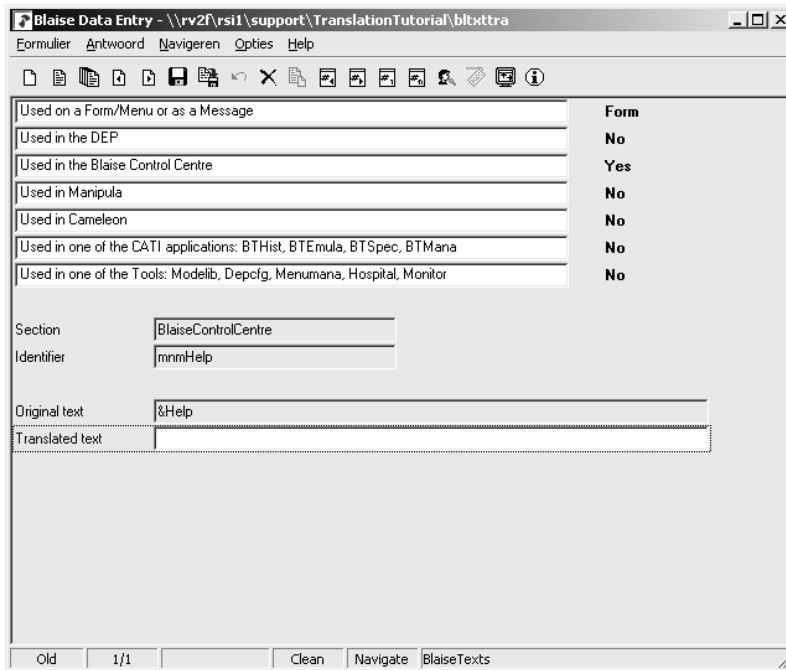# Converting Translated Blaise System Texts To A New Version

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1. Introduction

We assume a basic familiarity with Blaise System Text translations. A brief example:

Figure 1. Entering translations

The above image is central to the translating process. We have a section (here, the Blaise Control Centre) and an identifier (here, mnmHelp) which together define a screen element appearing in a particular situation in Blaise. The original text is &Help in English and the Translated text can be typed in another language (in French, you would type in '&Aide'). More information about translations can be found in the Blaise Help file.

2. A New Translation

A Maniplus application was developed which guides you through the translation process. The opening dialog of the main Maniplus setup BlTranslat is:

Figure 2. The starting dialog for the translation system

By clicking on the button 'New translation' the translation process is started. You will have to browse to the translation database (without translated texts at first) and start typing in translations, like in Figure 1.

When you exit from the data entry session, the question appears:

'Did you finish the translations and do you want to install them into Blaise?

If you answer Yes, this will initiate the transformation of the translation database to a language file in the INI format called BLAISE.TRA. The next step in the Maniplus setup is to copy the language file under the name of BLAISE.LNG to the folder where BLAISE.EXE is located. It may be impossible to access this folder because you have read-only rights in the folder. In that case, the registry setting must be changed as indicated in the Blaise Help or you must approach an administrator. The Maniplus setup does not provide assistance with changing the registry. After installing the language file, when you start Blaise again, the translated texts appear.

3. Updating an Existing Translation

If you have previously translated Blaise system texts, you have a database BLTXTTRA.BDB with your previous translations. Now suppose you get a new version of Blaise with a new translation database, which is empty at first because it is shipped that way with the new version of Blaise. You want to copy your existing translations to the new database and work on translations of new elements in the Blaise system texts. On closer analysis, there are four categories of translations. The elements in the new database as compared to the old database can be:

- Added: elements which were not present in the old translation database because they represent new and extended possibilities in Blaise.
- Changed: elements which were there before but which have a different text.
- Removed: elements which were present in the old translation database but have been removed from the system.
- Copied: elements which were there before, do appear in the new database and are unchanged.

