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**COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW
OF TEST ADAPTATION AND
TRANSLATION VERIFICATION PROCEDURES
IN THREE INTERNATIONAL SURVEYS**

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Comparative Overview

- efforts made in three international surveys

- to ensure that the translated/adapted instruments are equivalent across countries

- national versions depend on translation of an international source version

  ➢ high stakes process

Comparative Overview

- Because translation is a high stakes process, the organisations in charge financed rigorous assessments of translations

- to target stringent quality standards

- Procedures presented in the paper are the result of this investment and include

  ➢ translation and adaptation of test instruments

  ➢ verification of the translated/adapted instruments

  ➢ documentation of those processes

TERMINOLOGY

- *translation* and *adaptation* used jointly throughout the paper

  Because *Translation:* too restrictive to describe the process of culturally adjusting a test rather than literally translating it *(Joldersma, 2004).*

- *Verification:* checking linguistic correctness of the target version + checking equivalence of that target version against the source version.

EXAMPLE: ADAPTATION

11. Sentence Processing – Test Set #4

Soap is used for washing.   T   F

A stranger is someone you know well.   T   F

English "stranger" is unambiguous, but in Niger "stranger" means BOTH 'guest' and 'stranger' under the cultural premise that a foreigner is first of all somebody one has to take care of. In most Niger languages there are only roundabout ways of translating "stranger", including "person-you-do-not-know".

Suggestion for adaptation: 'A guest/stranger you meet for the first time is someone you know well'

identify practices in each phase that

➢ have been successfully used to detect problems in translating and adapting the instruments

➢ resulted in thorough documentation and

➢ provided good proxies for indicators of quality in translation and adaptation.

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LINGUISTIC QUALITY CONTROL

OECD/PISA 2006

PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT

- ➢ internationally standardized assessment

- ➢ Tests are typically administered every three years to 15-year-old students

- ➢ reading, mathematical and scientific literacy in terms of knowledge and skills needed in adult life.

TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDY

➢ TIMSS 2007 is the fourth in a cycle of internationally comparative assessments

➢ Carried out every four years at the fourth and eighth grades

➢ TIMSS provides data about trends in mathematics and science achievement over time.

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UNESCO/LAMP

LITERACY ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING PROGRAMME

- LAMP builds upon the ALL survey by measuring five levels of literacy and numeracy skills

- through a combination of household survey methods and educational assessments conducted on a 5- to 10-year cycle.

- Adult + young adult population (15 and older) not attending school

Best Practice #1

- prepare a training module for translation and adaptation of the data collection instruments that can easily be replicated

➢ based on concise general guidelines + specific guidelines per item

➢ hands-on exercises

➢ and checklists

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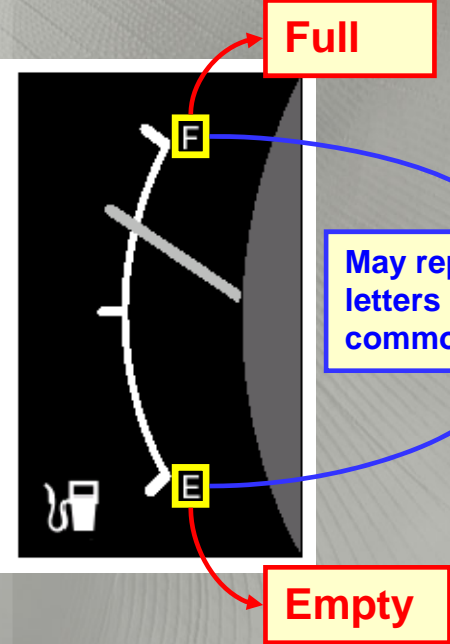LINGUISTIC QUALITY CONTROL

EXAMPLE:

General guideline for MC item

Keep in mind the fact that the relative length of the possible responses should not, insofar as possible, change significantly across languages.

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ITEM-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

Full

Empty

May replace with letters or symbols common in country.

Question 10   Refer to the gas gauge on the opposite page to answer question 10.

Do not change!

10. The gas tank in this car holds 48 liters. About how many liters of gas remain in the tank? (Assume the gas gauge is accurate.)

Be sure to use a word comparable to 'about' to indicate an estimation is acceptable.

