TRANSLATORS WITHOUT BORDERS
A Community Translating To Save Lives

PEMT Yourself!
Don't Leave Money You're Owed on the Table!

Beyond Post-Editing: Advances in Interactive Translation Environments

Switching from a Laptop to a Tablet: An Interpreter’s Experience
inspired THINKING

When in the office, NSA language analysts develop new perspectives on the dialect and nuance of foreign language, on the context and cultural overtones of language translation.

We draw our inspiration from our work, our colleagues and our lives. During downtime we create music and paintings. We run marathons and climb mountains, read academic journals and top 10 fiction.

Each of us expands our horizons in our own unique way and makes connections between things never connected before.

At the National Security Agency, we are inspired to create, inspired to invent, inspired to protect.

U.S. citizenship is required for all applicants. NSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and abides by applicable employment laws and regulations. All applicants for employment are considered without regard to age, color, disability, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, or status as a parent.

NSA has a critical need for individuals with the following language capabilities:

- Arabic
- Chinese
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- Russian
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APPLY TODAY
Translators without Borders: A Community Translating to Save Lives
When communication brings aid, translation matters.

PEMT Yourself!
Getting ahead of machine translation will help put your career in the lead.

Don’t Leave Money You’re Owed on the Table!
Even if you’re not quite ready to retire, you should still be familiar with the procedure for claiming Social Security from other countries while living in the U.S.

Beyond Post-Editing: Advances in Interactive Translation Environments
Post-editing was never meant to be the future of machine translation. Neither was translation memory.

Switching from a Laptop to a Tablet: An Interpreter’s Experience
If you’re an interpreter thinking of how nice it would be not to have to carry that heavy laptop around to each assignment, you’ll be glad to learn that there’s very little that can’t be done efficiently on a tablet.

FROM THE COVER: Translators without Borders chair Andrew Bredenkamp and program director Rebecca Petras in Kibera, Kenya (April 2012).
often start my columns with a few personal notes, and this last column as your president is no exception. The past year has been an exercise in letting go, with personal and professional milestones and passages being marked at an alarming rate. In each instance, I take time to remind myself that it is a process, not a moment.

One vital step in the process is taking stock. When I stood before the membership four short years ago, I shared an admittedly ambitious vision: ATA as an umbrella organization that embraces the diversity inherent in our industry, and a place where a culture of professionalism pervades everything we do. My ambition was to make my legacy more than just oatmeal on the breakfast buffet.

I envisioned a certification exam that candidates completed in their own offices. We are not there—yet—but the wheels are in motion, with the Board authorizing testing of a secure online system that shows great promise.

Along the way, it became clear that some things were not as important as I imagined, and other issues emerged that were clearly higher priority. I had shared a vision of international recognition of our Certification Program, but the Board quite rightly felt that there was more benefit to diverting our resources and energies into re-establishing a sustainable public relations program, revamping our flagship publication, and systematically adjusting budgetary structures to poise ATA for its next round of growth. Volunteer-driven initiatives quite rightly drive much of the agenda.

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simplified access to voting, as well as the CI—credentialed interpreter—marker of professionalism in our online directory.

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It is not a platitude to say that I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to serve this Association alongside such remarkable colleagues, and have no doubt that future Boards will build on the tradition of advancing our profession in a dynamic fashion.
CHARGING BY THE HOUR?
Judy Jenner’s suggestion in her September-October column that we charge by the hour appears to me to be premature at this point.

In addition to the fact that only experienced translators can estimate the time it will take to complete a job (and sometimes not even we can do that accurately), there’s another problem. An experienced translator working quickly might earn $100 or more an hour. But clients who wouldn’t flinch at paying a lawyer several hundred dollars per hour wouldn’t accept that rate for translators. I never quote hourly rates for that reason.

Until we are perceived by clients (and more importantly by ourselves) as professionals whose time is worth as much as that of other professionals, we are better off sticking to our by-the-word rates.

Eve E. Hecht | Elizabeth, NJ

RESPONSE FROM JUDY JENNER
Yes, those are precisely the potential downsides to the hourly pricing approach that I detailed in my column. All pricing strategies have pros and cons, so every linguist must decide for themselves what works for them.

THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED
I was very interested to read Ted Wozniak and Evelyn Yang Garland’s report in the July-August issue on the financial considerations behind decisions made by the Board (“Money Matters: The Story Behind Numbers and Board Decisions,” page 7). I was also glad to read Jeff Alfonso and Corinne McKay’s description of the Chronicle Task Force’s work over the past year (“Behind the Scenes with The ATA Chronicle Task Force,” page 12).

It’s essential that members be kept informed about how ATA is being run and the decisions being made on their behalf. The Chronicle is both the natural and best means of disseminating this information. I hope to read more about the behind-the-scenes work in future issues. (A “From the Boardroom” column would be a great start!)

May Fung Danis | Guadeloupe, France

WE’RE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Do you have a comment about a particular article or column? We’re always interested in hearing what you have to say. Submit your letters today to jeff@atanet.org.

American Translators Association

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Now What? Making the Most of the Post-Conference Period

By the time you read this, the memories of ATA’s 56th Annual Conference in Miami will be fading as fast as the tan line on your shoulder that you developed while sitting outside on the hotel patio. Below are a few tips for making the most of the conference experience once you get back to the office.

Don’t let things pile up. It’s so easy just to dump all the business cards and brochures you collected at the conference into a blank file folder and file it under “LOL” (Look Over Later). Usually, that’s 370 days later, when you dump the file in the recycle bin after returning from the next conference. The key to avoiding having a backlog of brochures is not to procrastinate in the first place. Before you get back into the regular routine at the office, schedule an hour as soon as you get back from the conference to review the material you’ve collected. The memory of why you picked up the brochure in the first place or what the background was of the person who gave you their card will be fresh in your mind. If you wrote a note on their business card or brochure it will be even easier. It won’t take long to create two piles: 1) for immediate follow-up, and 2) for information purposes.

Reach out to someone. When going through the immediate follow-up pile, make sure you do it sooner rather than later. That way the conversation you had with the person who gave you their card will be fresh in your mind— and in theirs. This is particularly true if you are reaching out to a new friend or professional colleague with whom you connected at the conference. The conversation can continue from where you left off.

If you’re following up with a project manager from an agency for which you would like to work, your enthusiasm will surely be noted. However, don’t be surprised if you get a rather impersonal reply from the agency’s vendor manager asking you to enter your information in their database, even when you gave them your résumé. Send a quick note to the project manager you spoke with and let them know that you registered in their database and look forward to working with them in the future. It keeps your name fresh.

It’s never too late to get involved. If a contact you made at the conference is from a local chapter or division, one of the best ways to maintain that connection is to get involved. Even if it’s just a few hours a month working on a division newsletter or helping promote a chapter event, seize the momentum from the conference and raise your hand to volunteer. There’s no better time to get involved than the present. We’re a volunteer-driven association, so we rely on the energy and enthusiasm of our members to keep the organization growing.

Apply yourself and new skills. The same applies to all of the new demo CDs and limited-offer discounts you received from various vendors and technology companies. If you wait too long to start exploring your options, the company offer may expire or they may move on to another upgrade, and you won’t be able to take advantage of improvements in efficiency that are out there. If you have multiple offers, rank them and try them out over time. The same applies to any new skills or tips you may have picked up at the conference. Make a list of all the key suggestions from the conference (or review the conference program to jog your memory) and make a point to try out at least one new suggestion for a week or two at a time. Small tips can easily reap big rewards.

Chart a new course. Schedule an appointment with yourself about one month after the conference. Write a list of the tips or technology you thought were ultimately beneficial to you, and think about the areas where you still need to learn more. Review your conference notes and the conference program one more time. Perhaps there was a session or a speaker that you might consider next year. Even better, perhaps you have developed some knowledge that you would like to share with your colleagues. If so, make a note when session proposals are due for ATA’s 57th ATA Annual Conference in San Francisco. We hope to see you again next year!
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WALTER BACAK, CAE
walter@atanet.org

Thanks and End of Year To-Dos

THANK YOU TO ATA’S OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS!

Director Odile Legeay: Odile has completed her second and final three-year term as director. Odile was a part of the teams that were instrumental in creating the guidelines for translation and interpreting agreements as well as adapting CalPro—an online business valuation program for independent contractors—for U.S. translators and interpreters.

Secretary Boris Silversteyn: Boris has completed his second and final two-year term as secretary. Prior to serving as secretary, Boris held two terms as a director. Boris’ keen eye for detail, his experience with processes (from his earlier life as an engineer), and his wisdom conveyed through colorful stories will be missed.

President Caitilin Walsh: Caitilin has served two years as president, two years as president-elect, and one term as director. Caitilin has led ATA through some challenging issues, from revamping the magazine to making tough choices regarding the Association’s finances. In addition, she has worked successfully to make sure interpreters and interpreting issues remain an integral part of the Association.

As this is the last issue for 2015, please note some end-of-year items for your attention.

Overall Event Survey: For those who attended ATA’s Annual Conference in Miami, please be sure to complete your Overall Event Survey. Your feedback really makes a difference. The conference planning team—president, president-elect, ATA Meetings Manager Teresa Kelly, and I—review the compiled results as well as all the comments and use them to shape future conferences. The survey can be accessed via the app.

The ATA Chronicle Microsite: Please be sure to check out the new Chronicle-Online (www.atanet.org/chronicle-online). This site’s dynamic programming provides readability on mobile devices and full indexing of past issues. Besides current and past issues, the site also features bonus material not found in the print magazine, including the Translation Inquirer and the Humor and Translation columns.

Membership renewal: The 2016 membership renewal notices will be sent in early December. Thank you for being an ATA member in 2015. Please be sure to renew for 2016.

Sanctioned Member
Mohamad Anwar was sanctioned recently for misrepresenting his credentials (specifically his claim of having a Ph.D.). His action violated the third tenet in the American Translators Association Code of Ethics and Professional Practice: “to represent our qualifications, capabilities, and responsibilities honestly and to work always within them.” This type of violation is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the ATA Bylaws, Article III, Section 6.a.3: “Fraud or misrepresentation in the application for or maintenance of ATA membership, professional certification, or other professional recognition or credential.” He is prohibited from being an ATA member until September 15, 2020.

