



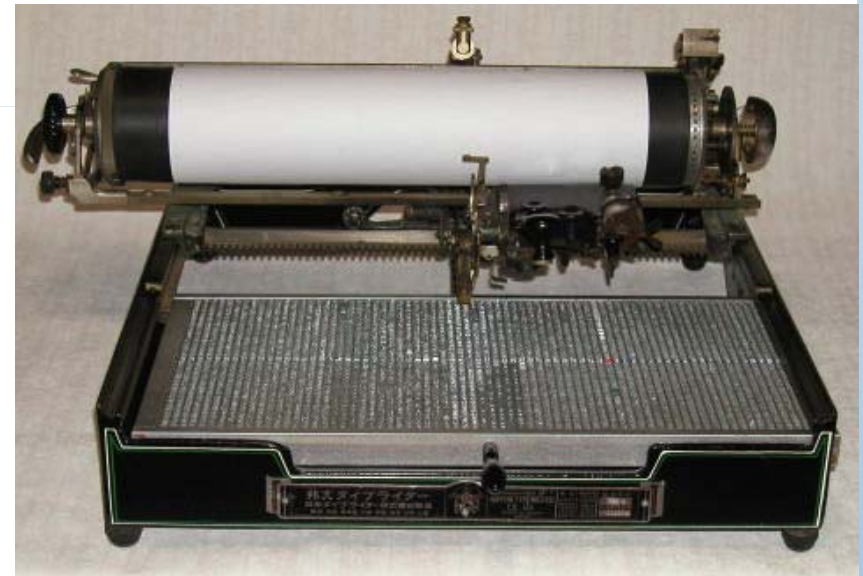
30 Year perspective on the translation world in Japan

Trying to Figure it all out

James d. hughes
s. Soga & co.

INTRODUCTION

- The way it was
 - Manual to manual
 - Red marks the spot
 - A plethora of veterans
 - Dangerous deadlines
 - Group sounds
 - Midnight excursions



INTRODUCTION (2)

- Enter the Dragons
 - Bill Gates & FEP's
 - TANDY
 - Ichitaro
 - Word Perfect
- Technology to the Rescue?
 - Telex to Fax
 - Hints of the Internet
 - Translation programs
 - Boilerplate schemes

INTRODUCTION (3)

- Out of the Dark
 - Samurais battle
 - Japanese word processors
 - Windows looming
 - Early Net tools
 - JPO Paperless initiative
 - Dedicated soft/terminals
 - English OCR



