



PHOTO: Galina Raff

## In this issue:

<i>Ekaterina Howard and Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya</i> The Administrators' Column.....	3
SLD 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes.....	4
<i>Steven McGrath</i> Slavic Verbs Panel Presentation moderated by Larry Bogoslaw .....	6
<i>Maria Guzenko</i> Exam Race .....	9
<i>Alla Stepanova</i> How Colleagues Help Each Other Prepare for ATA's Certification Exam presented by Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya and Maria Guzenko .....	10
<i>Larry Bogoslaw and Lucy Gunderson</i> Two Slices from "The Spice of Life" moderated by Jen Guernsey.....	12
<i>Viktor Slepovitch</i> Review of English-Russian Dictionary of Sports Idioms .....	14
<i>Evgeny Terekhin</i> 50 (or so) Ways to Leave Your Author presented by Lydia Stone .....	17
<i>Nora Favorov</i> Web Watch: Russian Literature and Literary Translation	19
<i>Lydia Razran Stone</i> SlavFile Lite; Christina Sever 1945-2018 .....	20
<i>Olga Shostachuk</i> Translation Scams: Recognizing and Avoiding Them...	23

**ATA59 featured a free dictionary exchange  
containing a large selection of Slavic  
dictionaries**



PHOTO: Jeff Sanfacon, American Translators Association

## SLAVIC LANGUAGES DIVISION

### OFFICERS

Administrator: Ekaterina Howard  
[ekaterina@atasld.org](mailto:ekaterina@atasld.org)

Assistant Administrator: Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya  
[eugenia@sokolskayatranslations.com](mailto:eugenia@sokolskayatranslations.com)

*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.

Write to ATA, 225 Reinekers Lane  
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.

### EDITOR

Lydia Razran Stone  
[lydiastone@verizon.net](mailto:lydiastone@verizon.net)

### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Liv Bliss  
[bliss.mst@gmail.com](mailto:bliss.mst@gmail.com)

Nora Seligman Favorov  
[norafavorov@gmail.com](mailto:norafavorov@gmail.com)

Steven McGrath  
[steven@mcgrathtranslation.com](mailto:steven@mcgrathtranslation.com)

Galina Raff  
[galina.raff@gmail.com](mailto:galina.raff@gmail.com)

### COPY EDITORS

Jennifer Guernsey  
[jenguernsey@gmail.com](mailto:jenguernsey@gmail.com)

Lauren Cammenga  
[lcammenga@gmail.com](mailto:lcammenga@gmail.com)

Galia Williams  
[galia@sarandor.com](mailto:galia@sarandor.com)

Thanks to Jamie Padula of ATA Headquarters for his advice and help.

## Lunch after Sibelan Forrester's "Double Margin" presentation



From left: Shelley Fairweather-Vega, Maida Berbić, Željka Brannigan, Vlatka Landay, Jasenka Težak Štefanić, Sibelan Forrester, Lydia Stone.

PHOTO: Nora Favorov. Published with permission.

## Larry Bogoslaw and his guitar helped resurrect an SLD beloved tradition—the Slavic Singalong.



PHOTO: Galina Raff

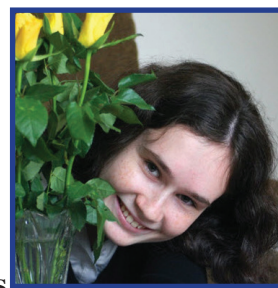




## THE ADMINISTRATORS' COLUMN

Ekaterina Howard ([ekaterina@atasld.org](mailto:ekaterina@atasld.org))

Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya ([eugenia@sokolskayatranslations.com](mailto:eugenia@sokolskayatranslations.com))



Dear SLD members,

It was a great pleasure to see many of you at ATA59!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to SLD's activities in 2018: to the Leadership Council Volunteers, Slavic languages track presenters, attendees of the Annual Meeting and Nominating Committee volunteers!

This is what you can expect to see happen in the SLD in 2019:

All of our existing initiatives, from the SLD ATA Certification Examination prep group to the Proofreading Pool, will continue.

While we will also continue maintaining Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn groups, as well as an email forum, we hope that this year the SLD Blog and Slavic Outreach—our effort to form ties with T&I organizations in Slavic countries (let us know if you can help)—will become more active.

As always, all SLD members are not just welcome, but very much encouraged to share their ideas and suggestions with the Leadership Council and with current Administrators.

Given the diversity of our division and the understandable constraints on the number of conference sessions that SLD has at the ATA conference, we would love for SLD to have a series of practice-oriented, hands-on workshops for SLD members.

Among the topics that were mentioned as interesting to the membership are:

- Dealing with culture-specific concepts in medical / legal / business documentation
- How to break into working with direct clients in the US – experience working with publishing houses, NGOs, hospitals
- Consecutive interpreting skills
- Memory skills
- Note-taking

This year's ATA Annual Conference will take place in Palm Springs, California October 23-26.

The list of Leadership Council members for 2019 is below.

Happy translating in 2019!

## SLD Leadership Council

Nora Favorov	Greiss Lecture, <i>SlavFile</i> Associate Editor	<a href="mailto:norafavorov@gmail.com">norafavorov@gmail.com</a>
Jen Guernsey	Newcomer outreach, Pre-conference outreach, <i>SlavFile</i> Editorial Board	<a href="mailto:jenguernsey@gmail.com">jenguernsey@gmail.com</a>
Boris Silversteyn	Advisory	<a href="mailto:bsilversteyn@comcast.net">bsilversteyn@comcast.net</a>
Lydia Stone	<i>SlavFile</i> Editor	<a href="mailto:lydiastone@verizon.net">lydiastone@verizon.net</a>
Maria Guzenko	SLD Certification Exam Practice group	<a href="mailto:maria.guzenko@intorussian.net">maria.guzenko@intorussian.net</a>
Anna Livermore	Facebook group	<a href="mailto:livermore.translations@gmail.com">livermore.translations@gmail.com</a>
Julia Thornton	SLD listserv Administration	<a href="mailto:thornton96@yahoo.com">thornton96@yahoo.com</a>
Lauren Cammenga	<i>SlavFile</i> Copy Editor, <i>SlavFile</i> Editorial Board	<a href="mailto:lacammenga@gmail.com">lacammenga@gmail.com</a>
Steven McGrath	Reviews for Ru>En (SLD Certification Exam Group), <i>SlavFile</i> Editorial Board	<a href="mailto:steven@mcgrathtranslations.com">steven@mcgrathtranslations.com</a>
Viktoryia Baum	Proofreading Pool	<a href="mailto:vbaum00@gmail.com">vbaum00@gmail.com</a>
Veronika Demichelis	SLD Podcast	<a href="mailto:demichelis.veronika@gmail.com">demichelis.veronika@gmail.com</a>

# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SLAVIC LANGUAGES DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

Thursday, October 25, 2018

New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, LA

Ekaterina Howard, Administrator

Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya, Assistant Administrator

Minutes taken by Jennifer Guernsey

## 1. Call to order

Ekaterina Howard, Administrator, called the meeting to order.

## 2. Acceptance of agenda

## 3. Approval of 2017 minutes

The agenda was accepted. The 2017 minutes, previously published in *SlavFile* and available at <http://www.ata-divisions.org/SLD/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SlavFile-2018-1-Winter.pdf>, page 8, were approved.

