



Five Tips for Optimizing IP Translations

The importance of patent translation quality and its value for foreign patent filers.





Introduction

The Importance of Quality in Patent Translations

We all know how the smallest error in translation can cause the whole meaning of a sentence to change.

In foreign patent filing, any mistake can be hugely expensive, potentially costing a patent owner millions in lost revenue, a failed licensing deal, or even an unenforceable patent.

When it comes to patent translation, a single error can invalidate the patent, removing any protection against counterfeiters and fraud.

An Essential Guide for Foreign Patent Filers

In this guide, we will discuss the importance of patent translation quality and its value for foreign patent filers.

We will share our top tips to ensure that your patent achieves the quality it deserves. We will also look at ways to optimize patent translation as a key element of the foreign filing process.



At a Glance: RWS IP Translation Services



200+
In-house patent translators.



900,000,000
IP-related words translated per year.



40,000
EP validations carried out each year.



6,000
PCT National phase entries performed annually.

About RWS

RWS is the world leader in translation, localization and intellectual property solutions.

For more than 60 years, we have helped clients protect their IP and enforce their rights around the world.

RWS has established itself as a trusted brand with a global reputation for technical expertise, quality and reliability.

Our clients demand a consistently high level of service. To achieve this, we have pioneered the development of quality control processes which include rigorous independent checking procedures.

So, let's get started with our top tips for ensuring your intellectual property is translated to the highest quality and your patents protected worldwide.

Tip 1: Use Subject Matter Experts

When it comes to patent translations, the importance of industry-specific knowledge cannot be underestimated. If nuances in translated synonyms are overlooked, it can leave you (or your customers) financially exposed, and your IP protection at risk.

Poor patent translations can create a domino effect, causing problems in other aspects of the patent lifecycle, from research and development to patent filing, post filing, prosecution, and even licensing. It can also make your patent protection much harder to enforce down the line.

Subject matter knowledge also keeps the translation process running efficiently. Each time a translator has to query a term, or the meaning

of an abbreviation, it slows down the process. Experts spend less time asking questions, and more time producing the final product, thus producing results faster and with greater accuracy.

Some years ago, a client asked us to review a patent translation they had previously received from another source. The English source text contained the term "serial bus", which is a telecommunications term. It was translated as "cereal", meaning a breakfast food, and "bus" meaning a form of public transportation.

This is a great example of what can go wrong when a translator is not a subject matter expert nor a native speaker of the target language.

Our Expertise

Our translators are highly-trained subject matter experts dedicated to patent and IP translation. Below is just a small sample of our team, which consists of over 250 in-house subject specialist translators, as well as an extensive network of in-country translators and patent attorneys.



Andreas M. | Dipl.Ing., MSc, PhD | Research Engineer
Translates English into German
Specialisms:
Telecommunications, signal processing, computing, electronics, automotive engineering, theoretical physics.



Kristina R. | BA, MA | Linguist
Translates Danish, English, French, German and Norwegian into Swedish
Specialisms:
Automotive engineering, mechanical engineering, telecommunications, computing, electronics, packaging, medical equipment, agriculture.



Norval O. | BSc, PhD | Synthetic Organic Chemist
Translates French and Italian into English
Specialisms:
Chemistry, synthetic organic chemistry, cosmetics, NMR spectroscopy, insecticides, radiolabelling.



Tip 2: Use Specialist Patent Translators

Patents are written in such a specialized way that they have developed their own language, known as 'patentesse'. The translator must therefore be familiar not only with the technology of the patent, but also with this style of language.

