ABSTRACT

Machine translation has an increasing importance in the industry of translation, as well as telecommunications, due to its efficiency and ability to process huge amount of data. In order to fully reap the benefits brought about by machine translation for Singaporeans, we need to pay attention to the underlying differences between Singapore Mandarin and Putonghua, especially in lexicology.

This study aims to amass all vocabulary unique to Singapore Mandarin, explore their traits and distinctivity, then translate them accordingly to build a translation database. As language is essentially volatile by nature, instead of stopping at the database, this study will propose a translation processing method to deal with existing vocabulary in the database, as well as to predict translation method for neologism in Singapore Mandarin. This method is formulated under the basis of the traits and distinctivity of the unique vocabulary. It will be subjected to a test to assess its proficiency.

Hopefully this database, together with the proposed translation method, can contribute to machine translation from Chinese to English, under the Singapore context.