



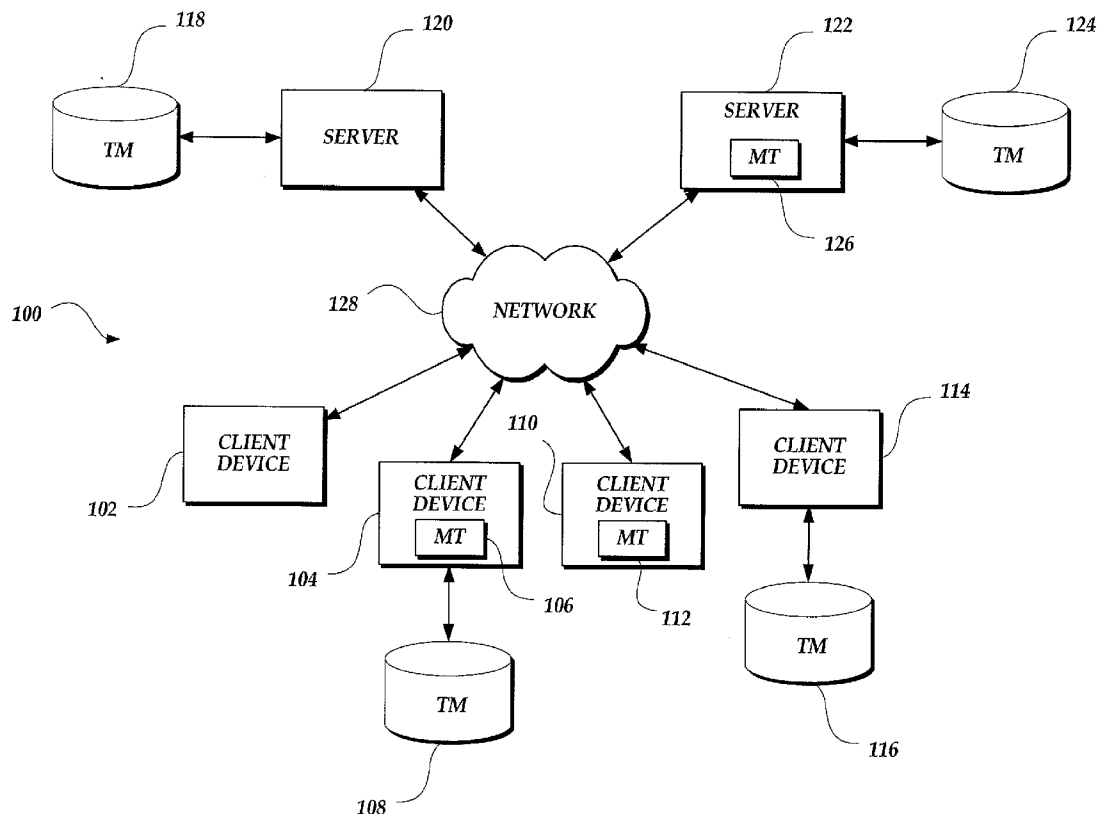
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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Elgazzar et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2013/0110494 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: May 2, 2013**(54) **FLEXIBLE DISPLAY TRANSLATION**(71) Applicant: **Microsoft Corporation**, Redmond, WA (US)(72) Inventors: **Mohamed Elgazzar**, Redmond, WA (US); **Bernhard Kohlmeier**, Seattle, WA (US); **Refaat Issa**, Sammamish, WA (US); **Mark Webber**, Seattle, WA (US); **Matthew Crinklaw**, Sammamish, WA (US); **Kathryn Richardson**, Sammamish, WA (US); **Francois Liger**, Redmond, WA (US); **Majd Abbar**, Redmond, WA (US)(73) Assignee: **Microsoft Corporation**, Redmond, WA (US)(21) Appl. No.: **13/718,444**(22) Filed: **Dec. 18, 2012****Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 12/886,893, filed on Sep. 21, 2010, now Pat. No. 8,364,464, which is a continuation of application No. 11/294,231, filed on Dec. 5, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,822,596.

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USPC ..... **704/3**(57) **ABSTRACT**

A user interface for displaying source data and a translated copy of a segment of the source data is provided. The user interface includes a first display portion for displaying at least a subset of the source data on the display. The user interface includes a second display portion for displaying a translated copy of a selected segment of source data on the display.



