

How do country teams and translators work? The impact of guidelines

Britta Upsing

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German Institute for International Educational Research (DIPF)

Outline

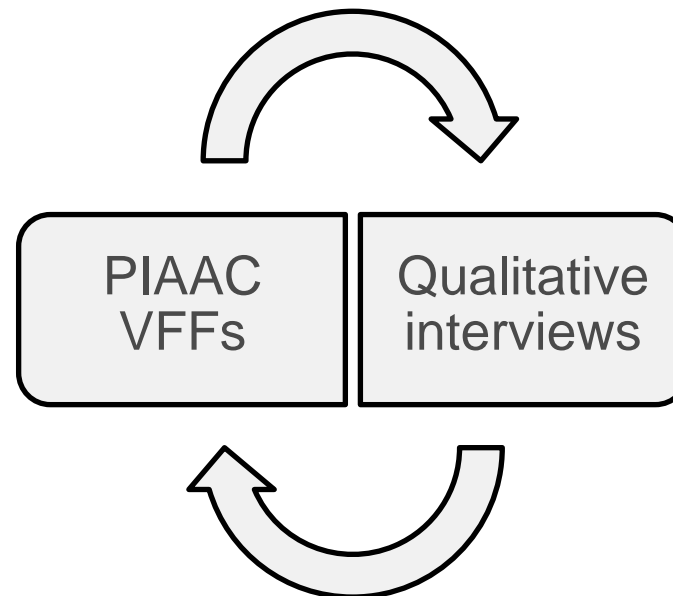
1. Introduction: qualitative study¹ regarding translation workflows and guidelines
2. What are common translation workflows?
3. Differences and similarities between “common translation workflows” and workflows for international large-scale assessment (iLSA) studies?
4. Conclusions and suggestions for improvements

1) for details regarding this qualitative study, see Upsing, 2017

Part 1

QUALITATIVE STUDY: DATABASE

Database



Interview topics

Translators

1. What does a “normal work day” look like for you?
2. What are the differences between your daily work assignments and your work for iLSA?

	Main role	Duration Interview / minutes
B01	Translator	55
B02	Translator	55
B03	Project Manager	75
B04	Project Manager	72
B05	Project Manager	36
B06	Project Manager	49
B07	Project Manager	86
B08	Project Manager	59
B09	Project Manager	62
B10	Project Manager	70
B11	Verifier	55
B12	Verifier	50
B13	Translator	55
B14	Translator	70
B15	Translator	60
B16	Translator	70
B17	Project Manager	72
B18	Verifier	52
B19	Verifier	65
B20	Translator	65

PIAAC FIELD TRIAL 2009		VERIFICATION FOLLOW-UP FORM COMPUTER-BASED											
Country: PT		UNIT: Election Results	PIAAC ID: C302BC02	ALL ID: COREQ2S1									
Target language: pt													
PLEASE INSERT NEW LINES, IF NEEDED, TO DOCUMENT ADDITIONAL ISSUES													
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Source: PIAAC Cycle 1: https://www.oecd.org/skills/piaac/_Technical%20Report_17OCT13.pdf

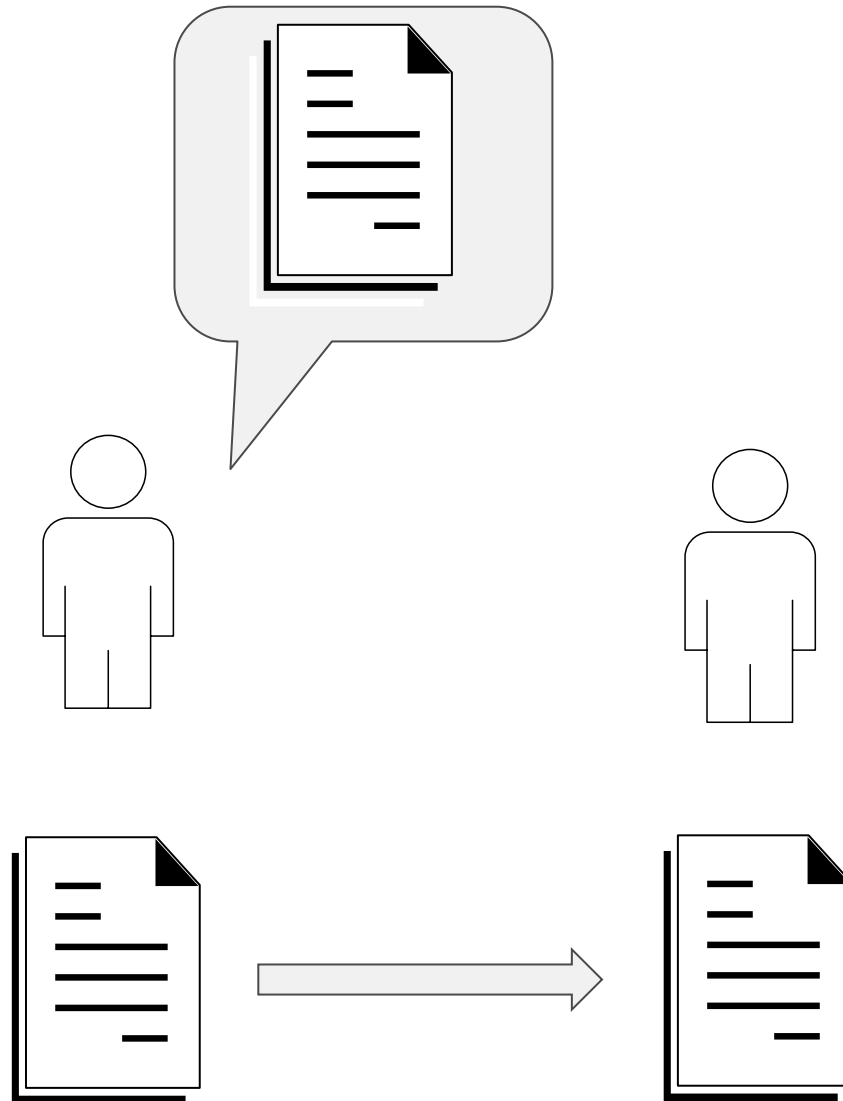
Follow-up comments

NPM COMMENT	VERIFIER INTERVENTION	SEVERITY CODE	VERIFIER COMMENT	DI
	Missing Info	2	'and places' missing from translation.	
	OK			

