

Evaluation of Mainstream Computer-aided Translation Software with Special Reference to Chinese

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Many translation-related computer tools are now available on the Chinese market. When practical issues are concerned, translators, the end-users of such tools, sometimes find it hard to choose among them because of their individual components and features. With special references to Chinese, the author of this paper conducts a comparison of four mainstream computer-aided translation (CAT) tools, namely, Déjà vu, SDL Trados, Wordfast, and Yaxin, based on parameters from the end-user's perspective. By evaluating their unique features, the author intends to demonstrate their specific applicability to translators with different needs. It is hoped that this paper will assist practitioners of Chinese-related translation, both at home and abroad, in their purchase and use of such computer tools.

The paper is divided into four parts. The introduction is CAT in the Chinese context.

The second part is about the methodology, steps, and parameters used in evaluating CAT systems, the end-user's perspective in particular.

Part three is an evaluation of four Chinese-related mainstream CAT software programs based on the steps and parameters elaborated in part two, together with their shared and distinctive components and features.



There are also some suggestions to administrators and practitioners of large-scale Chinese-related translation on how to choose among them. The last part concludes the paper with the hope that CAT tools and their evaluation should take more factors than those already discussed into consideration to cater to the needs of the localization industry and university curricula.

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