

# The *ata* Chronicle

June 2006  
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A Publication of  
the American  
Translators  
Association

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**The Translator's Tightrope**

**Glossary Mining**



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### January

Submission Deadline:  
December 1

### February

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December 1

### March

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January 1

### April

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### June

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### August

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### October

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### November/December

Submission Deadline:  
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## Submission Guidelines

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

1. Articles (see length specifications below) are due the first of the month, two months prior to the month of publication (i.e., June 1 for August issue).
2. Articles should not exceed 2,500 words. Articles containing graphics or words or phrases in non-European writing systems (e.g., Japanese, Arabic) should be submitted as a PDF file or mailed.
3. Include your fax, phone, e-mail, and mailing address on the first page.
4. Include a brief abstract (two sentences maximum) emphasizing the most salient points of your article. The abstract will be included in the table of contents.
5. Include a short author biography (three sentences maximum). If you wish to include your photo (color or B/W), please e-mail it as a JPEG or TIF file. Do not mail irreplaceable photos.
6. E-mail submissions (Word or PDF files) to Jeff Sanfacon at [jeff@atanet.org](mailto:jeff@atanet.org).
7. All articles are subject to editing for grammar, style, punctuation, and space limitations.
8. A proof will be sent to you for review prior to publication.

### Standard Length

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

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## From the Executive Director Board Meeting Highlights

Walter Bacak, CAE  
Walter@atanet.org

The ATA Board of Directors met April 22-23, 2006 in Jersey City, New Jersey. The meeting was held in conjunction with the spring meeting of the Certification Committee and Language Chairs and the Seventh Annual Conference of ATA's Translation Company Division.

Here are the highlights of the Board meeting:

**Budget.** The Board approved the July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007 Budget. The \$2.3-million budget includes funds for continued work on developing the certification exam program so that it can be keyboarded versus hand-written, and for adding an employee at ATA Headquarters to support membership and special projects.

**Certification.** The Board approved adding English-into-Ukrainian exams to ATA's Certification Program. The practice tests and exams are available now.

**Continuing Education Requirements.** The Board approved some recommendations by the Continuing Education Requirements Committee to modify the requirements. Among the changes

made, the most significant one was the elimination of the per-year cap on Continuing Education Points (CEP). Effective immediately, all 20 CEPs can be earned in one year if need be. For more on the Continuing Education Requirements and the other revisions to the requirements, please visit [www.atanet.org/docs/Guide\\_Education\\_Points.pdf](http://www.atanet.org/docs/Guide_Education_Points.pdf), or if you prefer a more visual look at the requirements, please look at the requirements in a grid format at [www.atanet.org/docs/aboutcont\\_guide\\_grid.pdf](http://www.atanet.org/docs/aboutcont_guide_grid.pdf).

**Active Membership Review.** The Board approved eligibility for ATA active membership status for interpreters holding federal court certification (upon submittal and processing of an Active Membership Review request). In addition, the Active Membership Review Committee was authorized to establish a list of state certifications which qualify the certificants for ATA active membership. For more information on the active membership review process, please check out [www.atanet.org/membership/membershipreviewprocess\\_overview.php](http://www.atanet.org/membership/membershipreviewprocess_overview.php).

**Interpreter Certification.** The Board approved the establishment of an Ad Hoc Interpreter Certification Committee to research the feasibility and costs of implementing an interpreter certification program. ATA Director Virginia Perez-Santalla was appointed the chair of the ad hoc committee. The Board consensus was to ensure avoidance of conflict with other organizations' interpreting exams while exploring the possibility of filling the void in U.S. interpreter certification in recognition of ATA's status as an umbrella organization representing and serving a broad range of translation and interpreting constituents.

Following the Board meeting on Saturday, a reception was held with TCD conference attendees, language chairs, and local ATA members.

The minutes of the meeting will be posted online at [www.atanet.org/membership/minutes.php](http://www.atanet.org/membership/minutes.php). Past meeting minutes are also posted on the site. The next Board meeting is set for August 11-12 in Chicago, Illinois. As always, the meeting is open to all members.

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**Discover Languages** is a new national campaign for languages which will build on the momentum begun during 2005: *The Year of Languages*. This will be a long-term effort to raise public awareness about the importance of learning languages and understanding cultures in the lives of all Americans.





# From the President-Elect

## ATA and the Joint National Committee for Languages

Jiri Stejskal  
jiri@cetra.com

Our association has been a member of the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL) since the late 1980s. JNCL, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has provided a forum for cooperation and discussion among language professionals since 1976. It functions as a point of reference for the planning of national language policies and the identification of national needs in this area. JNCL is also affiliated with the National Council for Languages and International Studies (NCLIS), a 501(c)4 registered lobbying organization. The joint JNCL-NCLIS mission, and, by extension, ATA's position, is that "all Americans must have the opportunity to learn and use English and at least one other language." ATA is a part of a broader community of language professionals, so it is important that we have a voice in this community.

On May 4-6, 2006, JNCL-NCLIS held its annual Legislative Day and Delegate Assembly in Washington, DC, which I duly attended as the official delegate of ATA to JNCL (while JNCL and NCLIS are affiliated, some member organizations, including ATA, are members of one, but not the other). During the Legislative Day, the 70 or so representatives of various language organizations discussed

legislative issues involving languages and language policies, and then made individual visits to both House and Senate offices to promote the views of the language community and to gather support for a variety of language-related bills, with a particular focus on the National Security Language Act and adequate federal support for languages and international programs.

### Links of Interest

#### JNCL-NCLIS

[www.languagepolicy.org](http://www.languagepolicy.org)

#### Discover Languages

[www.discoverlanguages.org](http://www.discoverlanguages.org)

#### MLA Language Map

[www.mla.org/census\\_main](http://www.mla.org/census_main)

During the Delegate Assembly, translation- and interpretation-related issues came up with great frequency, and I was delighted when J.D. Edwards, executive director of JNCL-NCLIS, referred to translators and interpreters as the "brain surgeons" of the language profession. Marty Abbott and Bret Lovejoy of The

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) introduced a new national campaign, "Discover Languages," which builds on the momentum created by last year's initiative, "2005: The Year of Languages." The "Discover Languages" campaign will be a long-term effort to raise public awareness about the importance of learning languages and understanding cultures in the lives of all Americans. In this connection, both ACTFL representatives expressed their gratitude on behalf of ACTFL for ATA's support in the past and their hope for future cooperation.

ATA's involvement in shaping national language policies will go a long way toward greater public recognition of the translation and interpretation profession, and will also help breed a new generation of American translators and interpreters by supporting the study of languages from an early age, in keeping with ATA's successful School Outreach Program. I look forward to serving as the liaison between our association and other JNCL member organizations, and will keep you posted about future developments as they occur.

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### Syntes Language Group, Inc. Honored by Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

ATA corporate member Syntes Language Group, Inc., based in Centennial, Colorado, was recently named the Minority-Owned Business of the Year by the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. Former ATA Board member Beatriz Bonnet serves as the company's president and chief executive officer.



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# Letter to the Editor

## Translating Academic Records

I read with interest Dr. Ettien Koffi's article in the April 2006 issue of *The ATA Chronicle* entitled "The Challenges of Translating Academic Records." Dr. Koffi advocates both the translation and the evaluation of student grades. He states that translators "should endeavor to convert" items such as 20-point grading systems into various levels of academic distinction used in the United States. Dr. Koffi takes to task translators who do not know the American equivalents of academic distinctions of foreign universities. In

addition, he indicates that translators should translate and convert the names of degrees and diplomas into their U.S. equivalents. In his conclusion, Dr. Koffi implies that a translator who translates only verbatim what is written is withholding important cultural information.

Based on my 15 years in the industry, I must respectfully disagree with the main points of Dr. Koffi's article, which does not mention the important role of credentials evaluation services in the United States. Over 15 such services exist under the umbrella organization named National Association of Credentials

Evaluation Services (NACES, [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org)). These services are used by American universities to convert grades and the names of academic degrees from foreign institutions of higher learning into U.S. equivalents. Most importantly, these services require verbatim translations. In other words, credential evaluation in this country is not part of the translators' role. A verbatim translation of an academic document is exactly what is needed.

Richard S. Paegelow  
Glendale, CA

*ata*

## Department of Defense Announces Increase in Foreign Language Pay

The Department of Defense (DoD) has announced an increase in Foreign Language Proficiency Pay (FLPP) for military personnel who qualify effective June 1.

The Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization Act authorizes the Secretary of Defense to increase FLPP pay from a maximum of \$300 per month to a maximum of \$1,000 per month for qualified active duty members, and to offer a \$6,000 per year bonus for qualified National Guard and reserve members.

Enhancing the department's FLPP program is a critical facet of the overall Defense Language Transformation initiative. The purpose of the program is to:

- Encourage people with a language capability to self-identify in order to employ the language skills existing in the force.
- Encourage more people to study a language. The Defense Language Program must stimulate the acquisition of language skills and be able to maintain language skills of strategic importance to the DoD.
- Encourage people to increase their language proficiency to create a cadre of language professionals operating at an advanced level of proficiency.
- Increase the capability in languages of strategic need to the DoD.

The enhanced program will emphasize languages needed to support the Global War on Terror, the recommendations of the Quadrennial Defense Review, and those of strategic importance to the DoD.

[www.defenselink.mil/news/May2006/20060511\\_5099.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2006/20060511_5099.html)

# Mardi Gras Magic

By Beth Nazar

**O**n February 28, 2006, something very important happened in New Orleans as thousands of New Orleans families experienced a degree of normalcy while celebrating the first post-Katrina Mardi Gras.

Much debate surrounded the 2006 Mardi Gras. Is it appropriate to host a celebration when so many people have lost so much? Should time, energy, and money be spent on debauchery when the city is asking the rest of the country for money to rebuild? We also asked ourselves if the rest of the country would start to wonder if our priorities had gone terribly askew.

Despite the questions, it was clear to the locals that no one was actually going to be able to stop Mardi Gras from happening. It is one of the things that we love about our city and makes us not want to leave it for another. Besides, we all knew that we needed a break from our Katrina-weary world.

Most of the country has become familiar with a distorted “Girls Gone Wild” version of Mardi Gras that has been marketed to college students as a spring break destination for over a decade. In a very small area of the French Quarter, the college kids do go wild, but showing your breasts for beads is far from what Mardi Gras is all about. Mardi Gras is complex and rich in culture and tradition. Locals celebrate Mardi Gras very differently in the rest of the French Quarter and in each of the city’s diverse neighborhoods.

Mardi Gras has been celebrated worldwide since the Middle Ages and was brought to New Orleans by French explorers and settlers in the early 18th century. Mardi Gras (“Fat Tuesday” in French) is the celebration which precedes Ash Wednesday and the penitential season of Lent. This celebration of all earthly pleasures of life includes



The author and daughter, Sophia, enjoy the Mardi Gras festivities.

eating indigenous food, drinking wine, beer, or other beverages of choice,



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hearing great music, and of course, the freedom to show a little and see a little flesh. On the following mornings, Catholics go to church to receive ashes on their foreheads to start Lent’s 40 days of sacrifice.

Until the mid 19th century, the New Orleans Mardi Gras celebration consisted mostly of grand masked balls and individual revelers on foot, in carriages, or on horseback. In 1857, the city’s elite formed the secretive Krewe of Comus, which staged the first Mardi Gras parade as a free show. Comus paraded in the evening with mule-

drawn floats depicting mythological themes, elaborately costumed riders, an abundance of music, trinkets called “throws” which they showered upon the crowd, and flambeaux (torches) to light the way. In 1872, the Krewe of Rex inaugurated the first daytime Mardi Gras parade. In 1916, the black community formed the Zulu organization, which has become one of the most popular parades in the city. By the mid 20th century, neighborhoods and suburbs all over the city had formed their own Krewes, which parade all over the city with marching bands, decorated floats, and masked riders. Today in the metropolitan New Orleans area, approximately 60 parades are staged in the two-week period that precedes Mardi Gras.

Mardi Gras is an egalitarian and multifaceted event that contributes a much needed half billion dollars into the local economy each year. The costs related to Mardi Gras are 100% privately funded by the participating Krewes. No public funds are used in the production of Mardi Gras parades. Nearly all locals participate in Mardi Gras. There are currently “super Krewes” (made up of business ➡





Hundreds of elaborately costumed Mardi Gras Indians march in the parade.

people) as well as carnival Krewe (formed by organizations) for every walk of life, including traditional old-line families, women's clubs, and gay and minority organizations. Most Krewe put on parades and formal balls.

Unfortunately, the family-oriented and less scandalous aspects of Mardi Gras seem to lack the necessary sensationalism that the news media prefer. Along the parade routes are parents with their children, an occasional dog or two, and lots of people enjoying each other's company. Tables of food are set up and babies are in strollers snoozing in the afternoon sun. When the parade floats come around, we all shout "Throw me something, mister!" at the float riders as they fling trinkets down on the crowd. There is no baring of flesh and no lewd acts—just many happy families, friends, and neighbors participating in the merriment.

The Mardi Gras Indian tradition, which originated in the late 1700s, is an essential component of Mardi Gras in New Orleans. To this day, the loosely organized black Indian nation celebrates the 200-year-old bond between African Americans and the Choctaw, Seminoles, and Chickasaw

Native Americans who helped those who were able to escape from slavery. These Indian tribes are primarily made up of working class African Americans from inner city neighborhoods who have formed "social aid and pleasure clubs." The members of these clubs spend all year hand sewing intricate beadwork and hundreds of feathers on to their elaborate "suits." Tradition requires an entirely new suit every year. On Mardi Gras day, Indian tribes such as the Wild Magnolias, the Yellow Pocahontas, and the Sixth Street Hunters parade around in their own neighborhoods. They sing traditional chants in their unique Indian language and dance when they encounter another Indian tribe.

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“...It was a major achievement that Mardi Gras went off without a hitch...”

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The rivalry in this very colorful and interesting tradition is to determine which tribe is the “prettiest.” In 2006, the Tipitina's Foundation worked tirelessly to provide free feathers to any interested Mardi Gras Indian tribes. They ordered basically every feather in the country that could be delivered in time for the celebration. Hundreds of Mardi Gras Indians took part in this program and were able to participate this year in spite of having lost their homes, jobs, and costuming materials. Many are quoted as saying that having been able to participate this year is giving them the strength to fight to come back home to New Orleans.

It was a major achievement that Mardi Gras went off without a hitch. Since our police force lost 260 officers following Katrina, the Mardi

Gras parade schedule was consolidated from 14 to 9 days. Some of the Mardi Gras parades were required to change dates to ensure public safety. Despite the obstacles, our police force received overwhelming praise for its Mardi Gras crowd control skills. It was really amazing to see how everyone seemed to rise to the occasion to make it a safe and memorable Mardi Gras.

New Orleans still has much to offer tourists these days since almost none of the historic sector was damaged by Katrina. Mardi Gras, however, was purely for the benefit of the locals this year. It provided a much-needed, yet temporary, diversion from the destruction that we live with every day. When Ash Wednesday came, it was back to the post-Katrina realities of people living in 200-square foot trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), surviving the mind-bending traffic jams (since so many traffic lights are out), the artful dodging of the ubiquitous potholes that have grown into veritable craters, and putting our lives back in order while cleaning up the mess Katrina left.

There is no doubt that the Herculean effort of “putting on Mardi Gras” this year was well worth it. Six months to the day after Hurricane Katrina wreaked her havoc on our city, we were all reminded of just how unique our city is. Mardi Gras infused us with more resolution and energy to continue our rebuilding efforts. It is regrettable that the media overlooked the real story of Mardi Gras 2006. After facing such unimaginable devastation, the virtual collapse of FEMA, and the failure of federal, state, and municipal government, the citizens of New Orleans still cherish our diverse culture and long-standing traditions.

