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The ATA Chronicle | May 2006

2006 Editorial Calendar

January
Submission Deadline: December 1

February
Submission Deadline: December 1

March
Submission Deadline: January 1

April
Submission Deadline: February 1

May
Submission Deadline: March 1

June
Submission Deadline: April 1

July
Submission Deadline: May 1

August
Submission Deadline: June 1

September
Submission Deadline: July 1

October
Submission Deadline: August 1

November/December
Submission Deadline: September 1

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 2,500 words. Articles containing graphics or words or phrases in non-European writing systems (e.g., Japanese, Arabic) should be submitted as a PDF file or mailed.
3. Include your fax, phone, e-mail, and mailing address on the first page.
4. Include a brief abstract (two sentences maximum) emphasizing the most salient points of your article. The abstract will be included in the table of contents.
5. Include a short author biography (three sentences maximum). If you wish to include your photo (color or B/W), please e-mail it as a JPEG or TIF file. Do not mail irreplaceable photos.
6. E-mail submissions (Word or PDF files) to Jeff Sanfacon at jeff@atanet.org.
7. All articles are subject to editing for grammar, style, punctuation, and space limitations.
8. A proof will be sent to you for review prior to publication.

Standard Length

Letters to the editor: 350 words;
Op-Ed: 300-600 words; Feature Articles: 750-2,500 words; Column: 400-1,000 words
(See The ATA Chronicle editorial policy—under Chronicle—at www.atanet.org)

An Easy Reference To ATA Member Benefits

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From the President
Reaching Out to Government and Industry

In addition to serving as ATA president, I have for many years now been the chair of the ATA Professional Development Committee. This committee’s primary activity is to organize professional development seminars and mini-conferences.

For the last four years, ATA has offered four to six professional development seminars a year and a bi-annual mini-conference. Generally speaking, the seminars offer in-depth, advanced level presentations. I have attended every one of the seminars and can tell you firsthand that the material presented at these events is second to none. The presentations generally do not relate to the work I do, as I am very focused on financial and legal translation, but I nonetheless find them fascinating and always learn something useful for my translation practice. The seminar evaluations attendees fill out typically reflect the same view.

If you have not attended an ATA professional development seminar, you should. Each seminar focuses on a single translation and/or interpreting field. Discussion topics have included translating and interpreting for finance, medicine, law, the entertainment industry, and science and technology, as well as translation tools and running your own translation business. They are usually one-day events held on a Saturday with an ATA chapter or local group often providing a half-day presentation on Sunday, followed by an ATA certification exam sitting. In addition, every other year since 2001, we have scheduled a three-day, advanced level, single-field conference in the spring. Thus far, we have offered three mini-conferences—two financial and one legal.

So far in 2006, we have held a Science and Technology Seminar in Los Angeles, California, in February; an Entertainment Industry Seminar in Miami, Florida, in April; and a Translation Tools Seminar in Jersey City, New Jersey, in May.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year, a Patent Translation Seminar is scheduled for June 17 in Arlington, Virginia; a Medical Interpreting Seminar is set for August 26 in Kansas City, Kansas; and a Medical Translation Seminar is tentatively scheduled for September in San Francisco, California.

In addition to the valuable specialized presentations and handouts, these seminars offer excellent networking opportunities. Each seminar features a job marketplace where attendees can display their résumés, business cards, and brochures. Rounding out the day’s activities, each seminar ends with a networking reception allowing you to meet with the presenters and other attendees.

Finally, ATA-certified translators attending the seminars earn ATA continuing education points toward fulfilling the Certification Program’s continuing education requirements.

But you don’t have to take my word for it. Make plans to attend an upcoming ATA professional development seminar—you won’t be sorry.

---

TIP-Lab 14th Distance Spanish Translation/Revision Workshop
July to November 2006

The workshop is open to English-to-Spanish translators from any country. Qualified participants will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Excellent command of both Spanish and English is a requirement. In the course of the workshop, four texts will be translated by the participants, reviewed by Leandro Wolfson, a professional translator from Argentina, and returned to each translator with revisions, annotated comments, and a model translation selected each month from the group. As in previous TIP-Lab workshops, credit will be granted by the Judicial Council of California, the Washington State Courts, and the ATA to those participants who successfully complete the course. Registration is now open. Spaces are very limited and interested translators are encouraged to register as soon as possible. For information, call, fax or e-mail: TIP-Lab, c/o Alicia Marshall (847) 869-4889 (phone/fax); e-mail: aliciamarshall@comcast.net, or visit www.tip-lab.org.
As is typical for ATA, and other associations, the spring and fall are the two busiest times for conducting meetings and related events. For ATA, the impressive, full schedule reflects the range of activities and the efforts of many dedicated volunteers. Of course, ATA is grateful to all of you who attended these events as well.

Let’s look at the ATA activities that were held in April, which is recognized in the U.S. as National Volunteer Month.

**April 1:** The ATA Professional Development Seminar on Translating and Interpreting for the Entertainment Industry was held in Miami, Florida. ATA President and Professional Development Committee Chair Marian S. Greenfield—a volunteer—put together the presentations and oversaw the day’s activities.

**April 2:** An exam sitting was held in Miami, Florida. Volunteers at the local level schedule the exam sittings. In addition, an ATA member—a volunteer—proctors each exam. In turn, each of these exam sittings generates anywhere from 10 to 40 exams that are reviewed by at least two graders—volunteers. The graders receive a stipend, but it does not come anywhere near to covering the graders’ actual time.

**April 9:** An exam sitting was held in Charleston, South Carolina.

**April 15:** Exam sittings were held in San Francisco, California, and Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**April 20-23:** The Translation Company Division’s (TCD) 7th Annual Conference was held in Jersey City, New Jersey. TCD Administrator Kim Vitray, Assistant Administrator Ellen Boyar, Vigdis Eriksen, and Alexandra Farkas—all volunteers—coordinated all the elements of conducting a conference, from scheduling top-level presenters to finding sponsors to working with the hotel on menus.

**April 21:** The ATA Executive Committee—four volunteers—met in Jersey City, New Jersey. The Certification Committee—eight volunteers—also met in Jersey City.

**April 22-23:** The ATA Board of Directors—13 volunteers—met in Jersey City, New Jersey. The Language Chairs—37 volunteers—met in Jersey City. (A language chair [LC] manages a language combination offered in the ATA certification program. The LC oversees the work of the graders within that language combination.)

**April 23:** An exam sitting was held in Jersey City, New Jersey.

**April 28-30:** The Spanish Language Division (SPD) and Portuguese Language Division (PLD) held a joint Mid-Year Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Acting SPD Administrator Milly Suazo-Martinez, Acting SPD Assistant Administrator Francesca Samuels, PLD Administrator Clarissa Surek-Clark, and PLD Assistant Administrator Nelson Laterman led the volunteers involved with this conference.

**April 29:** An ATA Mentoring workshop conducted by Mentoring Committee Co-chair Courtney Searls-Ridge—a volunteer—was held in conjunction with the Mid-America Chapter of ATA (MICATA) Annual Symposium—organized by volunteers—in Overland Park, Kansas. Exam sittings were also held in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Seattle, Washington.

**April 30:** An exam sitting was held in Overland Park, Kansas.

In addition to MICATA’s conference, factor in all the activities administered by ATA chapters and affiliated groups for the month and you can see ATA is thriving thanks to the invaluable hard work, time, and dedication of hundreds of volunteers.

**Reminder: Internet Scam Alert**

Just a reminder that various Internet scams continue to target translators and interpreters. Be vigilant. If the offer sounds too good to be true, it is probably a scam. For more information, please check out the scam alert on the ATA website: www.atanet.org/ata_activities/internet_scams.php.

**Check Out the New Website for ATA’s 47th Annual Conference!**

New Orleans, Louisiana
November 1-4, 2006

First Doctoral Program in Translation Studies in the U.S. Offered by Binghamton University

The Binghamton University Ph.D. in Translation Studies Program is the first program of its kind implemented in the United States. It is offered by Binghamton’s Translation Research and Instruction Program.

The result of nearly 15 years of planning, the program was initiated by ATA honorary member and Gode Medal recipient Marilyn Gaddis Rose. Marilyn also founded Binghamton’s Translation Research and Instruction Program and its Center for Research in Translation, both of which she directed until December 2002.

The Ph.D. in Translation Studies Program is primarily designed to prepare students for the professorate and scholarly research. The program’s main features include:

- A curriculum that includes skills practica, the history and traditions of translation studies, and linguistic concepts.

- Individualized interdisciplinary tracks to accommodate a variety of academic backgrounds, including literary studies, comparative literature, linguistics, anthropology, philosophy, and natural-language processing.

Currently, there are seven Ph.D. students whose translation practice involves the following language pairs: Spanish-to-English, English-to-Portuguese, Italian-to-English, French-to-English, and Korean-to-English. Their research interests reflect the program’s interdisciplinary vocation: the translation of humor in literary texts; the use of computer programs in the analysis of translations; contemporary approaches to translation training; the metaphorics of translation in Latin America; non-Western approaches to translation; and the translation of contemporary African-American poetry into Brazilian Portuguese.

For complete information, go to http://trip.binghamton.edu/Programs.html or e-mail trip@binghamton.edu.

Special Offer for Translators

Attend the Guadalajara International Book Fair
November 25-December 3, 2006
Guadalajara, Mexico

The Guadalajara International Book Fair is once again offering limited housing support to translators wishing to attend the largest book fair in Latin America. Sponsorship includes free registration as well as a complimentary three nights’ stay (single or double occupancy) at a hotel near the fair site. This is a great opportunity to meet Latin American writers as well as agents and publishers interested in publishing translations into English and other languages. The deadline for requesting support is October 5, 2006. For more information and an application, please contact Víctor Ortiz, professionals coordinator, at registro@fil.com.mx. For general information on the fair, visit www.fil.com.mx/ingles/i_index.asp.
Agencies: How do you market yourselves to the best translators?

After a plethora of articles ("Résumé Writing for Freelancers" and "The Entrepreneurial Translator" in the February issue, to name a few) and conference presentations aimed at instructing translators on how they can be "the best" and how to market themselves to translation agencies, perhaps it is time to consider how translation agencies can market themselves to the best translators.

The relationship between an agency and a translator is a two-way street and the vast majority of agencies realize this. But translators who have enough work will simply stop working with those agencies that don’t. If an agency wants to get and keep good translators it must:

1. Pay fair rates. Ideally, this means top rates for superior quality and timely delivery. However, this is not always possible, and translators will often accept work below their usual rates if other conditions are favorable. For example, if you cannot pay the best rate for a particular job, offer to do the complex formatting, insert numbers in tables, or otherwise save the translator work that can be done by others. At the very least, offer to send payment immediately upon acceptance of the job.

2. Pay promptly. No translator should have to wait more than 30 days for payment, and constantly having to follow up on unpaid invoices will sour a relationship quickly. If an agency pays once a month for the previous month’s work, it had better be early in the month so that the average payment date does not exceed 30 days.

3. Avoid surprises. Determine the policy for repeated text, formatting, or any special requirements before assigning the job. If the client disputes the fee, do not hold up payment to the translator unless she did not comply with specific instructions, or unless the quality of the translation itself is questioned.

4. Eliminate the phrase “Just do the best you can” from your vocabulary and listen seriously to questions posed by translators. Translators are not psychics. Even diligent research will sometimes fail to clarify something (in-house jargon, abbreviations, trade names) that could easily be explained by a call to the client. The overall quality of the translation will be much improved if the translator is not flying blind.

5. Do not constantly offer jobs and then pull them just as the translator has cleared her schedule. If that happens several times in a row, a translator will no longer bother to respond. Agencies often put out calls to several translators at the same time that the client is putting out calls to several agencies. That’s fair enough, but only if you make it clear that the job is not yet firm and the translator should wait for confirmation.

6. Be ready to offer references to new translators, just as you ask them to take a test or submit samples of their work. Having a fellow translator say, “This is a great agency to work with, and they pay promptly” is invaluable, and keeping these suggestions in mind is a good way to earn that sort of recommendation.

Eve Hecht
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Getting the Word Out

The following letter by ATA member Jessica Cohen was printed in the January/February 2006 issue of The Atlantic Monthly (page 28). The fact that Ms. Cohen’s letter warranted a reply from the editor shows that speaking out really does get the message across about the important role of translators and interpreters. The following is reprinted with the kind permission of Ms. Cohen and the editor of The Atlantic Monthly.

Apologies Due

The December 2005 issue of The Atlantic Monthly features a review of Yael Hedaya’s latest novel, Accidents. I was pleased to find in your publication a very thoughtful review of the work of this overlooked author. However, as the translator of the novel, I was disappointed to see that not only was my name not credited, but there was no mention at all that this novel is a translation. Neglecting to credit the translator, without whom most of your readers would not be able to read the book, is an unfortunate oversight that reflects a general lack of awareness of the art of literary translation. Literary translators invest a great deal of time and creative energy to expose English-speaking readers to works they would not otherwise have access to, and their efforts should be recognized.

Jessica Cohen
Seattle, Washington

The Editor’s reply: Our most sincere apologies to Jessica Cohen, who should certainly have been credited in the review. For lovers of literature and knowledge around the globe, she and her colleagues perform an invaluable service in the exercise of their art.
SDL TRADOS Desktop Technology has just launched the SDL TRADOS Certification Program. With over 100,000 Desktop licenses currently in the market, the SDL TRADOS Certification Program comes as a much needed qualification for the use of SDL TRADOS's industry leading Translation Memory and Terminology tools.

SDL TRADOS Certification will provide a recognized credential in the use of SDL TRADOS translation technology and comes as a direct response to the industry’s need for a valid measurement of translators’ and project managers’ knowledge in the use of these tools while competently handling translation projects. Achieving certification will demonstrate competence in understanding the CCM Methodology and in leveraging the complete range of SDL TRADOS functionality, including new collaboration, filtering, QA checking and terminology management features.

The SDL TRADOS Certification Program addresses a critical need in the marketplace: Up to 50% of additional costs and re-work of translation projects are due to unnecessary review of projects as a direct result of improper terminology usage. Translation technology owners are not making enough use of automated QA functionality to ensure a high level of consistency in their project work. If customers could properly learn the benefits of these translation and terminology tools, costs and time to market would be significantly reduced.

SDL TRADOS Certified Translators

Initially, the program will focus on providing translators with a Certification credential in SDL TRADOS Translation Memory tools expertise. Next steps for the SDL TRADOS Certification Program include certification of Project Managers and Certified Trainers.

SDL TRADOS Certification delivers key benefits to translators, such as improved employability and industry recognition of expertise as users of SDL TRADOS Translation Memory tools. Translators certified in SDL Trados 2006—in either the Trados and/or the SDLX component—will receive certification logos to use on business cards and all business literature, as well as a personalized web page highlighting specific qualifications.

SDL TRADOS Certification will also serve to provide translation agencies and corporate translation departments with a means of maximizing efficiency by ensuring translation teams have the required level of expertise in SDL TRADOS translation software. Other benefits include minimizing the learning curve on SDL TRADOS software, offering a direct employee benefit that significantly increases motivation levels, and simplifying the recruitment process for translators with SDL TRADOS CAT tools expertise.

All the SDL TRADOS training material and exams have been developed with the aim of meeting the ever-changing demands of the localization industry, and by addressing the current issues translators face throughout their daily tasks. Understanding the way translators work—and manage their projects—has been an essential ingredient in providing targeted and...
precise training objectives to be achieved by the professional translators seeking more efficient working methods through technology.

“This is not a simple test that allows the industry to claim proficiency in our products,” explained Keith Laska, Vice President of Desktop Technology, who realized the need for the SDL TRADOS Certification Program following the TRADOS acquisition. “SDL TRADOS Certification is a comprehensive program of placement tests, courseware, and multiple-level training exams that will truly test a translator’s ability to work efficiently with translation memory and integrated terminology—and provide all of our customers in the GIM supply chain with an accurate measure of expertise. Having gone through the courseware and taken the exams myself, I can assure you the SDL TRADOS Certification Program is no walk in the park.”

