



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

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>This week the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise.</i></p> <p>Fa'amatalaga sa'o: <u>O le vaiaso nei</u> na fa'asilasila mai e le Malo e fa'apea o le a maua si'itaga o totogi a tagata faigaluega uma a le Malo.</p> <p>Fa'amatalaga sese: Na fa'asilasila mai e le Malo e fa'apea o le a maua si'itaga o totogi a tagata faigaluega uma a le Malo i le <u>vaiaso nei</u>.</p> <p>(Moving the phrase "vaiaso nei" 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>blond hair</u>.</i></p> <p>Fa'amatalaga sa'o: Na fa'amatalaina e le molimau le gaioi o se ali'i talavou e <u>enaena</u> lona lau'ulu.</p> <p>Fa'amatalaga sese: Na fa'amatalaina e le molimau le gaioi o se ali'i talavou e <u>uliuli</u> lona lau'ulu.</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, and <u>after 35 years the rate of change drops to zero</u>.</i></p> <p>Fa'amatalaga sa'o: O le si'itaga tele o le maualuga o le karapona o le eleele e maua mai i le 6-8 tausaga muamua pe a mae'a suiga i le pulega o eleele, <u>ma i le tuana'i ai o le 35 tausaga ua pa'u ai le fua fa'atatau i le 0.</u></p> <p>Fa'amatalaga sese: O le si'itaga tele o le maualuga o le karapona o le eleele e maua mai i le 6-8 tausaga muamua pe a mae'a suiga i le pulega o eleele.</p> <p>(Omission of the underlined clause results in a major loss of meaning in the context of the whole sentence.)</p>



Error Category	Examples of Errors
<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>Fa’amatalaga sa’o: o le a mautinoa ai e fa’apea o tagata ua tuua le galuega i le ogatotonu o le 60 o latou tausaga e mautū ma maua se fa’amanuiaga tau tupe pe a fa’amalolo litaea.</p> <p>Fa’amatalaga sese: o le a mautinoa ai e fa’apea o tagata ua tuua le galuega i le ogatotonu o le 60 o latou tausaga e mautū ma maua se fa’amanuiaga tau tupe pe a fa’amalolo litaea <u>mo le olaga atoa tusa lava po’o le a le umi e latou te soifua ai.</u></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) Source language text: <i>In a recent judgement, the Criminal Court <u>handed down</u> a three-month suspended sentence.</i></p> <p>Fa’amatalaga sa’o: I se fa’aiuga talu ai nei, na <u>tu’uina mai</u> ai e le Fa’amasinoga o Soligatulafono se fa’asalaga e tolu masina e fa’amalolo lē tumau ai.</p> <p>Fa’amatalaga sese: I se fa’aiuga talu ai nei, na <u>tu’uina atu</u> ai e le Fa’amasinoga o Soligatulafono se fa’asalaga e tolu masina e fa’amalolo lē tumau ai.</p> <p>(In the legal register, the wording usually used is that a court “tu’uina mai” rather than “tu’uina atu” a sentence.)</p> <p>b) Source language text: <i>[in minutes of board meeting] The Chairman expressed his <u>extreme displeasure</u>.</i></p> <p>Fa’amatalaga sa’o: [i minute o fonotaga a le komiti fa’atino] Na fa’aalia e le Taitaifono lona <u>lē fiafia tele</u>.</p> <p>Fa’amatalaga sese: Na fai mai le Ta’ita’ifono ua <u>matuā ita</u> lava o ia.</p> <p>(The phrase “matuā ita” conveys the correct meaning but is too informal in this context.)</p>



Error Category	Examples of Errors
<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>Smog is a <u>big</u> problem in many cities.</i></p> <p>Correct version: A szmog <u>nagy</u> probléma városainkban.</p> <p>Incorrect version: A szmog <u>méretes</u> probléma városainkban.</p> <p>(In this context, the word “nagy” is more commonly used, but “méretes” can still be understood.)</p> <p>b) Source language text: <i>subjected <u>to</u> intense criticism</i></p> <p>Faamatalaga sa’o: noatia <u>i</u> faitioga tele</p> <p>Faamatalaga sese: noatia <u>ma</u> faitioga tele</p> <p>(The verb “noatia” should be collocated with the preposition “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) Source language text: <i>the symptoms include <u>dizziness</u></i></p> <p>Faamatalaga sa’o: o auga e aofia ai le <u>faaniniva</u></p> <p>Faamatalaga sese: o auga e aofia ai le <u>niniva</u></p> <p>(Incorrect word form)</p> <p>b) Source language text: <i>last month he <u>brought</u> me...</i></p> <p>Faamatalaga sa’o: i le masina talu ai na ia <u>aumaia</u> ia te a’u...</p> <p>Faamatalaga sese: i le masina talu ai ua ia <u>aumaj</u> ia te a’u...</p> <p>(Incorrect verb tense, i.e. present tense instead of past tense)</p>



Error Category	Examples of Errors
<p>6. Error of grammar, syntax (continued): 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>c) Source language text: <u>strokes</u> are quite common</p> <p>Faamatalaga sa'o: <u>ma'i ua poloka alatoto e fai lava si taatele</u></p> <p>Faamatalaga sese: <u>ma'i ua poloka alatoto e fai lava le taatele</u></p> <p>(Agreement error between noun and verb, i.e. use of singular verb form instead of plural)</p>
	<p>d) Source language text: <i>he picked up a chair and put <u>it</u> on the table</i></p> <p>Faamatalaga sa'o: sa ia si'iina i luga se nofoa ma tuu i luga o le laulau</p> <p>Faamatalaga sese: sa ia si'iina i luga se nofoa ma tuu <u>o ia</u> i luga o le laulau.</p> <p>(Incorrect pronoun to refer to chair.)</p>
	<p>e) Source language text: <i>they <u>have provided</u> the information</i></p> <p>Faamatalaga sa'o: ua latou <u>tuuina mai</u> ni faamatalaga</p> <p>Faamatalaga sese: o lo'o <u>i ai</u> ia latou ni faamatalaga na <u>tuuina atu</u></p> <p>(Incorrect sentence structure)</p>



Error Category	Examples of Errors
7. Error of spelling: Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.	<p>Source language text: <i>That case will have to be tried in the <u>Supreme Court</u>.</i></p> <p>Faamatalaga sa'o: O lea mataupu e ao ona faia i luma o le Faamasinoga <u>Sili</u>.</p> <p>Faamatalaga sese: O lea mataupu e ao ona faia i luma o le Faamasinoga <u>sili</u>.</p> <p>(Capitalisation error, i.e. as "Sili" 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.	<p>Source language text: <i><u>The government</u> will change its policy on the taxation of trusts.</i></p> <p>Faamatalaga sa'o: O le malo o le a sua ana faiga faavae i lafoga o mavaega.</p> <p>Faamatalaga sese: <u>O le malo</u>, o le a sua ana faiga faavae i lafoga o mavaega.</p> <p>(Incorrect comma usage, i.e. the comma incorrectly separates the subject from its verb.)</p>