

SDL Trados Jargon Buster

Explanations of terms and acronyms

The logo features a large, stylized white asterisk or star shape in the background. The text 'SDL' is written in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font, with a small green asterisk symbol positioned to the upper right of the 'L'.

SDL*

Jargon Buster

Alphabetical glossary of terms/acronyms used in SDL Trados texts

This is not a comprehensive SDL Trados glossary. It is a supplement to the existing glossary which is found here: [Studio 2017 Glossary](#)

The above glossary is a sub-section of the SDL Trados Studio 2017 help site, which is found here: [SDL Trados Studio 2017 Help](#)

You can also access all Help topics via the Help Ribbon in Studio or MultiTerm, or via the F1 shortcut key.

100% Match	A segment whose content matches exactly a translation unit that is already in memory.
AdaptiveMT	Adaptive machine translation - it learns as you work. With AdaptiveMT, the engine adapts based on the individual translator's input and remains personal to that translator i.e. the adaptations it makes are not reflected in MT engines available to other translators.
advanced display filter	New additional display filter allowing you to run searches based on more than one search criterion (unlike the existing Display Filter, in which you can only run searches based on a single condition), including simultaneous source and target search.
alignment	Bringing source content in a single language Word document, for example, into line with its corresponding target content in a corresponding single language Word document.
AnyTM	Allows you to use content from any translation memory, regardless of whether its source and target languages match the languages of your translation project. Installed as part of Studio 2015 onwards. Available as a plug-in for older versions from the AppStore. Also helpful for using TMs with a different variety of the source or target language (e.g. if you want to use a TM with US English in a project set up to use UK English).
API	Application Programming Interface
AppStore	An ever-growing selection of plug-in apps (plug-ins) available (free in many cases) to download, to enhance performance and productivity of Studio/MultiTerm. Means you can choose the extra functionality that suits you (appstore.sdl.com).
AutoCorrect	Can be set to automatically correct capitalisation, straight quotes, misspelled words, typos etc., as you type. Wordlist is customisable.
AutoSuggest	Can be enabled to suggest terms from Termbases / AutoSuggest Dictionaries / Memories / AutoText as you type. AutoSuggest means that Trados Studio <i>automatically</i> suggests matches from these various sources as you type in the first few letters in the target cell.
auto-localization	Automatic localization. Can be set to automatically change the format of numbers, dates and times to suit the target language.
auto-propagation	Automatic propagation. Can be set to automatically propagate (i.e. fill in/autocomplete) the target of identical segments to that which has just been 'confirmed' by the user. By default, this feature is set to populate only 100% matches further down the translation file (SDLXLIFF), but can be configured in various ways, including to populate all segments from the start.
AutoText list	A list can be added manually or imported, for use by the AutoSuggest feature. See 'AutoSuggest'.
baseline MT	Standard (non-customised, non-customisable, subscription-free) basic machine translation engine. Not adaptive or updatable without Adaptive MT.