Steps to Achieve the SDL TRADOS Certification

The first stage of the Certification program will be delivered fully on-line. In order to achieve SDL TRADOS Certification in either the SDL TRADOS or the SDLX component a translator will need to follow the steps below:

1. Own a legal, registered license of SDL Trados 2006
2. Have practical knowledge of the CCM Methodology
3. Assess current level of knowledge in the chosen SDL TRADOS technology tool (TRADOS or SDLX) by taking an Online Placement Exam
4. According to the exam results the most suitable training plan will be recommended to allow for progress through each level of training, leading towards SDL TRADOS Certification. There are three levels of training offered:
   a) Getting Started
   b) Intermediate
   c) Advanced

5. Courseware can be downloaded for each training level from our website. Candidates will then be invited to study the material to learn about and how to use the key features and functionality offered at each level, or can choose to expedite their learning process by taking an online or on-site training course based on the level they currently require. Once they feel comfortable with the current level, translators will be directed to take an online exam and test their knowledge of the relevant modules of the application.

6. If they are successful in passing the exam, they can move into the next training level.

7. When they have successfully completed the exam for the Advanced level of the training, they will be awarded with the SDL TRADOS Certification.

For more information on the SDL TRADOS Certification Program, please visit: www.sdl.com/certified.

Translators can be certified in either the TRADOS or SDLX component of SDL Trados 2006.
The essential credential

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What is it about New Orleans?

By Beth Nazar

My name is Beth Nazar. My husband, Gabriel, and I are the parents of two-and-a-half-year-old Sophia and a month-old son, Lucas. I have been an ATA member as a Spanish-to-English translator since 2002. My special area of focus is translations for the tourism and hospitality industry.

I am frequently characterized as a cheerleader for my city. As a lifelong resident of New Orleans, I am currently back at home and dealing with the often-surreal aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. When I learned that the ATA had decided to proceed as planned with our November 2006 Annual Conference in New Orleans, I was elated. As the conference approaches, I will share with ATA members a series of short articles about life in post-Katrina New Orleans.

New Orleans has a unique sense of touch, feel, taste, smell, look, and sound that is unlike any other city. I hope to see all of you here come conference time, and I guarantee that your New Orleans visit will be a fantastic and an unforgettable experience!

Katrina was the first time that anyone in my family had ever evacuated for an impending hurricane. We’ve always lived in the older/higher parts of town and we have never flooded. Actually, our decision to evacuate was made at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 27, 2005, because we thought it would be unbelievably uncomfortable to endure two to three days without electricity and air conditioning if Katrina happened to knock down some of our New Orleans power lines in her path. The seven members of our multi-generational evacuee group, including friends and family, each brought one weekend’s worth of clothes and personal effects as we caravanned out of town at midnight headed for Houston. We did so not understanding what a life-affirming decision we had so casually made.

Following Katrina’s landfall on Monday, August 29th, it seemed an appropriate time for celebration as we watched the news in our Houston motel room. The good news was that New Orleans, our beloved city, had been spared the wrath of Hurricane Katrina because the storm had moved east towards the Mississippi Gulf Coast at the very last minute. The worst-case scenario we had all envisioned, a Category 3 or higher hurricane making her path up the Mississippi River, bursting the levees and leaving many parts of the city, including Canal Street, our largest thoroughfare, under 25 feet of water, had not occurred.

Tuesday, August 30 was an entirely different story. Knowing that, once again, New Orleans had dodged the proverbial “bullet,” we turned on the morning news almost as an afterthought. Brian Williams of NBC was reporting: “Alarming news… last night Canal Street was dry; and this morning I awoke to six inches of steadily rising water in front of my downtown hotel…. There appears to have been a levee breach.” One of the worst weeks of our lives began at that moment. We endured many frustrating and emotionally charged days of attempting to locate family, friends, and loved ones who had not evacuated to make sure that they were alive and safe. Our only mode of communication was via cell phone, and the circuits were always busy.

Sometime during that first week, my husband and I were fortunate enough to locate our home on aerial satellite photos that were periodically posted and updated on the Internet. We could clearly see that our damage was not at all extensive…no apparent flooding and no trees on the roof to let in rain. Even the 12-foot-high Argentine parrilla (barbeque pit) my husband had lovingly and painstakingly built two months earlier was still standing. The problem was that 80% of the city of New Orleans was flooded with anywhere from 2 to 15 feet of water that was not receding. Life, as we knew it, appeared to be over. We started to think… “What do we do now? There might not even be a New Orleans to go back to!” This was an even more difficult part of our five–week evacuation. Where would we restart our lives? What privations were we willing to endure in order to move back home to our city?

If you are not from New Orleans, you might not understand the difficulty involved in contemplating a decision to relocate. This sentiment is not limited to people of any specific race, religion, or socio-economic class. When you’re in New Orleans, you don’t really feel like you are in the U.S. During the first 85 years of its 288-year-history, the city was governed by both the French and the Spanish, which gave the city its Latin feel. Before Katrina, New Orleans was a town of 450,000 people with a small town, neighborhood feel. People are relaxed. The weather is optimal, except for our long, hot, humid summers. Most people here don’t ever put away their summer clothes and loved ones who had not evacuated to make sure that they were alive and safe. Our only mode of communication was via cell phone, and the circuits were always busy.

Eventually, the steady rise of the water stopped, and we started to think about attempting to locate family, friends, and loved ones who had not evacuated to make sure that they were alive and safe. Our only mode of communication was via cell phone, and the circuits were always busy.

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clothes as “out-of-season” because you can use them any month of the year. People enjoy good food and music. The four seasons (which residents refer to as crawfish, crab, shrimp, and oyster) can often be indistinguishable from one another. We live from one celebratory festival to the next….Mardi Gras, St. Joseph’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, French Quarter Fest, Jazz Fest, Swamp Fest, and the list continues. Locals stay out late…bars usually close when the last patron leaves.

New Orleans is a port city. For nearly 300 years, interesting and diverse people from far away places have lived here and enriched our cultural heritage. Slaves from Africa and the Caribbean shared their rich musical, religious, and culinary traditions. The French, Spanish, Italians, Germans, Irish, Cubans, Vietnamese, and Central Americans enriched the cultural fabric. The gumbo of New Orleans has evolved and is improved upon with the variety of people who have come here and blended in over the years.

In the legacy of Huey Long, our politics and economy have always been considered those of a “banana republic.” We have had politicians remain in office while concurrently in jail or committed to a state mental institution. Our city’s eroding infrastructure is a victim of benign neglect as is the condition of our secondary and elementary public school system. Our economy lacks diversity in that it has been historically based on oil revenues until more recently when we shifted to tourism. The job market has been depressed for many years. For decades, we have been losing our talented young people to more “highly evolved” cities such as Houston and Atlanta. Long before Katrina, most professionals were faced with the decision of whether they were willing to leave their city for better opportunities elsewhere. Pre-Katrina New Orleans was never utopia; her authenticity, however, has always been undeniable.

Early on in our evacuation, I remember hearing a CNN reporter explaining that New Orleanians were going to have a difficult time in figuring out where to restart their lives because we aren’t at all inclined to just pick up and move somewhere else every time we have a better job offer or a promotion. To even consider leaving New Orleans is seen as very serious business because it is a life-altering decision. New Orleanians celebrate our history and our traditions. With its many shortcomings, New Orleans is a city of deep roots. It has been estimated that 85% of the pre-Katrina population of New Orleans was born in the city. Residents seem to be genetically predisposed to staying put here for generations.

My family, friends, and fellow South Louisiana evacuees of the 44-state diaspora all faced the same disorienting dilemma. We were prohibited from returning to our homes for an undetermined period of time since there were few unobstructed roads, no drinkable water, power, hospitals, groceries, telephone service, gasoline stations, or basic city services. Armed military guards patrolled the perimeter of the city as well as its once proud boulevards. We didn’t even know if our jobs, our churches, and our children’s schools still existed. We struggled as we faced the possibility of returning to this alien CNN landscape that we once called home. Could it be that there was no city to return to? We weren’t capable of conceiving where else we could live. There simply had to be a way to go back home.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have made it back home only five weeks after Katrina. Look forward to more on our life in post-Katrina New Orleans in the June issue of The ATA Chronicle.
California Considers Ban on Medical Interpreting by Children, Other State Legislatures May Follow

By Alexandra Russell-Bitting

We hear claims that immigrants are somehow bad for the economy,” said President Bush in his recent State of the Union address, “even though this economy could not function without them.” From the top dog in Washington down to local authorities in Sacramento and Savannah, people are beginning to recognize the contributions and rights of immigrants.

At the same time, state and local governments have been grappling with an ever-pressing grass-roots need to serve citizens and residents with limited English proficiency. Especially in areas with growing immigrant populations, the courts, hospitals, schools, and social services are struggling to provide their services effectively across language barriers in order to comply with anti-discrimination laws.

According to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, “No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation, or be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” To provide their services fairly and competently to new immigrants who cannot communicate well or at all in English, hospitals in particular are realizing that they need trained bilingual providers or professional interpreters to guarantee quality patient care.

Over the past year, newspapers as varied as The New York Times and San Jose Mercury News have been reporting on the need for bilingual staff and trained interpreters to fill the gap between healthcare providers and non-English-speaking patients. In California, a state where 40% of the population speaks a language other than English at home and 20% has limited English proficiency, the State Assembly recently took the bold step of passing a bill to ban child interpreters in public hospitals.

An Associated Press story published by The Sacramento Mirror and numerous other California papers, for example, cites the case of a Laotian refugee’s 12-year-old son who mis-translated the doctor’s orders, causing his mother to take the wrong dose of her medication. Fortunately, the boy’s mistranslation did not cause his mother any lasting harm, but she was one of the lucky ones. According to a 2003 study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, two out of every three mistranslations have clinical consequences.

Protection Children

The California bill seeks to correct that situation, not only in the interest of the patients, but also for the sake of the children. According to experts, children lack the vocabulary and emotional maturity to serve as effective interpreters. That concern prompted California State Assemblyman Leland Yee (Democrat-Los Angeles) to sponsor the bill, based on his own experience. As a child, he felt “extremely uncomfortable” when he had to interpret for his own parents, who emigrated from China.

In a commentary entitled “Child Medical Translators—At Grandpa’s Bedside, Trying to Find Words for ‘Defeat’” for New America Media, a nationwide association of ethnic media, Eugenia Chen gives a child’s perspective on just how traumatic medical interpreting can be. As a 17-year-old interpreting for her cancer-stricken grandfather, she could not bring herself to give him the doctor’s grim prognosis. “I knew I was there to translate exactly what the doctor said, but I didn’t want to hear it. I was getting confused. I wanted to take care of my grandfather, to tell him what the doctor could do, not what he couldn’t.”

The Advocacy Committee of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) reports that at this writing, although the bill banning the use of children as medical interpreters passed in the California State Assembly, it did not pass in the Senate. The Department of Managed Health Care is considering making the bill regulatory procedure. Otherwise, the bill will be reconsidered.

Advocating Civil Rights

California is not the only state taking action. In New York, a state where over 150 languages are spoken, a coalition of advocates for immigrants filed a civil rights complaint contending that the lack of basic interpreting services at several New York City hospitals endangers their immigrant patients and violates state and federal law. According to an article published last April in The New York Times, the complainants
spent two years surveying patients, monitoring area hospitals, and pressing for the interpreting services required by laws against discrimination on the basis of national origin.

*Business First*, a western New York business newspaper, later reported that New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Antonia Novello proposed regulations to require hospitals to improve their “language translation services.” Her proposals would establish a consistent approach across the state to ensure that non-English-speaking patients receive accurate medical information while protecting privacy. The proposals would also prohibit the use of children as interpreters.

Nearly all the problems highlighted in the New York City complaint concerned Spanish and Korean, according to the Times article. Although the hospitals claim full compliance with federal and state law and offer access to telephone interpreting, the surveys found pervasive problems, such as a woman who had to rely on her English-speaking Korean cabdriver to translate a doctor’s directions for treating her 11-year-old child, or another woman who minimized her symptoms of depression because the person interpreting was her 13-year-old son.

Juanita Scarlett, a spokeswoman for New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, said the attorney general’s office was already conducting an inquiry into language barriers at hospitals. She insisted that the office was “greatly concerned that the healthcare needs of patients with limited English proficiency are not being met.”

**A Matter of Life or Death**

*Lavoz Latina*, a Hispanic newspaper in Georgia, reported on a disturbing case where the language barrier may have been responsible for the death of a patient. Mexican immigrant Leticia Xotla Herrera had only been living in Savannah for a few months when she was stricken by severe abdominal cramps. A Mexican friend with limited English took her to the emergency room, but no nurse, doctor, or other medical personnel spoke to them in Spanish. The patient was diagnosed with a stomach infection and sent home with a prescription for antibiotics. She returned a week later with the same symptoms and died the next day. At no time was she or her family given access to an interpreter.

The Civil Rights Act specifies that in order to be effective, “Service providers and clients must be able to communicate effectively.” The *Voz Latina* article commented that “certainly, this should be an important consideration for any medical facility in Chatham County because of the large number of Latinos now living in the area who speak Spanish as their first language.”

The Latin American Services Organization of Savannah was quoted in the story as recommending that “agencies should not require clients to use friends or family members as interpreters due to confidentiality issues and a reluctance on the part of the client to reveal personal information in their presence.”

**Knowing Your Limits**

Although more doctors and other medical staff are studying Spanish, there is a consensus that they cannot replace trained interpreters. According to an article entitled “Interpreters Needed Even After Doctors Study Languages” published in *The Boston Globe* last September, three of the four Massachusetts medical schools—the University of Massachusetts, Boston University, and Harvard University—have well-established programs to teach their students Spanish. However, “if you teach a course in medical Spanish, it should be couched in the understanding that you will know your limits,” said Dr. Joseph Betancourt, director of the Disparities Solutions Center at Massachusetts General Hospital.

“Being 80% proficient in another language can sometimes be more dangerous than not knowing the language at all,” cautioned Leighton Ku, a senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, DC. “Misinterpretation of even small words can make a big difference in medicine, so it is critical that trained interpreters are used whenever a clinician is not 100% fluent.”

Although Massachusetts is not considering a ban on child interpreters, it recognizes that the practice should be avoided. According to *Caduceus*, the newsletter of ATA’s Medical Division, in 2001 the Commonwealth published best practices recommendations for hospital-based interpreter services stipulating that “minor children should not be used as interpreters, even for parents.” The state also requires hospitals to “ensure that the patient understands that interpreter services are legally guaranteed and free of charge.”

**Growing Awareness**

Clearly, some state legislatures and healthcare institutions are more aware of language barrier issues. However, notes Cindy Roat, former co-chair of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC), “insurance companies still do not even seem to have this issue on their radar, and most federal lawmakers also are still generally ignorant about the need for language access.”
Yet the problem is not limited only to those states with large immigrant populations. “Data from the 2000 Census show that, while the usual ‘immigrant’ states (New York, Florida, New Jersey, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, California, and Hawaii) are still the leaders in limited-English-proficiency (LEP) populations,” said Roat, “the states with the fastest growing LEP populations are in the South, the Northwest, and the Midwest, with over a 100% increase from 1990 to 2000.”

Since most doctors work for healthcare institutions, she would like to see change at the policy level. “The answer is a systemic change that recognizes that language access is not a separate program in healthcare, but a basic communicative need that supports the provision of all healthcare, like the telephone system or electronic records,” she suggests. “Right now, most hospitals in the country pay for medical interpreting out of their overhead. Both the insurance industry and the federal government must begin to shoulder part of this burden.”

What We Can Do

The NCIHC has been working in concert with the healthcare industry. “It’s too big for one or the other to handle without tapping the other for their expertise,” points out Wilma Alvarado-Little, co-chair of the NCIHC board. She has been involved with the Association of American Medical Colleges on the development of resources for the population with limited English proficiency.

Alvarado-Little has also established interpreter programs in healthcare organizations. “The programs started off with very little funding and then grew as the financial justification for expansion of services was presented,” she explained. “However, nationwide, this is a challenge for many healthcare organizations, as some are hospitals that are considered safety-net hospitals providing services that will have to be covered by Medicaid or Medicare.”

Isabel Framer, a member of the NAJIT board of directors, agrees. “We need to take an active role in advocating for professional standards by writing to legislators, monitoring legislation, drafting policies and national standards in association with national organizations and government agencies, and responding to articles that include misinformation about professional interpreting.” For instance, NAJIT wrote to the California State Assembly to support the child interpreter ban and plans to continue its advocacy if the bill is reintroduced.

