Does Google know better?
Translators and machine translation

Dr Ignacio Garcia
University of Western Sydney

Translation memory (TM)

exact match	accept
fuzzy match	adjust
no match	translate from scratch

Translation memory (TM)

exact match	accept
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no match	translate from scratch
	feed with machine translation (MT) & postedit
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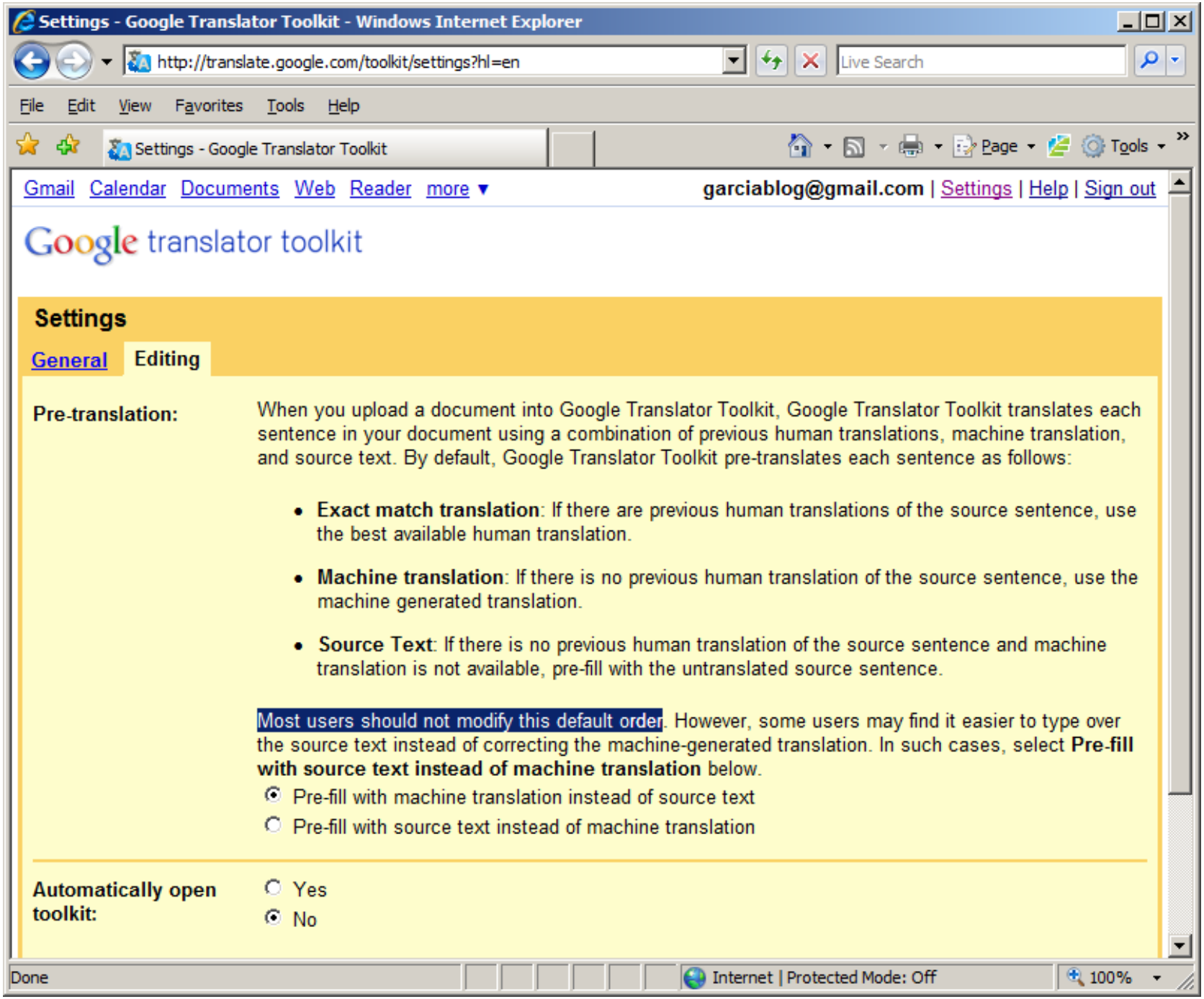
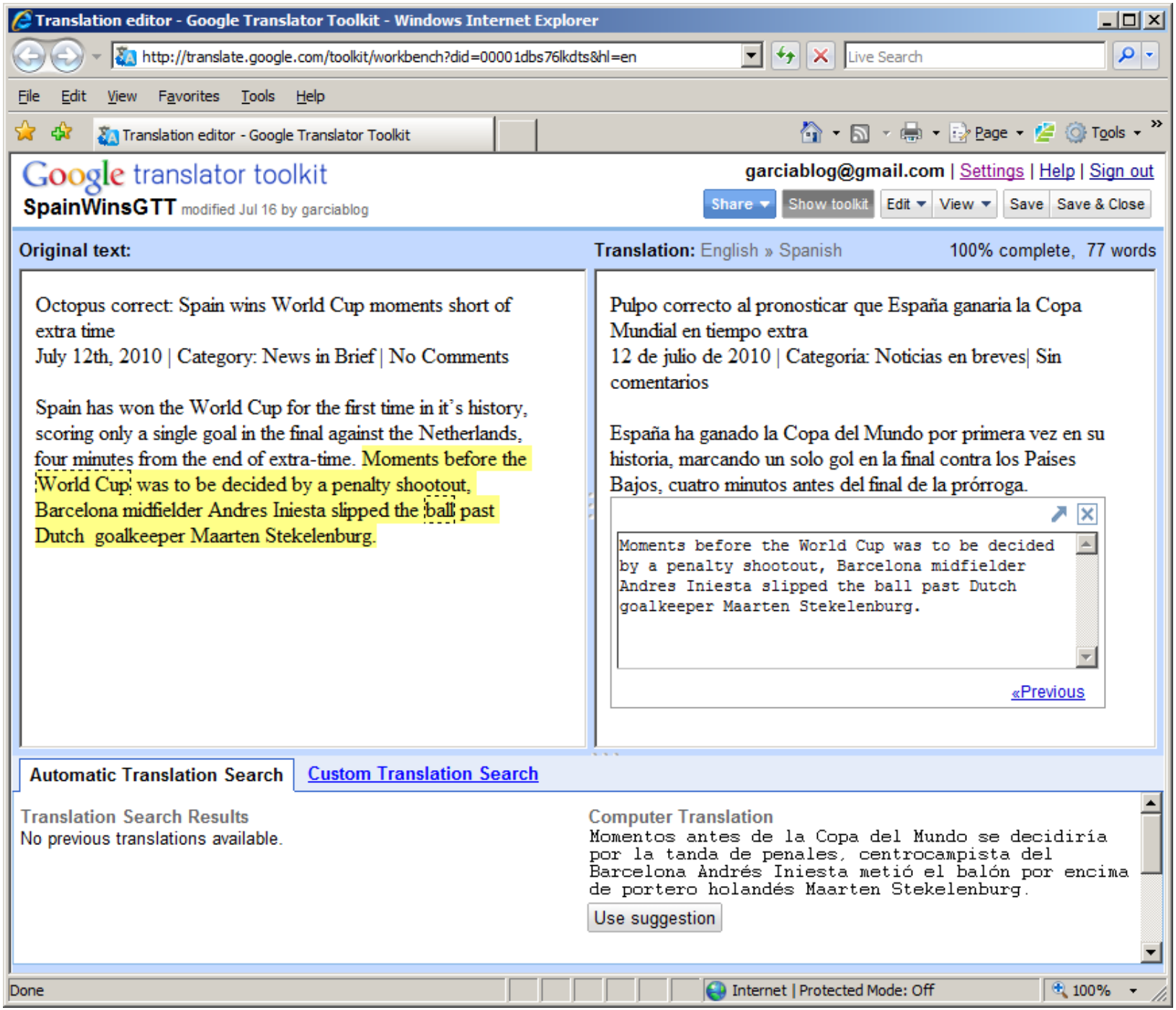
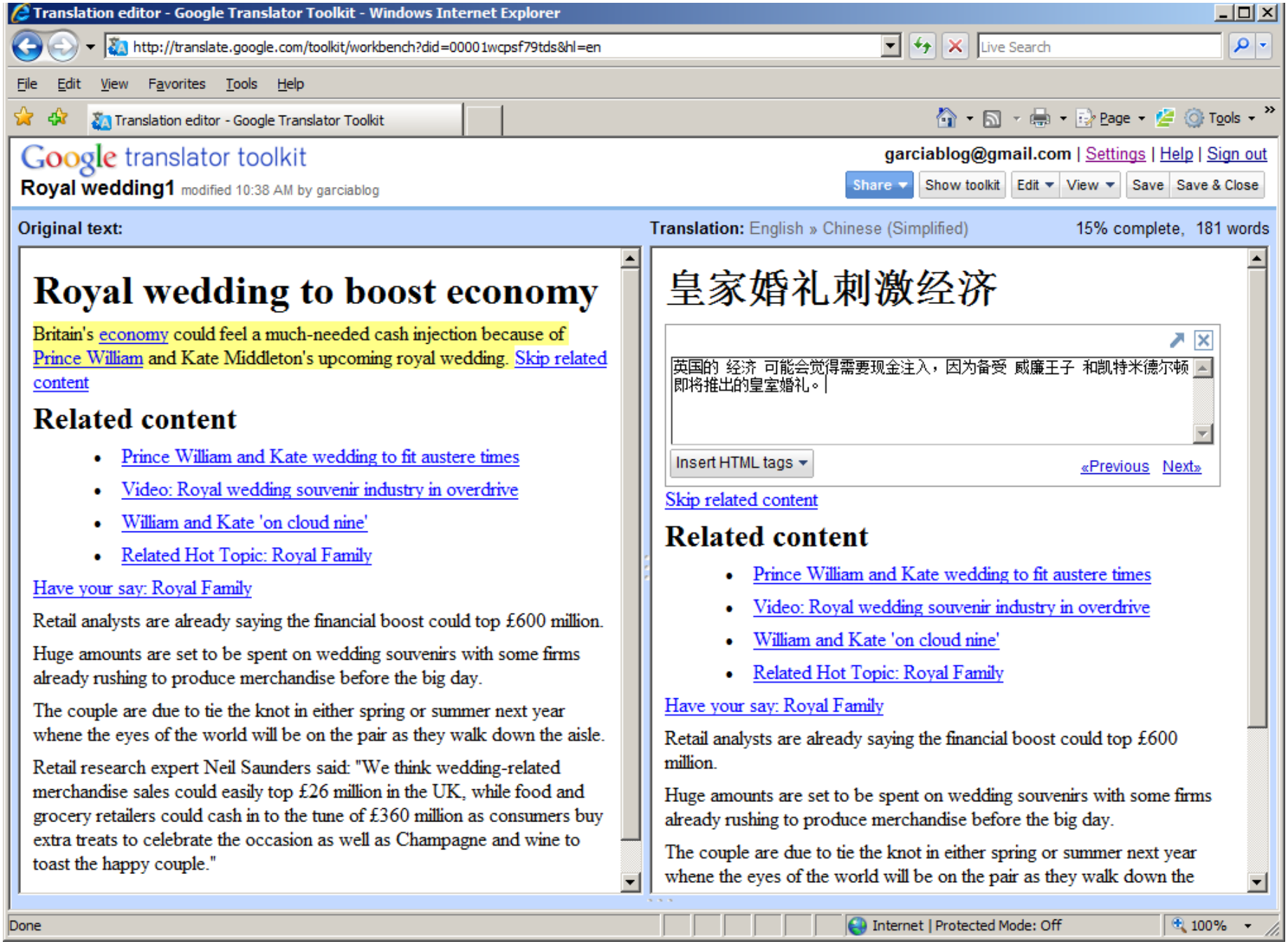
Translating by posteditING – is that the way forward?


