Managing translations for cross national surveys

Maurice Martens (CentERdata, Tilburg/Netherlands)

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TMT

- TMT is a tool that helps managing a translation process
- Source questionnaires are uploaded
- It detects and gives statuses to translatable elements
- Assigns tasks to actors in the process
- Applies a workflow for each actor
- And it can export translations in various formats
- We want it to easily integrate into existing questionnaire development processes
TMT

- Identify translatable elements in surveys
- Import into web system
- Present translatable items in context
- Translate, check, validate, compare, adjudicate
- Export as questionnaire or external for further processing
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# TMT – workload overview

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Why is questionnaire translation special?

- A translatable question is a set of texts within a domain that have different roles and are connected to each other
- We intent to measure a concept, translations are ‘interfaces’ for doing this
- Translating a questionnaire is part of the questionnaire design process
Why is questionnaire translation special?

- A questionnaire translation should give feedback to the source questionnaire formulation and can force a revision.
How does this relate to the TMT

• Translation for surveys, is part of survey design
• TMT is not a translation tool
• Import/export to translation tools work, but we lose the questionnaire context
• TMT wants to present the questionnaire in context, hide programming code
Multilingual, multinational, and **multimodal**

- Multimode questionnaires present new challenges for translations
- Question-translations in various languages in multiple modes
- User instructions, dynamic texts, showcards, interfaces
Multilingual, multinational, and *multimodal*

- Again, we want to measure a concept.
- If a questionnaire is fielded in multiple modes:
  - There often already is a ‘old’ version developed in a ‘source’ mode
  - While translating the full context should be provided
How does this relate to the TMT

- TMT wants to present the questionnaire in context, this means that for multimode questionnaire translations we should provide an interface to translate several modes at once.
- Multimode Questionnaire translation experiment, insightful
Multi-mode translation experiment

- Start with CAPI source questionnaire
- Translate CAPI source
- Adapt CAPI source questionnaire to CAWI source questionnaire
- Translate CAWI source questionnaire, show other three versions in context
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Source CAPI

Translated

Source CAWI

Translation

Review

Pre-test

Target CAWI
Multi-mode translation experiment

• Then all of a sudden we have to add CATI
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Multi-mode translation experiment

• Starting with CAPI, we mainly had to move interviewer instructions to another format:
  – Rephrasing
  – Removing
  – Introducing respondent instructions
  – Introducing CATI interviewer instructions

• Numeric labels to answers not commonly used in CAWI

• Showcards move to interface
Multi-mode translation experiment

- Not reviewed yet
- Propose to experiment with a more ‘holistic’ approach
Concept

CAPI

CAWI

CATI

Translate

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Testing

- Translators should see questions in context, TMT does its best to provide this context, but we want to push further.
- Ideally the translator could generate questionnaires themselves and review their own work in context.
Working on

• Need to further integrate instrument testing in translation process
• Export/ provide interface on PAPI, CAWI and CAPI questionnaires
• Link to cApStAn tools
THANKS!

Maurice
m.g.j.martens@uvt.nl