

November/December 2007
Volume XXXVI
Number 11

A Publication
of the
American
Translators
Association

The *ata* CHRONICLE



In this issue:

ATA Election Results
Building a Résumé
Home Exchanges

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The ATA Chronicle (ISSN 1078-6457) is published monthly, except bi-monthly in November/December, by the American Translators Association, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314. Periodicals postage paid at Alexandria, Virginia, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The ATA Chronicle*, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314.

The American Translators Association (ATA) was established in 1959 as a not-for-profit professional society to foster and support the professional development of translators and interpreters and to promote the translation and interpreting professions. The subscription rate for a member is \$43 (included in the dues payment). The U.S. subscription rate for a non-member is \$50. Subscribers in Canada and Mexico add \$25; all other non-U.S. subscribers add \$45. Single copies are available for \$5 per issue.

Reprint Permission:

Requests for permission to reprint articles should be sent to the editor of *The ATA Chronicle* at jeff@atanet.org.

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- Notices of certification exams, division newsletters

Don't miss out! Keep your ATA contact information current. You can make updates online at www.atanet.org/MembersOnly, or you can send your information to mis@atanet.org with your ATA membership number in the subject line.

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From the President

Jiri Stejskal

jiri@cetra.com

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

It is only fitting to launch the new administration by thanking the outgoing officers and directors. Marian S. Greenfield passed the presidential gavel to me on November 2, 2007, at our 48th Annual Conference in San Francisco. Our association reached a major milestone under her

work in the area of association governance. Thank you, Nick, for stepping up! Alexandra and Caitilin were elected for a three-year period, and their expertise in public relations and working with chapters will be a great contribution. Lili was appointed for one year to step in for former Director

or conformance, the Board's attention will focus on performance and strategic considerations. The Board recognizes that great minds do not think alike, but rather that they think differently, and that the collective brainpower of our membership is our greatest asset. The objectives against which all the Board's actions will be measured are clearly stated in ATA's bylaws:

The Board will spend a full day in January on strategic planning, in conjunction with the quarterly Board meeting, and will examine ATA's activities in light of our core objectives.

leadership—10,000 members and counting! Perhaps inspired by this round number, Marian announced at the conference that she had endowed a \$10,000 scholarship to the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation for the Marian S. Greenfield Financial Translation Presentation Award. (More information on the award will be published in the January issue.) Her dedication to our profession is unparalleled. Thank you, Marian! We also said goodbye to Directors Dorothee Racette and Tony Roder, whose contributions to the Association in the areas of business development, language technology, and a lot of common sense were greatly appreciated by all of us. Thank you, Dorothee and Tony!

We welcome Nick Hartmann as president-elect, and three new directors: Alexandra Russell-Bitting, Caitilin Walsh, and Lilian Novas Van Vranken. Before he becomes the Association's president in 2009, Nick will organize our next two conferences and continue his outstanding

Virginia Pérez-Santalla. Her accomplishments in our certification program are a great asset. Thank you, Alexandra, Caitilin, and Lili!

We welcome back Virginia Pérez-Santalla and Alan Melby. They switched places, as Virginia left the position of director to become secretary, and Alan left the position of secretary to become a director. Their continued service on the Board and contributions in the areas of interpretation, computer technology, and standards are most welcome. Thank you, Virginia and Alan! We also welcome back Peter Krawutschke, past ATA president and current president of the International Federation of Translators, who was re-elected to a second term as the Association's treasurer. We continue to appreciate his academic humor and vast experience in association work. Thank you, Peter!

Looking ahead, the Board will focus on the core objectives of our association and will use them as a measuring stick when making important decisions. Going beyond fiduciary responsibilities,

1. to promote the recognition of the translation and interpreting professions;
2. to promote the communication and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of translators and interpreters;
3. to formulate and maintain standards of professional ethics, practices, and competence;
4. to stimulate and support the training of translators and interpreters;
5. to provide a medium for cooperation with persons in allied professions; and
6. to promote professional and social relations among its members.

The Board will spend a full day in January on strategic planning, in conjunction with the quarterly Board meeting, and will examine ATA's activities in light of our core objectives. The Board will also look ahead and examine the objectives themselves—are they still relevant? Do we understand them clearly? Are there other objectives that should be added? What are the priorities? What is most important to you as an ATA member? These and many other questions need to be answered in order to lead our association forward. "Are you ready?" was a question most frequently heard at the San Francisco conference. We already have the answer: "Yes!"



From the Executive Director

Walter Bacak, CAE

Walter@atanet.org

Annual Conference, Elections, and Board Update

This month, there is lots of news to share from the Annual Conference, the elections, and the Board meeting.

Annual Conference: ATA's 48th Annual Conference drew record attendance, with 1,827 registrants. This broke the record of 1,752 attendees set at the 1997 Annual Conference, which also took place in San Francisco. I would like to thank all those who attended. We will have more on the conference in the January issue. In the meantime, *ATA Chronicle* Editor Jeff Sanfacon's photos, as well as those from some attendees, are online, so please check them out at www.atanet.org/conf/2007/photo.

Mark your calendar for next year's Annual Conference, November 5-8, 2008, in Orlando, Florida. In addition, it is not too early to consider sharing your knowledge and expertise with your colleagues; it is also a great way to network. To submit a presentation proposal for ATA's 49th Annual Conference, please go to www.atanet.org/conferencesandseminars/proposal.php.

Elections: Congratulations to ATA's new officers: President Jiri Stejskal, President-elect Nicholas Hartmann, Secretary Virginia Pérez-Santalla, and Treasurer Peter Krawutschke.

As for the newly elected directors, congratulations and welcome back to Alan Melby (who had been serving as secretary), and welcome to Alexandra Russell-Bitting and Caitilin Walsh.

In addition, Lilian Novas Van Vranken, former chair of the Certification Committee, was appointed to serve a one-year term to fill Virginia's term as director. A special election will be held, in conjunction with the 2008 ATA election of three directors, to elect a director to complete the final year of Virginia's term. (See page 10 for the complete

election results.)

Board Meeting: The new Board convened in San Francisco, November 3-4, 2007. In addition to approving the appointment of a director, the Board also approved the appointment of the Committee chairs. (See the accompanying table.)

Related, the Board approved the establishment of a Standards Committee to monitor and participate in the various translation and interpreting

standards activities that have really expanded over the past few years. Beatriz Bonnet, a former ATA director who had been serving as ATA's representative to the ASTM International translation quality standards effort, will serve as chair of the new committee.

The Board approved revisions to the Certification Continuing Education grid. The revised grid should further

Continued on p.41

Committee Chairs Appointed

Active Membership Review	Tim Yuan
Business Practices Education	Dorothee Racette
Certification	Jutta Diel-Dominique
Chapters	Caitilin Walsh
Certification Maintenance	Corinne McKay
Dictionary Review	Peter Gergay
Divisions	Frieda Ruppenner-Lind
Education and Pedagogy	Claudia Angelelli
Ethics	To be determined*
Finance	Peter Krawutschke
Governance and Communications	Nicholas Hartmann
Honors and Awards	Lois Feuerle
Interpretation Policy Advisory	Christian Degueldre
Mentoring	Co-chairs: Courtney Searls-Ridge and John Shaklee
Nominating	Tuomas Kostiainen
Professional Development	Marian S. Greenfield
Public Relations	Interim Co-chairs: Jiri Stejskal and Kevin Hendzel
Terminology	Sue Ellen Wright
Translation and Computers	Alan Melby

* In the meantime, please report any ethics violations or concerns to ATA President Jiri Stejskal.

Report of the Inspector of Elections

Election of Officers and Directors

Note: Required to elect is highest vote count.

Number of Votes Cast: 482

Spoiled Votes: 2

For President-Elect

Nicholas Hartmann:	451
Tony Beckwith:	3
Rosalie Wells:	2
Corinne McKay:	1
Alan Melby:	1
Madeline Rios:	1
Scholem Slaughter:	1

For Secretary

Virginia Pérez-Santalla:	449
Lillian Clementi:	1
Amanda Ennis:	1
Jane Maier:	1
Aaron Ruby:	1
Scholem Slaughter:	1

For Treasurer

Peter Krawutschke:	454
J. Henry Phillips:	5
James Clark:	1
Virginia Pérez-Santalla:	1
Dorothee Racette:	1
Jiri Stejskal:	1

Elected: Nicholas Hartmann

Elected: Virginia Pérez-Santalla

Elected: Peter Krawutschke

For Director

Alan K. Melby:	316
Michael Metzger:	167
S. Alexandra Russell-Bitting:	333
Caitilin Walsh:	266
Ted Wozniak:	211
Claudia Angelelli:	1
Gabe Bokor:	1

Rudolf Heller:	1
Melany Laterman:	1
Tony Roder:	1
Thelma Sabim:	1
Scholem Slaughter:	1
Rosalie Wells:	1

**Elected:
S. Alexandra Russell-Bitting
Alan K. Melby
Caitilin Walsh**

Bylaws Revision

In order to be enacted, all bylaws amendments and changes need to be approved by a two-thirds vote of voting members.

Number of Votes Cast:	438
Required to Adopt:	292

Votes FOR Revision:	232
Votes AGAINST Revision:	206

The Bylaws Revision is Not Adopted.



Proposed Bylaws Changes Active and Corresponding Membership Residency Requirement

The proposed bylaws changes were submitted in accordance with ATA Bylaws, Article XIV, b. Please note that the bylaws changes are denoted by crossing through text to be deleted. In order to be enacted, all bylaws amendments and changes need to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members.

WHEREAS

the American Translators Association strives to actively serve and engage the translation community in the United States.

WHEREAS

the purpose of the “active” membership category is to offer such membership category to any person who is professionally engaged in translating, interpreting, or closely related work, who has passed a certification examination administered by the Association or has achieved demonstrable professional status as determined by peer evaluation, and who, in a generic sense, forms a part of the society of the United States.

WHEREAS

the distinction between the Active and Corresponding membership categories is understood to have been originally intended and has been actually applied based on a practical, generic, broad interpretation of the concept of residency.

THEREFORE

Article III, Section 2.a. and 2.b. of the Bylaws of the American Translators Association shall hereafter read as follows:

Section 2–Eligibility

a. Active:

1) Any person who (a) is professionally engaged in translating, interpreting, or closely related work, (b) is a citizen or ~~permanent~~ resident of the United States, and (c) has passed a certification examination administered by the Association or has achieved demonstrable professional status as determined by peer evaluation, is eligible for active membership.

2) Members having active status at the time provision a.1) went into effect will retain their status as long as their membership is not terminated and they continue to remain a citizen or ~~permanent~~ resident of the United States.

3) Active membership is in the name of the individual only and confers no corporate or institutional membership on the individual's company, employer, or institution.

b. Corresponding: Any person who meets all qualifications for active membership except U.S. citizenship or ~~permanent~~ residence is eligible for corresponding membership.

Certified by:
Sandra Burns Thomson
Inspector of Elections

Letter to the Editor

Address your letters to Jeff Sanfacon at jeff@atanet.org or American Translators Association, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Memories of the Munich Games

The ATA Chronicle's August 2007 edition brought back a flood of memories with the article "Opportunities for Linguists at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic London Games." I had the rare good fortune of having an opportunity to work at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany.

Sometime in 1971, a small item (not even half a column) appeared in the Sunday supplement "Parade" stating that volunteers would be needed for the Olympics in Munich the following year and for those who were interested to write to the contact address (a snail mail address, as e-mail was still a distant dream). After reading this, I went to the post office and sent an aerogramme to Germany. About six weeks later—yes, that is how long it took to send mail to Germany and receive a response in those days—my correspondence with the Olympics began.

I was sent a long application to fill out, and my professors had to write letters of recommendation. The process of application and acceptance took over a year. I was not even completely sure I was going until a month before the Games, when I received a letter instructing me where to report in Munich on a given date.

Although I had been married that year, my new husband understood that I had accepted his proposal only on condition that if I was offered the chance to go to Munich for the Olympics, I was going! The idea that a young woman, especially a married young woman, would have an agenda of her own is taken for granted today, but at the time it caused a few raised eyebrows.

Much of my arrival in Munich is a blur in my mind, probably because I did not sleep on the flight, but I do remember finding the assigned meeting point and being taken by bus

to what would be my home for two months: the elementary school on Toni-Pföhl-Strasse. Unless the Olympics has been in your city, it is hard to imagine how it takes over so many things. With volunteers from all over the world arriving to work, every available facility was used. I shared a classroom with seven other women. We each had a bed and a *Schrank* (a closet/dresser combination that locked). Surprisingly (to me), the elementary school building had shower and locker room facilities, so we made ourselves completely at home. I thought this was a fine accommodation—until later at graduate school, when I met a man who had also been a volunteer at the Olympics and had lived at a country club!

On the days that we worked, we were either given meal tickets to eat at a nearby venue or lunch bags to take with us. Meals were varied in both location and quality. Breakfast was most often eaten at the school before we left. I have never had a better breakfast than *Semmelns* (similar to what we call Kaiser rolls, but much better) with fresh butter and honey and strong German coffee in my life (the closest second would be beignets and chicory coffee at the French Market in New Orleans). Everyone's most coveted lunch ticket—and I only received this once—was a ticket to eat at the BMW headquarters cafeteria, where they fed us very well!

