

ITIA BULLETIN

September 2003

In This Issue
Editorial2
ITIA Chairman's Book Prize 2
International Translation Day 2003 2
Joining the ITIA 3
Certification: An Open Letter 3
The National Standards in Translating
Review: Machine Translation with @promt Professional 5
Translation Bloomers 7
Conferences
Training, Courses & Education9
Contacting The ITIA 11

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Teangairí na hÉireann

19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland Tel.: +353-1-872 1302 Fax: +353-1-872 6282 Email: translation(a)eircom.net Web:www.translatorsassociation.ie

Editorial

Welcome to the September issue of the *ITIA Bulletin*. This month's issue features a number of articles on machine translation, translator certification and translator training. *Anna Nesterova* has written an open letter to the ITIA Bulletin describing the frustration many of us encounter with regard to the whole issue of translator/translation certification. *John Kearns* has provided a review of the National Standards in Translating from the Languages National Testing Organisation while *Lorena Guerra* discusses the @promt machine translation system.

This month saw two more viruses wreaking havoc across the globe: Blaster and Sobig. Again, much blame is being heaped at the feet of both Microsoft and the people who released the viruses. However, one thing most people are forgetting, especially in the case of the Sobig virus, is that a little common sense can go a long way in combatting this problem. It begs the question of whether people have ever heard of anti-virus software and safe computing. The fact of the matter is if you receive a strange email (even one which appears to be from someone you know) that has an attachment with suffixes like.scr, .vbs, .scr, .exe or .com you should NEVER open it! It really is that simple. If you saw an unattended bag in the airport with wires sticking out of it making a ticking sound, would you open it? Definitely not! So why risk your computer (and livelihood) with email viruses? Of course virus creators know that some people simply cannot resist the urge to open such emails and that is how they propagate their viruses. Until people learn to exercise discipline and learn the value of up to date virus protection, viruses will continue to cause chaos for some time to come.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the *ITIA Bulletin* and the new layout which, hopefully, will be easier to read and print. Please let us know if you have any ideas, comments or suggestions relating to any of the articles here or subjects you would like to see dealt with.

Jody Byrne, MITIA Editor jody.byrne (a)dcu.ie

ITIA Chairman's Book Prize

Congratulations to the winner of the *ITIA's Chairman's August 2003 Book Prize* who is **Crispin Welby** from Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. A double volume of Tess Gerritsen's thriller series - *The Surgeon / The Apprentice* - is on its way to the lucky winner as we speak.

By way of a "continuing thank you" and in order to promote the ITIA Bulletin a little more, we are continuing the Chairman's Book Prize for our subscribers in October 2003.

To enter, all you need to do is:

1 Invite a colleague to join the ITIA Bulletin mailing list by their sending an email to

itia-ezine-

subscribe(a)yahoogroups.com

- 2 Send a blank Email to *bookprize(a)infomarex.ie* to confirm your participation in the September 2003 draw.
- 3 On the 20th September 2003, we will pick a low prime number at random and - in the date and time order of the replies to *bookprize(a)infomarex.ie*. A member of the *itiaezine(a)yahoogroups.com* mailing list will then be the proud and lucky owner of a translation related book.
- 4 The winner will receive the book in the post /mail and his/her name will be announced in the October issue of the ITIA Bulletin.

So, don't delay, invite a colleague to join our ITIA Bulletin list and send a blank Email to *bookprize(a)infomarex.ie*

International Translation Day 2003

IRISH WRITERS' CENTRE, 19 PARNELL SQUARE, DUBLIN 1

Saturday 27th September 2003, 6:15 - 8:30 pm.

Join us at 6.15pm for a glass of wine. At 7.00pm there will be a Panel Discussion on this year's International Translation Day theme, Translators' Rights. The theme was selected by the International Federation of Translators, the worldwide organisation representing more than 60,000 language professionals in 115 member associations.

