Prikazi knjiga
Book reviews
Rezensionen

Marija Omazić
Josip Juraj Strossmayer University
Faculty of Philosophy
Osijek

Lynne Bowker, 2002. *Computer-Aided Translation Technology. A Practical Introduction. (Didactics of Translation Series)*. Ottawa: Universtiy of Ottawa Press. 185 pp. ISBN 0-7766-0538-0.

Lyne Bowker's book *Computer-Aided Translation Technology* published in 2002 is one of the books in the Didactics of Translation Series, which caters to the needs of students and professionals of translation/ interpreting . The book examines the emerging possibilities of using computers and information and communication technology (ICT) in translation, and argues for the necessity of adopting the new trends in both teaching translation and interpreting, and practicing translation as a profession.

After the initial awe at the wonders of machine translation, followed by a period of shock caused by the unexpected and, albeit funny, frighteningly wrong results of machine-translated texts (such as *The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak* translated into Russian as *The vodka is good but the steak is lousy*), translators are beginning to see the light – machine translation (MT) is not a miraculous tool that cancels the translator, but a tool that can, and increasingly does, aid the translator. There is still some entrenched resistance to jumping on the bandwagon of computer-aided translation (CAT) technology, but the new translation training programmes are now increasingly embracing CAT tool skills as indispensable parts of the curriculum, and include their mastery in their learning outcomes. One such example is the MeLLange programme in Multilingual eLearning in LANGuage Engineering, launched jointly by several European Universities (EILA Université Paris 7 - Denis Diderot, Universität Wien, Uni-

versität des Saarlanders, Praetorius, Univesita di Bologna Sede di Forli, The University of Leeds, and Université de Genève.

The CAT tools that are now largely commercially available, though perhaps still not widely put to use, include optical character recognition, voice recognition, conversion software, corpus analysis tools, terminology management systems (TMS), translation memory systems, localization tools, etc. The aim of Bowker's book is to present the possibilities, advantages, as well as the limitations and disadvantages of these tools. The scope of the book surpasses (or presupposes) the mastery of indispensable word processing tools, spreadsheets, databases, grammar and spell-checkers, e-mail, and searching the Internet, however valuable, and sets off to explore a wider range of more advanced and more sophisticated computer-aided tools.

The book comprises six chapters: in Chapter 1, the author addresses the question of why the interpreters and translators need to learn about technology. It looks beyond the straightforward answer of becoming more competitive on the job market, and delves into other benefits to be gained by mastering CAT tools and including them in the translation training programmes. Chapter 2 gives an overview of the possibilities of converting information into a machine-readable form using OCR and voice-recognition software. Chapter 3 provides a critical analysis of corpus-analysis tools, such as word-frequency lists, monolingual and bilingual concordancers, and collocation generators. Chapter 4 focuses on terminology-management systems, especially on the recent developments that increased the flexibility of storage and retrieval, and gives guidance to users on how to start their own TM system. The most recent of the CAT tools, the translation memory systems are the subject of Chapter 5, followed by a discussion of newly emerging technologies and trends in Chapter 6, including software localization tools, diagnostic tools, new types of translation work, Web page translation, and the integration of translation into the document-production cycle. Finally, there are two useful appendices: Appendix A is a glossary of important terms and concepts related to translation technology, whereas Appendix B offers practical advice on the contemporary commercially available CAT tools, coupled with their prices, online reviews, system requirements, and questions potential users need to ask the vendors in order to establish whether a given tool suits their needs.

Computer-Aided Translation Technology by Lynne Bowker is a systematic, comprehensive, and user-friendly account of CAT tools, their applications, benefits, and drawbacks. It provides both translation trainees and professional translators with an overview of the existing and newly emerging possibilities, and with its scope and focus it forever breaks the illusion that translation will

always and only be done in a traditional way. It, however, does not aim to put off potential new users. Quite to the contrary, in fact. With clarity of explanations, step-by step procedures and illustrative practical examples, it aims to encourage and entice, rather than discourage.

Furthermore, it sets a list of desiderata for the future development of CAT tools, including a movement toward client-server architectures, better cooperation of software developers with translation training institutions, better CAT tool training, increased levels of user-friendliness of tools, further integration of tools, further use of generated resources to develop other natural-language processing tools, and the development of diagnostic tools. It is beyond doubt that these tools will help the translators improve the speed of the translation process and increase the quality of their end-product. Moreover, the increasing software and system possibilities will provide the scholars working in the field of translation studies with both access to a larger body of translations, and tools for conducting more focused, and thus also more illuminating and productive, basic and applied research into the translation process, translation pedagogy, terminography, and CAT tool evaluation.