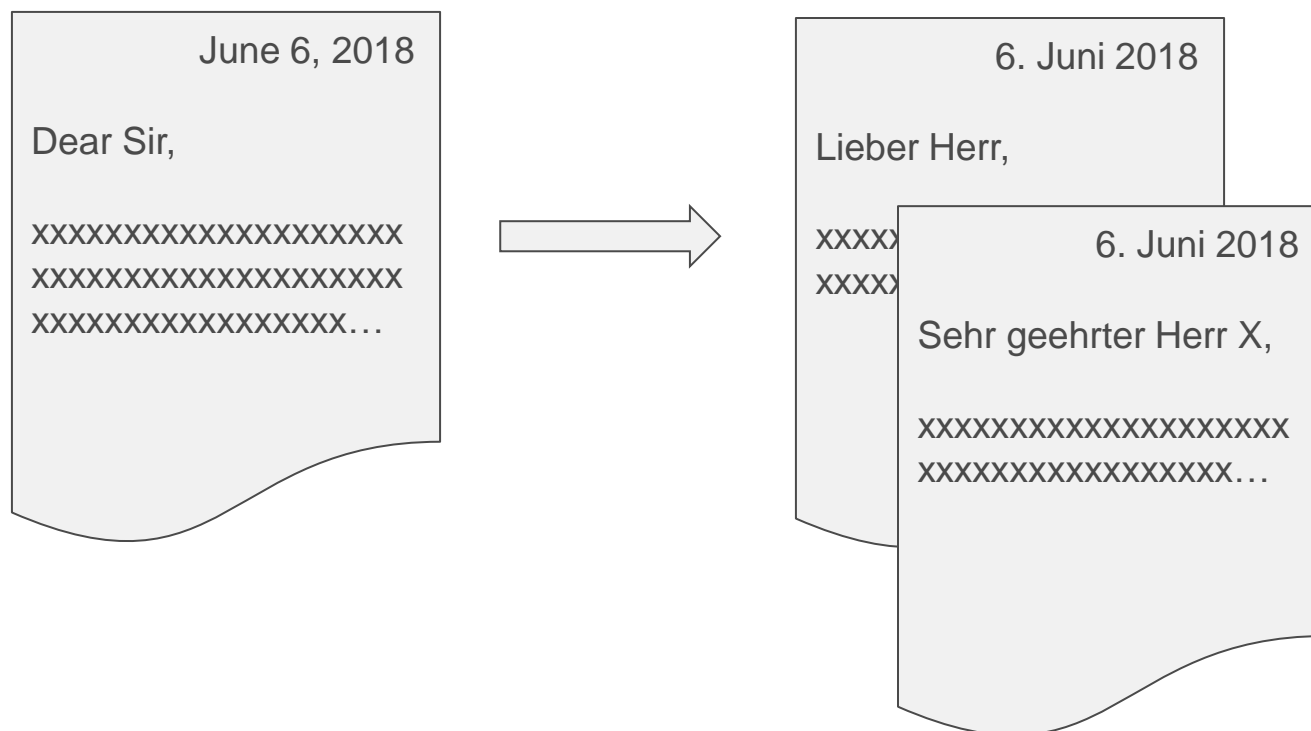
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Part 2

COMMON TRANSLATION WORKFLOWS



Translation goal

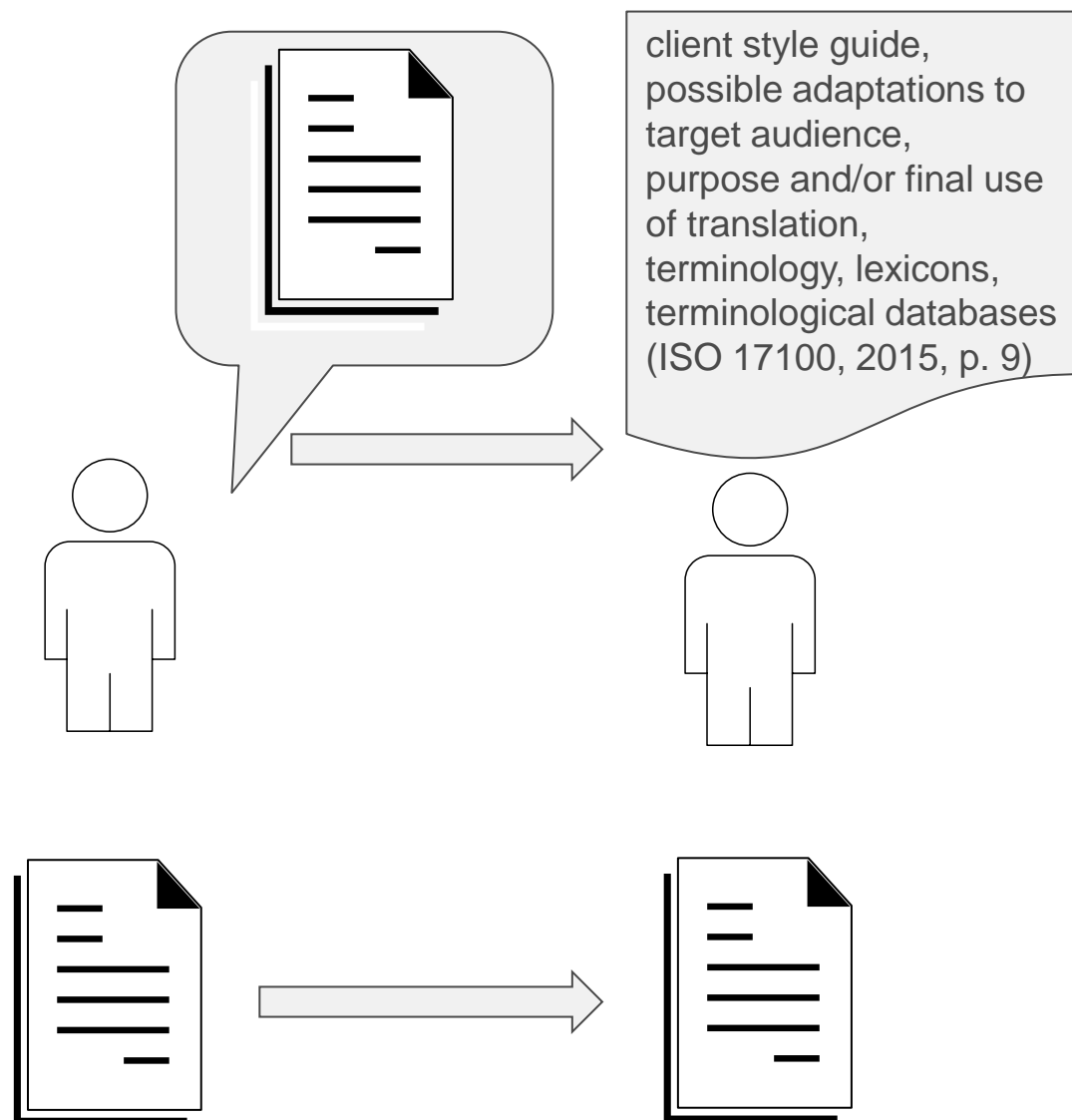


(see Prunč, 2012, p. 157)

