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(Comunicaciones completas)

New Horizons in Translation and Interpreting Studies
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Novos horizontes dos Estudos da Tradução e Interpretação
(Comunicações completas)

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Catedrático emérito (Universidade Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle).

“Revisiting the importance of lexical units in simultaneous interpreting”

29 de enero de 2015/29 January 2015/29 de janeiro de 2015

Daniel Gile comenzó su carrera en el ámbito de las matemáticas y la sociología, si bien ejerció en sus inicios de traductor técnico. Es Doctor en Estudios Japoneses y en Lingüística. Estudió Interpretación de conferencias en el ESIT (París) y es miembro de AIIC. Es catedrático de Traducción e Interpretación de conferencias y catedrático de CETRA desde 1993. Sus líneas de investigación y docencia giran en torno a la formación de traductores e intérpretes, la interpretación cognitiva, la formación de investigadores y los Estudios de Traducción como objeto de investigación. Asimismo, ha ocupado el puesto de presidente de la European Society for Translation Studies (EST). Actualmente, es catedrático emérito en la Université Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle (París). Para más información, visite www.cirinandgile.com.

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Daniel Gile. Former technical translator. Initially trained in mathematics and in sociology. PhD in Japanese, PhD in linguistics. ESIT trained conference interpreter, member of AIIC. Former professor of translation and conference interpreting. Research and teaching interests: translator and interpreter training, interpreting cognition, researcher training, Translation Studies as an object of research. CETRA professor 1993. Former president of the European Society for Translation Studies (EST). At present, Professor Emeritus at Université Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle. More information at www.cirinandgile.com.

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Daniel Gile começou a sua carreira na área das matemáticas e sociologia, embora também tenha trabalhado como tradutor técnico. É Doutor em Estudos

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Guy Aston

Catedrático de Lingüística inglesa (Universidad de Bolonia).

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“Corpus Use and Learning to Translate - and to Interpret?”

30 de enero de 2015/30 January 2015/30 de janeiro de 2015

Guy Aston es catedrático “Alma Mater” de Lengua inglesa y Traducción en la Universidad de Bolonia. Estudió Lingüística Aplicada en las universidades de Edimburgo y Londres, donde escribió su tesis, la cual versa sobre la enseñanza del discurso en inglés como lengua extranjera (EFL). En Italia fue coordinador del proyecto PIXI sobre pragmática intercultural del diálogo, gracias al cual se interesó por la Lingüística de corpus, y con Lou Burnard es coautor de The BNC HandBook (Edinburgh University Press), enmarcado en el proyecto British National Corpus. Tiene numerosas publicaciones sobre los usos del corpus tanto en la enseñanza de lenguas como en la formación de traductores. Asimismo, coordina los seminarios internacionales CULT (Corpus Use and Learning to Translate) y es coautor junto con Natalie Kübler de la sección de traducción de Routledge Handbook of Corpus Linguistics. Actualmente, su investigación se centra en el uso del corpus oral en la formación de intérpretes, el cual será el tema principal de su conferencia plenaria.

—

Guy Aston is Alma Mater Professor of English Language and Translation at the University of Bologna. He studied Applied Linguistics at the Universities of Edinburgh and London, where he wrote his PhD on the teaching of speech in EFL. In Italy he coordinated the PIXI project on the cross-cultural pragmatics of

conversation, out of which he developed an interest in corpus linguistics, and with Lou Burnard he co-authored The BNC Handbook (Edinburgh University Press) for the British National Corpus project. He has published widely on the uses of corpora both in language teaching and in translator training, setting up the series of international seminars on Corpus Use and Learning to Translate (CULT), and co-authoring (with Natalie Kübler) the translation section in the Routledge Handbook of Corpus Linguistics. His main current interest is the use of speech corpora in the training of interpreters, which will be the principal topic of this plenary.

—

Guy Aston é catedrático “Alma Mater” de Língua Inglesa e Tradução na Universidade de Bolonha. Estudou Linguística Aplicada nas universidades de Edimburgo e Londres, onde escreveu a sua tese de doutoramento em ensino do discurso em inglês como língua estrangeira (EFL). Em Itália, foi coordenador do projeto PIXI, sobre pragmática intercultural do diálogo, o qual o levou a interessar-se pela Linguística de Corpus, sendo com Lou Burnard coautor do livro The BNC HandBook (Edinburgh University Press), enquadrado no projeto British National Corpus. Tem inúmeras publicações sobre o uso de corpus, tanto no ensino de línguas como na formação de tradutores. Além disso, coordena os seminários internacionais CULT (Corpus Use and Learning to Translate) e é coautor, juntamente com Natalie Küble, da secção de tradução no livro Routledge Handbook of Corpus Linguistics. Atualmente, a sua linha de investigação centra-se no uso de corpus orais na formação de intérpretes, que será o tema principal da sua conferência plenária.

