

XVII. MECHANICAL TRANSLATION*

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RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The basic objective of our program is to devise techniques by which languages can be translated by machine. There are two aspects of the program: the linguistic and the mechanical. The two must progress side by side because the methods of each influence the results of the other. Moreover, a balance must be maintained between short-range programs which aim at the immediately practicable, and long-range research which may add to the basic understanding needed for future progress.

Work is continuing on an analysis of German sentence structure from the point of view of translation into English. In addition, work is being done on the theory of language and on general considerations of machine capabilities and how they impinge on the syntactic problems.

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