Bilingual Editing

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Translator-Editor
You said bilingual editing?

- Bilingual editing is also called:
  - Bilingual revising
  - Comparative revision
  - Comparative reading
  - Comparative editing
  - Concordance editing
  - Cross-language editing
  - Revision of translations
  - Etc.
What is bilingual editing exactly?

- The following definition provided by Editors Canada explains what comparative editing entails: “... ensuring that the content of a publication or a text translated corresponds faithfully to the original version. Normally, comparative revision is done first when the content is being prepared, after translation, and then again when the document has been formatted and is ready to be posted online.”

- Faithfulness means that the content of the target text conveys the same message as that of the source text. No information should be added or omitted. In addition to being faithful, the target text must flow well and be plausible. Ultimately, upon reading the text, the reader should not be able to tell that it is a translation. In other words, the target text must stick to the source text without being a literal translation.

- In order words, comparative editing is used to:
  - ensure consistency and accuracy
  - ensure that both versions of a document contain the same information while respecting the style and conventions of each language
Who can perform bilingual editing?

- Any language professional who knows a second language and who is performing editing and/or translation

- More specifically, it is done by a professional, preferably a native speaker of the target language
What tasks are performed exactly?

- The language professional must ensure that the target text is clear and does not contain any embarrassing mistakes (e.g. Gallicisms, vocabulary errors, calques). He or she should also pay attention to sentence structure and quality of language.

- The language professional also has to check bibliographical items, the names of institutions and organizations, and the titles of works, among other things, to make sure that they have been translated correctly or left in the source language if there is no official translation.

- Thus, comparative editing often requires that the language professional wear two hats: that of a reviser and, at times, that of a translator because he or she may occasionally have to rework the text.
What skills do one need to do bilingual editing?

- Knowledge of a second language
- Excellent knowledge/command of both languages of the language pair one is working in (e.g. grammar, stylistics, punctuation, typography, layout, etc.) in order to be able to grasp the nuances of the different texts
- Knowledge of the process of producing a text/content no matter what task one is performing on it (e.g. translating, copy editing, proofreading, copywriting, etc.)
What can be challenging about bilingual editing?

- Maintain idioms
- Maintain puns
- Maintain rhymes
- Maintain cultural references by making sure the intended audience understands them
- Avoid pitfalls such as regionalisms, colloquialisms, double meanings, calques and anglicisms
- Respect the style (i.e. author’s voice, sense of humour), rhythm, and structure of the source text without altering its meaning and making sure its message is conveyed properly and clearly to the intended audience while offering a target text that is respecting the language conventions in the target language
Useful French resources for bilingual editing:

- Dictionnaire des cooccurrences
- Banque de dépannage linguistique (BDL)
- Termium Plus®
- Grand dictionnaire terminologique (GDT)
- Antidote 9
- Le Rouleau des prépositions
- Le Guide du rédacteur
- Le Ramat de la typographie
- Lexique analogique
- Le Révélateur linguistique
- Diatopix 3.1
Useful English resources for bilingual editing:

- Banque de dépannage linguistique (BDL)
- Termium Plus®
- Grand dictionnaire terminologique (GDT)
- Antidote 9 (avec module anglais)
- The Canadian Style
- Google Ngram Viewer
- Editing Canadian English 3
- The Chicago Manuel of Style (CMOS)
- Peck’s English Pointers
Various resources on editing:

- Article on comparative editing on the Language Portal of Canada, February 2016 offered both in English and French (see attached Word document)
- French article on the relationship between the author and the editor in *Active Voice/Voix active*, September 2016 issue — the magazine of the Editors Canada (see September 2016 issue, page 8)
- French article on neologisms in *Active Voice/Voix active*, Spring 2013 issue — the magazine of Editors Canada (see Spring 2013 issue pages 14, 17)
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Thank you for attending!
Merci de votre présence!