



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

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) Source language text: <i><u>this week</u> the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>O governo anunciou <u>esta semana</u> que todos os funcionários receberiam um aumento salarial.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>O governo anunciou que todos os funcionários receberiam um aumento salarial <u>esta semana</u>.</i></p> <p>(Moving the <i>this week</i> changes the time reference from the announcement to the pay rise, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)</p>
	<p>b) Source language text: <i>the witness described the thief as a young man with <u>black</u> hair</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>a testemunha descreveu o ladrão como um jovem de cabelo <u>preto</u>.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>a testemunha descreveu o ladrão como um jovem de cabelo <u>loiro</u>.</i></p> <p>(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>Source language 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></p> <p>Correct version: <i>Os maiores incrementos nos níveis de carbono no solo são obtidos nos primeiros 6 a 8 anos depois de mudanças na gestão da terra, <u>e 35 anos depois o índice de mudança cai para zero.</u></i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>Os maiores incrementos nos níveis de carbono no solo são obtidos nos primeiros 6 a 8 anos depois de mudanças na gestão da terra.</i></p> <p>(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>Source language text: <i>would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>garantiria que as pessoas que deixam de trabalhar na faixa dos 60 anos desfrutariam de uma aposentadoria com estabilidade financeira</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>garantiria que as pessoas que deixam de trabalhar na faixa dos 60 anos desfrutariam de uma aposentadoria com estabilidade financeira <u>pelo resto das suas vidas.</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>Source language text: <i>The President has come under fire from parents <u>angry</u> about the content of his speech</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>O Presidente recebeu fortes críticas de pais <u>indignados</u> pelo conteúdo do discurso dele</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>O Presidente recebeu fortes críticas de pais <u>zangados</u> pelo conteúdo do discurso dele</i></p> <p>(In the formal, educated register expected from a journalistic piece of writing, the use of ‘zangados’ would be considered inappropriate.)</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) Source language text: <i>The man <u>goes</u> to his house.</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>O homem <u>vai</u> para sua casa.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>O homem <u>caminha</u> para sua casa.</i></p> <p>(In this context, the word ‘vai’ is commonly used, even though ‘caminha’ would still be understood.)</p> <hr/> <p>b) Source language text: [on an official form] <i><u>Occupation: engineer</u></i></p> <p>Correct version: [num formulário oficial] <i><u>Profissão: engenheiro</u></i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i><u>Trabalho: engenheiro</u></i></p> <p>(In this context, the word ‘profissão’ is commonly used, even though ‘trabalho’ would still be understood.)</p>



	<p>c) Source language text: <i>Many of them dream <u>of</u> finding a well-paid job in Australia.</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>Muitos deles sonham <u>em</u> encontrar um trabalho bem remunerado na Austrália.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>Muitos deles sonham <u>de</u> encontrar um trabalho bem remunerado na Austrália.</i></p> <p>(The verb 'sonhar' is normally collocated with the preposition 'em', even though the meaning could 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) Source language text: <i>the symptoms include <u>dizziness and nausea</u></i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>os sintomas incluem <u>tonturas e náusea</u></i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>os sintomas incluem <u>tonto e náusea</u></i></p> <p>(Incorrect word form, ie. use of adjective instead of noun)</p>
	<p>b) Source language text: <i>Portuguese police <u>are</u> conducting a search operation in the area</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>A polícia portuguesa <u>está</u> realizando uma operação de busca na zona</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>A polícia portuguesa <u>estão</u> realizando uma operação de busca na zona</i></p> <p>(Number agreement between subject and verb)</p>
	<p>c) Source language text: <i>The asylum-seeker was denied access to legal aid.</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>Negaram acesso <u>à</u> assistência jurídica gratuita ao requerente de asilo</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>Negaram acesso <u>para</u> assistência jurídica gratuita ao requerente de asilo</i></p> <p>(Incorrect preposition)</p>
	<p>d) Source language text: <i>It is the kind of house many of us would make a sacrifice for.</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>É o tipo de casa <u>pela qual</u> muitos de nós faríamos um sacrifício.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>É o tipo de casa <u>a qual</u> muitos de nós faríamos um sacrifício por ela</i></p> <p>(Incorrect unidiomatic 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>Source language text: <i>Waters from the Amazon River eventually flow into the Atlantic Ocean.</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>As águas do <u>Rio Amazonas</u> acabam por desembocar no Oceano Atlântico.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>As águas do <u>Rio amazonas</u> acabam por desembocar no Oceano Atlântico.</i></p> <p>(Capitalisation error, ie. Since <i>Amazonas</i> is the name of the river, it should have a capital letter in Portuguese.)</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>Source language text: <i>The government is about to change its policy on overseas investments.</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>O governo está prestes a mudar sua política sobre investimentos internacionais.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>O governo, está prestes a mudar sua política sobre investimentos internacionais.</i></p> <p>(Incorrect comma usage, i.e. the comma incorrectly separates the subject from its verb.)</p>