

Survey on the use of generative artificial intelligence by professional translators

Michael Farrell

IULM University, Milan, Italy

michael.farrell@iulm.it

Abstract

This paper presents the findings of an anonymous online survey conducted in early 2024 on the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) among professional translators. The survey revealed that 29.4% of professional translators incorporate GenAI into their workflow, in line with the results of another recent study. There is a significant association between the use of machine translation (MT) and GenAI, with MT users more likely to also use GenAI. Translators primarily use GenAI for writing-related tasks, such as finding contextual meanings, rephrasing sentences, shortening, summarizing and simplifying, and finding metaphors, synonyms and definitions. This suggests that GenAI enhances translation quality rather than productivity. Only 28.8% of GenAI users use it more than 50% of the time, implying that it is just one of several tools. ChatGPT is the most popular GenAI system, used by 80.8% of GenAI users, followed by Microsoft Copilot at 29.6%. However, only 20% of GenAI users pay for premium services. Many professional translators do not use GenAI (70.6%), often due to strong negative attitudes. GenAI's role as an alternative to traditional MT followed by post-editing is less common than might be expected.

1 Introduction

The first Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT) model was launched in 2018 (Radford et al., 2018). However, it was not until November 2022, with the release of GPT 3.5, that generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) garnered widescale public attention, reaching a staggering more than 1.7 billion users a year later (DeVon, 2023). Moreover, a report by Eloundou et al. (2023) noted that interpreting and translating are among the professions most exposed to AI in the US job market. Given this, it was virtually inevitable that stakeholders in the translation profession would start looking into ways of using this new natural language processing tool to their benefit.

This paper presents the results of an anonymous online survey designed to gain insight into the proportion of professional translators who currently use GenAI during their work and the various ways they do so. At least two other surveys have already sought to measure the use of GenAI among translators: the 2024 annual European Language Industry Survey, published by ELIS Research (2024), and the survey on generative AI conducted by the Society of Authors (2024). Additionally, Tavares et. al. (2023) conducted a survey that assessed the awareness and knowledge of both machine translation (MT) and GenAI among Language Service Providers in Portugal, in which they asked language professionals about the usefulness of GenAI in their work in general terms. However, to this author's knowledge, there have been no surveys designed to obtain details of precisely how professional translators choose to integrate GenAI into their workflow from among the whole host of options available to them. This paper intends to fill that gap.

2 Methods

The online survey, hosted by EUSurvey,¹ was written in English due to its international scope and anonymized to minimize social desirability bias (Larson, 2019), which occurs when respondents provide answers they believe to be more socially acceptable or desirable than their actual beliefs or behaviour. The questions were based on various uses mentioned in blogs, ezines and websites (Goldsmith, 2023; Nader, 2023, to name just the most systematically organized sources) and built into some computer-aided translation (CAT) tools².

The various uses that emerged from a review of the literature allowed closed-ended survey questions, with the advantage of simplifying result analysis and making the survey quicker to complete. However, since it is very hard to predict every possible way such a flexible tool as GenAI might be used, an additional *Other (please specify)* option was also included.

The survey link was emailed to 96 professional translators' associations on 15 February 2024, almost all of which were members of the International Federation of Translators. It was also shared via social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, X and ProZ.com). In a previous survey conducted in 2022 on the use of MT by professional translators (Farrell, 2022), responses from translators contacted through professional associations were initially kept separate from responses received from those who found the link on social media, based on the assumption that social media users might be more tech-savvy and therefore more likely to use technology like MT. However, no such difference was observed. For this reason, no attempt was made in this survey to distinguish between the two kinds of respondents.

At the beginning of the survey, all respondents were given the following definition and asked to confirm that they clearly understood the distinction between GenAI and MT:

Generative AI (GenAI) systems like ChatGPT and Gemini (formerly Bard) differ from conventional machine translation (MT) engines such as Google Translate and DeepL in various ways. One important distinction is that, although GenAI systems can be used to translate text between languages like conventional MT engines, they are primarily designed to perform tasks such as answering questions, writing texts or simulating conversations. Unless otherwise specified, all the questions in this survey refer to GenAI systems and not to conventional MT engines. For this reason, it is essential to understand what is meant by GenAI system in this survey and why this does not include conventional MT engines.