## 4. SLD Overview for 2018

SLD's 2018 activities were summarized as follows:

- *Blog* – Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya is currently the blog editor. The blog now exists and contributions are on a volunteer basis. It has mostly been a channel for announcements and needs more content.
- *Website* – *SlavFile* has been published on the site, along with various announcements.
- *Social media* – Ekaterina Howard reports that the Facebook page is active; the Google forum exists, but has had little activity; and the Twitter feed is not very active.
- *SlavFile* – Lydia Stone reports that she expects to have four issues this year. The editorial structure has changed, and Steven McGrath has come on as a new editor. The *SlavFile* is always seeking contributions, particularly for Slavic languages other than Russian. Lydia noted that reviewers of relevant conference sessions were also needed.
- *Proofreading pool* – Viktoriya Baum reported that a proofreading pool, modeled on the one run by the German Language Division, was started last year. The purpose of the pool is to share knowledge and trade copy editing services. The pool is basically an Excel spreadsheet containing registrant information. There is some participation (10-12 participants, thus far exclusively Russian translators), but not a lot of need at the moment. She will continue the project for another year to see if things pick up. Users must be mindful of client NDAs and confidentiality issues. Viktoriya encourages people to sign up and make use

of this resource. To sign up, contact Viktoriya: [vbaumoo@gmail.com](mailto:vbaumoo@gmail.com)

- *Podcast* – Veronika Demichelis reported that there have been 11 podcast episodes. She requests suggestions for both topics and speakers. The focus has been professional development topics before the conference, and she expects to focus on business practices after the conference. She needs some help with the administrative side and is looking for volunteers.
- *Other translation associations* – Tom Fennell reports slow but steady progress in this area. Contact has been established with the Russian Translators Forum and a Polish translators organization. He would like to organize exchanges of conference attendees. He suggests giving the VIP treatment to visiting foreign members. Viktoriya Baum offered to provide Tom with some contacts. Tom requests that anyone planning to attend an overseas conference contact him.
- *ATA certification exam practice group* – Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya reports that the practice group has gone very well, as many of its members have passed the certification exam. As a result, the group seeks additional participants. To sign up, contact Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya ([eugenia@sokolskayatranslations.com](mailto:eugenia@sokolskayatranslations.com)) or Maria Guzenko ([maria.guzenko@intorussian.net](mailto:maria.guzenko@intorussian.net)). Maria Guzenko



Tom Fennell reports to the SLD on his efforts to develop contacts with translation organizations in Slavic countries. On the left is SLD administrator Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya. PHOTO: Galina Raff

suggested we also put an enrollment form on our website; Eugenia will look into this. (See pages 10 and 11 for more information about this program.)

- *Greiss lecture* – Nora Favorov solicited suggestions for the Greiss lecture, noting that we prefer to rotate languages and topics. Ideas can be sent to Nora (norafavorov@gmail.com).

## 5. New business for 2019

- *Nominating committee* – Ekaterina noted that 2019 will be a division election year, and thus a division nominating committee must be formed. The nominating committee members must be voting members and should not be members of the leadership council. Tom Fennell volunteered to serve. Dan Price is not currently a voting member, but said he might be interested in serving.
- *Future conference presentations* – Ekaterina solicited suggestions for future conference presentations, to which the membership responded as follows.
  - Elizabeth Adams requested *nuts and bolts practical presentations* along the lines of those done recently by Jen Guernsey and John Riedl.
  - Maria Guzenko suggested a session on *interpreter training*, particularly comparing the training programs provided abroad (e.g., Russia) and those in the US.
  - Tom Fennell proposed a suggestion on the *translation of company names*. This session could be limited to SLD-related countries or could be broadened to include other countries. Lydia Stone suggested that Tom's proposed presentation bring in additional topics and/or divisions. Lucy Gunderson suggested consulting the Law and Medical divisions in order to solicit additional translators.

- Larry Bogoslaw proposed having another *translation slam*. Elizabeth Adams noted that NOTIS (Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society) holds translation slams locally. Kataryna Silvestro suggested a session on the *expectations of interpreters in different cultures*. This could be merged with Maria Guzenko's suggestion.
- Nora Favorov has some unused Greiss suggestions from previous years, but solicits others. Because the conference will be in Palm Springs, it will be best to stick with a domestic speaker next year because of the likely travel costs.

## • Division plans for next year

- Eugenia stated that she would like to step down as blog editor. Dan Price volunteered to help with the blog.
- Ekaterina solicited suggestions for podcasts, blogs, etc. Maria Guzenko suggested the topic of evaluating translator/interpreter training in Russia and other Slavic countries.

## 6. Feedback and suggestions from members

- Nora thanked Eugenia and Ekaterina for their work on the website, the podcast, and the study groups. She also noted that Anna Livermore has been posting interesting items on the Facebook site.
- Larry Bogoslaw noted that he had secured a room and brought a guitar, and invited members to join in for an informal singalong that evening. He hopes this session will be the first in a revival of the dormant annual singalong tradition.

## 7. Introduction of new members

Conference newcomers were invited to introduce themselves, and several did so.

## 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

**SLAVFILE READERS – DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY IN OUR PAGES?  
WE INVITE YOU TO CONTRIBUTE: A COLUMN, AN ARTICLE, EVEN AN IDEA FOR ONE!  
YOU NEED NOT BE A MEMBER OF ATA TO BE PUBLISHED.  
PERFECT ENGLISH NOT A PREREQUISITE; THAT'S WHAT EDITORS ARE FOR!**

**EARN NAME RECOGNITION IN THE SLAVIC T/I WORLD,  
NOT TO MENTION CONTINUING EDUCATION POINTS AND OUR APPRECIATION!  
LET US HEAR FROM YOU;  
CONTACT ANY EDITOR AT ADDRESS ON THE MASTHEAD.**



## How to Get Tense: Translating Verbs Into and Out of Slavic Languages

Presented by

Larry Bogoslaw, Paul Gallagher, Olga Shostachuk, Christine Pawlowski, Emilia Balke

Reviewed by Steven McGrath

*FROM: THE EDITORS:* This presentation gave a fascinating picture of the complexities and differences among the treatment of verb tenses in various Slavic languages. Given the time limits and the number of presenters, what was provided by each was just a snapshot. Reviewer Steve McGrath did a valiant job of summarizing the presentations, but we the editors, including Steve, are hungry for further elucidation. We promise to solicit and, if successful, to publish entire articles on the tense system of each of these languages from the perspective of translation.

Whenever the little purple “SLD” marker appears on the ATA Annual Conference program, we always have to give it a second look. Sure, we’d like to support Division speakers who work with different languages than we do, but there’s always the concern that we might not understand the subject matter or that the session may not be relevant to our work. At this year’s conference, we had the good fortune of witnessing a presentation that truly relates to all Slavic languages generally, with implications that apply to all of us, regardless of the specifics of our work. Whether we work into or out of English, each of us has, at some moment, struggled with the fact that verb forms provide different information in our source and target languages.

Moderator Larry Bogoslaw opened *How to Get Tense: Translating Verbs Into and Out of Slavic Languages* with some historical background to this exercise in comparative linguistics. Judging from the

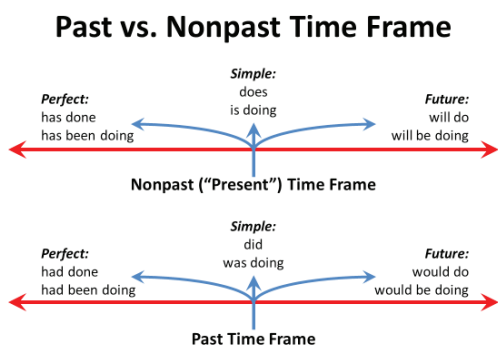
earliest written source languages, Proto-Indo-European featured a wide variety of verb forms which by the first millennium before the Common Era had narrowed within the descendant tongues. Old Church Slavonic, for example, used a diverse array of methods, including prefixes and root changes, to convey the tense, aspect, and semantic nuances of verbs. From that point, which is the closest we can get to proto-Slavic in the written record, the various Slavic languages evolved, each winnowing away certain archaic forms and further developing others.