According to the ATA Bylaws, Article III, Section 6.b. Disciplinary Actions, “All disciplinary actions are taken pursuant to procedures adopted by the Board from time to time, which procedures may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the Board.” The procedures are addressed in the ATA Policy on Ethics Procedures (www.atanet.org/docs/p_dm_ethics.pdf). The sanctions applied to these individuals are in accordance with the ATA Policy on Ethics Procedures, Section V.
Molly Yurick Wins 2014–2015 School Outreach Contest

ATA member Molly Yurick, a Spanish>English translator based in Oviedo, Spain, won a free registration to ATA’s 56th Annual Conference in Miami, Florida.

Molly won the contest for the photo taken during her visit to the Instituto de Educación Secundaria Cuenca del Nalón in Asturias, Spain, to speak to students in the English/Spanish bilingual program. “The specific class I visited had students from all over the world,” Molly said.

Molly engaged the students in a discussion of the risks of using free online translation platforms (such as Google Translate) and the importance of using human translators. “At the end of the class, one student confessed that he was now thinking of becoming a translator. That was a great feeling!”

Molly’s winning photograph was captured after a hands-on translation activity with the students. With assistance from Molly and the teacher, each student translated “My name is …” into their native language and wrote the translation onto a colorful speech balloon. The multilingual speech balloons seen in Molly’s photo include Spanish, Asturian, Romanian, French, Arabic, and Russian.

Molly is thrilled to be attending ATA’s 56th Annual Conference. “Miami will be my first conference, and this will make the experience even more memorable,” she said.

The 2015–2016 School Outreach Contest is now open! The winner will receive a free registration to ATA’s 57th Annual Conference in San Francisco, California, November 2–5, 2016. For more information, visit www.atanet.org/ata_school/school_outreach_contest.php.

Meghan McCallum is the coordinator of ATA’s School Outreach Program.
Translators without Borders: A Community Translating to Save Lives

Translators without Borders is more than a nonprofit: it’s a community. Learn how over 3,000 volunteers use their language skills to help in humanitarian work, as well as how you can get involved!

Some translation humor was making the rounds of the Internet a while back. Underneath a picture of an empty roll of toilet paper was the caption, “Translation is like toilet paper. No one thinks about it until they need it.”

Being invisible is not just a problem for our profession, however. It’s also a problem in virtually every international humanitarian crisis. Worst of all, it’s a problem that costs lives. As the founder of the language charity Translators without Borders, I have seen first-hand how critical translation is to humanitarian work and how often it is that “no one thinks about it.”

FOUNDOING TRANSLATORS WITHOUT BORDERS

I can’t say that I founded Translators without Borders to raise awareness of the need for translation. I founded it to support humanitarian work.

It started with Traducteurs sans frontières, a much smaller French charity that was the precursor to Translators without Borders. In Paris in 1993, Médecins sans frontières (Doctors without Borders, which would go on to win the Nobel Peace Prize) asked my French translation company, Lexcelera, to provide a price estimate for one of their projects. Instead of giving them a quote, I told them we would do the work for free—as long as they used the money they saved to help more people.

This was the beginning of Traducteurs sans frontières, which I founded with my partner, Ros Smith-Thomas. Over the next 17 years, Lexcelera provided pro bono project management to support a community of professional translators around the world who assisted humanitarian organizations—including Médecins sans frontières, Action Against Hunger, Ashoka, and Handicap International—through the donation of around a million words annually.

When the earthquake struck Haiti in 2010, so much translation was needed that a million words suddenly seemed like a drop in the bucket. Not only could we not cope with the volume, but the requests for translation came in so quickly that we were unable to respond in the near real-time that was needed. Over a thousand translators contacted us each week, wanting to help alleviate Haiti’s misery by donating their skills, but we just didn’t have the capacity to take that many volunteers all at once.

WHEN COMMUNICATION IS AID, TRANSLATION MATTERS

In a crisis, information is aid. How do I protect myself and my family? Where is it safe for us to go? Where can we find food, water, and shelter? Haiti taught us that what people need most in a disaster can be the one thing that is in shortest supply: information in their own language. In the words of Rebecca Petras, program director for Translators without Borders: “Following a crisis, one of the most immediate priorities for both relief workers and victims is disseminating and receiving information, yet language barriers frequently complicate response efforts.”

Before Haiti, humanitarian translation in a crisis was barely on the radar. That’s because in many cases there were few opportunities to communicate directly with the affected population. At best, aid organizations would communicate with
local nonprofits—always in the hope that there was a common language between them—and, in turn, those nonprofits would communicate with the local people.

Mobile technology changed all that, with even the very poor more likely than not to have access to a mobile phone. In Haiti the cellphone towers were restored early on, so cellphones were used en masse to seek help. During the first six weeks following the earthquake, 40,000 messages were received at a national call number set up to coordinate aid. Survivors texted for help to dig others out of the rubble, to ask for food and water, and to find loved ones.

The messages were in the language mostly spoken by the poor—Haitian Kreyol. Unfortunately, this was not a language understood by most of the rescuers.

Haiti was the first crisis that made me aware that communication had to happen under the best circumstances, so that it could be understood by most of the rescuers. I had to change the organization and to find loved ones.

I have seen first-hand how critical translation is to humanitarian work and how often it is that “no one thinks about it.”

The first two goals of the new organization—to raise awareness of the importance of translation and to support humanitarian work through the donation of translation services—were achievable with the infrastructure we set up. The third goal—to increase access to critical knowledge by breaking down language barriers worldwide—is more of a long-term “moon shot” goal.

One of the first actions of Translators without Borders was to team up with ProZ.com, which donated a project management platform and a full-time project manager, Enrique Cavalitto. This allowed us to scale up our efforts almost immediately. The community of translators grew, and they were able to donate their time to help many more organizations. This number has grown to 490 charities today, including Partners in Health, Kiva, Zafèn, Good Planet, and Oxfam, all of which are supported by more than 3,000 Translation without Borders volunteers.

READY FOR THE NEXT NATURAL DISASTER

Three years after Haiti, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of...
Humanitarian Affairs activated Translators without Borders to help in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Haiyan. This time Translators without Borders was ready.

The devastation wrought by the typhoon in November 2013 was exacerbated by the erroneous belief that “everyone speaks English.” Fully 90% of Filipinos speak one of the Philippines’ 175 indigenous languages, yet when Typhoon Haiyan was barreling toward the islands, warnings about a “storm surge” were issued in English. And those very words failed to prepare the Cebuano and Waray-Waray speakers for 50-foot-high waves.

It was primarily the poor who perished in their coastal homes because they were the ones least likely to speak English.

Once the recovery effort began, Translators without Borders was able to work through partners like StandbyTask Force and Humanity Road to translate critical messages from survivors. In one case, a mother in a shelter gave a hand-written note in Tagalog with the whereabouts of her children. In the past that message might have been discarded because the rescue team wouldn’t have been able to understand it, but this time, Noemi, a volunteer, was able to translate it. The two children were rescued and reunited with their mother.

More recently, Translators without Borders was called in to help in the aftermath of the April 25th earthquake in Nepal. The rapid response team, composed of more than 25 professional translators, worked to ensure that local people affected by the disaster were able to access accurate and understandable information.

**EBOLA: A CRISIS OF TRANSLATION**

While Nepal, Haiti, and the Philippines experienced natural disasters where human suffering was exacerbated by language barriers, the Ebola epidemic of 2014 was a man-made disaster exponentially worsened because language barriers weren’t given proper consideration.

The key takeaway from last year’s Ebola crisis was that ignorance about the virus was as fatal as bodily contact with an infected person. People at risk needed to know how to prevent infection and what to do if someone around them caught it. Communicating this information was a key strategy to halting the epidemic. The problem was that, unbelievable as it may seem, most information about how to prevent the spread of Ebola was not available in the languages understood by the people at risk.

In Sierra Leone, the use of English is limited to the educated minority. Similarly, in Liberia, despite the fact that it was founded by freed American slaves, only 20% of the population speaks English. Untranslated posters, flyers, banners, and billboards aimed at educating the public were, in fact, educating the minority elite, the ones who spoke English. For the vast majority of West Africans, information provided in English was of no more use than French would have been in the U.S.

Clearly, the message didn’t get through to the people most likely to be infected and to become, in turn, carriers of Ebola. Making sure information was in the culturally appropriate language would also have helped build trust. Messages in English that “Ebola is real” didn’t dissuade people from believing that it was a government plot, including a group of young men who raided a quarantined clinic in Monrovia last August, stealing the blood-stained mattresses and sending 20 infected patients into the community.

**TRANSLATORS WITHOUT BORDERS TODAY**

Our volunteer community has grown tremendously since our early days as Traducteurs sans frontières. We have around 3,000 active volunteers who translate professionally yet still find time to donate their services. We’ve expanded to 104 language pairs and now support over 490 nonprofits, including Oxfam, Kiva, and Save the Children. Thanks to ProZ.com, we’ve been able to automate the

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TRANSLATORS WITHOUT BORDERS continued

project assignment, which has increased our speed and responsiveness dramatically.

Besides our core work in European languages, we now take on projects ranging from subtitling health videos in dozens of Indian languages to pre-translating disaster messages in Swahili and Somali. To increase capacity in local languages, we have piloted a training center in Nairobi, Kenya, where we currently train local translators.

The result of this is that, as I write this, the Translators without Borders website donation counter has reached 27,538,057 words. That’s over 27 million words donated to global aid organizations since 2011. This includes over four million words of health articles for Wikipedia into European, African, and Asian languages (our “moon shot” goal of increasing access to knowledge).

In a crisis, information is aid.

If you would like to volunteer, either as a translator or in another capacity, you can visit the volunteer section of www.translatorswithoutborders.org. If you are an ATA-certified translator, mention this and you will not need to complete the exam. Once you have been accepted as a volunteer, projects in your language pairs may be proposed. Needs for certain languages are very strong, such as French<>English and any African languages. Generally the requests are for 1–10 pages, and turning down projects you don’t have the time or specialty to take on is perfectly acceptable. The system is semi-automated, so you can specify whether you want to continue receiving information about projects in your languages. (Please see the sidebar at right for more information.)

Translators without Borders also needs people to fill other positions, such as project managers and editors, and just about any other role you would find in a nonprofit.

