Where do text changes belong?

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

The project in 8 steps

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.

Why wording changes belong in translation

Changed during translation	Changed during DTP
Made once, in the CAT tool, by the linguist who owns the text.	Typed by hand into the layout file, often by someone who does not read the language.
Saved in the translation memory, so every later update keeps it.	Can reflow the text and break lines, pages and tables.
Consistent across every file that uses the same sentence.	Repeated in every language, with another proofreading round.
The layout is built from final text, in one pass.	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.

Two more points

Finish source edits first	A later source change reopens translation and layout.
Accessible PDF?	Remediation follows step 8. A text change after it repeats layout and remediation.

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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