Nuts and bolts

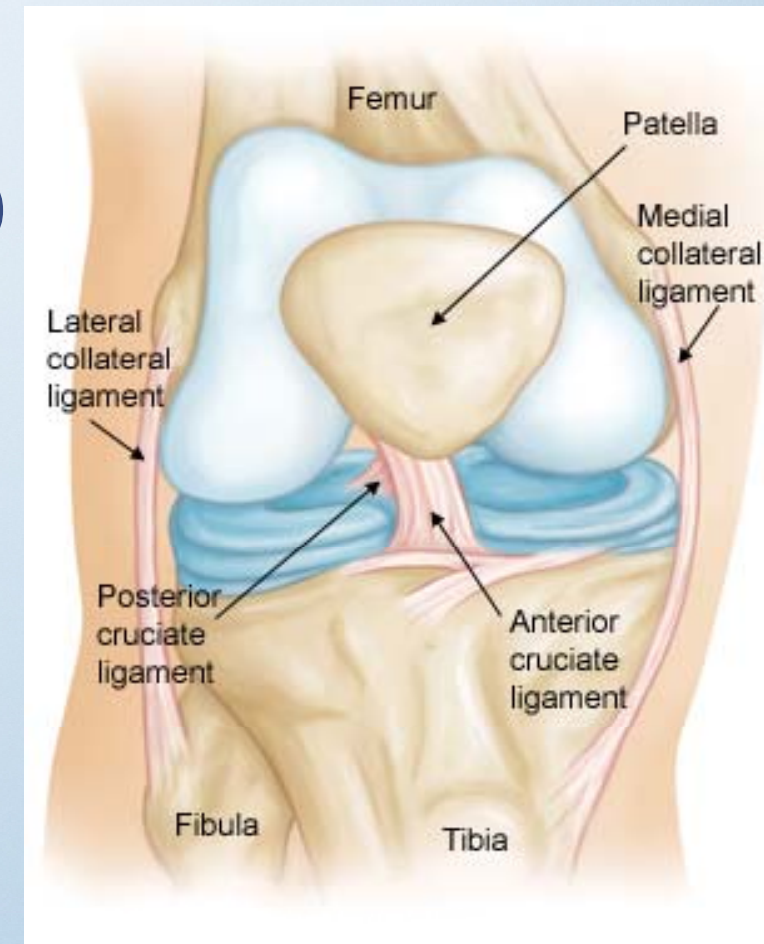
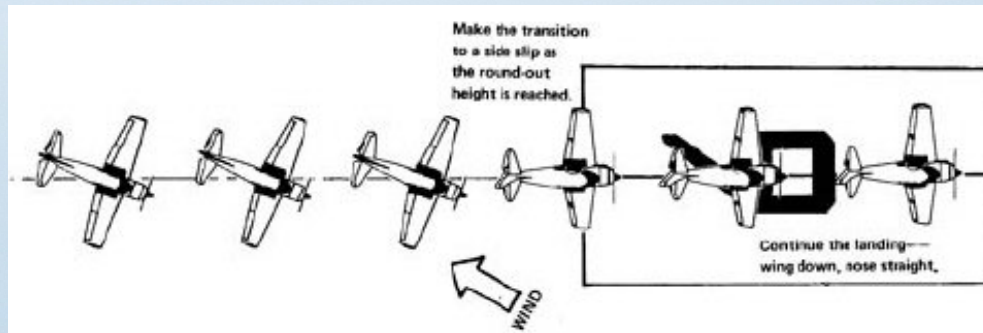
Into the foray



- TRANSLATION SKILLS

- BRIDGING THE CULTURAL/LEXIGRAPHIC GAPS

I. A day (or two) at the JPO
Getting rid of crabs
Anterior, posterior
IBM vs the world



II. At the office

J-E Problems

- Plurals
- Definite/indefinite articles
- Katakana
- Special technical terms
- Long sentences

E-J Problems

- Story time
- Technical terms
- Apparent (to a native) errors in Spec
- Time limits

Fun with Katakana

Katakana	English Meaning
BS	Satellite broadcasting
OB	Alumnus, former worker
OL	Office lady
Accel	Accelerator
Winker	Turn signal
Open car	Convertible
Cunning	Cheating
Claim	Complaint
Salaryman	Office worker
Jet coaster	Roller coaster
Dump car	Dump truck
Driver	screwdriver

Fun with Katakana (2)

common mistakes in J-E IP work

Erroneous translation	Correct translation
chip	tip
calendar	calender
vase	base
one path	one pass
varnish	Burnish
spattering	sputtering

*based on Essentials of Patent Translation by Hajime Kuramasu

Fun with Katakana (2)

common mistakes in E-J IP work

Erroneous transliteration	Correct transliteration
short link	short ring
antase form	anatase form
alkalirene	alkarylene
allyl	aryl
aryl	allyl
silicon	silicone

