



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

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

Error Category	Examples of Errors
<p>1. Distortion: An element of meaning in the source text is altered in the target text.</p> <p>A distortion can occur in an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p>a) Correct version: <u>this week</u> the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise.</p> <p>a) Incorrect version: the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise <u>this week</u>. (Moving the phrase this week changes the time reference from the announcement to the pay rise, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)</p>
	<p>b) Correct version: the witness described the thief as a young man with <u>blond</u> hair.</p> <p>b) Incorrect version: the witness described the thief as a young man with <u>black</u> hair. (Incorrect translation of the adjective, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)</p>
<p>2. Unjustified omission: An element of meaning in the source text is not transferred into the target text.</p> <p>An unjustified omission can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p>Correct version: the largest increases in soil carbon levels are obtained in the first 6–8 years after changes in land management, and <u>after 35 years the rate of change drops to zero</u>.</p> <p>Incorrect version: the largest increases in soil carbon levels are obtained in the first 6–8 years after changes in land management. (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>Correct version: would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement.</p> <p>Incorrect version: would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement <u>for the rest of their lives, no matter how long they lived</u>. (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>



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<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) Correct version: In a recent judgement, the Criminal Court <u>handed down</u> a three-month suspended sentence. a) Incorrect version: In a recent judgement, the Criminal Court <u>gave out</u> a three-month suspended sentence. (In the legal register, the wording usually used is that a court hands down rather than gives out a sentence.)</p>
	<p>b) Correct version: [in minutes of board meeting] The Chairman expressed his <u>extreme displeasure</u>. b) Incorrect version: The Chairman said he was <u>really annoyed</u>. (The phrase said he was really annoyed 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) Correct version: Smog is a <u>big</u> problem in many cities. a) Incorrect version: Smog is a <u>large</u> problem in many cities. (In this context, the word big is more commonly used, but large can still be understood.)</p>
	<p>b) Correct version: subjected <u>to</u> intense criticism b) Incorrect version: subjected <u>with</u> intense criticism (The verb subject[ed] is normally collocated with the preposition to, 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) Correct version: the symptoms include <u>dizziness</u> a) Incorrect version: the symptoms include <u>dizzy</u> (Incorrect word form, i.e. use of adjective instead of noun)</p>
	<p>b) Correct version: last month he <u>brought</u> me... b) Incorrect version: last month he <u>brings</u> me... (Incorrect verb tense, i.e. present tense instead of past tense)</p>
	<p>c) Correct version: <u>strokes are</u> quite common c) Incorrect version: <u>strokes is</u> quite common (Agreement error between noun and verb, i.e. use of singular verb form instead of plural)</p>



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<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>d) Correct version: he picked up a chair and put <u>it</u> on the table d) Incorrect version: he picked up a chair and put <u>her</u> on the table (Incorrect pronoun to refer to chair.)</p> <p>e) Correct version: they <u>have provided</u> the information e) Incorrect version: they <u>have</u> the information <u>provided</u> (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>Correct version: That case will have to be tried in the <u>Supreme</u> Court. Incorrect version: That case will have to be tried in the <u>supreme</u> Court. (Capitalisation error, i.e. as Supreme is part of the name of the court, it should have a capital letter.)</p>
<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.</p>	<p>Correct version: <u>The government</u> will change its policy on the taxation of trusts. Incorrect version: <u>The government,</u> will change its policy on the taxation of trusts. (Incorrect comma usage, i.e. the comma incorrectly separates the subject from its verb.)</p>