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Translation as HCI

Technological advances have revolutionised the translators' world, changing the ways professional translators work, as well as the technology context in which they operate (TAUS, 2018; do Carmo, 2020).



New roles

Professional translators are seen as “highly multitasking agents whose work requires advanced language skills, advanced information literacy, and considerable technological and instrumental competence” (Enríquez Raído, 2016: 970).



Employability and education

Technology

European Master's in Translation Competence Framework

- From its inception in 2009 to its latest update in 2022, it reflects the priorities of postgraduate translation programmes as they prepare graduates for a dynamic and highly technologized workplace.
- Separate technology competence group as well as technology aspects cutting across other competences



Question

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Methodology

The question is answered on the basis of the feedback received from three cohorts (2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021) of undergraduate and postgraduate students in Translation at the Ionian University in Greece who attended the Translation Technology module and completed their studies.

Questionnaires and stimulated recall interviews

1. Do students feel ready to ride the technological wave or actually do so in their daily jobs or do they remain skeptical or feel inadequate to take on the new roles?
2. How could they be better equipped?

The Department of
Foreign Languages,
Translation &
Interpreting @ the
Ionian University in
Greece



Bilingual Translation

EN, FR or EL, EN, FR or EL, EN, DE or EL, FR, DE

Core theory translation modules: theory of translation, translation, modules about cultural linguistics.

Specialized translation modules

literary translation, transcreation, EU

scientific and technical translation, audiovisual

project management, translation technology

- Several seminars and workshops: video localization, software localization, vendor management

