



AN INTERVIEW WITH Sergei Chernov Deputy Chief Interpreter at the IMF and SLD's 2015 Susana Greiss Distinguished Speaker

Interview conducted by Nora Favorov

On Thursday November 5, at the ATA Annual Conference in Miami, Sergei Chernov will deliver a talk titled "The Early History of Simultaneous Interpreting in the USSR and the West." Mr. Chernov has a CV any aspiring Russian<>English interpreter would envy. Besides "coming by" his profession "honestly" (as the son of UN interpreter, educator, and author Gheli Vassilyevich Chernov, a towering authority in the field of simultaneous interpretation), he graduated from both the United Nations Language Training Courses and the storied Maurice Thorez Institute of Foreign Languages, both in Moscow. We thank him for consenting to be interviewed by *SlavFile's* Nora Favorov. The interview provides a more engaging overview of his career than this introduction can hope to, so we will let Chernov take it from here.

NF: You grew up around interpretation, being the son of Gheli Vassilyevich Chernov, a prominent figure in the world of simultaneous interpretation both at the UN and "InYaz" (today, Moscow State Linguistic University). Did you always know you would enter the field of interpretation, or did you consider other career paths?

SC: My father was a major influence on my career choice. When I was in elementary school, he gave me the pocket English-Russian/Russian-English dictionary that he had just published, autographed it, and told me to put it to good use. I have been trying ever since. When we lived in New York in the mid-1970s, I sometimes did my homework after school in an empty interpretation booth at the UN. This was my first contact with the real world of interpreting, and as I listened to my father and his colleagues working in the Russian booth, I began to realize how challenging yet rewarding this profession was. My career choice was pre-determined, and there was no going back, even

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SOPHIE LUBENSKY (1935-2015)

Dictionary Author and 2014 Greiss Lecturer

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SlavFile is published four times yearly.

Articles of interest to Slavic translators and interpreters are invited.

Designation of Slavic Languages Division membership on ATA membership application or renewal form provides full membership.

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Alexandria, VA 22314

Submissions become the property of *SlavFile* and are subject to editing.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or of the Division.

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when my classmates, who were children of diplomats, called interpreters their “international slaves.”

NF: Can you tell us a little bit about your biography and how it shaped your interest in language?

SC: I was born in New York in 1965, when my father was working at the UN and was only two when the family returned to the USSR, so my first memories are not of New York but of Moscow. Moreover, my Soviet birth certificate stated that I was born in Moscow, and it was not until the early 1990s that I was able to receive an American passport at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. In a way, this story defines my attitude to the English language: I was born in the U.S. but with native Russian and acquired English (which I did not start learning until the age of seven). So, I have been working on my English all my life. I was very fortunate to spend my formative pre-teen and teenage years in New York, when my father worked at the UN for the second time. Back in Moscow, my English high school teacher told me that I did not deserve good grades because my knowledge of the language was not a result of my efforts, but only due to my privileged situation that had allowed me to live in the U.S.

NF: What advice do you have for U.S.-based interpreters trying to keep pace with the rapidly evolving Russian language?

SC: I have been shuttling between Russia and the U.S. most of my life. The irony is that when living in one country you surround yourself with an artificial environment (media, friends) of the other country, and vice versa. For example, when I returned to Moscow from New York in 1980, I found myself in an information vacuum and desperately scanned the short-wave radio until I found VOA. Imagine the look on the faces of my teacher and classmates when I used the VOA news reports to talk about “current events” at school: instead of describing the great successes of the Soviet grain harvest, I talked about the American hostage crisis in Iran! Later, in the early 1990s in Moscow, I would have my car radio tuned to *Radio Maximum*, the only FM station that had English-language programming, and even got to know Cami McCormick and other Americans who worked there.

Soon after my wife and I moved to Washington in 1993 and our son was born, we realized that we needed to create an environment that would enable him to grow up bilingual, and I remember reading a lot of literature on childhood bilingualism. We created a strictly Russian environment at home, complete with satellite TV, Russian cartoons on VHS, Russian music in the car, i.e., the mirror environment of what I had always tried to create for myself in Russia.

My advice to colleagues living in the U.S. and trying to keep up with modern Russian is very simple: always finish your sentences in the same language you start them, read, watch, and listen to as much Russian media as possible, and travel back often – if not for work, at least on vacation. When working as interpreters or translators, however, try to refrain from using those new turns of phrase or flashy colloquialisms – in my view, it is almost

always better to use more conservative language than the original speaker, unless you find yourself in very specific situations (e.g., interpreting for show business personalities). What you absolutely need to do, however, is to learn and understand all these neologisms or new acronyms correctly so that you do not make the mistake a colleague made in the 1990s when a Russian speaker talked about the difference between the rule of law and mob rule (“жизнь по закону” vs. “жизнь по понятиям”), and the English interpretation was something about “living by the notions.”

NF: What do you see as the comparative strengths and weaknesses of interpreter education in the U.S. and Russia?

SC: I am proud to say that I am about to find out – this fall I will teach interpretation to the first group of Russian-A students (those for whom Russian is their dominant language) at the new Masters level T&I program at the University of Maryland! More generally, I would say that the system we had at InYaz (the Maurice Thorez Foreign Languages Institute in Moscow) and at the UN Interpreters’ Training Program in Moscow (UNLTC was probably close to ideal: for the first five years you thoroughly learned your languages – from phonetics that taught students to sound like the BBC, to English literature going all the way back to Chaucer, to very advanced grammar rules), and your general knowledge subjects (history, law, economics, international affairs), and acquired fundamental translation and interpreting skills (stopping short of simultaneous). A very important place in the curriculum was devoted to advanced Russian: we studied it for four years in a program similar to that offered to journalism majors. After graduation, a few lucky students made it to the UN interpreters’

program or the Higher Courses for Interpreters – a graduate program started by my father at InYaz – effectively the first real interpreting school in the USSR. Being a biased graduate of the UN program, I am convinced that our motivation to study was much more powerful – a career at the UN awaited those who graduated successfully.

NF: How did your professional career bring you to where you are today at the IMF?

SC: I graduated from the Maurice Thorez Institute in 1989 and the UN interpreting school in 1990, fully expecting that a coveted move to UN Headquarters in New York was right around the corner. History got in the way: the USSR was on the brink of collapse, and the Soviet “rotation” system of interpreters in the Russian booth at the UN was falling apart. Interpreters whose tour of duty was ending signed direct contracts with the UN Secretariat (not via the Soviet Foreign Ministry), and “my” vacancy never materialized. In the end, it turned out to be a blessing for my professional growth: I joined a small circle of friends and colleagues who embraced the free market and became freelancers, working non-stop for Western news outlets, oil companies, business delegations, international organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF, and seemingly endless international conferences that were happy to employ professionally trained interpreters. These years of freelance work helped me polish my craft and grow professionally. When an offer of a job as staff interpreter at the World Bank in Washington came in 1993, I did not think twice. In 1999, I was offered a position at the IMF, and have worked there ever since as an interpreter/translator. I am now deputy chief interpreter.

**After Hours Café aka Poetry Reading
Friday • 9:00pm - 11:00pm
Drink in poetry and prose!**

ATA’s Literary Division hosts this coffeehouse “open mic” reading. Read your original or translated excerpt, listen to readings from your multitalented peers, or both. If reading, don’t forget to bring your works with you.

Note: Because this event has become so popular we have been forced to limit readings to



10 minutes each and to English only (a small percent of your time may be used to convey the sound of an original poem).

**Book Splash:
Friday • 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Celebrate books!**

Browse among books and chat with their authors and translators. The opportunity to purchase books will also be available.

Diary of an Administrator

Lucy Gunderson, SLD Administrator



It's hard to believe this is my last column as SLD Administrator! It has been a real privilege to work with so many of you over the past four years. I have been so impressed by the breadth and depth of your knowledge and talents. Thank you so much for sharing them with us in your conference presentations, *SlavFile* and blog articles, and volunteer efforts.

As a division, we have achieved an enormous amount over the past four years. We revamped our website, launched a blog, set up a LinkedIn group, created a Twitter feed, published *SlavFile* four times a year, planned banquets, recruited conference speakers, and explored opportunities with translator groups abroad. These achievements are due to the efforts of our dedicated Leadership Council members. I would like to take this chance to thank everyone who has served in that capacity over the past four years.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled that Ekaterina Howard and Fred Grasso will be taking over the helm as Administrator and Assistant Administrator, respectively. Ekaterina has served on the Leadership Council for the past two years and during this time has worked on the Twitter account and a video greeting from the SLD for the 2014 UTIC conference. She will be a well-organized and capable leader who

will be able to take our division activities up to the next level. Fred has been Assistant Administrator for the past two years and served on the Leadership Council for one year prior to that. Over these three years, he has done a terrific job organizing our banquets, managing our blog, and acting as a sounding board for me. Thanks to Ekaterina for taking on the job of managing our division and to Fred for continuing in his role and also for all the support he has given me. I hope all our members will give their support to Ekaterina and Fred and answer their calls for assistance.

As for me, I am looking forward to doing anything I can to help the SLD in my new position as Chair of the Divisions Committee. Divisions are the heart and soul of ATA, and they need our constant support and encouragement to thrive. Please feel free to contact me at russophile@earthlink.net if you ever have a question or concern about any matter related to any division.

Thanks again to everyone. It has been a real pleasure.

SLD NEWCOMERS' LUNCH

New to the conference? New to the SLD? Or just thinking about joining SLD and want to learn more? Then this lunch is for you! Join some of the SLD's "old hands" for lunch, informal discussion of the SLD and all things translating/interpreting, and a chance to meet fellow newcomers.

Thursday, November 5

Downtown Bistro, 114 SE 1st St. (a 6-minute walk from the hotel)

Meet in the hotel lobby at 12:20, or just walk there on your own.

RSVP by Monday, November 2, so we can ensure enough space for our group at the restaurant. Contact Jen Guernsey by email jenguernsey@gmail.com, cell phone or text (703) 887 6485.

WHY THE BOOKS?

Lynn Visson



From the editors: In honor of SlavFile's 25th Anniversary, we have decided to make 2016 the year of the book, inviting, encouraging and cajoling SLD members who have written or translated books to write about them. We have asked Lynn Visson to kick off this feature by writing about the 10 books on Russian translation, language and culture she has written.

The mountain explorer and conqueror of Mt. Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary, allegedly answered the question, "Why do men climb mountains?" by saying, "Because they are there." A similar answer could be given to the question, "Why do people write books?" Because they are there, inside the mind and brain, born of an embryonic thought gradually growing and sprouting, waiting to come to term and to paper in full linguistic bloom.

Some of my 10 books and numerous articles, the 6 books I have translated and two I have edited now seem like dusty mementos from a far-off past. A few are unloved stepchildren, while others are part and parcel of my life and thought. When I started writing several decades ago it would have been mildly insane to think of publication in the USSR, while now, with the advent of perestroika, many of my books have been published in Russia in both Russian and English.

