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Transit\textsuperscript{NXT}

Context-Sensitive Translation and Localization

The sentence is a self-contained linguistic unit – but that doesn’t make it a self-contained unit of meaning. Translators read sentences in the source text, but can only translate them appropriately if they can see and understand the content in context. That’s why Transit\textsuperscript{NXT} employs a reference material-based approach to translation memory – unlike other translation memory systems, which use an exclusively sentence-based database. Transit\textsuperscript{NXT} reference material preserves document intelligence and context. A unique approach that has proven to be successful for over 20 years.

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The translation memory is stored as a file in an XML structure with attributes. The result is language pairs that are used directly as the translation memory (Transit\textsuperscript{NXT} reference material). The translation memory can be used in a targeted, efficient manner, is easy to manage, and guarantees ultimate performance, even when project volumes increase.

Context Counts
Quality problems due to lack of context are a thing of the past. The technique used in Transit\textsuperscript{NXT} of linking the source and target documents at the sentence, paragraph, or section level allows translators to consult the context of the fuzzy suggestions, concordance suggestions, and terminology suggestions in a process called Dynamic Linking. This proves all the more valuable when translation results are already being used to create source content. In this case as well, contextual reference in the Transit\textsuperscript{NXT} reference material ensures that the writer chooses appropriate sentences for the specific context. Thus the correctness of the subsequent translation is already ensured at the writing stage.

Corporate Wording with a Click of the Mouse
An integral part of Transit\textsuperscript{NXT}, TermStar\textsuperscript{NXT}, is an ideal tool to help translators and terminologists manage specialized technical terminology: With the click of a mouse or button, terminology entries are compiled into dictionaries. The sophisticated technology of TermStar\textsuperscript{NXT} allows simultaneous searching in decentralized, local dictionaries and databases and in centrally maintained terminology resources via WebTerm.

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  \item Shorter time-to-market for global product communication
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  \item Integrated alignment tool
  \item Parallel use of TM content with different priority settings
  \item Highly consistent terminology (corporate wording) with dynamic context linking
  \item Fuzzy search (dual-fuzzy) – context-sensitive in source and target language
  \item Concordance search for similar terms and sentence parts
  \item Integrated Web search
  \item Configurable text-length restrictions
  \item Individual segmenting
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  \item Integration into workflow and machine translation
  \item Support of exchange formats such as TMX/TBX/XLIFF/MARTIF
\end{itemize}

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How did your career start?
There would probably be many different stories to tell if we were to compare the paths that ATA members took to become successful interpreters or translators. As a consequence, the response to the most frequently asked question at events for translators and interpreters—“How do I get my foot in the door?”—is often given in the form of a personal narrative. In contrast to other careers, our profession offers many different approaches to success, but the following prerequisites are essential for getting started.

Language Skills: Working in the translation and interpreting industry requires more than just a level of proficiency in both working languages. Linguists share a profound interest in the workings and nuances of language and the intricacy of expression, and never stop exploring new developments. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are an absolute must, along with attention to detail. In presentations to college students, I often say that technical developments such as Google Translate have raised the bar on language skills that can be used commercially. The skill level descriptions for translation performance by the Interagency Language Roundtable provide a useful overview of the performance levels for which potential employers are looking (www.govtril.org/skills/AdoptedILRTranslationGuidelines.htm).

Specialization: To be able to make a living, you need to build on these strong language skills and a solid general education by developing a depth of knowledge in one or several area(s) of specialization. While the greatest demand exists in the business, legal, and medical fields, it is an advantage to build niche markets where there is relatively little competition. Additionally, areas of specialization must have commercial relevance to allow for a viable income. To give an example, there is little commercial interest in translating historical texts, and interpreting assignments in horticulture tend to be rare.

Business Skills: The third component of getting your foot in the door consists of marketing your services appropriately. Quite simply, this requires some investment of your time and resources. ATA’s growing list of on-demand webinars (www.atanet.org/webinars) offers excellent advice on getting started, and past webinars can be viewed at any time. Most importantly, you need to be ready when an opportunity arises. An unprofessional e-mail address, errors in the body of a message, or the absence of an updated CV may mean that your skills and availability are overlooked. At the same time, electronic communication has greatly increased the pace of our industry. Most freelance projects are now assigned within hours, if not minutes, which points to the challenge of being in the right place at the right time.

ATA Can Help
How can ATA help with getting your foot in the door? While language proficiency is considered a given to work in our field, the Association offers particularly helpful resources for advancing your specialization and sharpening business skills. Being ready begins with reading and learning as much as you can about the work you want to do, so your communication with potential clients will appear informed and assertive. In addition to keeping your online directory listing updated, it is helpful to read the communication of ATA divisions in your area of specialization or language on a regular basis. ATA’s website (soon to be published in a new and updated format) contains many resources for starting out in the profession and improving your business. The content of the “Careers” tab is of particular relevance (www.atanet.org/careers/index.php).

In spite of the many online portals that have been set up over the years, it is important to know that referrals still make up a large portion of new business for independent contractors. Accordingly, networking is an essential aspect of getting started or getting ahead. Networking may involve participating in online discussions, attending local chapter meetings, or volunteering to show your commitment to your chosen profession.

Lastly, a common component of many “foot in the door” narratives is “luck” — the good fortune of meeting someone, being offered an opportunity, or receiving good advice at the right time. In this spirit, I encourage those of you who already have stories to tell about the start of your career to reach out to newcomers. That can be as simple as giving a kind reply to a list-serv question or striking up a conversation with a conference attendee wearing a “First-time” ribbon, but can also include sharing opportunities, serving as a mentor in our Mentoring Program (www.atanet.org/careers/mentoring.php), or offering internship options.

Thank you for everything you do, and let’s keep those stories happening!
For the past five years, Newsbriefs, ATA’s e-newsletter, has been showing up in members’ inboxes. In marking its anniversary, here is a look behind the scenes.

Newsbriefs is a compilation of article abstracts relating to translation and interpreting culled from over 8,000 media outlets worldwide (www.atanet.org/publications/sample_newsbriefs.php). The abstracts are written and compiled by an outside firm—Information, Inc.—that has offered this service to nearly 150 trade associations and professional societies for 32 years. (In addition to Information, Inc.’s research, we also pass along articles forwarded by ATA members and staff, so please keep sending articles to me.)

ATA Member Benefits and Project Development Manager Mary David oversees the monthly production. She and Chronicle Editor Jeff Sanfacon review the copy provided by Information, Inc. for appropriateness and variety, and then edit as needed.

Information, Inc. has reported that ATA continues to have one of the highest open rates of all its customers. This means that when you see the Newsbriefs announcement in your e-mail inbox the last week of the month, you open it. I attribute this open rate to the natural curiosity of translators and interpreters, their strong interest in news related to translation and interpreting, and the fact that Newsbriefs is an enjoyable, informative, and quick read.

Finally, Newsbriefs also offers one-stop shopping for ATA news. Instead of flooding members with individual announcements, Mary works with the staff to compile the latest information on ATA programs and services.

Newsbriefs is available only to ATA members. Past issues are available on ATA’s website (www.atanet.org/newsbriefs).

Register Today for ATA’s 53rd Annual Conference

ATA’s 53rd Annual Conference program and registration form are available online: www.atanet.org/conf/2012. Take a look at the depth and breadth of more than 180 educational sessions, the multitude of networking opportunities, and the exhibits that are a part of ATA’s 53rd Annual Conference, October 24-27, 2012, in San Diego, California.
Get Ready To Network! Connect with over 1,800 colleagues from throughout the U.S. and around the world. • Renew your motivation by meeting people with similar interests and sharing your experiences. • Build potential partnerships that will help you personally and professionally. • Listen to the buzz among freelancers, project managers, business owners, and government representatives.

Get Ready To Learn! Choose from over 175 sessions that feature a variety of languages, topics, and skill levels. • Focus on practical skills and theory, or join discussions that examine the current state of your profession or offer a look to the future. • Be inspired and challenged to consider new ideas. • Discover the lessons learned from colleagues who have dealt with the exact problems you are currently facing.

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As much as we hate to admit it, interpreters make mistakes. Yet, holding interpreters solely responsible for successful communication and betting on their infallibility is a utopian dream. Ultimately, speakers should be equally accountable for the clarity and translatability of the ideas and words that make up their discourse. In fact, interpreting quality will improve greatly if some basic precautions are taken and all parties involved are aware of the necessity for an interpreter. The following is a document I used to share with speakers prior to their conferences to help them focus on some important yet commonly overlooked details. Feel free to pass it along to prospective speakers in those circumstances where you have been cleared to approach them directly. Do not contact speakers unless you have permission, especially if you are interpreting meetings through an international organization or an agency.

Dear guest speaker:

Your presentation will be interpreted simultaneously for the benefit of participants who are not proficient in your language. The success of your presentation will depend greatly on the job done by the interpreters. While they have been trained to follow rather demanding and technically complex speeches, the quality of their rendering will be increased significantly if you care to follow some of the recommendations listed below. The idea is to enhance the impact of your communication while minimizing content loss. Please take a minute to review the list of simple things that you can do before, during, and after your lecture to make sure your presentation is interpreted to the best of the interpreters’ ability.

**Before the Conference**

- E-mail the event organizers or one of the chief interpreters copies of all materials you intend to use (texts, PowerPoint files, etc.). It does not have to be the latest version.
- Ask your host to disclose your e-mail or contact information to the chief interpreter in charge of the conference.
- Try to reduce, or eliminate altogether, the use of acronyms and abbreviations in your presentation. Depending on the target language, they may not make sense or be nonexistent.

---

**Tips for an Interpreter-Friendly Presentation**

*By Ewandro Magalhães*
• When preparing your visual aids, make sure to use fonts, shapes, and colors that are legible and clear even for someone in the very back of the room. In most cases, this is where the interpreters will be.