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# Types of Patent Translation

By Martin Cross

*A patent translation must be literal!*

*When it comes to patents, literal translations will not do!*

*Never use the expression, 'characterized in that.'*

*Always use 'characterized in that.'*

*The attorney relies on you to explain anything that is not clear with notes and comments.*

*The translation must be free of all notes and comments.*

*The main thing is that it be easy to read.*

*Readability is neither here nor there.*

These contradictory recommendations can be found in books, on websites, chat boards and e-mail lists, as well as in the form of instructions from both direct clients and project managers. The trouble with the above statements is that they are all correct. Of course, that is not a problem as long as your client tells you which set of rules to follow. The real head scratching starts with that call from the new project manager that goes, "You know how to translate patents, right?" Or the paralegal who says, "The attorney just needs a standard translation." These situations may seem to call for a coin toss as to which set of contradictory instructions to go with, but there is a more reliable way of making that choice.

The rules that govern how a patent should be translated are themselves determined by how the translation will be used. While this article is too short to cover all of the rules, we can designate some basic boundaries between the different sets of rules. This should make it easier to apply the right type of advice to the right job.

Of course, one way to find out how the translation will be used is to ask, but the person placing the order for the translation may not always be able to answer, so it helps to have some rules of thumb.

## What will the translation be used for?

At the broadest level, a translation can be used to find out what a patent says (translation for information); the translation can also be filed with a national patent office in order to receive new patent rights in a partic-

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“...The rules that govern how a patent should be translated are themselves determined by how the translation will be used...”

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ular country (translation for filing).

Because translations for filing require particular skill and have so much money riding on them, people placing this kind of translation order are usually higher up in the chain of command and generally know why they need a translation. Furthermore, if they place the order through an agency, they will generally make sure that the project manager knows the purpose of the translation. That brings us to our first rule of thumb: *If the person placing the order does not know exactly what the translation will be used for, it probably will not be used for filing.*

It also happens that the law defines narrow windows of time within which a translation of a patent can be filed in another country in order to receive patent rights. Government patent offices also publish patents according to specific

timeframes. Without going into exact date calculations, let me offer another handy rule: *If the patent that you are given to translate is published by any patent office other than the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the translation will not be used for filing. What is more: If it was published by the WIPO and more than 32 months have passed since the priority date, the translation will not be used for filing. If you are not sure whether the patent on your desk has been published, look on the front page for a publication date. If you find one, the patent has been published. That same front page will also tell you if it was published by the WIPO and what the priority date is.*

The really good news is that, for most translators, the rules of thumb mentioned above are all they will ever need, because most translators will never be asked to translate a patent for filing.

## Translation for Information

If the translation will not be used for filing, then it is a translation for information. There are three subclasses to this kind of translation: translations for legal evidence, translations for legal information, and translations for technical information.

Translating for legal evidence is similar to the work of a court interpreter: you are required to reproduce the original without embellishment or omission and your opinions must be kept to yourself. People often refer to this as a literal translation or a mirror translation. In reality, such a translation would be no easier to read than a machine translation, so some degree of linguistic adjustment will be necessary in order to convey the original meaning. The key rules are to conserve sentence and paragraph breaks and to make sure that each

lexeme (noun, verb, adjective, or adverb) found in the source text is reproduced in the target text. Likewise, if constraints of grammar make it necessary to add lexemes, these may be enclosed in square brackets, so as to indicate that they were not found in the original.

Translations for legal information are the same as translations for evidence, but you are allowed to provide extra information, such as footnotes concerning cultural issues, indications showing mistakes in the original (usually by inserting “[sic]” after the mistake), or comments. As with translations for evidence, however, you must not correct, embellish, or simplify, because the reader wants to know exactly what was written in the source document.

Translations for technical information are no different from ordinary technical translations, with the emphasis being on clarity of expression.

The issue at hand is which category the text falls under. The rule of thumb for determining which set of rules to apply when translating is: *Unless specifically told otherwise, assume that the translation will be used for legal information.* The reason for this is that you will usually be notified if the client intends to use your translation as evidence, because in such cases you will usually be asked to certify the translation. (Even if you are asked to certify the translation, the client may prefer to have your footnotes and comments, so it is best to ask.) Another reason for translating on the assumption that your work will be used for legal information is that, while a translation for legal information will satisfy a researcher, a translation for technical information may not satisfy a lawyer. Keep in mind that even if the person who requested the translation works in the research department, they will probably pass your translation on to

the legal department if they end up basing decisions on it.

### Translation for Filing

Some indications that the translation might be used for filing include the following: the document is sent to you as electronic text; the document is sent to you by fax or as an image file, but it is not in a recognizable patent office publication layout; the document is a WIPO publication with a priority date that is less than 32 months earlier than the due date for your translation; or you are explicitly reminded that this particular document is highly confidential.

There are two basic ways that a translated patent can be filed in another country: under the Paris Convention, or under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). Under the Paris Convention, a satisfactory translation is one that describes the same invention as was documented in the original. There is no special need to stick to the original wording, and in many cases using the original wording will not do. Under the PCT, the translation must be an exact translation of the International Application, which is published by the WIPO. There is also an unusual third option, in which a patent can be filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a foreign language and a translation can be provided afterward, in accordance with Patent Rule § 37 CFR 1.52. You should seek the client’s guidance for this special case, but you will be asked to handle the translation as if it were a translation for evidence or a translation for PCT filing.

If you suspect that the translation you have been assigned will be used for filing, the rule of thumb is: *Always ask the client and, if they say that the translation will be filed, insist on being told whether it will be filed under the PCT or the Paris*

*Convention.* Remember, if you cannot confirm how the translation will be used, it is safest to treat it as a translation for legal information.

### Filing Under the PCT

If the translation is to be filed under the PCT, it is a good idea to ask if the client has any specific requirements in terms of how they would like things translated. For example, the client may prefer that you do not use the term “said” in the claims, but the word “the.” The two words mean exactly the same thing from a legal standpoint, so the choice between the two is a matter of style. Keep in mind that there are many other points of style regarding which the attorney may have a preference.

With the exception of matters of style, you should be guided in your translation by the *United States Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP)*, which states in MPEP § 1893.01(d) that, “Amendments, even those considered to be minor or to not include new matter, may not be incorporated into the translation.” In other words, the task of a PCT translator is similar to that of a person producing a translation for legal evidence or legal information. That is to say, the original must be translated without corrections, embellishments, or omissions. Notably, it is generally not acceptable to restructure claims significantly or to change headings so as to comply with U.S. practice. I say, “generally” because attorneys can and do have varying opinions as to the meaning of MPEP § 1893.01(d). That is fine, but your default translation style should be to respect the original sentence and paragraph breaks and to conserve the original lexemes.

Another difference between translations for information and translations for PCT filing is that comments,



references, and translator's notes have no place in a translation for filing. So if a lexeme must be added for the sentence to make sense, just add it—enclosing a word in square brackets is not allowed. Likewise, where you would insert the note “[sic]” after a mistake in the original in a translation for legal information, you would simply leave the mistake without signaling it in any way in a translation for PCT filing. This is not to say that you cannot bring it to the attention of your client, for example, in a cover letter, but the finished document that will be sent to the patent office for examination must stand on its own—mistakes, cultural differences, and other problems can be amended separately by the attorney.

In general, however, as compared to translations for legal evidence or legal information, clients will expect you to put more effort into producing a clear and readable target document, and to be less concerned with reproducing the original wording in a translation for PCT filing. One reason for this is that the end client will often be the person who wrote the patent, and he or she will want the patent to sound good.

#### Filing Under the Paris Convention

The rule of thumb for identifying translations for filing under the Paris Convention is: *Unless your client specifically says the translation will be used in this way, and further specifically asks you to restructure the specification to suit U.S. practice, you should not do so.* What this means is

that, unless you are told otherwise, you can ignore most of the advice you may have heard regarding structure in U.S. claim drafting practice, U.S. section headings, and the like. The subject of how to produce a restructured translation for Paris Convention filing is far beyond the scope of this article. A short and inex-

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“...Translating for legal evidence is similar to the work of a court interpreter: you are required to reproduce the original without embellishment or omission and your opinions must be kept to yourself...”

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pensive introduction to U.S. patent drafting can be found in the *Inventor's Guide to Successful Patent Applications*, by Thomas E. Deforest, and anyone who will be taking on such work regularly should study *Landis on Mechanics of Patent Claim Drafting*, by Robert C. Faber. Both of these references can be purchased at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For Japanese-to-English translators, William Lise's excellent introduction can be found in ATA's *Japanese Patent Translation Handbook* (to order, go to [www.atanet.org/publications/index.php](http://www.atanet.org/publications/index.php)).

#### Conclusion

In review, we have seen that there are five main types of patent translation. Patent translations that will only be used for technical information are uncommon. Translations for evidence, for legal information, and for PCT filing differ mainly in terms of a translator's notes and comments, as well as in the degree of literalness that governs your style. Translations for Paris Convention filing are in a class of their own and require considerable specialized knowledge. Though there is much to learn about each type of translation, knowing which type of translation is on your desk is an excellent place to start.

#### For More Information:

##### Paris Convention

[www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/paris/index.html](http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/paris/index.html)

##### Patent Cooperation Treaty

[www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/documents/appxt.htm](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/documents/appxt.htm)

##### U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

##### United States Manual of Patent Examining Procedure

[www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/index.html](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/index.html)

##### World Intellectual Property Organization

[www.wipo.org](http://www.wipo.org)

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# Guess What: Time for Your Audit (and I don't mean by the IRS!)

By Michael Collins

*The following originally appeared in spring 2006 issue of the CATI Quarterly, the newsletter of the Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters, an ATA chapter (www.catiweb.org). It is reprinted here with permission.*

Translation work in the medical and pharmaceutical arenas is accompanied by a different set of requirements than is seen for other fields. The Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory agencies keep a close eye on companies and institutions that develop and use products in human beings, and rightly so: one mistake can result in injury or even loss of life.

As translators and interpreters, most of us are acutely aware of our responsibility to do our work carefully and accurately for this very reason. We are accustomed to being asked to provide back translations, translator résumés, certifications, and other means of verifying that we have done our work professionally to the best of our ability.

Nevertheless, it came as a surprise when one of my business partners informed us that one of our pharmaceutical clients wanted to audit us. My initial response was something along the lines of: “They want to *what?*”

We were not the only ones—the auditors were also rather surprised that we had never been audited before. What followed was a period of adjustment as we came to terms with what exactly there is to audit about translation service providers.

The auditors were as much in the dark on this point as we were. The initial list of items for inspection that was sent to us included items like “Tour of the Facility,” “Personnel and Training Program Records,” “Regulatory Inspection History,” “21 CFR Part 11

Compliance, where applicable.” The closest we had come to some of the items was translating them. Nevertheless, our auditors proved very open-minded and ready to learn; they adapted the program based on our input and information from another translation service provider.

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“...As translators and interpreters, most of us are acutely aware of our responsibility to do our work carefully and accurately...”

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Our final list was much more familiar-looking:

- Tour of the facility;
- General overview of the organization and facility
  - Personnel records
  - Job descriptions
  - Training opportunities for staff;
- Record retention policy and procedures
  - Storage and archiving;
- Standard operating procedures
  - Quality control/quality assurance
  - Linguistic resources, translator selection, background, training
  - Translation tools and methodology
  - Outsourcing;
- Project management;
- Confidentiality procedures;
- Disaster recovery and business continuity plan; and
- Client type breakdown.

We were now ready for the actual audit visit.

The auditors asked us to set aside up to two days for the review. For a small office like ours (six full-time employees), this represented a considerable investment in time, as it would occupy half of our work force for the entire audit period.

As the reader undoubtedly knows, most translation agencies are not very large—just a few in-house staff, a long list of contract freelancers, and little or no budget for training programs, ISO 9000 certification, or other activities that are common at larger corporations. In addition, we have very little in the way of production facilities and raw materials, few on-site safety hazards (other than what may be lurking at the back of the refrigerator), and very little regulation to deal with.

Except for a few very big players, our industry is composed primarily of small- to mid-sized companies that are exempt from the more onerous and restrictive regulations. Would auditors who were accustomed to reviewing production lines and reams of personnel training records understand our lean operations, or would they find us wanting and recommend ending our collaboration with their company?

As part of our preparations, we collected samples of all the forms we had created over the years to help us track our work. These included:

- Proprietary statement (to be signed by employees and contractors);
- Confidentiality statement (to be signed by employees and contractors);
- Job checklist;
- Work process checklist;
- Sample certification form; and
- Employee handbook with job descriptions.

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In addition, we drew up a project procedure list outlining the process we follow and our translator selection guidelines. We also listed hiring procedures, our archival and document storage policy, training options, and other relevant procedures. We gathered statistics on types of clients and volume handled.

As we prepared for the audit, we discussed the “intimidation factor,” that is, the natural tendency to feel defensive whenever an authority figure starts looking over your operations. We made up our minds to relax, be completely open, treat the audit as a learning experience, and let the chips fall where they may.

The auditors arrived early in the morning and began with the “tour of the facility.” To our great appreciation, the two women delegated to check us out approached the task with a positive attitude that quickly put us at ease. As they toured our small office, they asked each employee what his or her job was, how long they had been there, what their specialties were, etc. They were interested in the tools each person used and had available, particularly technical dictionaries, both paper and online.

When reviewing our network/information technology equipment, they quizzed us on our backup policy. We were able to describe the system we use, where we store tapes, other backup options, and more. They offered several useful suggestions, something which was to set the pattern for the audit. These ranged from suggesting that we consider an online backup company option, to cautioning us not to leave our backup tapes in a coat pocket when we take them out of the office.

A look at our filing system brought predictable questions: How long do you keep files? How secure

are they? Do you tell your clients what your storage policy is? Recommendations included converting to more fire-resistant filing cabinets, keeping scanned versions on electronic media off-site, and documenting our archival and security policies.

Of particular interest to the auditors were our procedures, and any documentation we might have of them. We produced blank copies of our job checklist and our “problem projects” checklist, and showed them our daily tracking schedule. They quizzed us on how we managed projects, how translators were selected for jobs, and other aspects of job tracking. They sometimes circled back to topics, and it was not clear to us whether they were trying to understand or just making sure we were giving the same answers to the same questions.

The other topic that they spent quite a bit of time on was our translator selection process. It was clear that they were striving to reach a comfort level regarding how their company’s work was being handled and by whom. Questions like the following were asked repeatedly:

- Do you have résumés for all your translators on file? How often do you ask them to update their résumés?
- How do you know they are qualified? Do you have copies of the tests you have given them?
- Who checks your translators’ work?
- What is your quality control process?
- Who checks translations in languages you cannot read in your office?
- How do you know a job is complete when you send it to us?

- How do your staff and your translators keep up to date in the industry, and how do you know they do?
- And many, many others...

It gradually became clear that the auditors really knew their business and were truly trying to understand ours. We did not always have the answer we thought they might have wanted to hear, but we were often pleasantly surprised by their reactions.

For instance, when the question of a disaster recovery plan came up, they wanted to know: Do we have one, and what would we do in the event of a major disaster? We could not honestly say that we had a plan in place, other than to try and work out of our homes. However, several of us had attended a local chamber of commerce workshop on how to start creating a disaster recovery plan a few weeks ago and were able to show them the materials. As it turned out, they were not disappointed that we had no plan, but rather were pleased that we had actually taken a concrete step toward creating one.

The same was true regarding employee and translator training. We could not point to a large, well-funded, and well-organized training department. However, we stressed the fact that our company pays for employees to attend ATA and Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters (CATI) conferences and other field-related workshops and seminars. We also pay employees for continuing education in the field of translation and interpretation. The auditors accepted this very positively. We were able to produce some of the CATI, ATA, and software training certificates from past activities. ➡



## Guess What: Time for Your Audit (and I don't mean by the IRS!) Continued

Indeed, many sets of questions and inquiries sent us scrambling to round up documentation: old translator tests, résumés, and training and continuing education certificates. For other activities we had no documentation at all. In the end, this constituted the area where they most took us to task.

