AN INTRODUCTION TO CAT TOOLS

PAULINE CÔME, UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE



OUTLINE

- What is a CAT tool?
- CAT tools demo
 - Translation interface
 - Terminology management
 - Translation memory
- What a CAT tool is not
- Conclusion
- Discussion



WHAT IS A CAT TOOL?



- CAT tool = Computer Assisted Translation tool
- Translation interface
 - manage translation projects
 - import and work on files to be translated
- Used by most LSPs and translators
- Both licensed and Open Source software
- Features:
 - Translation interface (workspace)
 - Terminology management (glossary or termbase)
 - Translation memory

CAT TOOLS DEMO



This part of the presentation was a live demo of SDL Trados Studio. Some tutorials are also available online:

- SDL Trados Studio
- SDL Terminology management

Another popular CAT tool is MemoQ:

MemoQ demo



WHAT A CAT TOOL IS NOT

CAT tools are NOT machine translation (MT) engines

French	Google Translate	Deep-L
Chenonceau, château des Dames	Chenonceau, château des Dames since	Chenonceau, castle of the Ladies since
depuis le XVIème siècle	the 16th century	the XVIth century
En 1535, François ler l'intègre au	In 1535, François 1er integrated him	In 1535, François I joined the Domaine
Domaine Royal, en règlement de	into the Domaine Royal, in debt	Royal in settlement of debts. Then
dettes. Puis le Roi Henri II décide de	settlement. Then King Henry II decides	King Henry II decided to offer it not
l'offrir non à la Reine, mais à la	to offer it not to the Queen, but to	to the Queen, but to the Favorite,
Favorite, Diane de Poitiers []. Cette	the Favorite, Diane de Poitiers [].	Diane de Poitiers []. This artificial
sortie artificielle de Chenonceau du	This artificial exit from Chenonceau	exit of Chenonceau from the
Domaine Royal, lui permettra d'être	du Domaine Royal, will allow him to	Domaine Royal, will allow him to be
sauvé, deux siècles plus tard, à la	be saved, two centuries later, during	saved, two centuries later, during the
Révolution.	the Revolution.	Revolution.

CONCLUSION – THE PROS & CONS OF CAT TOOLS

Pros

- Streamlined translation process
- Easy reference to previous translations
- Coherence and consistency of style and terminology

Cons

- Property of data stored in translation memory and termbases
- Formatting depends on the quality of the source text file
- Termbases and translation memories need maintained

DISCUSSION

- Who should own the data stored in the translation memory and the glossary?
- Tourism/heritage professionals:
 - Are your suppliers using CAT tools?
 - To what extent do you think that having an approved glossary could contribute to improving the translation process and output quality?
- Translation professionals:
 - Do you use CAT tools? If so which one? If not, why and what strategies do you have in place?
 - How useful do you find CAT tools when translating for the heritage or tourism industry?