All but one of the variables measured in the survey are non-numeric, non-parametric, categorical variables which can only take on a limited number of values. The only continuous numerical variable — proportion of working time during which GenAI is used — was analysed in bands of values and therefore transformed into a categorical variable.

The widely used chi-square (χ^2) test was chosen for the statistical analysis to determine whether respondents are more likely to use MT in their workflows (MT users) if they work with higher-resource languages, where MT output quality is generally considered better. It was also used to assess whether MT users are more likely to incorporate GenAI at some stage in their translation workflow (GenAI users). The significance level was set to .05, as is standard, to ensure a 95% confidence level. The chi-square test was performed using an online calculator provided by Stangroom (2018). The results are reported in the format required by the American

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/>

² Wordscope Translator's Assistant (<https://pro.wordscope.com>) and RWS AI Professional plugin for Trados Studio (<https://appstore.rws.com/Plugin/200>)

Psychological Association (APA): χ^2 (degrees of freedom, N = sample size) = chi-square statistic value, p = p value.

The Digital Language Equality Metric (technological factors) was used as a measure of language resource richness (Gaspari, 2022). The responses were iteratively divided into two categories according to the respondent’s main source language. Initially, the first category consisted of respondents working with the most resource-rich language, while the second category included all the others. Then, the first category was expanded to include respondents working with the top two most resource-rich languages, with the second category comprising the remaining respondents. This process continued, with the first category progressively including respondents working with the top N most resource-rich languages, and so on. At each stage, a two-by-two contingency table was drawn up and the chi-square (χ^2) test was used to determine if there was a statistical difference between the way the two sets responded. The purpose was to find a threshold value after which the two categories consistently responded differently, disregarding any isolated instances where they temporarily differed and then reverted to their previous behaviour in the next iteration. This procedure was repeated for the main target language.

3 Results

3.1 Survey population

The survey was originally scheduled to close on 20 March, but the deadline was extended to 31 March 2024 in order to exceed 385 responses, the calculated number for achieving a 95% confidence level with a large population, assuming the sample is truly random (Stangroom, 2018). Out of the 96 professional associations contacted, seven confirmed that they had shared the survey link with their members, although others may have done so without replying to the invitation. Survey responses were received from 437 people. A total of 12 were disqualified: 4 because they answered that they were *not* professional translators and 8 because they stated that they did not clearly understand the difference between conventional MT and GenAI. The remaining 425 responses were analysed.

