Lesson 1: Pseudo-Translation

Lesson overview

Screen 1

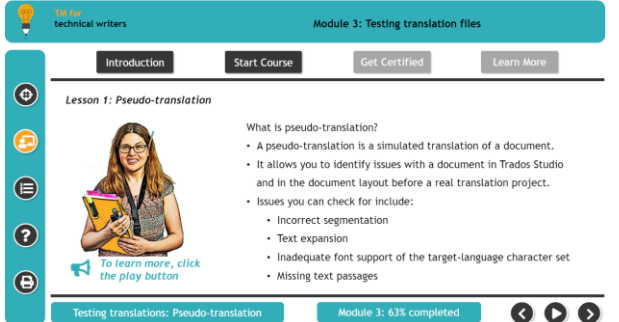| Welcome	Screen
In the lessons so far, we've talked a lot about potential issues during translation and how to avoid them. But sometimes a problem can still slip through the cracks. In this lesson, we'll talk about pseudo-translation, what it is, and how it can help you spot trouble.	

Screen 2

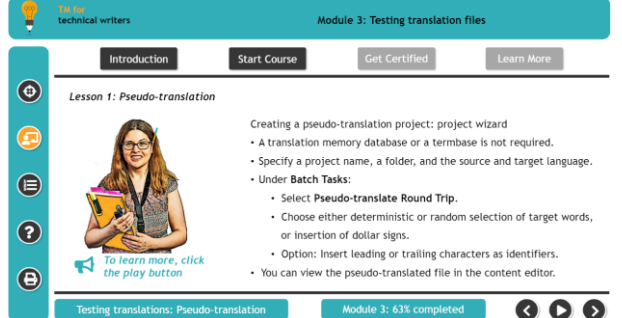| Objectives	Screen
On completion of this lesson, you will be able to: • Explain what pseudo-translation is • State 2 applications of pseudo-translation • Create a Trados Studio pseudo-translation project	

Created by: Maria Finnegan

Student no.: 16063651

Lesson Content

Screen 1

What is pseudo-translation?	Screen
Like the name suggests, a pseudo-translation isn't actually the real thing. It's a simulation of what your text might look like in the target language after it has been imported into your translation memory tool and translated. This allows you to double-check your documents and identify potential issues in Trados Studio and in the final document layout before starting a real translation project. This can save time and money, particularly if your content is translated into multiple languages. While the pseudo-translated text does not make any sense semantically, the process isn't entirely arbitrary: • The pseudo-translation uses words from a dictionary of the selected target language. • Tags are set in the target text in accordance with their location in the source text – this allows you to check reliably for any "tag soup" • The target text words are selected based on length, in order to factor in text expansion, one of the issues we discussed in Module 1. In addition to text expansion and tag soup, pseudo-translation allows you to check that the fonts used in your document support the target language character set. You can also identify segmentation issues ahead of time, and verify that required text passages are present in the exported document.	

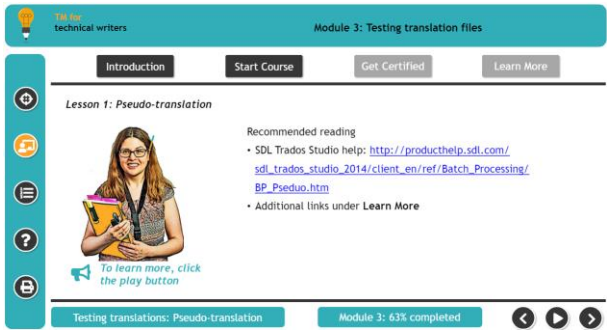Created by: Maria Finnegan

Student no.: 16063651

Running pseudo-translation	Screen

You can set up a pseudo-translation project using the Trados Studio project wizard.
 	
• Because an internal dictionary is used for pseudo-translation in Trados Studio, you do not need a translation memory database or a termbase for this step.
 	
• Enter a name for your project, and select a folder as well as the source and target language.
 	
• Continue clicking **Next** and accepting the defaults in the next few screens, until you get to screen 5 **Batch Tasks**.
 	
   o Here, select **Pseudo-Translate Round** trip from the list.
 	
   o On the left, click **Pseudo-Translate** to open the corresponding settings.
 	
   o If you choose **Deterministic**, each source word is paired with the same target word throughout the file, every time pseudo-translation is run.
 	
   o If you choose **Random**, a different word of the appropriate length is selected at random from the target language dictionary every time a source word is used. Because every translator will produce a slightly different translation, this option will produce more realistic results.
 	
   o To avoid the risk of someone mistaking the pseudo-translation for the real thing, you can insert leading or trailing characters either at segment or paragraph level.
 	
   o You can also modify the amount of text expansion for your test. The expansion comparison from Kwintessential that we spoke about in Module 1 is very useful here.
 	
   o Finally, if you find the dictionary-based translation distracting and want to focus on whether text passages are generally present in the translation, you can choose to insert dollar signs rather than target-language words. However, choosing this option does not let you check font support for target-language characters.
 	
• Once the project has been created, you can open the imported file in the content editor window. It should look something like this.
 	
We will look at how we can check the results of a pseudo-translation in the next lesson.	

Screen 3

Closing	Screen
So, as you can tell, pseudo-translation is a very useful and versatile function. I've added a link to the Trados Studio help below as background. And, as usual, I've also included additional resources in the **Learn More** section. You can take a look at these at once you have completed this module.	

Lesson Summary

Summary	Screen
• Pseudo-translation simulates real translation by inserting random words into the target document from a target-language dictionary. • It is used to identify potential issues in Trados Studio and in the translated document layout before starting a real translation project. • A translation memory database or a termbase is not required. • You can choose random or deterministic pseudo-translation, set the amount of text expansion, or insert dollar signs instead of target language words if you prefer.	