**Introduction to CAT tools**

**What is a CAT Tool?**

CAT stands for "**Computer Aided Translation Tool**". The terms "**Translation Memory**" and "**TM**" are sometimes used to refer to the same type of tool. A CAT tool is a computer program that helps a translator to work efficiently.

This is achieved through three main functions:

* The main function of a CAT tool is to save the translation in a database, called ***translation memory***, so that they can be re-used during any other session, or even during the same session. Through special "fuzzy search" features, the search functions of CAT tools can also find segments which do not match 100%. This saves time and effort and helps the translator to use consistent terminology.

Besides these main functions many other functions may be included in CAT tools, to make translating easier and increase productivity.