In a later article I will discuss the translated books and most of my original works on subjects other than translation and interpretation. But the focus on Russia and the Russian language has been consistent throughout, inspired by my Russian background, university studies and trips to the USSR. Though five of the books deal with translation and interpretation (and I will have a new book on Russian-English translation coming out in Moscow this fall), the very first book (which I co-authored back in 1974) had nothing to do with language. A combined interest in Russia and the culinary arts led to the publication of one of the very first guides to Moscow restaurants. After all, exchange students have to eat!

The second one could have served as a brilliant example to aspiring graduate students on how not to write. This was a reworking of my Harvard Ph.D. dissertation, *Sergei Esenin: Poet of the Crossroads* (Colloquium Slavicum; Beiträge zur Slavistik; Würzburg: JAL Verlag, 1980). All I can say in defense of this clumsy, awkwardly written masterpiece of execrable academic prose is that at a time when I was still thinking of a career in academics and of the tenure pot of gold at the end of the dissertation rainbow,

the publication of a book was a *sine qua non*. Work on the volume provided an excellent introduction to the complexity of translation, especially when dealing with poetry, as I had to translate a mountain of quotations from Esenin. I most strongly recommend that anyone interested in how to translate poetry or how to write readable, logical and clear academic prose refrain from opening this book. The comments on and criticisms of the book definitely pointed me towards acquiring some notion on how to properly express complex ideas in print.

Back to translation and interpretation. After nearly a decade of teaching Russian language and literature at several universities, including Columbia and Bryn Mawr College, when I ultimately made the decision to move away from academics to a career as a professional simultaneous interpreter, I was naturally interested in the available literature on interpreter training. Books intended for interpreters working with Russian were nearly all published in the USSR and tended to be highly theoretical, packed with long sentences stuffed with multiple clauses and highly abstract notions.

What interested me was the nitty-gritty of how, what, and why — how under the pressure of simultaneous interpretation a Russian sentence could be deconstructed and instantaneously reconstructed in English — a kind of "how-to" textbook. Since such a book did not exist, the solution was to write it. Moreover, over time experienced interpreters have a tendency to become pleasantly lazy and gloss over all sorts of linguistic pitfalls and difficulties. I wanted to grab the bull by the verbal horns and deal head-on with issues such as verb tense (Russian has no compound past tenses, which are critical in English), prepositions (whose usage rarely corresponds in the two languages), and the art of dealing with Soviet political clichés (путь к будущему, недозволенность, всем известно что). Russian speeches at the UN provided plenty of useful linguistic material, and at the back of the textbook I included excerpts on various subjects [*From Russian into English: An Introduction to Simultaneous Interpretation*, Ardis: Ann Arbor, MI, 1991; Second Edition Focus Publishing: Newburyport, MA 1999]. My Moscow publisher, RValent, which specializes in works on translation and interpretation, had the book translated and adapted for use in Russia. To my considerable surprise it became quite

successful, was used as a textbook in many translation and interpretation courses, and is now in its eighth edition (Линн Виссон, *Синхронный перевод с русского на английский* (Перевод с английского), Москва: Р.Валент, 2012).

A few words about RValent. This unusual and daring small Moscow publishing house is entirely run and staffed by women. Operating out of tiny quarters, evicted again and again by building owners who were after greater profits, struggling with perpetually changing Russian tax laws, this plucky and determined group of editors led by the publishing house director Valentina Ruzhanovna Kolesnichenko, built an enterprise that is now nearly 12 years old. Their books are used as textbooks of interpretation and translation in dozens of classrooms and by individuals studying translation and interpretation. A few years ago as the Slavic Languages Division's Greiss speaker at the Annual Conference of the American Translators Association, Valentina Ruzhanovna described the house's struggle to keep publishing and distributing books despite daunting financial and bureaucratic obstacles. The sincerity of her story, her courage and unshakeable belief in the importance of continuing to publish brought tears to the eyes of many in the audience.

Reading is one thing, and speaking another. It occurred to me that a set of speeches in Russian on a variety of subjects, read by native speakers of Russian, with translations into English read by English native speakers, could prove useful to students both here and in Russia. The recording sessions in Russian were quite amusing, as some of the Russian readers were professional actors who tried to make *Hamlet* out of statements from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The English texts were read by native speakers of English illustrating (deliberately) a variety of accents, including American, British, and Canadian. My two audiocourses, *Практикум 1 по синхронному переводу с русского языка на английский (с аудиоприложением)* (Москва: Р.Валент, 2000, 2005, 2007) consisted of 25 texts in Russian, with difficult idioms and expressions highlighted and commented on, and with English translations of the texts. These were first issued as books with audio materials, originally with cassette tapes, then with CDs, and later with MP3s. The first volume dealt with texts on a wide range of subjects ranging from international affairs to the drug problem and painting. The second volume, with a similar format, contained 20 texts on social and economic issues.

While the overall reaction to the textbook and audiocourses was quite positive, there were some bumps

in the road. Russians occasionally grumbled about this American who was purporting to teach them something, but after the books took off in foreign language institutes, I started receiving a huge volume of both fan mail and letters with excellent questions, which I tried to answer in later editions. Questions and discussions with students in various Russian classrooms were also extremely useful in revising subsequent editions. The interpretation textbook and the first audiocourse went through eight editions and the second audiocourse through three. The material about the political and economic situation, however, inevitably grew stale, and the books therefore less valuable to students. But I must admit that it is still highly flattering (though perhaps not entirely deserved) when Russian students queue up for dedications and autographs in their copies of the books.

The next book, *Русские проблемы в английской речи: слова и фразы в контексте двух культур* (Москва: Р.Валент, 2003), now in its sixth edition, is one of my favorites, probably because it is based on personal experience far more than on any printed sources. Growing up with émigré intelligentsia parents, and through a 35-year marriage to a highly educated and cultured Muscovite, I was always fascinated by how individuals who expressed themselves in beautiful, literary Russian often wound up sounding like crude bricklayers in English. Somehow it seemed impossible for this to be purely a matter of language; the issue seemed to be hidden somewhere within the complex intersection between language and culture. I don't remember how many times my husband and his émigré friends said something which would have been perfectly acceptable, witty and elegant in Russian, and which when uttered in English made one want to hide under the table.

Rather than simply gritting teeth and muttering "you can't say that," I decided to analyze these errors to help Russians avoid "sitting down into a puddle" (putting your foot into your mouth) and Americans understand what the Russians were trying to get across. I paid particular attention to American optimism – "the power of positive thinking" – as reflected in language (e.g., "tomorrow is another day," "it will all work out," "great," "fantastic" – as a description of almost anything) vs. ingrained Russian pessimism ("хуже быть не может") and the culture of запреты ("нельзя", "не положено", "не рекомендуется", "не нужно/не надо"), that combination of Russian fatalism and pessimism and Soviet диктат. Such negativism is frequently linked to chronic passivity ("А что мне делать?", "Ну, так суждено"), the direct opposite of the American "Go for the gold" or "You can

do it.” The book also discussed major linguistic-psychological differences in etiquette (Russian tends to use “пожалуйста” far less often than English speakers say “please,” and intonation or phrases such as “будьте добры” often substitute for “please” in a polite request. I also discussed the differences between Russian and American attitudes towards time (for Americans it’s fixed; for Russians, elastic) and the various and not always positive use of the word “OK” – “OK, OK already, you’ve told me that a hundred times!”

To my surprise, the book took off in Russia, and sparked a good deal of controversy. An English-language edition published in Moscow followed, and then a popular adaptation was published in the U.S.: *What Mean: Where Russians Go Wrong in English*, (New York: Hippocrene Books, 2013). That title came from a phrase my mother often used, for, though she spoke excellent English (as well as her native Russian and fluent French and German), she had a few pet English phrases, including “What mean?” as a rendering of “Что значит?”

In the course of writing these books one thing became very clear: a) you can’t please everyone – and should never try to do so – and b) there is no such thing as bad publicity. Both this book and several other ones (especially a book on Russian-American marriages, which I will discuss in a later article), though received positively for their new information and fresh approach, were sometimes criticized by Russians as anti-Russian – and by Americans as anti-American. Nevertheless, the books were used in many English-language classrooms in Russia. At talks I gave in both Russia and America, there was usually at least one question about why *Русские проблемы* was so “anti-Russian” or “sarcastic” about Russians. Ironic indeed, since the whole purpose of the book was to help people learning a language, and not to mock them! Mostly, however, readers commented (in dozens of e-mails to me and at my lectures) that the book had made them aware of issues they had never thought about – the active nature of English idioms, the passivity often reflected in Russian expressions, and the “negativity” built into so many Russian constructions.

I always learned a lot from readers’, students’ and teachers’ comments, whether positive or negative, and tried to take them into account in subsequent editions of the books. Since the volumes dealing with translation and language problems went through multiple editions (six for *Русские проблемы*, eight each for the textbook on simultaneous interpretation and eight for the first *Практикум*, three for the second), there was plenty of time for corrections and updates.

My next foray into a book on language was a project which had been brewing for a long time, *Слова-хамелеоны и метаморфозы в современном английском языке* (Москва: Р.Валент, 2010). This book focused on words and expressions in modern American English whose meanings had changed rapidly over the last few years – i.e. “edgy” meaning “very modern, or “on the fringe,” “huge” meaning extremely popular, or “a hit,” and words which changed meaning through variations in intonation: “puhleeze” (for “please”), meaning “no way!” or “excuse me” for “how dare you?” The book also dealt with relatively (then!) new words such as “geek” and “dork,” and with words that had acquired a metaphorical meaning not immediately evident to a non-native speaker of English: “delicious,” “drop-dead” (as in “drop-dead gorgeous”) and a series of new expressions: “pushing the envelope,” “an aha/senior moment,” “reaching out,” “thinking outside the box.” Instead of simply translating them, I tried to explain the meanings of these terms and provide acceptable Russian equivalents.

I have recently completed a new book (with no audio materials) on the translation of texts dealing with what I call the “non-verbal arts” – painting, dance and music. The format is the same as for the translation books, with each section containing 12 Russian texts, commentary, English translation and glossaries for each of the three art forms. RValent has scheduled the book for publication in the fall of 2015.

What I most enjoyed after leaving the world of academics was the end of the constant pressure to write on purely academic subjects, often on very narrow themes that might interest at most two or three colleagues in the U.S. and Europe. In the next issue of *SlavFile* I will discuss how this freedom and a variety of other interests led me to write on some quite different subjects.

Lynn Visson received a Ph.D. from Harvard University in Slavic Languages and Literatures and has taught Russian language and literature at Columbia and other American universities. After working as a freelance interpreter for the US State Department, for more than twenty years she was a staff interpreter at the United Nations, working from Russian and French into English and heading interpreter training programs there. She now freelances at the UN and teaches interpretation in Monterey, Moscow and at various universities.

Of Russian background, she is the author of numerous books and articles, published in the US and in Russia, on various aspects of Russian language, literature, culture and cuisine. She is the member of editorial board of *Mosty*, the Moscow-based journal on translation and interpretation.

