Technology Mashup for Translation —— MT, CAT, and Web 2.0: New Trends in Translation Tools and Website Localization

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Abstract

Machine Translation and Computer-aided Translation represent two different approaches to applying technologies for enhancing the translation process, each of them lying on different ends of the continuum of human-computer interaction in the translation process.

After decades of solid practice of translation software tools in the translation industry, translation applications have arrived to a more mature stage, which attempts to maximize the effectiveness and balance the role of human translators and machines instead of one of the two taking the core role of the translation process. The term "CAT-MT hybrid" seems much more appropriate for many new translation tools, whose functions and designs have been altered by the advancements in web applications. The concept of human-human communication in Web 2.0, which includes "Harnessing Collective Intelligence," "Innovation in Assembly," and "Trust and Share of Information," is found in many new CAT-MT hybrid software tools and website localization applications at various degrees.

This paper discusses these two observed new trends, CAT-MT hybrid and Web 2.0 features, in translation tools. Examples of CAT-MT hybrid software, like Google Translation Toolkit and Snowman Computer Assisted Translation Software, are selected for explaining the different degrees of MT integration and human-human

communication in translation programs. The Web 2.0 features in translation tools will be demonstrated through Google Translation Toolkit and the localization project of Facebook.

Keywords

computer-aided translation, machine translation, Web 2.0