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CPSL Language Services

Thoughts on machine translation

Interactive discussion about MT intricacies in the translation and localisation industry

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GALA 2019 MUNICH

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Thoughts on machine translation

This form is part of a presentation that CPSL will give at the GALA Munich 2019 conference. Its purpose is to collect as many comments and thoughts as possible about machine translation. We will analyze your replies and comment them with the audience in an informal, interactive conversation. The survey is completely anonymous.

NEXT

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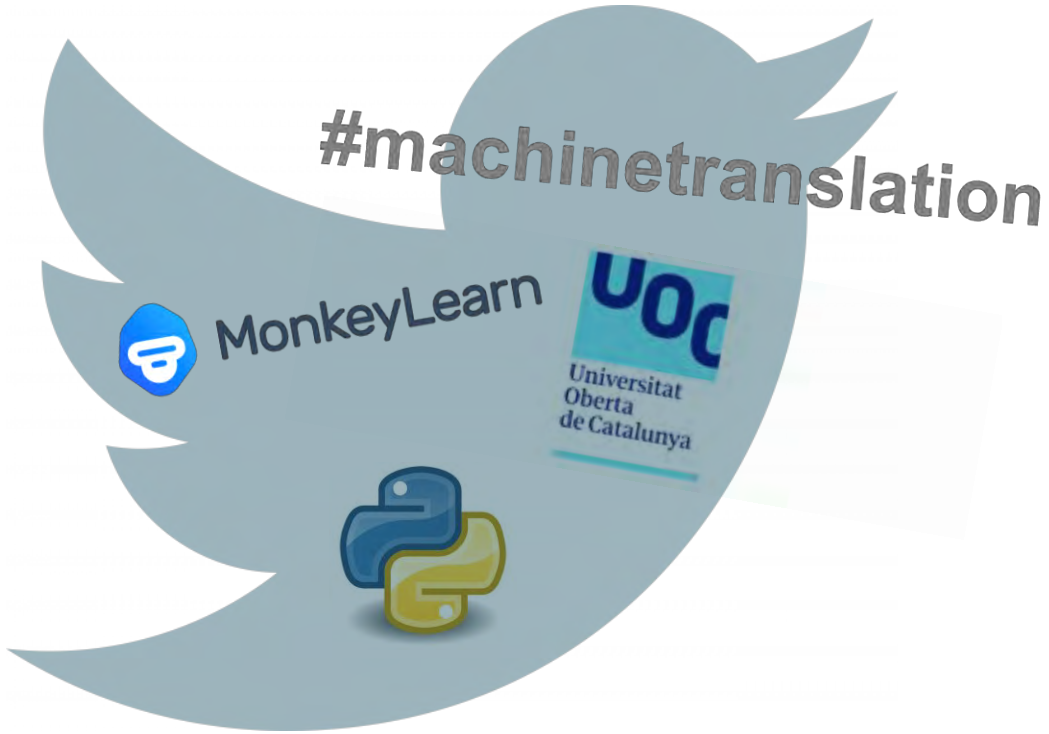
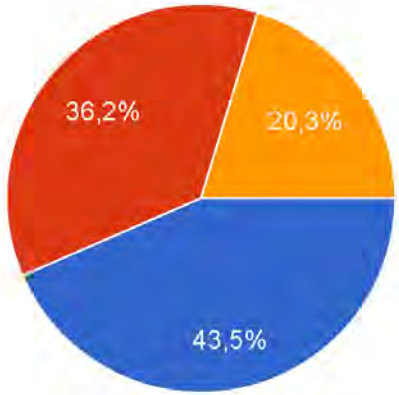
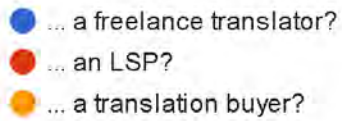
Never submit passwords through Google Forms.



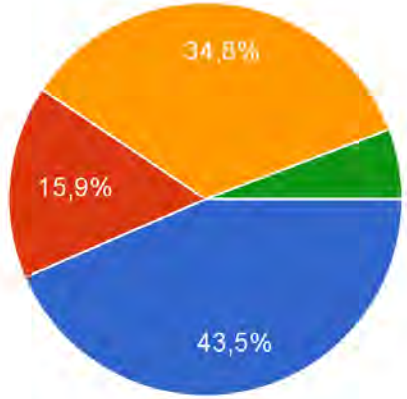
Profile of the survey respondents

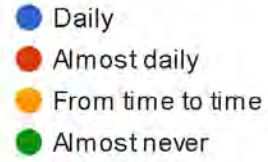
Are you...



