TransGrading©

A tool for studying how to effectively grade translations and compositions

Version 2.0 for Windows

www.transgrading.com

User Guide

TransGrading, developed by Sanjun Sun and Ruiliang Guo in 2011, can be used for grading translations and compositions. It allows the user to use holistic and/or analytical scoring methods and to do some calculations. The error category list and holistic category list are customizable. The graded passages can constitute a corpus amenable to further analysis. It is hoped that this tool will help increase the number of empirical studies in different languages or language pairs in the fields of translation quality assessment and writing assessment. Currently, TransGrading is free and portable.

1. About grading methods

Basically, there are two kinds of grading methods: holistic and analytical.

The holistic method is also called the general impression method. Graders are usually required to provide for one passage an overall grade or a grade for each holistic category. For instance, in grading a translation, the grader can give a single score from 0 to 10 based on the overall quality of the translation, or give a score (0-10) for translation accuracy and a score (0-10) for expression.

The analytic method works like this: the grader underlines every error in the passage, provides information near the error as to the nature of the error, and deducts points for each error found.

The holistic method is grading on the curve, and involves ranking students in relation to the average performance level. The analytic method is criterion-based; student performance is compared to well-defined criteria, rather than to the performance of other students.

Researchers usually compare the two methods in terms of validity, reliability, and practicality.

2. Product Features

- ❖ Use holistic and analytical grading methods
- ❖ Customize the error category list and holistic category list
- ❖ Calculate error deduction points and total scores
- ❖ Export errors, error deduction points, and total scores to Microsoft Excel for further analysis and graphical display
- ❖ Keep track of the time spent on grading

3. System Requirements

TransGrading runs under the following operating systems:

- ❖ Windows 7 (32 bit version)
- ❖ Windows Vista (32 bit version)
- ❖ Windows XP

4. Starting the Software Program

TransGrading is portable and requires no installation.

To start the program, double click **Register.bat** and then double click **TransGrading.exe**. (If you encounter an error when trying to start the program, right click Register.bat and select "Run as Administrator", and then right click TransGrading.exe and select "Run as Administrator".)

5. Preparing Your files

TransGrading works with Rich Text Format (RTF) files. The source text, reference text and target text(s) should be in the RTF format. This means that TransGrading can handle any language that your operating system supports. (To launch WordPad in Windows, which natively supports the Rich Text Format, go to Start->Run, type in Write, and press Enter.)

To facilitate data analysis, the target text file must conform to the following pattern:

1) A serial number for each passage precedes the passage. The format is SxxRxxTxxx. S stands for source text, R for reviewer, and T for target text. For example, S31R02T005 indicates that the source text number is 31, the reviewer number is 02, and the target text number is 005. Leave an empty line between the serial number and the passage.

2) If you intend to use the holistic method, put the words **Holistic Grade:** at the end of each target passage. Otherwise, do nothing.

3) If you intend to keep track of the time spent on grading each passage, put the word **Duration:** at the end of each passage. Otherwise, do nothing.

There is no alignment requirement. The following are two example target texts.

S31R02T001

安迪是整个银河系最无理取闹、最顽固不化的类人生物，总是把我气得发疯，尖叫！当然，我也像哥哥一样爱护着他。而且我不得不这样做，因为我的确是他的哥哥。不仅如此，他还是我的孪生弟弟！千真万确。我（艾米）和安迪都留着卷发，都有着黑色的眼睛和倔脾气。但是，虽然我们看上去很像，我们在大多数问题上会有截然不同的立场。如果我说白天，可以打赌安迪一定会说晚上。

就在这周，学校里关于家长教师联谊会(PTA)提议制定并采纳校内服装规格的事闹得沸沸扬扬。按规定，每个学生都要穿校服。校服！真是难以想象。

Holistic Grade:

Duration:

S31R02T002

安迪是整个宇宙中最不讲理、最顽固的次人类生物，他总是让我气到想大声尖叫！当然，我爱他就如同爱自己的亲兄弟一般。其实，我是不得不爱，因为他就是我的亲兄弟。不仅如此，我们俩还是对双胞胎！没错，安迪和艾米（就是我）有着一头同样卷曲的头发和一对深色的眼睛，并且有着一样顽固的脾气。然而，尽管我们长得很像，在大多数问题上我们却通常持有截然相反的观点。如果我说东，你就能指望他说西。

就在这个星期，整个学校里最火热的话题就是关于教师家长联合会有关采用学校着装准则的提议。这项提议要求每个学生都要穿制服。那可是制服啊！你能想象得到吗？

Holistic Grade:

Duration:

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6. Loading Files into the Program

Click ⬆S to load the source text, which will appear in the top left pane. (In the case of writing research, you can load writing instructions or something else.) Loading the source text is optional.
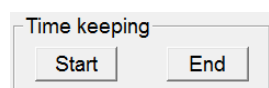
Click ⬆R to load the reference text (e.g., a reference translation or a model essay), which will appear in the bottom left pane. Loading the reference text is optional.