She can be reached at lvisson@gmail.com.

The Challenges and Joys of Translating Poetry – On Translating Josip Osti's *Vse ljubezni so nenavadne* (*Todos los amores son extraordinarios, All Loves Are Extraordinary*)

Martha Kosir



VČASIH SEM NESREČEN, KER SEM SREČEN, VČASIH PA SREČEN, KER SEM NESREČEN J.Osti	A VECES ME SIENTO INFELIZ POR ESTAR TAN FELIZ, PERO OTRAS VECES ME SIENTO FELIZ POR ESTAR TAN INFELIZ	SOMETIMES I FEEL UNHAPPY FOR BEING HAPPY, BUT OTHER TIMES I FEEL HAPPY FOR BEING UNHAPPY
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Although translation has always fascinated me, it wasn't until after I completed my graduate studies in Spanish that I began to work with it more systematically and made it the focal point of my research. I didn't learn Spanish (and German) until college, where I used English grammar structures and rules for the purpose of learning, understanding, comparing, and contrasting the two languages. Given my Slovenian background, I found working with a variety of languages a thrilling exercise. During my undergraduate and graduate studies, I remained intrigued by languages and their diverse grammatical structures, departures from grammatical rules, and constant change. But most of all, I was intrigued by the concept of meaning as created and re-created through language.

When I began translating poetry, I felt that it exemplified most perfectly the enigmatic way the mind and language intersect to produce meaning. Working with a poem, I wanted to find and explore this intersection. In my search, I came to realize that literary translation is a product of a unique and complex relationship between a translator and language. This relationship plays out on a number of levels – lexical, grammatical and aesthetic. Translation is a journey through the realm of possibilities, but at the same time also a realm of limitations and restrictions imposed by two different languages. Translating Josip Osti's collection *Vse ljubezni so nenavadne* (2006) (*Todos los amores son extraordinarios, All Loves are Extraordinary*) from Slovenian into Spanish (and every other poem I have worked on so far) was an attempt to find balance between the possibilities and the limitations.

When I first came into contact with this collection in the summer of 2009 at a bookstore in downtown Ljubljana, I was immediately fascinated by it. As I browsed through the pages, I noticed that the poems were structurally and visually very interesting – they lacked punctuation and capitalization, except for the

titles. The titles were all in caps, included punctuation, and were generally quite long. As I read some of the poems, I realized that the titles in fact represented independent units of their own. They communicated an image or a story, which artfully interlaced with the remainder of each poem.

My favorite example of the brevity of some of Osti's poems and his use of unusually long titles is the following poem from *Todos los amores son extraordinarios*:

STARA SE, VENE IN MANJŠA SE NEKOČ
ZNANA RAZKOŠNA JUŽNOAMERIŠKA
LEPOTICA JUANITA, KI OD SVOJEGA
PETNAJSTEGA LETA, NE DA BI SLEKLA
ČRNINO, POKOPAVA ENEGA MOŽA ZA
DRUGIM, KRATKOŽIVEGA VESELJAKA V BELI
LANENI OBLEKI, NJENO IME PA, KI GA NA
DRUŽINSKI GROBNICI DOPISUJE ŽE ŠESTI
KAMNOSEK IN GA ZAMAN SKUŠAJO V ENEM
DAHU IZGOVORITI TUDI NAJBISTREJŠI
OTROCI, POSTAJA VSE DALJŠE IN HKRATI
RAZKRIVA IN SKRIVA ZGODOVINO IN
SKRIVNOST LJUBEZNI

na plošči
nad praznim grobom
piše:

JUANITA Borges-Márquez-Cortázar-Donoso-Puig-
Bastos-Onetti-Carpentier-Scorza-Llosa-Fuentes-

(1889 -)

ENVEJECIENDO ESTÁ, MARCHITÁNDOSE Y
 ACHICÁNDOSE LA RICA Y HERMOSA
 LATINOAMERICANA JUANITA, QUE DESDE SUS
 QUINCE AÑOS SIGUE ENTERRANDO, SIN
 QUITARSE EL VESTIDO NEGRO DE LUTO, UNO
 TRAS OTRO A SUS MARIDOS, LOS JÓVENES
 ALEGRES EFÍMEROS EN UNOS TRAJES DE LINO,
 SU NOMBRE, QUE YA EL SEXTO ALBAÑIL
 ESCULPE EN LA LÁPIDA FAMILIAR, EL NOMBRE
 QUE NI SIQUIERA LOS NIÑOS MÁS INTELIGENTES
 LOGRAN PRONUNCIAR DE UN SOPLO, SE ESTÁ
 HACIENDO MÁS Y MÁS LARGO, Y AL MISMO
 TIEMPO REVELA Y ESCONDE LA HISTORIA Y EL
 MISTERIO DEL AMOR

en la lápida
 sobre una tumba vacía
 queda escrito:

JUANITA Borges-Márquez-Cortázar-Donoso-Puig-
 Bastos-Onetti-Carpentier-Scorza-Llosa-Fuentes-

(1889 -)

AGING, WITHERING AND SHRINKING IS ONCE
 GORGEOUS AND SUMPTUOUS LATINA JUANITA,
 WHO, SINCE THE AGE OF FIFTEEN, WITHOUT
 EVER REMOVING HER BLACK MOURNING
 DRESS, HAS BURIED, ONE AFTER THE OTHER,
 HER PASSING HUSBANDS, MERRY YOUNG MEN
 IN LINEN SUITS, AND HER NAME, CARVED INTO
 THE HEADSTONE BY ALREADY THE SIXTH
 STONEMASON, IS BECOMING LONGER AND
 LONGER, AND CANNOT BE PRONOUNCED IN A
 SINGLE BREATH EVEN BY THE BRIGHTEST OF
 KIDS, A NAME THAT REVEALS AND AT THE
 SAME TIME CONCEALS THE HISTORY AND THE
 MYSTERY OF LOVE

on a headstone
 over an empty grave
 it is written:

JUANITA Borges-Márquez-Cortázar-Donoso-Puig-
 Bastos-Onetti-Carpentier-Scorza-Llosa-Fuentes-

(1889 -)

Although many of the poems in the collection were rather short (some even shorter than the titles, as seen above), they in no way lacked depth of content and message. This in fact is the distinctive element of all of Osti's poetry. In addition to tackling the complexity of human experience, his poetry reflects the incredible breadth of his literary horizon and embodies his tribute to world literature at large.

This belief heightened the zeal and excitement with which I approached translating the collection. Although Josip Osti is widely recognized in Europe, very little was available in Spanish. I felt that translating an entire book of poems into Spanish would introduce his poetry to Spanish speakers not only in the US but also in the rest of the Spanish-speaking world.

Translating this poetry book, I thought, would also be an interesting linguistic encounter, almost comparable to the one between David and Goliath. Slovenian is a language spoken by only about 2.5 million people, while Spanish is one of the leading world languages. However, what Slovenian lacks in number of speakers, it compensates for in the complexity of its grammar.

In one of the episodes of a highly entertaining and humorous radio show available on YouTube called "How to Become a Slovene / Kako postaneš Slovenec," the American journalist Michael Manske compares Slovenian grammar to "a weapon of mass destruction; very, very deadly." Having spent the last decade living in Slovenia and working for Radio Slovenia International, Manske has had first-hand experience

learning the language and tackling its complexities. True, Slovenian grammar is no piece of cake, but the language has also always been a source of pride for Slovenians. As with any other nation, it has been the foundation of their identity.

Interestingly enough, when translating Osti's poems from Slovenian into Spanish, I was faced with similar complexities as when translating Slovenian poetry into English.

One of the unique characteristics of the Slovenian language is its rare grammatical dual form (in addition to the singular and plural). Besides the dual form, the language is characterized by six cases (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, locative, instrumental) and three grammatical genders (masculine, feminine, neuter). Despite the elaborate declension system, where masculine, feminine, and neuter nouns generally have four declensions, the majority of words in all three genders belong to the first declension.

In contrast to the complex declension system, the Slovenian verbal system has relatively few and very flexible forms. Although Slovene verbs have two aspects, the perfective and the imperfective, the Slovenian language has only one form to express the present, past and future tenses. Spanish and English, on the other hand, have several forms for each verb tense. Navigating among the myriad options that include the preterite, the imperfect, and the present and past perfect (in the indicative and the subjunctive) is no easy task. In Slovenian, the equivalent of past

perfect does exist, but its use is rather rare, especially in the spoken language.

Regarding the present tense, the most challenging is the present progressive (in Spanish and in English), which does not exist in the Slovenian language. What complicated the matter even more is that the use of the past progressive in Spanish is often replaced by the imperfect. A translator therefore needs to identify carefully the tense that captures the nuance of meaning most accurately. For example, many translators into Spanish and English prefer to avoid the progressive forms altogether and stick to the indicative. I myself feel that the use of the indicative often takes away the progressive aspect of the action (the verb) in question, and I do use the progressive tense.

Another difference between Slovenian and Spanish or English is the use of definite and indefinite articles or the lack thereof. As no articles exist in Slovenian, for a native Slavic speaker, selecting appropriate articles can be as challenging in Spanish as it is in English. The rules for article use in Spanish are similar to those in English, but not identical. As with any other component of language, using them correctly requires a lot of practice.

An additional source of concern can be the use of prepositions and verbs that must be followed by a preposition in Spanish as well as in English. There are often no equivalents in the Slovenian language, so the selection of appropriate prepositions that go

**Every translation is first and foremost
an act of reading, and every reading
is a new and different experience
for a translator,
as for other deep readers.**

with particular verbs requires brute memorization. Although those prepositional verbs and expressions are simply too numerous to include in this article, here are a very few examples: *acercarse a* (približati se, *to approach*), *tratar de* (poskušati, *to try*), *confiar en* (zaupati, *to trust*) in Spanish, and in English, “*break off, get along with, quiet down, watch over,*” etc.

In addition to those mentioned above, working with Osti’s poetry presented another dilemma—the lack of punctuation and capitalization in the poems. This lack of punctuation in particular produced some confusion during the initial stages of my reading process. Native fluency in the language made the task a lot more manageable but certainly not easy.

