Findings

Language analysts and quality reviewers report that the STET and LPET are easy to use and will be useful for evaluating translations in an operational context. Quality reviewers piloting the LPET found the following:

- Individual components of the LPET are intuitive;
- Documenting feedback with the LPET does not add much time to the quality review process;
- The LPET helps increase awareness of the relationship between source characteristics and product quality; and
- The LPET is likely to make feedback more accurate, objective, detailed, systematic, and consistent.

Ongoing research is examining the reliability, validity, and usability of the LPET.

Relevance

A critical task for language analysts in the Intelligence Community (IC) is translation of foreign language materials (both written and spoken) into written English. Standardized assessments such as those provided by the STET and LPET are vital to ensuring high standards of quality review and giving language analysts meaningful feedback for improvement.

The STET and LPET were developed to establish standards for creating language products in line with IC analytic standards; to enable quality reviewers to more easily provide consistent, systematic feedback; and to provide aggregated data to describe organizational capability and performance.

Reports

- Toward a standard for language products: Pilot tests of the Language Product Evaluation Tool (LPET) in operational environments (draft, January 2011)
- STET experiment final report: Results from Spanish graphic and Korean voice experiments to test the validity, sensitivity, and reliability of the Summary Translation Evaluation Tool (January 2010)
- “What’s the bottom line? Development of and potential uses for the Summary Translation Evaluation Tool,” The Next Wave (September 2009)