Linguistic Resources in Support of Various Evaluation Metrics

Christopher Cieri, Stephanie Strassel, Meghan Lammie Glenn, Lauren Friedman

Linguistic Data Consortium
MT Evaluation

- **Criteria**
  - adequacy: source and translation provide same information
    - recall:
    - precision: translation should not invent information
  - fluency: translation is grammatical in the target language
    - style is appropriate
  - consistency
  - length: excessive brevity sometimes penalized, excessive wordiness should be too

- **MT Evaluation properties**
  - fast: facilitates use during system development
  - objective & repeatable: just good science

- **Alternatives may be modeled**
  - directly, for example by creating multiple references
  - indirectly, for example by permitting alternatives during evaluation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Human Assessment Adequacy</th>
<th>Human Assessment Fluency</th>
<th>BLEU</th>
<th>METEOR</th>
<th>(H)TER</th>
<th>DLPT*</th>
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</table>

*Automatic Procedures in MT Evaluation Workshop - MT Summit XI*
Creation of Reference Translations
Typical Translation Pipeline: Preparing the Data

- Data collection
- Manual or automatic data selection
  - Quick or careful depending on evaluation requirements
- Corpus-wide scans to remove duplicate docs, prevent train/test overlap
- Manual or automatic segmentation of source text into sentence units
- Pre-processing to convert files into translator-friendly format
  - One segment per line, with empty line for translated to input translation
Typical Translation Pipeline: Translating the Data

- Translator-ready files collected into “kits” and distributed to translators
  - Kits customized for individual translation bureaus based on target volume, agency expertise, additional requirements (e.g. source variety, level of difficulty, file length, etc)

- Translation
  - Translators use guidelines originally developed for TIDES, enhanced for GALE and NIST MT that provide detailed instructions and examples
    - Translating/transliterating proper names, speech disfluencies, factual errors, characteristics of newsgroups, typos etc.
  - Multiple translation teams for each language
  - Each team has at least one translator native in the source language and one native in the target language
  - Initial screening and evaluation for all potential translation providers
Typical Translation Pipeline: Validating the Data

- Process incoming translations
- Conduct sanity checks
  - All files have been returned
  - All files are in expected encoding
  - Segment inventory is complete
  - All segments have been translated
  - etc.
- Post-processing to convert files into required evaluation data format
- Manual and/or automatic quality control
- Comprehensive translation database tracks status for each file or data set
  - By language, genre, project, phase, partition, translation agency, due date, QC score, etc.
Regular Translation QC

- An approach to (human) translation evaluation used instead to confirm translation agencies
- 10% of each incoming translation set is reviewed
- Fluent bilinguals review selection deduct points for each error

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Error</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syntactic</td>
<td>4 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lexical</td>
<td>2 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor English usage</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant spelling/punctuation error</td>
<td>½ points (max 5 points)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Deliveries that receive a failing score are rejected and returned to the agency to be redone
  - Payment is withheld until corrections are complete
Gold Standard Translation QC

- **First pass QC**: Bilingual junior annotators correct obvious mistakes
- **Second pass QC**: *Source language-dominant* bilingual senior annotators correct subtler mistakes
  - improve fluency, correct/standardize names, research difficult vocabulary, verify translation against source audio where required
- **Third pass QC**: *Target language-dominant* bilingual senior annotators improve fluency and accuracy and add translation alternatives
- **Fourth pass QC**: *Target-language monolingual* senior annotators read translations for fluency and comprehension, flag problems
- **Corpus wide scans**: Programmers perform multiple manual and automatic scans
  - standardize and validate data format
  - identify any lingering errors in the corpus as a whole
- **Final spot-check**: Team leaders review 10% of all source-translation document pairs to ensure all problems have been resolved
Alternative Translations

Source Sentence is ambiguous, for example because source language does not specify features that target specifies.

Annotator identifies possible alternative interpretations to include in reference.

External translators provide still more alternatives that are semantically equivalent and that annotators accept.

- Translation Alternative
  - Semantic Equivalent
  - Semantic Equivalent
  - Semantic Equivalent
  - Semantic Equivalent
  - Semantic Equivalent
  - Semantic Equivalent
  - Semantic Equivalent

Source Sentence
Assessment of Adequacy and Fluency
Resources Required

- Multiple reference translations
  - Typically 4-5 references for NIST MT evaluations
  - Good quality, but with minimal manual QC
  - No translation alternations included
  - Segment-aligned with source
- Detailed translation guidelines
- Brief assessment guidelines
- Simple assessment GUI
- Assessors have average skill set
  - Typically college students, native speakers of target language
- Limited task-specific training
- 2+ assessors per system
Assessment Process

- NIST selects subset of docs from BLEU evaluation
  - In MT06, every 4\textsuperscript{th} document taken from a list of documents ordered according to each document’s average BLEU score
- NIST selects a subset of system outputs for each source language for human assessment
  - In MT06, the systems with the best BLEU score
  - Selected from the “large data” condition
  - Limited to “primary” system submissions
- LDC assigns multiple assessors for each translation of a document
  - In MT06, each doc judged independently by two assessors
  - Each assessor judges all systems
  - No assessor judges the same document more than twice
- As time/budget allow, human translations may also be evaluated against one another for fluency and adequacy
Cost Factors