Over and over again, they expressed confidence in our processes and resources, and accepted the fact that since we have had very stable staff over the years, we are all very familiar with our processes. But that same familiarity kept us from feeling the need to document thoroughly many of our processes. If you are already doing something, they asked, why not take credit for it? *Document it so that you can take credit.*

- If you are paying for people to attend conferences, place copies of the certificates in their folders, and have them update their résumés once a year.
- If you are following a consistent backup policy, make a checklist to show you are following it.
- If you test software in your office, make a note of it and file it.
- If you are doing a final in-house check for completeness, indicate it in your quality policy.

- Make and keep a list of all the languages you have worked in.
- If you have a security policy, write it down and when you train people, write that down, too.

The theme was recurrent and insistent: *If you are already doing it, take credit for it.* At some point, they reminded us, another set of auditors is going to come. And

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“...As part of our preparations, we collected samples of all the forms we had created over the years to help us track our work...”

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nothing will make them go away faster than if you can quickly produce documentation on the issues that interest them.

At the end of the day, the auditors informed us that they would not need to come back the next day. We could expect their recommendations in the form of a written report in a few weeks, and a return visit in two years or less.

For our part, we took a long list of helpful suggestions with us about how to improve our organization

and...how to take credit for what we are already doing.

As the auditors prepared to leave, they remarked that they appreciated that we had not become edgy and defensive by the end of the long day. It seems that many of their audits start out well enough, but the strain eventually causes some irritation to surface in some cases. That is perhaps entirely understandable, for who likes to have their day-to-day operations scrutinized and criticized at length?

However, we couldn't help thinking of our pre-audit decision to relax and treat it as a learning experience. In the end, our attitude went miles toward making what could have been a stressful and depressing experience into an opportunity for learning and growth.

On a final note, it is clear that freelance translators and interpreters can benefit from what we experienced as well. Surely it makes sense to update your résumé each time you attend a conference or publish an article. Surely agencies who receive your updated résumé on a regular basis will be positively impressed that you are active in the field and busy expanding your professional knowledge. After all, you went to the trouble of attending that training course—why not take credit for it?

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# The Translator's Tightrope: Recognizing and Avoiding Overtranslation

By John Rock

**T**he real reason we get into a debate about undertranslation or overtranslation is that translation is subjective. It takes two people to form an opinion about the quality of a translation: the editor looking at the translator's work and finding fault, and the translator telling the editor that he doesn't know what he is talking about.

This is the original tug of war between light and darkness, good and evil. Some translators think that they can do no wrong and they are the best ones to convey the message to the world. The editors, on the other hand, think they have been around long enough to recognize poor translation. In the end, the client who receives the final translation is the real loser in this battle.

The force driving translation in today's global market is the fact that translators are in the business to make money. While there is nothing wrong with this per se, there are too many translators out there solely concerned with their bottom line. To these individuals, time spent researching unfamiliar terms is money wasted. As a result, quality suffers and the editors are left with the dubious pleasure of making sure the terminology is correct. The resulting documents usually end up either undertranslated or overtranslated.

## Undertranslation

Undertranslation usually takes one of two forms:

- Using improper terminology; or
- Using a style that adheres too closely to the original text and sentence structure and often ignores idiomatic or cultural usage.

The undertranslation style is often referred to as "stilted" or "too literal." This type of translation is a common fault of novice translators.

## Overtranslation

Overtranslation tends to read fluently and appears to be masterful, but the accuracy is often questionable. This is why it is necessary for an editor to examine a translation in greater detail and judge it accordingly. Yet, frequently editors can be intimidated by overtranslation because it sounds so much better than anything they would have produced. That is where a little knowledge of what to look for and a simple awareness of the various forms of overtranslation can go a long way.

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"...Overtranslation is often ignored because the average client does not know what to look for and is dependent on an editor to recognize errors..."

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## Why should translation quality and an awareness of overtranslation be so important?

In today's global and competitive marketplace, whenever there is cause for litigation (e.g., a failure to grant a patent, the loss of a pre-existing patent, the loss of a contract or contract-related lawsuit, or even an industrial accident), the accuracy of the translation is the first thing to be questioned and targeted. Therefore, in order to be faithful to the client, accuracy is demanded of the translator. Although he or she need not be unswervingly faithful to the original text, and indeed probably should not be so, the translator must strictly adhere to the message the original text sought to convey. This, then, is the translator's tightrope!

## "*In delicto flagrante*" (Example of Overtranslation)

One of the author's favorite examples of overtranslation involves a two-man translation team working out of a major city who had carved out a huge chunk of the Spanish language market. They were working with a fast transcriptionist and churning out between 15,000 to 25,000 words per day. The documents they produced were beautifully formatted in multiple colors and bound, just like any company presentation.

For a while, the combination looked unbeatable, until someone had the bright idea to offer to edit their work free of charge. This individual discovered that the translations were rife with both translation and transcription errors and spread the word. In a few short months, this translation team had lost half their clients and their competitors were breathing easier.

## Translations by Technical Representatives

Other conspicuous examples of overtranslation are often produced in situations where technical representatives serve as editors. On the surface it would appear obvious that if a tech rep is bilingual, knows the subject material, and is supposedly conversant with the terminology, that he or she should produce excellent translations.

Wrong! Tech reps are generally not professionally trained translators; they are salespeople paid to sell to the client. And like a lot of salespeople, they are more prone to glossing over the facts than to accuracy. Time not spent selling is time wasted. These individuals tend to translate by "bridging," or picking out a skeleton from the few key words they recognize and building the rest of the text around them. Often they will say to themselves, "this is just like the ➡

project we did a couple of months ago.” They will blithely ignore salient differences in the text, occasionally commit errors of “false cognates,” and not infrequently use nonstandard and incorrect terminology. Many times these errors arise from the tech rep’s inadequate knowledge of the language, which they are bridging from another better-known language.

So if you are a translator who is unfortunate enough to get this type of tech rep editor, be prepared!

### **Non-native, Low-cost Translations**

Our translator colleagues in non-Western and often developing nations are subject to the same pressures as we are: translation companies pressuring them for the lowest price, in addition to fierce competition from other translators. As a result, these individuals have to go for quantity, not quality. They have meager dictionary resources. When translating they often borrow elements of style using “concordance,” where they cut and paste words or phrases from other similar translations in the source language into their translation that seem to have the same meaning in the target language as what they wish to convey. (We have translation memory tools partially to thank for this aberration.) The resulting “overtranslation” appears to read well enough, but glosses over the substance of the source text, and, depending on the subject material, is just plain wrong. You edit this work at your peril!

### **“Expert” Translators**

Certainly one of the most intimidating experiences for editors is dealing with supposed “experts,” those specializing in a particular field or subspecialty. In these cases, the editors are often completely baffled by the resulting translation. They ask themselves: “How did the translator

arrive at this translation from the original text?” Sometimes the translation is correct, but many times it is not. Often these translators are seeking to impress the client with their knowledge in order to secure a permanent place in the client’s list of preferred translation service providers. The client, however, usually does not know enough to be impressed and remains slightly befuddled along with the editor.

Just like the tech rep, expert translators usually see something in the text that meshes with their previous experience in the same field or a parallel but related field. Again, like the tech rep, they often try to extrapolate what they know from one area of a certain field into another subset of that same discipline. However, this is not a good idea, especially since certain terms can have different meanings depending on the context in which they are used, even within the same field. For instance, there are over 400 technical and engineering fields, around 40 legal fields, and something like 60 medical fields; multiple fields within a single discipline. Unfortunately, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, especially when trying to move from one knowledge base to another—one and one does not necessarily make two.

These translations invariably require careful researching by the editor to make sure that they are either correct or are sufficiently bizarre enough to merit questioning the “expert” translator for an explanation of where they found the terminology. The key issue here is that an apparently simple term is being interpreted in an otherwise complex fashion without any obvious substantiation. In other words, the “expert” translator is reading more into the translation than is actually there.

### **“Semi-Technical” Translators**

This is a translator who has been enticed by the fact that technical translations appear to be easy (the style is purposely straightforward and the terminology is readily available). These translators have already done several technical translations and, armed with technical dictionaries, are prepared to take on the universe of technical translation. The factor that pushes these translations into the realm of “overtranslation” is that the terminology choices made by an inexperienced technical translator are often just slightly off. One or two small errors would be fine, but when they multiply and pervade the translation, the client ends up looking at a muddled translation and cannot figure out what is wrong. The translation appears to be accurate, but does not make any sense.

### **“Obsessive-Compulsive” Translators**

At some point, these translators may have been critiqued on their translation style and ever since then they have become “obsessive-compulsive” about not committing what they consider to be an error. The hallmark of this type of translation is that the translator feels compelled to change the wording and structure of the original, not because it represents a significant improvement, but in an effort to avoid any semblance of adhering too closely to the original.

Another indication of “compulsive” behavior is the breaking of long sentences into two sentences to avoid the “sobriquet” of “run-on sentences,” even when the transformation results in two sentences that are substantially different from the original.

### **Pretentiousness**

This style may often be characterized by the use of obtuse or archaic words when other, simpler words are

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more suitable. Some translators may have slipped into a pretentious style because it has gained them compliments in the past, so they continue to use this style to seek additional praise. There are also translators whose style may have been developed in one discipline, say legal or medical, and they continue to use it in other disciplines even though it is inappropriate. When the word you need to look up in the dictionary has “obs.” or “arch.” after it, you are dealing with a pretentious translator.

### **Style Versus Accuracy**

The issue of style versus accuracy is an aspect of a translation that is seldom addressed. There are some translation fields, such as marketing and public relations, where style is all-important. In these fields there is a prerequisite to hook the reader with intrigue and a warm fuzzy feeling; ambiguity is fine and accuracy is secondary. No matter what the translator says, the salesperson is probably going to gloss over it anyway.

And on the other end of the tightrope, there is the domain where accuracy is paramount, such as the legal, medical, and engineering fields. Here ambiguity can cost someone their life, lose the case, or result in a major industrial accident.

### **Misinterpretation**

A prime example of misinterpretation is when a translator makes a change because he or she assumes the original author has committed an error, instead of carefully researching the term. These translators often compound their mistake by not only refusing to acknowledge their error, but constructing an entire scenario around the word they believe to be wrong, either by distorting the text actually present or by giving straightforward terminology other

bizarre meanings. This type of error is really one of willful pride. No translator likes to admit they are wrong or capable of making a mistake. They can always point to some dictionary to substantiate their incorrect choice of terminology!

### **Willful Blindness**

A classical example of this kind of mistake is where a compound noun is missing its qualifier (“shock absorbers” becomes “shocks”). For example, the

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“...In today’s global and competitive marketplace, whenever there is cause for litigation, the accuracy of the translation is the first thing to be questioned and targeted....”

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translator insists that they have always translated the “stem” word as “impacts” or “blows” for as long as they can remember, and are totally unwilling to concede that it might be translated otherwise. So even though the translation does not make sense, the translator insists that the word is correct because it is in the source text. This falls into the realm of undertranslation.

### **Blind Acceptance**

This type of translation error is often promoted by translation memory (TM). Most translators fall into the supposition that a term or phrase in the TM or termbase has been vetted by the client or an expert editor. They don’t understand the meaning, but the word is in the TM so therefore it has to be right and their decision is justified. Another common error occurs when the translator extracts a totally inap-

propriate phrase from a mammoth TM covering several disciplines. However the error takes place, mindless translation is bad translation!

### **Inattention**

This is a particular translation debilitation that sometimes falls into the realm of overtranslation and sometimes is pure undertranslation. Errors in this category are often caused by fatigue, by the eyes skipping over the words too fast in an effort to achieve a full head of steam and make up a little time or speed, or by the translator’s brain interpreting something other than what is actually written (reading what they think the page should say rather than what it does say). This, then, is overtranslation.

A translator can also undertranslate through inattention to connectives (viz: “and,” “or”), to prepositions, or definite and indefinite articles. These can make all the difference in a translation.

### **Overzealousness by the Client**

This situation is not often seen by the translator/editor team unless they receive a previous translation as a reference. The client thinks they can improve the target language, usually English, of the translation without reference to the source text. Of course, in doing so, they completely change the meaning of the translation.

### **Correct but Ambiguous to Non-native Speakers**

This is a newer category of overtranslation, where the translator churns out a standard phrase that seems to be perfectly correct. However, when the target language (namely English) is being used as the “interpretive” language in the translation memory for a whole host of other languages, the target phrase had better be unambiguous.

*Continued on p.41*



# I Never Wear Shoes to Work

By Susan C. Rials

There are twists and turns in most careers, and mine has been no exception. Once I decided to set up my own translation business in 1997, after over 15 years at a translation company, I thought a lot about what challenges I would face, including an uncertain cash flow, a potential for working much too hard, and the necessity of learning how to create a new social environment that did not involve working in a large office. I was sure, however, that I would be happy spending more time with words and less time with numbers.

I balanced these drawbacks against some real pleasures I knew would lie ahead, including such joys as no more meetings, no commute, a working life that was generally under my own control, and, especially important to me, no dress code! The dressiest shoe I would have to wear on most days would be a pair of flip-flops. Not only was this a deal maker at the time, it is still one of the many things that sustain me when times are tough. In fact, I am barefoot while writing these very words.

Over the years I have learned to embrace both feast and famine, to shore up my weaknesses and the drawbacks of working alone, to enhance my strengths, and to make good use of the joys of solo work to keep me sustained during tough times. I always make sure to find the fun in what I am doing. In this article, I will discuss a work system that has proven successful for me.

## Developing a Marketing Strategy

It is important to create a marketing plan that works for you. When I first started out, my early version of marketing consisted of sending an e-mail to all of my language friends and many of my former colleagues to let them know that I was in business and asking them to

spread the word. I became involved with ATA at a regional and national level, writing articles, attending job fairs, and sitting on panel discussions. Over the years, I have gradually adapted my (admittedly rudimentary) marketing plans, creating goals for annual revenue, number of clients, and the type of clients I want to work with. I have set an objective to vary my clientele among translation companies, direct companies, and organizations, and try to keep a good balance between clients for which I am a key vendor and those that contact me occasionally. This variation of my client

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“...Because I know my goal is to work with language and to minimize selling time, I rely on word of mouth and on repeat business as much as possible...”

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base has helped me, especially when a client has closed shop or focused on other language pairs, and I have been able to add new clients or convert existing occasional clients into more frequent ones. Because I know my goal is to work with language and to minimize selling time, I rely on word of mouth and repeat business as much as possible.

## Dealing with Money

After establishing a marketing plan, the next thing I had to determine when I was starting out was what services to offer and what to charge. I cannot stress enough how important it is to have a good relationship with an excellent accountant with experience in our sort of work. If you form a true partnership and

educate each other about what your respective work requires, you can share the burden of running your business. Make sure you review your costs and prices periodically and revise them as necessary. Keep track of your indirect costs, such as office supplies, computer upgrades, and reference materials, and make sure these expenses are in line with your revenue and your projected needs (are your costs too high or too low?).

## Organizing a Work Area

Organizing my work space has involved establishing a filing system (on my PC as well as in a file cabinet), setting up an ergonomically useful and otherwise efficient office and computer system, and making sure I have excellent references close at hand and ample space to use them. I always try to have the most effective and powerful computer system and programs that are appropriate for my work and cash flow. I update applications regularly and back up my files even more often. I spend time teaching myself the most useful features of the programs I use most often in order to take full advantage of all the efficiencies available to me. This allows me more time to focus on the creative part of the work.

## Maintaining a Professional Network

Once I found colleagues with whom I could share work, language problems, and the daily joys and challenges of life, I set about making sure I maintained this professional network. This involves extending myself to my colleagues in ways that are useful to them, such as offering help with a tricky phrase, adding a little humor to their day, or organizing an occasional dinner. These colleagues are among my greatest pleasures in life, so it is good that we keep each other happy. If you're not sure where

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to find such colleagues, your local ATA chapter and ATA's Annual Conference are good places to start.