Everyone who worked at the Olympics was color-coded. We ushers (*Platzanweiserinnen*) were dressed in orange (orange pants and jackets made of windbreaker-like material). The cleaning people were dressed in yellow jumpsuits, and the people we admired and envied, the hosts and hostesses, wore baby blue clothes made from fine fabric. These were the people who escorted the athletes and

other important people. We used to joke that if we went to the next Olympics, possibly the organizing committee would acknowledge our experience as ushers and promote us to hostesses.

The most important thing I want to tell you about the Olympic Games is that there is more to them than what you see on television. There are no commentators criticizing someone for letting an ankle slip a quarter of an inch. There is no dominant focus on USA – USA – USA. In person, there is a real feeling of excitement and wonder at seeing all the people who have made it far enough to be allowed to come to this spectacular event. Of course, there are always crowd favorites. In our free time, we ushers were allowed to go watch the athletes practice at different venues. Most of the girls rushed to the Schwimmhalle, because Mark Spitz, the U.S. swimmer, was the big thing that year. Spitz would win seven gold medals in Munich, which is the record for the most gold medals won at a single Olympic Games.

Whenever the topic of the Olympics has come up over the years, I tell people a story about a moment that touched me very deeply. My job as an usher had me stationed in the Olympic stadium, where the track and field events took place. The walking race actually took place outside of the stadium, through the streets of town, but the start and finish lines were inside the stadium. Other events were taking place in the stadium at the time, but when the winner of the walking race showed up at the finish line, the crowd clapped and cheered, and continued to clap and cheer as each walker, including the very last contestant, finished the race. To me, this represents the Olympic spirit: to be supportive of every contestant, with a sense of brotherhood and an

understanding that it is a great achievement just to participate. This is something you do not get from watching the events on television, and I miss that a lot, which is why I rarely watch the televised events anymore. Now it seems to be all about the U.S. and which athlete did everything perfectly. The 1993 movie *Cool Runnings*, about the Jamaican bobsled team, is the only thing I have seen that comes closest to capturing the true Olympic spirit.

Sadly, though, the feel-good *Cool Runnings* is not the only movie we have about the 1972 Olympics. Steven Spielberg's 2005 movie, *Munich*, reviews the events surrounding and following the murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the Games. Actually being there at the time was frightening and con-

fusing. Most of the time, we did not know what was happening and whether or not we were in any danger. The school we lived in had no television and anything in the newspaper was not up-to-the-minute. There were police with machine guns everywhere we went and helicopters buzzing around overhead. (To this day, if I find myself in the city when the traffic helicopters are out, I still feel tense.) Some felt that the Games should be stopped immediately out of respect for the dead and for the safety of everyone else. Others argued that the Games must continue because to stop them would be an offense against the Olympic spirit and would allow the terrorists to win by default. As you know, the Olympic spirit prevailed and the Games were finished as planned.

Part of my intention in writing this was to share some happy (and some unhappy) memories. I also want to urge you to consider what opportunities there might be for you as a volunteer at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. Just imagine how much it would cost to pay for food, accommodations, and tickets to the Games, even if you are able to get them. Now, imagine having a free place to stay, free food, and being assigned to work at the Games regularly. I have not found out how to get an application for volunteering for the 2012 Games yet, but when I do, you can be sure I will apply.

Nancy M. Snyder
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan



Call for Papers

49th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association

Orlando, Florida • November 5-8, 2008

Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort

Proposals are invited on topics in all areas of translation and interpreting, including the following: Financial Translation and Interpreting; Independent Contractors; Interpreting; Language Services Providers; Language-Specific Sessions; Language Technology; Legal Translation and Interpreting; Literary; Media; Medical Translation and Interpreting; Science and Technology; Terminology; and Training and Pedagogy. Suggestions for additional topics are welcome.

Proposals for sessions must be submitted on the Conference Presentation Proposal Form to: Conference Organizer, ATA Headquarters, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314; Fax: (703) 683-6122. All proposals for sessions must be in English.

Submission deadline: March 14, 2008

There's no time like the present! Download a Conference Presentation Proposal Form at www.atanet.org/conferencesandseminars/proposal.php.

Kent State University Ph.D. in Translation Studies

By Françoise Massardier-Kenney

We all know how important translation and translation-related activities are in our information-hungry global world. So, it is no surprise that the Department of Labor's *Occupational Projections and Training Data, 2004-05 Edition* projected that employment in the fields of translation and interpreting would grow by 22% over the 2002-12 period, which represents a ranking of "very high." This same document noted, however, that the most significant source of post-secondary education or training remains "long-term on-the-job training." Those of us who have worked in the stressful environment of tight deadlines and no feedback know how hard it is to get this "on-the-job" training. We also know that the disparity between supply and demand is exacerbated by the current state of foreign language education in the U.S., in which holistic approaches and languages across the curriculum remain the exception. In fact, the language resource situation has become so alarming that in the spring of 2003, the U.S. House and Senate approved the creation of the National Flagship Language Initiative (NFLI) to address severe deficiencies in the way advanced and professional language competency is developed in the U.S. The growing demand for translators in the world of international business and the growing recognition by the federal government that language pro-

fessionals, like other professionals, need access to specialized curricula taught by trained faculty, were the arguments that convinced the State of Ohio of the need to create a Ph.D. program in translation studies at Kent State University in 2007.

Creating an Environment for Success

The faculty of the Institute for Applied Linguistics at Kent State University has long recognized that in order to harness information technology to solve language problems and to increase the effectiveness of the translation cycle, we need an environment where we can analyze processes (be they translation, localization, or project management processes), create new tools, and disseminate this knowledge so that it can become available to practitioners. We need to develop new research faculty who understand the fundamental problems of the application domain (foreign language translation) and the new information technologies required to resolve them. However, faculty members with expertise in training students to use their languages for applied purposes in nonacademic professional careers are very difficult to recruit because there are no U.S. doctoral programs producing such individuals. The structural imbalance between the supply and demand for appropriately trained language professionals requires a structural solution, namely the cre-

Faculty members with expertise in training students to use their languages for applied purposes in nonacademic professional careers are very difficult to recruit because there are no U.S. doctoral programs producing them.

ation of doctoral programs in translation emphasizing research, translation informatics and technology, and translation pedagogy. By creating a cadre of professionally trained teachers and researchers, such doctoral programs will help meet the growing need for translation and interpreting faculty as more colleges and universities add such programs.

If You Build It...

Since 1989, the Institute for Applied Linguistics has developed and implemented advanced training programs that focus on “language for professional purposes.” Areas of focus include specialized translation (literary, commercial, legal, medical, scientific, and technical); terminology studies; translation technology (computer tools for translators, including computer-assisted translation); software and website internationalization and localization (translating software applications, interfaces, and websites); and project management for the language industry. Undergraduate and graduate courses emphasize the professional use of specialized foreign language skills in careers in the commercial and government sectors, or prepare students for advanced study in doctoral programs in translation in other countries or in other disciplines.

Study Tracks

The goal of the Ph.D. program at Kent State University is to produce researchers and teachers dedicated to applying information and computer science to the language-related problems of global communication, international business, and government, and to carrying out research about specific translation issues. In order to meet these goals, Kent State’s doctoral program has two tracks.

The first track, Translation Studies, encompasses the entire spectrum of research and pedagogy: translation theory, discourse analysis, and translator training and assessment. Within this track, students may undertake the study of existing translations using approaches rooted in descriptive translation studies, including corpus analysis; product-oriented translation studies, which analyze the function of a translation in its specific context; and applied translation studies, which include translator training, translator tools, and translation criticism. Graduates of this track will become part of the country’s first cadre of professionally trained educators and scholars in translation studies.

The second track, Translation Tools and Language Informatics, focuses on: language-oriented information systems (both multi- and monolingual);

terminology studies; computational approaches to translation and terminology (computer-assisted translation, computer-assisted terminology management); internationalization; software localization; multilingual document and content management; and targeted applications in machine translation. Unlike computational linguistics, which provides computational models of various kinds of linguistic phenomena, language informatics focuses on the pragmatic utilization of computerized tools for the enhancement of human translation.

The 10 existing faculty members of the Institute for Applied Linguistics who teach in the program include award-winning translators and widely published scholars who sit on international boards of journals, are editors of major translation series or translation journals, and have an international reputation. Two new faculty members in computational linguistics and translation studies have been hired to support this new program. Given the extreme difficulty involved in finding U.S.-trained faculty in this field, the Institute for Applied Linguistics had to go to Germany and Spain to find researchers and teachers with the required training and skills.

Student Profile

Applicants to the Ph.D. program must provide the same kinds of documentation required in doctoral programs in other disciplines, including written and oral samples of their work, as well as recommendation letters, transcripts, and standardized scores. Prospective students’ performance and post-graduate professional achievement are expected to be of a very high quality. Classes officially began in September, and the first group of students includes professionals with graduate degrees in translation ➡

Kent State University Ph.D. in Translation Studies Continued

and significant work experience as translators, project managers, or localizers, as well as students from translation programs abroad. Kent State wants to keep the program small, with no more than four or five students starting each year, because the program is labor intensive and, unlike doctoral programs abroad where students conduct research independently without having to take very many courses, this program follows the American model of requiring specialized seminars before the students engage in independent research. Typically, students will take one and a half to two years of courses before devoting themselves to the major research project presented in their dissertation.

Students taking the general Translation Studies cluster of related courses will enroll in a minimum of four courses among the following: *Advanced Translation Research*; *Contemporary and Interdisciplinary Translation Studies*; *Translation Evaluation*; *Translation Pedagogy*; *Translation and Cognition*; or *Seminar in Translation Studies*.

Students taking the Translation Tools (language informatics) cluster of courses must complete a minimum of four of the following courses: *Language Informatics in the Document Cycle*; *Informatics of Translation and Localization*; *Internationalization*; *Computational Terminology and Lexicography*; *Meta-Markup for Multilingual Resources*; or *Seminar in Language Informatics*. In addition, the program offers a seminar in corpus linguistics (i.e., the study of language using real world samples) taught by a multilingual corpus specialist. A research group focusing on development issues in modeling terminology management software has also been established.

Suggested links for more information:

Kent State Language Programs

<http://appling.kent.edu/ial-programs.htm>

National Flagship Language Initiative

www.nflc.org/projects/recent_projects/nfli

U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections

www.bls.gov/emp/optd/home.htm

Students have access to a state-of-the-art computing lab—which has been enhanced with donations from major software publishers, including Idiom Technologies, Microsoft, SDL International, Star, and across—providing students with access to a wide array of highly specialized, industry-leading translation and localization software. In addition, the program has been building up the comprehensive translation-related library holdings that a doctoral program requires.

Advancing the Profession

Kent State is very excited to be starting such a program. It has taken several years to put it in place, to

gather the necessary resources, and to convince the State of Ohio of the necessity to provide high level training in translation studies and language informatics. But perhaps more than anything else, the faculty and staff are happy to finally be able to bring to the profession the kind of “dignification of translation,” to use a term coined by translator and translation scholar Antoine Berman, that a doctoral level program brings to a discipline as undervalued and as critically important as translation studies and language informatics.





“Professional Linguist Seekign Work”: Tips for Building a Successful Localization Résumé

By Elizabeth M. Taylor

As professional translators, we like to imagine that the quality of our work speaks for itself. However, before we can prove this, we must first get past the ever-crucial step of having projects assigned to us in the first place—hence the need for an effective résumé. Any vendor manager in this industry will have hundreds of examples from so-called professional linguists touting their expertise with phrases such as “I am

Remember that page space is valuable real estate, and each line needs to move you toward your end goal.

a native speaker of Spanish language with a large experience in translations.” We like to believe that an error like this would never happen to us, and that our résumé shines above all

others and makes for enthralling reading.

Although we also like to believe that hiring managers would spend considerable time poring over ➡

our résumé, this is simply not the reality—especially in the world of

mation, we will be better prepared to identify what should and should not

ably do want to send a hard copy of your résumé on nice letterhead—and you definitely want to emphasize your experience working with firms directly as their single-source language provider. However, if you are targeting localization companies, a hard copy is sure to end up at the bottom of a recycle bin. Agencies will want to know that you can work under tight deadlines, with large teams, on multiple components, and in specific, specialized areas. Therefore, you need to find out all you can about your potential employer.

Although your résumé will cover in some detail your experience for potential employers, your cover letter needs to grab their attention and tell them the most essential points.

translation. Project managers tend to coordinate numerous projects simultaneously, and must constantly juggle client communication, respond to linguistic queries, create purchase orders, approve invoices, and deliver files—all with urgent deadlines!

Because their time is in such short supply and high demand, project managers tend to work with a small pool of trusted linguists who they know will deliver the work for their clients on time, for a fair, well-established price, and without errors in meaning. This begs the question: in this hectic work environment, how can you get your résumé noticed when recruiters are receiving tens, even hundreds, of résumés each month? As you read through the following tips, pay attention to the two sample résumés on pages 20 and 21 to see how they compare with your own.

