LOCALIZATION, TRANSLATION, AND TEXT TRANSFER

Anthony Pym

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Internationalization is the preparation of a generic text for multiple localizations. The concept can be extended to include terminology databases and controlled languages, occupying the guiding position once accorded to the source text.

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Internationalization can enhance rather than restrict the differences between locales, as is suggested in the varieties of language that computer programs are marketed for.

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The principle factor determining how many texts move may be the relative size of locales. The larger the locale, the greater the percentage of transfers *from* that locale and the smaller the percentage of transfers *into* that locale. The number of transfers a locale receives without localization tends to be directly proportional to the transfers it receives with localization.

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Localization is rarely complete, since the asymmetries remain in the technical terminology. This incompletion may potentially allow end-users to move to the locales of production.

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Professional technical discourse is more explicit than non-professional discourse.
Explicitness, however, may be pedagogically empowering and should be regarded as a virtue.

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Localization and translation can be used to humanize discourse in all these aspects.
Complete localization, however, which would position users in just one locale, does not offer such virtues.

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