

BACK TRANSLATION METHOD FOR TRANSLATION RAILWAY TERMINOLOGY AND COMPARING WITH OTHER METHODS

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Abstract: The back translation method is essential for ensuring the accuracy and consistency of railway terminology across languages. This process involves translating a text into a target language and then translating it back into the original language by a different translator. In the railway sector, where precision is critical for safety, back translation helps verify translated terms, identify discrepancies, and enhance clarity. By maintaining terminological consistency and addressing cultural nuances, this method supports effective communication among international stakeholders, contributing to safer and more efficient railway operations.

Key words: back translation, railway terminology, linguistic quality, accuracy verification, consistency check, error detection, dynamic equivalence.

The term “back translation” can seem nonsensical if it’s outside the context of a “forward translation.” Technically, every translation is a “forward translation,” but if a forward translation workflow also contains a process to translate the target document back into the source language, then that part of the process is called a “back translation.” In other words, a back translation only makes sense if it’s part of a forward translation process and, ideally, both parts happen back-to-back in the same project. The back translation process is perhaps the most valuable of all translation processes because it allows for unique benefits:

- it doubles the amount of linguistic quality control;
- it allows a monolingual source text author to personally validate translation quality;
- it includes additional robust documentation that can be used for compliance or legal purposes;
- it even works to evaluate how word play, puns, or heavily connotative text has been rendered in the forward translation.

For all these reasons, a back translation is one of the best ways to ensure the highest quality translations. Furthermore, we can add that back translation method is good for translating railway terminology. It helps translators to get good results and more standardization translation. This technique is particularly useful in technical fields, such as railway terminology, to ensure accuracy and consistency. Purpose of Back Translation.

1. Accuracy Verification: Ensures that the translated terms accurately reflect the original meaning.

2. Consistency Check: Helps maintain uniformity in technical language across different documents and languages.

3. Error Detection: Identifies potential misunderstandings or errors in translation. Here’s more information on back translation in the context of railway terminology: Back translation is

one of several methods used for translating specialized terminology, including railway terminology. Here's how it compares to other common translation methods:

1. Direct Translation

Description: This method involves translating text word-for-word from the source language to the target language.

Comparison: While direct translation is straightforward, it can lead to inaccuracies, especially with specialized terms that may not have direct equivalents. It lacks the validation step that back translation provides.

2. Dynamic Equivalence

Description: This method focuses on conveying the meaning and intent of the original text rather than adhering strictly to the form.

Comparison: Dynamic equivalence can be beneficial for general understanding but may overlook specific technical nuances in railway terminology. Back translation offers a way to verify that the intended meaning aligns closely with the original.

3. Transcreation

Description: This approach involves adapting the content creatively to resonate with the target audience while retaining the original message.

Comparison: Transcreation is useful for marketing or literary texts but may not be suitable for technical translations where precision is crucial. Back translation ensures technical accuracy, which is vital in fields like railways.

4. Glossary-Based Translation

Description: This method uses a predefined glossary of terms to ensure consistency in specialized language.

Comparison: While glossary-based translation enhances consistency, it may not address contextual or nuanced meanings. Back translation can validate the use of glossary terms in context. Therefore, we can give some examples:

Track Gauge: The distance between the inner sides of the rails.

Switch: A mechanical installation that enables trains to move from one track to another.

Signal: A device that conveys instructions to train operators.

Interlocking: A safety system that ensures signals and track switches are set correctly.

In conclusion, back translation is particularly effective for technical fields like railway terminology because it offers a systematic way to verify accuracy and meaning. While other methods have their strengths, back translation's focus on checking for discrepancies makes it a valuable tool in ensuring the precision necessary for specialized translations. Each method has its place, and the best approach may involve a combination of techniques depending on the context and requirements.

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