The Panel for the Translators' Rights discussion will include professional and legal viewpoints, but it is hoped that the main ingredient of the discussion will be the views of our members and friends who come to the meeting. This panel will consist of:

- Ms. Sean Quinn, Barrister
- Mr. Michael McCann, Chair, ITIA
- Mr. Michael Friel, Chair, FIT Human Rights Committee

There will be no French Translation Prize to be announced this time, but the Cultural Service of the



French Embassy is continuing to sponsor the Prix de l'Ambassade on a biennial basis, as a travelling bursary awarded by the French Cultural Services for a translation project from French into English or Irish.

All are welcome!

Joining the ITIA

The Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association is always delighted to welcome new members to the Association.

There are five categories of membership:

- Ordinary
- Professional
- Corporate
- Student
- Honorary

Ordinary membership is open to anyone with an interest in translating or interpreting. *Professional membership* is for those who meet strict criteria set by the professional membership committee of the ITIA and which is part of the drive to raise the status of the profession in the European market.

Corporate membership is for firms and agencies associated with the profession while *student membership* is for undergraduates engaged in third level language and/or translation studies. Finally, *honorary membership* is intended for national and international persons who have distinguished themselves in our professional field.

For more information on how to join as well as for the relevant application forms, visit the ITIA website at:

www.translatorsassociation.ie

Certification: An Open Letter

Dear Bulletin readers,

I would like to raise an issue that I am sure many of you have come across in your translating and interpreting activities.

I have recently established a translations agency in Ireland and as some of my clients enquired about a certified translation I decided to become a sworn, or certified, translator. I enquired with the Irish Translators and Interpreters Association but unfortunately they weren't able to give me a definite answer. It appears that there is no a procedure in place to do that!

The ITIA represents our interests and I think this issue should be among their top priorities at the moment. With the increasing possibilities that the Internet offers translators, we can deliver jobs all over the world and should do our best to satisfy the customer's requirements to stay competitive in the global marketplace. However, quite a few jobs have to be turned down because a translator's qualifications might not be enough to do the job.

I personally find it frustrating that this can slow down my activities and even prevent me from expanding my business. By way of this open letter, I would like to draw attention to this important issue and have the support of my colleagues in profession to make the ITIA to take some active steps to improve the situation.

I would like to urge translators and interpreters in Ireland to share their experiences or problems with regard to this matter and support this call to change the situation. It is up to us to get things moving!

Best regards, Anna Nesterova

> Anna Nesterova Brinat Translations Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo, Ireland Email: brinattranslations(a)yahoo.co.uk

Book Review: The National Standards in Translating

THE NATIONAL STANDARDS IN TRANSLATING. AUTHORED AND PUBLISHED BY THE LANGUAGES NATIONAL TESTING ORGANISA-TION, 20 BEDFORDBURY, LONDON, WC2N 4LB. WWW.LAN-GUAGESNTO.ORG.UK. PUBLISHED 2001, 124 PP.

The present volume is a revision of the first UK national standards for interpreting and translating, published in 1996. Subsequently, the Beaumont review of National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQs) recommended that they be made simpler and more accessible to prospective users. Thus, this revision of the 1996 publication by the Languages National Training Organisation, set at N/SVQ Level 5, also takes into account the views of awarding bodies, employers, translators' and interpreters' organisations, and other experts to produce a set of standards in translation which may be used for three main purposes:



1.As a basis for training qualifications, enabling translators to obtain accreditation for their existing skills and to pursue studies which will lead to accreditation which will be widely accepted in professional circles.

2.To provide a curricular basis for translator training programmes, enabling trainers to set objectives and plan course content.

3.To benchmark performance and judge quality of translator competence for use by employers, employees, and awarding and examinations bodies, including universities and colleges.

In keeping with N/SVQ general practice, the translation units which the standards propose are assessed through a portfolio of evidence compiled by the candidate, thus enabling a flexibility in the assessment of competence which cannot similarly be afforded by a rigid timetable. Moreover, both translation performance from the workplace and simulated performance may be included in candidates' portfolios for assessment and accreditation.