### **Focusing on Quality**

The issue of quality is subjective in some areas and quite direct in others. If something is a chair, you should not translate it with the word for dog. You should write in clear, typo-free sentences that flow well in your target language and that use the appropriate tone, register, and terminology. Of course, it can get a little fuzzy when you try to determine how good a translation is. One thing I strongly recommend is reading as much as possible in the subject area in question. Read documents your end client has written on similar subjects. Much of this material is available online. It is also important to collaborate with your client and with other colleagues who may have worked for the same client. And, by all means, **read everything your client sends you.** Sometimes it may seem easiest to start right in on the translation and leave the details for later, but this is not a good idea. Even if your client has sent you way too much background material, too much is better than too little, so read it all anyway.

### **Soliciting and Using Feedback**

We often hesitate to ask for feedback, either out of a sense of ego, a fear of wasting time arguing over petty issues, or a desire to be done with a project, get it billed, and move on. This is a bad idea. Feedback is a significant stage in our ongoing search for continuous improvement. Yes, sometimes we will disagree with the choices an editor makes, and we can have that discussion when it is useful to the work. But often we can get valuable insight into how our work is perceived, or new tips on terminology, or

even learn more about our weaknesses so we can address them earlier in the production cycle. The more information we have about our work, the more likely it is that we can improve it.

If you regularly get feedback that indicates you are not proofing well enough, find ways to fix the problem. This could include changing work partners, teaching yourself better proofing techniques, or including a spot check for typos in names and numbers as part of your final check. For example, you might want to count paragraphs and bullet items if you tend to omit text.

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“...The more information we have about our work, the more likely it is that we can improve it...”

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Perhaps you should leave more time between the draft and revision phases in order to clear your mind. Create a style guide for key clients that includes a glossary of their terminology and any feedback you have received. If you do this, make sure you update your style guide each time you receive any feedback and review it before starting each new project for that client.

Sometimes the feedback is stylistic in nature and sometimes it is terminology-specific. Make sure you find a way to avoid making the same mistake twice and prevent similar ones in the future.

### **Managing Down Time**

Another thing that has helped me over the years is managing my down time. This has an incredible impact on everything about my work, from quality management to meeting deadlines, and it enhances my enjoyment of

work and life. I decided early on that, although I love my job and will do whatever is appropriate to help my clients achieve their goals, my work is not my life. I will use my down time to reinvigorate my energy and to improve my life. This could be anything from reading a good book or going to the movies (in the middle of the day if I want!) to upgrading my computer or writing to my family. I make sure I have scheduled time in my workweek to keep my computer working optimally, to do my backups, and to keep on top of accounting. I make sure not to accept more than I can do well without driving myself (and those around me) crazy. And if I do take on more than I anticipated, I try to renegotiate the quantity or deadline. If that is not possible, I do good work, lose a little sleep, and do better next time. The important thing to me is to recognize the importance of stepping away from translations, clearing my mind, and enjoying something else. That way when I get back to work, I am refreshed and not stressed.

### **Having the Right Attitude**

The last thing I want to mention is my approach to work. I am serious about quality, deadlines, reliability, and professionalism. I strongly believe in collaboration and working hard to do the best job possible. I try to avoid wasting my clients' or colleagues' time. I think it is necessary for all of us to avoid undercutting the market with low prices and to avoid anything that is or could be perceived as stealing our colleagues' clients. With that said, let's have fun! There is no reason we cannot enjoy our day and have a laugh to lighten things up from time to time. I find every way I can to take pleasure from the small things in life, which is why I never wear shoes to work.

*ata*

# Glossary Mining

By Lee Wright

While preparing material for several online courses in translation that I have taught or will be teaching for New York University, I usually surf the Internet extensively for appropriate monolingual (both English and Spanish) and bilingual glossaries, primarily related to the legal and technical fields. With each new discovery I continue to be amazed by how much information is now available right at my fingertips, but it is also somewhat disappointing to see some of the really poor efforts made in compiling a glossary of specialized terms. The relative quality of the items I have found varies widely, from abysmally poor to extremely thorough and useful. In addition, it is obvious that some of these glossaries are obsolete (i.e., posted well over five years ago), while many of them are quite current, a few with updates as recent as the day I accessed the file.

Most of the glossaries I have found are easily identified simply by typing the search string “allintitle: glosario” or “allintitle: glossary” in my Web browser. In both cases, I normally receive between a million and two million “hits” on just these searches. A search using “allintitle: dictionary of” also produces a substantial number of hits pertaining to printed dictionaries of all kinds, most of which are not of interest to me, although I did find a couple of bilingual technical dictionaries I did not know about, so the exercise was not a total waste of time.

I also use other key word combinations for my searches, such as “allintitle: diccionario de” for Spanish-language or bilingual dictionaries, which yields 2.5 million hits, but most of these have proven to be quite worthless. Among the “exotic” items I discovered are a dictionary of Cuban salsa music terminology, a guide to playing

the four-string *cuatro* guitar (very popular in South America, especially in Colombia and Venezuela), a glossary of Spanish cigar terminology, and a dictionary of Spanish gestures, complete with examples.

I have also expanded my search string to “allintitle: diccionario de terminos,” but here again, there isn’t a great deal of value to be found, with the exception of a detailed 200-page Spanish-to-English dictionary of petroleum refining terminology produced by

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“...Do you know how many hits you will get by Googling the phrase *technical translation*?...”

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PEMEX, the Mexican government-controlled oil company. The vast majority of results in this particular search involve printed reference works, with a substantial number coming from the medical and legal fields.

Whenever I spot a title for something that looks like it could be useful, I bring it up on the screen and take a close look at its contents. If it proves to be worthwhile, I either save a copy for future reference or put the URL into my browser’s “Favorites” list so that I can access it again. Sometimes I even print out a glossary, especially if it is relatively short (i.e., 10-20 pages) and file the printed copy away. At this point, I have collected over 500 different glossaries, and the search continues daily.

In the process of my own Web browsing, I have stumbled across numerous items containing terminology in many other subject areas. The following list contains details on links to several glossaries and publica-

tions that are particularly interesting. Just for fun, I have also included some links to sites containing information on some unusual subjects that nonetheless might prove useful to you one day.

**[www.chronique.com/Library/Glossaries/glossary-KCT/glssindx.htm](http://www.chronique.com/Library/Glossaries/glossary-KCT/glssindx.htm)**

It is hard to say which of several “oddball” glossaries is the most interesting, but the one I definitely found to be the most unusual is a glossary of knighthood, chivalry, and tournaments. In addition to extensive definitions for many terms, this particular glossary contains lots of cross-references, although some of these are “dead ends” (i.e., if you click on a word, it does not take you anywhere or the referent is “empty”).

**<http://insource.nils.com/gloss/glossarysearchterms.asp>**

Another unusual resource is a complete glossary in English of terms from Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

**[www.miskatonic.org/slang.html](http://www.miskatonic.org/slang.html)**

And the second runner-up in the off-the-beaten-track category is a glossary of “hard-boiled slang” as used in detective novels by Dashill Hammett, Mickey Spillane, Raymond Chandler, and others, called “Twists, Slugs and Roscoes.”

**<http://homepage.mac.com/crabola/PirateGlossary/Menu22.html>**

If you are into things of a nautical nature, why not take a look at yet another really amusing site that contains pirate terminology?

**<http://vulgar.pangyre.org>**

An English-language dictionary of the “vulgar tongue,” originally published in 1811.

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**[www.baac.net/michael/plates](http://www.baac.net/michael/plates)**

A dictionary for custom license plates.

**<http://home.earthlink.net/~skilton/dictionary.html>**

This dictionary of bureaucratese includes definitions of terms such as *abbreviate* (“Verb. To shorten text or reduce font size such that reader comprehension is reduced as an unintended consequence. [*contracted form: abbreviate*]”) or, even better, *barshamana* (“Noun. An innocuous nonsense reply used to gently dismiss the statement or opinion of someone who does not realize the meaningless nature of the reply. ‘James routinely countered the impossible requests from his ignorant manager with eloquent barshamana, which was always accepted simply as technical jargon.’ [*Yid. barshamana: sheep manure*]”).

**<http://iowapublicradio.org/dictionary>**

The 200-page *Pronouncing Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, courtesy of radio station WOI (Iowa Public Radio).

**<http://phrontistery.info/ihlstart.html>**

The International House of Logorrhea, where you can find definitions for terms like *fanion* (“cloth worn on priest’s arm and used for handling holy vessels”).

**[www.pmcguam.com/resource/japandic.htm](http://www.pmcguam.com/resource/japandic.htm)**

A glossary of English-to-Japanese medical terms.

**<http://financelex.com>**

This site is for the Francophiles needing bilingual terminology in the finance and stock market fields.

**[www.patriciawells.com/glossary/atoz/a.htm](http://www.patriciawells.com/glossary/atoz/a.htm)**

A glossary of French culinary terminology.

**[www.nanogloss.com](http://www.nanogloss.com)**

This site contains information on nanotechnology.

**[www.ets.ru/udict-e-r-slang1-e.htm](http://www.ets.ru/udict-e-r-slang1-e.htm)**

Although some of the dictionaries are bilingual or multilingual, most of them are monolingual. Nevertheless, I have found a few specialized bilingual ones, such as this one containing English-to-Russian slang words. This particular site also includes a link to a dictionary of Russian “foul language”

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“...Whenever I spot a title for something that looks like it could be useful, I either save a copy for future reference or put the URL into my browser’s “Favorites” list...”

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that certainly sounds interesting. (The information provided says that this dictionary is available on CD for the paltry sum of \$7!!)

**[www.notam02.no/~hchholm/altlang](http://www.notam02.no/~hchholm/altlang)**

How about learning “naughty” words in over five dozen languages (from Acadian to Zulu)? You can have them right at your fingertips with the *Alternative Dictionaries* website (and you can even download any part or the entire dictionary as a PDF file).

**[www.foreignword.com/glossary/plongeon/eng](http://www.foreignword.com/glossary/plongeon/eng)**

A six-language dictionary (English, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, and German) of underwater diving terminology that really could be useful if you are planning a trip to the Caribbean Islands some day.

**[www.ullans.com/ScotsDictionary.html](http://www.ullans.com/ScotsDictionary.html)**

Since I am of mostly Scottish ancestry, I was also interested to discover a neat dictionary of Ullans Scots-Irish (the dialect used in Ulster, Ireland) with English equivalents.

**[www.australiatravelsearch.com.au/trc/slang.html](http://www.australiatravelsearch.com.au/trc/slang.html)**

This is a good site if you want to brush up on your Australian slang.

**<http://corporatebs.com>**

This site has order information for a dictionary described as “an A-to-Z lexicon of empty, enraging, and just plain stupid office talk.”

**[www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/43a/125.html](http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/43a/125.html)**

Another oddity that I found particularly amusing was this dictionary of voodoo terms, although it was created over 10 years ago.

**<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dav4is/Sources/Occupations.html>**

Last but certainly not least is the dictionary of ancient occupations, where you will also find a link to a site about colonial occupations.

**Let the Hunt Begin!**

I am sure that you could have similar results for your own language combinations, so go ahead and try; you will not break your browser.

Closing P.S.: Do you know how many hits you will get by Googling the phrase “technical translation”? Answer: over nine million! That will give you a rough idea of the magnitude of the global translation market.

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**[www.atanet.org/  
conf/2006](http://www.atanet.org/conf/2006)**



# Save Time and Avoid Errors with MS Word's AutoCorrect

By Clifford E. Landers

In most translations of any significant length certain terms crop up repeatedly. Even if you are the world's fastest typist, why enter a frequently repeated term each time it occurs? Microsoft Word, the industry standard of word-processing software, provides a keyless solution to this problem. It is called AutoCorrect, and here is how it works.

Once you are in a Word file (open a new one if necessary), click on Tools on the main menu bar and then scroll down and select the AutoCorrect option (a quicker method is ALT-t, followed by "a"). In the screen that pops up, check as many boxes as seem desirable for your purposes. The "Replace text as you type" option is a definite must, but the other options have also served me

well over the years (see Figure 1).

In the "Replace:" box under the "Replace text as you type" option, enter

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“...Keep in mind that a computer is an astonishingly dumb machine that does precisely what you tell it to do, not what you *want* it to do...”

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an abbreviation for a word you use frequently. This will become the code that Word will remember, so that every time you type it into a document the full

word will appear. Whatever abbreviation you choose to use, try to keep it as short as possible, but not so short that you forget what the abbreviation means. For example, if the name *Cervantes* appears frequently in your text, “cerv,” “cer,” or even “cv” will do for your code abbreviation. Don't capitalize the abbreviation, as any capitalization that is necessary will be taken care of automatically in the replacement process. For this example, let us assume that you opt for “cer” as your abbreviation.

In the “With:” box (next to the “Replace:” box in the AutoCorrect window) type (but carefully, since any error will be reproduced ad infinitum) *Cervantes*. Now just click on OK and you are done. Henceforth, or at least until you get a new computer, every time you type “cer” followed by a space or any punctuation, the full name of Don Quixote's creator will appear.

If you make a mistake, just click the Cancel button. If you have already hit OK, you can always opt for the Delete key and start over. To the best of my knowledge, Word imposes no limit on the number of AutoCorrect entries; at this writing, I have more than 800 and add new ones daily.

If you think “cer” for *Cervantes* is a timesaver, just imagine how much this technique will save you when dealing with longer phrases like *Supreme Court decision* (“scd”), *early Shakespearean drama* (“esd”), or *Holy Roman Apostolic Catholic Church* (“hracc”).

As you know, when Word encounters a term not in its glossary (it is a misnomer to call it a dictionary, as no definitions are included), it places a wavy red line beneath the unfamiliar character combination. If you right-click on the underlined area, a pop-up box appears with a list of what the software thinks you most likely meant to say. When this hap-

Figure 1

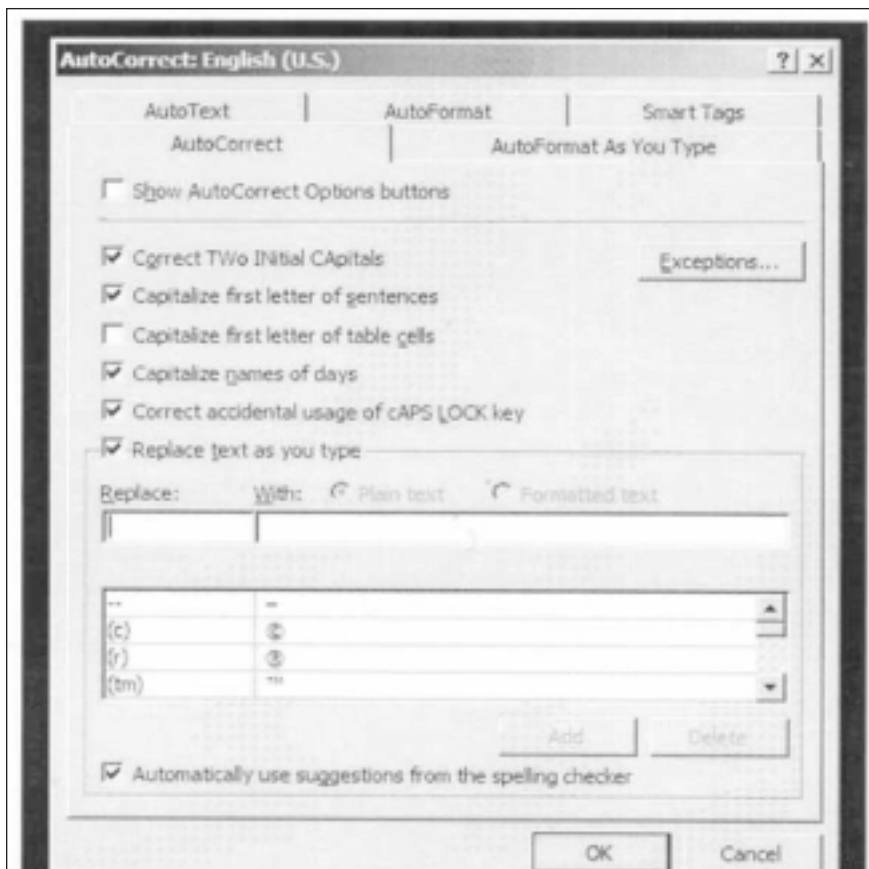
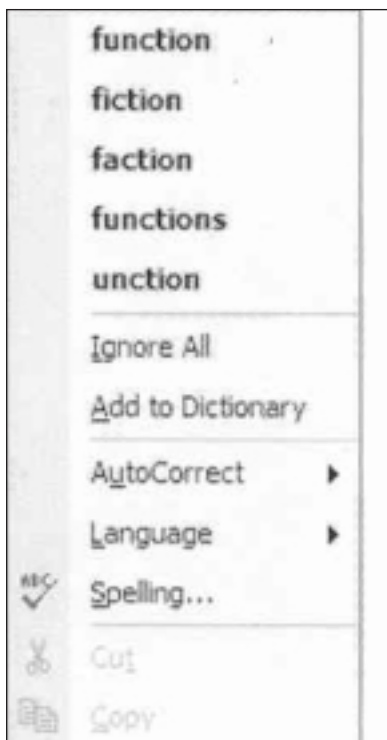


Figure 2



pens, you then have three options (see Figure 2).

