



Newsletter

English to Portuguese Translator

Specialised in:

Legal & Engineering in the areas of:

- Oil and Gas
- Environment
- Mining and Geology
- HSE & Shipping
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Portuguese Chamber
of Commerce in UK

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.. to the kitchen

Recipe: Guinea-Bissau Fish Stew
(*Moqueca de Peixe*)



View of Ross-on-Wye from [Ross-on-Wye Tourism Association](#).

From the office...

Introduction

This 12th issue focuses on the plusses and minuses of Free Online Machine Translation Platforms; the confidentiality breaches associated with Internet and Cloud storage use in translation business; and the recent appointment of Mónica Machado as Vice-Chair of the UK's Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI). It also decodes the term Transcription and presents the National Geographic magazine as interesting reading for these two quarters. At the end of this issue, Guinea-Bissau deserves a special culinary note with its Fish Stew. I hope you enjoy this issue as much as we did when preparing it for you.

Interview

In this issue, Mónica Machado is interviewed about **Free Online Machine Translation (MT) Platforms**. What are the plusses and minuses of these new free translation tools that seem to be loved by so many clients and strongly opposed by an equal number of translators and other language professionals? Mónica will give her opinion as a professional translator.

Interviewer – Machine Translation is not a new subject and free online platforms are becoming more and more popular. Why do you think this is?

MM – Free online MT platforms provide translated texts fast. We live in a fast-pace era, where we expect fast results and translation could not be any different from other business areas.

Interviewer – So do you think “being fast” is the only reason for the success of free online machine translation?

MM – “Being fast” is definitely important. Many of the available free online MT platforms are also exactly that... free, which is another plus for many companies that require translations.

Interviewer – So free online MT produces translations fast and free of cost. Any other plusses from your perspective as a professional translator?

MM – Free online MT platforms, like many other

This edition covers two quarters due to unusually busy personal and working months. From April this year Monica Machado Translation Services moved from **Norfolk to Herefordshire**, in the UK. We are now temporarily operating from Ross-on-Wye, which is regarded as the ideal holiday centre to explore the Wye Valley, from Herefordshire to Monmouthshire. From cider making to arts and crafts, from the industrial legacy of the Forest of Dean to its towns and villages. There are castles, abbeys, adventure experiences, walking and cycling routes, museums and even a film trail (Harry Potter, Doctor Who and Game Of Thrones, for example).

Apart from all the work we have been experiencing, we are also enjoying immensely our walks and this new phase in our life. “I look forward to have our bikes back from storage and go back to photography my most favourite hobby”, Mónica Machado said.

Translation tools, release translators for the jobs that require a professional, knowledgeable hand. The advent of Internet led to an enormous need of translations. Material is required to be translated into many languages in a very short space of time. I am quite sure that human translators would not be able to cope with the incoming volumes in such a short timeframe. Therefore Machine Translation, by dealing with high volumes of material that can benefit from this new technology, is actually releasing professional translators for the texts that require a different kind of work – e.g. attention to detail, readability, consistency, accuracy and confidentiality, just to name a few. Free online MT is good to give people a rough idea of the content of documents, but in many instances I have experienced is far from being completely accurate and reliable for most businesses.

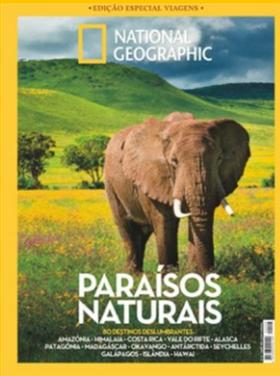
Interviewer – We all have heard about free online MT not being totally accurate and reliable and there are many examples online that ridicule its use by many well-known companies. However, I believe that the confidentiality of the Free Online MT platforms is an issue that particularly worries you...

MM – Indeed. Free online MT has its uses, its clients and its advantages and disadvantages. Like everything else, you usually get what you pay for and the use of free online MT platforms is no exception to this. The free online versions may not offer their users the confidentiality they require and expect. The terms and conditions of any business are usually long and complex and most of us tend to agree without reading or assume they are looking after our interests by default. This is not always the case. My advice to any people using free online MT platforms is... if you are among those who would require a **human translator** to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement before he/she accesses your document, do read the terms and conditions of the free online MT platform you are about to use and make sure that your document and information submitted for translation that way will be treated with the confidentiality level you require.

Interesting Reading:

National Geographic Magazine

For Monica Machado Translation Services National Geographic magazines, either in Portuguese or English, are essential reading resources to stay informed about environmental protection and keep abreast of new terminology in use in this subject area. "The issue illustrated below has impressive articles on areas that mean so much to me, such as the Rift Valley that reaches **Mozambique**, the Okavango Delta, whose waters have their source in **Angola**, and Azores, a favourite spot in **Portugal** for those who love nature. I read National Geographic Magazines not only because they are useful as part of my CPD effort (helping me collect information and knowledge for my own work as a translator specialised in **environmental issues**) but also because the quality of the content and the pictures is just amazing and makes me want to visit these beautiful places that we must protect and cherish", Mónica Machado said.



