

Les années mystère

Louise et François Thunin

Il est agréable de penser que notre vieux vingtième siècle débuta dans l'euphorie de la *belle époque*. Cent ans plus âgés (sans être forcément plus sages), nous nous débattons avec nos ordinateurs, notre globalisation, nos Euros et notre planète salie et violée. Doit-on penser que les *blues* de cette fin de siècle jetteront leur ombre sur l'aube du vingt-et-unième approchant ? Ou, pourra-t-on envisager une « néo-belle époque » ? Que nous réserve la première décennie du nouveau millénaire ? Et quel nom cette décennie portera-t-elle ?

« Cette question », m'a-t-on rétorqué, « est dérisoire et sans intérêt ». « Cela ne peut être que la question d'un habitant du Nouveau Monde », m'a-t-on dit par ailleurs. « Il n'y a que ces gens-là pour n'exister que dans le futur. »

En effet, le problème est là. Comment nommer ce que l'on n'a pas vécu ? Si nous parlons des *années folles*, de *la Crise*, de *l'avant-guerre* et de *l'après-guerre*, c'est le temps passé qui nous permet de le faire. Les années soixante, que d'aucuns oseraient nommer « les sixties », n'ont pas besoin d'autre étiquette pour évoquer leur cortège de revendications et de libérations.

Mais, parler aujourd'hui à un lycéen des années soixante consiste quasiment à lui infliger une leçon de Préhistoire. Seul nous intéresse réellement notre passé récent comme notre actualité. Plus le temps s'éloigne du champ de nos perceptions, plus les termes pour le désigner sont vastes : la préhistoire (des millions d'années !), l'Antiquité, le Moyen-Âge, la Renaissance, le Siècle des lumières... Qui, aujourd'hui, s'occupe de savoir comment l'on nommait la période de 1800 à 1810 ?

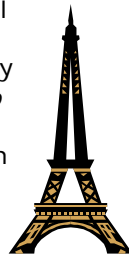
2000 à 2010, c'est, par contre, une autre affaire.

(Suite en page 4)

A Translator's Refresher Course in Paris

Jean Anderson

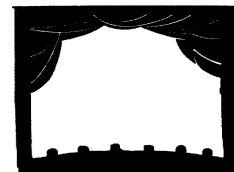
When, for the first time since 1983, a European travel opportunity opened for me, I resolved to control apprehension and excitement and just relax and enjoy traveling again. Only the *how*, *when*, *where*, and *who* details would be determined in advance. Then, each day would flow within that framework. That resolution made, a phenomenon, which The Most Reverend Frank Griswold, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, calls "webs of relationships," began to sort things out.



An example of such a web of relationships started when, as the result of teaching contacts, I attended the EMU Conference in San Diego. [Editor's note: See the Summer 1999 issue of *À-propos* for the author's coverage of this event.] At this conference, Mme Guilhène Maratier-Declerty, International Division Director of the *Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris* (CCIP), mentioned that her staff would design individual classes upon request.

(Continued on page 7)

~ Center Stage ~



Each FLD Newsletter release will now have a feature topic or article that appears in the center layout of the issue. If you have a topic you would like to feature **IN THIS SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTER**, please send the written article (or e-mail the Editor to discuss the topic and the direction in which you would like to take it) to the Editor at go-global@bodeuxinternational.com, or call her to discuss at 1.303.573.0950.

~ Featured in This Issue ~

Anticipating the ATA Conference

A special Pull-out Section in the Center of the Newsletter!

A-Propos

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From the Editor...

As usual, the summer seems to be over quickly and thoughts are turning to fall and winter activities. These include significant events like what to do for the New Year in order to ring in 2000 and whether or not to attend the last ATA Conference in this century. In my correspondence with various colleagues, the big question that pops up repeatedly at this time of year is: Will I see you at the conference this year?

For those who are attending, be sure to support your FLD colleagues and attend the various presentations and discussions offered by fellow members; look for more information in this issue. For those who are not planning to attend, look to the next issue of *A-propos* for information and knowledge gained from the conference to be shared.

This is where I continue to encourage all FLD members to submit articles to the newsletter. Your submissions are welcome and wanted! Reviews of publications or dictionaries, interesting Web sites, and other sources of information relating to French<>English translation would also be appreciated.

The next due date for submissions is December 13, 1999.

See you in St. Louis!

Eve Lindemuth Bodeux
go-global@bodeuxinternational.com

The Mission of *À-propos*

The mission of the FLD newsletter is to present information that is related to French<>English translation and interpretation. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all submissions and also to decide what articles and information will be published in this forum.

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Letters To the Editor

Did something in the last issue incite you to respond? How about this newsletter? If so, send a letter to the Editor.