Translator's competencies



Source: ISO 17100, 2015, p. 11¹



Answers in interviews:

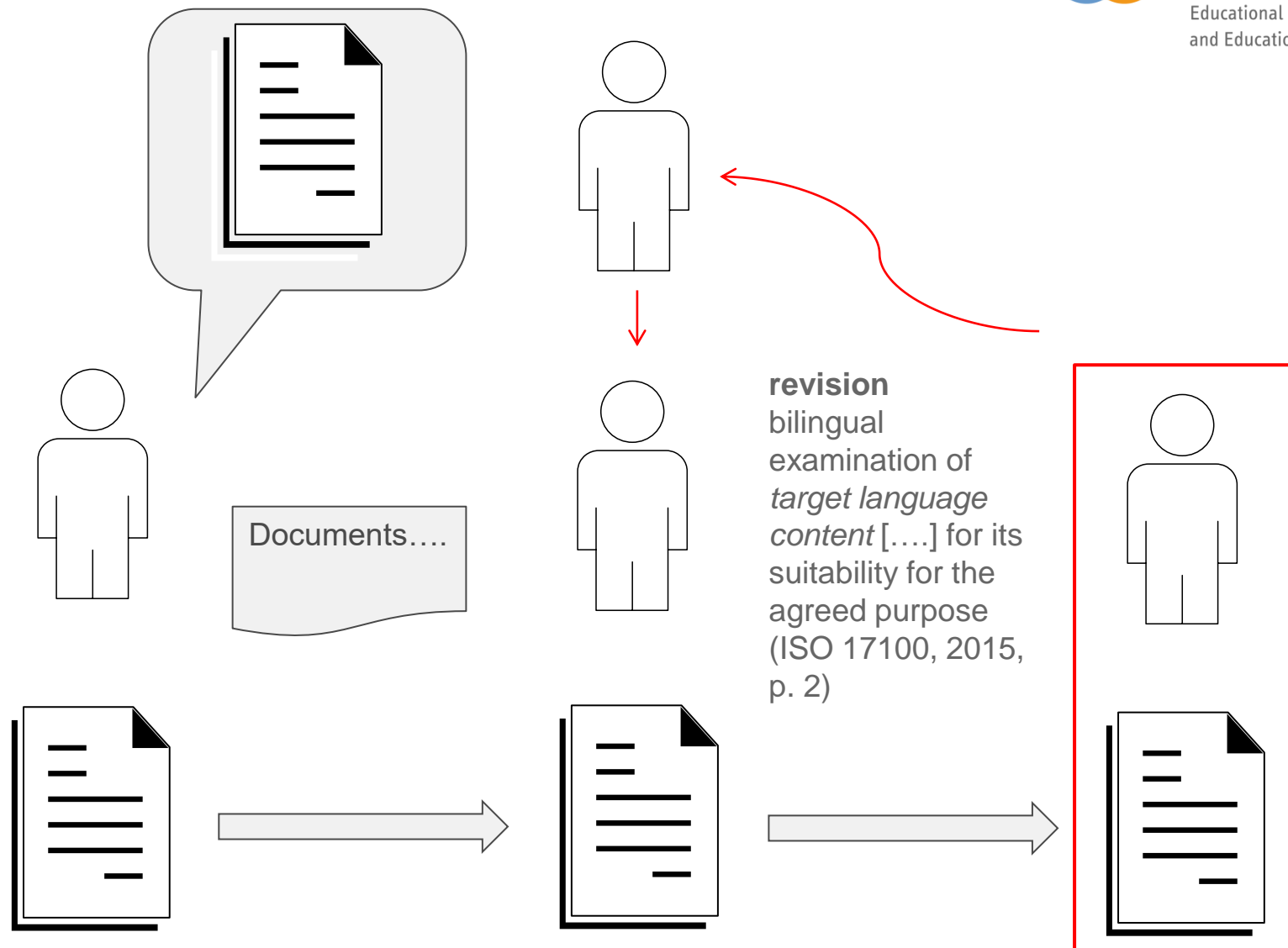
- Translation memories and glossaries,
- Similar (target language) documents,
- Similar (source language) documents, or
- Nothing

