European Multilingual Information Space

Getting the user involved

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Multilinguality

• the traditional approach:
  Document → Translation → Consumption
Multilinguality

• the traditional approach:
  
  Document $\rightarrow$ Translation $\rightarrow$ Consumption

• the user remains passive
• the setting actually is a monolingual one
• the origin of the content and its transformation is rarely made explicit
Multilinguality

- but
  - people can learn (even other languages)
Multilinguality

- but
  - people can learn (even other languages)
  - people can actively participate
Multilinguality

• but
  • people can learn (even other languages)
  • people can actively participate
  • people should become aware of language diversity
Multilinguality

• but
  • people can learn (even other languages)
  • people can actively participate
  • people should become aware of language diversity
  • people can become involved in the creation of truly multilingual documents
The apple juice experience
The apple juice experience

• reading is learning
The apple juice experience

- reading is learning
- learning is easiest if it can take place in everyday situations
  - at your workplace
  - while accessing newscast
  - while studying product information
  - ...

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The apple juice experience

• reading is learning

• learning is easiest if it can take place in everyday situations
  • at your workplace
  • while accessing newscast
  • while studying product information
  • ...

• exploring the multilingual information space can help to find out differences between different languages
The apple juice experience

• technology requirements
  → fine-grained cross linking of parallel texts
  → online access to (lexical, terminological, ...) resources
Enhancing information quality

- information quality depends on the credibility of the information source ...

Enhancing information quality

- information quality depends on the credibility of the information source ...
  ...
  ...
  ... but also on the subsequent processing chain (cross checking, proof reading, translation, ...)

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Enhancing information quality

- information quality depends on the credibility of the information source ...
  ...
  - but also on the subsequent processing chain (cross checking, proof reading, translation, ...)
- people should be made aware of such differences
Enhancing information quality

- information quality depends on the credibility of the information source ...
  ... but also on the subsequent processing chain (cross checking, proof reading, translation, ...)
- people should be made aware of such differences
- the multilingual information space allows them to explore differences between different versions of the same document
  e.g. comparing with the translation into another language in case the native version looks strange
Enhancing information quality

- technology requirements
  - annotation of the document as being
    - an original text
    - a professional translation
    - a peer translation
    - a machine translation
The Web2.0 lesson

- get people involved
The Web2.0 lesson

- get people involved
- user can contribute translations or edit existing ones
The Web2.0 lesson

• get people involved
• user can contribute translations or edit existing ones

• technology requirements:
  • authoring access
The Web 2.0 lesson

• get people involved
• user can contribute translations or edit existing ones

• technology requirements:
  • authoring access

• problem:
  • danger of vandalism requires social control
What’s the challenge?
What’s the challenge?

• certainly not the technology ...
What’s the challenge?

- certainly not the technology ...
  - multilingual authoring tools
  - rich web interfaces (multi-level annotations, etc.)
  - interactive web-sites
  - text alignment
  - online access to lexical resources
- ...
What’s the challenge?
What’s the challenge?

- developing standards, creating a common infrastructure
What’s the challenge?

• developing standards, creating a common infrastructure
• establishing common acceptance
What’s the challenge?

- developing standards, creating a common infrastructure
- establishing common acceptance
- radically changing cultural attitudes
What’s the challenge?

- developing standards, creating a common infrastructure
- establishing common acceptance
- radically changing cultural attitudes
  e.g. establishing truly multilingual news channels/encyclopedia/document repositories
  - not just translated versions of complete web-sites/web-pages
  - but parallel documents cross-linked at the phrase level
What’s the benefit?
What’s the benefit?

• making people *experience* the multilingual society
What’s the benefit?

• making people *experience* the multilingual society
• raising multilingual proficiency/competence
What’s the benefit?

- making people *experience* the multilingual society
- raising multilingual proficiency/competence
- learning to cope with linguistic diversity
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- making people *experience* the multilingual society
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Turning multilinguality into a competitive advantage!