• Make sure to take a hard copy of your presentation and biography with you to the event.

• Save the latest version of your presentation and reference material on a flash drive that you can share with the interpreters.

On the Day of the Conference
• Make yourself available to the interpreters before the event so you can cover the most important points of your presentation and update them on any last-minute changes. This meeting need not take more than a few minutes.

• Point out any terms that must be kept in the original language.

• Try to summarize, in a few simple words, the overall objective of your lecture and the conclusions you hope to reach.

• Leave any printed material you will be reading during your presentation with the interpreters. This is particularly important in the case of quotations and literary texts (poetry and/or prose), but please see the next item.

• Keep the amount of quotations to the absolute minimum. Poetry should be avoided altogether, unless the text has been submitted in advance.

• Let your interpreters preview any videos you plan to use in your presentation.

• Talk to the interpreters about any jokes or humorous remarks you plan to make. Jokes do not lend themselves very easily to interpretation, especially if they involve puns and regional sayings.

During the Presentation
• Speak clearly and audibly at all times. If possible, run a sound check to make sure the interpreters can hear you satisfactorily.

• Avoid overly long sentences.

• Be particularly careful when pronouncing Latin names or words in a language that is foreign to you. Have your interpreters proof in advance anything you may want to say in the audience’s language.

• Make sure to leave any slides or transparencies on-screen a few seconds longer than usual before moving on to the next. This should allow the interpreters time to finish reading any relevant information.

• Get used to a longer-than-usual delay in audience response. Interpreters are often a few words behind the speaker. Also note that those in the audience who do not need the services of an interpreter may react to your words earlier.

• Always speak into the microphone, even if you are addressing a specific person in the audience. Remember that this person may be relying on the interpreters and can only hear what you say through the interpreters.

• If somebody in the audience asks you a question or offers a comment in your own language, please make sure to allow enough time for the interpreters to interpret it for the rest of the audience. Do not bother to repeat questions or comments heard in your own language for the benefit of others in the audience. The interpreters will do this for you.

• Always turn off a lapel mic when you leave the room, especially if you plan to go to the restroom.

After the Conference
• Talk to the interpreters and give them your impressions of the job they performed. Pinpoint any difficulties encountered and call their attention to any misinterpretation of which you are aware.

• Invite the interpreters to provide feedback regarding your presentation. See what could be done to help improve the interpretation in the future.

Speakers should be equally accountable for the clarity and translatability of the ideas and words that make up their discourse.
• Write a brief statement on the quality of the interpreting provided. Your criticisms will help the interpreters identify and correct any shortcomings. Your praise will encourage them to keep up the good work.

Please keep in mind that these recommendations are mere reminders. Follow as many as you can without compromising your natural presenting style. The interpreters, and the audience, thank you for your cooperation.

TMI?

Speakers may not always adhere to the above, in whole or in part. More experienced speakers may tend to look upon the above as an overkill or TMI (too much information). Some interpreters argue that the tips may sound a bit overzealous and risk making us look unnecessarily vulnerable. In my experience, however, these guidelines have been mostly welcomed by speakers. If anything, sharing them makes you stand out as a conscientious and professional interpreter with a true desire to serve. It may require you to push your ego aside for a moment, but it will make you a better interpreter, guaranteed.

New for 2012!

ATA 53rd Annual Conference Mobile App

This FREE app will put the entire conference (and SO much more) at your fingertips. It is also an exciting tool you can use to connect with other attendees.

Here are just SOME of the features

**Sessions:** Browse schedule, abstracts, and bios easily • Create a personal schedule • View handouts and slides • Submit evaluations instantly • Contact speakers with follow-up questions

**Networking:** Connect instantly with your fellow attendees • Click to call or e-mail for a meeting or lunch date • View attendee résumés, bios, and websites • Check in with Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn—all integrated within the app to help you stay in touch

**Exhibitors/Sponsors:** Create your own list of booths to visit • Use interactive floor plans to locate booths • View company descriptions and contact information • Click to call, e-mail, or visit a company’s website

**More Features:** Receive schedule updates and alerts as they happen • Create meetings or activities and add them to your personal schedule • Find places to eat at or visit and view contact information and map location • Use keywords to search the entire app

**What’s the BEST part?** The app will be available BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER the conference. The app should be available by mid-September.

Attention Sponsors! Get noticed by placing a banner ad. Contact Caron Mason at caron@atanet.org.
When we started our business many moons ago, relatively little information on how to run a translation business was available. We only wish that Corinne McKay’s classic How to Succeed as a Freelance Translator had been available back then, but it came out in 2006, after we had already made many beginners’ mistakes. The new generation of translators and interpreters is in the lucky position of having many books at its disposal, and there is no doubt that Corinne’s book, now in its second edition, is one of the best on the market.

Full disclosure: We are very good friends with Corinne, especially Judy, but we were fans and attended her seminars long before Judy had the pleasure of meeting Corinne at ATA’s Annual Conference in Seattle in 2005. However, if the book were not any good, we would certainly tell you. As you might have guessed, it is fantastic. The first edition sold more than 4,500 copies worldwide, and we have no doubt that the second edition will outsell the first.

We reviewed the first edition a few years ago on our blog Translation Times (www.translationtimes.blogspot.com), calling it “the bible for freelance translators,” and that continues to hold true. The long-awaited second edition was released last year.

An Essential Resource

This book should be required reading at every university or college that teaches any class related to translation. 

Times (www.translationtimes.blogspot.com), calling it “the bible for freelance translators,” and that continues to hold true. The long-awaited second edition was released last year.

An Essential Resource

This book should be required reading at every university or college that teaches any class related to translation. At the very least, it should be essential reading for every aspiring and established linguist. We always continue learning from others, and to say we have learned a few things from Corinne’s book is an understatement—there is a wealth of information from which linguists at all levels can benefit. Corinne’s writing, known to many through her outstanding blog Thoughts on Translation (http://thoughtsontranslation.com), is clear and precise. She is perhaps one of the most gifted writers in the industry, and her ability to communicate oftentimes complex material in an easy-to-understand manner is unsurpassed. There is no pretense or purposefully difficult writing here—you are very much reading a book by the approachable, highly successful and laid-back Colorado translator next door. After reading the book, you might be tempted to knock on Corinne’s door to grab some coffee and continue the conversation.

It might be a sign of the times that the amount of e-mail we receive regarding how to get started in the industry has increased exponentially. We are not able to give indi-
individual advice to everyone who asks, but we always recommend Corinne’s book. This smart, 200-page tome will tell you just about everything you need to know about the industry. This is a rewarding profession, but Corinne also details the challenges of building a business, explaining that there is no magic button to press (or wand to wave) that will make you a successful translator. It is all hard work, but Corinne has made it easier for you by compiling all of the information that would take you months to gather elsewhere. If there were any true secrets to being successful in our business, Corinne would surely detail them in her book. In the absence of real secrets, she has written a book that tells you what you need to do for a healthy business.

What’s in It?
The fully updated second edition might be even better than the first. It is a bit longer with an additional chapter, has a redesigned cover, and it is beautifully laid-out. Our well-thumbed first editions have been sitting on our bookshelves for years, and we now take the second edition to local translator and interpreter association events. Here is a quick overview of some of the book’s highlights:

- The book assumes that you have the language skills necessary to become a translator. Each of its 10 chapters starts off with a great overview of the translation business. Section 1.5, which gives you a brief description of the types of work available for linguists, is a fantastic tool to help you decide what kind of work is right for you. Chapter 2 (“Launching Your Freelance Translation Business”) contains everything you need to know about getting started. From advice on how to set up your home computer to how to polish your résumé for translation agencies, this chapter will make your early business decisions infinitely easier. Our favorite section is the handy start-up checklist.

- Chapter 3 (“Your First Year as a Freelance Translator”) will give you a reality check about what to expect when you first start out. The chapter contains a plan in four stages, including what every new freelancer should do in his or her first year.

- Chapter 8 (“Translation and Technology”) is a new chapter that provides solid guidance for linguists who are not sure what to make of translation environment tools, also known as computer-assisted translation software and translation memory software. The chapter starts out with a good overview of the role of technology in our industry in the 21st century. The bottom line is that technology is here to stay and you should embrace it. This chapter will teach you how not to be afraid of technology and provides a much-needed introduction to all the tools available. Do you need speech recognition software? How much does Trados cost? Are free tools available? Should I invest in one of the proprietary tools? You will find the answers to these questions and many more.

- Chapter 9 (“Rates, Contracts, and Terms of Service”) answers many of the questions of beginning translators, such as setting translation rates (no specific rate recommendations are made, as Corrine respects the ruling antitrust legislation on the topic), how to research your customers, how to deal with international payments, questions you should ask before accepting a project, how to word your terms of service, etc. It is a goldmine of information, and we have quoted from this chapter more than any other. It also includes valuable tips on how to deal with adversity. We particularly like the section on non-payment, which all of us will have to face at some point. The book includes dunning letters you can use to remind clients that you are expecting payment. Corrine even includes a sample invoice on
A Worthy Investment

A few months ago, Corinne invested the time and energy necessary to make this book available on the Kindle,1 which is a fantastic addition. Her book was originally published by Lulu.com, and while it is also available on Amazon and a number of other outlets, please consider supporting Lulu by purchasing the book from their site or from ATA’s site (www.atanet.org/kiosk/ATA_PubWare.pl). This smart book will make a great gift for any translator—beginning or experienced. It will give you all of the advice you need to get started in the industry or to have a more structured approach in your business. If this book is not the bible for freelance translators, we do not know what is.

