

# A Comparative Analysis of Computer-aided Translation Tools

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## Abstract

**With the rapid development of the times, the role of computers in all aspects of society has become more and more obvious, and the translation industry has also been obviously influenced. At present, traditional translation can no longer adapt to the various needs of customers, so computer-aided translation software was born. Trados and memoq are two similar software that are used by translators more frequently. This thesis aims at comparing the advantages and disadvantages of Trados and memoq, analyzing the advantages of each software and the potential translators.**

## Keywords

**Computer-aided translation software, Comparative Analysis, Trados, Memoq.**

## 1. Introduction

Trados Studio is a computer-aided translation tool which offers a complete, centralised translation environment for reviewing, editing and managing translation projects and terminology - either offline in a desktop tool or online in the cloud. Trados Studio is part of the Trados product portfolio which is a suite of intelligent translation products owned by RWS that enables freelance translators, language service providers and corporations to streamline processes and improve efficiencies while keeping costs down. memoQ is a proprietary computer-aided translation tool suite which runs on Microsoft Windows operating systems. It is developed by the Hungarian software company memoQ Fordítástechnológiai Zrt. (memoQ Translation Technologies), formerly Kilgray, a provider of translation management software established in 2004 and cited as one of the fastest-growing companies in the translation technology sector in 2012 and 2013. memoQ provides translation memory, terminology, machine translation integration and reference information management in desktop, client/server and web application environments

## 2. The Advantages of Two Tools

### 2.1. The advantages of Trados

Localization requires fast turnaround of high volumes of material, with rigorous consistency of terminology and style. Trados makes this kind of performance possible. Translators who can transfer translation memories, update them while they translate, and send them back, are crucial to the translation process. Even with a miserable pre-translation concerning about a new unrelated topic, a CAT tool can make work more pleasant, because when the same segments or terms appear later in the document, the translator do not re-type or cut-and-paste. As translating, translator can build the translation memory, so the next document like this one will have a better pre-translation version. Consistent terminology within a document and throughout a project is especially important in technical translation. This is true of legal and financial work as well as scientific and technical documentation. CAT tools, such as Trados, allow projects to standardize their glossaries and individual translators to use terms consistently with less effort. The most effective way to review is to use a pair of rulers to

compare source and target text on printed paper pages. However, some technical documentation does not print well or is intended to be read on-screen anyway. The alignment of segments makes on-screen review easier and more efficient. Translations prepared on the CAT tool have far fewer errors in print, so the final paper check is faster.

## 2.2. The advantages of memoQ

memoQ focuses on user experience and listening to user needs. It doesn't just rely on inhouse talent to know what to develop: Much of what it do comes from listening carefully to customers! Multiple feature requests from our users are greatly channeled into development pipeline. Every version focuses on different themes and some of these themes even span across two or three minor versions. And some releases address functionality with a lot of potential. memoQ offers exceptionally rich built-in features coverage with the core product, which - together with centralized termbase management at server-level and by enabling real-time collaboration at server-level - will help translator improve translation quality, and control on multilingual content. If translator take terminology seriously, QTerm, a browser-based terminology management system are needed. With a well-defined corporate terminology, translator can streamline communications and save up to 40 times the cost that a translator invest into terminology management. Before implementing memoQ, sorting workflow charts was complicated and time-consuming. But memoQ's glossary has solved their problems related to localization contextual consistency. They also now rely on a powerful translation memory which recognizes similar parts of a text in a document and avoids having to translate the same segment twice. The translation memory also stores their translations in a database so they can re-use them for future projects, cutting localization costs down in the long run.

## 2.3. Comparison of the number of plug-ins

SDL official store provides a large number of free and practical plug-ins. These plug-ins can not only effectively simplify the management of translation process, and help to significantly improve productivity, and these plug-ins can work with most of the office software on the market, such as: office, deepl, google, Xbench. At the same time there are all kinds of plug-ins, like dictionary plug-ins, terminology plug-ins, error-correction plug-ins, automatic translation plug-ins. In addition, Trados also supports people who have the ability to develop their own plug-ins. As far as the plug-ins, Trados covers a wide range of areas, and the software localization is very perfect. In comparison, memoq has fewer plug-ins, and it lacks applicability and practicality.

## 2.4. Comparison of the number of potential users

Two of the popular CAT tools in China are Trados and memoq, and many language learners or freelance translators learn these two tools on their own. Searching for the number of videos related to these two tools on a popular video site among young people (bilibili), the results were greater for trados than memoq, which shows that more people are learning trados on their own (the internal logic is that more people are learning trados, so more bloggers are making videos about it). In addition, searching on other major platforms shows that trados is more popular than memoq, so for general freelance translators or people who interested in CAT, trados is used by more people than memoq.

## 3. Conclusion

Trados menu is complex and unfriendly to new users. Many of the features are needed to take a long time to explore, otherwise translator won't understand the functions corresponding to each section of the menu. memoq is much smaller and more sophisticated, and it's faster to get started. Both of these tools are unique and need our time to understand in depth.

Simultaneously, each has its own advantages. The disadvantages are also within a reasonable and manageable range. New users can pick and choose a particular tool to use according to their needs. As far as common translation tasks, both of them can meet all the needs of users.

## References

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