The elusive encounter of a survey methodologist, a platform engineer and a translation technologist

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Lynn

survey
methodologist

questionnaire
author

social science
researcher

Irmtraud

platform engineer

lead programmer

IT scientist

Blaise

translation technologist

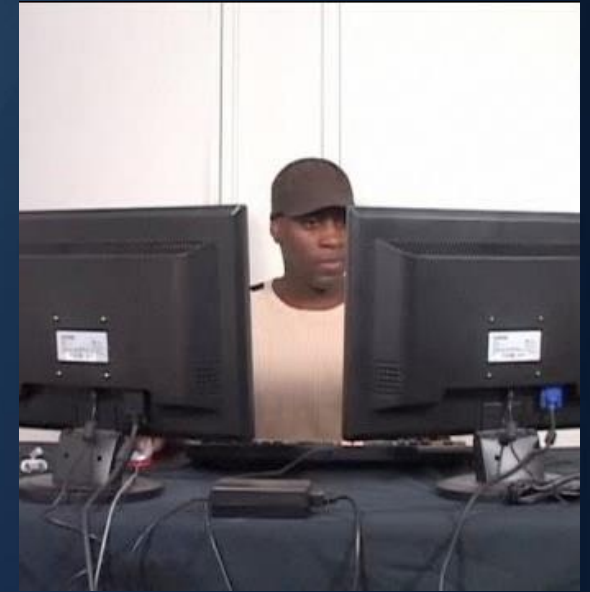terminologist

active member of OmegaT developers' community

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Lynn   Irmtraud   Blaise

Θ wave of 3MC Survey

Lynn

- Mixed-mode survey

- Team translation with team adjudication meetings

Irmtraud

- Everything in one place, from authoring to case mgt

- Built-in translation editor

Blaise

- Standard-compliant XLIFFs

- Alignment of existing translations

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A conversation between two different worlds

Leveraging Assets
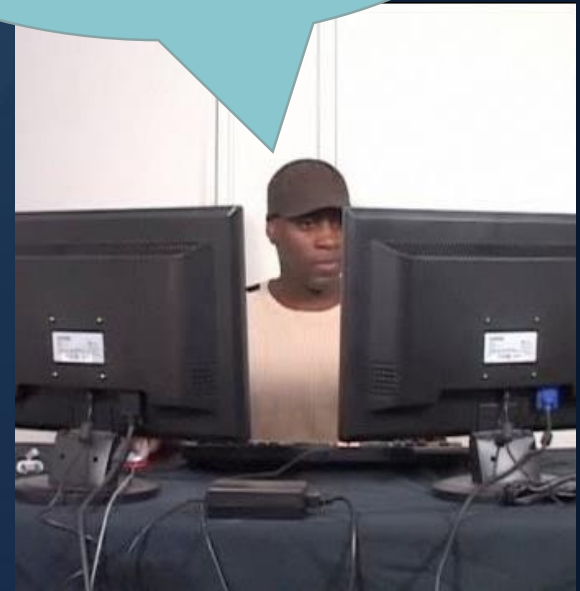
Exporting and Importing back
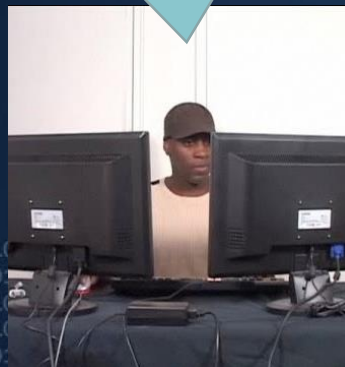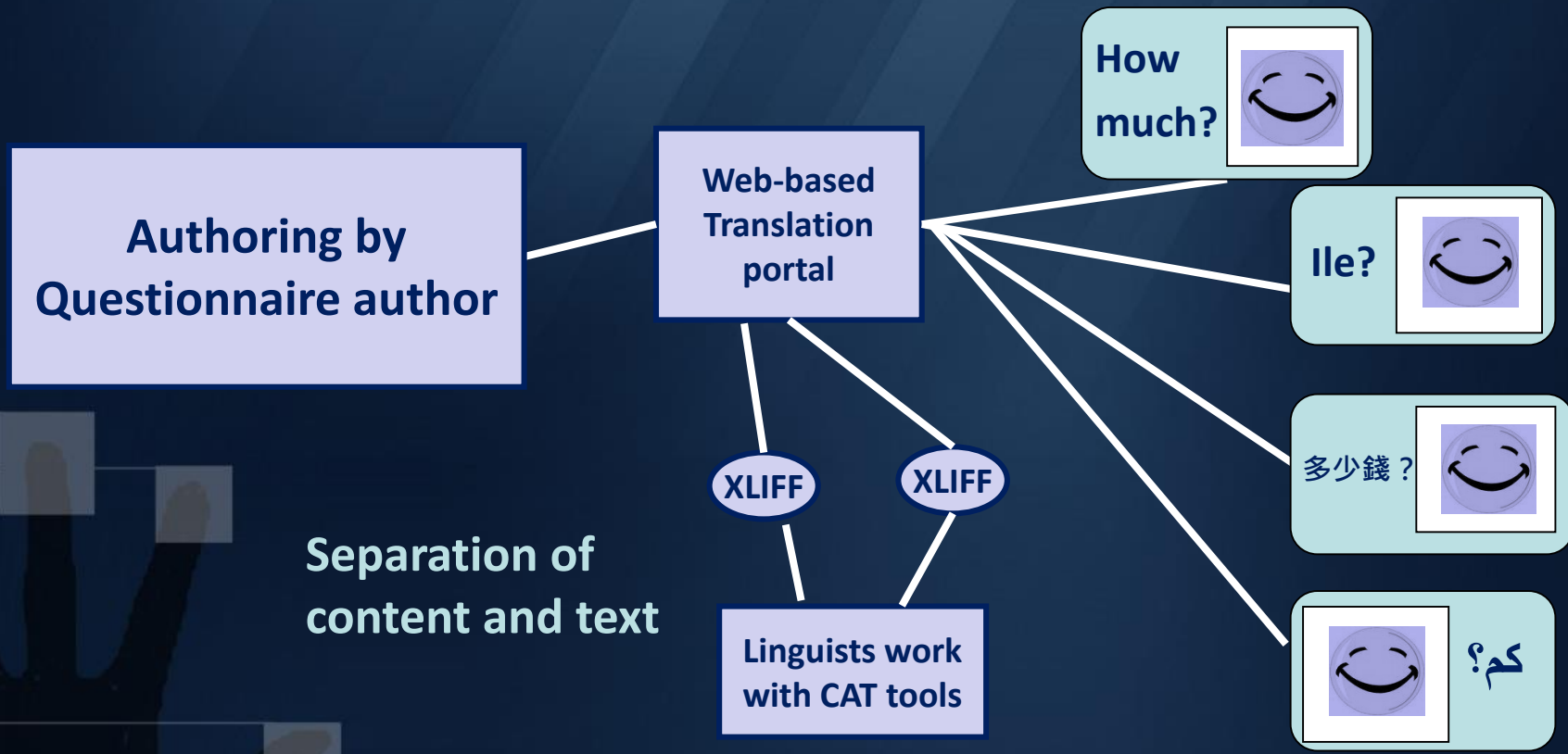
Good news for Irmtraud
and for all platform engineers

- open-source Java libraries exist
  - Okapi XLIFF Toolkit for XLIFF 2.0
  - Okapi Rainbow for XLIFF 1.2

- allow to create, read, write and manipulate XLIFF, which should facilitate adoption of the standard for any organization

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Segmentation

Good news for Irmtraud
and for all platform engineers

- Segmentation Rules Exchange (SRX)
- SRX file defines segmentation rules and can be shared among different parties
- so that segmentation can be applied consistently in the creation of different translation packages by different people and at different points in time.

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Conclusive remarks (1)

- **Non-professional** translators (and SMEs who are not linguists) tend to favour low-tech solution – e.g. all in one platform

- Reluctance to work with tools can be overcome with adequate support

- **Professional** linguists work (much) better if they can use their tools

- Professionalization improves consistency and overall quality

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Conclusive remarks (2)

- XLIFF and other data exchange standards have the *potential* of streamlining the translation process

- If not used properly, standards can become a prison in which translators are tortured in unpredictable ways

- know-how of a translation technologist is needed to handle the level of detail that the data standard does not cover

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Conclusive remarks (3)

- creating a complex translation workflow for survey instruments benefits from a multidisciplinary approach

- Ideally,
  survey designers/questionnaire authors, platform engineers, and
  translation technologists

- should work together from the earliest planning stages

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