Focus: Legal
Translating/Interpreting
### Web site translation quiz

**Q. How do you translate this database-driven web site?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State of CL and CAT</td>
<td><a href="http://www">http://www</a></td>
<td>This article gives more insight into the use of CL and CAT technologies</td>
<td>clcat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different Typ</td>
<td><a href="http://www">http://www</a></td>
<td>&quot;The objective of CL applications for typographical production&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simplified English</td>
<td><a href="http://www">http://www</a></td>
<td>&quot;Since this new way of producing documentation...&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Down to bus</td>
<td><a href="http://www">http://www</a></td>
<td>This article reviews applications of OCR on the web.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing for T1</td>
<td><a href="http://www">http://www</a></td>
<td>This article gives useful guidelines for using OCR technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCR and CAT</td>
<td><a href="http://www">http://www</a></td>
<td>Optical Character Recognition (OCR)</td>
<td>ocrcat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCR and CAT</td>
<td>/u-articles</td>
<td>This article compiles translators' experience with OCR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCR Software</td>
<td>/u-articles</td>
<td>Companies that provide the service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking your</td>
<td>/u-articles</td>
<td>&quot;Second part of previous article. Dictation software reviewed.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice Recog</td>
<td>/u-articles</td>
<td>A translator's experience with a dictation system</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Rec</td>
<td>/u-articles</td>
<td>&quot;[...] the time reduction for producing...&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Déjà Vu &amp; Drag</td>
<td><a href="http://www">http://www</a></td>
<td>Articles about Dictation Software and translation tools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT tools review</td>
<td>/u-articles</td>
<td>Evaluations of CAT tools performed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSLATI</td>
<td>/u-articles</td>
<td>A thorough review of Déjà Vu, Trans tools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How the mer</td>
<td>/u-articles</td>
<td>The ITI Bulletin has recently published</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of At</td>
<td><a href="http://www">http://www</a></td>
<td>&quot;Translation Journal}}&lt;/i&gt; published</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A. With Déjà Vu.**

**Go beyond translation memory. Try Déjà Vu.**

[www.atril.com](http://www.atril.com)
Court Interpreting in Close Quarters: Lock-ups, Jails, and Institutions
By Arlene M. Kelly .......................................................... 11

Court interpreting occurs beyond the walls of the courtroom. Other environments, both inside and outside the courthouse, require strategic preparation and test the professional skills of the legal interpreter.

Frequently and Less Frequently Asked Questions on German Legal Translation
By Margaret Marks .......................................................... 14

This article looks back on seven years of reading translators’ questions about German<>English legal translation on FLEFO (CompuServe’s Foreign Language Education Forum), mailing lists, BBSs, and newsgroups. It offers many questions and a few answers.

Interpreting for a Non-English-speaking Juror: A New Challenge in New Mexico
By Margarita B. Montalvo .................................................. 20

Today, only judicial interpreters in New Mexico have to be concerned about being the 13th person in the jury room. Tomorrow, a new ruling in New Mexico could set a trend for other states. In this article, the author recounts her experience interpreting during jury deliberation, and offers suggestions for professional implementation and modifications of some procedures.

Plea Bargain? You Bet Your Life
By Sandra A. Morra .......................................................... 24

This overview of the plea bargain process is based on a series of interviews with Rhode Island judges, lawyers, prosecutors, and interpreters. In Rhode Island, the plea bargain accounts for 90 percent of criminal case dispositions. The seriousness and frequency of this process are both compelling reasons for a brief, but in-depth look.

Consular Interpreting: Community Interpreting
By Adrián Fuentes Luque .................................................. 29

Fortunately, over the last few decades interpreting has achieved well-deserved levels of international recognition and increasingly become a subject of study in academic and professional circles. However, many people are still only familiar with the three most common forms of interpreting, namely consecutive, simultaneous, and bilateral. But what is consular interpreting? When, where, and how is it carried out? This area is highly demanding and deals with very delicate matters requiring a great deal of specialized training and professionalism.

Approaching the Translation of Spanish Financial Statements
By John J. Rynne ............................................................ 33

Translating financial statements is a complex task. This article discusses the translation of financial statements issued by Spanish companies, focuses on essential background information and reference material, and identifies some pitfalls.

More on Translating Abbreviations in Specialized Texts into English
By Daniel Linder ............................................................ 37

When into-English specialized translators encounter an abbreviation in a foreign language source-text they must first determine what language each abbreviation is in before deciding what action is appropriate: transfer (non-translation) or translation. Specialized into-English translators should be aware that non-translation of source-language abbreviations may lead to a breakdown in communication. Examples of abbreviations from specialized texts in business will be used to illustrate this problem.
**AN EASY REFERENCE TO ATA MEMBER BENEFITS**

Your ATA membership has never been more valuable. Take advantage of the discounted programs and services available to you as an ATA member. Be sure to tell these companies you are an ATA member and refer to any codes provided below.

**Business Owners Insurance**
National Professional Group
(888) 219-8122
www.ata-ins.com

**Collection Services/Receivables Management**
Dan & Bradstreet
Ask for Sharon LeBoutillier
(800) 333-6497 ext. 7468
(610) 882-6887
Lebouilliers@dnb.com

**Conference Travel**
Stellar Access
Reference Code: 505
(800) 929-4242 • (619) 453-3686
e-mail: flycia@stellaraccess.com
www.stellaraccess.com

**Credit Card Acceptance Program/Professional Services Account**
NOVA Information Systems
Reference Code: HCDA
(888) 545-2207 • (770) 649-5700

**MasterCard**
MBNA America
Reference Code: IFKV
(800) 847-7378 • (302) 457-2165

**Medical, Life, and Disability Insurance**
Mutual of Omaha
(800) 223-6927 • (402) 342-7600
www.ata.net/mutual.htm
A. H. Wohlers & Co.
(800) 323-2106

**Overnight Delivery/Express Package Service**
UPS
Reference Code: C0000700415
(800) 325-7000
www.ups.com

**Professional Liability Insurance**
National Professional Group
(888) 219-8122
www.ata-ins.com

**Retirement Programs**
Washington Pension Center
(888) 817-7877 • (301) 941-9179

...And, of course, as an ATA member you receive discounts on the Annual Conference registration fees and ATA publications, and you are eligible to join ATA Divisions, participate in the online Translation Services Directory, and much more. For more information, contact ATA (703) 683-6100; fax (703) 683-6122; and e-mail: ata@atanet.org.

---

**MOVING? FOUND AN ERROR WITH YOUR ADDRESS?**

We’ve done everything possible to ensure that your address is correct. But sometimes errors do occur. If you find that the information on the mailing label is inaccurate or out of date, please let us know. Send updates to: The ATA Chronicle • 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590 • Alexandria, VA 22314
Fax (703) 683-6122 • Chronicle@atanet.org

---

225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria VA 22314
Tel: (703) 683-6100; Fax (703) 683-6122
E-mail: Chronicle@atanet.org
Website: www.atanet.org

**Editor**
Jeff Sanfacon
Jeff@atanet.org

**Proofreaders**
Margaret L. Hallin/Susan Dashiel

**Design/Layout**
Ellen Bankez/Amy Peloff

**Advertising**
Megan Gallagher, McNeill Group Inc.
mgallagher@mcneill-group.com
(215) 321-9662 ext. 19
Fax: (215) 321-9636

**Executive Director**
Walter Bacak
Walter@atanet.org

**Editorial Advisors**
R. Michael Conner, Leslie Willson, Mike Stacy

**Membership and General Information**
Maggie Rowe
Maggie@atanet.org
Document-on-Request: 1-888-990-3282
Website: www.atanet.org

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; Phone: (703) 683-6100; Fax: (703) 683-6122; E-mail: (see above directory for appropriate department).

Reprint Permission: Requests for permission to reprint articles should be sent to the Chronicle editor at Jeff@atanet.org.

Subscription rate for a member is $43 (included in the dues payment). U.S. subscription rate for a nonmember 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. Second-class Postage rates paid at Alexandria, Virginia, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Changes of address should be sent 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 advance the standards of translation and to promote the intellectual and material interests of translators and interpreters in the United States. The statements made in the ATA Chronicle do not necessarily reflect the opinion or judgment of the ATA, its editor, or its officers or directors and are strictly those of the authors.

**Chronicle Submission Guidelines**

The ATA Chronicle enthusiastically encourages members to submit articles of interest to the fields of translation and interpretation.

1. Articles (see length specifications below) are due the first of the month, two months prior to the month of publication (i.e., June 1 for August issue).
2. Articles should not exceed 3,500 words. Articles containing words or phrases in non-European writing systems (e.g., Japanese, Arabic) should be submitted by mail and fax.
3. Include your fax, phone, and e-mail on the first page.
4. Include a brief abstract (five sentences maximum) emphasizing the most salient points of your article. The abstract will be included in the table of contents.
5. Include a brief biography (five sentences maximum) along with a picture (color or BW). Please be sure to specify if you would like your photo returned. Do not send irreplaceable photos.
6. In addition to a hard copy version of the article, please submit an electronic version either on disk or via e-mail (Jeff@atanet.org).
7. Texts should be formatted for Word, Wordperfect 8.0, or Word perfect 5.1 (DOS version).
8. All articles are subject to editing for grammar, style, punctuation, and space limitations.
9. A proof will be sent to you for review prior to publication.

**Standard Length**
Letters to the editor: 350 words; Opinion/Editorial: 300-600 words; Feature Articles: 750-3,500 words; Columns: 400-1,000 words.
Need a membership form for a colleague?  
Want the latest list of exam sites?  
Call ATA's Document on Request line, available 24-hours a day: 

1-888-990-3282

The call is toll-free and user-friendly... simply follow the voice prompts and have the ATA documents you need faxed to you.

Here’s the current list of documents that are available and their document numbers:

Menu ........................................1  
Membership Brochure .................20  
Membership Application ..............21  
Alternative Routes to Active or Corresponding Membership ..........22  
A Guide to ATA Accreditation .......30  
ATA Accreditation Practice Test Request Form ..........................31  
ATA Accreditation Examination Registration Form .....................32  
Request for Accreditation Review ....33  
List of Publications & Order Form ........................................40  
Editorial Guidelines ....................50  
Chronicle Advertising Rates ........51  
1994 Chronicle Index ....................52  
1995 Chronicle Index ....................53  
1996 Chronicle Index ....................54  
1997 Chronicle Index ....................55  
1998 Chronicle Index ....................56  
1999 Chronicle Index ....................57  
ATA Code of Professional Conduct ....58  
ATAware Order Form .....................60  
Chapters, Affiliated Groups & Other Groups ..........................70  
Proposal for Conference Presentation ........................................80  
Model Contract for Translators .....90  
42nd Annual Conference Information ........................................100

Visit our Website at www.atanet.org

Features Continued

From Drum Brakes and Carburetors to Variable-value Intakes and Magnetic-pulse Welding Technology  
By Rick Woyde ........................................40  

Due to globalization, technical complexity, and worldwide growth, there has never been a better time to focus on the automotive industry. Whether you prefer short or long documents, there is plenty of work to go around and not enough capable translators.

Language and Identity in Literary Translation: The Spanish Translation of How the García Girls Lost Their Accent by Julia Álvarez  
By Alicia B. Cipriano ..........................43  

The increasing amount of literature by Hispanic writers in the U.S. poses new challenges for translators when translating into Spanish. The centrality of linguistic identity in Julia Álvarez’s How the García Girls Lost Their Accent underscores the importance of appropriate dialectal representations when translating such literary works.

From English to Haitian through French Vocabulary: A Translation Challenge  
By Roger E. Savain ..........................49  

Translating from English to Haitian is a challenge. Whether in the fields of education, health, medicine, or law (the main sources where the English texts to be translated into Haitian originate), there are at least three hurdles to clear: 1) the initial jargon; 2) the target reader; and 3) the effective language.

Call for Proposals:  
XVI World Congress of the International Federation of Translators

August 7-10, 2002 • Vancouver, Canada

The Congress theme, “Translation: New Ideas for a New Century,” will be addressed during the Congress through the following topics: Literary Translation; Translation Studies; Specialties in the Translation Profession (scientific, technical, legal, and commercial); Specialties in the Interpreting Profession (conference, court, medical, and community); Terminology; Localization; Multimedia; Technology and Translation; and Ethics, Status, and the Future of the Profession.

The Program Committee invites proposals for presentations that fall into one of the above categories. The proposals can be for papers, workshops, or panels. A paper (20 minutes) is a presentation that does not require audience participation. A workshop (90 minutes) is a practically oriented session requiring audience participation. A panel (90 minutes) involves four to five participants discussing a given topic on the basis of short individual presentations by each of the participants (panels to be organized by the panelists).

The proposals should include the following information:
• Name and affiliation
• Address, telephone/fax number, and e-mail address
• Whether the proposal is for a paper, workshop, or panel
• Title of presentation
• Category under which the presentation can be included
• Language of presentation (English or French)

Abstracts should be 250 words. The submission deadline is July 1, 2001. Proposals should be sent to: Portfolio Event Management, 1383 Homer Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 5M9; Fax: (604) 685-5787; E-mail: portfolio@ntouch.bc.ca.
About Our Authors...

Alicia B. Cipria, Ph.D. in Hispanic linguistics, has undergraduate degrees in teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) and translation (Inst. Nac. Sup. en Lenguas Vivas, Buenos Aires, Argentina). She has also taught translation in the United States. Her research involves the application of linguistic theory to foreign language teaching and translation. She can be reached at acipria@bama.ua.edu.

Daniel Linder is a freelance technical translator. He is ATA-accredited (Spanish>English) and has the Diploma in Translation from the Institute of Linguists. He has taught specialized translation at the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain, where he is currently doing doctoral research. He can be reached at dlinder@gugu.usal.es.

Adrián Fuentes Luque teaches translation at the University of Cádiz (Spain) and works as a professional translator/interpreter. He is also a sworn interpreter/translator for the English language certified by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He recently completed his Ph.D. thesis on the reception of translated audiovisual humor and culture. He has taught at the University of Granada (Spain) and the University of Portsmouth (United Kingdom), and has worked as senior interpreter/translator at the Australian Embassy in Spain. He has published several articles on audiovisual, legal, tourism, advertising, and diplomatic translation. He can be reached at adrianfl@jazzfree.com or waves3@hotmail.com.

Arlene M. Kelly earned a Ph.D. in history from the University of Florida at Gainesville with a certificate in Latin American studies. She now teaches legal interpretation and interpreting methods and techniques for the Legal and Medical Interpreting Program at Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts. She interprets Portuguese and French for the U.S. Federal Court and Portuguese for the Massachusetts State Courts. She can be reached at XinguKelly@mediaone.net.

Margaret Marks has a Ph.D. in German literature from London University and later qualified as a solicitor (one of two types of attorney in England and Wales). She is a freelance translator and has taught prospective translators and interpreters at the Institut für Fremdsprachen in Erlangen, Germany since the early 1980s. She can be reached at mail@mmarks.de.

Margarita B. Montalvo, from San Juan, Puerto Rico, is an ATA-accredited translator (English<>Spanish), a New Mexico-certified judicial interpreter, and an FBI-certified linguist. She can be reached at montcom@aol.com.

Sandra A. Morra (M.A., C.O.) is the president of Narragansett Translations & Interpreting, Inc. in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. She has extensive experience as a community organizer, where she began her work to end the violation of rights of linguistic minorities due to the lack of effective interpreter services. She has been the staff person to the Rhode Island Supreme Court Ad Hoc Task Force on Limited English-speaking Litigants since 1991. She can be reached at morra_red@ids.net.

John J. Rynne is the founder of Versalia Traducción, S.L., a translation company based in Aranjuez (Spain) which specializes in translating publication-standard documents for Spanish companies (annual and quarterly reports, equity research reports, corporate communications material). A graduate in chemistry from Trinity College, Dublin, he has lived in Spain since 1981. Formerly a senior translator at Arthur Andersen in Madrid, he is a member of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting, the Institute of Linguists, and is ATA-accredited (Spanish into English) and an Intérprete Jurado appointed by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He can be reached at versalia@versalia.com.

Roger E. Savain is a freelance ATA-accredited (English<>Haitian Kreyol) translator/interpreter. He is an instructor/lecturer in Haitian language and culture as well as a bilingual education consultant. He has authored a handbook, companion video, and CDs for learning Haitian Kreyol. A former writer/editor for the French edition of TOPIC magazine at USIA, he has translated picture dictionaries, handbooks for the training of teachers in rural Haiti, and many other materials for the Broward County Florida School Board and several agencies. He can be reached at resavain@konpitek.com.

Rick Woyde is president and CEO of Detroit Translation Bureau in Bingham Farms, Michigan. He is a founding member of the Consortium of Automotive Translation Suppliers. He can be reached at rickw@dtbonline.com.

It’s Time to Plan...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATA’s 2001 Annual Conference</th>
<th>Los Angeles, California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 31-November 3, 2001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ATA’s Electronic Presence

ATA’s electronic presence on the Web has been a great success for ATA and the membership. Here’s a look.

Translation Services Directory. The online Translation Services Directory has over 4,000 profiles of individual translators and interpreters and the online Corporate Translation Services Directory has more than 160 companies listed. The online TSDs have attracted around 100,000 hits a month. Of course, worth mentioning again, PC Magazine (October 17, 2000) cited ATA’s Website as the place to find a professional translator or interpreter online.

Renewals. For the first time, ATA members were able to renew their membership online. To date, nearly 900 members have renewed online. This new option provides members with a choice as to how they renew—paper or online—and simplifies the processing for the staff.

Membership and Accreditation Information. By having the membership information online, we have dramatically cut down on the number of requests for membership brochures that we mail out. In addition, more in-depth information is available online for both membership and the accreditation program than would normally be mailed to someone. Plus, the requester gets the information faster.

Members Only Section. The Members Only section was set up to offer ATA members an exclusive site to help them do their jobs better, get jobs, and learn about ATA programs, benefits, and news. The Members Only section has been slow to be widely accepted and used by the membership, but I am confident that it will become an important benefit of ATA membership as more information is posted there and more members visit the section. To ensure that only members access the site, participants must logon. This extra step may initially be a burden, but it will prove to be second nature to access the wealth of information projected for the site.

One program that will certainly kick-start the interest in the Members Only section is the new Job Bank. As I wrote last month, the Job Bank is online. Currently, 30 positions are listed. ATA members can list jobs online. There is a nominal fee for nonmembers. In response to member feedback, the jobs listed cover more than just translators and interpreters. Positions may also be listed for project managers, sales staff, and more. Please check the jobs on a regular basis as new ones can be posted at any time.

The Members Only section also features:

- Forums for terminology and computer-related queries.
- Forums for the ATA Annual Conference.
- Call for nominations for the ATA Board of Directors.
- Back issues of the Chronicle in PDF files.
- Listing of ATA member benefits with links to the various providers.

In the near future, the Bylaws will be posted there for easy reference. (They are currently included in the ATA Membership Directory.) Regarding the Membership Directory, the same information will be available online. Finally, at the most recent Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to include copies of the Board meeting minutes in the Members Only section.

As you can see from the above-mentioned items, there is plenty of information in this section to help your bottomline: find a job, do your job more efficiently, and benefit from the discounts available to ATA members.

Thank you for your past support, and please give me your feedback on ATA’s Members Only section. Let me know how it can better serve your needs.
President Ann G. Macfarlane sent the following message by e-mail last month to all members of the ATA for whom we have e-mail addresses on record. It is reprinted here for the information of all members and other interested parties.

Dear colleagues:

This message comes to inform you that at our last meeting, the Board of Directors and the Accreditation Committee reviewed and discussed several key recommendations that had been made by Mr. Michael Hamm in his report of last year. I am very happy to announce that the Board approved some of the recommendations by means of the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously on March 25, 2001:

WHEREAS the accreditation credential offered by the American Translators Association is an important benefit to our members, to the profession of translation, and to our society, and

WHEREAS a careful review by an expert in the certification process has affirmed many strengths of our credential, while also suggesting several areas of potential improvement, and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors and the Accreditation Committee, after seeking member input, studying these suggestions, and discussing their merits, wish to approve some of them, to be implemented in the future, and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors and the Accreditation Committee wish to continue to study how and when to implement these suggestions, as well as whether to implement certain other suggestions made by the aforesaid expert,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, at a time yet to be determined, the following changes will take place:

1. The name of the credential will be changed from “accreditation” to “certification”;
2. Pre-qualifying requirements for the examination portion of the credential will be established;
3. Continuing education and/or professional development requirements to retain the credential will be established;
4. Eligibility to apply for the credential will be extended to persons who are not members of the association; and
5. The fee structure will be adjusted in conjunction with these changes.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that these changes will be implemented in conjunction with our continuing efforts to improve and strengthen all aspects of the examination process.

You will see from the text of the resolution that this was a decision to make certain changes, leaving for the future the question of how and when to make those changes. In some respects, the “how” and “when” questions will be at least as difficult as the “whether.” I am very pleased, however, that by a process of consultation and discussion, the Board came to unanimous agreement that the time is right to commit to this new direction for our translation credential.

At the meeting of the Accreditation Committee and the language chairs in Alexandria on May 5-6, we discussed this decision. The Committee and the language chairs were very supportive of the Board’s resolution, and are energetically working to lay the groundwork for these changes. The Committee is also reviewing the examination process itself, and will report to you, the membership, as decisions are made. In particular, the “Accreditation Forum” column in the Chronicle is an excellent source for the latest information.

Many of you who responded to my earlier messages have also been very supportive of Mr. Hamm’s proposals. There have been some particular concerns expressed, however, about point #4, which will open the examination to nonmembers. Our custom of offering the examination as a “member benefit” goes back a long time. The Board and the Accreditation Committee believe, however, that the attachment of long custom is outweighed by the benefits to the profession in its entirety that this step will bring.

By opening the examination to anyone who wishes to take it, we truly will serve the wider translation profession. This is consistent with the purposes listed in our bylaws. It is also consistent with our status as a nonprofit organization under U.S. law that is presumed to serve...
International Certification Study  
By Jiri Stejskal

As a follow-up to member concerns expressed last year about accreditation examination sittings offered outside the U.S., ATA President Ann Macfarlane invited me to join the 2000 ATA Board meeting in Washington, DC, and to discuss my possible involvement in what was to become the ATA International Certification Study. At the meeting, we agreed that I would become a voluntary administrator for the study. The purpose of the study was to learn more about certification and similar programs offered by non-U.S. professional organizations for translators and interpreters. In particular, we were interested in the requirements for admission to examination or certification programs of such organizations.

