

# THE role & perspective of post-editors: what are the training challenges?

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# 1. Skills & Competencies of Post-Editor

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# 2. Attitudes & Perspectives towards Post-Editing

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# 3. The Training Challenges

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**THE ROLE & PERSPECTIVE OF POST-EDITORS:  
WHAT ARE THE TRAINING  
CHALLENGES?**

# 1. Skills & Competencies of Post-Editor

## What is post-editing?

### An early theoretical approach

*The correction of texts that have been translated from a source language into a target language by a machine translation system (Allen, 2001)*

**Post-Editor: human partner to the machine**

**MT= supportive task for the development of unaided MT**

### A modern technical approach

*The minimal edits required to transform hypothesis into a fluent sentence with the same meaning as the source sentence*

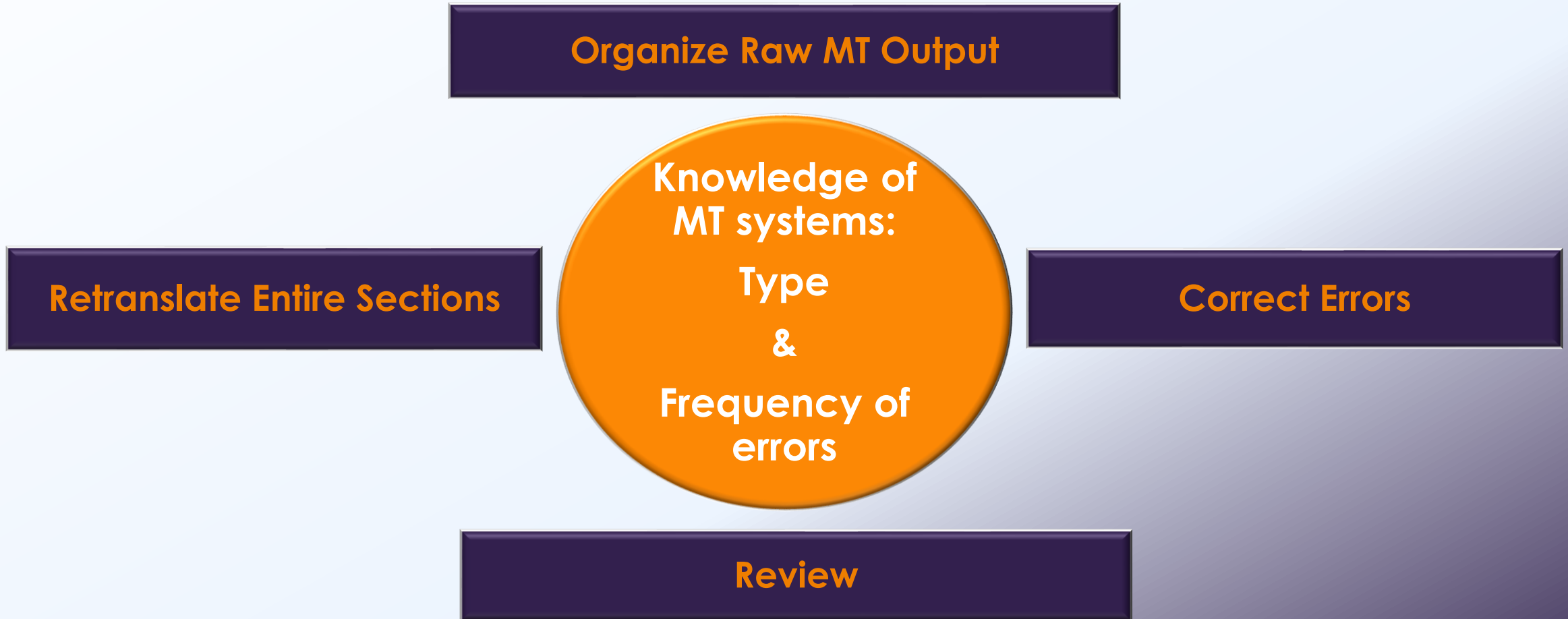
**Post-Editor: a legitimate agent in MT workflows**

