

Machine translation exercise 21
Controlled language for MT

1. Compare the two texts below in Italian (A and B) in the left-hand column of the table. The text at the top is a typical example of official administrative language ('burocratese'), while the text at the bottom is the result of its reformulation using a simpler style (following a very loose form of controlled language), keeping the same information. Compare the two output texts in English provided by Google Translate that are shown in the right-hand column: which of the two seems better? What kind of changes (at the lexical, grammatical, syntactic, stylistic, etc. levels) have been made to the source text that in your opinion have helped the most to improve the quality of the output shown at the bottom of the table?

www.i-dome.com/articolo/3270-.html	<i>Machine translation by Google Translate</i>
<i>Text A – Example of bureaucratic language</i> Al fine di ottenere una più rapida definizione delle contestazioni sulle cartelle esattoriali relative al 2010, si invitano tutti i contribuenti interessati a presentarsi presso i nostri uffici ove, tramite un'istanza corredata dalla documentazione giustificativa della contestazione alla pretesa tributaria, si può ottenere la definizione senza procedere alla spedizione del ricorso che comunque sarebbe necessario dopo le semplici informazioni che si possono ottenere presso quest'Ufficio.	In order to get a quicker definition of disputes on tax assessments for 2010, we invite all interested taxpayers to show up at our offices where, through an instance accompanied by supporting documentation of the complaint to the tax claim, you can get the definition not proceed with the shipment of the action that would be necessary in any case after the simple information that you can get at this Office.
<i>Text B – Reformulation</i> I contribuenti che vogliono risolvere rapidamente le contestazioni sulle cartelle esattoriali del 2010 possono rivolgersi personalmente ai nostri uffici. Se presentate direttamente la domanda con i documenti che giustificano la contestazione, la procedura è più rapida. In questo caso non serve spedire la richiesta dopo aver ricevuto le informazioni da questo ufficio.	Taxpayers who want to quickly resolve disputes over tax assessments of 2010 can apply personally to our offices. If you submit the application directly with documents justifying the complaint, the process is much faster. In this case you do not need to send the request after receiving the information from this office.

2. Compare the two texts in Italian (C and D) shown in the left-hand column of the table below and their respective translations in the right-hand column. The text at the bottom has been reformulated, keeping the same content, applying some very simple and general rules of controlled language to the text at the top. Can you understand which kinds of rules/restrictions were applied for this reformulation?

www.eius.it/giurisprudenza/2007/	<i>Machine translation by Google Translate</i>
Text C – Original text In materia di pubblicità occulta, il criterio dirimente per la dimostrazione del fine promozionale del messaggio, allorché manchi la prova storica del rapporto di committenza, è incentrato sulle modalità di raffigurazione del prodotto e, in particolare, sulla "innaturalità" della sua esibizione, da valutarsi in relazione all'insistenza sul marchio del prodotto, alla reiterazione delle citazioni o alla gestualità esasperata, forzata o comunque artificiosa dei personaggi, dovendosi quindi accertare se la citazione del marchio risulti del tutto estranea rispetto al contesto narrativo e assolutamente non giustificata da alcuna esigenza di caratterizzazione dei personaggi o della situazione ambientale.	Regarding surreptitious advertising, the criterion for nullifying the demonstration of end promotional message, when lacking the historical evidence of the relationship of client, focuses on how the representation of the product and, in particular, on the "unnaturalness" of his performance, by assessed in relation to the insistence on the brand of the product, the recurrence of the quotations or exasperated gesture, execution or otherwise contrived characters, having to then determine whether the citation of the mark completely alien than the narrative context and absolutely not justified by any requirement characterization of the characters or the environmental situation.
Text D – Reformulation Senza la prova di un rapporto commerciale, il criterio fondamentale per smascherare la pubblicità occulta riguarda la raffigurazione del prodotto. La poca naturalezza nel mostrare il prodotto deve essere valutata con l'insistenza sulla marca. Bisogna decidere se tante citazioni o i gesti esagerati dei personaggi sono ingiustificati dalla situazione.	Without proof of a business relationship, the fundamental criterion to expose the hidden advertising regards the representation of the product. The lack of naturalness in showing the product should be evaluated with the insistence on the brand. You have to decide whether so many quotations or exaggerated gestures of the characters are unjustified by the situation.

3. Open two separate web browsers and log on to these two websites:

- <http://translate.google.com>
- www.eius.it/giurisprudenza/2009/

(scroll down the page, looking at the short texts included in the sections entitled “Corte di cassazione”, “Consiglio di stato” and “Tribunali Amministrativi Regionali” – if necessary, select documents from a different year, modifying the end of the URL)

4. Choose from the website www.eius.it a text in Italian of approximately 5-10 lines of average complexity and translate it (as it is) into English using the MT service Google Translate. Look at the output and the input to understand what sort of mistakes the system makes and why. Then reflect on the changes that you might make to the input in Italian, applying a controlled style that might result in an overall improvement of the quality of the translation into English offered by the MT software.

5. In the left-hand panel of Google Translate modify the text in Italian according to the controlled language rules that you think might improve the performance of the MT system, paying attention to preserve the global meaning of the source text. Can you obtain a correct and understandable translation into English in the right-hand panel?
6. You probably have to carry out a series of changes at the lexical, phraseological, syntactic, etc. levels with a trial-and-error approach, to gradually understand how you can solve some of the problems that persist in the output in English. It might even be the case that a change made to the input results in a worse translation. During this process make **a note of the further rules of controlled language that you apply to modify the input in Italian, and that help you obtain a better overall final quality of the output in English.**