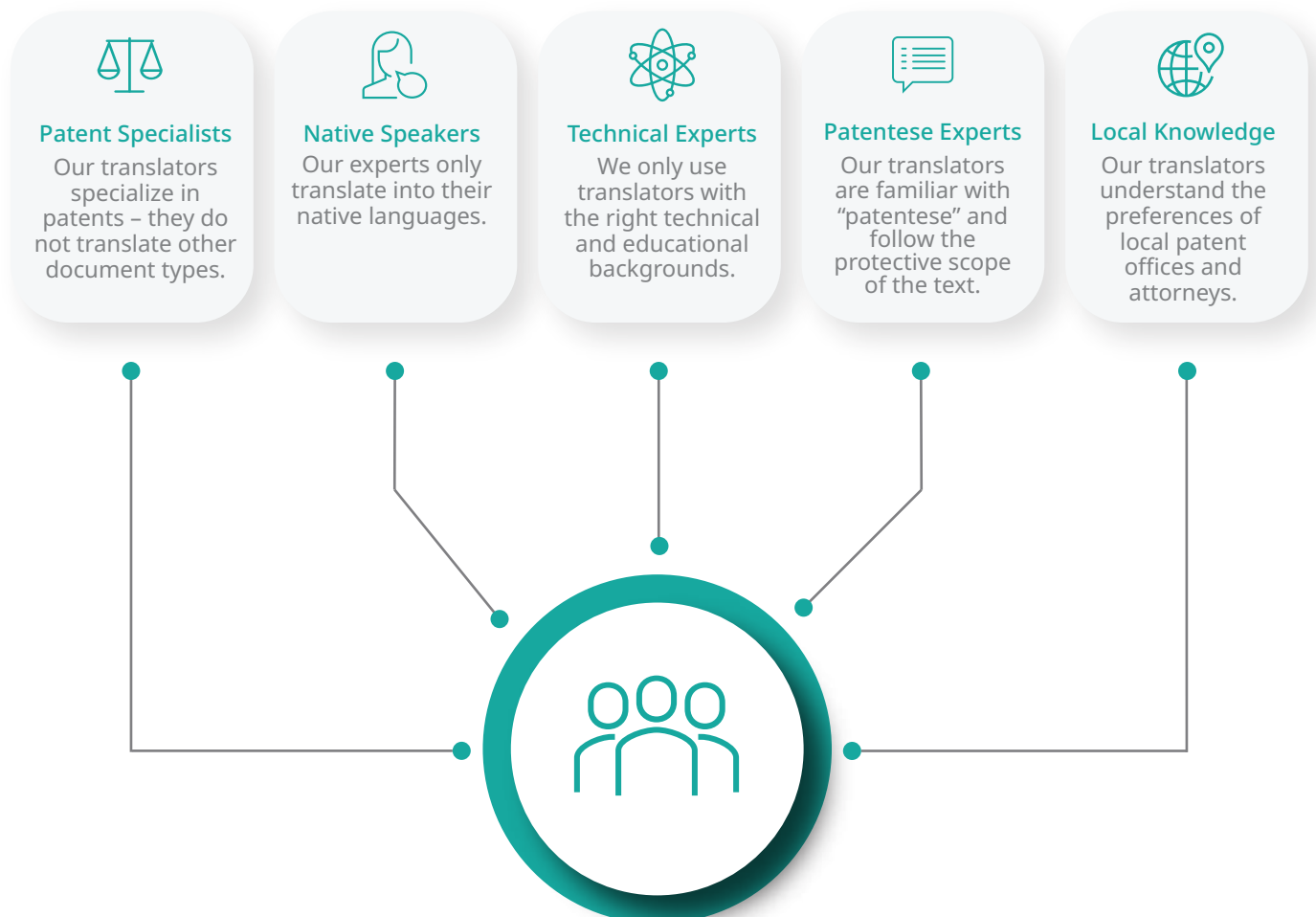
The subject matter experts must ensure the translation follows the protective scope of the original text, without deviation.

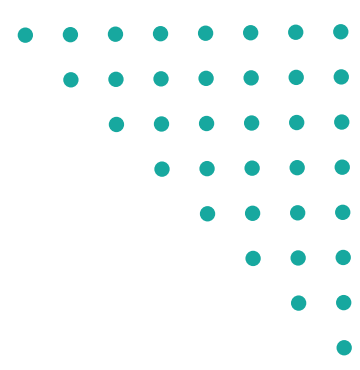
They must also understand the terminology preferences of local patent offices, as well as the style preferences of the receiving foreign patent attorney.

The pitfalls of neglecting this area include the risk of losing your protective scope if the translation deviates from the source. You could also run into unexpected costs and delays, as well as the need for additional filings.

The RWS Difference

Our translators must all meet the same exacting requirements, as follows:





Tip 3: Check your Translation Service Provider's Quality Standards

One small error can make a patent unenforceable, or at least render it open to legal challenge, so it is important to ensure your translation provider has rigorous checking procedures in place.

The project should be overseen by a relevantly skilled project manager and appropriate expert translator. Linguistic revisors, proof readers and correctors should review the text for accuracy.

We would also advise checking what KPIs and reportable metrics your supplier has in place to ensure the translation quality can be measured and reported.

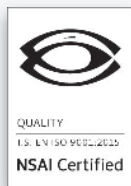
Neglecting the area of quality process can result in the patent having reduced levels of protection. It could even lead to your patent not being granted, causing you to lose time and money.



Our ISO-Certified Methodology

It is our policy to provide superior IP and language services that meet the unique and emerging needs of our clients.

Our quality processes are continuously monitored, and act as the foundation for delivering unparalleled quality while measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of all key business and production processes.





Tip 4: Leverage Innovative Technology

Does your translation provider use digital translation tools? Translation memory software allows for the reuse of identical language from previous translations.

