Translation assessment at university : creation of a computer interface

Prepared for the MT Summit XII
Ottawa, 26-30 August 2009

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'But we may admit so much, that the knowledge of things is not to be derived from names. No, they [things] must be studied and investigated in themselves'.

Plato, *Cratyllus 439 b.*

XVII European Symposium on Languages for
Specific Purposes, Aarhus, Denmark ,
17-21 August 2009
Translation assessment at University

MT Summit XII Ottawa, 26-30 August 2009,
Creation of a computer interface

Overview

Background

Methodology

Results and analysis

Conclusion

Translation assessment : difficult task,
particular criteria

Many models in the state of the art

My objectives :
- create a model useful to evaluators;
- help students to enhance the quality of the
translations;
- link professional and pedagogical purposes.

Skills and areas of competence of a translator

PACTE, 2003 (Process of the Acquisition of
Translation Competence and Evaluation)
Barcelona, Spain

Competencies called for in international
organizations (UN, OCSE, EU)

PACTE

Communication
Extra linguistic
Transfer
Professional
Psycho physiological
Strategic

EU : EMT 2005-2009
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation/external_relations/universiti
es/documents/emt_competences_translators_en.pdf

48 Competencies listed under 6 headings

Translation service provision
Language
Intercultural
Information mining
Technological
Thematic

METHODOLOGY

Between September 2004 and June 2006 :
    assessment of 545 translation exams

Create a simple model from complex
    measured phenomenon : decision tree

Linking professional requirements to student
    teaching

2006-2009

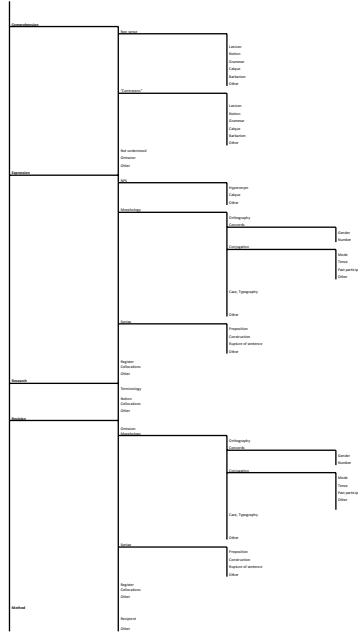Testing students (700)

Tests : UFC, Mulhouse, ISIT, ESIT, EILA, etc.

Modifications to the error tree

Creation of an interface

Tests

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Comprehension

non sense reading
lexicon
grammar
calque
barbarism
other

contresens
not understood
omission
other

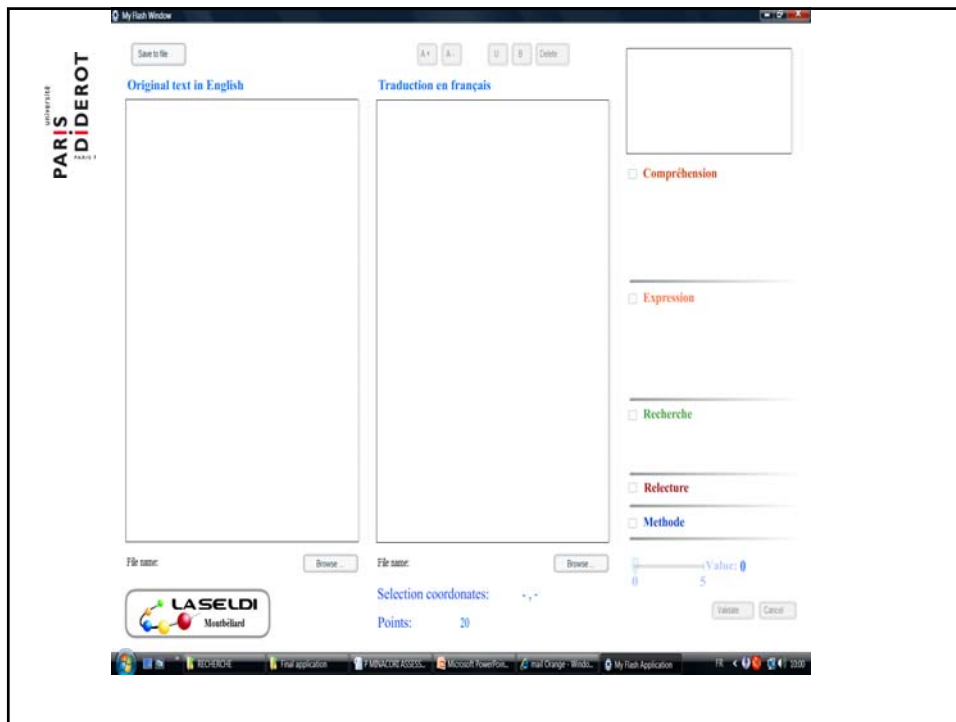Expression   non pertinent signification
                      morphology
                      syntax
                      register
                      collocations
                      other