Start with the Basics

Before writing a résumé, you must start by asking the most basic questions about what exactly you are targeting. The end goal needs to be clear to you (and therefore to the recruiter), including whether or not an “objective” section is to be included in the résumé itself. By understanding why we are compiling this important infor-

be included. You can start by asking yourself the five W’s listed here:

Whom am I targeting? If you are targeting a private law firm as a potential direct client, for example, you prob-

What do I want to stand out? We all have unique skills and special knowledge that sets us apart from our competitors and colleagues. Sure, we are

Remember to ask FIVE KEY QUESTIONS when assembling your résumé:

- 1 Whom am I targeting?
- 2 What do I want to stand out?
- 3 When am I available?
- 4 Where will I be working?
- 5 Why am I sending this out?

all excellent linguists, but how many of us have provided voiceover talent for a commercial? Or have a computer programming degree? Perhaps you have specific graphics or desktop publishing expertise, or perhaps you have been a sports announcer for—no joke—bilingual boxing matches? These are all examples of value-added services that will set you apart from your colleagues and may prove useful on unexpected, unusual projects.

When am I available? Some translators prefer working with local agencies so that they can get immediate resolution on potential queries, management questions, and other issues during regular business hours. Others do not mind a one-day delay, and are more open to working with companies outside the U.S. (which also means that your résumé will need to be translated into the language of the hiring company). If you have a regular job and are simply looking for evening or weekend translation work to earn extra cash, this should be made clear so that expectations regarding, for example, delivery times and the scope and size of projects can be taken into consideration when assigning and accepting projects.

Where will I be working? Many translators choose the profession because it offers the flexibility to work from home, but keep in mind that there are plenty of opportunities for in-house work, even as a self-employed freelancer. Consider whether you would be open to going onsite for quality assurance, proofreading, or even linguistic or functional software testing jobs in your particular language pair. Although it is nice to be able to work in your pajamas, onsite work can give you great exposure to potential clients,

and often gives you the opportunity to meet and network with other professional linguists. Onsite work also tends to pay better than work that is done from home.

Why am I sending this out? This is the most important of the five W's to consider: specifically, what type of work am I seeking? If you work as both a translator and interpreter, it is fine to mention this on your résumé. However, you should have one résumé for each job description, unless you are just starting out and lack enough concrete examples to fill one page for both. If you have experience as a linguist, but are looking for work as an in-house project manager, hiring agencies probably will not care about your vast experience translating legal and marketing texts. They want to know that you can manage timelines, budgets, and multiple resources seamlessly. If you are seeking work in legal translations only, you will need to emphasize specific legal translation experience, and not dedicate equal amounts of page space to the other areas of expertise in which you work. If you work in a highly specialized field, this needs to be stated very clearly with multiple concrete examples of jobs completed. That way, hiring managers understand that you have specific and detailed job knowledge, and not that you have simply been assigned a few random projects in that particular industry. Remember that page space is valuable real estate, and each line needs to move you toward your end goal.

The Cover Letter

As language professionals, translators are expected to have flawless communication skills. Although your résumé will cover in some detail your experience for potential employers,

your cover letter needs to grab their attention and tell them the most essential points.

Following the ever-present rule that project managers are short on time, you will need to summarize your experience in the cover letter. Use bullet points to their maximum advantage and keep it short. If the agency has an online application, be sure to complete it since this usually means that you will be automatically entered into their database and will be called up in vendor searches. You should also follow up with vendor managers or hiring project managers regularly to stay on their radar, and to make sure that the information has been received rather than automatically filtered to an unmonitored e-mail inbox. After all, you never know when that first project will come in that does fit your profile—you just need to help them to keep you first and foremost in their minds.

An important thing to remember in your introduction is that the single greatest aid in getting hired by a new company—especially as a linguist—is through personal referrals. If you know someone who is already working with the company you are targeting, and that person will attest to the quality of your work, be sure to let both parties know. The rule in translation is: References! References! References! Be sure to use all available references to your best advantage.

If you are short on personal referrals, then try the end-client route and mention names of well-known companies to grab their attention, even if the company was not your end-client. For example, if you are seeking work as a medical translator, you might say: “Through translation companies such as Lionbridge, SDL, and Medialocate, I have completed many key projects relating to medical devices and ➡

Font is difficult to read. Does not match the rest of the résumé.

Unlikely number of languages. Native language not indicated. Recruiters likely to assume all languages are weak.

Too much white space. Too little information.

Useless information. Grammar mistakes. Clearly not proofed by a native English speaker.

General texts are by definition not specialized. Internet articles are not necessarily technical. After 10 years in the industry, concrete examples should be easy to provide.

Confusing. Should concern education only.

Again, unhelpful information. No mention of translation tools.

Large discrepancy between word rate and minimum charge. Rates do not conform to current market rate.

Joe Badexample

Professional Freelance Translator in:
Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, English – Fluent
German, Arabic, Russian - High Level

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

My name is Joe Badexample. I'm interested in working for you. I am a professional translator having over ten years' experience in translating from many languages. I have with a large experience in translations.

Specialized areas: *General Texts, Education, Humanities and Literature.*
During these ten years I have translated:

- *General texts: newspaper articles, brochures, press releases, social science, music, art texts, etc.*
- *Technical texts: user's manuals, Internet articles.*
- *Judicial texts: contracts and other legal documents.*

Personal profile:
University Degree UNIVERSITY OF XXXX (1987)
Degree in English Language Teaching (1991)
I can guarantee experienced, reliable, high-quality translations and interpretations.

Computer:
PC with Ram
Laser printer with scanner
Dictionaries
Database and glossaries in Internet
Software: Windows, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and other softwares.

Rates: per word 0.05 US Dollars, minimum charge 50 US Dollars

Figure 1: Example of poorly written résumé

Jane Goodexample

Certified Translator: English > Canadian French

address

email

phone

Summary

Key Services: Translation, Editing, Proofreading, Linguistic/Functional Testing, QA
PC/Mac with some DTP capabilities (Illustrator, Quark, InDesign)
Proficient in TM Tools: Trados, SDLX, SDL TMS, Idiom, Déjà Vu
Rates (in USD): .13/word (includes edit), \$30.00/hour

Accreditations & Certifications

Certified English to Canadian French Translator from both the CTTIC and ATA.
Also an active member of LISA, GALA, proz.com, translatorscafe.com.

Education

2004 D.E.S.S. (Diploma of Specialized Superior Studies, graduate level) - University of Montreal
Translation, English-French, focus on High-Tech and Life Sciences
2000 Bachelor's Degree - University of California at Berkeley
Business Administration
Minor in the Language and Literature of France and Quebec

Translation Experience & Specializations (references available upon request)

General:

Translation, Editing, QA and DTP of general texts for translation agencies and direct clients: Print and Online Articles, Press Releases, Corporate Policies, Procedural Documents, etc.

IT and High-Tech:

Translation, Editing, QA and Testing for software and hardware products: Strings, Installation Manuals, User's Guides, Quick Start Guides, Datasheets, White Papers, Product Manuals, Packaging, etc.
(APPLE, CANON, COMPAC, HP, MICROSOFT, NOKIA, SEAGATE)

Biomedical and Life Sciences:

Translation, Editing and DTP for medical and pharmaceutical products: Medical Device Inserts, Instructions For Use, X-Ray Equipment, Hospital Equipment Guides, Pharmacology Reports, FDA Filings, etc.
(ABBOTT LABS, BIOMET, PFIZER, TELEFLEX, ZURN)

Administration and Finance:

Translation, Editing, and QA for administrative and financial documents: Insurance Guides, Coverage Guides, Financial Reports, Auditing and Asset Evaluation Reports, Services and Incorporation Contracts, etc.
(BLOOMBERG, FARMERS, PRUDENTIAL, VISA)

*see interpretation resume for interpretation experience

Other

- Team in Training (marathons)
- Women's soccer league
- Swim coach
- Classical guitar
- Flute
- First Aid certified
- Language tutor
- Transcription
- Copywriting

Updated: September 2007

Language pair
clear and realistic

Services offered clear.
Value-added services
included. Tool Current.

Legitimate sources.
Shows the applicant is
active in the industry.

Pertinent education.

Easy to read.
Organized. Grouped
appropriately.

Specifically points to
other résumé.

Interesting,
Memorable.
Possibly helpful for
unusual projects.

Shows résumé is
up-to-date.

Figure 2: Example of well written résumé

pharmacology reports for clients such as Abbott Labs, BD, and GlaxoSmithKline.” This will let potential employers know that not only do you have the technical knowledge to handle this type of project for their key accounts, but that you know how to work effectively with translation agencies themselves and are familiar with their expectations. In effect, it reassures potential employers that other agencies have felt confident enough to hire you, so they should too.

Last but not least, before hitting the “send” button, you must make sure that every word has been checked and double-checked, and that the message you are trying to convey is clear, concise, and error-free. Many times I have seen competent linguists damage their chances of being hired simply because they failed to proofread their résumé or cover letter—when that is the key to getting work in the first place! The hiring manager is left wondering if the mistake was an honest oversight, a glitch in the linguist’s automatic spell-checker, or a simple case of laziness. Either way, first impressions count.

A Few Do’s and Don’ts

Make your résumé attractive, professional, and easy to read: Translators are expected to be proficient in word processing applications, and your résumé must reflect this. A clerk might get away with typos or misaligned columns, but a translator will not! MS Word has résumé templates that make it easy to create an attractive résumé. Use bullet points, bolding, or italics to make specific expertise or key words stand out. Group your related experience together: for example, separate medical experience from marketing experience. Most importantly, make sure that someone who has not helped you write the content proofreads the final copy.

Quick Tips

- Make your résumé attractive, professional, and easy to read.
- Express what positions you are interested in and tailor the content accordingly.
- List concrete experience.
- List technical skills.
- Include value-added services.
- Have your résumé proofread by a native speaker.

This is the best way to check for obvious errors and cohesiveness because they will be looking at it with fresh eyes.

Express what positions you are interested in and tailor the content accordingly: You need to indicate if you are a translator who is also open to non-translation projects (quality assurance, testing, etc.). If you are an interpreter interested in consecutive or escort jobs, but not booth work, you need to clarify this. If you want a job as a translator or proofreader, do not include a full page of interpreting

experience and vice versa. While you might want to list that you provide both interpreting and translation services, each résumé should be tailored to the task at hand (you might want to include a note such as “see interpreting résumé”). The more your information is geared toward a specific job, the more likely you are to get hired for that job.

List concrete experience: Besides your education at home and abroad, you will want to list specific examples

of projects you have worked on. This should include the scope of work (translation, editing, proofing, quality assurance) as well as the field (patent, financial report) and end-client (Abbott Labs, Zimmer). If you need to bolster this section, consider taking on small pro bono projects. The bottom line is that recruiters need to be reassured that their clients will be happy with your work, so they want to know that you have concrete, relevant experience, and not just that you have “studied French for 15 years.” Again, be sure to group pertinent experience together so that translation agencies can recognize right away which types of projects fit your particular profile. Every translator can handle “general” texts, but not everyone can understand a toxicity report.

List technical skills: More and more companies require that their transla-

Useful Links

Résumé Help
<http://content.monster.com/resume>

Translator and Interpreter Job Listings
www.traduguide.com
www.translatorsbase.com
www.localizationworks.com

ATA Job Bank
www.atanet.org/jobban

get your foot in the door. Perhaps you work on PCs and Macs, or perhaps you can handle translation and desktop publishing? Since handling multiple stages in the localization process can save hours of project management time, if you mention how you can help your project manager, you will be more likely to be assigned new work. Another point to consider is that it is often our hobbies that make the

the cardinal sin of translation, and recruiters are certain to question your understanding of the industry’s standard practices if they see awkward or incomprehensible information in your résumé. Professional translators usually have a network of linguists whom they trust and work with on a regular basis. These friends and colleagues should be called upon for assistance, especially when putting together something as critical as a résumé. The good news is that whoever provides you assistance is certain to need your help at some point.

The more your information is geared toward a specific job, the more likely you are to get hired for that job.

tors own and be proficient in the latest translation memory tools. Indicate which programs you own (including the version), which programs you have been trained in, and any online management systems you are familiar with (Idiom, SDL TMS). The more you know, the greater the chances of getting hired for large projects requiring more than just language skills.

Include value-added services: With hundreds of résumés passing through an office every month, it is often a particular value-added service that will

difference: avid cooks will be assigned the culinary translations; gardeners will be sent the botanical jobs. By including your special interests and unique areas of expertise, not only will your chances of getting unusual projects increase, your résumé will stand out from the others, thus increasing your chances of being remembered when those particular projects do come in.

Have your résumé proofread by a native speaker: Failure to have your work proofread by a native speaker is

So What Should I Take Home with Me?

There is no “one-size-fits-all” answer to writing a résumé, and if you ask 10 people what must and must not be included, you are sure to get 10 different answers. Forget the general rules (an “objective” must be stated, never exceed one page, etc.), and instead focus on your personal experience and goals in sending your résumé out. Remember that although not all good résumés have exactly the same content, they are all concise, easy to follow, and attractive. Keep it simple but thorough, and you are sure to have a greater impact.

Happy hunting!





