

Inside XLIFF

XML declaration

```
<xliff version ="...">
```

```
<file ... source-language ="xx-xx" target-language="yy-yy"...>
```

```
<header>
```

```
<tool tool-id="NameOfTheCreationTool"...>
```

```
</header>
```

```
<body>
```

```
<trans-unit id="1"...>
```

```
<source...>Source Text</source>
```

```
<target/>
```

```
</trans-unit>
```

```
</body>
```

```
</file>
```

```
</xliff>
```

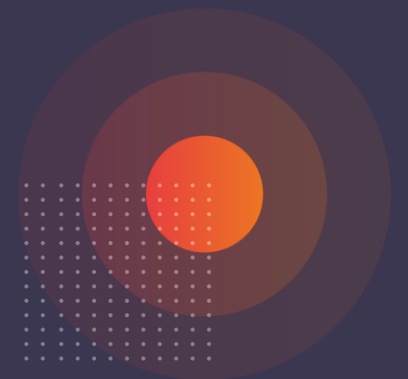
Angelika Zerfass, memoQfest 2025

zaac

XLIFF / XLF

XML Localization Interchange File Format

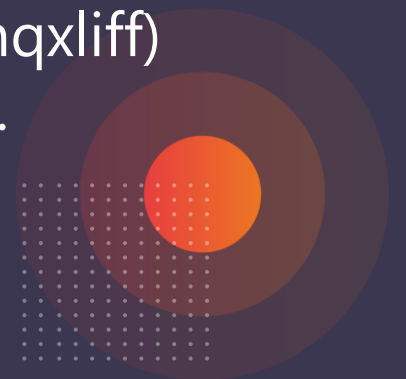
- Bilingual by nature (no multilingual capabilities like TMX)
- Source formats converted to XLIFF to keep layout issues out of the translation process and concentrate on the text itself
- Segmentation happens at the time of conversion to XLIFF
- Today, 2 different versions:
 - XLIFF 1.2 (used in translation tools for example)
 - XLIFF 2.2 (just out a few weeks ago)
 - XLIFFs of different versions are NOT interchangeable
- XLIFF contains translation units (segment pairs), status... as well as tool-specific information (segment history...)



MQXLIFF / MQXLZ

Plain XLIFF versus packaged XLZ

- The plain MQXLIFF contains all the information the user can see in the memoQ editor, like
 - Status, match values, segment history, editing time (if activated), tracked changes, QA markers, comments...
- The MQXLZ is a package of an XLIFF file (always called document.mqxliff) and the skeleton file which contains information on the original file.
 - The MQXLZ file can be used to create the target language file from within memoQ (not other tools).



XML declaration

```
<xliff version = "...">
```

```
  <file ... source-language = "xx-xx" target-language="yy-yy"...>
```

```
    <header>
```

```
      <tool tool-id="NameOfTheCreationTool"...>
```

```
    </header>
```

```
    <body>
```

```
      <trans-unit id="1" ...>
```

```
        <source...>Source Text</source>
```

```
        <target/>
```

```
      </trans-unit>
```

```
    </body>
```

```
  </file>
```

```
</xliff>
```

Status of the segment and user role

<sdl:seg id="1" conf="**Translated**" origin="interactive">

Confirmed in Trados by a user in **translator role**

<trans-unit id="10" mq:status="ManuallyConfirmed" ...
mq:**translatorcommitusername**="angelikazerfass"

Confirmed in memoQ by a user in **translator role**

Status of the segment and user role

```
<sdI:seg id="1" conf="Translated" origin="interactive">
```

Trados-specific tag

```
<trans-unit id="10" mq:status="ManuallyConfirmed" ...  
mq:translatorcommitusername="angelikazerfass"
```

memoQ-specific attribute

Status of the segment and user role

```
<sdl:seg id="1" conf="Translated" origin="interactive">
```

Manual input in Trados

```
<mq:commitinfos xmlns="MQXliff"><commitinfo matchrate="0"
```

Confirmed after manual input or MT input in memoQ

Status of the segment and user role

<trans-unit id="headerComment" **approved="yes"**>

Confirmed by a **reviewer** (Typo3)

But these kinds of differences are usually handled by mapping the status from the XLIFF file to the tool-internal standard during file import.