Letter to the Editor:

While Mr. Glenn brought up several good points in his article, *Earning More for Your Translations*, published in the Summer 1999 issue of *À-propos*, I disagree with his advising translators to state their rates in their résumés. As a Certified Professional Résumé Writer, I can tell you that at best you put your rates on a separate sheet. And you wouldn't be sending it out automatically with your résumé, either. Why not let your qualifications speak for you? Then, when potential clients or agencies become interested, rates can be discussed and you can gauge from that point on what works for you and your area. It's just like getting a job. You never discuss salary until the very end, even when it is requested up front. Quite often, it automatically takes you out of the "race," whereas if you can point out the advantages of working with you (obviously, some business skills are needed because you have to sell yourself), price doesn't become such a big issue anymore.

I would also strongly caution my colleagues against back pedaling. Once you have stated, "Sorry, I'm busy...but if you are willing to pay my rush rate...", you cannot go back and say, "...if I reschedule this and move that..." Clients are not interested in whether you can reschedule or not. Can you get the job done is what is important to them, and if you first say, "yes, with a rush rate," followed by "maybe I can do it at the regular rate after all," you lose credibility, not to mention integrity. If you find a "steady" client hesitates with a rush rate, you may want to have a few established relationships with some colleagues (not competitors; colleagues with whom respect is mutual and you don't have to worry they'll steal your clients) whom you could recommend to the client. That way, the client understands you are truly busy. You look a lot more professional and you are helping the client. A true client will call you, not your colleague, the next time. The other possibility is that the job wasn't such a big rush after all and could have an extended deadline.

If you would like more information about résumés, the Professional Association of Résumé Writers (PARW) welcomes inquiries through its Web site at <http://www.parw.com>.

Myriam-Rose Kohn
Accredited Translator
Certified Professional Résumé Writer
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French Trivia - Test Yourself

Questions

1. What important document was implemented in France on September 28, 1958?
2. Who is considered the father of this document?
3. How many people worldwide are native speakers of French?
4. Who is the current Prime Minister of France and to what political party does he belong?
5. What country is France's biggest import and export trading partner?
6. What religion is claimed by 90% of the French population?
7. Which francophone country is governed by a constitutional monarch?
8. What does *B.C.B.G* stand for?
9. How many French speakers use the Internet worldwide?
10. How many *départements* does France have in *total*?

Answers on page 14



Les années mystère (Suite de page 1)

Voilà la décennie qui nous tend les bras. Une émission à la télévision française nous entretient des « années deux mille », sans se limiter à la première dizaine. Nous y apprenons force choses passionnantes sur l'intelligence artificielle, la nanotechnologie, l'exploration spatiale... Mais l'animatrice ne se hasarde pas à mettre un nom sur les années qui succéderont immédiatement au passage du terrible « bogue de l'an deux mille ».

Pour cela, appelons les clairvoyants à leurs boules de cristal, les mages à leurs étoiles ! Pourvu que nous n'ayons pas de nouveau à parler de « l'avant-guerre » ! Les catastrophistes, à ce moment-là, pourraient se poser la question de savoir s'il restera quelqu'un pour nommer la décennie ! Les optimistes préféreraient sûrement « les années de la colombe, » les écologistes, « les années vertes. » Et, au seuil du nouveau siècle, quelques frileux défenseurs de la langue française doivent redouter qu'avec le recul, l'on ne soit obligé de parler des « années...two thousand » !

Louise et François Thunin sont un couple franco-américain habitant Le Mans (France). Louise est enseignante. Elle écrit et traduit (du français en anglais) pour son plaisir. François est cadre administratif. On peut les joindre à : lfthunin@worldnet.fr.



Meet FLD Members

We've enjoyed learning about and communicating with FLD members throughout the year and thought you, in turn, would like to learn a little more about the people who put together the *À-propos* newsletter. This is your chance to "meet" the Editor and the Publisher. This will be the first in a series that will highlight various FLD members. If you would like to nominate a colleague or yourself (we won't tell) to be spotlighted, please send an e-mail to the Editor at go-global@bodeuxinternational.com or contact her by phone at 1.303.573.0950.

The Editor

Eve Lindemuth Bodeux, originally from Alaska, now lives in Denver, Colorado. She holds a BA in French and Political Science from Lebanon Valley College of Pennsylvania. While earning her undergraduate degree, she spent one year studying in Aix-en-Provence, France. She also earned an MA from the University of Virginia in International Relations and a DESE (Master's degree) in European Civilization from the *Université de Nancy II* in northeastern France. She has five years experience in the translation industry and now runs Bodeux International, a provider of consulting on Web site localization and French-to-English translation services. She specializes in technical translation including software, HTML and Web sites, and financial texts. In addition to her duties as *À-propos* editor, she often writes on translation and technology for other industry publications. She is fascinated by the partnership of language and technology and has given numerous presentations on related topics. She may be reached at go-global@bodeuxinternational.com.