In order to facilitate the transition to the new database, the Maniplus setup offers the choice to update an existing translation (the second button in Figure 1). You have to browse to your old translation database, which must be present in a working folder of your own. It is advantageous to copy the new translation database to another working folder outside the Blaise installation folder (for instance, a subfolder NEW of the folder with the old translation database). Use the menu choice Database | Data File Management | Copy… from the Blaise control centre to do this. Don't forget to copy the meta-information files BLTXTTRA.BMI and BLTXTTRA.BXI as well (using Windows Explorer) to both folders. The folder with the old translation database will be used as a working folder for the intermediate files. The Maniplus setup compares the old and new databases and produces four Blaise databases with a structure identical to the translation databases: Added.bdb, Changed.bdb, Copied.bdb and Removed.bdb. The translator need only work on the Added and Changed texts. After clicking on the button 'Update existing translation' (see Figure 2), a menu is presented:
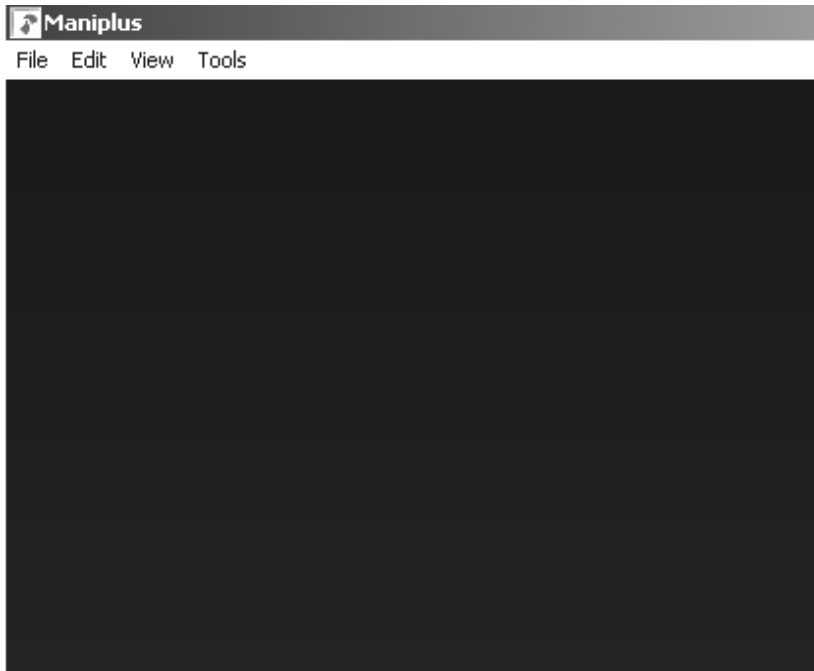

Figure 3. The menu in case of an update

The menu choices are as follows:

File	Edit	View	Tools
Open OLD Database	Changed Texts (4)	Changed Texts File (2)	Compare databases (1)
Open NEW Database	Added Texts (5)	Added Texts File (3)	Apply translations (6)
Exit Alt+F4		Removed Texts File	
		Copied Texts File	

Table 1. Menu Choices when updating an existing translation

Between parentheses the suggested order is indicated. But it is possible to interrupt the translation at any time and come back to it later. We will now discuss the steps in the recommended order.

1. **Compare databases:** the old and the new translation databases are compared and the added, changed, removed and copied texts are put into separate Blaise files. If the comparison was done before, the files are present and a warning is shown. You can choose to repeat the comparison, replacing the Blaise files. You can also skip this step and choose another item from the menu.
2. **View the changed texts:** when choosing this option, the changed texts are transferred to a text file Changed.txt which is shown in a viewer. This can be used to inspect the changes easily, but it is also useful to print the file Changed.txt using the program Notepad or a similar program. One then has all the sections and identifiers on paper, with the English texts and room to write the translation in one's own language. A sample of the output appears below:

```
AskLic                    Caption                 Blaise Licence



AskLic                    lblGiveLicenceInfo      Please enter your licence information



AskLic                    lblLicenceNumber        Licence &key:



AskLic                    lblUserNumber           Licence &number:



Blaise                    mgMASaveMSF             Save MSU file



BlaiseControlCentre       mnmManipulaWizard       Manipula Set-up &wizard
```

Figure 4. Viewing the Changed texts

Figure 5 shows an example of texts written on paper as preparation for a translation into another language (in this example, typing them in Changed.bdb).