Although I strove to adhere to the original punctuation (or lack thereof), in a few of the cases I did feel compelled to insert some punctuation to ensure that readers would grasp the correct meaning of the original. However, when I believed that the lack of punctuation would not interfere with the comprehension of the original text, I adhered to the original punctuation, as in the poem below (please, note the lack of a question mark in the last stanza):

<p>POLNOČNO SONCE NAD PISALNO MIZO</p> <p>vejica vrtnice se je upognila pod naletom vetra in se krčevito oprijela bršljana na tleh</p> <p>ko jo je moja roka osvobodila tega objema me je ošvrknila po obrazu in s trnom opraskala po očesu</p> <p>zakaj nocoj govorim o vrtnici ne pa o tebi ljubezen</p>	<p>EL SOL DE MEDIANOCHE SOBRE EL ESCRITORIO</p> <p>una ramita de la rosa se dobló bajo el viento y se aferró convulsivamente a la hiedra en el suelo</p> <p>cuando mi mano la libró de este abrazo me azotó en la cara y con la espina me arañó el ojo</p> <p>por qué hablo de la rosa esta noche y no de ti amor</p>
<p>THE MIDNIGHT SUN ABOVE THE WRITING DESK</p> <p>a rose branch that bent under the force of wind clung on tightly to the ivy on the ground</p> <p>when my hand freed it from this embrace the rose branch whipped my cheek and scratched my eye with a thorn</p> <p>why do I speak about the rose tonight and not about you love</p>	<p>Beside the above-mentioned grammatical differences between Slovenian, Spanish and English, on a number of occasions I felt the need to explain and translate certain geographical locations that I presumed would be unknown to most readers. I did so by inserting brief footnotes on the pages in question. I also felt compelled to provide footnotes on some of the most prominent Slovenian and other South Slavic literary figures mentioned in the poems. I hoped the footnotes would spark additional curiosity on the part of the readers.</p>

In this article I have aimed to capture some of the main challenges of translating Osti's collection. I would like to conclude by saying that translation is a task that is never fully completed and resolved. Every translation is first and foremost an act of reading, and every reading is a new and different experience for a translator, as for other deep readers. As such, translation inevitably remains in a state of flux. Besides the required knowledge of grammatical and lexical structures, a successful translation strongly depends on a translator's subjective reaction to the material. The progression from a source to a translated text is possible only through the translator's sensitivity to the complexity of the original, especially when dealing with a literary text. This is where translation additionally becomes an aesthetic experience event. The depth of the translator's involvement enables him or her to develop a personal reading of the poem unlike any other, even that of the most sophisticated reader.

**The publication of J. Osti's collection in Spanish Todos los amores son extraordinarios (2014) was made possible through a Research Development Grant awarded to Martha Kosir by Gannon University. The collection is available for purchase at the Gannon University Bookstore (Erie, PA) or at the University of Pittsburgh Bookstore (The University Store on Fifth, Pittsburgh, PA).*

Martha Kosir is *SlavFile's* editor for Poetry. In addition to translating poetry from Slovenian into English, she has done poetry translations from English into Spanish, from Slovenian into Spanish, and from German into Spanish and English. Her areas of special interest are the philosophy of language, foreign language pedagogy, and film studies. She works as an Associate Professor of Spanish at Gannon University, kosir001@gannon.edu.

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- Manske, Michael. "Kako postaneš Slovenec, How to Become a Slovene." Online radio podcast. Youtube, Web. 25 Aug. 2015. (www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUkkW7cauPE&list=PLHHZ9vBEFJ2XYso4Lf2KLzqufj2WCCYHr)

Web Watch

Helpful and/or Interesting Resources Discovered by SlavFile Editors and Readers

From Nora Favorov

1. To celebrate the purchase of a new Roku (a tool for streaming the internet on a TV), I plugged key words associated with various interests of mine into the YouTube SEARCH field. The word "Akunin" (I'm a fan) brought up a [lecture \(in English\) to members of the British Center for Literary Translation](#) by the Japanese>Russian translator turned bestselling author Grigory Chkhartishvili, aka Boris Akunin. Highly entertaining.
2. She's not about to do it herself (she did not even mention it to her fellow editors), but I would like to recommend the excellent interview of *SlavFile* editor Lydia Razran Stone in the Literary Division fall 2015 newsletter *Source* (page 33), discussing her translation of Yershov's *The Little Humpbacked Horse*. Fascinating reading.

From Svetlana Beloshapkina

Two online searchable resources helpful in deciphering and translating Russian idioms.

Note the very recent publication dates:

1. «**Фразеологический словарь русского литературного языка**», Фёдоров А.И., Издательство: «АСТ», 2008г., 13,000 entries. <http://phraseology.academic.ru>
2. «**Большой словарь русских поговорок**», В. М. Мокиенко, Т. Г. Никитина, Олма Медиа Групп -2007. A very extensive dictionary, especially useful for finding colloquial and regional expressions. Arranged alphabetically, searchable with autosuggestion by key word. Each entry provides style/register/regional origin (if available) and a short explanation of meaning. <http://enc-dic.com/russaying>

Send your Slavic translation related discoveries to: norafavorov@gmail.com.

List of Translators Associations in Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia

Compiled by Paul Makinen

Croatia

Hrvatsko društvo znanstvenih i tehničkih prevoditelja

<http://www.hdztp.hr>

Društvo hrvatskih književnih prevodilaca

<http://www.dhkp.hr>

Serbia

Удружење научних и стручних преводаца Србије

<http://www.prevodi.rs/>

Удружење књижевних преводаца Србије

<http://www.ukpsalts.org/index.php?lang=cy>

Društvo simultanih i konsekutivnih prevodilaca Srbije

<http://www.acis.org.rs>

Удружење судских и стручних преводаца Србије

<http://centarzaprevodioce.blogspot.com/>

Међународни центар за књижевне преводиоце

<http://centarzaprevodioce.blogspot.com/>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Удружење Преводилаца у Босни и Херцеговини

<http://www.upbh.ba>

Удружење Судских Тумача Републике Српске

<http://www.sudskitumaci.org>

Montenegro

Удружење Књижевних Преводилаца Црне Горе

No website information available

Address: Novaka Miloševa 10/ii

81000 Podgorica

Crna Gora

Macedonia

Здружение на преведувачи на Република Македонија Association

<http://mata.mk>

Paul Makinen is *SlavFile*'s editor for South Slavic languages. Paul is a founding member of SLD and is certified for Russian to English translation. He also works into English from Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian, Montenegrin, Bulgarian and Ukrainian and edits the work of other translators.

Specifics and Types of “Аптека” in Russian Culture

Yuliya Baldwin



The first pharmacy in Russia opened in 1581 in the reign of Ivan the Terrible. It served only the Tsar’s family and was consequently named “**Царёва аптека**” (the Tsar’s apothecary). It was not until 1672 that the first drugstore designated for the common people appeared in Moscow. By 1914 there were 4,791 of them in Russia, with that number growing to over 54,000 pharmacies and kiosks on the territory of the Russian Federation in 2014.

The concept of prescribing medications in Russia differs from that in the U.S. Official prescriptions are needed only for certain specified types of drugs (**списки лекарственных средств**), primarily narcotic and psychotropic pharmaceuticals. These have to be labelled as ‘prescription only’ drugs (**отпускается по рецепту врача**). The Ministry of Healthcare of the Russian Federation has just adopted a new law as of August 16, 2015, that included some poison- and codeine-containing medications in this list. In all other instances, physicians either write on a piece of paper or tell their patients what antibiotics, painkillers, inhalers, hormones, diuretics, etc., to buy at a drugstore and how to use them. Patients may request an official prescription for any drug if they belong to a population group that gets full or partial reimbursement from the government.

Medications that require prescriptions (**рецептурные лекарственные препараты, лекарства по рецептам**) fall into three major categories and are dispensed in supplies for 10 days (**наркотические и/или психотропные препараты narcotic and psychotropic drugs**), 1-3 months (**льготные лекарства subsidized drugs**), and 2-12 months (**пациенты с хроническими заболеваниями for patients with chronic diseases**). Doctors have to use a standard prescription form (**рецептурный бланк**) for each category and verify their signatures with official blue stamps. Another idiosyncrasy of the Russian system is that almost all of the prescriptions are written out by hand. Although pharmacies have telephones and computers, physicians never phone or email prescriptions in. Prescription renewals require appointments or house calls.

The typical Russian pharmacy customer is female; male patients are rarely seen there unless they are unmarried or pensioners. It is acceptable for a friend, neighbor, wife, or child to be sent to a pharmacy to buy medication or even to pick up prescriptions, as no identification is required.

Pharmacies can be classified in several ways, but there are two major types, depending on the way products sold are displayed and dispensed.

- **аптека с открытой выкладкой, американский тип или аптечный супермаркет** (an open-layout pharmacy; an American-style pharmacy or drugstore). A drugstore is a type of retail store that, in addition to dispensing prescription medication, sells over-the-counter (OTC) medications (**рецептурные и безрецептурные лекарственные препараты**) as well as miscellaneous items such as cosmetics, cleaning supplies, magazines, candy, wine, bread, cigarettes, snacks, etc.
- **аптека с закрытой выкладкой или традиционная аптека** (a closed-layout or traditional pharmacy). This is a pharmacy where customers give the pharmacist a prescription for the items they need. Besides prescription and OTC drugs, such pharmacies may sell a very limited assortment of miscellaneous items such as homeopathic preparations (**гомеопатические средства**), vitamins, some cosmetics, and personal hygiene products (**средства личной гигиены**). This **традиционная аптека** represents the prevailing type of pharmacy in Russia.

A further division singles out small retail pharmacies (**аптека по продаже готовых медикаментов и товаров гигиены**) from bigger ones that, in addition to selling already formulated prescription medicines, prepare certain pharmaceuticals (**лекарственные формы**): ointments (**мази**), powders (**порошки**), tinctures (**микстуры**), etc. following instructions on a prescription. This is known as a **производственная аптека (compounding pharmacy)**.

The interior of a Russian pharmacy is very different from the typical one in the US. Virtually everything sold in the pharmacy is behind a partition that has a counter with an opening for transferring prescriptions and healthcare products under the direct control of a pharmacist (**провизор**). Many Russian drugstores now have open displays with natural cosmetics, personal hygiene items, and OTC drugs.

As a rule the traditional pharmacy consists of several **отделы** (sections, units, counters):

- **отдел запасов** (storage room for medicines and other supplies)

- **рецептурно-производственный отдел** (compounding room)
- **отдел готовых лекарственных форм** (unit-dose dispensing section)
- **отдел безрецептурной продажи** (over-the-counter section)

Also, since Russian healthcare and its patients rely heavily on herbal remedies (**лекарственные травы и сборы**), every pharmacy will prominently display such supplements and may even have an **отдел лекарственных трав** (herbal remedy section) within the pharmacy proper.

Depending on location, the following types of аптека are currently identified in Russia:

- **аптека “у дома”** (neighborhood pharmacy)
- **аптека-дискаунтер** (discount pharmacy, warehouse pharmacy)
- **больничная аптека** (hospital pharmacy)
- **военная аптека** (military pharmacy)
- **городская аптека** (city pharmacy)
- **интернет-аптека** (Internet pharmacy, online pharmacy)
- **сельская аптека/киоск/пункт** (rural pharmacy).

Pharmacies specializing in different areas are a unique and growing business that is becoming increasingly popular in Russia. They are known as **специализированные аптеки** (specialty or specialized pharmacies). Ideally, the **специализированные аптеки** not only distribute specialty pharmaceuticals but also offer patient-centered services provided by skilled pharmacy staff. Examples include:

- **аптека гормональных препаратов** (hormone disorders pharmacy)
- **аптека для беременных** (pharmacy for pregnant women)
- **аптека для диабетиков** (pharmacy for diabetics)
- **гомеопатическая аптека** (homeopathic pharmacy)
- **кардио-аптека** (cardio-pharmacy)
- **онкологическая аптека** (oncology pharmacy)
- **офтальмологическая аптека** (ophthalmology pharmacy)
- **фитоаптека** (phytopharmaceutical pharmacy).