Ruslan Mitkov

[Catedrático de Lingüística computacional \(Universidad de Wolverhampton\).](#)

[Professor of Computational Linguistics, University of Wolverhampton.](#)

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“Computers and translators – a love-hate relationship”

[30 de enero de 2015/30 January 2015/30 de janeiro de 2015](#)

El Dr. Ruslan Mitkov cuenta con una extensa producción científica (más de 200 trabajos) sobre distintos ámbitos del Procesamiento de Lenguaje Natural. Su trayectoria investigadora es de relevancia internacional y ocupa los primeros

puestos del ranking según la última evaluación del sistema británico (Research Assessment Exercise, RAE 2008). Es autor de la monografía *Anaphora resolution* (Longman) y editor único de *The Oxford Handbook of Computational Linguistics* (Oxford University Press). El Dr. Mitkov es editor ejecutivo de la revista *Journal of Natural Language Engineering* (Cambridge University Press) y director de la colección *Natural Language Processing* (John Benjamins). Ha sido presidente de comité de programa y conferenciante invitado de innumerables congresos internacionales. El Dr. Mitkov es director del RIILP (Research Institute in Information and Language Processing) de la Universidad de Wolverhampton. En 2011 le fue concedido el título de Doctor Honoris Causa por la Universidad de Plovdiv (Bulgaria) en reconocimiento a su brillante carrera profesional e investigadora.

—

Prof. Dr. Ruslan Mitkov. Extensively cited research with 200 publications on various topics of Natural Language Processing. Research output highlighted as internationally leading in the last UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008). Author of the monograph *Anaphora resolution* (Longman) and sole Editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Computational Linguistics* (Oxford University Press). Executive Editor of the *Journal of Natural Language Engineering* (Cambridge University Press) and Editor-in-Chief of the *Natural Language Processing* book series of John Benjamins' publishers. Acted as Programme Chair and invited as keynote speaker of various major international conferences. Director of the Research Institute in Information and Language Processing (University of Wolverhampton). Awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa at Plovdiv University in 2011 in recognition of his outstanding professional/research achievements.

—

Dr. Ruslan Mitkov conta com uma extensa produção científica (mais de 200 publicações), em vários domínios do Processamento da Linguagem Natural. A sua trajetória como investigador é de grande relevância internacional e está nos primeiros postos do ranking segundo a última avaliação do sistema britânico (Research Assessment Exercise, RAE 2008). É autor do livro *Anaphora resolution* (Longman) e único organizador do livro *The Oxford Handbook of Computational Linguistics* (Oxford University Press). O Dr. Mitkov é editor executivo da revista *Journal of Natural Language Engineering* (Cambridge University Press) e diretor da coleção *Natural Language Processing* (John Benjamins). Foi presidente de comité e orador convidado de inúmeras conferências internacionais. Atualmente, o Dr. Mitkov é diretor do RIILP (Research Institute in Information and Language Processing) da Universidade de Wolverhampton. Em 2011 foi-lhe concedido o título de Doutor Honoris Causa pela Universidade de Plovdiv (Bulgária) como reconhecimento da sua brilhante carreira profissional e ao serviço da investigação.

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“Arlequines”

31 de enero de 2015/31 January 2015/31 de janeiro de 2015

M. ^a Carmen África Vidal Claramonte es catedrática de Traducción e Interpretación en la Universidad de Salamanca. Ha publicado libros y ensayos sobre traducción, estudios de género, post-colonialismo y crítica literaria, entre ellos Traducción, manipulación, desconstrucción (Salamanca, Ediciones Colegio de España, 1995), El futuro de la traducción (Valencia, Alfons el Magnànim, 1998), Translation/Power/Subversion (coeditado con Román Álvarez, Clevedon, Multilingual Matters, 1996), En los límites de la traducción (Granada, Comares, 2005), Traducir entre culturas: diferencias, poderes, identidades (Frankfurt, Peter Lang, 2007) y La traducción y los espacios (Granada: Comares, 2012). Es traductora freelance en los campos de la filosofía, la literatura y el arte contemporáneo.