We are sometimes surprised how little newcomers are willing to invest when starting in the business. We usually recommend five or six books and are often asked to narrow it down to one. If you only have $19.95 to spare to start or restart your translation career, then we suggest you spend it on *How to Succeed as a Freelance Translator.*

Notes


We always continue learning from others, and to say we have learned a few things from Corinne’s book is an understatement.
In San Miguel Allende, time stands still but people change. Nestled in the highlands of central Mexico, San Miguel was built by the Spaniards on the road they used to transport silver to the coast. Its narrow, cobblestone streets and quintessential colonial architecture give it a surreal quality that made me feel as though I had stepped into a different dimension, a different place and time—and in fact I had.

I arrived on a bus from Mexico City and by sundown had rented a place to live and was signed up at the Instituto Allende art school to take classes in ceramics and writing. It was the mid-1970s and I had taken a sabbatical—what is now referred to as a gap year—from a career in advertising that no longer inspired me as it once had. In the throes of a midlife crisis, I was trying to reinvent myself, looking for something else to do, and San Miguel seemed to be an ideal place to start.

In the aftermath of World War II the G.I. Bill spawned a new generation of art students in the U.S., many of whom drifted south in search of new landscapes to paint in places where their dollars would stretch a little farther. San Miguel became popular with artists who found that the clear mountain air made colors brighter and sharper, while the remote location allowed them to enjoy a laidback lifestyle in idyllic, indulgent surroundings. The painters were soon followed by writers, and musicians, and their friends, and San Miguel gradually turned into an art colony with a thriving cosmopolitan social scene. It was just what I was looking for.
Blanche—who took a gap year from being a New York theater director and never went back—had lived in San Miguel for several years. She was friendly with some of the people in my writing class and invited me to join her translation circle. “We meet at my place on Tuesdays. I think you’ll enjoy the group.” She was right, I did. But what I really enjoyed was the translating. I grew up bilingual, speaking English and Spanish, and had always been a *de facto* translator and interpreter, as most bilinguals tend to be. My time in the advertising business had given me years of experience writing in both languages. I had always wanted to be a writer but somehow had never got around to it, mainly because I had no idea what I wanted to say. I now saw translating as a chance to take what someone else had written and “write it” myself in another language. Not quite the same as creating my own original work, but it was a start. I also saw the translation process as a sort of road map for what I was trying to do, which was to re-express myself in another “language”—translation as a metaphor for transformation.

There were about 10 of us in the group, all working from Spanish into English. Blanche lived in a studio apartment perched on the flat roof of a two-story building a couple blocks from the center of town. We met on her terrace in the afternoons, surrounded by geraniums in rusted buckets and, occasionally, a line of laundry drying in the sunshine. We had a clear view of the spire of the church on the far side of the central plaza, silhouetted against a brilliantly blue sky. We smoked cigarettes and drank black coffee and life was good.

A couple in the group had taken courses in translation studies at American colleges, and there were occasional discussions about translation theory and technique. But mostly we were newcomers to the field, feeling our way and learning from our own efforts as we struggled to do what proved infinitely harder than we had imagined. We worked on poems and prose passages by Pablo Neruda, Gabriela Mistral, Jorge Luis Borges, and, of course, Gabriel García Márquez. We all agreed that we also wanted to work on texts drawn from popular culture and daily life, believing that it was important to attune our ears to the vernacular of the street and hone our ability to capture the syntax of the common man. So we translated newspaper articles, posters, handbills, and graffiti. We also produced English versions of some of the lyrics sung by Celia Cruz and Armando Manzanero.

Sometimes it was hard to pull away from the circle, so we stayed on into the evening, switching from coffee to wine, and talking for hours on Blanche’s terrace under the stars. On these occasions we set aside the works-in-progress we produced and critiqued during the meetings, and the conversation took a more esoteric approach to translation. We discussed the endless subtleties of language, the myriad complexities of meaning, and the various ways in which the translator can be faithful to the author. It was a diverse bunch, and we speculated on the many ways in which our respective lives had prepared us for the linguistic and cultural challenges of literary translation. One by one we confessed to developing a more intimate, more critical relationship with our languages. We spoke of epiphanies when we suddenly understood things like the difference between “frowning” and “furrowing one’s brow” and how these insights helped us bridge the gaps between an original text and a translation. We marveled at how exciting it was to take responsibility for a particular solution after grasping the nuances of a few words in ways that would have seemed impossible just a few weeks earlier. Literary translation, we realized, was a serious pursuit. Yet, we still enjoyed moments of hilarity as we played with code-switching to convey colloquial expressions, and “more bang for your buck” became *more beso for your peso*. As the summer slipped away, we sensed that we were growing as translators, and felt a new respect for each other and, more importantly, for ourselves.

The group’s free-roaming conversations inevitably led to ever-deeper reflections on the nature of language and the phenomenon of speech. How did language originate, and why? We theorized that humans have language because the senses that evolved for our survival provided experience that required expression. So, at what point was a grunt just not good enough, prompting one of our ancestors to articulate a sound that was inextricably linked to a specific meaning? Questions begat answers that begat more questions in the comfortable company of colleagues who had become friends and fellow travelers on the road to new understanding.

Blanche—who said, “To begin anything with a certainty is to embark on a very short, uninteresting journey”—was never in a hurry for these soirees to end. Neither was anyone else. And that is the story of how my life changed forever in San Miguel and I became a translator.
Translators face many general challenges as they prepare to render a document from one language into another. Who is the target audience? What is the purpose of the text? What register should be used? What is the best way to convey the source message in the target language? Are there stylistic, grammatical, or cultural issues to consider? What can be done to make the translation read as smoothly and naturally as the source text?

For legal translators, these challenges are exacerbated by the complex nature of law in general and legal writing in particular. Sentences in legal documents tend to be extremely long and complex. Words can have different meanings in legal writing than they have in normal usage. (For example, “consideration” can mean “careful thought, deliberation” or “a promise or object given by one party to persuade another to enter into a contract.”) Such terms as “stare decisis” are easily understood by legal professionals, but may require circumlocution for a non-legal target audience. In addition to these stylistic and terminology challenges, translators may encounter instances where a legal concept exists in the source country but not in the target country, in which case there is no term for it in the target language. While the consequences of a poor or incorrect translation are always serious for translators, making a translation error in a legal document can be disastrous for both translator and client.

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Basic Overview of the World’s Two Major Legal Systems

At the very least, French into English legal translators need to have a basic understanding of the world’s two major legal systems: civil law and common law.

Civil Law: Practiced in 83 countries, civil law is the most widespread legal system. Developed during the Roman Empire, it is based on one or several written codes. The most famous civil law code is the French Code Civil. Civil court decisions are usually fairly short and formulaic. The judge cites only the relevant provision of the code and does not mention previous cases that are similar. It should be noted that Quebec and Louisiana have mixed systems that combine elements of both civil and common law.
Common Law: Practiced in 35 countries, common law is the second most widespread legal system. Common law was developed in England. It spread throughout the British Empire and is today mainly used in English-speaking countries, including the United States. Unlike civil law, common law is based on precedence, or prior court cases. Court decisions are usually very long, since the judge arrives at his or her decision through elaborate reasoning and refers to previous cases that are similar.

Religious Law: A third legal system, religious law, is practiced in 11 countries. There are three basic types of religious law: 1) Sharia, derived from the Koran and used in Islamic countries; 2) Halakha, derived from the Torah and used in Israel; and 3) Canon, derived from the Bible and used to regulate the internal order of the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Anglican churches. While translators should be aware of the religious law systems, they will most likely find themselves working between civil and common law systems.

Ideally, prior to accepting assignments in this area, legal translators should either have a law degree or have taken courses in legal studies. If this is not possible, reading about common law and civil law systems is highly recommended. Several interesting books on the subject include Introduction aux droits anglais et américain, Introduction to French Law, An English Reader’s Guide to the French Legal System, and Historical Introduction to Anglo-American Law in a Nutshell. There are also many excellent websites that discuss civil and common law, such as Juriglobe – Groupe de recherche sur les systèmes juridiques dans le monde (www.juriglobe.ca).

In addition to traditional research methods (i.e., dictionaries and online glossaries), translators can also use primary sources to find translation terminology.

Suggested Resources for French into English Legal Translators

Resources for legal translation can be divided into three basic groups: print, electronic, and primary.

Print Resources

There are many reliable printed resources out there for legal translators working from French into English. For instance, Le Robert & Collins Super Senior Dictionary, available both in print and CD-ROM, is a two-volume set containing many general legal terms. Entries are subdivided by domain (e.g., the noun droit has 52 definitions under the legal category alone).

Most French into English legal translators are familiar with F.H.S. Bridge’s indispensable Council of Europe French-English Legal Dictionary. Another lesser known but equally useful dictionary is the small but complete Dictionnaire Comptable Fiscal et Financier, published by Cabinet Saxcé. While this little gem focuses on accounting and financial terminology, the carry-over into legal areas makes it extremely helpful for translating business documents. Other recommended resources include the Dictionnaire Economique et Juridique, Dictionnaire Juridique Dahl, Lexique bilingue de l’anglais juridique, Lexique des termes juridiques, L’anglais des contrats internationaux, and Les mots clés du droit.

West Publishing Company has produced a series of 149 extremely readable books on various areas of American jurisprudence. Called the Nutshell Series, each volume provides an overview of one aspect of American law written in user-friendly language (contracts, criminal law, torts, immigration law, Internet law, accounting law, etc.). I highly recommend that legal translators read Legal Research in a Nutshell prior to beginning their translation career, as it lists valuable information on electronic means of legal research.

Electronic Resources

Thanks to the Internet, legal translators have a wealth of research information literally at their fingertips. Legal terminology may change from one country to another (Swiss, French, Belgian, Canadian, Congolese, etc.), so be aware of the site’s country of origin. Please see pages 22 and 23 for a non-exhaustive list of some useful legal research sites for French into English translators.