Settings - Google Translator Toolkit - Windows Internet Explorer
http://translate.google.com/toolkit/settings?hl=en
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Settings - Google Translator Toolkit
Page Tools
Gmail Calendar Documents Web Reader more ▼
garciablog@gmail.com | Settings | Help | Sign out
Google translator toolkit
Settings
General Editing
Pre-translation:
When you upload a document into Google Translator Toolkit, Google Translator Toolkit translates each sentence in your document using a combination of previous human translations, machine translation, and source text. By default, Google Translator Toolkit pre-translates each sentence as follows:
Exact match translation: If there are previous human translations of the source sentence, use the best available human translation.
Machine translation: If there is no previous human translation of the source sentence, use the machine generated translation.
Source Text: If there is no previous human translation of the source sentence and machine translation is not available, pre-fill with the untranslated source sentence.
Most users should not modify this default order. However, some users may find it easier to type over the source text instead of correcting the machine-generated translation. In such cases, select Pre-fill with source text instead of machine translation below.
Pre-fill with machine translation instead of source text
Pre-fill with source text instead of machine translation
Automatically open toolkit:
Yes
No
Done
Internet | Protected Mode: Off
100%


Translation editor - Google Translator Toolkit - Windows Internet Explorer
http://translate.google.com/toolkit/workbench?did=00001dbs76lkdts&hl=en
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Translation editor - Google Translator Toolkit
Page Tools
Google translator toolkit
garciablog@gmail.com | Settings | Help | Sign out
SpainWinsGTT modified Jul 16 by garciablog
Share Show toolkit Edit View Save Save & Close
Original text:
Translation: English » Spanish
100% complete, 77 words
Octopus correct: Spain wins World Cup moments short of extra time
July 12th, 2010 | Category: News in Brief | No Comments
Spain has won the World Cup for the first time in it's history, scoring only a single goal in the final against the Netherlands, four minutes from the end of extra-time. Moments before the World Cup was to be decided by a penalty shootout, Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta slipped the ball past Dutch goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg.
Pulpo correcto al pronosticar que España ganaria la Copa Mundial en tiempo extra
12 de julio de 2010 | Categoria: Noticias en breves| Sin comentarios
España ha ganado la Copa del Mundo por primera vez en su historia, marcando un solo gol en la final contra los Paises Bajos, cuatro minutos antes del final de la prórroga.
Moments before the World Cup was to be decided by a penalty shootout, Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta slipped the ball past Dutch goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg.
«Previous
Automatic Translation Search
Custom Translation Search
Translation Search Results
No previous translations available.
Computer Translation
Momentos antes de la Copa del Mundo se decidiría por la tanda de penales, centrocampista del Barcelona Andrés Iniesta metió el balón por encima de portero holandés Maarten Stekelenburg.
Use suggestion
Done
Internet | Protected Mode: Off
100%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http://translate.google.com/toolkit/workbench?did=00001wcpsf79tds&hl=en
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Translation editor - Google Translator Toolkit
Page Tools
Google translator toolkit
Royal wedding1 modified 10:38 AM by garciablog
garciablog@gmail.com | Settings | Help | Sign out
Share Show toolkit Edit View Save Save & Close
Original text:
Translation: English » Chinese (Simplified)
15% complete, 181 words
Royal wedding to boost economy
Britain's economy could feel a much-needed cash injection because of Prince William and Kate Middleton's upcoming royal wedding. Skip related content
Related content
Prince William and Kate wedding to fit austere times
Video: Royal wedding souvenir industry in overdrive
William and Kate 'on cloud nine'
Related Hot Topic: Royal Family
Have your say: Royal Family
Retail analysts are already saying the financial boost could top £600 million.
Huge amounts are set to be spent on wedding souvenirs with some firms already rushing to produce merchandise before the big day.
The couple are due to tie the knot in either spring or summer next year whene the eyes of the world will be on the pair as they walk down the aisle.
Retail research expert Neil Saunders said: "We think wedding-related merchandise sales could easily top £26 million in the UK, while food and grocery retailers could cash in to the tune of £360 million as consumers buy extra treats to celebrate the occasion as well as Champagne and wine to toast the happy couple."
皇家婚礼刺激经济
英国的 经济 可能会觉得需要现金注入，因为备受 威廉王子 和凯特米德尔顿 即将推出的皇室婚礼。
Insert HTML tags
«Previous Next»
Skip related content
Related content
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Done
Internet | Protected Mode: Off
100%