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M. Carmen África Vidal Claramonte is Professor of Translation at the University of Salamanca, Spain. Her research interests include translation theory, post-structuralism, post-colonialism, contemporary art and gender studies. She has published a number of books, anthologies and essays (Meta, Perspectives, The Translator, European Journal of English Studies, Forum, etc.) on these issues, including Traducción, manipulación, desconstrucción (Salamanca, Ediciones Colegio de España, 1995), El futuro de la traducción (Valencia, Alfons el Magnànim, 1998), Translation/Power/Subversion (coedited with Román Álvarez, Clevedon, Multilingual Matters, 1996), En los límites de la traducción (Granada, Comares, 2006), Traducir entre culturas: diferencias, poderes, identidades (Frankfurt, Peter Lang, 2007), Traducción y asimetría (Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2010) and La traducción y los espacios: viajes, mapas, fronteras (Granada: Comares, 2012). She is a practising translator specialized in the fields of philosophy, literature and contemporary art.

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M. Carmen África Vidal Claramonte é catedrática de Tradução e Interpretação na Universidade de Salamanca, Espanha. Como investigadora publicou vários livros e ensaios sobre tradução, estudos de género, pós-colonialismo e crítica literária, entre os quais *Traducción, manipulación, desconstrucción* (Salamanca, Ediciones Colegio de España, 1995), *El futuro de la traducción* (Valencia, Alfons el Magnànim, 1998), *Translation/Power/Subversion* (organizado em colaboração com Román Álvarez, Clevedon, Multilingual Matters, 1996), *En los límites de la traducción* (Granada, Comares, 2005), *Traducir entre culturas: diferencias, poderes, identidades* (Frankfurt, Peter Lang, 2007) e *La traducción y los espacios* (Granada: Comares, 2012). É tradutora freelance especializada em filosofia, literatura e arte contemporânea.

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ABOUT ADEQUACY, EQUIVALENCE AND TRANSLATABILITY IN HUMAN AND MACHINE TRANSLATION

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Abstract

This paper examines the concepts of adequacy, equivalence and translatability in human translation and how in particular the concept of adequacy evolves with respect to the evaluation of the quality in Machine Translation. The paper starts with the analysis of the notions of translated sense and adequacy as discussed in translation theory and highlights how the considerations on the nature of human translation lose their theoretical strength if applied to Machine translation (MT). The different ways of conceiving the *sense* in human and machine translation with regard to the concepts of *adequacy* and *equivalence*, lead to different interpretations of the relationship between source and target text.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the history of translation, since the classical age, the *munus interpretis* (the task of the translator) proposed by Cicero has to be considered as the departure point of the definition of the notion of *adequacy*. According to his point of view, the translator does not have to translate from a linguistic system to another one, but he needs to reformulate the original text in the target language retaining its meaning. Hence, the Latin orator deems translation to be a rhetoric activity, depending on the Aristotelic category of *aptum*, i.e. the best translation can only be obtained using the expressive means of the Latin language that are adequate and coherent with the *ars bene dicendi*.

The notion of translation *ad sensum* by Cicero influences more or less the translation modalities during the centuries in the western culture and in particular in the Romance area. Nevertheless, only texts with an aesthetic value, contrary to communicative texts, are subject to adequate translation criteria similar to the idea of translation *ad sensum* in Cicero. In this way, both text typologies, those with an aesthetic function, on the one hand, and those with a strictly communicative function, on the other hand, lead to the identification of different translation

modalities, generally speaking, even though they both preserve in principle the integrity of the original message.

The aim of our contribution is to find the point of discrimination between these two different translation modalities, which nowadays, is quite evident because of the technological developments. These latter, indeed, lead to very syncretic ways of communication, which tend to produce the maximum of communication with the minimum effort on the expression level. Consequently, the equivalence principle changes according to the different text typologies.

In our paper, we highlight the transition from the concepts of *equivalence* or *adequacy* with respect to the aesthetic function, in which the expressive and stylistic modalities of the original text are emphasised, and how it has to be achieved in translation, to the *pragmatic adequacy* in translation. This theoretical dichotomy evolves in a different way if we take into account Machine Translation (MT), where the concept of *adequacy* replaces the concept of *accuracy* in the quality estimation metrics adopted nowadays to assess the usability of MT. This shift is particularly clear in the automatic estimation metrics (BLEU, NIST, and METEOR among others) and more recently in the Dynamic Quality Framework (DQF), developed by TAUS¹.

