



Artificial Intelligence in DDC Translation

Is it love at first sight?

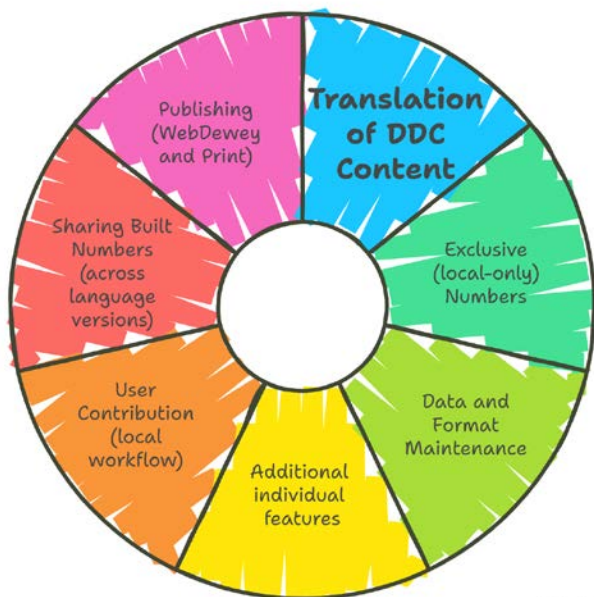
DDC translations

- The DDC has been translated into over 30 languages
- WebDewey language versions/translations currently done and maintained using the Pansoft Translation Software:

Arabic, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Swedish, Spanish

Uses of the translation software

Pansoft DDC Software Functions



Made with Napkin



Made with PowerPoint

„AI eats translator jobs“

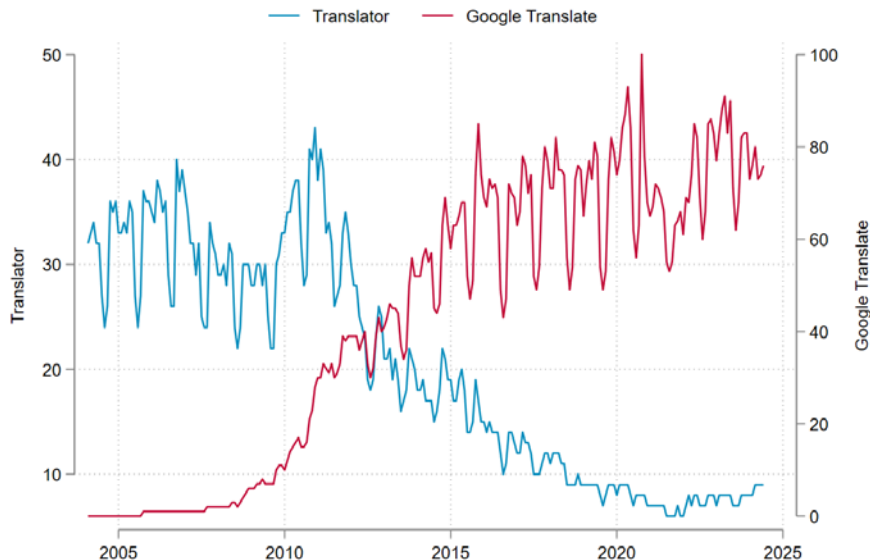


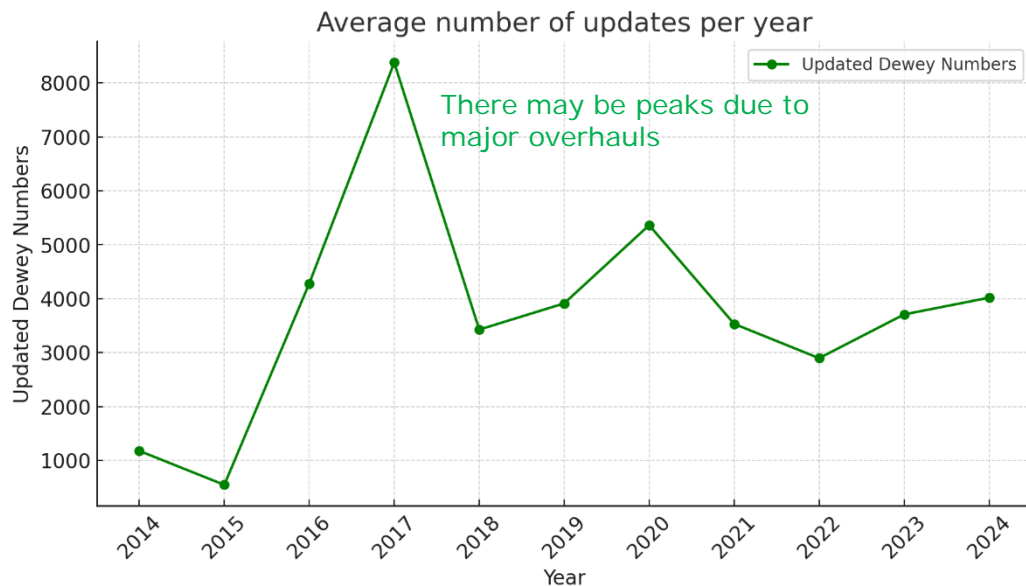
Figure: Google searches for “translator” and “Google Translate”, 2004-2024