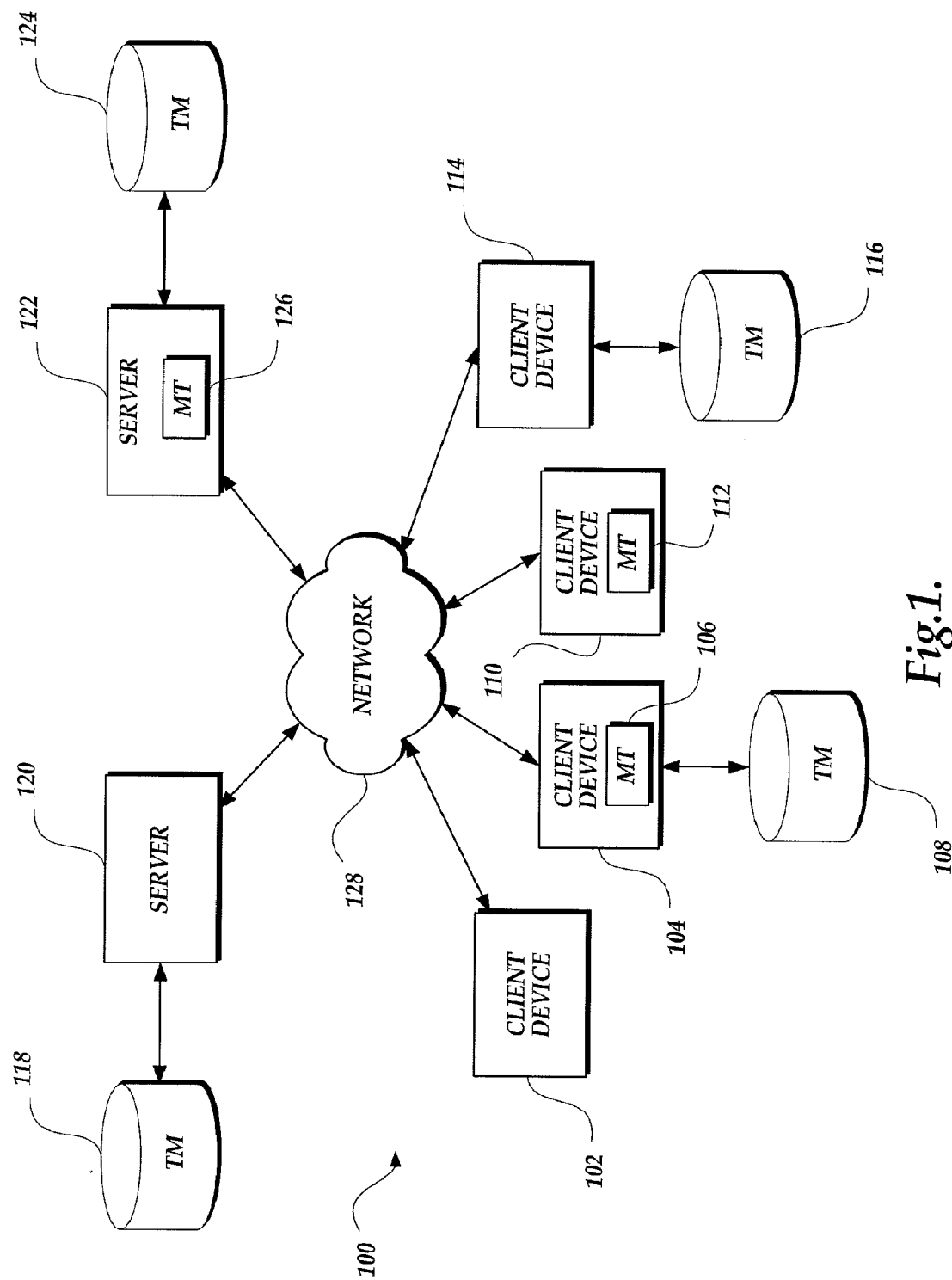
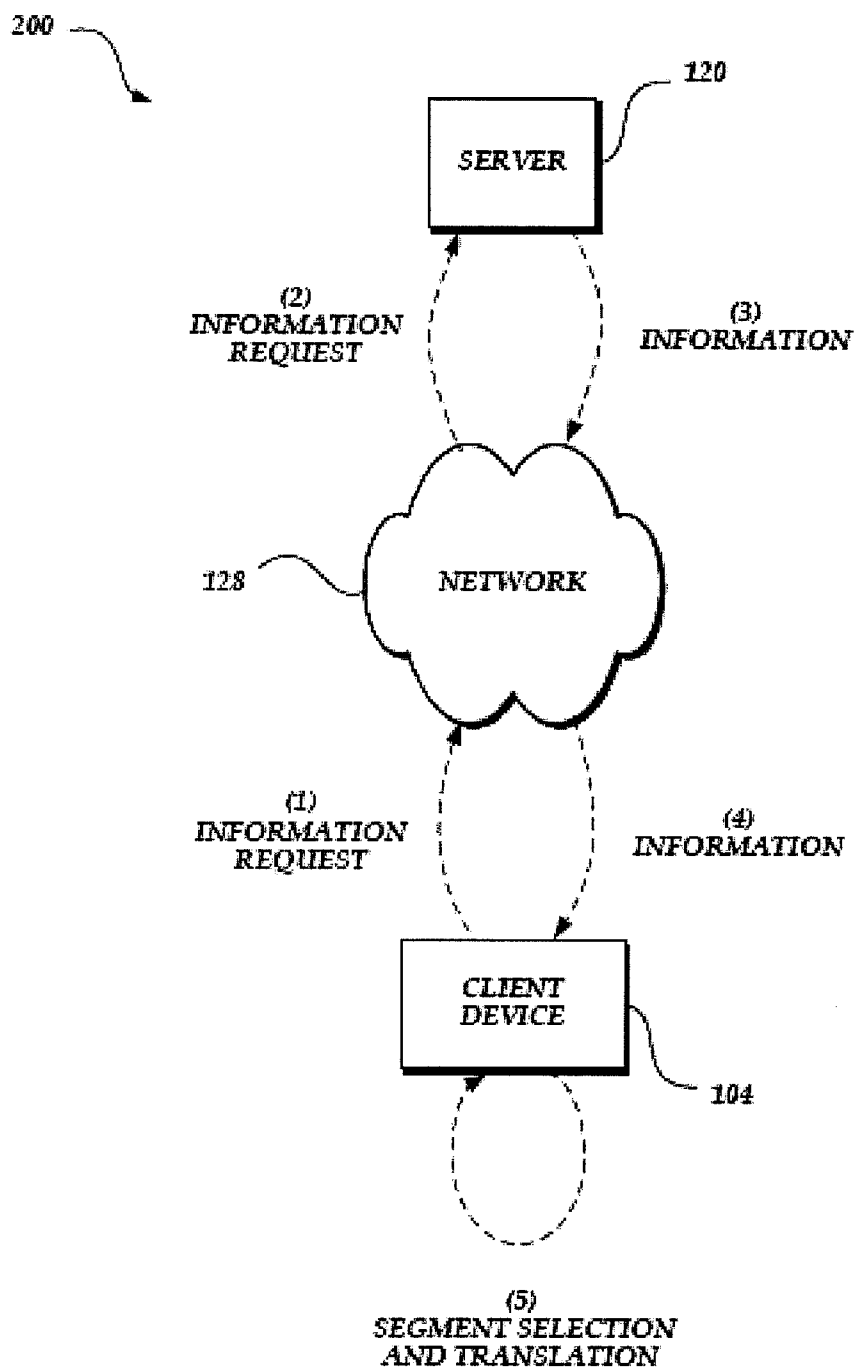
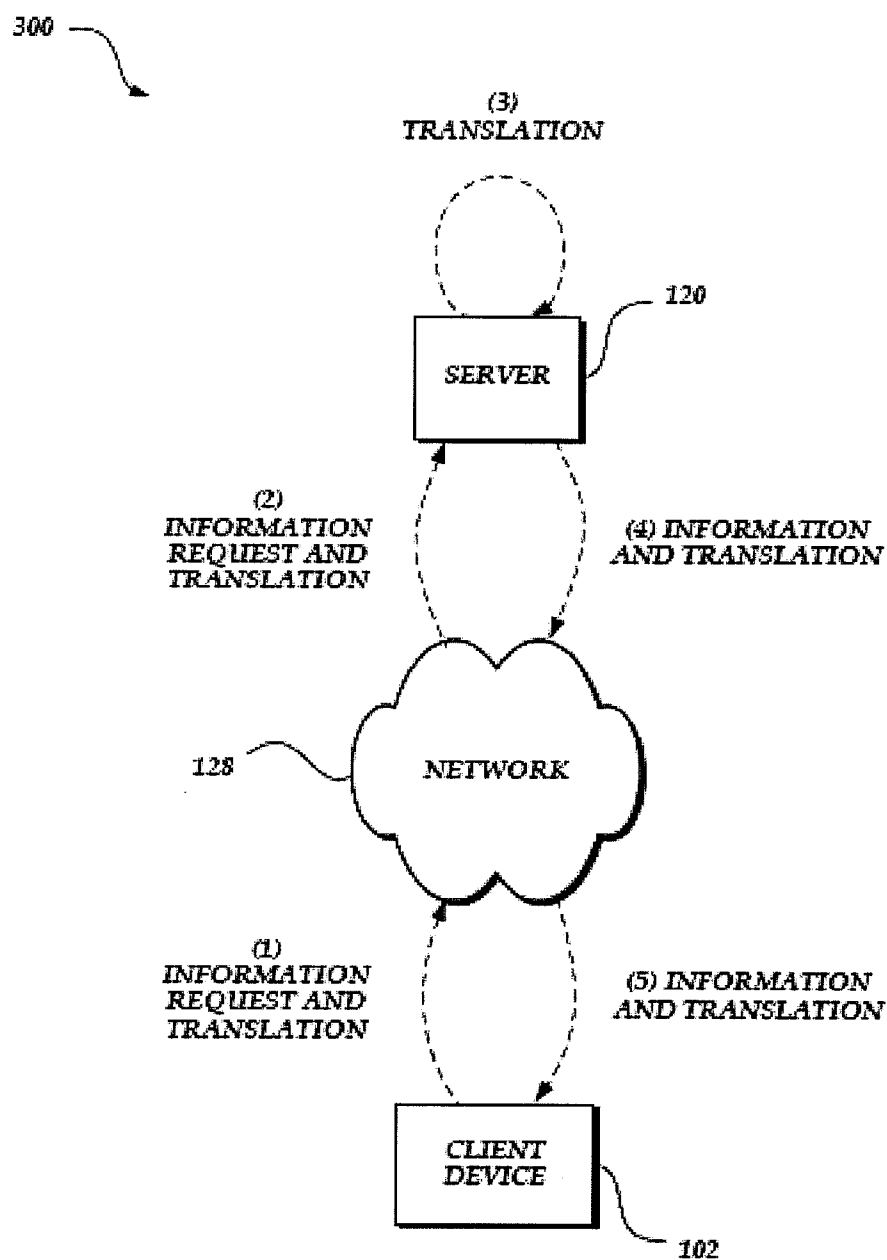