**PE productivity increases mainly with:**

- Experience with the PE task
- Expertise in the domain
- Familiarity with the language pair
- Knowledge of the specific MT system



# Translation vs. Post-Editing



# The Tasks of Post-Editor

## Identify & Eliminate Errors

- a) Translate from scratch
- b) Correct a lot of errors
- c) Correct a few errors
- d) Accept the MT proposal

- Source-text related processes
- MT related processes
- Target text production processes
- Target text evaluation processes
- Reference work related processes
- Physical writing processes
- Global task related processes

- Aim for grammatically, syntactically and semantically correct translation
- Ensure the key terminology is correctly translated
- Ensure that formatting, punctuation/capitalization are correct
- Carry out the task with reasonable speed
- Adhere to post-editing guidelines to minimize the preferential changes



# The Role of Post-Editor

## Skills & Competencies in Post-Editing

### Linguistic skills

Communicative and textual competence in at least two languages and cultures

Cultural and intercultural competence

Subject area competence

### Instrumental competence

MT Knowledge

Term management

MT dictionary maintenance

Basic programming skills

### Core competences

Attitudinal or psycho-physiological competence

Strategic competence



# The Effort in the Post-Editing



**Technical effort:** interaction of the PE with hardware/software

**Temporal effort:** the time needed to PE a segment

**Cognitive effort:** effort required to identify errors in the MT output

**Psychological effort:** specific attitudes towards post-editing





# 1. Skills & Competencies of Post-Editor

Post-Editor Skills	Effort Type
Editing skills & Word processing experience	Technical
Ability to correct directly on screen	
Ability to balance PE speed with respect to required quality	Temporal
Knowledge of source and target languages	Cognitive
Expertise in the subject area	
Ability to adapt to different specifications required for each job	
Specific knowledge of the weaknesses of the particular MT system	
Positive attitude to MT	Psychological





## 2. Attitudes & Perspectives towards Post-Editing

### The negative perspective

#### Workload & Payments

- Higher productivity
- Lack of solid ground for PE metrics
- Lack of solid ground for quality standards

#### Guidelines/Training

- Training is a frustration for both linguists and LSPs
- Lack of Specific Guidelines or Limited Guidelines
- Lack of comprehensive training

#### Employability & Linguistic Matters

- Fear of being replaced
- The adoption of MT by LSPs is a factor forcing translators to become Post-Editors
- Depreciation of Linguistic Capacities
- Loss of linguistic sense



# Negative perspectives come from...

**1. Lack of Experience in PE**

**2. Lack of one single Official Set of Guidelines and consistent Training**

**3. Inadequate Post-Editing Guidelines**



# The positive perspective

## Workload & Payments

- Higher productivity
- Higher capacity
- Transparent payment system
- More opportunities

## Guidelines/Training

- Creation of comprehensive, specialized training

## Employability & Linguistic Matters

- Significant competitive advantage
- More opportunities for new projects
- Standardization of Terminology
- Fewer Inconsistencies
- Less Time on Automatically Translated Segments



