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Conclusions and recommendations of JIAMCATT 2018

JIAMCATT is a collaborative professional community, seeking to harness technologies and share knowledge to help streamline the translation and interpretation processes.

JIAMCATT owes a debt of gratitude to the United Nations Office at Geneva for its generosity in providing us with the facilities and organizational support for a successful 2018 conference.

Under the title **From end to end: tools and technology as links in the chain**, JIAMCATT 2018 explored opportunities for closer cooperation between all actors in the Authoring-Translation-Publishing (ATP) chain. Several organizations reported on their projects in the field of structured document management and semantic interoperability. Another important topic of the 2018 edition of JIAMCATT was the impact of neural machine translation on translation practice.

JIAMCATT 2018 adopts the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. JIAMCATT member organizations are encouraged to ensure that IT tools for translators and interpreters are usable for colleagues with disabilities. Compliance with accessibility standards should be a basic principle that is applied when new tools are developed or purchased, to the benefit of all users.
2. Neural machine translation has become the dominant paradigm in the field, although perceived high fluency can mask errors. JIAMCATT member organizations should empower their staff to become competent and informed users of the technology. JIAMCATT could provide a platform to share knowledge and best practices.
3. It is important for international organizations to contribute towards neural and other emerging technologies and give due emphasis to languages other than English, to avoid over-dependence on market players and linguistic uniformity and to ensure that specific needs are met.
4. The quality of neural machine translation depends on the availability of high quality language data. Developing strategies for data quality assurance, data curation and data cleaning will be one of the major challenges of the future. JIAMCATT members are encouraged to seek and share smart language data management policies.
5. The automatic translation of spoken language is still far from perfect. However, the progress made in this field allows already today to provide access to information in

situations where human interpretation is not an option due to lack of resources. Technology can complement, but not replace the work of interpreters.

6. Interpreters have a clear need for lightweight, device-independent, browser-based tools that facilitate term extraction and markup of meeting documents. JIAMCATT member organizations are encouraged to support access to such tools whenever possible.
 7. JIAMCATT participants have years of experience and know-how in natural language analysis and processing. JIAMCATT experiences and linguistic resources should become a strategic asset to develop ontologies and taxonomies tuned specifically to the needs and requirements of JIAMCATT member organizations.
 8. There is scope for the creation of a value chain that integrates document drafting, translation and markup to support a cost-effective production of machine-readable documents. A holistic implementation of the ATP chain underpinned by structured document formats will yield multiple benefits for JIAMCATT member organizations.
 9. Local JIAMCATT meetings have shown to be a valuable way for partner organizations to share knowledge and information throughout the year: such initiatives should therefore continue to be encouraged and promoted. In particular, they could provide a useful forum for exchange and awareness-raising among the actors in the ATP chain.
 10. The JIAMCATT community should seek practical ways to encourage cooperation with academic partners, professional associations and NGOs working in areas of shared interest, to ensure that JIAMCATT participants stay abreast of the fast-moving developments in the language technology field, and that the interests of member organizations are properly represented in the research arena.
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