This is why tool providers tell you what XLIFFs they support (MXLIFF (Phrase), MQXLIFF (memoQ), SDLXLIFF (Trados)...

Suggested status values in the XLIFF 1.2 specification...

state

State - The status of a particular translation in a [<target>](#) or [<bin-target>](#) element.

Value description:

The pre-defined values are defined in the table below.

Value	Description
final	Indicates the terminating state.
needs-adaptation	Indicates only non-textual information needs adaptation.
needs-l10n	Indicates both text and non-textual information needs adaptation.
needs-review-adaptation	Indicates only non-textual information needs review.
needs-review-l10n	Indicates both text and non-textual information needs review.
needs-review-translation	Indicates that only the text of the item needs to be reviewed.
needs-translation	Indicates that the item needs to be translated.
new	Indicates that the item is new. For example, translation units that were not in a previous version of the document.
signed-off	Indicates that changes are reviewed and approved.
translated	Indicates that the item has been translated.

Document import settings

Filter: XLIFF 1 filter

Filter configuration: normalized in text

Add cascading filter... | Remove

General | Advanced | States | **SDLXLIFF**

Import Source: Unknown

XLIFF 1 state	memoQ segment status
final	Reviewer 2 confirmed
signed-off	Reviewer 2 confirmed
translated	Translator confirmed
needs-review-translation	Translator confirmed
needs-review-adaptation	Translator confirmed
needs-review-110n	Translator confirmed
needs-adaptation	Translator confirmed
needs-translation	Not started
new	Not started
needs-110n	Not started
other	Not started

• Add

Export Source:

☐ Change memoQ states into XLIFF states at export

memoQ segment status	XLIFF 1 state
Reviewer 2 confirmed	signed-off
Translator confirmed	translated
Not started	needs-translation
Edited	needs-translation
Pre-translated	needs-translation
Fragments	needs-translation

memoQ XLIFF 1 filter

Document import settings

Filter: SDLXLIFF filter

Filter configuration: < default >

Add cascading filter... | Remove

General | States | Additional comments | Tracked changes | Translation quality assessment

Importing tracked changes

☐ Accept all tracked changes before import

☐ Reject all tracked changes before import

☒ Import change tracking information

Export tracked changes

☒ The exported file contains Tracked changes instead of TQA information

memoQ SDLXLIFF settings

Options

XLIFF

XLIFF: Kilgray MemoQ

Whitespace

Segment status mapping

QuickInsert

XLIFF: Memsources XLIFF

XLIFF 2.0

PDF

Comma Delimited Text (CSV)

Tab Delimited Text

Java Resources

Portable Object

.NET Libraries

Subtitle formats

JSON

YAML

Markdown

XML 2: Microsoft .NET Resource

XML 2: OASIS DITA 1.3 Compliant

Segment status mapping

File opening:

XLIFF status: PreTranslated = Studio status: Draft

File saving:

Studio status: Signed Off = XLIFF status: Proofread

Segment locking

Automatically lock segments with status:

