

SLD MATTERS: FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Nora Seligman Favorov

As this issue of the *SlavFile* was being prepared for press, such everyday activities as newsletter layout were stopped dead in their tracks. The content of this issue was composed in what seems now like a different era, an era that ended September 11, 2001. What balance of emotions and ideas will characterize the national psyche and what changes of circumstance will govern our lives when the fall 2001 *SlavFile* reaches you is hard to know now. We have all suffered a loss. If any of our membership has suffered the more immediate and tragic loss of a loved one, please accept the condolences and shared grief of all of us. I would just like to quote from the message you must all have received from Ann McFarlane, "Let candles be brought, that we may continue in our profession of bringing light to those who cannot communicate with one another. And may we all have the courage and perseverance to work for the light, and to overcome the darkness of hatred and violence." What follows was written last week. While our mood as we convene in Los Angeles will certainly be more somber than it might otherwise have been, I hope that many of you will be able to join us in the pursuit of professional excellence that is always the focus of our gatherings. Let life go on!

By the time this issue of the *SlavFile* reaches you, you will probably have already received other mail pertaining to SLD business. First, in mid-September, you will receive (or presumably will *have* received, to flaunt my native tongue's future perfect) an e-letter (or for those of you lacking electronic inboxes, an s-m-letter, as in "snail mail") regarding our division's banquet in Los Angeles. How I wish all 433 of our members could be there to join us, although it would be rather crowded! Those of you who will make it to Los Angeles for ATA's annual conference need to give our colleague Emilia Balke, banquet-arranger extraordinaire, a hearty handshake for the excellent job she's done with this year's get-together. The message, as you no doubt know by now, first of all informs you of a change of date for our banquet to Friday, November 2nd. This change was made to avoid conflict with the Literary Café, which we mistakenly believed would be held Friday night, but is in fact scheduled for Thursday this year. The message also asks you to send me \$40 to hold your place at the table at Russian restaurant "The Black Sea" (erroneously referred to in the last issue as "Blue Sea") for an evening of lots of good food and music.

The second piece of mail is the ballot to vote on your next division administrator and assistant administrator. As you make the difficult decision between Nora Favorov and Alex Lane and Nora Favorov and Alex Lane, you might want to ponder our need

for more candidates in the future. Come autumn of 2003 we'll have another election and we will likely need a new set of candidates. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as administrator, and look forward to another two years, barring a groundswell of support for some as yet unrevealed write-in candidate, but I believe fresh blood will be needed by 2003. Please consider a run, or encourage a colleague to think about it.

There has been one change to the Slavic Languages lineup for Los Angeles. The first half of SL-3, Loren Tretyakov's **Getting Down to Business: Translating Financial and Economic Terminology**, has been canceled because Loren is no longer able to make it to California for the conference. That's the bad news. The good news we have is very good, indeed. Igor Vesler, whose past appearances at ATA conferences and at ATA's financial translation conference in New York this spring, have been both instructive and, at times, side-splittingly funny, will be replacing Loren. See below for a description of Igor's presentation.

Our SLD sessions in Los Angeles are:

SL-1, Slavic Languages Annual Meeting, at which election results will be announced, budgetary questions discussed (including issues relating to the distribution of this fine publication) and any member questions and concerns will be addressed.

SL-2, Annual Susana Greiss Lecture: The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful. Our speaker this year is Patricia Newman, past ATA president and co-author of *Callaham's Russian-English Dictionary of Science and Technology*. Pat will talk about both "the incredibly tedious process called lexicography" and "the

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Do you want to have some fun? Give something back to the community? Develop a little more name recognition as a translator?

Go back to school.

You heard me. School — the formal kind — which is back in session all over the land. Go back as a translator.

You see, schools (and here I speak primarily of high schools) have departments staffed with teachers desperate to light a fire under their students and make them want to excel (if nothing else, department chairs generally insist on such an approach).

The real world offers students glimpses of how some subject knowledge might be applied. English underpins pretty much everything, particularly on television. A Space Shuttle launch underscores the usefulness of math and science. Evening news programs makes more sense if you know geography and history. But foreign languages? With the exception of non-mainstream “pockets” of culture devoted to speakers of various tongues, folks in the U.S. are pretty well shielded from day-to-day exposure to foreign languages. Thus, it’s generally harder for students to understand — on a basic, gut level — why they should spend time getting cozy with the pluperfect subjunctive, or with the genitive, dative, or accusative case.

Recalling my own time in high school, I can tell you that French class was my nemesis. I hated it. At the same time, French represented the only mental challenge in my schedule, so I stuck with it. In the end, what I learned in that class stood me in good stead later in life (particularly when it came to learning Russian), but while I was *there*, in high school, I failed to see the virtues of learning a foreign language.

A little while ago, during a trip East to visit my folks, I drove past my old high school and — for some unimaginable reason — felt a desire to visit and walk around the place. In today’s security-conscious world, though, transforming that desire into reality is not so easy.

It then occurred to me that, perhaps, the school’s language chair might be interested in having a working translator/interpreter visit the school and spend some time talking to students. I made a call and had my offer accepted so quickly, and with such enthusiasm, that it almost made me dizzy.

I have to admit that, unless you are comfortable in impromptu speaking situations, it may be a good idea to prepare some notes from which to speak. Moreover, even if you are a good impromptu speaker, it will not hurt to sit down and think about answers to some basic questions such as:

“Why did you become a translator?”

“What are important qualities you must have to be a good translator?”

“What do you do if you don’t know a word and it’s not in the dictionary?”

I call these “interview questions,” as they’re the kind of pesky questions asked during job interviews. The long-term benefit of thinking about and answering such questions is that they help you clarify and make more apparent your own implicit “mission statement” with regard to your professional life. (Furthermore, you’ll have something ready to say in case you ever interview for a translation position, but I digress...)

My session at the school went very well. I was ferried enthusiastically from one classroom to another, losing track of how many places I’d been. The fact that the school did not offer Russian was apparently irrelevant. Teachers were uniformly glad to see me; glad to have *someone* come in and demonstrate — if only by blinking,

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OFFERS OF WORK FROM EMPLOYERS AND CLIENTS ARE PUBLISHED FREE

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good, the bad and the incredibly beautiful” experiences she has had as a purchaser of translation and interpretation services at Sandia National Laboratories.

SL-3, Part I: Audience-oriented Translation for the General Public, presented by Igor Vesler, will examine materials prepared by the various levels of government in the U.S. for the Russian and Ukrainian speaking community, including a New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority booklet, public assistance forms, posters and warning signs. Igor will discuss language culture, demographic indicators and the preferences of target audiences.

SL-3, Part II: Recent Issues in Russian and English Translation: Avoiding the Pitfalls and Overcoming Business and Technical Challenges, presented by SLD Assistant Administrator Alex Lane, will delve into problems plaguing anyone working in R-E-R translation these days, to wit: concurring terminology, establishing a rational policy regarding acronyms, abbreviations, trademarks, and part designations, using the Internet for research, working with various file formats and other materials, and delivering bilingual documents. Alex will draw from his extensive experience—in particular, his work with the joint US-Russian space program—to illustrate some of the pitfalls associated with these challenges, as well as working solutions to them.

SL-4: Russian English Cognates that Go their Own Way, presented by *Newsweek* associate editor and freelance R-E translator Steve Shabad, will look at common examples, a few of which may be “surprising or controversial” of R-E “false friends.” Focusing primarily on Russian to English, Steve will present what he feels are optimal solutions to a few common challenges posed by inexact cognates. Audience discussion will be encouraged.

SL-5: Double Jeopardy: A Bilingual Game Show for Russian<>English Translators and Interpreters, emceed by the SLD’s answer to Vanna White, Lydia Stone, and the ever-popular compatriot of Alex Trebek, Vadim Khazin. Bring your competitive spirit or just sit back and watch the self-selected contestants at

FROM OUR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

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breathing, and being called a translator — that language study had a practical application (other than growing up to be a language teacher). Students seemed to like the change of pace, too, and expressed interest in the translation life (the questions above were asked of me that day).

Did I change any lives? Touch any hearts? Influence any future career choices?

