

CAT Computer Aided Translation

A CAT tool assists and supports a translator throughout the entire translation process. It does not provide a machine translation per se, instead the software enhances the input from the human translator – the tool **cannot** translate itself.

- Use previous translations
- Create, manage and use terminology databases
- Utilize existing terminology lists
- Work with different file formats

A CAT tool **splits** the document to be translated into individual units, known as segments. These can either be sentences, clauses, words, terms or headings and the tool displays each segment in turn throughout the translation process. This allows the translator to navigate around the document more simply and work more easily on individual segments.

As the translator works through a document, these segments, known as **Translation Units or TUs**, are stored in both the source and target languages in a database, the so-called **Translation Memory, TM or TM system**. These stored segment pairs are offered to the translator as soon as the system recognizes a match (quality control/consistency). The translator then decides whether the translation should be used, modified or re-created.

When working on subsequent documents, such as the update of an operating manual, the CAT tool provides the translator with all the text, which has already been translated. This means that only those sections, which have been modified when updating the operating manual, need to be translated and worked on. The content of the document therefore remains perfectly consistent as the parts that have already been translated are incorporated in an identical form into the new document. These sections are not charged at the full rate when the document is invoiced.

Use previous translations ■

Using the CAT tool's **Alignment Function**, segment pairs can be created from translated files, where the source and target documents are contained in two separate files. These segment pairs can then be used in the translation memory, as if they had been translated within the system itself.

This process is ideal for documents, which were not originally translated using computer aided software. Utilizing these documents guarantees that existing specialist (company-specific) terminology can be used consistently.

Create, manage and use terminology ■

Using **Terminology Extraction**, the segments contained in the translation memory can be quickly and easily extracted, examined and used. In the long-term this means that glossaries and dictionaries can be produced for a single company or division, which can then be extended and managed by all the relevant members of staff (editors, technicians, translators etc.) via access rights.

Use existing terminology lists ■

Existing terminology lists or glossaries can be created by a further interface and, through the translation memory, can form the basis of reference material for all future translations.

Work with different file formats ■

CAT tools are capable of working with most file formats as they differentiate between the layout/formatting and actual text of a document within the system. The text of the document is thus translated outside of the actual layout of the document.