Representatives of both NAJIT and the NCIHC sit on the ATA Public Relations Committee. “We in the translation and interpretation industry must define what constitutes an acceptable level and quality of service,” insists Roat. “The ATA should interact more with medical and legal interpreter associations, on both the regional and national levels. I see the current collaboration between the NCIHC and the ATA PR Committee as part of that initiative,” she said, “and I hope it continues.”

…”Hospitals in particular are realizing that they need trained bilingual providers or professional interpreters to guarantee quality patient care…”

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Translation Guidelines for Government Agencies

By Jordan Coriza

For those of us who work in government, navigating the stormy waters of a bureaucratic sea is a daily achievement. Inefficacy is perhaps rampant, apathy is commonplace, but some bureaucratic protocols sometimes help us along the way. As coordinator of interpreter and translation services for a health department, I have seen the days when the translation process was chaotic. Cost overruns, missed deadlines, and potentially inaccurate translations were but a few of the obstacles that could have been prevented had translation guidelines been in place. Once translation guidelines were outlined, many of these problems were solved.

Crafting Guidelines

Despite the overwhelming need for translation guidelines, few exist. To my knowledge, many government agencies operate with no translation guidelines whatsoever. Some exceptions can be found in California and North Carolina, where a few agencies have mobilized to draft their own translation processes. What follows is a set of guidelines implemented in my department that can serve as a model for other government agencies seeking to establish a meaningful translation process.

Stage 1: Target Population

The very first step in the translation process, as with any writing process, is to know the audience. Government agencies, we assume, know their population and have taken that knowledge into consideration when creating the document being sent for translation. Whether or not the document in question was written with the target population in mind (depending on the type of document, this may not always be possible), it is still important for the translator to know who the target audience will be. Facts such as ethnicity, age group, gender, income, and country of origin will be extremely useful to the translator. The consequence of translating a text for the wrong target population is that, at best, it creates a disconnection between the material and the audience. When the audience cannot relate to the information presented, this generates a sense of distrust. At its worst, a misidentified target population completely under-

…”Despite the overwhelming need for translation guidelines, few exist…”

mines the efforts of not only the translator, but the entire project. An audience that does not understand the message equals an audience to whom a message was never intended.

Stage 2: Materials Review

Before translating a document, it is imperative to answer a few questions. Is the reading level appropriate for the target population? Is the language clear and as simple as it can be? Are messages and illustrations culturally appropriate? Is the text in the source language final? Will the translator render formatting or graphic design services? Has a printer been chosen for this project? If so, does this printer have foreign text capabilities? At a minimum, one must know what questions to ask.

Stage 3: Choosing a Translator

How a translator is chosen for a project will greatly depend on the system each government agency has for purchasing language services. In some states, government agencies have access to a statewide translator pool, in which case the government agency is required to use only the services of the vendors on that list. If, however, the government agency seeking translation services is not bound by a contract, the services of an ATA-certified translator are recommended. Choosing a certified translator is perhaps the best way to ensure the translation is done by a competent individual, which will make a remarkable difference in the quality of the translated text.

Stage 4: Budget and Timeline

Before contracting with a translator, the government agency should request an itemized price estimate to include turnaround time, per word/hour price, formatting/graphic design cost, and project management fees. A realistic timeline for the completion of the translation project, including time for review and editing, should be developed. This is a crucial stage for a successful translation project.

Stage 5: Contracting with a Translator

The chosen translator needs to be given information about the target audience (ethnicity, age group, gender, income, etc.). The translator should also receive information about where, when, and how the audience will be presented with the translated document. It is likewise important that the translator know the format of the final product (brochure, fact sheet, poster, radio/television advertisement). Finally, the government agency must provide the translator with a point person’s name and contact information should the translator have any questions during the process.

Stage 6: Review and Revisions

When contracting with a translation agency, the government...
agency should give specific instructions to indicate that the translation is to be reviewed by a second translator. This is a critical point in the translation process. As a best practice, the translated document should be reviewed for feedback by representatives of the target audience. Focus groups are an excellent resource.

Stage 7: Changes and Completion

Comments, changes, and feedback generated during the review process need to be discussed and negotiated with the translator. If the layout of the text is done by another vendor, the translator should have a final look at the document before it is printed to ensure that it is formatted properly. Also, all translations should list, in English, the languages in which they are written so anyone can easily recognize them.

Putting Guidelines to Work

Formulating and following translation guidelines may seem like an arduous task, but it works. Once this structure is in place, it makes the work easier and more efficient. When we point out the importance of creating translation guidelines in government agencies, we must not regard this effort as a sole endeavor to make our work easier and more efficient. We ought to remember the very reason why we translate in government: to reach out to the underserved populations. When a translation is targeted to a misidentified audience or its quality is otherwise poor, this can have dramatic consequences, often on the most vulnerable in our society.

Consolidating Efforts

The detrimental consequences of not having a protocol in place are significant. Despite the efforts in my state agency and some other agencies around the country, there is more work to be done. ATA can play a pivotal role in bringing greater attention to the need for translation guidelines and starting a conversation around this issue. If we are committed and get involved, eventually we will be able to see that navigating the stormy waters of our bureaucratic sea was a matter of adjusting the sails in the right direction. Sometimes it takes an extra hand to take the helm.

References


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IJET-17 in Kobe

17th International Japanese/English Translation Conference

June 17–18, 2006 • Kobe, Japan

Come to IJET-17, the premier conference for translators and interpreters working between English and Japanese, sponsored by the Japan Association of Translators (JAT). In addition to several “nuts and bolts” sessions, IJET-17 will include hands-on translation workshops, expert panel discussions, and the traditional IJET banquet on Saturday evening!

Registration fee: $250 for JAT members (if paying online), or $300 for non-members.

For more information, go to www.jat.org/ijet-17.
Building a Translation Community: A Practical Step-by-Step Approach

By Sarah Yarkoni

Over the past three years, the Israel Translators Association (ITA) has grown from a sleepy organization of 90 members to almost 500 members at the end of 2005. How did it get there? Through very practical and universal strategies, the organization has instilled a sense of community and professional pride. The steps taken to get the ITA where it is today are applicable to any organization looking to enhance its appeal and membership base.

Although the ITA has been in existence for over 25 years, it was somehow never able to gain and sustain any real momentum. The executive committee, elected in 2003, was committed to taking the battle-weary and scarred organization to a new place. To do this, we strove to avoid conflict and give people an organization they could feel good about. We made a strategic decision to work quietly on long-term projects while providing many other beneficial activities to members.

We instituted monthly lecture evenings, held at a small hotel in the heart of Tel Aviv (the center of the country). These evenings always include two featured speakers and a dinner, giving people a chance to meet, network, and socialize, not to mention going away having learned something. The subjects of the lectures vary from the very practical to theoretical—from business management issues and selected aspects of translation to linguistics and translation theory. As a result of the positive energy generated from these meetings, members began telling their friends about the events, and many participants have joined the ITA after attending. The most recent meeting was a “sellout,” with more than 100 people attending (over 20% of our membership!) and a long waiting list.

The next strategic step we took was to make as much noise as possible regarding our growing organization. Using true guerilla marketing techniques, we started to spread the word about the ITA and establish a presence. Members of the executive committee made sure to take an active part on all the translation forums and discussion groups in the country, posting information about the ITA on all of them. Members began forwarding notices to other lists. As people asked to be kept informed, we began compiling a mailing list of nonmembers. We sent e-mail notices to members, past members, and the people on our “unofficial” mailing list. Our direct mail campaigns also proved to be highly effective: past members began renewing and others started joining in large numbers. We began to hear people talk about how active and vibrant the organization had become and the value members were getting for their money.

As part of the same effort, we proactively sought cooperation with other organizations. One of the best examples of this is the relationship we have developed with the Israeli chapter of the Society for Technical Communication (STC, www.stc-israel.org.il). Announcements of our events are posted to their discussion list, and we post information on their events to ours. What’s more, each organization offers members of the other discounts on all events.

When Beit Berl College, which has a well-established translation department, wanted to offer translation-related extension courses through its Unit for External Studies but was unable to reach a critical mass on its own, the staff contacted the ITA. They were somewhat skeptical about the ITA’s ability to deliver the goods. Recognizing that cooperation with Beit Berl College could enhance our professional development efforts, we conducted a survey designed specifically to gather information about the professional and educational background of our members as well as what types of enrichment programs most interest them. The response rate to the survey was staggering—close to 35%. Management of the college sat up and took notice when they realized the potential that working with the ITA could have for them. The enrichment program was launched in January 2005 with an eight-week session on literary translation. The course was divided into Hebrew-to-English and English-to-Hebrew tracks. It proved so successful that a follow-up course has just gotten underway.

For those interested in less highbrow matters, a course on localization began in April and will run through June. Designed as an overview, the goal of the course is to provide a fundamental explanation of the concepts involved in localization, the necessary skills and tools, as well as a complete methodology of the management process. Additional enrichment courses are in the works. All participants receive joint ITA–Beit Berl College certificates, which are signed by representatives of both.

The translation departments at Beit Berl College and Bar-Ilan University...
University have been extremely supportive of the “revamped” ITA, posting notices of all events on department bulletin boards and encouraging students to attend. The result: many more young people, for whom translation is their first career choice, have started joining and becoming active in the organization. To facilitate their participation, we offer special student rates on membership and admission to most events.

Taking guerilla marketing a step further, members of the executive committee have maximized the ITA’s shoestring public relations budget by leveraging all speaking opportunities that come our way to publicize the association. Committee members have lectured at STC meetings and the STC annual conference, at a meeting of the Hebrew Writers Association, and at the Congress of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs/International Federation of Translators (FIT, www.fit-ift.org). Members have also appeared as guest lectures at Bar-Ilan University and Beit Berl College, where four of the nine members of the executive committee have either taught or are currently teaching.

We also reintroduced the ITA journal Targima, which had been on hiatus for several years. (Targima is derived from the Greek tragema, meaning all good things, such as sweet foods, desserts, and special fruits. It also sounds very much like the Hebrew word targum—translation.) Targima was given an up-to-date sleek design and issued as an e-journal in PDF format that can be downloaded from our website. We actively solicit submissions on relevant issues from people in Israel and outside the country. This gives us a unique opportunity to introduce prospective writers to the ITA and its activities. As a result, we have started receiving inquiries from people who want us to publish their material.

Without a doubt, the biggest morale booster of them all is the annual ITA conference. While there had been a successful conference in 2002, those of us on the executive committee were unsure if we would be able to build on its success in 2004—our first year in office. We took an extremely conservative and cautious approach, thinking that we would be more than satisfied if 100 people attended. You can imagine our elation when registrations exceeded 200. In 2005, we upgraded the conference again by adding an additional parallel session, more speakers, and more workshops. We made it a point to have almost none of the same speakers, ensuring that repeat attendees would have a completely new experience. Over 300 people attended the 2005 conference.

At this year’s conference (held in February), we decided the time was right to raise the bar again and go international. We sent notices of the event to numerous translation associations around the world, many of whom published the information. As a result, not only exceeded 350 conference participants, we had speakers and participants from countries as diverse as the U.S. (ATA President Marian S. Greenfield was the keynote speaker and ATA President-Elect Jiri Stejskal also spoke), Canada, the U.K., Japan, Croatia, France, Peru, and even Ethiopia!

Three action-packed days in a single venue has generated incredible esprit de corps. Members take great pride in belonging to an organization that puts on a “real” conference, not to mention having the opportunity to get away from their computers, meet up with old friends, and make new acquaintances.

As the organization has grown, something very interesting has been happening. Members have begun to feel part of a community, and more and more of them are adding the ITA logo or indicating that they are members in the signature lines of their e-mails. Many have begun to work on large projects together and to refer assignments they cannot take on to others via the association’s online discussion list. Perhaps most importantly in a solitary profession such as translation, members no longer feel alone. They consult each other, share knowledge, and provide assistance. When they face a problem, they know where to look for help.

While the ITA has come a very long way over the past three years, there is still much more to be done. We believe that the organization is strong enough now to take on more controversial issues, such as certification, without exploding. Beyond all else, we hope that three years of stability, harmony, growth, and activity will inspire people to step up to bat and proactively face the challenges ahead.
Machine Translation: Translating Automation into New Opportunities

By Ursula Schwalbach and Franco Zearo

Who hasn’t heard the following arguments? “Machine translation is getting better every day and will soon put human translators out of business.” And, at the opposite end of the spectrum, “Machine translation is useless because a machine will never be able to satisfactorily translate a novel by William Faulkner.” As translators, we choose to believe the latter because it feels safe, and we laugh at all the funny mistranslations circulating in our e-mail and on the Internet. We seem to assume that human translation is always perfect, which it is not. Both arguments miss the point.

This article will explore common prejudices and look at machine translation (MT) from a different perspective. When does it make sense to consider MT as a valid business option? What kind of investment is necessary to achieve acceptable language quality? What opportunities does such an investment present for language professionals?

In examining these questions, the article will not engage in a scientific analysis of the various types of MT engines. Rather, it will focus on the content being translated and how one can ensure that the end product is suitable for its intended purpose.

Audience and Circumstance

The intended purpose is the key to analyzing whether or not machine translation is a viable business option. Many types of computer-related content will always need the polished look only a language professional can provide, including product home pages, product packaging, marketing articles, and training materials. Other types of computer-related content, such as user instructions, are more repetitive. For these types of text, language automation is not only an option, but it provides the valuable benefit of stylistic and terminological consistency crucial to comprehension and knowledge acquisition on the part of the customer.

Case Study: Knowledge Base Articles

Ten years ago, computer software usually came with a huge help file integrated into the product itself. A manual weighing several pounds and describing every software feature in detail also accompanied the application. Because the shelf life of software and documentation tended to extend over several years, software companies invested large amounts of money in documentation production and accuracy because there was only one chance to get it right.

Now, fast forward to the Internet age with its proliferation of content and much faster production cycles. All of a sudden, software companies are able to break information into more manageable chunks, update it more frequently, and benefit from the fact that computer experts anywhere can document their experiences in the form of supplementary content.

However, a difficult decision became apparent with the accumulation of these so-called “knowledge bases.” How much of this content would be relevant for users in other countries; therefore, how much should be translated?

The amount of material officially translated is but the tip of the iceberg. No company can afford to have it all translated. Were it not for MT, a great deal of content would remain a privileged experience savored only by those who speak the language in which the text was originally written.

Consider the following scenario. A college instructor in Madrid is working on course material to present the next day. She is using PowerPoint, and all her attempts at integrating complex text and pictures from a non-PowerPoint file keep failing. None of her Spanish product documentation covers the specific problem she has encountered. She finally turns to http://support.microsoft.com and finds a knowledge base article in English with an option to have it machine-translated into Spanish. The resulting text is coarse and linguistically awkward, but she can follow the instructions well enough to solve her problem. At the bottom of the article is a box that allows her to comment on her experience.

Applicability to Business

Knowledge base articles are also helpful to companies when evaluating their customers’ experience. Did the article help solve a problem? Was the article too poorly translated to be helpful?

If a poorly translated article gets enough hits, a professional will eventually re-translate or post-edit it to make it more useful. This means that customers have access to much more content in more languages than ever before and have a better chance of getting their problems solved right away. At the very least, MT serves as a springboard for ranking information about customer needs and improving the language quality of those articles that are most relevant.

The Black Box Phenomenon

Those criticizing MT expect...
it to behave like a mysterious black box that consumes any type of source text and produces its beautifully translated target equivalent. The reality is quite different. Achieving satisfactory target results depends on carefully crafted source texts, which for the purpose of this article are assumed to be written in U.S.-English. However, this does not mean that creators of source text should be forced to resort to an artificial style of robotic writing. Even the mention of “controlled English” might produce negative sentiments on the part of writers. Instead, it is much wiser to call this effort “disciplined” writing.

Language automation depends largely on consistent language patterns. Following some basic rules of style goes a long way in making source text more understandable, not only for the machine, but also for the human translator and for speakers of English as a second language. Among the known pitfalls are noun clusters, nested relative clauses, and those ubiquitous “—ing” constructions always in search of their proper agents. For a company, it means separating creative writing efforts (for example, marketing and advertising copy) from text intended for MT or other automation.

Another important factor in MT is domain-specific terminology. Documenting domain-specific terminology and feeding it into the automation process properly also requires the expertise of language professionals. Terminology is the glue that holds language automation together and will help the customer extract the knowledge, even if a text is stylistically or grammatically flawed. Reliable domain-specific terminology will also make post-editing a much more pleasant task because the language professional is free to focus on polishing text instead of searching for proper terms and phrases.