In the course of 2000, we sent out letters to various language-related professional organizations throughout the world inquiring about their certification or similar programs and about their interest in offering a reciprocal arrangement with the ATA in this area. In particular, we contacted ATA institutional members outside the U.S. and the members of the International Federation of Translators, a.k.a. FIT (Fédération internationale des traducteurs). We received a number of responses from institutions worldwide, and it is my intention to summarize their diverse views and to present them to the ATA Chronicle readership in monthly or bi-monthly briefings on this topic. The planned series will help us explore whether reciprocal arrangements among organizations with similar areas of interest are possible, and will give ATA members some food for thought when the time comes to consider not only the possibility of such arrangements, but their desirability and practicability as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at jiri@cetra.com should you have any questions or suggestions concerning international certification issues. Questions concerning the ATA accreditation process should be directed to Terry Hanlen, ATA accreditation program manager, at terry@atanet.org. Finally, I want to extend my thanks here to both Terry and Ann for bringing this study about and for providing their support. I look forward to presenting the responses of our fellow organizations in future issues of the ATA Chronicle. My next article will present information received from the Brazilian Translator Association ABRATES.

Help Start a Local ATA Chapter!

If you live in Minnesota, Utah, or Nevada and are interested in helping start a local ATA chapter, contact Christie Matlock at ATA Headquarters at Christie@atanet.org!

There has been interest shown in starting chapters in the above-mentioned states, but there is a need for ATA members, specifically Active ATA members, to get involved in the initial petition process.

Becoming an ATA chapter is a great way to increase the community’s awareness of the profession, and also provides a forum for a cohesive group to discuss and resolve common concerns. ATA chapterhood offers several other benefits such as:

- 10% dues rebate from ATA
- Input on ATA Board issues
- Eligibility for seed money for regional conferences
- Logistical support from ATA for mailings, meetings, etc.
- Free advertising of the chapter’s existence in the ATA Chronicle
- Free advertising of a chapter’s local events

Chapters get together to publicize the availability of local translators in the business sector, administer regularly scheduled ATA accreditation exams, and provide a forum for information on the profession. Chapters may also organize social, recreational, regional conferences, and professional development activities for its members. So contact Christie (Christie@atanet.org) at ATA Headquarters today to help start a chapter that will benefit you personally and professionally!

ATA Chapter Seed Money Fund

Is your ATA chapter planning an event? Does that event have need for a distinguished, dynamic, industry-relevant speaker? If so, ATAs Professional Development Committee wants to help!

ATAs Professional Development Committee offers a seed money fund for speakers. Be sure to call ATA today for application guidelines and a list of fabulous speakers who could be a guest at your next meeting, workshop, or seminar.

ATAs chapters play a key role in the continuing education of their members. Since the chapters vary greatly in number and composition of members, it can be hard for some chapters to offer educational opportunities to everyone. As a service to all ATA members and as a benefit of chapterhood, the ATA would like to support these educational efforts by subsidizing presentations that might otherwise prove to be a financial burden for individual chapters.

The fund was designed for ATA chapters, so don’t let the opportunity pass you by. Contact Christie (Christie@atanet.org) at ATA Headquarters soon for all the details!

ATA’s Document on Request Line
1-888-990-3282

Need a membership form for a colleague? Want the latest list of exam sites? Call ATAs Document on Request line, available 24-hours a day.
TRADOS Workshops
TRADOS Corporation offers one-day training workshops each month for Translators Workbench, MultiTerm, and WinAlign at its site at 113 S. Columbus Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Attendance is limited. For more information, contact: Tel: (703) 683-6900; Fax: (703) 683-9457; E-mail: eva@trados.com or www.trados.com.

First Call for Papers Institute of Translation & Interpreting/IALB Conference on Language and Business
November 22-25, 2001
University of Hull • Hull, England
Please send abstracts to Dr. Catherine Greensmith, Department of French, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX England; Tel: +44 1482 465162; E-mail: c.greensmith@selc.hull.ac.uk.

Upcoming Conferences & Educational Programs

TRADOS Workshops
TRADOS Corporation offers one-day training workshops each month for Translators Workbench, MultiTerm, and WinAlign at its site at 113 S. Columbus Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Attendance is limited. For more information, contact: Tel: (703) 683-6900; Fax: (703) 683-9457; E-mail: eva@trados.com or www.trados.com.

First Call for Papers Institute of Translation & Interpreting/IALB Conference on Language and Business
November 22-25, 2001
University of Hull • Hull, England
Please send abstracts to Dr. Catherine Greensmith, Department of French, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX England; Tel: +44 1482 465162; E-mail: c.greensmith@selc.hull.ac.uk.
Court interpreting calls to mind the image of a formal courtroom presided over by a judge, with suited attorneys and uniformed bailiffs or court officers. However, less august atmospheres also provide the stage for a court interpreter’s work: the courthouse lock-up, jails, prisons, and institutions for the criminally insane and the socially or personally dangerous or incompetent. Rarely do we find references to this less glamorous aspect of court interpreting. Procedural aspects of interpreting in jails and institutions have been mentioned only briefly in the literature.

The literature cited in the bibliography of this article reveals only three specific references to special legal interpreting situations. However, none of them touches on the holding cell environment for those waiting to be brought into the courtroom for arraignment or, for those arrested on warrants, transportation to another court or jurisdiction. This situation differs from those in which jails or institutions provide the interpreter’s work environment, since there are more unknown and potentially disagreeable factors with which the interpreter will have to deal with when working with recently arrested defendants.

Most of the guidelines for court interpreters refer to the procedures and conditions in the Federal Court System. In terms of the sanitary conditions of these facilities, the Federal System seems to be better equipped than many of the State Superior or District Courts, where the holding cells are often in aging buildings that have not been renovated to keep pace with the current volume of customers.

People are incarcerated for many different reasons and are at varied stages of the criminal process: those who are newly arrested, those waiting to post bail or being held without bail, and those committed to an institution for health reasons or to serve a sentence. Crimes range from repeated offenses for driving without a license or on a suspended license, to murdering a spouse in front of a child or molesting a child, to those arrested on warrants for failing to appear at scheduled court appearances. When the interviews occur at the courthouse holding cells, however, despite the presence of court officers, bailiffs, or deputies, other variables can contribute to rather unsettling and unwelcome surprises to one’s senses of hearing, smell, and sight.

Both jails and institutions are controlled environments. In jails, whether they are county jails, houses of correction, or state prisons, both the attorney and the interpreter must present proper identification to the Department of Correction employees. Depending on the jurisdiction, either the attorney or the administrative office representing the legal interpreter will have to advise the correctional facility that an interpreter will be present at the interview. Information about the interpreter, including name and birth date, sometimes must be provided at least two days prior to the appointment. The interpreter will have to provide picture identification. The interpreter’s identification is verified not only by his physical presence in the facility, but also through background checks for any outstanding warrants or a criminal record. Certain clothes or clothing materials may not be allowed, so it behooves the interpreter to check the rules at the individual facility before dressing for this job. Metal detectors may be more sensitive than those at airports or courthouse entrances. Dress accordingly, with little or no jewelry or extras (in fact, underwire bras are not advisable). Although regulations for mental health institutions may not be as strict, common sense dictates that one’s choice of attire be reasonable.

Once inside the institution, both the attorney and the interpreter proceed through hallways or locked corridors controlled by guards to an interview room. The room may be isolated or there may be other interviews occurring in the same general space. In this environment, there are guards whose duty is to maintain order. Not every appointment runs smoothly, however.

Once I was sent to the Massachusetts Treatment Center in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, to interpret a review hearing. In this situation, the trial court judge is present at the institution and hearings are held as if they occurred in

Continued on p. 12
a courthouse. I had checked in with the official at the reception area, provided identification, obtained a key, and stored my belongings (coat, wallet, watch, jewelry, etc.) in a locker. I kept a packet of Kleenex, some breath/throat lozenges, a pen, and a notepad with me. The patient, however, decided he did not want to participate in his hearing. The guards at the reception area communicated this to me. I prepared to leave, gathered my belongings, and waited for my daily report to be signed. Suddenly, a guard relayed an urgent message to me from the judge who had resolved to seek out the patient and verify the patient’s wish to absent himself from his review hearing. The judge ordered the defense attorney, the State Department of Mental Health attorney, and me to conduct a room-to-room search for the patient.

The guards rushed me through the metal detectors and upstairs to the hearing room where the judge issued his order: “Take the interpreter and find the defendant. Find out what he wants.” The attorneys joined two of the guards and formed part of a four-point escort around me. We walked in formation from the administration building across the courtyard to the other hospital buildings that housed the inmates’ common rooms, cafeteria, and other areas.

As we walked through the rooms, we saw patients wearing protective helmets, some were hugging the walls and others performing repetitive movements. We discovered the patient in the third building where he declared his intention to stay where he was (sitting on the floor) and to absent himself from his hearing. Of course, the exact contents of his communication remain privileged. His decision and the judge’s resolve to hear from him directly, however, prompted my unusual experience. The potential for danger became clear to me only during the return trip across the courtyard when one of the guards and both attorneys heaved sighs of relief, breaking the tension.

Although most court interpreting assignments are not fraught with danger and proceed quite smoothly, the unexpected and unpleasant can occur. As more and more state trial courts recognize the need for court interpreters, more interpreters will need to facilitate communication for the court in environments other than the courtroom.

My first—and only—experience as an interpreter in training occurred at the Boston Juvenile lock-up over 10 years ago. I do remember feeling somewhat uncomfortable with the vision of young men behind bars. At the time, I had no idea that having an interpreter present for minors in a juvenile court procedure was such a rarity. Usually the adults, generally parents or guardians, need interpreting services. Since then, I have interpreted often for confined prisoners, as well as those in courtrooms. Special aspects of forensic interpreting have become commonplace for me. During one of my classes, held at the Quincy District Court in Quincy, Massachusetts, some students commented that they had not realized that court interpreting involved communicating with prisoners in the holding cells.

After that class held in the Quincy District Courthouse, one student expressed fear for her personal safety when she realized that interpreting for prisoners can involve close proximity to them. Generally, physical violence on the part of incarcerated prisoners does not present a viable threat to interpreters. In order for the interpreter to be able to work, there must be a third party present, whether it be an attorney or, frequently, a probation officer, or other official needing to interview the non-English speaker. In addition, in almost all cases, the prisoner is either “behind bars” (that is, in a cell which may or may not have bars) or shackled by the ankles and wrists or, sometimes, wrists connected to a waist chain. Court officers, bailiffs, deputies, or guards (the official title varies from one jurisdiction to another) will also be close by. In my 10 years of experience, only one courthouse lock-up afforded a definite potential for personal danger. The holding area for several courtrooms at the Roxbury District Court is a common area with access from the courtrooms directly to the “common” holding area. There is no physical separation between prisoners and others.

Those who have been arrested recently can present some of the most uncomfortable situations for an interpreter, whether novice or experienced. Monday mornings or a Tuesday morning after a long weekend can present several obstacles to performing the job. Even on mornings when relatively few arrests have been effectuated, conditions may provide serious difficulties for interpreters. Some of those conditions can be: substance abuse, mental and physical disease, lack of hygiene, shock and physical injuries, and/or disabilities.
Prisoners in the holding cells on a Monday or Tuesday morning still may be suffering the effects of binging on alcohol or drugs. Drug abuse provokes varied reactions according to the individual, and may lead to a lack of responsiveness or abnormal reactions. Some people act violently, aggressively, or impatiently. The interpreter’s responsibility is to communicate both sides of a conversation, but not to pacify an unruly client. The detainee may choose to ignore the interpreter and the attorney. Times like these challenge the professional skills of impartiality and test an interpreter’s ability to remain detached emotionally. An interpreter’s duty at the holding cell is to relay the message given in its entirety without softening, improving, or even making sense of it.

If there have been many arrests over the weekend, the cell(s) may be full. With a high number of detainees, there is a proportionately larger number of probation officers and attorneys present to interview them. Add to this situation one or more interpreters, and the noise level in a confined space can be deafening! The number of people competing to be heard does not have to be very large in order to affect an interpreter’s ability to deliver interpretation accurately. Some bilingual prisoners often offer their advice, encouragement, and commentaries on the interpreter’s performance and presentation.

Some strategies to improve the situation include requesting others to maintain a low volume level and, if someone objects to quieting down, asking the attorney or probation officer to wait until the noise decreases to an acceptable level. There are times when adjusting the volume simply is not possible. Then the interpreter must focus intensely and concentrate on the communication. If all else fails and communication proves impossible, the interpreter may request separating the client from the general population.

Due to the alcohol intake or the vomit output, some inmates may stink. Other odors may invade the atmosphere at the holding cell or surround the individual prisoner, regardless of drug use. Lack of hygiene during the time incarcerated, especially during warmer weather, can lead to an increase of odors. The holding cell itself may be the source of odors due to the crowding of many bodies or the malfunction of plumbing installations, frequently caused by disgruntled inmates. Some may lose control of bodily functions, soiling themselves.

In addition to sound and smell, sight can also provide distractions. Some people arrested for participation in violent activities may still show bruising, cuts, or lacerations, although serious injuries are treated in a hospital prior to transport. Some prisoners may have mental problems that could be manifested in disturbing ways. The skillful, professional interpreter must refrain from verbal or facial expressions showing any negative or derogatory reactions to those situations.

One health risk to consider, which exists whenever people are in close contact, is the spread of disease. For example, there has been a resurgence of tuberculosis in recent years. Shaking hands or sharing pens may be unavoidable. The anti-bacterial liquid, Purell, or the anti-bacterial collection from Bath and Body Works can help to diminish the potential for disease-carrying agents.

Interpreters for the State Judicial Systems need to be prepared for the unpleasant client or situation. The professional interpreter will sail through difficult times wiser, unfazed, and healthy.

Notes

2. When Suffolk Superior Court was located at Pemberton Square in Boston (this is the view of Boston courts seen on the television drama The Practice), bail reviews sometimes were held by closed circuit television and other times at the Nashua Street jail in what was the chapel. Interpreters often traveled with the judge and proof of identification was waived. Everyone still passed through the metal detectors, however.


4. The Massachusetts Treatment Center, which houses people convicted of criminal sex offenses as well as those committed by civil judgment, is one of the five different correction facilities in the Bridgewater,
When I first joined CompuServe in 1994 I was hoping to find attorneys practicing in the U.S. who would be able to answer my questions concerning U.S. law. I thought that CompuServe would be a useful resource because, despite the fact that I trained as a lawyer in England and Wales and also taught some American law at the translators' college in Erlangen, there were very few books or journals on American legal terminology available to me at the time. I did find attorneys, and also court reporters exchanging questions about legal language and what goes on in the courtroom. Then I found the very active translators' section in CompuServe's Foreign Languages Education Forum (FLEFO). Sometimes I asked a question or answered one, and the reply often came overnight.

This type of exchange has become commonplace now and the World Wide Web has given us new resources, but back then it was revolutionary. Since the translators using this forum had their own computers and often worked at home, the German-language part of the FLEFO community consisted not only of those from the U.S., but a good number from Germany and Austria as well (scarcely any, unfortunately, from Switzerland). In many cases, the dialogue with translators working in other languages was equally useful. It was possible to compare notes with sworn translators in other German Länder, which is something I hadn’t done before. Questions were not merely answered and answered fast, but were discussed long after the initial query, and evidence was often given to support the suggestions. The other legal translators I met on FLEFO were the first people I could test my ideas against who had well-founded opinions of their own, backed up by facts, on legal translation questions.

Although I have received great help with translations over the years, without which I don’t know what I would have done, I did not really use FLEFO for this purpose at the outset, because I was mainly teaching and doing very little translation work. I spent a lot of time researching questions. This was before it was possible to go to www.findlaw.com or www.hg.org for U.S. and world legal resources, before Swiss and Austrian legislation was available on the Web, and before Alta Vista, the first search engine I remember with which you could treat the Web as a corpus. My earliest visits to newsgroups required some Unix knowledge, and occasionally an exciting file could be collected halfway across the world via FTP. To discover that a gopher was not an animal was a mystery to a British person who would never have dreamed the term referred to an animal anyway. What I did use FLEFO for was to test my ability to find the answers to questions on, for example, Austrian law, so I would be in a better position to use my resources when I needed them. If this gave me a reputation of knowing everything, that was certainly unjustified.

Using CompuServe is no longer the most convenient way to contact other translators. Over the years, other mailing lists and groups have become available, and FLEFO seems to me to have declined—for instance, there are not as many legal translators posting there as there once were, and not as many German translators. The following collection of frequently asked questions is not based on FLEFO alone. I quote (anonymously) a number of different groups. At the end of this article I offer a list of mailing lists and the publication information on some books referred to in the text.

**How can the translators’ groups help you?**

The groups and mailing lists can help in many ways. There may be foreign lawyers or translators on the list who have already encountered the problems you are dealing with. They may help you improve your research techniques or give advice on sources you don’t know about. They may give you ideas about how to deal with a legal term in a different language. If you have a problem with a term, they may convince you that you should be contacting the client or refusing the translation. They will help you to put the problem in context and show, for example, that it is insoluble, or alternatively trivial.

**How to phrase a question?**

If you need some help with a legal question from a mailing list or forum, make sure the subject header of the message you
What is Judikatur (Swiss)? It means all court judgments (German Rechtsprechung, English case law). In this connection, sources for Austrian and Swiss terminology are sometimes mentioned. Doucet-Fleck, a German-French dictionary, may help here.

What is meant by schuldrechtlicher Versorgungsausgleich? Context: divorce decree. Versorgungsausgleich is the adjustment or splitting of future pension rights between the parties in the divorce. It is done under public law (öffentlich-rechtlich) where the wife, if she is the party with fewer pension rights, has some of the husband’s rights transferred to her. For instance, schuldrechtlicher Versorgungsausgleich occurs where the husband is a civil servant and normal pension expectancy adjustments cannot be carried out (the future pension rights cannot be transferred by law). In this situation, the parties can arrange by agreement under private law (schuldrechtlich) to carry out some kind of split. Versorgungsausgleich is a term frequently encountered by translators. Other frequent questions in German law relate to the principle of abstraction in the German law of obligations. Here, every contract is broken down into two separate transactions: an agreement to do something (schuldrechtliches Verpflichtungsgeschäft) and the actual act of doing it (dingliches Erfüllungsgeschäft). If the first transaction fails or is avoided, the latter transaction must be “unwound.” The term for this is Rückabwicklung, which is certainly used in students’ law textbooks and encountered by translators, but the dictionaries are not helpful—Romain has reversed transaction, but reversal of a transaction would make more sense, and Dietl has nothing.

Continued on p. 16
Frequently and Less-Frequently Asked Questions on German Legal Translation

Questions on English and American law include those on old problems, such as the term remedy. This could be Abhilfe or Klagebegehren, but not Rechtsbehelf. There is a widely held belief that Rechtsbehelf means remedy. In fact, Rechtsbehelf is a superordinate term for Rechtsmittel (an appeal to a higher instance) and various forms of appeal to an instance on the same level. But the term does not include remedies such as damages, injunction, or specific performance.

Other terminology that is frequently encountered deals with divorce and probate. At least twice I have encountered a query about elective share or forced share, the widow’s statutory share in lieu of inheriting under intestacy in some states. The meaning of this term is not very different from Pflichtteil.

The new plain English version of the rules of civil procedure in England and Wales (1999) has caused some confusion. Plaintiff has become claimant, which was a term used only in welfare claims and the like. Writ (U.S. complaint) has become claim form. A German translator was mystified by litigation friend, which replaces next friend (representing a minor plaintiff) and guardian ad litem (representing a minor defendant). One guess as to the meaning of this was a person who likes to sue others—a frivolous litigant!

What is the German equivalent of a living will? Patientenverfügung or Patientenvertrage: they have now arrived in Germany. How is Pflegeversicherung usually translated? Long-term care insurance.

“Standard” Translations of Court Names

In legal translation, it’s usually enough to have a definition of a source-language term. Still, some translators would like to have a “standard” translation of a term. But do standard translations exist, and if so, are they good translations?

There is indeed a set of recommended translations into English, French, and Spanish of the names of many German courts that was issued by the German Federal Ministry of Justice in 1974. For example, Amtsgericht should be translated as Local Court and Landgericht as Regional Court. The theory is that the term Local Court will not be confused with any existing U.S. or British court. But these translations are certainly not so well known outside Germany. Furthermore, should the name of an institution be translated at all? At all events, the German court name should be left in the original at least once, as the Ministry suggests. I prefer to use the German name with a definition rather than call the Landgericht the Regional Court. The German name needs to remain, for instance, because translators are sometimes asked to translate a new brief in a case into German and are given the English translation of the preceding brief to help them. In other cases the defendant has to write to the court using the German name, and the only way they can identify the court for certain is if the German name is given. The European Union Style Guide lists the recommended translations and also recommends leaving the original court name in the text, unless it is obvious from the translation.

Translations of Names of Statutes

Standard translations are most often requested for the titles of statutes, but there are none. Bilingual law dictionaries or an Internet search may reveal suggestions, but these are not always good. It can be helpful to know the purpose and effect of the statute. German statutes have a long and short name, best researched in written sources: it is risky to translate the short names without further information. They also have recommended abbreviations, but often a couple of nonrecommended abbreviations, which can make the search difficult. I always use Act rather than Law for Gesetz in the title—it is used in both British and American English and is the correct legal term.

What is BtMG? Betäubungsmittelgesetz (possible translation: “Narcotics Act”)

What is BRAGO? Bundesgebührenordnung für Rechtsanwälte, short form Bundesrechtsanwaltsgebührenordnung (whence the abbreviation). This is the act that lays down the fees charged by German attorneys. They can contract to charge more, but failing that, they have to follow this. It’s so well known and its name so long that the abbreviation is normally used. How to find it in the dictionary? Dietl has a list of abbreviations at the beginning, which gives us “Bundesrechtsanwaltsgebührenordnung,” but
that term is not in the main dictionary. However, Rechtsanwaltsgebührenordnung is, with a cross-reference to Bundesgebührenordnung für Rechtsanwälte. Aha! There we find Federal Code of Lawyers’ Fees. It’s easier to find in Romain, but there the translation is federal fee scale regulation (not capitalized). My preferred translation would be Federal Fee Rules/Regulations for Attorneys.