batch tasks	A list of tasks that can be 'externally' performed on a file or files and can be run on individual files or selected multiple files in a project. Examples are Analyze Files and Generate Target.
BiDi	A bi-directional language such as Arab or Hebrew.
bookmark (not the same as comment)	Two types: Automatic bookmarks keep track of the last accessed segment in any document you open. Manual bookmarks can be (right-click) added to SDLXLIFFs in source or target, navigated and removed. Accessed via Advanced tab > bookmarks or in the bookmarks pane opened via View > bookmarks. Manual book marks provide a quick way to flag up segments that you want to return to later (at the review stage, for example).
CAT	Computer Aided Translation or Computer Assisted Translation
comment	Comments are added manually to target segment via right-click and can be reminders to yourself, messages to others working on a document, etc. They are in the comments pane. Can be added, edited and deleted.
Community, SDL	A place to ask any questions. It's where you can find technical forums for all the SDL products, connect with your peers, find experts and gain knowledge. https://community.sdl.com/
concordance search	One of the search windows available for the Editor screen, to look for text strings (such as terms or expressions) in the memory/ies you have open as you work in your SDLXLIFF. Useful and very fast if you highlight the phrase/term and click F3.
context match	A 100% match that also matches in context as well as content, e.g. matching previous segment and/or formatting/tags, etc.
cumulative update	An update containing enhancements and fixes, happens automatically if AutoUpdate is turned on.
display filter	Allows you to search the SDLXLIFF so it only displays the segments with properties and/or content that you set it up to search for. It is on the Review tab. See also Advanced display filter.
DTP	Desktop publishing - software and processes for creating and layouting printed material to typeset book standard quality, cheaply.
duplicates vs identical duplicates	Two or more translation units that have identical source but not identical target are 'duplicates'. Identical duplicates are ostensibly identical in both source AND target. The software sometimes creates what appear to be identical duplicates with only background properties that are different. This only seems to happen on certain system setups after an update for example.
false friends	Similar words that mean something different between two languages, e.g. éventuellement in French means 'possibly' rather than 'eventually'; concordancia in Spanish mean concordance only in the sense of 'agreement'.
file-based Translation Memory	A translation memory (TM) that is being accessed on your local computer or network, via a non-server-based version of Studio.
file filter	A software settings filter for a specific file type format, that enables its translatable content to be defined, converted to SDLXLIFF and translated by Studio, then reconverted to its original format.
fix	A piece of programming written by the SDL development team to solve a reported 'bug' in the current software. See also 'hotfix'.
formatting tag	A protected piece of information about the layout, font, etc., that is not translated on conversion to SDLXLIFF but is preserved as a 'tag' ready for reversion to the original file format. Tags are sometimes visible in the SDLXLIFF file, other times they are invisibly present 'behind' the visible text (for example, a word with bold formatting in the segment).
fragment	Part of an existing translation unit (in a TM) that matches a new segment or a whole translation unit (in a TM) that matches part of a new segment.

fragment alignment	Alignment between a part of the source and target segment that make up a TU in the memory, and a part of a segment in the translatable document. TMs can be upgraded to use fragment alignment. upLIFT technology is available for new as well as existing TMs.
fragment recall	Makes TMs smarter by creating correspondence between parts of source and target sentences and then suggesting those fragments during translation. The fragment recall is integrated into Trados Studio with matches coming directly from the TM through AutoSuggest.
fragment repair	A name for the process of using texts from fragment recall and applying them to the new segment along with update of variables, font matching, etc.
FTP	File Transfer Protocol is used to transfer computer files between a client and server on a computer network, i.e. upload and download.
full tag text	You can set your Editor to display tags in the segments with no, partial or full text, depending on how much information you want to see about why the tags are there.
fuzzy	Partially matching.
fuzzy match	A partial match between a segment in the SDLXLIFF and a translation unit in the TM.
fuzzy match repair	improves TM fuzzy matches by looking for replacements for mismatched source content in other resources like termbases, fragment recall matches or machine translation.
fuzzy repair	See 'fuzzy match repair'.
Gateway - new SDL support	Find help with common issues in the SDL Gateway Knowledge Base. http://www.sdl.com/support/customer-gateway.html
ghost tag	A ghost tag is displayed to show that a starting or ending tag is missing in the target segment from a tag pair that is complete in the source segment in an SDLXLIFF file. The ghost tag looks like the real tag but is paler.
GroupShare	GroupShare is the server-based product for SDL Trados Studio.
GroupShare project	Online/server-based project.
GUI	Graphical User Interface, i.e. what you see on your screen when using software.
hotfix	Component of a cumulative update, programmed by SDL developers to address a specific issue with the software. Downloadable automatically or manually from the SDL Gateway help site. OR an update to fix a very specific issue, not always publicly released. See 'fix'.
IASCI	Interleaf QuickSilver export format for conversion by S-Tagger to STF translatable format and reconversion after translation. See also 'S-Tagger'.
inline tag	A tag that is visible within a segment, e.g. indicating format, special character, image or hyperlink.
internal fuzzy match leverage	Using a fuzzy match from within the document, rather than from the memory. Internal fuzzy matches occur when there is a segment that recurs with variations in your document but has no initial match in the memory.
Java	A programming language (to put it very simply)
Java Platform SE	Java Platform Standard Edition, a software 'platform'
JavaScript	An object-oriented high-level computer programming language used, for example, to render interactive effects on web browsers.
Language Cloud	SDL Language Cloud - an online machine translation tool.
language pair	The two languages involved in a bilingual translation, source being the original language and target being the language translated into.
legacy	An old version of software/hardware/technology and everything that comes from it or is used by it.
leverage	In its simplest SDL application, the level of usability of existing translated content and context to help translate new texts. To 'leverage the TM' means to use the TM to generate matches and thereby make the task of translating your document easier.