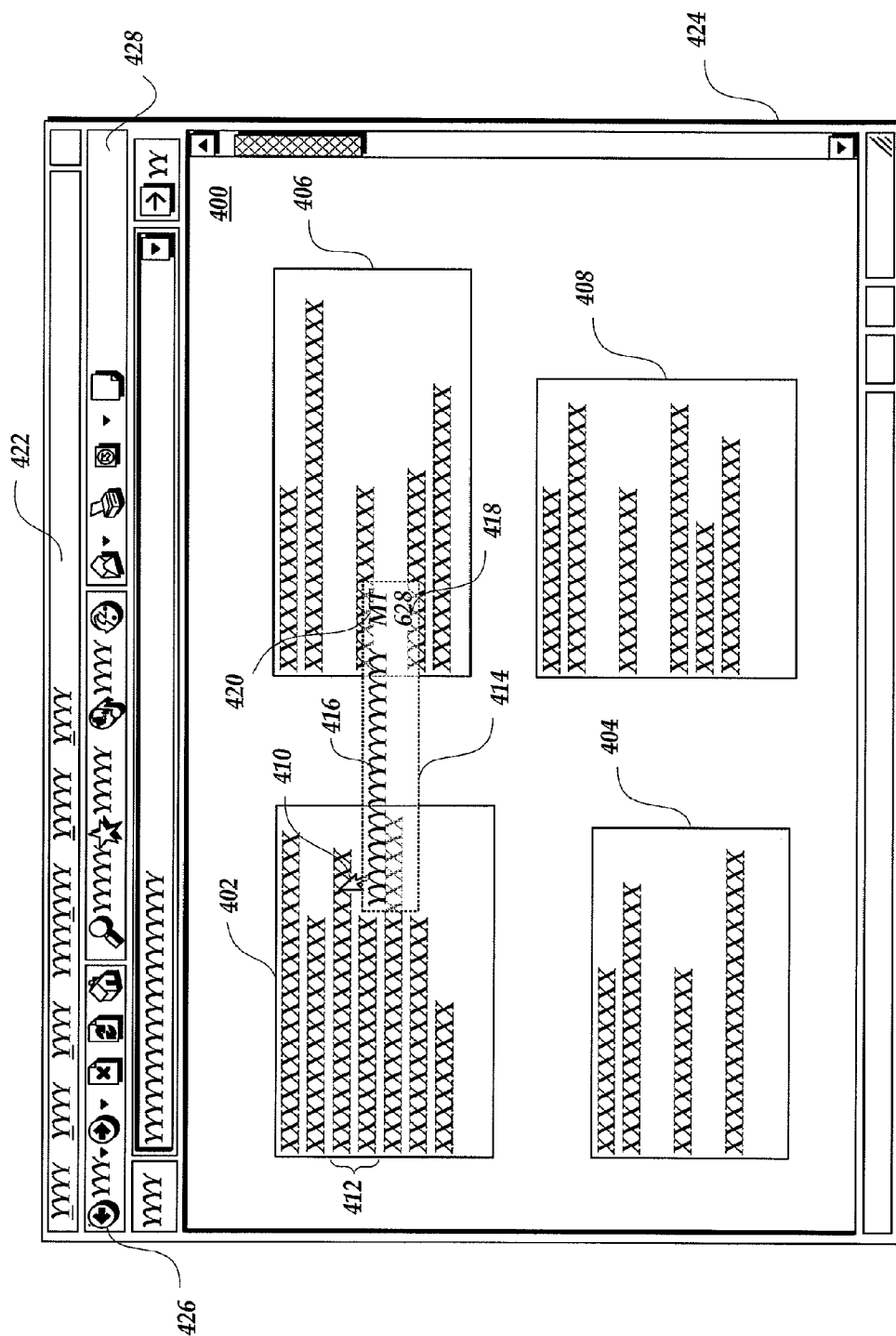
Fig.1.



*Fig.2.*



*Fig.3.*



**Fig. 4.**

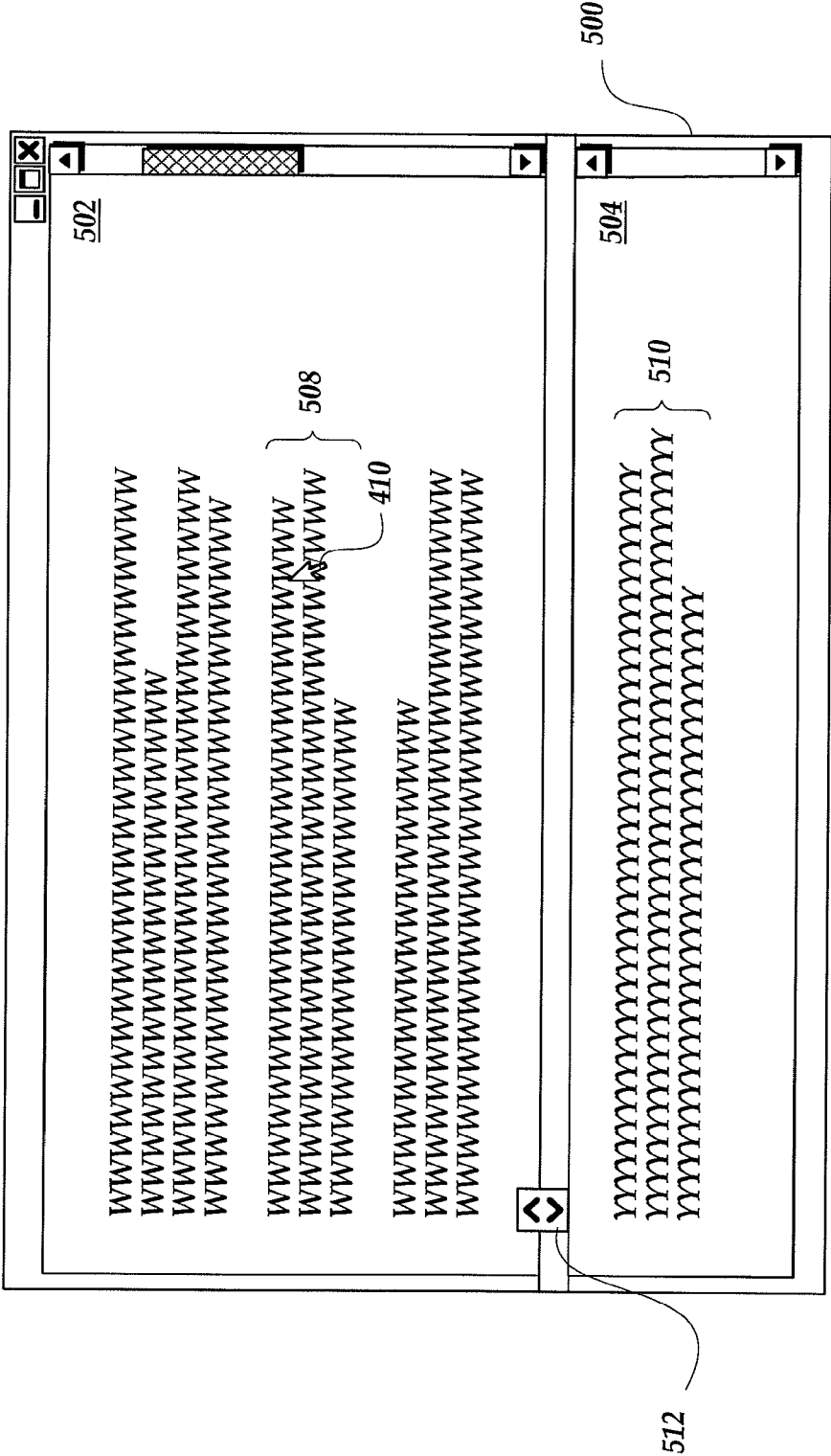


Fig.5.

