

Technical Translation

Usability Strategies for Translating Technical Documentation

JODY BYRNE

University of Sheffield, UK



Contents

Preface.....	ix
Acknowledgements.....	xv
Technical Translation.....	1
The Importance of Technical Translation.....	2
Some Misconceptions.....	2
The Reality of Technical Translation.....	7
The Aim of Technical Translation.....	10
The Translator's Role.....	15
Theory in Technical Translation.....	21
Conclusions.....	44
Technical Communication	47
The Nature of Technical Documentation	48
Typical Technical Documents	50
Software Documentation	52
Software User Guides	57
Software User Guides & Quality.....	64
Assessing User Guide Quality.....	92
Conclusions.....	94
Understanding Users.....	97
Usability	97
The Human Cognitive System.....	100

Perception	109
Memory	114
Cognitive Processing	121
Attention & Selection.....	124
Learning	130
Reasoning & Problem-Solving	138
The Transition from Problem-Solving to Skill	145
Conclusions.....	149
 Usability Engineering	 151
Interfaces	151
Cognetics	153
Understanding How We Read User Guides.....	157
Implementing Usability Measures.....	160
Iconic Linkage.....	164
Iconic Linkage as a Cognitive Strategy	171
Conclusions.....	175
 Assessing Usability	 177
Empirical Usability Evaluation	177
Historical Problems in Document Usability Research.....	178
Approaches to Empirical Evaluation.....	179
Survey Methods.....	186
Participants in a Usability Evaluation.....	194
Usability Evaluation Procedures	196
Experiment to Test the Impact of Iconic Linkage	207
Main Study.....	236
Results of Usability Evaluation.....	239
Conclusions.....	249

Conclusions.....	253
Cognetics and Iconic Linkage	254
Future Directions.....	255
 Bibliography.....	 259
 Appendices	 271