



# Translating and the Computer - TC44

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## A Study Towards a Standardized Typology of Machine Translation Post-Editing Guidelines

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Viveta is a PhD Candidate in Translation at the Ionian University on Post-Editing Effort, Quality and Training.

Her main focus is to promote new trends in the industry, where translation skills meet MT technology. MT tools and Post-Editing techniques are amongst her key fields of interest. She is the founder of the GALA MTPE Training SIG.



- ❖ **ISO Certified Company:** HQ in Cyprus, Limassol
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- ❖ **Services:** translation, machine translation post-editing, software and web localization, multilingual SEO, copywriting & transcreation

**Lucía Guerrero**  
**Machine Translation Manager**  
**at Expedia Group**



Lucía Guerrero holds a degree in Translation and Interpreting as well as in Humanities. With more than 20 years' experience in the localization industry, she has previously worked as translator, Project Manager and MT Specialist at several LSPs. She is currently leading the MT strategy at Expedia Group and is member of the GALA MTPE Training Initiative Steering Committee.



- ❖ **One of the world's largest online travel companies**, powering travel in more than 70 countries globally, but a technology company at its core
- ❖ **Mission** is to power global travel for everyone, everywhere, with the belief that **travel is a force for good**
- ❖ **Content & Localization** team: localization services, content generation, creation and transcreation for all brands, partners and travelers worldwide

# Agenda

01 Theoretical Background

02 Scope of the Survey & Previous Work

03 Presentation & Analysis of the Data

04 Findings & Template

# 01 Theoretical Background

# Facts

- **MTPE definition by Allen (2003)**

'the task of editing, modifying and/or correcting pre-translated text that has been processed by an MT system from a source language into a target language' (Allen 2003, 297).

- **MTPE & Language Service Providers**

Great interest of research



Productivity Gains

(Guerberof, 2009;

Federico et al., 2012; WEB, a).

- **MTPE Guidelines**

No widely accepted general or standard MTPE guidelines

(DePalma, 2013; Hu, K. & Cadwell, P., 2016; TAUS, 2016).

# Challenges

- Existing guidelines entail **difficulty of interpretation** by the user (Flanagan & Christensen, 2014).
- **Lack of MTPE training** and of clear and consistent guidelines  
De Almeida and O'Brien (2010)
- **Growing need for MTPE** organisation-specific & general guidelines  
(Guerberof 2009, 2010).
- For a potential writer of MTPE guidelines, the **know-how is limited**

# The Need

Clear guidance on how to perform the MTPE task.

## 1. ISO 18587:

Full MTPE is the “process of post-editing to obtain a product **comparable** to a product obtained by human translation”.

2. **Style** is also one of the most controversial aspects in MTPE specifications.

- a) a) What is **preferential/stylistic change** and
- b) b) What is **non-preferential/non-stylistic change**.



# Implications of Lack of Guidelines

1. **Misunderstanding** about the scope
2. **Misunderstanding** about the quantity of corrections
3. **Misunderstanding** about the stylistic corrections



## Our Study Goal

- To propose best practices in the field of designing and drafting MTPE guidelines.



02 Scope of the Survey

&

Previous Work

# Definition of MTPE Guidelines

## The definition:

The set of specific instructions that the requesters of a MTPE service, such as machine translation (MT) buyers, language service providers (LSPs) or researchers, prepare for the post-editors so that they know exactly what is expected of them in terms of quality, tools, the areas to focus on and other important aspects that define how the MTPE task is to be carried out and determine the final output.

## The purpose:

These guidelines include general recommendations for decreasing the amount of MTPE needed, as well as basic guidelines for carrying out MTPE to two defined quality levels (Koponen, M., 2016).

# Guidelines Specifications

- **Díaz and Rico (2012)**

**The specification of MTPE guidelines is founded on a decision-making process regarding the text quality acceptance, which is determined by the client expectations, the turnaround time or document life cycle, among others.**

- **The two main objectives of MTPE guidelines are to transform the customer's expectations into clear specifications and save time and effort for the post-editors.**

# Authors' Previous Work

## The GALA MTPE Training Special Interest Group (SIG) & The AsLing TC43 Conference Workshop

### Guidelines should include:

- i) Subject area, content type and purpose of translation
- ii) The expected effort and the type of corrections
- iii) The client expectations for MTPE and cost savings
- iv) Error typology list based on the MT system behaviour
- v) Tips on how to address errors