Of course, many people prefer to donate money to charity, and that’s important too. However, Translators without Borders is built on a model similar to that of the legal profession, where sharing your skills with the less fortunate on a pro bono basis is the norm. The thousands of Translators without Borders volunteers just might say that giving their professional skills rather than their money (or in addition to their money) just feels better.

Lori Thicke has worked in languages for over 20 years. She founded Lexcelera, a translation company, in 1986. In 1993, she co-founded Traducteurs sans frontières to provide pro bono translations to support global aid work. In 2010, she founded Translators without Borders, now the world’s largest community of humanitarian translators. She is a frequent speaker and blogger on the issue of fighting poverty with information in the right language. She has an MFA from the University of British Columbia. Contact: lori@translatorswithoutborders.org.
PEMT Yourself!

Technology is always offering new ways to increase the profitability of every industry. The translation community should not see technology as a threat, but as an opportunity.

It’s very common to hear translators complain about having to work on projects involving post-editing machine translation (PEMT), which tend to pay a lower per-word rate compared to human translation. I have some bad news for those people: we’ve reached a point of no return. This kind of service will become more common as companies—as well as translators—look for ways to cut costs and increase profits. Adapting to this emerging reality is a matter of survival now, and complaining about it won’t negate this situation.

Considering how quickly technology advances, and the fact that most people work for about 40 years, it’s impossible to conceive of a single worker, regardless of field or activity, who will never be affected by technology. This idea sounds frightening, but technological advances represent excellent opportunities that must be seized.

IT’S HUMAN NATURE TO FEAR THE UNKNOWN

Why would things be any different in the translation industry? I had not even begun working as a translator when computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools were introduced, but more experienced colleagues tell me many opposed them at first. Such a reaction to new technology is hardly unique. Looking back, there even seems to have been some resistance to using typewriters!

We must take action to make the most of what innovation has to offer.

WILL MACHINE TRANSLATION FORCE US TO BECOME PROOFREADERS?

During our careers, we should expect requests to work with machine translation (MT) to increase. That’s why we need to learn as much as possible to turn such requests into opportunities.

Before I graduated with a degree in languages and literature and became a professional translator, my primary activity was inherently a technological one: electronics. This is most likely the reason why I’ve always embraced innovation. I view hardware and software as partners, not as competitors, and certainly not as enemies. I believe far superior results can be achieved when man and machine work as a team, as opposed to two men working alone or two machines working together. A man-machine symbiosis always seems to be superior in both quantity and quality.

Machines take care of repetitive, merely mechanical tasks that don’t require creativity or cognizance—two areas in which humans overpower computers. Despite developments in artificial intelligence, computers still cannot think for themselves or act cognitively. Computers operate based on algorithms, which by definition do not allow them to make the same simple associations that the human brain is able to process. Our immense ability to be creative and make
We would be naive to think that computers will one day have all the correct options available and be able to translate everything perfectly. There are several factors involved in the translation process, mostly of a cognitive nature. This takes us back to the fact that machines are still unable to think cognitively, and will not be able to do so in the foreseeable future. Because of this, there is close to zero chance that MT will prove to be an efficient replacement for human translators when there is a need for high-quality output. What I do see is an opportunity to work side-by-side with MT software to increase our productivity and offer top-quality results.

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COMPLEMENTARY PARTNERS
Computers can only do what humans teach them to do in a logical and sequential manner. Therefore, when it comes to MT, translators must tell the computer what it did wrong and how mistakes can be corrected. With this feedback and much-needed human intervention, example-based machine translation (EBMT) and statistical machine translation (SMT) are able to “learn” how to improve the text. Reputable translation agencies that work with MT use feedback from their translators to improve their systems. Google Translate, among others, uses this strategy when it asks you to suggest a better translation for a given sentence. Engineers analyze millions of suggestions. Once they are validated, they are implemented in later software updates.

YOU'RE THE TEACHER
When I’m not working with PEMT—that is, when I receive a translation request—I use rule-based MT software to leverage the glossaries and rules I’ve created. Even though this software may sometimes offer inferior results compared to something Google Translate might suggest, this technique yields two great benefits: 1. My client’s material, which is protected by a non-disclosure agreement, is not submitted to any server or website. 2. I get to decide how the translation will be done. The computer is responsible for the mechanical tasks. It applies glossaries, grammatical rules, and style options, over which I have full control. As a result, we have a pre-translated text that will be edited by me before it reaches the client in a ready-to-publish format.

Are the results I achieve using this method always better and quicker than translating it the so-called traditional way? No, not always. I mean, it will be, but not...
right away, and not without some effort on my part to train the software to do better.

Using a stand-alone MT system installed on your computer requires you to invest some time before it yields rewarding results. First, you must create glossary and fine-tuning rules, as well as rethink your workflow. Additionally, not all types of texts are suitable for software translation. Material that demands more creativity, such as literature or marketing material, and texts that encompass cultural and interpretive aspects, are usually not good candidates for MT. Technical texts are the ones that yield better results.

People who have been working for some time with a specific type of text and, consequently, have specialized in a given field and compiled a well-structured glossary, still need to adapt the way terms have been entered into that glossary. Translators who are used to working with CAT tools may have grown accustomed to adding glossary terms without many restrictions. However, when working with MT, things tend to operate quite differently. For example, in Portuguese nouns must be added to a glossary in their male, singular form. Verbs must be recorded in the infinitive form. Failure to observe these rules will result in a less than useful text, which will demand more from the translator.

Other rules must be set clearly, such as whether the software should use an article before a possessive noun, or if a verb tense will change according to the context. How about the names of buttons on a user interface? Should they be translated or kept in the original language, perhaps with a translation in parenthesis?

You might think, “Well, if I’m going to waste my time micromanaging all that, it’s not worth it!” Well, it is worth it. As anything else in life, you must invest time to achieve good results.

Do you remember a few paragraphs back when I mentioned that computers can only do what humans teach them to do? Well, this means you have to constantly train the software to help it produce results that are acceptable. This requires you to start early and remain vigilant.

It may sound complicated, but what you basically need to do is create a glossary, translate a text, see what needs to be adjusted in the glossary and list of rules, and then translate the text again. With time, you’ll notice fewer errors and you’ll spend less time editing these translations.

In addition to reviewing your material more quickly, you’ll also be developing a new ability as you train the software: PEMT. That’s definitely one more skill you can add to your résumé.

**Computers can only do what humans teach them to do in a logical and sequential manner.**

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**RESISTANCE IS FUTILE**

When it comes to innovation, our industry is passionate about making changes and becoming more competitive. This same passion must be applied to technology. We must take action to make the most of what innovation has to offer. We are a creative species, and we are not easily replaceable. According to John Kelly, senior vice-president of Solutions Portfolio & Research at IBM, “The machines will be more rational and analytic. People will provide judgment, intuition, empathy, a moral compass, and…human creativity.”

Change is going to happen. More companies will try to find people who are better prepared to deal with innovation. PEMT will certainly be yet another innovation you’ll experience in your career. Instead of bemoaning it, try to get ahead of it!

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**NOTES**


**William Cassemiro** began his career as a translator of technical manuals while still working at Xerox of Brazil. Prior to this, he worked in the electronics industry for more than 20 years. After receiving his degree in English-Portuguese literature, with an emphasis on translation, from the University of São Paulo (USP), he attended courses in translation specialization at USP and the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. He serves on the board of directors of the Brazilian Translators and Interpreters Association. Contact: contato@williamcassemiro.trd.br.
Don’t Leave Money You’re Owed on the Table!

If you’ve worked in numerous countries and paid into their Social Security systems, make sure you get back what you’re entitled to when it comes time to retire.

If, like me, you’ve worked in a number of countries other than the U.S. and paid into their social security systems, then you need to be aware that you may be eligible for retirement benefits from those countries. Since they won’t seek you out, it’s your responsibility to file a claim for retirement benefits at any Social Security office in the U.S. or the applicable foreign country.

A few years ago, it was time for my husband to retire from his college job. He’s British and had worked in the U.K. as a teenager and in Germany (where I met him) as an adult. Plus he had worked in the U.S., although mostly under a state-sponsored retirement system. Because he had never collected 40 work credits (10 years) under the U.S. Social Security system, I assumed he would only be eligible for Medicare (which everybody pays into), but not for Social Security payments. Surprise! We learned that when the number of years he worked in Germany and the U.K. was combined with the years he worked in the U.S., this brought him up to 10 years paying into federal programs, so he qualified for Social Security benefits in the U.S.! His eligibility was made possible through a totalization agreement.

TOTALIZATION AGREEMENTS

Since the late 1970s, the U.S. has established a network of bilateral Social Security agreements that coordinate the U.S. Social Security program with the comparable programs of other countries. Such agreements are known as totalization agreements. The U.S. currently has agreements with 25 countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Agreements with Hungary and Mexico are pending.

Totalization agreements improve benefit protection for workers who have divided their careers between the U.S. and other countries. They also eliminate the need for dual Social Security coverage and taxes for multinational companies and expatriate workers. This means that if you work in a country that has an agreement with the U.S., your Social Security coverage will be assigned to either the U.S. or the foreign country, so you and your employer do not have to pay taxes to both.

Under the terms of these agreements, even if you haven’t lived in the U.S. long enough to accumulate 40 work credits (also referred to as calendar quarters), you may still be eligible for benefit payments from the U.S. system. If you have worked long enough in the U.S. to receive payments, don’t forget to mention the other countries where you’ve lived, worked, and paid into the system when applying for retirement benefits. If you’ve paid into the system of one or more of the countries listed above, the U.S. system will actually make the initial benefits application for you. If, however, your country is not one of those listed, you’ll need to pay into both systems if you hope to have the time count in both countries. Then you’ll have to apply to the appropriate authority of each country when the time comes to retire.

Since my husband and I worked in Germany, Switzerland, the U.K., and the U.S., I’ll be focusing on these systems. However, more than likely, the method we used to secure our benefits from these countries will have similarities for other countries with totalization agreements, and quite possibly some similarities with those not having totalization agreements with the U.S.
HOW DOES IT WORK?

