
Trust in translators

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Advice is easy to find

Choose a translator who is

- A member of a professional association
- Has a degree in translation
- Is recommended to you
- Has your interests at heart
- Specializes in your field
- Explain options to you
- Is not cheap



Advice is easy to find

Choose a translator who is

Claims to be qualified

Talk with you a lot

Wins your confidence

Starts off (too) cheap

they steal your CV
your work
and your money
together, we'll make
their lives a living hell

TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS DIRECTORY

scam noun \ˈskæm\
A fraudulent or deceptive act or operation (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)
A trick, a ruse; a swindle, a racket (Oxford English Dictionary)
arnaque (FR) • chanchullo, estafa (ES) • fraude, burla (PT) • truffa (IT) • Betrug (DE) • zwendel (NL) • svindel (SE)

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8031 Scammers Listed • Page Last Updated: 10 Dec 2023 18:11 UTC

US 99,396	DE 27,453	IT 21,665	NL 19,205	PT 11,654	CZ 9,337	BR 8,091	BE 7,470
GB 56,610	ES 27,347	FR 20,181	CA 13,793	AR 10,528	JP 8,748	PL 7,786	IE 7,383

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- NOTES ABOUT SCAMMERS
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- Let's flood the scammers' mailboxes!
- Don't keep it silent!
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YES, WE ARE ON TWITTER	Follow us on Twitter: @scammerstd
OUR 2022 ANNUAL REPORT	Translator Scammers Directory – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT >
OUR LATEST BULLETIN	TSD Bulletin 01 / 2023: A Note for You, Translators >
WHO IS KWANG PARK?	Meet the clown Kwang Park

How to teach soft skills

Group projects all the way

Student presentations

Simulated translation companies

Work placements

Ethical problems (that groups have to solve)



Distinction 1: Thick vs. thin trust (Putnam, 2000)

Thick trust: A deep, personal trust built on shared experiences, values, and intimate knowledge of the other person.

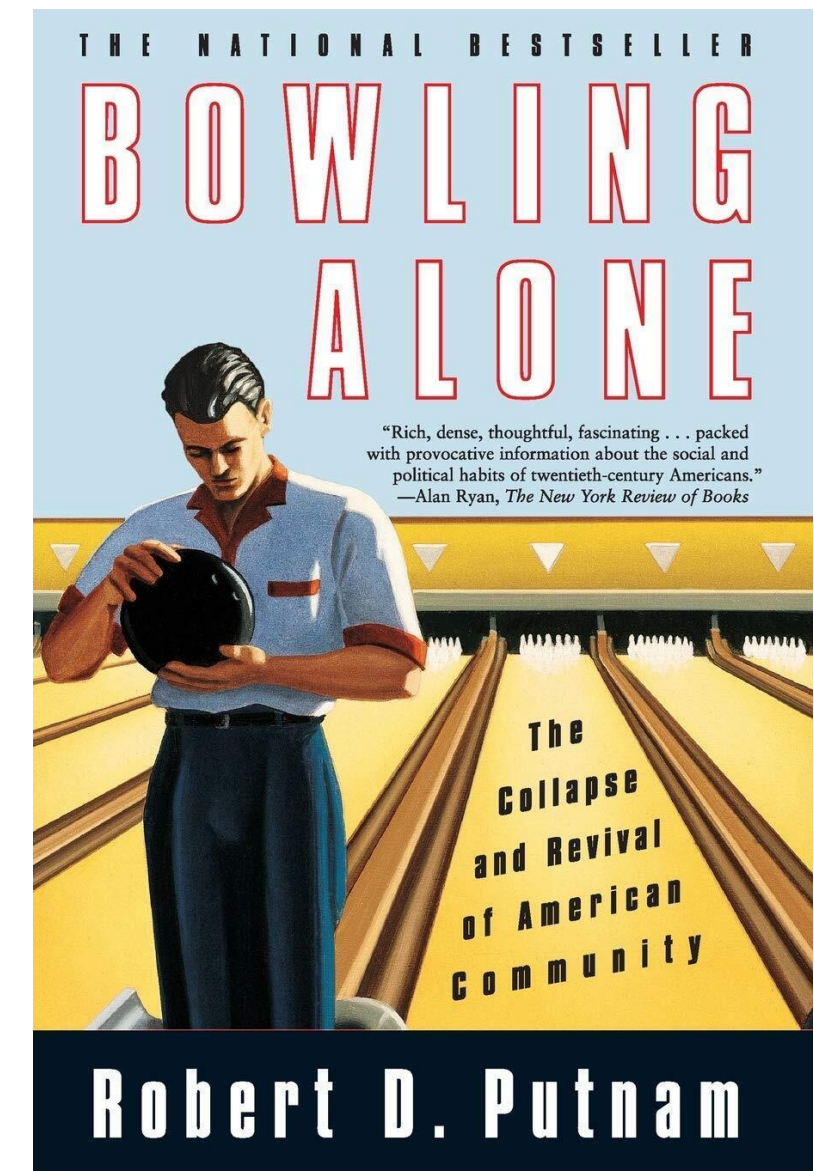
Thin trust: A more impersonal trust based on generalized norms and expectations of reciprocity within a community or society.