Who knows? I had fun, though (and got to walk around the school).

In the final analysis, though, the experience was time well spent.

Oh, and there’s one postscript to the story: I recently got a call from someone who had called the school to ask if anyone there could translate something from Russian. That someone was referred to the department chair, who — in his turn — relayed the request to... me.

work, as they take on idioms, neologisms and other R<>E challenges. Prizes will be somewhat more modest than those bankrolled by ABC’s sponsors (think Cracker Jacks).

SL-6: Challenges in Translating Russian Financial Statements, presented by R-E business and financial translation expert Bob Taylor, is an approximate repeat of his presentation at ATA’s Financial Translation Conference in New York last May. Bob will explore problems faced in translating key balance sheet and income statement entries in Russian with proposed solutions. Special attention will be devoted to unique accounting practices used in Russia, how they differ from generally accepted accounting practices, and how these differences can have a potential impact on reporting.

SL-7: New Terminology in Polish, presented by Urszula Klingenberg, freelance E<>P translator, is the SLD’s first presentation devoted to Polish. Ursula will address the acceleration in the natural evolution of language that has taken place in Poland in recent years. The session is designed to help translators faced with the daunting task of keeping their head above water in a sea of new terminology.

Conference updates will be available at: www.atanet.org/conf2001/. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions about attending the conference or the banquet. As usual, each session will need to be reviewed for the *SlavFile* so that those unable to attend can benefit. The editors will of course appreciate volunteers for this important job.

This will be the first issue of *SlavFile* to be distributed to our list of 51 “swift-footed creatures” in the form of an internet link only. For those of you who find the preceding sentence to be utterly incomprehensible, let me explain. Within the SLD, the debate about whether or not it is still worthwhile to print and mail this publication to our membership, as opposed to forgoing printing and instead distributing it electronically, is, at least in the imagination of a few of us, argued by the “dinosaurs” on the pro-printing side and the “swift-footed creatures” on the electronic side. In another 20 years, no doubt the swifter creatures will triumph, but for now, only 51 of our 433 members have opted to forego mail delivery of a printed *SlavFile*. This and future issues of *SlavFile* will be posted on our division’s web site, making it easier for all of us to share articles of interest with non-SLD friends and colleagues.

In closing, I’d like to share my discovery of a wonderful internet site. This site will be of greatest interest to literary translators, but may be of occasional use to anyone interested in English usage. The site is: www.bartleby.com/fiction/. It allows one to search the text of vast numbers of English-language literary works and English translations of major works of foreign literature, with the Russian classics heavily represented. I find it particularly helpful when I am struggling to determine what period and social group a particular expression or phrase pertains to. It also allows you to search a number of useful texts, including Bartlett’s *Familiar Quotations*, Bullfinch’s *Mythology*, Strunk’s *Elements of Style*, Gray’s *Anatomy*, and many others.

I hope to see many of you in Los Angeles and in particular look forward to meeting anyone of our members attending an ATA conference for the first time. Please make yourselves known!

NEW DICTIONARIES AND REFERENCES AVAILABLE FROM POLISH PUBLISHERS: PART II

Urszula Klingenberg

In Part I of this series, I spoke of the impressive number of new and revised dictionaries in science and technology, compared to the meagre quantity of bilingual references available in earlier decades. This number, however, is dwarfed by the sheer mass of business, finance, law, and economy lexicons—categories, which have gained many faithful adherents owing to new market economy conditions.

The first major E-P business dictionary (1)¹ came out in 1991 and contains 63,000 entries. Another one, oriented toward legal terminology, with 70,000 entries (2) appeared the same year. These two remain milestones in their respective fields, and if you are looking for a term from finance, international law, or insurance, it is a good idea to consult them both and compare results.

A bi-directional dictionary of business terminology by W. Śmid (3) is smaller in scope and tailored for practical applications, with over 30,000 entries for both languages. More than 40,000 legal terms, consistent with the usage recommended by the Polish Committee of the International Organization for Unification of Terminological Neologisms, may be found in the dictionary by E. Ożga (4), which also reflects the compiler's experience as a court interpreter in the US. A 1998 Polish-English dictionary (5) by a mother-daughter team of practicing legal professionals is based on the terminology of the Polish legal system; a sample of commonly used documents with their translations is supplied at the end.

Target users are sometimes named in dictionary titles. For the most part they are managers (6) or business people (7); while a dictionary published by the Police Academy (8) is aimed specifically at police functionaries performing their investigative duties (4,800 entries in five languages). Other dictionaries clearly stake out their particular area of specialization: finance and banking (9), politics and economics (10), taxes, customs, and insurance (11), marketing and advertising (12).

Once again, a special mention should be made of *Peter Collin Publishing* which, in collaboration with *Wilga Publishers*, has brought out a series of lexicons on business (13), politics (14), accounting (15), law (16), marketing (17), banking and finances (18). These volumes contain about 10,000 – 15,000 English entries each, with English definitions, Polish equivalents, and examples of English usage. Since a P-E index is provided, each lexicon can function as a bi-directional dictionary.

Many other specialist dictionaries opt for supplying the user with full blown encyclopedic definitions of terms, as well as the target language equivalents. After all, the fields they cover are characterized by insider terminology and it might well be of little help to the user if she sees “hedge” translated in a E-P dictionary merely as “hedging,” or “transakcja hedgingowa.” Hence, some dictionaries offer definitions ranging from one sentence to a short essay on each entry term typically in Polish. This category includes the following:

* “Słownik Reutera” (19) - E entries, P definitions, and an E index;

¹The numbered references correspond to dictionaries listed at the end of the article.

* “Leksykon rachunkowości” (20) - E entries, P equivalents and definitions, a P-E index;

* “Słownik tematyczny – finanse” and “... Ekonomia” (21,22) - adapted to Polish from the Penguin dictionary version; E entries, P equivalents and definitions;

* “E-P Business Dictionary” (23) - E entry-E definition in a parallel arrangement with P entry-P definition, especially recommended for common law terminology;

* a Polish version of “International Tax Glossary” (24) - originally prepared by the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation; E entries, P equivalents and definitions, a P-E index;

* “Leksykon biznesu” (25) - P entries, E equivalents, extensive P definitions, an E-P index;

* “Słownik pojęć stosowanych w reklamie” (26) - E entries, P equivalents and definitions.

Still another category includes glossaries compiled from specific documents, such as those generated by the UN or the European Union (27,28,29). These are highly context-dependent, multi-lingual works (usually with parallel Polish, English, French, and German entries). Thanks to extensive indexing they are very useful in translating similar texts. Entries may range from single words to full sentences, such as “udział w kapitale subskrybowanym nie może być zbyty, zastawiony ani zajęty,” which can be found in the index under four different headings. Finally, the *Polish Society of Economic, Legal, and Court Translators* (TEPIS) is a publisher in a class by itself. TEPIS has begun the POLTERM Terminology Project to create and disseminate a unified system of Polish legal glossaries (in addition to an English one, German, French and Russian editions are also planned). So far, this organization has published Glossary no.1 (30) containing the terminology used in the Polish commercial code, the Bankruptcy Act, and the Arrangement Proceedings Act. Work on translating additional Polish legislative documents is also well advanced, with hundreds of pages of the civil, commercial, and labor codes and many other acts already in place. The collection is regularly updated and enlarged.

If you own TEPIS glossary No. 5 (31), for example, you need to search no further for the “correct” English name of any institution in the Polish educational system, including names of academic departments and disciplines, professional titles, degrees, etc. This little book would be extremely useful in translating official documents, such as transcripts or diplomas, as it reflects nomenclature adopted by international organizations, the Polish Ministry of Education, and the institutions involved.

The highly technical vocabulary of the specialized fields of science, technology, or social enterprises is not the only terminology that causes translators problems; colloquialisms and idioms may also require explication. For this purpose, the slang dictionary by M. Widawski (32) of Gdańsk University, may be a useful volume to own. It contains 10,000 English entries and 6,000 Polish definitions arranged both alphabetically and thematically, as well as indexed. Even a casual perusal can be a rev-

elation for anyone not thoroughly familiar with that expressive idiom in either E or P, and the author has done an impressive job in compiling the vocabulary from hundreds of films, novels, articles, songs, etc. (a list of source materials from ABC News to ZZ Top is included).

