**Translator Challenge**

This activity will help you evaluate computer-assisted translations.

**Step 1: Research**

Locate and use two different online translators.

List the websites used:

1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
**Step 2: Try it out**

Translate the following pairs of sentences on each of the two internet translation services, from English to Indonesian and then back to English:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sentence** |  | **English to Indonesian (write the Indonesian below)** | **Translate the same sentence back to English** |
| I’m not sure this translator is working. | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| I like ice cream with nuts on top. | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| Some people think I am nuts. | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| I can drink a can of ginger beer. | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| Can you dance the can-can? | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| If I get any more chocolates, I’ll get sick of them. | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| I once visited Indonesia on a study tour. | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| Let’s go out for dinner tonight. | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| The young guy from that band is hot! | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| The head of the village said not to cut down the coconut trees. | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| You know I don’t like eating tofu! | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |
| I love Indonesian. | Site 1 |  |  |
| Site 2 |  |  |

**Which translator did better, and why?**

**Highlight all of the Indonesian sentences that are informal in green and formal in yellow. What do you notice?**

**Step 3: Try it out**

1. Write a one paragraph autobiography in English – name, age, family or friends, likes, future plans.
2. Choose the best translator from Step 2. Paste in your English paragraph, translate it into French.
3. Translate the French into any language other than English (e.g. Arabic!).
4. Translate it into Indonesian. Copy and paste the Indonesian into the table below.
5. Translate it back into English. Copy and paste the English into the table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **English original** | **Indonesian translation (after 2 other translations)** | **Final English translation** |
|  |  |  |

**Step 4: Reflection**

Delete any statements that are false:

* My teacher will be able to tell easily if I use an online translator.
* Online translators do an excellent job.
* Online translators do an OK job.
* I might use an online translator to help get the gist of text.
* I’m going to double-check any work I do using an online translator.
* Online translators will save me a lot of time when doing written work.
* This was a useful activity for me.
* I am better off adapting models from class or other examples than using a translator straight away.