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Translation editor - Google Translator Toolkit
Page Tools
Google translator toolkit
garciablog@gmail.com | Settings | Help | Sign out
Royal wedding2 modified 10:41 AM by garciablog
Share Show toolkit Edit View Save Save & Close
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Insert HTML tags
«Previous Next»
跳过相关内容
相关内容
威廉王子和凯特的婚礼，以适应严峻的时代
视频：皇家婚礼纪念品业超速
威廉和凯特在云九'
相关热点话题：皇室
有你说：王室
零售分析家们已经说的金融刺激可能突破6亿英镑。
大量被设定为婚礼上纪念品一起度过的一些公司已经迫不及待地产生婚礼前一天的商品。
这对夫妻是由于绑在春季或夏季或明年结whene全世界的目光将被视为对他们两人走在过道。
Internet | Protected Mode: Off
100%

1st set: 14 participants, 28 tests, ENGLISH > CHINESE

TIME

Hypothesis 1: post-editing is faster than translating from the ST

- marginally supported : 'from MT' faster in 15/28 tests (53.5%)
- two tail p= 0.304 **(not significant)**

QUALITY

Hypothesis 2: post-editing produces poorer quality

- not supported: 'from MT' best in 33/56 tests marked (59%)
- two tail p= 0.013 **(significant)**

Is machine translation ready yet?

Ignacio Garcia
University of Western Sydney

The default option of the Google Translator Toolkit (GTT), released in June 2009, is to "pre-fill with machine translation" all segments for which a 'no match' has been returned by the memories, while the *Settings* window clearly advises that "[m]ost users should not modify this". To confirm whether this approach indeed benefits translators and translation quality, we designed and performed tests whereby trainee translators used the GTT to translate passages from English into Chinese either entirely from the source text, or after seeding of empty segments by the Google Translate engine as recommended. The translations were timed, and their quality assessed by independent experienced markers following Australian NAATI test criteria. Our results show that, while time differences were not significant, the machine translation seeded passages were more favourably assessed by the markers in thirty three of fifty six cases. This indicates that, at least for certain tasks and language combinations — and against the received wisdom of translation professionals and translator trainers — translating by proofreading machine translation may be advantageous.

Keywords: machine translation, translation memory, web-based translation, translation quality, post-editing, proofreading machine translation

1. Introduction

New translation memory tools and new versions of established ones offer translators the option to post-edit machine generated text for segments lacking any matches in the memories. The Google Translator Toolkit (GTT), released in June 2009, goes a step further by offering this as its default option, clearly indicating in its *Settings* window that "[m]ost users should not modify this".

This article examines what translators should make of this offer, discussing the results of tests in which fourteen translator trainees used GTT to translate passages working from a machine-translated version and from the source text alone. The outcomes were gauged according to the time taken, and the quality of the

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- two tail p= 0.013 **(significant)**

2nd set: 14 participants, 28 tests, ENGLISH > CHINESE

TIME

Hypothesis 1: post-editing is faster than translating from the ST

- not supported: 'from MT' faster in 14/28 tests (50%)
- two tail p= 0.492

QUALITY

Hypothesis 2: post-editing produces poorer quality

- not supported: 'from MT' best in 40/56 tests marked (71%)
- two tail p= 0.009 (marker 1), 0.037 (marker 2) **(*highly* significant)**

