

The Interpreters Voice



Volume 5 Issue 2
Summer 2002

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Potentially Perplexing

We interpreters never know what pearls of wisdom or wit may come forth from the speaker. Under the guise of advance preparation, here are a few actual definitions of words or phrases that are, to say the least, interesting. Imagine yourself having to interpret these expressions especially in this usage. These come courtesy of A.Word. A.Day by <http://www.wordsmith.org>

Throttlebottom (THROT-I-bot-uhm) noun: A purposeless incompetent in public office.

[After Alexander Throttlebottom, a Vice Presidential character in *Of Thee I Sing*, a 1932 musical comedy.]

la-di-da (LAH-dee-dah) adjective: Affectedly refined; pretentious. [Imitative of affected pronunciation.]

thank-you-ma'am (THANGK yoo mam) noun: A bump or depression in a road.

[From the nod of the head that results when one passes over it in a vehicle, as if in an acknowledgment of a favor.] (Editor's note: this definition would wreak havoc in testimony in a vehicular personal injury case.)

aa (ah-ah) noun: Lava having a rough surface.

[From Hawaiian, apparently from the sound one emits on touching the hot lava surface.]

ha-ha (ha-ha) noun: Sunk fence.

[From French *haha*, reduplicative of *ha!*, exclamation of surprise, that might come out when tripped by such an obstacle.]



FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

There are several exciting items progressing forward to share with ID members.

Two motions submitted from the Interpreters Division to the ATA Board of Directors were passed during March 7-9, 2002 BOD meeting:

The first motion is: Inclusion of “interpreters,” “interpreting” on ATA published materials, services, advertisement, etc.

ID members shall have already seen the implementation of this request.

The second motion is: A button/pin stating “Interpreter, ATA.”

This motion was passed, however, without using the ATA logo.

The purpose of making buttons for ID members is to promote the awareness of our profession. When we go on a job, assuming that we wear this button, we can identify ourselves as to what role we are playing. (So, we won’t be called “translator.”)

Beth Tu and Margareta Ugander have been working hard contacting vendors and working out the details. You will see an update in our next issue.

As we have discussed during our last annual meeting in LA, “We need a hardcopy of the ID Directory.” Here we go, the draft copy is out. Those of you who have updated your bio on the Translators Directory Database (now Translators and Interpreters Directory,) will see your information in the ID Directory. Every ID member will receive a free copy in a few months.

There are some points to ponder:

Consider sharing an article in the newsletter (TIV) with others.

Consider coming to the ATA conference in Atlanta, November 6-9.

Are you able to help with the ID reception, if needed, during the annual conference?

Do you think the e-TIV is equally as convenient and effective as the paper issue?

Helen Cole
Administrator
Interpreters Division, ATA



The Interpreters Voice (TIV)

Newsletter of the Interpreters Division of
the American Translators Association
Volume 5, Issue 2 - Summer 2002

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Membership in the Interpreters Division is \$15.00 per year in addition to the ATA membership fee. Please make your check payable to the ATA and send it to the ATA address noted above.

Submission Guidelines:

Please email articles in Word 97 format to speakeasy@pdq.net with no formatting. For submission information, please refer to the Writers Guidelines available on the ID website on the Interpreters Voice page. Reprints are available with permission from the editor only. Articles appearing in TIV may also appear in other media published by the ATA, such as its website.

Deadlines for 2002:

Articles to appear in TIV for 2002 should be submitted according to the following deadlines:

Fall Issue: June 24, 2002
Winter Issue: August 15, 2002

Opinions expressed here are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Division, or the Association.

All reprints require permission from the editor.

HUMOR**DIETARY REASONING**

The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

Contrarily, the French have lots of fat in their diets and also suffer fewer heart attacks than either the British or Americans.

Conclusion:

Eat what ever the heck you want.

It's speaking English that kills you

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Please address your questions and comments to Diane Teichman, *The Interpreters Voice*, speakeasy@pdq.net

You forgot something....

