

Application of SDL Trados MultiTerm Convert Tools for Termbase Management

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Дослідження присвячене застосовності інструментів системи управління термінологією SDL Trados MultiTerm для створення термінологічних баз і моделювання структури словникової статті.

Key words: terminology management, SDL Trados, MultiTerm Convert, Excel glossary conversion.

Introduction

Nowadays scientific and technical data is growing in volume and complexity at a staggering pace, which results in huge numbers of new terms. Therefore, effective management of special lexical units is pre-requisite for communication between specialists and further progress of science and technology.

Institutions coming to manage terminology recognize the role that unambiguous and consistent terms can play in paving the road to a successful business [1].

SDL MultiTerm is the pioneer in terminology management technologies. The user can customize termbases with descriptive fields, insert digital media files, store an unlimited number of terms in various languages, import and export terms, integrate with SDL Trados to improve translation consistency, etc. [2].

SDL MultiTerm has no built-in content. Termbase managers create corporate dictionaries to suit the needs of the organization. Therefore, it was decided to build a termbase for Lviv National Polytechnic University to provide effective information support for the university on-line resources.

I. Applicability of MultiTerm Convert for Glossary Transformations

At the point when an institution chooses to apply SDL Trados Studio, it has already collected a large number of glossaries in various formats. Manual filling of a TB in Trados is rather time-consuming. SDL Trados 2014 offers a special instrument for transforming such glossaries into a TB regardless of the number and type of columns.

Terminology can be converted from glossaries into MultiTerm by using either Glossary Converter app downloadable from the SDL OpenExchange App Store, or MultiTerm Convert within the standard MultiTerm installation. This paper discusses the use of the second method, as it gives more control over the import process and enables adding term lists to an existing glossary.

MultiTerm Convert can transform glossaries from a number of formats, but here we will explore conversion from Excel-based glossaries.

II. Creation of Termbases with MultiTerm Convert

The number of columns in the input Excel file depends on the desired structure of entries. In the header rows of the Excel file, we specify the languages; additional columns can give text attributes. In our case we opted for a bilingual glossary, the languages being Ukrainian and English, which comprises 980 term units from the University web-site.

Since the content of the university on-line resources abounds in technical and scientific terminology and with prospective training goals in mind, it was decided that the glossary should offer not only terms and their equivalents in English, but also synonyms, abbreviations, definitions and context. The resulting input Excel database has such columns as Term Unit (Ukrainian) – English Equivalent (English) – Synonyms (English) – Abbreviation (English) – Context/Definition.

The process goes through a number of stages, including Conversion of (*.xls) Document into MultiTerm Format, Creation of an Empty Termbase and Import of Data From (*.xml) File. The Import process can be repeated to add terms from other converted Excel glossaries to the same termbase.

Conclusion

MultiTerm Convert is an extremely useful tool, since it is much simpler to collect and process term entries in MS Excel and then convert them into *.sdlb format than to fill in the entries manually. The output termbase can be used for training students in SDL Trados 2014 to develop terminology management skills and to create bilingual content of the University web-site, ensuring consistency of terminology usage.

References

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