Figure 5. Handwritten notes on the Changed texts

3. **View the added texts:** when choosing this option, the added texts are transferred to a text file Added.txt which is shown in a viewer. As before, this can be used to inspect the changes, but it is also useful to print the file Added.txt using the program Notepad or a similar program. One can then write the translations in one's own language on paper as preparation for entering them into the Blaise file Added.bdb.
4. **Edit the changed texts:** The translations can be entered into the Blaise database Changed.bdb containing the elements with the changed texts.
5. **Edit the added texts:** In the same way, the translations can be entered for the added elements.
6. **Apply the translations:** The translations are applied to the new translation database, the location of which you entered in a previous step. If the program does not know the location of the new database, it will be asked. Anywhere in the program, if you made a mistake in entering the location of one of the databases, you can correct the location from the File menu using File | Open OLD database or File | Open NEW database. The process to activate the translations is the subject of the next paragraph.

4. Applying the translations and updating the language file

After step 6, the database with the translations has been updated and the question appears:

'Did you finish the translations and do you want to install them into Blaise?

If you answer Yes, this will initiate the transformation of the translation database to a language file in the INI format called BLAISE.TRA. The next step in the Maniplus setup is to copy this language file under the name of BLAISE.LNG to the folder where BLAISE.EXE is located. It may be impossible to access this folder because you have read-only rights in the folder. You can approach an administrator for this.
You can also change the registry setting for the language file as indicated in the Blaise Help. The registry entry can point to any file location you have access to. The Maniplus setup does not provide assistance with changing the registry.

5. The remaining menu entries

The menu entries not covered so far are: 'View removed texts file' and 'View copied texts file'. They are there for information only. With them, the files Removed.txt and Copied.txt can be viewed and printed like the Changed and Added text files. Only the Copied texts are processed in a later step (they are the translations of the unchanged elements and are simply copied to the new translation database).

6. Conclusion

We presented a Maniplus project helping in the translation and especially in the updating process, when a translator is developing and maintaining a different-language version of the Blaise system texts. This project organises the different tasks and enables the translator to keep an overview of the different steps necessary to accomplish an update from an earlier version of his translations, even if he skipped translating some versions of Blaise after the previous translation. Moreover, the translation work can be interrupted and resumed later.

Appendix

Technical notes on the Maniplus project

BlTranslat.man. The main file is BlTranslat.man. In order to run the project, this file must be run from the Blaise Control Centre or with the command

[path]Manipula.exe bltranslat

The Maniplus file BlTranslat.man presents the starting dialog (Figure 2) and declares the procedures ExportTranslation and TranslateNew, both of which are used when a new translation is made. When an existing translation is to be updated, i.e., the second button is pressed, the Maniplus setup ExistTrlMenu.man is called.

ExistTrlMenu.man presents the menu shown in Figure 3 and Table 1 and calls the procedures and setups for the various menu choices.

CreateMU.inc declares a procedure which creates the menu in the standard Maniplus way using a TEMPORARYFILE. The procedure MakeMenuLine is defined in ExistTrlMenu.man.

MenuDescription.bla defines a datamodel for Maniplus menu files. The included file Plusmenu.inc defines the function keys available to menus in Maniplus.

ExportTranslation.inc contains the procedure ExportTranslation which is called from BlTranslat.man and from ExistTrlMenu.man.

CARC.man divides the records in the new translation database into **C**hanged, **A**dded, **R**emoved and **C**opied records in corresponding Blaise database files (the auxiliary databases). This categorisation is done by comparing the old and new translation databases. The datamodel for all Blaise files involved in the translation process is defined in BLTXTTRA.BLA.

PrintAuxDb.man prints the contents of the chosen auxiliary database. It produces text files like the one in Figures 4 and 5. It uses the datamodel in TextFiles.bla.

Bltxt2in.man writes the contents of the translation database as a file in INI format called Blaise.tra. When copying this file to the Blaise system folder with the procedure ExportTranslation, the file name is changed to Blaise.lng.