Lost in translation: AI’s impact on translators and foreign language skills

Carl Benedikt Frey Pedro Llanos-Paredes /
22 Mar 2025

<https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/lost-translation-ais-impact-translators-and-foreign-language-skills>

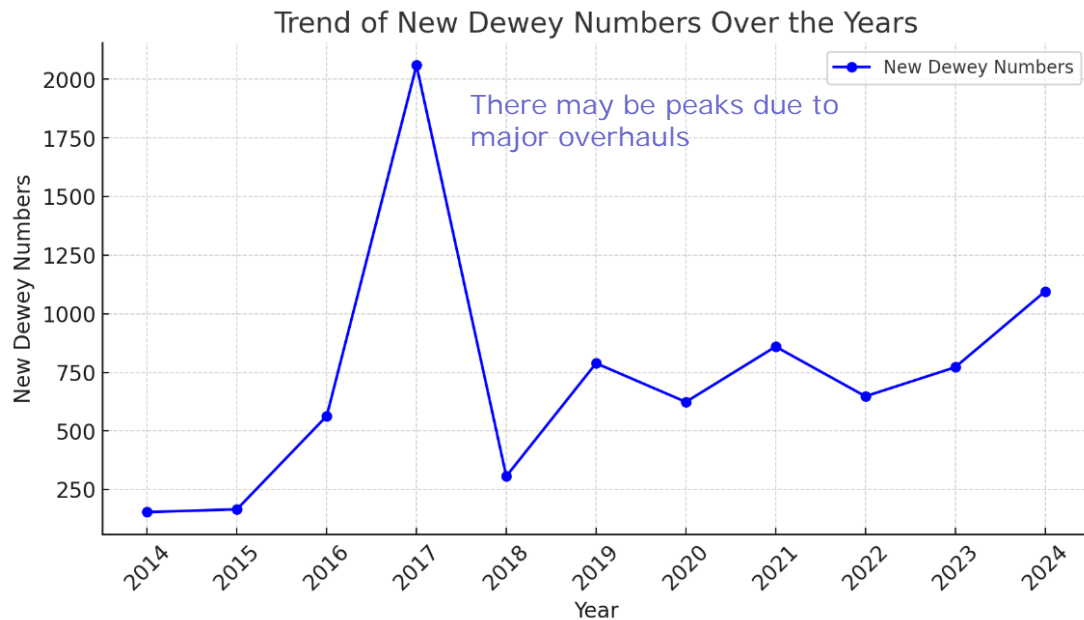
Average amount of DDC updates/year



Query for English updates in the German DDC translation software: new, changed, deleted.

Numbers represent updates visible in WebDewey. Does not contain other „non-visible“ updates.

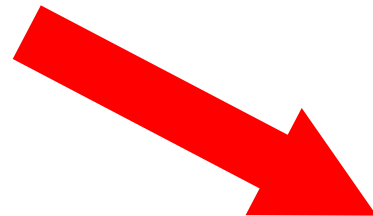
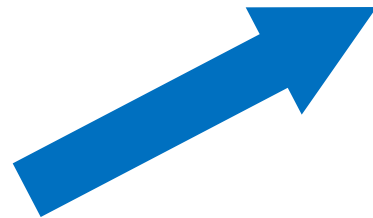
Average amount of new numbers/year



Query for English updates in the
German DDC translation
software: new DDC numbers