Primary Sources

In addition to traditional research methods (i.e., dictionaries and online glossaries), translators can also use primary sources to find terminology. Primary sources consist of original material that has not been evaluated or interpreted by others. In the case of legal translation, primary sources include court rulings and legislation.
Searching primary sources is extremely useful and easy to do. French into English translators are lucky, in that they have access to Canadian legal documents, which are often already translated in both languages. For example, while translating a ruling from the Quebec Superior Court, I encountered this clause:

De fait, comme ces témoins ont accepté de participer au stratagème proposé par l’appelant, soit d’usurper l’identité de tiers pour voter à leur place et ce, pour une somme dérisoire, pour certains, ils peuvent être considérés comme des témoins tarés.

For taré, the dictionary gave “defective, tarnished, tainted, corrupt.” In American English, this could be translated as a “tarnished witness” or a “tainted witness,” but since I was translating this for a Canadian client, I needed to know which adjective would be more appropriate. On Google, I entered “tarnished witness Canada” and found no references for this term. I then did an advanced search on Google, entering “tainted witness Canada Supreme Court” into the search field. This brought up many decisions by the Canadian Supreme Court referring to “tainted witness,” so I knew that “tainted witness” is an accepted legal term in Canada.

For another Canadian client, I needed to translate this clause:

La crédibilité des témoins et l’appréciation de la preuve sont des conclusions qui relèvent du juge du procès et un tribunal d’appel doit se garder d’intervenir à cet égard, sauf en cas d’erreur manifeste ou dominante.

I wanted to find out if “manifest or dominant error” is used in Canadian legal documents. A search on “erreur manifeste dominante Canada” brought up many examples in French. I then tried the expression in English. Since “manifest error” is used in American legal documents, I entered “manifest error+Canada” into the browser. I found a ruling, again by the Canadian Supreme Court, that included the expression “on the grounds of gross or manifest error.” I then knew that this term would be appropriate for the translation and was clearly a better choice than the more literal “manifest or dominant error.”

Google’s advanced search function is particularly useful for finding French terms in an English reference document. Enter your French term in the “Exact Wording or Phrase” box and then select English from the pull-down list. The French term may appear in an English document. For example, for one job, I needed to translate the following clause:

SUR LA DEMANDE EN DIVORCE.
Attendu qu’il est constant que les ressortants suffisamment des pièces du dossier, que le défendeur a abandonné sa famille depuis le 12 février 1997 ...

A check on il est constant que on Reference.com returned only one hit containing a rather disconnected exchange of e-mail suggestions that did not seem related to the legal field. I then tried an advanced search on Google, putting in il est constant que in the “Exact Wording or Phrase” box. Since this translation was for a French client, in the “Search within a Site of Domain” box, I entered “.fr”. This took me to a very reliable website from the Centre National de Ressources Textuelles et Lexicales, and the definition given was il est bien établie que, on ne peut pas douter que. This fit the legal context of the divorce document, so I was comfortable translating the phrase as “It is established from the evidence that …”

Using the footnotes in your source text can also be a great place to start your terminology research. If the term you are researching is in a sentence that is footnoted to another court decision, go to that decision. In the case of Canadian court rulings, you can simply enter the case citation number (e.g., 1 S.C.R. 3, 2008 SCC 1). Again, using Google’s advanced search feature, specify that you are searching for documents in English. Most Canadian court rulings are translated officially into both French and English. You can mine old cases to find terminology for your translation. If your text cites legislation, find the official English translation of the legal code and compare it to your source document. This technique can be very helpful for terminology research, and you will often find that entire sentences are copied directly from the legislation into the court ruling.
Refine Your Technique

The Internet has made research much easier, but to take full advantage of all its possibilities, translators need to spend a good deal of time refining their search strategies. Your time will be well spent and your translation jobs will become less time consuming once you have mastered some basic research techniques.

Notes
1. Stare decisis is the principle in common law of adhering to precedent when deciding a legal case.

2. More general information on the civil law system can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_law_(legal_system).


While translators should be aware of the religious law systems, they will most likely find themselves working between civil and common law systems.
Resources for Legal Terminology

Actions for Promoting French Business  
www.apfa.asso.fr  
This association is under the patronage of the General Delegation for the French Language and the Languages of France and the International Organization of the Francophonie. The site contains an online French-English glossary and directory of lexicons.

Bank of Troubleshooting Language  
Office québécois de la langue française  
www.oqif.gouv.qc.ca

Base de données terminologiques  
Corpus du réseau interministériel de terminologie  
Recommended specialized technical terms and their English translation (their use is mandatory for government and government services).

BBP Avocats  
www.bbp-avocats.com/glossaire-juridique.asp  
The glossary of a French law firm.

Canadian Legal Research Guide  
A guide to researching Canadian law published by the Harvard Law School Library. It is in English, well-designed, and user-friendly.

Code Civil du Québec (In French)  

Code Civil du Québec (In English)  

Dictionary of Legal and Contractual Matters and Projects  

Dictionnaire Juridique  
www.lexinter.net/1F/dictionnaire_juridique.htm  
This is not really a glossary, but rather provides access to French legal resources that are organized by subject area (e.g., civil, tax, and criminal).

Droit.Pratique French-English Glossary  
www.droit.pratique.fr/dictionnaire.php

Duhaime’s Legal Dictionary  
Canadian law explained in plain English.

French Civil Code (In English)  
http://lexinter.net/ENGLISH/civil_code.htm

French-English Dictionary  
Greffe du Tribunal de Commerce de Paris  

General Delegation for the French Language and the Languages of France  
www.dgfl.culture.gouv.fr/dgfl_presentation_anglais.htm

Glossary of French Legal Real Estate Terms  
www.french-property.com/reference/french_legal_terms.htm  
This glossary contains all of the French legal terms mainly used when purchasing a property within France.

Insurance Glossary  
www.lepatriedesmotards.com/assurance/glossaire.htm  
Contains information on French insurance law.

Inter-Agency Terminology Exchange  
http://iate.europa.eu  
Translators of the European Commission and Council of the European Union.
The Conseil d’État advises the French government on the preparation of bills, ordinances, and certain decrees. It also answers the government’s queries on legal affairs and conducts studies at the request of the government or through its own initiative regarding administrative or public policy issues.

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Le dictionnaire Juridique de Jurimodel.com
http://dictionnaire-juridique.jurimodel.com

Le Grand dictionnaire terminologique
Office québécois de la langue française
http://w3.granddictionnaire.com

Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary of Law
http://dictionary.lp.findlaw.com

Ministère de la justice
www.justice.gouv.fr
The official French government site.

Monolingual Legal Glossary (In French)
www.net-iris.fr/lexique-juridique/

Online Advocate
www.murielle-cahen.com/lexique.asp

Petit Lexique de la Justice
A comprehensive monolingual legal glossary.

Portail-Juridique Monolingual Legal Glossary (In French)
www.portail-juridique.com/pages/glossaire.html

Property Terms
http://bit.ly/PropertyTerms

Researching French Law
www.llrx.com/features/french.htm
Law and technology resources for legal professionals.

Termium G8 and G20 Terminology Glossary
Prepared by the Canadian government’s Terminology Standardization Directorate and the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the G8 and G20 Terminology Glossary contains approximately 700 entries. Most of the terms are related to finance, economy, trade, and security. Some entries include additional information regarding usage or meaning. The glossary is intended mainly for writers and translators, but it is also a good reference tool for anyone reading or writing about the G8 and the G20.

Trésor de la Langue Française informatisé
http://atilf.atilf.fr/tlf.htm

University of Ottawa Law Database
Easily searchable bilingual glossary of French and English legal terms.

Vos Droits.be
www.vosdroits.be/fr/glossaire
A site for Belgian law.

West’s Encyclopedia of American Law
www.enotes.com/wests-law-encyclopedia
Very clear, non-legalese descriptions of American legal concepts.
In June 2004, a good friend’s father, Félix Avendaño, who had been suffering from brain cancer, passed away. Ramón and I had become close at work—this was when I was still working as an in-house translation department manager—and he had been truly wonderful to me. A talented techie, he was the first one to send me a welcome e-mail and offer to explain to my completely uninitiated e-commerce self what a relative link was and how to wrestle our home-grown content management system into submission. When Ramón asked me to interpret at his father’s funeral, I did not hesitate for a second. I accepted immediately, because I knew I would be giving the family a tremendous gift by allowing their Mexican relatives to understand the service. The only problems were: I was not an interpreter, and I am not religious.

I had been given about three days’ notice, which is not nearly enough to go from e-commerce translator to an interpreter of religious material. However, I do have some pretty decent research skills, so I went immediately to one of our bilingual customer service agents, who had a Spanish-language Bible and also gave me a crash course on how it is structured and what to expect at the service. He even picked out the most common verses that are read at funerals and marked them with sticky notes. I decided against cramming up on religious texts, prayers, and religious protocol, figuring there would not be enough time to learn it all. Instead, I tried to look up some typical religious funeral service-type texts that would be appropriate for the particular denomination. I quickly became discouraged because they all contained archaic language that I did not know in either language and did not feel equipped to learn in such a short time. I thought my best bet would be to contact the pastor conducting the service. Unfortunately, he finished writing his sermon 15 minutes prior to the service. When he gave me a copy, it was six pages long and still warm from the printer. I was able to read the first half page and scribble some Spanish equivalents in the margins of the first two sentences. And then we walked into the chapel.