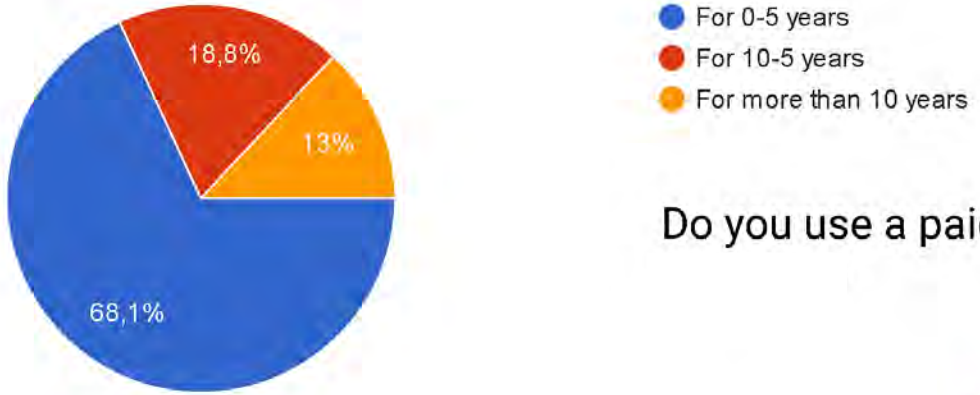


How often do you use machine translation for professional purposes?

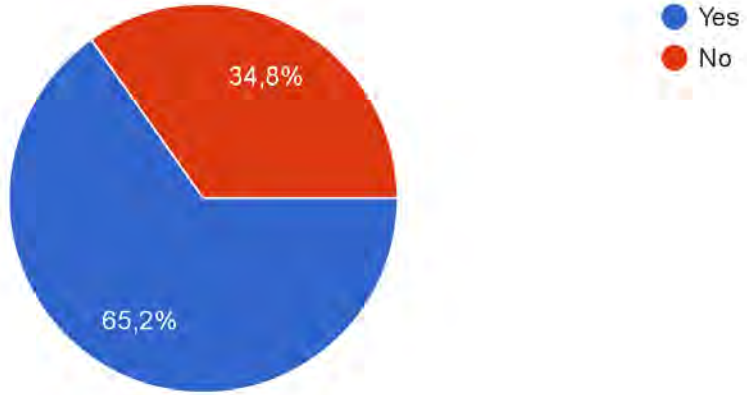




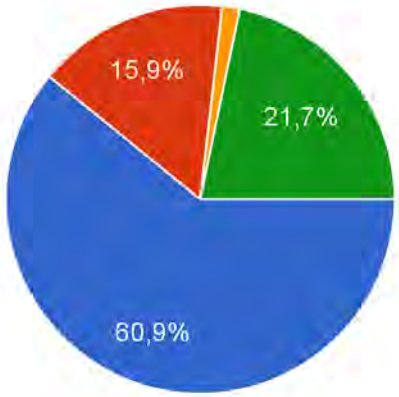
How long have you been using MT in a professional context?



Do you use a paid platform/system?

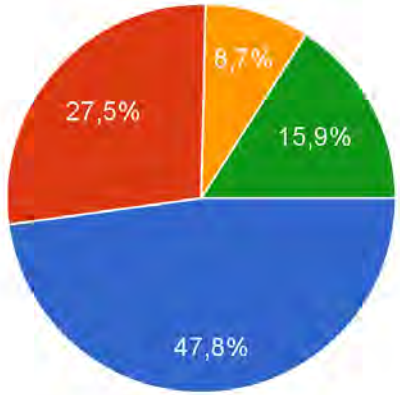


Which kind of system do you use most often?



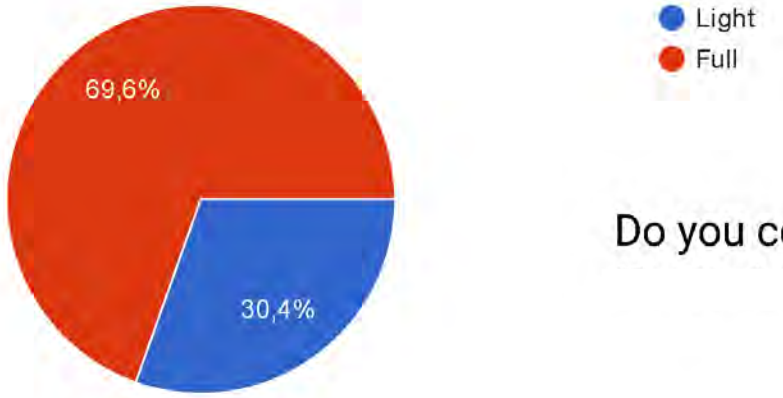
- Neural machine translation
- Statistical machine translation
- Rule-based machine translation
- I don't know

How often do you combine it with postediting?

