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KENNY, DOROTHY (ED.). MACHINE TRANSLATION FOR EVERYONE: EMPOWERING USERS IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. BERLIN, LANGUAGE SCIENCE PRESS, 2022, 210 PP., ISBN 978-3-98554-045-7

The emergence of machine translation (MT) as an increasingly relevant subject in Translation Studies has been driven by its substantial and profound implications for the language services industry. Dorothy Kenny's *Machine Translation for Everyone: Empowering Users in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* situates MT within this dynamic and explores MT's potential to democratise multilingual communication. This comprehensive volume, part of the "Translation and Multilingual Natural Language Processing" series by *Language Science Press*, is a key resource for both translation students, scholars and practitioners. Funded by the Erasmus+ project "MultiTraiNMT: Machine Translation Training for Multilingual Citizens," the book serves as a primer and a detailed exploration of MT's possibilities and limitations.

Machine Translation for everyone includes different chapters by renowned Translation Studies scholars and addresses MT's integration into professional and personal workflows. As noted by Bowker & Ciro (2019), MT literacy is crucial for informed MT usage, as it empowers people to critically engage with MT systems, understanding their strengths, limitations, and ethical implications. Reading and understanding *Machine Translation for Everyone* represents a significant step towards fostering this MT literacy, which is very much required today, equipping readers with the tools and knowledge needed to utilise MT effectively. Kenny and colleagues extend this argument by emphasizing MT's ethical, technical, and practical dimensions. This book builds on previous explorations, such as those of Moorkens et al., (2018) on translation quality evaluation and Forcada's (2017) work on MT architectures, to provide a well-rounded perspective tailored to a wide audience.

The book provides a structured journey through the landscape of MT, starting with its societal and multilingual implications and moving toward more technical and applied dimensions. Early chapters (1-6) contextualize MT in today's society and introduce readers to MT within the context of European multilingualism, offering insights into what MT is, its potential uses, and the considerations surrounding quality, ethics, and effective interaction with MT output. More specifically, Chapter 1 focuses on the foundational role of multilingualism in European policy and how MT can support this objective. Chapter 2 dispels myths about translation by addressing common misconceptions about the nature of translation and MT, and it provides

guidance on the key concepts of MT, including foundational principles and how MT systems interact with linguistic structures. This chapter sets the stage for a better understanding of the complexities involved in human and machine-mediated translation. Chapter 3 introduces methodologies for evaluating MT output, emphasizing usability and fitness-for-purpose, and highlighting the multiple issues of assessing translation "quality". Chapter 4 discusses pre-editing strategies for improving MT input, particularly for global audiences, highlighting methods such as simplifying syntax, avoiding ambiguous expressions, and ensuring cultural neutrality to optimize MT outcomes. Chapter 5 delves into the practice of post-editing, emphasizing its importance in refining machine-generated outputs by correcting errors, improving fluency, and ensuring the translation meets the intended quality standards, which is particularly critical for professional and high-stakes use cases. Finally, Chapter 6 addresses the ethical dimensions of MT, exploring issues like data privacy, bias, and environmental concerns, urging readers to adopt a reflective and responsible approach to technology use. In the latter part of the book, technical foundations of MT are then explained in an accessible manner, even for those who may not be very acquainted with language technologies and computing. Chapter 7 delves into neural machine translation (NMT), providing a comprehensible explanation of its workings tailored to non-technical readers, enhanced by practical examples and diagrams that break down complex concepts such as contextual embeddings. Chapter 8 further explores customisation and self-training of NMT systems, offering a detailed, step-by-step guide for users aiming to tailor these technologies to specific needs, highlighting the potential for application across various domains and settings. Chapter 9 takes a more applied approach, showcasing how MT can be effectively integrated into language learning contexts. It explores practical strategies for using MT tools to enhance reading comprehension, foster critical thinking, and support the acquisition of writing skills in a second language.

Personally, what I consider the standout feature of the book is its accompanying materials: First, a collection of self-paced activities, including fill-in-the-blank exercises and multiple-choice questions (among other type of assignments), designed to challenge both students and educators in translation studies. These resources are accessible through a permanent link and can be very useful for translation trainers: https://ddd.uab.cat/record/257869. Second, and even more importantly, the MutNMT platform (https://ntradumatica.uab.cat/), which enables users to train and customize small NMT systems with features for data selection, corpus preparation, personalization, and evaluation methodologies. Even if the resulting NMT system trained will not match the quality of current commercial systems, the process of engaging with the creation, cleaning, training, and evaluation of a personal MT system provides invaluable hands-on experience.

This journey is particularly beneficial for students and researchers, as it allows for creating a deeper understanding of NMT principles and enhances their technical and analytical skills in practical settings.

The volume excels in several areas. Its comprehensiveness is evident in the way it spans theoretical, practical, and ethical dimensions of MT, making it a complete resource. Despite the technical complexity of the subject matter in some parts, the book remains accessible, employing clear explanations and minimal jargon to engage a broad readership (for those stuck with Chapter 7, understanding technical descriptions of NMT will always require making an extra effort). Furthermore, the inclusion of interactive activities and the MutNMT platform bridges the gap between theory and practice, fostering active learning.

If I were to adopt a more critical perspective, recognising the inherent difficulty of improving an already comprehensive and thoughtful work, I might suggest broadening the book's exploration beyond its rich and detailed focus on European multilingualism to encompass more global contexts (though the reviewer can understand that the book originated from an Erasmus+ project funded by the European Union, and that may be the reason for exclusively focusing on Europe). Lastly, integrating a more diverse array of real-world case studies from various industries could significantly enhance the book's practical utility. Such additions would provide readers with concrete examples of MT's implementation across varied professional environments, demonstrating its adaptability and addressing specific challenges and solutions encountered in practice. These refinements, while not essential, could improve the book's impact and applicability even further.

Machine Translation for Everyone is a brilliant publication that underscores the transformative potential of MT while urging critical and ethical engagement with the technology. I would even say that it is a must-read for anyone in Translation Studies, from students and educators to industry professionals, if they really want to learn how NMT works, how to assess NMT output, and the current limitations of such a technology for translation. The book's emphasis on fostering MT literacy resonates with current trends toward hybrid translator profiles, such as "language engineers" (Briva-Iglesias & O'Brien, 2022) and "MT literacy consultants" (Ehrensberger-Dow et al., 2023). As the industry evolves, this book provides a vital foundation for navigating the challenges and opportunities presented by MT and current AI-powered translation systems. As a final note, it is worth stressing that, although the title of the book references "Artificial Intelligence," in the context of this volume, it specifically refers to the NMT paradigm, which is a subset of AI. By the time of the book's writing and release, more recent AI-powered translation tools,

such as large language models (LLMs), were still emerging and had not yet gained widespread prominence in the field.

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