Have you ever had a problem finding an equivalent to a proverb, catch phrase, or cliché in the other language? Do you need to say “Na złodzieju czapka gore” in E? Or “the pecking order” in P? Currently available dictionaries make such equivalents much easier to find. One by C. Pająk (33) lists 2,800 E proverbs and 1,000 P ones. Each proverb is provided with either an approximate translation, an explanation of meaning, a full or partial equivalent proverb in the other language, or a combination of the above. English and Polish indexes make it easy to find a proverb on a given subject. Another work, by D. Radziejowski (34), boasts 6,000 English proverbs and 3,000 famous quotations with an even higher number of P equivalents, all indexed according to thematic categories. Incidentally, the same author has recently published a collection of Latin proverbs and sayings with P and E equivalents, while his “Tematyczny słownik idiomów, zwrotów i wyrażen z dodatkiem przysłów i sentencji” (35) contains as many as 25,000 English idioms, fixed phrases, conventional figures of speech, phrasal verbs, collocations, etc. arranged thematically with Polish equivalents.

There are at least a dozen more lesser English idiomatic dictionaries varying in scope and organization; one notable example is the collection of American idioms (35) published by the *Unpaid Rent Poetry Group* from Chicago.

Monolingual reference works may also prove indispensable to translators and interpreters. Allow me to extend somewhat the scope of this article by adding information on what is new in that category—and indeed almost everything available in this category is new.

There is “Inny słownik języka polskiego” (36) of 100,000 entries, advertised as being written in simple, unsophisticated Polish. There is “Nowy słownik poprawnej polszczyzny” (37), which is not as rigidly prescriptive in its approach as the title implies. Indeed this work reflects the new phenomena taking place in the language, such as the expansion of Anglicisms. There is also “Słownik frazeologiczny współczesnej polszczyzny” (38) and the three-volume “Etymologiczny słownik języka polskiego” (39), both of which represent a “second generation” of dictionaries replacing decades-old earlier ones. A special series by PWN *Publishers* includes dictionaries on colloquial Polish (40), profanities and vulgarisms (41), and euphemisms (42). You will also find separate treatment of Polish argot (43).

W. Kopaliński, an indefatigable lexicographer, has recently produced “Słownik przypomnień” (44), combining features of both a thesaurus and a “word menu,” as well as a new dictionary of eponyms (45). In addition to a substantially enlarged and updated new edition of the old “Słownik wyrazów bliskoznacznych” (46), we now have “Słownik synonimów” (47) and “Słownik antonimów” (48) with approximately 60,000 lexical items each.

This list of new Polish dictionaries does not pretend to be an exhaustive one. Their selection has followed my own interests and preferences. Reference books available on CD-ROMs, books on translation topics, and other currently available resources for Polish deserve separate treatment.

“Serce roście patrząc na te czasy!”

[The heart swells in times like these!]

cried a Polish poet over four centuries ago, and the Polish translator can only echo his sentiment today with respect to the burgeoning dictionary situation. A visit to a bookstore in Poland would be the most direct way to securing your lexicographical heart’s desire(s). For those who want to save the airfare, New York or Chicago Polish bookstores might be places to look, and the Internet holds some promising possibilities. If all else fails, friends and relations in the old country might be happy to help you.

List of dictionaries referred to in this article:

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- (9) Wróblewska, J. *Pol-ang/ang-pol słownik finansowo-bankowy*, Warszawa, Poltext, 1996.
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Dictionary Review

Большой русско-английский медицинский словарь (Comprehensive Russian-English Medical Dictionary)

(Authors' Collective headed by M.S. Benyumovich, V.L. Rivkin) Moscow, Russo, 2000, 704 pages, ca. 70,000 terms
Available from Panorama of Russia for \$42.00

Reviewer: Lydia R. Stone

To my knowledge, no moderately priced Russian-English medical dictionary with any claim to completeness has been generally available in the United States for at least 15 years. The most recent such dictionary (by Yeliseyevich et al) was published by Russkiy Yazyk in 1975 and has long been out of print. Thus, the appearance of a new Russian-English Medical Dictionary at an affordable price is an event of some moment. The work under review is indeed reasonably priced and well-printed on adequate quality paper. It has a reader-friendly format and claims to be comprehensive. It contains approximately 20,000 more terms than the 1975 dictionary. The question is, is it worth buying for those with no source of specialized R>E terminology at all, or for those who own one of the older out-of-print medical dictionaries, or the Petrov et al. *Russian > English Medical Dictionary Phrase Book* (Russkiy Yazyk, 1987), which is still readily available, or who perhaps rely exclusively on *Callaham IV*.

A cursory survey of the new work shows it to be acceptably complete and correct with regard to anatomy, disease names, and microorganisms, and to contain quite a number of Russian drug names whose English equivalents I have previously only found through parallel search of the *PDR* and Russian drug manuals. It also provides a brief (6 double column pages) but useful list of Russian medical abbreviations with English expansions. I have, however, noticed some typos and misspellings in the English. For example, pages 444-445, to which I opened at random, contain *bed-cradle* and *locomotory memory*; I have noted no analogous frequency of typos in the Russian terms, but this may be my weakness rather than the dictionary's strength. There are almost no explanations to supplement the English translation provided—a serious flaw, but one that is common to virtually all specialized bilingual dictionaries.

Like most other dictionaries this one is deficient in its treatment of a substantial class of Russian medical terms. To define this class I must digress for a moment. Whether or not Russian medical practice lags behind American medical practice, in very many instances Russian medical *terminology* is as much as a century or more behind American terminology. By this I mean that Russian still uses terms (with Greek, Latin, or even English roots) that have long been superseded in this hemisphere. There is nothing intrinsically objectionable about this, although there is always the possibility that some terms may be associated with equally outmoded ways of looking at physiology, (the *vegetative nervous system*, for example). However, such terms in Russian present a real problem to translators and lexicographers. The pitfall is that it is so easy to render these terms into what sounds to a medically uninformed translator like acceptable English, but which produces a text that, to the technical reader, is filled with strange, archaic sounding, or even completely impossible-to-understand terms. The same snare awaits the lexicographer, who on the basis of previous

dictionaries based on still earlier ones, takes the easy road of rendering, for example, *пронеподетика* as **propodeutics** (probably meaningful to very few people) *санация* as **sanation** (strange but possibly graspable/meaningful to some after linguistic mental effort) and *максимальное артериальное давление* as **maximum arterial pressure** (fully understandable but producing a term never used in English). Unfortunately, the compilers of *The Comprehensive Russian-English Medical Dictionary* fall into this error repeatedly, (although no more so than the compilers of the other dictionaries examined with the exception of *Callaham IV*). Examples can be found in the table below. Needless to say, this is no favor to the translator, particularly to one not well-versed in English medical terminology. The complementary error a lexicographer can make is to assume that, because more advanced Russian publications and medical personnel have recently begun to use medical terminology more analogous to that used in West, it is no longer necessary to cite the old-fashioned Russian term in a Russian-English dictionary. This error can also be found in the dictionary under review. For example *тромбоцит* which I believe is still the canonical Russian word for **platelets** is not listed at all. Another word in common medical use I found to be missing is *удушье* (asphyxia, suffocation), replaced by the more learned *асфиксия*. One has no way of knowing if these omissions are due to some misguided policy or simply the result of carelessness; however, they are equally distressing in either case.

