


# New York Times - Technology

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## Putting Google to the Test in Translation

Google has poured resources into improving its automatic translation service. Some of these systems are better than others at handling particular pairs of languages, and it is impossible to evaluate them fully using small bits of text. But here are some quick comparisons of human translations and computerized versions from Google and two competitors.

<i>Source</i>	<i>The Original Text</i>	<i>Human Translation</i>	<i>Google Translate</i>	<i>Yahoo Babel Fish via Systran</i>	<i>Microsoft Bing Translator</i>
 <p>French "Le Petit Prince" ("The Little Prince") By Antoine de Saint-Exupéry</p>	Le premier soir je me suis donc endormi sur le sable à mille milles de toute terre habitée. J'étais bien plus isolé qu'un naufragé sur un radeau au milieu de l'océan. Alors vous imaginez ma surprise, au lever du jour, quand une drôle de petite voix m'a réveillé. Elle disait: -S'il vous plaît... dessine-moi un mouton!	On the first night, I fell asleep on the sand, a thousand miles from any human habitation. I was far more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean. So you can imagine my surprise at sunrise when an odd little voice woke me up. It said: "Please ... draw me a sheep."	The first night I went to sleep on the sand a thousand miles from any human habitation. I was more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean. So imagine my surprise at daybreak, when a funny little voice woke me. She said: "If it pleases you ... draw me a	The first evening I thus fell asleep on thousand miles of any ground inhabited with sand. J' stays much more insulated qu' a shipwrecked man on a raft in the middle of' ocean. Then you imagine my surprise, when funny of small voice m' awoke. She said: - S' you	The first evening I thus fell asleep one thousand miles of any ground inhabited with sand. I stays much more insulated shipwrecked man on a raft in the middle of the ocean. Then you can imagine my surprise, when black of small voice I awoke. She

		- <i>Wordsworth Children's Classics, 1995</i>	sheep!"	like it... draws to me a sheep!	said:-If you like it... draws to a me sheep!
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Spanish  
"Cien Años de Soledad"  
("One Hundred Years of  
Solitude")  
By Gabriel García Márquez

Muchos años después, frente al pelotón de fusilamiento, el coronel Aureliano Buendía había de recordar aquella tarde remota en que su padre lo llevó a conocer el hielo.	Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice.	Many years later, he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice.	Many years later, he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice.	Many years later, in front of the firing squad, colonel Aureliano Buendía had to remember that one behind schedule remote one in which to his he took it father to know the ice.	Many years later, at the front of the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that remote afternoon his father took him to the ice.
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Russian

Мы живем в новом мире: - Покончено с «холодной войной», остановлена гонка вооружений и	We live in a new world. The Cold War has ended, the arms race has stopped, as has the insane	We live in a new world: - To end the "cold war", stopped the arms race and madness-	We live in the new peace: - It is put an end to "Cold War", is stopped the arms race	We live in a new world:-end of the cold war, stopped the arms race and bezum-militarizatio
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Resignation Speech as Last President of the U.S.S.R. By Mikhail S. Gorbachev	безум-ная милитаризация страны, изуродовавшая нашу экономику, общественное сознание и мораль. Снята угроза мировой войны.	militarization which mutilated our economy, public psyche and morals. The threat of a world war has been removed. - <i>The Associated Press</i>	Naya militarization of the country, mangled our economy, society-ing consciousness and morality. Remove the threat of world war."	and the reckless militarization of the country, which disfigured our economy, public consciousness and morals. Is taken the threat by world soldiers.	n of the country, izurodovavšâ our economy, sound recordings and consciousness and morality. Removed the threat of world warriors.
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<i>Source</i>	<i>The Original Text</i>	<i>Human Translation</i>	<i>Google Translate</i>	<i>Yahoo Babel Fish via Systran</i>	<i>Microsoft Bing Translator</i>
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German  
"Die Verwandlung"  
("The Metamorphosis")  
By Franz Kafka

Als Gregor Samsa eines Morgens aus unruhigen Träumen erwachte, fand er sich in seinem Bett zu einem ungeheuren Ungeziefer verwandelt.	One morning, as Gregor Samsa was waking up from anxious dreams, he discovered that in bed he had been changed into a monstrous verminous bug. - <i>Kessinger Publishing, 2004</i>	As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found is transformed in his bed into a monstrous vermin.	As Gregor Samsa of one morning from jerky dreams awakened, he was changed in its bed to tremendous vermin.	As Gregor Samsa of one morning from troubled dreams awakened, he was transformed in his bed to a tremendous vermin.
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<i>Source</i>	<i>The Original</i>	<i>Human Translation</i>	<i>Google Translate</i>	<i>Yahoo Babel</i>	<i>Microsoft Bing</i>
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	<i>Text</i>	<i>n</i>		<i>Fish via Systran</i>	<i>Translator</i>
 <p>Arabic  <a href="#">العالم كأس: مارادونا  بمتناولنا</a>  (Maradona: World Cup in Reach) - Al Jazeera, March 5, 2010</p>	<p>مدرب أكد  منتخب  الأرجنتي  لكرة ن  القدم  دييغو  مارادونا  قدرة  منتخب  على بلاده  كأس إحرار  العالم  المقبلة  بجنوب  أفريقيا  بعد وذلك  على فوزه  1- ألمانيا  في صفر  دارها عقر  ملعب على  أليانز  أرينا  الأربعاء  مباراة في  دولية  ودية.</p>	<p>The  Argentine  coach and  soccer great  Diego  Maradona  assured his  country's  ability to  make the  next World  Cup after  beating  Germany 1-0  in their own  backyard at  the Allianz  Arena  stadium on  Wednesday  in an  international  friendly  match.  - <i>The New  York Times</i></p>	<p>Confirmed  coach  Argentina  soccer great  Diego  Maradona  for his  country's  ability to  make the  next World  Cup in  South Africa  after beating  Germany 1 -  zero in their  own  backyard at  the Allianz  Arena on  Wednesday  in an  international  friendly  match.</p>	<p>(Arabic  translation  is  not offered.)</p>	<p>Affirmed  Argentina  coach Diego  Maradona  football  team's  ability to  make the  next World  Cup in South  Africa after  beating  Germany 1-0  in their own  backyard  Stadium  Allianz  Arena  Wednesday  in a friendly.</p>