Big Four accounting firms and CAT tools – the harmonious mix!

It goes without saying that CAT (Computer-Assisted Translation or Computer-Aided Translation) tools have been developed especially for Big Four accounting firms [PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Deloitte, Ernst & Young (EY) and KPMG]!

I always wonder how comes for a translator to keep repeating himself/herself in translating the same entries and notes of the same financial statements, tax declarations or internal audit advisory reports, year over year and quarter over quarter using the same traditional way of translation whether through copy/paste, rollover, merge & compare …etc.!

If you are an executive or one of the translation team in a Big Four accounting firm, I believe it is time to adopt a CAT tool solution in your firm to benefit from:

Translation Memory (TM): This is where all translations done by translation team are stored in aligned records and shared among translation team for reuse.

Termbase: This represents a translation glossary that can be built in house or integrated with other external Termbase resources. A big value for current team and newbies.

Concordance: You will not need to ask yourself *"Which translation did I use for this word/phrase before?!"*

You are only one-click away from exploring your legacy to see your/your team previous translations within their intended context.

Word count analysis: The nightmare for any translator is when getting bombarded with translation requests with haphazard deadlines! Now, CAT tools analyze documents and introduce precise stats based on which a reasonable deadline can be set.

Analysis		
Scope	Selected documents	
Resources	Every TM and corpus	

Type	Segments	Source words
All	1579	13934
X-translated / double context	0	0
Repetition	603	1690
101%	174	2966
100%	184	1212
95%-99%	103	434
85%-94%	63	1085
75%-84%	92	1272
50%-74%	208	2558
No match	152	2717

Quality Assurance (QA): Certain functions & processes applied to target files to prevent embarrassing errors that occur in traditional way of translation.

Alignment: A function that enables you to create TMs from previously translated documents.

Spell check: You can still have the power to use your usual MS Office proofreading tools within the new working environment application.

File types: Most famous CAT tools support your regular file types such as MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, MS Visio and even tagged files.

Predictive typing: This function suggests complete words & phrases while translating based on the content created within the Termbase linked to translation project.

Resource lookup: A marvelous function whereby you can link CAT tool with your most precious search resources such as Reverso, Almaany, Berzeit Dictionaries, Wikipedia, Google Search, Google Translate, and much more. Actually, it is a list of endless resources!

Machine Translation (MT): CAT tools get you armed with the ability of integrating most common MT engines in case you wish to make use of Application Program Interfaces (APIs), whenever appropriate.

Is this everything about CAT tools?

No, there is more to be said about CAT tools in terms of working as a team and consolidation of efforts to meet deadlines.

I highly encourage all entities, and Big Four accounting firms in particular to adopt CAT tools in order to cope with the demanding market place, ever-changing technologies and meet tight deadlines when it rains cats and dogs, while maintaining quality!

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