1. You can left-click on the correct choice and effect an instant replacement;
2. You can add the term to the “dictionary”;
3. You can click on AutoCorrect, which causes a new pop-up window to open. Left-clicking the appropriate alternative from this new window automatically appends it to your customized list of corrections. Believe me, it takes longer to describe the process than to do it once you are familiar with it (five seconds, tops).

At the end of this article is a list of many of the code abbreviations I used in writing it. I should mention that the AutoCorrect function is a god-send to rotten typists like me.

Although I can spell words like “vicissitudes” without a hitch, I am also fully capable of typing “teh,” which is something that AutoCorrect catches and removes. By now the number of typos the software has corrected for me must run into the tens of thousands. Incidentally, the AutoCorrect function comes with a number of built-in corrections, many of which will strike any intelligent person as insulting: calender (calendar), alright (all right), and writeing (writing). Ignore them, or delete them if you prefer.

Now what happens when you want to use an abbreviation like ATA? Won’t it come out as *American Translators Association* every time? There is an easy way to work around this: leave ATA as is and type in “atax,” putting *American Translators Association* in the right-hand (replacement) box. The idea is to stick an “x” on the end of any abbreviation that you want to use in two different ways: “njx” for *New Jersey* (leaving plain NJ for postal codes); “NRC” remains “NRC,” but “nrcx” becomes *Nuclear Regulatory Commission*.

Word’s AutoCorrect function works something like Word’s AutoText function, although it has a limit of 255 characters per entry. The advantage of AutoCorrect over AutoText is that it is a no-key operation that you use when you are in a hurry. For example, simply type “ty” for *Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.*

Like me, you may find apostrophes a pain—not the grammatical question of when to use them, but the act of typing them. Here is where AutoCorrect is particularly useful. For example, when I add codes like “im,” “ive,” “hes,” “shes,” “theyll,” “isnt,” and “arent,” the apostrophe will automatically be

inserted without my intervention. Obviously, this will not work with such pairs as *its/it’s*, *she’ll/shell*, *we’ll/well*, or *we’re/were*. It is an imperfect world; live with it.

Now think of all the “trans-” words you have to deal with, such as *transparent*, *transgress*, *transition*, or *transpose*. (I will address *translate* in a moment). It is much easier to just place an “x” at the start of the word and let AutoCorrect take it from there. Thus: “xparent” becomes *transparent*, “xposn” becomes *transposition*, and “xatl” becomes *transatlantic*. Because I use *translate* and its derivatives so often, I have reserved “tr” for *translate*, “tr” for *translator*, and “trg” for *translating*. (See the model using *organize* below).

There is little to be gained by creating codes for very short words—how much do you profit by having “sv” stand for *save*? Unless, that is, the particular character combination is one that you habitually mistype. As I am, I repeat, the world’s worst typist, a slip of the fingers has sometimes resulted in “opf” for *of*. With AutoCorrect, this problem has been solved.

Yes, AutoCorrect also works in foreign languages. Current versions of Word have built-in French and Spanish spelling correction functions; for other languages you will need to purchase the appropriate glossary from Microsoft. Word has no problem in keeping the languages separate, allowing you to use the same code for different responses. For example, when I type in English, “prob” becomes *problem*; in Portuguese it gives me *problema*. You can also spare yourself a lot of grief in French, a language weighted down with written accent marks, by making a one-time AutoCorrect entry of, say, *décédé* and thereafter simply typing “dec” or even an accentless ➡

“decede.” (It is perfectly okay to have more than one code generate the same expansion form.) By the same token, *manana* would produce *mañana* in Spanish. While you are at it, assuming you want to use correct Spanish, make sure that the non-word *tamale* is automatically changed to *tamal*.

I can hear your objection: How am I supposed to remember all those abbreviations? For instance, is it “abbn” or “abbrn” for *abbreviation*? The answer is it does not matter, since Word’s memory has plenty of room for both forms. Whatever shortcut works for you is a good one, and in time the codes will become second nature. I estimate that at any given moment I recall perhaps three-quarters of my abbreviations, but if I forget one, no harm done. Furthermore, with more frequent use, code compression tends to occur; when I began using AutoCorrect, “furthm” was the code for *furthermore*, which gradually evolved to “furm,” and finally to “fm.”

As you become more familiar with AutoCorrect, the length of the expansion forms will probably increase to include entire phrases. For example, I use “fx” to yield, well, *for example*. Similarly, “fft” is *for the first time*, “oto” is *on the other hand*, and “lbl” is *little by little*. I am sure you will come up with frequently used phrases of your own.

When making a new AutoCorrect entry, I try to include every permutation of the root word. For example:

- orgz (organize)
- orgzs (organizes)
- orgzd (organized)
- orgzg (organizing)
- orgzn (organization)
- orgzns (organizations)
- orgzr (organizer)
- orgzrs (organizers)
- orgzl (organizational)
- orgzll (organizationally)

Code	Expansion Form	Code	Expansion Form
tn	translation	mentd	mentioned
cert	certain	wo	without
reptdl	repeatedly	capb	capable
prob	problem	smg	something
nec	necessary	nb	number
follg	following	thous	thousands
ap	appear	corrns	corrections
dont	don't	intelg	intelligent
sq	square	min	minute
purps	purposes	lv	leave
def	definite	rg	right
rec	recommend	smg	something
otrs	others	func	function
yrs	years	altho	although
abbrn	abbreviation	chrs	characters
mem	memory	adv	advantage
fx	for example	opern	operation
frql	frequently	execd	executed
capz	capitalize	qn	question

In this case, with the exception of “orgz” (which would clash with the common Internet suffix “.org”), the codes would function equally well without the “z.” Go with whatever works for you.

I have found that a useful practice is to add the letter “l” to the end of a code to generate the adverbial form “-ly,” or “b” for the “-able” or “-ible” suffix, “g” for the gerund, and “s” for the plural. Thus: “pred” becomes *predict*, “predb” becomes *predictable*, and “predbl” becomes *predictably*.

Keep in mind that a computer is an astonishingly dumb machine that does precisely what you tell it to do, not what you *want* it to do. While it may be able to intuit that you meant *capacity* when you typed “capcity,” there is no way it can guess that your code “ih”

stands for *The Incredible Hulk* unless you tell it. (Fortunately, you only have to tell it once.)

For every novel I have translated I add new codes; most are temporary and are deleted once the work is finished. I am currently working on a novel by the Portuguese author Antonio Lobo Antunes. Set near Lisbon, it contains numerous place names that necessitate keyboard shorthand, for example “albf” for *Albufeira*, “alg” for *Algarve*, and “pgl” for *Portugal*.

The table above demonstrates many of the abbreviations used in this article. Only one form of each entry (e.g., *following*, but not *followed*) has been listed.

*ata*

# Transit and TRADOS: Converging Functions, Diverging Approaches

By Tim Hallett

**A**braham Lincoln was once reported to have said of a play, “People who like this sort of thing will find this to be the sort of thing they like.” Much the same can be said for one’s personal preferences with regard to translation memory (TM) software, which will depend greatly on what one expects the software to do.

Recently, I sat down and started to compare two major platforms, Transit XV and SDL TRADOS 2006. Having extensive experience with both Transit 3.0 and TRADOS, I subjected both to tests specifically designed to address issues associated with the respective software platforms.

## Transit XV

Transit XV, developed by STAR Language Technology & Solutions, builds upon the general architecture and approach of Transit 3.0, but represents a marked improvement over its predecessor. Transit 3.0, though in many ways a fine product and my personal choice for a TM system, was, unlike its tank-like predecessor Transit 2.7, plagued by multiple bugs that resulted in crashes, errors, and slow performance, particularly in Excel projects. The good news is that Transit XV seems to have eliminated these issues and has both good stability and high processing speed.

## New Features

Transit XV is fundamentally identical to Transit 3.0, but contains several new features. Among them is a new processing mode called “Repetition Mode,” which you can use to display, translate, and/or check internal repetitions before starting the “actual” translation. This mode is particularly valuable when dealing with large projects or when there are

several translators working on the same project. I tested this function using an Excel spreadsheet with several repetitions intermixed among non-repetitive lines. The only real difficulty was figuring out how to get started, since the cursor did not automatically take me to the first repetition. However, after manually finding a repetitive line and translating it, Transit XV translated all other instances of that line in the document and then moved on to the next repetition. This is a very practical and well

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“...Ultimately, what I see in both products is a convergence of functionality with an increasing divergence in environment and approach...”

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thought out tool for managing identical expressions in large projects.

Another interesting feature is “Reference-based Spell-checking,” which allows you to include the reference material of your project for spell-checking. Thus, Transit XV looks up all words of the active language pair in the reference material. With this type of spell-checking, Transit XV can examine the project’s context, even for languages for which there is no spell-check dictionary available. The only catch is that you have to have your words spelled correctly in your TM.

Previous versions of Transit always had a good segment filtering functionality, with a fairly easy-to-understand script for regular expressions that allowed users to filter in

or out desired strings or search for content. But now Transit XV has added a useful dialog for filtering on the basis of segment attributes, such as for translated or untranslated segments and certain percentages of fuzzy matching, thus greatly expanding an already flexible functionality within Transit.

Already a much praised feature of SDL TRADOS, Transit XV now has a “Concordance” function and a corollary “Dynamic Linking” function. The Concordance function allows a user to search the entire corpus of the TM for instances of a word or phrase, which is very useful in ensuring uniformity of expression, even in cases where there is no fuzzy match. The Dynamic Linking function represents a further development of the Concordance function, where a specific word or phrase in the source language can be linked contextually to a specific word or phrase in the target language, not only in the file pair currently being translated, but across all pairs in the TM and the current project.

## Transit’s TM System

It is here where a short description of the Transit XV TM system is in order. Unlike other TM software that registers segment pairs to a separate TM file for searching, Transit XV creates “virtual databases” out of the source and target file pairs that have been previously translated by the user as well as those assigned to the current project as reference materials. This has the advantages of minimizing the disk space occupied by the TM and keeping the format of the flat data files the same as those operated on within the Transit XV editor. This allows mistakes discovered in the TM to be corrected quickly inside the Transit XV editor, without ➡



the need for separate database editing or maintenance applications. Another advantage is that such an arrangement has greater stability, flexibility, and durability than traditional database formats. Transit XV databases do not corrupt and do not require reorganization. The only real downside of this approach is that you do have to organize your TM in a coherent fashion so that it can be accessed by the program. (Or more accurately, so you can remember where you put it!)

An area of major improvement in Transit XV is the “Report Generation” function. In the past, the Transit report function excelled in giving progress reports and post-translation reports that were useful in ascertaining final invoicing. However, when clients called and asked for estimates, Transit 3.0 was unable to provide a preliminary analysis of project content against an existing TM. Another weakness of the Transit 3.0 reporting function was that it lacked gradations for fuzzy matching. Fuzzy matches were simply classified as either “Fuzzy Match” (i.e., 100% matches) and “Fuzzy Match (Edited).” Transit XV has included four user-configurable gradations for fuzzy matches (e.g., 99-95%, 94-85%, 84-75%, and 75-50%), as well as three types of reports: Import (the above-mentioned pre-translation analysis), Progress, and Translation. The Translation reports are, as always, extremely useful in creating invoices after a translation is completed, as they give a comprehensive and accurate tally of the actual final numbers of pre-translations, fuzzy matches (with gradations), and manual translations. Thus, Transit XV now offers a comprehensive tool for issuing reports before, during, and after the translation process, all in the same package,

without the need to purchase expensive enterprise-level project management software. This is ideal for small operators like me.

Unchanged from earlier versions of Transit is the architectural openness of the translation system. This feature, which is much appreciated by more discerning users, allows easy and quick modification, correction, or repair of both project and TM data. For instance, suppose you are translating a project and a fuzzy match appears for the current segment. In the fuzzy match offered, you notice a misspelling or mistranslation. In conventional TM systems, you are somewhat wedded to that mistake, unless you either have tools to edit the TM database or undergo a fairly irksome process to access the TM and make the change/correction. In Transit XV, such corrections are as easy as right-clicking the fuzzy match and selecting “Open Reference File.” Upon doing so, Transit XV will open the source file pair for that fuzzy match within the Transit XV editing environment at the exact location of the segment in question, where correction of any mistake can be easily and directly made. Press Ctrl+S and the TM is corrected, a process that from beginning to end seldom takes more than five seconds. Tags and other protected items can also be easily moved within the editing environment simply by disabling the tag protection (although this should only be done as needed, and not maintained as a normal translation environment).

Finally, if any damage to the objects or delimiting information makes export impossible, the diagnostic tools give an accurate report of the location of the error, which can be easily repaired by opening the file pairs in a text editor tool and rectifying

any discrepancy between the tags and delimiters of the source and target file at that location. All files in Transit XV adhere to standard XML markup conventions, and can be easily understood and repaired by anyone with even a rudimentary knowledge (such as mine) of markup languages (XML, SGML, HTML, etc.). Transit XV also has a “Source Export” function that exports the information from the source file rather than the target file to confirm whether there is an inherent XML form violation in the source material, which is a very useful diagnostic tool.

### Transit's TermStar

Transit XV comes bundled with its own terminology tool, TermStar, which is fully integrated into Transit XV and allows a terminology list to be displayed onscreen along with the translation file pairs. Once again, the greatest advantage of TermStar, like Transit XV, is its flexibility and openness. Other terminology management tools do an excellent job of easily importing glossary information that has been previously compiled into a proper database format used by the program in question, but honestly, when is the last time one of your clients kept their terminology list in XML or SQL format? In my own language field of Japanese, such lists are invariably kept on an Excel spreadsheet. TermStar is the only platform I have used that allows the user to easily import a terminology list from an Excel spreadsheet simply by treating it as tab-delimited text. This one capability has certainly paid off for me.

TermStar also has tools for structuring the most complex of multilingual dictionaries as well as the simple two-column word list in Excel that we are much more likely to receive from

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our clients. Transit XV allows you to incorporate this terminology information, unadorned as it is, into a searchable format integrated into the translation environment. Thus, terminology matches along with the translated segment are displayed onscreen in the same environment as the translation, and no clicking around to other programs is required. You can also quickly enter new terminology during the translation process using the “Rapid Entry” feature, which is a real timesaver. (True story: A client once sent me nearly 10,000 glossary items arranged over seven Excel files, so imagine her surprise when I told her that I had incorporated all of them into my TM database and that the entire process took less than half an hour!)

