

TRA6001 Translation Technology: Knowledge and Skills

Supplementary Handout 9

Pre-editing Skills (Part 2)

1. Change the word order or sentence structure.

Original ST: 有些人喜歡將事情簡單複雜化。

MT Output: Some people like to complicate things simply.

Pre-edited ST: 有些人喜歡將簡單的事情複雜化。

New MT Output: Some people like to complicate simple things.

2. Clarify the source text.

(a) Add the subject.

Original ST: 很忙，所以不會去。

MT Output: Very busy so I won't go.

Pre-edited ST: 我很忙，所以不會去。

New MT Output: I'm very busy so I won't go.

(b) Add conjunctions.

Original ST: 他來，我不去了。

MT Output: He comes, I won't go.

Pre-edited ST: 如果他來，我就不去了。

New MT Output: If he comes, I won't go.

(c) Use multisyllabic words.

Original ST: 民政事務局局長明履新

MT Output: Director of Home Affairs Ming Mingxin

Pre-edited ST: 民政事務局局長明日就任

New MT Output: Secretary for Home Affairs assumes office tomorrow

(d) Provide more contextual information that may not be easily inferred by the machine.

Original ST: 他打羽毛球打了三個小時。

MT Output: He played badminton for three hours.

Pre-edited ST: 他一直打羽毛球打了三個小時。

New MT Output: He has been playing badminton for three hours.

Original ST: 他吃了冰箱裡的蘋果。

MT Output: He ate the apple in the refrigerator.

Pre-edited ST: 他吃了冰箱裡的那些蘋果。

New MT Output: He ate those apples in the refrigerator.

3. Sometimes numbers are not translated correctly. Standardise ways of presenting numbers by using numerals. Place commas for large numbers.

Original ST: 政府可動用的臨時撥款額合計為 952 億 1,617 萬 8 千元，相當於《2017 年撥款條例草案》下撥款總額 3,980 億 5,757 萬元的約百分之二十四。

MT Output: The total amount of temporary appropriations available to the government is 95,216,178,800 yuan, which is equivalent to about 24% of the total appropriation of 399.85757 million yuan under the 2017 Appropriation Bill.

Pre-edited ST: 政府可動用的臨時撥款額合計為 95,216,178,000 元，相當於《2017 年撥款條例草案》下撥款總額 398,057,570,000 元 的約百分之二十四。

New MT Output: The total amount of temporary funding available to the Government is \$ 95,216,178,000, which is approximately 24% of the total appropriation of \$ 398,057,570,000 under the Appropriation Bill 2017.

4. Avoid Cantonese.

Original ST: 點解藥要不同色？

MT Output: Do you need different antidote?

Pre-edited ST: 為甚麼藥要有不同顏色？

New MT Output: Why do medicines have different colors?

5. Avoid classical Chinese.

Original ST: 要而言之，諸君宜修德講學，貢獻社會。

MT Output: In other words, Zhu Jun should practice moral teaching and contribute to society.

Pre-edited ST: 簡單來說，各位應該培養品德，增長知識，貢獻社會。

New MT Output: In short, you should cultivate morality, increase knowledge, and contribute to society.

6. Rewrite your ST with the English style of writing for CE translation.

Original ST: 蘋果吃了。

MT Output: Apple ate.

Pre-edited ST: 蘋果被吃了。

New MT Output: The apple was eaten.

Original ST: 花紅葉綠。

MT Output: Flower red leaves green.

Pre-edited ST: 花是紅的，葉是綠的。

New MT Output: The flowers are red and the leaves are green.

7. Pre-translate expressions that are less likely to be found in the system dictionary / database.

Original ST: 陳大文是學生。

MT Output: Chen Dawen is a student.

Pre-edited ST: Chan Tai Man 是學生。

New MT Output: Chan Tai Man is a student.