Paul Gallagher, the first panelist, laid down the grammatical framework for the discussion by contrasting the systems of tenses and aspects for English and Russian. After reviewing the sequential charts familiar to all second-language students, he moved on to those distinctions of grammatical construction and logic that have confounded most of us at one time or another. Russian often uses adverbials to express many ideas conveyed ambiguously by English modal verbs: can/could (ability, permission, or possibility), will/would (prediction, speculation, or spontaneous decision) etc. For example, various degrees of possibility may be conveyed in Russian by the adverbs: можно, нельзя, (не) исключено, возможно, обязательно, наверное, вероятно.



The Getting Tense Panelists and Moderator. From left to right: Olga Shostachuk, Christine Pawlowski, Emilia Balke, Paul Gallagher and Larry Bogoslaw.  
PHOTO: Nora Favorov

As Paul made note, Russian uses three conjugated tenses to English's two, and the languages have markedly different concepts of the perfective aspect.



[Paul Gallagher's slides contrasting English vs. Russian in terms of tense and aspect.]

Olga Shostachuk then further explored issues of verb aspect in Slavic languages, drawing on her research of translations from Ukrainian to English. She recommended several strategies for expressing Ukrainian aspect in English, with a particular focus on using participle phrases and prepositional time-markers (while, with, without in, on, at, after, by, etc., often followed by a gerund) rather than a hard and fast equivalency with past simple vs. perfect. In English, it is often more important to establish the sequence or simultaneity of actions than to adopt a particular verb form.

Like other Slavic languages, Ukrainian makes use of an extensive set of prefixes to express aspect, duration, and manner of action, and Olga presented the results of a corpus-linguistic study on the English constructions that are used to express these shades of meaning. The source materials for this work were the Ukrainian original and a UK English translation of 2016-17 press releases on the British Council website. The English contained fewer words than the original, which struck me as unusual in a translation from a synthetic to an analytic language.

## RESULTS



	UKR	EN
Помі-	4	Participle II
Пона-	12	While/after +G
Поза-	0	0
Поро-	7	Participle II/Complex sentence/Gerund

[Olga Shostachuk's slide showing the results of her corpus-linguistic study, and one of her examples of using a participle phrase to translate the prefix поро-]

**...сторони домовились, що порозбудовують тісні зв'язки між університетами двох країн...**

***The parties will work towards a programme developing stronger ties between universities in the two countries...***

Christine Pawlowski detailed the particularities of Polish verbs, which are often misunderstood by Slavic language specialists who are more familiar with the Russian grammatical framework. While superficially resembling the familiar perfective verb in a pair, many verbs feature "empty prefixes" that do not change the original imperfective meaning beyond change of aspect. In addition, many Polish "perfective" verb forms signal the start of an action or state, rather than its completion. Moving away from the Russian two-aspect model, many Polish specialists consider this a third, inchoative aspect. Christine then illustrated how translators have dealt with these shades of expression, giving as examples the dubbing of Shrek (English>Polish) and translations of works by Slawomir Mrozek (Polish>English).

*Mieszkańcy obu miasteczek rzucili się do roboty, podczas gdy podróżny palił cygaro, a jego stangret wymieniał os.*

- (Brand) The inhabitants of both little towns **set about working**, while the traveler **smoked** a cigar and the coachman **changed** the axle.
- (Mallory) The townsfolk from both sides **got to work**, while the traveler **smoked** a cigar and his coachman **changed** the axle.
- (Pawlowski) The residents of both hamlets **threw themselves into work** while the traveler **puffed on** a cigar and his coachman **changed** the axle.

[Christine Pawlowski's slide showing different approaches to translating a passage by Slawomir Mrozek. Note how the translators express the inchoative aspect for the first verb.]

Emilia Balke rounded out the panel with an introduction to the finer points of verbs in Bulgarian, which has either preserved or adopted a number of forms unfamiliar to specialists in the Eastern and Western Slavic languages. Speaking as a Russian>English translator with no previous exposure to Bulgarian, I could not help but notice certain similarities to English in the use of modal verbs and the progressive/continuous aspect. Things get more interesting from there. Take, for example, the use of evidentiary verb forms, through which a speaker can express a greater or lesser degree of skepticism about a statement:

Иван даде писмото на учителката. >Иван дал писмото на учителката. > Иван бил дал писмото на учителката.  
 Ivan **gave** the letter to the teacher. >  
 Ivan **supposedly gave** the letter to the teacher. >  
 Ivan **supposedly gave** the letter to the teacher.

In the first example, the speaker is a witness to the act. The second and third sentences show increased uncertainty or disbelief, a distinction lost in the English translation. If it is necessary to distinguish between the two degrees of incredulity in English, perhaps, for the third form, a translator might use something like *Ivan claims to have given the letter to the teacher*.

Bulgarian also features a historic tense that resembles the present continuous in English:

Наполеон завладява Италия през 1796 година.  
 Napoleon **invaded** Italy in 1796. (literally “**is invading**”)

In another similarity to English, Bulgarian uses gerunds in the same form as the present participle, but, as Emilia points out, the form да (to) + conjugated verb, slightly resembling the English full infinitive, is still preferred in most instances.

## LINGUISTIC ASYMMETRY

### ► Translations of Gerunds into Bulgarian

Solving problems is one of my favorite activities.

**Разрешаването** на проблеми е едно от любимите ми занимания.

Let's go dancing.

Хайде да отидем **да танцуваме**.

I delayed telling John the bad news.

**Изчаках**, преди **да кажа** лошата новина на Джон.

© Copyright 2015 Emilia Balke All Rights Reserved

[Emilia Balke's slide showing different translations of English gerunds into Bulgarian. Unless the English gerund serves as the subject of the sentence, it is better to use an alternative form.]

I, for one, hope that future conferences will include cross-language panels on similar areas of common interest. We are all linguists, after all, and part of our task is to understand how meaning is conveyed. The grammar of each language has evolved spontaneously, gradually shaping itself to the conceptual world of its mass of speakers. Studying the results of this evolution gives us a unique insight into the logic of language and clarifies our own assumptions about how to express ideas. It's also quite fun.

## ATTENTION READERS WHO WORK WITH SLAVIC LANGUAGES OTHER THAN RUSSIAN!

Are you disappointed to find so few articles in our pages pertaining to your Slavic specialty? Frankly, so are we, but only you can do something about this deplorable situation. Volunteer to write something pertaining to your language(s); alternatively, suggest an article you know of that we might get permission to reprint. We do not require our authors to be members of ATA; we are pleased to publish relevant articles from those who are not. We do require that articles be under 2500 words in length and written in English, except, of course, for examples in Slavic languages. We very much look forward to hearing from you!

Send contributions related to:

Polish to Christine Pawlowski [pawlow@verizon.net](mailto:pawlow@verizon.net)

Ukrainian to Olga Shostachuk: [olgalviv27@yahoo.com](mailto:olgalviv27@yahoo.com)

Bosnian, Serbian and/or Croatian to Martha Kosir: [KOSIR@gannon.edu](mailto:KOSIR@gannon.edu)

We are without language coordinators for the remaining Slavic languages. Would you like to volunteer for your language? Send contributions on them to Lydia Stone: [lydiastone@verizon.net](mailto:lydiastone@verizon.net).



# EXAM RACE

Maria Guzenko

*Жадность фраера сгубила*  
(“Greed did the sucker in”).