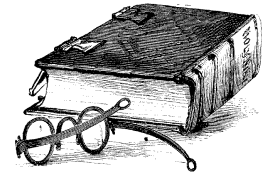
The Publisher

A native of the Chicago area, Sara Stoy Nalbach lives in Riverside, Illinois. She has a BA in Applied French with a focus on translation from the University of Iowa. She studied French language and literature at the Sorbonne IV in Paris, France. She continues to pursue her professional and personal interests in languages and writing through courses offered at the University of Chicago publishing program and Alliance Française of Chicago. Relatively new to the translation industry, Sara briefly worked as a project manager at a Chicago-based translation firm before going freelance in 1998. Prior to working in the translation industry, she held various positions in marketing and publishing for telecommunications firms and publishers. Aside from being a full-time mom, creating a few Web sites, and editing English documents for various local businesses, Sara hopes to get into the translation and editing of French>English materials, including marketing documents and Web sites. She may be reached at ssnalbach@aol.com.

A Book Review: *Speaking Globally*

Eve Lindemuth Bodeux

Speaking Globally: Effective Presentations Across International and Cultural Boundaries by Elizabeth Urech was published by Koran Page Limited in 1998. Ms. Urech is an American living in Switzerland who has her own consulting company training international executives to communicate effectively with their varied constituencies around the globe.



The book's main theme—how to adapt a presentation for an international audience—ties in perfectly with the goals of localization and translation: international consumption and acceptance of a specific product. The broader ideas in *Speaking Globally* are helpful in gaining an international mindset in any context. The author's writing style is clear and well-organized, and the book is a quick read.

The author has succeeded in providing a valuable resource to individuals planning to speak to a global audience and to those who interact with internationals on a daily basis. Furthermore, many parts of the book offer recommendations that would benefit speakers in any forum, not just an international one. The first four chapters of the publication offer detailed information on how to prepare for a speech, how to size up an audience, tips for organizing one's thoughts, and how to "make your message memorable." Throughout the book, the author gives lively examples from her professional practice, and her enthusiasm for the topic shines through.

With chapter five, she begins to address more precisely issues that show themselves when an international (which often means non-native, English-speaking) audience is present. She discusses different ways to get the audience's attention in a positive rather than negative way, such as beginning in the language of the host country. She also gives the reader clear examples of what not to do: one speaker insulted his fellow presenters because of their accented English.

She talks about adapting the delivery of a presentation in English (or other language, for that matter) for non-native speakers. She also gives tips on how to become comfortable when presenting in one's second language. Advice on how to actively involve (or not involve) audiences of various cultural backgrounds is also a welcome addition. An important area that Ms. Urech tackles is the role of women in the international arena. Her comments on this topic are appreciated due to the varying status of women in various cultures. Summed up, her advice is that women should balance being assertive against showing respect for the cultures they visit. You will have to read the book to find out more!

One criticism of the book is a small one, but must be mentioned in an article printed in a translation newsletter. The author gives helpful advice on how a speaker can develop a positive relationship with an interpreter and how to get the most out of an interpreted presentation. However, she mixes up the terms "translation" and "interpretation," it seems, in search of synonyms. This is a small error in a book otherwise filled with good information.

The last section of the book gives specifics by country on how to conduct oneself when giving presentations around the world. *Speaking Globally* by Elizabeth Urech is a worthwhile read for anyone interested in communicating cross-culturally—including different cultures in the same country. It will also benefit those with a general interest in international communications.

Eve Lindemuth Bodeux is the owner of Bodeux International and offers French to English translation and Web localization. She can be reached at go-global@bodeuxinternational.com.

This article was originally published in Volume 21, Number 5 (June 1999) of The Capital Translator, a publication of the NCATA - <http://www.ncata.org>. Reprinted with permission.

Avis à nos lecteurs !

Le français est votre langue maternelle et vous souhaitez exposer vos idées sur un sujet lié à la traduction ou à l'interprétation ? N'hésitez plus et soumettez votre article en français à la rédactrice d'À-Propos à go-global@bodeuxinternational.com.

Paris Merchants Caught in the Web

Chris Durban

Rules for good translation practice vary from product to product, but most language professionals agree that running a spell-check is a good start. In an example brought to our attention, bumpy spelling was just the tip of the iceberg.



In September 1998, a bilingual Web site was opened to promote the services of merchants in central Paris—the upmarket 8th *arrondissement*, no less. But the product fell far short of the sophisticated image sought by its sponsors.

“Here are usfull adresses for lodging, shopping, tourism and business [sic]” announced a screen on the front cover of the town hall's weekly print magazine celebrating the site launch. Inside the magazine, more sample screens displayed products and services touted on the Net, among them the prestigious Hotel Royal Monceau, frequented by luminaries from General Eisenhower to Ho Chi Minh, and “nowdays international movie stars, sportsmen and politics [sic].”

What went wrong?

Louis de Caumont, who is in charge of the 8th *arrondissement*'s site, fingered site developer Minitelorama. The municipal authorities had ordered a bilingual French/English site, he said, nothing more, nothing less. They had assumed their supplier would deliver the goods.

Minitelorama management responded promptly and unequivocally: “The errors are utterly unacceptable, and will definitely be corrected,” a representative told us, noting that mistakes

probably crept in as the team scrambled to get the site up and running in time for the official launch date. Translations of its input were done by agencies and freelance translators known to his company, he said.

