Introduction to MateCat

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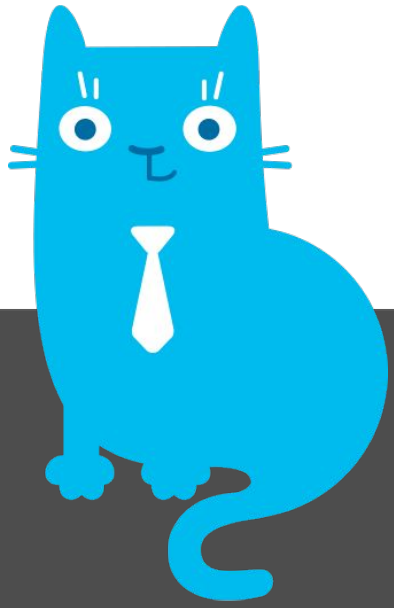

A little bit of history

1940s and **‘50s**: Machine Translation is all the rage

1960s: Automatic Language Processing Advisory Commitee (ALPAC) report resulted in a halt to public financing for MT

1970s: Focus on helping the human translators

1980s: TSS (Translation Support System) by Alpnet, TextTools by INK, Trados is born (1984)

1990s and **2000s**: Multiplication of translation memory tools: Trados, Wordfast, DéjàVu, etc.

2000s: Return of MT: Statistical Machine Translation, Moses, Google Translate, etc.

2014 - 16: Neural MT: Google, DeepL, Microsoft, etc.

Translation Market

$40 billion in translation services

Large industry and growing (6.2% CAGR ’14).

98.7% of professional services and 1.3% of translation software.

40,000 translation companies (LSPs)

Fragmented: only 100 companies above $100M.

Median LSP $500K/y

3-5 employees, 20 freelancers for only few languages.

Language Service Providers

Using In-House Translators

The oldest and/or industry-specialized ones that mostly use in-house translators. They **outsource peaks and non-supported languages to other LSPs (10%)** and freelancers (10%).

Using Freelance Translators

The large majority of LSPs today. They outsource a big chunk of their business to freelancers (80%) and **a smaller amount (20%) to other LSPs**.

Outsourcing to other LSPs

Most of the large LSP, historically called MLV, are sales-driven companies. They are often the result of merging many LSPs under one brand. They **primarily outsource to other LSPs**.

Common Pains

Can’t afford to say no to customers

The competition is fierce – **you say no once, you risk losing your customer**. Today when an LSP has a request that it cannot manage, it picks up the phone and calls freelancers and LSPs until one is available.

Outsourcing = No margins

Requests come fast and delivery terms are often less than 48 hours. When in rush, **LSPs forget about their margins to find an outsourcer quickly**.

Peaks vs. Quality

Median LSPs have few translators per language. Finding a freelancer or LSP experienced in a specific field and/or with a specific customer is difficult. **Controlling quality is an issue**.

What is a CAT tool?

Computer Assisted Translation tools:

- Spell checkers
- Grammar checkers
- Terminology managers
- Electronic dictionaries
- Concordancers
- Alignment tools
- Project management tools
- Translation memory

CAT tool lingo

- Segments
- Alignment
- Concordancer (TM Search)
- 100% match - Exact matcth
- XX% match - Fuzzy match
- Bilingual file (.xliff)
- TM (public and private)
- Post - editing
- Revision
- Repetitions
- Internal repetitions
- Tag
- TMX (Translation Memory eXchange format)

Translation Memory

Overview

- “Database” of translated **segments** in a given language pair
- If any segment was translated in the past, it will be returned as an exact or fuzzy match (re-use of content)
- A CAT automatically suggests the best **match** for a given segment
- Online TM (MyMemory) and offline TM (TMX)

