



Institutional translation and standards

– what's in it for us?

Ingemar Strandvik
Quality manager
DGT, EC

What are Standards?

- "In essence, a standard is **an agreed way of doing something**. It could be about making a product, managing a process, delivering a service or supplying materials – standards can cover a huge range of activities undertaken by organizations and used by their customers."

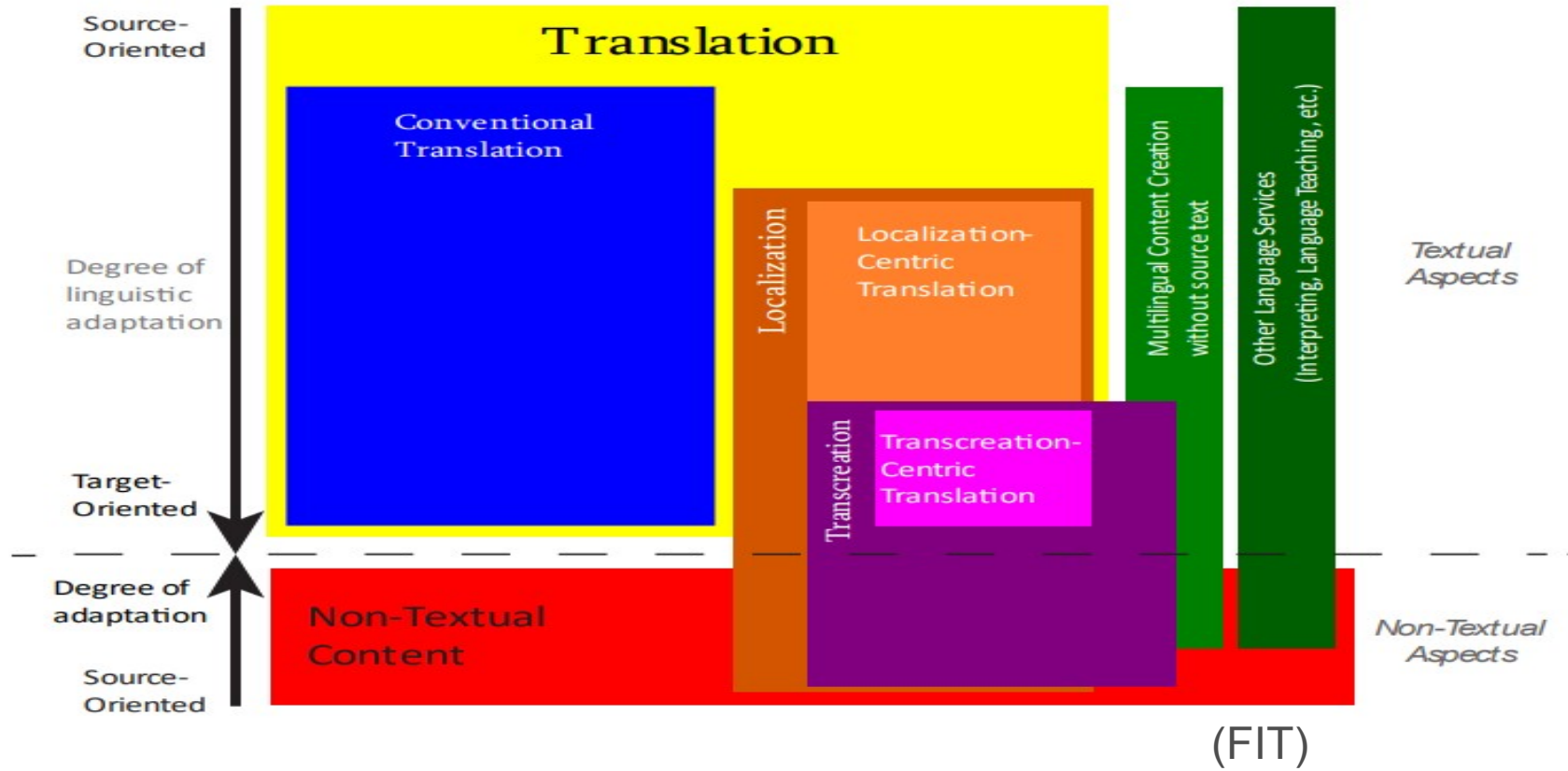
-

(BSI)

Standards – how are they useful?

- ❑ Requirements standards and Guidance standards
- ❑ Definition of key concepts enhances communication
- ❑ Prescribing/Describing workflow and processes
- ❑ Best practices
- ❑ Provide credibility, trust and protection

Multilingual Language Services



ISO translation standards

ISO 17100 on translation service provision – requirements

ISO 18587 on post-editing – requirements

ISO 20771 on legal translation – requirements

ISO 11669 on translation project management – guidance

ISO 5060 on evaluation of translation output – guidance

Are standards relevant for institutional translation?

- **Work organization:**
 - Quality management (QM), risk management (RM), project management (PM), ...
 - Translation QM, Translation RM, Translation PM, Terminology work, ...
- **Do we need to be compliant? Should we aim at certification?**
- **We currently use standards for benchmarking, asking ourselves:**
 - Are we compliant?
 - Where do we do things differently? Why? Do we have valid reasons for it?

Translation standards in practice

- **ISO 17100 translation service provision**
 - Competence management: translation competence, language competence, text type competence, technical competence, research competence, **domain competence**.
 - Definition of workflow processes: translation, revision, review, ...
 - Second pair of eyes principle

Translation standards in practice

- **ISO 18587 post-editing**
 - Problematic definition: if TM+MT is post-editing, what is then translation?
 - Workflow for FPE, but LPE, and UEMT?
 - Based on SMT paradigm – dated – need for review

Translation standards in practice

- **ISO DIS 11669** guidance for translation projects
 - Target: requesters – shared responsibility
 - Workflow organization: needs analysis, risk assessment, specifications, source text preparation, reference material
 - Communication (specs, queries, feedback)
 - Increasingly blurred distinction between translation and post-editing
 - UEMT and risks (Risikoscouts)

Translation Quality Evaluation (or LQA)

- SAE J2450 Translation Quality Metric
- LISA QA (2011 †)
- QTLaunchpad, QT21, MQM, TAUS DQF, DQF-MQM, EP/EC, MQM Core (theMQM.org)
- **ISO:** (ISO WD 14080 Assessment of Translations † ; ISO CD 21999 translation quality assessment †); **ISO FDIS 5060 evaluation of translation output**
- **ASTM: WK46396 Standard Practice for Analytic Evaluation of Translation Quality; ASTM WK54884 Standard Practice for Holistic Evaluation of Translation Quality**

Translation standards in practice

- **ISO FDIS 5060 evaluation of translation output**
- **ASTM WK46396 Standard Practice for Analytic Evaluation of Translation Quality**
 - Error typology and definitions (cf. MQM Core)
 - Workflows and methodology, e.g. strategy, severity levels, sampling

Summing up: standards, what's in it for us?

- Distilled wisdom of the profession:
 - codification of common sense and best practices: functionalist approach
 - process focus, workflow steps, competences
 - definitions, references, check lists, benchmarking
 - translators with[out] translation training
 - communication: translators, managers, freelancers, other stakeholders
 - standards are authoritative = credibility, trust

Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