+Placement

Course of Translation

Programme, EL, EN

Teaching + 1 semester for the dissertation

Modules: Theory & Methodology

Technology

Modules: Translation of Legal Texts

Translation of Medical Texts, Translation

Audiovisual Translation (inc. SDH and A

Management

- Seminars & workshops (e.g. Dubbing,

+Placement

Techn

**Technology
cuts across
any modules**

**Co
Analysis
Audio
transla
tools
Terminology
tools**

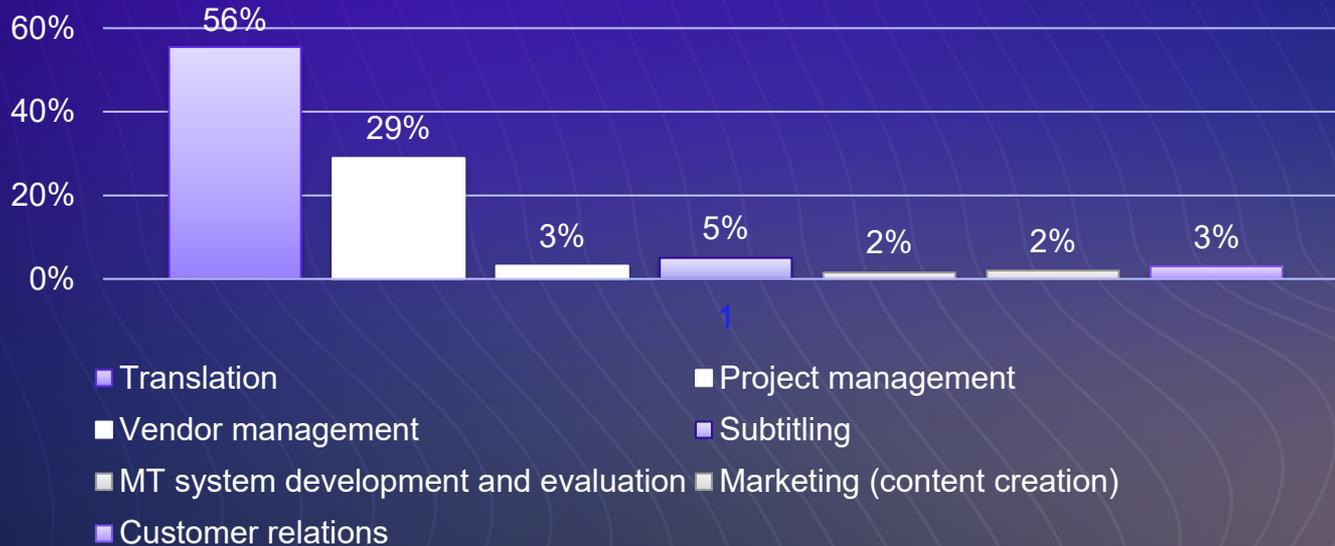


**Machine Translation evaluation
CAT Tools (Trados+Memsource)**

The Questionnaire

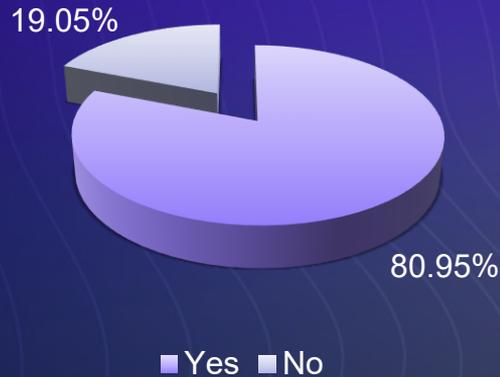
- ✓ 3 questions about demographics
- ✓ 10 closed-ended questions
- ✓ 1 open-ended
- 268 students replied
- 7 respondents did not meet the set criteria and their answers were disregarded
- 83% female
- 73% undergraduate, 11% postgraduate, 16% both undergraduate and postgraduate
- 27.7% work as freelance translators, 61% are salaried, 4.6% are unemployed, 3.7% pursue further studies and 3% are doing a placement

What does your job involve?

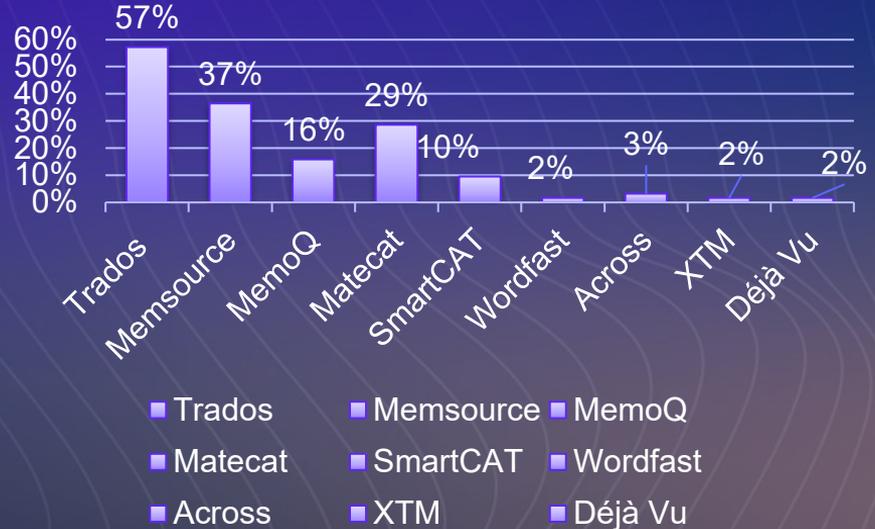


Do you use translation in technology in your daily work? Which tools do you use?

