

Advanced Translator

Play & Win in the Age of AI



☐ Stagnate

☐ Quit

☒ Upgrade

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Intro

AI has taken translation industry by storm. Whether you believe it or not you are in the epicenter of the catastrophe. Or a new beginning. The choice is yours. The book aims to analyse how we got there and propose you the clear tools to sharpen your business toolset and stay afloat despite the rough waves around.

The impact on translation industry is high because from the very beginning transformer models were used to do machine translations.

The original Transformer architecture was introduced in late 2017 ("Attention Is All You Need," Vaswani et al. 2017). By 2018 it had already become the de-facto baseline in machine-translation research, replacing older RNN and CNN systems in standard toolkits such as Marian, Sockeye, OpenNMT, and Fairseq.

Chapter 1

The End of the Translation Industry?



“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”

— Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

Is our profession doomed? Or is this just the beginning of something new?

Let's talk honestly. AI is here. It's fast, it's smart (with limitations), and it's changing the game for translators everywhere. The question everyone's whispering—or shouting in forums—is this: “Are we done for?”

And this is often substantiated by facts. One legal company in Czechia I know has recently stopped co-operation with 20+ freelance translators and replaced them with robots like DeepL and ChatGPT. Their rationale? 1. Translation engines and LLMs are already good enough to provide translation for their specialists. 2. Their specialists are hired to be fluent with English and they review documents anyway. 3. Final proofreading is okay to be done by ChatGPT, Grammarly and the like.




No native speaker needed.

But take a deep breath. It's not the end. But it is a major shift.

And if you're a freelance translator, you need to know how we got here, what's really going on, and how to stay in the game—and win.


The Competition is Real

While both markets grow, revenue is flowing faster into the automated side.

 According to CSA, the 4.5% drop in human translation revenue in 2023 wasn't because translation disappeared.

It's because clients moved their budgets to:

- MT subscriptions (DeepL Pro, Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure)
- AI-enhanced TMS platforms
- Internal AI-assisted review workflows

 In other words: the budget didn't vanish. It just changed hands.

Two Markets, One Reality

These aren't entirely separate markets—they're two parts of the same evolving ecosystem:

The Automated Translations Market offers speed, lower costs, and large-scale output.

The Human Translations Market offers depth, insight, and trust.

Success often lies at the intersection of the two, especially if you:

Use AI tools to boost productivity
Focus on complex or sensitive content

Develop skills in reviewing, editing, and consulting

This isn't the end of the translator's role. It's a shift—toward becoming a more tech-aware, multi-skilled language professional, able to navigate both sides of today's hybrid market.

Humans settle the ambiguity by instantly injecting real-world plausibility — a skill LLMs still struggle with on diagnostic tests of commonsense reasoning.


Two of the best-known evaluations of this skill are the *Winograd Schema Challenge* and *WinoGrande*.

The Winograd Schema Challenge (Levesque et al., 2011) consists of short, carefully designed sentences in which a pronoun could logically refer to more than one noun, and the only way to resolve the ambiguity is by applying commonsense world knowledge.

For example: “The trophy wouldn’t fit in the suitcase because it was too small.” What was too small? The suitcase, not the trophy — but that depends entirely on our understanding of how objects work, not grammar.

WinoGrande (Sakaguchi et al., 2019) is a scaled-up, adversarially-filtered extension of the original challenge. It includes over 44,000 items with more lexical and syntactic diversity, making it significantly harder for models to “learn the test.” These tasks are excellent stress tests for real-world understanding — and they reveal just how far LLMs still lag behind humans when pure pattern recognition meets ambiguity.

Commonsense Reasoning Accuracy				
Commonsense Benchmark	Humans	GPT-4 (5-shot)	GPT-3.5 (5-shot)	Source
Winograd Schema Challenge	$\geq 90\%$	94%	—	Levesque, Davis & Morgenstern
WinoGrande (44 k harder items)	94%	87,5%	$\approx 74\%$	Sakaguchi et al. WinoGrande (2019); Glarity summary of GPT-4 results (2024)



5. Humans do not hallucinate

When a professional translator slips, the error is usually a misread fact or an omission—never a confident fabrication that defies common sense.

Machine “hallucinations,” by contrast, remain a measurable risk:

What’s Improved Since 2023 Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) trims hallucinations by ~70 % (Vectara, RAG Benchmark 2025). Self-consistency voting drives Gemini-2’s sub-1 % scores.

Domain classifiers (Garcia-Fernandez et al., CHECK, 2025) slash medical hallucinations in open-source models from 31 % to 0.3 %.

Why Humans Don’t Hallucinate

Real-world grounding. Implausible claims trigger instant doubt (Rabagliati et al., Word vs. World Knowledge, 2021).

Accountability loop. A signed translation stakes the translator’s reputation.

Cognitive caution. Limited working memory promotes “better leave blank than invent.”

Social feedback. Editors and clients reinforce accuracy over fantasy.

Caveats

Human Error ≠ Hallucination

Humans still:

Misinterpret context (choosing the wrong sense of bear).

Skip or duplicate phrases under pressure.

Carry bias in word choice (Bolukbasi et al., 2016).

But we rarely fabricate non-existent laws or drugs.

Chapter 08

Mastering AI-Powered Translation: Essential Prompts



“Perfection is not a destination, but a direction.”

— — Thomas J. Watson

Essential Prompt 2:

AI Proofreading against the Original

Use this after translation to ensure accuracy, consistency, and clarity.

Prompt Template:

Important: Provide just edited text as a result, with no single word as extra comment. As an Editor, your task is to perform a detailed review of the translated text in the following language: [Source Language], focusing on accuracy, clarity, and consistency. Your main objective is to ensure that the translation fully and correctly conveys the meaning of the source text in the following language: [Target Language] without any distortions or misunderstandings. Specifically:

- Examine the text for any mistranslations or missing information and correct them.
- Verify that all terminology is accurate and consistently used, particularly for the following domain: [Topic].
- Enhance sentence structures for improved readability without altering the original meaning.
- Remove unnecessary repetitions or awkward phrasing that could confuse the reader.
- Maintain the tone and style of the source text, adapting it appropriately for the target audience.

The final translation should allow for a reverse translation that closely matches the original, without any extra content or logical gaps. The source text for review follows: The translated text for review follows: [Target Translation]