### Conclusions:

- i) Define use cases for writing MTPE guidelines
- ii) Support the understanding and clarity of the MTPE guidelines
- iii) Ensure relevance and accuracy of their content

# 03 Presentation & Analysis of the Data

# Scope of the questionnaire

## Format

- Online form (Microsoft Forms)

## Timeframe

- 3 weeks (22nd Feb-10th March 2022)

## Target audience

- Users (73.78%)
- Writers (10.22%)
- None of the above
- ✓ 225 participants

# Questions

Frequency

Extension

Difficulty/Usefulness

Motivations

Contributions

Format

Contents

# Spotlight: Motivations

For writers:  
Which aspects do you consider  
when deciding whether to write  
or not MTPE guidelines?

- Skill level and experience of the post-editor in the subject area
- Customer needs and requirements awareness (purpose, quality level)
- Content type
- Atypical errors
- Complexity (length of project and training level of the linguists)
- Time available for writing the MTPE guidelines
- Impact of a non-well performed MTPE
- The existence of standard MTPE guidelines

# Spotlight: Difficulty/Usefulness

Why is it difficult/not useful?

## Writers

- Worthless task due to users not reading the guidelines
- Lack of information about the contents
- Task perceived as time-consuming

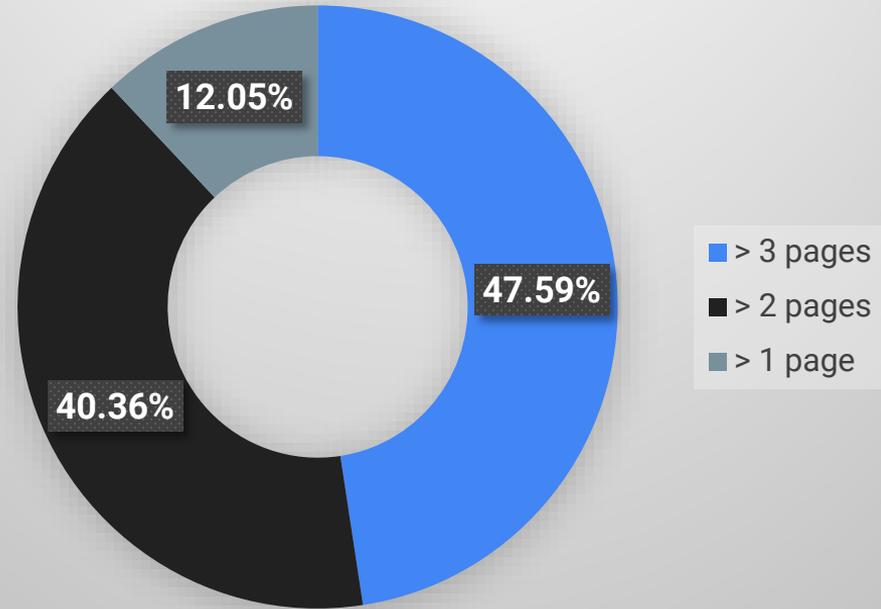
## Users

- Overload of information exceeding the compensation for the MTPE task itself
- Lack of practical aspects
- Contents too superfluous or vague

# Spotlight: Length

For users

Starting from which extension would you consider them too long?

