

PIE & ATA: an innovative approach to translation evaluation¹

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Evaluation in professional translation and certification poses multiple challenges in terms of objectivity and transparency. The authors propose an innovative method that aims for greater transparency and objectivity, and can be automated. This method combines PIE (Preselected Items Evaluation) with the ATA Framework for Standardized Error Marking.

PIE is a criterion- and norm-referenced analytical method used to evaluate translations based on a set of preselected items only. These items, as well as the correct and incorrect solutions for each item are established a priori, preferably based on an intersubjective consensus. The test takers' raw scores are calculated and subsequently, the difficulty (p-value) and discrimination index (d-index) of each item is calculated. Only the items with a good p-value and d-index are retained. The final scores are then recalculated based on these items.

The ATA Framework for Standardized Error Marking is an analytical method used for certification purposes. It consists of an assessment grid with detailed error categories.

An experiment has been successfully conducted combining these two methods in translator training. Following the PIE evaluation, errors are categorised in accordance with the ATA error categories. No weighting is used, as this compromises the objectivity of the evaluation. The result is a time-efficient and transparent method that can easily be automated and used in a professional setting.

¹ Submitted as 'work in progress'. The main author is a PhD student whose doctoral studies focus on translation evaluation and directionality.