

of texts by reference to extra-linguistic knowledge.” The most important project which draws on AI and NLP was carried at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh which examines the construction of knowledge-based MT systems.

Many researchers, however, believe that AI is not applicable in MT. Their prophecy lies behind the fact that understanding the text requires some linguistic analysis especially if the domain is not of a technical or scientific nature. The semantic general lexicon, theme-rhyme structures, nominalization, tenses, etc. play a vital role in determining the meaning of a text. In addition, experience with AI approaches to parsing and disambiguation, which seek models with deep understanding, has shown that hand-coded syntactic constraints and preference rules are time consuming to build, do not scale up well and are fragile in the face of the extensive use of metaphor in language. (ibid: 1994)

In the 1990's up to the moment, vigorous research has been conducted on MT and Computer-Aided (or -Assisted) Translation which is widely known as CAT. CAT tools would range from multilingual word processing, spell checkers, synonym list (thesauri), etc. to machine aided translation systems which could do a draft to be post-edited by the translator. Such tools are used by professional translators and lay people alike, the latter group for the purpose of translating emails and World Wide Web pages. MT researchers, on the other hand, have continued to set themselves high ambitions. The main difference between MT and CAT is that the former is designed to replace the translator while the latter is there to support and aid him or her through automating terminology lookup activities and re-using previously translated texts.