

Technology Advancement and Patent Translation*

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Abstract

This paper examines the advancement of technology in relation to patent translation and its use at patent offices, covering patent searches, terminology databases, and machine translation tools. The benefits and downsides of machine translation for patents are analyzed. The impact of technology on patent translation is discussed in terms of the objectives and purposes of using it in this field and supported by facts and figures from patent offices. The sizeable share of the budget for translation shows that despite the availability of machine translation tools, translation services in patent offices are still heavily reliant on human translators to produce and control the quality of translations. The accumulated evidence defines the position of machine translation in patent offices: it is used as a supplementary tool and cannot be used for any legally-binding document without a human translator double-checking the quality of the output.

Keywords

patent translation, patent search, machine translation,
terminology database

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