MNH-TT: A Platform to Support Collaborative Translator Training

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https://edu.ecom.trans-aid.jp (currently with basic authentication)

Description

Recent research in translator training has shown the importance of bringing the actual translation situation into the teaching setup (Kiraly, 2000). As most real-world translations are carried out not on a personal basis but on a project basis, this implies that trainees need to gain competence not only in translation in its narrower sense but also in how to play a role in, carry out, and manage translation projects (cf. CEN, 2006).

Against this backdrop, we are developing the web-based system MNH-TT (Minna no Hon'yaku[1] for Translator Training), which assists and promotes collaborative translator training that emulates real-world translation situations[2]. The system has the following features:

(1) Facilitating project-based translator training: Translation training in MNH-TT is carried out on the basis of a translation project. Learners take part in the project with different roles and carry out different tasks such as project management, making a brief, translation, revision, terminology management, etc.

(2) Supporting learners by providing standard action categories in important aspects of translation: Project participants are guided to communicate with other participants in a certain way, in the process learning the essential elements of project-based collaborative translation. The translation editor guides revisers and reviewers to use pre-defined error categories (Secară, 2005), through which learners become conscious of error types.

(3) Accumulating logs of activities and promoting reflective learning: MNH-TT takes (a) revision logs, (b) reference lookup logs, and (c) dialogue act logs. These logs can be looked up in summary format by individual project participants or by instructors. They not only promote reflective self-learning but also enable instructors to diagnose learners' weak and strong points. In addition, once a sufficient number of logs have been accumulated, they can be used as the basis for developing methods for automatically guiding trainee translators.

The essential parts of the system are fully operational as of now, with interfaces in English, Japanese, German, Chinese and Korean, and is being tested by trial users, which include University of Granada, Kobe College, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, University of Leeds, Univeresity of Tübingen, Rikkyo University, and University of Tokyo.

References:

CEN (2006) *EN 15038: European Quality Standard for Translation Services*. European Committee for Standardization.

Kilary, D. (2000) *A Social Constructivist Approach to Translator Education*. Manchester: St. Jerome Press.

Secară, A. (2005) "Translation evaluation: a state of the art survey," *Proceedings of the eCoLoRe/MeLLANGE Workshop*.

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[1] Minna no Hon'yaku means "translation by/of/for all".
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