

Comparative Table: MT Post-Editing vs. TEP

Aspect	MT Post-Editing (MTPE)	TEP (Translation, Editing, Proofreading)	MTPE Benefit Highlight
Definition	The process of revising and improving a machine-generated translation.	A full human translation workflow: manual translation → editing → proofreading.	Faster content delivery cycle.
Initial Translation Source	Machine-generated (e.g., Google Translate, DeepL, custom engines).	Human translator from scratch.	Saves time and initial effort.
Human Involvement	Starts from machine output; the human post-editor corrects errors and improves quality.	Fully human-crafted throughout all three phases.	Reduces translator fatigue for repetitive or non-creative content.
Speed	Faster, especially for large volumes.	Slower due to manual steps.	Enables scalability for tight deadlines.
Cost	Lower (usually 30–50% cheaper than TEP).	Higher, reflecting full human input.	Cost-effective for bulk or low-margin projects.
Output Quality	Varies by MT quality and post-editor skill. Good for standard, non-literary content.	Generally higher and more consistent.	Good-enough quality for many domains (technical, e-commerce, internal docs).
Ideal Use Cases	Technical manuals, e-commerce listings, FAQs, product descriptions, internal comms.	Marketing, legal, medical, literary, or high-stakes content.	Optimized for high-volume, low-risk text.
Creativity Level Required	Low to moderate. Depends on domain and editing depth (light vs. full post-editing).	High. Human creativity, tone, and nuance are built-in.	Reduces cognitive load on translators.
Process Steps	1. MT output 2. Light/full post-editing 3. Optional QA	1. Human translation 2. Editing by second linguist 3. Proofreading/final QA	Streamlined process = fewer steps.
Types of Errors	MT errors (syntax, mistranslations, unnatural)	Human errors (typos, misinterpretations,	Editors become MT-aware, boosting

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Encountered	flow, terminology mismatch).	inconsistency).	efficiency and terminology consistency.
Terminology Management	Needs strong glossaries and MT training; post-editor corrects mismatches.	Controlled by human translators and editors from the start.	Supports TM + MT integration for consistency.
Style and Tone Control	Can be limited by MT output; requires skilled editor to adjust tone.	Full control over tone, voice, and register.	Good-enough style when tone is not critical.
Training Requirements	Post-editors need knowledge of MT behavior and error patterns.	Translators need subject-matter expertise and writing skills.	Easier to onboard junior linguists with MTPE.
Tech Integration	Often uses CAT tools with MT plugins (e.g., SDL Trados, memoQ, Smartcat).	CAT tools, but no MT involvement unless for reference.	Great for hybrid workflows and automation.
Quality Standards	ISO 18587 for post-editing; may aim for "fit for purpose" instead of perfection.	ISO 17100 for full translation workflows.	Efficient quality-to-effort ratio.
Scalability	Highly scalable for large projects and multiple languages.	Less scalable due to human resource limits.	Supports multilingual rollout with lower effort.
Turnaround Time	Significantly faster (up to 40–60% reduction).	Longer due to full process.	Shorter TAT makes it attractive for clients.
Reviewer Role	Editor as "fixer" of machine output.	Editor and proofreader refine already-good translation.	Encourages specialization in error pattern detection.

✅ Key Benefits of MT Post-Editing (MTPE)

1. **Speed & Scalability:** Ideal for large-volume projects with tight deadlines.
2. **Cost Efficiency:** Lower per-word rates appeal to budget-conscious clients.
3. **Consistency:** Especially when combined with glossaries and Translation Memory.
4. **Translator Focus:** Frees up human translators for more creative or sensitive tasks.
5. **Workforce Optimization:** Enables junior linguists to work productively with supervision.
6. **Process Flexibility:** Light or full post-editing based on quality and budget needs.
7. **Multilingual Rollouts:** Supports simultaneous releases in multiple languages.
8. **CAT Tool Compatibility:** Seamless integration with MT-enhanced workflows.