license	Usually represented by a code you must buy and enter on opening your software to be allowed to use it.
licensing	The process of the above.
Lingua	The language content of a segment (as opposed to markup content).
machine translation	Accessing (usually) online 'engines' to automatically translate new texts. Resources can be added via the Add (in versions up to 2015) or Use (from 2017 on) button that you use to select translation memories.
markup	Segment or background content, usually tags, that contains and protects various information (e.g. font/formatting/images) ready for reimporting into the final translated document.
main TM	A main TM is essentially any memory that you create or activate manually to use to help you with a translation. Its counterpart is the project TM, which is created automatically by Trados Studio if you set it up to do so.
match repair	Improving the content accessed from the memory for a new translation by changing punctuation or capitalisation appropriately.
merge files	Joining multiple files to make one SDLXLIFF, either at the point of project creation making one SDLXLIFF from 2 or more original format files or by opening multiple individual SDLXLIFF files simultaneously to create a virtual single file in one window.
merge segments	Join two or more consecutive segment pairs (source and target) to make one that is better for translation purposes, for example if a phrase is split and word order is different between source and target. 2017 adds the ability to merge segments over hard returns (or paragraph breaks) not present in earlier versions.
MIF	FrameMaker export format for conversion by S-Tagger to STF translatable format, and reversion to original format after translation.
MT	Machine Translation. Also, has been used colloquially by some to mean 'MultiTerm'.
MultiTerm	SDL's terminology management or glossary database software, works independently and in combination with Studio.
MultiTerm Desktop	The computer based version of MultiTerm (as opposed to server-based).
navigation pane	The Files View, Editor View, Translation Memories View, Project View and Reports View are all navigation panes.
Object reference not set to an instance of an object	Commonly triggered Windows error message that means at its most basic 'something that was expected is missing'.
OpenExchange	The old name for the AppStore (appstore.sdl.com)
ordinal follower	Characters or words that normally follow numbers in text. A customisable list of these appears in Translation Memory Settings > Language Resources > Ordinal Follower List. An example of an ordinal follower in German is a period, which can be used to indicate the nth number in a series e.g. 'mein 21. Geburtstag' ('my 21st birthday'). Also, a month is an ordinal follower.
package	A customisable way of bundling up all the elements needed to send a translation job to a translator, a reviewer or back to a project manager, see 'return package'. Also 'project package'. Packages can include files for translation or review, TMs and termbases, and any settings configured by a project manager.
paragraph based segmentation	This is a new feature in Studio 2017, allowing the user to merge across hard returns to consolidate broken sentences or paragraphs. The process has to be enabled. All unused hard returns/paragraph breaks/text block tags will be cut and pasted and will appear after the paragraph in the original format translated document, so the end result needs to be worth any extra work that may be entailed in correcting the translated document.