The Cost of Interpreters Using Interruptions in the Courtroom

By Marianne Mason

Various studies have shown that the manner in which an interpreter renders a witness's utterances may affect how a jury perceives a witness.¹ For example, if an interpreter were to add the pause marker *uh* to his or her rendition of a witness's testimony, jurors could perceive the witness as being hesitant and untrustworthy, which could affect the outcome of a trial. The addition or omission of linguistic markers, such as pause markers (*uh*, *hm*), politeness markers (*sir/ma'am*), and discourse markers (*well*) can change the style and tone of the original. The interpreter's omission of stylistic markers may render a witness's testimony more *powerful* and direct, whereas the addition of these markers may result in a less effective and *powerless* testimony.

A significant cause of additions and omissions is the length and the density of an utterance. Length and density contribute to the cognitive burden that interpreters face. Interpreters often respond to these burdens by interrupting the witnesses. The timing of an interruption, however, may cause the interpreter to add or omit linguistic content. In my

own study of 200 hours of digitally-recorded courtroom discourse featuring 12 interpreters (6 female and 6 male),² I found that the interpreters commonly interrupted the witnesses at three points in discourse: before the end of a com-

Interrupting Before the End of a Complete Sentence or Clause

Attorney: So when you—when you, uh, requested, uh, when you explained this—what you are telling us here is

The ill-timed interruption results in the interpreter adding linguistic content to the original that signals her struggle and need to “complete” her rendition rather than the witness’s intent.

plete sentence or clause; at the end of a complete sentence or clause; and after various complex sentences or clauses. The results of the study suggest that the key to a faithful rendition when using interruptions lies in how well the interpreter processes the amount of information received at these three points in the discourse. The following provides a few examples of testimony from the study that feature the interpreters interrupting the witnesses.

that they approved the transfer for you?

Interpreter: *¿Entonces, eh, como nos dice usted, al usted explicárselo a ellos, pues le aprobaron el traslado?*

Witness: *Tomarían eso en consideración. Desconozco si, (They could have taken that into account. I don't know if,)*

Interpreter: Well, I—they must have taken it into account. I don't know if that is it, the case—

In the example above, the interpreter imposes her own segmentation to the dialogue and chooses to interrupt the witness at what could be described as an inopportune time in the witness's testimony. The witness has not finished uttering the phrase that is to follow “I

Interpreter: I have an associate's degree in industrial engineering and—

Witness: —*Y un bachillerato en gerencia de materiales.*

Interpreter: And a bachelor's degree in materials management.

In this case, the attorney asks the witness to provide information about

Witness: *En el último caso que se generó de la última transferencia de B ella me indicó que no procedía el crédito y que se iban a comunicar conmigo para ver de que manera iban a proceder—*

(In the last case that was generated from B's last transfer, she indicated that the credit would not proceed and that they would contact me to see how they would proceed—)

Interpreter: In the last case that was generated on the last, eh, eh, transaction, eh, transfer, transference of B, uh, she called me to let me know that the, uh, credit, would—wasn't in order. That wasn't going to, eh, be granted—

Witness: —*Pero nunca recibí la llamada de ellos.*

Interpreter: But I never received their call.

Because an interpreter's memory is heavily taxed during consecutive interpreting, the use of interruptions may not assist interpreters in managing the length of witnesses' utterances effectively.

don't know if,” when the interpreter interrupts the witness. The ill-timed interruption results in the interpreter adding linguistic content to the original that signals her struggle and need to “complete” her rendition rather than the witness's intent.

Interrupting at the End of a Complete Sentence or Clause

Attorney: Could you please give us your educational background?

Interpreter: *Por favor, ¿podría darnos en breve su trasfondo educativo? ¿Su educación?*

Witness: *Sí. Tengo un grado asociado en ingeniería industrial y—*
(Yes. I have an associate's degree in industrial engineering and—)

her educational background. The witness responds that she has an associate's degree in industrial engineering. At the point when the witness is going to connect two complete utterances or sentences, as the conjunction “and” indicates, the interpreter interrupts her. The interpreter, possibly anticipating a lengthy utterance, interrupts in order to manage the amount of information she is receiving. The result is a fairly accurate rendition, with the exception of one omission—the adverbial phrase *sí* (yes).

Interrupting After Various Complex Sentences or Clauses

Attorney: Was credit always given?

Interpreter: *¿Y siempre le daban crédito?*

Here, as the length of the utterance increases, the number of compound sentences also increases. The interpreter responds by interrupting the witness, which results in additions and omissions. These changes to the original correspond to the interpreter's processing capacity being already taxed when he or she decides to interrupt. In this last example, the style and content of the original is affected. In the source language, the witness is direct and does not hesitate, whereas in the interpreter's rendition, the witness's response seems roundabout and unclear.

The Cost of Interrupting the Witness

The benefit or cost of interpreters using interruptions to manage their memory was measured in my study by the presence or absence of key ➡ additions and omissions in the

interpreter's renditions. The linguistic features that were added and omitted most often in my study, and were tested, were those that provided style

interpreters in managing the length of witnesses' utterances effectively. Consequently, the more information an interpreter needs to process, the

tations of the interpreter's prescribed role in the courtroom.



The interpreter's omission of stylistic content has linguistic and, possibly, legal consequences, since it may change the manner in which a witness is perceived in the courtroom.

and tone to the original, including: politeness (*please*); terms of address (*sir*; *ma'am*); pauses (*uh*); and discourse markers (*well*, *now*). The statistical analysis revealed that interpreters:

- Wait, on average, until utterances reach 22 words before interrupting.
- Omit, at a significant rate, those linguistic features that assign tone and style to the original.

The results of the analysis allow for a linguistic and a cognitive interpretation. From a cognitive perspective, 22 words is a substantial amount of information to process when interpreters are expected to observe all the syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic content of the original. Because an interpreter's memory is heavily taxed during consecutive interpreting, the use of interruptions may not assist

higher the odds that he or she will add to, or omit from, the original linguistic content.

If considered from a linguistic perspective, the interpreter's omissions may result in a witness being perceived as more trustworthy than what is intended in the original.³ In studies that examine the effect of testimony style on mock jurors,⁴ witnesses who provided testimony that was void of hesitations and discourse markers, such as *well*, were perceived to be more credible and trustworthy than witnesses whose testimony included these linguistic features. Thus, the interpreter's omission of stylistic content has linguistic and, possibly, legal consequences, since it may change the manner in which a witness is perceived in the courtroom. A change in jurors' perception of witnesses, whether it is positive or negative, may interfere with the legal process and violate the expect-

Observations for Additional Study

In sum, the findings of my study on the bilingual courtroom suggest that the interpreter's use of interruptions to manage the witness's use of lengthy, dense, and complex utterances carries a cost, since in two out of three instances it was not effective in reducing errors. Other techniques, such as note-taking, may be more effective in managing memory and should be evaluated further in the study and practice of courtroom interpreting.

Notes

1. For a more detailed discussion of the role of speech styles in the courtroom, see: Berk-Seligson, S. *The Bilingual Courtroom: Court Interpreters in the Judicial Process*, 2nd edition (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2002); and Hale, S.B. *The Discourse of Court Interpreting* (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2004); and O'Barr, W. *Linguistic Evidence: Language, Power, and Strategy in the Courtroom* (New York: Academic Press, 1982).
2. Mason, M. *Courtroom Interpreting* (Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Co., forthcoming).
3. Berk-Seligson, S. *The Bilingual Courtroom*; and Hale, S.B. *The Discourse of Court Interpreting*.
4. Berk-Seligson, S. *The Bilingual Courtroom*; and O'Barr, W. *Linguistic Evidence*.

A small, stylized graphic or signature in the bottom right corner of the page, consisting of a few dark, overlapping shapes.



Home Exchanges Make Long Trips Affordable



By Thomas Hedden

This summer, my family and I spent over six weeks in Europe. We did not spend a single night in a hotel, nor did we stay with relatives. Instead, we arranged home exchanges, that is, we stayed in other families' homes while they stayed in ours. We spent about four weeks in one family's home near Berlin. After that, we spent another two weeks in another family's home in Munich. We also made side trips to the Netherlands, Paris, and London, where we stayed with people we knew.

Even with home exchanges it is still expensive to spend so long in Europe, but not nearly as expensive as staying in hotels, making much longer stays affordable. Moreover, it is more interesting and enjoyable to stay in a home than a hotel.

Home exchange services do not actually offer home exchanges or arrange them, but merely help link up people who want to do them, similar to how dating services work. The one we used is called **HomeLink International** (www.homelink.org). As of this writing, the annual membership fee is \$90. A few other services include:

Even with home exchanges it is still expensive to spend so long in Europe, but not nearly as expensive as staying in hotels, making much longer stays affordable.

HomeExchange.com
www.homeexchange.com
(\$99.95 membership fee)

HomeForExchange.com
www.homeforexchange.com
(\$59 membership fee)

Geenee.com
www.geenee.com
(Free)

International Home Exchange Network
www.iHEN.com
(\$39.95 membership fee)

The Home Exchanger
www.thehomeexchanger.com
This website offers a lot of good information.

How Does It Work?

First, you give details about your home: type of home, sleeping accommodations, amenities, etc. You also specify the destinations you want and the dates you wish to travel. Members can then search for a suitable match on the basis of these criteria. For example, if I want to go to Berlin, I search for members in Berlin who want to come here and check the dates. Then, I contact matching members about the details. Other members may also contact me about an exchange. Often the initial contact is made through the home exchange organization, to protect members' privacy. Members can decide whether to give out their contact information to potential exchange partners. However, privacy policies vary, so check into this when selecting an exchange service. ➔

The Key Is in the Planning

Those interested in taking part in a home exchange need to plan as much as a year in advance. However, do not sign an agreement until you are certain about everything. It is difficult to back out of these agreements, and there are many details to sort out. For example, a family with children should look for a family that has children of similar ages, so that there will be toys for children of the right age. A person who is allergic to cats should ask about cats. A translator who wants to work while on the exchange should ask about computers, type of Internet connection, and other necessary equipment. It is common to decide against an exchange after having learned more about a potential exchange partner's home.

Once you agree to an exchange, there is still much to do to prepare for it, for example, compiling information about your home: where the fuse box is; how to run the dishwasher; lists of local stores, the nearest ATM machine, etc. It is also advisable to take care of things in your home requiring attention (leaky faucets, etc.), since if you do not do this before you go, you might end up dealing with any problems that arise over the telephone, while you are away.

Can I Trust the Other People?

When you do a home exchange, you turn over your keys to people whom you do not know and may never even meet. There is no way of ensuring that they are honest and will take good care of your possessions. However, there are ways of lowering the risk.

If you can find someone who has experience doing home exchanges, you can get references from previous exchange partners. Some people arrange preliminary meetings, some-

times called "hospitality exchanges." These involve visiting a potential exchange partner while they are still at home, which allows both partners to meet before agreeing to a home exchange.

You should remove extremely valuable and/or fragile belongings from your home before doing an exchange, especially if the exchange partner has children. Even so, you

decide to rely entirely on your exchange partner's computer, make sure that you have "Administrator" privileges, otherwise you may not be able to install or even run certain programs. Insist that the computer have good, up-to-date antivirus software.

Connectivity: Ask how many telephone lines your partners have and what kind they are: regular analog

Do not sign an agreement until you are certain about everything.

should expect some things to get broken. On the exchanges we have done, various exchange partners have broken our garbage disposal, knobs on our stove, and one of the casters beneath our refrigerator (!), along with the usual occasional drinking glass. We have also had to replace or pay for various toys and a clock that our children broke. If you cannot tolerate this type of nuisance, you should not do home exchanges.

Working While on a Home Exchange

If you go on a long home exchange, you may want to work. In this case, plan very carefully in advance.

Computers: If you intend to work, take your laptop. Most exchange partners have a computer with "office" software. However, it will lack programs that you need and may have a different keyboard from the one to which you are accustomed (for example, "y" and "z" may be switched, or "a" and "q"). If you

lines or ISDN. If they have only one analog line, make certain that they are not relying on a dial-up Internet connection. ISDN lines allow multiple simultaneous connections, which is helpful, but cannot be used with an analog modem, which is probably what your laptop has. Be sure to check what type of Internet connection your partner has. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- To connect a typical laptop, you will need either a wireless connection, an Ethernet connection (typically through a router), or an analog (non-ISDN) telephone line.
- If you are planning to use an analog modem, remember that some countries (such as Germany) use wall telephone jacks that are different from the RJ11 connector on the wall outlet end of the cable that you usually use with your laptop, so be certain that your exchange partner can supply the cable you will need.

- If your exchange partner has only a single analog telephone line and a dial-up Internet connection, this means that your Internet connection will be slow and that no one will be able to call you when you are connected to the Internet.
- ISDN telephone service has the advantage of allowing multiple connections, but this means that you might have to use your exchange partner's computer instead of your laptop, since you probably will not be able to connect your laptop to the Internet unless they also have an ISDN router with wireless capability or an Ethernet port.
- If you are relying on an Ethernet connection, make certain that whatever equipment you are planning to connect through actually does have an Ethernet port: both ISDN and Ethernet typically use an RJ45 connector, so you cannot be certain that you have an Ethernet connection just by comparing the jacks.
- If you want more than one Internet connection simultaneously, for example, if both you and your spouse want to work at the same time, ask whether multiple simultaneous connections are possible, and whether connection is possible in different parts of the home. Otherwise, both of you might have to sit at the same desk to have an Internet connection.