As far as the file types handled by Transit XV, the basic package handles a good assortment, including ANSI/ASCII/Unicode text files, Corel WordPerfect, HTML, XML, SGML, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, RTF and RTF for WinHelp, Windows Resource Files (RC), and SVG. Optional filters for FrameMaker, PageMaker, InDesign CS, QuarkXPress, Visio, AutoCAD, and Interleaf/QuickSilver can be ordered separately. My only comment as far as this is concerned is that the prices for optional filters have been prohibitively expensive for single-license operations such as mine, and, considering their small size and relative lack of complexity in terms of software, they should be priced more reasonably.

### **SDL TRADOS 2006**

With the purchase of TRADOS by SDL, Inc. in 2005, users of TRADOS around the world wondered what would be the resulting effect on TM. Well, the answer, for now at least, has arrived in SDL TRADOS 2006.

TRADOS still has Translator’s Workbench, with all the features and functionality that made it such a hit with translators worldwide; namely its interface with MS Word, creating a flexible, yet familiar environment for translators to work in. In terms of functionality, there are some important changes made in this version, with the long-desired incorporation of a direct TM editing function similar to that of Transit XV. My only negative point about this feature is

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“...People will decide, based on look, feel, and comfort level, when all functionality is equal...”

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that it is accessed through the “Concordance” function, when having a dedicated “Editing” button calling up the segment pair currently in Translator’s Workbench would be more convenient for translators by eliminating an extra step.

### **Translator’s Workbench**

One negative aspect of the MS Word interface of previous versions of Translator’s Workbench was its tendency to slow down or even stall when confronted by large graphical objects in Word documents. After running some tests in the newest version with documents that had proven problematic in the past, this issue still seems largely unresolved. There is still significant slowdown in bypassing large graphical objects, and I eventually had to translate one file I tested manually since I was unable to progress past a certain point. Given the persistence of this issue, I assume it is a problem inherent to the MS Word interface.

Sometimes one must sacrifice performance for luxury, I guess.

### **File Types**

In terms of file types, the usual ones are there along with new compatibility with Linux-based software such as Open Office and Star Office. This is an interesting development and may translate into a competitive advantage in such markets as India and China, where free open-source software and Linux are increasingly popular.

### **Reporting Functions**

As far as the reporting functions go, TRADOS’s “Analysis” function is as good an estimation tool as exists on the market, but a “Post-translation Reporting” function, perhaps integrated into the “Clean-up” function, should be added to give a detailed account of the final number of characters, segments, and words translated by various means and at various fuzzy percentages so as to aid in accurate invoicing.

Although MultiTerm 7.1 is supposed to be bundled with SDL TRADOS 2006, the version I downloaded was bundled with MultiTerm 5.5, an earlier version than the 6.5 I already had. So my opinions on this software are only those that can be gleaned through reading the documentation. First, I was very gratified to see that a function for the rapid entry of new terminology has been incorporated in MultiTerm 7.1, eliminating an ongoing headache for TRADOS users in adding newly-discovered terminology to MultiTerm. However, the importation functions still do not support the easy importation of Excel files or off-the-Web glossary information in .TXT or .HTML format without extensive re-scripting for field assignment in the source file level. ➡

TagEditor has been improved by increasing its functionality with MultiTerm, so that it can now have all the TM functionality available in the word interface available for non-RTF based projects.

The interface is radically different from the MS Word environment of Workbench in that data are displayed as flat text in a graphical structured text/tag-editing environment. The tool is powerful and multi-functional, but because of its largely GUI-type interface, it requires the user to learn procedures to perform certain tasks, such as moving and inserting tags (index sorting information for FrameMaker Files), or dividing and/or merging segments. It is an adjustment for those who are used to operating only in the MS Word environment, but is a marked improvement over their previous environments for translating FrameMaker, Excel, and other non-RTF document formats. It appears that TRADOS is moving to make TagEditor the default editing environment from here on out, distancing itself from the Word interface, with its inherent problems in file-type compatibility and performance, making a single environment for all file types.

### SDLX

SDL TRADOS 2006 also comes bundled with SDLX, SDL's long-time TM system, which was much loved by freelance translators for its high degree of functionality combined with low cost. SDLX uses a traditional paired tabular translation format. An interesting feature is how SDLX simultaneously translates all fuzzy matches in a document as soon as information is entered into the TM. Fuzzy matches in need of editing are marked with a different color from segments that have been manually translated or 100% matches. SDLX

can be used across the entire spectrum of TRADOS file formats, and is a useful tool for those who desire a more traditional editing environment than the MS Word interface of Translator's Workbench. SDLX has its own internal termbase management tool, and can import both MultiTerm and \*.TXT files. However, when I attempted to import a simple tab-delimited Japanese glossary, the system managed only to import the first word pair, but did not display the Japanese text properly, even though I specifically designated the field code page to be Shift-JIS (Japanese). It is likely that this was due to some error on my part, though it is not immediately apparent what that error was. The package, to me at least, had a "transitional product" feel about it. It is possible that in the future TRADOS will move to integrate the TRADOS/SDLX platforms into a single unitary package, and that should be something to see!

### Conclusion

Ultimately, what I see in both products is a convergence of functionality with an increasing divergence in environment and approach. Transit has always prided itself on the unity of its package: a single environment suitable for all translations in all file types, using universal scripting conventions that allow the user maximum access to the translation text, and, ultimately, control over it. Transit XV's performance is extremely stable, and the integration of the TM and terminology tools is very good. The terminology tool itself also follows the open and flexible approach, and particularly aids the individual translator in tackling the real-world issue of quickly and easily incorporating Excel and Web page glossaries into terminology data

that can be used by the TM.

SDL TRADOS 2006, on the other hand, is going in the opposite direction. It now offers users three markedly different translation environments unified by MultiTerm. Translator's Workbench maintains its MS Word interface, with all the benefits and drawbacks that entails. TagEditor has become the editing environment for all non-.doc, .RTF formats. For those used to always working in the MS Word environment, TagEditor does take some getting used to; however, it does have broad functionality, and with the integration of MultiTerm, is now a full-fledged TM system in its own right. SDLX provides an easy-to-use, functional, and traditional TM environment for those who desire such an interface.

Ultimately, people will decide based on look, feel, and comfort level when all functionality is equal. However, I still give the nod to Transit XV for the flexibility of the TermStar tool for importing Excel files and the ability to easily repair damaged segments that fail to export. These advantages, particularly the latter, derive not from any particular programming skill or elegant functionality, but are the by-products of the unitary XML-based approach employed by Transit XV.

For more information on both products:

STAR Group America, LLC  
[www.us.star-group.net](http://www.us.star-group.net)

SLD TRADOS  
[www.translationzone.com](http://www.translationzone.com)

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# Certification Forum:

## Certification Education Points Cap and New Ways to Earn CE Points

The ATA Board of Directors, working in conjunction with the Continuing Education Requirements Committee, has announced a change from the previous cap of earning 10 continuing education points (CEPs) a year and some additional paths to earn CEPs. The Board has agreed to eliminate the per-year cap on CEPs. Now all 20 CEPs can be earned in one year if need be. The other changes effective immediately include:

- 1) Reading ATA Annual Conference Proceedings now earns 1 point per article, up to a total of 10 CEPs in a three-year period. It will now be included in category A of the Guide to ATA Continuing Education Points ([www.atanet.org/docs/Guide\\_Education\\_Points.pdf](http://www.atanet.org/docs/Guide_Education_Points.pdf) or [www.atanet.org/docs/aboutcont\\_guide\\_grid.pdf](http://www.atanet.org/docs/aboutcont_guide_grid.pdf)).
- 2) Earning continuing education credits from any other professional organization, such as the

American Medical Association or any bar association. You can count point for point/credit earned up to a total of 10 CEPs in a three-year period. This new path to earning points will be included in category B of the guide.

- 3) Attending interpreter/translator-related training offered by court systems, hospitals, or community institutions. You can earn 1 point per hour of training up to a total of 5 CEPs in a three-year period. This also becomes part of category B of the guide.
- 4) Attending any classroom-based non-credit, non-translating and interpreting course. You can earn 1 point per 2 hours of instruction up to a total of 5 points. This does not fit into any of the existing current categories and becomes a new category.

We have made these changes in

the materials on the website. Obviously, these new options were not included in the original Guide to Continuing Education Points, however, the updated form is on the website. It can be filled out and submitted along with the documentation to support the points you earned. Please do not submit anything until we contact you at the end of your first reporting period.

ATA President Marian S. Greenfield has written that the Guide to Continuing Education Points is a living document, subject to modifications by the Continuing Education Requirements Committee and ATA Board of Directors. These changes are based on suggestions by ATA members and the ever-changing needs of the profession.

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Visit  
[www.atanet.org/  
conf/2006](http://www.atanet.org/conf/2006)  
today

### English into Ukrainian a New Language Pair for ATA Certification

We are happy to announce that a work group has established certification testing in the English into Ukrainian language pair. We congratulate the workgroup who worked tirelessly through this process: Vadim Khazin, Irina Knizhnik, Boris Silversteyn, and Igor Vesler. Vadim Khazin is the language chair for this new language combination. Candidates can order practice tests or register for examinations at this time by going to ATA's website at [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org).

### ATA Ethics Course

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

For details, go to:  
[www.atanet.org/acc/ce\\_  
online\\_ethics\\_component.htm](http://www.atanet.org/acc/ce_online_ethics_component.htm).



## Success by Association!

# Atlanta Association of Interpreters & Translators

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

The Atlanta Association of Interpreters & Translators (AAIT), a nonprofit organization, is a chapter of the American Translators Association. AAIT serves as the link to Atlanta's international community.

### Objectives

- To promote the professions of translation and interpretation, and to support the competency, skills, proficiency, and expertise of individual translators and interpreters.
- To facilitate and procure continuing education and skills-building programs for interpreters and translators in Georgia.
- To provide language resources to individuals, businesses, organizations, and government agencies in the local and international community.

### Membership Benefits

- A listing in AAIT's searchable online database of professional interpreters and translators.
- Ongoing e-mail communications to include announcements of job offers and professional, educational, and networking events.
- A subscription to the quarterly newsletter *Bridges*, sent via e-mail or downloadable from AAIT's website ([www.aait.org](http://www.aait.org)).
- Access to a personal online profile, newsletter archives, bylaws, meeting minutes, member news, and job postings via AAIT's website.
- Continuing education seminars organized by AAIT and other organizations (with member discounts for AAIT seminars).

- Networking opportunities for members and other professionals in the linguistic field.
- A connection to a resource of qualified language professionals.

### Membership Dues

- Student membership: \$25 (with proof of enrollment)
- Regular membership: \$60
- Corporate membership: \$125 (Please note that there is a nonrefundable \$10 administrative fee for new members and late renewals.)

Upon credentials and payment verification, AAIT's membership service coordinator will contact new members with details to sign in and complete a personal online profile, which will be added to AAIT's searchable database of interpreters and translators on its website.

### Newsletter

*Bridges* promotes continued professional growth and helps keep members abreast of ongoing issues in the profession. Additionally, it provides information about networking events, continuing education activities, and training.

### Services

- Cultural awareness and diversity and language instruction training seminars offered annually.
- Customized language programs and education for companies and government agencies.
- Networking events featuring guest speakers.

### AAIT Recent and Upcoming

### Workshops for 2006

- May: Internet resources for translators and interpreters.
- June: Note-taking in consecutive interpretation.
- August: Cross-cultural skills and communication.
- September: Basic accounting for small businesses.

Workshops are also listed in the calendar of Upcoming Events on AAIT's website ([http://aait.org/calendar\\_of\\_events.htm](http://aait.org/calendar_of_events.htm)). For additional information, please contact Rosa Burkard at [rosaburkard@earthlink.net](mailto:rosaburkard@earthlink.net).

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### Quick Facts

- **Acronym:** AAIT
- **Established:** 1981
- **Mission:** promote the recognition and advancement of translation and interpretation as professions.
- **Area served:** metropolitan Atlanta and the state of Georgia.
- **Newsletter:** *Bridges* (quarterly)
- **Website:** [www.aait.org](http://www.aait.org)
- **Phone:** (404) 729-4036
- **E-mail:** [info@aait.org](mailto:info@aait.org)
- **Mailing address:**  
AAIT  
P.O. Box 12172  
Atlanta, GA 30355

## Business Smarts: 48 Hours (actually, 40-and-a-half)

*The information in this column was compiled by members of ATA's Business Practices Education Committee for the benefit of ATA members. The following is not intended to constitute legal, financial, or other business advice. Each individual or company should make its own independent business decisions and consult its own legal, financial, or other advisers as appropriate. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of ATA or its Board of Directors.*

**W**hat can you do when a client does not send payment, or does not send enough payment? This is a dilemma many of us face. Here are some suggestions for handling the problem effectively, based on a recent exchange on the Business Practices Education mailing list. Many thanks to Virginia Pérez-Santalla, Beatriz Bonnet, Dorothee Racette, Gabe Bokor, Ute Kegel, and Kim Vitray. To join ATA's Business Practices Education discussion list, go to [http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/ata\\_business\\_practices](http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/ata_business_practices).

### **Monday, 2:23 PM**

*About six months ago an agency hired me for a two-day interpreting assignment. On the first day, the company said they would need me for two additional days, and called the agency to request my services. I had already received a purchase order from the agency for the first two days, and that same afternoon I received a revised purchase order including the additional two days.*

*Two months passed and the agency still had not paid me, despite numerous inquiries. When I finally did receive a check from them it was only for two days rather than four. I immediately contacted them and explained that the check was not payment in full. Their response was that the project manager had quit, and they had no record of the two additional days. Luckily I had a copy of the revised purchase order and sent it back right away. This was more than two weeks ago and I haven't heard from them.*

*More than six months have passed since the assignment: What do you think my next steps should be? I have already told them (in the hope that it would provoke some reaction) that I wouldn't want to have to resort to harsher measures. (VPS)*

### **Monday, 2:55 PM**

I would go to the highest possible level in the agency, if you haven't done so already, and explain your situation to that person before taking any harsher action. Perhaps this matter hasn't yet been taken high enough, and no one lower down knows how to handle it. At many agencies a problem can be fixed if the right people are aware of it. (BB)

### **Monday, 4:34 PM**

One approach that has worked well in tangled situations such as this is to explain the situation as concisely as possible, preferably in just one paragraph. Copy the message to everyone at the company (so that the "higher-ups" get to see it, too). Add that unless the mess is fixed in a reasonable time, you will not hesitate to share this information with your MANY colleagues on other lists and communication platforms. Be polite, but be very specific about what you expect. (DR)

### **Monday, 4:45 PM**

Those who engage in such practices (assuming it is not simple oversight) should be aware that thanks to the Internet, translators today are no longer defenseless. I once got good results with a (not very thinly) veiled threat to share my story with "the online translator community." If you do need to post such a message, you can protect yourself against threats of legal action with wording such as "If you are considering doing business with XX, you may want to talk to me." That way the information becomes available only to those who are interested. (GB)

### **Monday, 5:06 PM**

Here is another trick that has worked very well: If your e-mail to the chief executive officer fails to yield the desired results, send (or say you will send) a message containing all your correspondence with the agency so far, to show them that you have an exact timeline of the events. It demonstrates to them that you are equipped to take further steps if necessary. (UK)

### **Tuesday, 9:39 AM**

This is more or less exactly how I think such a situation should be handled. It is much more effective in terms of the translator actually getting paid than either complaining or resorting to "blacklists." If every translator did this every time it happened, it would eventually happen far less often (or such companies would go out of business sooner). Forthright communication and the free market will always be our best tools. (KV)

### **Tuesday, 6:05 PM**

All's well that ends well! On Monday afternoon I sent a message to the chief executive officer along with the famous purchase order. I mentioned—very diplomatically, of course!—that I would not want to have to resort to other measures and that I had a complete record of all correspondence. I just now received a call from the agency, with the explanation that the original project manager had not submitted my full invoice for payment. The chief executive officer has approved payment and it will go out tomorrow. (VPS)

### **Thursday, 3:54 PM**

I received the check by FedEx today! And they lived happily ever after... (VPS)

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# Dictionary Reviews

Compiled by Boris Silversteyn

Silversteyn is chair of the ATA Dictionary Review Committee.