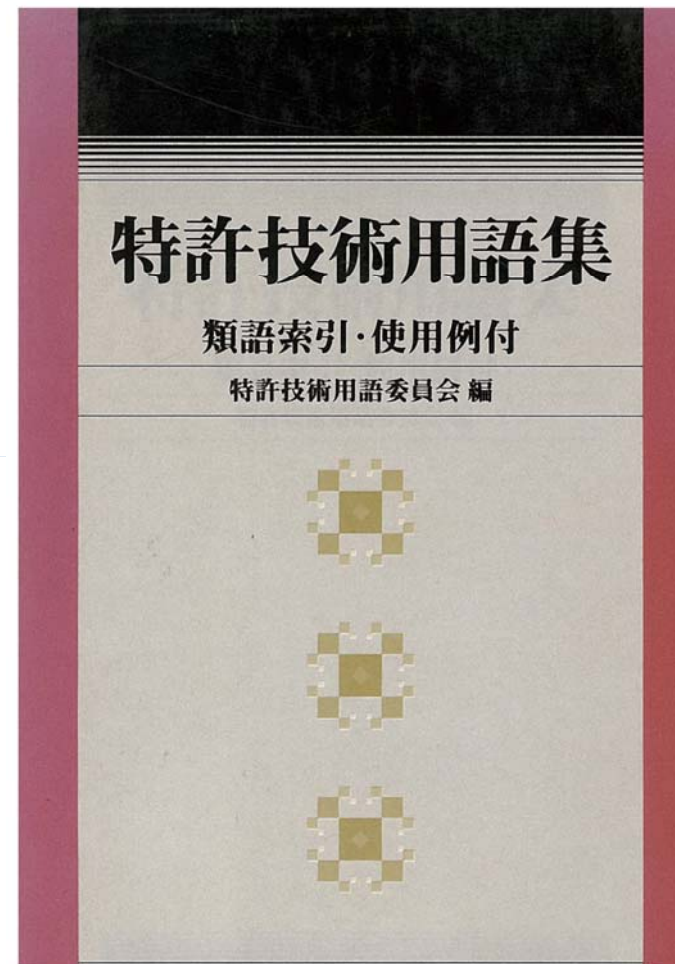
*based on Essentials of Patent Translation by Hajime Kuramasu

Special Technical Terms

One feature of
Japanese IP work

Baffling to normal
Japanese

Not found in
normal dictionaries



COMPENDIUM OF PATENT TECHNICAL TERMS

258 PAGES, NIKKAN KOGYO SHINBUN LTD., 1997

Follow the Yellow Brick Road

—Long sentences in Japanese patents

Findings on 1 million Chinese-English and 3 million Japanese-English
machine translated sentence pairs

C-E 83% understandable

J-E 63%

Mainly due to long sentence structures

National Institute of Informatics in Japan, 2011

Story Time E-J

Background of the Invention in most cases
Technically proficient translator's biggest hurdle

Technical Terms

New or unfamiliar technology
Poor use of Katakana
Lack of standard Japanese equivalent
Frequent reason for rejection
(sometimes examiner more proficient!)

Apparent (to a **native**) errors in Spec

Mainly normal clerical errors
Misuse of units, e.g.
Frequently translated verbatim
Can be disastrous or fatal

Time limits

PCT solved many problems
Mainly response to OA
 client forgets time needed for E-J
 rushed translation helps no one

Good translations/bad translations

Critiquing the effort



BAD TRANSLATIONS



NOT ACCURATE!

1. MISTRANSLATION

- VOCABULARY
- EXPRESSIONS
 - THESE ARE NOT NOVELS!

2. OMISSIONS

- RECHECK

3. ADDITIONS

- REQUIRED?

BAD TRANSLATIONS (2)

VOCABULARY/EXPRESSIONS

1. TECHNICAL CONTEXT
2. EXPERIENCE
3. CHECK!

- DICTIONARIES
- INTERNET
- INVENTOR
- BASED ON BROAD READING
 - FAMILY PATENTS
 - TECHNICAL ARTICLE
 - MAGAZINES

GOOD TRANSLATIONS



1. CLOSE TO ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
 2. NO OMISSIONS
 3. ADDITIONS ONLY WHERE NEEDED
 4. EXPRESSIVE LIBERTIES LAST!!
-



Wrapping it all up

Trying to ensure “good” translations

LOOKING FOR THE 3 X'S

- eXpertise in translation
 - At least use a native “checker”
- eXpertise in the technical field
- eXpertise in patent translation
 - Local professors do not make good patent translators

TIME

- Give the translator sufficient time to do a good job
- Allow time for feedback
 - A good translator will have questions or concerns

BACKUP

- Provide background to the invention
- Explain newer technical terms or concepts

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!