✓ May use country's common word for 'gas'.

e.g. 'petrol', 'benzine'

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VERIFICATION FOLLOW-UP FORM

Country: XXXXXXX   **Target language:** XXXXXXXX

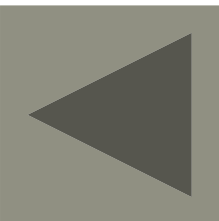| Unit/Location in unit	ENGLISH SOURCE	Verifier intervention	Verifier comment
F10	10. The gas tank in this car holds 48 liters. About how many liters of gas remain in the tank? (Assume the gas gauge is accurate.)	Added info	The Hausa version reads: "The tank of this car can hold 48 liters of gas. Look where the needle has stopped on the photograph of the tank in order to anwser how many liters of gas remain inside?" Verifier (1) removed the passage for "look where the needle stopped...",
		Missing info	(2) added the missing information ("Assume that the gauge is accurate"), (3) added the missing essential word for "about/approximatively".

Best Practice #2

- even if the budget is limited, order (or produce) ex ante translation in at least one language

- and keep track of difficulties encountered.

- This will allow early detection of flaws in the source version

- and make it possible to draw translators' attention to potential difficulties
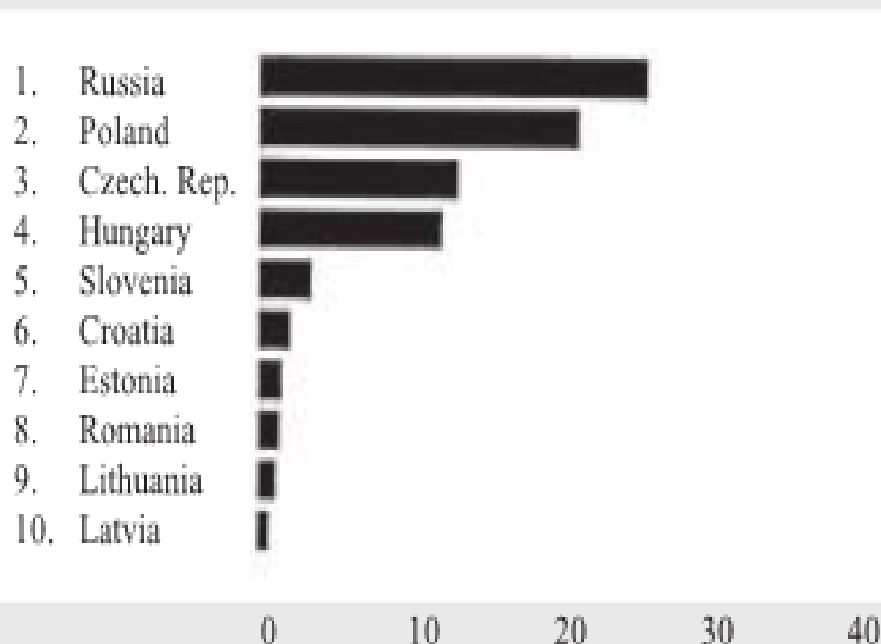
Expect consolidation of Baltic stock markets

Opinions concerning the need to consolidate the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian stock markets have been heard with increasing frequency during the past half year.

According to data published in the June edition of the Central European Economic Review (CEER), a joint Baltic stock market would split the fifth and sixth places with the Slovenian stock market in terms of market capitalization.

A joint Baltic stock market would lag behind markets such as Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. It should be noted that the stock market capitalization of any of the above countries would still be five to nine times higher than that of the joint Baltic stock market.

I. Market capitalization (Eastern and Central Europe) in $billion, as of April 30, 1999

1.	Russia	
2.	Poland	
3.	Czech. Rep.	
4.	Hungary	
5.	Slovenia	
6.	Croatia	
7.	Estonia	
8.	Romania	
9.	Lithuania	
10.	Latvia	

0   10   20   30   40

II. Average daily turnover (Eastern and Central Europe) in $million, as of April 30, 1999

Best Practice #3

- item-specific instructions for translation and adaptation in a separate form.

- To be used by translators, NCs, verifiers and IPC.

- Each party is aware that other players focus on those entries >> this drives joint effort to spontaneously document issues and/or the way that they were addressed.

- Comments are centralised > translation history

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Job Title: FRUIT SHOP CASUAL
Job Code: 1033939
Location: Brisbane, QLD, Australia
Date: 13th July
Job Type: Temporary / Contract

Job Description:

FRUIT SHOP Casual, Centenary Suburbs. Junior Male or Female, experience preferred. Minimum 15hrs/wk - must be available Tuesday + Wednesday 6am-2pm at minimum. Ph 0412 765 357.