Translation Technology Use

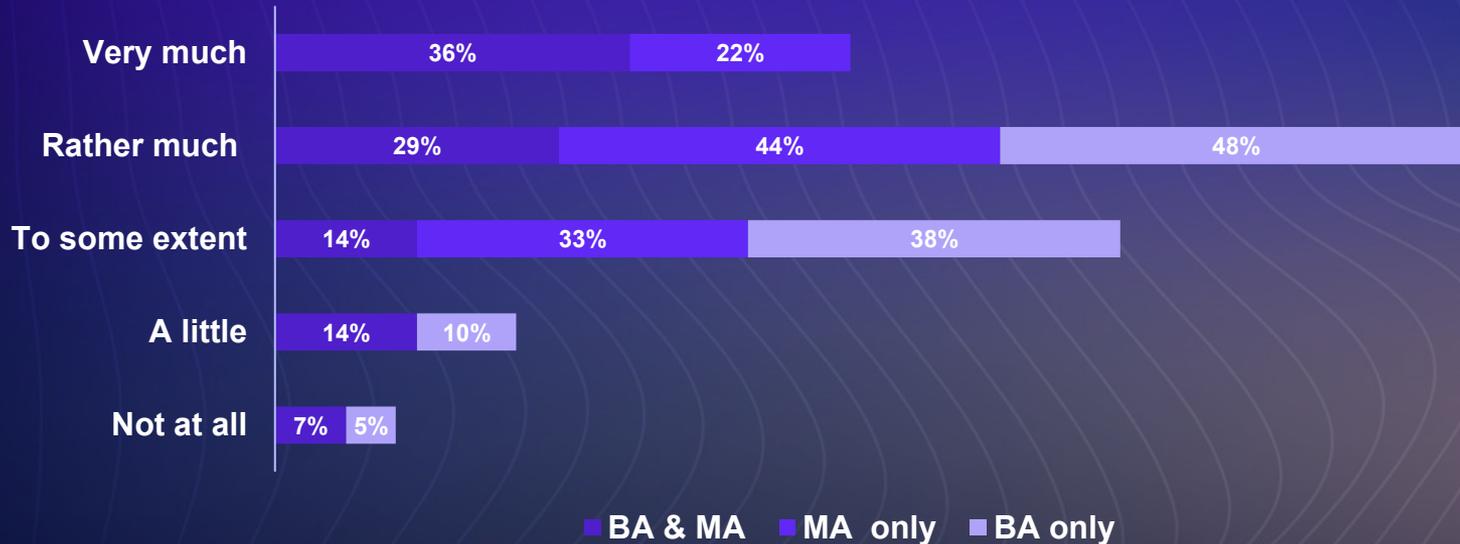


CAT tools



Market preparedness

Have your studies prepared you adequately for the market as regards technology



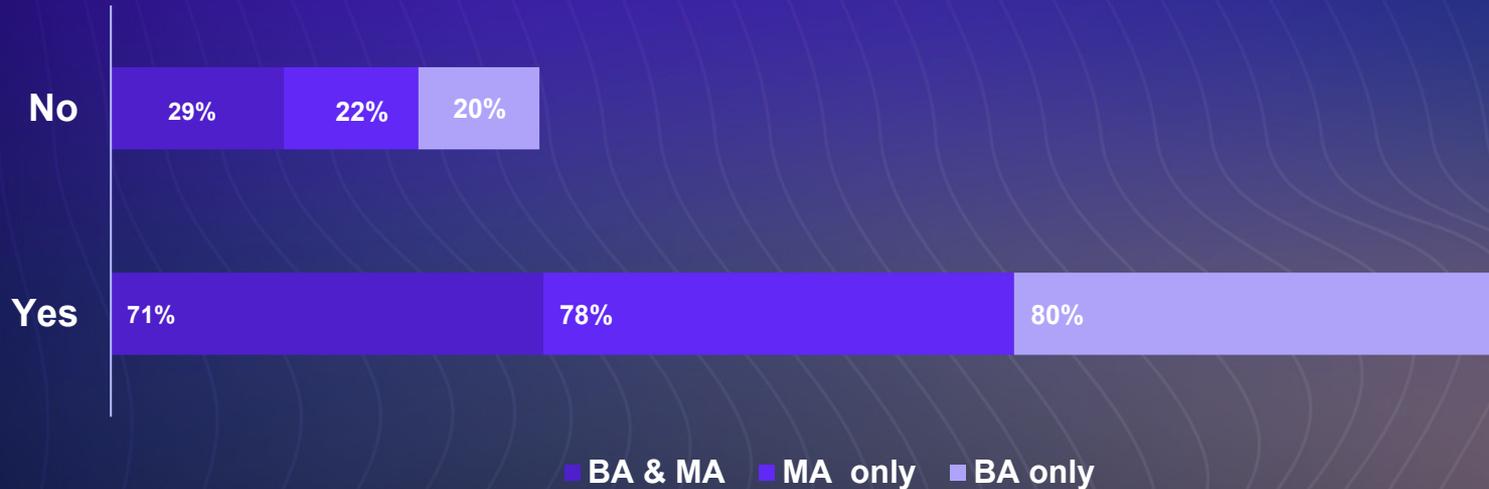
Usefulness of topics covered

Which topics were the most important?



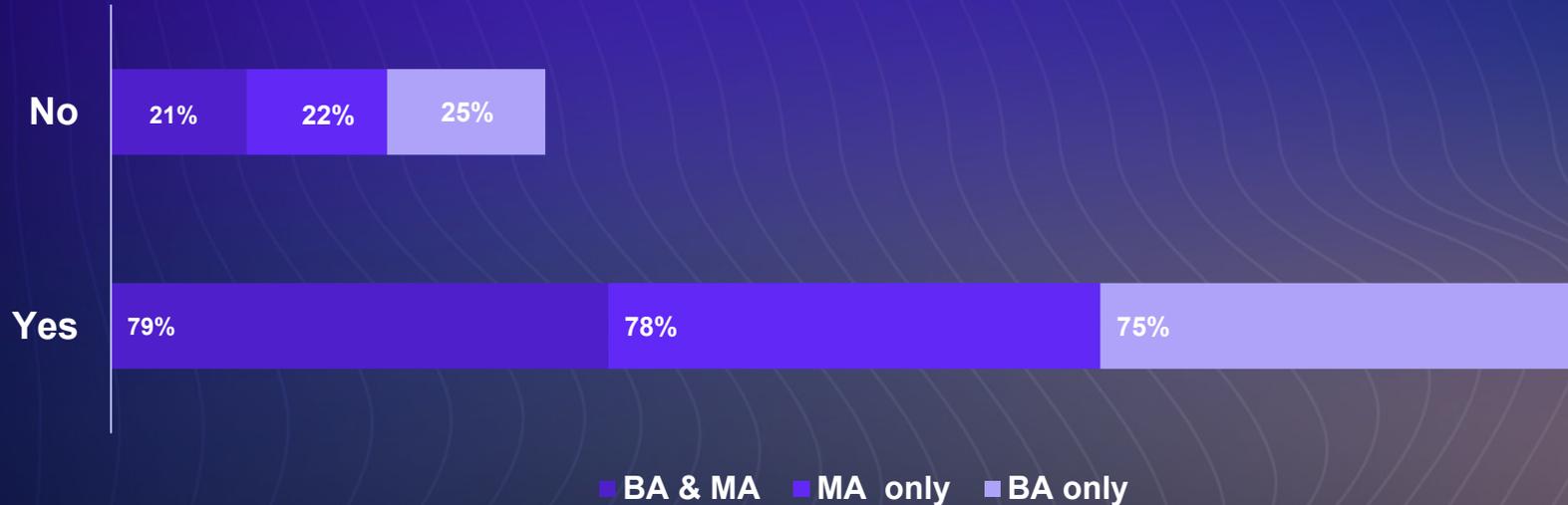
Diving deeper into technology? (1)

Would you like to receive training in Machine Learning?



Diving deeper into technology? (2)

Would you like to receive training in a programming language (e.g. Python)?



What could have been better?

**More
practice on
CAT Tools**

**More CAT
tools**

QA tools

**Practice on
post-editing
right from
Year 1**

**Programming
languages**

**More on pricing
models**

Suggestions?