☒ Signed Off

☒ Translation Approved

☐ Draft

☐ Sign-off Rejected

☐ Translation Rejected

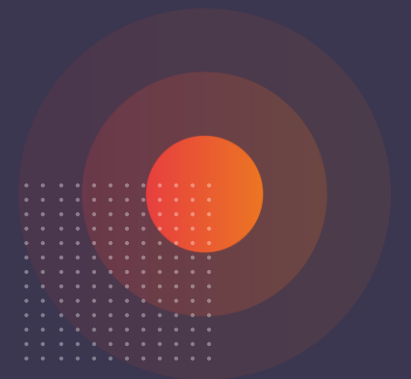
☐ Translated

☐ Not Translated

Trados Studio memoQ filter

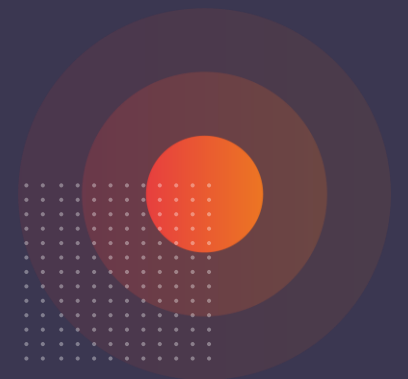
Tool-Specific Information

- For example:
 - Version history
 - Editing time
 - Where did the first translation come from?
 - Source file
 - Comments on segment level and document level
- Not all tools provide the same information and when they do, they might add this information in different ways...



Comments

- Comments can be attached to a document and to a segment.
- Comments can be categorized,
 - but there are different numbers of categories in the tools
- Comments are saved in different places to the XLIFF file:
 - in the translation unit section
 - at the top of the file with a reference number that is then used in the translation unit
- Deleted comments
 - stay in the MQXLIFF, but are hidden
 - are deleted from the SDLXLIFF



Ways to add comments in XLIFF

<xliff...>

<doc-info...>

<cmt-defs>

<cmt-def id="079a690b-ae25-76a88b99afad">

<Comments>

<Comment **severity**="Low"...>Comment category "Info"</Comment>

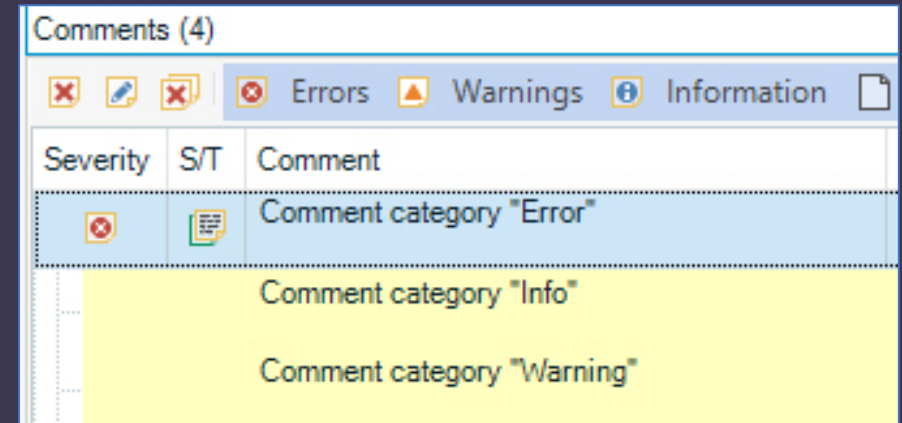
<Comment **severity**="Medium" ...>Comment category "Warning"</Comment>

<Comment **severity**="High"...>Comment with category "Error"</Comment>

</Comments>

</cmt-def>

</cmt-defs>



Severity	S/T	Comment
Error	Document	Comment category "Error"
Info	Document	Comment category "Info"
Warning	Document	Comment category "Warning"

Ways to add comments in XLIFF

Referencing the comment(s) by ID

```
<trans-unit...>  
  <target>  
    ...  
    <mrk mtype="x-sdl-comment" sdl:cid="079a690b-ae25-76a88b99afad">  
      There are comments attached to this segment.  
    </mrk>  
    ...  
</target>
```

Ways to add comments in XLIFF

Adding a comment section to the trans-unit

```
<trans-unit...>
```

```
...
```

```
<mq:comments>
```

```
<mq:comment... category="3"...>Comment category "other"</mq:comment>
```

```
<mq:comment... category="0"...> Comment category "information"</mq:comment>
```

```
<mq:comment... category="1"...> Comment category "warning"</mq:comment>
```

```
<mq:comment... category="2"...> Comment category "error"</mq:comment>
```

```
</mq:comments>
```