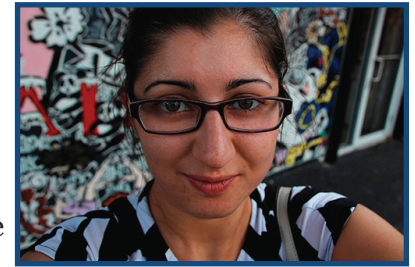
—Russian saying

Like many other translators who traveled halfway across the country to the ATA Annual Conference in New Orleans this year, I welcomed every opportunity to curb my expenses not related to learning and networking. For the first time since I started attending ATA conferences, I would be able to stay with friends, as I had some who lived in the Mid-City neighborhood, some 30 minutes away from the conference hotel by streetcar. I had been to New Orleans before and I had found the public transit system quite user-friendly with its handy mobile app that eliminated the need for carrying exact change, so I thought this would be a perfect arrangement for me to get to the conference venue.

In my attempt to derive maximum value from the conference, I had also signed up for the ATA exam in my non-dominant direction. Since I was going to be at the test location, anyway, I thought I might as well give it a try before next year’s price increase. My flight back home was scheduled for Saturday night, so the plan was to bring my bag with me to the conference hotel, leave it with a colleague staying there, take the exam on Saturday morning, and head straight to the airport. In accordance with this plan, I arranged to meet my colleague at the hotel 30 minutes before my 8:30 exam, packed my things, bid my hosts goodbye and thanks, and got on the familiar streetcar.

Little did I know that on the day of the exam, the Jazz Half Marathon and 5K was taking place not far from the conference hotel. It came as a rude awakening somewhere around LaSalle Street when the streetcar conductor announced that the streets ahead were blocked off and we had to get off and walk the rest of the way. At that point, it was getting to be 8:10, so, a typical Millennial I first tried to hail a cab through a ride-sharing app. No sooner had I hit “Confirm” on my screen than I saw the red letters spelling “Marriott” seemingly a couple of blocks down Canal, so I bravely canceled my ride and decided to traverse the remaining distance on foot.

...As athletes were rushing to the finish line in the Jazz 5K on Saturday, a lone translator was running a race of her own down Canal Street—defying politeness, traffic lights, her own asthma, and the suitcase rolling behind her. Google Maps tells me that the 0.6 miles from LaSalle Street, where the streetcar let us out, to the Marriott takes 12 minutes to walk. I covered that distance, suitcase and all, in close to 5. Out of breath and sweaty, I handed off the suitcase to my colleague and walked into the exam room at 8:15. I have yet to receive the results of the exam, but I do wonder—could I get an honorable mention in the 5K results?



*FROM THE EDITORS; We are happy to say that Maria, who writes English very well, as this piece testifies, has official notification that she has passed the ATA Russian into English exam, so that she is now among the few certified in two directions. Congratulations Maria!*

Maria Guzenko is an ATA-certified English-to-Russian translator and a certified medical interpreter (CMI-Russian). She holds an MA in translation from Kent State University and specializes in healthcare and marketing content. Maria has also worked as a project manager and has taught college-level Russian and writing classes. She is a co-administrator of the certification exam online practice group for ATA’s Slavic Languages Division. Maria can be reached at [maria.guzenko@intorussian.net](mailto:maria.guzenko@intorussian.net).



New Orleans streetcar

Photo by Didier Moïse [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)], from Wikimedia Commons

## Group Mind: How Colleagues Can Help Each Other

### Prepare for ATA's Certification Exam

*Presentation by Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya and Maria Guzenko*

*Reviewed by Alla Stepanova*

Preparing for the ATA Certification Exam is a great way to discover your strengths and weaknesses as a professional translator. This is by no means an easy exam to pass: indeed, most people do not pass it on their first try.

The most common questions asked by a potential candidate for certification are: How is the actual exam administered? What are the eligibility requirements? How much does it cost to take it? How are exams graded? What are the criteria for passing? How long are exam passages and what kinds of texts is a candidate likely to encounter on the actual exam? Answers to these basic questions can be found on the [ATA website](#).

It is likely to be clear to anyone thinking about certification that, in order to be well prepared to take the exam, candidates should practice with texts under conditions similar to those they will encounter when taking the exam. But what resources are available to help candidates do this?

First, [you can order](#) a practice test from ATA for \$80 for ATA members and \$120 for nonmembers. (Note: ATA plans to open the exam up to nonmembers sometime after 2020.) The practice test you will receive consists of one passage analogous to those on an actual certification exam. You will translate the test at home and you yourself can decide how close you want to come to actual Certification Exam conditions, which are fully described on the ATA website. You can then send your translation back to ATA and have it evaluated by one of the same graders who grade ATA exams. Importantly, the graded practice test will be returned to you, so you can see what was

considered an error and how severely it was graded (how many error points it earned). The number of practice test passages available for a given language pair is limited (most language pairs offer two or three), but you have to pay \$80 (or \$120) for each one.

In addition, some local U.S. associations of interpreters and translators offer free practice study groups, but there is no guarantee that there will be one near you. Some certification preparation workshops also exist, but they can be costly, and you need to be available at a particular place and time.

Of course, anyone can try to prepare by practicing independently, attempting to translate a number of exam-analogous texts under conditions similar to those of an actual exam sitting. Good idea, but how will you know whether the translations you have produced are likely to pass or fail according to the ATA standards used by actual graders?

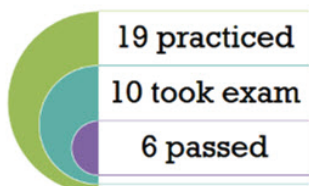
The Slavic Languages Division (SLD) has found a unique solution for candidates striving to prepare for certification exams. **Introducing the ATA's first (and currently only) Certification Exam practice group.**

The group was started two years ago by two SLD members who later became the practice group's administrators and inspirational leaders: Maria Guzenko (for those who were hoping to become certified as translators from English into Russian) and Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya (for those who wished to hone their skills in translating from Russian into English). Maria wanted to become certified and was looking for further practice. Eugenia had just been awarded certification and was looking for ways to share her experience, as well as the knowledge she had acquired by completing the Kent State University M.A. in Translation. A number of actual ATA graders volunteered to provide input on passage selection and appropriate translations.

While the organizers are more than willing to include practice groups in languages other than Russian, so far there have not been enough people wanting to practice in a given pair at the same time. If anyone reading this would like to try to get one started, please contact Maria and/or Eugenia at the email addresses on the next page.

### OUTCOMES

1. Candidates know what to expect
2. Positive effect on translations
3. High pass rate
4. New connections





Eugenia and Maria discussed their work and experience on Day 1 of the ATA Annual Conference in New Orleans (ATA59) in a presentation titled “Group Mind: How Colleagues Can Help Each Other Prepare for the ATA Certification Exam.” The presentation was a great success.

In the two years of its existence, the group has achieved impressive results: 19 candidates participated in the group, 10 of these took the exam, and 6 passed. This pass rate (60%) is much higher than both the overall pass rate and the pass rate for Russian<>English exams.

### **How do you sign up for the group?**

Participation in the group is open to all SLD members. The group is hosted on [Slack](#), an online collaboration platform. You may ask to join the practice group by submitting a request at <http://ata-sld.slack.com> or emailing Maria Guzenko ([maria.guzenko@intorussian.net](mailto:maria.guzenko@intorussian.net)) or Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya ([eugenia@sokolskayatranslations.com](mailto:eugenia@sokolskayatranslations.com)).

The group has developed detailed and easy-to-use Practice Group Instructions, which you can download from the website once you have signed up.

### **How does it work?**

As the instructions explain:

“Slack is an online tool for group communications, organized in custom ‘channels’ (message boards). It also allows participants to send each other private messages, which is useful for discreetly exchanging feedback with a practice partner. In addition to the two default channels (‘general’ and ‘random’), the organizers created a channel for each language combination currently available for certification.”

