



TRADOS 3

Further up on the road

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The world of translation and translation technology finds itself in a continuous state of boost. Localisation, globalisation, controlled languages, knowledge management and the likes constantly put serious voltage through the way translating is perceived and performed. To cope with the ever faster changing multilingual web-based business environments, TRADOS has now come up with a new version of its package, in full TRADOS Edition 3. We take a closer look at the Freelance Edition.

While competitor translation memory packages opt for a more suite-like approach, an interactive chain of semi-independent tools, TRADOS choose to stick with what it already was before launching its version 3 of the translation memory centred package, a thorough, reliable standard in the computer assisted translation business. Unless SDLX for example, TRADOS centres around some kernel programmes that can work both independently and complementary. Translator Workbench and MultiTerm truly are "the bread and butter of TRADOS". While SDLX has a project wizard at its focal point from whereon all material can be converted and edited in practically whatever way, TRADOS improved its inherent capacities and left the editing to be done in export and import files.

The Freelance Edition 3 not only improves and upgrades some of the already present features, it also increased the powers of its built-in additions, the filterpack. To put it briefly, TRADOS adopted its newest version to modern times, by opening its possibilities towards new standards such as XML and ASP/JSP abilities and the growing need of maintenance of translation memories and terminology databases, the import of raw format has increased.

Workbench

On the level of its core program, TRADOS' Translator's Workbench is available in two editions: the Freelance Edition might be as powerful as the Team Edition, the latter may be better designed for shared usage (network support and an extended API).

When one uses Translator's Workbench in can run either in background or in batch. In whatever way the link with a word processor is needed for converting the text material while filling your translation memory or while editing during translation. The use of any word processor might increase the user's comfort, but let there be no mistake, Microsoft's Word is preferred.

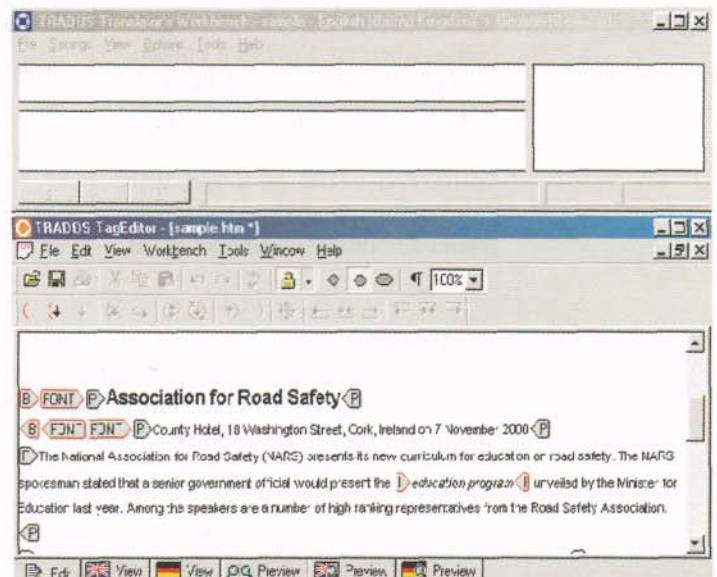
Translation memories opened in Freelance Edi-

tion 3 cannot be shared over a network and are always opened in exclusive access mode. Unlike the previous Edition, Translator's Workbench Edition 3 now offers an emergency export feature that will allow users to save the contents of a translation memory to a text file even if there are problems opening the translation memory.

By the way, it should be possible to run different versions of Translator's Workbench on the same machine. This can be useful when a project using a previous version was already started, but other projects use Edition 3. When Edition 3 of Translator's Workbench is installed, this is done in a separate folder.

In theory, a translation via the workbench automatically converts non-textual items and format. Dates, numbers and measurements are indeed put into the target segment.

Non textual objects (an index mark, hyperlink codes, variables...) are recognised, but placed in a fixed place, or at the same original place in the target sentence. For software translation, however, it is a crucial point where such objects are found. Formatting, however, might be problematic, which isn't much of a surprise since the TRADOS translation memory is built on files showing bare text only.



Since updating and fine-tuning can keep up the nature of a translation memory, the improved concordance browser adds up to the overall power. Searches can be performed on both source segments and target segments, after which editing through the concordance browser will save you a lot of export/edit/import time. And even if this feature does

not suffice, the features of export and maintenance settings are expanded as well.

To accommodate the increasing demand for emerging standards, Translator's workbench is also XML-enabled. Further support for Asian languages has been embedded, a direct consequence of the company's policies towards the continent after Microsoft signed in for almost 20%.

MultiTerm

The other core feature of the TRADOS package might well be its terminology database, MultiTerm, which can work independently as a dictionary, but also be directly accessible in TRADOS Translator's Workbench. The choice in structuring the terminological material is diverse (just the terms and their translations, or definitions, contexts, source references, and even graphics). When MultiTerm is run while translating, the program automatically retrieves the proper term from the terminology database and suggests it to you as a potential translation. When MultiTerm is run in background, the terminology that is retrieved from the database can be either inserted in the target segment or suggested as a note, the latter leaving room for several suggestions, the former practically not.