# Positive perspectives are based on...

**1. Deep understanding of PE tasks**

**2. Clear understanding of multiplication of skills and Shifting Roles**

**3. Establishment of PE as a technologically upgraded service and not a replacement strategy**



### 3. The Training Challenges

in setting up a comprehensive post-editing protocol

1. Identify main challenges

2. Define objectives and scope

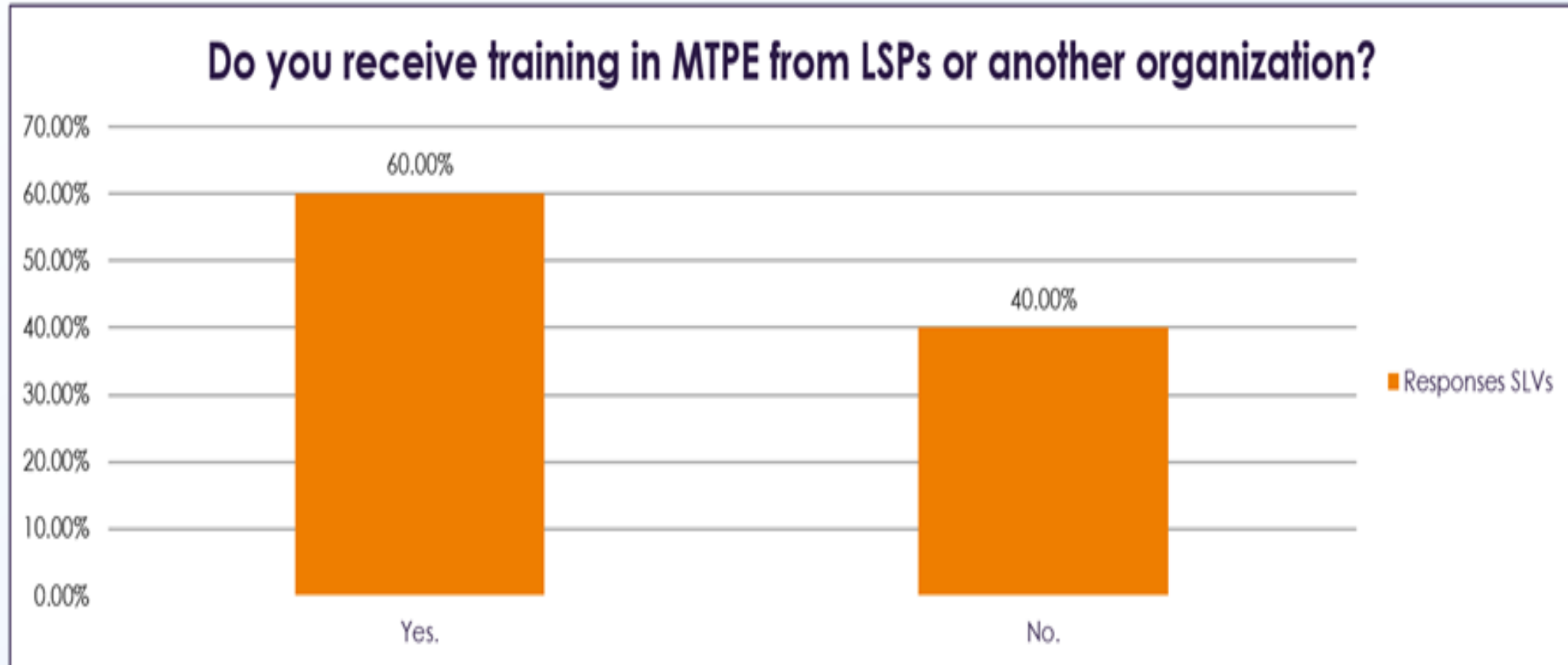


# Industry insight

- **GALA, The Management and Training Challenges of Post-Editing** (Part 1 & Part 2)
- Survey conducted among language industry professionals
- 63 polls, 51 LSPs, 12 SLVs