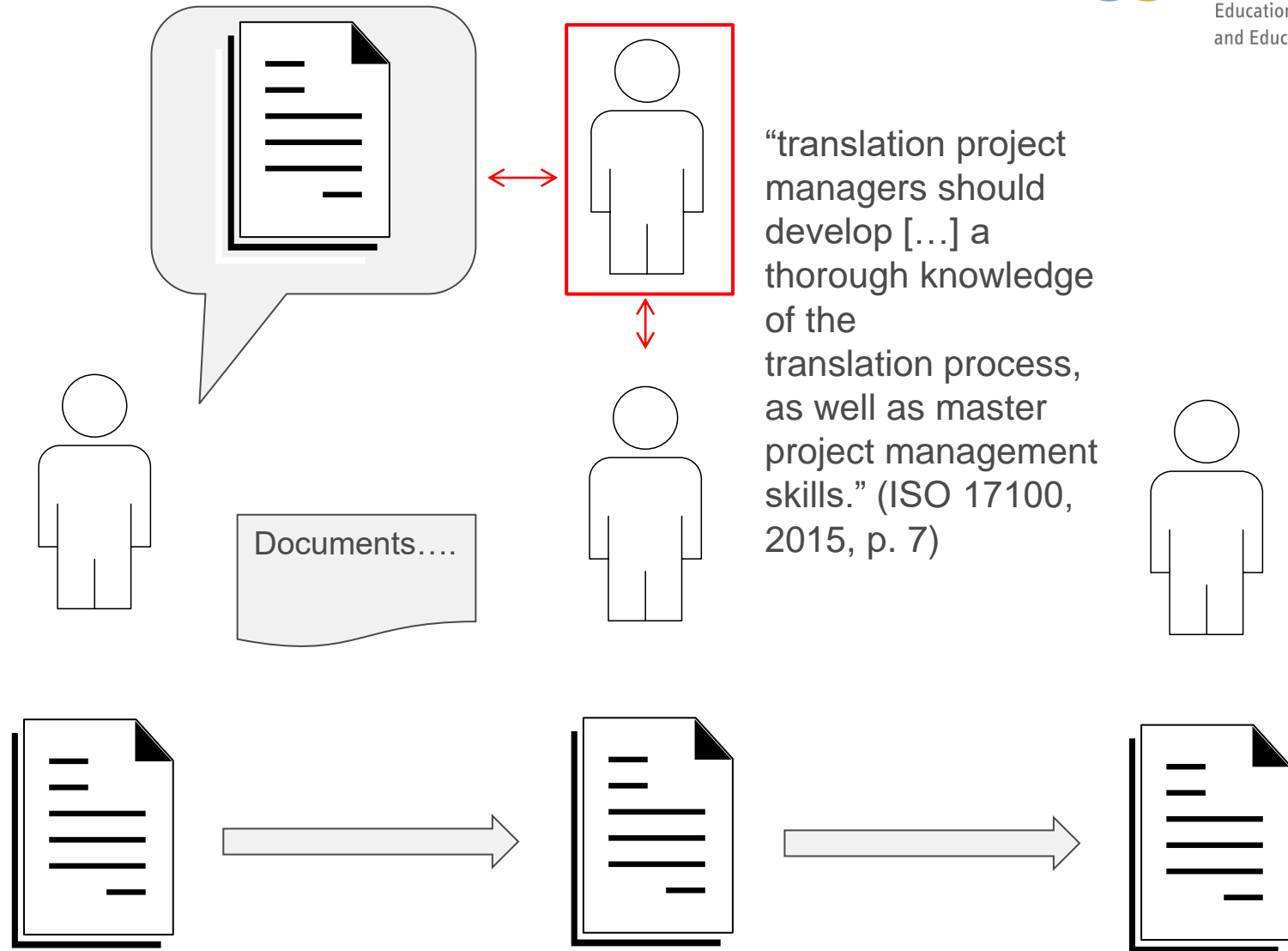
-> BUT aware of translation goal

Evaluation of interviewees

“I always work for one particular thing. And I’m the only one doing it. [. . .] I know the context. [. . .] because I have already translated a lot of things for them.”

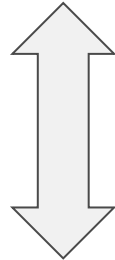
-> translation strategy depends on translation job and experience
(for example consistent terminology vs. more creative use of language)





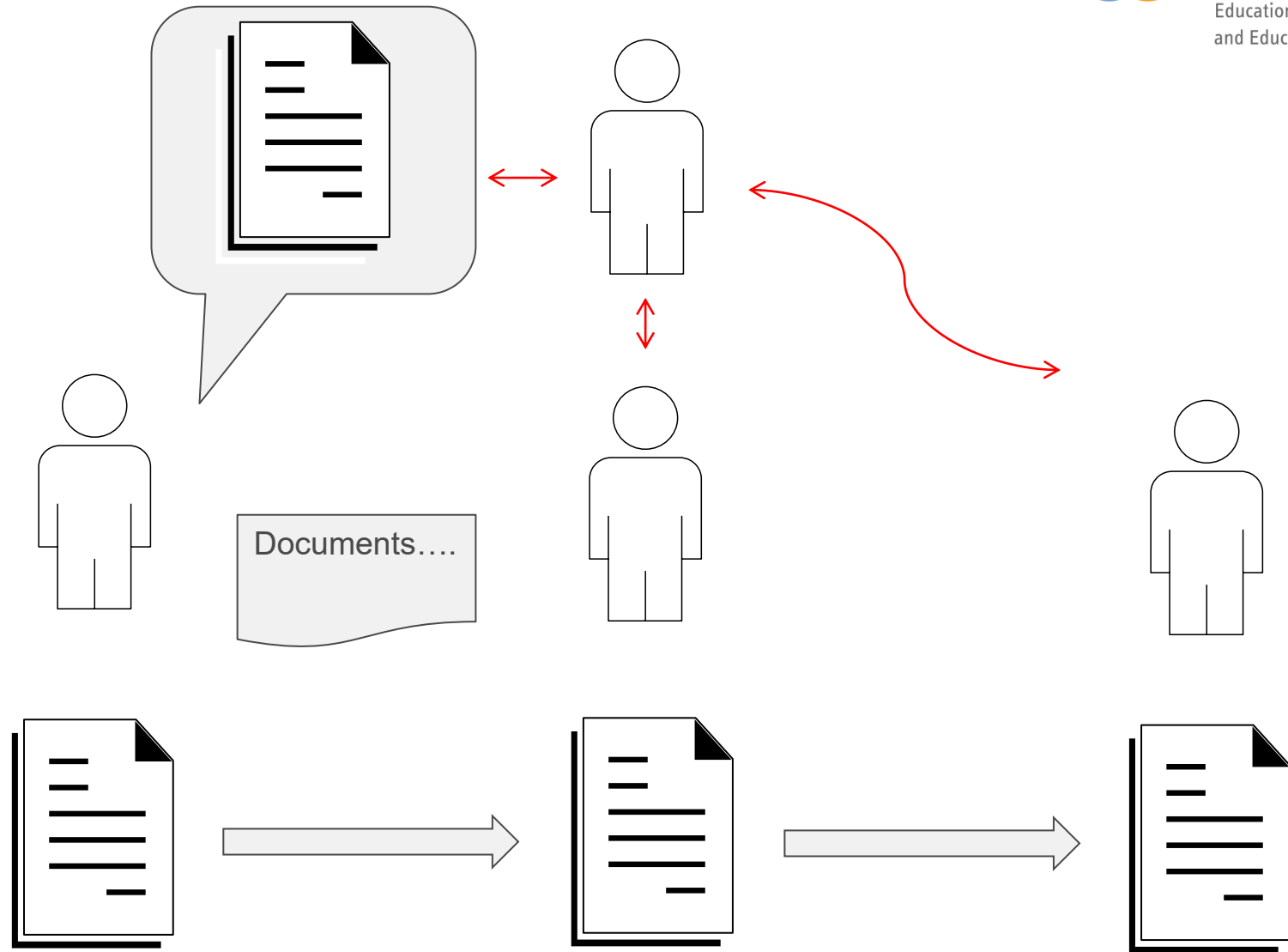
Experiences and evaluation of interviewees

“Good translation agencies give feedback.”