Of course, the value of a dictionary is not an absolute but is relative to the user's own knowledge and other available sources. For this reason a dictionary's coverage is best evaluated in print in relation to that of other comparable or semi-comparable volumes. The table below compares the dictionary being reviewed to the 1975 volume and the *Russian-English Medical Phrase Book* mentioned above, a 1958 Russian-English medical dictionary published in the U.S., and of course *Callaham IV*. The definitions given by these 5 references are cited for 15 terms that I know from experience are used regularly in the medical literature and are difficult to find correctly rendered in bilingual dictionaries. As those of us working with medical translation know all too well, the unconscionable number of parts of the human body, the unspellable bacteria, not to mention the lack of correspondence between the diseases that afflict Americans and those plaguing Russians are enough to give anyone a case of the hives. However, what really causes us to grind our teeth are those "medical but not exactly medical" terms that recur in Russian medical documents but are frequently omitted from medical or biological, not to mention general dictionaries. I am referring here to terms found in the names of medical school courses, those related to laboratory procedures and equipment, and my own personal nemesis— names of Soviet and post-Soviet medi-

Continued on page 9

Word ¹	English translation suggested by LRS ²	Большой рус-англ. мед. словарь, 2000 ³	Рус-англ. мед. словарь, 1975 ⁴	R-E Med. Dict. Jablonski 1958 ⁵	Рус-англ. мед. слов-разговорник 1987 ⁶	Callahan IV
Анализатор	Essentially: the afferent portion of a sensory system (Pavlov's term)	Rendered as analyzer without explanation	Rendered as analyzer without explanation	Rendered as analyzer-fully explained	Not listed	This usage not cited
Бикс	Drum of a steam sterilizer used for bandages etc.	Drum, dressing sterilizer box	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Steam sterilizer
Боковое артериальное давление	True systolic blood pressure	True systolic blood pressure	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Multitword phrases not defined
Вегетативная нервная система	Autonomic (or involuntary) nervous system	Adjective defined as vegetative; whole phrase listed under (involuntary) NS	Adjective defined as vegetative; whole phrase listed under system as vegetative NS, involuntary NS	Not listed as adjective or phrase	Defined as vegetative as adjective and in context of phrase	One definition of adjective given as autonomic (nervous system)
Лейкоцитарная формула	Differential blood count	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Differential blood count	Multitword phrases not defined
Лечебно-профилактическое учреждение	Patient or medical or health care facilities (hospitals, polyclinics, etc.)	Without профилактическое patient care institutions	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Лечебно-профилактическое defined as preventive medicine
Максимальное артериальное давление	Systolic blood pressure	Not listed, but систолическое АД defined as systolic (maximum)	Not listed and systolic not defined as maximum	Not listed and systolic not defined as maximum	Not listed	Multitword phrases not defined- adjective not defined in this context
Пластический обмен	Essentially: anabolic metabolism	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Multitword phrases not defined adjective not defined in this context
Проледевтика	Practical introduction to (as a med. school course)	Propedeutics	Propedeutics	Propedeutics	Not listed	Introductory course
Самочувствие	Self reported state of health or feeling of well-being	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Feeling, state of being	State of health
Санация	Most common meaning dental cleaning, but also means disinfection, e.g. of a wound or asymptomatic carrier	Sanation, oral cavity sanation, debridement of a wound.	Not listed.	Not listed	Not listed	Sanitation, oral hygiene
Смыв	Swab specimen or sample, swabbing, lavage	Swab, lavage	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Washing
Тромбоцит	Platelet	Not listed ?!	Thrombocyte, blood platelet	Thrombocyte	Thrombocyte, blood platelet	Thrombocyte, blood platelet
Условно-патогенный микроорганизм	Opportunistic pathogen/microbe	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed as either phrase or compound word
Щадящий режим	Conservative treatment, (of diet) bland	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Adjective translated as conservative, bland (diet)

Notes to table:

- Terms come either from my most recent medical translations (a medical school transcript, a Soviet Order /Приказ/ on hospital sanitation, and a journal article) or from my 10 years as a biomedical translator for NASA.
- Definitions come from: one or another of the dictionaries cited; comparison of definitions in unilingual English and Russian explanatory dictionaries; old editions of English general and medical dictionaries, and discussions with US and Russian physiologists and doctors.
- For full citation see Review title.
- Русско-английский медицинский словарь (Емисеенков и соавт.), Москва, Русский язык, 1975, 50,000 терминов, 648 стр. Out of print.
- Russian-English Medical Dictionary (Jablonski) New York, Academic Press, 1958, 423 pages. Out of print.
- Русско-английский медицинский словарь-разговорник (Петров и соавт). Москва: Русский язык: 12- изд., 1987, 40,000 слов и словосочетаний; 596 стр. Primarily a phrase book for doctors and hospital personnel. Russian index in back, does not cover all terms in book. Excellent charts in back with Russian-English names of anatomical features, surgical instruments, bandages, and common operations.
- Callahan's Russian-English Dictionary of Science and Technology, Fourth Edition. (Callahan, Newiman, and Callahan), New York, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1996, 120,000+ terms, 814 pages. Note: Not generally useful for finding definitions of multi-word terms.

SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

Lydia Razran Stone

Some weeks ago my friend Raffik called my attention to a linguistic discrepancy between Russian and English, which is as revealing of deep cultural differences as any I have yet encountered. In the U.S., if someone coughs, chokes, gasps, or makes some other sound or gesture indicative of malaise, the typical thing to say is *Are you OK (all right)?* In precisely the same situation a Russian asks in a tone of deep concern, *Вам (тебе) плохо?* While in certain contexts an American might say something on the order of *Aren't you feeling well?*, it is almost ludicrous to imagine a Russian speaker asking, *Вам хорошо?* This is a clear indicator of what those of us who deal with both cultures have long sensed: in Russian culture, commiseration is valued and emphasized over encouragement, while in the U.S. the opposite is strongly true. This was brought home to me again recently when my friend Oksana, a medical resident, broke her foot and found out at almost the same time that she had passed her residency exam, the last real academic hurdle on the way to becoming a full-fledged U.S. doctor. After her first few days back at the hospital on crutches, she told me, perplexed and even slightly offended, that everyone immediately congratulated her on passing the test but asked how her foot was only as an afterthought, if at all. As a Russian, she anticipated a different reaction and considered this one inappropriate. Her response confirmed my analysis of the linguistic and cultural phenomenon.

Oksana broke her foot the day before we were planning to drive down to visit her. She called me and told me to postpone the trip since, as she told me, **Ногу сломала, спускаясь по лестнице.** After commiserating with her, I called my husband and told him that our poor Oksana had broken her leg falling off a ladder. What had truly happened, as I learned later, was that she had broken a bone in her foot while going down the stairs. Now, I suppose I might not have made the wrong inference if she hadn't been in the midst of moving (hence making the ladder plausible) and if my mother had not shattered a femur falling from a ladder some years before. Nevertheless, I believe that my misinterpretation was grammatically justified. This marks the first time I can remember when I have inferred something seriously incorrect from a Russian utterance (after all, a broken leg is a great deal more incapacitating than a broken bone in the foot and a fall on a flight of stairs is quite different from falling off a ladder) resulting from an ambiguity in the language rather than my own faulty knowledge of it. I would be interested to know if our native-Russian-speaking readers could have misunderstood this utterance in the same way that I did.

Several weeks afterward I did indeed go to visit Oksana. In the lobby of her apartment building I heard the following conversation in English between her and a neighbor, involving three differing meanings of the phrase "to be off." Neither was aware that they kept misunderstanding each other. I am certain that I alone was privy to what was meant and what was actually understood.

Neighbor (seeing Oksana and having been told she was going to Russia in a few days): *Are you off, then?* (off = about to go on a trip).

Oksana (who had previously been working 60 hour weeks and was acutely aware of her enforced absence from work due to her injury). *I am always off these days.* (off = not obliged or permitted to go to work).

Neighbor (laughs appreciatively, impressed that a non-native English speaker could make such a subtle play on words): *Oh no, not at all.* (having interpreted off = not normal, slightly crazy).

How often do such misunderstandings occur in all of our lives, but pass unnoticed for lack of an eavesdropping linguist?

I guess all of the above sensitized me to cultural differences so that I after read a humor column in the paper complaining (most unoriginally) about the author's treatment by a disdainful waiter in Paris, I began to muse upon the differences between rude French and rude Russian waiters of my experience. This subset of French waiters seems offended at being called upon to perform their polished and valuable skills for the benefit of someone too boorish to appreciate them and the cuisine they serve. Rude Russian waiters, on the other hand, seem resentful of the fact that they have been forced by circumstances to engage in a profession involving service to anyone at all. (Actually it has been more than 5 years since I was in Russia, and I am told that such matters as service in restaurants are improving rapidly. However, the surly Russian waiter is not yet universally extinct — he still plies his trade in Brighton Beach.)

