

Homework No. 6

(due at beginning of class Monday, May 17)

1. Go to: http://translate.google.com/translate_t

This site allows you to type in text and translate it into another language. You can also *backtranslate*, i.e., translate back into the original language, by copying and pasting. To answer the following questions, you will have to come up with your own examples to defend your answers.

- (a) Do you think this site uses a transformer system or a transfer system? Why?
- (b) How deep do you think the grammatical analysis is? (e.g., Is the system using morphological analysis? Proceeding word by word? Syntactic analysis? Semantic analysis?) Why?

(50 points)

2. Go to: <http://www.tashian.com/multibabel/>

For the first three parts of this question, ignore the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean options.

- (a) Come up with an example sentence that you're going to translate and back-translate and write it down. Be funny; be creative; pick a song lyric or movie quote; whatever. Just make sure that the sentence is sufficiently interesting, so that you are able to answer all of the following questions.
- (b) Enter your sentence, and examine all the (English) backtranslations. Write down all the backtranslations and for each backtranslation, give me its score (1-4) on the intelligibility scale (p. 70 of the slides).
- (c) In terms of quality, pick the best and worst backtranslations. Explain how you arrived at the best and worst – i.e. think about intelligibility, accuracy, error analysis. (For error analysis, think of criteria you can use for determining quality: meaning change, tense change [present, past, future], word choice, missing/added words, word order, etc.)

(50 points)

Bonus question:

- (d) Now, turn on the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean option. Are these back-translations generally better or worse than the others? Why do you think that is?

(20 points extra)