Cell Phones: Some American cell phones can be used in Europe. The frequency band may switch automatically. If not, you must do this manually. Overseas roaming rates are

If you can find someone who has experience doing home exchanges, you can get references from previous exchange partners.

prohibitive. Consider removing your SIM card and buying a prepaid card there. Call your service provider and sort this out ahead of time.

Electrical Outlets: In most countries, the electric current is 220V/50Hz rather than 110V/60Hz. You should check to see whether your equipment accepts 220V/50Hz. If your equipment does not, you will need a power converter, which is not the same thing as a plug adapter. However, a plug adapter will also be necessary whether or not your equipment accepts 220V/50Hz, since the outlets and plugs are also different. You will need one adapter per piece of equipment, or you will not be able to use them simultaneously. Alternatively, take a power strip and one adapter. It is a good idea to get the converter and/or adapter(s) you need before departing, since you will have trouble finding them at your destination.

Health Insurance: If you are planning a longer stay in a foreign country, you should ask your health insurance provider what coverage you have while in foreign countries, and what procedure to follow in the event that you require medical help. If your health insurance provider does not provide adequate coverage when you are in foreign countries, there are insurance agencies that will sell short-term "travel health insurance" policies. If you Google the words "travel health insurance" you will find some

agencies that offer such policies. There are also comprehensive "travel insurance" policies that provide financial reimbursement for trip cancellation, etc., and some of these also cover health insurance. Check with your health insurance provider before spending any money. Our health insurance provider does provide coverage when we are in other countries, so I do not have personal experience with these types of insurance.

Work Permits: Requirements concerning work permits differ from one country to another, and no general advice can be given. However, if you go on a home exchange and work as a freelancer, no one will ever be aware that you are working. I have never heard of anyone getting in trouble for not having a work permit while working as a freelancer.

Taxes: If you pay taxes in the U.S. and temporarily work as a freelancer in another country, you should expect to pay U.S. taxes on the income that you earn, unless you establish foreign residency. However, in that case you may be subject to taxes in the country where you are residing. IRS Publication 593 (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p593.pdf) provides some information about this.

Receiving Payment in Foreign Currency: Receiving payment when working overseas is no different from doing so when living in the ➡

Home Exchanges Make Long Trips Affordable Continued

U.S. American banks generally do not accept checks drawn on non-U.S. banks or, if they do, charge exorbitant fees to cash them. American banks accept wire transfers, but typically charge something like \$10 (U.S.) to send them and another \$10 to receive them. I have heard of people sending and receiving payments by mailing traveler's checks, which can be issued in different currencies. Paypal is a better option. Note that the fees that Paypal charges for receiving money depend on whether you have a "personal account" or a "premier/business" account (see www.paypal.com/us/cgi-bin/?cmd=_display-fees-outside).

Car Exchanges

You will need local transportation once you arrive at your destination. If you will be staying in an outlying area, this might mean a car, but you cannot take your car if you go to another continent. The most straightforward thing is for both exchange partners to rent cars, but this is too expensive for long exchanges, defeating one of the benefits of home exchanges. Another possibility is to exchange cars, if both parties agree and the insurance companies permit

this. Matters of concern are liability or a rate increase if there is an accident, breakdowns, speeding tickets, or other issues. We have done three car exchanges, and never had any major problems, but they caused me more worry than the home exchanges themselves. The American Automobile Association covers members in Europe through some local auto clubs.

A More Meaningful Experience

Home exchanges require a great

deal of advance planning and effort, but make it possible to spend longer periods in other countries than would normally be possible. They also provide a more natural and meaningful experience than typical tourist vacations do. Home exchanges are a good way for translators to maintain and improve their knowledge of their languages and the culture of the countries where they are spoken.



Check Out These Sites

American Automobile Association

www.aaa.com

IRS Publication 593

www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p593.pdf

Paypal

www.paypal.com/us/cgi-bin/?cmd=_display-fees-outside

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Dun & Bradstreet

Mike Horoski

(800) 333-6497 ext. 823 7226

(484) 242-7226

michael.horoski@rmsna.com

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LogiTerm: Your Personal Search Engine, Part I

By Naomi J. Sutcliffe de Moraes

Please note that the reviewer is not affiliated in any way with the products being discussed. This review does not represent an endorsement of the product by ATA. All opinions are solely those of the author.

My reviews published in the August, September, and October issues focused on the environment tools Déjà Vu X and across. LogiTerm is a different kind of translation tool, with the advantage that you need not have your source text in electronic format. LogiTerm is especially useful for handwritten texts (like physicians' reports) and for specialist translators in any area.

The version reviewed here is the Professional edition, which is appropriate for freelance translators working with *languages using the Latin alphabet*. It does not work with languages using other alphabets due to encoding issues. LogiTermWebPlus does work with all languages, but costs about four times more.

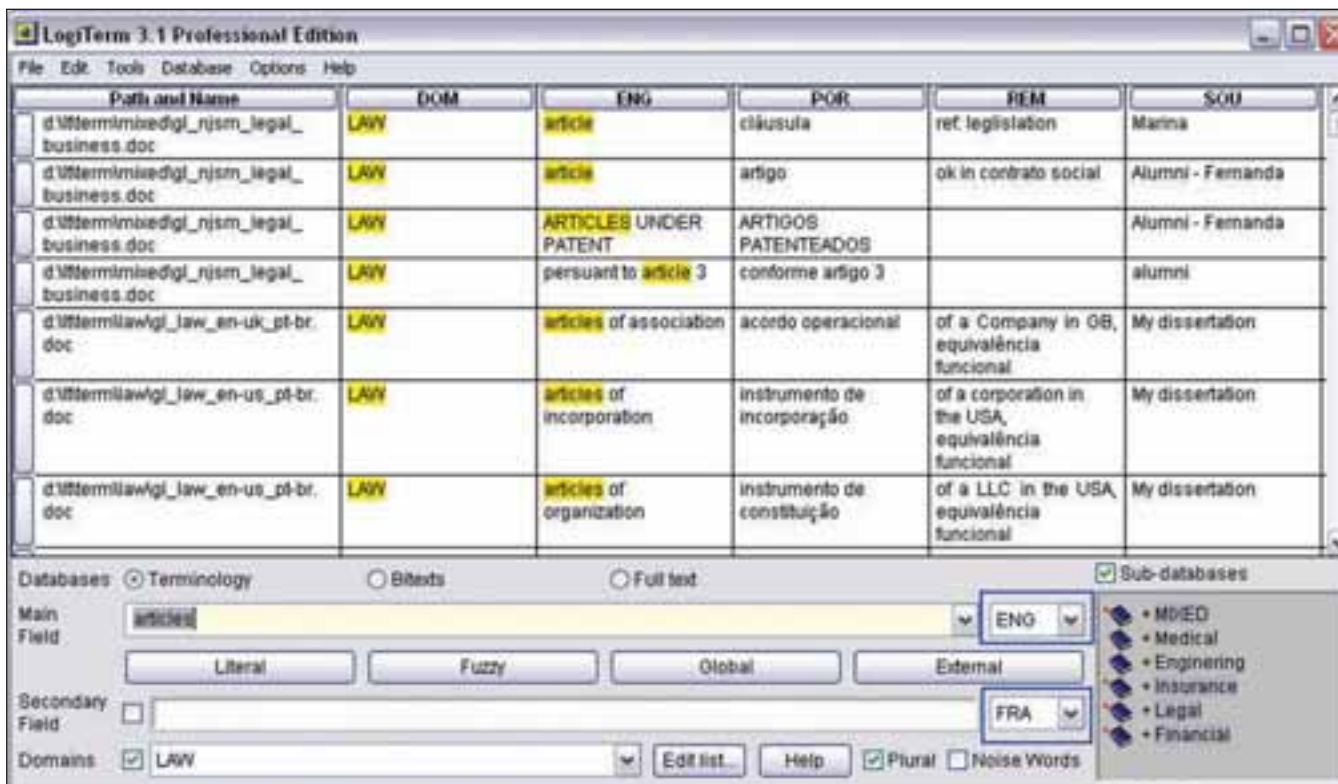
What LogiTerm Does

LogiTerm is, first and foremost, a personal search engine for translators. You define which files (on your hard drive or your network) you want to include in searches and LogiTerm indexes them. From then on, you can search these files from a single interface. This may sound just like what Google Desktop does, but it is far more useful.

LogiTerm has three databases, which are initially empty:

- 1. Terminology:** Terminology files in the native LogiTerm format and in almost any other format.
- 2. Bitexts:** Files containing originals aligned with their translations in LogiTerm format (a two-column HyperText Markup Language [HTML] file).

Figure 1: LogiTerm search interface showing fuzzy search results



3. Full Texts: Reference files in many different formats, including many Portable Document Format (PDFs).

You store your terminology, bitext, and reference files wherever you wish on your hard drive, and then tell LogiTerm where they are. After you have configured the location of the files to be searched, LogiTerm indexes them (makes a simpler internal copy of the text in the files, disregarding all formatting), which makes searching a snap.

This month's review will focus on LogiTerm's interface and use of the tool to search terminology files. Next month, we will again look at LogiTerm, this time discussing the creation of bitexts, searches in bitexts and full texts, and LogiTerm's pre-translation functions.

The Search Interface

LogiTerm provides one search interface for all three databases, as shown in Figure 1. You choose which database to search, which language, type in the search word or words, and then click on the type of search:

- **Literal:** Searches for a record matching exactly the term typed in the search field.
- **Fuzzy:** Searches for a record containing the words typed in the search field.
- **Global:** Searches for the words typed in the search field in all files indexed and in all fields in LogiTerm terminology files.

- **External:** Searches for the words typed in the search field in Termium, a French/English/Spanish online database.

This is sufficient for most searches, but you can also search for:

- Terms with (or without) specific text in a secondary field (you choose which field and which term to search on), and/or
- Terms in a specific domain (you define the domains when configuring the program), and/or
- Terms in specific sub-databases that you create.

LogiTerm has several special features that make its searches more effective:



- **Order of results:** Presents the results in order of relevance, not in some random order.
- **Plurals:** If the plural box is checked, it looks for both singular and plural forms (note that in Figure 1, I searched on the plural and it found the singular form of the word in the database). For words that do not form their plurals with an “s,” use the wildcard discussed below.
- **Articles/Prepositions:** If the noise words box is not checked, the program ignores articles and prepositions. This allows you to copy text directly from your word processor without cleaning it up. Note that

words box, so it will know to include “of” in the search.

- **Exclusion:** You can use the minus sign (-) to indicate that a specific word should not appear in the searched text. This is similar to Google, except only a terminology record or bitext segment is omitted, not an entire file.

A Place for Everything and Everything in its Place

One of the best things about LogiTerm is that it is very easy to add files/terms to the database. When you must fit your information into a specific format, you will probably end up putting it off until you have more time (which never happens). I work in four

Figure 2: My directory structure for LogiTerm files



LogiTerm is especially useful for handwritten texts (like physicians' reports) and for specialist translators in any area.

the preset noise words are French and English, but you can change them to words appropriate for your language combinations.

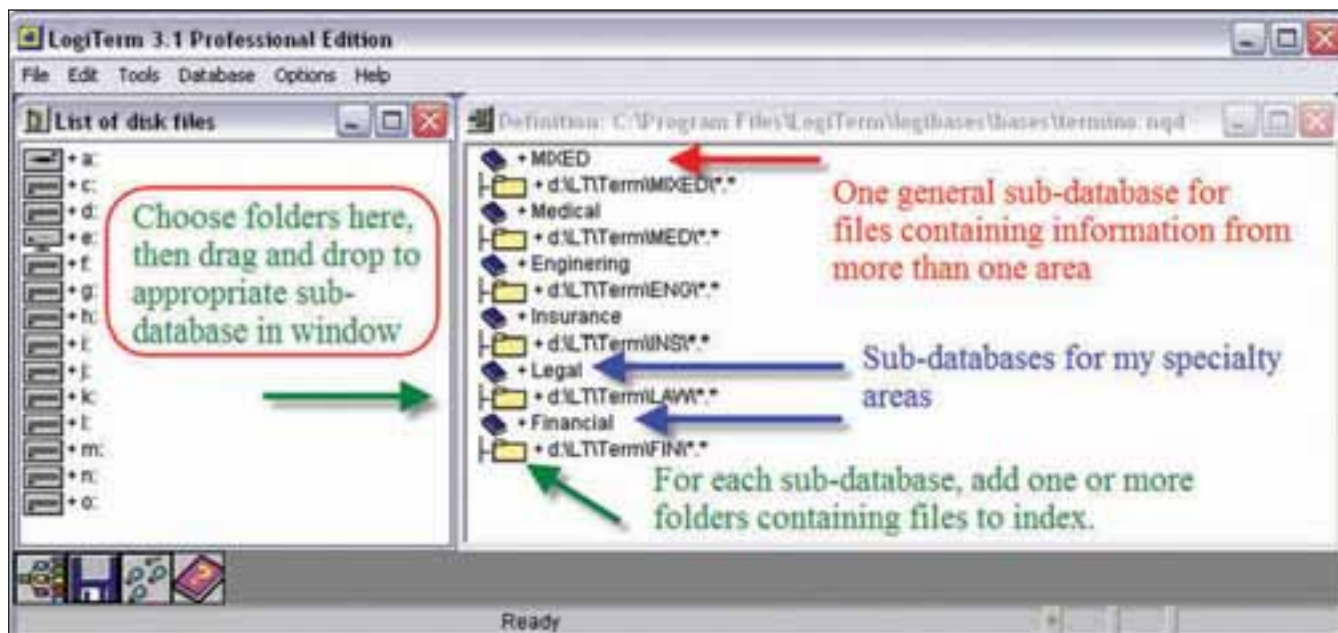
- **Wildcard:** You can use the * as a wildcard to look for all forms of a word, or for similar words. This is what I miss most when searching with Google. This is great when you cannot read the entire word when translating handwritten material.
- **Quotes:** You can use quotes to search for a string, like “articles of association” (just like in Google). Make sure you check the noise

main areas (legal, medical, engineering, and insurance), so I created four folders named LAW, MED, ENG, and INS under each of three folders for reference, bitext, and terminology files (see Figure 2). Figure 2 is just an example—you can put your files anywhere you wish and use any file structure.

