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THE GRADUATE PROGRAM
IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY

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Introducing SDL Trados to Beginning Translators

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ABSTRACT

Over years, translators have been incorporating new advances in technology into their work. A number of attempts in developing ideal translator's workstations using technology have been made, one of such stations is a Computer-Aided Translation (CAT) tool. CAT tools facilitate translators to increase their productivity and efficiency by providing them with some utilities, such as a Translation Memory and an Alignment Tool to support their translation works. This article highlights the usefulness of SDL Trados 2014, as one of the most widely used paid CAT tools, in translating the texts more effectively and in a timely manner. Further, it describes the basic steps in using SDL Trados and exemplifies SDL Trados 2014 translation results. A sample text was translated from Indonesian to English using both Across (a free CAT tool) and SDL Trados (a paid CAT tool). Eventually, the results of translating using both CAT tools appear to prove that SDL Trados helps the translators to translate more consistently, accurately, effectively and in a timely-manner.

Keywords: across, CAT tools, *SDL Trados*

INTRODUCTION

The technological development affects the new trends in the field of translation. Technology plays the vital role for translators nowadays. Translators no longer work in isolation relying on a pencil and a pile of books as their only tools in doing their work. In other words, translators have switched from pencil and paper to more effective and sophisticated electronic tools. Therefore, computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools as the products of technological development are gaining their popularity.

The term CAT tools refer to the integration of computers into the workplace. According to Bowker (cited in Alotaibi, 2014: p.66), CAT tools can be described as various computerized tools which facilitate translators to work effectively and increase their productivity. Simply, CAT tools are software programs used by translators to automate part of the translation process. CAT tools are helpful to translators because they can speed up the translation process through the help of translation memory when working with very repetitive texts.

Translators have been continuously taking the advances of CAT tools into their daily work (Parra, 2010). In case of time constraints, CAT tools can effectively reduce the translation time, enabling the translator to translate content in a timely manner. Moreover, they facilitate the translation process by resolving the text into smaller, translatable segments. They organize these segments of text in a manner which makes it easier for the translators to translate the text effectively, and make the process of translation time-efficient. The segments can be recalled later on and thus the translator ensures that the terminology and writing style of the original is followed. They also provide

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Vol 2, No 1 (2016)

March 2016

Indonesian Journal of English Language Studies (IJELS)

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Indonesian Journal of English Language Studies (*IJELS*) is published twice a year, namely in March and September, by the English Language Studies (ELS) of the Graduate Program of Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

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