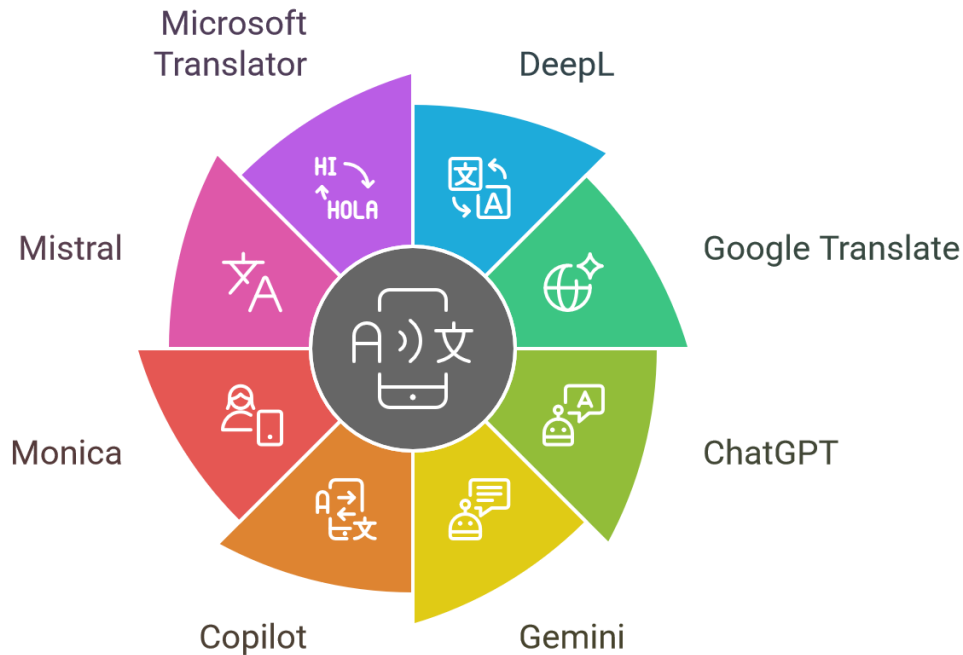
What we are facing today

- Continuous increase in DDC updates
- The teams (translators, editors) are usually understaffed and this is not likely to change
 - also due to AI and the hoped-for savings associated with it

