

# The Use of Machine Translation and Post-editing among Language Service Providers in Spain



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Details

**Survey:** February 2015

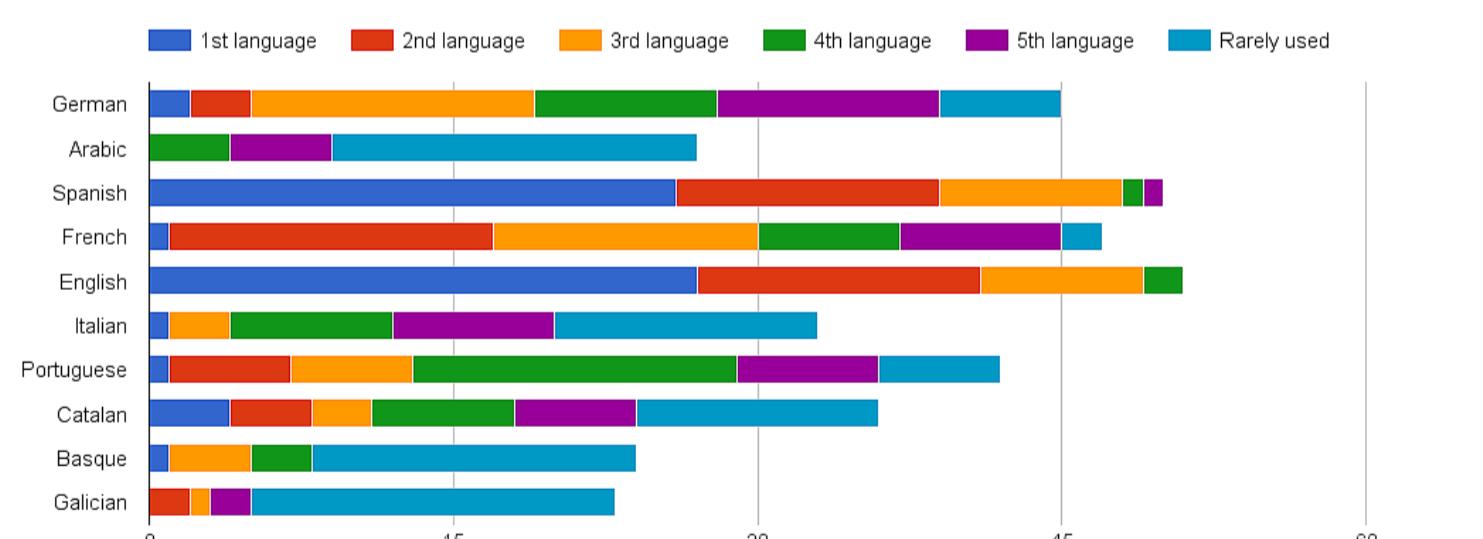
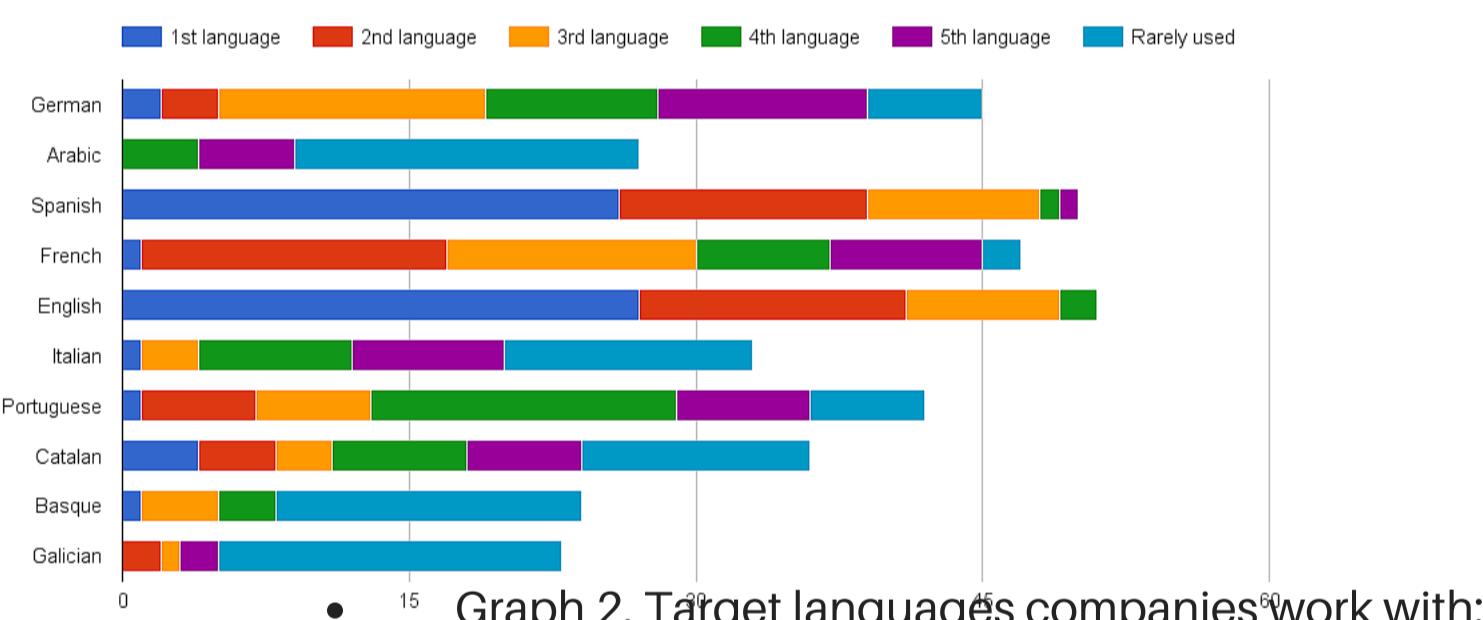
**Sample:** 187 companies, 55 surveys received

