

SafetyNet™ Numeric Proofing Tool - a Step Closer to Near Perfect Translations

On any typical day, vast amounts of information are exchanged among companies, customers and regulatory agencies. Because of globalization, that information has been dispersed across international borders into disparate language systems. Unless that information is faithfully and accurately translated specifically for the end user, it can be both useless and damaging.

Accuracy hadn't always been the primary focus for organizations. Most early projects were end user manuals for consumer products that were often left unread by the intended user. As more overseas manufacturing and collaboration increased, mistakes in either text or numeric information became disruptive. Production lines stopped and marketing campaigns became delayed.

The \$5 Billion dollar translation market today has quickly become a commodity business. No longer satisfied with just translating text documents, companies are now expanding into technical translation, cultural sensitivity and web marketing. This expansion into technical translation, however, isn't without difficulty. Linguists, alone, often aren't equipped with the specific scientific or engineering knowledge necessary for an accurate rendition of a technical document. Instead, a team approach of linguists, domain knowledge experts and even "same country" translators are needed.

What, then, differentiates one translation company from another is the team composition and tools that are used to produce an accurate, high-quality document. Communicaid's unique approach combines skilled scientific and technically-prepared linguists with master and doctoral level editors in the specialized discipline of concern, e.g. molecular biology, photonics, etc., to form a highly capable team that can tackle almost any translation job in science or technology.

Communicaid combines their team of experts with SafetyNet™ an innovative tool for translating numeric content safely, easily and consistently. At its core is a numeric proofing engine that analyzes the pattern of use of any numeric unit of measure to ensure consistency throughout a document. Because subtle differences in meaning may arise out of translation (even with the same translator) several pages later, SafetyNet™ was designed to alert the proofreader when an inconsistency occurs. SafetyNet™, therefore, is especially helpful in those long documents where fatigue is commonly experienced by proofreaders.

What distinguishes numeric proofing from traditional technical translation is the additional attention given wholly to numeric content. Traditional computer assisted translations ("CAT") and human linguists both have a relative blind spot when working with numeric content. Even in the best circumstances, numeric content is only evaluated for its literal translation. An example is the use of the comma and period in a unit of measure. In German, "1.001" means "one thousand and one" where as in English, the period is an equivalent of a decimal point. Now it means "one" and "one one-thousandth". SafetyNet™ goes many steps further to maintain consistency of a numeric value or relationship from the first use to the last.

In technical translation, Communicaid stands out as forward thinking and meticulous. Only with SafetyNet™ can a client's translation safely be near perfect in translation and intent. A mistake in that kind of content doesn't just make you wonder, it can cost you millions of dollars. SafetyNet® expands the productivity of the translation team and is an essential tool for any project requiring technical translation.

At Communicaid, SafetyNet™ and near perfect translation are more than mere technology or simple words. It is their focus. It is their mantra and is a core organizational value that signifies Communicaid's dedication to innovation, technology, quality, and timeliness.

Bibliography:

Van de Meer, J. "At Last Translation Automation Becomes a Reality: an Anthology of the Translation Market" (Online)

Available at <http://www.eamt.org/archive/dublin/VanDerMeer.pdf>