Yet the real situation was more complicated. Maryse Bataillard, head of communications at the Hotel Royal Monceau, told us her hotel had supplied its own English-language text to Minitelorama, noting that she knew for a fact it had been produced by a native English speaker (“politics”?... mused the Onionskin). Minitelorama's sales literature confirms that advertisers are indeed responsible for providing bilingual copy. In other words, unless its contract with the city authorities contains a clean-up clause, the site developer cannot be held responsible for many errors on display at “ParisCityCenter”.

All things considered, the real culprits would appear to be the over-hasty countdown and coordination glitches. According to Minitelorama, problems are being identified and resolved even as this issue goes to press. That said, Bulletin readers seeking clients might want to check out <http://www.pariscitycenter.com>. Tell them the Onionskin sent you.

This item first appeared in “The Onionskin,” a regular feature of ITI Bulletin, in October 1998. ITI is the UK's foremost association of professional translators and interpreters and can be reached at 377 City Road, London EC1V 1NA, UK; phone 44.171.713.7600, fax 44.171.713.7650; e-mail iti@compuserve.com; <http://www.iti.org.uk>. Onionskin author Chris Durban welcomes feedback and leads at ChrisDurban@compuserve.com or at fax 33.1.43.87.70.45.

Don't Miss These Articles!

~ Monique-Paule Tubb : candidate pour la présidence de l'ATA ~

Page 9

~ Watch Your Step - Hazards of F>E Translation ~
Dangling Participles

Pages 11–13

A Translator's Refresher Course *(Continued from page 1)*

I followed her suggestion and proposed a class that would cover five objectives: revitalize and improve my command of spoken French, bring my active vocabulary and cultural understandings up to date, practice translation from French into English, become acquainted with CCIP materials for teaching French to adult learners, and revisit Paris. Before leaving the United States, I knew that I would receive 12 hours of tutoring and be able to update my knowledge of Paris as much as possible with guidance from the CCIP staff.

A diary of the highlights of my trip and its contribution to my professional and personal development follows:

Days One through Three

Immediate Physical and Mental Submersion.

The morning after my arrival, I had my first classic French breakfast while reading *Le Figaro* at the hotel. I noticed immediately that I was reading the French text and not just falling into the habit of getting the gist and moving my professor, M. Jean-Marc Blot, conducted an introductory was an exchange of teaching and translation experiences. He conversation by presenting alternative expressions and examples usage and etymological considerations. At the end of this two- had a translation assignment for the next day and answers to my questions.



more carefully, on. At the CCIP, discussion, which refined my of appropriate hour session, I practical

So many details were swimming around in my head that even wondered about the name of a nearby restaurant, *Le Petit Verdor*, I didn't think to ask about its meaning. Words commanded greater attention. Neither M. Blot nor I found its meaning, and I didn't manage to return, but what I noticed was, my discreet "eavesdropping" was more detail-aware.

though I

As I breakfasted again with *Le Figaro* the next morning, I took the time to write out questions regarding expressions and situations for the upcoming afternoon class. I had an interesting discussion with the concierge about *le pain Poilâne*, followed by a visit to the bakery where I purchased that truly French pastry, *pain au chocolat*. I resolved to continue *eavesdropping* and to give careful attention to reading.

Most classes started with my asking unanswered questions from my investigation around town. It then flowed to a discussion of translation assignments, vocabulary development, etymological and usage explanations, and exchanges of opinion while M. Blot used the blackboard and I took copious notes. M. Blot taught in such a stimulating, interactive manner that time was irrelevant: no break was needed. As we met one morning, he asked if I was ready for *la salle de la torture*. My response was, "*Non, c'est la salle du plaisir*," and I meant it.

Day Four

Professional Research

M. Blot agreed to accompany me to the *Bourse*, and consequently, advertisements in the metro provided fodder for cultural and linguistic observations. Moreover, the audio tour of the *Bourse* became an instructive exercise in translation as well as a tool to learn about the financial institution.

Attractive young ladies guided us as we viewed a film that described the Euro and stock market operations; we read the multilingual text of historical panels while listening to the French version. We also viewed live computerized transactions taking place on the former trading floor. An old *corbeille* and *cabines téléphoniques* allowed us to imagine the former frenzied action. M. Blot and I used this experience to discuss various related translation difficulties presented during the tour. I also was able to procure two *Bourse* publications in both French and English for my collection of study materials.

After this 3-hour class and afternoon excursion, I felt the "Parisian marinade" working: my mind was not tired and after a brief rest, I enjoyed a lovely dinner with friends.

(Continued on page 8)

A Translator's Refresher Course *(Continued from page 7)*

Day Five

Researching Books and Catching up with Friends

A morning class was followed by a visit to *Attica* and *Fnac* to examine suggested linguistic and teaching materials for purchase. One wonderful title for translators is *Sky my Husband! Ciel mon mari! : Guide de l'Anglais Courant, Guide of the Running English* by Jean-Loup Chiflet and John-Wolf Whistle (ISBN 2-02-037804-3), a little book of lessons organized around literal translations similar to those appearing in the title.

