

A Survey Report on Academic Publisher 2025 O

Wenjing GUO
Doshisha University
Faculty of Sociology / Department of Sociology
Fujimoto Laboratory

This survey investigated the introduction of digital tools, including AI translation and Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT) tools, in the translation industry, focusing on their impact on work efficiency, associated challenges, and the future of translators' work.

Firstly, the use of CAT tools simplifies terminology consistency, leverages past translations, and reduces errors in numbers and notation inconsistencies, thereby streamlining translation work that was traditionally done through raw typing. This has lightened the burden of proofreading tasks that translators previously undertook, reducing the required effort to about 70% of what was once necessary. Particularly in fields like patent translation, where numerous similar documents exist, the CAT tool function that allows for the cross-sectional extraction and correction of segments containing specific words has proven highly effective in enhancing translation efficiency.

On the other hand, the proliferation of AI translation has introduced post-editing (PE) tasks—where content translated by AI is checked and corrected by humans—which come with their own set of burdens. The most labor-intensive part of translation work is accurately understanding the source text. However, in PE, the need for "source text comprehension combined with verification against the AI's output" results in a workload that is double that of manual translation. Even as AI accuracy improves, the burden of PE remains significant for documents with complex content. This situation risks creating a market where only low-cost, low-skill newcomers take on these tasks, due to low pay. Furthermore, there have been past instances of "hellish" scenarios where translators had to completely rewrite documents poorly translated by low-quality engines during the PE process.

Currently, while some clients still understand the value of human translators and pay fair rates, many translation companies continue to outsource work at low prices. This environment makes it unsustainable for some translators to make a living, leading them to leave the profession. Additionally, the spread of AI translation has diversified translation demand, broadening both the client base and the translator pool. Traditionally, only "truly necessary translations" with high fees were commissioned to professional translators. However, the advent of machine translation has also created lighter translation needs—cases where a translation is necessary but not critical enough to warrant a specialist. This has led to a polarization of quality requirements, with a wide range of demand coexisting, from projects where AI is sufficient to those that can only be handled by seasoned translators. Nevertheless, the volume of manual translation work is shrinking, making it increasingly difficult to secure high-quality projects. Translators who depend on agencies are more susceptible to low rates, forcing those who rely on translation for their livelihood to proactively cultivate their

own wonderful clients. Therefore, in an era of increasing AI translation adoption, a translator's survival strategy hinges on their ability to secure clients willing to pay appropriate rates.



*** The image generated by AI.**