- Translation of ~100K words
  - 1 week FTE to prepare data and coordinate translators
  - 6-8 weeks calendar time for per “batch” of translation
    - Costs average $0.25/word
  - >1 week FTE for regular QC

- Assessment of ~100K words
  - > 1 week FTE technical, workflow, editor coordination
  - Assessors earn on average $11/hour
    - Realtime rates vary by genre, MT output quality
      - Average 1 minute per segment for fluency
      - Average 2 minutes per segment for adequacy
Edit Distance
The Metric

❖ HTER: Human Translation Error Rate
  ❖ Skilled monolingual human editors compare MT output against reference translation
    ▪ Modify MT output so that it has the *same meaning* as gold standard translation and is *understandable*
      • Each inserted/deleted/modified word or punctuation mark counts as one edit
      • Shifting a string, of any number of words, by any distance, counts as one edit

❖ TER: Translation Error Rate
  ❖ No human post-editor
  ❖ Automatic calculation of edit distance

❖ Edits are counted by automated software
  ❖ Compares the unedited MT output to the edited version (HTER) or to the gold standard translation (TER)
  ❖ Finds the minimum number of edits that will create the edited version (HTER) or reference translation (TER)
**Example**

**HTER**

ET: To end conflict, the military began a blockade on October 6.

MT: To end conflict * *** @ on a a blockade on October 6.

| D | D | S | S | SHIFT |

HTER Score: 45.45 (5.0/11.0)

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**TER**

RF: ** The military initiated a blockade October sixth to eliminate clashes.

MT: To end conflict on a blockade October ***** 6 on a @.

| I | S | S | S | SHIFT | D | S | S | S |

TER Score: 81.82 (9.0/11.0)
Resources Required

- Single gold standard reference translation
  - Extremely high quality with multiple inputs & manual QC passes
  - Includes translation alternatives to reflect source ambiguity
  - Segment-aligned with source
- Detailed translation guidelines
- Extensive post-editing guidelines
- Customized post-editing GUI
- Highly skilled monolingual target language post-editors
  - Typically professional editors and proofreaders
- Extensive task specific formal training
- In GALE, *four* post-editors per system
  - Two independent first passes (focus primarily on meaning)
  - Followed by second pass over first pass edits (focus primarily on minimizing HTER)
  - Latin square design for file assignment
  - Lowest scoring segments selected as final HTER
- Substantial workflow and tracking infrastructure
Post-Editor Training

- Initial screening: skills assessment test
  - 10 segments selected for coverage of phenomena
- Half day hands-on training session
  - Guidelines and process covered in detail
  - Group editing of many examples
  - Q&A
- Post-test (repeat of skills test) to gauge improvement
- Completion of “starter kit”
  - Small set of carefully selected data
  - Results reviewed in detail to provide individual feedback on errors, esp. ways to minimize HTER
Post-Editing Guidelines

- Dual emphasis on meaning preservation and edit minimization
- Rules and examples covering
  - Phrasal ordering, POS, grammatical issues
  - Orthography (capitalization, punctuation, numbers)
  - Transliteration of proper names
  - Synonyms
  - Additional info in MT output
  - Ambiguity in reference translation
  - What to do with incomprehensible MT
- Special rules for conversational, spoken genres
Ogaa, December 11 (Xinhua) Palestinian sources close to the Fatah movement said on Saturday that the candidacy of Marwan Barghouti, the Secretary of the movement in the West Bank, who is detained in Israeli jails, is illegal.

Original version:
Ogaa, December 11 (Xinhua) Palestinian sources close to the Fatah movement on Saturday that the candidacy of Marwan Barghouti, the Secretary of the movement in the West Bank prisoner in Israeli prisons was illegal.

Differences between reference translation and my version:

Differences between original and my version:

Ogaa, December 11 (Xinhua) Palestinian sources close to the Fatah movement said on Saturday that the candidacy of Marwan Barghouti, the Secretary of the movement in the West Bank prisoner in Israeli prisons was illegal. (HTR 8.8%)

Differences between reference translation and my version:

Ogaa, December 11 (Xinhua) Palestinian sources close to the Fatah movement said today, Saturday, that the candidacy of Marwan Barghouti, the Secretary of the Movement in the West Bank, who is detained in Israeli jails, is illegal. (HTR 35.9%)
Cost Factors

- Translation of ~100K words
  - 1 week FTE to prepare data and coordinate translators
  - 6-8 weeks calendar time for per “batch” of translation
    - Costs average $0.25/word
  - 3 weeks FTE for gold standard QC

- Post-editing of ~100K words
  - 1 week FTE technical, workflow, editor coordination
  - Editors earn on average $15-20/hour
    - Realtime rates vary by genre, MT output quality, editor experience
      - New editors: 3-4 wpm
      - Experienced editors: 7+ wpm
    - Additional financial incentives for quality, productivity
Conclusions

- Resources required vary depending on (explicit or implicit) assumptions of the various metrics.
- Translation variation in the reference may be directly modeled or it may be assumed.
- Consistency in application of manual metrics is influenced by both of these factors.