

# TRANSLATORS' REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSLATION TECHNOLOGIES: A USER SURVEY

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This article presents preliminary results of a survey completed by professional translators, which has been developed in order to disclose their requirements regarding functionalities and features of translation technologies. The expansion of technology in the field of translation forces professionals to use sometimes highly complex computer programs and resources in order to keep up with the industry requirements. Even though there exist a vast variety of such programs on the market, previous surveys on translation technologies (Lagoudaki, 2006; Blacafort et al., 2011; TradOnline, 2010; Torres Domínguez, 2012; etc.) showed that not all of the existing technology varieties were successfully adopted by professionals. One of the possible reasons for this is that the programs were developed without taking into account translators' real needs.

The survey questionnaire intends to contribute to solving this problem. Its main goal is to identify 1) current working practices of professional translators, i.e. which tools and resources they use and in what way they use them; 2) the degree of their satisfaction with these technologies concerning the quality of output, learning curve, offered functionalities, productivity and income increase; 3) the degree of their awareness of different types of technologies available; and 4) their overall attitude towards current technology-related industry trends.

The results are analysed taking into account several characteristics of user profile: 1) type of employment (in-house translators and freelancers tend to have different translation workflow and requirements); 2) working experience 3) domain of specialization; 4) their main working languages; 5) the amount of their monthly income.

The questionnaire structure is divided into sections corresponding to specific types of tools: machine translation, translation memory, textual corpora, terminology management and terminology extraction tools, and web resources.

For every type of technologies the amount of respondents that use them was calculated, what features of every particular type of tools they find useful was determined, as well as their evaluation of the performance of the tools that they use. Additionally, some open-ended questions ask respondents to comment on their desired functionalities and other features of translation tools.

The article concludes by outlining the findings of the survey that are significant for identifying translators' needs, as well as possible further steps in data analysis that can lead us to draw further inferences.

## References

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