Later in the day, I joined Chris Durban—a translator whom I first met at the Nashville ATA Conference—for dinner in her old neighborhood. We dined at the *Restaurant Germaine* where the owner remembers all customers! (The next day, I returned for lunch with another friend and was indeed remembered and welcomed.) Chris brought copies of her column, "The Onionskin," that appears regularly in the ITI Bulletin, and we shared experiences.

Day Six

Finishing Up with the CCIP

This was the last class with M. Blot and I also had a conversation with M. Maité Bagarry, the CCIP's Pedagogical Consultant, about his experience with the program Experiment in International Living [Editor's note: this group is now called World Learning]. Part of the day included eating *Berthillon* sorbet while sitting on the *quai*.

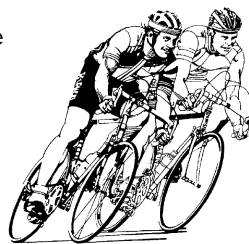
Days Seven and Eight

Le Tour de France and Other Fun

The last two days! No class, but I picked up study materials when visiting the *Musée d'Orsay*, the *Orangerie*, the *Sainte Chapelle* and the *Pyramide du Louvre*. Day Eight was July 25—the final stage of le *Tour de France*! As I left early church service at the American Cathedral and walked toward the *Champs-Élysées*, I purchased a souvenir T-shirt of the *Tour* from a young woman.

Barriers were already in place and announcements were made about the closing of the metro, but considering the expected arrival time, I would still be fine. Wrong! By the time I left the *Orangerie*, it was impossible to cross the *rue de Rivoli*. The hour wait that had been predicted by a metro agent was almost three—but what a thrill!

There was an entertaining parade—like a mini Mardi Gras. Each *Tour* sponsor was represented by a series of decorated cars with waving drivers and riders, accompanied by music. The *rue de Rivoli* was lined with people. It was a wonderfully festive eavesdropping and spontaneous interaction made me The parade passed by twice as we waited for the loudspeaker announcements, individual advance cars clump of cyclists with Lance Armstrong in its middle in-a-lifetime thrill. And then, the last evening flowed *Saint Louis*.



atmosphere! Great discreet truly feel part of the crowd. cyclists. There were and finally—whoosh! The whizzed past. It was a once-to a pleasant close on the *Ile*

After my "Eight Days in Paris," I felt refreshed and those five objectives and started a personal thoroughly enjoying life in the City of Light. You can do it, too!

well-fed, having attacked improvement program while

Jean Anderson is a freelance French into English translator. She can be reached at jcander@compuserve.com.



Monique-Paule Tubb : candidate pour la présidence de l'ATA

La Division française est heureuse d'annoncer que la personne responsable de sa création est candidate pour la présidence de l'ATA ! C'est en effet bien Monique-Paule Tubb qui a organisé les toutes premières réunions lors du congrès de Colorado Springs. Déjà suffisamment occupée par ses fonctions de trésorière, elle a néanmoins trouvé le temps et l'énergie de donner le coup d'envoi et de nous apporter son soutien depuis trois ans. Nous ne pouvons donc que nous féliciter de sa candidature et lui apporter notre soutien !

Anne Vincent - FLD Assistant Administrator

Lettre ouverte de Monique-Paule Tubb

Comme beaucoup d'entre vous le savent maintenant, je suis l'une des trois personnes sélectionnées pour être candidate "President-Elect" aux prochaines élections de l'ATA. Étant donné mes liens avec la communauté ATA francophone et la Division française, il m'a été proposé de me présenter à vous brièvement.

Comme vous le savez, je suis extrêmement contente de voir notre division aller bon train. Il me tenait à cœur d'en voir la création et je suis très heureuse des résultats obtenus à la suite du travail d'Anne Vincent, notre première administratrice et de Joan Sax, notre administratrice actuelle. Grâce à tous ceux et celles parmi vous qui permettent à Eve Bodeux et Sara Nalbach de publier régulièrement un « À-propos » si intéressant en fournissant des articles ou en donnant leur temps pour la relecture, grâce à l'énergie et au talent de David Heath (création de notre page Web) et de Lillian Clementi (organisation des sessions à Saint Louis), grâce aux nombreux bénévoles qui nous font des présentations sur divers sujets d'actualité tous les ans au congrès, grâce à vous tous qui avez manifesté votre intérêt et votre soutien d'une manière ou d'une autre, nous avons maintenant une division dynamique qui bénéficie à tout le monde, et j'en suis très heureuse.

J'ai toujours soutenu le développement des divisions et continuerai à le faire, car dans une très grande association comme la nôtre, il est important de pouvoir cibler les services offerts en fonction de centres d'intérêt, qu'ils soient d'ordre linguistique, technique, géographique, de type de services ou autres. Au sein de l'ATA, nous avons actuellement 11 divisions dûment constituées, et 2 en voie de formation. Chacune répond aux besoins spécifiques de tel ou tel groupe et je continuerai à en favoriser le développement, renforcement et professionnalisme. Je souhaite également poursuivre la professionnalisation de nos congrès, qu'ils soient régionaux, linguistiques ou nationaux, en sélectionnant plus sévèrement les intervenants afin que les membres puissent bénéficier d'un réel recyclage offert par des experts dans leur domaine.

