The Work of the EUROTRA Linguistic Specifications Group

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In this paper we outlined the organisation of linguistic research work in the Eurotra project, and summarized some of the properties of Interface Structure (IS), the level of representation which is the input to, and output from, transfer. IS involves neutralization of many surface linguistic differences, and centres on the notion of a canonical form in which arguments are shown as dependent on their predicates or governors. Many classical 'movement transformations' are 'undone' at IS (e.g. raising, passive). Much information is represented by means of features not constituents (e.g. tense-aspect auxiliaries, complementizers, strongly-bound prepositions). IS may be characterized as basically a deep syntactic representation which additionally incorporates much semantic information (e.g. semantic tense features). It is intended to serve the aim of simple transfer, which means that, as far as possible, transfer components are reduced to bilingual lexical mappings, with only a minimum of structure-changing rules.

Those wishing further information are advised to read the following paper: V. Allegranza, P. Bennett, J. Durand, F. van Eynde, L. Humphreys, P. Schmidt & E. Steiner: "Linguistics for MT: The Eurotra Linguistic Specifications". This paper is available from:

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As this paper is 100 pages long, we must make a charge of *£2* for it. Alternatively, a slightly shorter version is due to appear in the journal *Machine Translation.*

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