

Introduction

Marián Kabát

Comenius University in Bratislava

marian.kabat@uniba.sk

When we established the L10N Journal in 2021, the initial thought was to present Slovak thinking on localization and technologies to the scholarly community outside of Slovakia. The first two issues were symbolic; we wanted to show that localization research has its place in a country where the predominant research in translation studies was focused on literary translation. Looking back at the past three years gives me hope that what we started in 2021 continues today in 2024. This is evident, for example, in the program of both Winter Schools in Translation, where localization – and video game localization in particular – had its place.

The following issue, titled Slovak Research on Localization 3, is a continuation of the first two issues. It showcases research by young scholars who are interested in localization and technologies in translation, as well as their impact on English-to-Slovak translation.

The first article, by Alex Barák, compares three engines used for machine translation, one of which is a large language model. Research of this type was partly absent in Slovakia but is imperative in informing practicing translators about which tools are better suited for their day-to-day practice.

Radka Filkorová addresses the issue of consistency in spin-off literature related to video games. This reader-centric approach emphasizes the importance of cooperation between video game localizers and literary translators.

The next article, by Zuzana Hudáková, explores the impact of source text pre-editing for machine translation and machine translation post-editing, as well as the impact of education on these processes, their outcomes, and final translation quality.

Matúš Nemergut examines translation edit rate (TER) in English-to-Slovak machine translation post-editing. This research is first of its kind in this language pair; it began as a collaborative effort between the author and the industry, and the results could impact the way post-editors work today.

I consider the presented research to be highly significant, particularly for the English-to-Slovak translation community, as it addresses crucial practical challenges that have direct implications for the field. By exploring these important issues, the studies contribute to both theoretical discussions and real-world applications in translation practice. Furthermore, I sincerely hope that research of this nature will continue to develop in the coming years, fostering further discussions in the field.