

TECHNOLEGAU IAITH A LLEFERYDD || SPEECH AND LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES



Google Translate BETA

## WELSH IN GOOGLE TRANSLATE

Quietly on the 25th of March, Google added the Welsh language to the list of languages supported by its Google Translate website ([translate.google.com](http://translate.google.com)). The website uses statistical machine translation to offer a free automatic translation service between 51 languages (with English being used as an interlingua bridging-language in many cases). Currently, the translation from Welsh to English seems superior to that from English to Welsh. The quality of translation is not sufficient in either direction to replace the need for professional translators, but the technology could aid in increasing their efficiency.

Apertium's website ([apertium.org](http://apertium.org)) already offers a free machine translation service for translating from Welsh to English, but takes a different approach, relying on language rules rather than on statistics.



## CYSILL AR-LEIN LAUNCHED

Cysill Ar-lein, a free online Welsh-language grammar and spelling checker was formally launched at the National Eisteddfod on April the 3rd by the Minister for Heritage, Alun Ffred Jones AM. You can try it for yourself at <http://www.cysill.com/arlein> (change the interface to English and try entering 'Mae heen gwlad fy tadau' if you don't know any Welsh).

The launch coincides with the 5 year anniversary of Bangor University's Cysgliad suite of programmes which includes a suite of bilingual English-Welsh general and specialist dictionaries, a thesaurus and a grammar and spelling checker. Many of their underlying components are now available under licence from Bangor University to enterprises wishing to incorporate them into their own products or services.

E-mail [g.prys@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:g.prys@bangor.ac.uk) for more details.

## COMPANY FOCUS



TESTUN

Llio Humphries (left) is a KTP associate working on a project involving Bangor University and Testun, a Translation and subtitling company based in Cardiff. Llio graduated with an MPhil in Computer Science from Bangor, having specialized in machine translation. Supervised by Bangor University's Language Technologies Unit (LTU) she is now working on a project focusing on the integration of machine translation and speech technology for subtitling television programmes. Llio will be presenting a paper on her work in the pre-conference SALTMIL workshop at SEPLN 2009 in Spain (see below).

>> [www.testun.co.uk](http://www.testun.co.uk)

## SALT SEMINARS

We are currently organizing next year's SALT Cymru seminars.

Send any suggestions for subjects of interest to you to [g.prys@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:g.prys@bangor.ac.uk)

## SALTMIL PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

The SALTMIL speech and language technology for minority language special interest group will convene a workshop on the 7th of September, ahead of the SELPN 2009 conference in San Sebastian, Spain. Many representatives from academia and industry in Wales will be presenting projects at the workshop, including Oggy East from Semantize, the company's KTP associate, David Chan, as well as Llio Humphries from Testun and Gruffudd Prys from the Language Technologies Unit. A report on the workshop will appear on the Salt Cymru website after the event.

## WHAT IS A KTP?

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships are partnerships between academic institutions and companies. Companies benefit from the services of part-funded associates tasked with undertaking specific projects for the company directed by academic supervisors.

**Did you know?** As confidentiality is often important to business partners when discussing future plans, Bangor University can arrange for the use of confidentiality agreements when co-operating with business partners.

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