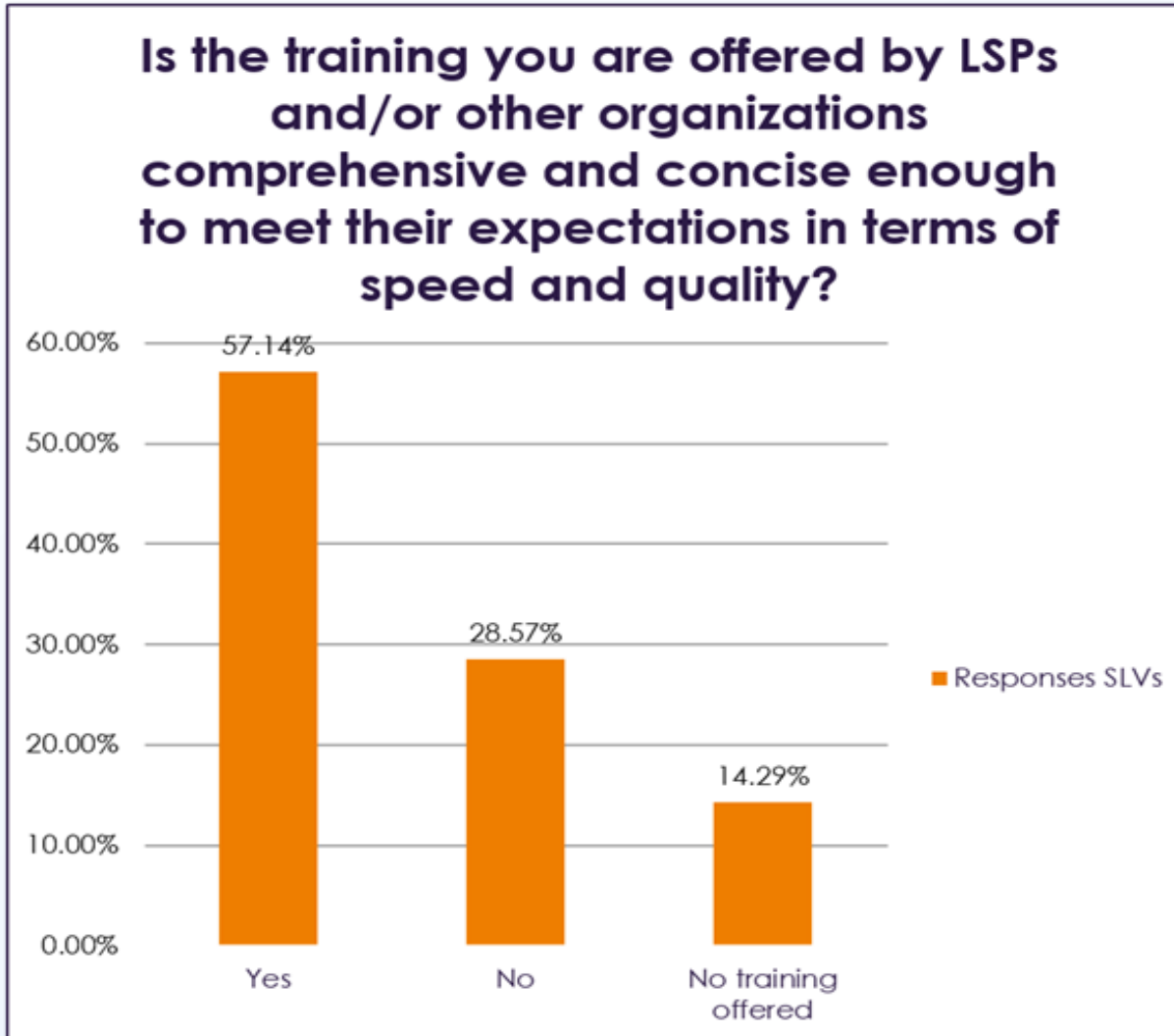
# Interesting figures...



- **60% of SLVs received MTPE Training**



# Interesting figures...



- 28.57% considered the training incomprehensive



# A successful training should take into account...

- The skills and competencies
- The type of effort to utilize these skills and competencies

## To face the main challenges:

- Ambiguous guidelines
- Lack of post-editing skills
- Non-transparent compensation strategies



# The Content of the Training

## How To

- **Manage errors**
- **Apply changes to the MT Output**
- **Handle global task-related processes**
- **Organize PE process and subtasks**
- **Make the most out of feedback**