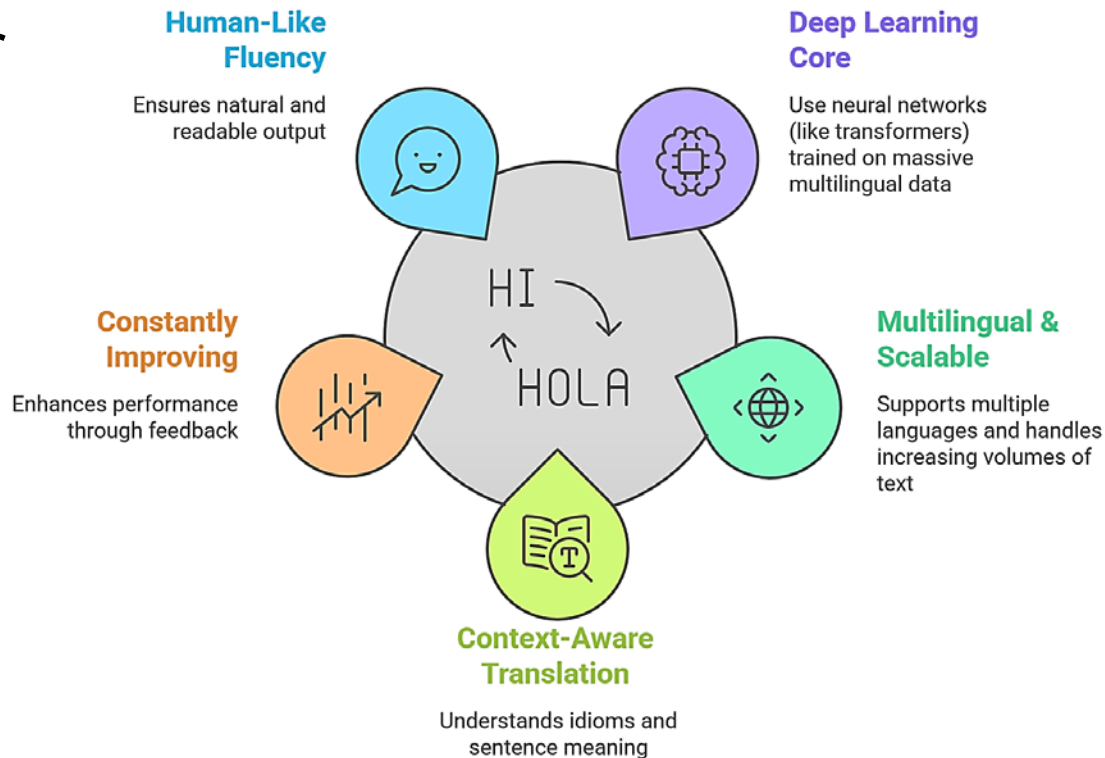


AI Tools for Translation

It's AI jungle
out there...



Key features of AI translation tools

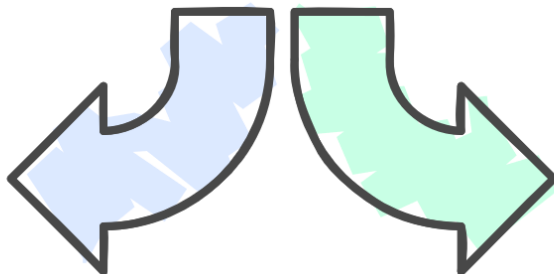


Which AI tool should I use for my task?

Purpose-driven AI Tool

Suitable for specific tasks
like translation

DeepL, Google Translate,
...

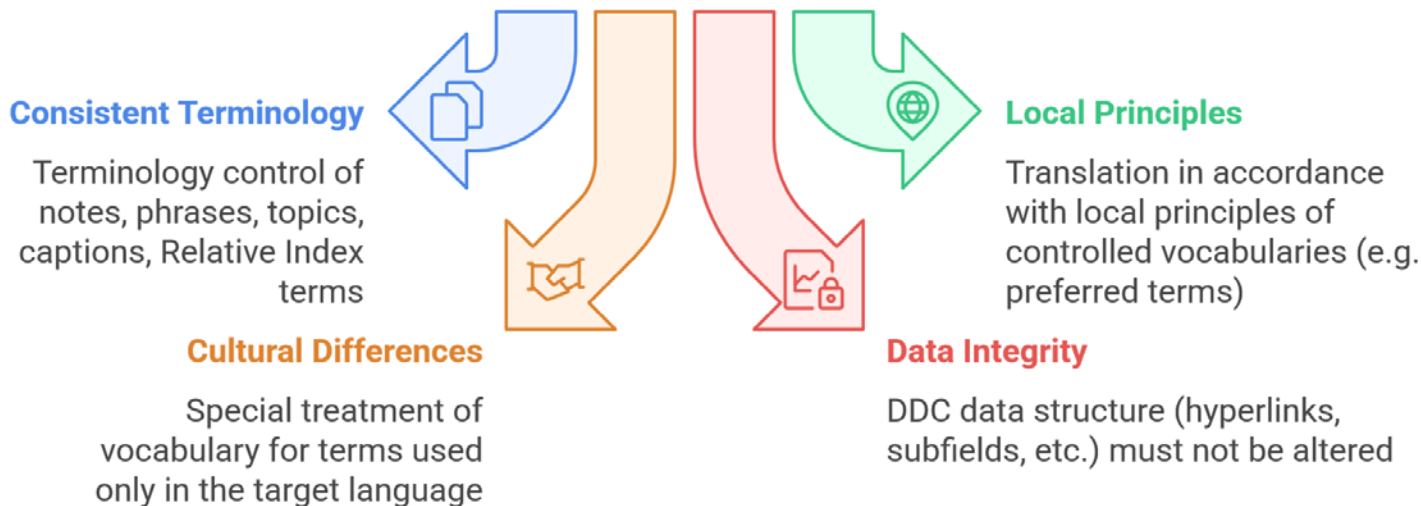


Generative AI Tool

Ideal for creating new
content using prompts

ChatGPT, Gemini, Monica,
Mistral, ...

We are the DDC experts.



... and domain knowledge!

DDC text types to be tested for AI usage



Running text: Introduction, Glossary, other secondary text

Notes & phrases in class records, Manual records; class captions

Topics: domain-specific terms; descriptive terms; Relative Index terms, etc.

AI must learn DDC language from the start!

The better the terminology control, the higher the translation quality,

the higher the AI translation quality.