Remarkably, unlike in the EU and the U.S., the Russian pharmaceutical market is largely controlled by the commercial sector, rather than by government purchasing. Foreign medicines make up over

two-thirds of the market. The remaining drugs are not all entirely of Russian origin either, as they are produced using some imported ingredients. A state program entitled Development of the Pharmaceutical and Medical Industry for 2013-2020 (**Развитие фармацевтической и медицинской промышленности на 2013 – 2020 годы**) has been established to increase the share of Russian medicines and to provide Russian-made substitutes for strategically vital imported medicines. Moreover, in February 2015 the Russian government announced that as a part of the “anti-crisis plan,” it would undertake measures to significantly reduce the share of imported medicines on the Russian market. Putin announced a plan for the creation of a national “full-cycle” pharmaceutical corporation to develop new medicines and put them into production. It was suggested that this corporation would have to be a state-run holding company.

However, the more serious problem with pharmaceuticals in Russia identified by its population is not so much the prevalence of expensive foreign drugs but the large proportion of circulating counterfeit drugs (**поддельные лекарства, фальшивые лекарства**). According to the Russian Academy of Sciences report “**Фармпиратство в России: 2004–2012**” (Pharmaceutical Piracy in Russia: 2004-2012), 40 percent of Russians consider themselves victims of poor-quality or fake drugs.

Taking into consideration the latest government proposal to ban hundreds of foreign-made drugs and medical equipment items, the overall situation with access to quality medicines in Russia looks less than encouraging. But perhaps there is some consolation in humor:

В аптеке	In a drugstore:
– Здравствуйте, мне нужны антидепрессанты.	– Hello, I need antidepressants.
– А у вас есть рецепт?	– Do you have a prescription?
– А что, паспорта гражданина РФ уже недостаточно?	– Really? Won't a Russian Federation passport do just as well?

Yuliya Baldwin has been a Lecturer of Russian at UNC Charlotte since 2002 and is the author of *English-Russian Russian-English Medical Dictionary and Phrasebook*. Baldwin has been writing about the Russian language in English and contributing her articles to the *SlavFile* since 2012. She adores her chiweenie dog, loves reading and prefers savasana over all other yoga poses. She may be reached at yuliyabaldwin@gmail.com.



Do You Step Up to the Plate or Simply Ride the Bench? Sports Expressions in the Life of a Legal Interpreter

By Olga Shostachuk

Sports play an enormous role in the lives of many people. This is especially true of Americans, who use the terms and concepts of sports with great frequency to describe other aspects of life and situations they perceive to have similarities to sports. Even the adversarial nature of the American legal system has been compared to competitive sports. As Judge Lopez expressed in the opinion of *State vs. Myers*, “A sporting contest is analogous to a lawsuit, in that it is an acceptable form of combat in our society, acceptable because the ‘rules of the game’ maintain fairness between the adversaries.” Thus, it is no surprise that sports expressions are applied figuratively in judicial proceedings and legal writing. Judges use sports expressions in their opinions; lawyers use them to transform a complex or abstract idea into a concrete image supposedly understood by everyone and to persuade their audience on every level: ethical, emotional, and logical.

Sports expressions are useful in decoding the complex nature of legal proceedings and in giving the audience a context in which to understand an important legal point. They undoubtedly make judicial language more vivid, novel, and distinct, but they present tremendous difficulties for interpreters, because in legal instruments only a few sports expressions can be understood easily without the relevant cultural background and sports knowledge. Most often, sports expressions used in legal arenas are unexplained and present new obstacles to those trying to understand complex legal English. Lilit Sahakyan, in her 2014 article “Sports terms in American judicial appellate opinions” published in *Foreign Languages in Higher Education*, notes that sports terms “create a linguistically unlevel playing field, i.e., create unfair conditions for the audience ignorant of sports or the idiomatic usage of sports metaphors in general, and unfamiliar with the American sports culture in particular” and may result in “an incorrect interpretation of the meaning and exclude those participants not familiar with the source of information for the metaphor-term from the discussion altogether.”

Since this is the case, interpreters need to be on their toes and constantly research and practice their sports terminology. In this article I will examine some frequently used sports expressions in a judicial

context using actual examples from case law and other legal sources and will provide some techniques and strategies that will help interpreters and translators to manage sports expressions, with my own Ukrainian suggested translations as examples. This essay is not intended to be a serious analysis of the translation of sports expressions in legal contexts; instead it is a quick look at the often amusing ways courts and legal professionals have used sports expressions in their practice. I will also provide the context in which the expressions were used in order to show the reader why figurative expressions are particularly pertinent.

In judicial proceedings involving Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals, judges and lawyers must communicate with a linguistically and culturally heterogeneous audience; and such expressions as “pinch hitting” or “carry the ball” may not be understood by the audience. In fact, an LEP individual might not even be familiar with the game to which the sports expression refers. Furthermore, bilingual communication via an interpreter involves yet another consumer and language recipient, whose background and world knowledge bring subjective factors to the encounter, adding variables that affect communication among the participants. Thus, it is particularly important for interpreters to be familiar with cultural and political peculiarities and to always be alert and prepared. Even though, as Mona Baker (*In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*, 2011) notes, “the majority of translators working into a foreign language cannot hope to achieve the same sensitivity that native speakers seem to have for judging when and how an idiom can be manipulated” (p. 68), it is incumbent upon interpreters to do their utmost to match the sensitivity of a native speaker, especially when interpreting in legal settings.

In her book, Baker outlines various strategies for translating idioms, which will be described in detail below. Taking Baker’s approach to translating idioms and applying it to interpreting sports expressions, in the tables that follow I provide examples of frequently used sports expressions in legal settings, followed by their meanings in context, tentative Ukrainian translations, and problems that interpreters might encounter when dealing with them. The list is by no means exhaustive, but for those who would like to be “on base” with the rest of the sports enthusiasts, it’s a good start.

Challenges and Strategies

Baker believes that “the main problems that idiomatic and fixed expressions pose in translation relate to two main areas: 1) the translator’s ability to recognize and interpret an idiom correctly and 2) the difficulties in rendering various aspects of meaning that an idiom or a fixed expression conveys into the target language” (p. 68). In interpreting an idiom, misinterpretations are most likely to arise when a) an idiom’s literal meaning also makes sense in context (but is not the intended meaning) and b) when an idiom with a similar form exists in the target language (TL) but conveys a different meaning.

The difficulties generally occur 1) when an idiom has no equivalent idiomatic expressions in the TL, in which case the same meaning may be expressed through a single word, an idiom, or a transparent fixed expression; 2) when an idiom or fixed expression has a similar counterpart in the TL, but it is used in different contexts; 3) when an idiom in the source language (SL) refers to both its literal and idiomatic

sense; and 4) when the very conventions of using idioms in written discourse, the contexts in which they can be used, or their frequency of use are very different in the SL and TL.

Baker (pp. 75–90) presents the following strategies for translating idioms which I have adopted below to interpreting sports expressions.

Using Idioms of Similar Meaning and Form

This strategy involves using a figurative expression in the target language that conveys roughly the same meaning as the source language expression and, in addition, consists of equivalent lexical items. This kind of match can be achieved only occasionally. Table 1 below illustrates the use of an expression of similar meaning and form in English and Ukrainian in a legal context.

Table 1

Sports expressions	Context	Matching Ukrainian expression <i>[all translations into Ukrainian provided throughout are mine]</i>	English literal translation
Carry the ball	The defendant really carried the ball when his boss was on vacation.	нести відповідальність	carry responsibility
Sunday punch	The defense delivered a Sunday punch in their closing argument.	нищівний удар/ вирішальний аргумент	knockdown/decisive argument
Bench warmer	One of his witnesses was just a bench warmer who never got to testify.	запасний гравець	reserve player

2016 Will be SlavFile’s Year of the (Translated or Translation Related) Book

For many *SlavFile* readers and SLD members, the ultimate professional accomplishment is the publication of a translated book or a book about translating. To acknowledge this and incidentally *SlavFile*’s 25th year of publication, we would like to publish a series of articles on our books: the translation issues involved, the life story of a book project, the joys of dealing with publisher requirements, book contracts, sales, publication alternatives, even dreams of potential books...We will publish such articles throughout the year and beyond if, as we hope, the supply is greater than a single calendar year can hold. In accordance with our policy, articles must be in English, but may deal with books translated into or out of any Slavic language (or non-Slavic language of the former Soviet Union). Contact: Lydia at lydiastone@verizon.net to discuss ideas or schedule an article.

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

The interpreter can sometimes find an idiom or fixed expression in the target language that has meaning similar to the source idiom or expression but consists of different lexical items. Table 2 below illustrates the use of a figurative expression of similar meaning but different form in the English and Ukrainian in a legal context. (See Table 2.)

Table 2

Sports expressions	Context	Matching Ukrainian expressions	English literal translation
Cover all bases	Even though the defense attorney was trying to cover all bases in the discovery, he is still going to lose.	вжити всіх заходів безпеки	use all safety measures
The ball's in your court.	Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury! The ball is in your court now.	всі карти в ваших руках	all the cards are in your hands
Throw in the towel	After the struggle, the defendant threw in the towel as he realized that he would not be able to defend himself in any way other than to use a weapon.	опускати руки/махнути рукою	lower/wave one's hands
Out in left field	In this case, appellant claims that a bona fide doubt about his competency to stand trial was raised by evidence that he: (1) had a long history of mental illness, (2) attempted suicide after his pre-trial competency evaluation, (3) threatened to rip all his clothes to threads, (4) threatened to force the bailiff to use his gun, (5) "was talking out in the left field," and (6) demanded his tennis shoes.	занесло, не з тої опери	carried away, not from the same opera
Whole nine yards	Why anyone would go the whole nine yards, and then some, to get a lighter sentence for a convicted cross-burner is beyond me.	по повній програмі, на всі сто	in full program, for all hundred

Table 3

Sports expressions	Context	Matching Ukrainian expressions	English literal translation
Fair and square	Overruled. I think, Counselor, the defense won this one fair and square.	справедливо і без обману	fair and without deception
Move the goalposts	The prosecution suddenly moved the goalposts.	перемістити ворота	move the gates
Kill shot	It was a kill shot.	(виконання) нападаючого удару	(make) a striker blow

Borrowing the Source Language Idiom

Like the use of loan words when dealing with culture-specific items, borrowing idioms in their original form in some contexts is not unusual. Table 3 below illustrates a borrowing of the source language expression in English and Ukrainian in a legal context. (See Table 3 on the bottom of this page.)

Translation by Paraphrase

This is by far the most common way to translate idioms when a match cannot be found in the target language or when using idiomatic language in the target text is inappropriate because of differences in the stylistic preferences of the source and target languages. Table 4 below illustrates the translation of a sports expression by paraphrase in English and Ukrainian in a legal context. (See Table 4.)