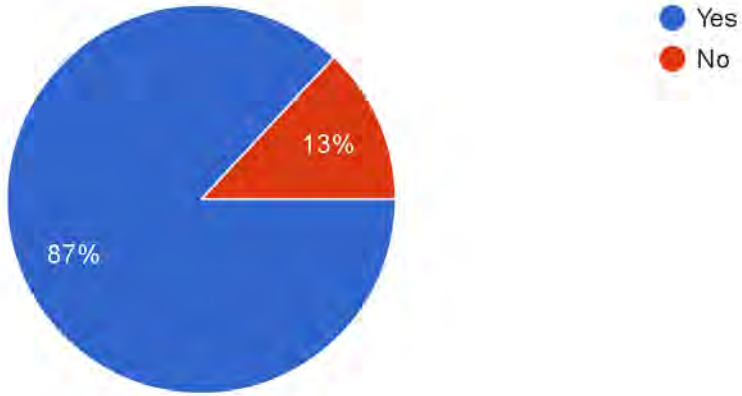


- Always
- Almost always
- Almost never
- Never

What kind of postediting do you use most often?



Do you combine it with translation memories?



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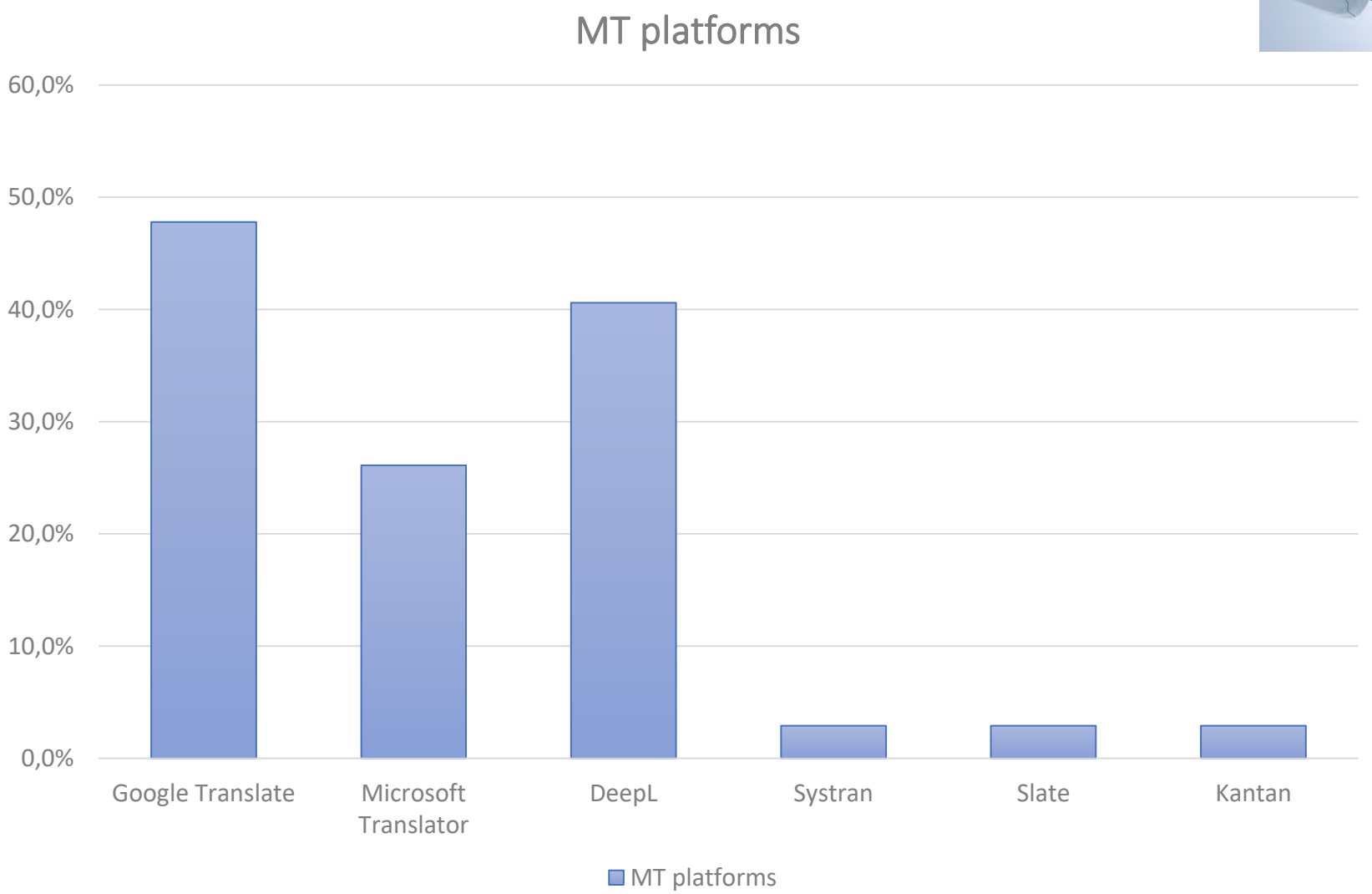
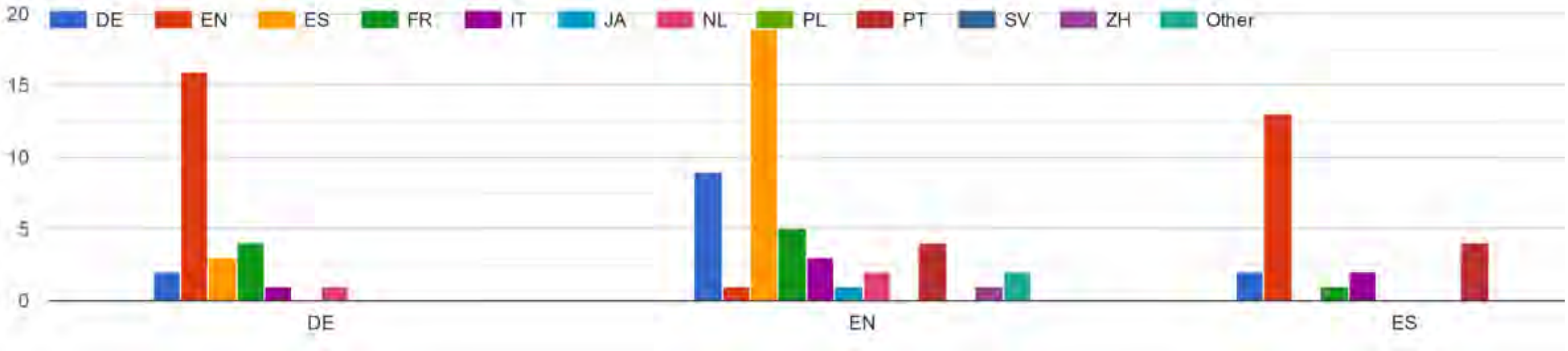
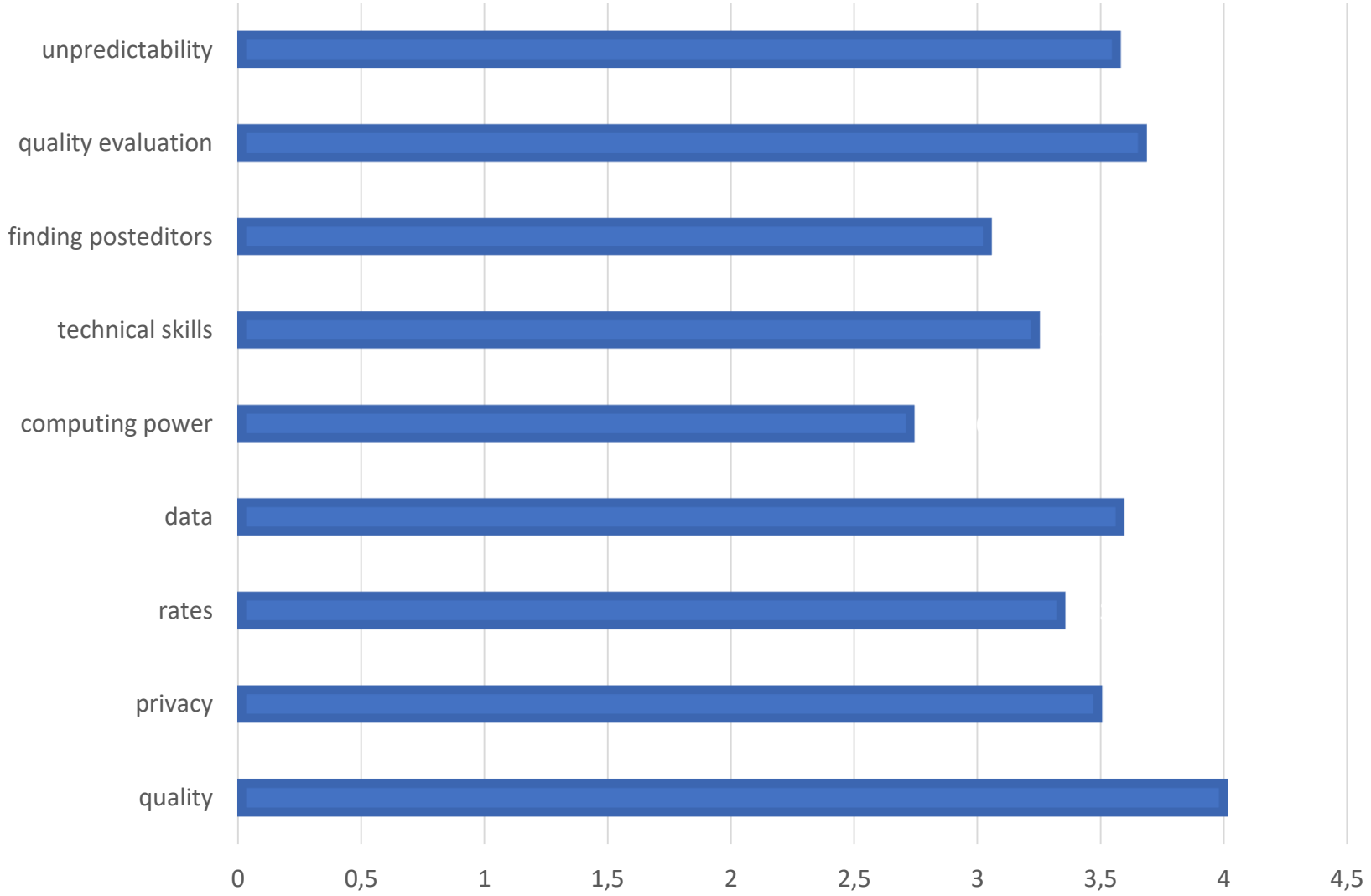