Je suis traductrice/interprète par choix. C'est une profession à laquelle je me suis formée grâce à un cursus universitaire spécialisé. C'est une profession que j'ai pratiquée sous tous ses aspects. J'ai été traductrice d'entreprise, traductrice/interprète indépendante. J'ai créé un service de traduction pour une société de langues, et je dirige maintenant ma propre entreprise. Mais avant tout, je me sens traductrice/interprète. Je pense comme une traductrice, réagis comme une traductrice, cherche à éduquer les clients, connais les possibilités et les limites du travail indépendant et tiens en toute circonstance une ligne de conduite qui respecte notre profession. Ce sujet est un de mes chevaux de bataille depuis le début. En tant que "President-Elect", je pense pouvoir avoir plus d'impact dans mes actions en ce sens : développer la profession, en élever le statut, favoriser le développement de formations universitaires à la traduction et à l'interprétation qui répondent à des normes de qualité qui restent à définir, mettre de l'ordre dans notre système d'accréditation, le rendre plus équitable, mieux adapté aux besoins actuels du marché (spécialisations, niveaux, etc.).

L'ATA est en pleine expansion. Notre profession est en pleine expansion. Après quatre ans aux rênes de nos finances, je pense que je suis suffisamment bien impliquée dans les affaires de notre association, pour continuer à contribuer à son développement et à son bon fonctionnement à un niveau différent. J'espère avoir le soutien de la communauté francophone. Je serai toujours à l'écoute. Notre profession sera toujours ma priorité.

Merci d'avance
Monique-Paule Tubb



The Five P's

Myriam-Rose Kohn

Does your résumé reflect the five keys to success? These keys are the "the five P's": Packaging, Positioning, Punch or Power Information, Personality, and Professionalism.

Packaging

You must be packaged differently from all the rest; conformity in career design is a formula for disaster. You must stand out!

Positioning

Most hiring managers spend a mere 10 to 20 seconds deciding whether they want to continue reading a résumé. You must take full advantage of this time and the reader's eyes must be directed to information that will be most powerful in getting your message across. Organization is very important!

Punch or Power Information

Identify your skills, abilities, qualifications, and value as they relate to an organization's problems and/or needs. If your résumé is effectively packaged and the information is positioned and organized in a way that is easy to read, then give the reader what he or she is looking for in an employee. You can't lose!

Personality and Professionalism

These last two P's go together. By using key words throughout the résumé, organizing it in a fresh and exciting manner, and by writing an upbeat and personable cover letter, your personality can be unleashed.

Myriam-Rose Kohn is an accredited translator and a Certified Professional Résumé Writer who can be reached at myriam-rose@jedaenterprises.com, or visit her Web site at <http://www.jedaenterprises.com>.

We Still Need You!

As a result of the call for volunteers in the last issue, a number of people contacted *À-propos* to give their time as proofreaders in both French and English. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

However, we still need submissions of articles! This is your chance to become a published author or add to your professional writing résumé. Do you like what you see? Do you think you could do better? In either case, we want to hear from YOU! Your ideas and articles are welcome and needed to contribute to the continued success of the FLD newsletter.

The winter issue of the FLD newsletter will come out after the ATA Conference to be held in St. Louis in November 1999. The newsletter will focus primarily on reviewing this event. This is a great time to get inspiration for an article. I invite readers to submit articles on seminars they attend, ideas they encounter, impressions of the conference, benefits gained from attendance, and more.

Look through the ATA 40th Annual Conference Program, choose which presentation or event you want to write about and let me know!

If you do not plan to attend, maybe you can tell us what the translation marketplace is like during that week when many translators are absent from their desks!

Submissions in French or English are welcome.

Contact me by phone at 1.303.573.0950, by fax at 1.303.573.1075 or by e-mail at go-global@bodeuxinternational.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

The Editor – Eve Lindemuth Bodeux



~ A Series ~

Watch Your Step - Hazards of F>E Translation

This is the fourth in a series of articles excerpted by Lillian Clementi from her French Division presentation at the 1998 ATA Conference in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Dangling Participles

If you think back to Sister Regina's grammar class, you'll remember that a participle is a verb form that can be used as an adjective, like *falling* or *fallen*. A **participial phrase** consists of a present or past participle and its object or modifiers. Here's an example from *The Random House Guide to Good Writing* (page 108):



Correct: **Crossing the lawn that morning**, Douglas Spaulding broke a spider web with his face.

In this example, the participial phrase correctly modifies the underlined subject of the sentence. Participial phrases create problems when they become the infamous *dangling participles*, or participles not attached to the word they modify. Put another way, a dangling participle is one that doesn't refer to the grammatical subject of the sentence.

Incorrect: **Crossing the lawn that morning**, a spider web brushed against Douglas Spaulding's face.

Incorrect: **Invariably laid before the owner/manager at the busiest periods**, reliance was placed on this trusted employee and these checks were not scrutinized carefully.