Table 4

Sports expressions	Context	Matching Ukrainian expression	English literal translation
Fair and square	Overruled. I think, Counselor, the defense won this one fair and square.	в рамках правил	in the framework of the rules
Move the goalposts	The prosecution suddenly moved the goalposts.	змінювати правила гри	change the rules of the game
Off base	The defendant`s answers were totally off base every time the prosecutor hit him with the question.	помилковий, невірний	mistaken, wrong
A run for his money	The defense attorney right out of law school gave the prosecution a good run for his money.	змусити попотіти/ задати жару	make someone sweat, make it hot for someone
The gloves are off	The defense and prosecution had their gloves off and played it tough and without compassion.	почати боротьбу/жорстоко взятися за справу	start a fight/to take the matter roughly

Translation by Forgoing Wordplay

This strategy involves translation by forgoing wordplay and rendering only the literal meaning of an idiom in a context instead of its otherwise playful use of language. Table 5 below illustrates translation of an expression by omission of a play on words in English and Ukrainian in a legal context. (See Table 5 on the bottom of this page.)

Table 5

Sports expressions	Context	Matching Ukrainian expression	English literal translation
Throw in the towel	After the struggle, the defendant threw in the towel as he realized that he would not be able to defend himself in any other way other than using a weapon.	сдаватися	surrender
Monday-morning quarterback	The court minced no words in criticizing these so-called “second bites” or “Monday-morning quarterback” suits, which merely “second guess the original attorney's strategy.”	міцний заднім розумом	wise after the fact
Out in left field	In this case, appellant claims that a bona fide doubt about his competency to stand trial was raised by evidence that he: (1) had a long history of mental illness, (2) attempted suicide after his pre-trial competency evaluation, (3) threatened to rip all his clothes to threads, (4) threatened to force the bailiff to use his gun, (5) “was talking out in left field,” and (6) demanded his tennis shoes.	недоречний, не в своєму розумі	inappropriate, not in one`s right mind

Translation by Omission of the Entire Idiom

Omission of the entire idiom may occur if the idiom has no close match in the target language, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reasons. This strategy, however, is not applicable to interpreting in legal settings, where “source-language speech should be faithfully rendered into the target language by conserving all the elements of the original message while accommodating the syntactic and semantic patterns of the target language” (National Association of Judiciary Interpreter and Translators *Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities*).

Conclusion

Sports expressions are employed in English legal discourse to explain a myriad of legal principles. Judges and lawyers use them to return a lower court’s punt or knock the cover off the ball. In the American judicial system, sports expressions show the gamesmanship of the attorneys and judges, and regardless of whether or not we, interpreters and translators, like it, as long as Americans continue to worship athletes, sports expressions will continue to appear in court to enhance—so the users think—our understanding of legal concepts. Thus, interpreters need to brush up their sports terminology frequently, cover all bases, and with no holds barred step up to the plate.

References

- Baker, M. (2011). *In other words: A coursebook on translation*. London, UK: Routledge.
- National Association of Judiciary Interpreter and Translators. (n.d.) *Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities*. Retrieved from <http://www.najit.org/about/NAJITCodeofEthicsFINAL.pdf>
- Sahakyan, L. (2014). Sports terms in American judicial appellate opinions. *Foreign Languages in Higher Education*, 1(16), 35–40.
- State vs. Myers*, 88 N.M. 16, 536 P.2d 280 (N.M. Ct. App. 1975).

Useful resources

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_English-language_idioms_derived_from_baseball
- <https://sites.google.com/site/sportingmetaphors/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sports_idioms
- <http://www.amazon.com/Sports-Talk-Dictionary-Metaphors/dp/0313264260>
- <http://www.englishfootballonline.com/App/AppGlossary.html>

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Ms. Shostachuk has been actively involved in the language industry, working as a translator, editor, proofreader, and interpreter, specializing in the legal and medical fields.

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AMUSING ENGLISH>RUSSIAN TRANSLATION ERRORS COLLECTED BY YEFIM PALCHIK

The Founding Fathers expressly rejected a proposal. – Отцы-основатели спешно отклонили предложение. (The Founding Fathers hurriedly rejected a proposal.)

He wasn't put back in the astronaut rotation right away. – Он сразу не вернулся в космическую центрифугу. (He wasn't returned to the astronaut centrifuge immediately.)

Puppies in particular would be hard to resist. – Было бы сложно устоять перед щенками. (It would be difficult to defend oneself against [in the sense of resist the aggression of] puppies.)

The stockholder may transfer the shares at will. – Акционер может передавать акции по завещанию. (The stockholder may transfer the shares in his will.)

US Securities and Exchange Commission – Комиссия по безопасности США (Commission on US Security)

Super tankers of today may rise several stories. – Супертанкеры сегодняшнего дня могут поднять несколько историй. (Super tankers today may give rise to various tales.)

John Glenn sat bobbing in the Atlantic, awaiting pickup. – Джон Гленн сидел, подпрыгивая, в Атлантике, ожидая когда его подберёт. (John Glenn sat jumping up and down in the Atlantic, waiting to be picked up.)

SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

Lydia Razran Stone

For this issue I have two books relevant to Russian language and culture to recommend. Let us start with the one most relevant to our work. I highly recommend Lynn Visson's *What Mean? Where Russians Go Wrong in English* (Hippocrene, 2013). In it she discusses, in an accessible and frequently delightfully amusing style, subtle mistakes that Russian native speakers fluent in English are liable to make in that language, and relates these mistakes to cultural differences. The back cover states that the book "is intended for businesspeople, émigrés and expatriates, tourists, students and teachers, and scholars, or anyone else with an interest in the links between language and culture." Since I found this book so valuable precisely as a translator, I was struck by the omission of translators and interpreters in this description. I asked Lynn about it and she told me this was intentionally done to avoid the assumption that she was writing primarily for those who shared her profession. Nevertheless, I feel that Lynn's book provides invaluable insights into the most conversationally appropriate translations of certain commonly used phrases and would be of benefit to many *SlavFile* readers. Here are some quotations to support this opinion.

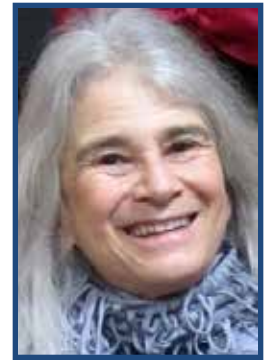
Page 33: The expression "не нужно", though very close in meaning to "не надо", does not have the imperative sense of the latter. It is slightly less categorical. The basic English meaning is "there is no need to," rather than "it is not necessary."

Page 35: When "неудобно" means "awkward," ... the translations "uncomfortable" or "inconvenient" do not always work... "Мне неудобно звонить твоему приятелю – профессору кафедры математики" is not, "It is not convenient for me to call your friend the math professor" [implying I consider it a bother] but, rather: "I feel awkward about calling or I feel funny about calling your friend..." [implying I do not like to bother him].

Page 73: If a request is refused because the individual is not able to carry it out, [the reply may be] "Я не в силах". The English equivalent is "I'm afraid I'm not up to that." "Ни в коем случае!" in English is "No way!" or "Out of the question!" not "In no case."

Page 79: The words "обида" and "обидеть" are far more common in Russian than are "offense," "hurt"

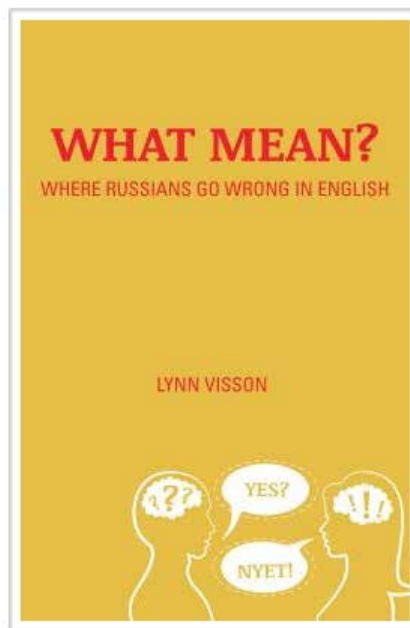
or "to offend, hurt" in English. ...On the few occasions where an American says, "He offended/insulted me," he is usually referring to a serious hurt or insult. Otherwise he is more likely to say "I'm mad/annoyed at him." Where a Russian would say, "Я обижен", the American will say, "I'm upset," rather than "I'm hurt," which is reserved for serious incidents.



Page 113: When a Russian wants to ask a partner if an act of love has been satisfying, he will use the verb "кончатъ". But a lover who translates this literally in English and who asks, "Are you finished?" can expect a slap in the face, since this [would imply] "Are we finally through with these unpleasant activities?"

The second book I am recommending is a *sui generis* memoir by Anya Von Bremzen (the author of my favorite Russian cookbook, *Please to the Table*, who emigrated to the United States in the 1970s. Her newer book is called *Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking: A Memoir of Food and Longing* (Crown Publishing, 2013). She devotes a chapter to each decade of her family's and motherland's life in the 20th century (with one extra chapter for the 21st). Each chapter is structured around food (and sometimes drink) but reveals much more about the daily life of these people, both what they shared with the rest of the Soviet Union and what was unique to them. Like Lynn Visson's book it is a fascinating and sometimes delightful read. Here are some excerpts.

1940s: Description of a Big Three meeting in 1943, at a time when virtually all Russians were near starvation, but Stalin, desperate for a second front, was using the menu served in the embassy as a "charm offensive." "Not all the Soviet attendees showed Stalin's poise. The Vozhd's ravenous interpreter, Valentin Berezhkov, was caught with a mouthful of steak just as Churchill began to speak. There was awkward silence, tittering laughter. Stalin's eyes flashed. 'Some place you found for a dinner,' he hissed at the hapless Berezhkov through clenched teeth. 'Look at you stuffing



your face. What a disgrace!’ (Berezhkov survived to record the incident, and the meal, in his memoirs.)” I, Lydia, remember how shocked I was to learn decades ago that interpreters at important dinners rarely got even a taste – and often went hungry for long periods.

1960s: “Enthralled by a visiting Iowa farmer in 1955, the Bald One [aka Khrushchev] had introduced corn as the magic crop that would feed Russia’s cattle. Corn was forced down human throats too [following the example of Peter the Great forcing lettuce on the boyars: LRS]. Khrushchev-look-alike chefs sang songs to the new corn in short propaganda films; animated rye and barley welcomed this new corn off the train in cartoons. ‘The road to abundance is paved with *kukuruz!*’ went a popular slogan. Maize was planted everywhere – while American instructions for proper seeding and care were everywhere ignored. After a couple of encouraging harvests, yields plunged. Wheat, neglected, grew in even shorter supply. Bread lines sprouted furiously.”