The different ways of conceiving the *sense* in human translation with regard to the concepts of *adequacy* and *equivalence*, lead to different interpretations of the relationship between source and target text, their historical, institutional and situational contexts, which reflect the two different cultures involved in the specific interlinguistic communication. On the contrary, the *sense* with regard to the concepts of *adequacy* and *equivalence* in Machine translation cannot be interpreted, as well known, according to the abovementioned contexts and therefore it is characterised by a different theoretical nature.

2. ADEQUACY, EQUIVALENCE AND THE TRANSLATED SENSE

One of the main theoretical premises in the theory of translation is to define the nature of translation: the perception of this nature changes along with the different historical contexts. The problem of the nature of translation should be addressed starting from the notion of *translated sense*.

If meaning and designation are notions pertaining the analysis of language, conceived as system, sense concerns the analysis of texts. Therefore, it is clear that the problem of the *translated sense* is related to this analysis level, as shown by the history of translations and the contemporary theory of translation. The analysis of the translated text is a recurrent topic in the history of translation even if the theoretical references were subject to the historical specificity of the theoretical

¹ TAUS is a think tank and resource centre for the global translation industry (<https://www.taus.net/>)

reflections. One only needs to think to the notion of *ad sensum* translation and of *aptum* by Cicero, and afterwards to the *ad uerbum* translation by Saint Jerome, to the *double author* by Brunetto Latini, to *traducere* by L. Bruni, to the *untranslatability* of the Greek tragedies in Humboldt's opinion, till present, to *pure language* which allows the translation of sense according to W. Benjamin, or to the idea of *total translated sense*, exaggerated in the translation technique of the hypothetical *perfect translation* of Don Quixote, as narrated by L. Borges.

The historical flexibility of the concept of *translated meaning* affects inevitably how the notion of *equivalence* is considered. According to this point of view, the principles of *equivalence* and *adequacy* in literary translation are closely linked to:

- how the nature of language is understood,
- the nature of the relationship between the source and the target languages,
- the attitude towards the cultural differences,
- the dominant aesthetics in the target culture and language.

It can be noted that the *translated sense* is not always considered at the level of its textual nature, but this condition makes it changeable with respect to the notion of *translatability* (Torop, 2010). If the text is subject to the historical conditions of language and culture, it is itself subject to its contextual historical conditions, consequently its *translatability* depends on the conditions of the historical pertinence of language and culture and the target textual conception. Hence, the nature of the *translated sense* is conceived with regard to the historical conception of the text.

Torop developed the notion of *translatability* in all its semiotic components, depending on refined and theoretically exemplary semiotic parameters. Yet there is no historical underlining of the three levels of language, culture and text, whose intertwining represents the conditions of *translatability* in its various forms. In Torop, indeed, *translatability* is intrinsic to the nature of the text itself, as it results from the recall to the various chronotopes that underlie the text interpretation and configure the translation practice of the source text. Even if from a different point of view, Terracini (1983) is theoretically more consistent as regards the recall to the historic dimensions of language, culture and text. Terracini indeed considers the historical factor of *translatability* already on the language level in connection with the linguistic change, which occurs during the transition from a linguistic phase to another one. The awareness of historical linguistics, starting from Bartoli, considers the evolution from Latin to Italo-Romance languages based on the *equivalence* principle in translation and therefore as an *equivalence* of meaning established by a common designation of the object in the reality (see the example lt. *ovis* → *pecora* in Montella 2012:214). However, if the linguistic change of a word involves the whole language with a permeating adaptation of the specific meaning

for all the speakers, the change of the text meaning which occurs during the conversion from a language and a culture to another one is idiosyncratic and specific.

Every time a text is translated, its meaning becomes a variant of the original one, and therefore according to this point of view the fact that every translation implies an interpretation is an axiom. The theory of translation debated for a long time on the relationship between interpretation and translation according to linguistic, literary, philosophical, semiotic points of view and lately also from a cybernetic and multimedia perspective (see Muntadas in Montella 2007). Among these various points of view, Umberto Eco devotes a whole chapter of his book *Dire quasi la stessa cosa* to this topic of utmost importance for the definition of the notion of *translated sense* from a theoretical perspective.

