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**MACHINE TRANSLATION FROM THE
PERSPECTIVE OF RELEVANCE THEORY:
AN EVALUATIVE STUDY**

By

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the efficacy of machine translation (MT) in domains where MT is not conventionally used, that is, in non-technical domains where the subject matters involve human, social and/or societal phenomena. The ultimate purpose of this endeavor is to assess the capacity of MT in dealing with the phenomenon of 'context' as well as utterance interpretation.

The evaluation endeavor is twofold, consisting of evaluation of MT product and evaluation of MT process, with the latter being the main focus. Such evaluation is carried out through comparison between human translation corpora (HT product) and machine translation corpora (MT product).

This study takes a cognitive view of translation. It takes the challenge to apply a cognitive communication theory --

namely Relevance Theory -- to explicate the translation process, particularly problems in the MT process.

This study initiates the notion of 'translation as a two-tier communication process'. This notion is incorporated into the analysis of data in conjunction with selective theses and concepts of Relevance Theory.

The conclusions of this study are largely drawn by relating MT to 'context' and other cognitive phenomena that must be looked into for successful translation of utterance meanings.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini menaksir keberkesanan penterjemahan mesin (PM) dalam domain yang tidak lazim bagi penggunaan PM, iaitu dalam domain bukan teknikal yang memperlihatkan fenomena-fenomena manusia, sosial dan/atau masyarakat. Tujuan utama kajian ini ialah menaksir keupayaan PM menangani kedua-dua fenomena 'konteks' dan interpretasi ujaran.

Usaha penaksiran meliputi kedua-dua produk PM and proses PM. Walau bagaimanapun, tumpuan utama ialah penaksiran proses PM. Penaksiran dilaksanakan melalui perbandingan korpus penterjemahan manusia (Produk P_{Ma}) dengan korpus penterjemahan mesin (Produk P_M).

Kajian ini meninjau penterjemahan dari perspektif kognitif. Usaha yang terlibat adalah mencabar: satu teori komunikasi kognitif -- iaitu Teori 'Relevance' -- digunakan

untuk menjelaskan dan menganalisis penterjemahan, khususnya masalah dalam proses PM.

Kajian ini memperkenalkan suatu anggapan yang tersendiri, iaitu 'penterjemahan sebagai proses komunikasi dua tahap'. Anggapan ini digunakan bersama tesis dan konsep Teori 'Relevance' yang terpilih dalam penganalisan data.

Kesimpulan kajian ini sebahagian besarnya dibuat secara memperkaitkan PM dengan 'konteks' dan fenomena-fenomena kognitif lain yang perlu diambil kira bagi penterjemahan makna ujaran yang betul.