I did not know the difference between simultaneous and consecutive, but I knew instinctively that we should not all be talking at the same time, so I opted for consecutive. Unfortunately, it had not occurred to me that I should be taking notes—I suppose I had hoped the pastor and the other speakers would pause after a few sentences (they did not). I had no podium and no place to set my Spanish-language Bible, so I stuck it underneath my arm, which cramped up after a few minutes. I left sweaty handprints on the printed-out sermon, which I was doing my best to read a few seconds faster than the pastor was speaking in the hopes of jotting down some more terminology notes (that did not happen). In the end, I had no notes, no notebook, and was sweating profusely. And then I took a deep breath, told myself that I was, for better or for worse, the best interpreter the congregation had available at the time (scary, I know), and proceeded to interpret to the best of my meager abilities. I was terrified and grieving the loss of Félix and felt heartbroken for Ramón and his family, but somehow, even though my voice was shaky and I was teary-eyed, I got through it. After the sermon, my boss, who had also been invited to the funeral, gave me a big hug and commented that I did a great job reading the Spanish text. When I mentioned to him that I did not have a Spanish text, he was flabbergasted. At that moment, I knew that I was capable of being an interpreter. Now, many years and hundreds of hours of interpreting later, my first sink or swim interpreting project is still the most memorable.

According to some theorists, at that moment I became what is known as a “natural interpreter.” It did not feel very natural or professional, but in spite of the many flaws in my interpreting, I am honored and proud that I had the opportunity to do it. I have never forgotten that first experience and I bet each and every one of you can remember his or her first interpreting experience. And surely you all managed to swim.

This column is not intended to constitute legal, financial, or other business advice. Each individual or company should make its own independent business decisions and consult its own legal, financial, or other advisors as appropriate. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of ATA or its Board of Directors. Ideas and questions should be directed to judy.jenner@entrepreneuriallinguist.com.
Blog Trekker

Using Gmail with Your Own Domain

(Posted by Corinne McKay on her blog, Thoughts on Translation, http://thoughtsontranslation.com.)

Do you ever read The Meh List (subtitle: Not Hot, Not Not, Just Meh) in The One Page Magazine feature of The New York Times Magazine? (http://nyti.ms/NYT-OnePage) Well, if I were assembling a Meh List for the translation industry, “Translators who own their own domain but still use a Gmail address” would definitely be on it. I always try to refrain from criticizing other people’s decisions, but here I have to make an exception. Just as free business cards with the printing company’s marketing message on them scream “I’m not willing to invest the princely sum of $25 in my freelance business,” owning one’s own domain name but still using Gmail screams to me, at least “I’m not willing to spend half an hour figuring out how to set up domain name e-mail.” For anyone who is not familiar with it, domain name e-mail is like “corinne@translatewrite.com.” You buy a website domain name and then create e-mail addresses to go with it.

But, here I find myself preparing to spend two months in Europe this summer, and my current e-mail solutions are problematic. I love my ISP (Front Range Internet), but Gmail gives me more storage space and a fuller-featured webmail interface. And I do not want to use a non-webmail interface for this extended stay abroad, because I do not want to be tied to just one computer. So, all of a sudden I was faced with the prospect of becoming one of those translators who owns a domain and uses Gmail anyway, but I am here to tell you that, yes, you can set up Gmail with your own domain. If I set it up without having to call tech support, so can you. Just follow these steps.

The issue is that it is easy to forward your domain name e-mail to Gmail, so that people can *send to* your domain name address. It is a little harder to *reply as* your domain name address, so that people never see the @gmail.com domain. First, read Gmail’s knowledge base page on “Sending mail from a different address” (http://bit.ly/Google-Support). You are probably “A Gmail or Google Apps user sending from an external address,” so open that section of the page and read it.

Basically you just follow the instructions on that page. Gmail advises that if this is your work e-mail address, you should use your domain’s SMTP servers rather than Gmail’s servers. My Unix admin husband tells me that this is to avoid your messages being flagged as spam because the SMTP server domain and the e-mail domain do not match. In my case, my ISP helpfully has all of their SMTP server information in their knowledge base (you need to know the mail server address, the correct port to use, your username, and your password), and all of that worked the first time I entered it. Then I simply forwarded my mail from my ISP to my Gmail address and it seems to be all set. This way, my clients do not see my Gmail address, but I can take advantage of Gmail’s massive storage allocations and excellent webmail features.

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Internet blogs are rich sources of information for translators and interpreters. They allow users to post questions, exchange ideas, network, and read news and commentary on a specific subject. The topics featured in this column are actual blog postings concerning issues pertinent to your colleagues in the field today. For more blog listings, visit www.atanet.org/careers/blog_trekker.php.
Interpreters Forum  María Cristina de la Vega  mcdelavega@protranslating.com

Three Exotic Assignments at Venues with Different Ethnic Cultures

I am an innately curious person who thrives on education and self-development. My job is perfect in this respect because it allows me to travel and be introduced to different philosophies and forms of artistic expression at each destination. For that reason, I do not hesitate to take advantage of the opportunity for some R&R before or after a job at an interesting location. It is also a healthy practice because the more you enjoy your work, the more productive you are; the more you know, the better you are able to deliver. Looking back, the following experiences have been among the most enjoyable in my career.

Philippines and Hong Kong: In 1994, my company took a group of 20 interpreters to Manila, Philippines, to interpret at the 43rd Miss Universe Pageant. It was my first time in Asia, and I fully enjoyed the local hospitality, cuisine, and warmth of the Filipino people. The challenges of the job were also rewarding, interpreting interviews for the judges, being on hand for stage rehearsals, recording voice-overs for the broadcast, and, finally, interpreting the live show that was televised to millions worldwide. It is always challenging to manage a large group of interpreters in the stressful, time-driven environment of live television, and once the job was done, it was time to relax.

A group of us went first to Hong Kong, which impressed me with its many cultural levels, delicious and unique food, and exotic sights like Victoria’s Peak. It was truly a smorgasbord for the senses. We also paid a visit to Beijing, where we saw planes towed out to the runway by bicycle crews at the airport. Then it was off to the mysterious Forbidden City, whose construction began during the Ming Dynasty in 1406, and is the largest, most complete ancient imperial palace in the world. It is home to an impressive collection of cultural relics and precious art objects. (See the movie The Last Emperor of China for the fascinating and riveting story.) Then there was Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, and on to the life-sized Terracotta Army in Xi’an, one of the largest archeological finds ever, discovered in 1974 after being buried 2,100 years with the first Qin emperor.

Brazil: At the end of the 1990s, a client in the payment services industry asked my company to provide interpreting and equipment for an event in Manáos, Brazil, located on the Amazon at the confluence of the Negro and Solimões rivers. What an eco-destination! From the plane we could see the awe-inspiring power of the luxuriant, verdant tropical jungle that would obviously overrun the city in the wink of an eye if not for the ever-vigilant shears of civilization.

Manáos served as the heart of the rubber boom in the 19th century and, as historian Robin Furneaux wrote in The Amazon, “no extravagance, however absurd, deterred” the rubber barons. Among the architectural gems they left behind is the grand opera house next to the rain forest, with gilded balconies and glass and crystal from Europe. Little did we know that the job would require us to spend many hours crawling around on the floors of those ornate balconies helping the tech tape antenna wire. (Those were the Sony days.) For the next day and a half, we interpreted information on business processes, economics, and the global financial climate for the VIPs in attendance. After the event, it was time to explore. We rode canoes on the Amazon, observed local tribes going about their daily activities, and enjoyed the natural wonders of our surroundings.

Peru: Lastly, a crown jewel among experiences, was a 2008 conference we did for a credit card company in Cuzco, Peru, meeting to discuss the ongoing global financial crisis. The venue was the baroque chapel of the beautiful Monasterio Hotel, originally built in 1595 as a monastery on the site of an Inca ruler’s palace. It holds paintings by local Quechua artists who were taught European painting techniques, although the best Colonial collection we saw is at the Pedro de Osma Museum in Lima.

My booth partner and I scheduled time after the conference to walk...
Over the years, I have regularly profiled the technology offered by NoBabel, a sophisticated line of products designed to align already-translated text into translation memories and then “massage” these (and other) translation memories to increase match rates for newly translated content. Not only was it the only program out there that performed this kind of service, but it worked great if used properly.

Unfortunately, my use of the past tense to describe the product is intentional. A few weeks ago, I talked with Ilia Kaufman, the former chief executive officer of NoBabel (and its underlying company, KCSL), who has permanently closed down his business and withdrawn the technology. Why? He was not able to make an adequate profit.

Honestly, that makes me so sad.

I have written a lot about the disconnect we have when it comes to business processes. (“We” here includes freelance translators and many of the smaller language services providers [LSPs].) Many of us labor under the delusion that we “can do things ourselves” somehow, without the need for technology and professional services, forgetting in the process really to sit down and evaluate that notion’s efficiency and business sense. Or, as Ilia put it, “Translators work very hard to save very little.”

Ours is a difficult industry in which to work because of its low profit margins, and that is especially true for LSPs. Is this not the very reason to look at using methods that make us more efficient? Even if it sometimes means an upfront investment?

Another thing that Ilia mentioned during our talk: the best technology will not work well if expectations are not realistic or if the technology is not handled well. I agreed completely and felt guilty at the same time. Maybe I should spend more time explaining technology rather than just throwing it out there saying, “It’s great. Use it.”

But the deeper point behind Ilia’s assessment is how it describes our relationship with technology. We begin with uneasiness. Then, once we have overcome our initial unease, we assume the technology will solve all our problems—which is obviously unrealistic, especially when it comes to language technology—and are terribly disappointed when it does not. Finally, because we know we are smart, we assume we do not really have to learn how to use the technology—it will somehow just “come to us” as we use it. Well, it often does not, and our results would be so much better if we took time to sit down and understand what the technology in question is supposed to do and how we can get it there.

Ilia’s response to this consumer disconnect was to begin coupling his products with services to make sure that the end product was as good as it could be. He had actually started to see some success, but it came just a little too late.

Where does this leave us? As far as finding an alternative for the NoBabel software suite, there are tools to help you with alignment if you are unhappy with the alignment features that most translation environment tools offer. One option is Terminotix and its various versions of AlignFactory, whose alignment is far superior to run-of-the-mill alignment features in standard tools. But the bitter truth is that no other product offers all of NoBabel’s features, especially those related to enhancing the quality of translation memories.