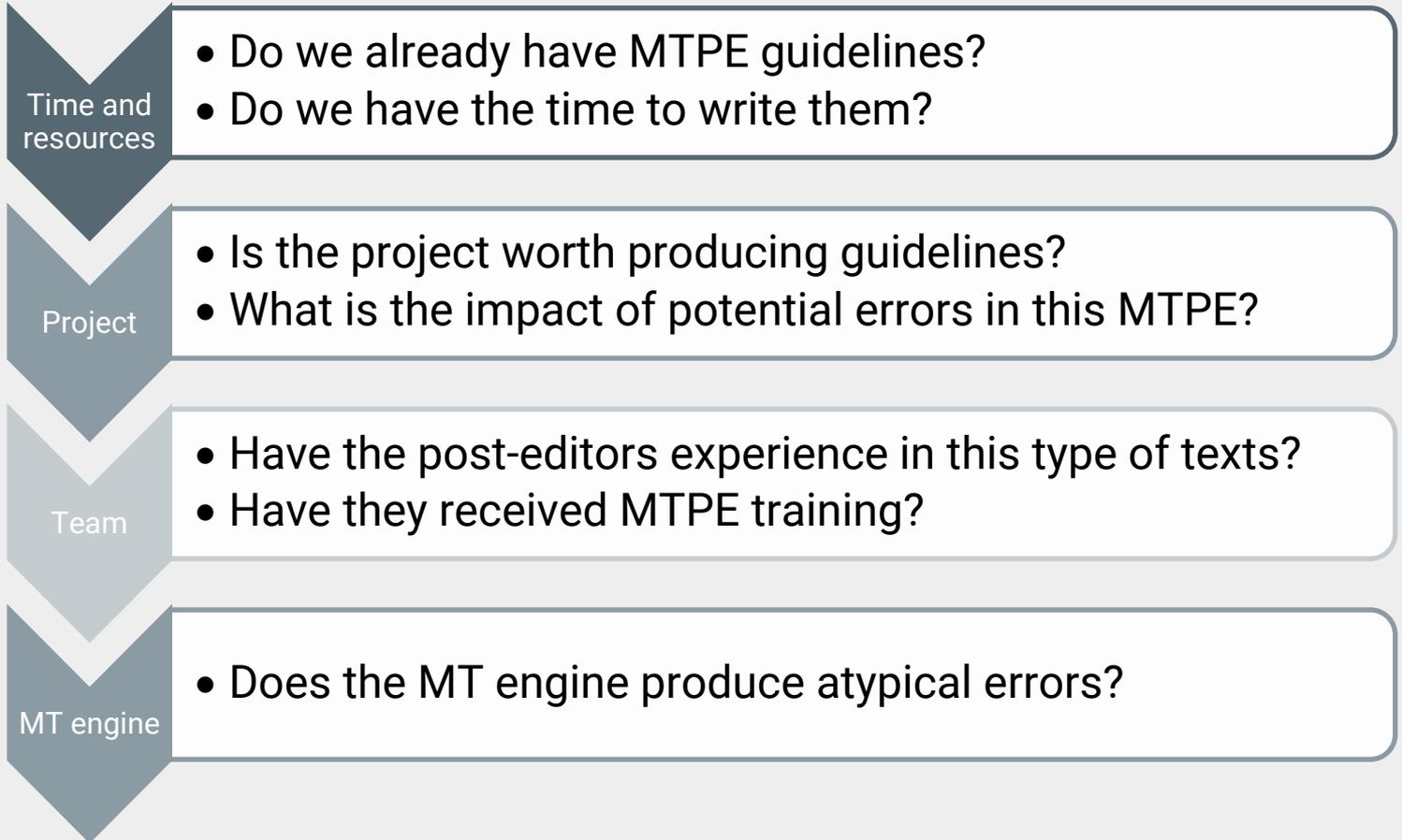


# 04 Findings

# Findings

- Using MTPE guidelines **only in specific cases** based on several factors, mainly the post-editors' skills and experience, as well as the complexity or specificity of the job and the time available.
- The ideal length is **between 1 and 2 pages**, which should contain at least instructions about the level of MTPE, the MTPE rules to follow, and information about the purpose of the translation and glossary availability.
- Most recommended format: **Word or PDF complemented by a kick-off meeting.**

# Questionnaire for writers



# Template for MTPE Guidelines - 1

<b>MTPE project information</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<b>Level of MTPE</b>	Light/full/medium
<b>Purpose of the translation</b>	For publishing/understanding
<b>Target audience*</b>	
<b>MTPE rules</b>	Types of errors to be/not to be corrected
<b>Glossary</b>	
<b>MT output quality</b>	Score/expected words per hour
<b>Type of MT system*</b>	Generic/domain-based, RBMT/SMT/NMT
<b>Locale specific aspects*</b>	Product capitalization, measurement units, dates, numbers, cultural aspects affecting the MTPE task
<b>Stylistic aspects*</b>	Active voice, present tense, third person
<b>CAT tool considerations*</b>	Pretranslation with TM/MT threshold
<b>Links to resources*</b>	

## Template for MTPE Guidelines - 2

<b>Content profile</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<b>Content type</b>	User's guide, UI
<b>Subject area</b>	Legal, IT, pharma
<b>Client name*</b>	
<b>Communication channel*</b>	Internal/external
<b>UTS rating*</b>	Low/medium/high
<b>Examples of errors of the raw MT</b>	Tips to fix them*

# Thank you!

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