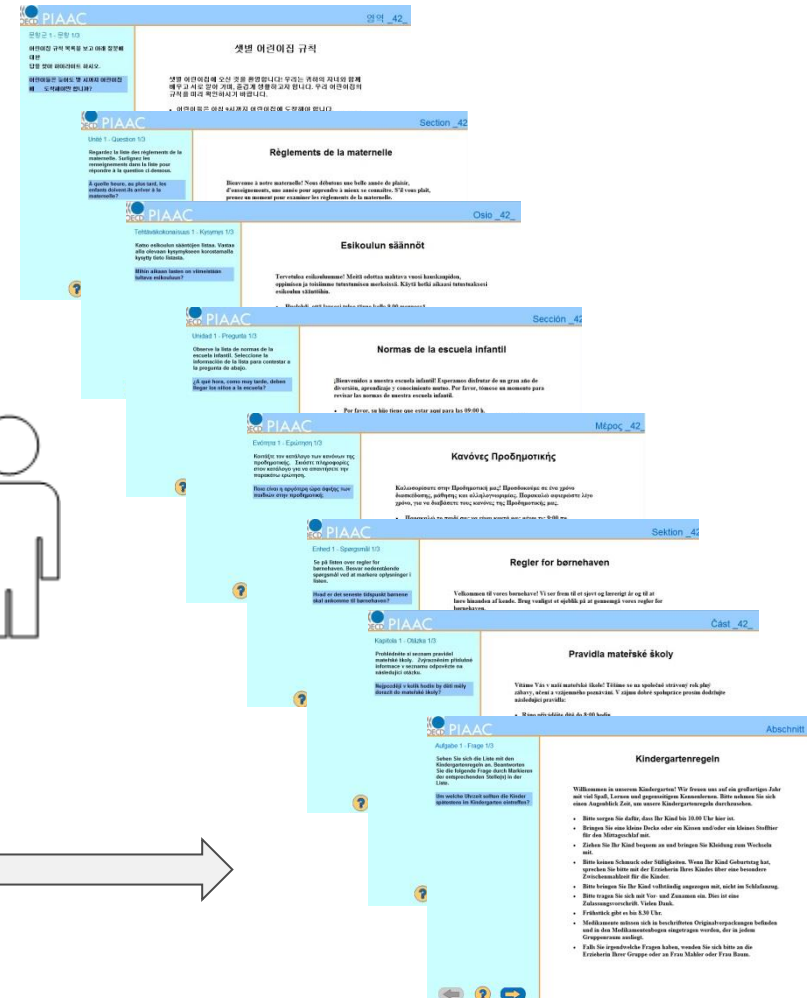
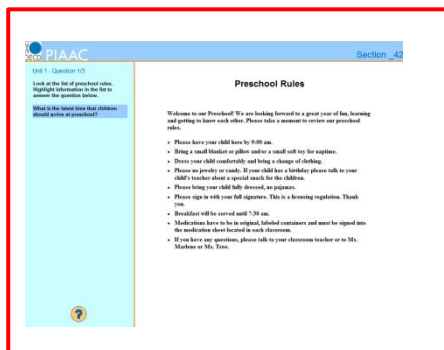
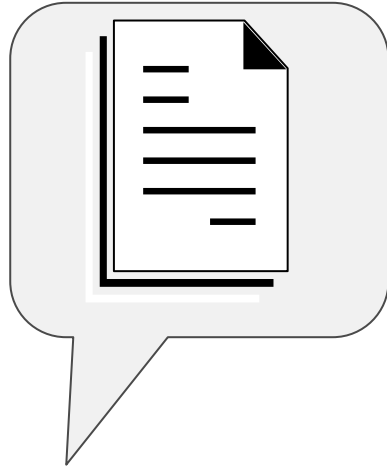
“My client is just interested in the final product.”

-> BUT: feedback and involvement can be motivating (translators more than “text-producing machine”)



Part 3

TRANSLATION FOR LARGE- SCALE ASSESSMENT STUDIES



Translation goal in iLSA

“In order to collect internationally comparable data in the study, the ***equivalence of all national versions is an essential requirement***, which means that the translation of materials must be of extremely high quality in each of the national versions used by participating countries. Within the assessment context, ***an additional goal is to retain the cognitive equivalency of tasks as much as possible***, so that each item examines the same skills and invokes the same cognitive processes as the original version, while being culturally appropriate within the target country.” (PIAAC general guideline document, emphasis by author)

Unit 1 - Question 1/3

Look at the list of preschool rules.
Highlight information in the list to
answer the question below.

What is the latest time that children
should arrive at preschool?

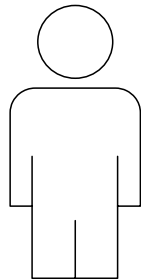
Preschool Rules

Welcome to our Preschool! We are looking forward to a great year of fun, learning and getting to know each other. Please take a moment to review our preschool rules.

- **Please have your child here by 9:00 am.**
- Bring a small blanket or pillow and/or a small soft toy for naptime.
- Dress your child comfortably and bring a change of clothing.
- Please no jewelry or candy. If your child has a birthday please talk to your child's teacher about a special snack for the children.
- Please bring your child fully dressed, no pajamas.
- **Please sign in with your full signature. This is a licensing regulation. Thank you.**
- **Breakfast will be served until 7:30 am.**
- Medications have to be in original, labeled containers and must be signed into the medication sheet located in each classroom.
- **If you have any questions, please talk to your classroom teacher or to Ms. Marlene or Ms. Tree.**