Translation Note: Adapt place names as appropriate.

Translation Note: "Casual" means a job that is temporary or irregular.

Translation Note: Translate "Hrs/wk" using an abbreviation if one exists in your language.

	English version	National version	Consortium Recommendation or NC Justification	Verifier comment
R446 JbVac				
Stimulus	Brisbane, QLD, Australia Centenary suburbs Ph 0412 765 357	ธัญบุรี ปทุมธานี ย่านรังสิต โทร. 0 2412 7653	Adapt to local context	OK
Stimulus	Casual	ชั่วคราว	Translate as a job that is temporary or irregular	OK
Stimulus	"Junior" Male or Female	วัยรุ่นชายหรือหญิง	In TH, use "วัยรุ่น" instead of "เยาวชน". It has the same meaning but "เยาวชน" range of age is too broad (from primary school to university).	"Junior Male or Female" translated as "Third Year Student" (because in XXXXXX a third-year student is called a "junior", a fourth-year student a "senior" etc.). In this case the verifier also checked the French source, and it is preferable to translate as "young man or woman", because this job is not reserved to young people who are in education.
R446Q01	What kind of business is offering this job?	ธุรกิจประเภทใดที่ เสนอการจ้างงานนี้	Do not translate "business" with a word used in the stimulus (e.g. "shop")	OK

Best Practice #4

- prompt translators (and verifiers) to react

- by using simple or dichotomous questions

- to be answered by ticking a box or selecting from a drop-down menu

- Ask all parties to regard the completed form as an integral part of the deliverables.

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Scroll-down menu

Unit/Location in unit	FT>MS Changes [prefilled for Consortium changes]			Verifier intervention	Verifier comment
	Field Trial version	Main Study Version	Justification for change		
S131Gvibr					
Stimulus	100 anni	un secolo	More fluent	Adaptation	
Q01					
Q02					

Added info
Missing info
Layout/Visual issues
Grammar/Syntax
Consistency
Register/Wording
Adaptation
Mistranslation

answer line missing

Code 1: Serious error (likely to affect item functioning)

Code 2: Minor error

Code 3: Suggestion for improvement

Code 4: Acceptable adaptation

Code 1? Not sure (but could be serious)

Best Practice #5

- Inform translators and NCs that national versions will undergo quality control

- **Feedback recorded in a central monitoring tool**

- in which NC listed problems encountered

- and the way they addressed them.

- If possible, arrange one iteration after verification > NCs can comment on verifier interventions before going to the field.

DOUBLE TRANSLATION FOLLOW-UP FORM

Target language: CHINESE

ENGLISH SOURCE	CHINESE VERSIONS produced by Translator 1 and Translator 2	Translation difficulty levels (Translators 1 & 2)	Comments by Translator 1 and Comments by Translator 2	"Reconciled" Chinese version	Reconciler Comments
As I got closer, I realised the voice was not human.	當我靠近時，我發現那不是人的聲音。 當我慢慢靠近，我才發現我聽到的不是由人聲。	STRAIGHTFORWARD STRAIGHTFORWARD		當我靠近時，我才發現那聲音不是人類的。	The phrase "the voice was not human" is rendered as "that is not human voice" in both translations, because it is straightforward.
What I saw was a fox.	我看見一隻狐狸。 我看到了一隻狐狸。	STRAIGHTFORWARD STRAIGHTFORWARD		我看到的是一隻狐狸。	
I listened carefully and discovered that it was making a charanke(2), a complaint against the Ainu people.	我仔細聆聽，發現牠正在辯誦表達對愛努人的抗議。 我仔細聽以後，發現狐狸在祈禱，在抱怨愛努人的所做所爲。	COMPLEX MODERATELY DIFFICULT	there's no such chinese vocabulary of"charanke". Thus I invented a new word. Even with description of charanke, it is still difficult to translate.	我仔細聆聽，發現牠正在作卡拉可(2)，一種針對愛努人的抗議。	It is difficult to convey the meaning of "charanke" in Chinese. Both translators just incorporated the explanation of the footnote into the translation. One solution is to compose several Chinese characters to represent the pronunciation of "charanke", but most of time the composed word will not have any meaning in Chinese.
NOTE: whole paragraph within quotation marks.					

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Linguistic Quality Control

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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