



The *Bureau de Traduction de l'Université* (BTU)



Jean-Yves Le Disez

(Université de Bretagne occidentale, Brest, France)



- ▶ **1.THE BTU**
- ▶ **2.THE BTU IN FIGURES**
- ▶ **3.WHAT LESSONS HAVE WE LEARNED?**
- ▶ **4.WHERE NEXT?**

BIRTH OF THE BTU

- ▶ Apparently, the only *public* service of its kind in France, with the exception of Inist (CNRS)
- ▶ Or rather, within French universities, the only translation and editing service **identified** as such
- ▶ Set up in **2010**

THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING AN IN-HOUSE TRANSLATION BUREAU

- ▶ **Before the BTU**
 - ▶ no real policy
 - ▶ improvisation and lack of professionalism
 - ▶ ignorance of translation issues and possibilities
- ▶ **A translation bureau could, among other advantages:**
 - ▶ answer the needs already identified
 - ▶ encourage publication
 - ▶ raise the University's profile
 - ▶ encourage student/staff mobility

NOT JUST A TRANSLATION SERVICE

- ▶ ...but a ***language service provider*** which could:
 - ▶ provide a **wide range of services**, including revision, conference interpreting, courses in scientific writing, etc.
 - ▶ be a true in-house language service provider seen as **accessible, trustworthy and friendly**
 - ▶ develop an **awareness of translation and scientific writing** (and language issues generally) within the university

THE BTU TODAY

- ▶ translates **around a million words a year** (plus other services, e.g. translation of (UBO) diplomas)
- ▶ is overseen by **a scientific committee** made up of representatives of the university authorities, researchers and the profession (a freelance translator)
- ▶ has a turnover of some **€170,000**
- ▶ **Two pricing rates** (internal and external)
- ▶ **Almost self-financing**

THE PERSONNEL

- ▶ **3 in-house full-time staff** (all holders of a master's degree in translation, all project managers)
 - ▶ **Catherine** is mainly a FR>EN translator (mainly in the social sciences)
 - ▶ **Sébastien** is mainly a EN>FR translator, CAT tools adviser and interpretation project manager
 - ▶ **Helen**, a former researcher in biology, is mainly a reviser of scientific papers
- ▶ **A director** (an academic)
- ▶ **A network of some 30 freelance translators/interpreters/revisers** in France and abroad

OUR TEAM



2.

THE BTU IN FIGURES

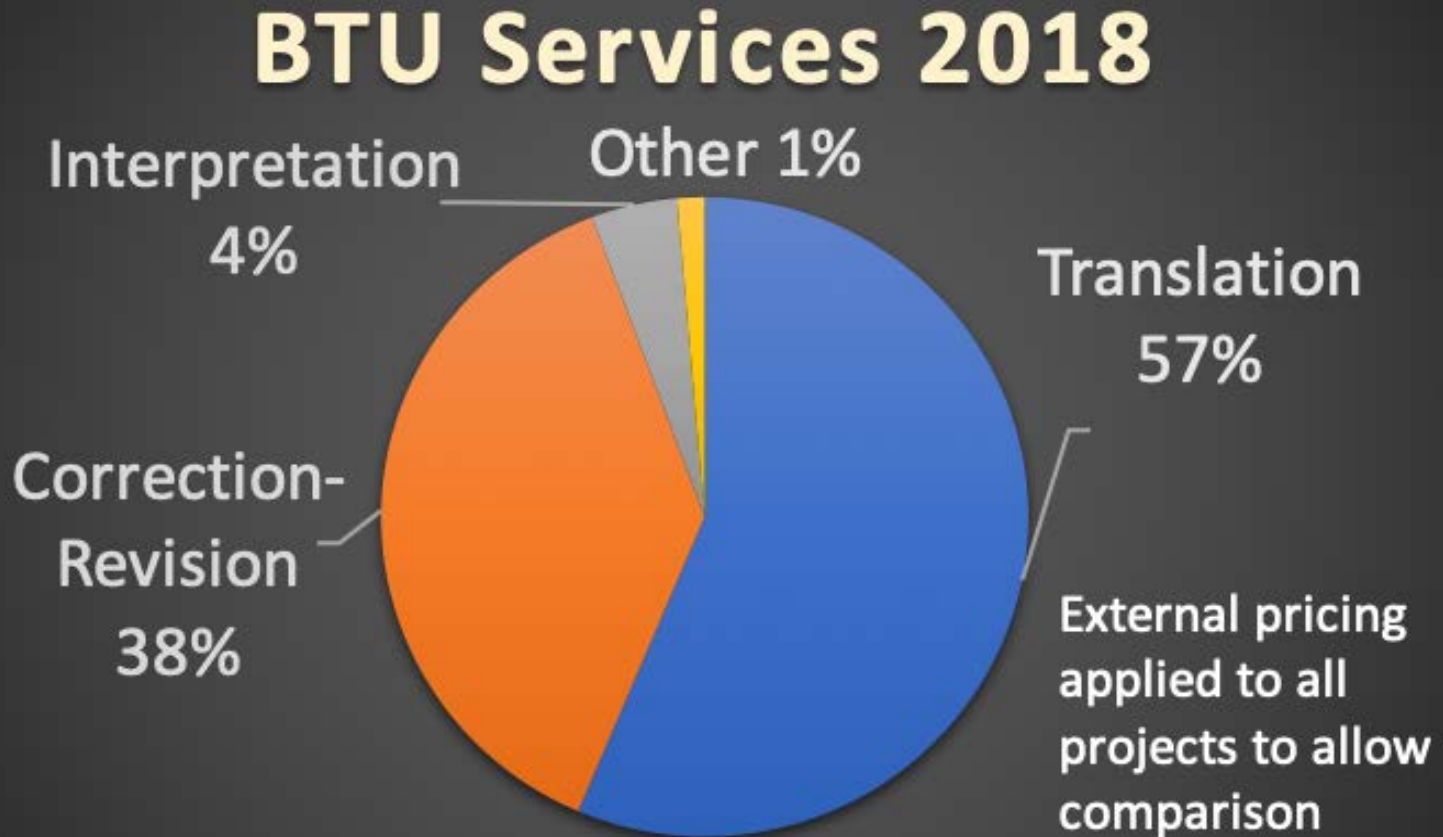
THE BTU IN FIGURES (1)