3rd set: 21 participants, 42 tests, CHINESE > ENGLISH

TIME

Hypothesis 1: post-editing is faster than translating from the ST

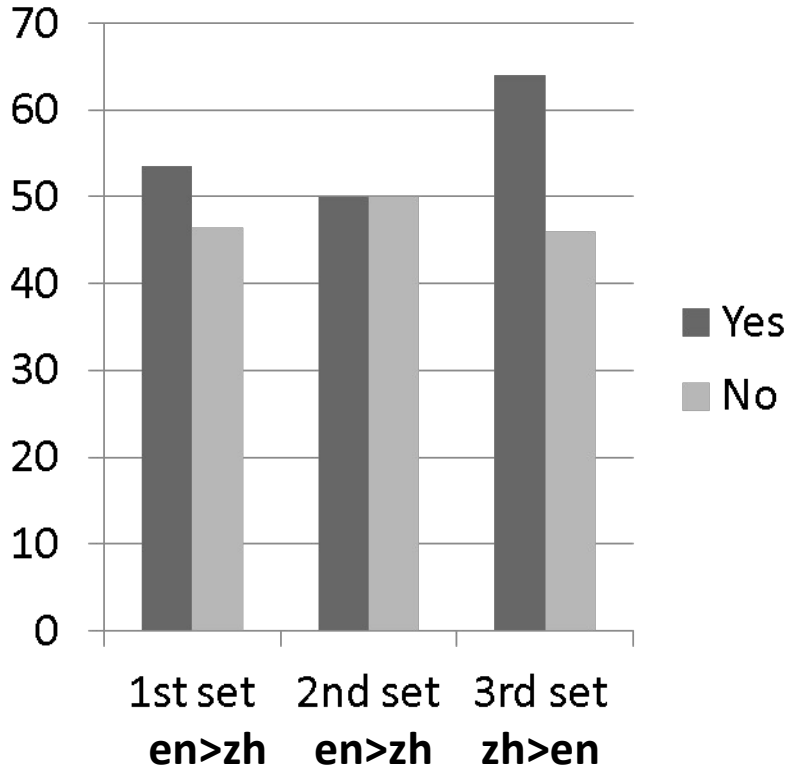
- supported : 'from MT' faster in 27/42 tests (64%)
- two tail p= 0.0042 **(significant)**

QUALITY

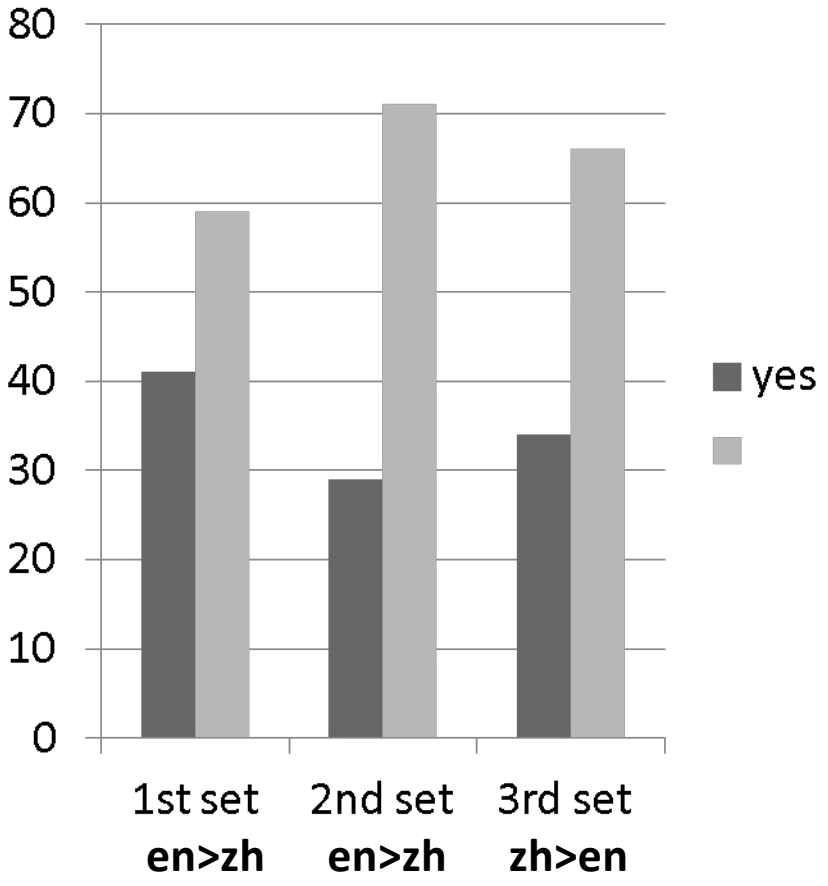
Hypothesis 2: post-editing produces poorer quality

- not supported: 'from MT' best in 28/42 tests marked (66%)
- two tail p= 0.0022 **(significant)**

Postediting is faster



Postediting quality is worse



Findings

Post-editing may be faster, but just marginally faster

Post-editing produces better quality (not worse)

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Limitations

only one language pair (CH-EN)

only one text type (general)

non professionals doing non-professional translation

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Relevance

results *add new information*

results are likely to apply

- to closer related language pairs
- as MT improves