The interpretative and idiosyncratic nature of the *translated sense* but also its variable nature according to the translatability type, influenced by the historical variability of languages and cultures, have become a leading theoretical hypothesis only in recent years and only for the analysis of the *translated sense* in aesthetic texts. Approximately until the 50s and the 60s of the last century, the translation theories ask themselves in the analysis of a literary translation if it is the result of human creativity or if it is simply the product of a second-hand reproduction. Consider for example the rich Russian production on this topic and the interesting points of view by Čukovskij and Fëdorov (1934) and Ètkind (in Montella forthcoming) who maintain the absolute priority of the creative nature of the translated sense. However, it is Jakobson (1959) who, even if he states the untranslatability of the poetic sign, considers the possibility of a poetic recreation by means of interpretation. Once again we would like to mention U. Eco (2012), who represents the nature of translation using the metaphor of how the river outlet is designated according to the different modalities with which it flows into the sea (mouth, delta, estuary), in regard to the uniqueness of its source. The dichotomy, largely debated in the 60s, between translation as art and translation as science does not envisage, and in some way, avoids considering the nature of the variability of the translated meaning. It still conceives a one-to-one relationship between the source text and its optimal translation from the point of view of its creativity. The repetitive character is still antagonist of the creative character of translation. For instance, Ètkind (in Montella forthcoming) states that a translation has to conform to the adequacy principle in that it adjusts to the conditions of the dominant aesthetics in the historical period in which it takes place. The Russian theory of translation does not consider all the different possible translations of the same source text as adequate and legitimate variants of the same archetypical source text. It considers all preceding variants of a recent translation as obsolete since they become aged when the linguistic drift makes them no longer acceptable. Considering translation as a variant of a source text is, therefore, a recent

theoretical acquisition, which concerns the specific semiosis of the translated sign, for the first time as part of the metatextual reflections by A. Popović (1975).

All these theoretical considerations on the nature of human translation and its versatility, due to the changeability of all the different elements which come into play in the translation process and which have been examined so far lose their theoretical strength if applied to Machine translation (MT).

3. ADEQUACY IN MACHINE TRANSLATION EVALUATION

In spite of the recent technological progress, MT is still limited to the sole conversion of the level of “linear manifestation” (Eco 2003) of the source text, since it is not able to remove the obstacles due to the anisomorphism of the languages and the asymmetry of cultures and their historical dimensions. But even if the quality is still not comparable to human translation unless raw translations are post-edited, Machine translation (MT) and Computer aided translation (CAT) tools (in particular terminology databases, multilingual dictionaries, parallel corpora, translation memories) are more and more integrated in the translation process.

If it is not questionable anymore that the use of these tools, in particular in industrial settings, has significant advantages in terms of speed and costs, translation quality assessment is one of the main concerns both for developers and even more for users, who have to choose the most appropriate tool for their translation needs. Translation quality evaluation has therefore become one of the key topics in the translation industry. If human translation quality assessment is not an easy task, MT and CAT quality assessment is even more difficult for several reasons. MT cannot be evaluated in absolute terms as the accurate reproduction of all linguistic-textual aspects of the source text, similar to human translation, but in functional terms as a translation which should be adequate to the users ‘needs and expectations (Monti, 2005). The main problem is that there is still little agreement on the quality parameters to take into account when evaluating translations produced using translation tools.

In this scenario, a shared quality assessment framework is considered one the most important steps in measuring the effectiveness of translation tools toward their use. *Accuracy*, based on the completeness of information contained in the target text (informativity of the target text), has represented the dominant quality evaluation criterion for decades, also in industrial scenarios. Widely adopted error-based metrics based on the evaluation of accuracy in technical translations are the LISA QA Model² in the field of localization and the SAE J2450³ Translation Quality Metric, a standard developed for the automotive industry. It is measured on the

² The QA Model was developed by the Localization Industry Standards Association (LISA): http://producthelp.sdl.com/SDL_TMS_2011/en/Creating_and_Maintaining_Organizations/Managing_QA_Models/LISA_QA_Model.htm

³ <http://www.sae.org/standardsdev/j2450p1.htm>

basis of the occurrence of errors in texts: the two abovementioned metrics provide a scale of specific errors types in texts ranked according to severity, so that is possible to obtain a reliable and objective assessment of the quality of the translation by means of a quality score. Evaluation of translation quality performed in this way is rather slow and costly because it involves human judgment, therefore when MT comes into play other ways of assessing quality are used with the aim to speed up the evaluation procedure and reduce the costs.