Click ⬆T to load the target text(s), which will appear in the right pane.

If you have loaded the wrong file or want to load another file, simply click the corresponding icon again and load another file.

7. Grading the Passages
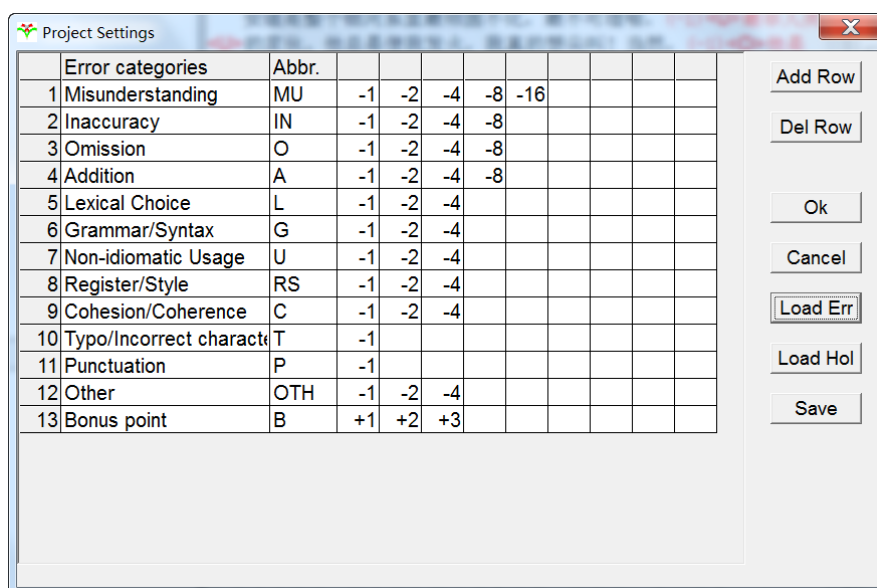
7.1. Keeping track of the time

If you want to keep track of the time spent on each passage using a specific method (e.g., analytical method or holistic method or both), click on the Start button on the right top corner right before you start to grade a passage. When you are finished with that passage, put your cursor right behind **Duration:** at the end of the passage and click on the End button. The number shown is in seconds.

7.2. Customizing the Grading Category Lists

To use the analytical method, one needs an error category list. The list distributed with this program is for grading translations (especially English-Chinese translations). It is based on the ATA (American Translation Association) error category list.

To customize this list, click on 📝 (Project settings) at the top left corner of the main interface, and you will see the following window:

	Error categories	Abbr.											
1	Misunderstanding	MU	-1	-2	-4	-8	-16					Add Row
2	Inaccuracy	IN	-1	-2	-4	-8						Del Row
3	Omission	O	-1	-2	-4	-8						
4	Addition	A	-1	-2	-4	-8						
5	Lexical Choice	L	-1	-2	-4							Ok
6	Grammar/Syntax	G	-1	-2	-4							
7	Non-idiomatic Usage	U	-1	-2	-4							Cancel
8	Register/Style	RS	-1	-2	-4							
9	Cohesion/Coherence	C	-1	-2	-4							Load Err
10	Typo/Incorrect characte	T	-1									
11	Punctuation	P	-1									Load Hol
12	Other	OTH	-1	-2	-4							
13	Bonus point	B	+1	+2	+3							Save

You can add a row and enter a new category, its abbreviation, and points that can be deducted. Pay attention to the +/- sign before the points. Likewise, you can delete a row. Click **OK** to adopt your customized category list for the current grading. Click **Save** to save the error category list for next time use.

To customize the holistic category list, click on **Load Hol** and select Holistic.xml, the following window will show. As with the error category list, you can add a row or delete a row.

To shift to the error category list, click on **Load Err** and select **ErrorCategory.xml**.

