

Dear Client:

In our **Fall QuickNews**, we would like to draw your attention to the **PROS** and **CONS** of **MACHINE TRANSLATION (MT)**.

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Today's Topic: **Machine Translation (MT) – Pros and Cons**

by Muriel Redouté, Marketing Manager at WordExpress Corporation

You may think that in certain situations, translating with MT software (on your computer or over the Internet) saves you time and money. Machine Translation certainly can help you achieve that goal when it comes to translating just a few words without context. However, for meaningful text, and even more so for specialized terminology, MT software simply cannot provide an accurate rendition of the source message. Instead, it produces flawed or outright wrong translations with humorous results at best and dangerous consequences at worst.

Here is a simple example: President Bush. The word “bush” will be translated as a shrub, not as a family name. How can you expect any software to know the difference?! Imagine such a type of incoherence throughout a document with all the misunderstandings and confusion it will create!

There is an obvious reason that MT software cannot do the job: The professional translation process requires more than a mechanistic approach. It calls for rational AND creative linguistic capabilities, as they only can be found in trained and experienced translators.

Even when Machine Translation is used for simple, unstructured text, a human being will ALWAYS need to proofread and edit such a translation, in order to eliminate flaws and errors in spelling, grammar, style and meaning. Often, by the time this review process has been completed, you will realize that you might as well have had the document translated from scratch by a trained linguist.

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