Active comments

Created by angelikazerfass Date/time 08.05.2025 16:53 Category  Other

Applies to  Target segment

Comment category "other"

Created by angelikazerfass Date/time 08.05.2025 16:54 Category  Information

Applies to  Target segment

Comment category "information"

Created by angelikazerfass Date/time 08.05.2025 16:53 Category  Warning

Applies to  Target segment

Comment category "warning"

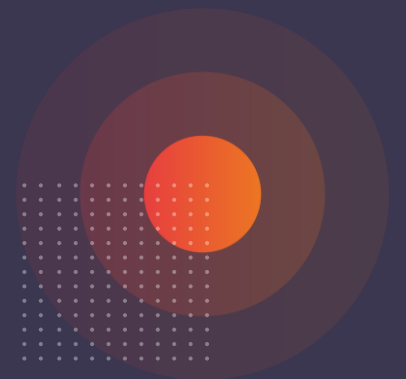
Created by angelikazerfass Date/time 08.05.2025 16:53 Category  Error

Applies to  Target segment

Comment category "error"

Comments in XLIFF roundtrip

- Comments only travel between tools when they are supported
 - SDLXLIFF -> memoQ -> SDLXLIFF:
 - SDLXLIFF comments visible in memoQ
 - Comments created in memoQ visible back in Trados Studio
 - memoQ XLIFF -> Trados Studio -> memoQ XLIFF:
 - Comments are not visible
 - Comments created in Trados Studio not visible in memoQ (added to the XLIFF within a <note> tag)



Comments (1)

Errors Warnings Information

Severity	S/T	Comment	Document
		Comment on number	Demo 3.docx

Translation Re... Fragment Matc... Con

Demo 3.docx

Satz 5 ist ähnlich

Satz 5 ist ähnlich zum nächsten Satz.

View pane

Context ID (double-click context ID to copy to clipboard)
926e7243-9fc4-4757-9c3f-85e72fc59666

Active comments

Created by AZ **Date/time** 08.05.2025 17:05 **Category** Information

Applies to Target text

5

Comment on number

Created by angelikazerfass **Date/time** 08.05.2025 17:07 **Category** Information

Applies to Target text

nächsten Satz

Better: Nachfolgesatz

Comments (2)

Errors Warnings Information

Severity	S/T	Comment	Document
		Comment on number	Demo 3.docx_en-US_de-DE.sdlxliff
		Better: Nachfolgesatz	Demo 3.docx_en-US_de-DE.sdlxliff

Translation Re... Fragment Matc... Concordance... Comments (2) TQAs Messages

Satz 5 ist ähnlich zum nächsten Satz.

Project home Demo 1.docx x

Source Target

1. This is a new sentence. Dies ist ein neuer Satz. 100%
This is a short new Dies ist ein kurzer, neuer 99%

Changed angelikazerfass 16.04.2025 14:50 9 m 3,2 s

View pane

Active comments

Created by angelikazerfass Date/time 08.05.2025 16:56 Category Information
Applies to Target segment
Comment on segment 1

Concordance Search Comments (0) TQAs Messages

Demo 1.docx_ger-DE.mqx1z [Translation en-US-de-DE]

100% Dies ist ein neuer Satz.
99% Dies ist ein kurzer, neuer Satz.

Comments (1)

Errors Warnings Information

Severity	S/T	Comment	Document
		new comment	Demo 1.docx_ger-DE.mqx1z

Translation Re... Fragment Matc... Concordance... Comments (1) TQAs Messages

100% Dies ist ein neuer Satz.
99% Dies ist ein kurzer, neuer Satz.

Tracked Changes

- Just as with comments, tracked changes are added with tool-specific tags and attributes into the XLIFF file.
- If those are supported by the receiving tool, tracked changes are visible.
- If they are not supported, they come out as inline tags.



Tracked Changes

For this `<mrk ... mtype="x-sdl-deleted" ...>sentence </mrk>`
`<mrk ... mtype="x-sdl-added" ...>segment</mrk>`
the translator used tracked changes.

