



Revision of a Non-Specialised Translation: List of Error Categories for Candidates (English into Italian)

The translation includes errors at word, phrase or sentence level across the following categories:

| Error Category | Examples of Errors |
|--|--|
| 1. Distortion: An element of meaning in the source text is altered in the target text. A distortion can occur in an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence. | <p>a) Language source text: <i>This week</i> the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise. Correct version: <i>Questa settimana</i> il governo ha annunciato che tutti i dipendenti pubblici riceveranno un aumento di stipendio. Incorrect version: <i>Il governo ha annunciato che tutti i dipendenti pubblici riceveranno un aumento di stipendio questa settimana.</i> (Moving the phrase <i>questa settimana</i> changes the time reference from the announcement to the pay rise, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)</p> |
| | <p>b) Language source text: The witness described the thief as a young man with <u>black</u> hair. Correct version: <i>Il testimone ha descritto il ladro come un giovane dai capelli <u>neri</u>.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Il testimone ha descritto il ladro come un giovane dai capelli <u>biondi</u>.</i> (Incorrect translation of the adjective, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)</p> |
| 2. Unjustified omission: An element of meaning in the source text is not transferred into the target text. An unjustified omission can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence. | <p>Language source text: <i>The largest increases in soil carbon levels are obtained in the first 6–8 years after changes in land management, <u>and after 35 years the rate of change drops to zero.</u></i> Correct version: <i>Gli aumenti più consistenti dei livelli di carbonio nel suolo si ottengono nei primi 6–8 anni successivi ai cambiamenti della gestione del territorio, <u>e dopo 35 anni il tasso di cambiamento scende a zero.</u></i> Incorrect version: <i>Gli aumenti più consistenti dei livelli di carbonio nel suolo si ottengono nei primi 6–8 anni successivi ai cambiamenti della gestione del territorio.</i> (Omission of the underlined clause results in a major loss of meaning in the context of the whole sentence.)</p> |



| | |
|---|---|
| <p>3. Unjustified insertion: An element of meaning that does not exist in the source text is added to the target text.</p> <p>An unjustified insertion can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p> | <p>Language source text: <i>This would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement.</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>garantisce che chi smette di lavorare intorno ai sessantacinque anni possa godere di un pensionamento economicamente sicuro.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>garantisce che chi smette di lavorare intorno ai sessantacinque anni possa godere di un pensionamento economicamente sicuro <u>per tutta la vita, indipendentemente dalla durata.</u></i></p> <p>(The underlined words were not found in the original text, nor were they implied, and inserting them has a major impact on the transfer of meaning.)</p> |
| <p>4. Inappropriate register: An expression or variety of language considered by a native speaker to be inappropriate to the specific context in which it is used.</p> | <p>a) Language source text: <i>In a recent judgement, the Criminal Court <u>handed down</u> a three-month suspended sentence.</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>In una recente sentenza, il tribunale <u>ha emesso</u> un verdetto di tre mesi con la condizionale.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>In una recente sentenza, il tribunale <u>ha dato</u> un verdetto di tre mesi con la condizionale.</i></p> <p>(In the legal register, the wording usually used is that a court <i>emette</i> rather than <i>dà</i> a sentence.)</p> <p>b) Language source text: [in minutes of board meeting] <i>The Chairman expressed his <u>extreme displeasure</u>.</i></p> <p>Correct version: [nel verbale di un consiglio di amministrazione] <i>Il presidente ha <u>espresso il suo estremo disappunto</u>.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>Il presidente ha detto di <u>essere davvero infastidito</u>.</i></p> <p>(The phrase <i>ha detto di essere davvero infastidito</i> conveys the correct meaning but is too informal in this context.)</p> |



| | |
|--|--|
| <p>5. Unidiomatic expression: An expression sounding unnatural or awkward to a native speaker irrespective of the context in which the expression is used, but the intended meaning can be understood.</p> | <p>a) Language source text: <i>Smog is a <u>big</u> problem in many cities.</i> Correct version: <i>Lo smog è un <u>grosso</u> problema in molte città.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Lo smog è un <u>largo</u> problema in molte città.</i> (In this context, the word <i>grosso</i> is more commonly used, but <i>largo</i> can still be understood.)</p> |
| | <p>b) Language source text: <i>subjected <u>to</u> intense criticism</i> Correct version: <i>sottoposto <u>a</u> critiche intense.</i> Incorrect version: <i>sottoposto <u>con</u> critiche intense.</i> (The verb <i>subject[ed]</i> is normally collocated with the preposition <i>a</i>, but the meaning can be understood.)</p> |
| <p>6. Error of grammar, syntax: Error in structuring words, clauses and phrases of a language. E.g. incorrect word type/form; incorrect verb tense/form; agreement error between subject- verb, noun-pronoun, adjective- noun, etc.</p> | <p>a) Language source text: <i>the symptoms include <u>itchiness</u></i> Correct version: <i>I sintomi <u>includono</u> prurito</i> Incorrect version: <i>I sintomi <u>includono</u> prudere</i> (Incorrect word form, i.e. use of a verb instead of a noun.)</p> |
| | <p>b) Language source text: <i>last month he <u>brought</u> me...</i> Correct version: <i>Il mese scorso mi <u>ha portato</u>...</i> Incorrect version: <i>Il mese scorso mi <u>porta</u>...</i> (Incorrect verb tense, i.e. present tense instead of past tense.)</p> |



| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>c) Language source text: <i>strokes are quite common.</i> Correct version: <i>Gli ictus <u>sono</u> piuttosto comuni.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Gli ictus <u>è</u> piuttosto comune.</i> (Agreement error between noun and verb, i.e. use of singular verb form instead of plural.)</p> |
| | <p>d) Language source text: <i>he picked up a chair and put <u>it</u> on the table.</i> Correct version: <i>Ha preso una sedia e <u>l'ha messa</u> sul tavolo.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Ha preso una sedia e <u>lo ha messo</u> sul tavolo.</i> (Incorrect pronoun to refer to sedia.)</p> |
| | <p>e) Language source text: <i>they <u>have provided</u> the information.</i> Correct version: <i>Hanno <u>fornito</u> le informazioni.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Hanno le informazioni <u>fornito</u>.</i> (Incorrect sentence structure.)</p> |
| <p>7. Error of spelling: Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.</p> | <p>Language source text: <i>That case will have to be tried in the <u>Supreme</u> Court.</i> Correct version: <i>Il caso dovrà essere giudicato dalla Corte <u>Suprema</u>.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Il caso dovrà essere giudicato dalla Corte <u>suprema</u>.</i> (Capitalisation error, i.e. as <i>Supreme</i> is part of the name of the court, it should have a capital letter.)</p> |



8. Error of punctuation: Error in use of marks that separate sentences and their elements, and clarify meaning. E.g. incorrect comma, full-stop, apostrophe, inverted commas, etc.

Language source text: *The government will change its policy on the taxation of trusts.*

Correct version: *Il governo cambierà le direttive sulla tassazione dei fondi fiduciari.*

Incorrect version: *Il governo, cambierà le direttive sulla tassazione dei fondi fiduciari.*

(Incorrect comma usage, i.e. the comma incorrectly separates the subject from its verb.)