This reminds me of the service people I encountered while traveling through the Soviet Union with my father in the early 1960s. The surly waiters of Brighton are downright obsequious compared to the ones working in Intourist hotels back then. It appeared that the sole criterion for their selection was zero likelihood of any foreigner wishing to fraternize with them, or vice versa. I don't remember now whether someone actually told us that they worked 36-hour shifts, or whether this was an assumption we made based on their general appearance and demeanor. However, attitude and demeanor were hardly the main issue: it was more that it was nearly impossible to get them to wait on you at all. If seen at all they were skulking at the opposite corner of the cavernous dining room with eyes that could not be caught and were prone to scurry out of sight if you got up the nerve to leave your table and approach them. Now my father was traveling with a half suitcase filled with mechanical toys that he had bought from a street vendor in NY for the children and grandchildren of his Soviet colleagues. The only one I remember in particular was a windup bear who stamped his feet and appeared to be turning the pages of a book. One morning, passing the time while we waited for our breakfast in the dining room, he got one of these out from his brief case and wound it up. Suddenly, there was a mass exodus from the kitchen with waiters and kitchen

personnel crowded around our table smiling and even chuckling. After that we never entered a dining room in the USSR without a mechanical toy, we never waited two hours for a meal again, and we even had some rather pleasant chats with dining room personnel.

I believe I have discovered a new subgenre of literary translation — the translation of poetic excerpts. A friend of mine is translating a memoir which contains excerpts from Pushkin. She neither wanted to use an existing translation nor did she want to render the lines in blank verse. With the publisher's consent, my friend subcontracted this task to me. In 10 lines of *Медный всадник*, I confronted two issues that I had never encountered before. First, should I identify the “he” referred to in the first line as Peter the Great, even though Pushkin doesn't do so until further on in the poem? Had I been translating the whole poem, I would have followed Pushkin on this point, to make the English reader's experience as close as possible to the experience of a first time Russian reader of Pushkin's masterpiece. However, in the two line citation, I chose to identify the tsar, reasoning that I was translating not for an English reader of the poem but for an English reader of the memoir, who would need all the context that could be provided (with the rest of the poem lacking), while a Russian memoir reader would already possess the context by virtue of the iconic standing of this poem in his culture. My second problem: was whether, when translating lines of the poem that were cited in isolation from their rhyming counterparts in the original, I was honor bound to have in mind appropriate translations of the lines rhyming with the “orphans” in the original, although those appropriate translations would not appear on the page. I chose not to do so. Why? Well, even a poetic perfectionist sometimes takes the easy way out. The excerpts I translated follow, with the relevant lines italicized.

На берегу пустынных волн
Стоял он, дум великий полн
On that forsaken, wave worn strand
Tsar Peter stood, and gazed, and planned
Природой здесь нам суждено
В Европу прорубить окно
The fates ordain here we must wrest
From them our window on the West

Куда ты скачешь, гордый конь,
И где опустишь ты копыта?
О мощный властелин судьбы!
Не так ли ты над самой бездной,
На высоте, уздой железной
Россию поднял на дыбы?
Where do you gallop, haughty steed,
Where do your heedless hooves descend?
Thus, lord of fate, with iron grip,
You seized control, your empire reining,
Brought her up short, her flight restraining.
High, Russia reared at chasm's lip

For the “translators' game show session” Vadim Khazin and I are moderating at the next ATA Conference in LA, we encourage all readers to participate in a *Burimé* game and contest. As those who read SlavFile regularly and/or attend SLD dinners know,

Burimé (from the French *bouts rimés* = end rhymes) is a game when a person or persons are given a list of pairs of rhymed words and challenged to compose a poem containing them at the end of the lines. Our colleague, Vadim, is a master at this and his efforts, composed in a period of an hour or so at various conferences, have appeared in the winter issue of *SlavFile* for the past few years. Readers are invited to compose a poem containing most or all of the paired words below as end rhymes. All entries, which may be brought to the conference session or emailed to Lydia and/or Vadim before the start of the conference, will be read at the session and a prize awarded for the poem preferred by session attendees. Here are the rhymes, which may appear in your poem in any order.

deadline - red wine
relax - fax
ATA - run away
Viagra - Niagara
facility - humility
крот-перевод
конституция-проституция
бездарный-высокопарный
шок-порошок
вино-бревно
намекает - try it
чёрт - snort
меан-блондин
future-круче
jelly-неужели

We look forward to reading your contributions. Vadim may be reached at vadkhazin@cs.com and Lydia at lydiastone@compuserve.com.

Finally, to alleviate the social discomfort many people feel when facing mobs of strangers, all SLD members, but particularly newcomers to our organization or first time conference attendees, are invited to meet me and other SLD officers and members at the door to the ATA Welcome Reception in LA on Wednesday evening 10 minutes before its scheduled starting time of 6:00, so that we can introduce ourselves. We will be holding an identifying sign. See you there!

MEDICAL DICTIONARY REVIEW

Continued from page 7

cal institutions, hospital divisions, and official names of types of medical procedures and services, e.g. диспансеризация. I have thus included a number of terms of this sort in the table.

An examination of the table indicates that in spite of inaccuracies (or at least misleading renditions) the dictionary under review yields significantly more approximately correct definitions than any of the other works examined with the exception of *Callaham* (which a medical translator would in any case have to supplement for renditions of multiword phrases or detailed coverage of anatomy or pathology). It is up to the reader to decide whether it is a worthwhile purchase, in light of his or her own available sources, needs and medical sophistication. As for me, I am addicted to dictionaries and hear voices ordering me to buy all the interesting-looking, reasonably priced ones that I come across.

The World of the Baroque and the World of the Ukrainian Language¹

How the Baroque Outlook Led to the Appearance of Certain Distinctive Features
in Spoken Ukrainian

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Special thanks to Vadim Khazin, SlavFile Contributing Editor for Ukrainian, who edited both the Ukrainian and English versions.

...Вона – як знайдена підкова,
Вона є щастя і основа,
Дзвінка, чарівна і фахова, -
Моя чудова,
барокова,
Українська мова!
*Epigraph from V. Ostrovsky's
"Songs Not Yet Sung" Cycle*

Like a cherished good luck token
She keeps our dreams alive, unbroken
She's joyous, stalwart as an oak,
Bewitching, resonant, baroque
Ukrainian – sung, written, spoken...
Translation by Lydia Stone

38% dissimilar in their vocabularies, but also because they do not always adhere to identical phrase structures and word usage principles, and because they frequently exemplify different psychological principles in the linguistic interpretation of everyday events.

Let us note, to start, that the Baroque style as it emerged in Western Europe was aggressive, anti-reformation and ideologically biased. It either rejected previous cultural accomplishments, or synthesized and subordinated them. In Ukraine, however, there was almost nothing that the Baroque rejected or subordinated. As noted earlier, in many ways the new style blended naturally with local aesthetics and symbolism, thus Ukrainian arts continued to develop in a way that was faithful to their own frame of reference.

The same applies to the development of language. Relatively unfettered linguistic development resulted in specifically Ukrainian patterns of stress, subject to no rules, often governed not by grammatical rationale alone, but also by melodic rhythm, i.e. whimsical stresses in perfect harmony with the aesthetics of the Baroque (Ital. *barocco* – whimsical, fanciful). There are still many words with double, rhythm-melodical stress – *ясний* [bright, clear (masc.)], *твоя* [your (fem.)], *моя* [my (fem.)], *дівчина* [girl], *родовий* [family-adj. (masc.)], *люблю* [(I) love], etc.

