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Topic: Sharpening the Claws on CAT Tools: Increase Quality & Production, Maximize Limited Resources

Making the right connections hinges on linking data from disparate sources. Frequently the link may be a person or place, so something as simple as a mistranslated name will cause a search to miss relevant documents. To swiftly and accurately exploit a growing flood of foreign language information acquired for the defense of the nation, Intelligence Community (IC) linguists and analysts need assistance in both translation accuracy and productivity. The name translation and standardizing component of a Computer-Aided Translation (CAT) tool such as the Highlight language analysis suite ensures fast and reliable translation of names from Arabic, Dari, Farsi, and Pashto according to a number of government transliteration standards. Highlight improves efficiency and maximizes the utilization of scarce human resources.

Impact:
A human linguist or analyst can produce inaccurate information up to one third of the time when transliterating names to the IC standard. The linguist or analyst often relies on rote memorization of the IC Standard in order to increase their speed; however, this may result in the incorrect transliteration of a name, and a person of interest could subsequently slip through the cracks. Incorporating CAT in the linguists' or analysts' work flow provides them with the ability to quickly and accurately transliterate names from non-Latin scripts to Latin characters for reports, translations, and operational information exchange. CAT does not need to look up the IC standard; the standard is part of the CAT process; therefore, working in concert with CAT, accuracy and speed of the linguist and analyst increases significantly.

Speed, Efficiency, and Availability:
Incorporating CAT into a human translator's work flow reduces the time to transliterate a proper name or place by at least two-thirds in the interactive mode -- a 300% increase in production. In automatic mode, the increase in speed/production could be many hundredfold.

This talk will explore the return on investment of CAT tools as well as present the ODNI-funded Highlight program to the attendees. It will show the importance of having linguists and analysts working with CAT rather than working alone.