

Evolution of Machine Translation: systems and use

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The beginnings: 1950s and 1960s

- Weaver's memorandum 1949
- First conference, June 1952
- Characteristics of first decades
 - Military and intelligence funding
 - Russian/ English concentration
 - Direct translation systems
 - Interlinguas
 - Formal syntax
- Bar-Hillel's survey, 1960
 - non-feasibility of FAHQT

The 1970s

- ALPAC (1966)
- CEC acquires Systran (1976)
- Meteo starts (1977)
- EC conference “Overcoming the language barrier”, Luxembourg 1977

The early 1980s

- **Widening perspectives**
 - Japanese
 - transfer-based MT (Ariane, Mu, Eurotra)
 - interlingual MT, knowledge-based MT (CMU, Rosetta, DLT)
- **Office automation**
 - translation aids, terminology management

The later 1980s

- **Economics of human-aided MT production**
- **Evaluation (more important)**
- **Controlled language input**
- **Large-scale operations**
- **Software localisation**
- **Software for PCs**
 - database access, terminology software, desktop publishing, telecommunications

The 1990s (1)

- **Large-scale production systems**
- **Translators workstation**
 - translation memories
- **Corpus-based methods**
 - statistical, example-based
- **New technologies**
 - OCR, speech input

The 1990s (2)

- **Spoken language translation**
- **Cheap PC software**
- **MT on the Internet**
 - email, Web pages, free services
- **MT as component of:**
 - Information retrieval, summarization, information extraction
- **Evaluation**
 - quality and usability

Diversification

- **Systems for dissemination**
- **Systems for assimilation**
- **Systems for interchange**
 - electronic mail, correspondence, Web pages
- **Use of ‘rough’ MT**
- **Systems for authors: drafts, templates**
- **Language coverage**
 - English, French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Korean
 - Arabic, African, Indian, S.E.Asian, E.European, UK minorities

Future system types

- **MT on WP/Internet software (with speech I/O)**
- **MT via Internet services, multilingual access**
- **Authoring software and MT**
- **Summarisation, information extraction, and MT**
- **MT of television captions/subtitles**
- **Workstation facilities**
- **Custom-built systems**
- **Speech translation**