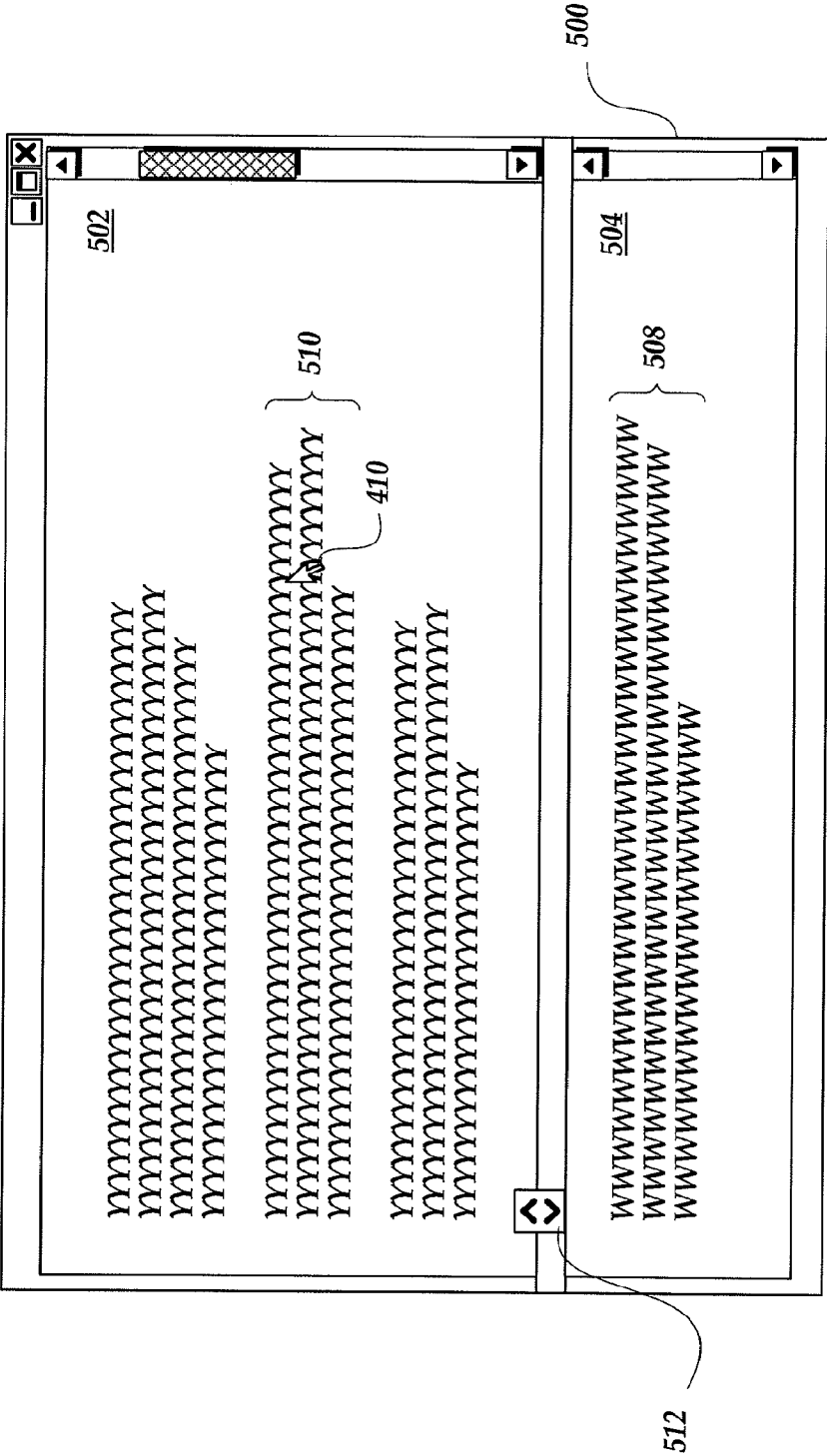


Fig.6.

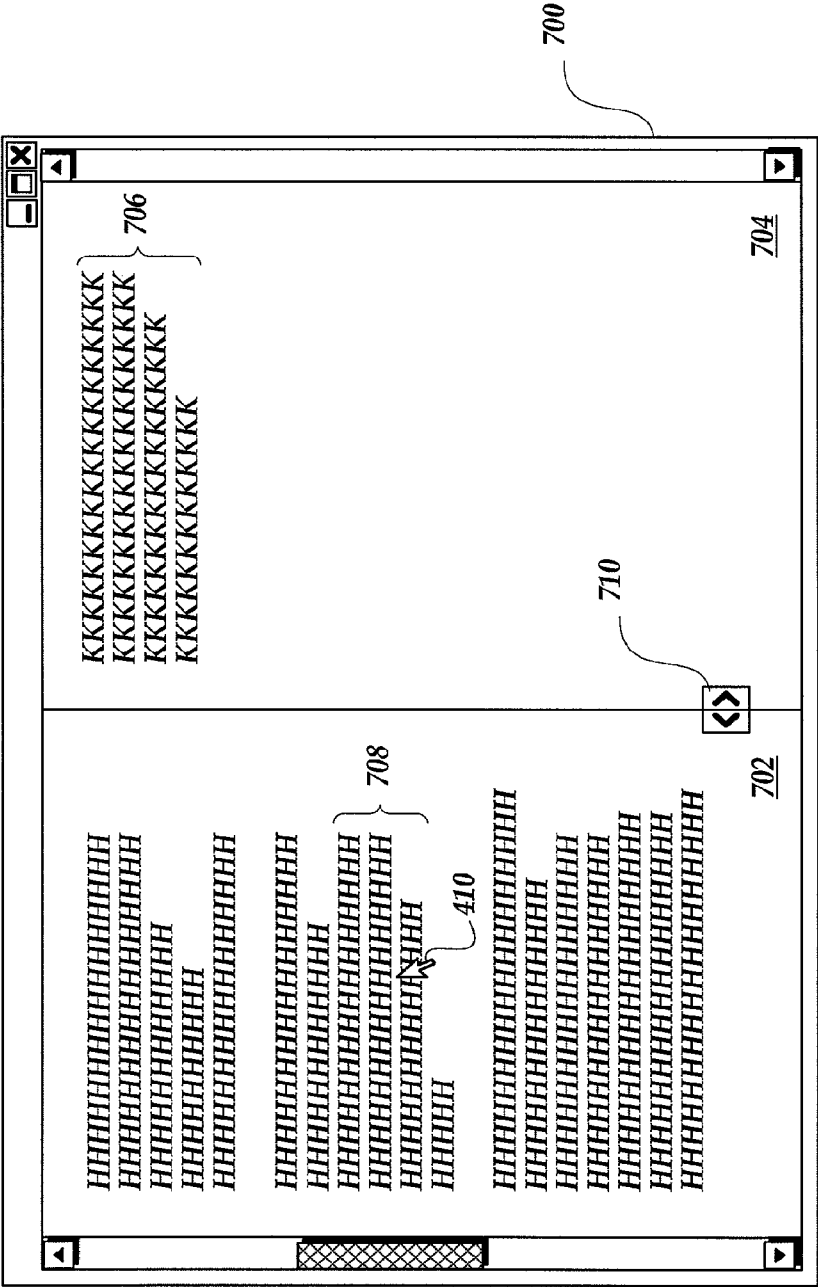
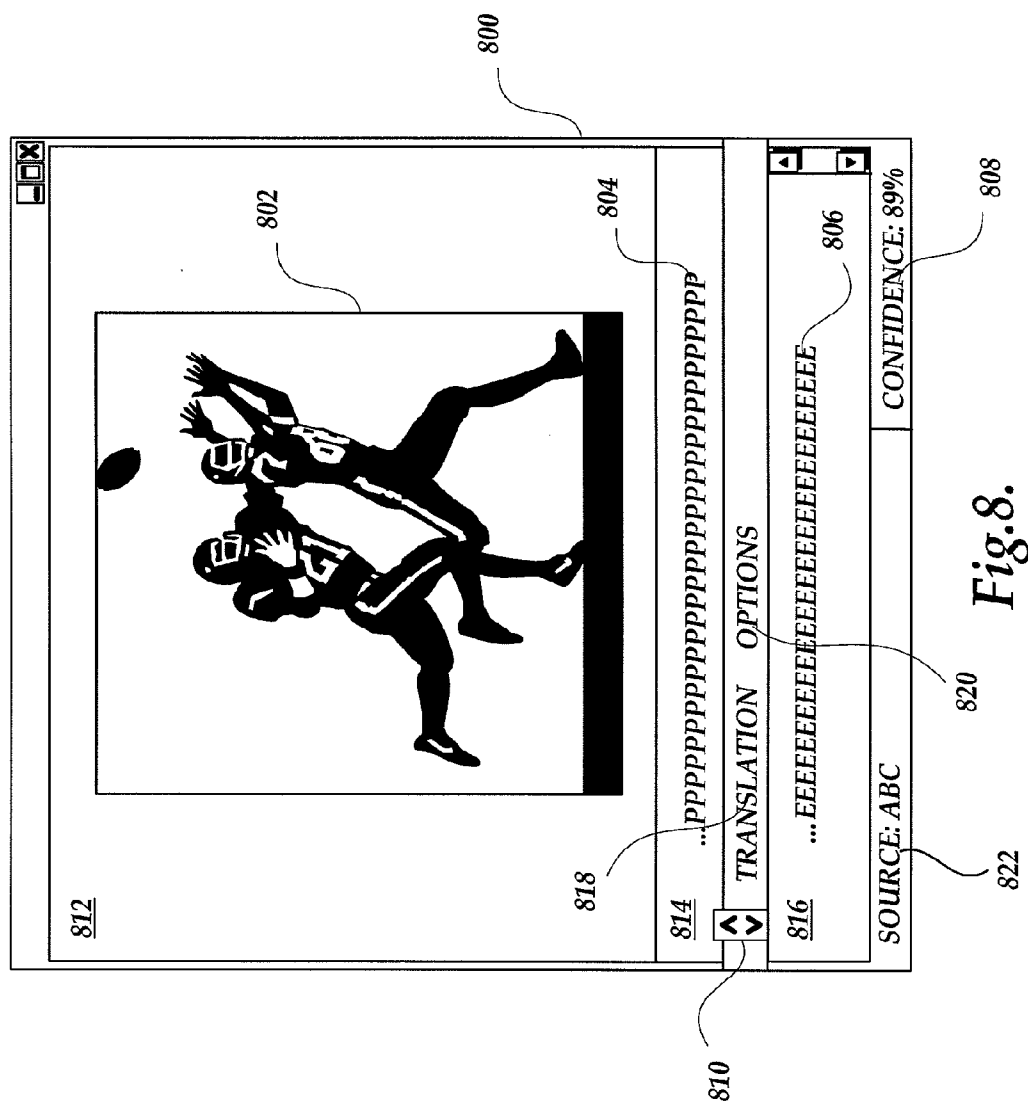


Fig.7.