3.2 Translation languages

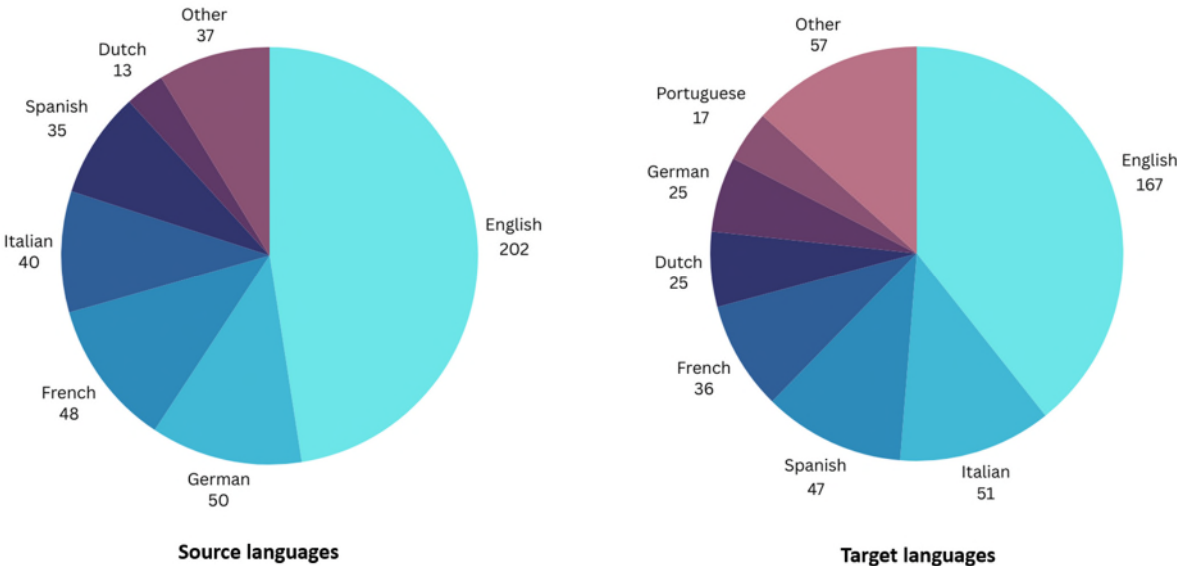


Chart 1. Main source and target languages

3.2.1 Main source language

The main source languages are shown in Chart 1. The other main source languages mentioned were Finnish (7), Japanese (5), Portuguese (4), Chinese (2), Czech (2), Danish (2), Greek (2), Norwegian (2), Romanian (2), Swedish (2), Catalan (1), Estonian (1), Polish (1), Russian (1), Serbian (1), Thai (1) and Vietnamese (1).

3.2.2 Main target language

The main target languages are shown in Chart 1. The other main target languages reported were Greek (12), Norwegian (11), Finnish (10), Polish (4), Romanian (3), Russian (3), Swedish (3), Arabic (1), Bulgarian (1), Catalan (1), Chinese (1), Croatian (1), Czech (1), Galician (1), Hindi (1), Serbian (1), Turkish (1) and Ukrainian (1).

3.2.3 Conventional MT

The number of respondents who use conventional MT in their translation workflow is shown in Table 1.

	n.	%
Yes	312	73.4
No	113	26.6

Table 1. Conventional MT

3.2.4 Difference in MT use between high and low resource languages

Not all the languages reported by survey respondents are rated on the European Language Grid Dashboard. However, the languages that are included account for 98% of the overall source language data and 99% of the overall target language data gathered in this survey.

Using the previously described method, it was determined that there was no statistically significant association between the respondents' propensity to use MT in their workflows and resource richness of their working languages.

3.3 Use of GenAI

A total of 29.4% (n=125, "Yes, always" + "Yes, but not always") of respondents reported using GenAI at some point in their translation workflow (GenAI users), as shown in Table 2.

	n.	%
Yes, always	12	2.8
Yes, but not always	113	26.6
No	300	70.6

Table 2. Use of GenAI

As shown in Table 3, there was a statistically significant association between the MT users and those who use GAI ($\chi^2(2, N = 425) = 31.35, p = < .00001$).

The likelihood that professional translators use GenAI was also found *not* to be associated with the resource-richness of their working languages. The respondents (n=300) who indicated that they never use GenAI at any point in their translation workflow provided the reasons in Table 4. Multiple answers were allowed.

	GenAI yes	GenAI no
MT yes	115	197
MT no	10	103

Table 3. Contingency table between MT and GenAI users

	n.	%
Because it may lead to a loss of human creativity and critical thinking skills	164	54.7
I have never tried to integrate it into my workflow	151	50.3
Because of GDPR/privacy issues	137	45.7
Because it harms the quality of the final translation	112	37.3
Because the kinds of texts I translate do not lend themselves to GenAI	106	35.3
Because it may lead to job displacement and economic hardship for some people	95	31.7
Because it is unprofessional	76	25.3
I have experimented with it but do not find it useful	70	23.3
On account of environmental concerns	68	22.7
Because my employer/client(s) specifically ask(s) me not to use it	54	18.0
Other reason (please specify)	36	12.0

Table 4. Reasons for not using GAI

Nineteen quite diverse additional reasons were given that did not fit well into the fixed categories. The most frequently mentioned were an absence of perceived benefit over existing MT technology (5), translation being faster without it (4), various ethical and moral concerns (3), inability to see any potential use for translators (3), the use of client-provided tools that do not incorporate GenAI (2) and risks associated with translating safety-critical texts (2).