Translation Memory

```
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20160908T123213" datatype = "plaintext">
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    <prop type="x-project_name">Exporting_Private_Translation_Memories.docx</prop>
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        <tuv xml:lang = "en-US">
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            address with a link to download the translation memory.</seg>
        </tuv>
        <tuv xml:lang = "it-IT">
            <seg>Quando l'esportazione è pronta, verrà inviata una e-mail al tuo
            indirizzo e-mail con un link per scaricare la memoria di traduzione.</seg>
        </tuv>
</tu>
```

Glossary

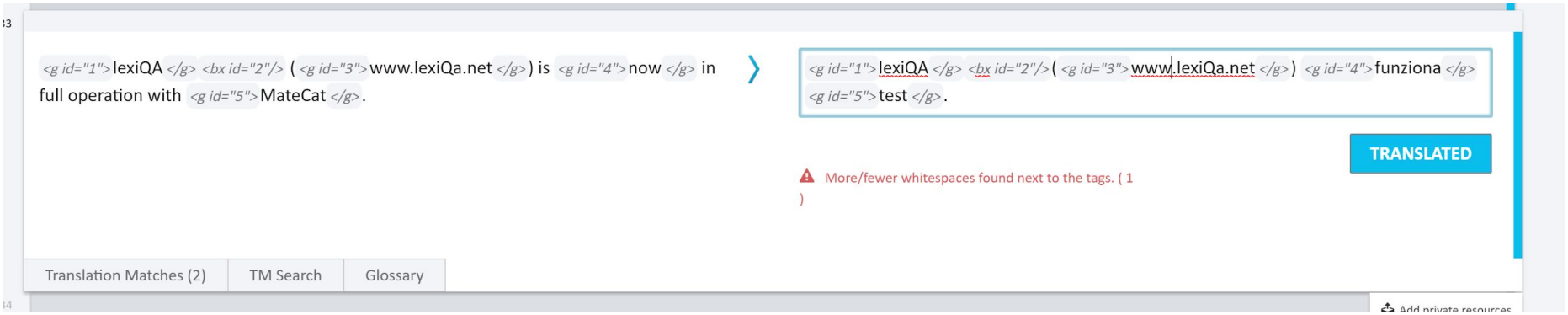
TM

- Segment pairs
- Format: .tmx
- Similar or identical content is automatically inserted
- On average, segments are long (phrases)

Glossari

- List of entries (similar to a dictionary)
- Can contain context information (comments)
- Format: .xlsx
- A CAT tool flags if there are available entries
- Usually, they need to be inserted manually

How to keep formatting?