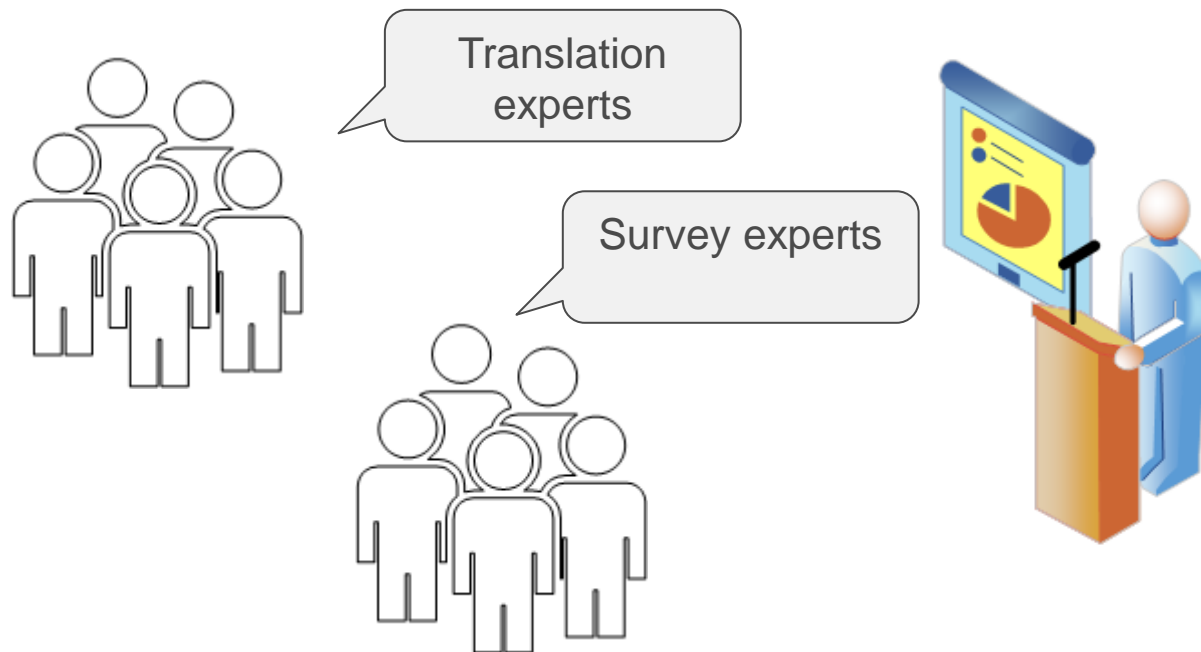


Translators for PIAAC



“Translators should be chosen with the greatest care. The ideal translator will have not only the skills required to properly translate the text from English to the target language, but also some notion of the particular challenges of assessment adaptation.” (PIAAC Technical standards and guidelines: OECD, 2014, p. 81)


Training sessions and general guidelines



See PIAAC Technical Report, OECD, 2013

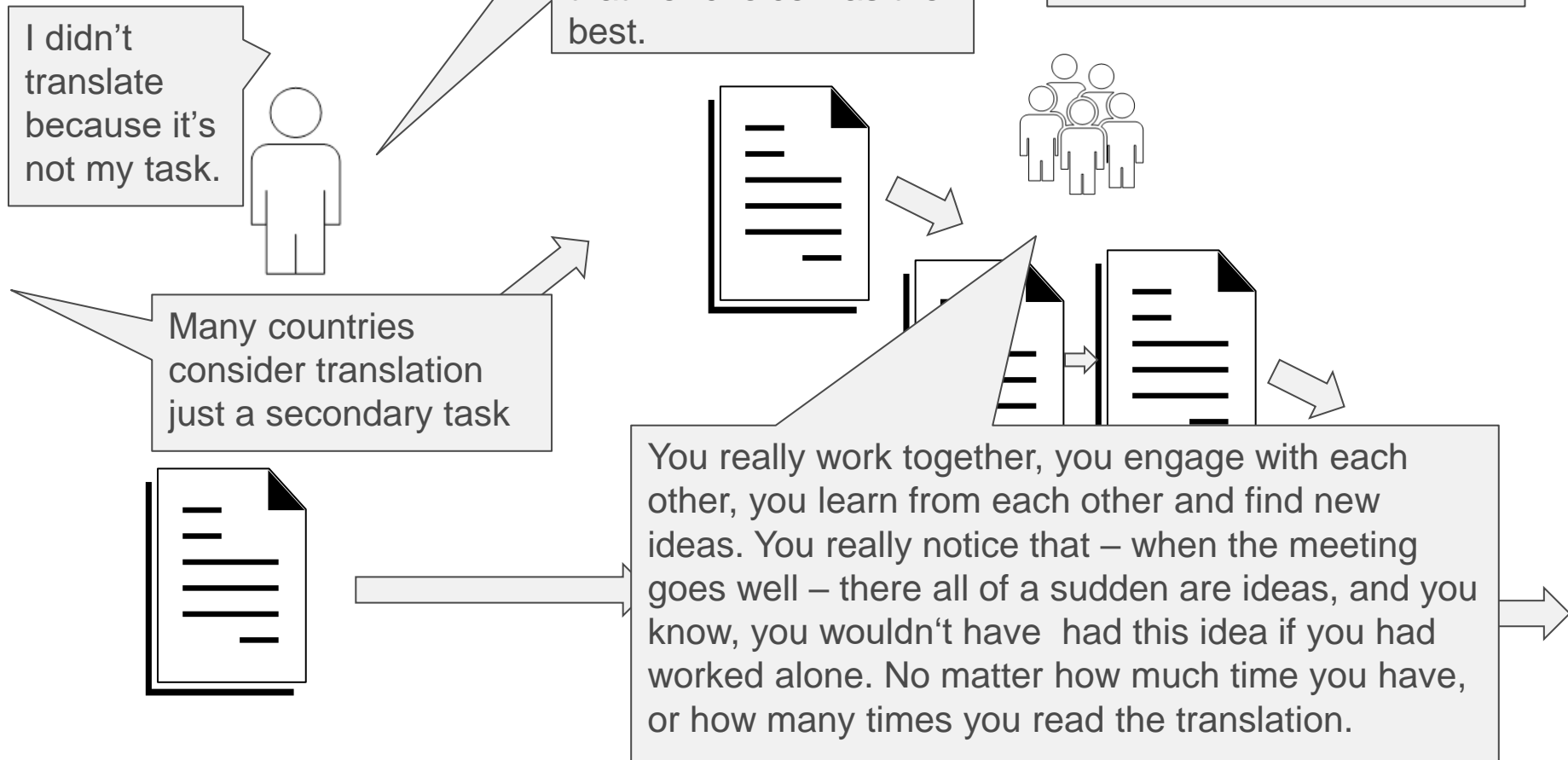
Evaluation of (face-to-face) trainings

- Positive and motivating (especially freelancers)
- Learn about the task, are able to adjust their translation strategies



It's so much more happening [...] when people are together. And not behind a screen. [. . .] I think people should meet in person and talk to each other. So many things that escapes the mind when, when people are not looking at each other. I don't know, it's a different kind of communication.