**Abbreviations**

Other abbreviations can cause problems. For instance:

What does the abbreviation S. mean in the citation: § 606 Abs. 1 S. 1 Nr. 1 ZPO? Answer: Satz.

The whole citation is often “translated” as “s. 606 (1) sent. 1 no. 1” in British English and “§ 606 (1) sent. 1 no. 1” in U.S. English (the Absatz may be rendered in British English as subsection and in American English as paragraph).

Note that there is a Blue Book in the U.S., compiled by the editors of four law reviews, which includes suggestions on how to handle foreign legal references in English. For example, it suggests the following procedure for citations of foreign cases: “Entscheidungen des Bundesgerichtshofs in Zivilsachen [BGHZ] [Supreme Court] 53, 125 (126) (F.R.G.).” However, I don’t call the BGHZ the Supreme Court.

What is meant by Tz. in a bibliography? Answer: Textzahl, i.e., a number marking a section in the text, rather like Rz.: Randzahl (marginal number).

What is b.u.v.? Answer: beschlossen und verkündet. Numerous abbreviations of this kind exist and are used in summaries of court cases. Instead of a full transcript being kept, an abbreviated summary of the case, parties, date, decision, etc., is recorded on a computer. Thus, m.d.P.n.v.u.n.v.: mit den Parteien nicht verwandt und nicht verschwägert; v.u.g.: vorgelesen und genehmigt.

**Bl. 19 d.A.: Blatt 19 der Akte.**

What does SS mean (U.S.)? Here is the heading of an affidavit:

United States of America SS:
State of ...
County of ...

German sworn translators are expected to expand and/or explain all abbreviations in documents, and are therefore anxious to know what SS means. Many of them take it to mean sworn statement, but that doesn’t make sense, as it comes up in the heading of many American court documents and not just affidavits. Does it mean signum sigilli, that is, the place where the seal is? However, although locus sigilli is common, signum sigilli is not. One answer is that it stands for scilicet, meaning that is. The latest Black’s Law Dictionary says it is a flourish deriving from a paragraph or division mark: lawyers have been using it for 900 years and are still not sure what it means. For German, perhaps a note is in order: “traditioneller Teil des Schriftsatzkopfs”? Frequently, translators into English puzzle over the difference between p.p., i.V., and i.A., which appear beside signatures on letters. Here is a typical question (I quote verbatim): “If we have something like ‘gez. Fleischbeil (nach Diktat verreist) i.V. Knochenspalter’, how does this sound: ‘signed Fleischbeil (left after dictation) p.p. Knochenspalter’?”

The abbreviation p.p. stands for per procurationem and is used by the Prokurist (another frequently asked question). Therefore, it is different from the British p.p., which, like by in U.S. English, indicates that the person signing the letter is not the person who wrote it. It is therefore the same as i.A., im Auftrag. But what is the difference between im Auftrag and in Vertretung? We may not need to explain it, but we would like to know what it is in case it is important in a translation. A translator with a German law degree on FLEFO explained that i.V. means the person signing is liable, whereas i.A. means the person signing is acting on orders and is not liable. As for how to handle the problem, here is a suggestion that was made:

*Continued on p. 18*
Schleierfahndung

Schleierfahndung is a new German term that was introduced in Bavaria after the fall of the border between the western Federal Republic of Germany and the eastern German Democratic Republic. In a 30-kilometer strip near the border, spot checks were permitted without any reasonable suspicion of an offense having been committed, especially spot checks of transit traffic on the autobahn. These spot checks are designed to detect narcotics offenses, illegal immigration, and car smuggling, and are meant to compensate for the former border checks. The technique has been taken over by other Länder and is now used more widely. It is sometimes referred to in English texts, which use the dubious terms dragnet and veil search.

Suggestions for better translations include “selective screening of traffic crossing borders” and “non-incident-related checks,” “non-suspect- and non-event-related search,” and “arbitrary stop and search.” The interesting problem in translating this word is that it is widely believed that Schleier here (as it generally does) means veil, and this leads to the belief that it is something like a dragnet search, or that a net, more politely called a veil, is cast over the area. But the spot checks are not done everywhere in the area, just on certain roads, at railway stations, and so on.

It turns out that the word Schleierfahndung was invented by a minister in the Bavarian Landtag, based on the name of Hanns Martin Schleyer (who was held hostage and killed by the Red Army Faction)—the tactic was used at that time, but the name Schleyer has been disguised as Schleier. This is a good example of why it is important to know the origin of a term in order to produce a satisfactory translation.

Contract Clauses

Sometimes, the questioner quotes a long German contract clause and asks whether other translators agree that there’s something wrong with it. Sentences can be very long and the language extremely impersonal, so the translator begins to wonder whether or not he or she is still thinking straight. Joint brainstorming can be very helpful here. The Web can also help here. Just enter a piece of the wording that seems to be correct into a search engine, and you will usually find similar texts. Comparing your results with the original may help you understand the term better or, if you find the phrasing used in the original is incorrect, will show you what is likely to be missing so you can raise the issue with the client.

Context Needed

What is meant by the term Vorbeifassung, and how is it translated into English? Here is a question without context. However, it was answered immediately by someone who knew where the term is encountered. A German notary, when recording a deed, always indicates that the parties appearing confirmed that the notary had not been vorbeifassst with the matter (had not dealt with it at a previous time). “Der Notar fragte die Erschienenen zunächst nach einer Vorbeifassung im Sinn von §3 (1) S. 7 des Beurkundungsgesetzes.” For Beurkundungsgesetz, one might write Notarial Recording Act, since it is largely about notaries, and reading the Act will explain some of the content of notarial documents. As it happened, the person who replied to this question had just had to translate the following “English” back into German: “The appearing parties declared to the notary when asked that there was no prior involvement within the meaning of 3 sub paragraph (1) sentence 7 of the Notarization Act (“BeurkG”).” (The wording of the English is rather strange). Of course, German notaries sometimes certify their own translations and sometimes prepare boilerplate for such phrases. I do not like notarization, which in American English means witnessing a signature, for notarielle/öffentliche Beurkundung because in German it means that a notary (a trained and qualified lawyer) draws up and witnesses a contract (notarial recording).

Conclusion

I haven’t enough space to mention all the commonly asked questions about legal translation, but I hope I have shown what a useful resource FLEFO and other venues can be.
Some Mailing Lists
At www.yahoogroups.com there are a large number of mailing lists, for example, legaltranslators and SwissTranslation.

The archives of LANTRA-L, which can be searched, are at LANTRA-L@segate.sunet.se (http://segate.sunet.se/wa?A0=lantra-l&D=0&F=&H=0&O=T&S=&T=1)

At www.tw-h.de there are details of u-forum and other German mailing lists. There is also information about joining LANTRA-L.

Questions are also asked and answered at www.proz.com.

And FLEFO still exists!

Sources
There may be later editions of the books in the following list.


The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation. Published and distributed by The Harvard Law Review Association, Gannett House, 1511 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 (mine is the 16th ed., 1996).

Visit ATA online at www.atanet.org

For Long-Term Planners...

Future Annual Conference Sites and Dates

Los Angeles, California
October 31-November 3, 2001

Atlanta, Georgia
November 6-9, 2002

Phoenix, Arizona
November 5-8, 2003

Toronto, Canada
October 13-16, 2004
Interpreting for a Non-English-speaking Juror: A New Challenge in New Mexico

By Margarita B. Montalvo

Is an interpreter in the privacy of the jury room viewed as an intruder or as a mediator bridging a gap between two languages? So far, only judicial interpreters in the state of New Mexico need be concerned with this question. However, as immigration increases and newcomers become citizens, New Mexico could be setting a trend that could affect interpreters all over the United States.

In January of 2000, the Supreme Court of New Mexico ruled that jurors cannot be excused nor excluded from duty just because they do not speak English. In Las Cruces, New Mexico, non-English-speaking jurors had been selected several times even before this ruling passed. Due to its proximity with Mexico, it is common in Las Cruces to have several non-English-speaking juror candidates at one time, and there have been instances when as many as three non-English speakers have been selected for the same trial. However, a case in Albuquerque in April of 2000—where I was the interpreter (the 13th person in the jury room)—is the only time to date that the deliberation process has lasted several days. The case being tried was for manslaughter. Deliberation lasted three days, arguments were heated, and no decision was reached. The non-English-speaking juror selected for this case was one of the most active of the 12 participants. His vocabulary was sophisticated, and a high register had to be used for consecutive interpretation.

The Supreme Court ruling had been in effect for a few months prior to the trial, and despite the fact that there had been non-English-speaking Hispanic juror candidates in Albuquerque before, the judicial system was still surprised when one of them, a Cuban, was selected. Until then, interpreters had been needed only for general instructions to jury candidates, voir dire, and jury selection. In this case, the defense lawyer insisted on having an interpreter solely for his client, but this individual would also cover testimonies on the witness stand. There was a shortage of interpreters in Albuquerque that week, and two interpreters (one for the defendant and one for the juror) had to be imported from Deming in southern New Mexico. The atmosphere was tense. News reporters and television cameras were eagerly waiting in the courtroom. The article in the Albuquerque Journal ended up with the defense lawyer’s comment: “The danger is an interpreter could start overstepping his role and ends up becoming the 13th juror.”

The parts of the trial covered by me were the closing statements and jury instructions. During deliberation, I was the sole interpreter for Mr. T. (as I’ll be referring to the non-English-speaking juror throughout this article).

Translation of Jury Instructions

The evening before deliberation I asked for the instructions in order to translate them, but the judge informed me there was no additional funding for that purpose. I insisted, and spent a good part of that night translating them on my computer. The following morning I presented copies for the judge to distribute to Mr. T., to all the attorneys, and to the other interpreter. Of course, since the selection of final instructions had not yet been done, many of the ones I translated were discarded or modified and new ones added. All those changes also had to be translated hurriedly into Spanish.

I was fastidious about the translation. Some of the problems I was foreseeing did not apply in this case because Mr. T. was very articulate and knowledgeable of both the Spanish language and of Spanish legal jargon.

However, I was concerned that whatever was translated for this murder trial could, unintentionally, fix a pattern for future translations of jury instructions. I was meticulous in the choice of words I used in an effort to avoid misinterpretations by people who, despite being Hispanic, might only have a basic knowledge of the Spanish language. Taking that into consideration, I tried to avoid words which, though correct, could create complications. The following will illustrate my point:

fallo—a substantive meaning “judgment” or decision.” However, when used as a verb in the first person singular of the present tense, it means “I fail.”
homicidio culposo voluntario—voluntary manslaughter.

But “culposo,” which refers to a negligent or careless act (the act of intentionally killing another person under extreme emotional disturbance or in the heat of passion), sounds very similar to “culpa,” which means “guilt.”

The Jury Room

Equipped with dictionaries, microphone, earphones, and my own copies of the jury instructions in both languages, I entered the closet-like jury room with the members of the jury. I made a point of seating myself unobtrusively in a corner as far as possible from everyone; eight inches away! The foreperson was then selected. Everyone, including me, introduced themselves. Although I requested that everyone speak one at a time, that was soon forgotten; several times during the heated process they all had to be reminded.

Even sitting arrangements need to be considered in the jury room. Mr. T.’s only complaint about having an interpreter present was that some of the jurors spoke too loud when discussing a point, thus blocking the interpretation. Based on his comment, future instructions to the jury should include seating arrangements: those with a loud voice are to sit far away from non-English-speaking jurors. This was hard to do in this particular trial. The room was tiny and the foreperson was the one who spoke the loudest. Nevertheless, it had been considered convenient to have Mr. T. sit near enough so that he could signal the foreperson when he needed to remind others to speak one at a time. This simple fact helps the interpreter keep a nonobstructive stance.

It’s vital that the interpreter remain as inconspicuous as possible. Additional contact between the interpreter and jurors must be avoided. As U.S. citizens, non-English-speaking jurors usually have an adequate enough knowledge of the English language to be able to socialize at lunch time, thus the presence of the interpreter during breaks and lunch hour is neither necessary nor recommended.

At Mr. T’s request, I did not interpret the instructions to him in the jury room. Having his copy in Spanish, he preferred to read them quietly, as did the others. I welcomed his request, since it provided my vocal chords a few seconds of much needed rest, and gave Mr. T. a better chance to scrutinize the instructions without my having to whisper in his ear while he struggled to concentrate. With his own copy of the instructions in Spanish, he enjoyed the same advantage as the other jurors. He was able to consult them whenever he thought necessary, and would actively guide the other jurors whenever they had misunderstood the instructions or were falling off track. Had the instructions not been written in Spanish his participation, which turned out to be very valuable, would have been impaired. My particular efforts to translate the instructions clearly seemed to pay off. Mr. T. was the only juror who did not complain about points in the instructions not being clearly formulated and, in fact, he was able to clarify some issues to his fellow jurors.

Necessary Modifications for Trials with a Non-English-speaking Juror

1. A copy of the preliminary instructions must be provided to the interpreter as soon as possible.

2. General instructions must be translated and put on computer ahead of time so that interpreters can access them just as they are accessed in English. Only adaptations to the case and last minute modifications will then have to be done.

3. The non-English-speaking juror, just like all other members of the jury, must have a copy of the jury instructions in his or her own language. Jurors constantly review the instructions, and the non-English-speaking juror will not be able to carefully analyze them if they are not written in his or her own language. If instructions are only interpreted quickly through a microphone each time a doubt or question arises, the non-English-speaking juror is at a disadvantage.

4. A special instruction must be officially added to the general ones indicating that the interpreter’s job is simply to interpret, and not to answer questions nor to participate in the process of deliberation.

5. Instructions should specify that there will be additional breaks to

Continued on p. 22
help the interpreter combat fatigue. Programming extra recesses from the beginning will prevent the interpreter from having to request them, which could annoy some jurors.

6. Instructions should also specify that those jurors with loud voices should sit at a distance from the non-English speaker.

Cost Effectiveness

This trial was extremely expensive. It involved six interpreters. The interpreter for the defendant was from Deming (approximately 200 miles away) and stayed 12 days in Albuquerque. On the third day, a second interpreter, also from Deming, was called to interpret for the juror. According to availability, interpreters from Albuquerque took turns interpreting for the juror during the rest of the trial. I joined the team on the last day for closing statements, jury instructions, and for the three days of deliberation.

I am sure that one person interpreting for the defendant and for the juror should become the standard mode of operation. Only then can it be guaranteed that the defendant and the juror are hearing exactly the same thing, in the same words, and at the same time. Wireless equipment allows the interpreter to sit at a distance from those for whom he or she is interpreting. Technically, there is no problem with this whatsoever. The counsel for the defense in this case claimed, although he was pretty fluent in Spanish, that he needed an interpreter solely for the defendant in the event that speaking in private to his client became necessary. In my view, such a situation does not create a problem. The interpreter is a professional and a neutral participant. All that would be required in such a situation would be the removal of the equipment: a simple, safe, and cost-effective solution. The only law I know that perhaps applies to having two interpreters, one of them solely for the defendant, would be U.S. vs. Da Silva, 725 F.2d 828 (2nd Cir. 1983): when an interpreter is used by a defense attorney to interview the defendant, the attorney-client privilege applies. Even in a situation where the attorney has to interview his client, it would be more economical to bring another interpreter for that purpose only, and for a limited period of time.

Steps should be taken to prevent the interpreter from becoming fatigued, which diminishes quality and accuracy. Cost-effectiveness and accuracy would better be served by having two interpreters taking turns for the duration of the trial.

A third interpreter should be called for jury instructions and deliberation. “Heavy traffic” in the jury room would prevent the interpreter from being inconspicuous. To shield the integrity, logic, and continuity of the deliberation process, it is important to retain the same interpreter throughout, especially when deliberation extends for several days. This requires painstaking planning. The interpreter selected for this task must be forewarned that he or she will be there for the duration of the process. Freelancers must be discouraged from accepting only part of this assignment in order to keep previous commitments elsewhere. They must make special arrangements to ensure their availability when deliberation extends for several days. Planning is essential because, by accepting such an arrangement, the freelance interpreter could incur loss of income. If deliberation is expected to last for several days the interpreter would have to cancel or refuse other jobs which, in many instances, are more lucrative. Special allowances should be made by the state to provide for this situation. The day will come when there will be a trial with a sequestered jury. Is the state ready to deal with this situation? Have judicial authorities given some thought as to whether the interpreter will be sequestered also? How would this situation be handled if more than one interpreter was involved?

A New Challenge for Interpreters

Being the 13th person in a jury room is a new challenge for interpreters. In the courtroom, for the most part, we interpret pre-planned questions from lawyers and improvised answers from witnesses. In the jury room, we juggle with fast and sometimes emotional and intense dialogue which must be rendered with precision. As the interpreter is drawn into the task there is no time to adjust to the particular jargon, accent, style, and tone of voice of the 12 members of the jury. Yet, this has to be done, and the same emotion and emphasis used by the speaker has to be conveyed by the interpreter. The closest analogy would be that of playing all the roles in a highly emo-
tional 12-character play. The interpreter’s professional skills, concentration, and agility are stretched to the utmost.

This is undoubtedly a most exhausting process, but for me it has also been the most instructive. One certainly learns that the complexity of the task will not be easily met by ill-qualified interpreters. The provision in the New Mexico Constitution (Article VII, Section 3) assuring the right for citizens to be jurors without regard to their inability to speak, read, or write English is already creating a stampede of candidates for this profession. What is happening in New Mexico will soon influence other states, and the responsibility of interpreters all over the nation will be even greater. Precisely because of this, the screening and certifying of judicial interpreters who are as competent in a foreign tongue as they are in English has never been more urgent.

Notes

References


Plea Bargain? You Bet Your Life

By Sandra A. Morra

In some parts of the poor and immigrant communities folk legends, such as “I know a guy who claimed his dog on his income tax and got away with it,” fuel a vision of a government so large and encumbered by its own bulk that it is unable to detect, much less solve, crime. Somewhere between that kind of magic consciousness and “the long arm of the law” there is the plea bargain. This legal process is so widely used that it merits an in-depth examination. Also needed is a look at how the potential exists for the plea bargain to suffer from linguistic, cultural, and ethical dilemmas. Those difficulties can be exacerbated by the shortcomings of unqualified persons attempting to facilitate communication between the parties involved.

According to Black’s Law Dictionary, plea bargaining is:

The process whereby the accused and the prosecutor in a criminal case work out a mutually satisfactory disposition of the case subject to court approval. It usually involves the defendant’s pleading guilty to a lesser offense or to only one or some counts of a multi-count indictment in return for a lighter sentence than that possible for the graver charge.1

Different Agendas Afoot:

1. The courts and judges are charged with protecting the public good and overseeing the legal process;
2. The prosecutors are also charged with protecting the public good. They may seek the maximum sentence;
3. The defense attorneys, public defenders, and court-appointed attorneys, in representation of the defendant, seek the minimum punishment;
4. The interpreter facilitates communication.

For judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys, there has been considerable legal and ethics training in addition to licensing, hiring processes, and appointments. There are also processes for dealing with those who do not live up to the required standards of practice.

The same training and quality expectations do not exist for the person presenting himself in the Rhode Island state courts as an interpreter. Other than word-of-mouth comments about their ability or inability to perform, there are currently no reins on this person for whom the lure of pay or prestige may be overwhelming.

Interpreter issues will be discussed a little later in this article. First, some general information about the plea bargain process is necessary.

In the course of any case, the following steps can take place: the pre-arraignment, the arraignment, the bail hearing, the pretrial conference and hearing, and finally, the trial.

For defendants charged with noncapital cases (capital cases include murder, kidnapping, and rape) and cases in which the charges would, according to attorney Mortimer Newton, “not result in jail 90 percent of the time,” the pre-arraignment offers the first opportunity for a plea bargain and the earliest opportunity for the disposition of a case. Public Defender Robert Marro commented on the sentencing offers made at pre-arraignments. He explained that “the offers are frequently better than if they go all the way to Superior Court for a pretrial.” There may be a variety of reasons to explain why no agreement was struck between the prosecution and the defense in the pre-arraignment process. An attorney may want to question whether a search has been illegal. Or it may be simply because the defendant is unwilling to accept a negotiation at that time. Not striking a deal at this step, however, does not preclude the defendant from entering into the plea bargain process again at the pretrial hearing.

The day of the pretrial hearing is also the day a defendant’s case will most likely be disposed of—unless, for example, the defendant asks for more time to consider a proposed offer or chooses to go to trial, maintaining that he is not guilty. Generally, a number of steps take place on the day of the pretrial hearing. First, the defense attorney and the prosecutor meet...
that was acting as the interpreter for me was standing there. She knew. She looked at me and I was shaking my head ‘No.’ She may have put that on the record. She might be able to testify that I asked my attorney in the cellblock what the privilege against self-incrimination meant and that the attorney didn’t respond or answer the questions.”

On the day of the pretrial hearing when the defendant is brought into court, the defense attorney will ask the court to permit the defendant to change his plea of innocent to nolo contendere or guilty. The prosecutor then reads the charges against the defendant. The judge asks the defendant if those are the facts, and after the defendant says “Yes,” the judge asks the prosecutor for the state’s recommendation for sentencing. He asks the defendant if anyone has coerced him into accepting the plea, or if any other offers or promises have been made to him. The judge asks the defendant if he is aware of the rights he is giving up in changing his plea to nolo contendere and asks the defendant to name some of these rights. Once assured that the defendant understands and is acting voluntarily, the judge imposes the sentence.

The whole process takes approximately 15 minutes in the courtroom. But each plea negotiation can have a much more detailed history than is initially apparent. For example, The Honorable Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson says:

“In a relatively simple case and if the state’s case is pretty clear...and in some of these cases...the defendants give actual confessions, it’s something you could possibly do effectively in 15 minutes because you take a look at the evidence. You

Continued on p. 26
take a look at the defendant’s prior record and background. You take a look at the sentencing guidelines, which give us some parameters for sentencing. You take a look at the victim’s needs to see if there is any restitution owed to the victim, and you want to see if there is any kind of intervention needed for the defendant. Does the defendant need counseling? What kind of counseling? Does the defendant need to be ordered to go to school? Medical treatment? It is not unusual, particularly when we are talking about a serious felony case, to have three, four, five, or six plea negotiations and plea bargaining sessions before we can finally say, ‘Okay, this is the whole picture here as best as we can determine right now without a trial.’ Only through his attorney does the defendant have any idea about what’s going on and what’s being said.”

