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In the rapidly evolving field of machine translation (MT), the intersection between technological advancement and ethical, legal, and societal considerations has become a focal point of academic and professional discourse. *Towards Responsible Machine Translation – Ethical and Legal Considerations in Machine Translation*, edited by Helena Moniz and Carla Parra Escartín, is a groundbreaking compilation that addresses these issues. The interdisciplinary approach of this volume, combining philosophy, law, computational linguistics, and data science, provides a comprehensive overview of the ethical and legal challenges in MT.

The structure of the book is organized into three parts, each of which examines different facets of machine translation from theoretical, practical, and societal perspectives. This tripartite structure not only categorizes the broad spectrum of considerations but also enables a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of machine translation. Each chapter provides an insightful examination, together painting a comprehensive, nuanced picture of the current state and future directions of responsible use of MT.

Part I, *Responsible Machine Translation: Ethical, Philosophical, and Legal Aspects*, serves as the foundational core, where readers are introduced to the legal and ethical quandaries and philosophical considerations that underpin the development and application of MT technologies. It includes thought-provoking articles such as Wessel Reijers and Quinn DuPont's examination of contemporary ethics in MT (*Prolegomenon to Contemporary Ethics of Machine Translation*) and Mikel L. Forcada's analysis of copyright and licensing issues (*Licensing and Usage Rights of Language Data in Machine Translation*), setting the stage for a deep dive into the ethical implications of MT.

The chapter *Authorship and Rights Ownership in the Machine Translation Era* by Miguel L. Lacruz Mantecón highlights the issues discussed in Part I by addressing the intellectual property in the age of algorithms, which are able to produce translations that rival human efforts. The chapter examines the legal and ethical challenges surrounding machine-generated translation ownership, providing thoughtful strategies for

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addressing these complex issues. Lacruz Mantecón advocates for a nuanced understanding of authorship that recognizes the contributions of both human and machine, suggesting a path forward, which respects intellectual property rights while accounting for the realities of machine-assisted translation.

Adding to the discourse, Part II, *Responsible Machine Translation from the End-User Perspective*, shifts the focus towards the experiences and ethical considerations from the perspective of those who interact with MT on a daily basis. This section discusses the broader impact of MT on end-users, including the ethical use of MT in crisis situations (*Ethics, Automated Processes, Machine Translation and Crises*, Federico M. Federici, Christophe Declercq, Jorge Díaz Cintas and Rocío Baños Piñero), highlighting the importance of maintaining ethical standards in the practical application of MT technologies.

The chapter *The Ethics of Machine Translation Post-editing in the Translation Ecosystem* by Celia Rico and María del Mar Sánchez Ramos underscores the points discussed in Part II by offering an in-depth look at the ethical considerations surrounding machine-translated content's post-editing process. This contribution examines the evolving role of human translators in the MT workflow, highlighting the ethical dilemmas they face, such as the undervaluation of their cognitive labor and the challenges in ensuring translation quality in a machine-dominated environment. It highlights a crucial aspect of the ethical debate in MT: the need to reassess the value and recognition of human input in an era dominated by machine efficiency. In doing so, Rico and Sánchez Ramos not only contribute to understanding the ethical dilemmas inherent in the post-editing process but also advocate for a fairer consideration of human expertise within the MT workflow. This chapter enriches the book's examination of the practical and ethical issues faced by end-users by providing a thorough analysis of the interplay between human capabilities and automated technologies, advocating for a balanced approach that respects and values the indispensable human element in translation.

Part III, *Responsible Machine Translation: Societal Impact*, contemplates the broader implications of MT for society, addressing issues such as the potential for gender and age biases in commercial MT systems, as discussed by Federico Bianchi, Tommaso Fornaciari, Dirk Hovy, and Debora Nozza (*Gender and Age Bias in Commercial Machine Translation*). This section also includes Dimitar Shterionov and Eva Vanmassenhove's examination of the ecological footprint of neural MT systems, discussing the environmental costs associated with the energy consumption of training and running these advanced AI models, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable practices in the development of MT technologies (*The Ecological Footprint of Neural Machine Translation Systems*). Through these discussions, Part III highlights the significant societal responsibilities that accompany the advancement of MT technologies and the need to address them for the benefit of all.

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The chapter *Treating Speech as Personally Identifiable Information and Its Impact in Machine Translation*, authored by Isabel Trancoso, Francisco Teixeira, Catarina Botelho, and Alberto Abad, addresses the pressing privacy and security concerns in speech-to-speech machine translation. As speech and language technologies become more widespread, the risk of data breaches and misuse of personal data increases. The authors highlight the unique challenges of anonymizing speech data, the risks of reconstructing personal voices from speech input, and the broader implications for user privacy. This discussion is particularly timely, as it reflects the growing awareness of the need to protect individuals' rights in the digital age. The chapter significantly contributes to Part III's theme by delving into the complex interplay between technology and privacy, offering critical insights into how machine translation technologies can be developed and used without compromising personal privacy, thereby emphasizing the need for stringent privacy measures and ethical considerations in the advancement of MT systems.

Overall, *Towards Responsible Machine Translation* is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the intersection of technology, language, and ethics. The editors have succeeded in compiling a work that is both intellectually sound and highly relevant to current debates about the future of MT. Its contributions lay the foundation for further research and discussion on addressing the ethical and legal challenges of responsible and equitable use of MT.

The book's exploration of topics such as copyright, authorship, privacy, and the environmental impact of MT systems is particularly commendable, offering readers a comprehensive understanding of the complexity and breadth of issues at stake. As MT continues to permeate more aspects of our lives, the insights offered in this collection will be crucial for guiding the development of technologies that are not only effective but also ethical and legally compliant. In this respect, *Towards Responsible Machine Translation* is not just a reflection on where we stand but also a beacon for where we need to go.