Labels on Translation Output

Ready for early adopters who care about transparency and consumer protection

(April 2025)

by Alan Melby

Chair of FIT North America
President of LTAC Global

Roadmap

- ASTM and labels (a standards-based approach)

- Key distinction: Verified vs. Un-Verified

- Labels on Translation Output: Who Should Care?

- Factors: Process, Qualifications, Accountability

- Next: Adoption, Education, Visibility

Alan Melby © 2025

ASTM Standard F2575-2025

Pre-production phase includes *What is a qualified professional translator?* and *How to develop specifications.*

Labels are part of **post-production**. Updated labels were already anticipated by a reference to the Tranquality GLO page in the Related Reading in 2023. The update ballot ended on April 9th. Results out soon.

ASTM F2089-2024

Covers interpreting services, where the output is spoken.

No mention of automatic interpreting in the latest edition. The possible label **AIGI** is under discussion.

Verified vs. Unverified

Key Distinction

Verified that it meets agreed-on specifications; "produced and self-checked" or "otherwise produced; checked for correspondence" by a qualified professional translator.

The *labels* as of January 2025

Professionally Verified Translation

and

Un-Verified Translation

Protecting the "Verified" label

The mark PVTQ is a certification mark; *it is not an acronym*

Alan Melby © 2025

Who should care about labels?

1. **Consumers (i.e., end users)**, who are guided by the labels, especially in a high-stakes scenario;

2. **Providers**, both individual translators and organizations, and **publishers** of translation output;

3. **System developers**, who can use the labels as metadata to select training data.
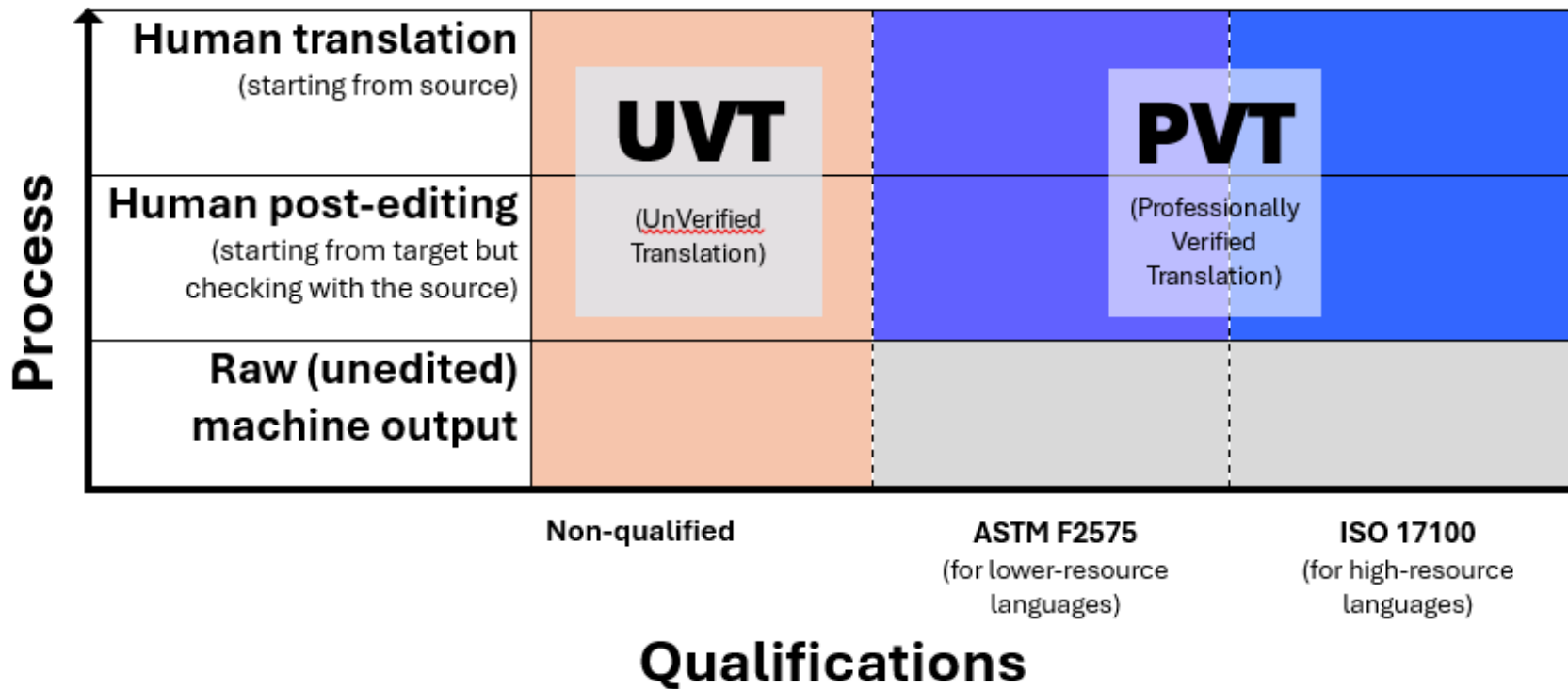
Diving into the