Two unexpected responses, each mentioned once, were the difficulty of using GenAI when translating hard copy documents and never having heard of GenAI before. One highly detailed 520-word response listed a wide variety of disruptive or potentially disruptive factors, including AI, ageism and Brexit.

The majority of translators who use GenAI (n=125) do not use it all the time (see Table 5).

A total of 71.2% of GenAI users use it less than 50% of the time, with an overall average usage of 32.6% of the time. The translators who do not use it all the time (n=113) were also asked to specify the situations in which they chose not to use it. Multiple answers were allowed.

	n.	%
Less than 10% of the time	27	21.6
10 to 19% of the time	25	20.0
20 to 29% of the time	19	15.2
30 to 39% of the time	11	8.8
40 to 49% of the time	7	5.6
50 to 59% of the time	13	10.4
60 to 69% of the time	4	3.2
70 to 79% of the time	3	2.4
80 to 89% of the time	3	2.4
90 to 99% of the time	1	0.8
100% of the time	12	9.6

Table 5. Frequency of GenAI use

I do not use GenAI when:	n.	%
I do not think it would be useful	94	83.2
There are GDPR/privacy issues	73	64.6
My employer/client(s) specifically ask(s) me not to use it	60	53.1
Other reason (please specify)	8	7.1

Table 6. Reasons for not always using GenAI

Other reasons given included difficulties using GenAI with text that is broken up by complex formatting and its unavailability in some places.

3.4 GenAI systems

The respondents (n=125) listed the GenAI systems they use (Table 7). Multiple answers were allowed.

The other systems specified were clients' or agencies' own systems (3), Mistral AI, an open-source large language model (1), CoTranslator AI, which links with ChatGPT (1), MemoQ AGT (marketed as a proprietary AI system) (3), AI-driven search assistants like Perplexity AI (2) and You.com (1), Grammarly, which is an AI-driven writing tool (1), and DeepL Translator (1) and Globalese AI (1), which are not GenAI systems.

	n.	%
ChatGPT	101	80.8
Microsoft Copilot (Bing Chat)	37	29.6
ChatGPT Plus	19	15.2
Gemini (formerly Bard)	19	15.2
Other GenAI systems (please specify)	10	8.0
Microsoft Copilot Pro	6	4.8

Table 7. GenAI systems used

3.5 How professional translators use GenAI

Table 8 shows the uses reported by the 125 GenAI users, in order of popularity, starting with the most frequent.

	Total users	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	No longer	Never tried
Finding the meaning of words or terms in specific contexts	106 (84.8%)	37 (29.6%)	49 (39.2%)	20 (16.0%)	2 (a) (1.6%)	17 (13.6%)
Rephrasing sentences	94 (75.2%)	36 (28.8%)	37 (29.6%)	21 (16.8%)	7 (b) (5.6%)	24 (19.2%)
Finding context-specific translations of words or expressions	93 (74.4%)	31 (24.8%)	44 (35.2%)	18 (14.4%)	14 (a) (11.2%)	18 (14.4%)
Searching for synonyms	91 (72.8%)	32 (25.6%)	41 (32.8%)	18 (14.4%)	7 (a) (5.6%)	27 (21.6%)
Looking up the definitions of words or terms	91 (72.8%)	23 (18.4%)	44 (35.2%)	24 (19.2%)	4 (a) (3.2%)	30 (24.0%)
Finding words or terms from their definitions	85 (68.0%)	16 (12.8%)	38 (30.4%)	31 (24.8%)	2 (a) (1.6%)	38 (30.4%)
Shortening or summarizing texts	76 (60.8%)	18 (14.4%)	36 (28.8%)	22 (17.6%)	2 (b) (1.6%)	47 (37.6%)
Simplifying texts	71 (56.8%)	13 (10.4%)	32 (25.6%)	26 (20.8%)	3 (b) (2.4%)	51 (40.8%)
Finding collocations and common word groupings	66 (52.8%)	19 (15.2%)	31 (24.8%)	16 (12.8%)	13 (a) (10.4%)	46 (36.8%)
Translation of sentences, paragraphs or entire texts with a specific style or tone	61 (48.8%)	7 (5.6%)	26 (20.8%)	28 (22.4%)	10 (b) (8.0%)	54 (43.2%)
Searching for metaphors	55 (44.0%)	7 (5.6%)	25 (20.0%)	23 (18.4%)	2 (a) (1.6%)	68 (54.4%)
Proofreading, correcting typos and grammar	32 (25.6%)	11 (8.8%)	9 (7.2%)	12 (9.6%)	10 (b) (8.0%)	83 (66.4%)