# What are the main questions to be addressed by training?

**How to PE?  
What to  
retranslate and  
what to  
correct?**

**How much of  
the MT output  
should be  
used?**

**How may client  
specifications  
modify the PE  
process?**



# What are the Challenges of the Training?



based on a pre-established quality level

# What are the Benefits of the Training?

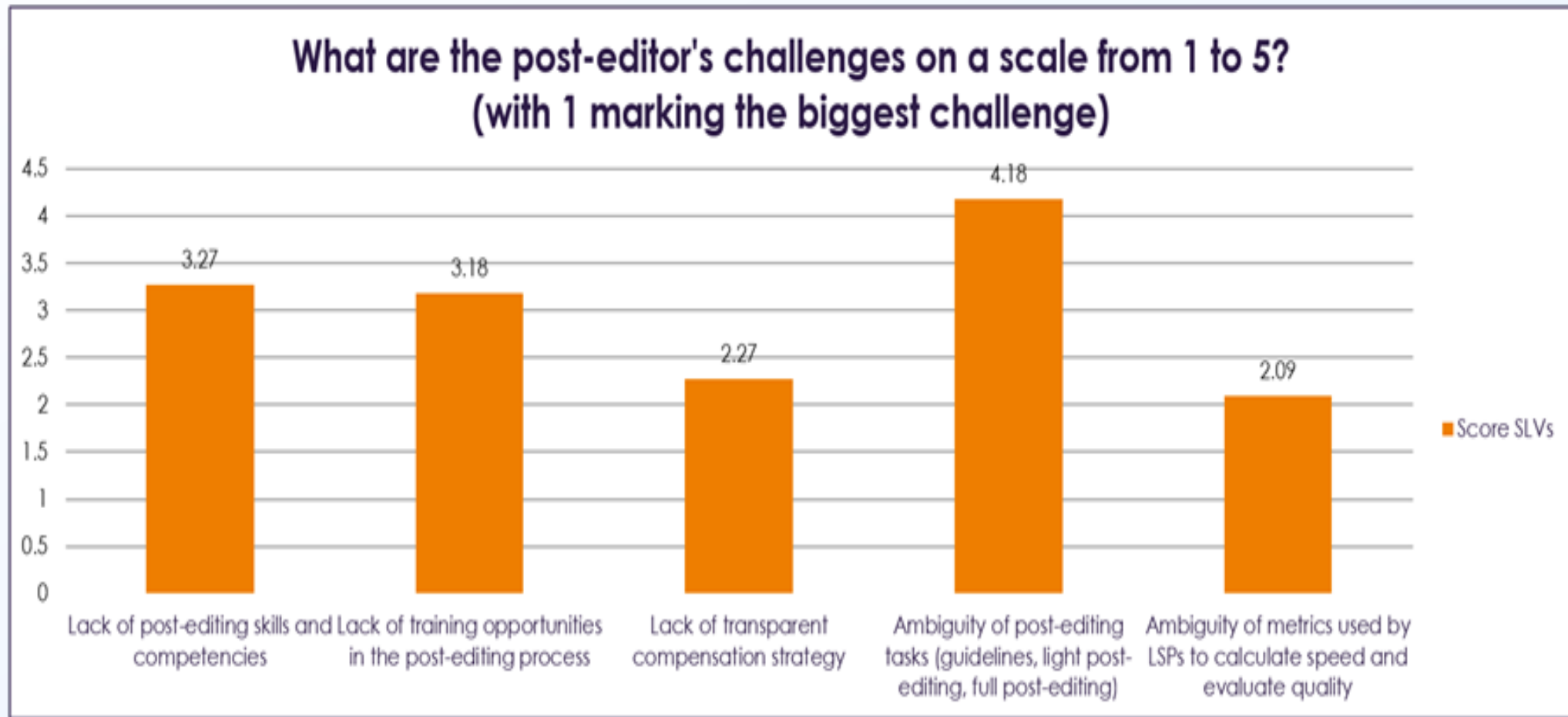
**Help linguists  
familiarize  
themselves  
with PE  
requirements**