So the participial phrase is assumed to modify the grammatical subject of the sentence because that is often what's closest to it. In fact, one Internet grammar guide says, "Modifiers are like teenagers; they fall in love with whatever they're next to. Make sure they're next to something they ought to modify!" Sentences that violate this rule can be bizarre and even hazardous to your health.

Painfully incorrect: **Sautéed, broiled or baked**, you'll love our delicious chickens.

Most dangling participles are harmless, but occasionally they're nothing short of ludicrous:

Being in a dilapidated condition, I was able to buy the house very cheap.

Wondering irresolutely what to do next, the clock struck twelve.

The solution is not difficult: dangling participles can usually be fixed by changing the subject of the sentence or by changing the participial phrase to a dependent clause.

Correct: **Sautéed, broiled or baked**, our delicious chickens will thrill your guests.

Correct: **Being in a dilapidated condition**, the house was very reasonably priced.

Correct: **As I wondered irresolutely what to do next**, the clock struck twelve.

(Continued on page 12)

Hazards of F>E Translation (Continued from page 11)

Okay. Now that we've established that the dangling participle is a big no-no in English, let's have a look at French, where the situation is not nearly so clear-cut. In French, the dangling participle is one type of *épithète détachée*. Here's the Gospel according to Grevisse in *Le bon usage* (§328):

*Pour la clarté de l'expression, il est souhaitable que l'épithète (notamment le participe, auquel on peut joindre le gérondif) placée au début de la phrase (ou de la proposition) se rapporte au **sujet** de cette phrase (ou de cette proposition) :*

On considère que sont mal construites des phrases comme [celle]-ci : Très distrait, le sens des réalités lui manque....

Il faudrait dire : Très distrait, IL n'a pas le sens des réalités....

So far, so good. Now for the kicker:

Il faut cependant reconnaître que l'usage des auteurs, comme à l'époque classique..., prend beaucoup de libertés avec la règle qui vient d'être donnée. Dans les exemples suivants, l'épithète détachée et le gérondif se rapportent à un complément, voire à un nom (ou pronom) que l'on perçoit à travers un déterminant possessif ou même encore à un nom (ou pronom) qui n'est pas exprimé, mais que l'on doit déduire du contexte.

Then Grevisse cites almost a full page of dangling participles by writers as recent as Mauriac and Sartre, and as titanically famous as Hugo and Proust, and adds at the end, "*Des exemples comme les précédents abondent chez les classiques. ... L'usage ancien se retrouve aussi dans des formules proverbiales : L'appétit vient EN MANGEANT.*" This may well explain why so many of these proverbs are so damnably difficult to translate elegantly into English *and* why dangling participles seem far more acceptable in French than in English. They certainly are fairly common in the documents I see from day to day.

This is classic Grevisse: "I said 'maybe,' and that's final."

As I looked at the huge list of examples in *Le bon usage*, it struck me that agreement adds clarity and makes it easier for French to get away with dangling participles in some cases. In the first example below, agreement establishes a firmer relationship between the participial phrase and the feminine object of the sentence, but the second is simply a classic dangling participle.

ATTEINTE depuis douze ans d'une perte de sang, les médecins **L'**avaient ruinée. (Mauriac)

EN APPROCHANT d'Alexandrie, l'air s'allège. (Cocteau)

In short, it looks as though the **rule** for French is the same as the rule for English: the participial phrase should modify the grammatical subject of the sentence. In **practice**, however, it seems more acceptable to break the rule in French, and it is not at all unusual to see dangling participles in source documents. In one short text on international development, I found both of the following sentences:

En s'ancrant sur les priorités nationales et sur les processus internes, **les dynamiques internes** seront renforcées.

Partant d'une évaluation minutieuse des pratiques et dispositifs existants, **il s'agira, en association étroite avec** tous les partenaires de la formation professionnelle et technique, secteur complexe, multiforme et varié, d'élaborer des stratégies et de mener des actions multisectorielles, intégrées à une politique globale de développement durable.

(Continued on page 13)

Hazards of F>E Translation (Continued from page 12)

I could almost hear these French sentences begging me to commit a dangling participle. As you can see, the participial phrases here do not modify the grammatical subjects, so these sentences will need some re-engineering before they go into English. One approach is to solve the problem by hunting around in the context for subjects that can serve as a hook to hang the participial phrase on. Let's take a look at those examples again with some possible solutions.

Example No. 1: it was fairly clear from context that it is **not** the *dynamiques internes* that are the subject of the verb *s'ancrer*. A couple of possible solutions:

En s'ancrant sur les priorités nationales et sur les processus internes, **les dynamiques internes** seront renforcées.

If our initiatives are rooted in national priorities and internal processes, our internal dynamics will be strengthened.

If we root our initiatives in national priorities and internal processes, we will strengthen our internal dynamics.

What I did here was to give the dangling participle its own subject and turn it into a dependent clause. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. It's still development-speak, but we have avoided the pitfalls of the dangling participle and, in the second example, we've made the improvement of using active verbs.