Each practice cycle lasts five weeks.

**Week 1: Signup.** Participants sign up for the next practice cycle.

**Week 2: Text Posted.** A practice passage is posted for everyone in the given group (one for the En>Ru channel, one for the Ru>En channel).

How are the texts chosen? For the En>Ru channel, passages are selected from *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Washington Post*, or sometimes the group participants come up with suggestions. The passage selection process is similar for the Ru>En channel, which draws on a variety of Russian-language sources.

**Week 3: Translation Exchange.** Candidates send their translation via private message to the persons listed before and after them on the list of

participants (i.e., all participants exchange translations with two colleagues).

**Week 4: Feedback Exchange, Channel-Wide Discussion.** Using the *Track Changes* and *Comments* features in Word, each participant corrects and scores the translations received according to ATA’s [Framework for Standardized Error Marking](#). Everyone then returns the translations with comments back to their authors. Obvious benefits of this peer review system are that it tends to reveal errors that the original translators failed to see; it encourages people to see their own errors; it promotes responsibility and accountability to colleagues; and it encourages collective brainstorming.

**Week 5 and beyond: Reviewers’ Feedback.** The organizers put together a list of the challenges encountered and solicit feedback from volunteer experts (certified translators, some of whom are ATA graders).

The volunteer graders do not review each individual translation but provide overall guidance on some of the common challenges that were brought up during the discussion on Slack. The organizers share the reviewers’ comments and suggestions with those participating in the given cycle.

In addition to the impressive pass rate for those who participated in the practice group, there are a number of other significant, indisputable benefits:

- This study program not only prepares you for taking the exam, but it makes you a better translator.
- You gain exposure to other people’s ways of thinking and translating ideas into another language.
- The study group is a great way to network with your colleagues: you develop valuable connections among your peers, the next generation of certified translators in your language pair.

Alla Stepanova is a graduate of Moscow Linguistic University. Currently based in Atlanta, GA, she has been working in the U.S. as a Russian interpreter since 2015. In 2017 she was certified by the National Board for Certification of Medical Interpreters (NBCMI) for Russian. She can be reached at [alla.r.stepanova@gmail.com](mailto:alla.r.stepanova@gmail.com).



## TWO SLICES FROM “THE SPICE OF LIFE”

(A panel discussion conceived of and moderated by Jen Guernsey)

**Abstract from the ATA59 program: It turns out that there are myriad ways to apply our Slavic language skills. Come hear a panel of wildly diverse, experienced Slavists discuss what they do and how they got to this point in their careers. This session will give you ideas on ways to expand or shift your translating or interpreting career path.**

*From the Editor: I (Lydia) was able to attend only one of the panel sessions described above. I cannot remember another presentation I have attended in my 25 years of conferences that I found as riveting. In recent years SlavFile has eagerly solicited newcomer profiles, and we will continue to do so. However, how remiss of us not to also try to publish established translator profiles, especially as many of our “oldcomers” came from a time when there was no standardized path to becoming a translator or interpreter. (My father’s phrase “сложный путь” keeps coming to my mind.) We intend to start soliciting and publishing such slices of our colleagues’ lives—starting with those of last October’s panel members (at least all those we can cajole into contributing). Here are the first two.*

### LARRY BOGOSLAW

Like many of you, I have been fascinated by languages since childhood. In my case, the spell was cast by an old phrasebook that my mother had picked up during her 1958 trip to Europe; hundreds of common words and phrases were all neatly laid out in grids, in six languages! As I went through middle school, high school and college, I ended up studying Latin, Spanish, German, Italian, and Russian.

The latter was the area of study I found most compelling – for the literature, the political situation at the time (perestroika) and my own family history. So I entered graduate school at the University of Michigan, with the goal of becoming a professor of Russian literature. I specialized in 20<sup>th</sup>-century poetry, and my Ph.D. thesis was a literary/linguistic analysis of Russian translations of the great American poet Walt Whitman. Unfortunately, by the time I finished my degree, in 1995, there were very few teaching positions available in that field – in fact, Slavic departments in the US were being drastically cut.

I did teach a number of college-level Russian courses after grad school, but my main career has been devoted to translation. Granted, my start in this field came in an unusual way – through a training program in translation and interpreting at the University of Minnesota, led by Prof. Bruce Downing. Bruce had built strong ties in the community, so he was closely in touch with local immigrant populations and their needs. One day, an RFP (Request for Proposals) from the State of Minnesota government came across his desk; the project was to translate a

multi-part application form for government services into Russian and four languages of Southeast Asia. I worked with Bruce on the proposal and, amazingly, we won the bid! That marked the birth of the Minnesota Translation Lab, which I ran at the university until 2004 and have operated since as a private business. MTL has translated several thousand documents, articles and other publications, specializing in culturally complex and sensitive subjects. For example, we translated a book-length glossary of legal terminology into Hmong, and spent two years developing a Somali version of the MMPI (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory), a testing tool that contains over 500 questions.

Concurrently with MTL, I have continued to pursue my passion for education and professional development. I have designed and taught translation curriculum at the University of Minnesota and Century College (one of the only community colleges that offers an Associate Degree in Translation and Interpreting!). And, of course, many of you have seen my presentations at ATA conferences. Another outlet for my teaching impulse (or compulsion?) is my position as Head Grader Trainer for ATA’s Certification Program, which I have held since 2013.

For my “day job,” I now work as editor in chief at East View Press in Minneapolis, which publishes English-language journals and books that focus on Russia, China and other regions. This position is a recent promotion; for most of the last eight years, I have been translating and editing newspaper articles and commentaries for one of East View’s journals, *The Current Digest of the Russian Press*. This work is an

inspiring collaboration among a close-knit group of staff who divide the responsibilities of translation, editing and proofreading.

An exciting project that grew out of our day-to-day work on the *Digest* is a new book devoted to coverage about Donald Trump (*Russians on Trump*, East View Press, 2018), which I selected and edited. [See *SlavFile*'s interview with Larry about this book in our Summer 2018 issue, page 7.] The main timeframe is 2015-2017, which goes from Trump's presidential campaign through the first 200 days of his presidency. However, I also included background on Trump's relations and contacts with Russia before then. So the collection goes back to 1997. The main sections are chronological, but I also created a special section on "Russia ties" that extends over several years.

By the way, I did not leave my interest in poetry behind forever when I finished graduate school. It was

reawakened by Lydia Stone about 10 years ago, when I started hearing and reading her inspired and agile translations of Russian verse. She convinced me that it really is possible to translate poetry poetically, while also retaining accuracy! My own verse translation work has garnered awards at the Compass International Translation Contest, and I am now working on a book of translations by contemporary poet Alexander Veytsman.

In Jen Guernsey's description of these Slavic panels, she writes that they may "give you ideas on ways to expand or shift your translation or interpreting career path." My own career path has certainly been filled with adventures; the only advice I can give others is to stay in tune with your passions and keep your eyes open for ways to develop them and show the world what you can do. Thank you, Jen, for giving us this opportunity to talk, listen and learn!

---

## LUCY GUNDERSON

First of all, I'd like to thank Jen Guernsey for organizing this panel and for providing excellent guidance.

I currently work as a Russian to English human rights translator. I also do some legal, academic, and journalistic translation. Before this panel, I had thought that my specialization in human rights was a fluke, but after going through the questions Jen gave us to consider in preparation, I realized that it actually isn't.

