THAMUS, a new Italian MT system

Working in collaboration with the United States machine translation company, Logos Corporation, a company in Salerno, Italy, has produced an automatic translation system called THAMUS.

This is claimed to be an advanced translation system which both analyses a text at the lexical level, and effects an initial analysis of each sentence in the source language, and, by means of a "semantico-syntactic interlinga", a final synthesis in the target language.

The system consists of two basic elements: the dictionary on the one hand, and a set of semantic and syntactic rules on the other.

The dictionary is divided into two main parts: a High Frequency Dictionary for the most frequently used words, such as verbs, articles, conjunctions, prepositions or conjunctions; and a General Use Dictionary, of general and technical words covering 256 different subject areas.

The High Frequency Dictionary cannot be modified by the user, but he can use the ALEX automatic lexicographical program to modify the General Use Dictionary, and tailor it to his own requirements. The dictionary contains up to 120,000 word pairs.

The semantic and syntactic rules are written in the "semantico-syntactic interlingua" on which the system is based. The semantic rules make provision for a translation into the target language in which each word or phrase is considered in context. It is possible for the user, with the assistance of the developer, to add his own semantic rules using a program called SEMANTHA. However, a distinction is drawn between semantic rules and syntactic rules, and the latter cannot be added to, or modified, by the user. The syntactic and semantic rules in the system total around 35,000.

The system is available for use in various mainframe environments.

The system operates from German to Italian, English and French, and from English to German, French and Spanish, with English to Italian in preparation.

In addition to marketing the system and offering training courses in it, THAMUS also offer an on-line translation servce from their centre in Salerno.

Further information can be obtained from THAMUS Commercial Department, Via Mercantesse 3, I-20021 Baranzate di Bollate (MI), facsimile 39/2/3564807.