

Week 1 Assignment – Exploring Online Translation Tools

EDUC X 425.04 - 407004 Instructional Technologies for TESOL Classrooms

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I used DeepL for this exercise. I am still a beginner AI user but am quickly learning to love it. When I thought about what language to select for this assignment, I thought about the international airline customers I work with. I decided to ask a native Dutch speaker but wasn't sure if he'd be available. So, I prepared a German translation as well. It turns out I received feedback from both. The Dutch speaker said the translation was "perfect." The German speaker read the paragraph more closely. He was more analytical. He made an interesting comment. He said the translation was fine but he used an analogy of the difference between a photograph and a painting. He said the translation was more like a photograph, rather than a painting. He was implying that the translation was obviously an automated artifact instead of something produced with the stylish creativity of a human. Based on his comments, I realized that the quality of a translated item is also affected by the quality of the original writeup. I also did one in Japanese just to see how it would compare.. Japanese is my second language. However, I was quite impressed by the quality of the translation.

I think using AI tools in the classroom is inevitable. AI will impact all aspects of our world and lives. Students can use online translation tools to research topics in their own language, improve their vocabulary through comparison, and develop their reading comprehension by seeing translated versions in their native language. I used ChatGPT to help me with this. One interesting part of the summary stated that AI translations should be used as a supplement, not as the primary learning tool. There could be mistranslations and potential loss of nuance, as pointed out by the German speaker.