# OPERATIONS

## Martin Kay

Compare translation with transportation: Hannibal could not have conquered Rome if he had waited for development of jet aircraft. Do what you can do; MT is the one thing we cannot do with present knowledge.

Consider a system, one of 100 that might be built. We have a problem, can do something about it; but choose only what we know can be done.

First, a display, keyboard, and pointer.

Next, an editor (program) and dictionary lookup

Then, morphological analysis, which is linguistically easy.

A program to take an advance look and offer a list of interesting words to the translator before the text begins to flow would be possible.

Call the translator's attention to specific difficulties. Avoid cascades of decisions, all following an initial error. System allows translator to develop a history. (This method is dangerous for pure MT--ultimate error is irreversible.) But this is the only way to make the posteditor's job easier than the translator's.

Small details of a man-machine system determine its actual usability. (Notes by DGH)