This can greatly reduce translation word counts, leading to substantial cost savings. It also optimizes consistency in the patent portfolio, which makes you less vulnerable to litigation and invalidation of your patents.

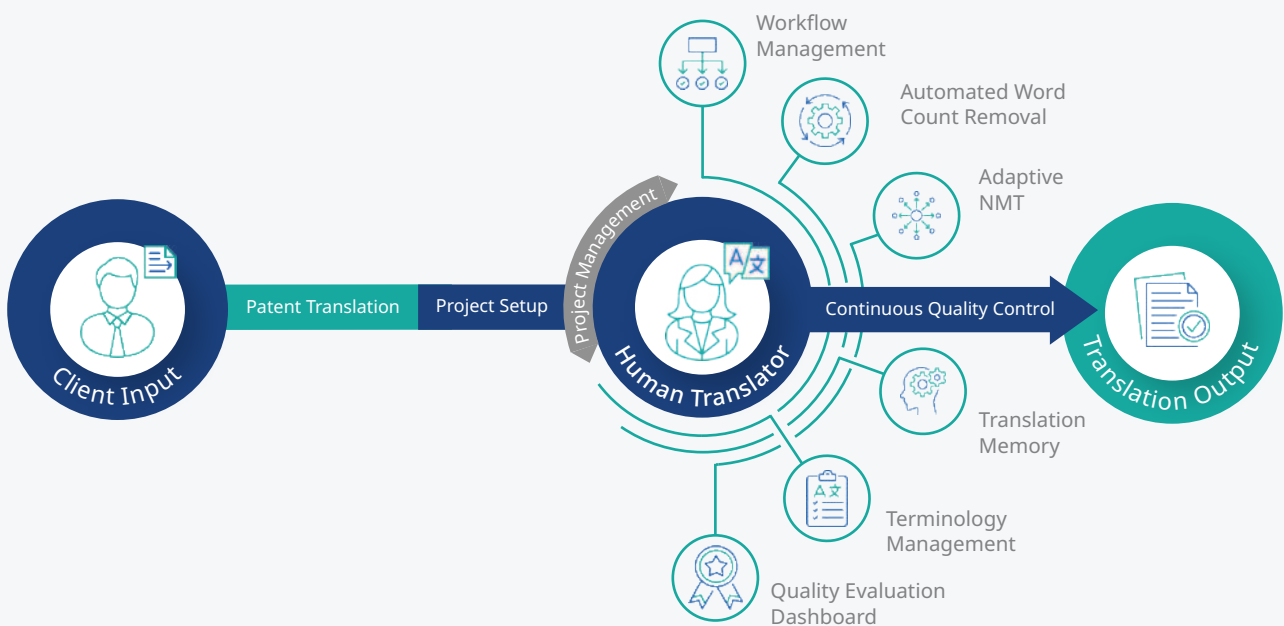
Another example of language technology is a translation management system - a type of software that automates parts of the human language translation process and maximizes translator efficiency.

Inadequate systems can lead to increased inconsistencies, extra effort, time spent re-translating sections, and missed opportunities to save time and money.

Our Augmented Translation Model

Our in-house translators are backed by a team of 12 language technologists. They employ a range of cutting-edge tools to create our unique translator ecosystem, which we call “augmented translation”.

We use Translation Memory (TM) to harness similarity with previous texts. We also employ Neural Machine Translation (NMT), which uses deep learning to predict the correct output, and Automated Quality Assessment, which complements proofreading. Every segment is reviewed for contextual accuracy by a human translator, providing the same quality with enhanced consistency.





Tip 5: Centralize your Services

Are you using a single provider who can manage the whole IP life cycle, from translation through to foreign filing, IP research and renewals? Doing so will maximize the strategic value of your IP and provide a seamless patenting process.

The more suppliers you work with, the greater the likelihood of human error. What's more, managing multiple external providers creates a greater administrative burden, not to mention higher costs.

Moving to centralization will help you target specific challenges and streamline your processes, making the most of your budget and increasing transparency.

Consider using a supplier who can take on and manage the whole process for you, automating the workflows and outsourcing risk.

The RWS Innovation Lifecycle

We can support you throughout the entire intellectual property (IP) lifecycle, from concept to commercialization, so that you can make strategic decisions quickly and confidently, maximizing the value of your innovations.



R&D

- Patent translations
- Patent Searches

Patent

- PCT national phase entry
- Direct filing
- European Validation
- Patent translations
- inovia foreign filing platform
- Patent searches
- Renewals

Monetize

- Patent translations
- Patent Searches

Enforce

- Patent translations
- Patent Searches



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