





Published: March 9, 2010

Putting Google to the Test in Translation

Google has poured resources into improving its automatic translation service. Some of these systems are better than others at handling particular pairs of languages, and it is impossible to evaluate them fully using small bits of text. But here are some quick comparisons of human translations and computerized versions from Google and two competitors.

Source	The Original Text	Human Translation	Google Translate	Yahoo Babel Fish via Systran	Microsoft Bing Translator
 <p>French "Le Petit Prince" ("The Little Prince") By Antoine de Saint-Exupéry</p>	<p>Le premier soir je me suis donc endormi sur le sable à mille milles de toute terre habitée. J'étais bien plus isolé qu'un naufragé sur un radeau au milieu de l'océan. Alors vous imaginez ma surprise, au lever du jour, quand une drôle de petite voix m'a réveillé. Elle disait: -S'il vous plaît... dessine-moi un mouton!</p>	<p>On the first night, I fell asleep on the sand, a thousand miles from any human habitation. I was far more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean. So you can imagine my surprise at sunrise when an odd little voice woke me up. It said: "Please ... draw me a sheep." - <i>Wordsworth Children's Classics, 1995</i></p>	<p>The first night I went to sleep on the sand a thousand miles from any human habitation. I was more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean. So imagine my surprise at daybreak, when a funny little voice woke me. She said: "If it pleases you ... draw me a sheep!"</p>	<p>The first evening I thus fell asleep on sand with thousand miles of any inhabited ground. J' stays much more insulated qu' a shipwrecked man on a raft in the middle of l' ocean. Then you imagine my surprise, at daybreak, when funny of small voice m' awoke. She said: - S' you like it... draws to me a sheep!</p>	<p>The first evening I thus fell asleep one thousand miles of any ground inhabited with sand. I stays much more insulated was shipwrecked man on a raft in the middle of the ocean. Then you can imagine my surprise, at daybreak, when black of small voice I awoke. She said:-If you like it... draws to a me sheep!</p>
 <p>Spanish "Cien Años de Soledad" ("One Hundred Years of Solitude") By Gabriel García Márquez</p>	<p>Muchos años después, frente al pelotón de fusilamiento, el coronel Aureliano Buendía había de recordar aquella tarde remota en que su padre lo llevó a conocer el hielo.</p>	<p>Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice. - <i>HarperCollins, 2003</i></p>	<p>Many years later, he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendia was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice.</p>	<p>Many years later, in front of the firing squad, colonel Aureliano Buendía had to remember that one behind schedule remote one in which to his he took it father to know the ice.</p>	<p>Many years later, at the front of the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was remember that remote afternoon his father took him to the ice.</p>
 <p>Russian Resignation Speech as Last President of the U.S.S.R. By Mikhail S. Gorbachev</p>	<p>Мы живем в новом мире: - Покончено с «холодной войной», остановлена гонка вооружений и безумная милитаризация страны, изуродовавшая нашу экономику, общественное сознание и мораль. Снята угроза мировой войны.</p>	<p>We live in a new world. The Cold War has ended, the arms race has stopped, as has the insane militarization which mutilated our economy, public psyche and morals. The threat of a world war has been removed. - <i>The Associated Press</i></p>	<p>We live in a new world: - To end the "cold war", stopped the arms race and madness-Naya militarization of the country, mangled our economy, society-ing consciousness and morality. Remove the threat of world war."</p>	<p>We live in the new peace: - It is put an end to "Cold War", is stopped the arms race and the reckless militarization of the country, which disfigured our economy, public consciousness and morals. Is taken the threat by world soldiers.</p>	<p>We live in a new world:- end of the cold war, stopped the arms race and bezum-militarization of the country, izurodovavšaá our economy, sound recordings and consciousness and morality. Removed the threat of world warriors.</p>
 <p>German "Die Verwandlung" ("The Metamorphosis") By Franz Kafka</p>	<p>Als Gregor Samsa eines Morgens aus unruhigen Träumen erwachte, fand er sich in seinem Bett zu einem ungeheuren Ungeziefer verwandelt.</p>	<p>One morning, as Gregor Samsa was waking up from anxious dreams, he discovered that in bed he had been changed into a monstrous verminous bug. - <i>Kessinger Publishing, 2004</i></p>	<p>As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found is transformed in his bed into a monstrous vermin.</p>	<p>As Gregor Samsa of one morning from jerky dreams awakened, he was changed in its bed to tremendous vermin.</p>	<p>As Gregor Samsa of one morning from troubled dreams awakened, he was transformed in his bed to a tremendous vermin.</p>
<p>Source</p>	<p>The Original Text</p>	<p>Human Translation</p>	<p>Google Translate</p>	<p>Yahoo Babel Fish via Systran</p>	<p>Microsoft Bing Translator</p>
<p>أكد مدرب منتخب الأرجنتين لكرة القدم دييغو مارادونا قدرة منتخب بلاده على إحراز كأس العالم المقبلة بجنوب أفريقيا وذلك بعد فوزه على ألمانيا 1-1</p>	<p>The Argentine coach and soccer great Diego Maradona assured his country's ability to make the next World Cup after beating Germany 1-0 in</p>	<p>Confirmed coach Argentina soccer great Diego Maradona for his country's ability to make the next World Cup in South Africa after beating</p>	<p>(Arabic translation is not offered.)</p>	<p>Affirmed Argentina coach Diego Maradona football team's ability to make the next World Cup in South Africa after beating Germany 1-0 in their own</p>	



Arabic
مارادونا: كأس العالم
بمتناولنا
(Maradona: World Cup in
Reach) - Al Jazeera,
March 5, 2010

صفر في عقير دارها على
ملعب أليانز أرينا الأربعة
في مباراة دولية ودية.

their own backyard at the
Allianz Arena stadium on
Wednesday in an
international friendly
match.
- *The New York Times*

Germany 1 - zero in their
own backyard at the
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backyard Stadium Allianz
Arena Wednesday in a
friendly.