Much effort in MT quality assessment has been therefore directed towards the development and experimentation of automatic evaluation metrics, which aim at an objective measurement of the results for commercial purposes. MT developers, indeed, adopt statistical/automatic metrics, with no involvement by humans, such as BLEU (Papineni et al., 2002), NIST (Doddington, 2002), METEOR (Banerjee and Lavie, 2005), Word Error Rate, etc. These automated quality metrics compute the distance between reference human translations and MT outputs and provide thus a fast way to measure quality and to compare the performance of different MT systems. They are not considered so favourably by the translation studies community for various reasons, the main criticism concerning the fact that it is not so clear if the reference translations have been assessed for quality (Saldanha, G., & O'Brien, S., 2014). In addition, they do not provide any information about the linguistic critical areas that may be encountered in MT outputs, nor are they useful in detecting and comparing the strengths and weaknesses of different MT systems in more detail, which might be useful information for end users.

In the last years, therefore, academia but also industry started exploring new methodologies to assess the quality of Machine Translation based on *adequacy* and *fluency*. These criteria prevail on *accuracy* (Pinchuck 1977), according to which translations “must convey the information contained in the original with as little distortion as possible” (1977: 206). However, while the *fluency* concept in the MT literature coincides with the meaning attributed in the Translation Studies, i.e. it refers to the linguistic properties (grammar, spelling, and cohesion) of translation as an independent text in the target language; *adequacy* takes a completely different meaning.

Adequacy ratings were introduced in MT by the Linguistics Data Consortium (LDC, 2005) and further discussed by Denkowski and Lavie (2012), who use the term to designate the semantic similarity of a translation obtained automatically to reference translations as perceived by human judges. Specia et al. (2011) define an *adequate* translation as a translation that preserves the meaning of the input text and does not add any information to it. They propose a number of adequacy indicators, i.e., features that reflect how close or related the source and translation sentences are at different linguistic levels. Therefore *adequacy*, i.e. the degree to which MT output captures the meaning of a reference translation, becomes one of

the two main quality criteria used in MT quality metrics, the other being *fluency*, i.e. the degree to which MT output is grammatically correct in the target language.

If we take a closer look to the two most recent approaches in measuring MT quality, namely the TAUS Dynamic Quality Framework (DQF)⁴ and the QTLaunchPad Multidimensional Quality Metrics (MQM)⁵ we can further investigate how the concept of *adequacy* is used in MT to reach a consensus among public organisations (including the European Union), research bodies, translation buyers and language service providers on how to evaluate in an objective way both human and Machine or Assisted Translation quality.

DQF was launched by TAUS⁶ in February 2014 and aims at providing users with a reliable and comprehensive evaluation set of tools, best practices, metrics, reports and data tools to measure MT productivity, rank MT engines, evaluate adequacy, fluency and/or undertake error typology review. DQF, where “translation quality is considered dynamic as translation quality requirements change depending on the content type, the purpose of the content and its audience”⁷ is based on *adequacy* and *fluency*, defined as follows⁸:

- Adequacy: “How much of the meaning expressed in the gold-standard translation or the source is also expressed in the target translation” (Linguistic Data Consortium). The 4-point scale foresees the following values: Everything, Most, Little, None
- Fluency: To what extent the translation is “one that is well-formed grammatically, contains correct spellings, adheres to common use of terms, titles and names, is intuitively acceptable and can be sensibly interpreted by a native speaker” (Linguistic Data Consortium). The 4-point scale foresees the following values: Flawless, Good, Dis-fluent, Incomprehensible.

Even in this case the definition of *adequacy* points to the *closeness* of the translation under evaluation to the meaning of the gold-standard (or reference) translation or the source. This use of the term *adequacy* in MT highlights a completely different meaning in comparison to this notion as usually understood in Translation studies:

Adequacy of a given translation procedure can then be judged in terms of the specifications of the particular translation task to be performed and in terms of users' needs (Hatim and Mason, 1990:8).