**Reference:** FFI2013-46041-R

**Call for proposals by:** Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness National Programme for Research

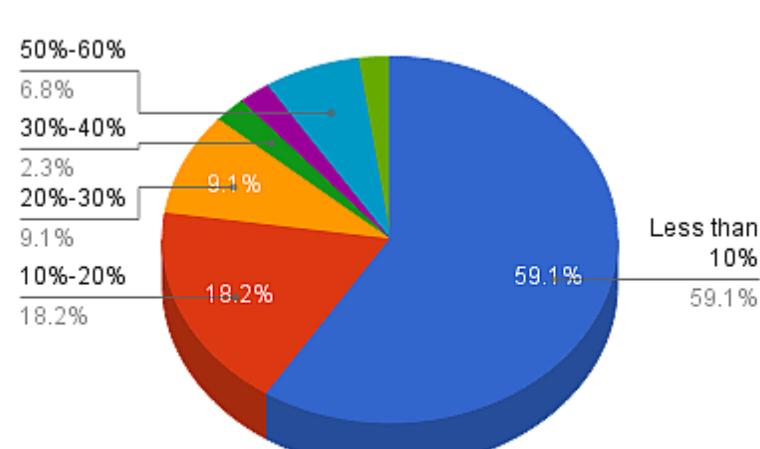
Aimed at the Challenges of Society

- Majority of companies in Madrid and Barcelona.
- 61.8% are microenterprises (up to 9 staff), 23.6% are small companies (10-49 employees) and 10.9% are single member companies. Medium size companies (50-250 employees) account for only 3.7%.
- Only 25.5% invoice more than €500,000 per year, 9.1% between €300,000 and €500,000, 31% between €100,000 and €300,000, while 22% have a turnover of less than €100,000.
- Services offered: translation services, interpreting, localisation, subtitling, page layout, proofing galleys, certified translations and transcribing, text proofing services, translation memory and bilingual parallel text alignment, database and terminology base creation and management, terminology concordance services, post-editing and pre-editing.
- Graph 1. Source languages companies work with:



Postediting

- 20% of the companies do not offer PE.
- Graph 5. Volume of post-editing commissions in the companies:



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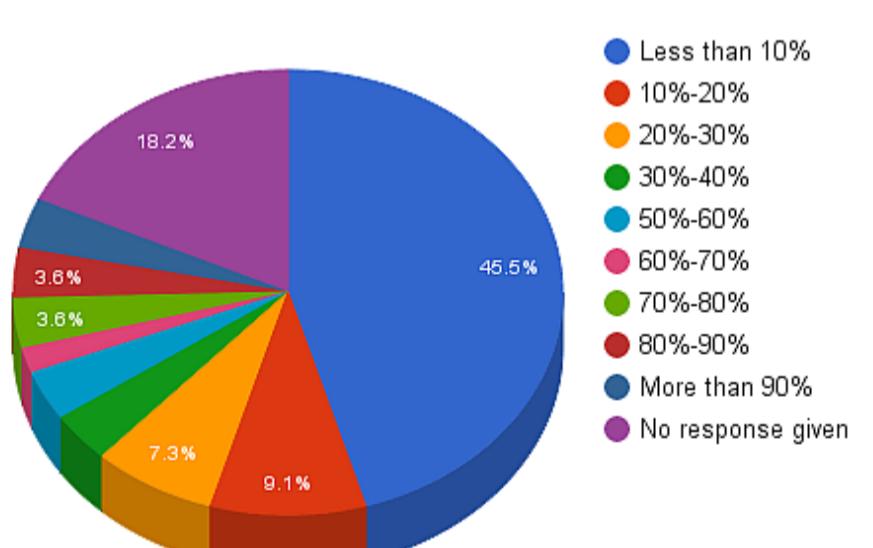
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Use of MT

- 56.9% do not use MT in their workflow, 43.1% do
- Among those companies that do not use MT, the reasons given are: "We don't find MT reliable" (22.2%); "Our clients don't require it" (20.8%); or "Translators don't accept it" (12.5%). 6.9% of the companies claim other reasons such as "poor results"; "given the current state of this technology time saved is outweighed by time spent correcting the text later"; "because of the format of the source texts"; "we don't have the technology at present" and other comments related to major difficulties tailoring and adapting these systems to their specific needs.
- Graph 4. Percentage of projects in which MT is used:



Conclusions:

The results clearly show that Spanish LSP are small, offer a wide range of services for different language pairs and work for a very wide range of specialised sectors. It is noteworthy that almost half of the companies use MT in their workflow. However, it should also be noted that 45.5% of the companies using MT only do so for less than 10% of their projects and only 16% of these companies have their own machine translation system.