This phenomenon is rarely observed in Russian, and many linguists, especially in Soviet times, attempted to impose rules on Ukrainian syllable stresses aimed at bringing Ukrainian more into line with Russian. Eminent academics speaking on *Slovo*, a radio program broadcast from Kyiv, have suggested that first person singular verbs in the present and past tenses should be pronounced with the stress on the last syllable – *ходжу* [(I) walk], *воджу* [(I) lead], *кажу* [(I) say], *була* [(I) was (fem.)]. Allegedly, this is in line with modern literary norms. But who has the right to define this norm, when folk songs go as follows: *По садочку хіджу, кониченька в'оджу* [I am strolling in the garden, walking my horse]; *кажу тобі правду: сватати не буду* [I am telling you the truth, I will not ask for you in marriage]; *ой, як була я маленька, колисала мене ненька* [Oh, when I was a baby, my mother cooed over me]? What these linguists labeled “nonstandard” stress was used by such classical Ukrainian authors as Lesya Ukrayinka, Stepan Rudansky - *Де ж то тая сила, що у предків була?*

Revelation would be an apt term to describe the phenomenon of the Baroque in Ukraine, since the style influenced not only architectural ideas and the fine arts, as in other European countries, but also the development of national philosophy, as well as the distinctive features of the Ukrainian people and their historical memory.

This effect was so strong because the aesthetics of the Baroque, which arrived in our country from Italy in the 17th century, was far from alien to the Ukrainian mentality. On the contrary, the Baroque found in Ukraine a receptive environment, as seen, for example in the near-magical ornamentation and symbolism of the Trypillian culture. (The so-called Trypillian culture, dating to the 5th-3rd millennia B.C., spread across the forest-steppe of modern Ukraine from the mid-Dnieper region down to the Buh and Dniester Rivers in the southwest.) Hence, by the beginning of the 18th century, an entirely local cultural phenomenon was growing and flourishing, a phenomenon that would become known in the literature as the Ukrainian Baroque.

Our purpose here is to trace the connection between aspects of the Baroque and distinctive features of thought as reflected in spoken Ukrainian. We believe this to be an important task, since it has the two following goals:

1. To help liberate the Ukrainian language from its 300-year-old burden of Russification. To this end, we will illustrate many of our points by citing parallels between the Russian and Ukrainian languages.
2. To demonstrate, especially to the English-speaking world, that since it has acknowledged Ukraine as a sovereign nation, it must also acknowledge the language of this country as separate from the Russian language². This is necessary not only because these languages even now, after centuries of Russification, are

¹ The original Ukrainian version of this article is available on the SLD web site www.americantranslators.org/divisions/SLD/slavfile.html.

² That is to say, to acknowledge it at the everyday level; for example to stop providing Ukrainian delegations with Russian-speaking guides and interpreters.

(Where is that strength our forefathers possessed?), and even Taras Shevchenko, who stressed the first syllable in the word **пиха** [arrogance] - *без пихи, так як довелося* [without arrogance, as it happened], although dictionaries insist on stressing the last syllable. Of course, stress is defined more strictly in formal speech than in folk songs or the language of fiction. But nonetheless, Ukrainian stress quite often differs from Russian even in words of similar sound and identical meaning. For instance, Ukrainians say *живопис* [painting (as genre)], *рукопис* [manuscript], *машинопис* [typewriting], *спина* [back (body part)], *граблі* [rake], *верба* [pussy willow], *кидати* [to throw], etc.

For all its wealth of imaginative forms and decorative excess, the Baroque tends to maintain a sense of appropriate proportion, as does the Ukrainian language. In its frequent use of semantic hierarchies, Ukrainian behaves differently from Russian. For example, both languages have the words **книга** and **книжка** [book]. In Ukrainian, the former word is used either to designate objects of a higher order - *книга пам'яті* [book of memory], or to convey a specific meaning - *родовідна книга* [family register], *бухгалтерська книга* [accounts ledger]. The latter word has its usual everyday connotation (cf. Russian *сел за книги* and Ukrainian *узявся до книжок* [took to reading]). In Russian, however, the sole difference is the size of the object: **книга** covers all higher, regular and special meanings, while **книжка** indicates only smaller size - *трудова книжка* [employment record], *записна книжка* [notebook].

Similarly, in Ukrainian, **сад** [garden/orchard] refers to a site specifically scientific or industrial in nature - *сад підприємства, що виробляє фруктові консерви* [garden/orchard belonging to an enterprise that produces canned fruit], *ботанічний сад* [botanical garden], or some higher notion - *райський сад* [the Garden of Eden], *сади Семіраміди* [the Hanging Gardens of Babylon]. The garden that grows by your house, i.e. something more ordinary, even if rather large, is called **садок** [small garden], and should not be confused with the Russian **садик** [small garden], either in size or emotional nuance. The Ukrainian *садок вишневий коло хати* [the cherry orchard by the house] has nothing in common with the sentimental Russian *садик*.

No value judgment concerning Ukrainian and Russian is implied here; neither language is better or worse than the other. They are psychologically different from each other in their verbal assessment of phenomena and objects, as are the national characters of their speakers: Russians favor classicism and simplicity, while Ukrainians abide by a Baroque sense of proportion. It is important that translators take this into account.

The 17th-18th centuries were an extremely turbulent era in Ukraine. The country was trying to resist ceaseless attacks by the Ottoman Empire from the south, while simultaneously engaging in numerous wars for independence from Poland. The Ukrainian people readily recognized the ability of the Baroque emphasis on dynamism to reflect the nature of this period. The language reacted to this historical situation by favoring verbs, i.e. words expressing action [*Editors' Note*: in Ukrainian, verb=дієслово, literally "action-word"]. Deliberately oversimplifying, we might proclaim, "A true Ukrainian relishes verbs!"

It is with verbs, always juicy and exquisite, sometimes biting and fanciful, that Ukrainians express not only the dynamics of actions but also complex and layered moods, fleeting moments and the most delicate impulses. There is often a tendency to derive the names of objects from verbs. Consider the Russian word **столовая** [dining room, cafeteria]. It is derived from the noun **стол** [table], whereas the corresponding Ukrainian word **їдальня** is based on the verb **їсти** [to eat]. The Russian **гостинная** [living room] is a derivative of **гость** [guest], while its Ukrainian counterpart **вітальня** is rooted in the verb **вітати** [to greet]. The situation is similar for the names of professions: *сапожник* [shoemaker] in Russian and *швець* in Ukrainian, derived from the verb **шити** [to sew]; *портной* [tailor] in Russian and *кравець* in Ukrainian, derived from the verb **краяти** [to cut (fabric)]; *художник* [painter, artist] in Russian and *малюяр* in Ukrainian, derived from the verb **малювати** [to paint].

The striking ability of the Ukrainian language not merely to borrow and assimilate foreign words, but, very often, to create its own Ukrainian counterparts, had long been a nuisance for Bolshevik language specialists, who dutifully furthered the party policy of "bringing the Russian and Ukrainian languages closer together," a process which we can now call by its proper name - Russification. The more stupid "language bosses" simply prohibited certain words. The smarter ones made certain words the butt of jokes, an approach that was far more effective...

In 1975, the author of this article was a carefree freshman majoring in Ukrainian Language and Literature at Odesa State University. Our class was just beginning month two of the first semester, still diligently attending lectures, assiduously taking notes and virtually worshipping our professors. On one particular morning, the subject was Introduction to Linguistics, and the lecturer was a professor of the Department of Languages and Literatures, respected by students and colleagues alike. The topic of the day's lecture was foreign language lexical borrowings. The professor stated the major principles and stressed the benefits of internationalism in the development of any language. After a short pause he said that, unfortunately, certain Ukrainian artists and writers, unable to appreciate the value of this process, stubbornly defend their right to reinvent the wheel. For example, asked the professor, do you know how, according to their rules, the phrase *Автомобіль поїхав до фотоательє* [The car went to the photographer's] would look? The professor paused for a moment, then delivered the punch line: "*Самопер попер до мордорису*" [The self-pusher bore down on the mug-painter]! Everybody in the room laughed uproariously, and so did I, a wet-behind-the-ears student majoring in the conformity of the Brezhnev era. But this left a bitter taste in my mouth, - how could anyone speak of his mother tongue with such contempt?

The aforementioned prevalence of verb constructions in Ukrainian is far from the most important difference between it and Russian. A more important difference between the two languages lies in the very way verbs are used, and this is directly relevant to the issue of the speakers of these languages and their national character. For example, in Russian the verb **прижать** [to press, to clasp] can be used in relation to a thing or a person.