In a system overloaded with work, the time a defense attorney has to spend with a client is short. The Honorable Magistrate Aurendina Veiga, when describing her former work as a public defender, spoke of the days when she and two other public defenders worked the Pre-Arraignment Calendar:

“Sometimes I was doing the PAC Calendar [Pre-Arraignment Calendar] and that is all I was doing. That is just like wholesale plea bargaining. Day after day after day...60 to 80 cases a day.”

She also recounted:

“Judge DeRobbio asked me to go with him to the Judicial Education Seminar, where a group of teachers come in for a week or two and go through the system to learn about it. One of them asked, ‘Why do you plea bargain? Why don’t these cases all go to trial?’ Magistrate McAtee from the Superior Court said something really interesting.... He said, ‘You have to plea bargain. Think of it as a big funnel all open at the top, and all the cases have to come through and they drip down, and the ones that come out through the bottom are the ones that are going to go to trial. Because if everything went to trial, we’d still be trying King George!’”

The Honorable Magistrate Debra DiSegna remembers events from her earlier days as a prosecutor. She said:

“There was one judge, who is not a judge anymore, for whom speed was at a premium. And what he wanted to do was line up three cases at the same time, three completely separate cases, and have the rights read to these people once. And from my perspective, I felt that this was really not the thing to save time on.”

Attorney Mortimer Newton spoke on how widely used the plea bargain is. He said, “Plea bargains run the system. Ninety percent of all cases are plea bargains, and the system would collapse if it wasn’t for plea bargains.” The time allotted for a busy defense attorney or a public defender to prepare a defendant and explain what a plea bargain is all about and what rights that defendant is giving up in accepting the negotiation, while probably adequate, is very short indeed.
Add Another Dimension

If all of the things mentioned above are true for the English-speaking defendant, they are equally true for the non-English speaker. But for the non-English-speaking defendant, the difficulties in understanding can be even more complicated, since he comes from a different linguistic background as well as a different culture. How can this affect interpretation? For example, consider what comes to mind when you think of a house. How we visualize a house is very different from what a person from another part of the world would see. If you are from Rhode Island, you have probably envisioned a house made of wood. If you are from Guatemala, you may have envisioned a house made of cement. If you are from Hong Kong, your house may be a boat.

Now, given the disparity of those mental pictures, consider how much difference there is in the meaning of, say, “My right against self-incrimination” between someone within the U.S. and someone from a country where a person is considered “Guilty until proven innocent.” Add to this scenario a person who may be either in the cellblock or, if in court, handcuffed, shackled, and totally powerless, and it becomes apparent how a defendant could be shocked when you advise him that he has rights. It is common enough for the interpreter to be truly comprehensible to the non-English speaker?

If a person is incapable of interpreting, why would that person keep doing it? Why wouldn’t a person who is brokering such highly important information stop, get help, or even retire him or herself from the process if unable to complete it? According to Susana Torres, director of Interpreting and Translation Services at the International Institute of Rhode Island:

“Some interpreters are afraid to stop the process, to say ‘Excuse me, I need to listen to that again’ or ‘The interpreter needs that last phrase repeated.’ It seems to me that when some interpreters find themselves in that situation they summarize what is being said. And I have observed some interpreters do that. In doing so, they really jeopardize the outcome of that plea bargain, because the defendant really hasn’t heard it, and isn’t being informed. One of the reasons is that the interpreter doesn’t want to look incompetent. The interpreter doesn’t want to lose face.”

In Fundamentals of Court Interpretation, there is an example of one of the many times an interpreter might have to stop and seek clarification. It says:

“English requires that a pronoun subject be stated in all cases, while in Spanish that pronoun may be omitted. Moreover, in the imperfect tense in Spanish, the verb conjugations are the same for the first, second, and third persons. It is not uncommon, therefore, to have an answer such as Me dijo que estaba ahí, which could mean any of the following:

He/she told me that he was there.
He/she told me that it was there.
He/she told me that she was there.
He/she told me that you were there.
He/she told me that I was there.
You told me that he was there.
You told me that it was there.
You told me that she was there.
You told me that you were there.
You told me that I was there.”

And while it is true that some people do not stop and that others summarize, it is also true that some are attempting to hide gaps in their understanding or ability to communicate. After all, who’s going to know? But worse yet, it may be that the person attempting to facilitate communication may not even realize that he or she simply does not “get it.”

And if persons presenting themselves in the courts as interpreters don’t “get it” linguistically, ethically

Continued on p. 28
they may be even further off the mark. Some lawyers ask interpreters to do things they shouldn’t, and then an even more dangerous situation can arise. I have had lawyers say to me, “Take this form. Go down to the cellblock. Tell the defendant he is going to get X years with Y years to serve. Explain his rights to him.” When I have refused, those lawyers have been annoyed. Why? Because “So and so does it.” Magistrate Veiga has seen this, too. She says:

“It’s not up to the interpreter to do that.... And I’ve seen some interpreters who see nothing wrong in doing that. And I could hear them starting to explain things. That’s not right. That’s practicing law without a license.”

In Rhode Island, a person presenting him or herself in the courts as an interpreter could be either a court employee or a freelancer. For the court employee, worries about losing one’s job and one’s health plan can be paralyzing and frightening. For the freelancer, not being called back for subsequent jobs can mean an unacceptable drop-off in income. In the case of the freelancer, and even the court employee, if a person suspects he or she may be unqualified for the job of interpreter, he or she will most likely not ask for, or command the pay an interpreter should really receive. When freelancers, perhaps revealing an implicit understanding of their limitations, do not charge enough for their services, every job is of crucial importance and saying “No” and risking that a lawyer would then call someone else for the next job is simply not an option. It’s a hegemony all its own, born out of seduction.

But are those the professional and ethical premises on which one’s job, one’s vocation, should be based? A list of professional ethics from Fundamentals of Court Interpretation suggests something quite different.

1. The interpreter shall render a complete and accurate interpretation.

2. The interpreter shall remain impartial.

3. The interpreter shall maintain confidentiality.

4. The interpreter shall confine himself or herself to the role of interpreting.

5. The interpreter shall be prepared for any type of proceeding or case.

6. The interpreter shall ensure that the duties of his or her office are carried out under working conditions that are in the best interest of the court.

7. The interpreter shall be familiar with, and adhere to, all of these ethical standards, and shall maintain high standards of personal and professional conduct to promote public confidence in the administration of justice.

And those are the standards to which legal interpreters must adhere. If the interpreter is able to understand those standards, he or she knows that they are profound in their meaning. In the short time the interpreter has to work with the parties in the plea bargain process, whether or not the interpreter adheres to those standards can well mean whether the defendant is afforded due process.

When facilitating communication in any legal process the interpreter is really facilitating due process. The extent to which the defendant gets due process and the extent to which the state can rely on the effectiveness of the judicial process is in our hands or, perhaps better said, in our abilities and ethical standards. For the interpreter, there can be no luxury of believing in community folklore and of suffering from magic consciousness.

I wish to thank the following individuals who generously gave interviews for the writing of this article:

• The Honorable Judge Francis J. Darigan, Jr., Rhode Island Superior Court

Continued on p. 39
Fortunately, over the last few decades interpreting has achieved well-deserved levels of international recognition and has increasingly become a subject of study in academic and professional circles. However, many people are still only familiar with the three most common forms of interpreting, namely consecutive, simultaneous, and bilateral. Few people are aware of the more specialized areas of interpreting that serve an important function in the fields in which they are employed.

For instance, medical or court interpreting are very important in countries like the U.S., Canada, or Australia, where there are large communities consisting of people whose native language is not English. Such specialized areas fall under the category of social or community interpreting because they cover subjects such as health care, social security, and education and serve a valuable social function to non-English speakers (Martin, 2000:208; Corsellis, 1997:77-89). Consular interpreting also belongs to this category.

What are consular and diplomatic interpreting?

Consular and diplomatic interpreting take place within the embassies and consulates located in a foreign host country. Diplomatic interpreting often requires conference and bilateral work and operates at top governmental levels (including ministerial). It is used mainly for inter-institutional or intergovernmental work. Consular interpreting operates at the individual level, where the interpreter acts as a liaison between nationals of the embassy’s country and the host country’s institutions. Consular interpreting can be seen as a form of community interpreting, in terms of the nature of social work that is done for nationals of the represented country. Despite their similarities, diplomatic and consular interpreting have their own rules and specific characteristics.

Interpreting and translation work in the diplomatic setting is normally done by in-house interpreters/ translators. It is worth mentioning here that not all diplomatic missions and embassies have an in-house interpreter/translator, since many foreign embassies and consulates cannot afford a full-time staff person for this job and have to rely on the services of freelance translators. Freelance translators are at a disadvantage here because they may not be familiar with the intricacies of diplomatic and consular protocol that must be followed in this environment. In the case of embassies with in-house interpreters/ translators, some translation work is occasionally commissioned to freelance translators. Only general texts (press articles, reports, information letters, etc.) are outsourced, while confidential documents are usually translated by the diplomatic mission’s personnel.

Due to the confidential nature of diplomatic talks, embassies very seldom use local freelance interpreters. Most diplomatic and consular interpreting is done by the diplomatic mission’s interpreters/ translators.

Types of Interpreting

Although both consular and diplomatic interpreting are carried out in the same framework (i.e., embassies and consulates), the techniques they employ will vary according to the context of a particular situation.

...Consular interpreting can be seen as a form of community interpreting, in terms of the nature of social work that is done for nationals of the represented country...
Consular Interpreting: Community Interpreting Continued

bilateral interpreting is basically the only type used.

Skills in Consular and Diplomatic Interpreting

Obviously, consular and diplomatic interpreting share some of the general characteristics and skills that are required in other fields where interpreting is used (the ability to focus despite distractions, the capacity for abstract thought, the ability to detect and summarize the main points of discourse, etc.). However, apart from these general features, there are other skills that diplomatic and consular interpreters must possess and develop which are specific to the diplomatic and consular setting.

In particular, consular interpreting requires knowledge of psychology, public relations, and social work, given the delicate and sometimes painful nature of consular cases. Diplomatic interpreting, on the other hand, requires a very thorough knowledge of various issues pertaining to public affairs (agriculture, industry, defense, etc.), domestic affairs (i.e., the host country’s politics), and international politics, to name but a few. In addition, the diplomatic interpreter will need to relay both general and specific briefings (in the form of personal communication and official updates to and from diplomatic personnel, especially the counsellor, the ambassador, or the head of a mission) (Fuentes, 2000:148).

Consular Interpreting

Consular interpreting can take place either within the embassy or in institutions of the host country, such as hospitals or prisons. In the embassy, the interpreter usually helps the consular officer or the consul with the main consular activities, including passport issuance and renewal, questions and problems of dual nationality citizens, pensions of former immigrants being administered or managed through the embassy, and help with certain administrative paperwork in the host country.

In consular cases, the interpreter usually serves as linguistic and cultural mediator and assists the consul (who, in many cases, does not know the language of the host country and is not familiar with local customs or practices at the different governmental or legal levels). These cases often deal with nationals from the embassy’s country who have been arrested in the host country for charges such as drug trafficking or illegal immigration. In such cases, the work consists mainly of interpreting for the consul and the arrested national (either in prison or at the police station). If requested, interpreting can also take place between the arrested national and his or her lawyer. This obviously involves, among other factors to be discussed later in this article, a reasonable knowledge of the host country’s legal system and its legal terminology. It also involves extensive traveling to different prisons in the country, often with very short or no notice.

Factors Affecting Consular Interpreting

There are several factors that influence the process of consular interpreting.

For instance, the affected individuals (i.e., nationals of the embassy’s home country) in need of interpreting services often find themselves in hostile and unfamiliar environments: different countries, different languages and cultures, and different legal and administrative systems.

The working conditions often are not optimal and make interpreting difficult. In most instances, interpreting is carried out in prisons, in rooms with very poor acoustic conditions, or through a security double glass. Such environments only hinder the already tense and often difficult communication with the prisoner.

Most arrested citizens do not know the host country’s language and culture, which makes their situation in prison even more difficult. As a result, they often develop a higher degree of dependency on the embassy and its direct representatives (the consul and the interpreter) who, in turn, have to maintain frequent contact with the various prison, legal, and government authorities of the host country to follow up on the prisoner’s case. Given the consul’s limited linguistic skills of the target language, these responsibilities are often carried out almost exclusively by the consular interpreter. Here, interpreters reveal themselves as true multipurpose, interlinguistic, and intercultural mediators in the broadest sense of the term.

Certain consular interpreting situations are carried out under sometimes extremely tense conditions. For example, the arrested nationals are in unfamiliar linguistic and cultural envi-
ronments. They do not know the host country’s legal procedures, and are therefore unable to monitor their cases appropriately. Accidents or painful events, such as the death of a national in the foreign country, create a situation requiring a very high degree of diplomacy, efficiency, speed, and diligence on the part of the interpreter. In such cases, the interpreter will have to help the consul in providing psychological support to the affected national, and work hard with the bureaucratic mechanisms in order to speed up the procedures of, for example, the repatriation of bodies to their country of origin.

Due to the nature of these cases, most consular situations involve a great deal of emotional implications, from which interpreters have to detach themselves for the sake of professional objectivity and impartiality. As in any desperate situation, the client views the interpreter, his or her mediator, as a floating board in a shipwreck. Another instance requiring emotional detachment is when the interpreter has to deal with forensic inspections or identification. Such instances occur in cases where a national dies in the host country with no relatives or friends in that country.

The interpreter often aids the arrested national in communications with various legal representatives and with the different prison, legal, and administrative authorities. However, it must be pointed out that the interpreter does not work directly for the arrested nationals, but for the embassy or consulate. Therefore, they must represent that institution’s interests in the host country (including the above-mentioned interpreting assistance given to nationals of the first country). In this sense, the interpreter does not act, at any stage, as the official interpreter appointed by the national before a host country’s court. This task will have to be carried out either by an independent interpreter appointed and paid for by the national, or by an official court interpreter provided by the host country’s authorities.

In many countries, like Spain, for example, the certified court interpreter does not exist. Thus, in many instances the nationals may feel defenseless, even when there are specific legal provisions in place to guarantee the rights of the individual (Spanish Criminal Procedure Code of September 14, 1882, articles 440 and 441). In this vein, we should fully agree with Arróniz (2000: 160) on the need to respect and guarantee the rights of arrested foreign nationals. According to article 6.3, sections A and E, of the European Agreement for the Protection of Human Rights (November, 4, 1950), individuals have the right to be informed of the charges pressed against them in a language they can understand and to be assisted by an interpreter.

The nationals involved in consular cases may come from very different cultural and social backgrounds, ranging from highly educated individuals from well-off environments to, for example, former refugees of a third-world country who have become nationals of the represented country. In this sense, the interpreter has to constantly adapt to the national’s register and to the individual’s education or cultural level.

A sound knowledge of the various administrative and legal mechanisms and procedures involved is highly desirable in an interpreter. This will ensure a satisfactory degree of faithful and effective communication between the national and the institutions of the host country.

Qualifications and Engagement in Consular and Diplomatic Interpreting

Given the specialized and varied nature of the topics involved in consular and diplomatic interpreting, potential candidates have to meet certain academic and professional qualifications. My experience with these requirements is limited to several European (mainly Spain) and Latin American countries, but the criteria seem to apply to other geographical contexts as well. Interpreters are usually required to possess a degree or diploma in translation and interpreting from an accredited university, together with a minimum number of years of experience (normally at least five) in the fields of translation and interpreting, preferably in the areas of public affairs and international relations.

As explained above, consular cases require a considerable knowledge of the administrative and legal systems of the host country. This is one of the reasons why in certain embassies and diplomatic missions, such as in Spain, being a certified sworn translator/interpreter is a compulsory qualification. In Spain, sworn interpreters/translators are certi-

Continued on p. 32
Conclusion

Interpreting plays a crucial role in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world. Many people’s awareness of the field of interpreting is limited to interlinguistic situations such as simultaneous conference interpreting or bilateral interpreting done for ministerial meetings. However, interpreting is not only limited to the linguistic aspect, or even to intercultural interaction. There is also a strong social component that is intertwined within the entire process requiring a great deal of specialized training. This article has attempted to offer an introduction to a virtually unknown, but not marginal, area of interpreting in today’s modern society: consular interpreting. It has also attempted to point out the need for incorporating consular-related situations as an integral part of interpreting training programs, and the need to further explore and study the diverse aspects of interpreting in consular and diplomatic contexts.

References


Because of the breadth of the subject matter, this article seeks only to give some general pointers about translating financial statements issued by Spanish companies. A set of financial statements is a complex document written with considerable rigor. Translating this sort of material is not something that should be approached lightly. Ideally, translators should have a working knowledge of accounting usage and standards, and the nous to know when they are out of their depth (a most useful quality in a translator).

There are two main cases where Spanish annual reports are translated into English. Large corporations (particularly if listed) normally produce a full English version of their annual report for the benefit of foreign shareholders, analysts, etc. This is usually in full color and on glossy paper, but the print run can be less than 1,000 copies. The other instance where annual reports are translated into English is for consolidation purposes—Spanish subsidiaries of foreign companies which only need the financial statements for the purposes of consolidation at the parent company. In this case, the document is on ordinary paper and contains only the financial statements—no editorial content. The market for translating cover-to-cover glossy annual reports is relatively easy to define. In fact, much of this work is done in-house by the auditors. Versalia conducted a survey of the annual reports of companies in the Ibex-35 and Ibex Complementario indexes (i.e., Spain’s top 70 listed companies). Only six reports mentioned the translators by name, and in one case the auditors had done part of the work (presumably the statutory part).

The market for the translation of financial statements for consolidation purposes is undoubtedly much broader and much harder to pin down. For many translators, their first experience with Spanish financial statements will be in this area.

Most translation of annual reports is concentrated between February and July, since the business year in Spain is the same as the calendar year. Companies need some time to write the report, and they have to hold their shareholders’ meeting before July. Translation work in this field starts picking up in about March and reaches fever pitch in June.

**Regulation and Regulators**

The European Union is planning to require listed companies to adapt their financial reporting to International Accounting Standards (IAS). This will have evident advantages in terms of uniformity, comparability, etc. However, in the meantime, we must live with the current system, which is derived from the EU Company Law Directives.

The EU Company Law Directives (particularly the Fourth Directive) were adapted into Spanish law by the *Reforma Mercantil* in the late 1980s, in which much of the legislation governing companies was consolidated or substantially rewritten. The applicable legislation includes the *Código de Comercio* and the *Texto Refundido de la Ley de Sociedades Anónimas*.

How Spanish companies account for their transactions is dictated by the *Plan General de Contabilidad* (PGC), which goes into great detail regarding how and where to book each individual type of transaction. Figure 1 on page 34 is an example of the chart of accounts contained in the PGC. Clearly, there is plenty of room to create sub-accounts and fill in the gaps depending on the specific needs, but the broad picture is quite carefully regulated.

... Ideally, translators should have a working knowledge of accounting usage and standards, and the nous to know when they are out of their depth (a most useful quality in a translator)...

Moreover, since specific sectors of the economy have their peculiarities, there is the possibility of drafting what are called *Adaptaciones Sectoriales* of the PGC. A case in point is the electricity sector. A big issue in recent years has been the costs of transition to competition (CTCs), a mechanism for compensating the electric utilities for costs incurred from plants built under a regulated system which might not be recovered in a free market system. At the date of this writing (April 2001), a draft *adaptación sectorial* for the winegrowing and winemaking industry is also being discussed.

Accounting matters are regulated by the *Instituto de Contabilidad y...*
Approaching the Translation of Spanish Financial Statements Continued

Auditoría de Cuentas (ICAC), an agency of the Finance Ministry which drafts and approves principles and standards for both accounting and auditing. The reporting requirements applicable to listed companies are dictated by the Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores (CNMV).

Components of the Spanish Annual Report

A Spanish annual report contains regulated and unregulated sections (see Figure 3, page 35).

Memoria—the M word!

Memoria means report. It is the name traditionally given to the annual report to shareholders. However, the Reforma Mercantil codified a structure for the annual report and named each of its sections. For example, article 172 of the Ley de Sociedades Anónimas 1989 reads as follows: “Las cuentas anuales comprenderán el balance, la cuenta de pérdidas y ganancias y la memoria.” Accordingly, the law defines memoria as meaning the footnotes or notes to the financial statements. Nevertheless, the word memoria lives on in everyday business usage as meaning the annual report as a whole or (sometimes) just the editorial part.

Another confusing term is “informe de auditoría,” which, at first glance, means the auditor’s report, a one-two page letter signed by the auditor. However, in many cases, the statutory part of the annual report is written by the auditors themselves! As a result, companies frequently (and not entirely inaccurately) refer to the statutory section of the annual report as the informe de auditoría. Consequently, if a company asks if you can translate their informe de auditoría, you need to clarify what they mean exactly by this term.

Informe de gestión

In line with European law, Spanish law requires that a company’s directors draft an Informe de Gestión (IG). Although most Spanish companies translate this literally as “Management Report,” it is actually written by the directors. The equivalent in English-speaking countries is the “Directors’ Report”

Figure 1. Part of the Cuadro de Cuentas from the PGC referring to certain intangible assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRUPO 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INMOVILIZADO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. GASTOS DE ESTABLECIMIENTO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200. Gastos de constitución.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201. Gastos de primer establecimiento.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202. Gastos de ampliación de capital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. INMOVILIZACIONES INMATERIALES.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210. Gastos de investigación y desarrollo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2100. Gastos de investigación y desarrollo en proyectos no terminados.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2101. Gastos de investigación y desarrollo en proyectos terminados.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>211. Concesiones administrativas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212. Propiedad industrial.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213. Fondo de comercio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>214. Derechos de traspaso.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>215. Aplicaciones informáticas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217. Derechos sobre bienes en régimen de arrendamiento financiero.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Part of the Definiciones y Relaciones Contables from the PGC referring to pre-opening expenses

| 201. Gastos de primer establecimiento. |
| Gastos necesarios hasta que la empresa inicie su actividad productiva, al establecerse aquélla o con motivo de ampliaciones de su capacidad. |

Su movimiento es el siguiente:

a) Se cargará por el importe de los gastos realizados, con abono, generalmente, a cuentas del subgrupo 57 y, en su caso, a la cuenta 730.

b) Se abonará por el importe que deba imputarse anualmente a resultados, con cargo a la cuenta 680.

