Guide to MTPE (machine translation postediting) for posteditors

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Introduction

Machine translation (MT) has become the everyday life for each of us. Free apps, readily available on-line, support us when we travel, when we read an article in a foreign magazine, or when we want to understand the lyrics of a song in a foreign language.

With the development of machine translation technologies and the improvement of the quality of text translated by MT, there came a demand for solutions for translation agencies, which:

- ensure full data security,
- retain document formatting,
- save time,
- cope well with specialist texts,
- provide a flexible payment system for both translator and client.

To meet the expectations of our clients and adapt to changes in the translation industry, we have created the Skrivanek NMT solution. Find out yourself what this solution is, and learn the rules of cooperation with us as posteditor.

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Skrivanek NMT Expert

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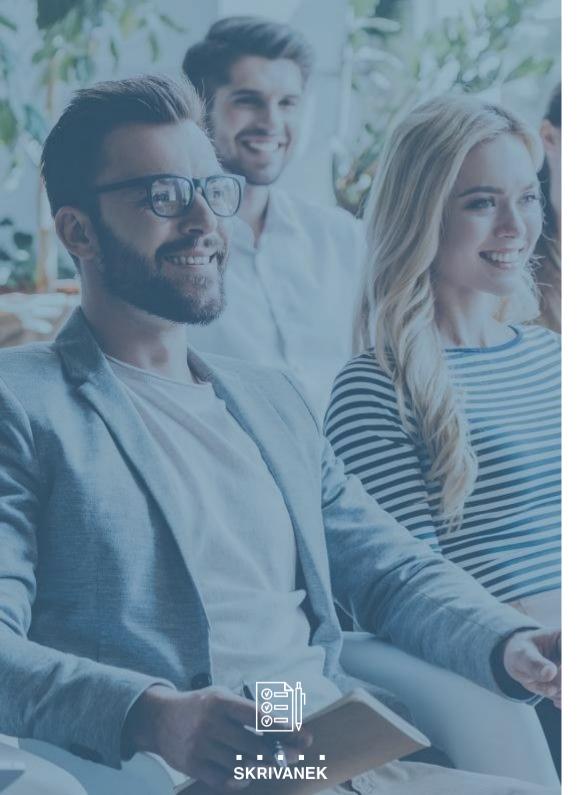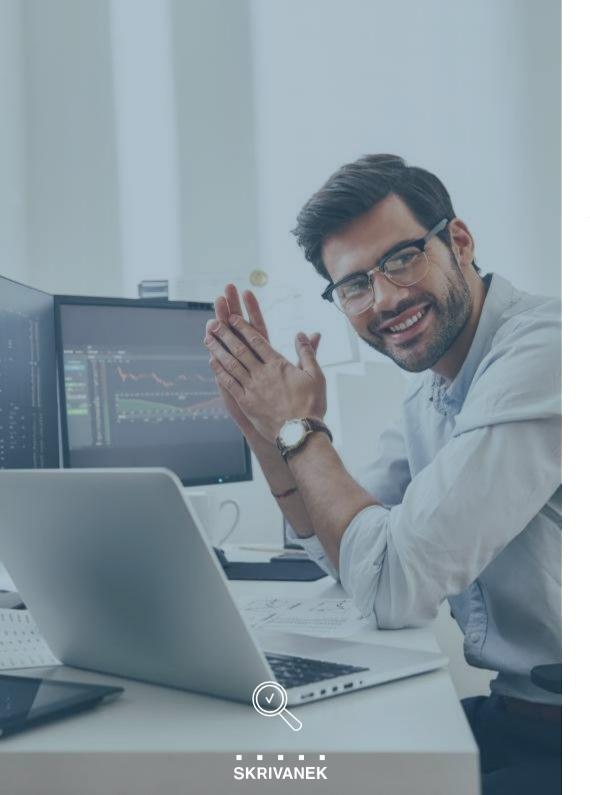Vendor Community Team
Manager

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Machine translation has become neural
– what does this mean?

Machine translation technology has come a long way since the 1950s, when the first attempts were made to translate text using a machine. Over the decades,
rule-based - statistical - systems were developed and heavily tested, so that as a result the neural systems (or NMT) could eventually be created. This technology works similarly to the human brain. Just like humans, neural systems learn a given language based on the provided phrases, they can recognize the context of statements in order to choose the right style and vocabulary. Isn't it fascinating?
To stay on top of these rapid changes in the translation industry, we have developed Skrivanek NMT: a neural machine translation solution which offers specialized machine translation to many industries.

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How is Skrivanek NMT different from on-line translators?

1. Data security: Skrivanek NMT operates on a properly secured server, which is owned by our company.
   We only use it for translations for our clients, thus all processed data is safe.

2. High level of specialization: on-line systems offer one model to translate all types of content. In Skrivanek, we have separate language models for various specializations. And this way, the technical text is translated using a model other than legal or medical.

3. Formatting: our solution translates whole files, rather than single fragments, therefore the posteditor does not have to worry about retaining or correcting any formatting.

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How will NMT technology affect the work of a translator?

Translation agencies' clients have very diverse expectations. Sometimes it is necessary to translate the operating manual of a complex device with top accuracy, and sometimes it is necessary to translate the letter from a foreign contractor quickly just to understand its content, or translate a document
for internal use. This depends on what type of service the client chooses.

