*Translation Technology 14/09/2021*

**Assignment 1, week 1**

The output of DeepL was surprisingly good, although too literal sometimes. This happened for, e.g., the translation of ‘caught’ to ‘ving’. In Dutch, a better translation would be a form of ‘raken’. This shows that a part of the changes were lexical, where words were translated too literal, as well as syntactical, e.g. shortening the sentences for Dutch or adding AdvP’s. One of the syntactical changes regarded the deletion of the continuous repetition of ‘and’, creating multiple compound sentences in a row, e.g. the sentence “The second…he fainted”. To check what would be the preferred solution for these segments, the VanDale online dictionary was consulted, as well as the website OnzeTaal and an article by Diederik Grit (2010).

In general, the texts did not require much time to produce, but the third text in particular was finished quickly, partially because the DeepL output was good, but also because it had a natural flow of speech. Given that the deadline to complete all three texts was roughly an hour, the quality is fine, especially because I am still learning what is expected from a translation, as well as what choices to make. The last text is the best one, in my opinion, as the translation flows nicely and feels natural, like the source text.

Based on the experience with these texts, MT is a nice tool, as it saves time, but I think I would prefer starting from zero because sometimes the constructions in MT output made me doubt about their correctness. In translation, you start from zero, whereas for PE the translation is already present. The only thing that is left to do is make changes in the text where MT failed or where syntax is not fitting for the target language.

*Sources*

[Anonymous. (2019). Taalboekenprijs: Vloekboeken. Retri](https://onzetaal.nl/nieuws-en-dossiers/weblog/taalboekenprijs-vloekboeken)eved from https://onzetaal.nl/nieuws-en-dossiers/weblog/taalboekenprijs-vloekboeken.

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