“In 1961 at the Twenty-Second Party Congress Khrushchev had promised true communism. Instead there was *kukuruz*. Russians could forgive many things, but the absence of wheat bread made them feel humiliated and angry. Wheat bread was symbolic, sacred. On induction into Komosomol, students were asked to name the price of bread. Woe to the politically retarded delinquent who blurted out ‘thirteen kopecks.’ The correct answer: ‘Our Soviet bread is priceless.’”

1980s: “Drinking without a *zakuska* (food chaser) was another taboo. Cucumber pickles, herring, caviars, sharp crunchy sauerkraut, garlicky sausage. The limitless repertoire of little extra-savory Russian dishes expressly to accompany vodka. In the lean post-war years [the author’s father and grandmother] grated onion, soaked it in salt and smothered it in mayo – the *zakuska* of poverty. Men tipping at work favored foil-wrapped rectangles of processed Friendship Cheese or a Spam-like conserve with a bucolic name: *Zavtrak Turista* (Breakfast of Tourists). Foodless altogether? After the shot you made a show of inhaling your sleeve. Hence the expression *zakusit’ manufakturoy* (to chase with fabric). Just one of the countless untranslatables comprehensible only to those who drank in the USSR.”

I thought this was going to be a relatively short column, but then Galina Raff posted an article to our Yahoo Russian Translator chat group about Russian translators of English comic books wanting to create a collection of Russian-friendly equivalents of sounds on the order of the English “bam,” “biff,”

“thwamp,” and “scritch” rather than continuing the practice of transliterating them. Evidently these translators consider Russian poor in such sound representations (though it is certainly not lacking in sound verbs, as Svetlana Beloshapkina and I have found) and suggest that renditions be borrowed from some of the languages of the “little brother” nationalities within Russia. For example, the sound of gulping down liquid could be rendered by the Lezgin word for the corresponding action – the word “хурт-хурт” (*khurt-khurt*) (instead of the clearly Western “glug-glug”). The sound of a heavy object falling, now the offensively English “thump,” “thunk,” or “clonk,” might be rendered by the remarkable Mari “дубердымс” (*dooberdymys*), and wow (which I myself have never thought of as a sound rendition) by the Makhachkalian “вабабай” (*vababay*). (Incidentally, one Russian commenting on the article suggests for “wow” a well-known but unprintable phrase of Russian origin.) Well, those of us who saw the horrifying photographs of tons of European food products illegally imported into Russia being destroyed rather than distributed and thought “what seemingly apolitical baby will be thrown out with the Western bathwater next?” now know.

Although I myself would be charmed to have such lovely words enter not only the Russian but the international vocabulary, and one translator quoted called the idea appropriate (*правильная*) and patriotic, the higher ups of the *Vinogradov Russian Language Institute* disagree, saying “Языки неравноправны, и на социальной лестнице один язык стоит выше или ниже другого. В массовом порядке заимствования могут продвигаться только сверху вниз, а путь снизу вверх характерен только для экзотизмов типа слова «лаваш».” (Languages do not all have the same status, and on the social ladder some stand higher or lower than others. Mass borrowing can only take place from higher to lower, while lower to higher typifies only an exoticism – for example [the Russian borrowing of] the word “lavash.”) ИМНО, a touch of the exotic of the “dooberdymys” type might be just what Russian comic-book translations need to climb the literary ladder.

Hope to see many of you in Miami!

IN MEMORIAM: SOPHIA LUBENSKY

by Henryk Baran

The editors of SlavFile and administrators of ATA's Slavic Languages Division were saddened recently to learn of the passing of last year's Susana Greiss distinguished speaker, Sophia Lubensky. We are grateful to her long-time friend and colleague, Henryk Baran, for sharing with us the tribute he read at a memorial service for her in New York City on September 20.

Sophia Lubensky (Софья Иосифовна Лубенская), internationally recognized expert on lexicography, author of the *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms*, Professor Emerita of Russian at the University at Albany, passed away on Tuesday, 15 September 2015, in New York City. She was 80 years old.

Born in the Soviet Ukrainian city of Kharkov, she completed her M.A. level education at the universities of Leningrad (Classics, 1957) and Kharkov (English and Linguistics, 1963). In 1972 she obtained her *kandidat* degree (Ph.D) in Linguistics from Leningrad University.

Sophia's inability to compromise with the Soviet system – to engage in “double-think” – combined with widespread Soviet antisemitism, severely limited her prospects for an academic career. Prior to leaving the Soviet Union in 1976, as part of the Third Wave of emigration from that country, she worked as a freelance editor-consultant on the English edition of the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia*.

After arriving in the United States, she worked for a year at the Russian-language daily newspaper *Novoe Russkoe Slovo*, and always spoke fondly of its editor



Andrei Sedykh. She was also appreciative of the help given to her, among many other émigré scientists and scholars, by Mary Mackler of the American Council for Émigrés in the Professions.

In fall 1977, Sophia Lubensky joined the faculty in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University at Albany. She began as an Assistant Professor of Russian. In 1983, she was promoted and tenured at the rank of Associate Professor, and in 1996 promoted to Professor. She retired from the University in 2007.

At Albany, Prof. Lubensky initially taught classes in the Russian language, especially at the advanced level for undergraduates and M.A. students. Subsequently, after the Slavic Department established a program leading to a Certificate of Advanced Study in Russian Translation and Interpretation (she played a major role in creating this program) she taught courses in translation and applied linguistics.

Prof. Lubensky was always searching for excellence – she strove for it in her own work and expected it from others. She asked her students to do their best, and in return gave generously of her time, attention, and energy. She inspired students, drew them into her research projects, and gratefully acknowledged their contributions. Many of those who worked with her went on to academic and professional careers involving the Russian language or dealing in some way with Russia itself.

During her many years at Albany, Prof. Lubensky's scholarship was concentrated in two areas – language pedagogy and lexicography. In the case of the former, she produced, in cooperation with colleagues from other universities, Donald K. Jarvis and Gerald L. Ervin, a Russian-language textbook to be used in first- and second-year courses. The two-volume *Nachalo: When in Russia...*, with its accompanying workbooks, instructor's manual, and video component, was published by McGraw-Hill in 1996. The textbook was

adopted at many institutions with Russian language offerings, and in 2001 a second edition came out.

Prof. Lubensky next turned her attention to the needs of advanced language learners. Together with Irina Odintsova (Moscow University), Slava Paperno, Marjorie McShane, and Richard L. Leed, she produced *Ot teksta k rechi. Advanced Russian: From Reading to Speaking*. Regrettably, the publication of this two-part textbook, which included an interactive multimedia component, was delayed; it came out in 2011 from Slavica Publishers – four years after her retirement.

The textbook projects were made possible by major grant support from both the federal government and major private foundations. Prof. Lubensky was justifiably proud of her successes in the highly competitive world of federal and foundation funding – one in which scholars in the humanities usually have very low visibility. Moneys from her grants were used, in part, to support graduate students in the Albany Russian program – and this, of course, greatly strengthened the program during those years.

The other focus of Prof. Lubensky's scholarship was Russian-English lexicography. This was, in fact, her true love, rooted in her multilingual background and training in the Soviet Union, in her experience as translator and interpreter, and in the challenges she faced as an émigré communicating in a new society. She arrived with a superb command of English, and was drawn to the subtle differences between English and Russian, particularly in the area of higher level phraseological units. These interests led to her many years' labor on her magnum opus – the *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms*, which was published in 1995 by Random House.

The large-size volume of 1054 pages came out a few years following the breakup of the Soviet Union, during the most hopeful period in U.S.-Russian relations. The book launching was held on 24 May 1995 at the Russian Mission to the United Nations, with Ambassador Sergei Lavrov (now Foreign Minister) in attendance. In her own remarks, Prof. Lubensky noted that work on the *Dictionary* had been funded for many years by the Pentagon, and marveled that a volume with such a sponsor could be celebrated at the Russian Mission. The recent news that the American Center in the Library of Foreign Literature in Moscow is being closed offers a sad counterpoint to that earlier event.

In her remarks at the book launch, as in the preface to the *Dictionary*, Prof. Lubensky, always scrupulous in such matters, acknowledged the many people who assisted the project in some way. She paid special

tribute to two individuals to whom she felt particularly indebted – Judith VanDyk (Hehir) and Marjorie McShane.

As Sophia Lubensky would relate on occasion, a leading Russian linguist, upon receiving the *Dictionary*, told her that an entire institute in Russia would have been needed to equal the amount of work she and her assistants had carried out. Indeed, as anyone who has had occasion to consult it can confirm, the *Dictionary* is astounding in the number of Russian idioms it includes, in the sophistication and rigor of the lexicographic principles on which it is based, and in the richness and stylistic variety of the many English equivalents offered for each Russian example. An essential tool for the translator, it is a treasure house for the lover of language and anyone wishing to explore the breadth and depth of Russian and English and much of the cultural history behind each.

The original Random House edition of the *Dictionary* sold out completely – a notable achievement for such a volume. It garnered numerous laudatory reviews in scholarly journals, as well as one in the *New York Times*. Of how many reference works could the same be said? If her textbooks brought her national recognition within the professional circles of teachers of Russian in this country, the *Dictionary* established her international reputation as a lexicographer and linguist.

In 1997, a Moscow academic publisher put out a Russian edition of the *Dictionary*. It sold out rapidly. In 2004, another publisher, the well-known AST Press, came out with the second revised Russian edition, no less successful than the previous one.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then Sophia Lubensky – “Sophie,” as she was called by friends, acquaintances, colleagues, and even former students – could feel extremely flattered. In addition to these authorized publications, she saw her materials freely used, without permission or credit, in other volumes in Russia. For some reason she did not approve.

When Yale University Press proposed to publish a new, revised edition of the *Dictionary*, Sophia Lubensky welcomed the opportunity to update her work to take account of changes Russian had undergone in the late 20th and early 21st century. The revision was a thorough one, and she worked very hard to finish the job during a period of mounting health problems. The new volume came out in 2013; Sophie derived much pleasure from showing off the first copies she received. Most recently, the work was selected as “Best Contribution to Language Pedagogy” in 2014

by AATSEEL (the American Association for Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages).

About a year prior to retiring from the University at Albany, Sophie moved to New York City, determined to enjoy its many cultural offerings and delighted to be near her oldest and closest friends. She found an apartment on the West Side and immersed herself in New York's many cultural and other benefits – from opera and film to concerts and cuisine. She became a subscriber to Lincoln Center's concert series, delighted in its outstanding programs, and did not hesitate to express her views to the Center's administration. Music brought her joy, and she was happy to discuss the performance of particular conductors, musicians, and singers. She was passionate about tennis and avidly followed it, as well as the Olympics, on TV. She read a great deal, taking advantage of a public library branch not far from her building. She also became a devoted user of her Kindle.