**Understand  
how these  
requirements  
differ based  
on the type  
of MT engine**

**Establish a  
new  
balanced  
approach**



# Interesting figures...

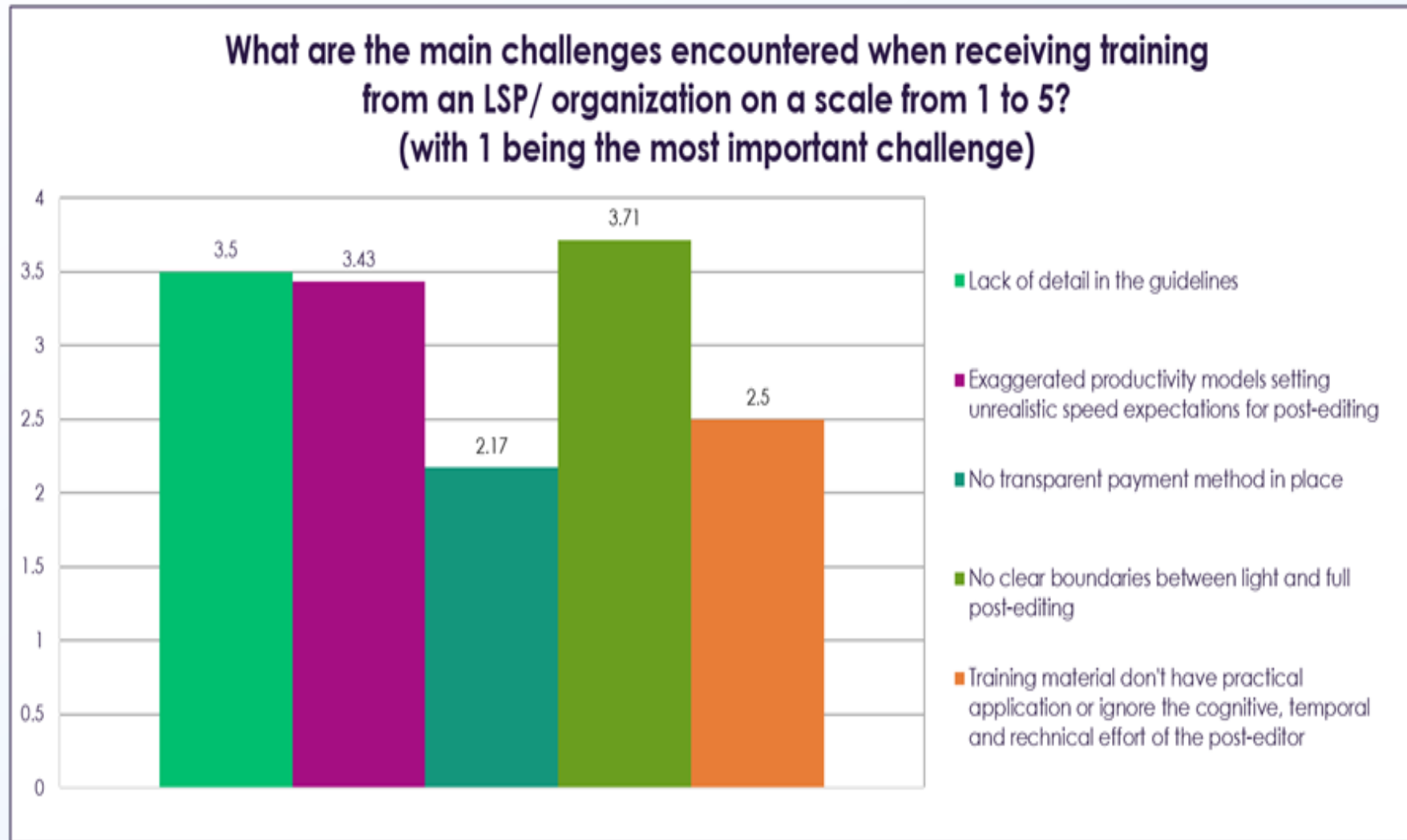


- Training should become widely available and set the tone for a cohesive and transparent compensation strategy for post-editors