parsing	Humans 'parse' when they break down a sentence into its individual characters/symbols to understand it better. Studio does this to any xml based file and the rules for it can be altered under 'File > Options > File Types > [XML file type] > Parser' if you wish to change them globally or via 'Project Settings > File Types > [XML file type] > Parser' to change them for a specific project or project template.
patch	Publicly released update to fix a known bug/issue.
penalty	Reduction in match percentage according to various possible differences (e.g. formatting) between a translatable source segment and a TU. Penalty percentages set via project settings. Penalties are generally set to alert the translator to the possible need to amend the sentence in a way that may otherwise be missed (e.g. by adding formatting to a word in the segment).
PerfectMatch	Feature that can be set up to compare files in a project you're setting up, by pairing them with previously translated bilingual documents to improve match percentage.
perpetual license	A license that does not run out.
Placeholder tag	A type of markup inline tag used in SDL WorldServer that is not a formatting tag.
plug-in	A small application that can be used in association with a piece of software to enhance and expand its functionality.
profile settings	Settings accessed via File > Options. Project settings ALWAYS overrule the profile settings. There are more settings under File > Options than in project settings, Editor settings for example.
project	A project is a container for the work you do on a translation. It contains the source language file/s (except if it's a project created from a package), SDLXLIFF/s, resources such as TMs, and/or links to those resources. It also contains any settings that are configured by the translator or project manager. A common use of a project is to group together for translation several files that are part of the same translation task. Made via 'Create project' (or 'Open Package'). Designed to follow a workflow in Studio. Can be saved where you decide in your filing structure. ('Translate single file' also creates a project folder structure, visible in Windows Explorer, to hold the information needed to translate the file.)
project package	See 'package'.
project settings	The settings of an individual project or project template. They ALWAYS overrule the equivalent settings under File > Options. During translation, you can view and change them from the ribbon by clicking the Project Settings button in the Home tab.
project TM	A translation memory specific to a project, added to the project (visibly in Studio and physically in Windows Explorer) as you create it. A project memory cannot be created/added after project creation. Project translation memories are subsets of main translation memories created on project creation by extracting from the main translation memory/ies only those translation units that will produce matches in the documents being translated. They are often used by project managers to control the amount of information from larger TMs that is passed onto the translators who are performing the translation. The match level can be changed from the default 100% and other settings changed via Options > Editor > Language Pairs > Translation memory and Automated Translation > Batch Processing > Pre-translate Files. Settings can be reset/changed via Project settings > Language Pairs > etc.
PSMA contract	Premium Software Maintenance Agreement, you must have the latest version products to be able to purchase this. It entitles you to free unlimited support, ongoing updates and new versions of the software.
QA	Quality Assessment. If the QA box is ticked (under File>Options>Verification>QA Checker if you work using Translate single file; in Project settings>Verification>QA Checker), a series of customisable checks are run on the SDLXLIFF file open in Studio when you click on Verify on the Review Tab.
quick access toolbar	Small toolbar above the Ribbon with shortcuts for the commonest editing commands, can be added to and moved.

quick insert / QuickInsert	QuickInsert section on Home tab of Ribbon when in Editor window is used to add characters ranging from an M dash to a copyright sign. Further characters can be added.
quick tag	The QuickInsert section on the Home tab has a small square with grey arrow, bottom left. This opens the Insert Tag list.
QuickMerge	A feature in the Files view for selecting and merging files on the fly. The selected files are merged into a single SDLXLIFF. This allows operations like find and replace to be performed on several files at once. When the merged SDLXLIFF is closed, its content reverts to the original, separate files in the Files view.
QuickPlace	A dropdown list of tags and/or variables (such as digits or acronyms) that are in the source segment. To access it, right-click in the target segments (or Ctrl+Alt+Down or Ctrl+,) then select the QuickPlace option and click on the one you need and press Enter to insert it into the target.
real-time preview	This semi-WYSIWYG display of the source and/or target text can be generated via the 'Preview' tab that by default is top right of the Editor window, if the format and software version of the source file can be previewed.
Rebuild Translation Model	From time to time, Trados Studio will show a recommendation to re-build the translation model.
reindex	Reindexing a translation memory rennumbers the translation units consecutively after deletions, irons out errors, removes corrupt content. Studio will tell you when a TM needs reindexing.
Reindex TMs	An app that allows you to reindex several Translation Memories.
repetitions vs cross-file repetitions	A repetition is a 100% match of a segment that has already appeared in the document. Repetitions and cross-file repetitions are counted when Studio runs an analysis report. It sounds confusing but, simply, "repetitions" are those occurring within one file and "cross-file repetitions" are repetitions that are repeated in more than one file. A sentence repeated five times in the document but not present in the TM will produce a 'New' (no match) segment the first time it occurs, and a repetition the next four times.
reports view	Accessed via the Reports button in the list bottom left of Studio. Here you can read reports generated with processes such as 'Analyse Files' / 'Pre-translate Files' etc.
retrofit	A feature for updating an SDLXLIFF after minor changes have been made to the content of the original-format target file (typically in review). For example, if a translation of a Word document is exported back to Word format and minor changes are made to the Word file during the final check or review process, those changes can be reflected back in the SDLXLIFF with Retrofit.
return package	The package generated to return a translation after working on it in a project that was previously been opened from a package.
review	The proofreading/checking stage after translation.
Review mode	In Review mode, there are additional functions available to show that each segment has been approved/rejected. Accessed via 'Open for review'. The default layout is also changed to prioritise the review features.
script error	An error in one of Studio's batch tasks for example (a script is a program or sequence of instructions that is interpreted or carried out by a program).
SDK	Software Development Kit
SDL XMT	XMT is adaptive online machine translation software that learns as users work and feed back.
SDLXLIFF	SDL XML Localisation Interchange File Format - the bilingual file where source language content from the original file is safely translated into target language which can later be saved back to the original file format.

