Revision of a Non-Specialised Translation: List of Error Categories for Candidates (English into Hindi)

The translation includes errors at word, phrase or sentence level across the following categories:

Error Category	Examples of Errors
1. Distortion: An element of meaning in the source text is altered in the target text. A distortion can occur in an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.	**a) Correct version:** this week the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise. **a) Incorrect version:** the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise this week. (Moving the phrase this week changes the time reference from the announcement to the pay rise, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.).
	b) Correct version: the witness described the thief as a young man with black hair. **b) Incorrect version:** the witness described the thief as a young man with blond hair. (Incorrect translation of the adjective, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)
2. Unjustified omission: An element of meaning in the source text is not transferred into the target text. An unjustified omission can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.	**Correct version:** the largest increases in soil carbon levels are obtained in the first 6–8 years after changes in land management, and after 35 years the rate of change drops to zero. **Incorrect version:** the largest increases in soil carbon levels are obtained in the first 6–8 years after changes in land management. (Omission of the underlined clause results in a major loss of meaning in the context of the whole sentence.)
3. Unjustified addition: An element of meaning that does not exist in the source text is added to the target text. An unjustified addition can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.	**Correct version:** would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement. **Incorrect version:** would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement for the rest of their lives, no matter how long they lived. (The underlined words were not found in the original text, nor were they implied, and inserting them has a major impact on the transfer of meaning.)

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4. Inappropriate register: Incorrect variety of language or inappropriate vocabulary for the text type (e.g. inappropriate level of formality or informality).	**a) Correct version:** In a recent judgement, the Criminal Court handed down a three-month suspended sentence. **a) Incorrect version:** In a recent judgement, the Criminal Court gave out a three-month suspended sentence. (In the legal register, the wording usually used is that a court hands down rather than gives out a sentence.)
	b) Correct version: [in minutes of board meeting] The Chairman expressed his extreme displeasure. **b) Incorrect version:** The Chairman said he was really annoyed. (The phrase said he was really annoyed conveys the correct meaning but is too informal in this context.)
5. Unidiomatic expression: An expression sounding unnatural or awkward to a native speaker irrespective of the context in which the expression is used, but the intended meaning can be understood.	**a) Correct version:** Smog is a big problem in many cities. **a) Incorrect version:** Smog is a large problem in many cities. (In this context, the word big is more commonly used, but large can still be understood.)
	b) Correct version: subjected to intense criticism **b) Incorrect version:** subjected with intense criticism (The verb subject[ed] is normally collocated with the preposition to, but the meaning can be understood.)
6. Error of grammar, syntax: Error in structuring words, clauses and phrases of a language. E.g. incorrect word type/form; incorrect verb tense/form; agreement error between subject- verb, noun-pronoun, adjective- noun, etc.	**a) Correct version:** the symptoms include dizziness **a) Incorrect version:** the symptoms include dizzy (Incorrect word form, i.e. use of adjective instead of noun)
	b) Correct version: last month he brought me... **b) Incorrect version:** last month he brings me... (Incorrect verb tense, i.e. present tense instead of past tense)
	c) Correct version: strokes are quite common **c) Incorrect version:** strokes is quite common (Agreement error between noun and verb, i.e. use of singular verb form instead of plural)

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6. Error of grammar, syntax: Error in structuring words, clauses and phrases of a language. E.g. incorrect word type/form; incorrect verb tense/form; agreement error between subject- verb, noun-pronoun, adjective- noun, etc.	**d) Correct version:** he picked up a chair and put it on the table **d) Incorrect version:** he picked up a chair and put her on the table (Incorrect pronoun to refer to chair.)
	e) Correct version: they have provided the information **e) Incorrect version:** they have the information provided (Incorrect sentence structure)
7. Error of spelling: Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.	**Correct version:** That case will have to be tried in the Supreme Court. **Incorrect version:** That case will have to be tried in the supreme Court. (Capitalisation error, i.e. as Supreme is part of the name of the court, it should have a capital letter.)
8. Error of punctuation: Error in use of marks that separate sentences and their elements, and clarify meaning. E.g. incorrect comma, full-stop, apostrophe, inverted commas, etc.	**Correct version:** The government will change its policy on the taxation of trusts. **Incorrect version:** The government, will change its policy on the taxation of trusts. (Incorrect comma usage, i.e. the comma incorrectly separates the subject from its verb.)