# Interesting figures...



- Vague instructions regarding the management of MT output and scope of work, a lack of detailed guidelines and exaggerated speed and productivity models are the main challenges



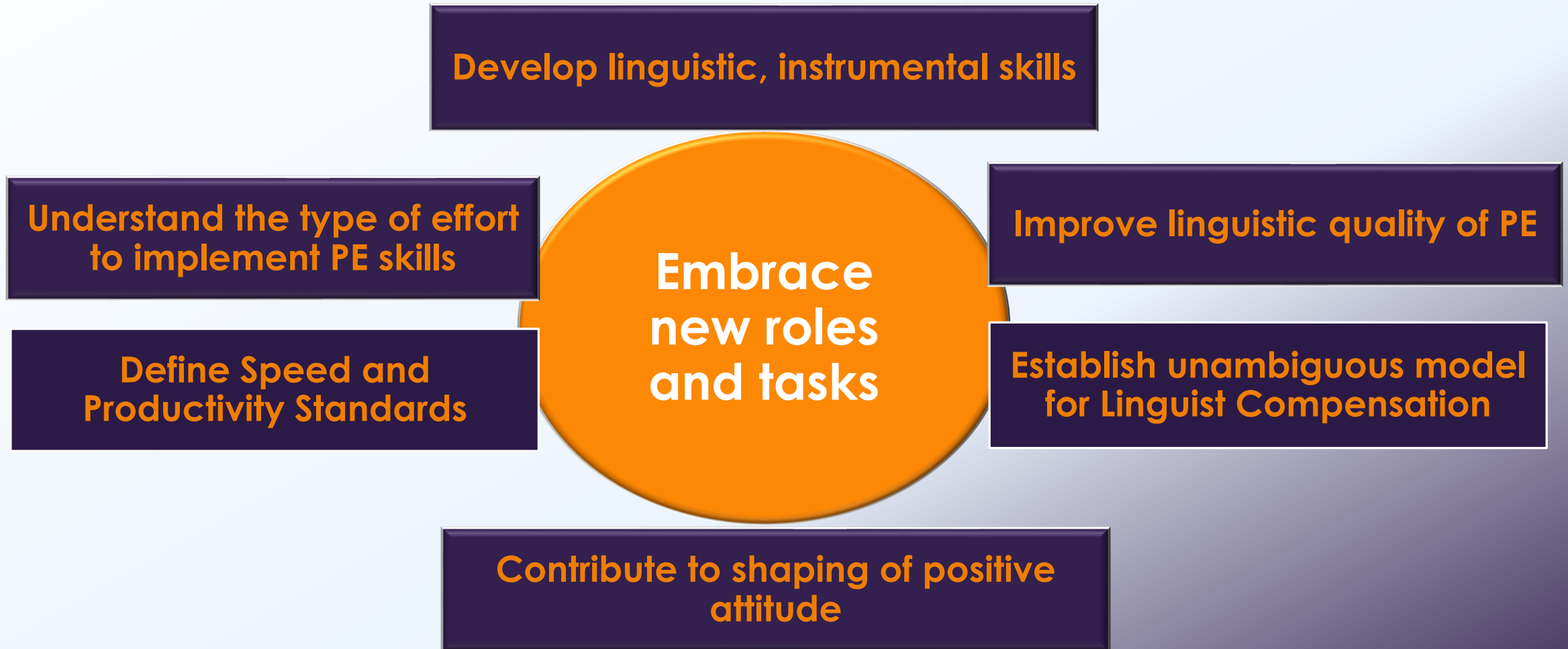
# The goal of a Post-Editing Training is to...

**1. Finalize translations without recreating**

**2. Define speed, productivity and compensation standards**



# An efficient post-editing training is to...



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**THANK YOU VERY MUCH  
FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE**