# Chapter One

# Introduction

## 1.1.  Preliminaries

The thought of using the computer to translate or assist translating human languages is almost as old as the computer itself. Machine Translation (MT) is an area of information technology and applied linguistics dealing with the translation of human languages. Computer technology has been applied to technical translation in order to improve one or both of the following factors (1) *Speed*: Translation by or with the aid of machines can be faster than manual translation, and (2) *Cost*: Computer aids in translation can reduce the cost per word of a translation. In addition, the use of MT can result in improvements in quality, particularly in the use of consistent terminology within a text or for a particular kind of client.

MT is one of the applications of Natural Language Processing (NLP). Also, it is called Automatic Translation which entails the process that utilizes computer software to translate texts from one natural language to another. It therefore follows that MT is not simply substituting words for other words, but like human translation it involves the application of complex linguistic rules especially in morphology, syntax and semantics which means that the computer could be used to translate from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). It could translate an entire document automatically and then presents it to a human. MT should not be confused with Computer Aided Translation (CAT) which covers a wide range of tools such as spelling and grammar checkers, terminology managers, unilingual and bilingual electronic dictionaries, etc. The translation tool under