Translation of entire text for subsequent post-editing (PEMT)	26 (20.8%)	3 (2.4%)	13 (10.4%)	10 (8.0%)	13 (b) (10.4%)	86 (68.8%)
Revision of human translation	26 (20.8%)	1 (0.8%)	17 (13.6%)	8 (6.4%)	7 (b) (5.6%)	92 (73.6%)
Automated PEMT	24 (19.2%)	2 (1.6%)	12 (9.6%)	10 (8.0%)	10 (b) (8.0%)	91 (72.8%)
Identifying typos in the source text	20 (16.0%)	3 (2.4%)	8 (6.4%)	9 (7.2%)	6 (a) (4.8%)	99 (79.2%)
Avoiding gender bias	16 (12.8%)	2 (1.6%)	10 (8.0%)	4 (3.2%)	7 (b) (5.6%)	102 (81.6%)
Raw MT output quality estimation	15 (12.0%)	3 (2.4%)	5 (4.0%)	7 (5.6%)	3 (a) (2.4%)	107 (85.6%)

Table 8. How professional translators use GenAI

The first column of Table 8 shows the total number of GenAI users that use it for the listed task and is equal to the sum of the second (*often*), third (*occasionally*) and fourth (*rarely*) columns. The precise wording of the option in the fifth column (*no longer*) was different according to the task. For those marked (a), the wording was “I have tried, but more conventional tools are better. So, I never use GenAI this way now.” For those marked (b), it read “I have tried, but I was not satisfied with the results. So, I never use GenAI this way now.”

3.5.1 Other uses of GenAI in the translation workflow

The most commonly mentioned other uses were brainstorming for alternatives or inspiration (8), terminology mining (5), understanding poorly written, highly technical or complex source texts (3), and researching concepts or background information to better understand the context (3). All other uses were mentioned only once each, and included tasks like search engine optimization, harmonizing the style of source texts written by multiple authors, using it as a search tool, displaying images of machinery components or architectural styles, improving writing in a second language (e.g., emails to clients), checking consistency of figures between source and target, fact-checking the source text, writing regex for CAT tools, searching for idioms based on definitions and writing macros to automate parts of the translation process.

4 How GenAI is accessed

Professional translators access GenAI as shown in Table 9 (n=125). Multiple answers were allowed.

The three additional ways of accessing GenAI mentioned were opening a browser window (2), and as an external tool or activating with an MT tool in order to get suggestions (1).

	n.	%
I write my own prompts (instructions/questions)	117	93.6
GenAI functions built into CAT tools ³	37	29.6
As described below	3	2.4

Table 9. GenAI access

	n.	%
Trados Studio via plugin	4	36.4
memoQ AGT	3	27.3

³ This does not include using GenAI in a browser window as an external tool.

Only 11 of the 37 respondents who said they used built-in GenAI functions in their CAT tool specified which tool they used. Unfortunately, due to a flaw in the survey design, this question was not mandatory. Multiple answers were allowed.

No version of Wordfast has built-in GenAI functions. Therefore, the respondent either misunderstood the question or has found an undocumented way of setting up a GenAI system as one of Wordfast’s built-in MT engines via an API.