Research
Revision   omission
                      morphology
                      syntax
                      register
                      collocations
                      other

TESTS
Method   recipient
                      other

Laseldi Montbéliard, France

Prof. Ioan Roxin

Students Oradea, Rumania
Internship

Creation of a interface to be downloaded
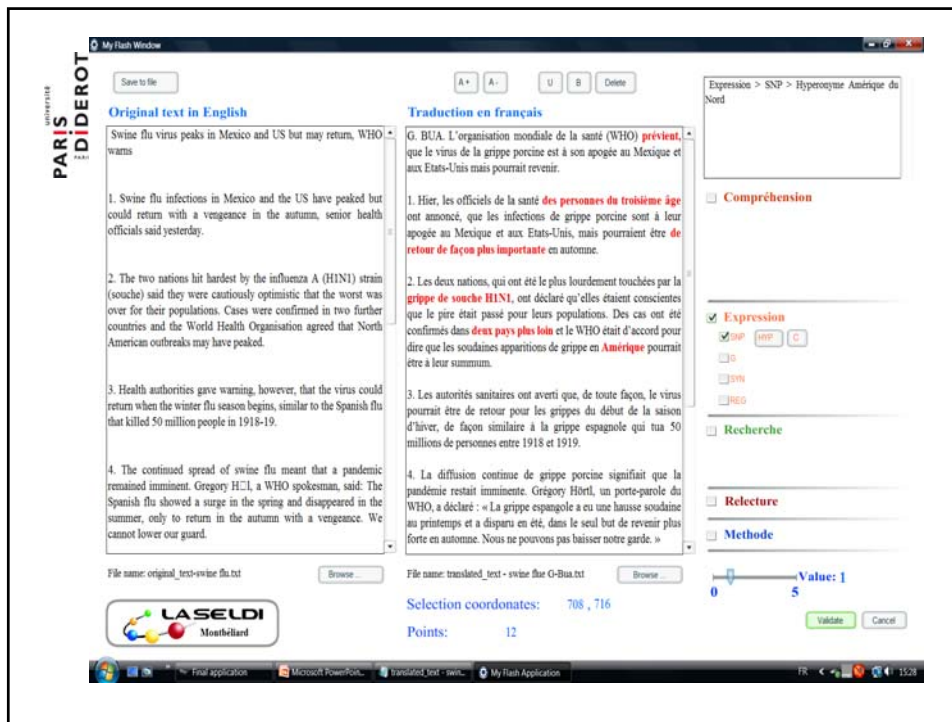on a platform for E-learning

Results and analysis

Original text on the left

Translated text on the right

Pop-up with annotations, top right

Cursor to subtract points for each error

Final mark, bottom (middle)

Results and analysis
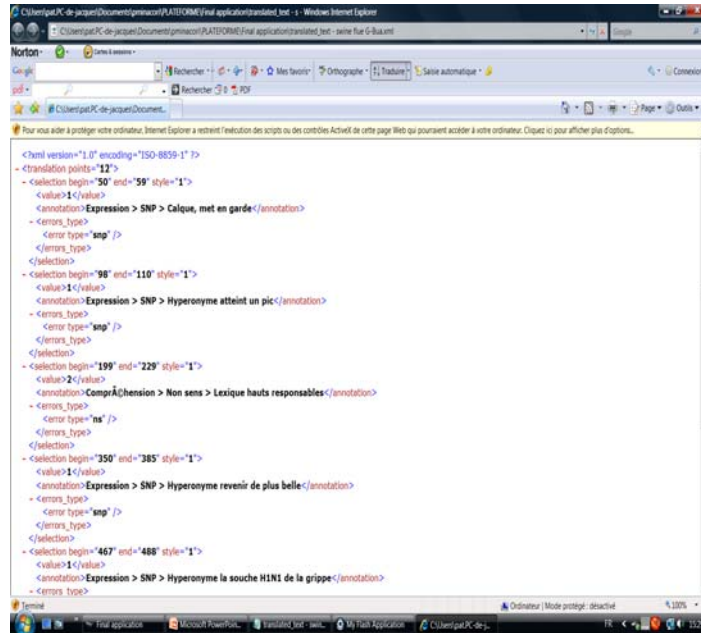
Advantages

Assessment much quicker
Interface is user friendly for the students
Students can see list of errors and reasons why

Drawbacks

Cursor for grades not easy to handle
XML file showing the errors has to be revised
    not clear enough, not really focused on
    errors.

CONCLUSION

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign is
very interested by the interface

Very grateful for the invitation to participate to
the Ottawa conference

Interface has to be finely tuned to the
American reality in assessing translations
and tested