The rise of the professions among the examination-passing classes:

You go to “the doctor”.

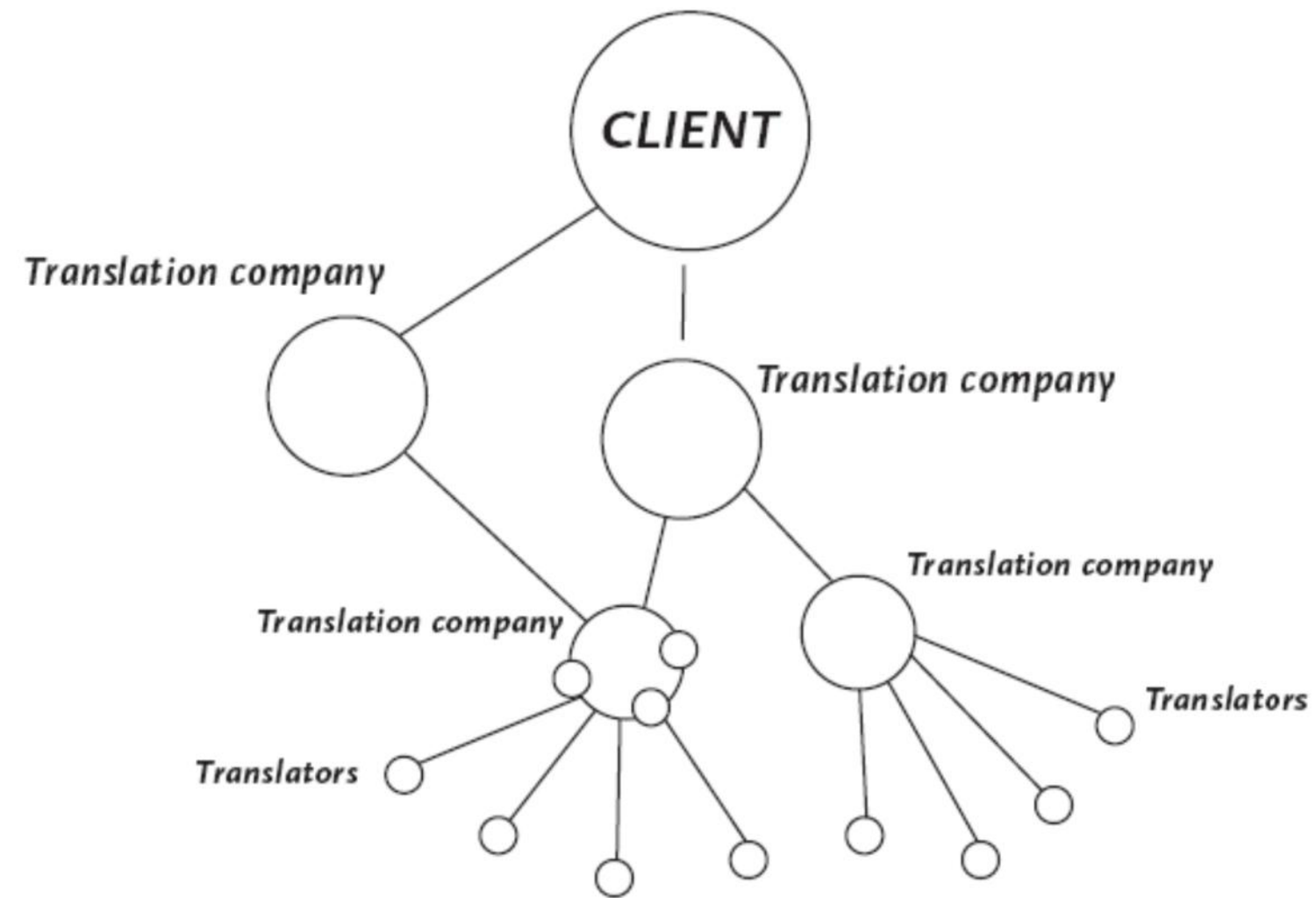
Putnam, R. D. (2000). *Bowling Alone. The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. Simon & Schuster.