I work as a scheduler/manager of a medium-sized T/I Company. I had just finished reading the article Successful Subcontracting in last issue of TIV (Spring 2002) during my lunch break. I got a message from a subcontractor about his assigned deposition being continued into the next day. He wouldn't be able to make it but he himself had arranged for another interpreter to cover it whose name and any qualifications he forgot to mention. I panicked trying to contact him to stop this circumvention of our agreement with our client but he wasn't returning calls. I was able to take back control of our assignment and avoid the risk of our client's dissatisfaction with an interpreter. The subcontractor had signed a Contractor/Subcontractor Agreement, which specifically included such a situation with the instruction to simply inform us of any change in scheduling. His words "don't worry" were more condescending than he intended, I'm sure. Please inform subcontractors that this behavior is unacceptable.

M. Danzout

Less stressful hiring

I have something to add to the article about subcontractors in the last issue of The Interpreters Voice. Maybe it's a pet peeve of mine. I really hate calling interpreters and offering them work only to hear a list of conditions (I don't drive downtown, I need an hour and a half for lunch, You have to get me complete driving instructions) And some are personal situations like needing a baby sitter. These people are called "Prima Donnas" and their ability to interpret is overshadowed by this.

To make my job less stressful, I put them on the bottom of my list.
Penny Hinderliter

First impression help, please

I would love to see an article about the proper way for interpreters to write a resume. I have looked at a few and there is no consistency. Several contractors ignore what you send them and require really long application forms that are tedious to fill out.

Nancy Phillips

Editor's Note: Consider it done, Nancy. You'll find it in the next issue.

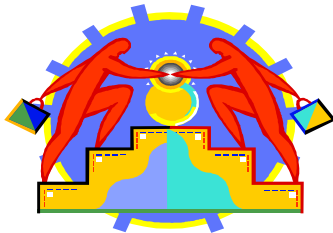
Are you out there?

I am a freelance interpreter. I have sent so many resumes out with no response. How do you get these contractors to at least respond to my resume?

Marco Antonio Rodriguez

Editor's note: Some people ask for a response and that gets my attention and I confirm receipt. I will see that this is covered in the next issue. Thanks for your question!





HOW TO TELL IF YOU ARE AN INTERPRETER OR A TRANSLATOR

You are an interpreter if....

You can rise at 6:30 a.m. many days in a row.

Your working wardrobe consists of suits, which you keep wrapped in plastic to avoid wrinkles and expedite packing.

You are prone to sore throats and foot problems.

You talk all day; in your leisure time, you frequently just want to be quiet.

Your bathrobe has been to hotels all over the globe and in half the cities in the U.S..

You are sick of hotel and restaurant meals and are dying for home-cooked food.

You know many words in your second language that you have never seen written down.

You have met most of the professional colleagues you know on interpreting assignments (or at ATA conferences.)

You are always traveling and long to be at home more so you can spend quality time with your family.

You struggle not to gain weight from constant exposure to banquet and catered meals and your work leaves you little time for exercise.

You stay up half the night stewing about the way you interpreted a term.

Your favorite dictionaries are battered from rough treatment by baggage handlers.

It drives you nuts to have the work you do referred to as translation.

You are chronically tired and short of money and you suspect that the world underrates how hard you work and how much you contribute.

You are a translator if...

You are miserable unless you can get up 11 a.m. and go to bed at 3:00 a.m.

Your working wardrobe consists of jeans (shorts) and sweatshirts (t-shirts), which you store conveniently on the floor of your closet.

You are prone to carpal tunnel syndrome and backache

You are alone with a computer all day; when you are with other people you tend to jabber.

Your bathrobe is what you are apt to be wearing at 2 in the afternoon.

You are sick of looking at four walls all day and are dying to go out to dinner.

You know many words in your second language that you do not know how to pronounce.

You have met most of the professional colleagues you know through e-mail or Internet chat rooms (or at ATA conferences.)

At home you are always working or thinking about work, so the best way to spend quality time with your family is to travel together.

You struggle not to gain weight from spending all day sitting on your duff and the constant availability of your refrigerator and your work leaves you little time for exercise.

You stay up half the night stewing about how you'll translate a term the next day.

