

UNIVERSITE MARC BLOCH  
DEPARTEMENT DES LANGUES ETRANGERES APPLIQUEES

LEA/11D/LO

Durée de l'épreuve 1h30

Listening comprehension

Listen and **take notes**. The text will be played **twice**. You will be given the questions **AFTER** you hear the recording.

**A) Answer the following questions:**

1. What is the connection between the Monty Python episode and machine translation?
2. What is the argument used by MT vendors to defend their products?
3. Briefly retell the story of the CIA's translation machine.
4. Why do machine translators often produce odd or humorous translations? What goes wrong?
5. Explain the incorrect assumption that the earliest machine translation researchers made.
6. What's the most obvious difficulty facing *direct word substitution* as a translation method? Give a simple example
7. Why was IBM's translation system "embarrassing" for linguists?
8. According to the author, what is really to blame for the failings of machine translators?
9. What does Dale Bostad see as the best use for machine translation? Does he have support for his idea?
10. Briefly outline the historical development of machine translation, based only on information in the text?

**B) Fill in the blanks in the sentences below. Each one will be played twice.**

1. "This episode ~~had~~ brought...to...mind.....by some recently available computer programs that claim to provide automatic translation between English and a number of other languages"
2. "It ought ~~to~~ ~~this~~...was...obvious...at this...approach...of... serious shortcomings."
3. "...that it took ~~surprisingly~~ ~~surprisingly~~...long...time.....for.....practitioners to realize that they had a lot of hard work ahead of them to produce even...possible.....translations"
4. "...because the best MT systems so far appear to have less to do with linguistic...breakthroughs...of...conception...level..... than with simple"...cloddishness....."