“The Translation Technology module should be split in two modules: CAT Tools and MT”

“All translations should be done in a CAT Tool environment”

“I would like to see a focus on computational linguistics. We could then find work in that area as well”

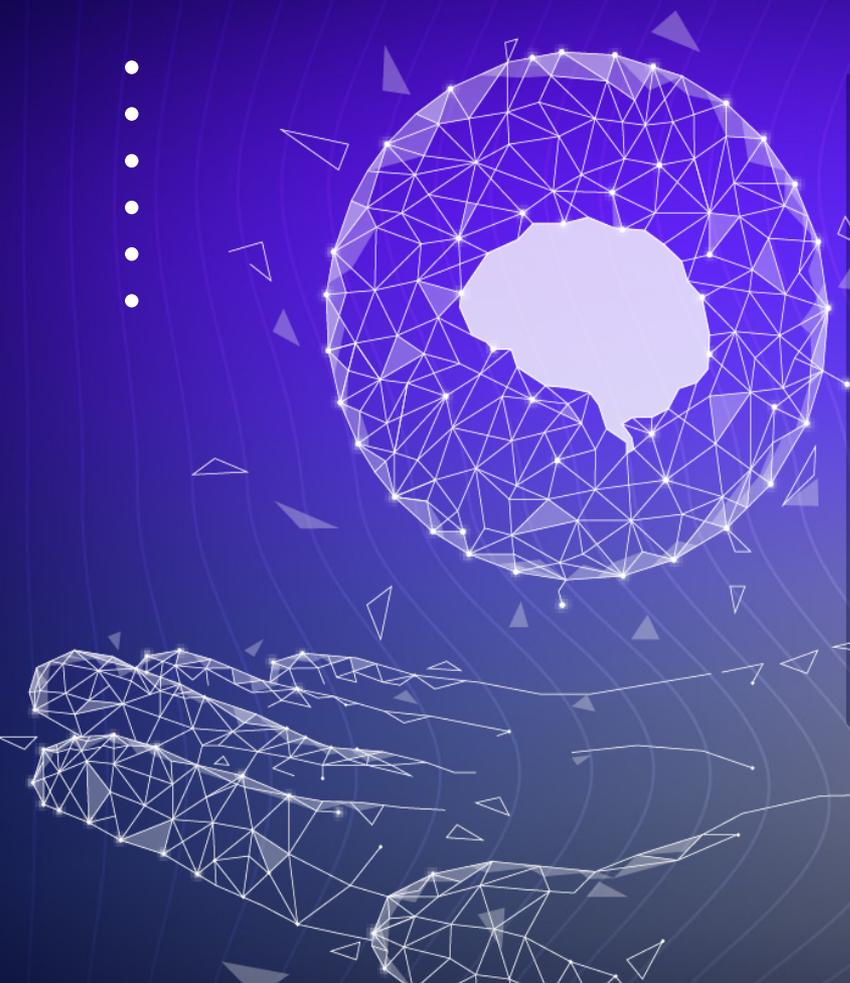
An academic programme cannot prepare students for the market. A closer collaboration is needed with LSPs and a placement scheme targeted to honing technical skills.

If you could start all over again, what would you study?

Translation: 77%

Computing: 8%

Other (Veterinary Science, Medicine, Law, HR, Finance, Business, Tourism Management, Public Relations, Education, English Literature, Architecture)

- 
- 80% use Translation Technology
 - 87% feel adequately prepared for market needs
 - CAT Tools and MT are equally important
 - 77% happy with their choice of study
 - Over 75% would like in-depth training in Machine Learning and in a programming language

CHANGE



- ✓ Academic programmes face a challenge, as the profession becomes increasingly technologized.
- ✓ Change is key: adaptation of the curricula to the ever-changing needs of the profession.
- ✓ What is the best way?



Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

Get in touch!

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