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MACHINE TRANSLATION IN STUDYING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

With the development of computer technologies computers became a powerful tool in the process of studying foreign languages. Their role has increased greatly with the development of internet.

Much internet information is presented in foreign languages, and students of higher educational establishments use fast computer translations. They use computer translation (the other used term for it is "machine translation") widely in their studying process for different purposes, though teachers very often prohibit the use of computer translation (MT).

The topic of the research is devoted to the use of machine translation in studying foreign languages. The teaching practice proves that students are widely using MT, and it is important for students, at least, to understand pros and cons of using MT and the limits of machine translation.

Machine translation is an automatic translation, this is the use of software for translating words, texts or speech from one language to another.

The progress and potential of machine translation have been debated much through its history.

The idea of using digital computers for translation of natural languages was proposed by Andrew Donald Booth, physicist and computer scientist who led invention of the magnetic drum memory for computers and invented multiplication algorithm in1946 and others[1]. Warren Weaver is widely recognized as one of the pioneers of machine translation, he wrote an important memorandum "Translation" in 1949 [1].

The use of MT in studying process may be justified by teachers when students use it looking for some definite information (not for the sake of practice of translation), it may save their time , especially if there are too many unknown

words in the text what doesn't allow the students to understand the general idea of the information.

The other useful application of MT is the use of computer dictionaries. The most of MT software has such a function as "the choice of the field of translation", that is, the choice of a specialized dictionaries. It is useful very much because the students of higher educational establishments study ESP English (English for Specific Purposes), their studying English is professionally oriented, but they don't have specialized dictionaries for their fields of specialization, for example, Economics, Machine Building, Electronics, etc. This technique is particularly effective where formal, standardized texts, technical texts s are used. Machine translation produces usable output of standardized texts more readily, than conversational texts.

In studying process it is knowledge and the use of students' knowledge in practice and communication that is of primary importance for teachers, and it should be of primary importance for students too. Tasks of translation into an other language in the process of studying a foreign language may be different (checking up understanding texts, knowledge of words, grammatical structures, world building, etc.), but in the most of cases this is practice of language skills.

The text, translated by the student, is important for a teacher from the point of view of the language advancement of his students, but not from the point of view of perfectness of the text, if the text is not translated for evaluating the level of translation achieved by the students.

The main obstacle to machine translation of high quality is the necessity to interpret the text. Interpreting is the ability of a human brain. The human translation process is a complex cognitive operation. This process requires in-depth knowledge of the grammar, semantics, idioms, the source language, culture of its speakers etc. The translator must interpret and analyze all the features of the texts, he needs the same in-depth knowledge in the target language to decode the meaning of the source text.

The automatic machine translation systems available today are not able to produce high-quality translations without a human being: their output must be edited by a human to correct errors and improve the quality of translation. Computer-assisted translation, computer-aided translation or CAT is a form of language translation in which a human translator uses computer software to support and facilitate the translation process. Computer-assisted translation (CAT) incorporates manual editing stage into the software, making translation an interactive process between human and computer .Computer-assisted translation is sometimes called machine-assisted, or machine-aided, translation (it shouldn't be confused with machine translation).

The challenge in machine translation is in the ways of programming a computer that will "understand" a text as a person does, and that will "create" a new text in the target language.

Some advanced computer-assisted translation solutions include controlled machine translation (MT). Higher priced MT modules generally provide a more complex set of tools available to the translator, which may include terminology management features and various other linguistic tools and utilities what improves the accuracy of MT, and as a result increases the efficiency of the entire translation process.

There is n organization that serves the growing community of people interested in MT and translation tools, including users, developers, and researchers the International Association for Machine Translation (IAMT), which counts a increasing number of members worldwide.

In conclusion, it is necessary to stress that machine translation is useful only as a machine assisted translation.

References:

1. Language and Information: Selected essays on their theory and application (Jerusalem Academic Pre Hutchins, W. J. (2000).