Within the past couple of years Sophie, who had had a prior history of health problems, faced new challenges. She underwent major surgery that required adjustments to her daily routines. This was not easy, but she made up her mind, did what was necessary, and managed to find a balance that allowed her not only to enjoy her life – especially music! – but also to engage in new scholarly work. In November 2014, she was the Susana Greiss distinguished speaker at ATA's annual conference in Chicago. Most recently she co-edited, with linguist Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij, a roundtable discussion in a special issue of the *International Journal of Lexicography*. She was somewhat frustrated at having to deal with contributors from various countries, but found the work intellectually stimulating. As recently as mid-August, in one of our last conversations, she indicated that she had come up with new ideas that, she hoped, she would have the opportunity to explore.

This, unfortunately, was not to be. Unexpectedly, in late August she began to suffer chronic pains that left her incapacitated. The end followed quickly. During her final days she was cared for by members of the Savransky family and other loving friends.

People who knew Sophia Lubensky often characterized as a “strong, brave person” – in Russian, «сильный, мужественный человек». At times her strength of will, her determination to stick to a decision, once taken, and to go against the current no matter the cost, led to difficult situations. Yet the memory of these fades when they are placed within the context of her life as a whole. It took courage and strength of will to emigrate alone from the Soviet Union. It also took strength of will to embark for the first time on a

new career in a new country – and to achieve so much as a teacher and scholar. It took strength of will to face several major operations and their aftermath. It took strength of will, within the past couple of years, to deal with the death of several of her closest friends.

Another aspect of Sophie's character was no less important: her interest in people, her ability to enter into their concerns, to love and support them. When Sophie would ask a student, a colleague or a friend “How are you” or “What are you up to?” she listened to the response and, if her interlocutor was willing to go beyond superficialities, would enter into a substantial conversation. If action was called for, if there was something she should or could do, she might offer to do it – never lightly, because she always followed through on her words. In the last few years she had diminished hearing in one ear, but rather than withdraw into a semi-isolation, she would ask her guest to sit on the side of her good ear. Deeply committed to old friends and their families, she established new friendships with people from very different backgrounds. In a rapidly changing world, where it is so easy, as one grows older, to retreat from or reject change, she remained open to it, and found a common language with those very much younger than herself.

In her last few weeks, Sophie displayed to the utmost both her strength of will and her love and care for people. At first only suspecting, and then fully aware of what was coming, she made decisions regarding her own situation and looked for ways to share with and to help in some way those around her. Removing the irony from Pushkin's famous line, with all sincerity, one can only say of Sophia Lubensky's life and its end: «Ее пример другим наука» – “Her example's a lesson to others...”

Henryk Baran is Professor Emeritus of Russian Studies at the University at Albany, where he taught during 1973-2013. His scholarly interests include the Russian avantgarde, especially the poet Velimir Khlebnikov, the literature of the Silver Age, the legacy of Roman Jakobson, the history of Slavic studies, and French-Russian cultural and political relations.

SLD Presentations and other Events of Interest

(Note: Check your program or conference app. for last minute changes)

SL-1	<p>Early History of Simultaneous Interpreting in the USSR and in the West (Susana Greiss Lecture) Sergei Chernov (Thursday, 3:30pm-4:30pm; All Levels; Presented in: English)</p> <p>This session will focus on the speaker's research into the invention and early adoption of simultaneous interpreting (SI) in the West and the USSR, based on recently discovered archival documents detailing the independent inventions of SI in 1925 by Edward Filene in the West and Dr. V.Z. Epshtein in the USSR. These inventions led to the development of SI systems and their first full-scale use in Moscow and Geneva in 1928.</p> <p>THURSDAY EVENING: SLAVIC BANQUET FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 27. DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION OCTOBER 30.</p>
SL-2	<p>Should Grammatical Gender Be Controversial? One Translator's Point of View: Part I Irina Knizhnik (Friday, 10:00am-11:00am; Intermediate; Presented in: English and Russian)</p> <p>Russian is a language with mandatory grammatical gender for nouns and a number of other parts of speech. How much information and intent is built into "gender" as a category and how much of it should be conveyed when translating into English? Why has the subject of grammatical gender become controversial and how do we to deal with that in translation? The speaker will discuss how translators can handle the potential implications of including or excluding masculine or feminine forms when translating, or attributing a gender form on demand when translating between Russian and English.</p>
SL-3	<p>Should Grammatical Gender Be Controversial? Translation Issues in Russian and English: Part II Larry Bogoslaw (Friday, 11:15am-12:15pm; All Levels; Presented in: English)</p> <p>Russian is a language with mandatory grammatical gender for nouns and a number of other parts of speech. The speaker will discuss cases where "extra" information and intent are built into grammatical gender. Such cases go beyond the typical parameters of the translation task. In such instances, the translator must use a range of contextual (extralinguistic) evidence to make responsible choices. Examples include gender-neutral forms in Russian for which no parallel forms exist in English. Another example includes rhetorical uses where the grammatical gender of an inanimate object (or concept) in Russian functions as a meaningful element (e.g., in a poem or speech).</p>
SL-4	<p>Grammatical Problems in Going to, Being in, or Leaving Ukraine Keith Goeringer (Friday, 2:00pm-3:00pm; Intermediate; Presented in: English, Russian, and Ukrainian)</p> <p>This session represents a continuation of a study begun in the 1990s that examines a grammatical issue triggered by a geopolitical event. In 1996, several years after Ukraine gained independence, the Ukrainian government issued statements regarding how Ukraine should be referred to in English, Russian, and Ukrainian. In English, this entailed not using the definite article; in Russian and Ukrainian, however, it involved the choice of preposition and case. The speaker will discuss this phenomenon in light of the data sets cited in papers published in 1996 and 2007, as well as new data collected by the speaker.</p>

<p>SL-5</p>	<p>What Dictionaries Don't Tell Us Anastasia Korolova (Friday, 3:30pm-4:30pm; All Levels; Presented in: English)</p> <p>Dictionaries are our friends. Ideally, we expect them to provide us with every possible meaning of a word, its register and connotations, grammatical and cultural features, as well as its most common collocations. Despite the efforts lexicographers put into their dictionaries, they rarely cover all of these characteristics. Many features of the language remain overlooked. This session will cover the most common deficiencies in English>Russian and Russian>English dictionaries and ways to compensate for these shortcomings. Even if the pursuit of an ideal dictionary is quixotic, striving to make bilingual dictionaries more complete brings us closer to the goal.</p> <p>FRIDAY: SLD MEETING 4:45-5:45</p> <p>ATA BOOK SPLASH 6:00-7:00</p> <p>LITERARY DIVISION AFTER HOURS CAFÉ 9:00-11:00</p>
<p>SL-6</p>	<p>Idiom Translation for Slavic Savants Lydia Stone and Svetlana Beloshapkina (Saturday, 2:00pm-3:00pm; All Levels; Presented in: English with Russian examples)</p> <p>Topics discussed during this session will include: 1) recommended dictionaries, websites, and search procedures for translating English and Slavic idiomatic expressions (based on surveys of members of ATA's Slavic Languages Division); 2) differences and overlap between categories of idiomatic terms in Russian and English; 3) the importance of considering situational, conversational, and emotional contexts when translating idioms; 4) questions of register, including profanity, when translating idioms for various purposes (literature, press, subtitling, interpreting, etc.); 5) creating bilingual dictionaries of specific types of idiomatic expressions, for fun if not profit; and 6) where to find appropriate naturally occurring examples of idiom use.</p>
<p>SL-7</p>	<p>And You Thought English Articles Were Difficult Emilia Balke (Saturday, 3:30pm-4:30pm; All Levels; Presented in: English and Bulgarian)</p> <p>The speaker will discuss three forms of definite and indefinite articles and 45 Bulgarian demonstratives and how to convey their meaning in English. Common errors in the translation of the English articles into Bulgarian will also be addressed. This session will be conducted in English with English translations/back translations of each of the examples given. Translators of all Slavic languages and Greek may find this session beneficial. Attendees will have the opportunity to share and discuss common translation issues when translating articles and demonstratives between English and their respective languages.</p>

SLD 2015 Banquet
Thursday, November 5, 7:00PM

RISTORANTE FRATELLI MILANO
"Authentic Italian Cuisine"
213 SE 1ST STREET, Miami, FL 33131
www.ristorantefratellimilano.com;
(305) 373-2300

M E N U

FIRST COURSE: Select one of the following at the event

- Rucola e Mandorle** ~ Arugula, grape tomatoes, pear, goat cheese, almonds, raspberry dressing
- Caprese** ~ Fresh sliced tomatoes, mozzarella, basil, drizzled with extra virgin olive oil and balsamic reduction

MAIN COURSE: Select one of the following at the event

- *Fiocchi di Pera & Taleggio** ~ Pasta stuffed with pear and taleggio cheese, sage butter sauce
- *Tagliatelle Verdi Spiga** ~ Spinach noodles with mushrooms, peppers, zucchini, caramelized onions, garlic olive oil sauce)
- Tagliatelle Verdi al Ragù** ~ Homemade spinach noodles, fresh tomato meat sauce
- Battuta di Pollo al Marsala** ~ Pounded chicken breast, mushrooms, melted provolone cheese, Marsala wine sauce, roasted potatoes and sauteed vegetables
- **Pesce Piccata** ~ Tilapia filet, white wine, lemon, capers, sauteed vegetables, roasted potatoes
- Vitello Milanese** ~ Lightly breaded and fried veal cutlet, arugula, tomatoes, bocconcini mozzarella

DOLCI: Served family style: **Mini fruit tart, Napoleon, Profiterol, Tiramisù**

- Beverages include San Benedetto natural and sparkling water, fresh brewed iced tea and espresso/macchiato coffee); alcoholic beverages are available for purchase.
- Vegetarian (*) and gluten-free (**) options have been included in the menu selections. Please coordinate any other special dietary requirements with Fred Grasso (frdgrasso@satx.rr.com) by Friday, 10/30/2015.

Price: \$49.95 per person, including tax and gratuity

NOTE: Seating is limited so please make payment as soon as possible, but **no later than Friday, 10/30/2015**. Even if the maximum capacity of 65 is not reached by then, the restaurant will allow only up to five (5) last minute reservations and these must be paid for (cash only) at the conference no later than 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 11/4. First come, first served.

- **Ticket Purchase:** Tickets can be purchased by **PayPal (preferred)** or check received on or before Friday, 10/30/2015. **Payment via PayPal:** Access the PayPal website (www.paypal.com) and select the "Send Money" tab. Enter the amount (**\$49.95 per person**) and choose the "Friends and Family" option. In Step 2, use the following e-mail address: frdgrasso@yahoo.com.
- **Check payment:** Mail a check for the appropriate amount made payable to Fred Grasso to the following address:
**Fred Grasso,
14414 Indian Woods,
San Antonio, TX 78249-2054**

Transportation: According to Google Maps *Ristorante Fratelli Milano* is a 5-min. walk (0.2 mi.) north from the hotel.

DIRECTIONS:

- From the hotel, head north on SE 2nd Ave./Brickell Ave. toward Biscayne Blvd. Way; continue to follow SE 2nd Ave. (0.2 mi.).
- Turn right onto SE 1st St.; *Ristorante Fratelli Milano* will be on your left, 102 ft.