In the Translator's Workbench there is a function which enables the translator to put all unknown sentences from a translation project into a separate file, leaving the raw text that has no matching segment whatsoever. The scheme to do so is of a total different nature, but imagine the possibilities for glossarylovers and terminologists alike when an algorithm combining parsing, heuristics and text statistics could suggest a list of unknown terms. Automatic term extraction would be a fact then, also ruling out all time-consuming 'semi-automatic' updates of terminology lists.

WinAlign

In aligning previous translations in order to fill the translation memory, the alignment tool of the Freelance Edition allows for the alignment of up to a maximum of 10 file pairs per session (whereas the Team Edition allows translation teams to work even on large alignment projects with hundreds of files).

The WinAlign's flexibility increased through the bi-directional language support and the widened range of input formats. Not only does WinAlign support Word 2000, XML and the like, its matching results are TMX-enabled as well, thus meeting another widely used industry standard.

WinAlign has been improved by other user-friendly features as well. The search function is

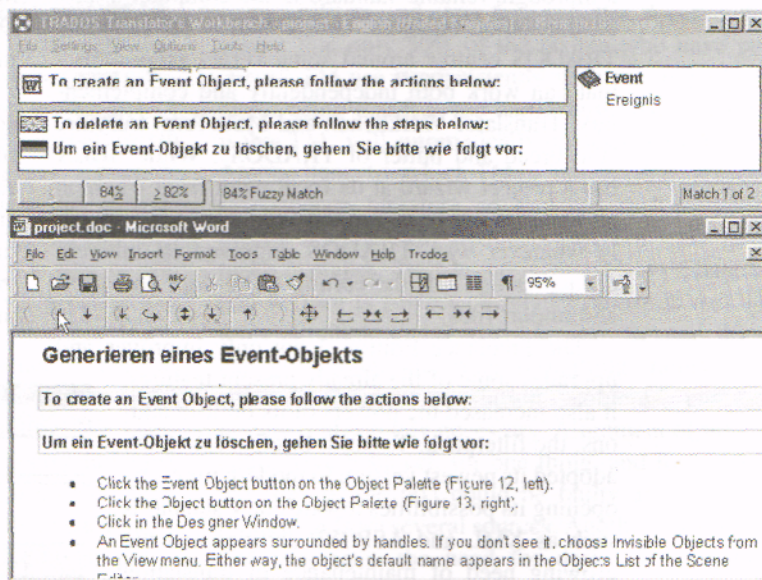
extended. Searches on strings can be performed and in order to speed up the alignment review process, one can search from one unaligned segment to the next. Many full-time aligners will be relieved by the fact that changes made to segments can be saved during alignment. Also while assessing segment matches one can switch between line wrapping and no line wrapping.

The multilingual versatility of the tool has been increased by widening the choice in multifont controls (Greek files can now be aligned with Chinese, for example).

Filterpack

The filterpack exists of several filtering schemes needed to treat material originating from several formats.

The TagEditor edits HTML and SGML documents, enabling the translator to deal with the flood of web documents. Not only does the TagEditor in Freelance Edition have a new look, it has an extended support as well for Windows 2000, XML and server-side scripting files.



To cope with FrameMaker and Interleaf files the S-Tagger offers a fairly sophisticated conversion solution. All translatable text together with the relevant formatting information is extracted to a tagged text file, which can then be translated with the help of Translator's Workbench.

The T-Window for PowerPoint allows you to translate any text elements in a PowerPoint presentation, including Notes, Master Slides, Grouped Texts, Word Art Objects and more. During the translation process, the T-Window serves as an editing field.

Overall

All this upgrading of the TRADOS package may serve a saving factor for the time being. The importance of maintenance and all the alongcoming editing of the present material, the actual fine-tuning, can

make a workbench much more powerful; this, however, remains a time-consuming job; some extended features of the Freelance Edition do soften this harsh energy. The increased use of statistics to estimate the amount of work involved in a translation job; this is needed for planning and scheduling the work and for billing; the increased statistics possibilities answer to this growing need. The bottom line of all translation aids is translation cost, which in turn depends on translation speed and translation quality. Both attributes are essential but inversely related; their relative weights may vary with the type of translation.

However, by sticking to the current ingredients TRADOS might put its future at stake for other packages which include an intelligent project wizard, a more object-driven approach, possibilities towards terminology extraction and maybe other the integration of tools which at first sight do not relate to the translation technology and translation process, but which have their merits when combined with a TRADOS workbench and/or termbase (what to do with online e-commerce, WAP and the like). ■

Installation:

TRADOS software runs under Windows 95, 98 and NT. NT is recommended for

optimum performance. TRADOS software requires a PC with a Pentium processor (Pentium II or higher recommended) and 32 MB RAM (64 MB recommended).

Prices vary:

Normally a Freelance Edition would cost you US\$/Euro 995 (one of the biggest disadvantages with cheaper competitors like DéjàVu), but TRADOS usually has some kind of savings. One license for the Freelance Edition will give you all of the above mentioned programmes.

An upgrade from a previous version into Edition 3 costs US\$/Euro 345.

For further information:

TRADOS offers a knowledge database at <http://support.TRADOS.com/> for free. www.TRADOS.com

Ease of Use (for the two kernel tools)	☆☆☆☆☆
Aesthetic Appeal	☆☆☆☆☆
Speed	☆☆☆☆☆
Claims vs Reality	☆☆☆☆☆