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EVOLVING TRANSLATOR COMPETENCIES: STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE EUROPEAN MASTER IN TRANSLATION AMIDST CONFLICT

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The war in Ukraine has fundamentally changed the landscape of international relations and, together with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) [11], has imposed new, enhanced requirements for translator training. This transformation demands not only the mastery of new knowledge but also the deepening of existing professional competencies. This paper aims to substantiate the new requirements for translator training, demonstrate their alignment with the European Master's in Translation (EMT) competence framework [6], and analyse the development of each competence within modern realities.

At the core of these enhanced requirements lies a deepened and expanded thematic and terminological competence. The EMT's mandate for mastery of specialised terminology is becoming critically important. Translators must be proficient in terminology related to the military sphere, peacekeeping initiatives, human rights, humanitarian aid, and international law [3]. The military context adds the need for deep knowledge of military terminology, including abbreviations, slang, and the specifics of manuals for modern equipment. This knowledge is necessary for translating documents related to logistics, tactics, and strategy. From the perspective of post-war recovery, high-quality translation of specialised terminology is key to avoiding confusion in international

projects and ensuring sustainable development (SDGs 16 and 17 [11]), which underscores the importance of this competence. There is a growing need for translators specialising in war medicine and medical care [8]. War requires translators to have a deep understanding of the political context, diplomatic terminology, and negotiation skills [10].

Another critical development area is language and intercultural competence. While precise terminology is essential, its efficient application is inseparable from cultural understanding. The EMT emphasises the importance of cross-cultural competence [6]. In the context of war, this competence evolves from a general comprehension of cultural differences to the practical ability to overcome intercultural barriers during communication between military personnel from different countries, which requires both linguistic and cultural adequacy in translation and the ability to adapt communication by taking into account the psychological state of conflict participants.

The successful navigation of these complex intercultural interactions increasingly depends on technological competence. Today, the EMT requirement for proficiency in the latest technologies means more than general awareness. It is specified in the confident use of CAT tools (e.g., SDL Trados Studio, MemoQ) to ensure terminological consistency, an understanding of the principles of machine translation, and the ability to work with specialised tools for the military sphere, including creating custom glossaries. Mastering them allows for a faster response to translation needs in crisis [1; 6].

However, it is essential to guide proficiency with such powerful technologies by robust ethical competence and social responsibility. The very use of these tools for sensitive information amplifies ethical stakes. The EMT program includes ethical aspects of translation activities [6]. During the war, translators must be objective and impartial and strictly adhere to the confidentiality requirements for military information. They face ethical dilemmas related to neutrality and responsibility for the accuracy of translated information. Translators must also comprehend their social responsibility and how their work can influence public opinion and support for peace initiatives [5; 9].

Fulfilling these profound ethical duties under conflict demands a higher personal adaptability and stress resilience. Although the EMT framework does not always explicitly foreground these traits, adaptability and stress resilience have become key professional skills. A translator's

work may include simultaneous or consecutive interpreting in highly challenging conditions—amidst noise, stress, and limited time on military training grounds. All these require a higher psychological readiness to work with traumatic information and in extreme conditions that must be pre-taught within university programs [2; 7].

In conclusion, the requirements for translator training in light of the Russian-Ukrainian war and the SDGs are highly consistent with the competencies defined in the EMT. However, modern realities infuse each competence with new, more specific, in-depth content that, in turn, requires universities to adapt their curricula by updating course content [4], introducing simulations of real-world crises, and involving military experts and psychologists [3; 7] to train specialists capable of working efficiently in the demanding conditions of war and post-war reconstruction.

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