



uOttawa

Machine Translation 4 All

Developing informed and critical users through a program of machine translation literacy

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Why is there a need for machine translation literacy?

Machine translation is now “in the wild”

- Previously, only language professionals had access to MT, but now it's free and online for everyone

Machine translation is (too) easy to use

- As easy as copy, paste, click! So it's easy to use it in a non-critical way

Machine translation has a new architecture

- State-of-the-art MT systems use AI-based machine learning; quality is better, but fluency can be deceptive and make mistakes harder to spot

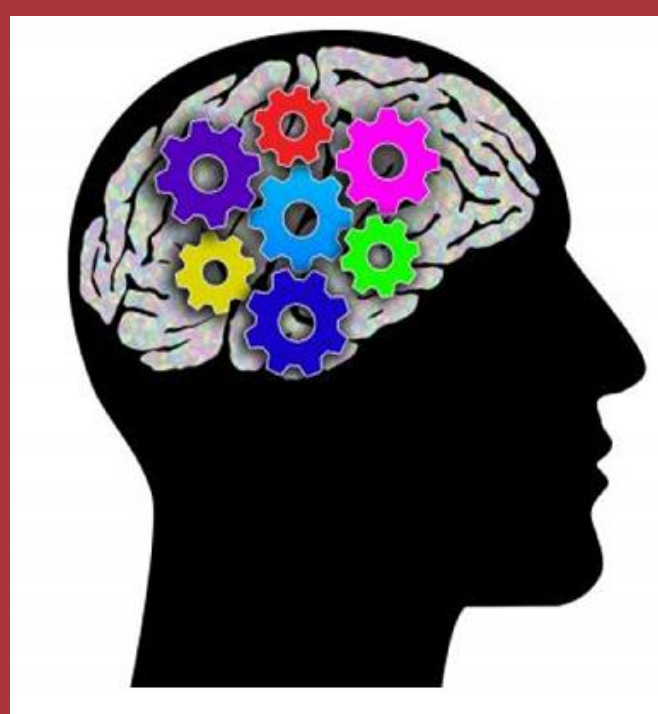
“Using machine translation is easy; using it critically requires some thought.”



@LiteracyMachine

What is machine translation literacy?

A new type of digital literacy emphasizing *critical* use of machine translation.



- New literacies are regularly introduced as society evolves (e.g. media literacy, information literacy)
- MT Literacy is a cognitive issue, not a techno-procedural one
- About whether, when, and why to use MT, and how to interact with MT to improve its output

MT Literacy – a social responsibility for translators?

Partnering with libraries to reach a broad cross-section of society?

What could be shared in an MT literacy workshop?

Don't enter sensitive information into an online MT system

- ❖ MT companies can keep and use your data

Consider the purpose of the translation

- ❖ Tasks such as gisting are better candidates than tasks requiring high quality text

Try more than one MT system; try regularly

- ❖ Each MT system is trained using different texts so results will be different
- ❖ Systems are “learning” all the time so results could improve over time

Improve the output by changing the input

- ❖ prepare translation-friendly input texts (e.g. plain language, short sentences)

To find out more:

www.literacymachine.wordpress.com