Post-Editing Services
As the demand for MT grows, we will also see an increase in demand for post-editing services. Post-editing is fast becoming a highly specialized area of language expertise. Due to the increasing volume of text, most companies employing MT as part of their localization strategy have begun to rely on external business partners to provide this service. This section describes the various post-editing methods, which, as we stated before, need to be carefully chosen based on business circumstance and audience needs. Using MT only as a way to save money is the wrong approach. The successful application of each method depends on the superb language and project management skills of external business partners, and on the professionalism of post-editors.

Types of Post-Editing Services
A cursory survey of the post-editing topic shows that three levels of post-editing have been identified:

- Full (or complete) post-editing;
- Minimal (or partial) post-editing; and
- Rapid (or fast) post-editing.

Full post-editing is virtually the same as editing (reviewing) someone else’s translation. The main difference from traditional editing is that the post-editor has to correct errors usually not encountered when editing a translation done by a fellow human being.

Post-Editing Productivity
Post-editing is all about speed. Several experiments have been conducted, some touting savings of up to 70% over so-called “traditional” translation costs and times. We generally understand that a translator translates at a rate of approximately 250-300 words per hour, depending on the translator’s familiarity with the subject matter, the language combination, and other factors. An editor can work at speeds of about 1,000 words per hour when editing a translation done by a skilled human translator. Rapid post-editing and minimal post-editing should fall
somewhere in between those productivity metrics. One study indicates that
the productivity of a rapid post-editor is
about 30 minutes per page. If we
assume a standard page to contain 250
words, we are looking at a post-editing
rate of about 500 words per hour.

There is one point that some people
often overlook, which is that these
claimed productivities for post-editing
are not sustainable over a long period.
In the future, we can foresee the use of
teams of alternating post-editors simi-
lar to that of simultaneous interpreters
working in pairs in the booth.

Post-Editing Skills

To use a sports analogy, post-editors
are to translators what sprinters are to
marathon runners. Both are athletes, but
with very different abilities. Leaving
natural talents aside, the distinction
comes from different training regimen.

For a post-editor to be efficient,
the following skills are necessary:

• **Professional translation competence:** Defined as mother tongue
proficiency in the target language and an excellent command of the
source language.

• **Keyboarding skills:** Efficient post-editors are very skilled at using key-
board shortcuts. Post-editors should also possess some familiarity with
programming macros to expedite the most tedious tasks.

• **Subject area expertise:** Post-editors who are familiar with the sub-
ject matter can work faster and are, therefore, more proficient.

• **Lexicography expertise:** In some cases, the post-editor will collabo-
rate in the creation of the glossary that the MT system will use.
Lexicography and terminology management skills will thus play an important role.

Who Makes the Best Post-Editor?

Some experts believe that junior
translators might have better potential
in becoming post-editors because they
do not have to “untrain people on what
they have done for years.” Junior trans-
slators, it is argued, come with “less
baggage.” In our experiments, however,
host editors generally fared better
than the junior translators. As in many
other crafts, experience does play a role
and has its advantages. Nevertheless,
more experienced translators might
have some preconceptions toward MT.
A low tolerance for the types of errors
encountered and a negative attitude
toward MT are definite obstacles that
will prevent a translator from becoming
successful post-editor. We will dis-
cuss these issues later in this article.

How to Become a Post-Editor

One factor that hindered the develop-
ment of post-editing in the past
was that mostly in-house staff per-
formed it. Because employed translators receive a fixed salary, they have
little or no incentive to increase their
production output. Freelance translators,
on the other hand, are generally
paid by the word. Even when the job
is paid by the hour, it is not unre-
sional to demand a higher hourly
rate, given the specialization
required. This category of language
professionals, therefore, has a great
incentive to benefit from the
increased productivity offered by
post-editing and might be more
receptive in accepting this role.

If freelancers are the category that
stands to benefit most from becoming
post-editors, the obvious question is,
“Where can they learn about post-
editing and pick up these new skills?”
Unfortunately, here is where we
encounter an obstacle. Besides encour-
aging professional associations like the
ATA and its regional affiliates to begin
offering workshops and seminars on
post-editing, here are a few ideas:

• **Read about it:** Technology evolves
and keeps changing our lives every
day. For many of us, commercial
MT systems were not available
when we completed our translation
studies or when we first started
working as translators. The refer-
ences cited at the end of this article
constitute a good starting point to
become acquainted with post-
editing. A rich electronic repository
of articles, books, and papers on
topics in MT and computer-based
translation tools can be found at
www.mt-archive.info. Information
specific to post-editing can be found
by visiting Jeffrey Allen’s pages at
www.geocities.com/mtpostediting.

• **Increase your typing speed:** If you
type using two fingers and find your-
self looking at the keyboard, learn
how to touch-type with all 10 fin-
gers. Some adventurous translators
might even want to try their hand at
learning the Dvorak keyboard or
stenocaptioning. According to the
National Captioning Institute,
“[h]ighly skilled captioners […]can
phonetically stroke words on a
stenograph machine (like court
reporters use) at speeds of over 225
words per minute.”

• **Edit online:** If you like to print
translations for review purposes,
try to become more comfortable
doing online edits. There are sev-
eral advantages to performing
some translation tasks on paper,
but now post-editors are expected
to work exclusively on screen.

• **Learn sight translation:** Inter-
preters possess translation skills
that can be useful in the MT
post-editing process. Sight translation is one type of exercise that might help translators think faster and become more efficient at post-editing.

Even if you decide not to become a post-editor, you stand to benefit from incorporating these speed skills in your everyday practice.

Finally, the most important component in becoming a post-editor is attitude. If one is prejudiced against MT, he or she will not go very far in becoming a successful post-editor. One can always learn new skills, but a positive attitude is something that has to come from within. A good post-editor must understand the quality standards expected from the process, and one’s role in the process.

Most translators already work with Translation Memory (TM) software. Fixing a fuzzy match segment in a TM environment is not very different from repairing a MT segment. Jaap van der Meer acutely observed that, “TM is just a new variant of MT.” His point is that TM enjoys a widespread acceptability on the part of the translation community largely thanks to the marketing message adopted by the developers of TM software, helping them to avoid the stigma attached to MT in the translation industry. Fortunately, in the recent decade this attitude has been changing, both on part of the MT developers and of the translation community.

Ethical Considerations

Finally, post-editing of MT raises some ethical considerations. When the customer does not have high expectations and quality standards are relaxed, one could be tempted to take some “liberties” and then blame the MT for the poor quality. The American Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (www.amtaweb.org) has reportedly set up a special interest group to determine post-editing guidelines with a view to establishing a post-editing qualification program, although we can find no mention of this initiative on the association’s website at the present date. Certification from professional associations such as the ATA might be one guarantee against malpractice by unscrupulous individuals.

Conclusion

In sum, customers are driving the demand for more and more translated content. Language automation has the potential to satisfy this demand. When coupled with terminology management, and post-editing services, MT can provide an attractive cost/benefit solution. Corporations and translation services companies have a mandate to provide these solutions in order to help their clients. Everybody in the language profession stands to benefit from this increased demand for new language services, and our role is to help the language professionals to develop the skills necessary to meet these new requirements.

Notes


Additional References


Financial Crimes

By Lorena P. Martin

Financial crimes are transnational—affecting every jurisdiction in the world. These crimes range from identity theft to the smuggling of billions of dollars across borders. Due to new laws and intensified enforcement activities, interpreters or translators in the financial/legal sector may find themselves increasingly called upon to exercise their linguistic skills in this field.

Financial crimes have been around as long as economic and monetary systems. The Chinese engaged in the practice of hiding their wealth from taxation some 2,000 years before Christ. During the Roman Empire, Lucius Annaeus Seneca stated: “He who profits by a crime commits it.”

Seneca’s remark is as true today as it was then. Note this remark from Karen P. Tandy, administrator for the Drug Enforcement Agency: “Every criminal involved in illegal drug trafficking—from the kingpin and the enforcer, down to the courier and the street dealer—all have the same motivation. It is all about the money.”

Throughout history to the present day, denying criminals the fruits of their illicit activities is one of the foundations of U.S. and international policy to stem financial crimes. Although laws vary throughout the world, the essential goals are:

1. Asset Forfeiture: Seizing property and cash obtained by illicit means.
2. Denial of Conduit: Preventing the means of transportation of dirty money by physical movement or wire transfers.
3. No Safe Haven: Removing the ability to place illicit funds in legitimate locations such as banks or investments.
4. Identification: Knowing the source and ownership of assets.

Although this article will stress anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML-CFT) activities, financial crimes also include violations such as passing a bad check, credit card fraud, or not filing your income taxes.

Laws and regulations, as well as the criminal efforts to thwart those laws and regulations, continually change. Therefore, it is important for interpreters and translators involved with financial and legal content to keep abreast of developments in this fast moving field. Ten years ago identity theft was a small blip on the screen, but with the advent of the Internet, it has become the fastest growing crime in the U.S.

Scope of the Problem

Anti-Money Laundering (AML)

Implicit in financial crimes is the evasion of regulations that govern financial transactions, hiding the source of income, and avoiding detection by the authorities. As a result, it is impossible to get an accurate figure on the amount of illicit capital produced or transported around the globe each year.

One report places the amount of money laundered worldwide at $500 billion to $2.8 trillion. The actual amount, due to the nature of the crime, is unknown. What is clear, however, is that even on the bottom end of the scale—$500 billion—the impact is enormous. Take, for example, the annual gross domestic products of the following countries:

- Belgium: $329.3 billion
- The Netherlands: $500 billion
- South Africa: $527.4 billion
- Argentina: $537.2 billion
- Turkey: $551.6 billion
- Australia: $649.9 billion

Essentially, even with conservative estimates, the money laundered annually worldwide equals the entire economies of some major countries. And the problem with laundered money doesn’t stop with the amount. Add to that the basic economic principle called the multiplier effect. Simply put, money makes money—even bad money.

One of the primary goals of those who commit financial crimes is to take money from criminal activities and place it in legitimate investments. These investments continue to grow and make more money. Although the origins of the money may be from the sale of illicit drugs, the money now might pay the legitimate wages of secretaries, construction workers, and, through taxes, teachers and even policemen.

As is the case with the amount of money laundered worldwide, it is impossible to comprehend fully the impact of the multiplier effect on the global economy over time, since the factor used to calculate the figure is unknown. Over time it is possible that as much as 25% of the world’s economy may have roots in illicit funds.

Financial crimes and the multiplier effect have the power to corrupt entire countries and impact U.S. cities. In one year, economists estimated that the income from the marijuana trade alone in Tucson, Arizona, added 2% to personal income levels in that city.

In what is known as the Triborder
Area (TBA) at the junction of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, the region is almost entirely dependent on the sale of illicit goods and money laundering, with some of the money financing terrorist activities.\(^9\)

**Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT)**

Another aspect of financial crimes that is in the spotlight, especially since the events of September 11, 2001, is the financing of international terrorist activities. The following quote is a stark reminder of the importance of funding to terrorist groups: “There are two things a brother must have for jihad, the self and money.”\(^{10}\)

Although many of the aspects of money laundering also apply to terrorist financing, there is one unusual twist. One of the objectives of terrorist financing is to take money from apparently legitimate sources and direct it to criminal activities. For example, much of the support for Al Qaeda, including money to finance the September 11, 2001 attacks, came from donations and charity groups.\(^{11}\)

Although terrorist financing violations are few compared to other financial crimes\(^{12}\), interpreters and translators need to become aware of current trends and the resources available to provide services in this highly specialized field.

**Other Financial Crimes**

The list of financial crimes regulated by our legal system is extensive and ranges from counterfeiting, credit card fraud, and identity theft to tax evasion, accounting fraud, and insider trading. Familiarity with these crimes involves mastering unique specialized terminology and knowing the various methodologies employed by the perpetrators. Identity theft, for example, often uses methods such as phishing, or the use of fraudulent e-mails to gather personal information, and dumpster diving, the practice of searching through the trash of a person or business to obtain personal information. In fact, in July 2003, authorities added the category of identity theft to the list of money laundering violations financial institutions are required to report.\(^{13}\) Additionally, different laws apply to each crime, which means there may also be unique legal terminology to learn.

**Money Laundering Principles**

Most models of the money laundering cycle encompass three basic stages: placement, layering, and integration. However, for a more complete understanding of the process, a six-stage cycle—one which includes the crime that precedes money laundering—is more appropriate (see Figure 1). These stages are discussed in detail below.

**Stage 1: Creation**

For money laundering to occur, there needs to be a criminal enterprise...
that produces illicit profits (a predicate crime). There are over 200 predicate crimes that lead to money laundering. These include offenses such as alien smuggling, narcotics trafficking, illegal arms sales, and prostitution. U.S. laws regulating money laundering often refer to a predicate crime as a specified unlawful activity (SUA).

Stage 2: Consolidation
In this stage, the criminal prepares the dirty funds generated from the illicit activities, in order to put them into the financial system for cleaning. This may involve converting currency from smaller denominations, usually the form resulting from drug transactions, into larger denominations.

Stage 3: Placement
Placement is the stage in which a launderer introduces his illicit earnings into the economic mainstream. This is also the easiest stage in which to detect that the crime of money laundering is taking place. Placement methods range from the simple purchase of a money order to structuring, or dividing up large sums of cash into smaller portions just under reporting limits, so as to avoid detection by financial authorities. Placement tends to occur in geographic locations that are closer to the source of the illegal proceeds, and may often involve the use of money service businesses (MSBs), which operate in parallel to banks and include check cashing companies, currency exchangers, money transmitters, and businesses that sell money orders, traveler's checks, and stored value cards, or prepaid cards.

Stage 4: Layering
Next, the goal is to create as much distance as possible between the money and its unlawful source through the use of multiple wire transfers to various bank accounts, or through the use of shell banks (banks without a physical location and with no regulation). The greater the number of transactions, the more difficult it is to track the source of the funds. This stage in particular occurs in locations with financial stability, so that the funds will have a greater probability of successfully returning to the launderer.

Stage 5: Integration
Now that the launderer has managed to effectively disguise the proceeds, they are "clean." They are now ready for return to the launderer and are available for use.

Stage 6: Realization
In the final stage, the launderer is free to invest the ill-gained proceeds in legitimate investments, such as the stock market, real estate, or business ventures.

Money Laundering Methods
Launderers use an assortment of methods to conceal the unlawful origin of their profits. The methods of preference may involve the use of traditional financial institutions, or the launderers may circumvent such institutions entirely. Methods vary according to geographic location. In the U.S., primary money laundering hubs include Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, San Juan, and the Southwest border. The United States Treasury has designated these locations as high-intensity financial crimes areas, or HIFCAs.

Bulk Currency Smuggling
Bulk currency smuggling consists of concealing or transporting large sums of cash (sometimes in the millions of dollars) outside of the U.S. with the purpose of eluding reporting requirements. Criminals consider this technique, also commonly known as bulk cash smuggling, to be a low-cost and effective method to launder illicit proceeds.

Drug trafficking generates large amounts of cash. According to estimates, the weight of the cash generated from drug sales is approximately three and a half times the weight of the drugs sold. Rather than working within the constraints of the U.S. financial system, which requires financial institutions to report suspicious transactions and transactions above specific monetary amounts, criminals find it easier to launder money overseas where money laundering regulations are less stringent.

Concealment methods vary and are often creative; consider the fact that $1 million in $20 bills weighs approximately 100 pounds and is as large as six stacks of bills, each three feet high.17 Toys, vehicle parts, hidden compartments, suitcases, packages of clothing, and even boxes of candy can serve to hide currency, and the money moves in many forms of transportation.

Enforcement efforts to combat bulk currency smuggling, which in itself is a crime separate from that of money laundering, include asset forfeiture (the confiscation of illicit currency or property). The goal of asset forfeiture is to deny criminals access to the fruits of their crime. Not only can authorities forfeit illegal money and property, they can also forfeit legitimate assets intermingled with illicit wealth, such as cars, homes, and businesses.

Two types of forfeiture exist: criminal asset forfeiture, filed against persons accused of holding illicit proceeds, and civil asset forfeiture, filed against the illicit property or money itself as the wrongdoer, and without the need to file criminal charges against a person in order to confiscate illegal assets. Both
Financial Crimes Continued

types target the profits of unlawful activity in an effort to deter criminals and to weaken illegal organizations.

