

## Translation Quality Audit

I provided the following quality control services for corporate clients:

1. Checking test translations done by other translators. The client received recommendations on selecting translators.
2. Quality audit of a working team of translators. This type of audit is described below.

When the audit is completed, the client receives a detailed report with an analysis of mistakes found in audited translations. An explanation and correct translation with substantiation (references to technical literature). The report can be used not only for quality assessment but also for its improvement, i.e. improvement of the translators' competence.

As the report is not just an "expert opinion" ("I did not like it", "bad style", etc.) but includes substantiation for each comment, this approach is more objective because the translator has an opportunity to argue their choice of words.

Of course, this type of audit will require a lot more effort on the auditor's part but will provide better opportunity for quality improvement. On the other hand, audit scope does not have to be very large as the main purpose is to identify repetitive mistakes and provide recommendations to remedy them.

### Example

In 2019, I audited the quality of translation in a project office of Cryogenmash (Russian company making equipment for production, transportation and storage of industrial gases) which included spot checking of translations from English into Russian and from Russia into English. Recommendations on improving productivity were also provided. Evaluation criteria:

1. Faithfulness of translation (whether the meaning is rendered correctly and clearly).
2. Correctness of technical term translation.
3. Style, general literacy.

A few examples of comments can be found below. (The comments were originally written in Russian.)

Original text	Translation	Auditor's comments
1 <b>Задача расчёта</b>	1 Calculation <del>sub-</del> <del>ject</del> <u>purpose</u>	Error in meaning. The word used in the Russian original means <i>purpose</i> while word <i>subject</i> means <i>topic</i> .
1.1 Задачей расчёта является определение допустимых давлений и толщин основных <b>конструктивных элементов</b> колонны.	1.1 The calculation subject is to determine the allowed pressures and thicknesses of the column's <del>modules</del> <u>structural elements</u> .	Mistranslation of a technical term. <i>Module</i> is a more or less separate independent part. Vessel shells, heads, etc. cannot be considered modules. ISO standards use <i>structural element</i> or <i>structural member</i> .
Рисунок 6 – <b>Расчётная схема</b> соединения патрубка с обечайкой	Figure 6 – Nozzle shell joint <del>design</del> <del>scheme</del> <u>structural model</u>	Mistranslation of a technical term. The phrase <i>design scheme</i> is unclear. The Russian term refers to a simplified model used in calculations instead of the real building or structure. The cor-

		<p>rect translation is <i>structural model</i>.</p> <p><b>structural model:</b> idealisation of the structural system used for the purposes of analysis, design and verification (EN 1990)</p> <p><b>расчетная модель (схема) несущей системы (structural model)</b> – идеализация несущей системы, используемая при ее расчете, проектировании, верификации. (НСП EN 1990-2011)</p>
Сейсмичность - 8 баллов	Seismicity – 8 balls	Error in meaning. Even though the English word <i>balls</i> looks similar to the Russian word, it is not used as a unit of seismicity measurement. Seismicity in English is usually given without units.
Минимальный момент инерции подошвы фундамента	Minimum <del>torque</del> <u>moment</u> of inertia of foundation base	<i>Torque of inertia</i> is an incorrect translation of the term <i>moment of inertia</i> which is a common term in mechanics.
Значение сейсмического коэффициента (таб.3) ( $K_s=0.0$ при баллах $< 7$ )	Value of seismic coefficient (table 3) ( $K_s=0.0$ when balls <u>magnitude is</u> $< 7$ )	Same error with balls.
Коэффициент прочности кольцевого шва	<del>ircular seam</del> <u>circumferential joint</u> efficiency	Mistranslation of a technical term. I believe it refers to a welded joint. <i>Efficiency</i> is a correct translation of the Russian term but <i>seam</i> is a non-standard term for a welded joint. Correct terms are <i>joints</i> or simply <i>welds</i> . (The term <i>seam welding</i> does exist and means a type of welding.)  The term <i>circumferential</i> was taken from ISO 13847:2013
Количество сосредоточенных масс	<del>Amount</del> <u>Number</u> of <del>concentrated</del> <u>lumped</u> masses	<p>1. <i>Amount</i> is normally used with uncountable nouns and we have a countable noun here.</p> <p>2. Mistranslation of a technical term. The idea is that the whole system is modelled as a few masses at different points. <i>Concentrated masses</i> is not common and mostly found in translated articles. A better translation would be <i>lumped masses</i> which can be found in ISO 23469:2005 Bases for design of structures — Seismic actions for designing geotechnical works:</p> <p><b>lumped mass:</b> mass assigned at discrete points of a model representing a continuum.</p> <p>The text describes seismic calculations so the correct translation is <i>lumped masses</i>.</p>