The Standards present the following Qualification Structure for Translating Level 5:

I Mandatory Language Units

- R5 (reading) read effectively to obtain information from complex and specialised texts
- W5 (writing) write effectively to deal with highly specialised work tasks

II Mandatory Translation Units

- T1 Preparation for translation assignments and maintaining resources for translation purposes
- T2 Translation of general texts
- T3 Development of own performance as a translator

III Optional Translation Units: Group 1. Two of the following:

- Legal translation.
- Translation of creative texts
- Scientific translation.
- Technical translation
- Translation of educational and training texts.

IV Optional Units: Group 2. One of the following:

- Int 5.7 Evaluate and improve language services to meet client needs
- 327 Control the use of electronic communication (ITNTO Unit)
- C5 Develop productive working relationships (MCI Unit)
- SF1 Review the performance of the business (SFEDI Unit 1)
- Manage the finances of the business (SFEDI Unit 5)

In common with the development of all N/SVQs, the Standards include an assessment strategy featuring external quality control measures. Since the publication of the 1996 standards, responsibility for determining what constitutes sufficient performance evidence (i.e. in terms of quantity) for each individual unit has been transferred from NTOs to the awarding bodies who use the Standards. Whatever one's opinion of this change (and the present reviewer will admit to having qualms about it) it is commendable on the part of the LNTO that these guidelines have continued to be provided, albeit in a separate section of the report rather than in the main body of the Standards.

...there is the added hazard of treating a language as a stable entity to be 'mastered', rather than as a phenomenon which is constantly in flux and which demands regular attention.

One aspect which may be cause for concern for some within the translator training community is the relationship between these standards and the LNTO's National Language Standards. It is reported that the LNTO have agreed with the awarding bodies that Level 5 language training units in reading and writing should precede all translation training units. The LNTO defends this on the grounds that it "will allow candidates to concentrate on their language performance first, followed by the acquisition of professional knowledge and practice required for the field of interpreting and translation." Certainly the possession of advanced language abilities must be considered a prerequisite for all translators and interpreters. However, the straightforward ordering of language skills first, translation skills later, though having certain advocates within the translation studies community (the work of Seleskovitch springs to mind) perpetuates a number of myths, perhaps most worryingly that on-going language instruction need not have a role in translator training. Aside from risking ossification of the candidate's language skills, there is the added hazard of treating a language as a stable entity to be 'mastered', rather than as a phenomenon which is constantly in flux and which demands regular attention. Of course, it might be argued that instruction in translation is in itself a language-learning activity. Yet the insufficiency of translation as the basis of a language teaching methodology has been well chronicled and one would like to see provision made for



trainee translators to be provided with on-going language-learning opportunities.

Also puzzling is the absence of any discussion of language directionality. While it is true that many of the recommendations provided by the Standards serve to emphasise the importance of the translator's own integrity, there seems to be a presumption that source and target languages are given level pegging – or at least there is no formal presentation of the status of the two languages with which the trainee will be working.

On the positive side, however, the recommendations do make an attempt to develop what Don Kiraly has termed translation competence - the linguistic aspects of language mediation - and translator competence – the professional skills (financial, technological, managerial etc.) which the contemporary translator is expected to possess in the workplace. It is encouraging to see that the standards propose trainee translators pursue a course of study from another of the NVQ courses (in the optional units in section IV). Perhaps it is regrettable that only one such course is required.

Ultimately, however, the Standards are pioneering in mapping the lay of the land in an area which has, for too long, often been left to the whim of individual instructors to decide what should be included and excluded.

> John Kearns Email: kearns(a)pro.onet.pl

Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the *ITIA Bulletin* will be out on 15^{th} October, 2003. So if you have any contributions, news, suggestions or something you'd like to share, send them to *jody.byrne(a)dcu.ie*. The deadline for submissions is 10^{th} October.

Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

To subscribe, simply send an Email to itia-ezine-subscribe(a)yahoogroups.com

To unsubscribe, simply send an Email to itia-ezine-unsubscribe(a)yahoogroups.com

Review: Machine Translation with @promt Professional

@promt Professional (English-Spanish, Spanish-English) was released in March 2003 by the company PROject MT Ltd. This software, which is destined for professional users in the translation industry, was used as part of my postgraduate research at Dublin City University. The editing features of the software were tested with the aim of offering statistics on human translation speed as a comparative benchmark for machine translation post-editing carrying out measurements. Although the automated system includes two language pairs and directions (English-Spanish, Spanish-English), this article only looks at the first combination. The free space needed for its installation was 41.5 MB.

This software, based on the new translation technology "*PROMT XT*" (eXcellent Translation, XT), differs from the system architecture explained in Sokolova (2002) in the introduction of further user features which improve the efficiency of the newer version. Normally, translation systems offer three different types of dictionaries: *a single large general-purpose dictionary per language direction, domain-specific dictionaries* that can be purchased separately and *customised dictionaries* that allow users to adapt the translation software to their specific needs.

It is at this level of customisation that @promt Professional, with its enhanced "Dictionary Editor" application, incorporates new functions which allow users to gain control and speed over the translation of words and expressions in certain texts. Dictionary editor which can be accessed from any of the machine translation (MT) system applications, helps users achieve greater precision when coding linguistic information, to adapt dictionaries to user's skills ("beginner" or "expert" mode) and to specify some information on verb, noun and adjective syntax structure. It also allows user select inactive translations implying that some alternatives can be used as references rather than choices in the process of translation. Users can find any word in the dictionary, view the information about this entry in all the dictionaries of the system, and -if necessary- change the grammatical information. It is also possible to set priorities for individual words. This involves the user specifying whether an ambiguous word is more commonly translated as a verb or as a noun, as a noun or as an adjective.

Other functions include:

- Open and view the alphabetical list of headwords (stems, word forms and initial forms);
- Restore a deleted entry;
- Adjust the system to the topic of the text to be translated;
- Save the list of entries of an open dictionary in a text or RTF-file, or even in CSV, (Comma Separated Values);
- Use the search capability in the dictionary and build an alphabetic list of entries that satisfy specific criteria;
- Save the source and final translated text as aligned bilingual texts, an advantage for combining with translation memory components.

All of these functions become crucial when optimising the quality and accuracy of raw MT output, particularly in those cases where high quality is required and time and/or costs are primary concerns. However, to successfully implement this technology it is also essential to rely on a software application with built-in editing features, as this will facilitate machine-human interaction at the back-end of any translation process. Nevertheless, it has to be taken into account that these features are not necessarily preset in all MT systems, nor for all language pairs and directions.

...*MT* systems on their own, will (probably) never equal the high quality offered by a professional human translator.

@promt Professional, offers different specialised translation applications: customised Plug-In for Microsoft Internet Explorer or Acrobat, PROMT Backup, PromtX or Associated Memory databases, attending to different customer's needs. However, the most important module that caters for the growing demands of the translation industry is @promt Professional translation environment. This is a linguistic editor with a set of facilities that allow users not only to translate the text but also to edit the translation and update the dictionaries of all accessible directions of translation.

The following are some of the most significant editing features:

• Translation alternatives are given in curly brackets and underlined in blue.

- Paragraph alignment is indicated by a mark whose (white, blue, back or green) colour depends on the status of the paragraph.
- If a word or phrase is selected in the target text, the source word or phrase is highlighted with the colour of the current paragraph in the source text, allowing users to easily locate the selected item.
- Colour-coding is provided for identification of unknown and preserved words, underlined in red and green, respectively.
- It is possible to modify the colour of the selected text or even the background colour. Other options such as changing the font or the (lower/upper) case are also available.
- Hyperlinks are identified in the source text and it is even possible to access the Internet document or folder opened by the default browser.