Basically, when you’re eligible to receive benefits in the U.S., go to your local Social Security office and ask to complete a totalization application. Explain to the clerk that you’ve worked in countries that have a totalization agreement with the U.S. and would like to take advantage of that. They’ll be able to help you fill out the application. When it comes time to include the information about the other countries in which you’ve worked, you’ll be asked questions about the specifics of that work. So, the more information you have, the better!

**Totalization agreements improve benefit protection for workers who have divided their careers between the U.S. and other countries.**

If you have the equivalent of your Social Security number for the other country’s system, that will be helpful, but it’s not absolutely mandatory. Many countries will help you find the number. If, however, you’re living outside the U.S. at the time of retirement, go to the office responsible for Social Security benefits there and they’ll apply for the U.S. Social Security benefits you’re owed while also applying for Social Security in the country you’re in. The other country can also use your U.S. credits to help you meet the eligibility requirements for foreign Social Security benefits.

One of the advantages of totalization agreements is that most countries have a minimum time you must have paid into their system in order to receive benefits. As an example, I can cite my husband’s case as well as my own. If it were not for the totalization agreements, my husband would only have qualified for benefits from Germany, as it was only there that he had fulfilled the time requirement of 60 months. (He actually paid into the system for 61 months!) In the U.S., due to my husband’s work for a state-sponsored retirement system, he had only paid into the federal system for just over six years. However, the U.S. requires 40 calendar quarters, or 10 years. Without the time he had worked in Germany, he wouldn’t have qualified for any U.S. benefits other than Medicare. But with the totalization agreement, the time he worked in Germany was added to the time in the U.S., so it amounted to over 40 quarters. In my case, I do not have enough years in the German system, but I should reach the 60-month requirement easily when my U.S. quarters are applied.

What happens after you’ve submitted your application under a totalization agreement? Usually, once the U.S. application has been submitted, the information will be passed on to the other countries, and they in turn will get in touch with you to determine your eligibility. If you’ve already established your eligibility, this step will go relatively quickly and you’ll start receiving benefits paid into your U.S. bank account before you know it. By this I mean that each country pays its own liabilities, so it does not all end up in the hands of the U.S. Social Security Administration. For instance, my husband receives three different payments, two of which fluctuate depending on the exchange rate.

**CAUTION: ONE POTENTIAL STUMBLING BLOCK**

The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) is a provision in U.S. law that changes the way your U.S. Social Security benefits are calculated. WEP can reduce your U.S. retirement or disability benefits if you receive a pension based on work for which you did not pay U.S. Social Security taxes on those earnings.² This may be work for a U.S. government agency (as in my husband’s case) or an employer in another country. Any pension you get based on that work may reduce your Social Security benefits. The Social Security Administration uses a modified formula to calculate your benefit amount, resulting in a lower Social Security benefit than you would receive otherwise.

**HOW TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY IN ADVANCE**

Each country differs in terms of how you establish retirement eligibility, but I’ve found the Internet is a treasure trove of information in this regard. Here are a few examples:

- Germany maintains a website for those living outside the country: www.deutsche-rentenversicherung-bund.de.
- In Switzerland it’s www.ch.ch/en/ahv. The general website for those living outside Switzerland is http://bit.ly/Ch-Compensation. Both sites provide a form for determining the potential benefit in advance. This can be completed online and submitted, or you can print it out and mail it in.
- The website for the U.K. is http://bit.ly/pension-retire-abroad. You can also get
are not the only countries postponing full retirement age and thus entitlements. Many countries are also changing laws to make retirement age the same for both men and women, whereas before women often could retire earlier.

ONE LAST TIP

Many countries believe in a three-pillar system for retirement. Basically, your Social Security is your first pillar (securing a minimum standard of living), and is not meant to be your sole income upon retirement. The second pillar is usually provided by an employer—a 401(k) or occupational pension. This may be true in other countries in which you’ve worked as well, so don’t forget to enquire about it. (It seems that employer pensions are becoming increasingly uncommon, at least in the U.S.) The third pillar (private pension) would be something like an annuity or individual retirement account you may have started. You get tax benefits while you’re working for adding funds to these accounts and then later draw on them for the final piece of the retirement puzzle. If you started something like this in another country, you’ll have to check with the provider to find out how and when you can start drawing on that pillar.

The bottom line in maximizing your retirement benefits is to do your research. Just don’t leave any of it on the table!

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1 www.socialsecurity.gov/international/status.html


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Beyond Post-Editing: Advances in Interactive Translation Environments

Here are a few new approaches regarding the future of machine translation that go beyond post-editing, along with some practical tools in interactive and adaptive translation technology.

Post-editing was never meant to be the future of machine translation (MT). For researchers seeking fully automatic translation, post-editing is considered more of a failure mode. For human translators, it often forces the user to correct erroneous output. But translation memory (TM), which is essentially a deterministic MT system augmented with heuristics, is not the future either. So what should we expect? Is the current post-editing technology our best hope?

To help answer these questions, let’s begin with a short history of post-editing before delving into more recent developments in machine-assisted translation technology.

1960s: First Experiences with Post-Editing

In the January 1965 issue of *Physics Today*, Robert Beyer, a professor of physics at Brown University, described his experience post-editing a scientific paper from Russian into English. He was participating in a National Science Foundation (NSF) program started in 1955 for the purpose of translating Soviet physics journals. Ten years later, the program was generating 15,000 pages annually at a cost of $500,000, which was covered through subscriptions. It was a popular and necessary program. For example, Beyer observed that Sputnik was not an instantaneous achievement, but it had been “foreshadowed in their [Russian] literature, but this was largely unknown in the West.” Beyer noted that a language barrier, as even the tourist knows, is an effective way of discussing secrets in plain view.

The problem was how to broaden NSF’s program to other languages and other academic fields to cover an ever-growing range of content. For example, the *Journal of Experimental Physics* of the USSR alone had expanded from 1,500 to 4,500 pages per year during NSF’s program. Beyer enumerated possibilities for handling this information deluge, including MT. He provided an anecdotal evaluation of the latest MT technology, calling the experience a “slave’s eye view”:

> It seemed like a good idea … [but] I must confess that the results were most unhappy. I found that I spent at least as much time in editing as if I had carried out the entire translation from the start. Even at that, I doubt if the edited translation reads as smoothly as one which I would have started from scratch … Someday, perhaps, the machines will make it, but I as a translator do not yet believe that I must throw my monkey wrench into the machinery in order to prevent my technological unemployment.

It turned out that “someday” was not to come any time soon. In 1966, federal funding for MT research was reduced dramatically, resulting in an “MT winter” that lasted about 20 years.

1990s: Do Statistics Improve Post-Editing?

In 1993, Ken Church and Ed Hovy, then at AT&T Bell Labs, wrote a widely cited paper with the provocative title “Good Applications for Crummy Machine Translation.” Statistical MT had been invented in the late 1980s, superseding the rule-based systems of the 1960s. Commercial MT systems had been successful in narrow domains such as translating weather forecasts (e.g., the METEO system used at Environment Canada from 1982 until 2001), but the state-of-the-art was still “crummy.”

Instead of continuing the interminable quest for general-purpose MT, Church and Hovy argued, why not identify more “high-payoff” niche applications for MT? A good niche application would have several characteristics, among them attractiveness to intended users.

Church and Hovy stated that post-editing “would appear to be a natural way to get value out of a state-of-the-art MT system … unfortunately, the application
fails to meet most of the desiderata” for a niche application. They explained that MT had also failed “to gain much acceptance among the intended target audience of professional translators because post-editing turns out to be an extremely boring, tedious, and unrewarding chore.” Church and Hovy suggested that post-editing could be more attractive “if the user interface were made more flexible and user-friendly.” However, the best applications for MT would be those in which quality could be traded for speed, convenience, or cost. This turned out to be a prescient suggestion, considering that the highest-impact application of Google Translate and Microsoft Translator is fast and free cross-lingual web browsing.

**PRESENT DAY: POST-EDITING INTEGRATED INTO CAT TOOLS**

In the 22 years since Church and Hovy made their suggestions, MT systems have been integrated into every major computer-assisted translation (CAT) tool. However, the basic experience remains as unimaginative as ever: users are presented with a pre-populated, mutable text box.

Are translators more receptive to MT today? A 2015 paper by Joss Moorkens and Sharon O'Brien, both researchers at the Center for Next-Generation Localization at Dublin City University, compared professional and novice translators’ use of post-editing along three dimensions: throughput, number of edits, and attitude. They found that professionals tended to be faster at post-editing even with more edits per segment. Nevertheless, Moorkens and O’Brien were pessimistic about the results of their study. Only one of nine professionals surveyed rated the experience positively (three were neutral and five negative). The reasons given for the lackluster rating were “lack of creativity, tediousness of the task, [and] limited opportunity to create quality.”

Fifty years of MT technology development has not made a fundamentally tedious task less tedious. One reason may be that the standard post-editing interface violates several basic precepts of human-computer interaction (HCI) design. For example, if the MT system proposes a bad translation, the standard interface requires the translator to undo the suggestion. Also, most MT systems do not learn, so mistakes are repeated. Translation memories (TM), despite being an antiquated technology, do not make these mistakes, perhaps explaining their continued popularity.

**TRANSLATION AS HUMAN-MACHINE INTERACTION**

The shortcomings of post-editing were recognized as early as the late 1960s, when Martin Kay, the pioneering computational linguist, began to envision interactive translation systems. In his landmark 1980 position paper, Kay suggested the following approach to machine-assisted translation:

I want to advocate a view of the problem in which machines are gradually, almost imperceptibly, allowed to take over certain functions in the overall translation process. First they will take over functions not essentially related to translation. Then, little by little, they will approach translation itself. The keynote will be modesty. At each stage, we will do only what we know we can do reliably. Little steps for little feet!"

In Kay’s scheme, the machine always defers to the human. The human remains in control; the machine is subservient. Standard post-editing interfaces err by inverting these roles, strongly encouraging the human to correct the mistakes created by the machine.

Interactive MT has historically been a peripheral research topic—the MT community is more interested in fully automatic translation—but there has been a surge of recent interest. Now that even basic post-editing has been shown to increase throughput, researchers are attempting to integrate MT more deeply into CAT environments. The research prototypes that have been built will likely predict the future of commercial CAT tools.