MT platforms
60,0%
50,0%
40,0%
30,0%
20,0%
10,0%
0,0%
Google Translate
Microsoft Translator
DeepL
Systran
Slate
Kantan
MT platforms

Which language combinations do you use most often?

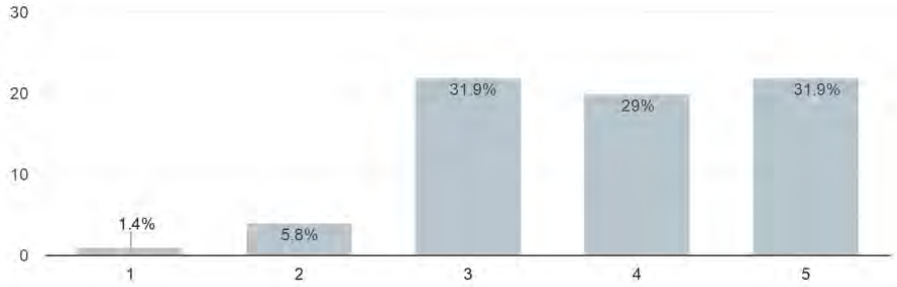


My main concern about machine translation is…

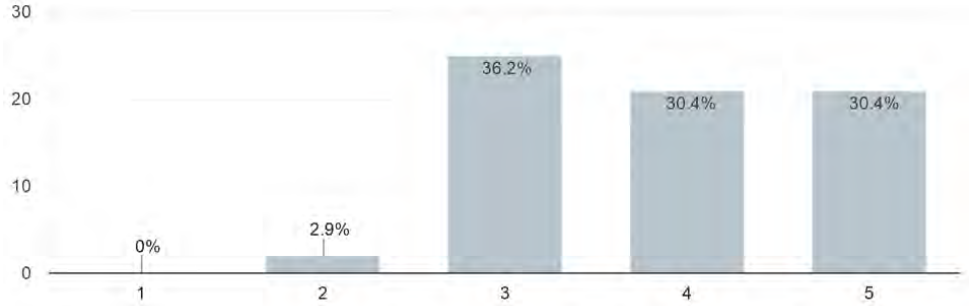


Their thoughts vs. your own

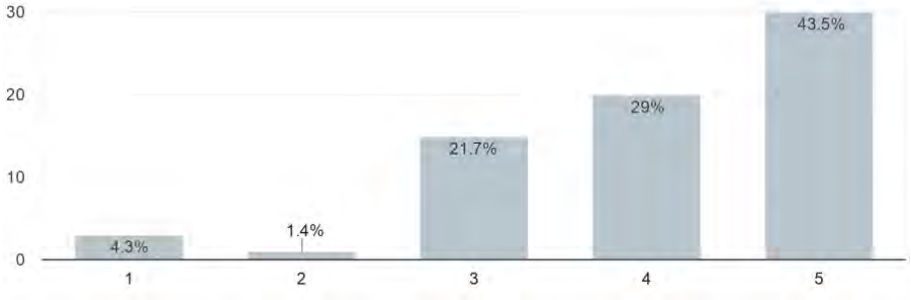
"Companies often overlook how disruptive a technology MT actually is: it impacts not just technically trained staff, but also project managers, sales and marketing, etc." (Andy Way, ADAPT Center Dublin)



