



REVERSO PRO

Written by:

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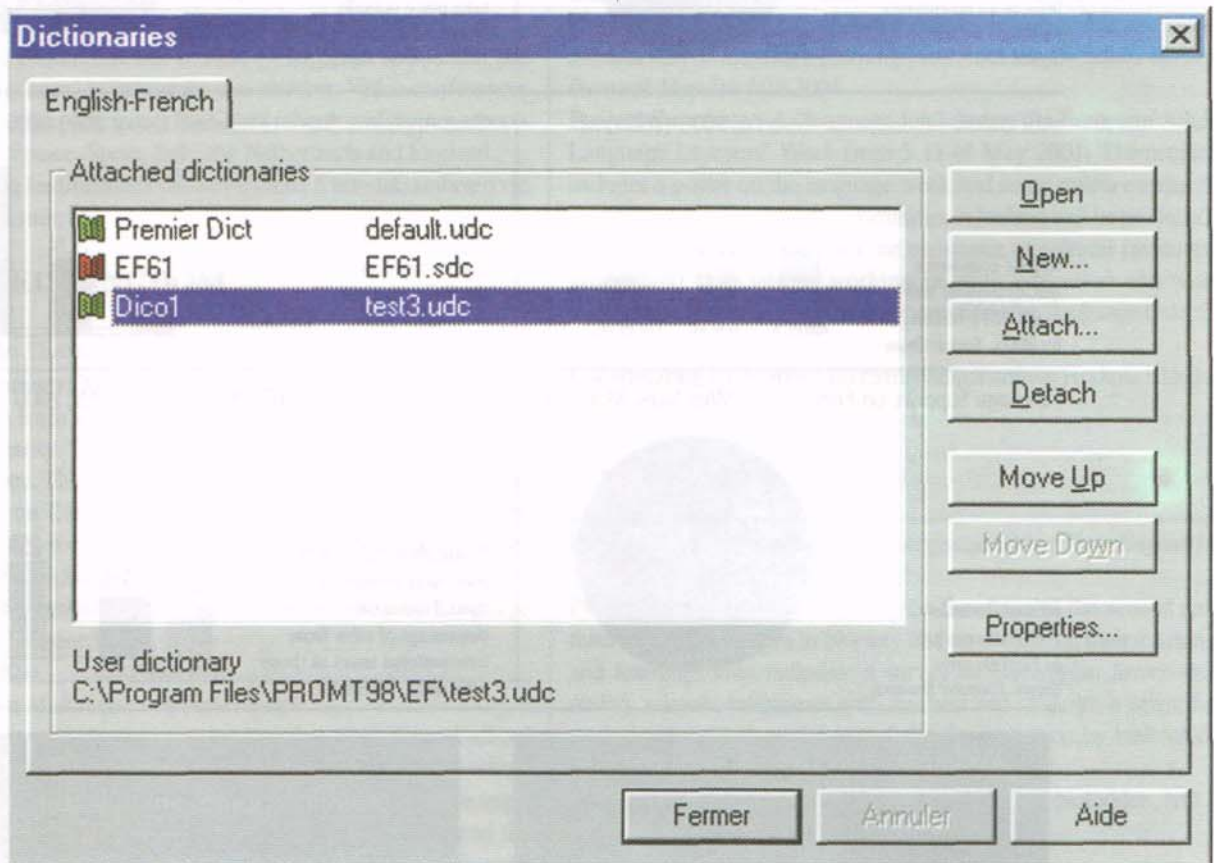
Although most machine translation (MT) software programs focus on content browsing, Reverso Pro is more than that. Yes, it does offer a very good set of complementary content gisting functions in its QTrans and WebView modules. QTrans is a small dual-window display that works well for copying and pasting short texts of around 1,000 words in order to get a quick translation of the text. In addition, WebView is a dual-window display Web browser that instantaneously translates web pages and keeps the source page layout within the translated page. That is a very handy tool for conducting web page gisting.