FAQ

Our website has a FAQ area answering most frequently asked questions.

For example:

Q.: "What are your rates based on?"

A.: "Rates are based on number of words (time required), subject matter, deadline and whether the document is in PDF or Word; in addition, certified translations follow a specific rate based on the number of pages. For more details and a price list, please contact us directly. Under Resources you will find the ITI publication Translation – Getting it right, a guide which will provide you with valuable information on contracting translation services and choosing the right provider according to your needs."

For more questions and answers, please visit our [FAQ](#) section online.

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Confidentiality breaches associated with Internet and Cloud storage use in translation business

Many translators are often required to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) before they access clients' documentation. Many of us will think that confidentiality breach will only consist in transmitting the information we receive to any non-authorised addressee. However, confidentiality breaches can be disguised in many different forms and take place in different ways. Examples of areas that can result in confidentiality breaches by translators:

1. Cloud storage

Cloud storage is often subject to breaches and computer users are literally at the mercy of their individual storage provider's security protocol. In fact, once data is stored elsewhere other than in our own computer system we really don't know who else accesses it, for that reason **Mónica Machado does not use cloud storage.**

2. Machine translation

Nowadays, machine translation tools are used by an increasing number of translators, who use these to get approximate translations that they revise to give them a human touch. These tools, which store and collect information regarding the material to be translated, are also part of some professional computer-assisted translation software. **At Monica Machado Translation Services we are proud to be "old-fashioned" and although we use Computer-Assisted Tools that help us to maintain terminology and style consistency for each individual client, we do not use Machine Translation tools.** We offer a 100% human translation service that looks after our clients' best interests and provides maximum confidentiality at all times.

3. Online OCR services

Online optical character recognition (OCR) services can collect, store, and re-use clients' information. **Mónica Machado does not use online OCR services.** Our Abby FineReader is a desk-top version without any online connection.

.. to the kitchen

Fish Stew (*Moqueca de Peixe*) from Guinea-Bissau

Ingredients: (Serves 4 to 6)

- 1 kg of white fish (e.g. hake)
- 1 can of coconut milk
- 1 can of tomato paste
- 1 onion, sliced thinly and juice of 2 lemons
- 1 green or red pepper, cut into strips
- Salt and chilli pepper to taste

Method:

- 1) Preheat the oven to 180 °C, then cut the fish up into pieces and sprinkle with a little salt, chilli powder and lemon juice. Let stand in the fridge for about an hour.
- 2) Transfer to an oven-safe dish and cover with the onions and peppers. Mix the coconut milk with the tomato paste and then pour over the fish.

4. Translation memory

Translation Memory software is a resource that assists in keeping track of all documents translated and terminology used and helps to improve consistency. Translation Memory software does not translate anything by itself. When shared with other translators, translation memories may be disclosing confidential information. **Mónica Machado does not share translation memories. Our translation memories are password-protected and not accessed by anyone else apart from Mónica Machado herself.**

5. Terminology queries

Raising queries is part of any professional translator's regular work. Online translators' forums are common and used by many professionals as a reliable method of getting queries solved. More often than not context is required to sort out queries, and in that process it is possible that confidential information ends up being unintentionally leaked as part of this simple and essential query process. **Mónica Machado does not post terminology queries.** All queries are resolved with the client the document belongs to or with our technical in-house expert who works under a confidentiality agreement.

6. Subcontracting

Subcontracting translation work is another area of potential risk. This is one of the reasons why **Mónica Machado does not subcontract work unless the end client agrees to it.** In the rare event the end-client agrees to such subcontracting, each translator involved is subject to a confidentiality agreement approved by end-client.

Business News

Mónica Machado appointment as Vice-Chair of ITI

One and a half years after joining the UK's **Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI)** Mónica Machado was appointed Vice-Chair of the Institute. "This is an enormous privilege and I am truly proud of being part of this team. We are doing a very good job and working to improve the perception people have regarding translation and interpreting. Human translators and interpreters are essential for good communication between different peoples and it is up to us, professionals, to explain and prove to end-clients and translation users why the machine is not yet ready to replace us altogether", Mónica Machado said.

Decoding translation expressions:

Transcription – It consists in converting audio text into written text. Accents and quality and clarity of audio and speech are factors that condition **transcription** and that may lead to longer transcription times. Transcription is usually charged per minute or hour of audio.

Have you visited us online recently?

Our News section online has been revamped and all past newsletters and a lot more can be read [here](#). If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, just drop us a line using this [link](#).

- 3) Bake for about 40 minutes, checking often.
 - 4) Serve with rice or mashed potatoes.
- Recipe from [TravelByStove](#).