

Project description

Potential impact

There are currently 23 official languages in the EU, and although English is often regarded as an acceptable option in business communication, however, this does not hold for the community as a whole. One authoritative survey:

(http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_243_sum_en.pdf) indicated that only 38% of Europeans indicate that they know English. This makes multilingualism remains a critical issue for the European Union and its citizens.

The challenges addressed in this project take cognisance of European Parliament resolution of 24 March 2009 which: "Considers that Europe's linguistic diversity constitutes a major cultural asset and it would be wrong for the European Union to restrict itself to a single main language; that stresses the crucial role of the EU institutions in ensuring respect for the principle of linguistic parity, in relations between Member States and in the EU institutions themselves, as also in EU citizens' relations with national administrations and with Community and international institutions and bodies;" (OJEU, 2010).

By improving the current state of the art in language technology and in providing tools which operate over a diversity of languages, the ACCEPT project aligns well with the EU policy that supports all citizens being provided with information in their mother tongue. The ACCEPT project considers the EU's most common languages as well as Japanese, the language of one of the Community's most significant trading partners, especially in the provision of high-tech electronic goods. We expect that the lessons learnt in these languages will be broadly applicable.

The ACCEPT project will have an impact across a variety of industries and user communities. Translation of user forums will have a major impact on the availability of information to the ordinary citizen. Typically, forum information is fixed in English as institutions are unable to afford translation by traditional methods. ACCEPT will help mother-tongue speakers refine machine-translated material for the benefit of their peers both within the Community and further afield.

In today's knowledge-based society, we compete in the rapidly evolving socio-economic landscape of the modern era. The sheer volume of information is overwhelming, and increasing day by day, and the methods that we use to process this dynamic information are currently unable to cater to today's volumes. These methods need to be scaled to meet our developing needs and to enable the translation of user generated and community content efficiently.

ACCEPT will facilitate the translation process in online environments including social media such as blogs, emails, discussion forums. We will improve the usability, performance and cost effectiveness of content development and translation and so serve as a supporting technology in natural language processing deployments containing machine translation.

The objective of *ACCEPT* is to improve the competitiveness of Europe in the field of multilingual digital content comprehension. In certain respects, research and development in language technologies in Europe is still lagging behind research in the United States and Japan. We can improve the situation in Europe and we believe that the ACCEPT project will advance citizen access to information.

Monolingual editing will act as a liberating force, and free the recipient from the burden of attempting comprehension in a language he/she is unfamiliar with.