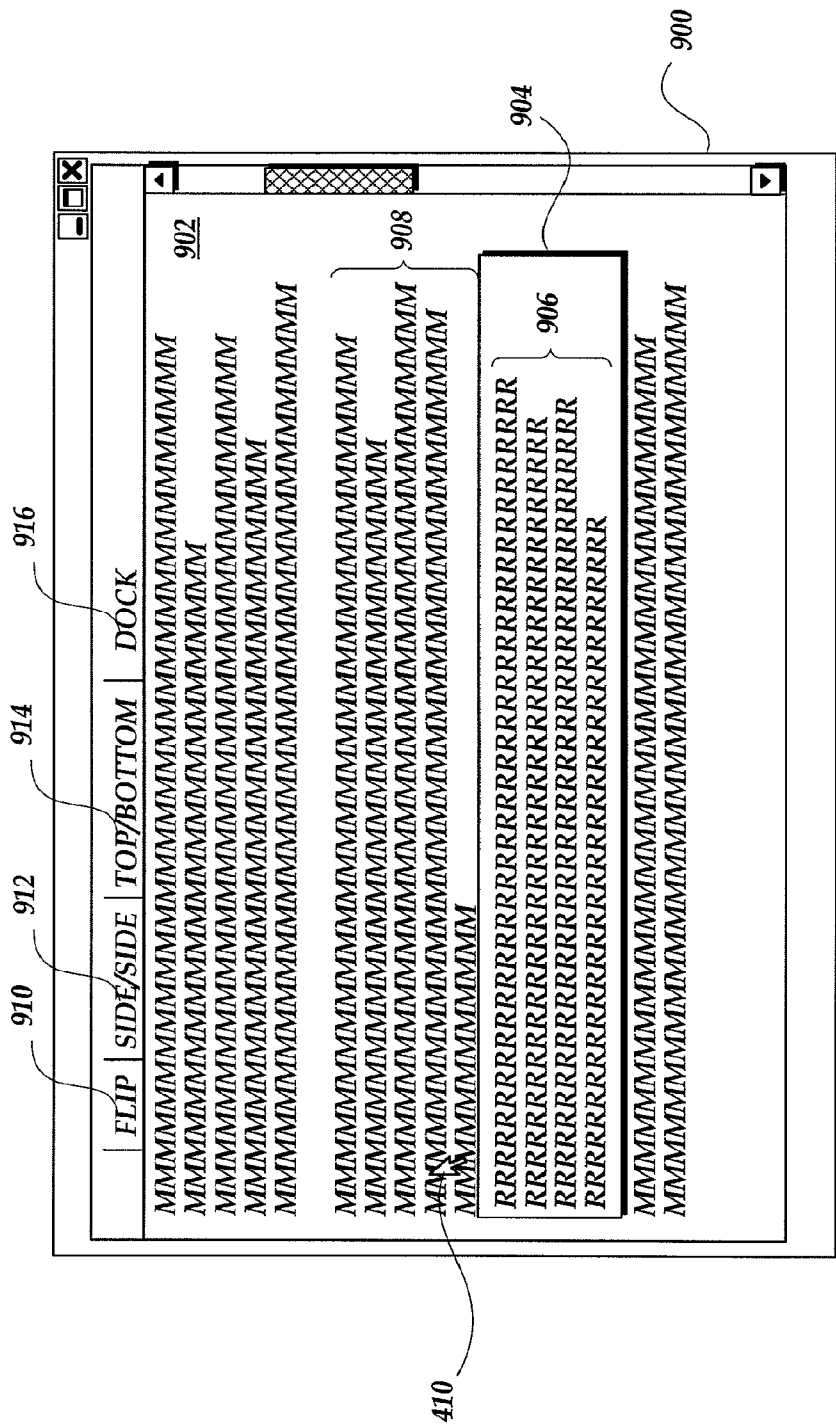


Fig.9.

## FLEXIBLE DISPLAY TRANSLATION

### CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

**[0001]** This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 12/886,893, filed Sep. 21, 2010, entitled FLEXIBLE DISPLAY TRANSLATION, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/294,231, filed Dec. 5, 2005 entitled FLEXIBLE DISPLAY TRANSLATION. The entirety of these applications are incorporated herein by reference.

### BACKGROUND

**[0002]** Generally described, computer systems can include user interfaces and/or content in a variety of languages. For example, a software application or operating environment may be localized to a specific language of its intended recipient. Similarly, content, such as Web pages, may also be created in a variety of languages. In some scenarios, however, users may wish to interact with user interfaces and/or content in multiple languages. Dependent on the user's language skill level, translation services, such as a real-time translation service, may be beneficial to a user.

**[0003]** One approach to providing translation services allows users to enter specific words or phrases into a text box for translation. After the user enters the words or phrases into the text box, the entry may be submitted and a translation displayed. Another approach allows users to select specific words within a document to be translated. A translated version of the selected word is displayed to a user. Nevertheless, current translation approaches are limited to providing specific words or phrases. These approaches typically do not provide a contextual view of the original and translated versions to facilitate user comprehension.

### SUMMARY

**[0004]** This summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the Detailed Description. This summary is not intended to identify key features or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used as an aid in determining the scope of the claimed subject matter.

**[0005]** In accordance with an aspect of the invention, a method for displaying data is provided. The method can be implemented in a computer system which includes a display. Source data which corresponds to a first language is obtained. A subset of the source data is displayed on the display. A selection of a segment of the displayed subset of the source data is obtained. A translated copy of the selected segment of the source data is displayed on the display. The translated copy of the displayed selected segment corresponds to a second language.

**[0006]** In accordance with an aspect of the invention, a method for displaying data is provided. The method can be implemented in a computer system which includes a display. A subset of source data which corresponds to a first language is displayed on the display. A selection of a segment of the displayed subset of the source data is obtained. A translated copy of the selected segment of the source data is obtained. The translated copy of the displayed selected segment corresponds to a second language. Further, the translated copy of the selected segment of the source data is displayed on the display.

**[0007]** In accordance with an aspect of the invention, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for displaying data is provided. The computer-executable components include a source-data portion for displaying at least a subset of source data on a display. The source data corresponds to a first language. Additionally, the computer-executable components include a translated-data portion for displaying a translated copy of a selected segment of the source data on the display. The translated copy of the source data corresponds to a second language.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0008]** The foregoing aspects and many of the attendant advantages of this invention will become more readily appreciated as the same become better understood by reference to the following detailed description, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

**[0009]** FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an illustrative operating environment including a number of client devices and content providers in accordance with an aspect of the present invention;

**[0010]** FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the operating environment of FIG. 1 depicting the transmission of information requests and the translation of the information by a client device in accordance with an aspect of the present invention;

**[0011]** FIG. 3 is a block diagram of the operating environment of FIG. 1 depicting the transmission of information requests from a client device and the transmission of the requested information and translated information by a content provider in accordance with an aspect of the present invention;

**[0012]** FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a user interface including a first display portion containing source data and a second display portion containing a translated copy of a selected segment of the source data in accordance with an aspect of the present invention;

**[0013]** FIG. 5 is a block diagram of a user interface including a first display portion containing source data that is vertically arranged above a second display portion which contains a translated copy of a selected segment of the source data in accordance with an aspect of the present invention;

**[0014]** FIG. 6 is a block diagram of the user interface of FIG. 5 wherein at least a subset of a translated copy of the source data is displayed in the first display portion and a selected segment of source data is displayed in the second display portion in accordance with an aspect of the present invention;

**[0015]** FIG. 7 is a block diagram of a user interface including a first display portion containing source data that is horizontally adjacent to a second display portion which contains a translated copy of a selected segment of the source data in accordance with an aspect of the present invention;

**[0016]** FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a user interface including a first display portion containing multimedia, a second display portion containing text associated with the multimedia, and a third display portion containing a translation of the text in accordance with an aspect of the present invention; and

**[0017]** FIG. 9 is a block diagram of a user interface including a first display portion containing source data and a second display portion containing a translated copy of a selected segment of source data that floats over the first display portion in accordance with an aspect of the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0018] Generally described, the present invention is directed toward systems and methods for displaying a translated copy of source data. More specifically, in accordance with the present invention, a segment of source data is translated and displayed such that both the segment of source data and the translated copy of the segment are visible on a display. Additionally, various user controls can be provided to facilitate user interaction with the source data and the translated copy of the source data. Although the present invention will be described with relation to illustrative user interfaces and operating environments, one skilled in the relevant art will appreciate that the disclosed embodiments are illustrative in nature and should not be construed as limiting.