Informe de gestión

In line with European law, Spanish law requires that a company’s directors draft an Informe de Gestión (IG). Although most Spanish companies translate this literally as “Management Report,” it is actually written by the directors. The equivalent in English-speaking countries is the “Directors’ Report”
form to it. Investor protection advocates have recently called for the Código to be made obligatory. A copy of the Código in Spanish and English can be obtained from the CNMV Website.

Getting Down to Work

The balance sheet and income statement are the heart of the financial statement. Accordingly, they are the first items to be tackled by the translator, regardless of where they appear in the actual document. If asked to translate the footnotes only, the translator should insist on receiving the balance sheet and income statement as part of the essential reference material. Any terminology decisions made in translating the balance sheet and income statement will have repercussions throughout the footnotes and IG. In contrast, the “editorial” section at the front of the annual report often departs from the statutory part in terminology and usage. In fact, the statutory part is often translated by the auditing firm, whereas the editorial part is translated by a translator commissioned directly by the company. This approach can lead to glaring differences between the two parts of the annual report in English.

You Say tomatyto, and I Say tomahto

Another question to be addressed when translating a set of Spanish financial statements into English is: Which side of the Atlantic should we cater to? This may be a foregone conclusion in the case of financial statements for consolidation (the nationality of the parent company should decide), but it may need clarification, particularly in the case of a cover-to-cover glossy production.

Apart from the evident differences in spelling, date formats, etc., there is a considerable difference in financial ter-

Continued on p. 36
minology between Europe and the United States. A balance sheet is a balance sheet on both sides of the Atlantic, but a European profit and loss account becomes an income statement in the United States. This is quite a tricky area. The worst possible outcome would be a translation with a mixture of U.K. and U.S. terminology, creating bemusement at best and outright confusion at worst. Remember that income can mean revenues in Europe but profits in the United States!

Sources and Conclusions

The Internet is a boon to translators in more ways than one. Most large Spanish companies post their annual reports on their Websites in both English and Spanish, providing a wonderful case of parallel texts. However, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. A set of English and Spanish versions can be very useful for reference purposes, but it is no substitute for an actual understanding of what is going on “under the hood” in a company’s accounts.

This is an area of translation where the value of specialization is self-evident. Although translation of annual reports tends to be concentrated within the first half of the year, the same skills can be put to good use year-round in translating due diligence reports, equities research reports, and similar documents.

References

Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores:
http://www.cnmv.es

Instituto de Contabilidad y Auditoría de Cuentas:
http://www.icac.mineco.es

Ministry of Economy and Finance:
http://www.mineco.es

Other links and downloads can be obtained at http://www.versalia.com.
In a previous *Chronicle* article on translating abbreviations (Vol. 28, No. 9, September 1999, pp. 53-54, 59), I discussed some of the issues that affect the translation of abbreviations from Spanish specialized source texts in the field of information technology. In that article I explained that there are two major reasons why abbreviations are a particularly sensitive area for into-English specialized translators, no matter what field they work in and no matter what the source language. The first is that out-of-English translators know that source-text abbreviations always (or almost always) represent English words. Into-English translators, on the other hand, must determine what language the abbreviations originated in before deciding if they should either transfer (which is done when the terms are already in English) or translate them (when the terms are in a source language other than English). The second reason is that out-of-English translators often do not take the use of transfer as a technique for dealing with abbreviations very seriously, and abuse it as a result. However, into-English translators must take this technique very seriously and use it only when they are absolutely certain that the abbreviation is in English, because a transfer of an abbreviation in the source language can lead to a breakdown in communication.

I would like to use the following article to examine more cases in which abbreviations appearing in the source language may be difficult to resolve, even with the use of specialized dictionaries. One of the most nagging problems in specialized translation is that dictionaries cannot keep pace with all the new developments in specialized fields. In fact, dictionaries start to become outdated from the moment they hit the street. In any event, dictionaries, no matter how specialized, may not be able to solve the many problems arising from the translation of abbreviations, especially if the abbreviation is specific to the field, company, or document to be translated. With this article, I hope to help fellow Spanish>English translators of specialized texts to raise their guard to the dangers that lurk in this area and to gain a steadier footing for translating abbreviations. Most of the examples in this article will be taken from specialized business texts.

Abbreviations are one of the most efficient devices we have for communicating, not only in specialized areas but in everyday communication as well. English seems to be one of the languages most prone to use abbreviations as a means of facilitating communication, and perhaps the language most prone to promote the creation and use of abbreviations in other languages. The business world in Spain is one example of an area where abbreviations have flourished, with words like ENICRE (Entidad de Inspección y Control Reglamentario); UTE (Unión Temporal de Empresas); and ETT (Empresa de Trabajo Temporal). Perhaps one of the most curious examples of the use of abbreviations in Spanish culture involves the shampoo Head and Shoulders, which probably would have flopped here because of the unpronounceable name. Instead, it has been successfully marketed in Spain by using the abbreviation “H y S.”

I would like to start off my examination of translating abbreviations into English by picking up a thread from my first abbreviation article. I said that into-English translators should be absolutely vigilant by first determining what language the abbreviation is in and then deciding whether to transfer it (because it is already in English) or translate it (because it is in a source language other than English). I mentioned that the first danger is the fact that Spanish source texts may contain abbreviations in which not all of the letters are capitalized, or they may contain redundant terms outside the abbreviation. For example, you may come across the terms Wap, wap, protocolo WAP, protocolo Wap, or protocolo wap. In all five cases, this would be translated into English as WAP (wireless application protocol). The second danger I mentioned is the fact that there may be abbreviations for which very consolidated equivalents exist, and these cases require translation, not transfer. However, these abbreviations may often not look similar to each other because of varying letters or varying order. For example,
More on Translating Abbreviations in Specialized Texts into English

AMFE (Análisis de Modos [Modal] de Fallos y Efectos) is the clear equivalent of FMAE (Failure Mode and Effects Analysis); IPC (Índice de Precios al Consumidor) is the equivalent of CPI (Consumer Price Index); and EEB (Encefalopatía Espungiforme Bovina) is the equivalent of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy). There are many other examples of this, most of which are easily ascertained using reliable dictionaries. What follows are entirely new examples of other areas where into-English translators could make mistakes involving abbreviations.

A potential trouble spot for translators is when the source text (Spanish, for example) uses an abbreviation for a term or concept that is unabbreviated in English (or vice versa). In these cases, complications usually arise through a misunderstanding of the source text, and not necessarily through problems with rendering the abbreviation into English. For example, consider the abbreviations OPA or OPAH (Oferta Pública de Acciones [Hostil]) and OPV (Oferta Pública de Valores), which are (hostile) takeover bid and public stock offering. Once you have sorted out the meaning of the abbreviation, there is generally no problem in finding the equivalent expression in English. Problems with abbreviations can overlap, as the expression OPA(H) can often appear unabbreviated as Opa(h) or opa(h). There are also concepts that are abbreviated in Spanish and are culture-specific that should be translated into English. The problem with translating such terms into English is that they often represent concepts specific to the Spanish business and cultural context for which there are no exact equivalents in English. Complications of this kind involve not only problems with the comprehension of the source text, but also with rendering them in the English target text. Examples of this include DNI (Documento Nacional de Identidad), NIF (Número de Identidad Fiscal), and CIF (Código de Identidad Fiscal), which I have generally rendered, unabbreviated, as national identity number, individual fiscal identity number, and corporate fiscal identity number. However, translations such as these are often document-specific.

One of the areas that requires extreme care is distinguishing in the Spanish source text between abbreviations for company names, which should be transferred, and abbreviations for concepts, which should be transferred if they are in English and translated if they are in Spanish. For example, it may take you some time to ascertain that GKN, in the term auditoría GKN, is the name of a consulting firm that performs audits and not an abbreviation for a specific type of audit. Other examples more specific to the Spanish context are abbreviations that contain SA, SL, or CB as a part of the company name. Here, the meaning may be more difficult to reach because the company may generally be known by a nonabbreviated form but be referred to by using an abbreviation of the complete formal company name in other documents. Such is the case for personal de NISA, where NISA (Nachí Industrial, Sociedad Anónima) needn’t be translated because it represents the company name, and therefore we have NISA personnel. Similar problems may arise when having to distinguish reference numbers/letters that may also incorporate abbreviated names of companies and their products and services, or abbreviated words for concepts. The problem here is first to distinguish reference numbers from abbreviations and then to deal with the abbreviations accordingly. I insist that into-English translators must do their homework with every single abbreviation in order to determine what language each is in.

Specialized into-English translators may encounter multiple abbreviations in English and Spanish for the same letter combination, which may or may not turn out to be translation equivalents. For example, there are certain combinations of letters that have literally dozens of different abbreviations: ECA, ISP, APA, and so on. The existence of so many different abbreviations means that specialized translators will most likely have trouble determining the meaning of the abbreviation in the context of the source text (which may be complicated) and then will have to render the abbreviation into English (which is usually uncomplicated). Problems arise when abbreviations in a source text are field-, company-, or document-specific, but also coincide with major abbreviations contained in dictionaries, glossaries, and databases. In this situation, you may have a proliferation of abbreviations in your information sources, but none of them may seem right. Here is a typical case where out-of-English specialized translators may abuse the transfer method, but into-English specialized translators must determine what the source language
is (and what the meaning of the abbreviation is) before determining what action is appropriate—transfer or translation. You will have to explore all avenues (consult dictionaries, databases, experts in the field, your client [if possible], and so on) and if none of these yield results, then consider (very carefully) the possibility of a typographical error. If you suspect a spelling mistake, go back to step one and do your research on the language the abbreviation is in. Once that is determined, then you will be able to decide whether to transfer the abbreviation or translate it. When all avenues have been explored to no avail, you will have to transfer the abbreviation into English, knowing that you have taken into account all the factors involved. Again, problems in translating abbreviations may overlap and even doubly so, as, for example, when the abbreviation CIF actually does have a corresponding term in English that stands for cost, insurance, freight, which is unabbreviated as coste, seguro y flete in Spanish.

Spanish creates special abbreviations for two-word concepts in the plural; for example, EEUU stands for Estados Unidos (U.S.) and VV AA stands for varios autores (various authors). In Spanish source texts in the area of business you may encounter abbreviations of this type which, like the ones above, have been consolidated in dictionaries and other sources of information (for example, RRHH stands for recursos humanos [human resources]). But you may also encounter abbreviations of this type which are specific to the field, company, or document. For example, in a recent document AAPP stood for acciones preventivas (preventive measures) and AACC for acciones correctivas (corrective measures). In the case of abbreviations that are too specific to have found their way into dictionaries and other sources of information, into-English translators must enlist their thorough knowledge of their source-text languages. They must never leave a single abbreviation unturned until discovering what language the abbreviation is in (and what it stands for), which will allow them to determine what to do with it (transfer or translate).

I hope to have been of help to specialized Spanish>English translators and also to all specialized into-English translators, who I suspect share similar concerns regarding abbreviations. In this article, I have restated the main reasons why I feel into-English translators have to be particularly aware of abbreviations in specialized texts. I have examined new cases where abbreviations might cause trouble and have pointed out how many of these trouble spots may overlap each other. Abbreviations become an efficient tool of specialized communication across languages and cultures when they are rendered well, but they may become barriers to clear, specialized communication when not given the attention they deserve. The difficulties of translating abbreviations are multiple and overlapping, and our techniques for dealing with them should also be multiple and overlapping so that no abbreviation falls through the cracks.

---

**Plea Bargain? You Bet Your Life** Continued from p. 28

- The Honorable Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson, Rhode Island Superior Court
- The Honorable Magistrate Debra DiSegna, Rhode Island Family Court
- The Honorable Magistrate Aurendina Veiga, Rhode Island Administrative Adjudication Court
- Prosecutor Stacey Veroni, Office of the Attorney General
- Attorney Robert Marro, Office of the Public Defender
- Attorney Mortimer Newton, Toro Law Associates
- Frank Pannozzi, Office of the Public Defender
- Susana Torres, Director of Interpreting and Translating Services, International Institute of Rhode Island

**Notes:**

3. Ibid. p. 475.
Do you know what a “Varioram Induction System” is? Do you understand the manufacturing concept of “Lean Engineering”? Does anyone know what the correct translation for “…when the vacuum-controlled sliding section opens so that the engine runs on the short stacks and the large resonance chambers opens so that the engine runs on…” is?

Due to globalization, technical complexity, and worldwide growth, there has been a tremendous increase in the demand for automotive translations. This increase in demand has created a shortage of qualified technical automotive translators worldwide. If you are searching for a career direction or would like to focus your efforts on a specific subject area, you may want to consider learning more about the opportunities and needs of the automotive community.

Similar trends, in the IT industry for example, have been the catalyst for the continued growth and maturation process of the translation industry. There have been some incredible changes and phenomenal growth in this industry within the last 10 years. As the demand for our services continues to develop, translators may want to consider rethinking their business strategies.

In the auto industry, as with most other industries, we have been witness to a staggering number of changes in technology, with a tremendous shift from mechanically controlled parts to computer controlled parts. As a result, today’s vehicles have more features, get better gas mileage, and are far safer than ever before. Innovations such as energy-absorbing sheet metal, anti-lock brakes, and traction control have improved our cars and trucks, but also increased the complexity of their operation.

Due to growing competition, there have been many mergers, acquisitions, and partnerships which have created large multinational companies with worldwide import and export efforts. Likewise, many of these companies have also made the strategic decision to move away from owning vertically integrated operations, resulting in the spin-off and formation of huge multinational part suppliers such as Delphi, Lear, and VISTeon. In order to gain economies of scale and lower costs, these multinationals have begun sharing components, engines, and even complete platforms among different car lines. As they broaden their operational territory and markets, these companies are increasingly in need of translation services.

Politically, the enactment of the North American Free Trade Agreement has definitely had a positive economic impact on the translation industry in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. The free trade of goods and services, free of tariffs, has proven to be a very positive economic development. We have all seen the amazing increase in the number of car brands in the States. We currently have more Japanese, Korean, and European nameplates than ever, and the same holds true worldwide. General Motors, Ford, and DaimlerChrysler all export many of their vehicles to Canada and every other part of the world where there is demand.

The changing dynamics of the auto industry has created an excellent opportunity for translators around the globe. For instance, last year was a record one for auto sales in the U.S., with over 17 million commercial cars and trucks being manufactured. I’ll try and translate that into something we all understand very well. I estimate that the demand for translation in the automotive industry exceeds over 500 million words per year. Either way, it’s a staggering amount.

Whether you prefer short or long documents or legal, marketing, or technical documents, there is plenty of work to go around and not enough capable translators. To give you a better idea on just how large and small these projects can be, I’ve provided some word counts of typical projects that require translation.

- Service repair manuals (500,000 – 1,000,000 words per manual)
- Owners’ manuals (40,000 – 80,000 words per manual)
- Maintenance schedules (5,000 – 10,000 words)
- Dealer catalogs (3,000 – 5,000 words per catalog)
- Websites (2,000 – 5,000 words)
- Service bulletins (100 – 2,000 words per bulletin)
• Training documents (30,000–60,000 words)
• Customer satisfaction programs (1,500–2,500 words per survey)
• Advertisements (75–250 words per ad)

Each of these projects requires different skills, technologies, and work preferences. Obviously, the demands placed on the translator of large service information documents are different from those faced by the translator adapting an ad campaign. Pricing varies greatly as well.

In addition to translation expertise, the automotive translator must make a fairly significant investment in software and hardware. Companies are now completely computerized. You’re far more likely to translate something received in an electronic format than on paper. In addition, more and more automotive technical documentation is being authored in database-driven environments such as SGML. Authoring in SGML allows for maximum re-use and leveraging of documentation assets. Because more and more components and parts are shared between vehicles, from engines to heating and cooling systems, automotive companies have had to re-think their authoring processes. And their documentation needs have grown considerably due to the increased complexity of the vehicles and their worldwide sales efforts.

Typically, longer, more repetitive documentation, such as service information and owners’ manuals, are produced in more structured software environments, such as SGML, FrameMaker, or Interleaf. These programs allow for the maximum re-use of previous translations and interact with translation memory software very effectively. Shorter documents are usually prepared using Windows-based off-the-shelf software, such as Word or Powerpoint. A translator will need to have a fairly new Windows-based PC, a copy of Microsoft Office, a modem or high-speed Internet connection, and possibly translation memory software.

Not to be confused with machine translation, translation memory is a translator’s friend and will help you earn more projects and more dollars. Translation memory is not designed to replace a translator; it is simply an evolution in technology.

Less than 25 years ago the typewriter was the standard method used to produce a translation. In the 1980s we used WordPerfect, and today we use Microsoft Word. While each of these technologies has done a good job, they all lack the ability to assist a translator when translating repetitive documentation. Typically, only translators interested in translating service documentation will need to invest in translation memory software. When considering which translation memory software to purchase, there is now Translation Memory Exchange (TMX)—a standard file format developed to import and export existing translation memories. Be sure to invest in software that supports TMX.

Another piece of software you’ll want to learn how to use is Adobe Acrobat. Acrobat files are becoming the preferred way to distribute formatted information because it allows both the sender and receiver to have the exact same visuals and text without the need for any additional software, fonts, or graphic files. All text and graphics are combined into one file and are platform independent, enabling them to be transferred from Windows to Macintosh and vice versa. Usually Acrobat is included with your purchase of MS-Windows. If not, you can download a free version from Adobe’s Website.

For many marketing pieces, such as brand advertisements, price is not an issue. Creative ability, writing style, and cultural know-how are far more important. However, these projects typically require extreme flexibility on the translator’s part. These jobs are usually smaller, with challenging idiomatic expressions and multiple revisions. In addition, translators are generally told of these projects at the last minute, which can be a disruption. It is my opinion that these types of projects are best suited to translators who enjoy higher paying shorter projects, can manage revenue peaks and valleys, and enjoy creative challenges.

On the other hand, there are also service information documents. Service information typically includes owners’ manuals, warranty booklets, maintenance schedules, repair manuals, and technical bulletins. These projects require different skills and satisfy different needs.

Service information projects can be long and tedious, and always seem...
to have thousands of words waiting for you to translate. Service information is for those with a definite preference for longer projects who have the ability to work well with other translators on a team. These projects are typically done by many translators working simultaneously while sharing terminology and solving translation issues. Internet connectivity, translation memory, and terminology management software are a must. Today’s service manuals are mainly produced using SGML and translation memory. These manuals are repetitive in nature and allow for very impressive performance gains when using translation memory. SGML produces tagged text files that can be opened and worked on in MS Word. A better environment to work in, however, is with tag-protected software. Tag-protected software protects the programming tags around text from inadvertently being deleted or altered. It is suggested that you keep this issue in mind when deciding which translation memory software to purchase. Again, you’ll want to confirm that the translation memory software is TMX compliant.

Service information documents provide for a more even cash flow for the translator at a much lower per word price. It requires additional computer skills, since the translator must know how to leverage and re-use terminology and work in a translation memory environment.

While there has never been a better time to be an automotive translator, the technical expertise required has increased dramatically. Literal translations are no longer acceptable. Today’s automotive translator must be an expert in the subject field and many sub-fields as well, and be knowledgeable of such concepts as “Lean Engineering” and electrical and vacuum troubleshooting. A lack of technical know-how can become a barrier to a translator’s growth.

One of the impediments to this career path is the lack of college and training resources offering curriculums focusing on the automotive industry. I don’t think that the universities are even aware of our needs at this time. This is a common problem to many fields within the translation industry.

The lack of qualified resources and focus worldwide, however, has also created a viable business opportunity for translators. There are also plenty of research materials available to assist the translator in developing their technical know-how. One of the best resources is the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). You’ll most likely hear them refer to themselves as the SAE, since they serve more than just the automotive community. Founded in 1905, the SAE is one of the oldest standards creating organizations in the United States. The SAE is a resource for technical information and expertise used in the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of self-propelled vehicles for use on land, sea, air, or space. Additional information about the SAE can be found at www.sae.org. The SAE publishes technical automotive books that cover almost every component found in today’s vehicles.

In addition, it would probably be a good idea to be a subscriber to a few car magazines, maybe one in your source and target languages. This will help keep you abreast of the model changes every year. While purchasing resource material annually is expensive, by doing so the translator will be able to differentiate his or her services and provide the necessary quality to better meet customers’ needs. Developing a reputation in an industry as a recognized expert is something I suggest translators consider as they build their businesses. For the most part, translation companies are looking to develop long-term, low-maintenance relationships with translators.

In the past, translators have had to be generalists in order to survive and have any chance at prosperity. Dictionaries, not computers, were translators’ primary tools to help them research and learn each new subject matter that they came across. This was the correct strategy for its time. However, today’s automotive customers are different. Their needs are larger and more complex and more global than ever. These changes are forcing translators to re-think their business strategies.

All of these activities have created opportunities and challenges for the translation community. By focusing on the automotive industry and developing technical expertise, the savvy translator can choose a path that may enhance his or her translation career and earnings potential. It also doesn’t hurt if you happen to love cars as well.
Language and Identity in Literary Translation: The Spanish Translation of *How the García Girls Lost Their Accent* by Julia Álvarez

By Alicia B. Cipria

The very title of Julia Álvarez’s *How the García Girls Lost Their Accent* suggests the central role she gives to linguistic identity in the novel. Not to acknowledge this fact is to miss the most significant theme of the novel. When we examine different translations of a literary work, we might not always agree entirely with the choices made by the translator, especially those concerning lexical items, omissions, ill-resolved ambiguities, and so on. However, subtle variations aside, all translations must respect the original spirit of the text. My main interest in analyzing this novel’s translation is to see whether it achieves congruency with the theme of linguistic identity present in the original.