BTU Clients 2018



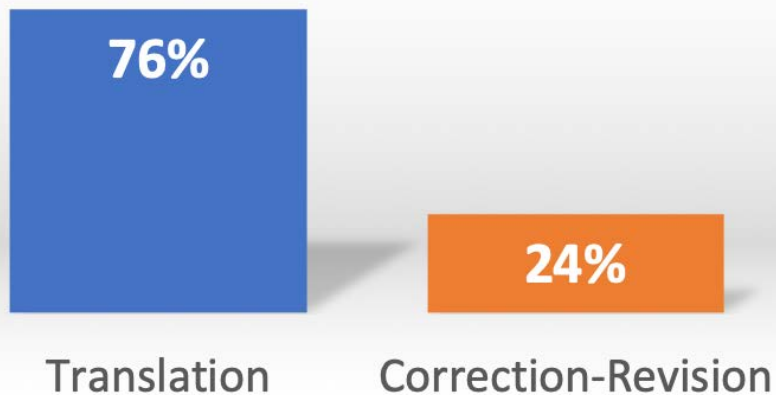
External pricing
applied to all
projects to allow
comparison

THE BTU IN FIGURES (2)

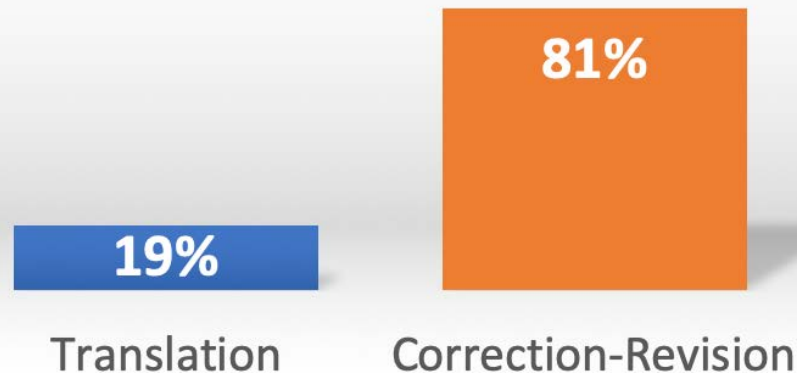


THE BTU IN FIGURES (3)

Arts and Humanities



Science and Technology



WHAT LANGUAGES?

- ▶ **EN-FR** language pair = **approx. 95%** of our workload
- ▶ Other languages (since 2010):
 - ▶ Albanian, Breton, Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese

3.

ALMOST TEN YEARS AFTER THE BTU WAS CREATED,
**WHAT LESSONS HAVE WE
LEARNED?**

WHAT LESSONS HAVE WE LEARNED?

- ▶ 1. Such a service is **a real bonus for a university**
 - ▶ The number of published papers by UBO researchers has increased
 - ▶ Spectacular results in our fields of excellence, e.g. marine science
 - ▶ Improved quality
 - ▶ Reputation

WHAT LESSONS HAVE WE LEARNED?

- ▶ **2) An in-house service of this kind has many advantages in its own right**
 - ▶ The BTU has an ethics of **cooperation** (cf. A. Pym)
 - ▶ It provides **solutions** (in the client's, rather than the BTU's, interest)
 - ▶ e.g. explaining to clients when they do not actually need a translation
 - ▶ **Relationship of trust with the client, easy access, friendliness, simplified administration**
 - ▶ **Efficiency** (anticipation)
 - ▶ (Far) greater **awareness** of translation (and language policy) issues

Conclusion:

Where next?

WHERE NEXT?

- ▶ General policy
 - ▶ **Encourage the development of similar translation offices** (e.g. at the University of Nantes) rather than grow bigger
- ▶ **Challenges.** We must...
 - ▶ continue to secure the support of the community
 - ▶ keep developing our skills
 - ▶ resist the pressure of low rates
 - ▶ decide what place CAT tools and MT should have
 - ▶ defend our added value
 - ▶ remain true to the spirit of our beginnings

Mockrát děkujeme!
Σας ευχαριστούμε πολύ!
Muito obrigado! Go raibh maith agaibh!
Vielen Dank! Multumesc!
Nuoširdžiai dėkojame! Najlepša hvala!
Благодаря! Köszönjük szépen!
Merci beaucoup! Grazie mille!
Děkujeme vám velmi pekne! Hartelijk dank!
Tack så mycket! Kiitos! **Thank you!**
Liels paldies! Nirringrazzjawk hafna!
Hvala lijepa! Muchas gracias!
Dziękujemy za uwagę!
Mange tak!