Three Factors Behind Transparency

(1) Process

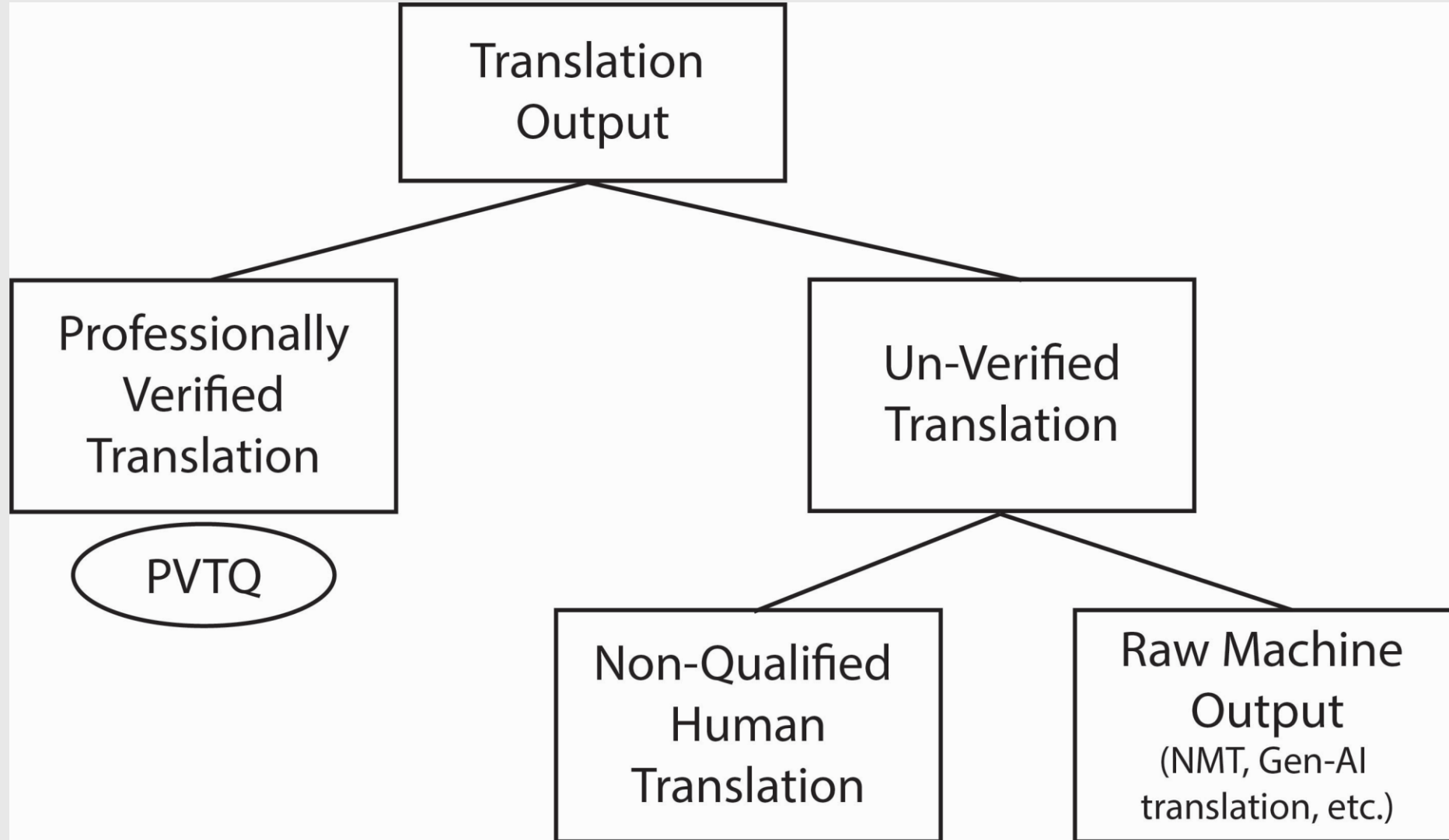# (2) Qualifications

(3) Accountability

Process and Qualifications

Accountability

**Who takes *ownership* of the translation?
Professional Verification includes accountability.
Un-Verified translation, not usually.**

Subtypes of Translation Output combining *process* and *qualifications*

What's next?

Lights (adoption by providers and publishers)

Camera (consumers start seeing the labels in use)

Action! (ball gathers speed)

Alan Melby © 2025

Ready for early adopters who care about *transparency* and *consumer protection* in the context of risk management

Alan Melby © 2025

According to your stakeholder group

1) Publishers: Start using PVTQ™ on professionally verified translations made available to consumers.

2) Providers of translation services: Start using PVTQ™ on what you deliver to requesters.

3) Anyone who cares about the future of the profession: Send me examples of errors in UVTs that could cause harm.

Alan Melby © 2025

Educating the general public

The label
Professionally Verified Translation

is a starting point for education.

Visibility for the Profession

A desirable side effect of labels could be increased visibility for translation as a profession.

www.tranquality.info
(Status of Labels)

Labels on translation output

Ready for early adopters

by Alan Melby

Chair of FIT North America and President of LTAC Global

alan.melby@fit-ift.org