

SAE J2450

TRANSLATION QUALITY METRIC

BACKGROUND

Originally designed for the automotive/aerospace industry, SAE J2450 is a metric for measuring translation quality. It provides a system for classifying and weighing translation errors and thus calculates a score for translation quality.

ERROR CLASSIFICATION

The metric provides the following eight error types:

Wrong Term (WT)

weight: 6/3

A term is wrong when it:

A term is defined as any single word or multi-word phrase used as a single lexical unit, incl. abbreviations, acronyms, numbers, numerals, and proper names.

- a) violates a glossary
- b) violates standard language or industry usage
- c) is inconsistent with other translations of the same source term
- d) denotes a concept different from the concept denoted by the source term

Syntactic Error (SE)

weight: 5/5

Cases of syntactic errors:

- a) mis-assigned part of speech
- b) incorrect phrase structure
- c) incorrect word order

Omission (OM)

weight: 5/5

An Omission occurs when text or a graphic in the source has no counterpart in the translation.

Word Structure & Agreement Error (SA)

weight: 5/5

A *Word Structure Error* occurs when an otherwise correct target word or term is expressed in an incorrect morphological form (case, gender, number, tense, prefix, suffix, infix, etc.). An *Agreement Error* occurs when two or more target words disagree in any form of inflection.

Misspelling (SP)

weight: 5/3

Punctuation Error (PE)

weight: 3/1,5

Miscellaneous Error (ME)

weight: 5/3

ME's are linguistic error related to the target language which are not clearly attributable to one of the above seven categories.

ERROR CATEGORIES

Once an error has been placed in one of the primary categories, it is assigned a category: *Serious* or *Minor*. An error must be classified as **serious** if it can directly or indirectly result in any of the following:

- harm to the user, operator, patient, or consumer
- damage to the product or to the equipment used in conjunction with the product
- serious misrepresentation of the author's intentions or the client's products or services
- damage to the client's reputation

NOTE: If in doubt, always choose 'Serious' over 'Minor'.

NUMERIC WEIGHT

Once primary and secondary categories are assigned, a numeric weight is assigned to the error according to the values indicated above (serious/minor).

SCORING

Quality score is obtained by adding up all numeric weights and dividing by the number of source words.