



SimulTrans[®]
your languages – your timeline

Machine Translation and Post-Editing

What Every Localization Buyer Needs to Know

If you're evaluating whether AI-powered machine translation belongs in your localization workflow, this eBook is for you.

This excerpt from our full eBook, *Machine Translation and Post-Editing: Six Steps to Success*, gives you the foundation to have smarter conversations about Machine Translation and Post-Editing (MTPE), make better decisions, and get real results.

Step 1: Choose the Right Machine Translation Engine

Not all AI MT engines are built the same. Selecting the right one is the single most important decision in any MTPE program. SimulTrans evaluates engines across three categories before recommending one for your workflow.

SimulTrans Perspective

For clients with existing translation memories and glossaries, which most of our enterprise clients have, customized neural machine translation engines consistently outperform generic LLM alternatives.

Step 2: Select the Right Type of Content

Machine translation excels at informational, structured content. It does not replace human creativity for high-impact marketing copy, highly nuanced legal arguments, or emotionally resonant consumer content. Knowing the difference saves time and budget.

Content Well-Suited to Machine Translation:

- Documentation — Software, automotive, medical devices
- Communication — Internal comms, blogs, customer support, wikis
- Descriptive Text — eCommerce catalogs, travel sites
- User Interface — Games, apps, software products
- Legal — Patents, contracts, eDiscovery
- Marketing — Light marketing copy (not creative campaigns)
- Video — Subtitles

What Makes Content MT-Ready?

Even within these categories, content quality going in directly affects translation quality coming out. The best source content for MT has these characteristics:

- Well-written, free of spelling errors or typos
- Consistent in terminology and phrasing
- Well-structured, in the active voice
- Made up of simple, concise sentences, ideally no longer than 25 words

If your source content doesn't meet these criteria, SimulTrans can help you identify which documents are MT-ready and which should go through a standard translation workflow.

There's More to the Story

Getting the engine and the content right are just the first two steps. The full six-step process also covers:

- Step 3: Choosing languages
- Step 4: Measuring MT quality
- Step 5: Deciding on post-editing level
- Step 6: ISO 18587-certification

Want the Complete Playbook?

This excerpt covers the first two steps. The full guide — ***Machine Translation and Post-Editing: Six Steps to Success*** — walks you through all six, including how to measure MT quality, choose post-editing levels, avoid the most common errors, and select a certified partner.

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