Ideally, the lasting legacy of this story of NoBabel’s rise and fall would be that we have all grown a little wiser and will now be more open to using new technology—that we would realign our purchasing practices and our work processes! But I am not counting on it. Unfortunately, the elegant NoBabel one-stop solution is a relic of our own technological misalignment as an industry.
Abbreviations (including acronyms and initialisms) occur everywhere in German and English, both in writing and speech. The challenge for translators and interpreters is to recognize them, know their full forms, and translate or interpret them effectively into the target language. Even those language professionals blessed with an encyclopedic memory still need to research every unfamiliar abbreviation they encounter. The following is intended to provide an initial survey of online resources along with approaches for assessing the reliability of their content. My own expertise is in commercial, legal, and financial translation, so although some medical and technical sites are listed, I do not claim specialist knowledge in those areas. The examples given focus primarily on abbreviations, yet the search tips and links listed here are equally useful for finding the full forms of acronyms and initialisms.

### Testing Our Searching Techniques

The first thing to remember is context, context, context! Just like other words in a text, abbreviations appear for a reason. Therefore, when conducting online searches for these terms, do not blindly accept the first solution that appears on the screen. Instead, consider whether the full form of the term provided makes sense in a given context. Online sources often list many different full forms for a single abbreviation—and they are all correct! For this reason, the first strategy when trying to find the full form of a term in an online listing is to see if the site allows you to narrow the search to specific categories (e.g., business, medicine, science). Once you have found the domain that matches your source text, it is up to you to use your knowledge of the source text, professional skill, and common sense to pick the correct full form.

In order to gauge the usefulness of the reference sites listed here, I conducted a brief test using nine abbreviations, three each in the areas of general language, legal language, and medical language. One is more common, one is less common, and one is rare. (These designations are based on my intuition only.) In Table 1 on this page, I list each abbreviation with one of its meanings. Keep in mind that abbreviations often have several meanings. The results of my test using various types of references are provided in the following sections.

If you would like to explore the links while reading, they are all listed on my abbreviation webpage at www.personal.kent.edu/~gkoby/GermanAbbreviations.

### Google and Wikipedia

We start our search with the great oracles of the modern world, Google and Wikipedia (in this case, German Wikipedia, de.wikipedia.org). This is fine, as long as we remember context. The first page of Google hits for usw. gives us only United Steelworkers, but when we get to the second page of search results we discover that usw. could also be U.S. Wheat Associates! (Oops, that is not the full form listed in Table 1.) In fact, the shorter the abbreviation, the higher the likelihood that there will be multiple meanings, so narrowing the search is important. A search technique that many translators try is to type the search term plus German or Deutsch into the search field. This strategy seems to work just fine for full terms, but is less successful when dealing with abbreviations. For example, a search on usw. Deutsch results in reasonable hits that are close to the full form in Table 1. This also works for KK, sort of, with a hit for the online German-English dictionary at www.dict.cc that reveals kaiserlich-königlich. (Accurate, but still not the full form.)

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>usw.</td>
<td>und so weiter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KK</td>
<td>Krankenkasse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m.W.v.</td>
<td>mit Wirkung von</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G6</td>
<td>Grundgesetz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWZO</td>
<td>Strassenverkehrsverordnung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SZeV</td>
<td>Sonderzuschlagsverordnung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pharm.</td>
<td>Pharmazeutisch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BDPHI</td>
<td>Bundesverband der Deutschen Pharmazeutischen Industrie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A il int</td>
<td>Arteria ilaca externa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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By Geoffrey S. Koby
form listed in Table 1.) But the technique fails on a search for m.Wv. Deutsch, where Google does not provide any abbreviation information, but shows us a site where MWV stands for Mineralölwirtschafts-Verband (“petroleum association”).

The second way to narrow a Google search is to use the word Abkürzung (“abbreviation”) along with the abbreviation itself. Searching for usw. Abbkürzung, kk Abbkürzung, and m.Wv. Abbkürzung results in useful hits all around. The best site from a general point of view is German Wikipedia, where MWV is the title of a disambiguation page listing five different full forms for the abbreviation, including the full form in Table 1 for which we are looking.2 (A similar method is to enter the abbreviation plus a relevant keyword relating to the topic of the text where the abbreviation occurs.)

But what about more specialized abbreviations, such as legal ones like GG, StVZO, and SzVs? Wikipedia’s disambiguation page gives us 30 different meanings for GG, a few of which are legal, so that will require some analysis, but StVZO takes you straight to the page for Straßenververkehrszulassungs-Ordnung in Table 1 (“road traffic regulations”). This seems quick and easy. Unfortunately, both Google and Wikipedia come up empty on SzVs.

Now let us consider medical abbreviations, such as pharm., BDPhI, and A il int. Wikipedia does not recognize pharm. as an abbreviation, but a search for pharm. Abkürzung works in Google. BDPhI does not work in either site, while A il int is unknown to Wikipedia, and a search for A il int Abkürzung or A il int comes up empty in Google. Since it is a phrase, a third search technique is to put the search term in quotes in the Google search window. For example, typing “A il int” does provide a hint of information in Google Books, but none of it feels very authoritative.3

Solving the “Not in the Dictionary” Problem

Sometimes it is possible to find hits for an abbreviation on Google, but no solution as to the full form. There are instances where the abbreviation might not be in any dictionary or online listing. Instead, it only appears in German-language texts without explanation. What can you do? While it is not always possible to find a solution, one trick is to review the sites where these German texts appear. The thing to look for is a translation into English or a button to convert the page into English. Often, converting the page or opening the English version of a document will allow you to solve the problem. Open both the German and the English versions in separate windows (possibly side-by-side) and locate the paragraph in the English document corresponding to the German document. Presumably, some clever colleague of yours has already found a solution, although it can happen that the translator merely copied the abbreviation from somewhere else. If you find a solution that works, do not forget to add it to your terminology database so you do not have to go out and find the full form again. If you are feeling generous, you could even add it to Wikipedia!

The discussion up to this point has been intended to show that, although it is possible to discover the meanings of many abbreviations using basic search tools, sometimes it is necessary to turn to specialized sources for more accurate information, better context, and improved reliability. This means using dictionaries and general and specialized sites.

Formerly Paper Dictionaries

Although you might think that online dictionaries would be a good source of abbreviations, it turns out that they are not. Two popular ones, dict.cc and LEO (dict.leo.org) only returned three abbreviations from the list in Table 1 (usw., GG, and StVZO), while odge.de and Woxikon (www. woxikon.de) only have usw., and the BeoLingus dictionary (dict.tu-chemnitz.de/de-en) had no hits. The popular ProZ technical glossary site (www.proz.com/?sp=ksearch) does not allow searches for fewer than three characters. For longer abbreviations, it sometimes returns hits in non-English language pairs from which a full form can be harvested. On the positive side, in addition to StVZO, ProZ seems to be the only online source where SzVs is found. But what about paper dictionaries?

I still have two paper abbreviation dictionaries on my desk: Duden’s Wörterbuch der Abkürzungen, which is valuable for general language abbreviations, and, for my work as a teacher of legal translation, Kirchner’s Abkürzungsverzeichnis der Rechtssprache. Both of them are now available as searchable e-books: the Duden from www.duden.de, and the Kirchner from www.degruyter.com. It is often worth paying a publisher for an e-dictionary. Certainly for a legal translator, there are abbreviations in Kirchner that cannot be found online, and I suspect the same is true for medical translators.

As a general language abbreviation dictionary, Duden’s Wörterbuch includes usw., KK (14 definitions), MWV and m.Wv. (3 definitions), GG with over 16 variants (gg., Gg., GG., g.g., etc.), as well as StVZO and pharm., but, not surprisingly, the rare abbreviations SzVs, BDPhI, and A il int are missing. Other useful aspects of such a “formerly paper” dictionary include a reverse dictionary in case you have the full form and need the abbreviation, as well as several special tables containing such useful items as the German states, ministries, military ranks, license plate codes, as well...
as chemical elements, names of academic degrees, airport codes, Internet abbreviations, scientific units, and country and currency codes. Users of computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools may choose to enter some of these lists in their termbases for domains that they use frequently.

Checking the legal abbreviation dictionary, Kirchner does not contain usw. (but does have u.U., “unter Umständen”) or the medical abbreviations. However, it does list KK, m.W.v., and the legal abbreviations GG, StVZO, and the rare SZsV. Kirchner also lists many other rare and unusual abbreviations that cannot be found anywhere else.

Wikipedia Abkürzungen Portal

This site is a good starting point for any search for shorter abbreviations. The page includes a blue box at the top with links to specific topic areas and a list of common abbreviations, as well as sub-pages with all possible two-letter and three-letter abbreviations. (The individual topic pages do not appear in the listing I have provided here.) There is also an extensive list of four-letter abbreviations, each of which links to the corresponding page in Wikipedia. (Blue links lead to active pages, while red links mean no page exists, so do not be surprised when the abbreviation you need turns out not to be listed on Wikipedia.) Clicking on an abbreviation that does not sound common, such as QN, for instance, takes us to a disambiguation page stating that QN can stand for 10 different full forms. This gives you the opportunity to check the context of your source text to see whether one of those solutions actually makes sense.

Moving to the three-letter abbreviations, we see that only five links are available for QN. Clicking on QNN does not take us to a disambiguation page, but rather straight to Neuronaler Schaltkreis, where we discover again that an English abbreviation has found its way into German, where it means “quantum neural network” (QNN or QANN). This does not only resolve the “German” abbreviation, but also gives you the English full form and abbreviations, which you can then verify with further research.

General Sites

This listing of general sites is in order of usefulness as measured by how many of the nine terms listed in Table 1 were found.