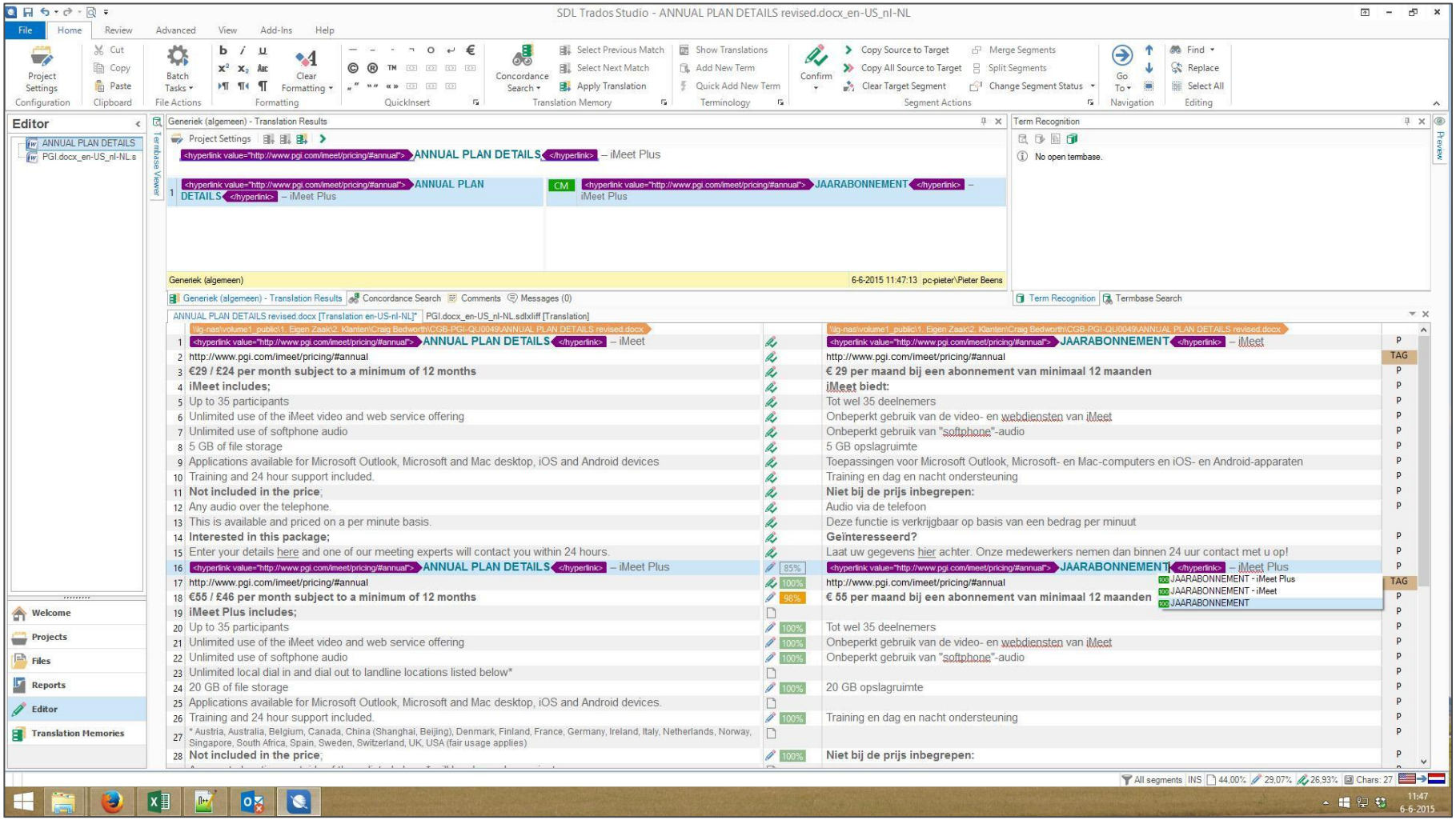


Tags represent formatting information and metadata that are compressed and easily movable across the segment

The CAT tool market today

And many, many, many, many more...

SDL Studio


SDL Trados Studio - ANNUAL PLAN DETAILS revised.docx_en-US_nl-NL
Editor
ANNUAL PLAN DETAILS
PGI.docx_en-US_nl-NL.s
Welcome
Projects
Files
Reports
Editor
Translation Memories
Generiek (algemeen) - Translation Results
Term Recognition
No open termbase.
ANNUAL PLAN DETAILS – iMeet Plus
JAARABONNEMENT – iMeet Plus
JAARABONNEMENT - iMeet Plus
JAARABONNEMENT - iMeet
JAARABONNEMENT

What is MateCat?

A Free Translation Tool for LSPs and freelancers

A completely free and web-based translation software (CAT tool) that handles more than 100 languages and over 60 file formats used in the industry. Disrupting the current status quo: **Offering for free what used to be charged thousands of dollars.**

Reuse made easy

Making state-of-the-art web crawling and neural machine translation available to every translator. No one in the world should translate something that has already been translated by somebody else. **Faster turnarounds and higher margins.**

Outsourcing in 1-click

1-click outsource to the best translator within the tool. We leverage Translated's T-Rank and 285,000 translators recruited so far to short-cut the industry, making **a direct link between the LSP need and the translators' skills**.

Why MateCat?

Limited use of CAT tools

➔ Only 60% of projects translated with a CAT tool

Security concerns

➔ Security issues when sending files to vendors

Limited collaboration

➔ Inefficient collaboration on rush and large projects

Scarce content reuse

➔ Limited content reuse due to small, local translation memories and poor MT integration

Join the Evolution