An Online Service for Subtitling by Machine Translation

Main Goal
Increase the efficiency of professional subtitle translation through the introduction of machine translation technology.

Challenges
- Meet the rising demand for subtitle translation.
- Cover major market languages and business requirements.
- Provide tailored SMT technology for 9 languages & 14 language pairs.

Consortium
- A Europe-wide collaboration between industry & academia.
- Four subtitling companies.
- Five technical partners.

Online Service
- Provide an online service for professional subtitle translators.
- A single place to handle your subtitle translation needs through a simple interface.
- Designed to meet workflow requirements of professional users in the subtitle translation industry.
- Machine translation quality provided by the unique SUMAT corpora and systems.

Evaluation
- Two rounds of large-scale evaluation by professional translators.
  - Round 1 (April 2013 - September 2013)
    - Quality evaluation.
    - Individual subtitle scoring and error categorization.
  - Round 2 (October 2013 – March 2014)
    - Measurement of productivity gain.
    - Timed post-editing of MT output compared to translation from scratch.
- Preliminary results: more than half of machine translated subtitles require little post-editing.

Results
- Large professional quality parallel and monolingual subtitle corpora in various genres for all 14 language pairs.
- Special-purpose tools for subtitles (converters for industry file formats, time-code based aligners).
- State-of-the-art SMT systems built with the Moses toolkit and tuned on subtitles.
- Improved SMT systems based on experiments with subtitle vs. sentence alignment, factored and mixture models adding out-of-domain data.
- Significant impact of professional quality subtitle data as measured through automated MT metrics.

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