Furthermore, this MT system not only permits the translation of different file types and its conversion, but it also embeds the functions of translation into Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, FrontPage or Outlook 2000/XP. As a final remark I would like to comment that MT systems on their own, will (probably) never equal the high quality offered by a professional human translator. However, Human-Assisted Machine Translation (HAMT) can prove the efficiency of this technology even when translating materials other than highly repetitive technical and/or scientific manuals (Guerra, 2003, forthcoming).

Lorena Guerra Email: lorena.guerra2(a)mail.dcu.ie

For more information on @*promt*, visit http://www.promt.ru/news-e

References

- Guerra, L.(2003) "Human Translation versus Machine Translation and Full Post-Editing of Raw Machine Translation Output." To be published IN: *International Journal for Machine Translation*.
- Sokolova, S. (2002). "An Overview of PROMT Translation Software." IN: *Multilingual Computing and Technology Magazine*, 13, (3). April/May 2002, 43-46.

Translation Bloomers

Every now and then we all need a little laugh at someone else's expense to lift our spirits and help us see the lighter side of translation. The following list of translation disasters is not new - in fact some of them are approaching legendary status but sometimes the old ones are the best.

Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations:

Guests are requested not to smike or do other disgusting behaviours in bed.

In a Tokyo bar: Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts.

In a Bangkok temple:

It is forbidden to enter a woman even a foreigner if dressed as a man.

Hotel room notice, Chiang-Mai, Thailand:

Please do not bring solicitors into your room Hotel brochure,

Italy:

This hotel is renowned for its peace and solitude. In fact, crowds from all over the world flock here to enjoy its solitude.

In a Leipzig elevator: Do not enter the lift backwards, and only when lit up.

Hotel, Athens: Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 am daily.

Hotel, Japan: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

Sign in Japanese public bath: Foreign guests are requested not to pull cock in tub.

Sign in men's rest room in Japan: To stop leak turn cock to the right.

Hotel catering to skiers, Austria: Not to perambulate the corridors in the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.

Taken from a menu, Poland:

Salad a firm's own make; limpid red beet soup with cheesy dumplings in the form of a finger; roasted duck let loose; beef rashers beaten up in the country people's fashion.

Dry cleaner's, Bangkok: Drop your trousers here for the best results.

Outside a dress shop, Paris: Dresses for street walking.

Outside a dress shop, Hong Kong: Ladies have fits upstairs.

Tailor shop, Rhodes:

Order your summers suit. Because is big rush, we will execute customers in strict rotation.

In an East African newspaper:

A new swimming pool is rapidly taking shape since the contractors have thrown in the bulk of their workers.

Hotel, Vienna:

In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest:

It is strictly forbidden on our black forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for this purpose.

Hotel, Zurich:

Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

An advertisement by a Hong Kong dentist:

Teeth extracted by the latest methodists.

Tourist agency, Czechoslovakia:

Take one of our horse-driven city tours. We guarantee no miscarriages.

The box of a clockwork toy made in Hong Kong: Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life.

Airline ticket office, Copenhagen: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Cocktail lounge, Norway:

Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

Doctors office, **Rome**: Specialist in women and other diseases.

Hotel, Acapulco: The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

Car rental brochure, Tokyo:

When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.

Two signs from a Majorcan shop entrance: English well talking here speeching american



Conferences

Drama and Theatre in the Teaching and Learning of Language, Literature and Culture University College Cork

18th-21st September, 2003

The conference is organised by the Department of German, UCC in cooperation with the Board of Drama and Theatre Studies, UCC and the Drama Section of the Cork School of Music (A Constituent School of Cork Institute of Technology)

The conference programme and registration form may be downloaded from:

www.ucc.ie/german/conferences

or contact

Dr. Manfred Schewe Department of German/Board of Drama and Theatre Studies UCC, Cork Phone: +353 21 4902078 / 2077 Fax: +353 21 4903245 Email: m.schewe(a)ucc.ie Dr. Trina Scott Drama Section Cork School of Music Union Quay, Cork Phone: +353 21 4270076 Fax: +353 21 4276595 Email: tscott(a)cit.ie

CULT-BCN 2004

Barcelona

January 23rd-25th

CULT 2004 is the follow up to CULT 2000, organised by the Scuola Superiore di Lingue Moderne per Interpreti e Traduttore of the Università di Bologna in Forlì in November 2000 (http://www.sslmit.unibo.it/cult2k).

