The U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is asking vendors to submit ideas for a system, tool, device or software application that can interpret and analyze all the elements from text or oral translations. It must have expert knowledge of the grammar, syntax and semantics of the source and target languages, as well as familiarity with the geographic region of a speaker’s origin. The system must also be able to update and add vocabulary as you go, transcribe all translations instantly, enable the user to make notes and save information during use, and be able to translate slang, colloquial phrases and textspeak. Most importantly, the system must also come at a reasonable cost for deployment, installation, training and implementation throughout the BOP.

Why does the BOP need such a sophisticated machine translation system? The BOP is in charge of the custody and execution of federal criminals charged with national-level offenses. The BOP monitors the communications of inmates to ensure that they are not further engaging in criminal activity. For written communications in other languages, translation services are needed to decipher the messages. The need for this system stems from the fact that the human translation of foreign language communication is a significant logistical and financial challenge in the corrections environment, especially because there are a variety of languages and dialects at play.

The BOP needs a machine translation system that can translate large volumes of communications quickly and accurately. This is a huge challenge, but the BOPs’ main goal is to assess the market and allow vendors to propose potential solutions.

Olive Tapenade

While the main ingredient is olives, the French word “tapenade” actually comes from the Provençal name for caper buds, “tapeno.” In ancient times, capers and olives were preserved in oil and would turn into a pungent mush – the birth of tapenade. Common ingredients in tapenade include: black olives, capers, anchovies, herbs and garlic. Traditionally made with a pestle and mortar, you can also use the pulse function on a food processor or rough chop the ingredients, like a salsa. Tapenade is typically served with toasted baguettes, breadsticks or crudités.

Makes 1 small bowl

7 oz. whole black olives, pits removed (preferably niçoise or kalamata)

3 tbsp. capers, well rinsed if packed in salt

2 anchovies, well rinsed if packed in salt, roughly chopped

1 clove garlic, crushed

2 tsp. fresh thyme, chopped

Juice of ½ lemon

5 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

Put olives, capers, anchovies, garlic, and thyme in a food processor and rough purée. Add lemon juice and with motor running, add oil. Add pepper and more lemon juice to taste.


Emoji a Challenge for Localization

The use of emoji in communication poses a major challenge to localization experts. Today, cute emoji are used to enhance meaning and shorten text. Nevertheless, effective localization of emoji can be difficult for localization experts for a couple of reasons.

First, there are many emoji included in messaging keyboards within different smartphones (Apple, Android, Google, etc.) and other messenger systems (Facebook, Skype, Whatsapp, Viber, etc.). Because of this, emoji appear differently on each platform, which can distort the intended meaning of the original message.

Second, most computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools do not currently support emoji, so the translator can’t see it and is therefore unable to derive meaning from it. As a result, the original meaning of the message may be lost.

Finally, emoji in localized communication must be culturally appropriate. What may be offensive or inapplicable in one culture may not be in another. A good example of this is the arrow emoji. It must be mirrored in right-to-left languages such as Arabic. This is just one of the many aspects that localization experts must take into account when localizing messages that include emoji.

Emoji are extremely popular in messaging communication. It’s critical that the translation and localization industry get on board with this new and widely used element of communication. The first step is for localization tools to support emoji. After that, translators can work on accurately localizing those cute little symbols and icons.


Antje  English, Spanish and Catalan to German Translator

Born and raised in Germany in a small village near Cologne, Antje is an English, Spanish and Catalan to German translator. While her first love was mathematics, Antje could not resist her other passions: reading and languages.

Her desire to travel and really get to know people from different cultures also played a big part in her decision to study translation. This was also a major reason why after studying translation in Southern Germany for a few years that she transferred to and completed her degree at a university in Barcelona, Spain. She’s lived in Barcelona ever since because the weather is nicer than in Germany.

Besides reading and traveling in her spare time, Antje has recently started learning Gaelic, the Celtic language native to Scotland. What she finds most interesting about Gaelic is that it is very different from most of the languages that she has studied in the past. It offers a glimpse into a culture and a way of thinking that once dominated large parts of Europe. It’s also an extremely difficult language to learn, so Antje is convinced that she will not be offering Gaelic translations anytime soon!
Saul Ausländer is a Hungarian member of the Sonderkommando, a group of Jewish prisoners forced to lead other inmates in the concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, to their deaths and dispose of their bodies in the crematoriums. Saul finds a young boy and, taking him for his son, tries to arrange for a proper Jewish funeral for him. Taking place in 1944, this is a somber, chaotic and heartbreaking story of perseverance. 


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COUNTRY PROFILE

Singapore

Singapore was founded as a British trading colony in 1819. It joined the Malaysian Federation in 1963 but became independent two years later. After early years of turbulence, and despite lacking natural resources, the nation rapidly developed economically due to external trade and its workforce. Singapore is a global commerce, finance and transportation hub. In fact, its per capita GDP equals that of the leading nations of Western Europe. The economy relies heavily on exports, particularly consumer electronics, information technology products, medical and optical devices, pharmaceuticals, and on its significant transportation, business and financial services industries.

Today, Singapore boasts over 5.6 million residents and four official languages: Malay, Mandarin, Tamil and English. Most Singaporeans are bilingual. Nearly 34% of the population is Buddhist, while 14% is Muslim, followed by smaller amounts of Taoists, Catholics and other Christian denominations.

UNIQUE WORDS:
Skulduggery

(skuhl-DUHG-uh-ree): n. from Scottish sculduddery: underhand dealing; trickery.

Source: http://lifestyle.allwomenstalk.com/words-you-probably-don't-know/3

Word Origin:
Gula

Spanish. The desire to eat simply for the taste.

Not to be confused with the negative English word “gluttony,” gula is a positive, psychological expression. There really is no direct, one-word English translation. 

Fight For Air Climb

Thank you to our great clients that did business with us during our “Fight For Air Climb” campaign. We were able to donate well over $2,000 to the American Lung Association in your businesses’ name.

On March 18th, the ICD Translation team climbed 47 floors, 1,034 steps, to the top of the US Bank Center in Milwaukee with thousands of others like us who wanted to make a difference in the fight for clean air and healthy lungs!

Your business with ICD Translation will help to support research into methods of treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure for lung disease. Thank you for your business and your support!