Your favorite dictionaries are battered from the rough treatment they get on your desk when you are in a "term search frenzy."

It drives you nuts to be asked if you ever did "simultaneous translation" for a celebrity.

You are chronically tired and short of money, and you suspect that the world underrates how hard you work and how much you contribute.

*Submitted by conference interpreter Tanya Gesse, tanyag@sprintmail.com,
compiled by Lydia Stone, lydiastone@compuserve.com, for the SlavFile,
a publication of ATA's Slavic Languages Division.*

Translator Interpreter Hall of Fame Accepting 2002 Nominations

The Translator Interpreter Hall of Fame (TIHOF) is now accepting nominations for 2002.

The TIHOF was founded September 30, 2000, to recognize the achievements of and pay tribute to the men and women who have helped penetrate cultural and linguistic barriers between the world's peoples. Language specialists the world over observe International Translators Day every year on September 30, the Feast Day of St. Jerome, the patron saint of translators and the TIHOF's first honoree. Each year on this date the TIHOF will honor additional outstanding practitioners of the art of translating and interpreting.

Nominations for historical or contemporary figures should include a biography and/or essay on the nominee (700 words or longer) with optional illustrations. Send entries to nominate@tihof.org by the deadline of August 1, 2002. Nominations will be judged by a panel drawn from various translator and interpreter associations.

New honorees will be announced on International Translators Day, September 30, 2002 and published on the TIHOF website www.tihof.org, with proper credit given to essay authors and translators. Submissions will become the property of the TIHOF.

Nominees not inducted at the 2002 ceremony may be considered for future years. For further information contact Mary David, at Mary@atanet.org.

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Le French Link
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2931 W. Eastwood Chicago, IL 60625
Phone: 773 463 22 28 Fax: 773 463 27 87 E-mail: lacavaj@lacava.net Website: www.lefrenchlink.com

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Please make check payable to
The American Translators Association
and write "ID advertising"

Network, Learn, Advise ~Vent~!

The Tennessee Court Interpreter Discussion Group can be found at groups.yahoo.com/group/tncourtinterp.

It is open to the public and speakers of all languages are welcome. To join, go the above site and click "JOIN NOW." You will need a Yahoo ID to join, and once that is set up, you can continue to join the group!

RESOURCES FOR THE MEDICAL INTERPRETER!

A fabulous list of local Area Medical Interpreting Training sources:

Thanks to the MMIA :Massachusetts Medical Interpreters Association. Check it out at www.mmia.org/

Bibliography for Medical Interpreting offered by CULTUREMED Compiled by Jacquelyn Coughlan, M.S., M.L.S.

www.sunyit.edu/library/html/culturedmed/bib/medical/index.html

Policy Websites for Refugee & Immigrant Health

www.sunyit.edu/library/html/culturedmed/policy/index.html

FOREIGN LANGUAGE HEALTH MATERIALS

Consider these resources for pre-translated material so you can be prepared in advance for terms used in medical situations. Do use discretion as the sources of some of these translations may not be professional.

www.cal.org

Center for Applied Linguistics

www.aiha.com

AIHA directory of over 400 health-related translated materials

www.health.qld.gov.au/hssb/hou/resources.htm

Queensland Health - Multicultural Health Resources (including Cultural Diversity Package, Multicultural and Language Service Policies, Handbook on Muslim Patients.)

www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au

The New South Wales Multicultural Health Communication Service based in Sydney provides free translated patient resources

www.healthtrans.org

Mount Saint Joseph Hospital Foundation, Vancouver, British Columbia, project provides translated health materials resources

www.survivorsintl.org/programs/communitymanual.html

Survivors International - Working with victims of torture

<http://hlunix.hl.state.ut.us/hrm/ethnic/resource.html>

Lists of brochures in Thai, Cambodian, Laotian, Hmong, Vietnamese

www.ohsu.edu/bicc-Library/patiented/links.html

Web sources for patient education handouts, links to both English and non-English sites

www.mu.edu/wgec/featured/tapes.html

Videotapes : advance directives in Hmong and Spanish

www2.pro-ns.net/~larue

Commercial site with some booklets in Russian, Serbo-Croatian, and other languages



Training Opportunities

Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern,
but impossible to enslave. - Henry Peter Brougham

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

(The Editors regret the delay caused by the publisher of the publication of this issue.)