Accent, as professional linguists understand it, refers to a variation in pronunciation only. In lay terms, the term accent is commonly used to refer to “foreign accents” or those speech patterns which are unique to a given region, such as a northern or southern accent. In this sense, it can be said that everybody has an accent of one kind or another. In the novel at hand, accent refers to the accent of its Dominican characters, the García de la Torre family, who have immigrated to the United States. As is generally the case with immigrants, the children of this family quickly embrace the language of their adopted country. In the process of adapting to an English-speaking country, the García girls lose their Dominican accent. In reading the stories of the characters presented in the novel, we can see that their accent is not the only thing they lose.1

As Julia Álvarez has communicated to me, some people in the Dominican Republic, in referring to the Spanish translation of this novel, jokingly remarked that the García girls lost “their accent, twice.” A more appropriate linguistic definition of what happened in the translation of the novel is that the girls, in fact, lost their dialect.

The term dialect is sometimes misused by the general public to refer only to differences in pronunciation. This is not entirely incorrect given that pronunciation, along with differences in grammatical structure and vocabulary, usually correspond to a given dialect. When a group of speakers of a particular language differs significantly in their speech patterns from another group within the same culture, we say that they are speaking a different dialect. In English and Spanish, the term “dialect” often carries negative connotations, usually associated with non-prestigious varieties of the language. However, a dialect is classified as any variation of the spoken language that differs in terms of its structural or lexical features from the standard literary language or speech pattern of the culture in which it exists. So it can be said that every person, regardless of social class, speaks a dialect of their native language.2

Among the dialects found in the Spanish language are those of central Spain (Castilian), northwest Spain (with some features of Galician), Mexican Spanish, Caribbean Spanish, Argentinian Spanish (strictly speaking, the best known variety is from the region of Río de la Plata), and so on. The translation of Álvarez’s novel, which comes from Spain, uses features belonging to the Castilian dialect (the general literary standard in Spain). Such features include mainly lexical items and the use of the pronoun vosotros (you – plural) and its corresponding verbal forms. This pronoun is not used in Latin America at all. In making these choices, the translation evokes in the Spanish reader other features associated with the Castilian dialect. For example: the pronunciation of /c/ and /z/ as interdental fricatives [θ], which is pronounced just like the initial sound in *think*; the apico-alveolar /s/ or “ese espesa,” which are different from the ones used in Latin America, where c, z, and s are not distinct in pronunciation, particular intonations, and so on.

With the increasing amount of literature available by Hispanic writers living in the U.S., translators of such works will be faced with new challenges when translating into Spanish. This new generation of Hispanic writer is mostly the product of immigration to this country. They usually have had some linguistic experience in their countries of origin, and belong to families who continue to use (in varying degrees) their native language. Most of...
the dialectal context acquires greater significance in the Spanish translation. This problem does not arise when translating the English original into any other target language.

Of course, in translating these works (including the Spanish used in them), we continue to face the challenge of deciding which dialect of the Spanish language we should use. In some cases, this issue is more central in some texts than others. The García de la Torre family, just like Julia Álvarez’s family, had to leave the Dominican Republic when Yolanda (one of the girls) was 10 (the same age that Julia Álvarez was when she left the country), fleeing from the terrible regime of Trujillo. The forced and sudden exile creates an immediate shock in the cultural and linguistic experience of the young girls (their parents have had some college education in the U.S., but still preserve their native language). The family’s immigration takes place in 1960. This was a time when the Spanish-speaking community was not as large as it is now in New York City and the surrounding areas, and immigrants immediately had to start immersing themselves in the language of their adopted country.4

The linguistic experience and awareness of language are omnipresent throughout the text. Take, for example, a one-page discussion over the word antojo and its meaning and etymology (Ref. 1, p. 8). Consider a few other examples. During adult Yolanda’s visit to the Dominican Republic, she replies to a question about her three sisters back in the U.S.:

2.) In halting Spanish, Yolanda reports on her sisters. When she reverts to English, she is scolded, “En español!” The more she practices, the sooner she’ll be back into her native tongue, the aunts insist. Yes, and when she returns to the States, she’ll find herself suddenly going blank over some word in English or, like her mother, mixing up some common phrase. (p. 7)

Or when someone in her class asks for a pen:

3.) “I don’t have an extra pen,” I whispered—complete sentences for whispers, that’s what tells you I was still a greenhorn in this culture. (p. 90)

Or one of the many illustrations of encounters with native English-speakers:

4.) His parents did most of the chatting, talking too slowly to me as I wouldn’t understand native speakers; they complemented me on my “accentless” English and observed that my parents must be so proud of me.” (p. 100)
And further, commenting on the girls’ mother:

5.) She spoke in English when she argued with them. And her English was a mishmash of mixed-up idioms and saying that showed she was “green behind the ears,” as she called it. If her husband insisted she speak in Spanish to the girls so they wouldn’t forget their native tongue, she’d snap, “When in Rome, do unto the Romans.” (p. 135)

Taunted by the boys at school, all of the girls went through the painful consequences of being a foreigner, as we can see with Carla, the oldest daughter:

6.) “Stop!” Carla cried. “Please stop.”
“Eh-stop!” they mimicked her. “Plees eh-stop.” (p. 153)

One of the main tenets of translation is to recreate in the mind of the reader of the target text the same picture the original created for the native reader. Here, the translation fails this basic test. For example, consider the translation of descriptions:

7.) a. In her designer pantsuit and frosted, blown-out hair, Lucinda looks like a Dominican magazine model, a look that has always made Yolanda think of call girls. (p. 4)

This passage is translated:

b. En su traje pantalón de alta costura, con su ahuecada melena fijada con laca, Lucinda parece una modelo dominicana de revista, aspecto que a Yolanda la ha hecho pensar en prostitutas caras. (Ref. 2, p. 16)

The “frosting” gets lost in the translation. To those who do not know what a Dominican magazine model looks like, the image evoked by the translation is not the same as the one presented in the original. “Fijada con laca” (literally translated “done up with spray”) does not necessarily mean “blown-out” (i.e., done with a hairdryer and brush). “Ahuecada” (literally translated “hollowed out”) is a misinterpretation of what “blown-out” means.

Further, we can say that a good translation succeeds when it recreates not only an image, but also the sounds coming from the text. Those acquainted with the Caribbean dialect surely find the translation very odd when trying to make sense of an unlikely combination. For example, the sounds and images evoked by Castilian verb forms (corresponding to the conjugation of vosotros) and the particular intonation, pronunciation, and other features expected from a Dominican or Caribbean speaker. And it is very likely that other Latin American speakers, who are not even acquainted with the Dominican or other Caribbean varieties, also perceive this mismatch. So, in linguistic terms, we are faced not with an ungrammatical choice but with an inappropriate choice, which makes it odd in light of the variety of Spanish spoken in the region where the story develops. Among the many examples, note:

8.) —No hay nada que hacer—dice tía Flor.—
Vosotras cuatro, chicas os perdéis allá
2ND-PLU-SUBJ. 2ND PLU REFL.-GET LOST
arriba. (p. 19)

Continued on p. 46
Any other Spanish speaker outside of Spain would have realized the second person plural with ustedes for the subject pronoun and se for the reflexive pronoun, and its corresponding verb conjugation.

Original:

“It’s not good,” Tía Flor says. “You four girls get lost up there.” (p. 7)

The above was said in reference to the García girls’ prolonged absence from the Dominican Republic. The U.S. is described as being to the north, or “up there,” from the island.

Elsewhere the girls’ father explodes:

9.)—¿Te ha desflorado? Eso es lo que quiero saber. ¿Os habéis escondido detrás de las palmeras? (p. 40)

“Has he deflowered you? That’s what I want to know. Have you gone behind the palm trees...” (Original, p. 30)

I do not think we should go to the extreme of advocating for “customized” Spanish translations into the different dialects of the language. It would be very hard, obviously, to have many versions of millions of books of fiction. Only a few chosen works have been translated into different versions of the same language. Differing translations for a given vocabulary item are easily interpreted and, in case of doubt, we can look them up or ask someone acquainted with the respective dialect. However, in the case of this novel, a more careful translation should have been done, precisely because the central issue is cultural and linguistic identity, and the use of a linguistically related word in the title (namely, accent) underscores its importance.

The significance of the use of Spanish goes beyond mere lexical items, expressions, or songs. It has to do with the relationship of language to one of the central issues coming out of the story. One is tempted to speculate that, in the worst of scenarios, a given Latin American reader might assume that the García de la Torre family (and extended family) uses vosotros because they want to make sure people know they are the descendants of the Conquistadors, 4 and purposely make their speech sound elitist and detached from the common form of Latin American Spanish. This is a likely consequence of the use of vosotros in a dialect that does not use it. As a translator, I would not have made that choice unless the English source-text had explicitly indicated that the family refused to use the forms of address generally accepted by the whole Dominican population, so as to highlight their illustrious lineage.

Suppose we had before us a text written in English of a story that takes place in Spain. The characters are Dominican, Uruguayan, and Spanish. When translating this book into Spanish, we should probably represent their speech in different ways so that they will not all “talk” the same way or use the same vocabulary, pronouns, colloquialisms, and pronunciation. Or should our characters be forced to use vosotros because they are in Spain? I think a translation decision such as that would be missing a very important aspect of the characters. By the same token, suppose there was a Spaniard among the characters in Álvarez’s novels. Will his speech be the same as native Dominicans? Probably not, and it should not be translated the same way either. His pronunciation and use of pronouns will be, of necessity, part of his persona. Following this line of thought, then, when the story takes place in the Dominican Republic with Dominican characters, the same concept should be applied in planning the translation.

The accent of the immigrant García family is not the only issue related to linguistic identity and awareness. The author herself alludes to her brother-in-law’s “thick German accent” (p. 27) and also highlights the Spanish spoken by a German-born art teacher living in the Dominican Republic.

10.)...her guttural Spanish, which made you feel that you were mispronouncing your native tongue because you did not speak it with her heavy German accent... (p. 239)

There are also direct references to speech difference in relation to Chucha, a Haitian-born maid in the de la Torre household who:

11.)...couldn’t say certain words like the word for parsley or anyone’s name that had a j in it. (p. 218)
And also in commenting about the American consul:

12.) a. …“Excusez, por favor”…Half the time he doesn’t know whether he’s using his CIA crash course in Spanish, or his prep school Latin, or his college French. (p. 205)

b. “What’s up,” Vic asks, in his heavily accented Spanish. (p. 207)

c. …his marbles-in-his-mouth Spanish. (p. 214)

These references are important elements in the stories. Given these specific and important allusions to people who have distinctive linguistic traits, which are different from the bulk of the characters, it is only fitting to also be more truthful to the dialect that is chosen for the translation. I am not claiming that the Castilian variety should not be used in any Spanish translation. Nor am I saying that Spanish publishers should not follow language as it is used in the country where they live. However, when the issue of linguistic identity is so important in a literary work, it should be a priority in making linguistic (dialectal) choices for the translation. Obviously, dialectal choices become more critical in the translation of works that include dialogue—the direct reproduction of speech. However, dialect is not only important to the translation of direct speech and is not the only defining element of cultural identity. In this particular translation, the question of dialect and/or regional identity comes up in indirect references to speech (see example 11) and in culturally defined images (see examples 7a-b) to name a few examples of cultural identity.

As most translators know, the interpretation of the text to be translated is as important as the translation itself. Thus, any good translation needs to begin with careful reading and identification of the central themes arising from the text. Since linguistic identity and awareness are so important in the Álvarez’s novel, dialectal considerations should be paramount. In order to ensure appropriateness in the translation, the translator should:

1. Acquaint herself with the pertinent dialect, history, or geography of the place where the story develops. Unless the author of the text specifies otherwise, the Spanish translation should be faithful to the dialect the characters speak. Sometimes, themes and settings of the story may reoccur in other works by the same author. A biography of the author may also help.

2. If possible, collaborate with the author or other speakers of the same dialect as the author or characters of the story. Julia Álvarez states (personal communication) that she was not part of the supervision of the output translation and could only give the translator her intuitive comments, since she writes only in English. Even though she said she has not developed the skill to write exclusively in Spanish, her intuition for the Spanish language can still be an important source for the translator.

3. There should be clearer communications from the publisher to the author (and source-text publisher) regarding translation rights and their implications. Sometimes the copyright of a translation of a literary work (or translation rights) is exclu...
Language and Identity in Literary Translation Continued

Five years ago, the novel was published. Sometimes authors are aware of the implications of terms such as “sales of rights.” Time constraints, quick turn-around, and red tape should not stand in the way of these communications, and attempts (however small) should be made to minimize the risks of an inappropriate translation.

Notes
1. Consider one of the many references related to the girls’ new environment: We began to develop a taste for the American teenage good life, and soon, Island was old hat, man. Island was the hair-and-nails crowd, chaperones, and icky boys with all their macho strutting and unbuttoned shirts... (p. 108)

2. There are many good sources on general definitions and terminology, two of them being References 5 and 6. For Latin American Spanish, see Reference 7.

3. Jamona is a Caribbean colloquialism meaning “spinster.” The Spanish translation uses the more neutral “quedarse soltera,” which is not as strong as “solerona,” the term most commonly used in most Spanish-speaking countries in derogatory contexts like the one at issue. The dialectal element brought about by jamona is, of course, completely lost.

4. Julia Álvarez says that “I came into English as a 10-year-old from the Dominican Republic, and I consider this radical uprooting from my culture, my native language, my country, the reason I began writing...” Julia Álvarez. From the author’s homepage, 1999. (Reference 4.)

5. The girls’ father always used the phrase “to go behind the palm trees” to refer to intimate or sexual contact. It is significant to see that palm trees and vosotros do not go very well together!

6. The de la Torre family, in particular, is presented to us in a family tree as directly branching out of “The Conquistadores.”

7. By the same token, if the Spanish translation were to be done by an Argentinian translator, the peculiarities of the Argentinian dialect (at least the variety that is most widespread) should not be imposed on the Spanish translation if it is not appropriate in relation to the characters’ origin and the region(s) where the story develops.

8. See the discussion of vosotros above. Such indications could arise in cases when the author portrays, say, a Spaniard who has been living in the Dominican Republic for many years whose native dialect is a salient feature of the depiction of his character.

9. The Spanish version of Julia Álvarez’s second novel, In the Time of the Butterflies (Reference 3), was first published in Argentina and then in the Dominican Republic. The latter was the Argentinian translation, revised by a Dominican critic and writer. (Julia Álvarez, personal communication)

References


The Haitian language, commonly called “Kreyol,” is spoken by all Haitians. In this article, we will join Bryant Freeman in referring to this language as Haitian since, Freeman argues, “this is the language of the Haitian people, just as the Italian people dignify their language by the name Italian (in spite of many similarities to Spanish and French), or the Norwegian people dignify their language by the name Norwegian (in spite of many similarities to Swedish and Danish).” “Kreyol” is a vague term referring to anyone and anything born outside of the metropolis, notably on the former island colonies that were established during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Therefore, Haitian is a young language that is the result of “contacts between French people from the west and the north of France, and Africans whom they had hunted down for slavery in the vast land of sub-Saharan Africa.” These are the words of Dominique Fattier, whose research on the Haitian language spans 20 years. Furthermore, she explains: “contacts between people (the colonists and the African slaves) necessarily provoke language contacts—between the one spoken by the French (the ‘oil,’ which is more or less an homogeneous language) and the more numerous languages spoken by the Africans (such as fon, mina, yoruba, ibo, hausa, kongo). On one side, a unique language, on the other, a multitude of languages (among which it was impossible to choose). The need to communicate in order to survive in an unknown and hostile world forced the Africans into one solution—to learn the French spoken at that time (the ‘oil’ language).”

The need for a communication vehicle was particularly important for the slaves because the colonists had decided to take the precaution of not having two Africans from the same tribe, nor even from the same family, on the same plantation. This decision did not prevent the African languages, as diverse as they were, from having a fundamental influence on the syntactic formation of Haitian and all the other “Kreyol” languages still spoken in the former island colonies. And so, it is right to recognize that, regardless of lexical references and occasional syntactic connections, “Haitian is not French.”

**What is the Haitian Language?**

Since 1936, Suzanne Sylvain upheld that “Kreyol” (Haitian) was simply an African language, “an ewe language with French vocabulary” born in America from contact between Europeans and African slaves. Her opinion was supported in 1947 by Charles Fernand Pressoir, who placed more emphasis on the nasalization that derived from African speech. Indeed, it is surprising that the languages referred to as “Kreyol” share syntactic similarities that are not found in the European languages that are the sources of their vocabularies. For example: the absence of the verb “to be,” the shift of the article and the possessive pronoun after the noun, and the use of markers (short particles) to indicate the mode and the tense of the verbs in lieu of conjugation.

The debate is still open among linguists like Robert Chaudenson, Albert Valdman, Bickerton, and others who are not yet able to formulate a theory that is satisfactory to all of them. Nevertheless, it is appropriate to say that Haitian, like any other “Kreyol,” is neither an occidental nor an African language, but more likely the product of an historic alliance that gives the language particularities that sometimes link it to “neo-Romanic” languages... However, Haitian is still a distinct language...

Continued on p. 50
numerous that any apparent linkage should be considered accidental.

In spite of the Haitian language’s youth and its rather recent official orthography, the translator is still called upon to translate texts written in a more mature language, although most of the intended readers have not received any formal schooling and are just beginning to learn how to read in their spoken language. Translating from English to Haitian is even more of a challenge, especially when the standardization of Haitian is still an ongoing process.

Consequently, knowing French is resourceful and sometimes useful. It can be said that to move effectively from English lexicon to Haitian lexicon, the translator must resort to the French vocabulary, especially when the English words or concepts are still foreign to Haitian. This is due to the fact that until 20 years ago, this language was used for spoken communication language only. Previous translations of significance made from French to Haitian were mainly centered around religious hymns, the New Testament, and the Bible. However, since the massive immigration of Haitian people to the U.S. in the early 1980s, translation from English to Haitian has intensified. Coincidentally, though the official orthography of the Haitian language was established by the government of Haiti on January 31, 1980, the evolution of written Haitian is currently more prevalent in the U.S. than in Haiti.

Frequently, the English to Haitian translations that are proposed relate mainly to education, health, medicine, and legal concerns. All these topics impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of Haitians who, according to U.S. law, must receive information that concerns them in a language they understand. That is why a valid and useful translation from English to Haitian is so important, and why the translator must overcome three hurdles. These are: 1) the initial jargon; 2) the target reader; and 3) the effective language.

The Initial Jargon

In most cases, the text to be translated is not of the best quality. There seems to be very little concern for the need for clear communication and for simplifying concepts in texts that are often tough and complicated. Such documents as letters, memoranda, texts, forms, regulations, manuals, educational documents, health or medical booklets, announcements of services, consent forms, and employment or insurance agreements are generally written in a language that can be technical or specialized. These are by no means pleasant to read, even for the average English reader.

The problems associated with the unclear jargon contained in such documents is compounded by the fact that they are often written jointly by several specialists who work hurriedly in order to, for example, meet the submission deadline of a proposal to apply for funding of a project. Moreover, the application and instruction forms that define the terms and conditions of the fund allocations are often prepared by bureaucrats who are more concerned with conforming their writing to the language of the law authorizing the financing than to the output of a clear, simple, and precise text.

Regardless of the ability of U.S. legislators to write more intelligible laws, they do not take into consideration that their writing could be subjected to further rewriting in other languages, including Haitian. Since the texts of laws, school regulations, health forms, or employment contracts are not written for easy reading and comprehension, the translator must sometimes ask for clarification. He is then told that the text must conform to the language of the law or to the instructions of the administration. With regards to health or medical texts, the explanations given to the translator in response to his questions concerning the wording in a document are often more confusing than the initial text.

The Target Reader

Some critics ask, “Why translate all those texts in Haitian when the large majority of the intended readers are illiterate?” This answer is twofold. First, without an efficient translation, the intended reader will be either deprived of necessary information or will have to rely on a school-age child or a parent, neighbor, friend, or any benevolent translator who will “improvise” a translation, most likely a biased one. When the intended reader can secure a text correctly written in his or her language, he or she will have a better chance to receive needed information, even with the help of a benevolent reader.

Secondly, the laws in the U.S. require that all information
words and expressions is extremely important, especially when explaining concepts that may not be part of Haitian customs and traditions. To assist in this task, the translator should draw from the French vocabulary to discover how certain technical or medical concepts and terminology are expressed in that language. The next step is to find out how that word or expression can fit naturally into the Haitian lexicon.

Some opponents to the writing of the Haitian language, even to its oral use in circumstances related to things outside of the domestic and popular routine, ask the question, "Why make so much effort to bring the light of knowledge to the monolingual Haitians since they are illiterate?"

In our society, where information is an integral part of our daily lives, it is a criminal act to deprive anyone of the means that can help him or her learn, receive care, maintain health, improve well-being, protect individual rights, and ensure a better tomorrow for his or her family. Besides, if too many Haitians do not know how to read, it is because for too long the dominant society has neglected or refused to use the language of the people for its instruction. In doing so, society has deprived the Haitian language of enriching opportunities that could enable it to reach a more academic level. This situation has begun to change gradually. An increasing number of popular and academic words and expressions are accumulating in the Haitian lexicon, and have been usefully featured in recent dictionaries like the Haitian-English Dictionary by Bryant Freeman and Jowel Laguerre.

In the preface of his dictionary, Freeman said, "my own experience with the language dates from my love-concerning an individual be communicated in a language that person understands. This requirement applies both to oral and written communication, and has opened an aura of opportunity for several translators and interpreters. Unfortunately, many of these individuals are not competent.

The fact that a large majority of Haitians are illiterate does not justify their abandonment to a state of ignorance that may expose them to unpleasant and disadvantageous situations. Fortunately, the laws in the U.S. often protect them against all sorts of abuse and manipulation.

The greatest difficulty of translating an English text (for example, outlining health benefits) into Haitian is providing useful information to people on a subject that, in many cases, is absolutely foreign to them. The process becomes even more difficult when the client requires a translation almost identical to the original text. In cases where, in the interest of truth, justice, or science, the translation must stay close to word-for-word, it may be necessary for the translator to add explanatory comments for the reader in parentheses.