Alternative Remittance Systems

Alternative remittance systems (ARS), also known as informal value transfer systems (IVTS), are financial systems operating outside traditional financial institutions, which mostly serve ethnic communities. Many immigrants living outside of their home countries use ARSs for the legitimate purpose of sending money back to their families. Because they are informal systems that work parallel to formal banking, they offer inexpensive rates to customers, have no regulatory requirements, and can perform transactions expeditiously. Table 1 shows the types of ARS’s that exist in various parts of the world (see Table 1).

ARS’s operate on the basis of trust and on the transfer of value without the actual transfer of money. In a typical ARS arrangement, a customer in one country requests that an ARS broker transmit a sum of money to a party in another country. The broker contacts a counterpart in the destination country and requests the delivery of the funds, usually within hours, to the recipient. The two brokers make a profit by charging their customers a small commission for the transaction, and an arrangement exists between them for the transfer of assets. There is no exchange of money by the brokers. The transaction may well serve to repay an already existing debt, or the brokers may use false invoicing or trade commercial goods instead of money.

Since the arrangements in ARSs are usually informal, flexible, and done without a paper trail, these systems easily lend themselves to illicit activities and represent an ideal vehicle for money laundering and terrorist financing. The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) reported that Al Qaeda used Hawala as a funds transfer method.19

Trade-Based Money Laundering

Trade-based money laundering uses trade to transfer and disguise illegal funds into assets and illicit and legitimate commercial goods, including precious metals, gemstones, and counterfeit merchandise.

“…Even with conservative estimates, the money laundered annually worldwide equals the entire economies of some major countries…”

The largest trade-based money laundering system in the Western Hemisphere is the Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE). One of the primary features of the BMPE is that it distances the perpetrator from his illicit money early on in the laundering process. Launderers exchange their U.S. dollars for Colombian pesos through “peso brokers” in the U.S. The brokers, in turn, after layering the money through U.S. banks, sell the dollars to Colombian businesses, which use them to purchase goods in the U.S. for export to Colombia.

A hallmark of the BMPE is the use of free trade zones (FTZs), such as the Colon Free Trade Zone in Panama, which allow duty-free exports and lend themselves to false invoicing and import/export schemes. FTZs also operate in the U.S., where they are known as foreign trade zones. They suffer from the same vulnerabilities as trade zones abroad.20

Resources for Interpreters and Translators

Although preparation for financial crimes assignments may pose a challenge, there are resources available to the interpreter or translator. Perhaps the most valuable are content from multinational resources, specifically those involved with the prevention or enforcement of financial crimes around the globe. Essential sources for the interpreter or translator include those listed below.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
www.fatf-gafi.org

This is the multinational body formed at the G-7 Summit in Paris in 1989 that develops policy for AML-CFT. Members include 32 countries and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Publications are available in a variety of languages. Perhaps one of the most important documents is the annual update, the FATF Report on Money Laundering Typologies, that provides useful information on current trends, methods, and activities regarding financial crimes (including new vocabulary).

Egmont Group
www.egmont.org

Through consultation with the Egmont Group, 101 countries throughout the world have financial intelligence units that offer reports and information in multiple languages.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)
www.imf.org

The IMF deals closely with issues pertaining to AML-CFT, and has published a series of glossaries, available in print, which one can order from their website. They also have a multilingual database available on their website.
The World Bank
www.worldbank.org
The World Bank is an excellent resource for financial terminology in general, and particularly for topics related to anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism. Their website contains glossaries in several languages, as well as acronym lists.

U.S. Government Agencies
U.S. government agencies, at both the federal and state levels, also have resources available for the interpreter or translator. Although much of the information is in English, it provides valuable knowledge about financial crime trends on both national and international levels. If you live in Miami, for example, and most of the cases you work involve the Caribbean, you will develop an understanding of financial crime trends in these locations. The following are excellent resources.

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)
www.fincen.gov
An agency of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, FinCEN has one of the most comprehensive and up-to-date collections of materials on money laundering and terrorist financing trends. Numerous resources are available in multiple languages, and there is a wealth of information on typologies and law enforcement initiatives.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
State Fact Sheets
www.dea.gov
This is a must-have resource for the latest information on current trends in the jurisdiction where you work. Fact sheets are available for each of the 50 states and Washington, DC, describing the primary criminal activities taking place, including money laundering and drug trafficking trends, as well as law enforcement efforts.

U.S. State Department
International Narcotics Control and Strategy Report
www.state.gov
The State Department issues this report on a yearly basis, and offers a complete compilation of crimes, typologies, and trends for virtually every country in the world. This resource is especially helpful for becoming familiar with crime trends in the countries of your working languages. Volume II of the report deals specifically with money laundering issues.

Conclusion
Financial crimes are a fascinating but demanding field for the legal interpreter or translator that requires consistent study of current trends and typologies. The resources noted are especially helpful for parallel text analysis, which allows you to learn terminology and develop glossaries by comparing versions of the same document written in different languages. They are also useful for tracking the coinage of new terms or the change in meaning of a term, as offenders constantly devise new techniques for perpetrating their crimes.

Table 1. Alternative Remittance Systems Around the World21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative Remittance Systems</th>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabian Gulf, South Asia</td>
<td>Hawala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India, Pakistan</td>
<td>Hundli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Havala</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Fei Ch’ien, chop, chit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Phoe Kuan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Door to Door</td>
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</table>

Notes


Take a Look at the New Website

Now that the new ATA website is online, we want to know how you like it. Please visit the new website and tell us what you think of it. Are the sections clearly delineated? Is the language direct and easy to understand? What would you like to find that is not on the website now? What information is hard to find? Please address your e-mail to info@atanet.org. Thank you!
The Ethics Course is a Requirement for Everyone in the First Continuing Education Points Reporting Period

Even if you have already earned your required 20 continuing education (CE) points in this reporting period by attending conferences and chapter events, by purchasing CDs, or by taking university courses and seminars, you are not really finished until you have completed the mandatory ethics requirement. You can fulfill this requirement in one of two ways: either by attending one of the approved ethics courses at the ATA Annual Conference, or by completing the free online course on the ATA website. However you decide to do it, taking the ethics course is a one-time requirement that must be completed in your first reporting period.

The easiest three CE points you can earn are by maintaining your ATA membership and completing the online ethics course. You can earn two points in three years by maintaining your ATA membership (category C) and one point by fulfilling the ethics requirement (category A).

You can find the online ethics course on ATA’s website under “Certification” (just click on “Certification” and look under “Continuing Education Requirements”). You can also go directly to www.atanet.org/certification/online_ethics_overview.php. You will find an easy to follow tutorial for both translators and interpreters followed by a self-evaluation questionnaire for translators and another one for interpreters. If you work in both fields, you should complete both questionnaires. When you complete the presentation and the questionnaires, print out the statement verifying your completion of this requirement. That signed form will be submitted with your other documentation verifying CE point activities along with your CE Points Record when your paperwork is requested at the end of your three-year reporting period.

ATA Certification Exam Information

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California
San Diego
June 24, 2006
Registration Deadline: June 9, 2006
San Francisco
October 1, 2006
Registration Deadline: September 22, 2006
Colorado
Denver
September 16, 2006
Registration Deadline: September 1, 2006
District of Columbia
Washington
June 18, 2006
Registration Deadline: June 2, 2006
Georgia
Alpharetta
August 5, 2006
Registration Deadline: July 21, 2006
Iowa
Des Moines
June 25, 2006
Registration Deadline: June 9, 2006
Louisiana
New Orleans
November 4, 2006
Registration Deadline: October 20, 2006
Michigan
Novi
August 5, 2006
Registration Deadline: July 21, 2006
Minnesota
Minneapolis
June 3, 2006
Registration Deadline: May 19, 2006
New Mexico
Albuquerque
September 9, 2006
Registration Deadline: August 25, 2006
Tennessee
Nashville
September 10, 2006
Registration Deadline: August 25, 2006
Texas
San Antonio
July 22, 2006
Registration Deadline: July 7, 2006
Argentina
Buenos Aires
July 1, 2006
Registration Deadline: June 16, 2006
Brazil
Sao Paulo
July 1, 2006
Registration Deadline: June 16, 2006
All candidates applying for ATA certification must provide proof that they meet the certification program eligibility requirements. Please direct all inquiries regarding general certification information to ATA Headquarters at (703) 683-6100. Registration for all certification exams should be made through ATA Headquarters. All sittings have a maximum capacity and admission is based on the order in which registrations are received. Forms are available from the ATA website or from Headquarters.
The Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters (MATI), an ATA chapter, was established in 2003 as a nonprofit organization by and for translators and interpreters in the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Its membership has grown to include almost 200 language professionals since it was first established.

Objectives
- To promote the recognition and advancement of translation and interpretation as professions.
- To promote high standards of professional ethics and business practices for professionals in the translation and interpretation fields.
- To advocate for the rights and interests of professional translators and interpreters.
- To encourage and support the formation of local groups of translators and interpreters within its geographic area to fulfill similar objectives.
- To support certification, education, training, and professional development opportunities for translators and interpreters.
- To provide information to professionals in the translation and interpretation fields to improve their business abilities and assist newcomers to the profession in establishing themselves in the marketplace.
- To cooperate actively with the ATA and other groups who represent these professions.
- To provide an open forum in which translators and interpreters and those in allied fields can network and discuss common objectives and issues of mutual interest.
- To seek to educate the public and influence public policy as it applies to the professions of translation and interpretation.

Website
MATI’s website (www.matiata.org) keeps members, non-members, and anyone interested in the professions of translation and interpretation informed about any relevant events within the tri-state region and beyond. In addition to membership information, a calendar of events, and links to professional resources, the site also provides access to MATI’s searchable online membership directory. Visitors can also download issues of the association’s quarterly newsletter, inforMATIon.

Activities
In addition to meetings featuring speakers on all aspects of translation and interpretation and networking opportunities at these events and annual holiday parties, MATI holds professional development workshops and seminars that qualify for ATA Continuing Education points. The most recent event was a workshop for judicial interpreters, held in March in Milwaukee. The featured speakers were Christina Green, who spoke on the role of the interpreter as an expert witness, and Bruce Goodman, who gave a presentation on how the code of ethics impacts interpretation in the courtroom. MATI’s Annual Conference will take place in September in Indiana, where MATI also held a very successful medical interpreting workshop this past February, featuring Cynthia Roat, principal author of Bridging the Gap, the training program for medical interpreters. Please check www.matiata.org/html/calendar.html for updates.

Quick Facts
- Acronym: MATI
- Established: 2003
- Mission: promote the recognition and advancement of translation and interpretation as professions.
- Area served: Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin
- Newsletter: inforMATIon (quarterly)
- Website: www.matiata.org
- Phone: (312) 322-0134 or (312) 427-5450
- Fax: (312) 427-1505
- E-mail: MATIemail@matiata.org
- Mailing address: 542 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 1060 Chicago, IL 60605
This month’s column deals with managing clients. Small business owners often cling to the idea that they must take whatever work they can get, no matter how unpleasant the source. A little strategic planning, however, can help eliminate “problem” clients.

Question: My “problem,” if you can call it that, is a client that makes a lot of demands. This is one of the first translation agencies I ever worked for, and I have stuck with them over the years. The management of the company is chaotic and the project managers often change. They have repeatedly asked me to lower my prices. Of course, they were the first to demand a staggered price model when the TRADOS price model craze came about. On top of that, they seem to assume that I have nothing to do until they come along with some new project. How do I handle this situation politely and professionally?

K.H., by e-mail

Answer: There is little chance you can change a particular client, but you certainly have the right to select your own customers. Freelancers often feel obliged to accept as much work as they can get from anyone who will give it to them, forgetting that they, too, can make their own business decisions. Now may be the time for you to apply some “portfolio management,” a technique that anyone, not just large corporations, can use.

Start with an overview of your client portfolio: Make a list of everyone you have worked for in the past year, then assign each client to a group A, group B, or group C, in order of preference. Your “A” clients, for example, may provide interesting work on a regular basis, are well-organized, and pay on time. The “B” group clients are pleasant to work for, but send assignments only at irregular intervals. “C” clients either contact you infrequently or have flaws—chronically late payments, demands for lower rates—that make them less desirable as a customer.

Your next tool is “targeted business development,” a process in which you make the most of “A” clients, develop and upgrade “B” clients, and divest yourself of “C” clients. Consider your client groups: Are you spending time on “C” clients that you could instead devote to the “A” and “B” groups? Some business advisors suggest dropping two clients every year to make room for more profitable business relationships, and in this example the members of the “C” group would be the first to go.

Next time, instead of responding to your “problem client” with lame excuses such as “So sorry, fully booked,” or “Already have several large projects,” take a deep breath and start cleaning out your portfolio. Write a friendly message to your “C” clients explaining that you no longer wish to be part of their freelance database, since you are increasing your prices. You will be surprised to find how quickly the project space fills up with more desirable work from “A” or “B” customers.

Questions?

Send your questions about the business of translation and interpretation to The ATA Chronicle—BPEC Q&A; 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314; Fax: (703) 683-6122; E-mail: businesspractices@atanet.org.

Questions must be accompanied by a complete name and address, but will be published anonymously or pseudonymously upon request.

ATA members can also discuss business issues online at the following Yahoo! group:

You will need to register with Yahoo! (at no charge) if you have not already done so, and provide your ATA member number in order to join the group.
Perfection being not of this earth, how bad is unacceptable where translations are concerned?

The question arose again this month as Onionskin readers sent in a steady stream of print materials from three continents—some comically disjointed, some downright incomprehensible, and some no doubt passable for the man in the street, but irritating for the linguist. For example, if you bother installing a permanent sign to welcome foreign visitors—a sign that costs money to produce, takes space that might be sold to advertisers, and is likely to stay up for several years—well, why not get the preposition right the first time? (“Welcome at Paris” spotted at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris).

One level up, earnest tourist authorities and law enforcement teams can identify a problem for foreign visitors and—proactively—set out to do something about it.

In Prague, police stations faced with a steep rise in complaints from foreign tourists and businesspeople did just that, designing and displaying a warning to foreign visitors about pickpockets in popular tourist areas. Nice design, clever concept, graphics, and Czech phrases; pity about the English, clearly done in-house by a non-native speaker:

“My wife told me that Prague is heaven on the Earth. Unfortunate, for pickpockets as well. Look out your stuff, please.”

Our efforts to contact the perpetrators failed as a friendly representative of the city’s tourist authority claimed her team was not involved and phone calls to the police foundered; all switchboards we reached were manned by monolingual Czech speakers. Nor was anyone able to tell us how many pickpockets had moved in for the kill as chortling tourists hauled out cameras to record the officials’ warning in “international English.”

For the record, professional translators work into their native language only, a rule of thumb that becomes all the more important when documents are for public display.

The Onionskin  By Chris Durban

The Onionskin is a client education column launched by the ITI Bulletin (a publication of the U.K.’s Institute of Translation and Interpreting) in 1996. Comments and leads for future columns are very welcome; please include full contact details. Contact: chrisdurban@noos.fr or fax +33 1 43 87 70 45.

Professional Needed—Blank Czech Suffers

Attention Exhibitors

47th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association

New Orleans, Louisiana
November 1-4, 2006


Plan now to exhibit at the American Translators Association’s 47th Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 1-4, 2006. Exhibiting at the ATA Annual Conference offers the best opportunity to market your products and services face-to-face to more than 1,300 translators and interpreters in one location. Translators and interpreters are consumers of computer hardware and software, technical publications and reference books, office products, and much more. For additional information, please contact Matt Hicks, McNeill Group Inc.; mhicks@mcNeill-group.com (215) 321-9662, ext. 19; Fax: (215) 321-9636.
Dictionary Reviews  Compiled by Boris Silversteyn

Silversteyn is chair of the ATA Dictionary Review Committee.