For this `<mrk ... mq:tctype="del" ...>sentence</mrk>`
`<mrk ... mq:tctype="ins" ...>segment</mrk>`
the translator used tracked changes.



For this ~~sentence~~segment the translator used tracked changes.

For this ~~sentence~~segment
the translator used tracked
changes.

For this ~~sentence~~segment
the translator used ~~tracked~~
~~changes~~change tracking.

For this ~~sentence~~segment the translator used ~~tracked changes~~change tracking.

For this sentence segment
the translator used tracked
changes.

For this sentence the translator used tracked changes.docx_eng-US.mqxiz

For this mrk sentence mrk mrk segment mrk the translator used tracked changes.

For this sentence the translator used tracked changes.docx_eng-US.mqxiz

For this sentence the translator used tracked changes.docx_eng-US.mqxiz

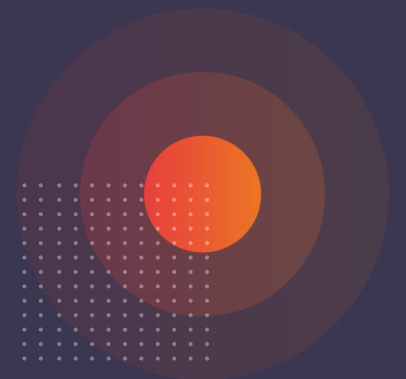
For this mrk sentence mrk mrk segment mrk the translator used ~~tracked~~
~~changes~~ change tracking.

For this sentence the translator used tracked changes.docx_eng-US.mqxiz

For this sentence segment
the translator used tracked
changes.

XLIFFs from CMS, LMS...

- XLIFFs can also be created by content management systems, learning management systems...basically every system that wants to provide the translation process with a bilingual format.
- But unfortunately, these XLIFFs are often not as fine-tuned as the ones created by dedicated translation tools.
- They often miss the part of segmenting the source text into useful translatable units, which can result in one segment containing several pages of text.
- In these cases a very creative way of importing such XLIFFs is necessary to add the segmentation steps.



XLIFF from an LMS with huge segments

g g g Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consetetur sadipscing elitr, sed diam
nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut
labore et dolore magna aliquyam erat,
sed diam voluptua. g g g g g g
At vero eos et accusam et justo duo
dolores et ea rebum. g g g g g
g Stet clita kasd gubergren, no sea
takimata sanctus est Lorem ipsum
dolor sit amet. g g g g g g
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consetetur sadipscing elitr, sed diam
nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut
labore et dolore magna aliquyam erat,
sed diam voluptua. g g g g g g
At vero eos et accusam et justo duo

Additional Information

- Translators, please be aware that an XLIFF often saves information on the origin of the first translation entered into the target field.
- If that translation comes from an MT system, the name of that system is saved to the XLIFF.
- Even if the suggestion from MT was changed and confirmed, the information on the original source of the translation is still available in the XLIFF.

```
<mq:insertedmatch source="MT / Google-Cloud-Translation-Basic-Plugin"  
<mq:insertedmatch source="XLIFF Tests TM / angelikazerfass"
```

```
<sdl:seg id="1" origin="nmt" origin-system="DeepL Translator provider using DeepL Translator "
```



Additional Information

- When using templates and automation, you can manipulate the XLIFF file while it is your project with the Find&Replace Tool (comes with memoQ).
- This can for example be used to change the status of certain segments or lock segments with specific content (like numbers only).
- Outside of memoQ the XLIFF files can be used (for example through a Python script) to extract metadata like a list of comments for post-project evaluation.



Additional Information

- Some tools, like Trados Studio, add the original file into the XLIFF
- See this video and learn how to get the file out of the XLIFF and convert it back to the original source file for viewing purposes, for example.
- <https://translationtribulations.substack.com/p/so-you-got-a-trados-studio-file-but>
- Video by Kevin Lossner





Thank you!

Any questions?

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