

My Three Decades with Machine Translation

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This paper constitutes a kind of truncated memoir of my engagement with machine translation since the early 1990s, beginning with a 1992 article I wrote arguing (fairly ignorantly, but as it turned out presciently) that rather than being tuned for specific domains, machine translation should utilize neural nets, and continuing through coffee conversations with MT researchers in the late 1990s to the development of Statistical Machine Translation in the first decade of the new millennium—to my simultaneous exploration of the devastating effects free online MT has had on the translation profession and use of free online MT for avant-garde/experimental translation.