[0019] With reference now to FIG. 1, an exemplary operating environment 100 includes one or more client devices 102, 104, 110, and 114 operable to communicate via a communication network 128, such as the Internet or an intranet. In an illustrative embodiment, the one or more client devices 102, 104, 110, and 114 include an operating system and software applications, such as a browser software application, to facilitate communication via the communication network 128. Other applications available on the client devices 102, 104, 110, and 114 may include a word processing program, a spreadsheet program, a drawing program, or any other program that displays information to a user. Further, in an illustrative embodiment, the one or more client devices 102, 104, 110, and 114 include a mouse, a keyboard, and a display. An exemplary operating environment also includes one or more servers 120 and 122 operable to communicate with the client devices 102, 104, 110, and 114 via the communication network 128. The one or more servers 120 and 122 are operable to translate source data received from the client devices 102, 104, 110, and 114 and to transmit information and translations to the client devices 102, 104, 110, and 114.

[0020] One skilled in the relevant art will appreciate that the client devices 102, 104, 110, and 114 illustrated in FIG. 1 can correspond to a variety of devices, such as personal computers, server computers, handheld computers, laptop devices, network computers, minicomputers, mainframe computers, mobile computers, mobile telephones, televisions, dumb terminals, or any device capable of displaying information to a user. Furthermore, one skilled in the relevant art will appreciate that the illustrative servers 120 and 122 can also correspond to a variety of devices, including personal computers, server computers, handheld computers, laptop devices, network computers, minicomputers, mainframe computers, mobile computers, mobile telephones, cable head-end systems, or any device capable of providing a translation service. One skilled in the relevant art will appreciate that the communication network 128 may be the Internet, an intranet, an extranet, a satellite network, or any other communications medium.

[0021] In an illustrative embodiment, source data on a client device 102, 104, 110, and 114 corresponds to a first language which a user desires to translate to a second language. A translation memory 108, 116, 118, and 124 can be used to provide the translation. Translation memories 108, 116, 118, and 124 store translated copies of segments of source data, along with the corresponding segments of source data which can be matched against selected segments of source data that the user desires to translate. If a match is found, the translation memory 108, 116, 118, or 124 provides a translated copy of the segment. In an illustrative embodi-

ment, machine translation 106, 112, and 126 can be used to translate segments of source data. Machine translation involves the use of computer hardware or software to translate from one language to another.

[0022] As illustrated in FIG. 1, in an illustrative embodiment, a client device 114 can retrieve copies of previously translated segments from a translation memory 116. Further, a client device 110 can utilize a device or software capable of machine translation 112 to provide translations. In an illustrative embodiment, a client device 104 may have local access to both machine translation 106 and a translation memory 108. Further, a client device 102 may not be operable to translate segments locally. In such a case, the client device 102 can receive translations from the one or more servers 120 and 122. Further, although the translation memories 108 and 116 are illustrated as separate devices from the client devices 104 and 114, one skilled in the relevant art will appreciate that a client device and a translation memory may be a single computing device. Still further, translation memories 108 and 116 may correspond to local storage or distributed storage via the communication network 128.

[0023] In an illustrative embodiment, a server 120 and 122 can utilize a translation memory 118 or 124 to provide the client devices 102, 104, 110, and 114 with translations. Additionally or alternatively, a server 122 can utilize a device or software capable of machine translation 126 to provide translations. Although server 122 can utilize either a translation memory 124 or machine translation 126, one skilled in the relevant art will appreciate that a server may only have access to machine translation. Further, although the translation memories 118 and 124 are illustrated as separate devices from the one or more servers 120 and 122, server 122 and translation memory 124, and/or server 120 and translation memory 118, may be a single computing device. Still further, translation memories 118 and 124 may correspond to local storage or distributed storage via the communication network 128. The machine translation 126 may be provided by a single device or software program or may be provided by a distributed system of devices. Further, one skilled in the relevant art will appreciate that the one or more servers 120 and 122 may advertise their translation capabilities as a service.

[0024] In an illustrative embodiment, a client device 102, 104, 110, or 114 utilizes its local resources to generate various user interfaces that include information, such as text or images of text. The information may correspond to information generated by software applications or an operating system from data stored locally on the client device 102, 104, 110, or 114, such as a icons, images, or text. As will be explained below, after generating the information, the client device 102, 104, 110, or 114 obtains a selection of a segment of the information and provides a user with a corresponding translation of the selected segment. In an alternate embodiment, and with reference to FIG. 2 or 3, the client device 102, 104, 110, or 114 can obtain at least a portion of the information from a remote source, such as servers 120 or 122.

[0025] With reference now to FIG. 2, in an illustrative embodiment 200, a client device 104 can generate a request for information. The information request is transmitted via a communication network 128 to a server 120. In an illustrative embodiment, the information request corresponds to a request for source data which is created in a first language, such as a web page or text file. The information request can include a specification of a language. Alternatively, the language can be deduced or default to a first language. A server

**120** transmits information via a communication network **128** to a client device **104**. After obtaining the information, the client device **104** obtains a selection of a segment of information and provides a user with a corresponding translation of the selected segment. One skilled in the art will appreciate that client device **104** can translate segments of source data that are stored locally and that need not have been transmitted from a server **120**.

[0026] With reference to FIG. 3, in another illustrative embodiment **300**, a client device **102** can generate a request for information and a translation of the requested information. The request for information and translation is transmitted via a communication network **128** to a server **120**. After the server **120** performs the requested translation, the information and translation is transmitted via a communication network **128** to a client device **102**. The information transmitted by a server **120** can include a document containing source data in a first language, such as a web page or text file. In an illustrative embodiment, the translation transmitted by a server **120** can correspond to a localized version of the document. In an illustrative embodiment, a translation transmitted by a server **120** can include a translation of one or more segments previously received from a client device **102**. After obtaining the information, the client device **102** obtains a selection of a segment of information and provides a user with a corresponding translation of the selected segment.

[0027] One skilled in the art will appreciate that translations can be provided through a service. Further, this service may run on a client device **104**, **110**, and **114**, or a server **120** and **122**. In an illustrative embodiment, the service is distributed across any combination of client devices **104**, **110**, and **114** and/or servers **120** and **122**. One skilled in the relevant art will appreciate that any source language can be translated into any target language.

[0028] FIG. 4 depicts an illustrative user interface **424** in which a translated copy **416** of a selected segment **412** of source data may be displayed in an adjacent display **414**. The illustrative user interface **424** may correspond to displayed content, such as a web page **400** with one or more content portions **402**, **404**, **406**, and **408**. In an illustrative embodiment, the content portions **402**, **404**, **406**, and **408** include one or more identifiable segments. A segment can correspond to a grouping of words, such as a sentence. Additionally, a segment can correspond to a grouping of sentences or paragraphs. Still further, a segment can correspond to a grouping of words and images. Still further, a segment can correspond to a portion of an image, a single image, or multiple images. In this embodiment, the client devices **102**, **104**, **110**, and **114** or the servers **120** and **122** can use optical-character recognition to convert the images to text data.

[0029] In an illustrative embodiment, a segment **412** of source data is selected by the user. The segment **412** may be selected by manipulation of various user input devices, such as a mouse cursor **410**, keyboard, touch screen, or the like. The segment **412** may be selected by selecting a portion of the segment, such as a single word. A user may select a segment by dragging the mouse cursor **410** in such a manner as to highlight an area of the user interface **424**, selecting the segment with a mouse manipulation, “hovering” over a portion of the segment with a mouse, or the like. Based on the selected segment **412**, a translated copy **416** of the segment is displayed on the display **414**. The display **414** may appear transparent, semi-transparent, opaque, or have a colored background. In an illustrative embodiment, the translated copy

**416** of the selected segment **412** of source data may be displayed adjacent to the selected segment **412** of source data.