## **Dictionary of Contemporary Russian Abbreviations, Acronyms & Initialisms**

### **Authors:**

James F. Shipp and Maks A. Rozenbaum

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### **Reviewed by:**

Vadim Khazin

I presume all translators would agree that unexpanded abbreviations present to us no fewer, or maybe even more, difficulties than unknown specialized terms because at least the terms are usually described or illustrated, while abbreviations quite often remain to be guessed about. This is especially true for abbreviations in Russian. For some reason, soon after the Communists seized power in 1917, they started introducing new abbreviations in enormous quantities, and many (but far from all) of them are now obsolete, like the ridiculous *шкрав=школьный работник* (*school employee*). Curiously, the recent regime change has again led to the emergence of numerous new abbreviations, which are essentially the subject

of the dictionary being reviewed.

By the way, the title of this dictionary could have been shorter since, in my view, “abbreviations” is the generic term that includes “acronyms” and “initialisms” (the last two being essentially synonyms).

### **Format**

The dictionary is issued both as a hardcover book comprising 963 pages and a CD (available from James F. Shipp) that allows for active usage (making additions, corrections, etc.). The number of entries is not mentioned in either edition, though. The CD is supposed to be easier to deal with than the book, but I found it to be the opposite: to search for a specific abbreviation you have to scroll up and down the file for several minutes until you happen to find the necessary page. One minor inconvenience I found in both the printed and CD versions is that the order of an abbreviation’s expansions is not always strictly alphabetical.

### **Content**

The sheer amount of information this dictionary contains is amazing. The authors have probably made extensive searches in all imaginable sources from all areas of knowledge. I personally liked this entry (though far from the longest): *НИИ ПАЛ-СЕМГ = Научно-исследовательская лаборатория по разработке льда, снега и мерзлого грунта*. However, rather than (deservedly) praising the authors, I would prefer to provide some critical remarks. As they state in the foreword, the authors were trying to fill the gap in Russian abbreviation dictionaries that had formed after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. They mention some five such

dictionaries published after 1991 (though not as huge), but fail to mention what is arguably the biggest source—the online dictionary of Russian abbreviations available at [www.sokr.ru](http://www.sokr.ru), with over 93 thousand entries and growing.

Another arguable point is the authors’ approach toward eliminating obsolete entries. It would probably be justifiable had they decided to omit, say, abbreviations of institutions or other entities that ceased to exist after the 1991 collapse (or maybe, to provide some leeway, in the 21st century). But this apparently is not the case: for example, I found (marked as obsolete) *КП РСФСР = Коммунистическая партия Российской Советской Федеративной Социалистической Республики* or *КПСС = Коммунистическая партия Советского Союза*. But then why not include other Soviet-era realias like *ВЦСПС = Всесоюзный Центральный Совет профессиональных союзов* or *Совнарком = Совет народных комиссаров*? And how did the more distant in time notion of *НЭП = новая экономическая политика* (which was proclaimed by Lenin and existed for a short period in the 1920s) find its way into the dictionary, though not as it should have been written (*нэп*)? The authors’ choice here remains unclear, but I must say that translators, who do not always deal with recent texts, would prefer a wider time scope.

And speaking of Communist parties, unfortunately they still exist, even in the U.S. However, I could not find the appropriate abbreviation *КП США*. And under the entry *КП У*, I found the Communist parties of Uruguay and Uganda, but, regrettably, not of my native Ukraine (where there

are two of them now; to distinguish between them, one is labeled “renewed”).

Since a number of cities (especially those named after notorious Communist leaders) have returned to their original names, I would expect this phenomenon to be reflected in the dictionary. And it is—to a certain extent. I was surprised to encounter, e.g., *КУИСИ* = *Куйбышевский инженерно-строительный институт им. А.И.Микояна* because I was sure that the city of Kuybyshev is now again Samara, and the name of Mikoyan (one of the closest satraps of Stalin) must have been removed. Indeed, a simple search revealed that this institute is now (since 2004) called *СГАСУ* = *Самарский государственный архитектурно-строительный университет*. Of course, this was probably too late to be included in this dictionary, but it appeared that back in 1995 it had been renamed as *СамГАСА* = *Самарская государственная архитектурно-строительная академия*, but this abbreviation is missing in the dictionary.

No doubt, I found positive examples as well: *СвердЛИНХ* = *Свердловский институт народного хозяйства* was renamed in 1994 as *УрГЭУ* = *Уральский государственный экономический университет*, and both old and new names are given. And sometimes, old names survive despite the cities being renamed. So, while Leningrad is again St. Petersburg, for some reason (out of tradition or maybe because Leningrad Region still exists), its university’s abbreviation persists as *ЛГУ*.

#### Omissions and Errors

Some omissions and errors are inevitable in such a huge dictionary. Thus, while translating a diploma transcript recently, I encountered the abbreviation *НОУЛ*, which was not to be found in this dictionary (or on the above-mentioned [www.sokr.ru](http://www.sokr.ru)); later, by searching online, I found its expansion: *научная организация учебного процесса*. One obvious error that caught my eye was *Евр. А. О.* expanded as *Ереванская астрономическая обсерватория* instead of *Еврейская автономная область*.

#### Overall Evaluation

In conclusion, I can say that this dictionary is quite worth its price and will certainly relieve you of many time-consuming online or book searches when deciphering an unknown Russian abbreviation. Certainly, we would prefer to have a dictionary with abbreviations not only expanded but also translated, but with the present volume this expectation would be unrealistic. And, as a seasoned translator would confirm, expanding abbreviations is much more important than translating.

*ata*

**Vadim Khazin**, Ph.D., works at the International Center for Environmental Resources and Development at the City University of New York, and as a freelance translator/editor/interpreter for various agencies, mostly in English, Russian, and Ukrainian. He has published a number of translations of novels and other fiction writing, as well as a trilingual dictionary, in the former Soviet Union. He is ATA-certified (English-to-Russian). Contact: [vadkhazin@cs.com](mailto:vadkhazin@cs.com).

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

The workshop is open to English-to-Spanish translators from any country. Qualified participants will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Excellent command of both Spanish and English is a requirement. In the course of the workshop, four texts will be translated by the participants, reviewed by Leandro Wolfson, a professional translator from Argentina, and returned to each translator with revisions, annotated comments, and a model translation selected each month from the group. As in previous TIP-Lab workshops, credit will be granted by the Judicial Council of California, the Washington State Courts, and ATA to those participants who successfully complete the course. Registration is now open. Spaces are very limited and interested translators are encouraged to register as soon as possible. For information, call, fax, or e-mail: TIP-Lab, c/o Alicia Marshall (847) 869-4889 (phone/fax); e-mail: [aliciamarshall@comcast.net](mailto:aliciamarshall@comcast.net), or visit [www.tip-lab.org](http://www.tip-lab.org).





## The Onionskin *By Chris Durban*

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

### The Hazards of Playing It by the Book

#### Wines for Every Palate

In a gushing online description of its specialties, Au Chien qui Fume, a Paris restaurant founded in 1740, refers to its beverage list in terms several correspondents find comical: “The wines, both straightforward and gay, delightfully accompany oysters, seafood, dishes with sauces and fish.”

As these readers point out, while winetalk is traditionally evocative, even flowery, the juxtaposition of straight (forward) and gay is jarring to most English speakers these days. Perhaps more importantly, few English-speaking wine buffs would spontaneously use these terms in the first place.

Such getting-there-but-still-not-quite-right translations owe a lot to the “easy way out” school of translation, also known as looking up words in a bilingual dictionary (on the restaurant’s French webpage, the wines are described as *francs* and *joyeux*). What better reminder of the limits of relying too heavily on this approach?

Once again from the top: translation is not about the words, it’s about the ideas behind the words. As with promotional writing of any kind, you neglect context, flow, and style at your own risk.

#### Laying Down the Law: Risk-averse Judge Cites Dictionary

The belief that dictionary definitions are somehow bulletproof is enduring.

In 2005, an entertaining example surfaced in a ruling by a dictionary-thumping U.S. district judge on a motion filed by defense lawyers in one of several complicated lawsuits concerning Executive Life Insurance Company.

“Wouldn’t the fairest, most reli-

able way to ascertain the correct English meaning of *jeu*, as [the defendant] used it, be to consult a French-to-English dictionary?” complained a clearly exasperated Judge A. Howard Matz in his ruling. Not necessarily, respond many professional translators. Context counts, and surprising as it may seem, dictionary writers can and do make mistakes—often in recycling material from existing or competing tomes. Worse: dictionary users can err in selecting a definition that may, on the surface, appear correct.

At issue this time was California State Commissioner of Insurance John Garamendi’s claim that in 1991 a gaggle of French and other companies including Altus Finance, Crédit Lyonnais, Ominium Genève, MAAF Assurances, plus several individual defendants, lied about their relationships to persuade the commissioner to sell Executive Life’s junk bond portfolio and transfer its insurance business. This was in violation of a law preventing foreign governments from controlling California insurers, since Crédit Lyonnais was owned by the French government.

According to Judge A. Howard Matz, “The proliferation of lawsuits and claims [in the Executive Life case] created unusual complexity—factually, legally, and tactically.” And after a string of some 20 motions over a period of a few days, the judge bristled at French litigants who “appear to assume [...] that no judge is capable of using common sense (and perhaps some pre-existing familiarity with French) to understand a straightforward French phrase.”

Were they not simply indulging in an effort to sow confusion, he mused.

More specifically, the defendants

had sought an order precluding the French phrase “*Quel jeu doit-on jouer vis-à-vis des autorités de Californie?*” from being translated as a damning “What game must we play with the California authorities?”.

The sentence was originally penned—in French—by Pierre Simonet, finance director of MAAF, in a document sent to another defendant that included a series of questions and comments on MAAF’s involvement with the French companies angling to buy the Executive Life assets.

MAAF’s legal team wanted the first translation to be replaced by “What approach must we take with the California authorities?” as proposed by Renée Zarelli, a professional translator specializing in legal texts. To support her version, Ms. Zarelli cited a definition given in a French-to-French dictionary, in which *jeu* is defined as a *manière d’agir or behavior*.

It was at this point that Judge Matz saw red, noting that “If Mr. Simonet was not speaking about a ‘game,’ surely Ms. Zarelli is playing one.”

The translator erred in using a French-to-French dictionary, he stated, since a French-to-English one would obviously be more reliable. On the same grounds, the connotation of trickery and plotting must be right, he argued, citing the *Harrap’s Shorter Dictionary* used by the original translator: “*Harrap’s* even translates *jouer le jeu* as ‘to play the game.’” It translates other examples of the use of *jeu* into such familiar, straightforward English words and phrases as “all this fooling around,” “what’s your game,” and “to play into one’s hand.” In fact, most of the professional translators we have consulted side with

Ms. Zarelli, citing context.

Nonetheless “MAAF’s motion is denied,” thundered Judge Matz in his ruling.

No Francophobe, Matz then appended an unusual closing footnote. It surely took “considerable fortitude” for MAAF’s lawyer to file this motion, wrote the good judge, given that “he bears the same last name as Marshal Michel Ney.” Ney, who commanded armies in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, was ultimately condemned for treason and executed by a firing squad. “No such similar fate will be meted out to his distinguished American namesake,” Judge Matz reassured the court.

We do hope the defendants’ French translators gave their client the full context for that.

### **Stakeholders in Beijing Have Their Hands Full**

Yet many legal professionals welcome the skilled translator’s input. And a recent article in *The Wall Street Journal* acknowledged the difficulty involved in finding reliable equivalents in reporting a diplomatic incident between China and the U.S. triggered by a single word—“stakeholder.”

The misunderstanding started with an important September 2005 speech by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, who urged China to become a “responsible stakeholder” in the international system.

Writing in the *New York Law Journal* (“When a Lot is at Stake, Find a Good Translator,” March 3, 2006), attorney Adam Freedman noted, “The speech was meant to send a message to Beijing. The only problem was that the Chinese had no clue how to translate the word ‘stakeholder.’ Any decent interpreter could tell you that a stake is a pointy stick, but why China should be holding a stake, and how to do so responsibly, was lost on Chinese officials.”

Diplomats and academics in the two countries have been “lobbing translations back and forth” ever since, says Freedman, each with a different take on the S-word. The U.S. State Department translates “stakeholder” as a “participant with related interests” while the Chinese government has yet to take an official position.

For nuances there are: traditionally a stakeholder is a person who holds money or property on behalf of two or more persons contesting the own-

ership of those assets. Thus, an escrow agent is a stakeholder if he is holding funds subject to a dispute.

But in his speech, Mr. Zoellick was referring to a more recent usage, reflecting the trend towards granting legal rights to “corporate stakeholders”—constituencies other than shareholders that are affected by a business’s activities, including staff and customers, as well as the local community.

Sadly, the corporate-law angle only muddled matters further in Beijing. Perhaps using a handy dictionary, the head of China’s Institute of International Strategic Studies confidently announced that stakeholder “means shareholder” according to the *New York Law Journal* article.

“Nice try,” writes the articulate Mr. Freedman, “but, of course, the whole point of stakeholders is that they are not shareholders; that is, they have no ownership in the enterprise, but they nonetheless have an interest in its performance.”

Clearly the word-for-word road is not a reliable thoroughfare for legal and translation professionals seeking to bridge the language gap.

*ata*

## **Attend the Guadalajara International Book Fair**

**November 25-  
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The Guadalajara International Book Fair is once again offering limited housing support to translators wishing to attend the largest book fair in Latin America. Sponsorship includes free registration as well as a complimentary three nights’ stay (single or double occupancy) at a hotel near the fair site. This is a great opportunity to meet Latin American writers as well as agents and publishers interested in publishing translations into English and other languages. The deadline for requesting support is October 5, 2006. For more information and an application, please contact Víctor Ortiz, professionals coordinator, at [registro@fil.com.mx](mailto:registro@fil.com.mx). For general information on the fair, visit [www.fil.com.mx/ingles/i\\_index.asp](http://www.fil.com.mx/ingles/i_index.asp).



# The Translation Inquirer

By John Decker

Address your queries and responses to The Translation Inquirer, 112 Ardmoo Avenue, Danville, Pennsylvania 17821, or fax them to (570) 275-1477. E-mail address: Jdecker@uplink.net. Please make your submissions by the 25th of each month to be included in the next issue. Generous assistance from Per Dohler, proofreader, is gratefully acknowledged.

Ideally, people in our profession should be cultural omnivores. If a young person came to me asking advice on how to prepare for a career as a translator, I would say, "Read everything in your native language that you come in contact with. If an object happens to come into your field of vision with instructions for assembly or operation, read it. If you get a medicine bottle, pull out your magnifying glass and read the label. If it is a food product, read the list of ingredients. If it is an appliance, read the warnings about improper use. In short, read everything, no matter how mundane or dull, because some day such material will bring the profit into your business."

[Abbreviations used with this column: Da-Danish; D-Dutch; E-English; F-French; G-German; I-Italian; J-Japanese; Po-Polish; Pt-Portuguese; R-Russian; Sp-Spanish; T-Turkish.]

## New Queries

(E-G 6-06/1) This query from a ProZ correspondent is fraught with danger, because in this field of funds investment, often the German practice is to allow similar terms to be left unaltered in English. In any case, what is wanted is a reasonable German equivalent for *fixed income arbitrage*, found in a list that contains such terms as *funds of hedge funds*, *CB & Volatile Arbitrage*, *Global Macro*, and *Equity Market Neutral*.

