Translation Memory (TM)

Versatile computer-aided package to improve translation quality

Translation Memory is a constantly expanding storage of translations that accumulates all source and target language pairs (called translation units) resulting from using it. Therefore, the same sentence never needs to be translated (or paid for) twice.

However, the main advantage this tool offers belongs to another area. It holds all translations bearing on a particular subject. The tool displays any similar translations detected in the database. Moreover, it identifies the degree of similarity in % (termed «match») between the retrieved translation unit and the segment that needs translation, and highlights any differences.

As each text segment is analysed the Translation Operating System compares it with the database contents and displays the results on the monitor. Upon detecting a translation unit similar to the segment to be translated the tool displays the detected unit (the source text and its translated equivalent) and indicates the degree of similarity between the two source fragments.

The tool may define the degree of similarity between the retrieved translation unit and the sentence to be translated as a 99% match, a 74% match or even a 20% match. Words and/or elements differing from the words and/or elements of the stored text are highlighted by different colors. Translators are only to translate new portions and edit those that are not fully equivalent. Each changed or new translation unit is stored in TM.
All translators have at some time or other felt that a chunk of text they are struggling with looks familiar and has been translated in some way already. TM instantly retrieves such text chunks.

Typical translation-memory-type software is an operating shell working with a certain language database connected to it. One may create and build up translation memories for both general and specific applications. A typical translation memory tool differs from e-dictionaries and other translation tools by its neural files that form networks similar to those in the brain of a human in the way they process data. These networks are designed to be expanded and analyse complex arrays of linguistic data.