segment	The Source (translation from language) segment and Target (translation to language) segment are displayed side by side in a line in the Editor window of Studio, to facilitate translation, visually composing one whole segment. They are set to scroll together; it is possible to change settings so that they can be scrolled individually. When you confirm the segment, it is added as a TU to the memory you have your project set to update to. Segments very often correspond to a 'sentence' in that a full stop/period will generally be taken by Trados Studio as the point at which to end one segment and begin another. However, any chunk of text that is isolated in the structure of the source document, such as headings or text on its own in a table cell, will appear as a segment.
segmentation	How Studio divides up the text from the source document into translatable segments, usually sentence by sentence. The segmentation settings can be adjusted in some filetype settings and in the TM settings segmentation rules.
semi-WYSIWYG formatting	Formatting that echoes as closely as possible that of the source document, e.g. font family, boldening.
server-based translation memory	A translation memory stored on a TM server. A server-based TM can be used concurrently by more than one user.
sentence based segmentation	Segmentation that creates segments that contain full sentences, i.e. they are segmented after each full stop.
Sign-off	In Sign-off mode, there are additional functions available to show that each segment has been signed off/rejected. Accessed via 'Open for sign-off'.
single file translation	Translation of an individual document without a full project. The software does create 'mini-project' files in the same folder as the translation document. Working with projects is tidier.
Source	The language, file format and/or folder of the document to be translated.
source segment	See 'segment'.
SP - Service Pack	Large Update that fixes many outstanding issues, normally includes all Patches, Hotfixes, Maintenance releases that predate the service pack.
split files	If a file is too huge to translate in one go, it can be automatically split into more than one SDLXLIFF then automatically saved back to the original format file after translation.
split segments	Opposite to merging segments. It is possible to split a segment to serve the purpose of translation better - can be beneficial for better matching to existing translation units.
S-Tagger	Tool for the conversion, translation and reversion of Interleaf QuickSilver and FrameMaker desktop publishing formats.
STF	A file with the STF file extension is a tagged text file that contains translatable text from a FrameMaker or Interleaf (QuickSilver) DTP file.
structure tag	Examples are: line break tag, table tag. These tend to be in between segments, sometimes visible in Studio if the 'All content' display filter is used.
Studio Online Editor	SDL Studio Online is a browser-based translation editor, in contrast to the translation editor in SDL Trados Studio, which is a desktop editor.
Subscription license	A license that requires periodical payments to continue using the software.
Support	http://www.sdl.com/support/
TagEditor	The Trados translation tool that preceded SDL Trados Studio. The bilingual files were TTX rather than SDLXLIFF. See also 'Translators' Workbench'.
tag pair	Composed of a beginning tag and an ending tag. One is incomplete without the other. Usually it applies to text between the tags, applying properties for layout or linking for example.
Target	The language, file format and/or folder that the source document is to be translated to.
target segment	See 'segment'.
TB	Termbase, a glossary database. Also, called 'glossary' by users. See 'termbase'.