Quick Inclusion: Whenever I am working and come across an interesting file or glossary, I throw it into the appropriate folder immediately (and I do not even need to open LogiTerm). If I want to be able to search the folder immediately, I update the index for that database, or I

can wait and do it later. Just this morning a client asked me to provide a quote for a file that included the articles of incorporation for a nonprofit. I collect these for reference, so I immediately saved a copy in my LT/Ref/LAW directory. Even if the client chooses a different supplier, I will have the file for my personal reference when translating similar documents. When surfing the Internet, I often run across files that would be useful either for the job I am working on or for my work in general, so now I simply download the file to the correct folder and make it part of my searchable reference material. Before I purchased LogiTerm, I often saved reference material to the client's folder, and then forgot it was there when working on similar jobs for other clients.

Figure 3: Database configuration



File Formats: Please note that LogiTerm can index (and align) MS Word, WordPerfect, HTML, MS Excel, PowerPoint, and PDF files. You do not need to convert these files before indexing. (It can process PDF files created by programs like MS Word, but not those created by scanning a document as an image.) That is why it is so easy to just drop the file into the appropriate folder without further processing. Note that you should try to give files a name that will mean something to you, since LogiTerm shows the filename and entire path in the first column of the results table (see Figure 1 on page 33).

Database Configuration: As shown in Figure 3, database configuration is very intuitive. It is very easy to set up the files and folders LogiTerm indexes, and I often create a new temporary reference database when I have a good deal of reference material for a specific project. Later, I can incorporate the specific reference material

into my area-specific database by dropping and dragging the contents of the specific folder into the regular area folders I normally use. It only takes 30

one, and the tool I use most is the terminology database. LogiTerm stores terminology records in MS Word or text files, and the interface to add new

The Professional edition is appropriate for freelance translators working with languages using the Latin alphabet.

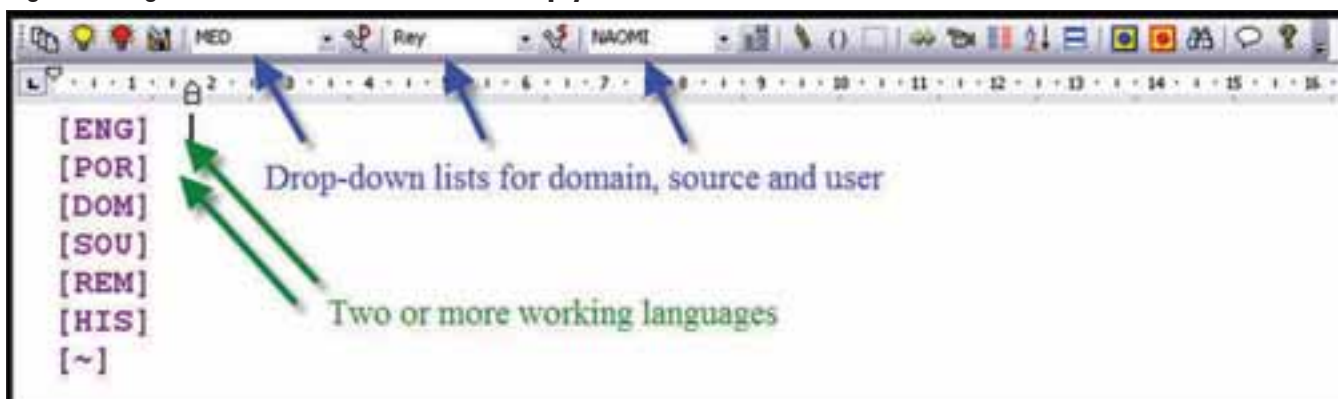
seconds to configure a new sub-database and less than a minute to update the index (though it could take longer if more than a hundred files are being indexed at once). Each database (terminology, bitexts, full texts) must be defined separately, but this also provides more flexibility.

Terminology Files

LogiTerm is really three tools in

terms is an extra toolbar in MS Word. Figure 4 on page 36 shows the LogiTerm toolbar and an empty terminology record. When I first started using LogiTerm, I was frustrated by the limited number of fields, which is one of the limitations specific to the Professional version. You can include many languages per record, but you cannot add more information fields, just domain, source, remark, ➡

Figure 4: LogiTerm toolbar in MS Word and empty record



and history (this last field is filled in automatically with the user's name and the date the record is saved). I used to keep my records in MS Excel and had at least 10 columns for each term. The extra information ended up in the remark field after conversion. Another limitation is that LogiTerm allows you to have only one template. You cannot have one English↔French database and another English↔Portuguese database. If you want three or more languages, all entries include fields for all languages (you do not need to fill them all in). Note that you can search on any word in any field, and also search on a second word in any other field (see the two drop-down lists marked with blue squares in Figure 1 on page 33).

Glossary Conversion: I have not found it difficult to transfer terminology from other formats into LogiTerm. Basically, if you can get the information into a table in MS Word with one column for one language, another column for another language, and at least one other column for everything else, you can import the information into LogiTerm's native format easily. (LogiTerm needs a tab-delimited text file, which can be created from an MS Word file, an MS Excel file, or from almost any termi-

nology tool or database.) One of the program's attractions is that it works primarily with MS Word files, with which most PC users are more familiar. The company's technical sup-

portory providing its official name and many alternative names and abbreviations for all the tests they perform. This page is 95% in Portuguese, but sometimes the English name is given

LogiTerm is, first and foremost, a personal search engine for translators.

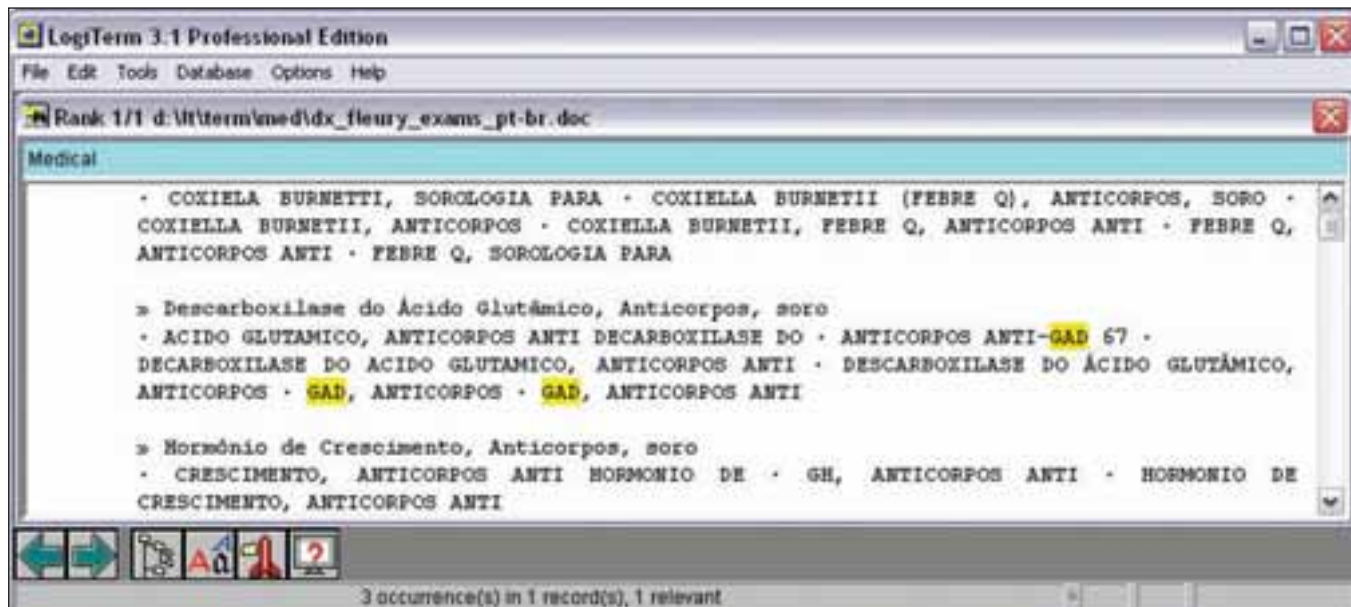
port sent me special instructions on how to convert my 10-column MS Excel data into their format shortly after I purchased the tool, and even converted one of my files for me to show me how easy it was.

Glossaries in Other Formats: Many of us collect glossaries off the Internet or from other sources, and we could spend weeks massaging them into LogiTerm's or any other program's format. This is one of LogiTerm's differentials: you can include and index any of the file types it can read without converting the data. For example, I translate medical insurance claims, and these often include laboratory reports. I found a wonderful page on the site of a Brazilian diagnostics lab-

as an alternative. I searched on the acronym GAD, which is the name of a test. The results grid shows only the name of the file—the other columns are empty. I see from the file name that the search result is probably relevant, so I click on the result and the context window in Figure 5 opens.

LogiTerm immediately shows the text in an unformatted view, with the search word highlighted in yellow. The buttons in the lower left allow you to see the text in a formatted view (which takes longer, but shows any images or formatting in the file), or can open the original file in the program in which it was created. In this example, I do not find the English equivalent, but at least I know the full name of the test. I also have a nice ref-

Figure 5: Context window



erence file containing brand names and generic names for many drugs. Terminology files do not need to be bilingual to be useful.

Other Examples: I have found LogiTerm's ability to index and find terminology in non-LogiTerm-native files invaluable. For example, a colleague sent me her rich glossary containing thousands of terms from decades of work. The only drawback was that she created the glossary in MS Word, with one column for the Portuguese term and a second column for everything else (English term, comments, source, domain, examples, etc.). It would have taken me weeks to put this in a three-column form (source, target, and everything else). Instead of converting it into LogiTerm's native format, I was able

to index it as a non-native terminology file, and now I can search it from the LogiTerm search interface. The only disadvantage is that LogiTerm has no way of knowing what is what in the file, so it cannot show me search results in the proper columns like it can with files in the native format. LogiTerm displays only the filename in the results grid and I must click on each entry to see the information in the context window, like in Figure 5.

In another case, one of my favorite engineering dictionaries came out in electronic format. Unfortunately, the CD did not contain a program with a database containing the terms, but rather a PDF file of the dictionary, but with one term per page. The only way to search for a term was to use the search function in Adobe reader, which took about five minutes to

search through all 15,000 pages. I indexed it with LogiTerm and now I can find terms instantly.

Coming Soon!

Next month, in Part II of this review, I will describe LogiTerm's automatic alignment function, how to search your bitexts, how to convert your translation memories into LogiTerm format in two easy steps, how you can collect, index, and search reference files, and how you can use LogiTerm to pre-translate source documents.

References:

LogiTerm Professional Edition v. 3.1
www.terminotix.com
 Price: 450 Canadian dollars
 (approximately US\$490)

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Business Smarts Liability Clauses

Although business relationships in the translating and interpreting industry can sometimes be casual, every legal agreement with a client or agency must be carefully reviewed for potential pitfalls and misunderstandings. To prevent unpleasant surprises, freelance contractors should thoroughly examine even apparently “standard” agreements, no matter how short the deadline involved. Especially in the U.S., where litigation is more than a theoretical possibility, liability clauses must be reviewed with particular concern.

Dear Business Smarts:

I just received a standard contractor agreement from a U.S. translation agency, which I am asked to sign before I receive more work. It contains the customary clauses on confidentiality, not contacting the end-client, etc., none of which are a problem. However, I stumbled over the following section:

Indemnification: throughout the term of this agreement, translator shall indemnify and hold company and its employees, agents, directors, officers, and affiliated corporations and their respective officers, directors, and employees harmless from and against all loss, cost, expense, damage, or liability or claim thereof, including, but not limited to, bodily injury, property damage, and professional liability

caused by or arising out of the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions of translator, its employees, staff, directors, officers of affiliated corporations and their respective officers, directors, and employees, including, but not limited to, any liability to clients as a result of delays in performance by translator. This provision shall survive the termination of this agreement.

I am not a lawyer, but if I understand this right, I could be held responsible without any restriction for the work I submit. What if my work gets changed by an editor or the end-client and is then found to contain a mistake? Should I refuse to sign this agreement and lose the agency as a client? Thank you for your insights.