Evaluation



Consortium Recommendations

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Translation annotations

	Number words source text	Number consortium recommendations	Number words CR (total)
Literacy	2.451	125	1.720
Numeracy	1.767	76	1.005
Problem Solving	3.586	216	1.996
Total	7.804	417	4.721

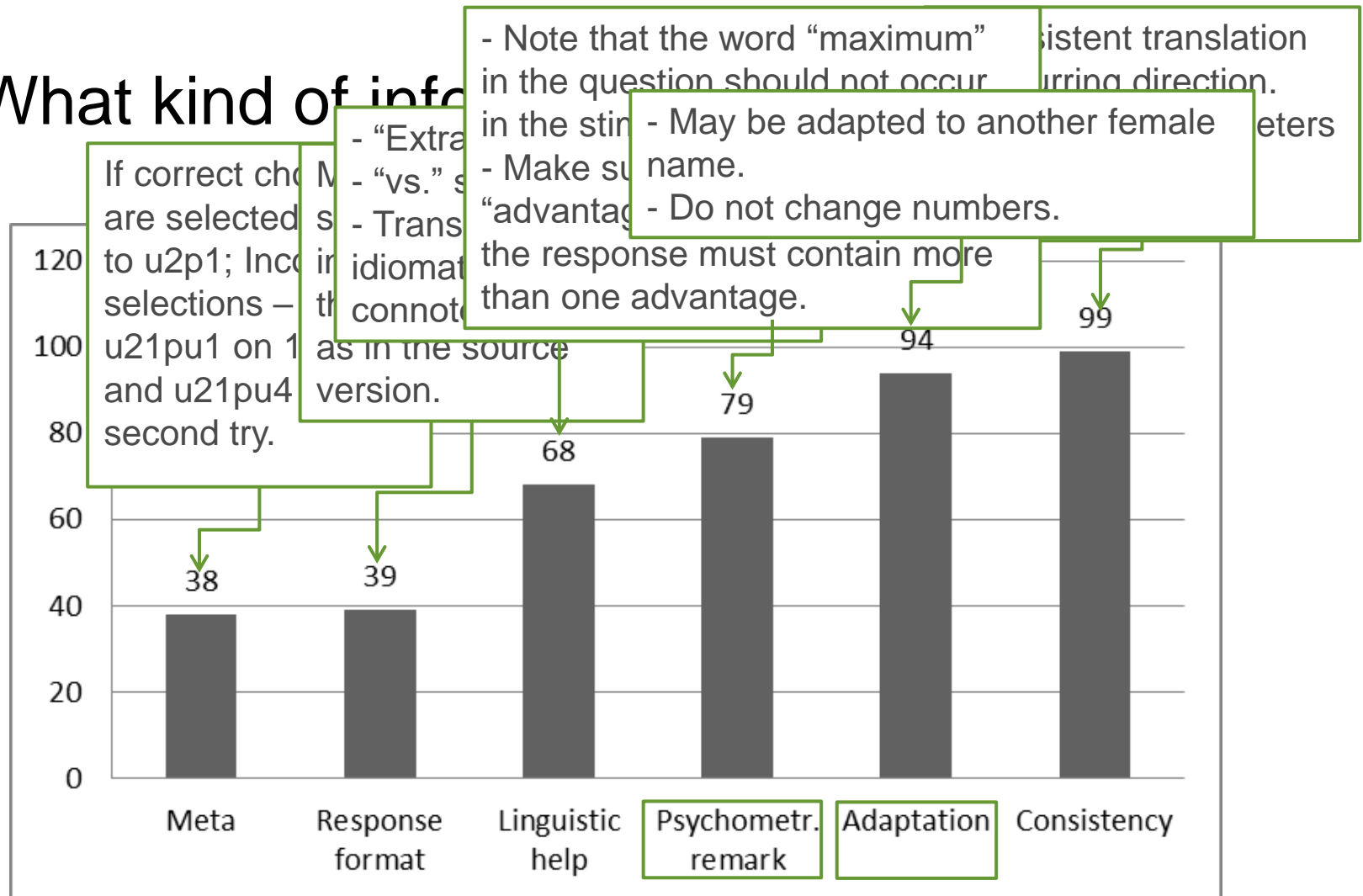
PIAAC
FIELD TRIAL 2009

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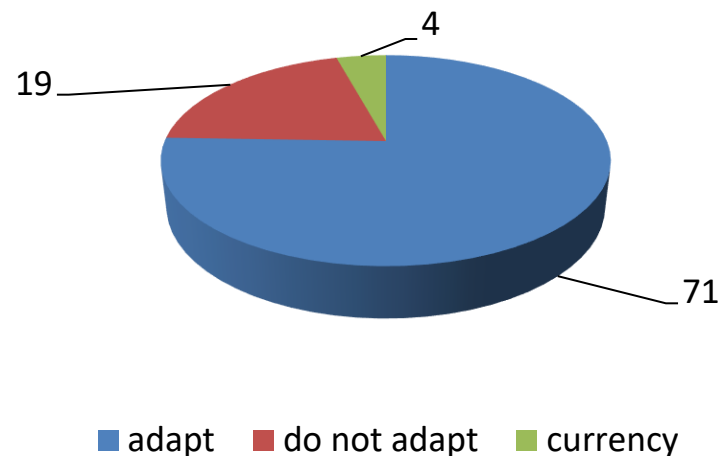
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What kind of info



Category “adapt”



14 / 71: Situation/context (like a type of sport),
57 / 71: Decimal separators, date and time conventions, personal
names...

Mis-interpretation of recommendations?

NPM COMMENT	VERIFIER INTERVENTION	SEVERITY CODE	VERIFIER COMMENT	DISCUSSION	FINAL CHECK / LAYOUT CHECK

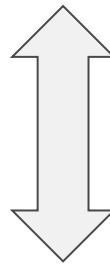
Well, I was actually given the impression [...] that I should replicate the English text as literally as possible, but in German. [...] So to me it was clear that I'm supposed to do this as closely as possible, and if the German test taker then thinks that the German text sounds weird, well, then he should deal with it. Being literal is more important. [...]

[I really didn't understand why] my translation [...] had to be so literal [even though] it was clear that this is not (.) normal for a German reader.

- Phrase like "list all the documents" not literally translated
- Target language uses definite article which is not used in the source text

Evaluation of recommendations

Translator: So, can we adapt that or not? No idea! How will this be for our respondents if there is still English text, will they be bothered? It's just the stupid context, here it's not about the language, but does that have an impact? I don't know, maybe even the item developers don't know, but well, they'll have to make a decision and tell us.