L’Étonnant voyage des mots français dans les langues étrangères
Author: Franck Resplandy
Publisher: Editions Bartillat; Paris
Publication date: 2006
Number of pages: 196
Price: $25

Reviewed by: Françoise Herrmann

Translators endeavor to keep their source and target systems separate so as to prevent contamination at various linguistic levels. However, there is no preventing contact among languages, perhaps even more so today than ever before with the invasion of Iraq in 2003, German linguists apparently decided to change linguistic contact by suggesting ways to replace English word borrowings with French borrowings, a list of which appears in L’Étonnant voyage. For example, the following French replacements were suggested (p. 65): “D’accord” instead of “Okay”; “Trikot” instead of “T-shirt”; “Formidable” instead of “Cool”; and “Chef” instead of “Boss,” all of which the author applauds as a German Francophile initiative, while questioning the linguistic effectiveness. Back home, of course, French suffered a major setback with restaurants all over the U.S. changing their menus to offer “Freedom fries.” As did Senator John Kerry (p. 106), when we find out he also became known as “Jean Chéri” to emphasize his ties to the French.

Have you ever wondered how all the linguistically loaded proper names of the comic strip Astérix have been exported—or translated—into the 100 languages of the 330 million copies sold worldwide? See pages 187 and 188 for a glimpse of the contact, and of our art, and put on a smile. For example, “Panoramix” (the Druid) is called “Miraculix” in Germany, Denmark, and Sweden; “Magigimix” in the U.S.; “Aspirinx” in Hungary; and “Abrakadabrix” in South Africa (Afrikaans)! You are in for a few more surprises when you find out (p. 126) that it is assumed your favorite “Mariachi” bands derive their names from signs that were placed outside that read “marriage ici” (wedding here) some 400 years ago in Mexico. Would you also be surprised to find out that the Chinese way of answering the
phone. “Wei,” comes from the French “Ouais,” spoken in Shanghai in the 1920s (p. 194), despite the bountiful wealth of the Chinese language, which names the telephone “diànhuà,” meaning “electric words,” as Resplandy points out. There are 196 pages of this kind of research, and wonderful information. Next time you hail a “cab,” remember that it derives from the word “cabriolet” (a fast, horse-drawn carriage), (p. 41). When summer comes and you wear your favorite “bikini,” remember it was created on July 5, 1946 in Paris, and that the name was borrowed from the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands where nuclear testing was underway (p. 32). You can also fill in the associative blanks regarding “explosions” and sexuality until you hear it directly from Franck Resplandy. Meanwhile, check out page 130 for “MAYDAY,” an international term derived from the French “Venez m’aider” (Come and help me).

**Figure 1: Sample boxed entry: List of French names and their suggested American adaptations (page 131)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allain</td>
<td>Allen</td>
<td>Desjardin</td>
<td>Gardener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allaire</td>
<td>Alley</td>
<td>Duhamel</td>
<td>Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asselin</td>
<td>Ashley</td>
<td>Dupont</td>
<td>Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auclair</td>
<td>O’Clair</td>
<td>Faure</td>
<td>Ford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaudoin</td>
<td>Boardman</td>
<td>Fontaine</td>
<td>Fountaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellemare</td>
<td>Bellemore</td>
<td>Gervais</td>
<td>Jarvic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard</td>
<td>Barney</td>
<td>Labelle</td>
<td>Pretty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benoît</td>
<td>Bennett</td>
<td>Lachance</td>
<td>Lashon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonenfant</td>
<td>Goodbaby</td>
<td>Lacroix</td>
<td>Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boncoeur</td>
<td>Bunker</td>
<td>Lajeunesse</td>
<td>Lisherness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulanger</td>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Lamontagne</td>
<td>Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bourgeois</td>
<td>Bulger</td>
<td>Langlais</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breton</td>
<td>Britton</td>
<td>Larivièrè</td>
<td>Marlborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leblanc</td>
<td>Blank</td>
<td>Leclerc</td>
<td>Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bussiere</td>
<td>Bush</td>
<td>Lajeune</td>
<td>Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caron</td>
<td>Carey</td>
<td>Levesque</td>
<td>Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charpentier</td>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>Mercier</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrétien</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Michaud</td>
<td>Mitchell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clément</td>
<td>Claymore</td>
<td>Picard</td>
<td>Pecor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cousteau</td>
<td>Custo</td>
<td>Poirier</td>
<td>Pepper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deschamps</td>
<td>Dayfield</td>
<td>Villeneuve</td>
<td>Newton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Autre exemple et des plus célèbres, celui de Walt Disney. Ses ancêtres, originaires de Normandie, portaient le nom de Disigny; un nom prédéposé pour faire son beurre en Amérique. [Walt Disney is another more famous example. His ancestors, hailing from Normandy, were called Disigny, which is a name that appears destined to make bread (and butter) in America.]
**Tool Box for the Medical Translator**

**Author:**
Alain Côté

**Publisher:**
Janssen-Ortho Inc.
19 Green Belt Drive
Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1L9, Canada
(416) 382-5223

**Publication date:**
2005

**Number of pages:**
44 pages, including table of contents and introduction

**Available from:**
For free at www.groupetraduction.ca (under “Resources” [on the English side] or “Ressources” [on the French side]).

**Reviewed by:**
Sharlee Merner Bradley

There are a number of collections of resources for translators, but this guide is specifically for medical translators to or from English in general, especially for French and most of all for Canadian and U.S. translators. It also has a few references to Spanish and German.

Medical translators, both beginners and experienced, will no doubt find a useful resource here, especially in the pharmaceuticals field. Many of the URLs contain references to other sites, and so the Internet helps us in its typical fashion.

The author is the director of linguistic services at Janssen-Ortho Inc., a member of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies. He holds a B.A. in French and a B.A. in business administration. He has translated documents in French for the Translation Bureau of the Government of Canada, a major translation firm and now a pharmaceutical company in Toronto. He is a certified translator of the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario, an associate member of the ATA, and a member of the Translation Group – Rx&D, which brings together the translators of Canadian brand-name pharmaceutical companies.

This compendium of resources is objective, professional, and well organized, without extraneous diversions. Nearly all my favorite medical and pharmaceutical references are mentioned; especially useful is Djordjevic’s French-English medical dictionary (Svetolik P. Djordjevic. 2004. *Dictionnaire de médecine*, Second Revised Edition. Schreiber Publishing).

Another of the admirable qualities of the *Tool Box* is the author’s annotations. Instead of merely listing books, URLs, and other resources, Mr. Côté has carefully described each so that the translator can make a quick assessment of whether it would be useful to investigate the particular item. Here is a typical example:


This convenient pocket-size guide contains thousands of English abbreviations and is revised about every other year. The purchase of the book includes free access to the online version for two years. The author invites the readers to send him their additions, corrections, or suggestions. The guide can be ordered on the author’s website at www.medabbrev.com.

Resources in the *Tool Box* are divided into categories and listed in a table of contents: manuals and guides; monolingual and bilingual medical dictionaries; online dictionaries; specialized books, such as textbooks; and monolingual and bilingual periodicals and articles on medical translation (including most everything published in the field by ATA, which is more than you might suspect).

The websites listed are classified by associations (translation, pharmaceutical industry, medical profession), national and international organizations, laws and regulations, a list of pharmaceutical companies and their contact information, periodicals on translation, and more. I noted that prices are not given; presumably they change.

There is a list of study program information for budding pharmaceutical translators. The last resource included is a reference to a few of the better known bookstores and publishers where pharmaceutical materials are available.

This is certainly the most complete pharmaceutical translation resource list that I have seen. It can only get better when the 2007 edition includes all the suggestions readers send the author, as he invites them to do on the special form included. These suggestions include: listing the ATA’s Medical Division and its newsletter *Caduceus*, along with the association’s Spanish and French divisions, which often cover medical/pharmaceutical terminology in their online publications; mentioning *Physician’s Desk Reference* equivalents in all the common languages; and including more of the vast amount of information available to the pharmaceutical/medical translator/interpreter.

Continued on p.41
In the March issue, the Translation Inquirer mentioned the virtues of a dual monitor as part of a translator’s workstation, but it is only fair to add a postscript. Without some sort of power upgrade for your computer, you will notice that the presence of a dual monitor may cause some applications to run slower. But not when you’re actually working on your translation, and that’s what is most important. That remains stellar in every way!

(Abbreviations used with this column: Da-Danish; E-English; F-French; G-German; Hi-Hindi; I-Italian; In-Indonesian; Po-Polish; R-Russian; Sp-Spanish.)

New Queries

(E-G 5-06/1) What, asks a ProZ member, is good German for "waiver of rights?" There ought to be a standard answer for this by now, but maybe not.

(E-HI 5-06/2) Welcome aboard to Hindi for the first time at least since April 1993. This medical query from a ProZer derives from the word in bold print in this context sentence: According to the company, there is insufficient medication at your site to randomise this subject. Evidently, there is something about the range of medication choices at the unnamed site that does not fit in with the trial. What’s it all about—especially in Hindi?

(E-I 5-06/3) Perhaps, in a column devoted to professional-level questions and replies to them, the following might represent a bit of a light-hearted break, especially as it comes from the narrative from part of a comic strip. We need good Italian for coming down hard, as in “He took a six-foot jump at about 120 miles per hour; coming down hard in his front wheel... too hard!”

(E-In 5-06/4) Intuitively you can sense what this job title (spatial planning draftsman) refers to in a list of a company’s various personnel and their duties, but how do we help a ProZ member render it into good Indonesian—another language appearing here for the first time on my watch.

(E-R 5-06/5) Spelling machines in the context meant by this ProZer (patents for children’s toys) look like child’s play, but not when the term has to go into Russian, a language that uses such circumlocutions as приятнîй, but generally seems uncomfortable with equivalents to the English verb to spell. Who wants to deal with this problem? Notice, I deliberately didn’t write “issue.”

(E-Sp 5-06/6) A perplexed ProZ member stumbled over effective breaths in “If you cannot achieve effective breaths, recheck the casualty’s mouth. Make no more than 5 attempts to achieve 2 effective breaths.” Sounds like Newspeak in the world of resuscitation. A correct answer to this might help save a life!

(G-E 5-06/7) A Lantra-l user working on an annual report stumbled over the following: “Da die grundsätzliche Entwicklung von [XY software] in 2006 abgeschlossen sein wird, erwarteten wir ab dem Jahr 2007 keine weiteren nennenswerten aktivierbaren Eigenleistungen.” What to do about the last two words?

(G-Po 5-06/8) English, as well as Polish, is acceptable as the target language for this virtual market query. The phrases in bold print caused consternation. “Jeder Lieferant ist auch Käufer von Teilen. Den Druck der käuferseitigen Marktplätze kann er damit (zumindest teilweise) wieder weitergeben, indem er seinen Einkauf ebenfalls über Marktplätze realisiert.” What is going on here?

(I-E 5-06/9) This is from an appeal in a European Union case against a company for price fixing. “Viene da chiedersi se la Commissione non abbia scelto di non coinvolgere nella indagine FELICITA GROUP BV, scegliendo invece di riversare ogni e qualsiasi responsabilità, in successione ed in ultimo, alla sola MARGHERITA SAC, sol perchè…” It’s the four words in bold print that caused a ProZ user to turn for help to his colleagues. Any ideas?

(Sp-E 5-06/10) What follows is a play on words, so handle it with care. It’s a headline in an advertisement about car insurance, and the problem phrase is “A tu consentido protégelo con sentido.” Preserve, as you translate into English, the play on words, with the word in bold print referring to a child, not a car, and you are truly stellar!

(Sp-P 5-06/11) Just two words in the following legal text were enough to send a ProZer scurrying to the Web for help: “la Sociedad recibió notificación sobre los expedientes sancionatorios derivados de las actas anteriormente mencionadas.” What are they? (Even the vastly Spanish-deficient Translation Inquirer knows that something plural is being spoken of here.)

Replies to Old Queries

(E-Da 2-06/1) (mist coat): Suzanne Blangsted reports that according to the dictionary from L&H Publishing Co., page 316, Bygge- og anlægsteknik, the Danish term is “slør.” Directly back-translated, this means veil.

(E-G 2-06/2) (We bucketed these planks…): Ted Woziak notes that this would appear to be British
As a French Canadian translator, Mr. Côté has shared the benefits of his broad experience with all of us. We can only be grateful.

English based on the spelling of colour. That said, he would interpret that to mean simply that these planks (individual parts of an overall program) were “hastily placed” under the responsibility of the office and production departments.

(G-E 2-06/4) (Fortsetzungszusammenhang): John Kinory says this concept means that a series of offenses can be regarded as one offense to be considered by the court, where there is sufficient continuity or association of (a) intent, (b) object, and (c) physical performance between them, to make them count as only one “large” offense. Therefore, he proposes association of offenses.

(G-E 3-06/10) (Nk): Per Dohler, who kindly proofreads this column, believes that in this context, these are “Nebenkosten.”

(Po-E 2-06/7) (gniot): Thomas Hedden think that “gniot” means bore in Polish. Typically, says John Burek, the word “gniot” describes a bread- or yeast-based cake that is flat, heavy, and unappetizing. In the inquiry sentence, this word is used as a slang expression. The movie in question was of poor quality in terms of the screenplay and actors’ performances. This kind of movie is often attractive to a certain type of audience, but is usually trashed by the critics.

A major national comic strip, “Dilbert” by Scott Adams, brought some attention to our profession in a strip that appeared on Saturday, March 25th. Dilbert’s big boss (the one with the twin triangular towers of black hair that look like horns) is sitting at a desk, negotiating with an Elbonian, that is to say, an individual whose dress makes him look like one of the ancient Sumerian kings. The representative is saying to Dilbert’s boss, “My Elbonian factory can manufacture your product for pennies.” “Is there any downside?” asks the boss. “Minor translation issues,” says the Elbonian. The final panel depicts two black-bearded industrialists back in Elbonia, one of whom is relaying what he thinks he has just heard on the phone to the other. “They either said ‘plastic’ or ‘the spleen of a pig-footed bandicoot.’” The other Elbonian admits, “We don’t have any plastic,” as he sits next to a box labeled “Spleens.” Both men are dressed like the Elbonian representative and are up to their waists in water, for reasons not explained.

On another note, the number of replies to old queries in this column looks marginally acceptable, but unfortunately represents two months’ worth of such replies. Only Thomas Hedden’s extremely concise reply was available one month ago, which is why the column was canceled for that month. Let’s hope it was just a statistical anomaly. I think we would all hate to see this column become a bimonthly event in The ATA Chronicle, or—God forbid—quarterly.

Dictionary Reviews Continued from p. 39

As a French Canadian translator, Mr. Côté has shared the benefits of his broad experience with all of us. We can only be grateful.

Correction

The name of the editor of the Merl Bilingual Law Dictionary was misspelled in Tom West’s review in the March issue. We wish to apologize to the editor and publisher. The following shows the correct spelling of the editor’s name and the complete publication information:

Merl Bilingual Law Dictionary/Diccionario Jurídico Bilingüe (Spanish-to-English/English-to-Spanish)

| Editor:               | Cuauhtémoc Gallegos |
| Publisher:            | Merl Publications    |
| Address:              | 1658 N Milwaukee Avenue, #242 Chicago, IL 60647 |
| Website:              | www.merlpublications.com |
| Price:                | $45 |
| Publication Date:     | 2005 |
| ISBN:                 | 1-886347-03-4 |
Humor and Translation  By Mark Herman

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

Go Ghoti!

I believe it was George Bernard Shaw, a passionate advocate for English spelling and alphabet reform, who cited “ghoti” as a paradigm for the absurdity of existing English spellings. He pointed out that “gh” could be pronounced as in “laugh,” “o” as in “women,” and “ti” as in “motion.” Rather than pronounce the word thus, I suggest that the “gh” be pronounced as in “weigh,” the “o” as in “people,” the “t” as in “bouquet,” and the “i” as in “business.” After all, some things just can’t be said.

Some words, such as “victual” (pronounced “vittle”), have been ejected from the language because of their atrocious spellings. “Impact” as a verb has almost completely overtaken “affect” in spoken American English, mainly, in my opinion, because few people could remember whether the latter is spelled “affect” or “effect.”

While the English language has 12 (or 13) vowel sounds, the English alphabet has only five (or six) vowel letters. Not to worry. There are myriad spellings of the vowel sounds, many involving the use of consonant letters, as in “weigh” above (only two paragraphs above, so not way above).

And while there are three redundant consonant letters, “c,” “q,” and “x,” there are still not enough letters for all the consonant sounds. So digraphs like “ch” and “sh,” among other things, are used to fill the gaps. But the digraph sounds can sometimes also be spelled with a single letter (sure they can), and digraphs can represent sounds usually represented by a single character.

