International Standard

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Translation, interpreting and related technology — Vocabulary

Traduction, interprétation et technologies apparentées — Vocabulaire

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 37, *Language and terminology*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Translation, interpreting and related technology*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 20539:2019), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— new terminological entries arising from the publication of new and revised International Standards in the fields of translation, interpreting and related technology have been added;

— some terminological entries have been updated.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

This document is intended to provide a description of concepts used in International Standards on translation, interpreting and related technologies. Some of the concepts in these domains are referred to in different ways by practitioners. It is not expected that these differences will disappear in the short term. However, it is likely that in the long term, consistency in terms and definitions across the related International Standards will have a standardizing effect in practice.

Information within terminological entries in this document has been structured in accordance with ISO 10241-1, and concepts have been grouped, as far as was possible, according to thematic order, as defined in ISO 1087:2019, 3.7.11. Related concepts are grouped together under subheadings. The subheadings are:

— key concepts;

— concepts common to translation and interpreting;

— concepts relating to translation;

— concepts relating to interpreting;

— concepts relating to technology.

The last subheading is divided into two parts: technology relating to translation and that relating to interpreting.

An effort has been made to avoid using terms without having defined the relevant concept first. This is to ensure that the reader does not come across a term for the first time within the definition of another concept, with no clear understanding of it. For example, “floor” is defined before the term is used in the definition of “language distribution”.

For the convenience of readers, an index is provided at the end of this document, in which all terms are listed alphabetically, with their relevant terminological entry numbers.

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Translation, interpreting and related technology — Vocabulary

1 Scope

This document defines terms for International Standards on translation, interpreting and related technology.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1 Key concepts

3.1.1
language
systematic use of voice, characters, symbols or signs by which to communicate

3.1.2
content
information in any form

EXAMPLE *Text* (3.3.1), audio, video.

3.1.3
source language
language (3.1.1) from which *content* (3.1.2) is *translated* (3.1.8) or *interpreted* (3.1.10)

3.1.4
target language
language (3.1.1) into which *content* (3.1.2) is *translated* (3.1.8) or *interpreted* (3.1.10)

3.1.5
source language content
content (3.1.2) to be *translated* (3.1.8) or *interpreted* (3.1.10)

3.1.6
target language content
content (3.1.2) *translated* (3.1.8) or *interpreted* (3.1.10) from a *source language* (3.1.3)

3.1.7
signed language
language (3.1.1) which uses a combination of hand shapes, orientation and movement of the hands, arms or body, and facial expressions

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