Liable?

Dear Liable:

You are very wise to ask these questions and to read the “fine print” of agreements before signing. Unfortunately, it is all too common to sign on the “dotted line” in everyday business situations without a thorough review, especially if the contract is a prerequisite for starting a work assignment. The contract clause you quote sounds like it was copied out of a lawyerly textbook, but it certainly is not a good fit for the type of subcontractor relationship that exists between translation agencies and freelance

translators. Indemnification clauses are typically written to limit liability, but in this case, the contract text actually assigns **ALL** liability to you as the contractor, without any reasonable limitation. Assuming a worst-case scenario, you could be held liable for thousands of dollars in damages for a mistake you made in a document of 200 words. Under no circumstances should you sign this agreement in its current form. However, that does not necessarily mean that you cannot continue to work for this particular agency. Simply cross out the clause, clearly marking the sections you disagree with, and initial the places you have crossed out. For maximum clarity, you may want to send the original printout with your signature by mail instead of fax. It is always a good idea to keep a copy of contracts on file for future reference.

Comments?

ATA members can discuss business issues online at the following Yahoo! group: http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/ata_business_practices. You will need to register with Yahoo! (at no charge) if you have not already done so, and provide your full name and ATA member number in order to join the group.

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The New England Translators Association (NETA) is a professional organization of translators and interpreters with more than 250 members. NETA's mission is to:

- Advocate and promote the recognition of translating and interpreting as a profession.
- Protect and safeguard the interests of the professional translator and interpreter.
- Formulate and maintain standards of professional ethics, practice, and competence.
- Provide meetings, workshops, an annual conference, and other activities to promote collegiality, networking, and learning among members.

Benefits and Activities

Monthly Meetings/Social Events: Each month, members gather to discuss association business and to listen to an invited speaker. NETA also hosts an annual picnic and a holiday party.

Annual Conference: NETA held its 11th annual conference in Marlborough, Massachusetts on May 5, 2007.

Website: In addition to membership information, NETA's website

Quick Facts

- Established: 1975
- Website: www.netaweb.org
- Contact: Diana Rhudick
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Reading, MA 01867
info@netaweb.org

(www.netaweb.org) contains: event listings, contact information for officers and directors, member list and services directory, a code of professional conduct and model contract, information on conflict resolution and grievance procedure provided by NETA's Business Practices Committee, translator and interpreter resource links, and issues of the *NETA News* in PDF format.

Online Services Directory: This searchable online directory provides contact information and details about each member's services (i.e., languages, specializations). Potential clients who wish to hire a translator but are unsure of how to go about it can click on the link "Introduction for Clients."

Newsletter: *NETA News* is published quarterly online at www.netaweb.org,

and it is also e-mailed to members. Print copies available upon request.

Job Posting Service: NETA sends out frequent job and project announcements via e-mail. Individuals who have a project for which they are seeking a translator can send a detailed description of the project (dates, word counts, subject matter, full contact information, etc.) to neta-jobs@netaweb.org.

Yahoo! Discussion Forums: NETA has two online communities:

NETA general online forum
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NETA>

NETA political "off-topic" forum
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/altneta2>



ATA chapters, affiliates, and local groups serve translators and interpreters in specific geographic areas. They provide industry information, networking opportunities, and support services to members at the local level and act as liaisons with the national association. This column is designed to serve as a quick resource highlighting the valuable contributions these organizations are making to the Association and the profession as a whole.

Israel Translators Association
 6th International Conference

Translators 2008:
 From Success to Recognition

February 5-6, 2008
 Jerusalem, Israel
<http://ita.org.il>

Member News

Send your news to Jeff Sanfacon at jeff@atanet.org or American Translators Association, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314.

- **CETRA, Inc.** was featured in the October 12 issue of the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. The company was founded by ATA President **Jiri Stejskal**.
- *Flight of the Condor: Stories of Violence and War from Colombia*, translated and compiled by **Jennifer Edwards**, was published by the University of Wisconsin Press.
- **Eriksen Translations Inc.** and **Iverson Language Associates, Inc.** have been ranked among the 5,000 fastest growing companies in the U.S. by *Inc.*, a magazine for entrepreneurs and small businesses, which included the companies on its inaugural Inc. 5,000 list.
- **Mark Gimson's** translation of Olivia de Oliveira's *Subtle Substances: The Architecture of Lina Bo Bardi*, has been nominated for the 2007 Sir Nikolaus Pevsner Royal Institute of British Architects International Book Award for Architecture.
- **Richard Schneider Enterprises, Inc.** has opened an office in Washington, DC.
- **SDL International** has opened an office in São Paulo, Brazil.



In Memoriam

Rosa Codina | 1946-2007

In 1998, Rosa joined ATA's Certification Program as a grader for the English into Spanish exam. With her wonderful sense of humor and formidable knowledge of grammar, style, and syntax, Rosa was a tremendous asset to the group. At the time of her death, she was senior translator and director of training and testing for Metropolitan Interpreters & Translators in New York and Los Angeles. For more details, see <http://translationjournal.net/journal/43codina.htm>.

streamline the Certification program's continuing education renewal requirements. The revised grid is online at www.atanet.org/docs/aboutcont_guide_grid.pdf. Thanks to Certification Maintenance Committee Chair Corinne McKay and her committee for all their work to enhance this program.

The Board also approved offering a monthly e-newsletter to members. This member benefit will provide summaries of translation and interpreting-related articles that have been published outside the translation and interpreting trade press. This e-newsletter promises to be a fast interesting read featuring material not covered anywhere else. The first issue should be out in early 2008.

Among other projects, the Board discussed revisions to ATA's Code of Code of Professional Conduct and Business

Practices and ways that ATA can help in dispute resolutions involving its members. These two topics, along with proposed revisions to ATA's bylaws, will be discussed at the next Board meeting, which is set for January 19-20, 2008 in Alexandria, Virginia. The meeting will be preceded by the Board's Annual Planning Day, which is where the Board takes a strategic look at the Association—where we are and where we want to be.

The minutes of the meeting will be posted online at www.atanet.org/membership/minutes.php. Past meeting minutes are also posted on the site. As always, the meeting is open to all members.

Happy Holidays, thank you for being an ATA member, and please renew your ATA membership for 2008.



ATA's Membership Directory

You'll find the most up-to-date contact information for your ATA colleagues online, day or night! Search by name, location, even by e-mail address—just click www.atanet.org/membersonly.

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Project Managers

CETRA, Inc., a Philadelphia-based language services provider, is hiring project managers. Candidates with a Bachelor's degree or higher and knowledge of at least one language other than English can request more information and submit their résumé to Beth Podrovitz at beth@cetra.com.



Upcoming Events

December 27–30, 2007

Modern Language Association
123rd Annual Convention
Chicago, Illinois
www.mla.org/convention

February 5-6, 2008

Israel Translators Association
6th International Conference
Jerusalem, Israel
<http://ita.org.il>

March 7–8, 2008

Institute of Germanic and Romance
Studies
Nordic Translation Conference
London, England
www.awaywithwords.se/nordic.htm

May 13–17, 2008

Association of Language Companies
2008 Annual Conference
San Francisco, California
www.alcus.org

May 16–18, 2008

National Association of Judiciary
Interpreters and Translators
29th Annual Conference
May 16-18, 2008
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
<http://najit.org>

August 4–7, 2008

International Federation of Translators
18th FIT World Congress
Shanghai, China
www.fit-ift.org

November 5–8, 2008

American Translators Association
49th Annual Conference
Orlando, Florida
www.atanet.org

Credit Suisse is recruiting for a German to English translator. Your background must include translations of material such as annual reports, investment banking product documents, company announcements, analyst reports and financial results as examples.

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- Personal responsibility for self-development (specialist and social)

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Please forward resumes to Rashida Dujue at rashida.dujue@credit-suisse.com

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National White Collar Crime Center
The Internet Crime Complaint Center
www.ic3.gov

Security Fix
Brian Krebs on Computer Security
<http://blog.washingtonpost.com/securityfix>



American Translators Association
**48th Annual
Conference**
San Francisco, California
October 31– November 3, 2007

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TRB4

U.S. Department of State,
Office of Language Services

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WordFast

WordFinder Software International AB

ATA Certification Exam Information

Upcoming Exams

Arizona

Tucson
March 2, 2008
Registration Deadline:
February 15, 2008

California

San Diego
March 15, 2008
Registration Deadline:
February 29, 2008

San Francisco
March 22, 2008
Registration Deadline:
March 7, 2008

San Francisco
April 26, 2008
Registration Deadline:
April 11, 2008

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September 6, 2008
Registration Deadline:
August 22, 2008

Florida

Orlando
November 8, 2008
Registration Deadline:
October 24, 2008

Michigan

Novi
August 9, 2008
Registration Deadline:
July 25, 2008

All candidates applying for ATA certification must provide proof that they meet the certification program eligibility requirements. Please direct all inquiries regarding general certification information to ATA Headquarters at (703) 683-6100. Registration for all certification exams should be made through ATA Headquarters. All sittings have a maximum capacity and admission is based on the order in which registrations are received. Forms are available from ATA's website or from Headquarters.

Active Member Review

Congratulations! The Active Membership Review Committee is pleased to grant active status to:

Leyou Li
Baldwin Park, CA

New Certified Members

Congratulations! The following people have successfully passed ATA's certification exam:

English into Hungarian

László Kovács
Budapest, Hungary

Attila Piroth
Bordeaux, France

Gyongyi Pisak
Seguin, TX

Laszlo J. Vegso
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French into English

Steven C. Silver
Honolulu, HI

German into English

Alexa Nieschlag
New York, NY



Dictionary Review

Compiled by

Boris Silversteyn

bsilversteyn@comcast.net

The Family Sabbatical Handbook: The Budget Guide to Living Abroad with Your Family

Author:

Elisa Bernick

Publisher:

The Intrepid Traveler

Publication date:

April 2007

Number of pages:

296 pages + bibliography and index

ISBN:

978 1-887140-69-0

Price:

\$15.95 (paperback)

Available from:

Bookstores and at www.IntrepidTraveler.com

Reviewed by:

Dorothee Racette

Expanding on the concept of the academic sabbatical, which allows time to research, write, travel, and recharge one's inner batteries, this book discusses the possibility of taking a year off as a family and living in a foreign country without the pressures of work. The author draws on her own experience of spending 18 months in Mexico with her husband and two young children.

For freelance translators, whose businesses have become much more portable with the arrival of high-performance laptops, cell phones, and the Internet, the concept of a family sabbatical opens up interesting possibilities. Aside from the obvious need to spend time in the source and target culture to stay abreast of linguistic and social developments, translators now have unique options to explore foreign countries and to expand their cultural horizons. While Elisa Bernick's book was not written for our specific profession, it contains valuable and well-structured resources for planning an extended stay abroad with the entire family.

The book is written in a breezy tone and is easy to read. The author has compiled valuable advice on many aspects of moving and living abroad as a family. She backs up the vast volume of information with many personal stories and anecdotes as well as quotes from other families who have gone on long-term travel adventures to various parts of the world. At times, the focus is on somewhat trivial family matters, and the repetitive quotes interspersed in the text do not always support the conclusions.

The logical structure of the text covers everything from selecting a suitable destination to preparing for departure, living abroad, and returning to the U.S. The checklists of things to do and take care of before departure are particularly helpful and

detailed. A thorough index at the end of the book also allows the reader to locate information quickly about specific aspects of traveling, such as health insurance, schooling abroad, and renting your home. The author has also compiled a concise and well-structured annotated bibliography for further reading. The discussion of finances, health concerns, and housing particularly stands out for its thorough analysis and solid advice.

For translators, who by nature of their profession are bilingual and bicultural, the naïve outlook of the families interviewed for the book comes as a bit of a surprise. "We wanted to learn Spanish, so we started by looking at Spanish-speaking countries," a mother is quoted (page 29). As it turns out, the author and her family also moved to Mexico without any language preparation. Given the vast array of very practical preparations that are discussed and recommended in the book, language and its importance for cultural communication has been strangely neglected. Rather, the focus is on the unreasonable expectations of children's language learning and suggestions for taking classes while living abroad. Not surprisingly, the inability to communicate in Spanish led the author to feel isolated during her family's stay in Mexico, effectively barring the family from making the most of the much-anticipated stay abroad.

Perhaps as a consequence of this distinctly monocultural and monolingual outlook, the narrative about the family's stay in San Miguel de Allende appears shallow. The author's focus remains on her private family concerns, such as which videos to let the children watch or disputes with her husband. While she revels in stories about her daughter attending a Mexican school and the

Dictionary Review Continued

services of a maid, the discussion completely leaves out the grave social discrepancies that are so obvious in many countries of the developing world and which surely were part of the family's daily reality. The very fact that the Bernick family and the other families interviewed for the book are able to live abroad for an extended period without the need to earn a daily income points at their privileged status. ("The first things to do are to locate a school, a park, and a pediatrician," says a young mother, apparently without realizing that these are commodities much of the world would love to share with her—page

204). Nowhere does the book offer a discussion of using the family sabbatical to explore the darker sides of globalization, or at least speaking to young children about poverty, hunger, and social injustice.