I started studying Russian in the fall of 1989, which, as we all know, was a volatile time in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. I remember learning the instrumental case at the end of first-year Russian. We had to answer the question "Кем Вы будете?" (What are you going to be when you grow up?). We had a limited vocabulary at the time, but I went carefully through the choices. Doctor – No. Lawyer – No. Engineer – No. Переводчик – Hmm. "Я буду переводчиком!" So I guess I've always felt an obligation to remain faithful to that solemn oath I took in first-year Russian.

I ended up spending my junior year in Voronezh, Russia. I arrived two weeks after the August putsch in 1991 and stayed until June 1992, which means that I witnessed the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the formation of newly independent states. I returned to Russia in 1993, after graduation, and lived there through the October 1993 coup and, later, the currency fluctuations of the mid- to late 1990s.

This experience living in Russia was what really sparked my current interests in human rights, international relations, and law. When I lived in Russia, I was constantly reading all sorts of newspapers to understand what exactly was going on, so I became familiar with the Russian journalistic style. This led to my first few translation jobs translating articles from Russian media outlets in New York City. From there, I became involved in SLD activities, thanks to Nora and Lydia, who basically forced me to write a newcomer conference review for *SlavFile*.

But, in all seriousness, I feel great gratitude to Nora, Lydia, and Christina Sever. They were sources of work for me, and Nora actually asked me to take on a human rights translation for her while she was on vacation. She said that she would be available to help



Slice of Life panel members, Lucy Gunderson, Emma Garkavi and Michael Collins. Published with permission.

PHOTO: Galina Raff



me, but it turned out she was at the beach the whole time and wasn't actually able to help! In any case, the file she asked me to handle was about electoral fraud in Belarus. I was initially worried about my ability to translate this file, but then I realized that 1) I actually knew where Belarus was, 2) I actually knew who Lukashenko was, and 3) I had read an awful lot about electoral fraud when I lived in Russia, so I was probably better prepared than most to translate this. The client was apparently happy with my translation, because they kept coming back to me for more and also referred me to other human rights groups.

On a typical day, if I am not translating or watching *Law and Order* or *Love it or List it*, I try to stay current with human rights news by following human rights groups on Twitter, reading human rights journals online or in print, and attending events related to human rights, usually at Columbia University.

As we grow as translators and expand our careers, I feel that it is always important to keep pushing at our boundaries and working outside our comfort zones. Don't be afraid! While I am currently able to make a good living as a human rights translator, I have no confidence that this will last forever and am thus always looking into new ways to expand my business.

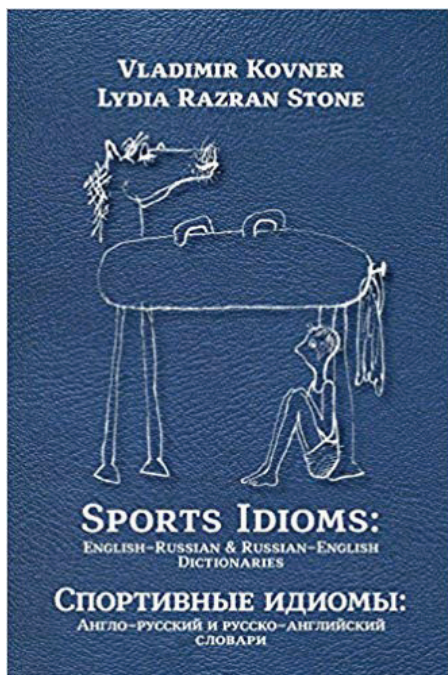
I encourage everyone to get involved in ATA or your local chapter's activities to make a name for yourself and to meet translators and interpreters working in your areas of interest. I can guarantee that taking these steps will help you start and, if you're not a newcomer, grow your current business.

---

## Dictionary Review

### ***Sports Idioms* by Vladimir Kovner and Lydia Razran Stone**

*Reviewed by Viktor Slepovitch*



The recent publication of *Sports Idioms: English-Russian and Russian-English Dictionaries* by Vladimir Kovner and Lydia Razran Stone (M.Graphics Publishing, 2018, 340 pp.) is sure to be greeted with great interest. The reason for this is very simple: it is the first of its kind on the market in either language direction and it could potentially be in high demand since the sphere of sports is a part of everyday life for so many speakers of English and Russian alike.

The book includes an Introduction and an English-Russian and a Russian-English dictionary, as well as three indexes: an English Idiom Index, an English Idiom Key Word Index, and a Russian Idiom Index.

The Introduction (which is in both English and Russian) is very helpful and informative. Detailed explanations make it easier for both the translator and casual reader to use the dictionary. The English to Russian section of the dictionary covers a large variety of sports activities, which are grouped into "General Idioms," "Team Sports," "Races," "Combat Sports," "Individual Sports," "Winter Sports," "Animal Fighting," and so on. Apart from providing a translation, the entry for each idiom contains a definition and additional information about its usage, which enables a Russian native speaker to better understand the phrase's meaning and connotations in different contexts. It was a good idea to provide continuous numbering of all the idioms (the numbers preceding the idioms from the book are given in brackets in this review, for reference purposes). The inclusion of two indices—one of individual words and one of whole terms—is invaluable in easing the search for a particular idiom's meaning and translation.

Learning the Russian equivalents of English sports idioms included in this dictionary can be useful to native Russian speakers in a number of ways. To be more specific, sports idioms:



- provide information about US and, to a lesser extent, British realities of which native speakers of Russian are mostly unaware (e.g., [61] *Ivy League* as the eight most prestigious universities, and [146] *to have a lot on the ball* in the meaning of *to be competent*);
- provide new ways of expressing in English some ideas already known to translators/interpreters and other native Russian speakers (e.g., [72] *to make sport of someone* in the meaning of *to make fun of someone*, [304] *Monday morning quarterback*—умный задним числом, [570] *slow and steady wins the race*—тише едешь – дальше будешь, and [879] *trust everyone but cut the cards*—доверяй, но проверяй);
- occasionally convey an idiom's ironic nuance that is not obvious to a non-native speaker (e.g., [123] *to talk a good game* in the sense of *to speak knowledgeably despite lack of competence*);
- introduce expressions that may be new to Russian speakers (or are to this one at least), such as [191] *in the ballpark*—approximately, [653] *a long shot*—something that has a very slight chance of succeeding, as well as [498] *to take the long count* and [906] *to cash in one's chips*—to die, etc.

A native Russian speaker who reads the dictionary will also discover that certain idioms have wording equivalent in Russian, such as [102] *to rest on one's laurels*—почивать на лаврах, [376] *dark horse*—тёмная лошадка, [509] *win on points*—выиграть по очкам, [593] *rock the boat*—раскачивать лодку, [921] *Lady Luck*—Госпожа Удача, and so on.

Other words and expressions are borrowings, used in Russian in a phonetic rendition of the English, e.g., [379] *disk jockey*, [409] *photo finish*, [461] *knockout*, [538] *false start*, etc. In addition, native Russian speakers who are fluent in English may be interested to know the origins of the idioms they already use, such as [243] *to touch base with*, [254] *high five*, etc.

Quite a few idioms are easy to remember, as they have a similar, though not identical, composition to those in Russian. Such easy-to-remember idioms are sure to enrich a Russian native speaker's English vocabulary, e.g., [419] *straight from the horse's mouth*—из первых уст, [501] *the bigger they come, the harder they fall*—чем выше заберёшься, тем больше падать, [908] *to come full circle*—вернуться на круги своя, etc.

In addition to the above comments on this very special and unique dictionary, I would like to share some critical remarks that hopefully will lead to future editions devoid of flaws and errors.