Acronym Finder

www.acronymfinder.com

This site claims to be “the world’s largest and most comprehensive searchable dictionary of acronyms and initialisms.” A disadvantage here is that the list is not language-specific. Four terms from the sample list in Table 1 were not found here with the specified full form (KK, SZsV, BDPhI, and A il int). Score: 5 out of 9

Woxikon Abkürzungen & Akronyme Datenbank

abkuerzungen.woxikon.de

StVZO, SZsV, BDPhI, and A il int were not found. Score: 5 out of 9

YAAS | Yet Another Acronym Server

yaas.de

This site contains 6,200 three-letter acronyms in German. It is searchable and you can also obtain a list of all the acronyms. Only usw. and GG were found. Score: 2 out of 9

Specialized Sites

The following (certainly incomplete) list of specialized sites spans the spectrum from the very broad (with close to 20,000 abbreviations from computer science, telecommunications, and electronics) to the very narrow (50 terms about MP3 and music technology). The sites are listed alphabetically. I have omitted sites that have not been updated recently.
**Business**

123recht.net rechtliches Wörterbuch
www.123recht.net/dictionary.asp
This brief Swiss glossary contains mostly terms, but there are some abbreviations.

Abkürzungen der Betriebswirte
www.zingel.de/bwlabk.htm
Contains about 725 business management abbreviations, some with English translations, from Harry Zingel.

Immobilien-Fachwissen Lexikon
www.immobilien-fachwissen.de/lexikon.html
Contains 4,431 terms from the real estate business, with many abbreviations. Searchable.

Official European Verzeichnis der Länder, Gebiete und Währungen
bit.ly/European-CountryCodes
Contains two-letter country codes and three-letter currency codes for the countries of the world, with full forms and much additional information. Can be switched to English or other languages.

**Financial**

GELD.ORG - Abkürzungen
geld.org/gabk.htm
A specialized glossary for money transactions and related terms.

SAP Bibliothek
bit.ly/SAP-bibliothek
A searchable list of terms for the well-known SAP enterprise business management and financial software. Contains many abbreviations.

**Legal**

Abkürzungen der Juristen
www.zingel.de/jurabk.htm
Contains about 2,000 legal abbreviations from Harry Zingel.

Begriffe und Abkürzungen zum Arbeitsschutzmanagement und Gesundheitsschutzmanagement
www.stottrop-online.de/abasm.htm
Contains about 280 occupational health and safety terms.

beck-online - Die Datenbank
beck-online.beck.de
Beck is a very well respected legal publisher, so the information contained on this site is reliable. Many legal terms, particularly abbreviations of German laws and regulations, can be found here. A nice feature is a pop-up window that appears if the abbreviation is ambiguous, offering a choice of possible full forms for the abbreviation.

Brennecke & Partner juristische Abkürzungen
www.brennecke-partner.de/Rechtslexikon
A collection of 1,547 legal abbreviations compiled by attorney Harald Brennecke and Nathalie Käuper.

Gesetze im Internet
gesetze-im-internet.de
The official site of the German Ministry of Justice. Allows searches for German laws, which all have an official full form, short form, and abbreviation. The site also has links to translations of selected laws. (Use Volltextsuche in your searches.)

Juristische Abkürzungen von A bis Z
www.juristische-abkuerzungen.de
This site contains Sebastian Einbock’s collection of legal abbreviations. It is difficult to estimate, but perhaps there are less than 1,000 legal abbreviations. Not searchable and divided by letter.

Official European Kürzel and Akronyme
bit.ly/publications-europa
Contains over 800 terms focusing on European political and legal institutions. Can be switched to English or other languages.

**Polizeiliche Abkürzungen**

www.funkfrequenzen01.de/bos016.htm
Contains over 500 abbreviations relating to police work compiled by Detlef Wipperfürth on his radio frequencies site.

ProZ Juristische Abkürzungen
bit.ly/ProZ-SzantaiGabo
A personal glossary of legal abbreviations listing 1,175 terms, including some very specialized ones.

**UNESCO**

www.unesco.ch/glossar.html
A glossary of 158 abbreviations and terms frequently used by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on their Swiss website, including some German and many English terms.

**Technical/Computer**

ABKLEX
Abkürzungsliste/Acronyms
www.abklex.de/abklex
Wulf Alex’s list of over 15,000 computer science and telecommunications acronyms. Performs searches using a browser.
Abkürzung.ch
www.abkuerzung.ch
Allows wildcard searches. Contains links to Wikipedia and Google and other abbreviation sites.

Abkürzungen und Begriffe aus der IT
www.it-kauderwelsch.de/cgi-bin/glossar.pl
Contains 1,859 terms from information technology and related areas.

Computer Modell Katalog Glossar
www.computer-modell-katalog.de/glossar.htm
Contains about 400 computer terms. The site limits itself to information before 1995.

DFÜ Abkürzungen
www.shamrock.de/dfu/dfuabk.htm
Contains about 375 terms relating to data communications from Shamrock Software GmbH.

EDV-Abkürzungen.de
www.edv-abkuerzungen.de
Contains an unknown number of terms relating to information technology. It is searchable and suggests related terms. Users can also suggest abbreviations.

eflight Glossar Abkürzungen
www.eflight.de/index.html
Contains about 200 abbreviations relating to aviation, with German and English full-form equivalents. (Click on Abkürzungen in the bar on the left.)

Flugzeuginfo.net
Luftfahrtabkürzungen
www.flugzeuginfo.net/glossary_dt.php
Almost all of the 775 abbreviations provided are in English, but there are a few German and European abbreviations.

Hypertext Glossar
informatikbezogener Abkürzungen und ausgewählter Begriffe
www.surveyor.in-berlin.de/perlslindexd.html
Contains thousands of entries relating to computer science.

Maritimes Abkürzungsverzeichnis
www.seemotive.de/abkmaritim/abkmar.htm
It is hard to estimate volume, but the site contains hundreds of maritime terms, mostly English with a few German terms. The site does provide the full forms and definitions for many German and English terms.

MPeX Glossary
www.mpex.net/info/lexikon.html
Contains about 50 terms, many of them abbreviations, relating to MP3 technology.

Umweltschutz
www.skronn.de/opa/abk.htm
Contains 212 abbreviations in the area of environmental protection.

Wasser- und Schifffahrtsverwaltung des Bundes Abkürzungen und Zuständigkeiten der
www.bit.ly/Wasserstrassen-Glossar
Contains abbreviations for waterways in Germany.

webchat.de Abkürzungen
www.webchat.de/allgemeine/abkuerzungen.php
Contains about 450 searchable abbreviations relating to chat, mostly English terms with German translations.

web-akronym.de
www.web-akronym.de/index.htm
This site is difficult to use and the search facility is clumsy, but it does contain many Internet-related terms.

Medical
Beckers Abkürzungslexikon medizinischer Begriffe
www.beckers-akronym.de
According to the site, it contains the most comprehensive German medical abbreviation lexicon, with more than 150,000 abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols. Surprisingly, the only abbreviation from Table 1 not contained in this collection was the rare SZsV. Still, it is not a legal site.

Miscellaneous Topics
Current Slang at Sprachnudel
Abkürzungen & Akronyme
www.sprachnudel.de/kategorie/abkuerzungen
Sprachnudel’s tagline is Wörterbuch der Jetztsprache (“Dictionary of current language”). It provides 88 terms that are very recent.

Buchhandel-Abkürzungen
www.abebooks.de/docs/HelpCentral/Glossary
A glossary for book buyers and sellers. Note that all terms listed here are in common use, although you might find slightly different definitions for a single technical term. This glossary provides a general overview of the current terms and does not claim to be universal.

Zustand von gebrauchten Büchern
www.booklooker.de/pages/glossar.php
Another glossary for book buyers and sellers.
Not the End

The listing provided here is far from complete, nor can it be. Instead, let it serve as a starting point to using German sites to decode abbreviations, acronyms, and initialisms. Suggestions for additional sites are welcome at gkoby@kent.edu.

Notes

1. A terminological note: an abbreviation is any shortened form of a word, multi-word term, name, or phrase. Acronyms and initialisms are subcategories of abbreviations, both of which are formed from the initial parts of a name. An acronym can be pronounced (e.g., NATO, OPEC), while an initialism cannot (e.g., FBI, BBC). In this article I use abbreviation to cover all three types.

2. Disambiguation pages (“dab pages”) are designed to help a researcher find Wikipedia or Google articles on different topics that could be referenced by the same search term. For example, Perth refers to several different cities and towns. Disambiguation pages are not articles; they are aids in searching.

If you reach a disambiguation page by following a link in an article, it means that the original article is not linked directly to the right article.

3. Google Books (books.google.com) can be a source to view and search scanned versions of older paper books. Several dictionaries of abbreviations are listed that may yield an occasional solution. More links can also be found on my website (www.personal.kent.edu/~gkoby/GermanAbbreviations).

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I was so pleased with a one-day symposium seminar on the basics of intellectual property I attended this past June that I will be glad to provide the text of my notes as an e-mail attachment to anyone who wants to get broadly acquainted with this field. Just let me know at the e-mail address listed above.

New Queries

(Da-E 8-12.1) This query concerns a custody matter, and the final two words in the sentence caused the problem: Sagsøgers pástand er, at forældremyndigheden over børnene xxx og xxx overføres i medfør af Forældreensvarsloven par 15, stk. 2 og par 16 andet punktum. Who can help with the English for this?

(Da-Sp [E] 8-12.2) Garantihensættelse, an unknown term found in an annual report, appears to be related to garantiforpligtelser. Spanish, please, or at least a stab at the English for this.

(E-Sp 8-12.3) “Mid-term survival” is not a measure of how well undergraduate students do at a crisis point during a semester, but rather a serious medical indicator, and serious Spanish is sought for it. Here is the lengthy context sentence: “This study reviews the mid-term survival and clinical and radiological outcome of a large group of patients who had undergone cementless THR and compares the results in non-obese … and obese patients.”

