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## Post-editing: Yes or No?

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Recently, machine translation (MT) has been gaining ground rapidly. The paper proposes to look at translators' approach to this new development: should we ignore it or resist it? Will we lose business because of its increasing prevalence? Should the profession simply go with the flow, or should it embrace MT and go into a whole new direction?

It was often perceived that traditionally, freelance translators would oppose machine translation as a danger to their practice and profession. However, as machine translation software becomes readily available to anyone, an increasing number of translators are using it themselves to help them with their work, especially when facing a lack of matches in their translation memory for a text or segment. MT is beginning to be perceived as a tool for speeding up one's translation work. In fact, many larger companies are already expecting translators to use it.

As machine translation becomes a more prevalent tool, a need arises for translators in a totally new role: that of post-editors. Instead of translating the text themselves, post-editors check the output of machine translation and correct it, so the end result is a high quality translation of the source material. This is not quite the same as checking another translator's work. Machine translations are made using dictionaries combined with the grammatical rules for a specific language, and large translation memory databases. Efficient as the machine translation programs are, they are still at this stage far from being an equal match to the human brain. Typical mistakes therefore are different to mistakes made by humans and the editing process is more involved.



**Tineke Van BEUKERING** has a scientific background and holds a masters degree in Chemistry from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. She has contributed to international research projects at various tertiary institutions and also managed complex chemical databases in a commercial environment.

After migrating to Australia with her husband and young family, she decided on a career change to better suit the needs of her family. Tineke now combines her scientific background with her passion for languages as a freelance translator and is director of Dutch Translation Services, which she established in 2008. She specialises in Dutch <> English chemical and scientific translations and has extensive experience in post editing.

Tineke is based in sunny Brisbane and is an active member of the local scout group.