

Division of Labor in Programming Translated Surveys: The case for training translators

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Virtual

What Were Things Like in PAPI?

- ❑ Survey staff designed instrument
- ❑ Translators received word processing files (and sometimes desktop publishing files) and typed the translation replacing the English text
- ❑ Some issues with mismatch of number of characters across languages (real estate issue)

What Are Things Like Now?

- ❑ Survey staff designs instrument
- ❑ Survey staff + programmers set up the instrument for computer-assisted administration
- ❑ Translators received a wide variety of files: word processing files, desktop publishing files, excel, xlift files, etc. etc.
- ❑ Files include survey logic, consistency validation messages, and yes, also, question text and response choices
- ❑ Translators are expected to replace the English text wherever it appears
- ❑ Translators are expected to return a translation that runs just the same as the programmed English

Some Software for Computer-Assisted Instruments

- Voxco
 - Qualtrics
 - Blaise
 - Alchemer
 - Home-grown systems
- ... to name a few
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Ease of Set Up

- Easiest to handle
 - Question text
 - Response categories
 - Fills
 - Text formatting
 - Harder to set up
 - Inter-item consistency checks
 - Optimization of screens
 - Complex logic
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Relatively Simple Example

'About how many total hours per week [do/does/did] [you/he/she] usually work for pay or income, counting all jobs?

Fill 1 [do/does/did]

If BPEMPP1= 1 and T_SP1 = "10" FILL1 = "do"

else BPEMPP1= 1 and T_SP1 <> "10" FILL1 = "does"

else, FILL1 = "did"

Fill2 [you/she/he] = T_SP1YOU_HE_SHE

Example on a Different Platform

While ^TEXT-FILL-1 employed during ^PYEAR, did ^TEXT FILL 2 miss any work because ^TEXT-FILL-3 sick?

TEXT-FILL-1

SECTION_BC[1] & Coverscreen.Respondent=1	you were
SECTION_BC[1] & Coverscreen.Respondent=2-7	^Coverscreen.HeadNamF (^Coverscreen.HeadNamL) was
SECTION_BC[2] & Coverscreen.Respondent=2, 3	you were
SECTION_BC[2] & Coverscreen.Respondent=1, 4, 7	^Coverscreen.WQWNamF (^Coverscreen.WQWNamL) was

TEXT-FILL-2

SECTION_BC[1] & Coverscreen.Respondent=1	you
SECTION_BC[1] & Coverscreen.Respondent=2-7 & Coverscreen.HeadSex=1	he
SECTION_BC[1] & Coverscreen.Respondent=2-7 & Coverscreen.HeadSex=2	she
SECTION_BC[2] & Coverscreen.Respondent=2, 3	you
SECTION_BC[2] & Coverscreen.Respondent=1, 4, 7 & Coverscreen.WQWSex=1	he
SECTION_BC[2] & Coverscreen.Respondent=1, 4, 7 & Coverscreen.WQWSex=2	she

TEXT-FILL-3

SECTION_BC[1] & Coverscreen.Respondent=1	<u>you</u> were
SECTION_BC[1] & Coverscreen.Respondent=2-7 & Coverscreen.HeadSex=1	<u>he</u> was
SECTION_BC[1] & Coverscreen.Respondent=2-7 & Coverscreen.HeadSex=2	<u>she</u> was
SECTION_BC[2] & Coverscreen.Respondent=2, 3	<u>you</u> were
SECTION_BC[2] & Coverscreen.Respondent=1, 4, 7 & Coverscreen.WQWSex=1	<u>he</u> was
SECTION_BC[2] & Coverscreen.Respondent=1, 4, 7 & Coverscreen.WQWSex=2	<u>she</u> was

Difficulty Level in Set Up

EASY

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if ([T_CURENR] == "1") return "Does your certificate or diploma program require at least 3 months or 300 hours of instruction?"; else return "Did your certificate or diploma program require at least 3 months or 300 hours of instruction?";
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HARDER

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string prefix = get PrefixTioConversionText(); if ([N20ABPSELG] == "3") return prefix + "Did you complete all the requirements for your " + [T_DEGREN] + " at " + [Y_NPSCHL] + "?"; elseif ([N20ANOATT] == "1") return prefix + "Earlier you indicated that you are no longer attending " + [Y_NPSCHL] + " because you completed the requirements for your " + [T_DEGREN] + " at " + [Y_NPSCHL] + ". Is that correct?"; else return prefix + "Have you completed all the requirements for your " + [T_DEGREN] + " at " + [Y_NPSCHL] + "?";
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Pervasive Current Staffing Model

- Survey designers
- Programmers
- Translators

Alternative Staffing Models

- Bilingual programmers?
- Bilingual survey design staff?
- Translation technologists?
- Train the translators?

Considerations



Summarizing

- ❑ Translation requires one set of skills that is not necessarily the same as that of survey staff setting up instruments
 - ❑ Making a translated version become a programmer-ready translation requires skill and training
 - ❑ Experienced survey translators often work with a variety of platforms and, therefore, conventions
 - ❑ Training is imperative if translators and QA staff will be able to produce programmer-ready versions
 - ❑ Managers should allow for time and cost to be adequate so that quality does not suffer
 - ❑ It may be worth exploring the use of bilingual programmers and/or translation technologists
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Thanks for your attention!

□ Questions?

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