

A Post-Editing 101 Course for Crisis Response

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When an emergency, crisis or disaster strikes, timely and accurate information is crucial to ensure that there is a limited impact on the health and well-being of those affected (O'Brien and Cadwell 2017; O'Brien *et al* 2018). Crisis response depends substantially on volunteers, including citizen translators who may or may not have training or experience in translation, computer-aided translation technologies, Machine Translation (MT) or post-editing. With the growing deployment of MT, there is increasing interest in its use as a crisis communication tool (Lewis 2010, Lewis *et al* 2011) and, consequently, a need for training.

This paper describes the design and creation of a "Post-Editing 101 Course" for citizen translators in crisis response. The course recognises that professional translators are most desirable, but crisis settings sometimes call for a 'needs must' approach. The course was designed with the assumption that a citizen translator might have little to no knowledge of MT or post-editing and very little time to learn those skills. It also makes the assumption that a small amount of training is better than none at all, especially in the context of MT and post-editing being used for crisis communication.

The paper will present the main components of the course: What is Machine Translation?; The Importance of "Data" for "Quality"; A Brief Overview of Post-Editing; The Post-Editing Task; and The Post-Editors' Skills. We will demonstrate how we incorporated practice sets for English to Croatian, Polish and German as optional components in the courseware. We will explain how we tried to make this course accessible to a non-specialised audience and present results from an initial evaluation of the courseware by Polish, Swahili and Croatian-speaking volunteers.

References

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