May 5-6, 2002

Tel-Aviv University in Israel

CFP: Jewish varieties of contemporary languages

Jews often have unique ways of speaking their local language. Jewish varieties of English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Turkish, phonology, and discourse from Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and/or Judeo-Arabic.

Contact: Sarah Bunin Benor, sbenor@stanford.edu.

May 6 ~ 10 2002

Presidio of Monterey, California

2002 Worldwide Language Olympics

Resident Games -

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center
Sponsored by the Air Force.

The 2002 WLO competition languages are slated to be Chinese Mandarin, Korean, Russian, Modern Standard Arabic, Spanish, and Persian Farsi.

Contact :The WLO Coordinator is TSgt Babcock of the 311th Training Squadron; phone: DSN 878-7166/Comm (831) 242-7166; FAX: DSN 878-5052/Comm (831) 242-5052;

E-mail: babcockf@pom-emh1.army.mil

May 8-11, 2002

The Second Dublin International Conference on Translation Studies-Brave New Words: Translation and the New Economy

Dublin City University, Ireland

Two areas of special emphasis are Interpreting and Translation, Interpreting and Multimedia. Contact: Dr Eithne O'Connell School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies

Dublin City University Dublin 9, Ireland

E-mail: translation.conference@dcu.ie

May 9-11 2002

Prachuapkirikhan, Thailand

Joint International Conference of SNLP-Oriental COCOSDA 2002

The Fifth Symposium on Natural Language Processing 2002 + Oriental COCOSDA Workshop 2002

Hotel Sofitel Central Hua Hin Hotel, Hua Hin

Contact: <http://kind.siit.tu.ac.th/snlp-o-cocosda2002/>

May 11-12,2002

Yokohama, Japan

IJET-13

Thirteenth International Japanese/English Translation Conference

<http://ijet.org/ijet-13/> or <http://www.ata-divisions.org/JLD/home.htm>

May 15-17, 2002

Valencia, Spain

III CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL

DE LA ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE LINGÜÍSTICA COGNITIVA

(AELCO/SCOLA)

Contact: III Congress AELCO, Universidad de València
Departamento de Filología Catalana
Facultad de Filología Av. Blasco Ibáñez, 32,46010
València.

Fax: 96 386 44 93, E-mail: aelco@uv.es

May 17-19, 2002

Phoenix, Arizona

NAJIT-23rd Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

The Sheraton Crescent Hotel 2620 West Dunlap Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85021

Hotel Reservation Phone Number: 800-423-4126 or
800-325-3535

Topics include: Revisiting the Concept of "Equivalence" in Court Interpreting, Interpreters for Jurors Staff Interpreter Roundtable The Education of Judges, Attorneys, and the

Continued on page 8

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TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Public on Understanding the Work of Judiciary Interpreters Navajo Interpreter Roundtable.
Detailed registration: www.najit.org/ssti/examreg.php.

May 17-21, 2002

Copenhagen, Denmark

International Conference on Conversation Analysis at Copenhagen University

Contact/more information:

www.conversation-analysis.net/conf2002/

May 18, 2002

Chicago, Illinois

ATA Medical Translation and Interpretation Seminar

A full day of in-depth sessions on medical interpreting and translation in Chicago, featuring Davi-Ellen Chabner, author of *The Language of Medicine* and *The Medical Language Instant Translator*.

Contact and registration information: ATA at 703-683-6100 or visit the ATA website: www.atanet.org.

May 17-18, 2002

Cairo, Egypt

The International Conference on Arabic Language and Linguistics

The Arabic Language Institute The American University in Cairo.

Contact: Alaa Algibali, E-mail: icall@aucegypt.edu,

Fax: 20-2-795-7565

The Arabic language Institute The American University in Cairo

113 kasr Al-Aini st. Cairo, Egypt.