SmartCAT	2	18.2
Wordscope	2	18.2
CafeTran Espresso	1	9.1
Other (CotranslatorAI)	1	9.1
Other (Wordfast)	1	9.1

Table 10. GenAI via CAT tools

5 Transparency

	n.	%
Never	100	80.0
Sometimes	13	10.4
Always	12	9.6

Table 11. Clients or employer informed

Eighty percent of GenAI users do not inform their clients or employer that they use GenAI. Eleven of the 125 respondents specified that they tell their clients or employer that they use GenAI when the client or employer asks if they use it (5), when the client or employer asks them to use GenAI (1), for technical translations (1), when the client already knows because the translator works in-house (1), when the text will be published (1), at the beginning of the working relationship (1), and when the client knows already (1). One respondent said they have only told one client so far, and another has told only one particularly concerned client that they only use GenAI for research purposes.

6 Training

Thirty-seven of the 125 GenAI users (29.6%) have received training on GenAI, as shown in Table 12. The 37 respondents were allowed to give multiple answers.

The three respondents who selected *Other* specified that they had been shown how to use GenAI in a different context with a focus on prompt usage; received training on confidentiality and ethical issues, building translation glossaries, prompt engineering, and using GenAI for audio transcription and subtitles; and learned how marketers and SEO experts use GenAI.

7 Discussion

The proportion of respondents who use conventional MT systems at some point in their translation workflow (73.4%) is higher than the 69.54% reported in the 2022 survey (Farrell, 2022), in line with the expectation that MT is becoming more widely used. It is also similar to the 76.87% recorded in the 2024 survey conducted by ELIS Research, which also reported an increase in MT usage among independent professionals over recent years.

	n.	%
On GenAI in general	27	73.0
Specifically on how translators may use GenAI	22	59.5
Specifically on how language professionals may use GenAI	11	29.7
Specifically on how interpreters may use GenAI	3	8.1
Other (please specify)	3	8.1

Table 12. GenAI training

Professional translators might be expected to be more likely to use MT in their workflows if they work with higher-resource languages, for which the quality of MT output is normally

considered better. However, while the 2022 survey identified a resource-richness threshold below which professional translators were less likely to accept PEMT assignments, no such threshold was found for the use of MT simply at some point in the workflow. This absence of threshold was confirmed again in this latest survey.

The proportion of survey respondents who use GenAI during their translation work (29.4%) is virtually identical to the 29% reported in the 2024 European Language Industry Survey (ELIS Research, 2024). In January 2024, the Society of Authors (SoA), the UK's largest writers' union, reported an even higher figure of 37% for translators. However, this figure is based on responses from only 78 people (just under 10% of the total survey population) who self-identified as translators⁴.

As might be expected, there was a strong association between professional translators who reported using MT and those who use GenAI ($\chi^2(2, N = 425) = 31.35, p = < .00001$). Moreover, the likelihood of using GenAI was also found to be independent of the resource-richness of the translator's main working languages.

Regarding the 70.6% of respondents who do not use GenAI at all, it was evident — especially from the comments left under *other* — that some professional translators have strong negative feelings towards it. Similarly, in a survey conducted in Portugal by Tavares et al. (2023), negative perceptions of GenAI also emerged as prominent.

On average, GenAI users use it 32.6% of the time, with only 28.8% using it more than 50% of the time. This suggests that most of these professional translators view GenAI as just one of several tools available to them.

The most widely used system is ChatGPT (80.8% of GenAI users), followed by Microsoft Copilot, which trails significantly behind at 29.6%. Only 20% of GenAI users reported paying for the systems they used (such as ChatGPT Plus or Microsoft Copilot Pro). The fact that two translators mentioned DeepL Translator and Globalese AI as *other* GenAI systems shows that a few respondents did not have the distinction between *traditional* MT and GenAI entirely clear. DeepL Translator is a widely used neural MT (NMT) engine and Globalese AI is also an NMT engine, which can be used to build custom MT systems.

