AL-FARABI KAZAKH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Department of International Relations

Chair of Diplomatic Translation

**Translation business in the field of international and legal relations**

**“Translation of Scientific and Technical Documents”**

2024-2025 academic year, fall semester

**Lecture 14**

**Module 3: Scientific researches and abstracts**

**Lecture 14 Developments affecting translation activities**

One development which will be immediately obvious from the outline above is that patent organizations are turning to technology, specifi- cally statistical MT, to help them to meet translation demands and/or reduce translation costs. The notion of **gist translation** is a common one in this context. Given that people generally search patent data- bases to find out about prior art, there is a rationale for using MT to provide gist translations of titles and abstracts, if these translations give sufficient information to enable the user to decide whether they need to read more. When documents are found which are relevant to the search or examination, human translation of descriptions and claims may then be needed and undertaken.

Initiatives have been developed previously by the EPO and other bodies to limit translation efforts. For example, the **London Agreement**, which took effect in 2008, dispensed with some previous requirements for patents to be supplied to the EPO in national lan- guages as well as EPO languages. What is stipulated depends on the national status of EPO languages and on whether states have pre- scribed English. See EPO (2014a) or van Pottelsberghe de la Potterie and Mejer (2010) for more details.

An ongoing initiative with implications for translation is the setting up of a unitary European patent (more precisely put, a **European pat- ent with unitary effect**) and of a **Unified Patent Court**. After many previous attempts, agreement was finally reached, and regulations to offer a unitary patent entered into force in January 2013, though do not yet apply. Twenty-five EU member states are participating in the scheme. The unitary patent will be a European patent granted by the EPO, to which unitary effect for the territory of the 25 participating states can be given if the patentee requests it (and subject to payment of fees not yet agreed).

It will be possible for the single unitary patent to be enforced by a single infringement action across all the participating states and to be revoked for all those states in a single action. The Unified Patent Court will be a specialized patent court which will handle all litiga- tion relating to European patents and European patents with unitary effect. Ratification of the agreement concerning the court is ongoing at the time of writing; you can find the latest news on the EPO website (EPO 2014b).

The regulations for the unitary patent include specific arrangements for translation; ultimately these reduce the requirement for human translation of patents, except in the case of disputes, although a tran- sitional period of 12 years has been agreed prolonging the use of translation. During the transition period a translation into English is required for patents processed in French or German, and a translation into another (any) official EU language is required for patents pro- cessed in English. However, it will no longer be necessary for paten- tees to commission translations for individual member states in which patent protection is sought, thus representing a cost saving for some.