



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

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) Source language text: <i>this week</i> the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise. Correct version: <i>Questa settimana il governo ha annunciato che tutti i dipendenti pubblici riceveranno un aumento di stipendio.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Il governo ha annunciato che tutti i dipendenti pubblici riceveranno un aumento di stipendio questa settimana.</i> (Moving the phrase <i>questa settimana</i> changes the time reference from the announcement to the pay rise, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.) b) Source language text: <i>the witness described the thief as a young man with black hair.</i> Correct version: <i>Il testimone ha descritto il ladro come un giovane dai capelli neri.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Il testimone ha descritto il ladro come un giovane dai capelli biondi.</i> (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.	Source language text: <i>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.</i> Correct version: <i>Gli aumenti più consistenti dei livelli di carbonio nel suolo si ottengono nei primi 6–8 anni successivi ai cambiamenti della gestione del territorio, e dopo 35 anni il tasso di cambiamento scende a zero.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Gli aumenti più consistenti dei livelli di carbonio nel suolo si ottengono nei primi 6–8 anni successivi ai cambiamenti della gestione del territorio.</i> (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.	Source language text: <i>would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement.</i> Correct version: <i>garantisce che chi smette di lavorare intorno ai sessantacinque anni possa godere di un pensionamento economicamente sicuro.</i> Incorrect version: <i>garantisce che chi smette di lavorare intorno ai sessantacinque anni possa godere di un pensionamento economicamente sicuro per tutta la vita, indipendentemente dalla durata.</i>



	(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.)
4. Inappropriate register: Incorrect variety of language or inappropriate vocabulary for the text type (e.g. inappropriate level of formality or informality).	a) Source language text: <i>In a recent judgement, the Criminal Court <u>handed down</u> a three-month suspended sentence.</i> Correct version: <i>In una recente sentenza, il tribunale <u>ha emesso</u> un verdetto di tre mesi con la condizionale.</i> Incorrect version: <i>In una recente sentenza, il tribunale <u>ha dato</u> un verdetto di tre mesi con la condizionale.</i> (In the legal register, the wording usually used is that a court <i>emette</i> rather than <i>dà</i> a sentence.) b) Source language text: <i>[in minutes of board meeting] The Chairman expressed his <u>extreme displeasure</u>.</i> Correct version: <i>[nel verbale di un consiglio di amministrazione] Il presidente ha <u>espresso il suo estremo disappunto</u>.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Il presidente ha detto di <u>essere davvero infastidito</u>.</i> (The phrase <i>ha detto di essere davvero infastidito</i> 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) Source language text: <i>Smog is a <u>big</u> problem in many cities.</i> Correct version: <i>Lo smog è un <u>grosso</u> problema in molte città.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Lo smog è un <u>largo</u> problema in molte città.</i> (In this context, the word <i>grosso</i> is more commonly used, but <i>largo</i> can still be understood.) b) Source language text: <i>subjected <u>to</u> intense criticism</i> Correct version: <i>sottoposto <u>a</u> critiche intense</i> Incorrect version: <i>sottoposto <u>con</u> critiche intense</i> (The verb <i>subject[ed]</i> is normally collocated with the preposition <i>a</i>, 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) Source language text: <i>the symptoms include <u>itchiness</u></i> Correct version: <i>I sintomi includono <u>prurito</u></i> Incorrect version: <i>I sintomi includono <u>prudere</u></i> (Incorrect word form, i.e. use of a verb instead of a noun) b) Source language text: <i>last month he <u>brought</u> me...</i> Correct version: <i>Il mese scorso mi <u>ha portato</u>...</i> Incorrect version: <i>Il mese scorso mi <u>porta</u>...</i> (Incorrect verb tense, i.e. present tense instead of past tense) c) Source language text: <i><u>strokes</u> are quite common</i> Correct version: <i>Gli ictus <u>sono</u> piuttosto comuni.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Gli ictus <u>è</u> piuttosto comune.</i> (Agreement error between noun and verb, i.e. use of singular verb form instead of plural) d) Source language text: <i>he picked up a chair and put <u>it</u> on the table</i> Correct version: <i>Ha preso una sedia e <u>l'ha messa</u> sul tavolo.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Ha preso una sedia e <u>lo ha messo</u> sul tavolo.</i> (Incorrect pronoun to refer to <i>sedia</i>) e) Source language text: <i>they <u>have provided</u> the information</i> Correct version: <i><u>Hanno fornito</u> le informazioni</i> Incorrect version: <i><u>Hanno</u> le informazioni <u>fornito</u></i> (Incorrect sentence structure)
7. Error of spelling: Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.	Source language text: <i>That case will have to be tried in the <u>Supreme</u> Court.</i> Correct version: <i>Il caso dovrà essere giudicato dalla Corte <u>Suprema</u>.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Il caso dovrà essere giudicato dalla Corte <u>suprema</u>.</i> (Capitalisation error, i.e. as <i>Supreme</i> 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.	Source language text: <i><u>The government</u> will change its policy on the taxation of trusts.</i> Correct version: <i><u>Il governo</u> cambierà le direttive sulla tassazione dei fondi fiduciari.</i>



incorrect comma, full-stop, apostrophe, inverted commas, etc.	Incorrect version: <i><u>Il governo,</u> cambierà le direttive sulla tassazione dei fondi fiduciari.</i> (Incorrect comma usage, i.e. the comma incorrectly separates the subject from its verb.)
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