Rizzi, A., Lang, B., and Pym, A. (2019). *What is translation history? A trust-based approach*. Palgrave Macmillan.



Networks create thin (low) trust?

Translation production network



Abdallah, K., & Koskinen, K. (2007). Managing Trust: Translating and the Network Economy. *Meta* 52(4): 673-87.

Distinction 2: Low trust is not distrust

Low trust: The trustor doubts the trustee's competence.

Distrust: The trustor suspects the trustee is working for the other side.

Asylum seekers trust machine translation; they *distrust* official interpreters.

The identity of the mediator matters.

Van De Walle, S. & Frédérique Six. F. (2014). Trust and Distrust as Distinct Concepts: Why Studying Distrust in Institutions is Important. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice*, 16 (2), 158-174.



Distinction 3: Trust as a leap of faith (Möllering)

A trustor can have weak or strong trust expectations, based on:

Routines

Reflexivity ('good reasons')

Suspension ('leap of faith')



Möllering, G. (2001). The Nature of Trust: From Georg Simmel to a Theory of Expectation, Interpretation and Suspension. *Sociology*, 35(2), 403–420.

Translational trust and AI

Translators, in order to survive as translators, must be trusted by all parties involved, both as a profession and individually. [...] Without this trust, the profession would collapse, and so would its practice.

Now, what happens when there is no human translator and no profession?



Growth focus lies on technology-rich activities such as MT services, language technology, language data services and even quality evaluation.

More generically however, participants, and in particular the independent professionals, express the fear that widespread acceptance of AI by the general public will increase acceptance of machine translation – with or without post-editing - as a valid replacement for human translation. In that sense, AI and MT are considered to be equivalent in the sense that both reduce the appreciation, and therefore also the financial compensation, for human language work.

With translation technologies?

Trust cannot be thick.

There are only routines: no 'good reasons' or grounds for a leap of faith.

Active reading *requires* low trust (not distrust)

In high-stakes communication, greater complexity means that automation is requires an added leap of faith.

Si **su** casa se incendia:

- **Aléjate** de las habitaciones que están en llamas, cerrando las puertas detrás de **ti**.

Si no **puede** entrar, las opciones de último recurso incluyen:

- Refugio en medio de una gran área abierta como un prado arado, un óvalo de fútbol o una reserva deportiva.
- **Métete** en una gran masa de agua como una presa, un lago, un río, el océano o una piscina enterrada.
- **Intenta protegerte** del calor del fuego.

