

IMHO: Translators' not so humble opinions on using TM systems

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Outline

- motivation
- previous TM research
- methodology
- findings

Motivation

- definition of TM and TM system
- use within translation environment (TEnT)
- motivations
 - use of TM systems in marketplace
 - quantitative and feature-based research

What are translators saying
about working with
translation memory systems?

Previous Research

- Ignacio García (2003 & 2006)
- investigation of international translation community through mailing list (Lantra-L)
- brand comparison
- analysis of benefits and drawbacks of TM usage as identified by translators (learning curve, productivity, payment and text types)

Current Project

- Discussion forums as a source of translators' opinions about TM systems
- What is a discussion forum?
 - reasons for use
 - types of users
- Why choose discussion forums?
 - type of data
 - motivation for using forums
- Forums used:
 - ProZ.com
 - TranslatorsCafé.com

Methodology

- systematic collection of TM-related messages posted between January 2007 and April 2009
- classification of postings according to topic
- 718 postings by 296 unique message authors from over 80 countries
 - ProZ: 358 postings, 160 authors
 - TranslatorsCafé: 360 postings, 136 authors

Issues Under Investigation

- non-adoption
- price
- operating system
- environment integration
- compatibility

Non-Adoption

- views of non-adopters
- reasons for non-adoption
- role of text type, repetition, subject field, etc.
- potential for expanded uses and/or wider applications of TM systems
 - e.g. literature, fiction

Price

- convinced: necessary expense
- unconvinced: wary of price tag
- return on investment
- who should be responsible for purchasing a TM system?

Operating System

- Windows
- Macintosh
- Linux
- cross-platform tools

Environment Integration

- integration with word processors
- advantages
- disadvantages
- views and trends

Compatibility

- among tools
- client demands
- open standards
 - awareness, use, conceptions

Other Issues

- language support
- training
- technical support
- version updates
- payment for translations

Next Steps...

- development of best practices
- training in translation programs
- recognition of views
- investigation of clients' attitudes
- refocusing of literature