

Necessity for Interlingua for Multilingual Translation

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There are two major goals in developing machine translation systems. Needless to say, the first purpose is to improve the efficiency of translation. However, perfect automatic translation can not be expected with the current technology. There are more problems concerning processing speed of the hardware compared to software problems. That is, the current hardware speed cannot handle the amount of information needed to be processed. Therefore, for the time being, we have to promote the systematization of machine translation, and consider post-editing as a part of the system, while continuing efforts to improve the accuracy of translation. Although the research on post-editing technology is very important, we believe that higher priority should be given to research on processing which makes post-editing easier, rather than research on processing which is aimed at improving the total accuracy of translation.

The second purpose of machine translation is to translate those languages, which have few translators. Since a language represents a certain culture, translation helps promote cultural understanding. It is regrettable that language or a culture can not be introduced to other people due to a lack of translators. Machine translation systems should be employed for translating such languages.

It is impossible to create a translation system for a language quickly, simply by collecting people who have knowledge of the language. The rules to analyze and generate a language must be developed by trained native speakers of the language. Trained native speakers are necessary in order to guarantee the accuracy of the rules and efficiency in development. Therefore, this sense, machine translation systems will become necessary. At the same time it is quite important to develop suitable interlingua for each language.

The dictionary to be used in machine translation systems is the most pressing issue in interlingua. Because, dictionary gives the link between the words of a language and the Interlingua. Therefore, all countries should cooperate in establishing an interlingua. Using the interlingua as an interface for analysing and generation systems for each language must be connected. This is the major goal I have in mind.