Si **viajas**:

- Si **viaja**, no **entre** en la zona de advertencia. **Haga** un giro en U y viaje hacia un lugar seguro.
- Si actualmente **está** conduciendo, reduzca la velocidad y encienda las luces delanteras. El humo dificultará la visión.

Si se incendia **su** automóvil:

- **Estacione** fuera del camino detrás de una estructura sólida para bloquear el calor del fuego o **deténgase** en un área despejada.
- **Intente** posicionar el vehículo hacia el incendio que se aproxima.
- **Encienda** las luces de emergencia y los faros.
- **Cierre** todas las ventanas.

“Exposure” to automation

Eloundou, T. et al. (2023) say that 76.5% of interpreters and translators’ tasks are exposed to automation.

“Exposure” = “labor-augmenting or labor-displacing effects”

Working from O*Net data on occupation in the US

Eloundou, T. et al. (2023, March 20) GPTs are GPTs: An Early Look at the Labor Market Impact Potential of Large Language Models.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.10130>

Group	Occupations with highest exposure	% Exposure
Human α	Interpreters and Translators	76.5
	Survey Researchers	75.0
	Poets, Lyricists and Creative Writers	68.8
	Animal Scientists	66.7
	Public Relations Specialists	66.7
Human β	Survey Researchers	84.4
	Writers and Authors	82.5
	Interpreters and Translators	82.4
	Public Relations Specialists	80.6
	Animal Scientists	77.8
Human ζ	Mathematicians	100.0
	Tax Preparers	100.0
	Financial Quantitative Analysts	100.0
	Writers and Authors	100.0
	Web and Digital Interface Designers	100.0

Humans labeled 15 occupations as "fully exposed."

α = share of an occupation’s task that is exposed to GPTs

β = share of an occupation’s task that is exposed to GPT-powered software





What are the translation skills in O*Net (2023)

Occupation-Specific Information

Tasks

Save Table: [XLSX](#) [CSV](#)

^ All 17 displayed

Importance	Category	Task
97 	Core	+ Follow ethical codes that protect the confidentiality of information.
93 	Core	+ Translate messages simultaneously or consecutively into specified languages, orally or by using hand signs, maintaining message content, context, and style as much as possible.
87 	Core	+ Listen to speakers' statements to determine meanings and to prepare translations, using electronic listening systems as necessary.
86 	Core	+ Compile terminology and information to be used in translations, including technical terms such as those for legal or medical material.

Which translation skills can be automated?

IMPORTANCE	SKILL/ABILITY	DESCRIPTION	HUMAN	MT	GPT
97	Ethics	Follow ethical codes that protect the confidentiality of information.	YES	NO	NO
72	Reading Comprehension	Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.	YES	YES	YES
69	Writing	Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.	YES	YES	YES

Pym, A., & Torres-Simón, E. (2021). Efectos de la automatización en las competencias básicas del traductor: la traducción automática neuronal. In A. Vidal Suñé and A. Alarcón Alarcón (Eds.) *Ocupaciones y lenguaje. Indicadores y análisis de competencias lingüísticas en el ámbito laboral*, pp. 479-509. Publicacions de la Universitat Rovira i Virgili.

Which translation skills can be automated?

IMPORTANCE	SKILL/ABILITY	DESCRIPTION	HUMAN	MT	GPT
69	Information Ordering	The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).	YES	NO	YES
66	Critical Thinking	Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.	YES	NO	YES?
66	Problem Sensitivity	The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.	YES	NO	YES?
63	Monitoring	Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.	YES	NO?	YES?
53	Active Learning	Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.	YES	NO	YES?

Which translation skills can be automated?

IMPORTANCE	SKILL/ABILITY	DESCRIPTION	HUMAN	MT	GPT
53	Social Perceptiveness	Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.	YES	NO	YES?
53	Coordination	Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.	YES	NO	YES?
53	Service Orientation	Actively looking for ways to help people.	YES	NO	NO?
53	Judgment and Decision Making	Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.	YES	NO	YES?