The aim of the conference is to bring together practitioners and theorists sharing an interest in the design and use of corpora in translation-related areas, with special reference to translator and interpreter training.

- Translation/Interpreting-specific issues relating to the design, development and use(s) of corpora
- Integrating corpus work into introductory/advanced translation courses for translators/interpreters
- Corpus-based language learning/teaching for translators/interpreters
- Implications of corpus use with respect to theories of translation/interpreting
- The respective roles of corpora, conventional reference tools, and other computational translation aids
- The World Wide Web as a resource for translation/interpreting
- Corpora and terminology
- Corpus-based descriptive translation studies in the classroom
- Interaction of CAT and corpus tools in the translation classroom

For more information visit: http://www.fti.uab.es/cg.cult.bcn/ Or contact: cg.cult.bcn(a)uab.es



Training, Courses & Education

Translation Research Summer School The University of Edinburgh, UK

21st June-2nd July 2004

The Translation Research Summer School, a joint initiative of three British universities, organizes an annual two-week course offering intensive research training in translation and intercultural studies for prospective researchers in the field. In bringing together relevant research experience with expertise in teaching translation and intercultural studies at advanced levels, it provides a foundation for conducting research in the field and equips prospective researchers with the intellectual and practical tools to launch their own independent projects.

The units collaborating in the Summer School are the Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies at the University of Manchester, the Comparative Literature Graduate Programme at University College London (UCL), and the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Islamic World at the University of Edinburgh.

The Translation Research Summer School aims to familiarize students with research models, methodologies and techniques, provide research skills specific to translation and intercultural studies, offer critical assessments of available resources and relevant approaches, address current theoretical and research issues in translation and intercultural studies, and lend individual support in designing and planning research projects

Theme(s): Regular modules: General Research Methods, Theories of Translation & Intercultural Studies, Research Methods in Translation & Intercultural Studies, and a Special Module whose theme varies every year.

For more information, contact s.susam-sarajeva(a)ed.ac.uk Or visit: http://www2.umist.ac.uk/trss/home.htm



Contacting The ITIA

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association

Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Teangairí na hÉireann

Address: Telephone: Fax: Email: Web: 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland +353-1-872 1302 +353-1-872 6282 translation(a)eircom.net www.translatorsassociation.ie

ITIA BULLETIN

Editor & Layout: Email: Proofreading: Jody Byrne jody.byrne(a)dcu.ie ITIA Editorial Committee

To subscribe to the *ITIA Bulletin*, send an Email to *itia-ezine-subscribe(a)yahoogroups.com* To unsubscribe, send an Email to *itia-ezine-unsubscribe(a)yahoogroups.com*

ITIA COMMITTEE - 2002/2003

CHAIRPERSON HONORARY SECRETARY TREASURER EDITOR TRANSLATION IRELAND EDITOR ITIA BULLETIN PRESS OFFICER PMSC Michael McCann Miriam Lee Robert Kortenhorst Marco Sonzogni Jody Byrne Mary Phelan Máire Nic Mhaoláin Annette Schiller Bassia Bannister Christelle Petite Conny Opitz Giuliana Zeuli Michael Friel Angie Ryan Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin

CO-OPTED (PRIX DE L'AMBASSADE) CO-OPTED (ITD)

ITIA Resources for Translators

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* has compiled a series of useful information leaflets for translators and interpreters - both members and non-members alike. These leaflets are available from the ITIA website at *www.translatorsassociation.ie*.

٠

٠

٠

- The Translation Profession
- Joining the ITIA
- Ordinary Membership Application
- Professional Membership Application
- Database Entry
- Code of Practice
- Background Information

- Translation Services in Ireland
- Admission Criteria
- Recommendations on Rates
- Professional Indemnity
- Advertising
- Interpreting