Because of its focus on the sabbatical concept, the book pays less attention to issues that would be of obvious concern to translators wishing to work while living abroad, such as taxation, work permits, business licenses, etc. These would be the subject of a *Translator's Guide to Living and Freelancing Abroad*, which is yet to be written. However, for all those getting ready to set out for an extended family adventure

in another country, *The Family Sabbatical Handbook* is a good start.



Dorothee Racette works as a full-time freelance translator from her home in upstate New York. She is an ATA-certified (German↔English) translator specializing in medical and biomedical texts. She served as an ATA director and the administrator of ATA's German Language Division (2000 to 2004). She is chair of ATA's Business Practices Education Committee. Contact: dracette@hughes.net.

Attention Exhibitors

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Plan now to exhibit at ATA's 49th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, November 5-8, 2008. Exhibiting at ATA's Annual Conference offers the best opportunity to market your products and services face-to-face to more than 1,500 translators and interpreters in one location. Translators and interpreters are consumers of computer hardware and software, technical publications and reference books, office products, and much more.

For additional information, please contact Matt Hicks, McNeill Group Inc.; mhicks@mcneill-group.com; (215) 321-9662, ext. 19; Fax: (215) 321-9636.



Humor and Translation

Mark Herman

hermanapter@cmsinter.net

Savoyards and Savoyids

A Savoyard is a performer, audience member, or anyone else who loves the Victorian comic operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan. The name comes from the Savoy Theatre in London, where many of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas were first performed. Al Grand, according to his e-mail username, is a Savoyid. He translates the works of Gilbert and Sullivan into Yiddish, and then performs them.

Yiddish, a dialect of German, was the common language of the Jews of northern Europe for a thousand years until many of its native speakers were exterminated during the Nazi Holocaust. The language is written in Hebrew characters from right to left, but often, as in this column, transliterated into left-to-right Roman letters.

According to Catherine Madsen's article "Gilbert & Sullivan in Yiddish" in the Fall 2006 issue of *Pakn Treger* [*Pack Carrier*], the publication of the National Yiddish Book Center, Miriam Walowit started translating Gilbert and Sullivan songs in the late 1940s for fund-raising productions by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. Al Grand completed and revised Walowit's translations, and translated more operettas for the first time. And now there have been professional productions on Long Island (New York) and at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan, and planned productions for several East Coast cities and London.

Why do English speakers, many knowing only a few words of Yiddish, if any, pay to see a musical comedy that has been translated *out* of their and its

native tongue? One reason is that the translation and performance of Gilbert and Sullivan is partly an exercise in nostalgia. Al Grand's translations, following a long-standing tradition of the Yiddish theater, rewrite the cultural background of the operettas: character names, plot, etc., are all subject to Yiddishization. The audience therefore experiences a Yiddish play, not merely a non-Yiddish play that has been translated into Yiddish.

Another reason is that Gilbert and Sullivan in Yiddish is funny. Often it simply *sounds* funny. Consider Gilbert's "Tit-willow" refrain. Willow songs are traditionally the laments of women crossed in love and frequently about to die. In *The Mikado*, "Tit-willow" is funny partly because the plaint has been displaced into the beak of a lovelorn tom-tit, a male bird, and further displaced by its occurrence in a song by Ko-Ko, a man trying to win the affection of a woman he in fact detests. The Yiddish version replaces the incredibly specific phrase "Tit-willow" with the all-purpose *Oy vay 'z mir!* [Oh woe is me! / How could this happen!]. That the result is nonetheless side-splittingly funny is, as *The Pirates of Penzance* would say, a paradox, or rather a *mishugas* [craziness].

In other cases, the cultural clash resulting from Yiddishization is comical to anyone knowing both the original and its relationship to what has been substituted. In Grand's Yiddish version of *The Pirates of Penzance*, the hero Frederic is called Fayvl. He is apprenticed to the pirates not because his nursemaid misheard the word "pilot," but because, since the pirates had knives in their teeth, she thought

she was apprenticing him to *shokhtim* [kosher butchers]. And the pirates eventually surrender, not in Queen Victoria's name, but *in nomen Avrom, Yitzkhak, un Yakov* [in the name of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob]. Finally, the pirates are not noblemen who have "gone wrong," but rabbis who are *gor farblondzhet* [totally astray].

While a cultural clash is funny, a cultural congruence is hysterical. In *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Ralph can aspire to Josephine's hand, despite the difference in their ranks, because "he is an Englishman," and that category trumps all others in the parochial British world. In the Yiddish version, Leyb's trump card allowing him to aspire to Rokhl's hand is that he is a Jew! In Madsen's words, "British ... self-parody becomes ... Jewish self-parody."

"Pish-Tush," say the scoffers. But remember, most of the "Japanese" who inhabit the Mikado have Victorian baby-talk names: Ko-Ko, Pish-Tush, Nanki-Poo, Pitty-Sing, Peep-Bo. Gilbert and Sullivan in Yiddish? Yum-Yum!

Herman is a librettist and translator. Submit items for future columns via e-mail to hermanapter@cmsinter.net or via snail mail to Mark Herman, 1409 E Gaylord Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858-3626. Discussions of the translation of humor and examples thereof are preferred, but humorous anecdotes about translators, translations, and mistranslations are also welcome. Include copyright information and permission if relevant.

Mark your calendar now!

ATA's 49th Annual Conference

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The Translation Inquirer

John Decker

jdecker@uplink.net

The National Geographic

Society has probably never been indifferent to languages, since tongues are part of its bread-and-butter agenda of introducing every corner of the world to English-speaking readers. Just recently, however, the Society has begun focusing on languages of limited diffusion, with an increased awareness that largely spoken, endangered languages

are in a much more precarious condition than endangered animal and plant species. Particularly heart-rending was its story about the man in Oregon who is now the sole fluent speaker of the Siletz language. If his health fails altogether, he will take Siletz with him to the grave...and, in a way becoming increasingly common, there will be one less language on the planet—permanently.

Abbreviations used with this column

B—Bulgarian	G—German
E—English	I—Italian
[E]—English acceptable as an answer; the original query did not involve English	K—Korean
F—French	Po—Polish
	Pt—Portuguese
	R—Russian
	Sp—Spanish
	Sw—Swedish

New Queries

(E-Pt 11-07/1) This English-to-Portuguese query appears to relate to computer security, and involves a phrase taken from training material: *New vulnerabilities are surfacing like Pod slurping, thumbsucking, snarfing,* etc. I bet the younger the ATA member, the more he or she is likely to know what these are. What about the Portuguese?

(E-R 11-07/2) This ProZ member got halfway through an English sentence, then stopped dead because of two words looming up that caused problems, namely *shield angle*. The occasion is occluders for cardiology. Here is how things stood when this ProZer decided to ask his fellow translators about it: Плетение проволочной сетки можно производить плотностью 28 узла на дюйм at a *shield angle* of about 64 degrees using a Maypole braider with 72 wire carriers. Can you complete the sentence in Russian?

(E-Sp 11-07/3) This is an individual instruction in a work related to nautical safety: *WARNING: Ensure there is no pressure in the mud system prior to removing discharge cross strainer access plate.* The ProZer who posed this wanted only the two words in bold print, but it reads as if five consecutive

nouns are involved and they all seem opaque. What to do about it, and what would be proper Spanish?

(F-E 11-07/4) *Slack la poulie* is a term that appeared in a list consulted by a member of Lantra-L. It contained familiar expressions used to diffuse conflicts in schools. What could it mean?

(F-E 11-07/5) This report of how a psychiatrist treated a patient contains a phrase that is opaque to a member of Lantra-L. Edited, it goes like this: *Je certifie avoir reçu en consultation Monsieur XXX dans le cadre d'une prise en charge ambulatoire du Centre Hospitalier...M. XXX est favorable à la poursuite de la prise en charge spécialisée.* What can we say about this phrase?

(F-E 11-07/6) The words in bold print in the following quote were difficult for a member of Lantra-L, especially since no gap existed in the text following them to insert a measurement: *un Poteau support en profilé galvanisé avec platine épaisseur pour fixation sur le génie civil,* in the context of a plant for washing streetcars. What is it?

(G-E 11-07/7) A Lantra-L user was concerned about whether any English equivalent existed for *gefangene*

Räume, which are rooms that have no direct access to the outside corridor, but only via another room. According to German fire codes, extra early smoke detection devices have to be placed in such rooms. Anyone want to try it?

(I-E 11-07/8) A ProZ user wondered about *chirurgia protesica tricompartimentale* in a physician's résumé: *Dal 1988 è iniziata la mia personale esperienza con la Chirurgia protesica sia mono che tricompartimentale con casistiche sempre più importanti Centri di Chirurgia protesica, soprattutto del Nord America.* What procedure is this?

(K-E 11-07/9) Evidently Korean has its own set of names for at least some Chinese place names, for example, *Heuklyongkangseong*. This Lantra-L query is an attempt to find out (obviously not through transliteration) what city or region is being referred to. Welcome to Korean, by the way, in its first appearance in this column since yours truly took over in April 1993. Considering its small size, this nation has been much in the news of late.

(Po-R [E] 11-07/10) Here is material about circuit breakers, and the Polish proved difficult for this ProZ member,

especially łożyskowana. The entire phrase is komora lukowa łożyskowana jest obrotowo na osi. It is in reference to a fast-acting DC circuit breaker. Any ideas?

(Sp-B [E] 11-07/11) This is from a human resource contract, and Bulgarian was originally wanted. It goes like this: *Ana es de [un pais], tiene 37 años, está casada y lleva 3 años con contrato en origen para la recolección.* What do the words in bold print refer to?

Replies to Old Queries

(G-E 3-07/5) (*Sitzriesen*): Brigitte Goldstein says this term refers to persons who appear to be tall when they are in a sitting position, but are not. There is no English equivalent. To use *hoch zu Ross sitzen* for this is to risk that a metaphor will be used that normally refers to a person who is proud, or gives himself airs, or lives in a grand style or beyond his means (like Richard Wagner).

(G-E 8-07/6) (*Hallenchor*): Marian Comenetz did some thorough Internet research on this query. The reference is to churches built in the high or late Gothic style. In *Hallenkirchen*, or *hall churches*, of that era, the height of the vaulted ceiling is the same in the back of the church—the part behind the transept consisting of the choir (or

chancel) and the apse—as in the nave. According to the same principle, the vaulted ceiling of the gallery, or aisles, around the choir is of the same height as the choir itself. If the nave and the choir are constructed according to a common plan, the aisles of the church flow seamlessly into the gallery around the choir. The sentence fragment in the query is translated as *nave and the far higher late Gothic hall choir*; so it would appear that the vaulted ceiling of the back part of the church was even higher than that of the nave.

(I-E 7-07/6) (*Paesi transfrontaliero Adriatici*): *Countries facing one another across the Adriatic* is how Lorraine Alexson would render this.

(I-E 7-07/7) (*leve di comando attrezzatura*): For Lorraine Alexson, this means *control levers* (or *sticks*) for *unmotorized equipment*.

(Sp-E 3-07/10) (*radicación*): Gerardo García Ramis says the verb *radicar* means to present or submit, as in *radicar una querrela* (present a complaint) or *radicar una medida* (submit a bill). So, the original phrase found on page 50 of the March issue refers to *expenses pertinent to the car's legal registry process*.

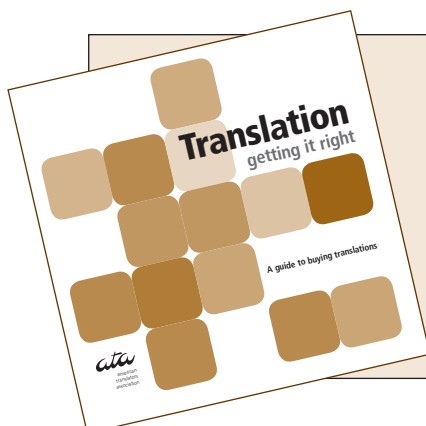
(Sw-E 8-07/11) (*föredettingarna*): Peter Christensen first thought of *has-*

beens for this, then changed it to *the Old Guard*, as a better way of designating the Soviet oligarchs being courted by Vladimir Putin.

Thank God I saved a few responses that came in during August, or the Replies part of this column would be "from hunger;" a phrase from the 1950s that never should have gone out of style. For those of you who had to wait as a result, thank you for your patience in seeing your efforts in print. As for the rest of you: look over the 11 new ones that make up the entire upper part of this column, and if you see something that catches your eye and have an idea about it, present it! There are over ten thousand of us now, so there is no need for this column to go begging.

This column is solely intended as a means of facilitating a general discussion regarding terminology choices. For feedback regarding pressing terminology questions, please try one of these online forums: Lantra-L (www.geocities.com/athens/7110/lantra.htm), ProZ.com (www.proz.com), or Translators Café (<http://translatorscafe.com>).

Address your queries and responses to The Translation Inquirer, 112 Ardmoor Avenue, Danville, Pennsylvania 17821, or fax them to (570) 275-1477. E-mail address: jdecker@uplink.net. Please make your submissions by the first of each month to be included in the next issue. Generous assistance from Per Dohler, proofreader, is gratefully acknowledged.



Translation: Getting it Right

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