⁴ <https://www.taus.net/evaluate/dqf/dynamic-quality-framework>

⁵ <http://www.qt21.eu/launchpad/content/multidimensional-quality-metrics>

⁶ TAUS is a think tank and resource center for the global translation industry (<https://www.taus.net/>)

⁷ <https://evaluation.taus.net/about>

⁸ <https://www.taus.net/think-tank/best-practices/evaluate-best-practices/adequacy-fluency-guidelines>

Indeed, the meaning of *adequacy* in MT would be more suitable for the concept of *accuracy* since it measures the informativity degree of the target text with reference to the source text, as adopted in previous studies on quality in MT. Hutchins and Somers (1992: 163) for instance use the *fidelity/accuracy* quality parameter in reference to the ‘extent to which the translated text contains the “same” information as the original’. In this respect, the Multidimensional Quality Metrics (MQM)⁹ developed as part of the European QTLaunchPad project seems to be more consistent from a terminological point of view. MQM provides a systematic framework to describe quality metrics based on the identification of textual features and provides a set of criteria to assess the quality of translations. Starting from the definition of quality translation by Alan Melby in Koby et al. (2014):

A quality translation demonstrates accuracy and fluency required for the audience and purpose and complies with all other specifications negotiated between the requester and provider, taking into account end-user needs.

MQM tries to provide a translation quality metric, which allows *accuracy* and *fluency* of the translated text, whether obtained as result of a human or automatic process, to be assessed in a consistent and coherent manner.

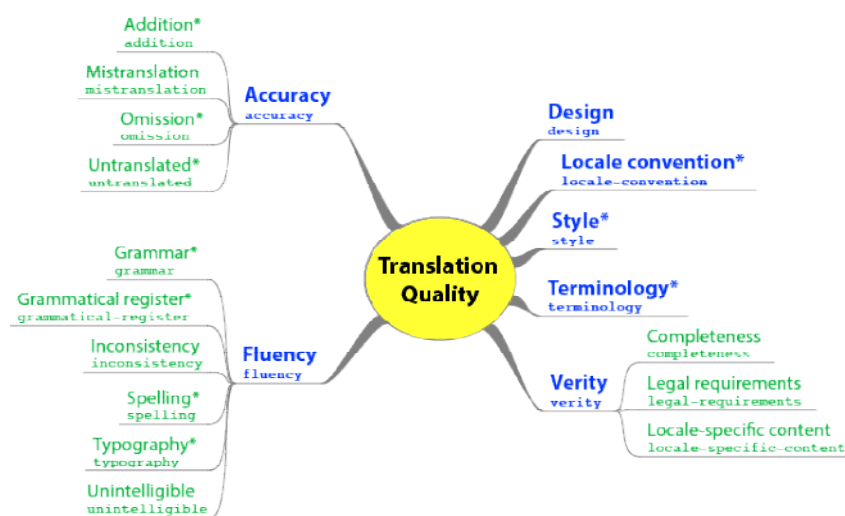


Figure 3 - MQM quality metrics

In this framework, *accuracy* issues address the relationship of the target text with the source text and can be assessed only by considering this relationship. They concern changes in intended meaning, such as addition and omission of content and similar issues. It is interesting to note that the authors need to specify

⁹ <http://www.qt21.eu/launchpad/content/multidimensional-quality-metrics>

that *adequacy* is “Synonym for accuracy commonly used in the context of assessing machine translation quality”.¹⁰

In any case, even if the MT community has not already reached a consensus on the quality criteria to adopt, the debate on this topic has contributed to the idea that quality in translation cannot be assessed only on a linguistic level, but it also depends on socio-situational and economic factors.

4. HUMAN TRANSLATION, MT AND TRANSLATABILITY: FINAL CONCLUSIONS

The identity of meta-language with respect to the notion of *adequacy* between the Translation Studies and Machine translation is only illusory as we have tried to show in the previous sections of our contribution. It is not a case that the notion of *adequacy*, and therefore of equivalence, is the same from the point of view of the terminological signifier but it's totally different with respect to the two different theoretical designata which can accordingly be considered as homonyms.

In the field of human translation, *adequacy* depends on *translatability* (i.e. the interrelation of culture, language and text), but can the translatability criterion be applied to MT? Probably not.

In particular, contrary to the axiomatic flexibility of the human translator in the translation process, the MT process is influenced by the rigidity of the means in the translinguistic, transcultural and transtextual communication. In an MT-based translation process, flexibility has to cope with the rigidity of MT with major consequences on quality and its evaluation. Nowadays it is impossible not to integrate MT and CAT tools in industrial settings of multilingual documentation production. However, the MT community should strive to find a convergence with the translation studies field in order to agree on shared quality criteria and the Multidimensional Quality Metrics (MQM) is a first encouraging step in this direction.

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¹⁰ <http://www.qt21.eu/mqm-definition/definition-2015-06-16.html#quality-def>

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