**RECENT PROTOTYPE INTERACTIVE MT SYSTEMS**

Three significant interactive MT systems have been built over the past decade: TransType, CasmaCat, and Predictive Translation Memory (PTM). Only CasmaCat, which has been commercialized as MateCat, is probably known to the professional translation community. The major innovations illustrated by these systems are:

- Predictive typing for dynamic completions of partial translations as the user types.
- Model adaptation, in which the MT system adds words and phrases for confirmed translations.
- Confidence measures for suggested words and phrases.
- Advanced interaction with and visualization of source-target word alignments, translation alternatives, and source coverage.

**TransType**

TransType (and its successor TransType2) was the first interactive system based on modern statistical MT. Funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada in 1997, the development of TransType was motivated by the need for faster translation of Canadian government proceedings, which by law had to be published in French and English. The principal innovation was a dynamic autocomplete box that appeared in the text editor. Since the machine based its suggestions on human input, this mode came to be called human-centered MT. The autocomplete box could display both character-level and word-level completions. TransType presaged Trados AutoSuggest, which appeared in Studio 2009, by a decade.

The implementation details of the autocomplete feature are significant. Users of Google Translate might not know that MT systems can generate very long lists of alternative translations that include differences in vocabulary, word order, and length. After TransType filtered its list according to the user’s partial translation, plenty of alternatives often remained. Contrast this design with modern CAT tools, which cull a few alternatives from TM matches or single-best translations from Google Translate. This diminishes the value of autocomplete, as the translator is likely to diverge from this short list of alternatives.
Predictive Translation Memory/Lilt

Predictive Translation Memory (PTM) was an interactive MT system developed at Stanford University in 2012. The system was organized according to the principles of mixed-initiative design, an HCI term for collaborative human-machine interfaces. The shortcomings of post-editing, such as “graceful degradation” and “learning by observing,” were addressed explicitly in the design of both the interface and the statistical MT system that provided suggestions.

PTM demonstrated several new interface concepts, among them minimizing the distance between source and target segments (via an interleaved layout), reordering of target words and phrases via keyboard interaction, and dynamic shading of translated source words. These functions were supported by a statistical MT backend system that could regenerate suggestions at typing speed based on the user’s partial translation. PTM was evaluated for English>German and French>English translation by 32 professional translators. It was the first interactive MT system to show a measurable throughput.

CasmaCat/MateCat

CasmaCat was developed by a consortium of European universities starting in 2011. The research program was designed to improve upon TransType, which had yielded disappointing productivity results in user studies. In addition, a central goal of CasmaCat was to develop adaptive MT so that the system could improve with use. Repeat mistakes after human correction were a common criticism of TransType.

Figure 2 shows the CasmaCat interface, which should be familiar to users of MateCat, the commercial counterpart. Documents are arranged in a two-column view similar to TransType. For the current segment, the source text appears on the left and the target text entry box on the right. As shown in Figure 2, the user has partially entered a translation (black text), and an MT system (in this case, Moses) has predicted a completion. Color encodes a confidence score for each suggested word. Suggestions from additional sources, such as TM and Google Translate, are shown below the main editing area.

The considerable MT innovations supporting the CasmaCat interface are largely invisible to the human user. The system generates very long lists of alternatives so that the autocomplete predictions are more robust for user editing. Moreover, when the user confirms a segment by pressing the “Translated” button, the MT system extracts words, phrases, and statistics from the new sentence pair. The system can then provide exact and even sub-segment matches for future input.
improvement relative to both post-edit and scratch translation.

The next version of PTM is a commercial product called Lilt. Figure 3 shows the interface, which features interleaved layout, predictive typing with suggestions from both MT and subsegment-level TM, and system adaptation. In the text area shown in Figure 3, the user’s partial translation is in black, and the system’s best prediction is just below the text area. At the right is a dictionary/concordance that exposes the millions of sentence pairs used to train the MT system. The user can interactively explore the parallel entries from which both MT and TM derive their suggestions.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Neither post-editing nor TM are the future of machine-assisted translation. In his July “Geekspeak” column in this magazine, Jost Zetzsche called for “deeper and different integration of machine translation into our translation environments.” We have seen that this proposal dates to at least the late 1960s, but commercial systems implementing it have only begun to appear recently. SDL has announced an adaptive MT product—XTM—that will likely bring a deeper level of MT integration to Trados. The interactive extensions of CasmaCat might soon appear in its commercial counterpart, MateCat. Lilt is building a commercial version of PTM that will be available by the time you read this article. Perhaps now is the time for translators who were put off by past experiences with MT to consider giving the more interactive integrations of the technology another look.😊

NOTES


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Switching from a Laptop to a Tablet: An Interpreter’s Experience

Replacing your laptop with a tablet might seem like a daunting prospect for many interpreters. Here’s how it can work and what it can do for you!

On a fateful day in April 2015, my trusty Windows laptop of two years decided to end our relationship with a clean break—it literally broke apart. With my laptop away for repair, which my service provider informed me would take roughly one and a half months, I wondered how I would go about my daily business.

Luckily, I had my Nexus 9 Android tablet handy and thought that this would be a good chance to do something I’d been considering for a while: switching daily operations, as well as my “booth companion,” over to a tablet.

I had already used the tablet for the occasional odd job, but I would always schlepp my Ultrabook with me whenever I had to do some heavy document formatting, write invoices, draft quotes, or when I had a full day of interpreting in the booth. With my laptop out of the picture and no replacement in sight, I was finally ready to make the jump and go “all tablet, all the time.”

GETTING STARTED

I discovered quickly that having a proper physical keyboard for the tablet was essential if I wanted to use it as my daily driver. Things might not have gone so smoothly if all I had was the nine-inch touch screen on which to type. While hacking away at articles (the one you’re reading included), answering e-mail, creating quotes, or prepping my glossaries is certainly possible without the keyboard peripheral, it would have made the job indefinitely more arduous. As it worked out, I was typing away in no time using a nifty bluetooth keyboard, which barely added any heft to the already thin tablet.

In terms of software, you have many great choices available. Not only does Google provide excellent Office programs such as Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides, but Microsoft offers its entire MS Office suite as free apps. (In my case, this helped make the transition less jarring than I feared.) Add to that the fact that I am using an Android smartphone, and I’ve got myself a system that really gels and just works.

ACCESSIBILITY

For interpreters, one of the upsides to tablets versus traditional laptops is that they have excellent battery life and no boot-up time. What I like most about working with a tablet, however, is how small, light, and portable it is. I just pop it into my bag and I’m good to go. Necessary accessories like the charger and USB cables can stay in my bag without being a hassle, since they are the size of a regular phone charger. Frankly, the tablet and the peripherals are so light that I have started bringing them everywhere and only take them out at home to charge my tablet or transfer files.

Of course, the best device wouldn’t be any good if you couldn’t use or access the files you need. Luckily, there are many ways to get the necessary documents onto your Android tablet. From Cloud services to Bluetooth file transfers, regular downloads, or USB On The Go (USB-otg), getting that PowerPoint or the agenda for your next conference on your device couldn’t be easier. (I use Google Drive since it integrates with the rest of my workflow seamlessly.)

What I enjoyed quite a bit once I really started working with the tablet full-time was that it drove me to think more “mobile.” The use of Cloud technology made my work life that much more flexible, and having my files available at all times proved to be handy in many instances. Drafting a conference quote while I’m out at a café? No problem. Resending that invoice from last week? Absolutely. How about sharing some...
STREAMLINING THE WORKFLOW
Whether I’m jotting down thoughts for articles and presentations on Evernote and sharing them with colleagues, attending webinars for my professional development on GoToMeeting, or managing my travel plans automatically on TripIt, there’s very little that can’t be done efficiently on a tablet.

It’s also easier than ever to coordinate and collaborate with colleagues. For instance, when a colleague and I organized a large conference recently that required four booths, we used ToDoist to set up and manage the project, distribute tasks, set deadlines, and log our progress. The app features automatic updates, so it was easy to keep track of what needed to be done.

Creating a shared glossary to ensure improved terminological consistency across all languages in Sheets and working on it together was a breeze. Once we received material from our client, I simply sent an invitation link to a shared Cloud folder to our colleagues, which gave everyone instant access to the conference documents. The shared folder updated automatically every time we uploaded a new file, which was definitely an added benefit. Using a file sharing system meant that it was no longer necessary to send an e-mail notification every time we received a new presentation. This feature is especially pleasant, considering the barrage of e-mail we all seem to receive all day, every day.

For interpreters, one of the upsides to tablets versus traditional laptops is that they have excellent battery life and no boot-up time.

Finally, a couple of days before the conference we all just popped into a Google Hangouts video conference and had a quick last-minute pre-conference group pow-wow to go over the final details and iron out any last kinks.

MANAGING YOUR TERMINOLOGY
Once in the booth, my partner and I continued using our glossary in Sheets. This approach has three distinctive advantages:

1. When taking notes to support your booth partner, typing is easier, much faster, and infinitely more legible than writing notes by hand, particularly if you have handwriting like mine. When a speaker rattled off a list of attendees or provided an overview of a new product portfolio, the person not interpreting would take notes in our shared document, which would be visible to each of us in real time.

2. Sheets also helps when you just can’t think of that one pesky term that’s been escaping you for the past five minutes. In this case, you simply type the word you don’t know into the shared document and your colleague can add the translation to your glossary—again, visible in real time.

3. Since all of the terms are already in your glossary, you only need to delete the notes you no longer need from the glossary post-conference and you’ll have a perfect glossary with information straight from “the trenches” all set to go for the next assignment. Your colleague also has access to the same glossary, which ensures terminological consistency the next time you work for this client. It’s no longer necessary to send separate glossaries back and forth and piece them together after every job.

Granted, there are many other apps and programs available for terminology management, both on PC, Mac, and mobile devices. From InterpreterBank to Interplex HD, Interpreter’s Help, and many more, there’s no shortage of viable candidates. However, I have yet to find one solution that works well across all platforms and operating systems while also enabling real-time glossary teamwork. For this reason, I’m sticking with Google Sheets as my go-to glossary solution—for now.

The best part about this approach—besides added flexibility and streamlined workflow—is that the majority of these apps or programs are also available for work seamlessly on mobile devices, as dedicated desktop applications, web apps, or browser extensions. Intrigued? To find out how easy these apps are to use, simply pick up your device of choice and try them out on whatever system you’re using. The entry barrier is very low.