The background, traditions, and way of life of the Haitians add some nuances to the translator’s task. For example, many Haitians have a difficult time understanding the regulations that their children must follow in school. Most Haitians have never been to school and many come from rural Haiti. However, when these parents are provided with an adequate explanation, they become extremely cooperative and dedicated, because their ultimate goal is to ensure that their children have a better life. Some of these parents already have had the great satisfaction of witnessing the admission and success of their children in the best and most prestigious U.S. colleges and universities.

The positive results of clear communication can also be observed in the areas of health, medicine, and law. Therefore, it is important to make the proper effort to get to know and understand the Haitian people in order to find the best way to gain their confidence and help them absorb and comprehend essential information.

The Efficient Language

According to Gerard Bathelemy, in Haiti "the elite (literate) and the masses (illiterate) speak the same language, but [are] not [using] the same tongue." This can be easily understood, because one speaks the tongue of his or her instruction, while the other speaks the tongue of his or her intuition. The Haitian peasant speaks a plain language, the way he feels. What he understands is what is related to his faith and daily life that are intimately intertwined. He lives as he believes. He will have a good day “si Bondye vle” (God willing).

This apparent fatalism is a distinctive characteristic representative of most Haitians. Therefore, the translator’s choice of words and expressions is extremely important, especially when explaining concepts that may not be part of Haitian customs and traditions. To assist in this task, the translator should draw from the French vocabulary to discover how certain technical or medical concepts and terminology are expressed in that language. The next step is to find out how that word or expression can fit naturally into the Haitian lexicon.

Some opponents to the writing of the Haitian language, even to its oral use in circumstances related to things outside of the domestic and popular routine, ask the question, “Why make so much effort to bring the light of knowledge to the monolingual Haitians since they are illiterate?” In our society, where information is an integral part of our daily lives, it is a criminal act to deprive anyone of the means that can help him or her learn, receive care, maintain health, improve well-being, protect individual rights, and ensure a better tomorrow for his or her family.

Besides, if too many Haitians do not know how to read, it is because for too long the dominant society has neglected or refused to use the language of the people for its instruction. In doing so, society has deprived the Haitian language of enriching opportunities that could enable it to reach a more academic level. This situation has begun to change gradually. An increasing number of popular and academic words and expressions are accumulating in the Haitian lexicon, and have been usefully featured in recent dictionaries like the Haitian-English Dictionary by Bryant Freeman and Jowel Laguerre.

In the preface of his dictionary, Freeman said, “my own experience with the language dates from my love-Continued on p. 52
at-first-sight discovery of Haiti in 1958....” He also said, “we have been
told by a knowledgeable Haitian, ‘If I
don’t know the word, it doesn’t exist.’”
Other well-informed Haitians have
contested the use of a word because
they said, “it is not part of the people’s
language.” This search for popular
authenticity has been, throughout the
Haitian history, the stumbling block to
the evolution of the language and one
of the main reasons of its intellectual
atrophy. Nevertheless, some Haitian
intellectuals think that in order to
enrich the Haitian lexicon they can
only “creolise” or, as reported by
Pradel Pompilus, “haitianise” a French
word to make it Haitian.

The French word that ends with two
consonants or two consonants and a
silent vowel does not fit naturally into
the Haitian language. For example, to
translate in Haitian the English word
“dogma,” we will naturally want to use
the French word “dogme.” But, the
only syllabic sequence that will be
retained in Haitian will be “dòg.” This
word may cause confusion for the
monolingual Haitian living in the U.S.,
who is accustomed to hearing the word
“dog” used to designate a canine
animal. This type of confusion must be
avoided. Thus, it will be preferable to
adopt the English word “dogma” because it is easier to pro-
nounce in Haitian. In any event, the meaning of the word is the
same in both English and French.

Conclusion
Effectively translating English texts on academic or scientific
subjects whose concepts are far removed from the traditional
Haitian lexicon is a challenge. However, it is one the translator
must face. In undertaking this task, the translator must scrupu-
lously respect the spirit and the letter of the original text while
expressing the content in a simple and comprehensible language
for the enlightenment of the monolingual Haitian.

References:
Barthélemy, Gérard. Le pays en dehors. Port-au-Prince, Haïti,
1989.


Fattier, Dominique. Le Créole haïtien de poche. Assimil,

Freeman, Bryant. Haitian-English Dictionary. University of

Pompilus, Pradel. La Langue française en Haïti. Port-au-
Prince, Haiti.

Pressoir, Charles F. Débats sur le créole et le folklore. Port-au-
Prince, 1947.

Sylvain, Suzanne. Le Créole haïtien, morphologie et syntaxe.
Wetteren, 1936.

From English to Haitian through French Vocabulary: A Translation Challenge Continued
ACCREDITATION FORUM

Changes to Accreditation Exam Policies by Celia Bohannon, Deputy Chair of the ATA Accreditation Committee

When I led my first ATA accreditation graders’ workshop in San Francisco in 1997, I opened with this anecdote:

The New York Times science pages recently told the story of the heart surgeons in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont—there are only 23 in all—who agreed in 1993 to observe each other regularly in the operating room and share their know-how, insights, and approaches. In the two years after their nine-month-long project, the death rate among their patients fell by an astonishing 25 percent. Merely by emphasizing teamwork and communication instead of functioning like solitary craftsmen, the study showed, all the doctors brought about major changes in their individual and institutional practices.

Since that day, graders and language chairs have spent more than 60 hours in formal workshops, as well as innumerable hours in discussions within their individual workgroups. As we shared our thoughts about grading principles, standards, and practices, we realized that communication among graders markedly enhanced the quality of grading and was the key to grading consistency.

Until recently, however, such consultations occurred either before the fact—as the graders in each workgroup tried to anticipate the errors candidates might make and arrive at a consensus about how to mark them—or long after the fact, as we reviewed grading examples from previous years in collective grader workshops. According to longstanding accreditation program policy, the graders who marked each exam did so in independent isolation. Until 10 years ago, a grader’s identity remained unknown even to other graders. Those who struggled with grading decisions might consult accredited colleagues or professionals who were not translators—anyone but the person most likely to be familiar with the nuances of the question, namely the other grader evaluating the exam. If the two original graders disagreed about the pass/fail outcome of a particular exam, the disputed passages were sent to a third grader whose evaluation—likewise independent—cast the deciding vote.

Over the years, our grading policies have evolved. We now permit—indeed, we encourage—communication among graders, even during the grading process. Most recently, at the 10th annual meeting of language chairs in Alexandria on May 5, 2001, the ATA Accreditation Committee introduced a new grading policy. Effective immediately, graders evaluating a particular exam may freely consult any other grader in their workgroup before arriving at their decisions. Starting with the exams administered in November 2001, if the two original graders disagree about the pass/fail outcome of an exam, they must consult each other to seek agreement. Only if they cannot reach agreement will the exam be sent to a third grader, who in turn may consult with the initial graders or other graders in the workgroup. To facilitate this process, the cover letter for each exam sent to a grader will identify the other grader of that exam.

At the same time, the Accreditation Committee revised the policy for evaluating examinations in which the candidate completes only two passages. Until now, candidates were advised that in view of the time advantage, such translations were expected to be of convincingly high quality and would not be sent to a third grader if one of the initial graders assigned a grade of Fail. Starting in November 2001, two-passage and three-passage exams will undergo the same evaluation, both in the grading of individual passages and in the procedure when the first two graders disagree on the outcome. As before, each candidate must successfully complete two passages in order to pass the exam, but the candidate will bear the responsibility for deciding whether to translate three passages, hoping that at least two will pass, or to complete only two passages, both of which must pass.

A third change in policy to take effect with the 2001–02 exam year is a modest reduction in the specified passage length, from the current 250–300 words to 225–275 words (based on the English text, whether this is the source text or a translation of average length). This policy addresses a widely held concern about the time pressure on candidates writing the exam in longhand. Experience indicates that candidates who do not meet the standards for ATA accreditation will make enough errors to fail even in a shorter passage. Therefore, this change in policy may have a minimal effect on the pass rate—but the comfort level of candidates sitting for the exam should surely improve.

The Accreditation Committee and the language chairs anticipate that these new policies will enhance communication among graders, promote consistency, facilitate the review of graders’ performance, and ensure fairness to candidates. We expect that these changes, and others still under consideration, will further strengthen the ATA accreditation program. Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the many ATA members whose suggestions, comments, questions, and feedback have guided us in our work.

It’s Time to Plan...

ATA’s 2001 Annual Conference

Los Angeles, California

October 31–November 3, 2001
Dictionary of Medicine, French-English with English-French Glossary

Author: Svetolik Paul Djordjevic
Price: $179.50
1,150 pp., cloth, 8½ x 11
Available from: Schreiber Publishing, Inc. (301) 424-7737 ext. 28
Reviewed by: Sharlee Merner Bradley

Three cheers for a new French-English medical dictionary on the scene! While principally a French-to-English medical dictionary (989 two-column pages), there is also an English-to-French glossary at the end (158 three-column pages—shorter because only headwords are indexed and there are no definitions). If necessary, a translator can look in the main index for clarification.

What to Expect

Some terms are defined, for example, absence d’albumines dans le sérum sanguin (under absence) is translated as analbuminemia and then (unnecessarily?) defined as “absence of albumin from the serum.” A more useful example is campimètre, translated as diopsmeter and defined as “a device for measuring the field of vision.”

Phrases are run-on, but bold, with an * replacing the headword. The pages have a clean look with wide margins, which are good for annotations.

Some pharmaceuticals are included and identified, for example, Abriscor®: trademark for a preparation of ascorbic acid (vitamin c).

Abbreviations are included in the alphabetic index, for example, P.E.R.S. (pouls égaux réguliers synchrones): equal regular and synchronous pulse. Another example: Pz: PZ: PZ (pancreozymin—endocrinology, gastroenterology, and laboratory).

Only a few terms are cross-referenced for the purpose of saving space. For example, Siris: see Coffin (et Siris), syndrome de.

Proper names are identified, as are abbreviations, parts of speech, and the gender of nouns.

Alternate translations are indicated with a slash (/) and semicolon (;). For example, site de départ; startpoint; startpoint/site; startsite.

Quality

As for the quality of the medical terms, this reviewer is not an M.D. and cannot vouch for accuracy. However, a check was made against an article by Henri Van Hoof in the ATA Scholarly Monograph Series Translation and Medicine entitled “The Language of Medicine: English and French,” which basically compares the French to an English base (the reverse of this dictionary). Several terms checked out well. However, in Van Hoof’s section on synonyms, maladie de Bouillaud is said to be a synonym for the more common rhumatisme articulaire aigu, but that in English Bouillard’s disease stands for “bacterial (or infective or infectious) endocarditis.” For the French term the Schreiber dictionary gives “Bouillard’s disease; rheumatic endocarditis,” with no indication of when which is which or whether or not the two English terms are synonyms.

Checking on another term cited by Van Hoof, for the English translation of granules pigmentaires, this reviewer found no entry under granules, and pigmentaires is not listed. According to Van Hoof, English uses a noun instead of an adjective form to make pigment granules.

Only two minor misprints were noted (publication was delayed for another proofreading): Laboraotry on p. 730 and dilue for dilué on p. ix.

Only one of the seven terms (medullaire) was not found in the Schreiber, but that term could be deduced and its spelling verified in Dorland or Stedman. Such easy cognates are specifically omitted from this dictionary, which concentrates on terms that require user knowledge of the two languages and the subject matter fields.

There was a term in the handwritten test document that could be a variant or an error, deciphered as tentens, but not found in the Schreiber (or anywhere else, for that matter). However, TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation—neurology and physical therapy), was included. From the context, this was a likely candidate.

These results show the excellent coverage by the Schreiber for this tiny one-page test of a handwritten diagnosis. In actual fact, for this document, instead of a single source, the translator had to look in two editions of Flammarion*, the Canadian databases on CD-ROM Termium* and Le Grand Dictionnaire*, and the Internet, not to mention English sources such as The Merck Manual*, Dorland’s Medical Dictionary*, and Stedman’s Electronic Medical Dictionary*. The obvious

Table 1: Seven Terms Needed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Schreiber</th>
<th>Merck Manual*</th>
<th>Dorland’s Medical Dictionary*</th>
<th>Stedman’s Elec-1ronic Medical Dictionary*</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cervicobra-chialgie</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>cervicobra-chialgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD [hernie discal]</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>herniated disk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>atteinte (medullaire)</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(medull-) involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medullaire</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(medull-) [compounds only]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diskoidektomie</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>disc/kectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laminectomie</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>laminectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F.R.C.S.(c)</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Found as FRCS[C])</td>
<td>(Found as F.R.C.S[C])</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on p. 56)
B ig institutions cannot get by without janitors, but janitors can easily get by without abbreviations. One man who works for one of the biggest institutions in this community did with his legs what we often do with our dictionaries and glossaries. Ordered by his boss to clean the “VCT floors,” he imagined that this was a floor in need of cleaning in a room or department he was not yet familiar with: VCT. He walked about and made inquiries and finally found out that it meant Vinyl-Coated Tiles. The poor janitor was, naturally, somewhat miffed about being led by his boss around in circles in this way, and wondered aloud, “Why couldn’t he have simply said that?”

As we do in our profession, he spent a lot of time and effort in vain, just because it has become so stylish, so businesslike, and professional-seeming not to spell things out. The janitor’s boss ought to have his pay reduced by the amount of time his subordinate chased, as the Ecclesiast would say, after the extremely attenuated wind of an unnecessary abbreviation.

[Abbreviations used with this column: E-English; F-French; G-German; I-Italian; J-Japanese; R-Russian; Sp-Spanish; Sw-Swedish.]

New Queries

(E-F 6-01/1) Slicers manufactured by CFS are the subject of this ProZ query. Designed for food packaging, they feature shingling or shingle packaging, and the query is how to render this into French. Perhaps shingling may be that process in which a food product like bacon is packaged with the aid of microprocessor controls so that each slice overlaps the other a bit, making it easy to remove each individual slice.

(F-E 6-01/2) This query relates to “bonus-malus,” a rating given by insurers according to the accident free period. A bit more context: “...le bonus-malus appliqué pour l’ensemble de la flotte s’élève à 11.” This is a rating used in Belgium, and, working with deadlines, the translator and client reached agreement on use of a bonus-malus system in English, essentially fudging the whole matter. A possible roundabout way to reach a more acceptable solution in English is knowing that in German, the equivalent is “Schadenfreiheitsklasse.”

(G-E 6-01/3) A transatlantic correspondent believes the meaning of “Tischkultur” to be clear enough, but would like to have something more punchy than tableware, which is what the manufacturer used on his Website. The correspondent wants something akin to “t’art de table.” Any ideas?

(G-E 6-01/4) A Swiss text posed the problem compound adjective “präsidial-magistral.” The context sentence is “Wenn wir nun an der Schwelle des neuen Jahrhunderts von Präsidial-Magistratler Seite aufgefordert werden, den Handel als große Chance zu sehen und uns vor Nostalgie zu hüten, so ist diese moralische Unterstützung sehr erfreulich, auch wenn sie vor einigen Jahren noch mehr Nutzen gestiftet hätte.”

(G-E 6-01/5) A quote from the German Arzneimittelpreisverordnung (Medication Price Regulation) refers to “die Anfertigung von ungeteilten Pulvern” and “die Anfertigung von abgeteilten Pulvern.” The presenter of the query wants to know what the difference between the two is, and are the powders “cut” with something else.

(I-E 6-01/6) The phrase “nell’an e nel quantum” appeared in a writ of summons found by a ProZ seeker. Literally, it works out to something like if and how much, but more elegant legalese might be available in English.

(Sw-E 6-01/7) Franklin D. Scott never fully achieved his goal, in his single-volume history of Sweden, of conveying the full feeling of “jämlikhet,” a truly important sociological term during the final half of the 20th century. It has to be translated, he states, as equality, but that word in English lacks the connotations of social solidarity that the original carries. Without a definition-type translation, can we do better?

Replies to Old Queries

(E-R 4-01/2) (interventions in obstetrics): Lydia Stone has seen ВМЕЩЕНИЕЕ many times in Russian medical texts, and has always assumed the word has the same usage as intervention in English medical technology.

(E-Sp 1-01/7) (town house): Audrey Feldman likes “condominio horizontal” for this.

(G-E 5-01/5) (“Küchenzeile”): Per Dohler, who does the proofreading of this column, states that many rental apartments in Germany, especially older ones, continue to feature no kitchen cabinets or appliances beyond a basic stove and sink, the tenant essentially furnishing his or her own. “Küchenzeile” is a row of cabinets and an along-the-wall counter with appliances built in that a kitchen is retrofitted with—in small kitchens often just along one wall, hence the word “Zeile.” Many tenants actually prefer this arrangement, because in that way they can arrange their kitchen as they please. Given that German tenants don’t move anywhere near as frequently as in the States, it’s not really the large expense it seems.

(J-E 3-01/8) (“deai kashira”): According to Alan Siegrist, this is an ordinary phrase, pronounced “deai gashira” (upon meeting suddenly, as one passes by). Its usage is not limited to automobile accidents, but “deai gashira ni butsukaru” is common. It means to collide immediately upon meeting, as in instances in which neither driver had any chance to react.

Continued on p. 56
(Sp-E 4-01/7) (“mallas formadas”): Javier Collazo refers to the former as a ground loop, but considers “malla formada” to be very strange Spanish indeed. He suspects it comes from the French “maille fermée,” with someone having translated “maille” correctly into Spanish, but “fermé” incorrectly. Currently it is his habit to use “bucle de tierra” for ground loop. Related to this is the term noisy ground (“tierra ruidosa,” French: “terre” or “masse bruyante.”

The quote cited as context for this query also mentioned “puntos a tierra,” and Javier addresses that as well, calling it grounding point in English. In this case, ground implies chassis ground as distinguished from earth ground; a grounding point is a point connected to the chassis.

In both cases he refers readers to his English-Spanish and Javier addresses that as well, calling Electrical and Electronics Terms for more formal definitions.

Queries are few this month and responses to queries even fewer, so a bit of room exists for a tale. It’s a politically correct tale par excellence in 2001, since it honors a female who came from a minority—what better? And it relates to our profession, which makes it perfect. It has to do with the origins of the name of the county (Montour) in which the Translation Inquirer now lives.

It seems that this county is one of the very few places in the world named to honor the talents of a linguist. Madame Catherine Montour (1667-ca. 1750) was born in Canada of a French father, Pierre Coue, and an Algonquian mother. She herself grew to be a “handsome woman, genteel, and of polite address,” but it was not for that, but for her multilingual skills as an interpreter that she gained fame. She became the personal interpreter of Chief Shikellamy (1670?-1748), the “vice-regent” of the Iroquois and himself from the Cayuga nation. In the late 1720s, he came from the colony of New York to the Susquehanna Valley to establish an Iroquois administrative presence against the pressure of whites expanding westward in Pennsylvania. Madame Montour was the widow of an Oneida chief named Carandowanda who was killed in 1729 while raiding tribes farther south. They had a son, Andrew, for whom Montoursville in Lycoming County and Montour Run in Allegheny County are named.

To go any farther into her biography would probably be dangerous, because truth may have been embellished with romantic fiction. However, her 21-year role as interpreter is a well-established fact, and diplomatic skills certainly enhanced that occupation, just as they do now. When Montour County was created from the western portion of Columbia County in 1850, local residents wisely decided to honor Madame Catherine Montour by naming the newest (at that time) of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties for her; belated but well-justified tribute to one of the great linguists from America’s colonial period.

Dictionary Reviews Continued from p. 54

Conclusion is that the Schreiber will henceforth be the first place to look.

About the Author

Although it is shorthand to refer to the dictionary as “the Schreiber,” lexicographical credit goes to its translator author, Svetolik Paul Djordjevic. He has worked as a translator in French and English for over 30 years. For the past 20 years he has served as medical translator for the U.S. Social Security Administration in Baltimore, Maryland. He studied in Yugoslavia, France, England, and the United States. He received two masters’ degrees, and a Ph.D./abd in Slavic linguistics.

Regarding the dictionary, the author comments: “What prompted me to embark on this long and arduous project, which took me practically two decades to complete, was the frustration I experienced as a French medical translator. I found it incredible that there were no adequate single-volume French-English medical dictionaries, general in nature, that I as a translator found even remotely satisfactory. I translate medical evidence daily, and in the course of my work I would come across various terms which the existing dictionaries failed to help me with.... Intimately familiar with the published French-English reference works in the market, I am firmly convinced that there is absolutely nothing out there in print that can even remotely compete with this project.” Djordjevic, an ATA member, lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

* The Reviewer’s Brief Bibliography for French Medical Translators

Dictionnaire de médecine Flammarion.


Termium, Québec (1999), CD-ROM.

Le grand Dictionnaire terminologique. Québec (1999), CD-ROM.


Humor and Translation

By Mark Herman

Bits and Pieces

Most of the mistranslations printed in this column have been from some other language into English. However, this does not mean that foreign visitors to the U.S. are not awed as much by our international illiteracy as by our natural wonders, as a brochure designed for German visitors to Natural Bridge, Virginia, illustrates so well. The brochure, submitted by Stephanie Thompson, prints German with all the umlauts dropped and writes “de” for “der,” “une” for “und,” and “Umbebung” (a nonword suggesting “earthquake”) for “Umgebung” (meaning “surroundings”). German visitors may well conclude that earthquakes at Natural Bridge are as regular a phenomenon as Old Faithful’s geysers in Yellowstone National Park.

We Americans, on the other hand, are continually perplexed by mistranslated instruction manuals, especially for products manufactured in Asia. Here are excerpts from a manual for binoculars, submitted by Marianne Dellinger:

Your binocular have been adjusted and calibrated accurately in the factory. Please don’t dismantle it at will.

When carrying or using, your binoculars should avoid being collided or pressed heavily.

Don’t make your binoculars baked or corroded, please.

Elizabeth Labega submitted instructions for a key-ring contraption with space for a few credit cards:

Dry in shadow when it wet

Keep out fire for it’s shape.

Use the textile with soup watering for vinyle leather goods.

Bill Keasbey submitted this from a manual for a large industrial system. It tells how to fill the motor casing with oil:

Rotate the motor by hands to the position where the air bleeding screw is in the upper position. Open the bleeding screw about half a turn. Fill the motor casing with oil through drain port by 1 bar pressure until the oil comes out from bleeding screw. Close the bleeding screw and rotate the motor slowly by the hydraulic 10 revolutions and repeat the filling process twice.

