The translator's future

The profession of the translator and interpreter has a long history of development. The first representatives of this profession appeared in a distant past, in the Sumerian civilization. Sumer was the southernmost region of ancient Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq and Kuwait) which is considered to be the cradle of civilization. The region of Sumer was long thought to have been first inhabited around 4500 BC. And with the rise of this civilization we can find the first mention of the translator's profession [3].

Since then a lot of time has passed and profession of the translator has experienced enormous of changes. And with great confidence we can say that translators in the 21st century find themselves in a difficult position because, on the one hand, there is a rapidly growing demand for translation as a result of globalization and communication generally. On the other hand, it is becoming harder and harder for the professional translator to meet this demands.

To find a solution for this issue people find a way using high tech. But along with the technology there come many new challenges. Yes, it's difficult to believe in that, because we invent devices to make our life easy. That is why we use the computer to store a lot of information; we use mobile telephones to keep in touch with people at a long distance — we use a lot of devices, which can be fruitful for us. But there is another side. We should not forget that as the owner of a small business, the translator must weigh the return-on-investment on time and money very carefully. We can not buy tools for free and every new tool needs time to be mastered [1].

To the question «Which of the following technologies and/or innovations will translators apply in the coming two years? » there is the following answer: sixty percent of the respondents answered 'no' to machine translation, while 19% are already using it, and 21% expect they will use MT within the next two years. The main concerns about MT are the poor quality of MT output (76%) and the poor quality of source documents (54%). Those who look at MT on the bright side see cost reduction as the greatest benefit (39%) and the possibility of real-time delivery of translation as a secondary benefit (35%) [1].

We can say that future for interpreters looks bright, but they should adopt themselves to the new game's rules. Today interpreters must assure people that they can work, because for the first time in the history, translation is a kind of strategic activity. Thanks to modern translation programs, such as *Google Translate*, *Babelfish*, *Translate.Ru*, *Yandex translate* and *Microsoft Bing*, every person on our planet knows what translation means. On the one hand, professionals in this sphere understand that such tools really can cause damage to the quality of translation. On the other hand, someone working in another field realize that can save a round sum of money.

First of all, we should realize the fact that machine translation will never be perfect, because CAT tools just cannot keep up with these evolving nuances and associations in hundreds of domains created by speakers of just one language and we have 95 languages, which are official. But we cannot deny the fact that in today's life we cannot cope with all work scope without machine translation. Soon mechanical translation won't be an absurdity, as it perceived by many of us today. We would use it as customary as we use electricity, mobiles, television and cars now.

Taking into consideration this fact, translators and interpreters should master their skills using CAT tools in the University in order to be a skilled worker after their graduation. But again we encounter a number of obstacles because special equipment is needed to work with such programs and not every university can afford it.

Secondly, traditional teaching methods are still used in many universities, which don't meet the modern requirements and then graduates aren't prepared to real work

conditions. Professors in interpreting should transform his or her teaching methods because teaching is not just about grammar exercises. We should unite teaching process with corresponding theories and pay attention to output. [2].

While teaching today's translators and interpreters we should notice two facts, which changed interpreting market in the last two years: first of all, a demanded level of qualification has increased and also we should not forget about the changes in the world brought by globalization and new technologies.

Moreover, we can say with certainty that Machine translation would never replace a human only because of one reason: a customer needs a high-quality translation. Any CAT tools won't do that because they can not absorb all language peculiarities. It becomes a burning issue, in case when the list of working languages keeps growing. Today borders are erased and each company, which wants to be called «successful» and to go out to the world market, can not work with old standard set of 4-6 languages, with a hundred more.

In conclusion we can say that the profession of translation won't disappear because only human mind can feel and can interpret tiny details, style modification and author's way of writing in the process of translation. But to be modern and well-qualified translators and interpreters need to know how to use CAT tools to make translation output better and faster.

References:

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