[0030] In an illustrative embodiment, the display **414** can include additional information related to the selected segment **412** and/or translated copy **416**. For example, an identification of a type of translation **420** may be displayed. Exemplary embodiments may utilize machine translation and a translation memory to perform translations. The letters “MT” **420** can be used to denote that machine translation was used to translate the segment **412**. In an illustrative embodiment, the letters “TM” can be used to denote that a translation memory was used to provide the translation **416**. In other embodiments, letters, numbers, symbols, pictures, or other indicia can be used to denote the type of translation **420**. In an illustrative embodiment, the user can be given an opportunity to provide feedback on the usefulness of the translation. For example, a dialog box may be displayed which provides the user with a mechanism, such as a hyperlink, to provide feedback on the translation.

[0031] In an illustrative embodiment, a confidence value **418** may be displayed to the user in the display **414**. A confidence value **418** represents to a user the usefulness of the translation **416**, especially in machine-translation embodiments. Confidence values are useful to the user in that the user can configure the system to only provide translations **416** above a certain threshold. In an illustrative embodiment, a range of numbers from 0 to 1000 can be used to provide the confidence value **418**. In other embodiments, a different range of numbers, letters, symbols, pictures or other indicia can be used to provide the confidence value **418**.

[0032] The display **414** can provide a translation of any user-interface element displayed to the user. For example, the display **414** can display translations corresponding to buttons **426** on the toolbar **428** or from items on the menu bar **422**. If a menu is selected and a drop-down list is displayed, the display **414** can provide translations for the list of options. In an illustrative embodiment, translations **416** of user-interface elements are provided as the elements are moused over.

[0033] In an illustrative embodiment, the user interface **424** is displayed by a client device **102**, **104**, **110**, and **114** running the Microsoft Windows™ operating system. Further, as the mouse cursor **410** passes over various portions of the user interface **424**, the Windows Accessibility™ functionalities provides the relevant segment **412** of source data. The Windows Localization Platform™ provides a translation framework which can be leveraged by calling the application programming interface (“API”) provided by the Windows Localization Platform™ to perform a translation or transliteration (or combination of both) of the selected segment **412**. In an illustrative embodiment, a display of the translated or transliterated segment **416** is displayed within a semi-transparent display **414**, which enables the user to simultaneously see both the source data **412** and its translation **416**.

[0034] In an illustrative embodiment, a client device **102**, **104**, **110**, or **114** can request translation of a segment of data from a server **120** and **122**. In other embodiments, a client device **102**, **104**, **110**, or **114** can request translation of more than one segment of data. For example, if the client device **102**, **104**, **110**, or **114** is displaying a document in a word processing program, the client device **102**, **104**, **110**, or **114** can request a translation of the entire document. If the client device **102**, **104**, **110**, or **114** requests translation of the document, the client device **102**, **104**, **110**, or **114** may hide the translation from the user and only display segments of trans-

lated data **416** as they are needed. In an illustrative embodiment, the client device **102**, **104**, **110**, or **114** can request a translation of all text and user-interface elements displayed to the user.

[0035] In an illustrative embodiment, a user configures the settings for the display **414** by using a set of dialog boxes. For example, the user may configure the display **414** to display translations **416** in a certain target language. In an illustrative embodiment, the operating system running on the client device **102**, **104**, **110**, or **114** determines the target language for translations **416**. In an illustrative embodiment, an audio rendition of the source data or translation **416** may be provided through the use of Text-to-Speech technology. Further, in an illustrative embodiment running on Microsoft Windows™, the display **414** may appear after a user selects an icon in the Windows™ tray.

[0036] With reference now to FIG. 5, an illustrative user interface **500** for displaying source data in a first language and a translated copy **510** of a selected segment **508** of the source data in a second language will be described. The illustrative user interface **500** includes a first portion **502** of the display for displaying a subset of the source data and a second portion **504** of the display for displaying a translated copy **510** of a selected segment **508** of source data. In an illustrative embodiment, the translated copy **510** of the selected segment **508** corresponds to a segment **508** pointed at by a mouse cursor **410**. As the mouse cursor **410** moves over segments of source data, the second portion **504** of the display always displays a translated copy **510** of the selected segment **508** of source data. In an alternative embodiment, the user may utilize a keyboard or other input device to select segments to be translated. Additionally, the selected segment **508** can be highlighted on the display **502**.

[0037] In an illustrative embodiment, the source data corresponds to a first language and the translated copy **510** of the selected segment **508** of source data corresponds to a second language. In an alternative embodiment, the source data may correspond to multiple languages. For example, a user in Germany may send an e-mail to a user in France who adds comments and then forwards the e-mail to a user in the United States.

[0038] In an illustrative embodiment, the user interface **500** also includes a display control **512**. A user can obtain a selection of the display control **512**. In response to the selection of the display control **512**, at least a subset of a translated copy of the source data can be displayed in the first portion **502** of the display. Further, in response to the selection of the display control **512**, the selected segment **508** of the source data can be displayed in the second portion **504** of the display. The display control **512** may be a spin button or a flip button. In an illustrative embodiment, the first portion **502** of the display may include a background color which is indicative of the first language as an original language of the source data. By selecting the display control **512**, a user can switch the source data and the translated copy of the source data. This is very useful if machine translation was used and the user wants to find the best view that helps him or her to comprehend the information presented.

[0039] FIG. 6 depicts the illustrative user interface **500** of FIG. 5 after a user has selected the display control **512**. In an illustrative embodiment, selection of the display control **512** switches the source data and translated copy of the source data such that the data in the first display portion **502** is conveyed in the second language. The second display portion

**504** displays a translated copy **508** of a selected segment **510** of data from the first display portion **502** in the first language of FIG. 5. In an illustrative embodiment, the selected segment **510** corresponds to a segment pointed at by the mouse cursor **410**. In alternative embodiments, segments may be selected using a keyboard or other input device. For example, the user may select a segment on a touch-screen by pressing their finger against a segment on the screen. The user can switch back to the embodiment depicted in FIG. 5 by selecting the display control **512**.

[0040] With reference now to FIG. 7, an alternate user interface **700** for displaying source data in a first language and a translated copy **706** of a selected segment **708** of the source data in a second language will be described. The illustrative user interface **700** includes a first portion **702** of the display for displaying a subset of the source data in a first language and a second portion **704** of the display for displaying a translated copy **706** of the selected segment **708** of source data. As opposed to FIG. 5, the first portion **702** and second portion **704** are horizontally adjacent. As the selected segment **708** changes, the corresponding translated copy **706** of the segment changes as well.

[0041] In an illustrative embodiment, the translated copy **706** of the selected segment **708** corresponds to a segment **708** pointed at by a mouse cursor **410**. As the mouse cursor **410** moves over segments of source data, the second portion **704** of the display always displays a translated copy **706** of the selected segment **708** of source data. In an alternative embodiment, the user may utilize a keyboard or other input device to select segments to be translated. The subset of source data displayed in the first portion **702** of the display may correspond to multiple languages.

[0042] In an illustrative embodiment, the user interface **700** includes a display control **710**. Further, in an illustrative embodiment, a user can obtain a selection of the display control **710**. In response to selection of the display control **710**, at least a subset of a translated copy of the source data can be displayed in the first portion **702** of the display. Further, in response to the selection of the display control **710**, the selected segment **708** of the source data can be displayed in the second portion **704** of the display. In an illustrative embodiment, the display control **710** may be a spin button or a flip button. In an illustrative embodiment, the first portion **702** of the display may include a background color which is indicative of the first language as an original language of the source data.

[0043] In an illustrative embodiment, by dragging and dropping one of the display portions **702** or **704**, a user may switch from the user interface **700** depicted in FIG. 7, where the first portion **702** of the display is horizontally adjacent to the second portion **704** of the display, to the user interface **500** depicted in FIG. 5, where the first portion **502** of the display is vertically arranged above the second portion **504** of the display. The drag-and-drop functionality allows a user to configure the user interface in a manner that best allows the user to comprehend the information presented.

