Glossary

An explanation of some of the technical terms in the sense used in this book.

**3G (third generation):** a new generation of mobile network technology with broadband transmission capabilities.

**AIIC (International Association of Conference Interpreters):** the international professional association that represents conference interpreters and sets standards for the practice of the profession.

**ALPAC (Automatic Language Processing Advisory Committee):** the ALPAC report presented to the US Academy of Science in 1965 concluded that machine translation research is futile, virtually bringing MT research to an end particularly in the USA.

**ASP (application service provider):** any third-party entity that manages and distributes software-based services and solutions to customers remotely via the Internet or a private network.

**Asynchronous communication:** one-way communication that takes place at a given time.

**Avatar:** a computer-generated graphical figure typically representing a person in cyberspace with varying degrees of interactivity.

**BBS (bulletin board system):** a system whereby subscribers can electronically post a message, which in turn can be viewed by the other subscribers.

**Browser:** a software program that enables one to view Web documents.

**Bricks and mortar:** a term used to describe the traditional, non Internet-based, business mode that relies on a physical building and transportation.

**Chat:** an interactive communication mode between two or more people who can enter text by typing on the keyboard, and the entered text appears on the other user’s monitor. Today many chat sites also allow voice-based interactions (also see IRC).

**Clicks and mortar:** a term used to describe a hybrid business mode where both traditional mode and Internet-based mode are used.
CMC (Computer-mediated Communication): communication modes facilitated by computer.

Computer (software) agents/intelligent agent: software program designed to perform user-specified tasks, typically communicating via a message-passing paradigm.

DTP (desktop publishing): a computer application to streamline the documentation process via a desktop computer.

Distributed virtual reality: virtual reality environments that can be shared by multiple parties from different locations.

EBMT (example-based machine translation): a machine translation system that is based on a bilingual database of example phrases derived from a large corpus of texts and their translations.

Emoticon: ASCII symbols used to provide a graphical display of emotions.

Futures research: research that has the primary objective of assisting decision-makers to better understand the potential consequences of present and future decisions by developing images of alternative futures.

Globalization: the process of facilitating localization to allow a product to be used in countries other than the country of its origin.

HTML (hypertext markup language): the text-based language used to construct Web pages.

HTTP (hypertext transfer protocol): a protocol used by computers on the Internet to communicate with each other – specifications used for Web-based interactions to provide a client–server relationship.

Hypertext: text embedding links which in turn can be clicked with a mouse. When the link is clicked, the user is taken to another document or a different section of the current document.

i-mode: NTT DoCoMo’s Internet service over mobile phones.

Internationalization: (sometimes shortened to I18N, meaning ‘I-eighteen letters-N’): the process of planning and implementing products and services so that they can easily be adapted to specific local languages and cultures, a process called localization.
**Internet II:** a collaborative effort among a number of universities, US federal R&D agencies, and private sector firms to develop a next-generation Internet for research and education, including enhanced network services as well as multimedia applications.

**Intranet:** an internal or company-wide Internet network that can be used by anyone who is directly connected to the organization’s computer network.

**IRC (Internet Relay Chat):** a chat system developed by Jarkko Oikarinen in Finland in the late 1980s. To join an IRC discussion, one needs an IRC client and Internet access. The IRC client is a program that runs on the user’s computer and sends and receives messages to and from an IRC server.

**JavaScript:** a programming language for developing Client Internet applications. The Web browser interprets JavaScript statements embedded in an HTML page.

**JPEG:** a type of image file used on the Internet. JPEG files are compressed to economize the transmission of normally large files carrying images.

**Localization:** the process of adapting a product or service to a particular language, culture, and desired local ‘look-and-feel.’

**Macro, keyboard:** instructions to a computer that allocates to one key stroke the automatic typing of repetitive words and phrases.

**Media translation and interpreting:** translation and interpretation tasks relating to audiovisual media, including subtitling, voice over, narrating or simultaneous interpreting of broadcast contents.

**Multiple language vendors (MLV):** a localization service provider covering a wide range of languages.

**Packet switching:** a technique of switching signals whereby the signal stream is broken into packets and reassembled at the destination.

**Paradigm shift:** Thomas Kuhn used the term to explain scientific revolutions; according to Kuhn a new scientific discovery can be explained only by a new set of assumptions (a new paradigm), therefore causing a paradigm shift.

**PDA (personal digital assistant):** a handheld device that combines computing, telephone/fax, and networking features.
PDF (portable document format): a universal file format developed by Adobe to allow efficient electronic distribution of documents. PDF files preserve all the fonts, formatting, graphics, and color of any source document, regardless of the application and platform used to create it.

Portal: a Web site that consists of a collection of links to the most popular web services on the Internet.

POTS: traditionally used for 'plain old telephone service' – the basic telephone service. In this book we use the term to mean low value-added plain old translation service.

RealAudio: a program that allows sound files to be transmitted from the Internet to the user’s PC.

RTF (rich text format): the format developed by Microsoft to enable documents to be transferred between application programs.

Search engine: an information searching system that allows people to search for information on the Internet.

Sight translation: a mode of translation whereby a given text in the source language is read out directly in the target language by the translator or the interpreter.

Simultaneous shipment (simship): a simultaneous release of multiple language versions of a software product.

Single language vendors (SLV): a localization service provider that covers a single or a limited number of languages.

Software publisher: a software house that produces software products.

Synchronous communication: two-way communication that takes place in real-time.

TM (translation memory): a database of previous translations whereby source and target language segments are aligned.

Uni-cast: to transmit information between a single sender and a single receiver over a network, such as when e-mail is sent or a Web browser connects to a home page, thus not economical when sending a high-bandwidth stream such as graphics or video whereas multi-cast permits moderately large real-time bandwidths to be efficiently shared by an unconstrained number of hosts.
Unicode: usually used as a generic term referring to a two-byte character-encoding scheme that is designed to accommodate most of the world’s languages.

Unification: a system whereby similar characters among Chinese, Japanese and Korean scripts (Han idiographs) are represented by a single character so that the full Han idiographic set fits into the Unicode standard’s available code points.

Virtual community: a community created on computer networks which is bound by a common interest in a given topic.

Virtual team: a group of people working from different locations using computer networks.

VOIP (voice over the Internet protocol): specifications that define the transmission of speech over networks using the Internet protocol.

WAP (wireless application protocol): specifications that standardize the way wireless devices can be used for Internet access.

Web phone: mobile phones that can access the Internet.

Whispering mode (interpreting): a mode of interpreting whereby the interpreter whispers interpretation to the given party.

XML (extensible markup language): an enhanced version of HTML.