“Chord” (with an “h”), meaning three or more harmonious musical notes, comes, according to my dictionary, from “cord,” which is a contraction of “accord,” neither of which has an “h.” “Cord” (without an “h”), meaning a string or rope, according to that same dictionary, comes from the Latin “chorda” (which does have an “h”).

So why not a reform of the conglomeration of historical accidents, correct and incorrect linguistic borrowings, regional variations, and outright blunders that constitute the English spelling system? Why not remove the point of the old joke about the foreigner who gave up trying to learn English when he saw the newspaper headline, “Spring carnival pronounced success!”? Because language usually changes from below, not above, when those who speak it want it to change, when they want “impact” instead of “affect.” Spelling “reform” probably will occur in the near future as English speakers read and write less and less and use phonetic shorthand more and more for e-mail.

Reform can come from above, but it takes something like the Norman Conquest to effect it. That was how two useful letters, the edh (ð ð) and thorn (þ þ), were lost. Eventually both were replaced by “th.” The affected practice of misspelling “the” as “ye” was started by someone with poor vision who thought that “ye” looked like “pe.”

Much later, another letter was lost. Arthur Graham wrote a poem about it, used here by permission:

Should Old & Quaint / Be Forgot?

A barely discernible dash distinguishes / from f,
while modern r and / f are different as Mutt and Jeff.
Rambunctious, angry diffident misreads as timid different;
flower, lift, and faster
as flower, fift, and faster.
Fricatives gang aft agley, errors are brought to mind;
old long / should be forgot
and days of the auld lang s Jennifer.

Go Ghoti!
The founding members of the European Language Industry Association (ELIA) are happy to announce the official launch of the association. ELIA is committed to representing the best interests of companies or organizations active in Europe in translation, interpreting, and localization. The association aims to become the umbrella organization for professional translation companies throughout Europe, including, but not limited to, the European Union. ELIA also intends to establish relationships with colleagues and associated organizations from other parts of the world, with the aim of making the voice of the translation industry heard worldwide. It also aims to share information, provide a forum for networking, and promote the concept of ethics and quality standards throughout the industry. ELIA wishes to invite translation companies and organizations that share these same values to join and participate in the activities of the association. For further information please contact Roberto Ganzerli, ELIA president, at roberto.ganzerli@elia-association.org, or visit our website at www.elia-association.org.

Launch of the European Language Industry Association Announced

ATA Member Vigdis Eriksen Joins NYC Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner of Small Business Services to Announce Major New Initiative

Vigdis Eriksen, president and chief executive officer of Eriksen Translations, joined New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the Department of Small Business Services Commissioner Robert Walsh, and a small group of business leaders in Lower Manhattan earlier this year to announce the first steps to dramatically expand the online capacity of NYC Business Solutions, the city’s comprehensive business assistance program. The cornerstone of the expansion will be “Business Express,” a website currently under development that will allow small business owners to set up personal accounts and get the help they need to start and grow their businesses, access incentives, as well as secure necessary permits and licenses from multiple agencies at the same time.

“Eriksen Translations’ collaboration with the Department of Small Business Services is a prime example of the kind of relationships we want to foster with businesses throughout the city,” explained Commissioner Walsh. Having worked together with the Department of Small Business Services and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Eriksen was awarded a Building Skills in New York State training grant for $41,291 last November. Eriksen employees are currently participating in training that will keep the company on the forefront of evolving technologies and business practices.

With Ms. Eriksen at his side, Mayor Bloomberg stated, “Since day one, we have worked tirelessly to make the City of New York the most business-friendly city in the nation. The city’s Department of Small Business Services has become the premier point of contact for small businesses and entrepreneurs looking for help.” Along with the “Business Express” website, the Department plans to establish 17 new NYC Business Solution Centers, and launch a new real estate selector tool as the city’s only no-cost website where businesses can find a comprehensive inventory of available industrial and retail spaces in all five boroughs.

Though Eriksen has worked with several city agencies for many years and continues to develop relationships with offices and organizations at all levels of government, this type of collaboration sets a new standard for Eriksen’s community involvement. “As a language services provider, I have always been committed to bridging cultural gaps around me, but it’s an honor to benefit from the same kind of thinking on the business level. I’m very proud to help the mayor and the City of New York promote this wonderful resource,” said Ms. Eriksen.
Upcoming Events

June 2-3, 2006
California Healthcare Interpreting Association
Sixth Annual Education Conference
“Connecting the Pieces”
Renaissance Montura Hotel
Los Angeles, California
www.chia.ws

June 3, 2006
Delaware Valley Translators Association Spring Interpreting Seminar
Holiday Inn Historic District
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
www.dvta.org

June 17-18, 2006
IJET-17
International Conference Center
Kobe, Japan
www.jat.org/ijet/ijet-17

June 17, 2006
ATA Patent Translation Seminar
Doubletree Crystal City
Arlington Virginia
www.atanet.org/pd/patent

June 23-25, 2006
Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association
2006 Conference
Des Moines, Iowa
www.iitanet.org

June 26-30, 2006
Localization Industry Standards Association Global Strategies Summit
New York City, New York
www.lisa.org

October 18-21, 2006
American Literary Translators Association 29th Annual Conference
Seattle, Washington
www.literarytranslators.org

October 25-27, 2006
Languages & the Media
Sixth International Conference and Exhibition
Language Transfer in Audiovisual Media
Hotel InterContinental
Berlin, Germany
www.languages-media.com

November 1-4, 2006
American Translators Association 47th Annual Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana

Honors and Awards
See www.atanet.org for details

2006 Alicia Gordon Award
for Word Artistry in Translation
Deadline: June 1, 2006

American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation
JTG Scholarship in Scientific and Technical Translation or Interpretation
Deadline: June 1, 2006

2006 Harvie Jordan Scholarship
Deadline: September 18, 2006

S. Edmund Berger Prize
Scientific and Technical Translation
Deadline: September 18, 2006

ATA’s Membership Directory
Keeps You Connected All Year Long
You’ll find the most up-to-date contact information for your ATA colleagues online, day or night!
Search by name, location, even by email address—just click
www.atanet.org/membersonly.
Active Membership Review

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

**Active**
- Bell K. Anderson
  Strafford, PA
- Rosa P. Burkard
  Alpharetta, GA
- H. Anthony Kim
  Torrance, CA
- Arturo Valdivia
  Laguna Beach, CA

**Corresponding**
- Jean Lachaud
  Bedford Hills, NY
- Angela A. Milliken
  Farmington Hills, MI
- Sheila Wilkin
  Guatemala, Guatemala

**New Certified Member**

Congratulations! The following person has successfully passed ATA's certification exam:

- Italian into English
  Michele Marcoux
  Venice, CA

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**Attention Advertisers:**

Reserve your Spot Today

Increase your company’s visibility by placing an ad in *The ATA Chronicle.*

Contact:
Matt Hicks at McNeill Group Inc.
mhicks@mncell-group.com
215.321.9662 ext. 19.

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**Miami Dade College**

Miami Dade College has the only program in the nation that offers Translation and Interpretation Studies in Haitian-Creole/English

- Associate in Science degree prepares you to enter the workforce upon program completion.
- Two certificate options available: translation studies and/or interpretation studies.
- Internship opportunities in local hospitals, courts and translation/interpretation agencies.
- Experienced faculty and state-of-the-art interpretation laboratory.
- Compare costs. MDC has been your best education value for 45 years.
- ATA approved.

Call 305-237-6368 or 305-237-6259 today!

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** ATA Ethics Course**

All certified members are required to earn one CE point by completing an ethics course.

For details, go to: www.atanet.org/acc/ce_online_ethics_component.htm.

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**Membership Notes**

Here is what some of our members have been up to…

**Congratulations!**

- To Steven P. Iverson, founder and president of Iverson Language Associates, Inc., who celebrates his company’s 20th anniversary this year.

- To Beverly Wall, owner and chief executive officer of Languages International in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for being named one of only 14 Business Stars for 2006 by The Women’s Business Enterprise National Council. Wall is the only Michigan businesswoman to receive this national honor.

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**Increase your company’s visibility by placing an ad in The ATA Chronicle.**

Contact:
Matt Hicks at McNeill Group Inc.
mhicks@mncell-group.com
215.321.9662 ext. 19.
2006 Harvie Jordan Scholarship
ATA Spanish Language Division

**Purpose:** To promote, encourage, and support leadership and professional development of translators and interpreters within ATA’s Spanish Language Division and to honor Harvie Jordan’s lifetime contributions as a language professional.

**Description of Award:** Paid registration to ATA’s Annual Conference or the SPD Annual Conference, as desired.

**Eligibility:** Limited to ATA Spanish Language Division members in good standing with two or more years of membership.

**Deadline:** September 18, 2006

**Criteria for Selection:**
1. Demonstrated leadership skills and career goals;
2. ATA Spanish Language Division involvement and commitment to service;
3. Special contributions to translation and interpretation.

Please limit your response to each of the selection criteria above to 100 words or less. Send your application via e-mail to AFTI at: aftiorg@aol.com.

Applications will be numbered, de-identified, and distributed to the Scholarship Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will consist of members of ATA's Spanish Language Division.

All selections are final. The number of scholarships available will depend on the funds available. Scholarship winners will be asked to contribute an article to *Intercambios*, the SPD newsletter, reporting on the conference or a session they attended.

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S. Edmund Berger Prize
Excellence in Scientific and Technical Translation

The ATA and the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI) invite nominations for the annual S. Edmund Berger Prize.

The $1,000 prize is offered to recognize excellence in scientific and technical translation by an ATA member.

Individual translators or translation companies wishing to nominate a translator for this prestigious award may obtain a nomination form from the AFTI website (www.afti.org) or from AFTI at the following address:

**AFTI • Columbia Plaza—Suite 101 • 350 East Michigan Avenue • Kalamazoo, MI 49007**

Nominations must be received by September 18, 2006, and will be judged by a three-member national jury. The recipient of the award will be announced during the 2006 ATA Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana (November 1-4, 2006).
Second Annual School Outreach Contest
Join ATA’s School Outreach movement and start educating clients one classroom at a time.

It’s easy • It’s fun • It’s free
… and it could win you free registration to this year’s conference in New Orleans, November 1-4, 2006.

2. Pick the age level you like the best and click on it.
3. Download a presentation and deliver it at your local school or university.
4. Get someone to take a picture of you in the classroom.
5. Send it to ATA’s Public Relations Committee at pr@atanet.org (subject line: School Outreach Contest) or to 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please include your name and contact information, the date, the school’s name and location, and a brief description of the class. The deadline for submissions is July 17, 2006.

The best photograph wins free registration to ATA’s 2006 Annual Conference in New Orleans! The winner will be contacted no later than August 18, 2006. You may submit multiple entries, and any member of ATA or of any ATA-affiliated organization is eligible to enter. (See below for some great photo tips.)

Any questions? Contact: Lillian Clementi, lillian@lingualegal.com

A Winning Photo Is As Easy as 1-2-3!
Follow these guidelines to improve your chances of taking this year’s prize:

1. Make sure the photo shows clearly that you are talking about translation and/or interpreting. This could include: words behind you on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or flip chart; an interesting prop; or classroom decorations, such as flags, foreign vocabulary or maps.

2. If possible, include both yourself and one or more students in the photo. If the school’s confidentiality policy prohibits showing children’s faces in the photo, try a shot that shows them from the back.

3. Aim for a photo that is clear enough for effective reproduction in The ATA Chronicle and other promotional materials. Ideally, it should be visually pleasing as well, although we are willing to do some cropping and enhancing if the content is good.

The ideal photograph would combine these elements to create an image that captures the fun of translation and interpreting, your passion for the profession, and the interest and engagement of your audience.

Attention
Korean Language Translators and Interpreters!

A special interest group has been formed to explore the possibility of establishing a Korean Language Division within the American Translators Association. If you are interested, please subscribe to the discussion listserve by sending an e-mail to ata-Korean-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Note: You must be an ATA member to belong to any of its divisions.
Continuing Education Points

ATA-certified translators must earn **20 points** of continuing education credit over **3 years**, with a maximum of **10 points** in any given year, to keep their certification current.

Eligible Continuing Education

You can earn continuing education points in any of 6 categories. Each has a maximum number of points per year or 3-year reporting period.

A. Translation/interpreting courses, seminars, workshops, and conferences

Points: 1 point per hour for attending translation/interpreting seminars, workshops, and conferences (up to 10 points per event); 1 point per hour for college and university courses (up to 5 points per course); 2 points per hour for teaching/presenting classes, seminars, workshops, and conference sessions.

Maximum: Up to 10 points in any given year.

No approval required: ATA annual/regional conferences, preconference seminars, and professional development seminars and CDs from these events. ATA chapter and division seminars, conferences, and workshops. Courses, seminars, and conferences offered by nationally accredited university translation/interpreting programs in the United States. ATA Certification Program grader training.

Approval required (before or after the event): Translation/interpreting courses, seminars, workshops, and conferences offered by other translation/interpreting associations in the United States or abroad, or by university translation/interpreting programs abroad. Privately offered seminars on translation/interpreting.

Approval process: While no approval is required, ATA chapters, divisions, and nationally accredited translation/interpreting programs in the United States are encouraged to submit an approval request to ATA Headquarters for record keeping prior to their classes, seminars, and conferences.

For other events, use the forms on pages 51 and 52 to submit instructor credentials and a session abstract, course description, syllabus, conference proceedings, or other supporting documentation to the Certification Program Manager at ATA Headquarters for approval, either before or after the event.

Examples: ATA Spanish Division Mid-Year Conference; NYU Translation Program online courses; Kent State University’s Terminology Summer Academy; conferences organized by the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators.

B. Other courses and seminars

Points: 1 point per hour for attending, 2 points per hour for teaching/presenting (up to 2 points per course or seminar).

Maximum: Up to 5 points in a 3-year period.

No approval required: Courses, seminars, and workshops in your area of specialization, such as law, medicine, finance, or technical fields. ATA translation/interpreting ethics workshop. Target-language grammar and writing courses. Seminars and workshops on translation-support software and other tools of the trade.

Approval required (before or after the event): Seminars and workshops on running your business.

Approval process: You will be asked to provide a statement at reporting time attesting that each course, seminar, or workshop relates to your specialization. You can claim the ATA ethics workshop only once.

For seminars and workshops on running your business, use the forms on pages 51 and 52 to submit instructor credentials and a session abstract, course description, syllabus, conference proceedings, or other supporting documentation to the Certification Program Manager at ATA Headquarters for approval, either before or after the event.

Examples: Financial Accounting course at the University of Vermont; California Bar Association online legal continuing education; training sessions on TRADOS, Déjà Vu, Star, Transit, and other translation-support tools; Pharmacological Update at the Georgetown School of Nursing and Health Studies.
C. Memberships in professional associations

Points: 1 point for each current membership in a professional association of each type: translation/interpreting or specialization-specific.

Maximum: Up to 2 points per 3-year period.

No approval required: Membership in a translation/interpreting professional association.

Approval required: Membership in a specialization-specific professional association.

Approval process: You will be asked to provide evidence of membership at reporting time. For specialization-specific professional associations, you will be asked to provide a description of the association and how it relates to your translation work.

Examples: ATA and ATA local chapters; National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators; International Association of Conference Interpreters; Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association; Société Française des Traducteurs; Society for Technical Communication; Society of Automotive Engineers; European Society of Clinical Pharmacy.

D. Mentors, mentees, and ATA Certification Program graders

Points: 1 point for each activity per year.

Maximum: Up to 6 points per 3-year period.

Approval required: ATA certification exam grading. ATA certification exam passage selection. Participating as a mentor or mentee in the ATA Mentoring Program.

Approval process: ATA Certification Program graders must have graded exams or selected passages during the year for which they claim points. Mentors and mentees must provide a statement from the Mentoring Committee Chair at reporting time.

E. New certifications and accreditations

Points: 1 point for each new certification or accreditation acquired from an approved professional organization or government agency.

Maximum: Up to 3 points per 3-year period.

No approval required: National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Federal Court, and foreign sworn translator credentials.

Approval required: Other credentials.

Approval process: National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Federal Court, and foreign sworn translator credentials are pre-approved, but proof must be provided. For other credentials, a description of the criteria for conferring the credential must be submitted to the Certification Program Manager at ATA Headquarters for approval. Attach a copy of the certificate awarded to your approval request.