[0044] With reference now to FIG. 8, an illustrative multimedia application **800** for displaying some associated text **804** in a first language and a translation of the text **806** in a second language will be described. In an illustrative embodiment, the user interface **800** can be displayed by a client device **102**, **104**, **110**, or **114** receiving information from a broadcast source, such as a cable head-end system. The multimedia application **800** includes a first display portion **812**

for displaying a multimedia display **802**, such as streaming media or video playback. The multimedia application **800** also includes a second display portion **814** for displaying some text **804** associated with the multimedia display **802**, such as close captioning, enhanced broadcasts, and the like. Additionally, the multimedia application **800** includes a third display portion **816** for displaying a translated copy **806** of the text **804**. As the multimedia display **802** and second display portion **814** generate content, the third display portion **816** provides a translated copy of a segment of the audio **804**.

[0045] In an illustrative embodiment, the user interface **800** includes a “translation” menu **818** and an “options” menu **820**. The “translation” menu **818** may allow the user to choose the target language. Further, the user may select the trust-level of the translation source. For example, the user may select to receive translations from all sources or only a select subset that the user trusts. In an illustrative embodiment, the “options” menu **820** may allow the user to configure the user interface **820**. For example, the user may be able to change the font for the text or configure the amount of text displayed. In an illustrative embodiment, the user can configure the user interface **800** such that any of display portions **812**, **814**, and **816** are hidden from view. Further, the user may be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the usefulness of the translation. In an illustrative embodiment, the source **822** of the translation can also be displayed.

[0046] In an illustrative embodiment, a confidence value **808** may be displayed to the user to convey to the user the usefulness of the translation. A high confidence value typically correlates to a more useful translation. In an illustrative embodiment, a display control **810** enables a user to switch the source language and the target language. For example, if the user desires to listen to the audio in the language displayed in the third display portion **816**, the user can activate the display control **810**. In an illustrative embodiment, the language displayed in the third display portion **816** switches with the language displayed in the second display portion **814** when the display control **810** is activated.

[0047] With reference now to FIG. 9, an illustrative user interface **900** for displaying source data in a first language and a translated copy **906** of a selected segment **908** of the source data in a second language will be described. The illustrative user interface **900** includes a first portion **902** of the display for displaying a subset of the source data in a first language and a second portion **904** of the display for displaying a translated copy **906** of the selected segment **908** of source data. In an illustrative embodiment, the translated copy **906** of the selected segment **908** corresponds to a segment **908** pointed at by a mouse cursor **410**. As the mouse cursor **410** moves over segments of source data, the second portion **906** of the display follows and always displays a translated copy **906** of the segment **908** pointed at by the mouse cursor **410**. In an alternative embodiment, the user may utilize a keyboard or other input device to select segments to be translated. In an illustrative embodiment, the floating display portion **904** may scroll down the screen at some pre-configured rate. Further, in an illustrative embodiment, the floating display portion **904** may appear transparent, semi-transparent, opaque, or include a colored background. One skilled in the art will appreciate that the second portion **904** of the display essentially floats over the first portion **902** of the display and is always visible. The subset of source data displayed in the first portion **902** of the display may correspond to multiple languages. In an illustrative embodiment, the first portion **902** of the display

encompasses the entire display and the second portion **904** of the display is located within a portion of the first portion **902** of the display.

[0048] In an illustrative embodiment, the user interface **900** includes display controls **910**, **912**, **914**, and **916** which allow a user to configure the user interface **900**. For example, the user interface **900** can include a display control **910** that, when selected by a user, displays at least a subset of a translated copy of the source data in the first portion **902** of the display while simultaneously displaying the selected segment **908** of source data in the second portion **904** of the display. In an illustrative embodiment, selecting display control **910** switches the source and target text and enables the user to find the best view that helps the user comprehend the information presented. The illustrative user interface **900** can also include a display control **912** that, when selected, re-configures the first portion **902** of the display so that it is horizontally adjacent to the second portion **904** of the display. Further, the illustrative user interface **900** can also include a display control **914** that, when selected, re-configures the first portion **902** of the display so that it is vertically arranged above the second portion **904** of the display. In an illustrative embodiment, the user interface **900** includes a display control **916** that, when selected, re-configures the second portion **904** of the display such that it is docked and no longer follows the mouse cursor **410**. By selecting display control **916**, the user may dock the second portion **904** of the display anywhere on the display.

[0049] The illustrative user interfaces **500**, **700**, and **900** can be implemented by any program capable of displaying information to a user, such as a word processing program, web browser, help window, or operating system. In an illustrative embodiment, user interfaces **500**, **700**, **800**, and **900** can be configured to plug in to the user-interface metaphor of the program that is implementing the illustrative user interfaces **500**, **700**, **800**, and **900**. Further, in an illustrative embodiment, software applications may be launched with a source-data display portion and a translation display portion. In an illustrative embodiment, an application can be configured to contain a source-data display portion and a translation display portion after the application is launched.

[0050] While illustrative embodiments have been illustrated and described, it will be appreciated that various changes can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. In a computer system including a display, a method for displaying data comprising:

- obtaining source data comprising text for display;
- displaying the source data in a user interface on the display, the source data being in a first language;
- obtaining user input comprising an indication of a portion of the user interface, wherein the indicated portion of the user interface is identified by the position of an interface icon;
- obtaining a segment of the text associated with the indicated portion of the user interface;
- displaying on the display, in a display portion, a translated copy of the obtained segment of the text, the translated copy of the obtained segment being in a second language; and
- as user input indicating movement of the interface icon is received, obtaining additional segments of the text based on the interface icon hovering over additional portions

of the user interface and presenting translated copies of the additional segments in the display portion, wherein the display portion, when presenting a translation of a segment of the source data, is positioned on the display adjacent such segment of the source data such that the display portion appears to follow the interface icon.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the interface icon comprises a mouse cursor.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the source data comprises a text file or text for display as part of a web page.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the source data comprises:

displaying the source data in a first portion of the display, wherein displaying the translated copy of the obtained segment of the text comprises displaying the translated copy of obtained segment in a second portion of the display.

5. The method of claim 4, the method further comprising: obtaining a selection of a display control;

in response to the selection of the display control:

displaying the translated copy in the first portion of the display; and

displaying in the second portion of the display the obtained segment of the text.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein displaying the source data in the first portion of the display includes associating a background color to the first portion indicative of the first language as an original language of the source data.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the first portion of the display is vertically arranged above the second portion of the display or horizontally adjacent to the second portion of the display.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein the first portion of the display encompasses the entire display and where the second portion of the display is located within a portion of the first portion of the display.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the second portion of the display is semi-transparent.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein a subset of the source data corresponds to a third language, the method further comprising:

obtaining a selection of a segment of the source data corresponding to the third language; and

displaying a translated copy of the selected segment of the source data in the second language.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the source data is obtained from a server over a wide area network.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the source data corresponds to data stored on a local computing device.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained segment of the source data is obtained through a functionality of an operating system on the computer system, the functionality providing text associated with a portion of a user interface.

14. A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable components for displaying data comprising: source data comprising user interface elements and text, the text comprising a plurality of words;

a source-data component for displaying on a display at least a subset of the source data by rendering on the display at least one of the user interface elements and at least a portion of the text, wherein the source data is presented in a first language;

a translation control; and

a translated-data component for displaying, in response to user selection of the translation control, a translated copy of a selected segment of the displayed source data on the display, the selected segment of the source data being identified during an operation that positions an interface icon over a portion of the displayed subset of the source data without further user input to select the portion of the displayed subset of the source data, wherein the selected segment comprises a group of words and the translated copy of the source data is presented in a second language.

15. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the interface icon comprises a mouse cursor.

16. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the source-data portion and the translated-data portion are arranged adjacent on the display.

17. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the translated-data portion is arranged adjacent to the selected segment of the source data from the source-data portion.

18. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the user interface elements correspond to an image, a button control, a toolbar control, a menu bar control, a text field, and/or a drop-down list.

19. In a computer system including a display, a method for displaying data comprising:

displaying, on the display, source data in a user interface, the source data comprising text in a first language;

obtaining user input comprising an indication of a portion of the user interface, wherein the indicated portion of the user interface is identified at least in part by the position of an interface icon;

obtaining a segment of the text associated with the indicated portion of the user interface; and

displaying, on the display, a translated copy of the obtained segment of the text in a display portion that has a background color that visually differentiates the display portion from a display area containing the displayed source data, wherein the translated copy of the obtained segment is in a second language; and

receiving user input indicating motion of the interface icon, and, in response, changing the indicated portion of the user interface such that the display portion appears to follow the interface icon; and

changing the obtained segment that appears translated in the display portion as the position of the interface icon changes.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the interface icon comprises a mouse cursor.

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