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Alexander, R., Mladenova, O.M.; Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. 2000, 827 pages in two soft-cover volumes
\$24.95 per volume, obtainable from www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress
reviewed by Emilia Balke

Intensive Bulgarian is a two-volume textbook published by The University of Wisconsin Press. It was written by Ronelle Alexander, professor of Slavic Languages and literature at the University of California Berkeley with the assistance of Olga M. Mladenova, a native speaker of Bulgarian, and the input of a number of educated Bulgarian native speakers and linguists. This work presents a unique comprehensive and in-depth linguistic study for the purpose of teaching the Bulgarian language to English speaking students. The book offers material for students at all levels (beginners, intermediate, and advanced) and can also be used as an extensive reference grammar.

In a systematic, cumulative, and balanced way, Professor Alexander introduces the basic concepts of Bulgarian phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax. The language of instruction is simple and easy to understand. In addition to the basic grammar, some more advanced grammar is offered for undergraduates specializing in Slavic languages or linguistics. The textbook provides an extensive analysis of the aorist tense and the renarrated mood. It goes as deep as presenting the “и” with a grave accent mark, which has the meaning of the third person singular feminine possessive pronoun “her”, a very minor grammatical feature which is expressed through a unique letter. (I still haven’t found a way to type it, since it is not on the keyboard or in the charts of symbols.)

The lessons consist of dialogues, theoretical presentations of basic grammar, exercises, additional grammar notes, sample sentences, sentences for translation, reading sections, glossaries, and cultural commentaries. Prof. Alexander wrote some of the dialogues, but most were either written or edited by native Bulgarian speakers. The texts are informative and entertaining. The

cultural notes are helpful and amusing, offering shrewd observations and insights into Bulgarian culture, customs, traditions, verbal and body language, educational system, social structure, and habits. They give the impression that they were written by someone who understands, loves and respects Bulgarian culture. The reading materials include a general overview of the Bulgarian language and dialects. The language of the texts offered for reading is colloquial, contemporary and contains frequently used general words and phrases. The textbook’s extensive glossaries are useful reference materials. The textbook presents a creative and unique approach to Bulgarian grammar, which facilitates its accessibility to foreigners.

The book is written for students of Bulgarian as a foreign language, however, I believe that a much wider audience may benefit from it. Native Bulgarian students of English will find excellent translations of a wide variety of Bulgarian words and phrases. Bulgarians in general may find the original approach to Bulgarian grammar very informative and view some of the cultural notes as amusing insights into everyday life, which they may never have thought about before.

One can also obtain tapes and CDs (one per volume) that complement the textbook. These contain recordings of all the dialogues, most of the sample sentences, certain readings, and brief excerpts of Bulgarian folk music. The CDs can be ordered from UC Berkeley at tel. (510) 642-0767, Ext. 29.

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UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

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In Ukrainian, however, the speaker must first assess the situation and then choose the appropriate verb. Hence, in translating the sentence *прижати преступника на допросе* [to corner a criminal at an interrogation] one would say **притиснути** [to press], in the sentence *прижати девушку к себе* [to hug the girl] — **пригорнути** [to embrace], in the sentence *девочка крепко прижимала куклу* [the girl clasped the doll tightly] — **тулила** [clasped], and in the sentence *она прижалась к нему всем телом* [she pressed against him with her whole body] — **припала** [clung]. That makes four Ukrainian verbs for one Russian verb, and this is not merely the result of a desire to have the maximum number of synonyms. It results from a process that began when the inherent thought processes of the Ukrainian were influenced by the Baroque, to express conditions and feelings precisely and specifically by means of verbs, which to this day is a salient feature of the Ukrainian language.

Many of the Baroque influences in our modern, especially literary, language are now masked behind notions of appropriate Russian norms. Now not only people working in the mass media and belles-lettres, but even eminent academic specialists in language, literature and etymology, handle the verb **одержувати (отримувати)** [to get, to obtain] precisely like the Russian verb **получать**, which can be used in all possible situations, regardless of the circumstances. However:

- A literate Ukrainian will apply **одержувати (отримувати)** only in connection with something physical or material, which can be seen, touched, held or sold, such as money, tickets, apartments, etc.
- In those cases when the word in question designates something abstract, or something obtained through someone else’s good offices or actions, the word **дістати** [to get] is used - **дістати** призначення на роботу [to obtain a position], **дістати** догану [to be censured], **дістати** задоволення [to enjoy].

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LINGUISTS IN KOSOVO

Hoyte King

On entering Kosovo in the summer of 1999, the US Army, finding itself in need of linguistic support, hired specialists in the languages of the region, as well as in Russian. Linguists accompanied the first convoy to enter the area, exposing themselves to the same hazards faced by the soldiers. The first group of Russian linguists, including the author of this article, was hired in September of that year. This article describes some of the experiences and impressions I gleaned while serving as a Russian linguist in Kosovo for a period of one year.

My official duties included translation, interpreting and open source collection of documents in the Russian press pertaining to Kosovo. Russian speakers were needed because the US Army had given up part of its sector of responsibility in Kosovo to the Russian Peacekeeping Force, consisting of Airborne troops primarily from Pskov, Russia. US military police worked and lived in the Russian area of responsibility and US Army squads regularly patrolled there jointly with Russian forces. During squad exchanges, approximately eight US soldiers would spend 2-3 days living and patrolling with a like number of Russian counterparts in the Russian zone of responsibility, or vice versa and I would accompany them. This work was fun, yet exhausting. I was the only linguist on these squad exchanges, and as such, I was usually the only person on the exchange who knew both languages. Hence, my help was in constant demand. A typical day consisted of about 15 hours of nearly continuous interpreting.

Soldiers love to trade things among themselves, so one popular topic was what was being offered in trade. The Russians even coined a new word for trading: *чайнж*. For the Russians, trading was more than a way to while away the time. These soldiers went without pay for six months in late 1999 and early 2000. Through trading they were able to provide themselves with winter boots, for example. US squads would occasionally get me out on patrol at five o'clock in the morning to go trading with the Russians. This was good interpreting practice, if nothing more.

I viewed squad exchanges as much more than interpreting assignments. They were opportunities for soldiers trained to fight each other to learn about the other side. It is difficult to view someone as an enemy after talking and working with him. In the past, squad exchanges had received poor interpreting support, leading to misunderstandings and confusion. I tried to use my interpreting skills to make greater understanding and friendly relations possible.

Meetings were held between commanders from time to time. Officers from different units would usually have their own linguists accompany them. Sometimes each officer who spoke would have his own linguist interpret. At other times one linguist would interpret the entire meeting to expedite the proceedings. During regularly scheduled meetings, each officer's linguist would give a whispered simultaneous interpretation to his or her principal, so several interpreters might be working at the same time, interpreting the same statements in an undertone in different parts of the room.

For the most part, terminology I needed to use related to military topics and vocabulary used in everyday life. The Russian side had difficulty with terminology connected to public affairs, which in this context included such activities as providing escorts and

protection for farmers in the field, or collecting information in support of decisions on financing of local infrastructure projects. They could not agree on a good term in Russian for this concept. The common soldier in both armies was quite fond of slang. Russian soldiers occasionally gave me a sampling, using a vocabulary totally unfamiliar to anyone who has not served in the Russian military. One example would be the word *фазать* — to sleep. Others were far more vulgar. Many of the slang terms I heard for the first time while on duty in Kosovo can now be found in the new «Большой толковый словарь сленга» published by the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The sociopolitical situation in Kosovo, of course, had specific ramifications for the linguists serving there. For example, linguists of Macedonian nationality could not safely go out alone lest the Albanians mistake them for Serbs. It was quite common for local Albanians to refuse to speak to US Army personnel through a linguist who did not know Albanian, though virtually all Albanians over the age of 12 speak Serbian. For their part, Serbs were often mistrustful of the work performed by local Albanian linguists. As a Russian linguist and an American I was viewed with more trust by both sides; the Albanians saw me as an American, the Serbs as someone well disposed to Slavic culture. The only problems I encountered were with US Army personnel who looked with suspicion on anyone who spent time with Russian troops. I had to balance this fact with the need to practice and improve my Russian language skills.