May 18, 2002

London, England

“Multilingualism – Present and Future”

Presentation by Helen Campbell, Head of Sector in the Multilingualism Unit of the Joint Interpreting and Conference Service of the European Commission

Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Linguists Interpreting Division University of Westminster Lecture Theatre II, 35 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LS,

Contact: Interpreting Division, Institute of Linguists, Jan Kern, 50 Wordsworth Road, Luton, Beds LU4 0LJ, or SandraFroehlich@germaninterpreting.freeseve.co.uk.

May 25-27, 2002

University of Toronto and Ryerson Polytechnical University Toronto, Canada

Translation and (Im)migration. The 15th Annual Congress of the Canadian Association for Translation Studies (CATS) will be held during the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities

Contact: Anne Malena, amalena@ualberta.ca

University of Alberta Modern Languages and Cultural Studies

200 Arts Building Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E6

Tel.: (780) 492-1187, Fax: (780) 492-9106

June 1-3, 2002

Auckland, New Zealand

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS INC

Ethics, Education, Experience & Earnings. Elements in the multidimensional world of translation & interpreting

Contact/more information: liu@ihug.co.nz

www.geocities.com/nzsti/notices.html

July 9-August 13

Translation/Interpretation Summer Courses at Rutgers University, NJ

INTERPRETATION. Spanish<->English. (CR.3.)

01:940:475: SEC. H6:81478

N.B. eve. TTH 6:15-9:45 College Avenue Campus

Introduction to theory and practice of liaison, consecutive, and simultaneous interpretation.

July 10 - August 14

COURT INTERPRETATION. (CR.1.5) 01:940:477: SEC. H6:81153

Wednesdays: 6:15-9:45, N.B. EVE

Intensive practice in interpretation of courtroom and other legal procedures. Development of bilingual legal glossary. Review of New Jersey and federal standards for interpreters.

Contact Professor Phyllis Zatlin at 732/932-9323. web site: [Spanish summer programs at Rutgers University, NJ](http://Spanish%20summer%20programs%20at%20Rutgers%20University,%20NJ)



Mental Health Training for Interpreters In Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health has had an active Interpreter Services Program for over a decade. With recent changes in the state's procurement of services system, all interpreters contracted by state agencies must be on the Commonwealth's Master Service Agreement (MSA). The recent expansion of the MSA has resulted in 60 new vendors, and occurred in tandem with recently enacted legislation requiring the use of professional interpreters in emergency rooms and acute psychiatric care hospitals. As a result, the Department will undertake an innovative training specifically for interpreters working in mental health settings.

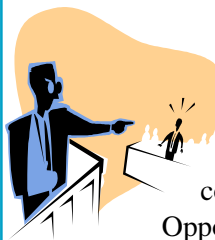
While mental health has been a component of many other trainings, this will be the first time when it will be its sole focus. The venue for the training will be at a DMH-operated or DMH-licensed mental health facility in the Southeastern area of the state, and will include a survey of major mental illnesses, treatment modalities, services and systems.

The 30-hour training will consist of 10 3-hour sessions. It is targeted at Cape Verdean, Chinese, Haitian, Khmer, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese interpreters; interpreters from other language groups will be admitted on a space available basis.

Although the exact dates for the training have not been decided, it is expected that the training itself will be conducted in the spring of 2002 and completed no later than June 30, 2002. The sessions will take place in the evenings twice a week for 5 weeks to accommodate the schedules of working interpreters.

For more information, contact Joy Connell at joy.connell@dmh.state.ma.us or 617-626-8133.

EDUCATING LAWYERS



The concept that our market needs educating is catching on. NAJIT is including a presentation on educating lawyers in its upcoming annual conference this May (see Training Opportunities, this issue). And

The California Court Interpreters Association (CCIA) is launching the first full law school curriculum in language and interpretation issues in the U.S. this summer at the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law. Among the topics covered will be the nature and manifestations of cultures and the impact of multiple cultures in contact. For more information please call 760-635-0273, e-mail ccia345@earthlink.net, or go to their website at www.ccia.org

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