

Where do text changes belong?

Wording changes belong in translation. DTP handles the layout, plus the few fixes that only show up in context.



Input

Source text frozen

1 Document received

Source checked and made translation-ready. Text in images is extracted for the CAT tool.

Translation

All text and wording changes

2 Document translated

Translated in the CAT tool. The translation memory records every segment.

3 Document proofread

A second linguist reviews the translation before layout starts.

4 Edits implemented

Every wording change, including the client's, is made here. The translation memory stays current.

DTP

Layout, plus in-context fixes

5 Layout arranged

Translated text goes into the layout. Overset, cut-offs, line breaks and text in images are handled.

6 Checked in layout

The translator reviews the laid-out file for errors that only show in context, like truncated text.

7 Fixes implemented

Fixes are applied in the layout. Text fixes also go back into the translation memory.

Output

Check and delivery

8 Versions compared

Compared with the original document, then packaged and delivered.

Tip: finish source edits first. A later source change reopens translation and layout.

Accessible PDF?

Remediation follows this step. A text change after it repeats layout and remediation.

Changed during translation

- Made **once**, in the CAT tool, by the linguist who owns the text.
- Saved in the **translation memory**, so every later update keeps it.
- Consistent across every file that uses the same sentence.
- The layout is built from final text, in one pass.

Changed during DTP

- Typed **by hand** into the layout file, often by someone who does not read the language.
- Can reflow the text and break lines, pages and tables.
- Repeated in **every language**, with another proofreading round.
- Missing from the translation memory, so the **next update brings the old wording back**.

The one exception

Some errors only show in the layout: truncated text, a bad line break, a meaning that changes next to an image. Those are fixed in DTP, and the text fix also goes back into the translation memory.

In short

Change wording while it is still text. Every phase that follows makes the same change slower and more expensive, and a change made only in the layout is lost at the next update.

Planning a multilingual layout project?

Send the files for a free assessment.
Translation handoff, layout and correction rounds are planned together from the start.

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