Machine translation technology allows us to meet
 these expectations. For our translators, this means that in some projects we ask to postedit the text translated by Skrivanek NMT.

In Skrivanek we approach each project individually.
Depending on the material for translation, we always try to assess whether Skrivanek NMT is the right solution. Therefore, when we ask a translator
about a postediting project, we send
the machine translated output for them to assess the quality of it.

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SOURCE

Coraz więcej osób zdaje sobie sprawę, że zmieniła się korporacyjna Ameryka.

Bezpieczeństwo pracy jest w dużej mierze reliktem, korzyści nie są takie, jak kiedyś, a rozpoczęcie własnego biznesu wygląda mniej ryzykownie..

Organizacja twierdzi, że ma ponad 7 milionów członków i zwolenników na całym świecie.

SKRIVANEK NMT OUTPUT

Increasing numbers of people are coming to realize that corporate America has changed

Job security is large a relic, benefits are not nearly what they used to be, and starting your own business is looking a lot less risky

The organization claims to have over 7 million members and supporters around the world

Are machine translations of poor quality?

Many people are concerned that the quality of translations prepared with the use of NMT technology will be insufficient. Therefore, it is worth taking a closer look at how such translation differs from human-made one. Machine translation is certainly different from what a human translator is able to prepare, and often at first glance you can notice it.

Is such translation suitable for printing or on-line publication? The example above is the so-called raw machine translation – a text created by the machine without any human correction. Such translation is much cheaper and faster than the one by a human translator, and for internal purposes, in order to understand the content or prepare a report on its basis, it is sufficient. However, without human editing, it should not be made publicly available. To those clients who want to use Skrivanek NMT, but the translation will be used more widely, we offer postediting service.
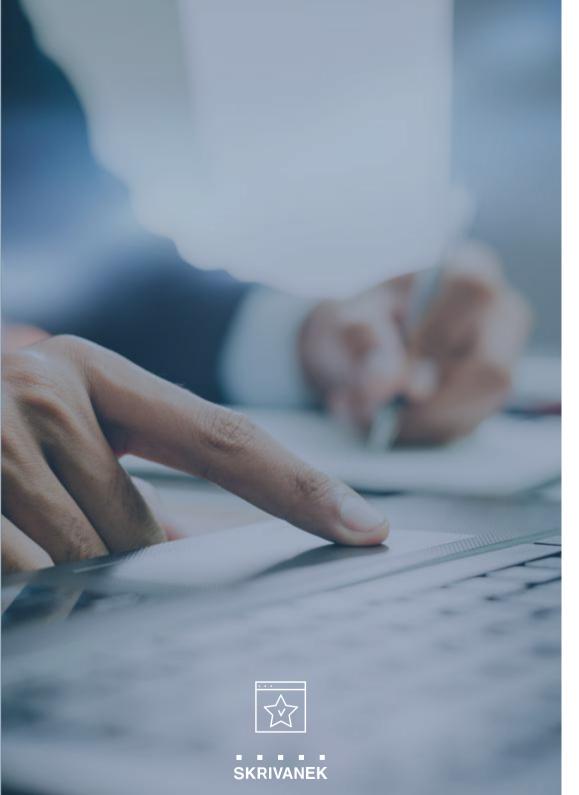
Will any translator become a posted editor?

We don't assume that anyone who is in our database of translators will make a good posteditor. To become one, you will need to do a test task paying attention to comply with the rules applicable to postediting.

A good posteditor is able to easily find "golden means", i.e. not to correct

too much (so that the workload is not the same as in human translation), or too little. We provide our posteditors with a free of charge on-line training in which they learn about the rules of postediting.

The most significant rules for light and full postediting:

Postediting at a glance

Light postediting
- we make only such corrections that make the whole text understandable (in terms of vocabulary), relatively grammatically correct and free from typos,
- There should be as little as possible of such
- corrections, we do not focus on style and
- formatting,
- we ensure uniform terminology, but we do not verify every word,
- the translation should be understandable, but it does not have to read
- well, the translation does not have to be stylistically adequate,
- typos which are more difficult to detect can remain uncorrected,
- it may sometimes happen that the whole sentence requires translating from scratch, but it should only be done when absolutely necessary. **What the client receives**: a good enough translation.

Full postediting
Detailed verification of the entire text, correcting terminology, grammar, spelling, style and formatting.
What the client receives: a translation identical to a human-made translation.

A significant majority of clients prefer full postediting.

Is client data safe?

This is a crucial question. In machine translation systems, the text is sent to the server where the translation is processed. Machine translation applications available on-line can use this data for the purposes of retraining procedures. Therefore, it is so important to carefully use the MT solutions available on-line on your own and beware of the potential consequences.

Is CAT necessary for postediting?

Since the posteditor has to work on a bilingual file, a CAT software is necessary for this purpose. The posteditor
receives from us an sdlxliff file (a bilingual file exported from Trados) which is pre-translated with the use of Skrivanek NMT, or a link to log in to Phrase TMS, which we provide free of charge.

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Language solutions you can trust!

We hope our guide to machine translation proved interesting. Contact our Vendor Community Team (at tlumacze@skrivanek.pl)
and test yourself in a new role.

Machine translation has been used by many translation agencies and EU institutions, it is worth to be ready!