

Strategies for teaching medical terminology in a foreign language using Machine Translation

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In the actual European context, learning foreign languages is a requirement for the students of Medicine and Nursing Faculties who want to integrate into the European labour market. In this situation the professor's role is very important for the quick learning of the specialized terminology and communication in different situations and concrete dialogues such as doctor-patient, nurse-patient, physician-nurse. Nurses and other medical professionals must be proficient in medical terminology, procedures and concepts.

In the last years we assist as professors of foreign languages applied in different areas such as medical, economically or legally at a detachment from traditional methods of learning and a change of the principles of learning.

If in the past, the emphasis was on the understanding of literary humanists, actually the accent is focused on issues related to facilitating communication, vocabulary. Even grammar teaching and learning by students is based on the principle of expression skills training, the basic idea being that the language is a way of communication and it is learned for that purpose and not for expressing its internal organizational modalities.

We use three types of machine translation methods:

- ✓ Rules-based machine translation uses grammar and language rules, developed by language experts and dictionaries which can be customized to a specific topic or industry.
- ✓ Statistical machine translation does not rely on linguistic rules and words; it learns how to translate by analyzing large amount of existing human translations.
- ✓ Neural machine translation teaches itself on how to translate by using a large neural network. This method is becoming more and more popular as it provides better results with language pairs.

The medicine, like any field of speciality, has its own language, this aspect being its first difficulty. The students are taught to deal with the difficulties concerning the vocabulary and to choose the best strategy to translate medical texts.