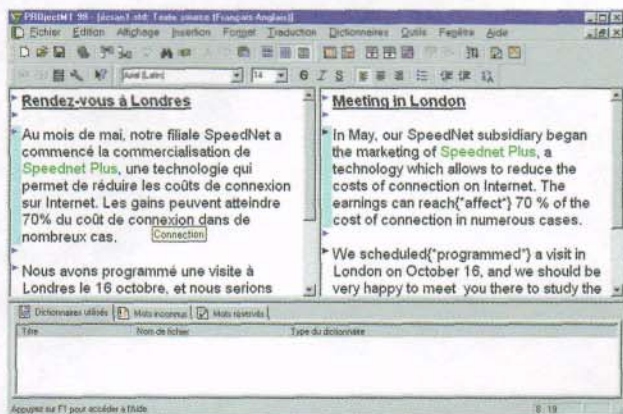
The difference however between Reverso Pro and other MT software packages on the market is that the ProMT98 module of the Reverso Pro software program has been designed for the way translation posteditors do their tasks. A unique point about this software is that it provides alternative translations in curly brackets (parentheses in the on-line Internet version) for words in the source language that have multiple meanings in the target language.

For example, the English source sentence "What are the issues that interest you?" translates as "Quelles sont

les questions{*publications*} qui vous intéressent?". Such examples of translation alternatives appear in texts translated by any of the modules (QTrans, WebView, ProMT, etc). However, the ProMT module interface allows the user to select the preferred translation and simply click on it. There is no need to delete an unwanted translation and retype the desired translation because in most cases an appropriate alternative translation is suggested. With this function for easily clicking on one of the suggested variant translations, quickly sliding across the pop-up menu and choosing the preferred word, posteditors now have a tool that provides a very beneficial and functional postediting interface for all levels of MT postediting (rapid and minimal postediting up through full postediting).

The dictionary entry tool is another productivity enhancement option in this MT software program. With some other commercial MT software packages and systems, the dictionary entry creation process is slow and cumbersome. Yet, the ProMT module in Reverso Pro allows for both beginner and advanced user modes when creating dictionary entries. The process is fast (about 1 minute on average per entry, depending on how complex the entry is); the dictionary tool is also very





favourable for entering multiword terms and idioms. The tool is very robust for all word forms (nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs), has an interface that is quite easy to use, and even provides in-depth coding options for verbal complements. What has been a complex process requiring skilled programmers in the past is now a simple process that allows end-users themselves to create complex dictionaries, yet with a procedure that is far from complicated. Now end-users can code their own dictionary entries in a 1-minute process per entry by using this software product rather than waiting weeks on end for entries to be made by programmers in the company or organisation. This is the kind of tool that professional translators have been waiting for.

The ProMT module of Reverso Pro also provides the following: paragraph alignment within either a horizontal or vertical dual-window display; colour coding for unknown and preserved words; full integration into Microsoft Word and Excel 95, 97 and 2000 in the tool bar (Softissimo has informed us that the integration into other applications of Microsoft Office Pack is coming soon).

Also, the batch file translator allows users to designate one or more files to be translated in the background. This function translated 1-2 pages per minute, even with long Word documents that included charts and graphs.

As confirmed by our tests, the same Reverso translation engine and large multi-topic general dictionary is used for all of the products of the Reverso range, including the free online Reverso translator (www.reverso.net). What distinguishes the free online translation service from the Reverso software products is what is available in terms of functionality (basic to advanced) with each software program. In general, the more expensive products provide more advanced functions, yet all of the products are based on the same translation engine.

We see that the following aspects of Reverso Pro could be improved:

1. There seems to be a limit of approximately 55 characters for the dictionary entry field (although Softissimo states that this will soon be corrected to allow for entries of up to 128 characters).

2. Reverso Pro can be integrated into Microsoft Word and Excel but not yet into other MS Office software (yet Softissimo

states that Reverso Pro will soon extend integration to other Microsoft applications).

3. The WebView module starts up with a default language direction setting that cannot be changed. It is possible to work around this by clicking on "Stop" in WebView and changing the language direction. This is not difficult to do, but it does represent a few extra mouse clicks.

System requirements:

Prices:

With regard to software prices, Reverso Pro currently sells for 2,900 French Francs (not including Value Added Tax/Sales Tax) in Europe and for \$450.00 in the United States.

More information:

For more information about Reverso Pro and other Reverso product, the software publisher Softissimo can be contacted at: softi@softissimo.com www.softissimo.com

And if you want to test out the Reverso translation engine for free, try it at: www.reverso.net

Ease of Us ★★★★★

Aesthetic Appeal ★★★★★

Speed ★★★★★

Claims vs Reality ★★★★★