

Session 4:

Summary of discussion

Rapporteur: W.J. Hutchins

In the abbreviated discussion of this session 'Meeting the MT user's needs', two issues were raised.

(1) It was pointed out that the transmission of texts for translation over the normal telephone network would be likely to corrupt texts and give problems of word recognition for computer-based translation. The agencies had had little experience of this cause of misspellings, but were confident that existing procedures for examining texts before input would be satisfactory; in the case of the Weidner system a preliminary search against the vocabulary database would generate a list of unidentified words which could then be corrected.

(2) An impressive average rate of 600 to 1,200 words an hour for post-editing had been claimed for translators in the Weidner bureau, and it was wondered whether this rate was sustained during full working days and whether ITT had comparable rates. Weidner post-editors worked in daily six-hour shifts; the variations were attributable to the experience and abilities of editors and to the variety of documents translated; the rate quoted did not include work on the updating of dictionaries. There were similar variations in the work rate of post-editors at ITT; calculation was complicated by problems of deciding which aspects of translators' work should be included, but an average overall of 1,000 words per hour, including dictionary updating, was given. It was added that ITT's charges per 1,000 words covered all aspects of translation activities and not just post-editing work.

RAPPORTEUR

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