Glossary

Technical terms are explained in the text where they appear. The list below includes either recurring terms or potentially ambiguous expressions with a statement of what they mean in this book.

Artificial intelligence (AI) translation – technologies that automatically convert texts and speech between languages, including large language models and systems developed specifically for language translation. Used synonymously with 'machine translation'. For a full discussion, see Introduction.

Language mediation – the process of facilitating communication between different parties which do not all speak the same language.

Language professional – an individual who is paid and formally hired to provide a language service such as translation (written) or interpreting (spoken).

Linguist – a language expert (includes 'language professional').

Low-resource language – a language of low digital representation for which textual data and automatic text processing tools are less likely to be available. For a full discussion, see Chapter 5.

Machine translation – used synonymously with 'AI translation'. For a full discussion, see Introduction.

Multimodality – a combination of multiple communicative modes, such as written, spoken, verbal and non-verbal. For a full discussion, see Chapter 3.

Service provider – unless otherwise specified, a professional from one of the sectors examined in the book, such as nurses, paramedics, social workers, doctors or police officers.

Service user – any member of a community who uses the services provided in one of the sectors examined in the book.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 22:23:41, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009769372

Source language – the language translated from. For example, if a text in Spanish is translated into English, Spanish is the source language. Used synonymously with ‘input language’.

Target language – the language translated into. If a text in Spanish is translated into English, English is the target language. Used synonymously with ‘output language’.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 22:23:41, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009769372

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 22:23:41, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009769372