(E-Sp 8-12.4) “DC homeruns” in this query have nothing to do with the team that moved south from Montreal a few years ago. They are the stuff of one aspect of electrical engineering. Here is some context: “The number and rating of the interverters DC inputs will determine the combining requirements of the DC homeruns, from each SF-1136S to the inverter.” What are they?

(F-E 8-12.5) This is quite an advanced information technology text, and the problem word (in bold) might not be best translated as “schedule.” Here is the phrase: Simulation à événement discret accélérée: échéancier décentralisé, perfectionnement et mise à plat des simulateurs. Were the translator’s instincts about this word correct?

(F-E 8-12.6) In the arcane field of accelerated time discrete event simulation, a puzzling term, jeu de résultat, appeared. Here is what the author couched the phrase in: Nous proposons un premier jeu de résultat issu de simulation basée sur les algorithmes de DEVS classique, et sur une approche décentralisée. Try it if you can.

(G-R [E] 8-12.7) Two quite different and tentative answers on the Internet to this query led the Translation Inquirer to believe that the matter was far from settled. The legal term is Vollstreckungshilfeverkehr, and it has to do with a German citizen in the process of being transferred from a Russian prison to a German one to complete his incarceration. Here is some context from the paperwork: Vollstreckungshilfeverkehr nach dem Transferübereinkommen vom 21. März 1983. Good Russian or, at minimum, English for this, please.

(I-E 8-12.8) The person working on this legal assignment wants to know whether addivenire a sistemazione dei conti simply means to settle accounts, or is there more to it, in a context of what a person having special power of attorney is authorized to do?

(Pt-E 8-12.9) What does penhor mercantil refer to in legal Portuguese? Here is a sentence that should grease the skids: A no entanto, está negociando com B o penhor mercantil dos seus estoques como garantia complementar do pagamento daquelas divisas.

(Pt-E 8-12.10) In the context of a tax credit being reformulated, termo de re-ratificação appeared. Who can help with this term, which probably originated in the depths of the Treasury Department?

(R-E 8-12.11) Braking equipment is the context for this query about перекос (сдвиг осей) штампов. Need a bit more to solve this? Here it is: Поверхностные дефекты и угубления от окалины в пределах допусков; минимальная толщина стенки проушин на размере 220, замеренная по размеру штампа, 14 мм; Перекос (сдвиг осей) штампов не более 1,5 мм.
Replies to Old Queries

(Da-E 6-12.1) (timeløst fag): Ulla Hamilton claims that within the given context, this is an “elective (optical) subject.”

(E-R 6-12.5) (Pwh): Flow line back pressure, explains Leonid Gornik, is a pressure that counters the pressure in the flow line, making it harder for oil to flow. Restrictions or cloggings can cause this. Translation: противод ав - ление на выкидной линии.

Wellhead pressure is pressure measured at the wellhead, which is the oil pressure at that point. The Russian for this is давление в устье скважины.

(F-R [E] 6-12.8) (la regularisation du transfert du droits): Leonid Gornik notes that règlementation is preferable in this context. Given that change, the best Russian is: Порядок передачи корпоративных прав от компании ххх компани zzz. The first part of the phrase could be: Установление порядка передачи.

(G-E 4-12.9) (Teilemarche): Per Dohler believes this might be a misspelling of Teilermarge, which is a “spare parts margin.” Final-syllable consonants are devoiced in German, which makes it difficult to distinguish the sibilants in “ridge” versus “rich.” That is the likely explanation for the misspelling.

(Pt-E 5-12.2) (acertar os ponteiros): Paula Cabral calls this “to set the record straight” or “to rectify.” Her full contextual translation is “Rio makes the necessary changes to once again be the center of the world.”

(Sp-E 3-12.10) (como la guayabera): Sonia Sepulveda corrects this to read como el guayabero or como la guayaba. The latter means a lie and the former a fraud or scammer.

I certainly hope to see some of you, my estimable contributors, relatively soon at ATA’s Annual Conference in San Diego. The city is memorable for me, since this is also where I attended my first ATA conference back in 1991. In the meantime, I attended ATA’s Medical Division conference there in July 2009. It was a very valuable conference, and San Diego is a cool place!

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Glossopoeia

J. R. R. Tolkien did it for The Lord of the Rings. Gene Roddenberry did it for Star Trek. Screenwriter John Logan did it for the 2002 film version of H. G. Wells’ The Time Machine. And now, according to the December 2011 edition of ATA Newsbriefs, quoting a December 12, 2011 article in The New York Times by Amy Chozick, it has become something of a cottage industry in Hollywood. It is glossopoeia, the inventing of new languages for fictional non-humans. What’s more, these artificial languages, invented purely to entertain, have been far more successful than the many languages invented over the years, such as Esperanto, that were supposed to be “universal” or somehow better than any of the 6,000 currently existing natural tongues. In fact, some of these invented languages may actually have more speakers than many natural languages that are dying out. An entire book about the long history of artificial language invention was published in 2010: In the Land of Invented Languages: Adventures in Linguistic Creativity, Madness, and Genius by Arika Okrent (Random House Publishing Group).

The invented languages have full grammatical rules, written alphabets, and sufficient vocabulary for basic conversations. David J. Peterson, who studied linguistics at the University of California, San Diego, and helped establish the Language Creation Society in 2007, invented Dothraki for the HBO fantasy television series Game of Thrones. He is also the inventor of Kamakawi, Zhyler, Kelenala, KNSL, Sathir, Njaama, Epiq, X, Gweydr, Sheli, Tan Tyls, and Sidaan.

Paul R. Frommer of the University of Southern California created the Na’vi language for the movie Avatar, and was hired by the Disney studios to develop a Martian language called Barsoomian for John Carter, a science fiction movie. And people, real people, actually use these languages, or try to. In October 2010, there was an international “Teach the Teachers” event in Sonoma County, California, where Frommer gave tips on grammar and vocabulary and answered questions about Na’vi.

Despite the fact that many of the inventors have studied linguistics, it is obvious from reading about these languages on the Internet that the creators usually consciously try to embody many of the stereotypical misconceptions about language discussed by John McWhorter in The Power of Babel, a recent subject in this column (June 2012). For example, most of the attributes of a language are the result of chance, not culture, and a “primitive” brutal people will not speak a primitive brutal language but one with full communication ability. And if any artificial language ever catches on to the point that it is actually learned by children from their parents, it will change as all natural languages do, in ways totally unpredictable from any cultural attributes.

Since the fictional speakers of these fictional languages actually do speak, in books, in films, on television, and in video games, and all of these can be the subjects of translation, perhaps your next job will be into or out of Klingon, Na’vi, or Dothraki.

Has anybody alerted ATA’s Certification Committee?

Submit items for future columns via e-mail to mnh18@columbia.edu (that is 18, not el-8) or via snail mail to Mark Herman, 2222 Westview Drive, Nashville, TN 37212-4123. 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.
Send your news to Jeff Sanfacon at jeff@atanet.org or American Translators Association, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314.

• **Anne Milano Appel**’s translation of Maurizio de Giovanni’s *I Will Have Vengeance* (Hersilia Press) is on the shortlist for the 2012 Crime Writers’ Association International Dagger. The Dagger is a competition for crime, thriller, suspense, or spy fiction novels that have been translated into English from their original language for publication in the U.K.

• **Lola Bendana** and **Alan Melby** have published *Almost Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Translation* (Multi-Language Corporation), a free resource for both translators and interpreters and their clients. The first part of this document is for everyone, especially requesters of translation services. The second part is for translators and project managers. Copies may be downloaded from http://goo.gl/qgk0K.

• **Mark Herman** and **Ronnie Apter** have had two productions of Smetana’s Czech opera *The Bartered Bride* performed in their English translation, one in England and one in the U.S. Excerpts from the American production can be seen on YouTube. The first of these can be seen at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYXW1wf3wjq (Jeník’s aria, Act II, Scene 5).

• **Alejandro Moreno-Ramos** has published *Mox. Illustrated Guide to Freelance Translation* (Vita Brevis).

• **William P. Rivers** has been appointed the executive director of the Joint National Committee for Language—National Council on Language and International Studies, and **Peter W. Krawutschke** has been elected treasurer.

• **U.S. Translation Company**, of South Ogden, Utah, is the recipient of Utah’s Best of State Award for Language Services.

You might just have so much fun reading the conference tweets that you will want to follow @atanet on Twitter throughout the year. It is never a long-winded conversation or endless discussion—just translation and interpreting news you need as needed. And remember, if it cannot be said in 140 characters, it will never be a tweet on Twitter!
ATA Certification
Exam Information

Upcoming Exams

California
San Francisco
September 29, 2012
Registration Deadline:
September 14, 2012

San Diego
2 Sittings
October 27, 2012
Registration Deadline:
October 12, 2012

Florida
Miami
September 30, 2012
Registration Deadline:
September 14, 2012

Minnesotta
White Bear Lake
September 29, 2012
Registration Deadline:
September 14, 2012

New Mexico
Albuquerque
September 15, 2012
Registration Deadline:
August 31, 2012

Texas
Irving
September 22, 2012
Registration Deadline:
September 7, 2012

Mexico
Guadalajara
September 22, 2012
Registration Deadline:
September 7, 2012

New Certified Members

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

Croatian into English
Paula S. Gordon
Wilmington, DE

English into Chinese
Chunyan Chen
Raleigh, NC

English into French
Isabelle M. Berquin
Winston Salem, NC

English into Spanish
Marcelo A. Bornscheuer
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Oxnard, CA
Marina Recalde
Jersey City, NJ

English into Swedish
Susanne A. E. Ohrvik
Bromma, Sweden

Active and Corresponding Membership Review

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

Mohamad Anwar
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Charles N. Ek
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Jonathan A. Tomolonis
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Heather K. Wiersema
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Depending on the type of content being translated, this figure could increase further.

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