Finally, and for something completely different, Paul M. Seibold submitted information about an English translation of an Italian duet. The translation is by Robert Hess, and was copyrighted in 1981 by Belwin-Mills Publishing Corporation. I hereby steal this translation, invite others to do so, and defy Belwin-Mills to sue me for copyright infringement. The duet is Rossini’s “Duetto buffo di due gatti/Comic Duet for Two Cats,” the entire Italian text consists of “Miau!,” and the entire English translation is “Meow!”

Submit items for future columns via e-mail to hermanapter@earthlink.net or via snail mail to Mark Herman, 5748 W Brooks Rd, Shepherd MI 48883-9202. Examples of translations of humor are preferred, but humorous anecdotes about translators, translations, and mistranslations are also welcome. Include copyright information and permission if relevant. Unless submitters request otherwise, material submitted may be shared with Robert Wechsler of Catbird Press (catbird@pipeline.com), who is planning an international collection of humor in English translation.

Display Advertising Index

AvantPage ........................................ 19
Alchemy Software Development ............... 45
D èj à Vu .............................................. 2
Dawn Sign Press .................................... 10
Federal Bureau of Investigation ................. 36
Monterey Institute .................................. 36
Japan Pacific Publications ......................... 47
TRADOS Corporation .............................. 64

From the President

Continued from p. 8

society as a whole, not merely our own members.

I very much appreciate the insights and observations which many of you have shared with me and the Board about the accreditation program. We take all your input very seriously and we welcome any further communications you may choose to send us. We have a treasure in our accreditation program. I believe that these changes will allow it to shine even more brightly in the years ahead.
ATA Chapters

Atlanta Association of Interpreters and Translators (AAIT)
P.O. Box 12172
Atlanta, GA 30355
Tel: (770) 587-4884
aaitinfo@aait.org • www.aait.org

Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters (CATI)
318 Bandock Drive
Durham, NC 27703
Tel: (919) 577-0840 • Fax: (919) 557-1202
C.A.T.I.@pobox.com • www.catiweb.org
- Local group meetings held in Asheville, Charlotte, and Research Triangle Park, NC; and Columbia and Greenville/Spartanburg, SC.
- Membership directory, $12; CATI Quarterly subscription, $12.

Florida Chapter of ATA (FLATA)
P.O. Box 14-1057
Coral Gables, FL 33145-1057
Tel/Voice: (305) 274-3434
Fax: (305) 387-6712
E-mail: info@atafl.com • www.atafl.com

Mid-America Chapter of ATA (MICA TA)
6600 NW Sweetbriar Lane
Kansas City, MO 64151
Attn.: Meeri Yule
Tel: (816) 741-9441 • Fax: (816) 741-9482
E-mail: translate@kc.rr.com • www.ata-micata.org
- Telephone/online referral service. See searchable translator database on Website.
- General Meetings (1:00-5:00pm, UC Berkeley Extension, 55 Laguna St., San Francisco): May 19, Sept. 15, Dec. 1.
- 2001 NCTA Membership Directory available on CD-ROM or diskette for $10, printed version for $25. To purchase, mail remittance to the above address, or fax/telephone MasterCard/Visa number and expiration date.
- A Practical Guide for Translators, 1997 revised edition available for $10. To purchase, mail remittance to the above address, or fax/telephone MasterCard/Visa number and expiration date.

Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS)
P.O. Box 25301
Seattle, WA 98125-2201
Tel: (206) 382-5642
E-mail: info@notisnet.org • www.notisnet.org

Southern California Area Translators and Interpreters Association (SCATIA)
P.O. Box 34310
Los Angeles, CA 90034
Tel: (818) 725-3899 • Fax: (818) 340-9177
E-mail: info@scatia.org • www.scatia.org

Affiliated Groups

Michigan Translators/Interpreters Network (MiTiN)
P.O. Box 852
Novi, MI 48376
Tel: (248)344-0909 • Fax: (248)344-0092
E-mail: izumi.suzuki@suzukimyers.com • www.mitinweb.org

Utah Translators and Interpreters Association (UTIA)
3617 S. 1400 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84119
Tel: (801)973-0912 • Fax: (208)441-5390
E-mail: ellingge@qwest.net • www.utia.org

Other Groups

This list gives contact information for translation and interpretation groups as a service to ATA members. Inclusion does not imply affiliation with or endorsement by the ATA.

American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)
Box 830688
Richardson, TX 75083-0688
Tel: (214) 883-2093 • Fax: (214) 833-6303

Austen Area Translators and Interpreters Association (AAITA)
P.O. Box 1474
San Marcos, TX 78667
Tel: (512) 396-8887 • Fax: (512) 396-4835
www.aatia.org
E-mail: president@aatia.org

The California Court Interpreters Association (CCIA)
345 S. HWY 101, Suite D
Encinitas, CA 92024
Tel: (760) 635-0273 • Fax: (760) 635-0276
www.ccia.org
E-mail: ccia345@earthlink.net

Chicago Area Translators and Interpreters Association (CHICATA)
P.O. Box 804595
Chicago, IL 60680-4107
Tel: (312) 836-0961
www.chicata.org/
E-mail: 74737.1661@compuserve.com
Belated Acknowledgement:
The article “Been There, Done That—And I’ve Got D é j̈ a Vu to Keep Track of It!” by Renate Sieberichs (April issue, page 39) first appeared in the CATI Quarterly (Winter 2000, page 4), newsletter of the Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters.
## Upcoming Accreditation Exam Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 22, 2001</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>November 3, 2001</td>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
<td>July 6, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>September 29, 2001</td>
<td></td>
<td>September 15, 2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>July 21, 2001</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>August 4, 2001</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>September 15, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>July 21, 2001</td>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
<td>August 4, 2001</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>September 15, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please direct all inquiries regarding general accreditation information to ATA Headquarters at (703) 683-6100.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the following people who have successfully completed accreditation exams:

### French into English
- Luann P. Rosenthal-Errickson
  - Basking Ridge, NJ
- Glenn Taylor
  - East Elmhurst, NY

### German into English
- William O. Bergerson
  - Kansas City, MO

### Japanese into English
- Shizuka Otake
  - Astoria, NY

### Spanish into English
- Frank E. Johnson
  - Oklahoma City, OK
- Laura M. Kanost
  - Manhattan, KS

### English into Chinese
- Jessie Lu
  - Richmond, VA

### English into Hungarian
- Tibor Becske
  - New York, NY

### English into Japanese
- Nahoko Tono
  - New York, NY

### English into Polish
- Bozena M. Gilewska
  - Berkeley, CA

### English into Russian
- Michael Entin
  - Barrington, RI
- Patricia Elana Pick
  - Brooklyn, NY

### French into English
- Serge Belt
  - Warminster, PA

### English into Spanish
- Carlotta Cruz
  - Managua, Nicaragua
- Tania Kerrigan
  - Bucaramanga, Colombia
- Pere Mora Romà
  - New York, NY

The Active Member Review Committee is pleased to grant active status to:

### Active
- Michele Weber Bermel
  - Melbourne, FL
- Helen D. Cole
  - Silver Spring, MD

### Spanish into English
- Pollyana Cosandey
  - Miami, FL
- Ruth Kohn
  - Flushing, NY
- Philippe P. Marinier
  - Atlanta, GA

### English into Japanese
- Wilas Nirunusksiri
  - Zionsville, IN
- John Offrell
  - Gothenburg, Sweden
- Efrat L. Schwartz
  - Austin, TX

### English into Spanish
- Mary E. So
  - South San Francisco, CA
- Xiaoyu Qiu
  - White Plains, NY
Highly qualified translators. IT, Computer, Technical. Good Rate. Full DTP to pdf or film. info@aimtrans.com, (714)522-8200, ext. 11.

Lower Price / Higher Quality Agency Chinese / Japanese / Korean Translation & DTP Software / Technical. E-mail: USR83@miraclelink.com.

Czech, Slovak => English
Highly experienced, reliable, fast translator / conference interpreter. Any work volume. Quality control. (303) 530-9781; Fax: (303) 530-5600, ireznicek@aol.com.

Italian Language Services
GMT - Via Cavour, 15 50129 Firenze (FI), Italy Tel: +39 055 2679164/2679277 Fax: +39 055 2654102 www.gmt-ils.it E-mail 1: giovannim@gmt-ils.it E-mail 2: info@gmt-ils.it
Italian translations made in Italy by Italians for Italians. Technical/Non-Technical. Quality, Speed, Accuracy.

English => Vietnamese
Top quality and high volume translation services, DTP and Lino output, PC and Mac. We support most Vietnamese fonts. Call us today at (954)570-9061; Fax: (954)570-9108.

Korean => English
Experienced translator. Technical, software and computer, business, and medical documents. Ph.D. in engineering. Voice: (909) 860-9155; Fax: (909)860-5643; E-mail: 102335.720@compuserve.com.

English > Italian
Experienced professional, ATA-accredited. Fast, accurate, dependable, all technical fields. Latest equipment. (954)781-8971; Fax: (954) 781-9002; E-mail: ared@mindspring.com.

Harvard Translations, a technical translation company with Fortune 500 clientele, has openings for staff linguists to provide technical translation, editing, proofreading, and QA support for computer software localization and financial, scientific, medical, and legal documentation projects in major European and Asian languages. Requirements include: a bachelor’s degree in linguistics, translation, or a relevant technical subject, two years of professional experience in technical translation and fluency in relevant languages, including idiomatic fluency and cultural knowledge. Send cover letter, résumé, and salary req. to Harvard Translations, 815 Somerville Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140; Fax: (617)868-6815; www.htrans.com. No calls.

Technical Translator sought by company in Denver, CO specializing in business software solutions to work in Denver & other unanticipated job sites in the US. Translate technical documentation, particularly software products, including on-screen computer documentation, user documentation, technical manuals, & hard-copy documentation, from English into Portuguese. Manage translation files using translation manager software products. Create styles formats & standards & coordinate implementation in translated products. Make sure that translations comply with customary linguistic and cultural norms. Use computerized translation tools. Requires Bachelor’s or foreign equivalent in foreign language; working knowledge of translation of technical documentation. Must be fluent in French and English. 8am-5pm, M-F; $34,600; (2 openings). Respond by resume to James Shimada, Colorado Department of Labor & Employment, Employment & Training Division, Tower II, #400, 1515 Arapahoe, Denver, CO 80202 and refer to Job Order Number JL1118098.

Professional Services

ARABIC TRANSLATION SERVICES
• Arabic legal, technical and commercial reliable translation
• Arabic software localization
• Full Arabic DTP and Lino Services
• Arabic outlined EPS files
• Arabic MAC & PC platforms
• All other languages are handled with the same attention to quality
• Agency discounted rates

31255 Cedar Valley Dr., Ste. 212 Westlake Village, CA 91362
Tel: (818) 991-1277 Fax: (818) 991-1699
e-mail: info@comnetint.com
www.comnetint.com

Call today for advertising rates & information for ATA’s New Marketplace 1-800-394-5157
Plan now to attend ATA’s Annual Conference. Join your colleagues for an exciting educational experience in Los Angeles, California.

ATA’s 42nd Annual Conference will feature:

• Over 150 educational sessions offering something for everyone;
• The largest Job Exchange yet for individuals to promote their services and for companies to find the translators and interpreters they need;
• Over 60 exhibits featuring the latest publications, software, and services available;
• Opportunities to network with over 1,500 translators and interpreters from throughout the U.S. and around the world; and
• Much more!

The Registration Form and Preliminary Program will be mailed in July to all ATA members. The conference rates are listed below. As always, ATA members receive significant discounts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Registration Fees</th>
<th>ATA member</th>
<th>Nonmember</th>
<th>Student Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early-Bird (by October 1)</td>
<td>$245</td>
<td>$335</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-day</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$170</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After October 1</td>
<td>$305</td>
<td>$420</td>
<td>$130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-day</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$220</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-site (after October 26)</td>
<td>$380</td>
<td>$525</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-day</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Students and one-day participants do not receive a copy of the Proceedings.
All speakers must register for the conference.

Hotel Accommodations

The Biltmore Hotel, the host hotel, is conveniently located in downtown Los Angeles at 506 South Grand Avenue. The hotel is 30 minutes from Los Angeles International Airport. Conference attendees can register at the discounted rate of $150 single/double, plus tax ($175 single/double, plus tax, for the Club Floor) per night. This rate is good until October 9, 2001, or until all rooms in the ATA block are reserved, whichever comes first.

To make your hotel reservations, contact the Biltmore at 1-800-245-8673 or 213-624-1011. Be sure to specify that you are attending the ATA Annual Conference.

Travel Arrangements

ATA offers the services of Stellar Access to help you with your travel arrangements. Conference attendees are eligible for the following:

• American and Delta Airlines: Save 5-10% on lowest applicable fares with an additional 5% off with a 60-day advance purchase. All rules and restrictions apply. Travel between October 26 and November 8, 2001.
• US Airways: Save 7-12% on lowest applicable fares with an additional 5% off with a 60-day advance purchase. All rules and restrictions apply. Travel between October 26 and November 8, 2001.
• Avis Rent A Car: Rates start as low as $34/day for economy models and $145/week with unlimited free mileage. Call Stellar Access at 1-800-929-4242, and ask for ATA Group #505. Outside the U.S. and Canada, call (619) 232-4298; fax: (619) 232-6497. A $10 transaction fee will be applied to all tickets purchased by phone. Reservation hours: Monday-Friday 6:30 am — 5:00 pm Pacific Time.

New this year, BOOK ONLINE and pay NO TRANSACTION FEE! Go to www.stellaraccess.com and book your reservations from the convenience of your home or office anytime! First-time users must register and refer to Group #505.

If you call directly or use your own agency, refer to the following codes:
American: 1-800-433-1790, File# 14003
Delta: 1-800-241-6760, File# 173451A
US Airways: 1-877-874-7687, GF# 63661836
Avis: 1-800-331-1600 or www.avis.com, AWD# J949146

Mark Your Calendar Today!
October 31–November 3, 2001
OFFICERS

President
Ms. Ann G. MacFarlane
P.O. Box 60034
Seattle, WA 98160-0034
Tel: (206) 342-8422
Fax: (206) 546-5065
president@atannot.org

President-Elect
Mr. Thomas L. West III
Interlink Language Services Corp.
2555 Cumberland Pkwy, Ste. 205
Atlanta, GA 30339
Tel: (770) 444-3055
Fax: (770) 444-3002
																									
twest@interlink-languages.com

Secretary
Ms. Courtney Searls-Ridge
German Language Services
2658 48th Avenue SW
Seattle, WA 98116
Tel: (206) 938-3600
Fax: (206) 938-8308
courtney@germanlanguagelanguages.com

Treasurer
Mr. Eric Norman McMillan
1824 S Street NW, #304
Washington, DC 20009-6137
Tel/Fax: (202) 332-6093
ericmcni@erols.com

DIRECTORS

Mr. Allan W. Adams
Adams Translation Services
10435 Burnet Road, Suite 125
Austin, TX 78758
Tel: (512) 821-1818
Fax: (512) 821-1888
aadams@adamstrans.com

Mr. Kirk Anderson
2455 Flamingo Drive, #401
Miami Beach, FL 33140
Tel: (305) 532-7252
Fax: (305) 532-0885
paeller@aoa.com

Ms. Beatriz Bonnet
7465 East Peavview Avenue
Englewood, CO 80111
Tel: (303) 779-1288
Fax: (303) 779-1232
beatriz_bonnet@syntes.com

Mr. Scott Brennan
10015 Crag Mountain Way
Bristow, VA 20136-3009
Tel: (703) 393-0365
Fax: (703) 393-0387
sbrennan@compuserve.com

Dr. Gertrud Graubart Champ
521 Melrose Avenue
Iowa City, IA 52246
Tel: (319) 335-2002
Fax: (319) 335-3417
gertrud-champ@uiowa.edu

Ms. Marian S. Greenfield
2619 Holly Avenue
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Tel: (908) 561-7590
Fax: (908) 561-3671
msgreenfield@msgreenfieldtranslations.com

Prof. Alan K. Melby
1223 Aspen Avenue
Provo, UT 84604
Tel: (801) 378-2144
Fax: (801) 377-3704
akm@byu.edu

Mr. Timothy Yuan
89-33 Pontiac Street
Queens Village, NY 11427
Tel: (718) 776-8139
Fax: (718) 776-3589
yuan@pipeline.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Accreditation
Lillian Novas VanVranken
Englewood, CO
Tel: (303) 721-1695
Fax: (303) 721-1925
lvsv@mindspring.com

Active Membership Review
Harvie Jordan, ABC
Austin, TX
Tel: (512) 441-5582
Fax: (512) 441-3983
hjc@texas.net

Budget
Eric Norman McMillan
Washington, DC
Tel/Fax: (202) 332-6093
ericmcni@erols.com

Chapters
Kirk Anderson
Miami Beach, FL
Tel: (305) 532-7252
Fax: (305) 532-0885
paeller@aoa.com

Dictionary Review
Albert G. Bork
Austin, TX
Tel: (512) 836-9440
Fax: (512) 836-9400
73622.650@compuserve.com

Divisions
Timothy Yuan
Queens Village, NY
Tel: (718) 776-8139
Fax: (718) 776-3589
yuans@pipeline.com

Ethics
Karen Broyee
Library, PA
Tel: (412) 655-7288
Fax: (412) 655-1561
KBroyee@home.com

Honors and Awards
Jo Anne Engelbert
St. Augustine, FL
Tel: (904) 460-1190
Fax: (904) 460-0913
engsch@thebest.net

Interpretation Policy Advisory
Christian Degueulde
Pacific Grove, CA
Tel: (831) 372-1870
Fax: (831) 372-1026
cdegeulde@miis.edu

Mentoring Task Force
Courtney Searls-Ridge
Seattle, WA
Tel: (206) 938-3600
Fax: (206) 938-8308
courtney@germanlanguagelanguages.com

Professional Development
Marion S. Greenfield
South Plainfield, NJ
Tel: (908) 561-7590
Fax: (908) 561-3671
msgreenfield@msgreenfieldtranslations.com

Public Relations
L. Manouche Ragsdale
Los Angeles, CA
Tel: (310) 275-9571
Fax: (310) 271-3139
inter@intextrans.com

Science and Technology Information
Nicholas Hartmann
Milwaukee, WI
Tel: (414) 271-4890
Fax: (414) 271-4892
polyglot@execpc.com

Special Projects
Vacant
Terminology
Sue Ellen Wright
Kent, OH
Tel: (330) 673-0043
Fax: (330) 673-0738
sewright@kent.edu

Training
Gertrud Graubart Champ
Iowa City, IA
Tel: (319) 335-2002
Fax: (319) 335-3417
gertrud-champ@uiowa.edu

Translation and Computers
Alan K. Melby
Provo, UT
Tel: (801) 378-2144
Fax: (801) 377-3704
akm@byu.edu

DIVISION ADMINISTRATORS

Chinese Language
Frank Mou
3360 Lenox Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1149
Tel: (412) 767-4788
Fax: (412) 767-3944
Frank_Mou@yahoo.com

French Language
Monique-Paule Tabb
Chevy Chase, MD
Tel: (301) 654-2890
Fax: (301) 654-2891
act@act-translate.com

German Language
Dorothee Racette
Sarasac, NC
Tel: (518) 293-7494
Fax: (518) 293-7659
dracette@owlang.com

Hebrew Language
[being established]
Batyia Reichman
Houston, TX
Tel/Fax: (713) 721-7799
bebre@compuserve.com

Japanese Language
Izumi Suzuki
Novi, MI
Tel: (248) 344-0909
Fax: (248) 344-0992
izumi.suzuki@zuikinami.com

Literary
Clifford E. Landers
Montclair, NJ
Tel: (973) 744-4261
Fax: (973) 744-4822
clifflanders_2000@yahoo.com

Norwegian
Edith M. Matteson
Ballwin, MO
Tel/Fax: (636) 207-7256
edmatteson@earthlink.net

Portuguese Language
Vera M. B. Breu
San Jose, CA
Tel: (408) 266-5832
Fax: (408) 266-5892
vera@mindspan.com

Slavic Languages
Nora Seligman Favorov
St. Augustine, FL
Tel: (904) 271-4890
Fax: (904) 271-4892
polyglot@execpc.com

Spanish Language
Izumi Suzuki
Novi, MI
Tel: (248) 344-0909
Fax: (248) 344-0992
izumi.suzuki@zuikinami.com

Translation Company
Steven P. Iverson
Milwaukee, WI
Tel: (414) 271-1144
Fax: (414) 271-0144
steve@iversonlang.com

Translation User Standards Project
Rosalie P. Wells
West Grove, PA
Tel: (610) 869-0920
Fax: (610) 869-9320
rpwells@compuserve.com

ATM REPRESENTATIVES

To International Federation of Translators (FIT)
Peter W. Krawutschke
Kalamazoo, MI
Tel: (616) 387-3212
Fax: (616) 387-3103
peter.krawutschke@wmich.edu
FIT: www.fit-ifl.org

To Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL)
Christophe Réthoré
Harrisonburg, VA
Tel: (540) 568-3312
Fax: (540) 438-0648
rethorcx@jmu.edu

To Regional Center for North America (RCNA)
Vacant

To ASTM Language Interpreting Standards Project
Bruce T. Downing
Minneapolis, MN
Tel: (612) 624-6552
Fax: (612) 624-4579
bdowing@tc.umn.edu

To ASTM Translation User Standards Project
Rosalie P. Wells
West Grove, PA
Tel: (610) 869-0920
Fax: (610) 869-9320
rpwells@compuserve.com

ATA REPRESENTATIVES
By the time you’ve read this ... you’ve already forgotten something else!

Given that you forget something every 20 seconds how can you be expected to remember what you translated last week or even last year? Well, maybe you don’t need to!

With the TRADOS Translation Solution, an industry-leading translation memory database memorizes all past work and recycles identical or similar texts at the click of a button. Who needs to work on their short term memory when TRADOS never forgets?

Talk to us at (703) 683 6900 or visit www.trados.com

TRADOS Corporation
113 South Columbus Street · Suite 300 · Alexandria, VA 22314