

Term Paper:

Moses ist je und je nicht wohl beredt gewesen

July 4, 2016

If you have your own idea for a paper you can talk with me about your idea. Otherwise, write about the errors of machine translation (MT) output, doing all of the following:

- Choose three different genres/domain/registers, and get texts from each of these three. You can use any language pair. Each genre/domain/register should be about 1000 words long. Split each text in half – about 500 words for manual translation and about 500 words for machine translation followed by post-editing.
- Conduct a small experiment to see if you are faster at translating the text by yourself, or editing MT output. Ensure that half of the text is first translated by you, and half is first translated by MT (and then edited by you). Discuss the results.
- Analyze the machine translation output of text from the three different genres/domains/registers (again, about 500 words long). Quantitatively & qualitatively document the following types of errors:¹
 1. Morphological (inflection / compounding)
 2. Syntactic (word order / fluency)
 3. Lexical (word choice)
 4. Deletions
 5. Any cultural errors/deficiencies²
 6. Any other types of errors. Specify the type of error

Show a few examples to illustrate these.³ Also use charts and/or tables that summarize your quantitative analysis. Are there differences between genres/domains/registers in the frequencies of different types of errors? For example, does a genre have more cultural or fewer syntactic errors compared to another genre? If there are differences, why?

- Identify which types of errors would also be made by a human translator, which types of errors are limited to *any* machine translation system (including Google and Bing Translate), and which errors would only be made by the specific MT system that you used. Why?

I'm mostly concerned about the content of your paper, but for consistency the paper should be approximately 10–15 pages, normal margins, 1.5x spacing, 11 point serif font (eg. Palatino, Garamond, Minion, Constantia, Times New Roman). While I need to understand your paper, I am **not** concerned about English mistakes. If you have any questions or requests for modifications, feel free to ask me.

¹You can use another translation error classification scheme if you want.

²For example, most English speakers don't know what an *Amerikaner* cookie is, nor have they ever heard of *Dinner for One*. So if a German text references either of these, the English translation would need a short explanation of what these are.

³List both the incorrect translation and what you think would be a good translation.