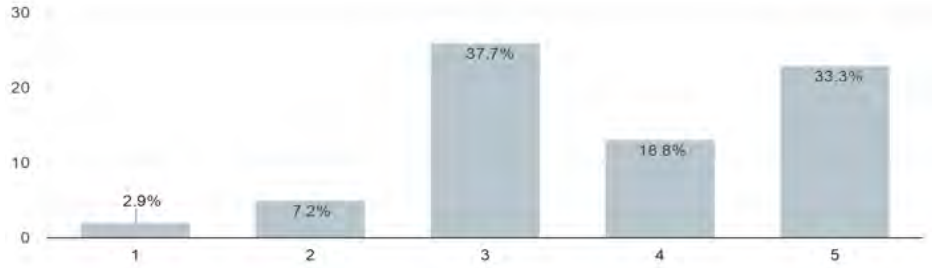
"We still need to be careful not to classify every new piece of research as a breakthrough." (John Tinsley, Co-Founder and CEO, Iconic Translation Machines)



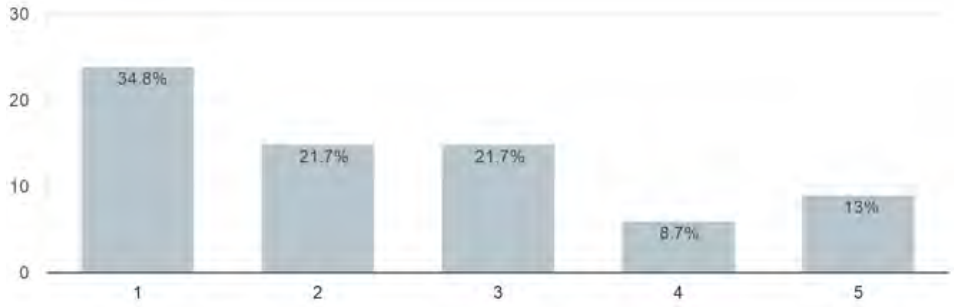
"Continuing to deny that computers and humans complement one another is regressive and nonsensical." (Simon Klys, Freelance Translator / Editor)



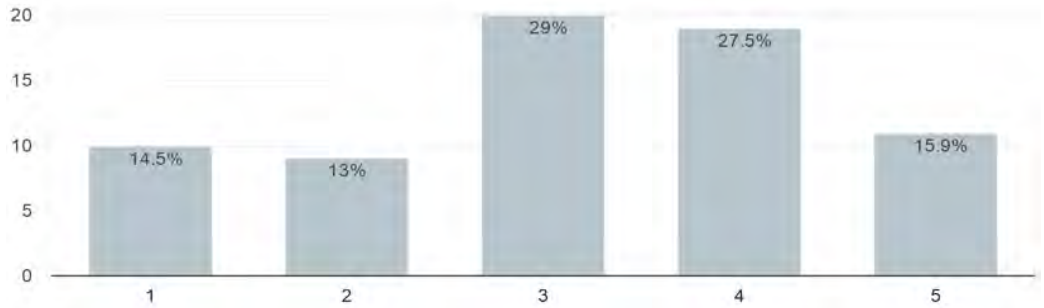
"Agencies totally overestimate the quality of their MTs." (Anonymous translator, EAMT survey report)