(E-R 6-06/2) The somewhat vague term *fabricated bases* posed problems for this ProZ user trying to get through an English-to-Russian petroleum technology document: *When fabricated bases or fabricated skid bases are utilized, the foundation should be sufficiently rigid and level*

*to absorb any vibration and support the base at all points.* Actually, this sounds as if it could apply to a lot of engineering fields.

(E-R 6-06/3) The term *online ticket*, which now I suppose is available in nearly all the modes of transportation, caused problems for a ProZ user trying to fit it into a document about airline services. What would be acceptable Russian for this kind of ticketing, which obviously will only become more important as time goes on?

(E-Sp 6-06/4) Lee Wright, of terminology fame, was working on a document on a device used to monitor liquid levels in pressure vessels that either actuates a pump starter switch or sounds a low- or high-level alarm. He wants good Spanish for *grub screw*, and is aware that this may be British usage. Here is the context: *Flameproof models: Locate and slacken off [the] M5 socket head grub screw inside of [the] cover adjacent to [the] base joint.*

(E-T 6-06/5) This is a query about the physical characteristics of an infant: *This response may be influenced by other factors such as midparent height, birth weight and current weight.* What about the troubling word *midparent*, and after solving that, what would be good Turkish for it?

(F-E 6-06/6) The following is Quebec French in a text dealing with international trade disputes: "Capacité de référer rapidement et d'expliquer des processus et l'intention générale des Chapitres pertinents de l'ALÉNA qui sont d'intérêt aux parties en cause (les **entreprises canardements**, les fonctionnaires des institutions comme l'Agence du Revenu ou le Tribunal du commerce extérieur), pour comprendre la docu-

mentation requise, et pour obtenir des informations nécessaires à un dossier complet." What to make of the two words in bold print?

(G-E 6-06/7) The text which this ProZ denizen was working on was about electric winches, and the words in bold print caused him to pause, because no English equivalent would come, though he knew what was being written about: "Für die standardmäßig linksgerillte Seiltrommel dürfen ausschließlich drehungsfreie-, oder drehungsarme, **rechtsgängige Gleichschlag-Drahtseile** verwendet werden, mit den entsprechenden Seildurchmessern und vorgegebenen Mindestbruchkräften." Who wants to try?

(J-E 6-06/8) In a text related to printers and plotters in printing and publishing, a ProZer found a term, **REPERE**, in a list of steps describing the digital production flow of a plotter. The next step following **REPERE** is **REPERE**. What is it, and what about English?

(Po-E 6-06/9) A ProZ correspondent wanted to know what the three words below in bold print mean in the chemical text she was working on: "Nadmiar NaOH zwiększa przewodność kąpieli, polaryzację katody i tym samym poprawia makrowgłębność kąpieli. Z drugiej strony zbyt duże stężenie NaOH prowadzi do **nadmiernego rozpuszczania anod** i osadzania jakościowo gorszych powłok cynkowych."

(Sp-E 6-06/10) A Lantra-L user had a short work reference for a "soldador-armador" (*welder-fitter*) from a business located in Paraguay. The name of the business is: [surname] Aberturas. Nothing more is said about what sort of work they do in the reference. What is the meaning of "abertura" here? It does not seem to be covered in the dictionaries I consulted.

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(Sp-E 6-06/11) Trying to make a transcript from an audio recording that was not entirely clear, this ProZ correspondent heard “quintados” and wondered what it referred to. It could be “quintavos, quinchados,” etc. This is a Peruvian builder, possibly a native Quechua speaker, from Villa El Salvador. He is talking about how they go about building houses. The audio clip is from the 1970s. Here is the rest of the sentence: “Unos 50 **quintados** de cemento, con unos 4 ó 6 boquetados de arena, conjuntamente con hormigón y piedras.” What is it?

### Replies to Old Queries

(D-E 3-06/2) (“*losse decking*”): This, says Hans Liepert, is *separate coverage*. Example: While coverage for a violin might be included in the household contents insurance, a Stradivarius needs a “*losse decking*” due to the higher risk or higher value.

(Da-E 3-06/1) (“*indkøring*”): Peter Christensen says that since “*indtasting*” is clearly a computer term (*entering* the cows in some database), “*indkøring*” must refer to electronically starting up the “*malkestald*,”

“AMS” or “*karrusel*” *routine* (if that is correct computerese) at the user’s own rotary milking barn or parlor.

(E-Pt 3-06/5) (“*...ergonomically correct envelope...*”): Thais Simoes takes this step by step, knowing that it is a real challenge. First, a couple of suggestions for reasonable equivalents in English. She suggests *when the right instruction is followed* or *when the right button is pushed, a movement is made....*

(G-I 3-06/10) (“*Nk.*”): In a billing document, asserts Sabine Michael, it means “*Nebenkosten*” (*additional charges, additional expenses, costs incidental to something*). Ute Tabi agrees, as do Heidemarie Nelson, Hans Fischer, Elena McGivern (a first-time participant to this column), Hans Liepert, and Andrea Black. Mike Sherer calls them *incidentals* or *out-of-pocket expenses*, and Tina Banerjee phrases it as *ancillary expenses*.

(G-I 3-06/11) (“*Stufenform*”): Sabine Michael, loosely translating in this context, says that when assuming the ideal seating position, the upper and lower parts of the body form the outline of a *step* or a *stair*. In Italian,

“*gradino*” and “*scalino*” are Italian for step, but she has no clue if it can be used in this context. Ute Tabi says that this is really as simple as it sounds. When the person is properly seated (back straight, thighs horizontal, knees bent at a 90-degree angle), the body takes on *the shape of a step*. Mike Sherer: *...the upper and lower parts of the body would look step-shaped*. Gisela Murdter suggests *at an angle of 90 degrees*. Jack Piotrow offers *L-shape*. Welcome to Gisela and Jack, who are participating in this column for the first time.

(I-E 3-06/12) (“*pianificazione del personale*”): Unless Peter Christensen is missing something, “*pianificazione del personale*” can surely be translated as *human resources planning*.

*Well, lastly, what does all of the above add up to? A very substantial recovery for a column that seemed to be a very ill patient just a couple of months ago. And the thanks go entirely to all of you who contributed!*

*ata*

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## The Translator’s Tightrope: Recognizing and Avoiding Overtranslation Continued from p. 21

### Recommendations and Conclusion

The translator has to add words sparingly and delete words prudently to make the translation sound natural and the meaning clear. The translator must select terminology carefully for accuracy and clarity. The translator must constantly question the meaning of a translation. Questions to ask include:

- Does a term fit the sentence?
- Does the sentence fit the sense of the paragraph?

- Does the paragraph fit the thrust of the entire document?
- Does the document translation fit the discipline for which it is intended?

The key piece of advice for any translator translating unfamiliar terms is:

*“Don’t guess, don’t blithely accept—research!”*

It is important for a translation to sound natural, but also for it to

remain true to the message. The translator has to stay on the tightrope. The editor is an important agent to help the translator keep focused on the original message. A careful choice of editor is as important as the choice of translator, providing the editor is sufficiently experienced to recognize an overtranslation.

If you don’t want an editor sorting through your dirty laundry and exposing your questionable translation practices, then stay on the tightrope!

*ata*





# Humor and Translation By Mark Herman

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

## Carmina Burana I

One of the largest collections of medieval secular writings, comprising more than 200 racy lyric poems and six plays, is the *Codex Buranus*, or *Carmina Burana* [*Songs of Beuern*]. These irreligious pieces, which invoke not God but the capricious goddess Fortune, were composed mostly in Latin after 1150, written down in the *Codex* around 1300, and kept as an uncatalogued under-the-counter book at the Benediktbeuern monastery near Munich for half a millennium. They were “discovered” in 1803, first published in 1847, and then in a multi-volume critical edition between 1930 and 1970. The lyrics were meant to be sung, and there are recordings available in which the lyrics are sung to reconstructed medieval music. But the most famous contemporary sung version is that by Carl Orff, who, in 1936, set some 23 of the lyrics to newly composed music with catchy melodies, simple harmonies, and driving rhythms. The resulting cantata for chorus, vocal soloists, and orchestra has become one of the most popular pieces of serious music composed in the twentieth century.

Serious, but still hysterically funny. Consider the first verse of the swan’s lament:

Olim lacus colueram,  
olim pulcher extiteram,  
dum cignus ego fueram.

[Once I lived on the lakes,  
once I looked beautiful  
when I was a swan.]

The above verse may not seem funny from its literal translation, but consider the twelfth-century European context. Later stanzas reveal that the former swan is being roasted on a spit, and represents a soul in Hell. His main complaint, apparently, is that he is not being cooked properly. The poets and performers were all clerics or at least educated by clerics (the only people who knew Latin), and were probably all male and all drunk. There is ferocious irony here, which must be re-created by a translator for people living in a very different time. Among the many extant translations of this song into English, there are a few which attempt such a re-creation.

The first one known is by the Victorian John Addington Symonds, appearing in his 1884 book, *Wine, Women and Song*. Symonds knew the original was supposed to be funny, but said that the lyric is one of a series of “comic ditties which may have been sung at wine-parties....[T]heir medieval bluntness of

humour does not render them particularly entertaining to a modern reader.” Hence Symonds’ game but tame effort:

Time was my wings were my delight,  
Time was I made a lovely sight;  
‘Twas when I was a swan snow-white.

George F. Whicher’s version was published in 1949 in *The Goliard Poets* (New York: New Directions). It is his translation, not Symonds’, that seems to be stiltedly Victorian:

Aforetime, by the waters wan,  
This lovely body I put on:  
In life I was a stately swan.

In 1966, Edwin H. Zeydel published *Vagabond Verse* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press). His version is:

I once could call the lake my own,  
Where once in stateliness I shone  
The while I as a swan was known.

James J. Wilhelm’s 1971 translation, in *Medieval Song* (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co.) is in the same vein:

Once I skimmed over inland seas;  
Once my white down was fine to see;  
I lived my swan-life peacefully—

The version by Ronnie Apter and me first appeared in 1977. We very much had Orff’s cantata in mind. As T. S. Eliot remarked, a work of art, such as Orff’s, can change the perception of preceding works of art.

This is a swan song from the beak  
of a white swan once fat and sleek;  
I paddled lakes, now I’m up the creek.

I am happy to say that a more recent translator, also influenced by Orff, knows that being funny is essential. Joan Jessop Brewster’s 1991 translation, available on the Internet, is reprinted here by permission of the translator:

Once I dwelt upon the lake,  
once so handsome on the make,  
swan cob I was, a dashing rake.

*ata*

# American Translators Association

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## Corrections

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In Michael Ring's article, "Collaboration and Community Abroad: ATA's Strong Presence at the Israel Translators Association International Conference" (April issue), the editor incorrectly stated that Eve Hecht's session on translating personal documents had to be cancelled since she was unable to attend the conference. Although Ms. Hecht was unable to participate at the breakfast meeting on the first day of the conference, she did attend the rest of the event and her presentation was well attended.

In the Success by Association! column entitled "All About the Delaware Valley Translators Association" by Helge Gunther (April issue), the page numbers for the references were incorrect. The correct listing appears below.

1. Bierman, Bernard. *A Translator-Warrior Speaks: A Personal History of the American Translators Association, 1959-1970* (Nyack, New York: Information Resources Management, 1987), p. 19.
2. Bierman, Bernard. *A Translator-Warrior Speaks: A Personal History of the American Translators Association, 1959-1970* (Nyack, New York: Information Resources Management, 1987), p. 30.
3. DVTA Archive files.
4. Bierman, Bernard. *A Translator-Warrior Speaks: A Personal History of the American Translators Association, 1959-1970* (Nyack, New York: Information Resources Management, 1987), p. 96.
5. DVTA Archive files.
6. Creskoff, Ellen. DVTA Newsletter (November-December 1991).

## S. Edmund Berger Prize Excellence in Scientific and Technical Translation

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

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

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

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

Nominations must be received by September 18, 2006, and will be judged by a three-member national jury. The recipient of the award will be announced during the 2006 ATA Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana (November 1-4, 2006).

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---

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

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

Any questions? Contact: Lillian Clementi, [lillian@lingualegal.com](mailto:lillian@lingualegal.com)

### A Winning Photo Is as Easy as 1-2-3!

Follow these guidelines to improve your chances of taking this year's prize:

1. Make sure the photo shows clearly that you are talking about translation and/or interpreting. This could include: words behind you on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or flip chart; an interesting prop; or classroom decorations, such as flags, foreign vocabulary, or maps.
2. If possible, include both yourself and one or more students in the photo. If the school's confidentiality policy prohibits showing children's faces in the photo, try a shot that shows them from the back.
3. Aim for a photo that is clear enough for effective reproduction in *The ATA Chronicle* and other promotional materials. Ideally, it should be visually pleasing as well, although we are willing to do some cropping and enhancing if the content is good.

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

## Attention Korean Language Translators and Interpreters!

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

*Note: You must be an ATA member to belong to any of its divisions.*

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## Upcoming Events

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**August 26, 2006**

**ATA Medical Interpreting Seminar**

Hilton President

Kansas City, Missouri

[www.atanet.org/pd/medicalinterpreting](http://www.atanet.org/pd/medicalinterpreting)

**October 18-21, 2006**

**American Literary Translators Association 29th Annual Conference**

Bellevue, Washington

[www.literarytranslators.org](http://www.literarytranslators.org)

**October 25-27, 2006**

**Languages & the Media**

**Sixth International Conference and Exhibition**

**Language Transfer in Audiovisual Media**

Hotel InterContinental

Berlin, Germany

[www.languages-media.com](http://www.languages-media.com)

**October 26-28, 2006**

**American Medical Writers Association Conference**

“Reaching New Heights”

Albuquerque, New Mexico

[www.amwa.org](http://www.amwa.org)

**November 1-4, 2006**

**American Translators Association 47th Annual Conference**

New Orleans, Louisiana

[www.atanet.org/conf/2006](http://www.atanet.org/conf/2006)

**November 3-5, 2006**

**International Federation of Translators**

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## Honors and Awards

See [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org) for details

### 2006 Harvie Jordan Scholarship

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### S. Edmund Berger Prize

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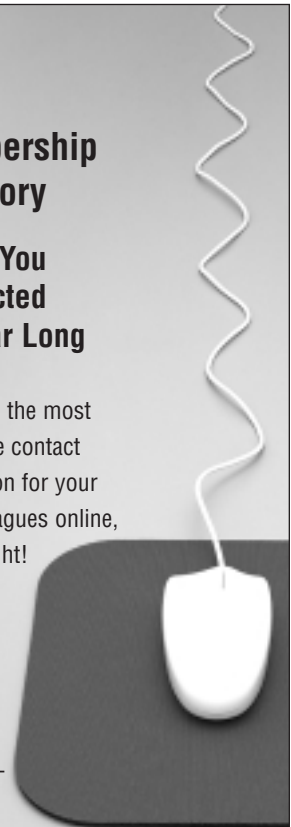


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September 22, 2006

### Colorado

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### Georgia

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### Louisiana

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October 20, 2006

### Michigan

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### Missouri

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August 27, 2006  
Registration Deadline:  
August 11, 2006

### New Mexico

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September 9, 2006  
Registration Deadline:  
August 25, 2006

### Tennessee

Nashville  
September 10, 2006  
Registration Deadline:  
August 25, 2006

### Texas

San Antonio  
July 22, 2006  
Registration Deadline:  
July 7, 2006

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

### Australia

Adelaide  
July 21, 2006  
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## New Certified Members

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## English into Ukrainian a New Language Pair for ATA Certification

We are happy to announce that a workgroup has established certification testing in the English into Ukrainian language pair. We congratulate the workgroup who worked tirelessly through this process: Vadim Khazin, Irina Knizhnik, Boris Silversteyn, and Igor Vesler. Vadim Khazin is the language chair for this new language combination. Candidates can order practice tests or register for examinations at this time.





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