TBX	TermBase eXchange file format, developed for sharing terminology between different tools. If you want to use a TBX file in Studio as a resource for your AutoSuggest then you need to use MultiTerm Convert to create a MultiTerm TermBase. You can export a termbase from MultiTerm to TBX, for example to upload and import into a Language Cloud Dictionary.
TeamWorks (SDL)	SDL TeamWorks software package, allows you to define translation memory settings for a selected group of files as well as for the project and language pairs. TeamWorks packages can be opened in Studio, a Studio project is automatically created on opening.
term	A word or combination of words or characters that is used to represent something specific in one or more specific contexts. Important terms are added to a termbase, especially if they can be translated more than one way.
termbase	A database of terms and their meanings in one or more language. Can include various notes and pictures.
terminology provider	A terminology provider is exactly what it says, a provider of terminology, e.g. a termbase or glossary.
Terminology Provider	The Terminology Provider API allows developers to create custom integrations and access third-party terminology providers directly from Trados Studio.
TM	Translation memory
TM engine	translation memory engine, the part of the software that coordinates everything involved in translation, e.g. Context Matches, AutoPropagation, AutoSuggest, Multiple TMs, etc.
TM filter	Allows you to search the TM you have open so it only displays the translation units with properties and/or content that you set it up to search for.
TM maintenance	Correction or other work performed directly on individual or batches of units of a translation memory (TUs).
TM variables	Translation memory variables, see 'variables'
TMS	SDL TMS - a Global Translation Management System. It manages the process of translating original language files into one or more target languages.
TMX	Compact export/import format for translation memories, can be used between versions and between different CAT translation tools.
TQA	Translation Quality Assessment
tokenization	Studio uses the TM settings to replace text with tokens where applicable ('tokenization').
translation memory	A file or database of source+target translation units that have been translated before, to which you can save all your new translations and changes to existing translations as you work. A TM can only have 1 source language throughout but it can have several different target translations. Usually translators work with just one translation language per memory, and quite often with just one TM per area of technology and/or client.
translation model	In Studio 2017, the translation model uses statistics from the source language words in relation to the target language words to define which words are typically used to translate which other words. At least 1000 TUs are required to build a translation model, which is needed for the Fragment Recall feature, for which upwards of 5000 units are recommended.
Translators' Workbench	The Trados memory tool that preceded SDL Trados Studio and was used in conjunction with the TagEditor editing tool and an old form of MultiTerm.
TTX	The format of bilingual translation file used by TagEditor.
UI	User Interface, the screen, keyboard, keypad, etc., that give the user access to control the software or hardware.
upLIFT	The upLIFT technology leverages segment fragments from TMs to increase translation productivity and speed. upLIFT is available through two new functions, Fragment Recall and Fuzzy Match Repair.
variable	A word/number/acronym etc., that Studio will keep the same during translation and check for. These are defined in the variables list in the translation memory properties.
virtual merge	Opening multiple individual SDLXLIFF files simultaneously in Files view to create a virtual single file, all accessible via the same window. Also known as 'QuickMerge', above.

WinAlign	Originally this was a separate program that came with Trados and enabled the matching of two same format documents, one source language and the other target language, side by side until they were accurate enough to save to a translation memory. Now a Studio feature accessed via the Welcome or Translation Memories view > Home tab > Align documents.
WIP report	work-in-progress report
Wizard	A series of dialogues/windows that take you from start to finish of a process, guiding you through items such as choice of content, functions and completion.
workaround	Finding another way to achieve something that is failing to happen by the usual method.
Workbench	The Trados memory tool that preceded SDL Trados Studio, see 'Translators' Workbench'.
WorldServer	An online workflow-based automated translation management system that can manage and control high volumes of translation projects across multiple language service providers. WorldServer projects are compatible for working on in Studio.
XLf	See 'XLIFF'.
XLIFF	XML Localisation Interchange File Format, file extension .xlf - as opposed to SDLXLIFF which is the bilingual file format used for side by side translation in Studio. The terms XLIFF and SDLXLIFF are sometimes used interchangeably by Trados Studio users.

Created by Alison Field, with grateful thanks to Andy Walker for his expert reviewing of this list!

To help us improve this list, please provide feedback/term suggestions to:
<https://community.sdl.com/members/afield> or alimay.field@btinternet.com

About SDL



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