7.3. Grading the Passages Using the Analytical Method

When the grader spots an error in the passage, select that segment using the mouse, choose an error category from the drop down list, and assign to it points to be deducted using the mouse. (Caution: if you use keyboard arrows instead of the mouse, wrong points will be assigned.) The graded passage will be like this:
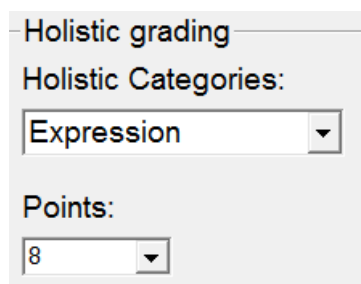
> 在(-1)<MU>整个人群<MU>中，安迪是个(-1)<MU>最无礼的<MU>人，简直就是个猪脑、非人类！他总是气得让我想尖叫！

The marked segments are in red, surrounded by the category tags and preceded by the point(s) assigned.

If the grader has inadvertently marked a segment or wants to make changes, simply delete the error category markup tags and the points just like what you would do in WordPad or Microsoft Word. To change

the color of the marked segment from red to black, select that segment and click on the **Nomark** button on the right. Of course, you can always use Ctrl+Z to undo the latest action.

7.4. Grading the Passages Using the Holistic Method

Put the cursor right behind **Holistic Grade:** at the end of the passage, select a holistic category from the drop down list, and assign points to it using the mouse. Then you can select another holistic category and assign points to it until you have exhausted all the categories. In the target file, it will be like:
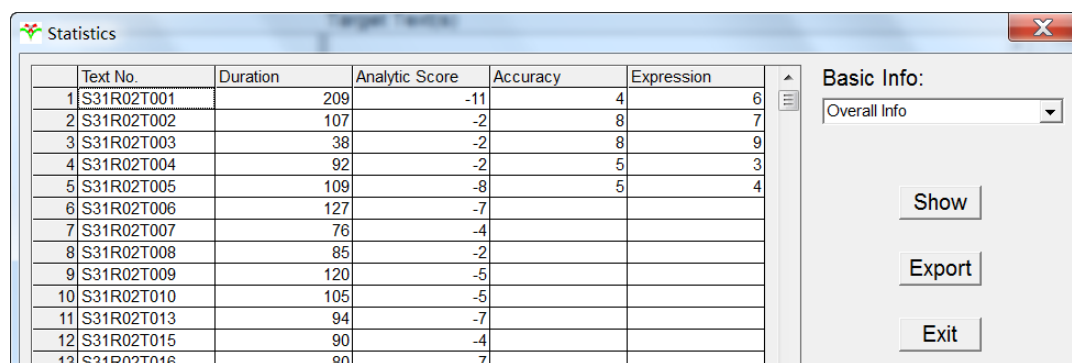
Holistic Grade:Accuracy+7; Expression+8;

7.5 Saving the Target File

The target file will be saved automatically every 5 minutes. You can click on the **Save** button on the right anytime you like to save the target file.

8. Calculating the Scores

When the grading is finished, click on at the top left corner of the main interface. The following window will appear:

In this table, the columns include text serial number, grading time, analytical score, and holistic scores (including accuracy and expression in this case). To export this table to Microsoft Excel, click on the **Export** button on the right.

The **Basic Info** drop down list includes two items: **Overall Info** and **Errors Info**. To shift to **Errors Info**, select it from the drop down list and click the **Show** button.

	Text No.	Error Category	Points	Text Segment
1	S31R02T001	MU	-2	可是
2	S31R02T001	IN	-2	我像哥哥一般爱护着他
3	S31R02T001	IN	-4	看起来长
4	S31R02T001	O	-1	他是我弟弟
5	S31R02T001	G	-1	要实行学校
6	S31R02T001	RS	-2	多数问题
7	S31R02T001	P	-1	?
8	S31R02T001	B	+2	都必须穿
9	S31R02T002	O	-1	他是我哥哥，我还是爱他的
10	S31R02T002	U	-1	最非人类
11	S31R02T003	L	-1	我和安迪
12	S31R02T003	U	-1	最非人
13	S31R02T004	A	-1	我和安迪穿上后的样子

Basic Info:

Errors Info

Show

Export

Exit

This table includes all the text segments that contain errors, the error categories and points deducted. To export this table to Microsoft Excel, click on the **Export** button on the right.

In Excel, you can sort the data, do calculations, and make data charts. The sky's the limit.

9. Contact Us

If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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