Even without a detailed study of the book being reviewed, it is obvious that what the reader holds in his/her hands is **a dictionary**, not **dictionaries** as the title states. If there were two English-Russian and Russian-English parts equal in size, it would still be **a dictionary**. But given the fact that the Russian-English dictionary contains just one-tenth of the terms in the English-Russian dictionary, it seems only logical to call this an *appendix* to the English-Russian dictionary. Thus the book we are talking about is in fact an *English-Russian Dictionary of Sports Idioms*. The reasoning presented by the authors made in the Introduction is that "Our search for additional Russian sports idioms was intense and as exhaustive as we could make it." However the fact that "the 112 listed here were all we could find" does not justify calling such a short list a "dictionary." It would be unfortunate if someone who was primarily expecting a list and English translations of many Russian sports idioms were to be misled into thinking that this book would have a substantial number of them.

There are other aspects of this dictionary that may surprise a native Russian speaker. First, not all of the entries conform to strict Russian definitions of фразеологизмы or идиомы. Some are allusions, catch phrases and "winged words," or even single-term slang or euphemistic usages. (The authors inform me that it is not unusual for US dictionaries of idioms to include phrases that are not, strictly speaking, idioms, such as clichés, allusions, etc.). Next, potential buyers of this dictionary should not expect to find definitions of terms that refer only to sports and are not commonly used to evoke non-sporting situations in general conversation or writing; nor is the sports-specific meaning explained in most cases.

Not all sports and games—even quite popular ones—are represented, and the English usages are primarily those of the United States (although the British sport of cricket and the universal sport of soccer do have sections devoted to them). Some sports that I believe are quite popular in the US (e.g., volleyball or squash) are not represented. The authors' practice of creating a section for every sport associated with an idiom leads to what seems a very uneven coverage but was, perhaps, unavoidable. Certainly, the compilers could not create more idioms for sports than those they knew or could find. On the other hand, while conversations with the authors, suggest that they used numerous dictionaries of English idioms and other usages, as well as some devoted just to sports idioms, and additionally searched for usages in the press and on the Internet, they acknowledge that, in the majority of cases, they created their own illustrative sentences, or took them from the Internet

or press without attribution. No sources of idioms and sentences are given either for individual entries or at the end of the book, which seems to me a deviation from best practices.

While the clustering of different sports into larger categories is generally useful, I have some issues as a Russian speaker with the precise way it was done. I also dispute some of the Russian translations. For example, bowling is an individual sport that for a long time has been called Боулинг in Russian rather than the outdated Кегли, used in the book. I felt that some sports terms needed to be more specific or more general, e.g.: “бильярд—billiards” (more widely used terms are *pool* and *snooker*), коньки should have been called конькобежный спорт, whereas стрельба в цель should have been just стрельба (there is no shooting sport other than *target* shooting), and футбол for a Russian native speaker does not need to be specified as не американский (although in the English-Russian section, *football* does have to be named американский футбол).

The following is an example of a sentence translation I disagree with: “I zigged when I should have zagged—Я двигался зигом, когда надо было двигаться загом. («Известная шутка проигравшего боксера в значении: Я сделал глупую ошибку»).” There is no such expression as “двигаться зигом” or “двигаться загом” in standard or colloquial Russian. There are other examples I could cite, as well as a fair number of typographical errors.

In conclusion, despite the problems I mention, I found reading *Sports Idioms: English-Russian and Russian-English Dictionaries* great fun. It will certainly make native Russian speakers, especially translators and interpreters, feel more confident in their encounters with English idiomatic expressions originating from a vast range of sporting activities as well as in the translation/interpretation of English texts that abound in sports idioms. This contribution to the linguist’s treasure chest is indisputably valuable.

28

GENERAL IDIOMS — ОБЩИЕ ИДИОМЫ

*I thought she would be out for weeks after her surgery, but she bounced back really fast. Я думал, что её не будет несколько недель после такой операции, но она поправилась очень быстро.*

**15. CALLED ON ACCOUNT OF RAIN:** cancelled because of weather or other external circumstances. Отменён из-за плохой погоды или каких-то других внешних обстоятельств.  
*The boss won't be back in time to go to the meeting he scheduled. These things keep getting called on account of rain. Наш босс не успеет вернуться к заседанию, которое он сам же и назначил. Такие вещи случаются; заседания отменяют сплошь и рядом по разным причинам, от нас не зависящим.*

**16. CARRY THE TEAM (ON ONE'S SHOULDERS), TO:** by the excellence of one's individual performance make the performance of the entire (usually mediocre) group look good. Единолично тащить/вытащить/вытянуть выступление или команду/труппу и т.п. (на своих плечах).  
*Most of the singers in the choir are only adequate but the quality of the soloist really carries the team. Большинство певцов этого хора — так себе, едва лишь на нужном уровне, но их прекрасный солист вытягивает выступление всего хора.*

**17. CHANGE OF PACE:** a shift in normal routine; a variation in usual activities or pattern. (The original meaning has to do with the speed of a thrown ball.) Смена заведённого порядка.  
*Yes, we do generally go to the family beach house in August, but this year we decided on a change of pace. В августе мы обычно ездим на нашу дачу, где можно купаться, но в этом году мы решили сменить заведённый порядок и отдохнуть по-другому.*

**18. CHEAP SHOT:** deliberately rough or unfair treatment of an opponent. Дешёвый/низкий/подлый выпад; низкая, подлая уловка; не заслуживающий уважения приём в отношении к оппоненту.  
*The public did not like the candidate referring to his opponent's wife's mental health problems. They felt it was a cheap shot. Публике не понравилось, что один из кандидатов стал говорить о психическом состоянии жены своего противника. Это было воспринято как дешёвый выпад.*

A sample page from the dictionary

Viktor Slepovitch ([vslepovitch@gmail.com](mailto:vslepovitch@gmail.com)) is an Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Department of Business English at the Belarus State Economic University (Minsk, Belarus). He holds a Ph.D. degree from Minsk State Linguistic University. He was a Fulbright visiting scholar at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and a guest lecturer at California State University (Bakersfield). He has authored textbooks in business communication and translation, and his *Translation Course (English - Russian)* has run to ten editions (ISBN 978-985-536-396-6).

ARE YOU A NEWCOMER TO SLD OR TO A PROFESSION IN SLAVIC TRANSLATION  
AND/OR INTERPRETATION?

DO YOU HAVE SOME ADVICE TO OFFER THOSE WHO ARE OR DO YOU SEEK ADVICE FROM THE MORE  
EXPERIENCED?

WOULD YOU SIMPLY LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO OUR READERS?

CONTACT THE EDITORS AT THE ADDRESSES ON THE MASTHEAD.

# 50 (or so) Ways to Leave Your Author

Presented by Lydia Stone

Reviewed by Evgeny Terekhin

When Lydia Stone invited me to attend her session, she asked me to read aloud some of the original Russian poems she had translated into English and would be discussing in a presentation called “50 Ways to Leave Your Author.” I gladly accepted. I must say I love reading aloud (my wife and I hosted a literary club in our apartment in Omsk at one time). But when I found out I would be reading excerpts from such authors as Pushkin, Yershov, Krylov, and Chukovsky, I was especially intrigued. With regard to the existing translations of Russian poetry into English, I side with my mom, a great connoisseur of Pushkin, who says that in all of her 25 years of living in the States she has not read one translation of Pushkin into English that retains the “musicality” of the original.

This was one thing Lydia did so well. I was lulled by her well-metered stanzas into the kind of poetic trance that is so characteristic of the mood-changing effects of elevated poetry. Lydia presented several Russian poems in parallel with her English translations and explained in each case how she abandoned the author for the sake of the English reader. I am biased when it comes to sacrificing fidelity to the original for the sake of creativity. I come from the old school of translators who believe that translation is primarily an art, as opposed to an industry fueled by CAT tools and MT editing. Shakespeare’s sonnets translated by Marshak may not be exactly Shakespeare, but I can’t help admiring the stunning elegance of Marshak’s style.