It was, however, only my move to “tablet only” that got me into the habit of using apps more heavily and really integrating them into my workflow. In turn, many colleagues who have worked with me and observed my methods have “converted” to using some of these apps and programs themselves. None of them have looked back since.

Of course, I can’t write an article about the use of Cloud technology without mentioning data privacy and security. This is exactly why file encryption is something that absolutely needs to be taken into consideration when working with sensitive data. And, it should go without saying that backing up your data


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regularly is an absolute must. (See the list at the end of this article for information on storage and encryption options.)

**DO WHAT WORKS FOR YOU**

When my laptop eventually came back from the shop, at first I didn’t even really know what to do with it anymore. Now I’ve gotten so used to operating only with my tablet that virtually the only things I do on my laptop are really heavy-duty document formatting, my taxes, and the odd translation.

*The use of Cloud technology made my work life much more flexible, and having my files available at all times proved to be handy in many instances.*

For those who are thinking of switching to a tablet full-time, I’ll just say that using new technology is like being on social media. It might be for you, it might not, but either way you should only do what feels comfortable and enhances and improves your work, instead of being work itself. Bringing new technology into your life just for the sake of it rarely presents a benefit. If you’ve been toying with the idea of replacing your laptop with something more portable, now might be the time to take the plunge to see if working exclusively on a tablet is right for you. I promise you won’t regret it!

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**Alexander C. Gansmeier** is a freelance German<>English conference interpreter in Munich, Germany. He has a master’s degree in conference interpreting from the University of Central Lancashire (U.K.). He serves on the board of various professional organizations, including the German Association of Conference Interpreters and the U.K.’s Institute of Translation and Interpreting. His specializations include dermatology, automotive technology, software, and information technology, as well as smartphone, tablet, and computer technology. Contact: alex@gansmeier.com.

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**APPS AND SOFTWARE**

- **Evernote**
  
  https://evernote.com

- **Google Drive**
  
  www.google.com/drive

- **Google Hangouts**
  
  https://hangouts.google.com

- **Google Sheets**
  

- **InterpreterBank**
  
  www.interpretbank.de

- **Interpreter’s Help**
  
  https://interpretershelp.com/boothmate

- **Microsoft Office Online (Free Apps)**
  
  www.office.com

- **ToDoist**
  
  https://en.todoist.com

- **USB On The Go**
  
  (what it is and how to use it)
  

  (USB OTG is a standard that enables devices to talk to one another. For example, instead of connecting to a PC to transfer files, USB OTG enables devices to connect directly and swap files. For example, instead of sending your photos to your printer via your PC, you can use USB-OTG to connect directly to the printer.)

**BACKUP AND ENCRYPTION**

- **Acronis Backup & Recovery**
  
  www.acronis.com/enterprise

- **EMC Retrospect**
  
  www.retrospect.com

- **Encryption GPG4Win**
  
  (PGP for Windows)
  
  www.gpg4win.org

- **Mozy**
  
  http://mozy.com/home

- **Norton Ghost**
  
  www.symantec.com/norton/ghost

- **PGP for Mac**
  
  http://macgpg.sourceforge.net

- **Remote Backup Carbonite**
  
  www.carbonite.com

**CLOUD-BASED APPLICATIONS AND SERVICES**

- **Box**
  
  www.box.com

- **Dropbox**
  
  www.dropbox.com

- **Google Drive**
  
  https://drive.google.com

- **iCloud**
  
  www.icloud.com

- **SkyDrive**
  
  https://skydrive.live.com

- **SugarSync**
  
  www.sugarsync.com

- **Wordbee**
  
  www.wordbee.com

- **XTM Cloud**
  
  www.xtm-intl.com/xtmcloud
Mistake of the Year

Because few things are as fun as poking fun at myself, I wanted to share my most horrifying interpreting error of the year, which actually had nothing to do with interpreting, and everything to do with protocol. Just like all translators and interpreters do, I make mistakes, but I do try to go to great lengths to avoid making the same one twice. I am quite certain I won’t be making this one again.

A few months ago, Dagmar, my twin sister and business partner, had the unique opportunity to interpret at the meeting of a large international organization, and I was to be the backup interpreter. Even though I would only be interpreting briefly, I was very excited about the possibility, as this was to be the most prestigious event at which I had ever worked.

The setting in Vienna’s regal Imperial Palace (Hofburg) was amazing, and the permanent booths were top-notch. They even included extra seating, a foyer, and plenty of space to spread out. As a U.S.-based interpreter, I’m usually very impressed by anything resembling a permanent booth.

We checked out the other booths, which were located on the third floor high above the stage, to meet our colleagues from the Spanish and Russian booths, but no one was there, so we reviewed our material and got ready for the big moment. I was a bit nervous, but that’s to be expected. I think it was tennis great John McEnroe (known for his skills, not his even temper) who said that not being at least a little bit nervous means you probably don’t care enough, which is a good point. However, we both felt quite ready and prepared, as we’d spent a lot of time reviewing pertinent material and preparing for the tricky subject matter.

Showtime was just about 15 minutes away, and we were ready to go. The water had been poured into our glasses, the pencils had been sharpened, the audio had been tested, and we had done our warm-up vocal exercises.

After we sat down, a distinguished looking gentleman walked in, extended his hand (without introducing himself), smiled, and said (in Spanish) that he was delighted to see us. I thought—don’t ask me why—that this lovely gentleman was the colleague from the Spanish booth, since no one else ever ventures up to the floor where the booths are located.

I immediately started in with some very casual small talk, and yes, I addressed him informally. As if I knew him. As if we were colleagues. As opposed to English, in Spanish we have two pronouns, the formal usted and the informal tú (which I used). Among colleagues, we usually use the latter. In case you’re wondering, here’s what I said, verbatim: “¿Cómo estás? Me da mil gusto conocerte.” (Basically the Spanish equivalent of “Hi! How’s it going?”) Ouch, ouch, ouch.

The problem here was that this gentleman wasn’t a fellow interpreter, but the ambassador to Austria from a South American country. Dagmar had the good fortune of getting a glimpse of his badge, which had been facing away from me, and recognized the name. (Research pays off, as the badge didn’t say “ambassador.”) She immediately greeted the ambassador with something appropriate along the lines of “Good morning, Your Excellency.” This is when I realized my error and was completely mortified.

However, the ambassador didn’t miss a beat, didn’t take offense, and just chatted away. I did recover enough to apologize, to thank him for coming upstairs and for hiring us (yes, he hired us!), and to exchange some other pleasantries. So yes, I committed a pretty big faux pas at a high diplomatic level, and I lived to tell about it. It’s a nice reminder that people at the top can be very kind and forgiving, and I’m grateful for it. My lesson for next time is when in doubt, err on the side of being too formal.

Judy Jenner is a court-certified Spanish interpreter and a Spanish and German translator based in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she runs Twin Translations with her twin sister. She is a past president of the Nevada Interpreters and Translators Association. She hosts the translation blog, Translation Times (www.translationtimes.blogspot.com). You can also find her at www.entrepreneuriallinguist.com. Contact: judy.jenner@twintranslations.com or judy.jenner@entrepreneuriallinguist.com.
Transcending the Legacy of Jerome

Jerome, the illustrious theologian and linguist we celebrate as the patron saint of translators, may have been canonized after his death, but while he trudged the earth his temper was rather unsaintly. His knack for languages was rivaled only by a talent for attracting trouble and making adversaries, often going several rounds with them regarding religious and linguistic issues.

His story is documented in the prolific correspondence he maintained with other elite thinkers of his time. Among the recipients of his missives were Saint Augustine, Popes Damasus and Epiphanius, and Jerome's longtime friend, the Roman Senator Pammachius.

To the latter he addressed one particular epistle that would be eternalized as the Magna Carta for translators. In the text, Jerome defends himself from the affronts of another reputable translator, Rufinus, who accused him of infidelity in rendering into Latin a letter from Pope Epiphanius to Bishop John. Given the Pope's reputation and the purity of his style, that letter was "wanted in all of Palestine, by the ignorant and the educated alike."

The translation in question had been commissioned by Eusebio de Cremona, "a man of no small estimation," yet unacquainted with the Greek language. At his special request, Jerome acquiesced to "simplifying the argument" to make it more readily intelligible, and delivered the translation with the disclaimer that it be kept private. A year and a half later, Jerome's detractors, allegedly incited by Rufinus, managed to usurp the text and publicize it as a display of the translator's neglect or mischief.

The Letter to Senator Pammachius was a passionate legal defense. An irate Jerome distills his anger through a series of examples to emphasize that even the prophets and evangelists did at times detach from a literal interpretation of the scriptures. This allowed for stylistic adaptations that, although foreign, never compromised or belittled the sincerity of their purpose. The Letter to Pammachius stands out for the richness of its content and style. It is the ultimate affirmation of Jerome's erudition and competence as a translator and a vehement defense of good translating, which, he argues, must "render sense for sense, not word for word." It also sheds light on the ubiquitous criticism, spite, resentment, and other mimical feelings shared by Jerome's peers, which he seldom failed to reciprocate.

Sixteen centuries later, not everything has changed. Criticism and translation continue to walk hand in hand.

parameters, fuels a peculiar and vicious cycle where interpreters often gauge their performance relative to that of their booth mates. In such circumstances, criticism becomes the tool of choice for an instant ego boost. Pushing others down is the quickest way to feel good about ourselves, creating an easy platform on which to stand tall.

It doesn’t help when one considers that the noble craft of simultaneous interpreting came to the fore in the wake of World War II, on a continent devastated by the banalization of violence. So widespread and unprecedented had been the nature and reach of the atrocities perpetrated that a new word had to be minted to qualify them: genocide.

Despite the mounting empirical evidence and the unflattering historical roots for such belligerent disposition, the animosity experienced and spread by Jerome, and the ripples it might have sent across time, need not be replicated ad infinitum in our stuffy glassy booths or among our peers. Peace can and should be restored. In fact, it is long overdue.

