information is more and more stored in an object-oriented form. A text part, a drawing, a picture, a table, etc. are objects in the database. A complete technical document becomes an object itself. Each object has a language feature. The same object can be stored in different languages. By changing the language feature of a technical document, a translated document will be produced automatically. Lant also offers a document management system to which the other products can be linked. However, the APIs of the products make it possible to link them with any other system.

Indeed, all text parts can be sent to the Lant®master system for checking the conformance with Simplified English. Then, the translations produced by the Lant®mark system can be revised and stored in the database with a link to the source object. As such, the database functions as a translation memory. However, since these text-parts consist of several sentences, the translator-revisor may dispose of Lant's sentence based translation memory.
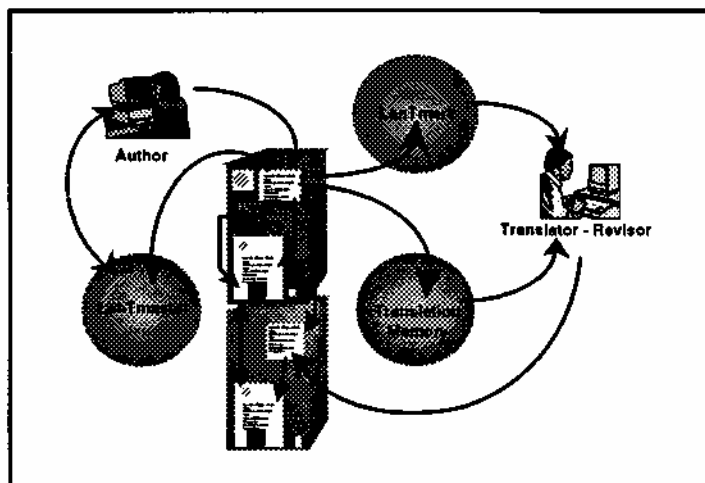
6.   The Lant®scape System

At the end of 1997 Lant will launch the Lant®scape system. This is an Intranet infrastructure enabling the end-user within an organization to obtain a translation of all kind of documents, Such as e-mail messages, Web-pages, word processing files. The end-user may obtain three levels of translation quality:

- a raw translation generated by an automatic translation engine
- a post-edited translation produced by a human translator based on an automatic translation output
- a high quality translation produced by a human translator

Within the organization, the Lant®scape infrastructure will be the connection point between the end-user dealing with multilingual information, the translation technology, the internal translation department and the external human translation agencies. The building blocks of the infrastructure are the interfaces, the routing and billing facilities and the dispatching.