**Very good**

**Koby**

**Building a Multilingual Database of Graded Translation Examinations**

The PI proposes to utilize a unique set of materials from the American Translation Association—over 3,000 ATA graded translation examinations representing 25 language pairs—to build an extensive and quite unusual corpus of texts in a source and target language that differs from present multilingual corpora in that it: (1) contains multiple translation efforts of a single source; (2) offers translated texts that are to varying degrees deficient; (3) provides mark-up of these deficiencies in scalar fashion by skilled graders who in addition to general grading use "categories of errors" that are codes for particular types of translation errors; and (4) aligns source and target texts so that translation errors are matched up directly with the corresponding sections of source texts. The database will contain this material as well as relevant metadata on the examinees and graders. The present project will build the appropriate database structure, populate the database with relevant material from the graded translation examinations, and build a system to query the database "to extract subsets of the data in meaningful ways."

The project teams is uniquely qualified and the proposal is extremely well presented, from the description of the original materials (graded translation examinations) to the detailed list of anticipated results (p. 6). Clearly, as well, the project will have a practical impact on the evaluation of both graders and translators. In regard to the former, the tools developed by this project will allow analysis of inter- and intra-grader consistency and congruity. In regard to the latter, it will provide the means to discover possible co-occurrences of translation error types (as categorized by the graders) and to highlight whether any particular type of error is a good general predictor of translator quality.

Yet beyond the practical value of this project in translation services (especially training and evaluation) I would agree with the PI that the database and query system will be useful in the development of pedagogical and research resources for a small community of academics.

Overall this is a very concise and focused project with a high likelihood of success given the experience and expertise of the team and the resources they have available. There are two caveats to full support. First, the project is concentrated in practical applications with a more limited impact on scholarly work in the humanities. Second, the community of academics in the humanities who will benefit from this project is not as wide as might be hoped.

**Overview**

Intellectual significance: The project has more significance as an applied initiative than as an academic effort. Nevertheless, the results will create the potential to qualitatively analyze translation errors and thus suggest strategies for improving the translation.

Impact on research and technology: The project is particularly significant in its ability to evaluate translations/translator and the very evaluations/evaluators of the translations/translators.

Innovation: The innovative aspect of this project stems mostly from the unique set of materials (multiple graded translations of a single source text) that will be analyzed in an interesting and novel manner.

Proposal development: The proposal is very well presented and argued.

Feasibility: High level of feasibility.

Qualifications: The team is highly qualified.