Now, talking about peace is tricky, and it doesn’t take much to come off as righteous, pompous, or silly. It all sounds grand and out of reach. Yet, the type of peace we’re aiming for here—collegiality—is easy enough to reinstate. All it takes is an iota of self-awareness and an extra vigilant disposition. To try and make it less abstract, here are five small steps you can take to start transcending Jerome’s toxic legacy:

1. **Focus on the positive.** Look for and praise the types of behavior you’d like to see more of. What we concentrate on grows.
2. **Pay it forward.** Pave the way for more positivity by being the first to offer encouragement and compliments. Do so unconditionally as well as sincerely.
3. **Make no excuses.** We all have bad days. Own your occasional shortcomings. Offer no justification and don’t look for consolation in somebody else’s actual or projected poor performance. Review the
Peace can and should be restored. In fact, it is long overdue.

experience honestly in search of pointers as to what might have tripped you up. Then fix those errors.

4. **Shrug it off.** If a frustrated colleague finds fault with you or criticizes your performance, take the high road. If there is any truth to what they’re saying, consider Step 3 above, and thank him or her.

5. **Cut yourself some slack.** Interpreting is, by design, an imprecise exercise. In our business, perfection is not only elusive but outright unattainable. Do your best and forget the rest. By acknowledging and accepting your own limitations you become more tolerant toward others.

Adhering to the steps above will not make you a saint in the afterlife, but it will certainly warrant you a better experience in the here-and-now.

As for Jerome, learn to love him for his invaluable contribution to our craft and for thinking some of the hard problems through way before us. As to anything else, don’t get involved. Leave it for Jerome and Rufinus to settle in eternity.

**NOTES**


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Speech Recognition to Go

Repetitive stress injuries have a long history in medical literature. The first known report of this condition appeared more than 300 years ago, written by Bernardino Ramazzini, an Italian physician who described the suffering of clerks and industrial workers.1 Today, these cumulative trauma conditions account for about a third of workers’ compensation cases in the United States.2 Many translators, writers, and editors are all too familiar with the consequences of long sessions with keyboards and devices such as trackballs and computer mice.

In the past two decades, speech recognition technology, which originated at Bell Labs in the early 1950s with a system for single-speaker digit recognition, has evolved into a technology that helps people avoid such injuries. Speech recognition also offers significant working advantages to those who spend much of their time composing on computers. The following offers an overview of developments in this area, including some of the most popular software options.

WHAT’S AVAILABLE?
In my opinion, Nuance3 provides some of the highest quality, best known commercial speech recognition solutions currently available. These solutions have formed the basis for voicemail recognition applications from Cisco, Apple’s Siri, and other popular platforms. The solution best known to desktop computer users is Dragon NaturallySpeaking (DNS), which is currently available for seven languages in DNS version 13. But the real action for speech recognition is now with mobile devices. For these, Nuance offers high-quality speech recognition for more than 40 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, and Russian. The application programming interfaces for these solutions are available to developers, in some cases at no cost.4

Among the most popular mobile speech recognition solutions are Apple’s integrated iOS recognition for iPhones, iPads, and iPods, the free Dragon Dictation app for iOS, and Swype + Dragon Dictation for Android. These offer many possibilities for translators and interpreters.

BUT DOES IT REALLY WORK?
Although I suffer from painful carpal tunnel syndrome for which speech recognition technology offers relief, I became a “true believer” only after I discovered how much more relaxed I am when I “write” by speaking and have my hands free to touch my computer screen and use my fingers to mark points of reference for untangling particularly long, nasty German patent claim sentences.

The quality of my draft text also tends to be better, although identifying “dictos” (transcription errors from automated speech recognition) can be tricky. These errors can’t always be found through a spell check, so different methods are needed for effective post-editing. Since “dictos” will usually always be spelled correctly and may even sound plausible in the context in which they appear, careful attention to source-text correspondence is often necessary during final review. In English, the speech recognition engine I use has an annoying tendency to confuse definite and indefinite articles. Recognition quality is generally best if you speak entire phrases, clauses, or even sentences. I find that casting a relaxed eye on the phrase or sentence immediately after it is transcribed is the most effective way to catch my “dictos” (some of which can be quite entertaining).

Claims of improved working speed are real. (I know colleagues who produce in excess of 10,000 words per day of reasonable translation work with the help of speech recognition.) I’ve also relied on speech recognition when facing tight deadlines. However, the real value for me is that I can work with greater concentration, consider what I want to say with less distraction, and produce a better text. Given the improved quality of my texts composed with the help of speech recognition, using it would be worthwhile even if it slowed me down a bit, but fortunately that has not been the case.

ARE THERE OTHER OPTIONS BESIDES DRAGON NATURALLY SPEAKING?
After I moved to Portugal two years ago, I saw the disadvantage of colleagues working into Portuguese without the speech recognition solutions I enjoy for English and German. Initially, we thought that there weren’t any commercial options for Portuguese available. But early this year, when David Hardisty at the Universidade Nova in Lisbon shared his experience with speech recognition using the Macintosh Yosemite operating system, we learned of a small treasure trove of options for those working in languages not served by Dragon NaturallySpeaking.

I discovered the free app Dragon Dictation for iOS and began to test novel dictation workflows for writing blog posts and translating. I developed a three-stage

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1 TechTalk presents discussions concerning technology pertinent to translators and interpreters. It will alternate in this space with the “GeekSpeak” column.

2 The American Translators Association (ATA) is pleased to announce the publication of the first volume of the journal, *Translation Studies*. The journal will be published quarterly, beginning in the fall of 2014. The journal will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and the dissemination of research in the field of translation studies. For information about subscribing to the journal, please visit the ATA website at www.atanet.org.

3 For information about subscribing to *Translation Studies*, please visit the ATA website at www.atanet.org.

4 For information about subscribing to *Translation Studies*, please visit the ATA website at www.atanet.org.
We are nearing the point where those who need to write text on a computer in any common language will be able to work comfortably in most software applications using voice recognition integrations through mobile applications, web browsers, or other means.

A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD, NEW POSSIBILITIES

We’re nearing the point where those who need to compose text on a computer in any common language will be able to work comfortably in most software applications using voice recognition integrations through mobile applications, web browsers, or other means. The mobile methods generally require an Internet connection, but the cost of these solutions (free or just a few dollars) is lower than the stand-alone PC software solution Dragon NaturallySpeaking. Even better, smartphone users are literally just a few finger taps away from testing the benefits for themselves. As for data security and privacy, at memoQ Fest 2015, representatives from Nuance revealed that their online servers meet the highest security standards and are trusted by the U.S. government and companies like IBM.6

Nuance also announced recently that Dragon Anywhere will be released this year.5 This subscription mobile device app will bring full voice-controlled editing to smartphones and tablets and integrate with the company’s speech recognition tools for desktop and laptop computers. Custom vocabulary and other features will be synchronized among all devices. It’s not yet known whether this new app will offer speech recognition for every language available for Dragon Dictation or Swype, or whether the possibilities will be more limited, as with the current generation of Nuance recognition software for Mac and Windows operating systems.

IMPROVED OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Regardless of the software you use, the health benefits of getting your hands off the keyboard and mouse are clear. The use of speech recognition in schools, at home, and in the workplace can help reduce the appalling incidences of repetitive stress injuries. At the same time, it allows users to maintain, or possibly increase, their work volume. It’s also possible that such technology leads to better writing as a result of more focused, relaxed work. Though these benefits are anecdotal and will vary among individuals, they are often cited by happy users of speech recognition. As one of my colleagues noted, “It’s harder to speak a stupid-sounding sentence than to type one.”

NOTES

3 www.nuance.com
4 www.nuance.com/for-developers/index.htm
5 http://myechoapp.com
6 www.swype.com
7 Jim Wardell’s presentation of speech recognition and Swype at memoQ Fest 2015 is available at https://youtu.be/icKcrs4CAIs.
8 Ibid.

Kevin Lossner is a certified memoQ trainer with three decades of experience teaching the use of software tools for practical work and problem solving. A former research chemist, information technology systems developer, and consultant, he now devotes his time to translating patents, technical marketing, and other specialized texts from German into English. You can find his blog at translationtribulations.com. Contact: translation@lossner.net.
UZBEK PRACTICAL DICTIONARY: UZBEK-ENGLISH/ENGLISH-UZBEK

Reviewed by: Shelley Fairweather-Vega
Author: Aleksey Radjabov
Publisher: Hippocrene Books
Publication Date: 2015
ISBN: 978-0781813259
Price: $29.95
Number of pages: 498 pages
Available from: www.hippocrenebooks.com

The Uzbek Practical Dictionary, which was released by Hippocrene this year, goes a long way toward expanding the short list of English-Uzbek dictionaries currently available. Unfortunately, however, this quantitative improvement has not resulted in much of a qualitative improvement in current Uzbek-English reference sources.

The dictionary is nicely printed and bound in a softcover format. It opens with a short phonetic guide to Uzbek pronunciation and a brief overview of the history of the language, formalities of address, and regional dialects. There is also a listing of the most popular historical sites in Uzbekistan, and the last few pages offer translations of common conversational phrases in both languages.

ALPHABETICAL DISORDER
The bulk of the dictionary consists of single-word entries in two sections: first Uzbek-English, and then English-Uzbek. One great advantage to this compilation is that all Uzbek entries, in both sections, are listed in both the old Cyrillic and the newer Latin Uzbek alphabets. Most previous print dictionaries have chosen either one alphabet or the other. Here, the Latin-alphabet rendering of each word is listed first, followed immediately by the Cyrillic-alphabet version.

The alphabetization system in this dictionary means that all Uzbek words starting with sh are listed near the end of the alphabet, where the equivalent Cyrillic letter ш is found, instead of being filed where other Latin-alphabet users might expect to find them, between words starting with se and words starting with si. Meanwhile, all Uzbek words with a Latin-alphabet spelling starting with y are grouped together, regardless of whether their Cyrillic spellings start with й, я, е, е, or ё.

This may be a perfectly legitimate approach to the problem of transliteration between Uzbek systems, and choices do have to be made. However, no explanation is given in the dictionary itself, so the user has to be clever enough to figure it out without help.

FOR TOURISTS OR TRANSLATORS?
These alphabet problems are things a professional translator or linguist can handle, but they might prove baffling for the casual business traveler, tourist, or student. Judging from the content of the dictionary, though, I have trouble determining who exactly the intended users of this book are: people who know nothing about Uzbek and just need a phrasebook, or people who already know enough to navigate both languages well on their own?