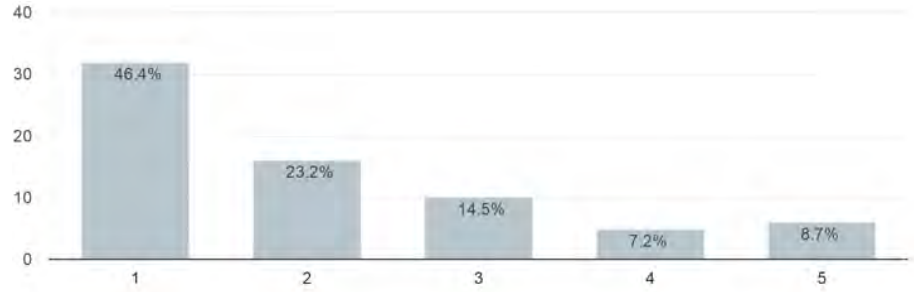
"A warning to all translators: don't feed the MT. If you do, you are digging your own grave - and not getting paid for doing so." (Anonymous translator, Proz)



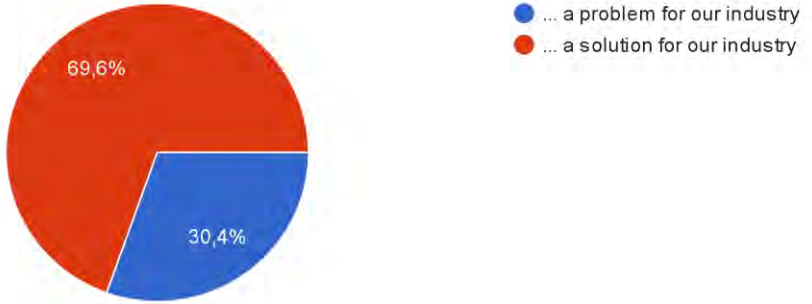
"It is not uncommon now for Google to translate a sentence better than I could have done myself. (...) This was not possible even two years ago." (Anonymous Proz member)



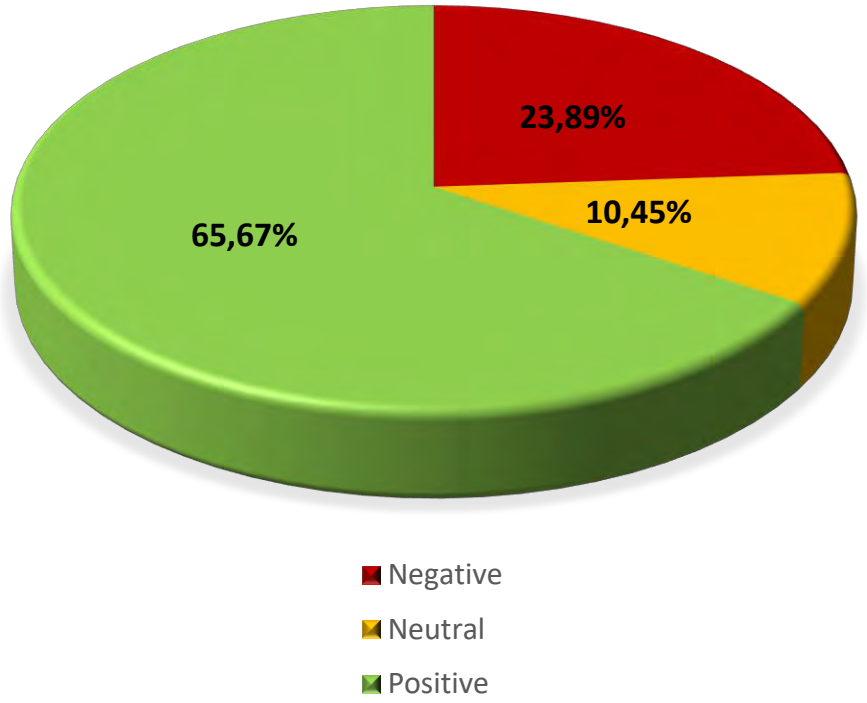
"A translator who likes her/his profession and is passionate about translation doesn't want to have any kind of connections with machine translation." (Anonymous Proz member)