F. Authoring articles or books

Points: 4 points for each new book published; 2 points for each new article published.

Maximum: Up to 4 points during the 3-year period.

Approval required: Published book on translation/interpreting. Published article on translation/interpreting in a professional journal/publication. (Translating a book or article is not counted as authoring a book or article.)

Approval process: Submit a copy of the title page of the book or article with the author’s name.
## Approval Request Form
### ATA Continuing Education Points (Individuals)

American Translators Association  
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590 • Alexandria VA 22314  
Tel: (703) 683-6100 • Fax (703) 683-6122 • E-mail: Certification@atanet.org • Website: www.atanet.org

Refer to CE Guidelines in print or online at www.atanet.org for further information!

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<th>Please print or type.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Name of requesting individual:</td>
<td>Daytime Phone:</td>
<td>ATA Membership Number:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Event sponsor’s contact information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of Sponsor:</td>
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<td>Contact Person:</td>
<td>Email:</td>
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<td>3. Event/presentation:</td>
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<td>4. Brief description of content:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Speaker’s name &amp; title:</td>
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*For conference or multi-day events, please list names and titles of speakers on a separate sheet*

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<tr>
<th>6. Date(s) of activity:</th>
<th>7. Time of activity: (from) (to)</th>
<th>8. Number of continuing education points requested:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 point per hour credit for seminars, workshops, and conferences, with a max. 10 points/event; 5 points max./university course</td>
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<th>9. Signature of requesting individual:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<th>For ATA Use Only</th>
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<tr>
<td>Points approved:</td>
</tr>
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<td>Reviewed by:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Approval Request Form
#### ATA Continuing Education Points (Groups)

**American Translators Association**
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590 • Alexandria VA 22314
Tel: (703) 683-6100 • Fax (703) 683-6122 • E-mail: Certification@atanet.org • Website: www.atanet.org

Refer to CE Guidelines in print or online at www.atanet.org for further information!

<table>
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<th>Please print or type.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Event sponsor’s contact information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of Sponsor: APA Chapter/Division: ____________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>❑ Other*: _______________________________________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Approval for non-ATA-sponsored activities must be sought by either the sponsor or the individual attending the activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Person: Email:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: Fax:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Event/presentation:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Brief description of content:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Speaker’s name &amp; title:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For conference or multi-day events, please list names and titles of speakers on a separate sheet*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. Date(s) of activity:</th>
<th>6. Time of activity: (from) (to)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| 7. Number of continuing education points requested: |

*1 point per hour credit for seminars, workshops, and conferences, with a max. 10 points/event; 5 points max./university course*

| 8. Signature of requesting individual: Title: Date: |

### For ATA Use Only

<table>
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<th>Points approved:</th>
<th>Comments:</th>
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<td>Reviewed by:</td>
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Instructions for Completing ATA Continuing Education Approval Request Forms

General Information:
• ATA maintains a database of approved events at which ATA-certified members may earn continuing education points (CEPs).
• For events not listed, an ATA approval request form must be completed and submitted to ATA Headquarters.
• Approval may be requested either prior to an event or after an event, with the understanding that the approval may be denied if documentation is insufficient or if the educational content does not meet ATA criteria.
• Individuals and groups requesting CEPs will be notified by ATA Headquarters that the event has been approved for a particular number of CEPs or that approval is denied.
• Individuals must keep track of their earned CEPs and report them to ATA Headquarters every three years upon request.

Select one of the following forms to complete:
1. If you represent a chapter, regional group, organization, institution, or other sponsor of activities, complete the Approval Request Form for Groups (page 52).
2. If you are an individual, complete the Approval Request Form for Individuals (page 51).

CEP Request Form for Groups
1) Provide the name and contact information for the group sponsoring the event.
   a) Check the appropriate box for your group and provide the group’s name.
   b) “Other” can include affiliated groups, international translation organizations, and universities.

   All ATA chapter educational events are automatically eligible for continuing education points. Events not sponsored by ATA or ATA chapters must be approved individually. Approval may be denied if documentation is insufficient or if the educational content does not meet ATA criteria.
2) Provide the name of the event or presentation.
3) Provide a brief description of the content of the event or presentation—two or three sentences should be sufficient.
4) Provide the speaker’s name and title.
   a) If this is a single session, one name and descriptive title are sufficient.
   b) If this is a conference or multi-day event, provide all names and titles on a separate page.
5) Provide the date(s) of the event.
6) Provide the starting and ending times.
   a) If this is a conference or multi-day event, provide the number of session hours for each day of the event. Session hours do not include breaks or meals.
7) Provide the number of CEPs you are requesting for your attendees—one hour of creditworthy activity equals one CEP—no partial hours can be counted.
8) The form must be signed and dated by the individual recommending the presentation or event for CEP approval.

CEP Request Form for Individuals
1) The individual requesting the CEPs must provide his/her ATA membership number and sign and date the form.
2) Provide the name and contact information for the group sponsoring the event.

   All ATA chapter educational events are automatically eligible for continuing education points. Events not sponsored by ATA or ATA chapters must be approved individually. Approval may be denied if documentation is insufficient or if the educational content does not meet ATA criteria.
3) Provide the name of the event or presentation.
4) Provide a brief description of the content of the event or presentation—two or three sentences should be sufficient.
5) Provide the speaker’s name and title.
   a) If this is a single session, one name and descriptive title are sufficient.
   b) If this is a conference or multi-day event, provide all names and titles on a separate page.
6) Provide the date(s) of the event.
7) Provide the starting and ending times.
   a) If this is a conference or multi-day event, provide the number of session-hours for each day of the event—session hours do not include breaks or meals.
8) Provide the number of CEPs you are requesting—one hour of creditworthy activity equals one CEP.

REMINDER
• ATA offers 1 CEP per hour for approved seminars, workshops, conferences, and presentations based on full hours (not including meals and breaks), up to a maximum of 10 CEPs per event. No partial hours will be counted.
• ATA offers a maximum of 5 CEPs for an approved college, university, or other course regardless of its length.
• The requesting group or individual will be notified if ATA does not approve the number of points requested.
• When reporting points, an ATA member is allowed a maximum of 10 CEPs for any given year.
Understand the practical aspects of patent translation including procedures for drafting and revising. Get an explanation of the typical documents encountered and what purpose they serve in the patent process. Learn how to prepare exact, literal, or mirror translations for use in patent practice. Hear the common pitfalls and how to avoid them. Acquire search techniques for reference documents and standard forms.

**Saturday, June 17**  
ATA will provide a full-day of in-depth sessions, including a continental breakfast, a Job Marketplace, and a Networking Session.

**Continuing Education**  
Earn 6 CEPs for the ATA Certification Program. Sessions will also be submitted for CIMCE credit for the States of California and Washington.

To learn more about the ATA Patent Translation Seminar, please visit [www.atanet.org/pd/patent](http://www.atanet.org/pd/patent) or contact ATA at (703) 683-6100 or ata@atanet.org.

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**Hotel Information**  
The Doubletree Crystal City, located at 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, is just across the Potomac River from Washington, DC.

A block of rooms has been reserved at $99 single a night, plus tax. To take advantage of this special rate, make your reservations by May 17. Call (703) 416-4100 and be sure to ask for the ATA group rate.

**Cancellation Policy**  
Cancellations received in writing by June 9, 2006 are eligible for a refund. Refunds will not be honored after June 9. A $25 administrative fee will be applied to all refunds.

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**2 Ways to Register**  
- Fax registration form to (703) 683-6122
- Mail registration form to ATA, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590 Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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**Don’t Forget**  
- include payment with your form
- make your hotel reservations
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An ATA certification exam sitting will be held on Sunday, June 18. This will be a standard exam, not specialty-specific. Visit [www.atanet.org/certification](http://www.atanet.org/certification) to obtain the Eligibility Requirements and Registration Form. Registration deadline is June 2.
Did you know that ...

the translators who responded to ATA’s *Translation and Interpreting Compensation Survey* charged an average of $0.18 per word and that the language combinations commanding the highest rate per word were English-to-Arabic, Danish-to-English, and Finnish-to-English.

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<th>First Name</th>
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ATA Chapters, Affiliated Groups, and Other Groups

ATA Chapters
Atlanta Association of Interpreters and Translators (AAIT)
P.O. Box 12172
Atlanta, GA 30355
Tel: (404) 729-4036
aaitinfo@aait.org • www.aait.org

Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters (CATI)
9304 Bonita Lane, #1617
Charlotte, NC 28262
Tel: (919) 577-0840
catiweb@pobox.com • www.catiweb.org

Delaware Valley Translators Association (DVTA)
606 John Anthony Drive
West Chester, PA 19382-7191
Tel: (215) 222-0955
DVTA@cs.com • www.dvta.org

Florida Chapter of ATA (FLATA)
7891 W Flagler Street, #347
Miami, FL 33144
Tel: (305) 274-3434
Fax: (305) 437-7663
president@atafl.org • www.atafl.org

 Michigan Translators/Interpreters Network (MiTiN)
P.O. Box 852
Novi, MI 48376-0852
Tel: (586) 778-7304 • Fax: (248) 344-0092
info@mitinweb.org • www.mitinweb.org

Mid-America Chapter of ATA (MICATA)
6600 NW Sweetbriar Lane
Kansas City, MO 64151
Tel: (816) 741-9441 • Fax: (816) 741-9482
translate@kkcrr.com • www.ata-micata.org

Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters (MATI)
542 S Dearborn Street, Suite 1060
Chicago, IL 60605
Tel: (312) 427-5450 • Fax: (312) 427-1505
moirapujols@aol.com • www.mati.org

National Capital Area Chapter of ATA (NCATA)
P.O. Box 5757
Washington, DC 20016-5757
Tel: (703) 255-9290 • Fax (202) 234-5656
alexandrarb@yahoo.com • www.ncata.org

New York Circle of Translators (NYCT)
P.O. Box 4051, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-4051
Tel: (212) 334-3060
president@nyctranslators.org
www.nyctranslators.org

Northeast Ohio Translators Association (NOTA)
33425 Bainbridge Road
Solon, OH 44139
Tel: (440) 519-0161
president@ohiotranslators.org
www.ohiotranslators.org

Northern California Translators Association (NCTA)
P.O. Box 14015
Berkeley, CA 94712-5015
Tel/Fax: (510) 845-8712
ncta@ncta.org • www.ncta.org

Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS)
P.O. Box 25301
Seattle, WA 98165-2201
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info@notisnet.org • www.notisnet.org

Southern California Area Translators and Interpreters Association (SCATIA)
mary@atanet.org

Upper Midwest Translators and Interpreters Association (UMTIA)
Minnesota Translation Lab
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Tel: (612) 625-3096
mft@tc.umn.edu • www.umtia.com

Affiliated Groups
Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association (AATIA)
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Austin, TX 78711-3331
Tel: (512) 707-3900
president@aatia.org • www.aatia.org

Houston Interpreters and Translators Association (HITA)
P.O. Box 42134
Houston, TX 77242-1343
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www.hitagroup.org

Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association (IITA)
P.O. Box 7631
Urbandale, IA 50323
Tel: (515) 883-3873 • Fax: (515) 278-5841
info@iitanet.org • www.iitanet.org

Utah Translators and Interpreters Association (UTIA)
P.O. Box 433
Salt Lake City, UT 84110
jcalleman@aol.com

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 ATA.

American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)
The University of Texas at Dallas
Box 830688 Mail Station J051
Richardson, TX 75083-0688
Tel: (972) 883-2093 • Fax: (972) 883-6303
www.literarytranslators.org

American Translation and Interpreting Studies Association (ATISA)
c/o Dr. Geoffrey S. Koby, President
Kent State University
MCLS, SHF 109
Kent, OH 44242
Tel: (330) 672-1814
Fax: (330) 672-4009
gkoby@kent.edu
http://appling.kent.edu/atisa/atisahome.html

Association of Language Companies (ALC)
1911 N Fort Myer Drive, Suite 702
Arlington, VA 22209-1605
Tel: (800) 338-4155 (within North America)
(703) 812-0883 • Fax: (703) 875-0301
info@alcus.org • www.alcus.org

California Court Interpreters Association (CCIA)
345 S Hwy 101, Suite D
Encinitas, CA 92024
Tel: (760) 635-0273 • Fax: (760) 635-0276
ccia345@earthlink.net • www.ccia.org
Chicago Area Translators and Interpreters Association (CHICATA)
P.O. Box 804595
Chicago, IL 60680-4107
Tel: (312) 836-0961
webmaster@chicata.org • www.chicata.org

Colorado Translators Association (CTA)
941 Cedwick Street
Lafayette, CO 80026
Tel: (720) 890-7934
kathy@kdtranslations.com
www.cta-web.org

Delaware Translators Network (DTN)
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, #912
Wilmington, DE 19806
Tel: (302) 655-5368
levinx@cs.com

El Paso Interpreters and Translators Association (EPITA)
P.O. Box 27157
El Paso, TX 79926
Tel: (915) 598-4757 or (915) 256-0590
mhogan@elp.rr.com

The Kentucky Translators and Interpreters Association (KTIA)
P.O. Box 7468
Louisville, KY 40257-0468
Tel: (502) 449-0259
E-mail: ktiapresident@yahoo.com

Metroplex Interpreters and Translators Association (MITA)
712 Cornfield Drive
Arlington, TX 76017
Tel: (817) 417-4747
www.dfw-mita.com

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT)
603 Stewart Street, Suite 610
Seattle, WA 98101
Tel: (206) 267-2300 • Fax: (206) 626-0392

New England Translators Association (NETA)
672 Salls Road
Greensborough Bend, VT 05842
Tel: (802) 533-9228
info@netaweb.org • www.netaweb.org

New Mexico Translators and Interpreters Association (NMTIA)
P.O. Box 36263
Albuquerque, NM 87176
Tel: (505) 352-9258
uweschroeter@comcast.net
www.cybermesa.com/~nmtia

The Translators and Interpreters Guild (TTIG)
962 Wayne Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: (301) 563-6450 • (866) 563-6456
Fax: (301) 563-6020
info@ttig.org • www.ttig.org

Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society (WITS)
P.O. Box 1012
Seattle, WA 98111-1012
Tel: (206) 382-5690
www.witsnet.org

International Groups
FIT—Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs/International Federation of Translators (FIT)
2021 Avenue Union, Bureau 1108
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2S9
Tel: (514) 845-0413 • Fax: (514) 845-9903
secretariat@fit-ift.org • www.fit-ift.org

AUSTRALIA
Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators, Inc. (AUSIT)
P.O. Box 1070
Blackburn North VIC 3130 Australia
Tel: +61 3 9597 9958
national@ausit.org • www.ausit.org

CANADA
Association of Translators and Interpreters of Alberta (ATIA)
P.O. Box 546
Main Post Office
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 2K8
Tel: (780) 434-8384
www.atia.ab.ca

Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario (ATIO)
1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1202
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 7B7
Tel: (613) 241-2846,
Toll-free: 1 (800) 234-5030
Fax: (613) 241-4098
info@atio.on.ca • www.ATIO.on.ca

Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec (OTTTAQ)
2021 Union Avenue, Suite 1108
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2S9
Tel: (514) 845-4411
Toll-free: (800) 265-4815
Fax: (514) 845-9903
info@otttaq.org • www.OTTTAQ.org

ENGLAND
Institute of Translation & Interpreting (ITI)
Fortuna House
South Fifth Street
Milton Keynes
MK9 2EU England
Tel: +44 (0) 1908 325 250
Fax: +44 (0) 1908 325 259
info@iti.org.uk • www.iti.org.uk

MEXICO
Organización Mexicana de Traductores A.C.
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Av. Vallarta 1525–304
Col. Americana Guadalajara, Jalisco Mexico
Tel: +52-33-3124-0236
Fax: +52-33-3124-0237
occidente1@omt.org.mx
www.omt.org.mx

PERU
Asociación de Traductores Profesionales del Perú (ATTP)
Casilla Postal 18-0251
Lima 18 Perú
Tel: +51 (1) 264-2214 • Fax: +51 (1) 264-5567
postmaster@attp.org.pe
http://www.attp.org.pe

Note: For more information on chapters or to start a chapter, please contact ATA Headquarters. Send updates to Mary David, The ATA Chronicle, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314; Tel: (703) 683-6100; Fax: (703) 683-6122; Mary@atanet.org.
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