Example No. 2: this is really tough because of the impersonal *il s'agira*, particularly in combination with the phrase *en association étroite*. In English, it's hard to have a close association without two living, breathing parties to make it happen—a classic case of converting abstract French into concrete English. What I did here (and it's certainly not the only solution) was look at the context of the whole article and come up with a general entity to serve as a subject. What grammatical subject did the author have in mind here? The answer seemed clearly to be "professionals working in the field of technical and vocational training." Here's one solution that fixes a dangling participle by changing the subject:

Partant d'une évaluation minutieuse des pratiques et dispositifs existants, **il s'agira, en association étroite avec** tous les partenaires de la formation professionnelle et technique, secteur complexe, multiforme et varié, d'élaborer des stratégies et de mener des actions multisectorielles, intégrées à une politique globale de développement durable.

Equipped with a painstaking evaluation of existing practices and programs, **professionals** in technical and vocational training will need to **work closely** with all of their counterparts in this complex and multifaceted sector to develop strategies and organize multi-sector initiatives consistent with a comprehensive policy of sustainable development.

Shakespeare it ain't, but we do have a comprehensible, correct English sentence with the participial phrase firmly attached to the grammatical subject. To sum up: dangling participles are a definite no-no in English and should be used with caution in French. As always, clarity and the convenience of the reader should be the guiding principles.

Lillian Clementi is a freelance translator based in Arlington, Virginia. She works from French and German into English and can be reached at LClementi@compuserve.com.



Update on the FLD Web Site

The FLD Web site has been up and running for several months now. If you haven't visited it yet, you are missing out! Find out about events and other "goings-on" in an evolving and up-to-date forum. David Heath, our Webmaster, has done a great job.

If you are interested in lending a hand to the FLD Web site, there are opportunities for translation work from English to French, the drafting of the FLD FAQ, and more. **No HTML required**, so don't be shy!

Go to the site and send your suggestions, desires, and ideas. Do you want a discussion group? Do you want more links? Your active participation can make the FLD Web site an even better tool for members.



To find out more, visit the site at <http://www.americantranslators.org/divisions/FLD/fldhome.htm>. You can also access it through the ATA Web site at <http://www.atanet.org/>, click Divisions, then click French Language Division.

Call for Submissions!

The *À-propos* Submission Guidelines are available on the FLD Web site at <http://www.americantranslators.org/divisions/FLD/fldhome.htm>. The Editor also welcomes direct inquiries: go-global@bodeuxinternational.com.



**Let's Put 'Em Together for all Those People
Who Have Made the FLD Happen!
How about you? Would You Like to Make a Difference?**



Use your special talents to make a difference! To find out about volunteer opportunities, contact Joan Sax <JSax1@compuserve.com>, Anne Vincent <annevincent@pobox.com>, or Eve Bodeux <linbod@mindspring.com>.

~ FRENCH WEB RESOURCES ~

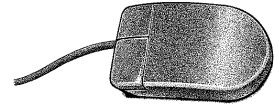
The French Language Division of the ATA at

<http://www.americantranslators.org/divisions/FLD/fldhome.htm> or visit <http://atanet.org> and click on Divisions, then on the link to the French Language Division. This site contains more links, past issues of the FLD newsletter, information about up-coming events, and more!

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Translation Associations:

See the big list provided on-line by NOTIS with lots of links to translator associations around the U.S., Canada, and the world at <http://www.notisnet.org/links/orgs.htm>.



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Various:

French On-line - <http://www.french-on-line.com/>

Treasures from the Bibliothèque nationale de France at the US Library of Congress - <http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/bnf/bnf0001.html>

The Cheese Web site - <http://www.fromages.com/>

WebFrance International - <http://www.wfi.fr/home.html>

For books at a good price - *A la page* – <http://www.alapage.com>

Hey, You! Submit your favorite site! Next time you see a great site, take 30 seconds to copy the URL, paste it to an e-mail and send it to the Editor to share with your colleagues. That's it, just copy, paste and send to go-global@bodeuxinternational.com. You'll be glad you shared!

French Trivia Answers

1. The Constitution of the V Republic
2. Charles de Gaulle
3. 72 million
4. Lionel Jospin - PS – *Parti socialiste*
5. Germany
6. Catholicism
7. Belgium
8. *Bon chic bon genre*
9. 9.3 million
10. 101: 96 *départements métropolitains* and 5 *départements d'outre-mer*

Sources:

- The CIA World FactBook 1999: <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>, September 22, 1999.
- ETHNOLOGUE – Languages of the World: <http://www.sil.org/ethnologue/>, September 22, 1999.
- *Le Petit Robert: Dictionnaire de la langue française.*
- Global Reach: <http://glreach.com/globstats/refs.html#5>, September 22, 1999.
- *Les Institutions de la France*, 1998.

À-propos is published four times a year. Letters to the Editor, articles, and other information relevant to the FLD are welcome. Submissions are subject to editing. The copyright on all articles remains with the authors. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Editor or the French Language Division of the ATA.

Remaining article submission date for 1999

December 13, 1999

Note the new, additional date!



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