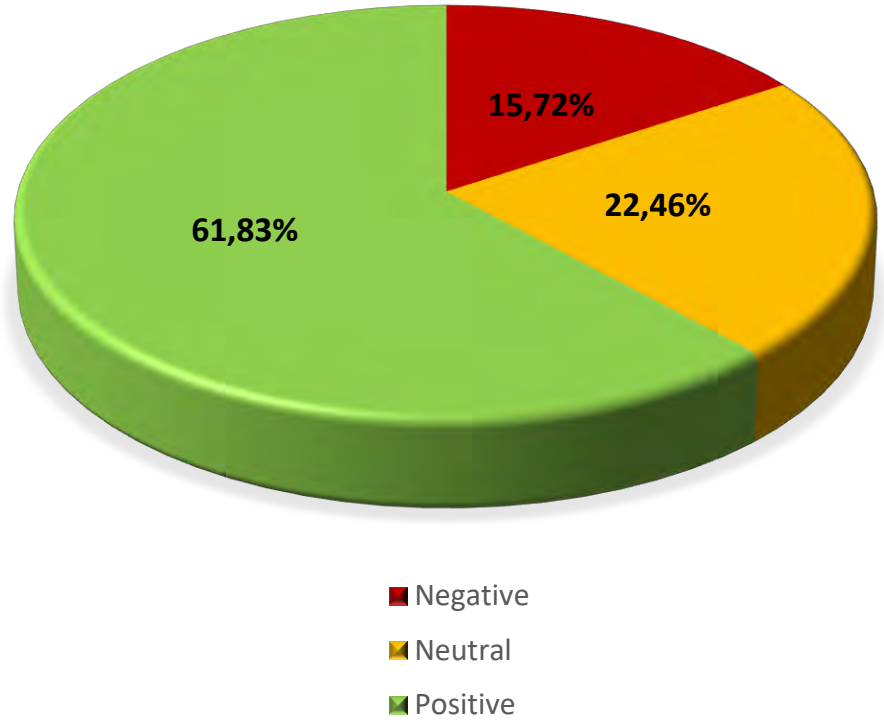
Machine translation is...



Machine **translation as a problem vs. a solution:** sentiment analysis on reasons and general comments



#machinetranslation **sentiment analysis** on Twitter



Adjectives tag cloud

Nouns tag cloud

translation
machine
language
ai
time
translator
today
one
share
nmt
tool
text
nlproc
paper
content
localization
context
model
people
game
implication
amazon
gender
english
solution
technology
insight
gamedevs
webinar
survey
word
indie_localizer
google
bias
result
job
step
way
work
quality
article
service
blog
facebook
year
client
use
sense
thought
future
part
end
industry
phd
problem
japanese
february
reason
need
swedish
lsps
ml
system
engine
artificialintelligence
post
expert
data
platform
software
register
student
thanks
china
news
deeplearning
finalbullet
bit
mtpe
inhouse
non
output
website
order
cat
deepl
lifesciences
chatbots
india
thing
love
project
issue
business
march
case
pick
chinese
type
job
task
brain
cost
seattle
machinelearning
facebook
voice
human
user
era
team
key
error
nlp
with
m
conqrats
datasturks
cpsl
head
game
number
deepl
cat
deep
order
website

Thoughts on machine translation

Machine translation…

- allowed my company to grow by 50% last year
- is a tasty fruit, but may be hard to cook
- is the cancer of the translation industry
- is never going to be able to do serious translation
- will force me to find a different career (not just job) within the next 5 years
- is still a baby
- hugely helps me in my daily work; my hourly output would be much less without it
- s***s

Thoughts on machine translation

Machine translation: a problem or a solution?

- Tedious tasks could be achieved by MT, different levels of quality can be offered focusing HT on more creative texts.
- It creates a false sense of trustworthiness, which can lead to disastrous mistakes.
- It is another key component of the translator's software toolkit.
- Machine translation does not exist. What machines do is imitating the results of translation, but they cannot do the actual PROCESS of translation, which consists of UNDERSTANDING the source, the audience, the context and so on (…)
- Using MT usually takes more time than translating from scratch, MT introduces errors a translator would not make and would not expect.
- It makes the written word far less diverse.
- MT is a useful tool in the hands of a skilled translator/specialist, but too many people think it means that anyone can now translate any kind of text easily.

Erik Hansson 🇸🇪
@erik_hansson

Follow

-Hello there, long time, no see!
Do you still work as a translator? I have read about machine translations.
-Hello! Yes, of course. But tell me, do you still work as a surgeon? I have read a lot about new devices in the medical field.
(End of cocktail party conversation) #xl8

10:07 AM - 18 Feb 2019

32 Retweets **128** Likes

5 32 128

Natalie Soper @BellinguaNat · Feb 18
Replying to @erik_hansson
Do you still work in a supermarket? Because I only use self-service scanners 🤣

1 5

Erik Hansson 🇸🇪 @erik_hansson · Feb 18
Do you still work as a lawyer? Nowadays we can get all the advice online. And for free!

1 2

Natalie Soper @BellinguaNat · Feb 18
And who needs photographers, when everyone's got a camera on their phone??

1 5

Erik Hansson 🇸🇪 @erik_hansson · Feb 18
And let's face it: most of us have a kitchen and can download the recipes from the web. Why bother with going to a restaurant?

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Thank you!

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