Many of the uses of GenAI mentioned in this paper may at first seem more useful to writers than to translators, such as rephrasing sentences, searching for synonyms, shortening, summarizing, simplifying and finding metaphors. However, if we consider translation as rewriting a text in another language, this is not at all surprising. It is also immediately apparent that, in several cases, professional translators simply use GenAI instead of other existing tools, like thesauruses, spellcheckers, monolingual, bilingual and reverse dictionaries, and concordancers.

However, there is a risk in using GenAI indiscriminately to look up information like word definitions since it is not an information retrieval system but rather a system that generates new content based on patterns and the data it has been trained on. This can sometimes result in it providing incorrect information, a well-known phenomenon called hallucination (Xu, 2024). Other problems arise in the case of rare or unusual terms, which may not be present in the training data. For instance, if you ask ChatGPT 4 for the definition of the antiquated term *discrutator*, it will repeatedly claim in separate chats that the user has probably mistyped the word⁵.

Using GenAI to generate MT output for post-editing ranks much lower on the list (a little over 20% of GenAI users) than might be expected. It should be kept in mind, however, that

⁴ Unpublished data courtesy of the SoA.

⁵ *Discrutator*, n. A person who disputes or doubts to an extreme or excessive degree; a caviller. Oxford English Dictionary Word of the Day on 28 December 2017. Tested four consecutive times in separate ChatGPT 4 chats on 19 April 2024.

GenAI was not originally designed for text translation but rather for autonomously generating new content. Nevertheless, both GPT and other GenAI systems can perform tasks they were not specifically trained for, known as emergent abilities, with MT being one of them. Some evidence suggests that the quality of their translation output is inferior to that of some existing NMT engines, at least for certain languages and kinds of text (Ding, 2024; Farrell, 2023; Jiao et al., 2023; Xiang, 2024). However, one important difference between GenAI systems and traditional MT engines is the ability to use prompts to assign a persona or provide a brief with the aim of improving translation quality and applying the appropriate style or tone — this is the highest-ranking explicitly translation-related use among the GenAI users in this survey. In this regard, He (2024) found that only the translator persona offered any advantage over a basic prompt, while Gao et al. (2023) observed that providing domain-specific information enabled GenAI to outperform traditional MT engines. Gao et al. also noted similar improvements with few-shot prompting (Brown et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2021), where ChatGPT was provided with up to five translation examples.

There is some overlap between “translation of sentences, paragraphs or entire texts with a specific style or tone” and “translation of entire text for subsequent PEMT”. However, GenAI users who use it to translate the entire text with a specific style or tone for subsequent PEMT will presumably have indicated both uses.

The use of GenAI to perform other professional tasks, like proofreading, revision and post-editing also ranks near the bottom of the list (less than 26% of GenAI users in each case). At the very bottom are specialist tasks like avoiding gender bias and MT quality evaluation.

Eight respondents used the *other* option to mention using GenAI for brainstorming for alternatives or *inspiration* and five, for terminology mining. These uses should be included as selectable options in any future editions of this survey to obtain more precise figures for these activities, also bearing in mind that their absence from the list has inevitably caused a bias against them.

The most frequent uses of GenAI among professional translators seem more focussed on improving the quality of their work than increasing productivity. This stands in stark contrast to the purpose of PEMT, whose main aim is to produce translations more quickly, thereby reducing costs. Nevertheless, professional translators also use MT in other ways besides for PEMT (Farrell, 2022), which are not dissimilar to the ways GenAI is reported to be used in this survey.

The vast majority of GenAI users write their own prompts (93.6%) and 29.6% of them have received some form of training to do so, despite GenAI being a relatively new field. Additionally, 29.6% of them use or also use GenAI functions built into CAT tools.

As was observed for MT in the 2022 survey, a large majority of GenAI users (80%) consider it to be just another tool that their clients do *not need* to know about.

8 Conclusion

While the adoption of GenAI by professional translators might seem rapid at 29.4%, this is still less than half the proportion of conventional MT users, which stands at 73.4%.

Eight of the top nine uses are more closely related to the task of writing than to pure translation, with generating MT output for post-editing ranking only thirteenth on the list. This suggests that the professional translators who use GenAI primarily use it to enhance the quality of their work rather than to boost productivity.

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