The dictionary is nicely printed and bound in a softcover format. It opens with a short phonetic guide to Uzbek pronunciation and a brief overview of the history of the language, formalities of address, and regional dialects.

On the one hand, the dictionary has several features that travelers would find useful, including some of the sections listed above. It’s billed as a “practical” dictionary, and it does include practical entries, from “men’s room” to “emergency room.” There are also plenty of entries for words that are essentially identical in the two languages and that might be considered to needlessly take up space. Scanning one page in the Uzbek-English section reveals entries for reaktor, “realist,” “regional,” resurs, and “robot.” No plurals are given for nouns and no pronunciation information is provided. This would seem to indicate that the imagined users of this dictionary are English speakers who might need to quickly come up with one word at a time to muddle through some routine social interaction, where precision, style, and even grammar are unimportant.

If these casual users do care about grammar, this dictionary would leave them disappointed. As a Turkic language, Uzbek is agglutinative, so a phrase like “in my opinion” is rendered by the single word fikrimcha, built from the elements fikr (opinion) + im (my) + cha (“according to”).

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Uzbek<>English reference sources.

To many people the name Uzbekistan conjures up earthquake-ravaged countries like Haiti, Japan, and, recently, Nepal. Indeed, among the first responders to natural catastrophes like earthquakes have been Doctors without Borders, a Nobel Peace Prize-winning non-governmental organization (NGO), and members of another nonprofit NGO called Translators without Borders. Efforts to provide and satisfy humanitarian needs in the early stages following a disaster is of paramount importance. The need for effective communication in disaster situations cannot be overemphasized, especially most often between doctors and the population. For those who are interested in the Uzbek language, here is a review of their dictionary by Shelley Fairweather-Vega, an illustrious ATA-certified translator.

—Peter Gergay
This dictionary has entries for fikr in the Uzbek portion and “opinion” in the English portion. However, no clues are provided to the uninitiated regarding how to either get to the phrase “in my opinion” or to dissect the word fikrimcha. There are no entries in the Uzbek portion for grammatical elements showing possession (as in –im) or other postpositions (like –cha).

Likewise, the Uzbek>English portion offers no help for verbal affixes that probably deserve their own entries, such as –adigan, or for Uzbek compound verbs (though some are listed). Most bilingual reference texts cover these important elements of syntax with a guide to grammar, sentence structure, and word order that lists postpositions, verb endings that indicate tense and voice, and so on. This book does not. These grammatical black holes would seem to indicate that the dictionary would best serve someone who already knows all about Uzbek and English syntax: not a tourist, and not a beginning language learner.

But for more in-depth work, which is the kind a translator would be engaged in most often, this dictionary also falls short. The definitions given are minimalist, with each entry offering only a part of speech, sometimes a field of use (e.g., legal, religious, and technical), and most often a single-word equivalent in the other language. No additional contextual information is offered, and neither are alternative spellings. (For example, the English section lists “aesthetic” but not “esthetic,” and no regional spelling differences were found for Uzbek words.) Verbs in both languages are provided only in the infinitive. Synonyms are in short supply in entries in both languages, so the dictionary cannot serve as a thesaurus.

A larger problem is that alternative meanings are given short shrift. For example, what follows is the entire entry for the English word “court”:

- court n. leg. суд / sud, суя / sudya

Two related Uzbek words are offered for “court of law” and “jUDGE,” but no other definitions of “court” in English are explained (e.g., no tennis courts, no courting by a romantic suitor).

Looking up “sud” in the Uzbek>English section helpfully yields several noun phrases starting with that word, including Uzbek legal phrases rendered in English as “venue,” “injunction,” and “jury.” But this list also lacks some fundamentals. For instance, the Uzbek entry sud protessi lists the English equivalents “lawsuit” and “litigation,” but not the more general terms “hearing,” “trial,” or “proceedings.” The English>Uzbek entries for the words “hearing,” “trial,” and “proceeding” do not offer any Uzbek equivalents of those terms in a legal context.

The dictionary makes no claims at specialization, and is actually too short to cover the vocabulary in any particular field very well. The dictionary makes no claims at specialization, and is actually too short to cover the vocabulary in any particular field very well. It leaves out vulgarities altogether, which is disappointing for anyone tasked with understanding and translating modern literature or colloquial speech. It makes a good attempt at including up-to-date computer terminology, including terms like “toolbar” and “authorization code” in both languages, but other simple, related terms are skipped. For instance, there is no Uzbek given for the noun or verb “code” as it relates to computer programming, and no indication as to whether the Uzbek word for “cloud” can be used in the sense of cloud computing.

OVERALL EVALUATION

The Uzbek Practical Dictionary is best for non-professional use in a low-stakes environment by a reader who either does not need or does not care about the details. It provides enough information to do some good for the casual user, but not nearly enough to serve as an authoritative source for the professional translator.

Shelley Fairweather-Vega is an ATA-certified Russian-English translator and an enthusiastic Uzbek>English translator, living and working in Seattle, Washington. Specializing in both legal and creative texts, she translates mainly for authors, attorneys, activists, and academics. Contact: translation@fairvega.com.

The English-Serbian Medical Dictionary is a CD-ROM with linked PDF files that can be read with Adobe Acrobat Reader. The Autorun file will call up an index, or the user can navigate directly to the Lexicon folder containing individual PDF files organized according to the starting letter of the headword. Opening any of the lettered Lexicon files will open
Pronunciation notes are not used, nor are indications of obsolete terminology (e.g., idiotizam). However, Djordjević points out that this is intentional, since there is no standard in English medical literature by which it could be known whether a term is obsolete or not. Djordjević also notes that the various standard monolingual English medical dictionaries (Dorlands, Stedman’s, and Taber’s Cyclopedic) do not have a uniform approach to the issues of obsolete terminology.

CONTENT
In general, the content is oriented toward clinical medicine. There are a few entries relating to clinical trials and the regulatory context. Terms such as “investigator,” “Good Clinical Practice (GCP),” “Investigational [Medicinal] Product (IMP),” “Ethics Committee,” and “Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)” are not included. “Protocol” is included as protokol, although the Serbian term has at least two other meanings outside a clinical trial context. Overall, the omissions are curious considering that many medical translators spend a significant portion of their time on clinical trials and other regulatory documentation. To be fair, the work is not marketed specifically as a pharmaceutical dictionary, but this would seem to be a largely artificial distinction.

While terms such as “medical/medicinal” are included on their own, common collocations such as “medical device” (medicinsko sredstvo) and “medicinal product” (lek) are missing. Some terms are included with the abbreviations, but not as individual headwords. For example, the term “stem cell” appears as part of the abbreviation SCB (Stem Cell Bank), but does not appear under its own headword.

Surgical techniques often present translation challenges. This is because surgical reports are not among the most commonly translated documents and the names of many techniques are often not of familiar Latin origin, or else the translations are not otherwise easily deducible. Fortunately, Djordjević helpfully provides translations for an entire list of suturing techniques, including interrupted, continuous, harmonic, and dentate.

The Serbian names/spellings of common generic drugs are also included, such as warfarin (varfarin), clopidogrel (klopipidogrel), and clonazepam (klonazepam).

For the term “osteopathy,” which is given as osteopatija, it would help to clarify the fact that this usage applies only to a European context (as alternative medicine). In the U.S., the term “osteopathy” is no longer permitted to describe a scope of practice. The term “osteopathic medicine” is used, but refers to training and practices that are largely equivalent to those of allopathic physicians. Since the use of the Serbian term osteopat for a U.S. osteopathic physician would be inaccurate, and Serbian has no separate term for the latter, a note about the difference in usage would be helpful to the reader.

I also noted that “QL” is described as the abbreviation for “Quality of Life.” However, “QoL” is at least as common, but is not offered as a headword or cross-reference.

OVERALL EVALUATION
Aside from the issues listed above, this dictionary is extremely comprehensive, with exhaustive coverage of anatomical and clinical terminology, with listings for all of the nerves, muscles, blood vessels, diseases, procedures, and anatomical formations that I queried as a sample.

However, as previously mentioned, I hope that future editions will include more regulatory terminology and terminology related to clinical trials. In addition, although Djordjević stated his reasons for not identifying obsolete or dated terminology, I still believe that such identifiers would be helpful for preventing accidental misuse.

Still, these minor quibbles do not detract from the overall usefulness of the dictionary, which is both comprehensive in its primary, clinical focus as well as easy to use. It would make an excellent addition to the professional translator’s library.
Enrica J. Ardemagni, the director of Graduate Studies and the Certificate in Translation Studies Program at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, received a Certificate of Congressional Recognition at the Mapping Education Towards Achievement 2015 Conference for her “indelible impact” on thousands of students. Enrica also serves as the president of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care.

Rhoda Miller’s translation of Francois Godement’s Contemporary China: Between Mao and Market (originally published in France as Que Veut la Chine? De Mao au Capitalisme) has been published by Rowman & Littlefield. The translation was made possible with a subsidy from France’s Centre National du Livre.

Rafa Lombardino’s Tools and Technology in Translation—The Profile of Beginning Language Professionals in the Digital Age celebrated its one-year anniversary in October. It was published in 2014 to complement the material taught at the 10-week online class by the same name, which has been offered since 2010 as part of the professional Certificate in English/Spanish Translation and Interpretation at the University of California San Diego Extension.

Brendan Riley’s translation of The Bible: Living Dialogue (American Bible Society, 2015), a series of interfaith discussions between Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (Pope Francis), Rabbi Abraham Skorka, and Dr. Marcelo Figueroa was published in Philadelphia on September 26, on the occasion of the Pope’s U.S. visit. In addition, Brendan’s translation of Argentine novelist Juan Filloy’s 1937 epic satire Caterva was recently published by Dalkey Archive Press.

Carolyn Yohn was added to the list of translators agréés (approved) by the Consulate General of France in San Francisco. Translators on this list are qualified to provide translations from French for official consulate use. In addition, Carol’s translation from French of Daniel Vaugelade’s Comments on the North American Travels of La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt, 1794–1798 will soon be published by Commonwealth Books of Virginia.

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2. Get the most out of your Studio translation memories with AnyTM

3. Update translation memories directly from your target files with Retrofit

Visit www sdl com/studio2015 or www translationzone com/studio2015