The contractor who hired the linguists was a private company in the greater Washington DC area, which provided a variety of logistical and support services to this mission. This company had difficulty finding qualified personnel to fill the Serb and Albanian language slots. In my view, this was because the pay was not sufficient to attract people with the necessary educational level. I witnessed numerous situations in which Serbian and Albanian linguists from the United States were unable to interpret through lack of knowledge of terminology. A major reason for this was that they had had only a high school education (or less) in their language of expertise or in English. Qualified Russian linguists, on the other hand, were not difficult to find, due to the dearth of steady employment in that language in the United States at the time, and because of the greater pool of Russian specialists.

Working in Kosovo for a year was a worthwhile experience, both professionally and personally, giving me constant language practice and exposure to other cultures. The occasional problem with the US military did arise, partly because I was a civilian making higher pay, and partly because I spoke the language of a country the US Army had been trained to fight. It was difficult to have a normal working relationship with both the Americans and the Russians. Though I made it a point to recount to my superiors every conversation I had with Russian soldiers, nonetheless US Army soldiers viewed me with suspicion.

Hoyte King (creativeserv@worldnet.att.net) studied in Russia for three years and in 1997 received a graduate degree in language and literature from St. Petersburg State University and returned to the US. He has translated a book on Russian iconography.

INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING FOR TRANSLATORS

Review of seminar presented by Bob Taylor at ATA Financial Conference, New York, May 18 - 20

Reviewed by Elana Pick

18–20 мая текущего года на базе юридического факультета Нью-Йоркского университета прошла конференция для переводчиков по финансово-бухгалтерской тематике. Для меня она оказалась первой, так как, несмотря на мой многолетний опыт преподавателя языков и переводчика по обеим сторонам океана, я вступила в Ассоциацию и сдала экзамен на аккредитацию только в этом году.

С одной стороны, наверное, моя оценка может быть односторонней, так как мне не с чем сравнивать и я не знакома с форматом и традициями проведения в Ассоциации пленарных и рабочих конференций и заседаний. С другой стороны, пожалуй, извне или новичку и видится лучше.

Моя чисто эмоциональная реакция может уложиться в одно очень русское слово: *Здорово!* Просто замечательно, что можно было в этих строго академических, старых и одновременно с большим вкусом современно обустроенных стенах встретить коллег, как асов нашего дела, так и новичков. Не буду распространяться на эту тему: насколько я поняла — это атмосфера всех конференций Ассоциации. Именно эмоциональное восприятие и стало для меня основной причиной того, что я осмелилась принять предложение написать отзыв на семинар Боба Тейлора.

Теперь — профессиональный аспект. Безусловно, конференция способствует расширению представлений о современных тенденциях в развитии устного и письменного переводческого мастерства в мире, дает возможность увидеть и услышать людей, которые в разных уголках мира занимаются тем же самым, чем и ты. Мне думается, что основную ценность конференций представляют именно семинары, где живьем (при всем моем уважении к современным способам передачи информации), в достаточно узком кругу можно обсуждать важные для нашей профессии аспекты: технику перевода, новые технологии, а главное то, что составляет сердцевину нашего толмаческого искусства — передачу мысли и вложенного в эту мысль чувства с одного языка на другой.

В этом отношении семинар Боба Тейлора заслуживает самой высокой оценки и, я думаю, может быть идеальным образцом для подобного рода семинаров по конкретным узким тематикам. Боб вел семинар в очень комфортном для слушателя интерактивном режиме, приглашая нас к диалогу, давая нам возможность искать и находить вместе с ним.

Даже обладая самым богатым воображением, трудно себе представить, что семинар по бухгалтерско-учетной тематике может быть таким увлекательным. Неоднократно в аудитории раздавался смех при наших попытках сходу перевести с английского языка на русский название понятий и процедур, которые просто никогда и не существовали в российской экономике и отчетности.

Мне казалось, что только я такая невежа, но выяснилось, что многие переводчики не полностью освоили понятийный аппарат финансово-учетной тематики. Помимо просто перевода, Боб очень ясно и понятно разъяснил нам основные понятия; традиции при ведении учетной документации в СССР, России и других странах на бывшей территории СССР и в США; общепринятые формы отчетности; и, кроме того, типичные ошибки, которые могут привести к серьезным последствиям в общении и переговорах.

Из своей практики устного переводчика я знаю, что некачественный письменный перевод деловой документации часто создает огромные препятствия в решении вопросов сотрудничества между странами. Люди приезжают на деловые переговоры с определенным настроением. Иногда стоит огромных усилий этот настрой изменить во время переговоров.

При проведении семинара и при подготовке материалов, которые мы получили на руки, Боб использовал свое финансовое образование и большой опыт работы в банке. Мне кажется, что все участники семинара получили огромную пользу; мы задавали массу вопросов как по теме семинара, так и по общей организации работы свободного переводчика. Материалы, которые Боб подготовил для семинара, послужат ценным подспорьем в работе, и я рада, что они будут опубликованы для всех нас в следующем бюллетене секции.

С нетерпением жду конференции в Лос-Анджелесе и надеюсь, что она пройдет на таком же высоком уровне.

Elana Pick (elanapp@att.net) earned an MA in Teaching Foreign Languages and Journalism and a Doctorate in School Administration in the former USSR. She lives in New York where she works as a court and freelance interpreter and teaches medical interpretation.

Editor's note: Bob Taylor will be giving a presentation similar to the one reviewed above at the next ATA Conference in LA. In connection with our review of that presentation, we plan to publish his excellent terminology sheet and other handout materials.

REMINDER

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Uzula Klingenberg has returned to the U.S. from Poland and can be reached at Vaukling@aol.com.

- c) When something involves personal effort, various verbs may fit, depending on the situation: education, a professorship, or an academic degree requires the verb **здобувати** [to acquire, to earn], first place in a competition – **виборювати** [to take], crops – **виросувати** [to grow], **збирати** [to harvest], reproductive increase [in livestock-breeding] – **добиватися** [to achieve], gasoline extracted from oil – **виробляти** [to manufacture].

Russian, too, has verbs in its linguistic arsenal corresponding to these situations. But for the most part it is the universal **получать** that is used. The Ukrainian language, on the other hand, does not tolerate universals.

I would argue that to restore the high culture of the Ukrainian language, we need yet another synthesis. But this time what is required goes beyond a synthesis of the Baroque with the thought and mentality of the Ukrainian people to include a synthesis of the folk language with the modern literary language - and without the Russified input! The result will be impressive!

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Ukrainian Editor: *Vadim Khazin* of Colts Neck, NJ can be reached at vadkhazin@compuserve.com.

Our Annual SLD Banquet will be held at
The Black Sea,
 a Russian restaurant in Los Angeles
 at 7:00 PM on Friday, November 2.
 Dinner will include:
 zakuski
 a choice of main course
 coffee/tea and dessert.

The cost of non-alcoholic beverages is included.
 To reserve your place at our table, please send \$40
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 Transportation arrangements are being made, and
 will involve a modest additional fee
 for those of us without a car.
 Please send payment by October 15th.



Attention lexicography lovers, technical translators, terminologists and dictionary devotees!

The Slavic Languages Division will be holding its 5th annual
Susana Greiss Distinguished Guest Lecture

on Thursday, November 1st, 2001,
at the American Translators Association conference in Los Angeles.

This year's guest speaker will be **Patricia Newman, past president**, honorary member and secretary of the **ATA**, founder of the Science and Technology Division, Gode Medal laureate and **co-author of the 4th edition of *The Callaham Russian-English Dictionary of Science and Technology***.

Her presentation, entitled "**The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful**," will have two parts.

The first will describe the lexicographical process and the work involved in compiling *The Callaham Russian-English Dictionary of Science and Technology*. During the second part, listeners will hear a long-time user of translation and interpretation services discuss the good, the bad and the incredibly beautiful aspects of our work from the customer's perspective.

The Slavic Languages Division encourages all interested parties to attend.

Further details of time and place can be found in the preliminary conference program.