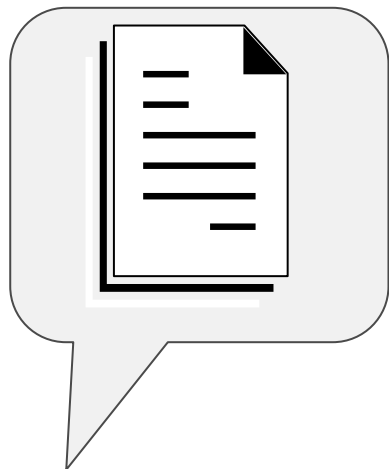


Verifier: I wouldn't change a thing.

Translator: It's great, then I don't really have to think about whether I take two different words or not, or just the same. If they tell me do use the same word, well, then I'll just decide for one, and then use that and don't think about it.

Part 4

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS



PIAAC Section 42

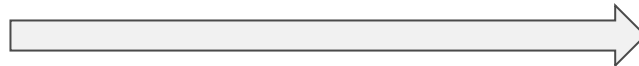
Unit 1 - Question 10

Look at the list of preschool rules. Highlight information in the list to answer the question below.

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- Please have your child here by 9:00 am.
- Bring a small blanket or pillow and/or a small soft toy for naptime.
- Dress your child comfortably and bring a change of clothing.
- Please no jewelry or candy. If your child has a headache please talk to your child's teacher about a special snack for the children.
- Please bring your child fully dressed, no pajamas.
- Please sign in with your full signature. This is a browsing regulation. Thank you.
- Medication will only be used until 3:00 pm.
- Medications have to be in original labeled containers and must be signed into the medication sheet brought in with the container.
- If you have any questions, please talk to your classroom teacher or to Ms. Matheson or Mr. Trev.



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Section 42

생애 여려미집 규칙

영양 교육은 영아 발달에 중요한 역할을 합니다. 우리는, 우리의 자녀를 위해, 영양 교육에 대한 정보를 제공하고 있습니다. 우리는, 우리의 자녀를 위해, 영양 교육에 대한 정보를 제공하고 있습니다.

Règlements de la maternelle

Bienvenue à notre maternelle! Nous sommes très heureux de vous accueillir, d'enseigner, de jouer et d'apprendre à votre enfant. Nous sommes très heureux de vous accueillir, d'enseigner, de jouer et d'apprendre à votre enfant.

Eskoulun säännöt

Tervetuloa esikouluun! Meillä on ilo ja kiitos kaikista vanhemmista, jotka ovat osallistuneet meidän esikoulun toimintaan.

Normas de la escuela infantil

Bienvenidos a nuestra escuela infantil! Esperamos disfrutar de un gran año de aprendizaje, juego y convivencia con todos los niños y niñas.

Κανόνες Προδημιτικής

Καλωσορίστε στην Προδημιτική μας! Ελπίζουμε να περάσουμε ένα υπέροχο έτος με τους γονείς, τους εκπαιδευτικούς και τα παιδιά.

Regler for børnehaven

Velkommen til vores børnehave! Vi ser frem til et spændt og lærerigt år og til at lære kendskab af hinanden. Blev velgødt og velkommen til børnehaven.

Pravidla materske školy

Vitamos! Vin a materska škola! Těšíme se na společnou práci s rodiči, učitelkami a dětmi. Být v příjemné atmosféře, která vám pomůže s vaší prací.

Kindergartenregeln

Willkommen in unserem Kindergarten! Wir freuen uns auf ein großartiges Jahr mit viel Spaß, Lernen und gemeinsamen Kennenlernen. Bitte nehmen Sie sich einen Augenblick Zeit, um unsere Kindergartenregeln durchzulesen.

- Bitte bringen Sie dafür, dass Ihr Kind bis 10:00 Uhr hier ist.
- Bitte bringen Sie eine kleine Decke oder ein Kissen mit oder ein kleines Stofftier für den Mittagsschlaf.
- Ziehen Sie Ihr Kind bequem an und bringen Sie Kleidung zum Wechseln mit.
- Bitte lassen Sie Schmutz oder Müllgästen. Wenn Ihr Kind Geburtstag hat, sprechen Sie bitte mit der Erzieherin über eine besondere Feierlichkeit für das Kind.
- Bitte bringen Sie Ihr Kind vollständig eingepackte mit, nicht in der Schultasche.
- Bitte tragen Sie sich mit Vor- und Nachnamen ein. Dies ist eine Zahnarztvorsorge.
- Bitte bringen Sie Ihr Kind vollständig eingepackte mit, nicht in der Schultasche.
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What can be done?

- Teach project managers about translation / teach translators about tests
- Give translators the “big picture”, be careful when writing annotations (less might be more)
- Keep translators involved in the process, keep them in their loop

AND

- Hire professional translators
- Teach survey experts about the value of professional translators
- “Exploit” the positive aspects of iLSA translation (trainings, reconciliation...)
- Further research needed!

References

- ISO 17100. (2015). Translation services - Requirements for translation services. Berlin: Beuth.
- Prunč, E. (2012). Entwicklungslinien der Translationswissenschaft. Von den Asymmetrien der Sprachen zu den Asymmetrien der Macht (3rd ed.). TransÜD. Arbeiten zur Theorie und Praxis des Übersetzens und Dolmetschens: Vol. 43. Berlin: Frank & Timme.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (Ed.). (2013). Technical report of the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC). Pre-publication copy. Retrieved from https://www.oecd.org/skills/piaac/_Technical%20Report_17OCT13.pdf
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (2013). PIAAC sample items literacy. Retrieved from <http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/Literacy%20Sample%20Items.pdf>
- Upsing, B. (2017). Lokalisierung in internationalen Bildungsvergleichsstudien aus informationswissenschaftlicher Sicht: Herausforderungen, Übersetzungen, Prozesse (Dissertation). Stiftung Universität Hildesheim, Hildesheim. Retrieved from <http://d-nb.info/1145140017/34>

Professional translators

Translators should meet ONE of the following criteria:

- a) a recognized *graduate qualification in translation* from an institution of higher education;
- b) a recognized *graduate qualification in any other field* from an institution of higher education *plus two years of full-time professional experience in translating*;
- c) *five years of full-time professional experience in translating*. (ISO 17100, 2015, p. 6, emphasis by author)¹