Some people believe that a good translation should be as close to the original as possible, others claim that it should be “idea for idea,” I like to think it should be more “spirit for spirit.” (Of course, I am not talking about legal translations.) In *Little Humpbacked Horse*, Lydia decided that American children would hardly understand how a young boy can be bribed into performing an unpleasant task by being offered peas and beans. As for me, I would have understood it perfectly well. I love peas, especially in pods. But in Lydia’s version, Vanya is offered “sweets.” Well, Vanya’s father certainly knew what his youngest son’s soft spot was, and I am sure Lydia knows as much about American children.

Doctor I. M. Sick was delightfully upbeat, even though in English he doesn’t sit under a tree. There is the same sing-songy rhythmic pattern that is so characteristic of Chukovsky. I think the name I. M. Sick is a brilliant invention.

In Tyutchev’s “Silentium” (see below), Lydia suggested that the author changes the meter from iamb to amphibrach starting from line four. To tell you the truth, I wasn’t sure how to read it correctly in Russian. In Lydia’s translation, all the lines are kept iambic, which sounds great. Later I checked on YouTube how this poem is usually read, and I found that iamb is retained throughout, with no change of meter (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoTWyMvOO6w>). I believe it must be only a seeming change – sometimes the old Russian poetic style changes accents for the sake of rhyme.

Добрый доктор Айболит!  
Он под деревом сидит.  
Приходи к нему лечиться  
И корова, и волчица,  
И жучок, и червячок,  
И медведица!

Чуковский

Kindly Dr. I.M. Sick  
Makes animals feel better quick.  
From the woods, the hills and plains  
Come bring him all your aches and pains.  
Wolves, bears, cows, and tiny tick  
Come seek the help of I.M. Sick.

## Silentium

Молчи, скрывайся и таи  
И чувства и мечты свои –  
Пускай в душевной глубине  
Встают и заходят оне  
Безмолвно, как звезды в ночи, –  
Любуйся ими – и молчи.

Тютчев

## Silentium

Keep still, be silent and conceal  
Your dreams, your thoughts, all that you feel.  
Within your soul they’ll set and rise  
Like stars, unseen by other eyes.  
A sense of wonder they’ll instill  
When gazed upon, if you’ll keep still.

Lydia rendered Krylov’s “The Crow and the Fox” more dramatic by making the fox male. In Russian, the Fox is female, a Vixen. I must say it’s an unusual turn of events for a native Russian, but I admit it adds a certain metaphorical flavor to the fable. The Crow’s



vanity is much more vivid when she falls for the insincere flattery of the male Fox. However, Lydia reported that she made the change because the translation was done for a children's theater, and the genders for the actors in the roles had already been determined.

Changing the name of Lyonka to Levka in Okudzhava's song makes sense to avoid gender confusion. But since Lydia added "my best buddy" for the clarification of genders, wouldn't it be easier to leave Lyonka intact? Just a thought.

<p>В арбатском подъезде мне видятся дивные сцены из давнего детства, которого мне не вернуть: то Ленька Гаврилов ухватит ахнарик бесценный мусолит, мусолит, и мне оставляет курнуть!</p> <p><i>Окуджава</i></p>
<p>How much of my childhood took place in Arbat's entry halls! These wonderful scenes from lost times in my mind I still see: How <b>Levka</b> once found a fresh butt that some guy had let fall And puffing his fill, my best buddy then passed it to me.</p>

Lydia distributed a kind of questionnaire and asked people to vote as to whether each digression from the original was a sin (mortal or venial) or acceptable. She did not get back as many as she had hoped, but, almost universally, those audience members who did vote objected to changing the nationality of the man whom Pushkin's hero found his mistress entertaining in "The Black Shawl." In spite of the overwhelming disapproval, she herself does not repent this sin, which was committed because nothing rhymes with Armenian.

<p>Едва я завидел гречанки порог, Глаза потемнели, я весь изнемог...</p> <p>В покой отдаленный вхожу я один... Неверную деву лобзал армянин.</p> <p><i>Пушкин</i></p>	<p>And reaching the house where my mistress did dwell, I seemed to take leave of my reason as well.</p> <p>I opened her bedchamber door with a jerk And saw my false mistress embracing a <b>Turk!</b></p>
---	--

To sum up, I had great fun during the session. All the more so, because we touched upon the three things I love the most: words, meaning, and art. There should be more sessions about translation as art. CAT tools come and go, artificial intelligence can only do so much. But there is one thing it cannot do – speak in a way only human beings can speak.

Evgeny Terekhin is an En-Ru and Ru-En translator with a master's degree in English and German. Born and raised in Omsk, Russia, he brought his family to the US in 2016. In the course of his 25-year career, he has translated and edited over 150 books, brochures, and tracts across a wide range of subjects such as children's literature, marketing, psychology, spirituality, healthcare, business, and law. He lives in Friendswood, TX and can be reached at [terekhin11@gmail.com](mailto:terekhin11@gmail.com) Website: [www.russiantranslators.org](http://www.russiantranslators.org)

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

Nora Seligman Favorov

*This edition of Web Watch is devoted to online sources about contemporary Russian literature that caught my eye. We invite SlavFile readers with other interests and expertise to contribute columns about online resources in their area, be it Croatian poetry, financial interpreting in Ukrainian, Polish tech terminology, or anything else that will likely be of interest to SlavFile readers. Send submissions (of an entire column or a suggested resource) to Nora Favorov (norafavorov@gmail.com).*

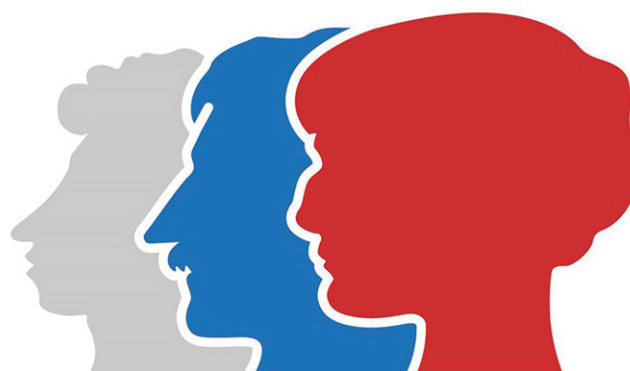
A few noteworthy articles for those of us interested in Russian>English literary translation and Russian literature in general have popped up on my Twitter feed in recent months.

First, the *Calvert Journal* published an English-language [interview with Yelena Shubina](#), who, as a senior editor at AST, has shepherded into the limelight man of contemporary Russian literature's big names—Lyudmila Ulitskaya, Aleksei Ivanov, Mikhail Shishkin, Guzel Yakhina, and Yevgeny Vodolazkin, to name a few. In the interview Shubina discusses Russian literature's recent obsession with the past and the need for contemporary writing to move beyond historical novels to a literature that reflects Russia's contemporary reality. The article/interview is titled “Tomorrow's Tolstoy.”

Reading that article prompted me to Google Shubina, and that led to another interview, this one published in Russian and [reviewing 2017 in Russian literature](#) on the Год литературы site, which is a real treasure trove of information about the works, events, and people of contemporary Russian literature.

Next, Cleaver, “Philadelphia's International Literary Magazine,” published a very nice “Conversation with Translator Marian Schwartz” about her translation of Leonid Yuzefovich's *Horsemen of the Sands* (Archipelago, 2018; a review of the translation itself was published in a [previous issue](#) of Cleaver). In the interview, which is conducted by Ryan K. Strader, Marian talks about the author and his oeuvre, as well as certain terminological challenges posed by his historical novels and how she handled them.

Saving the best for the last, to the extent I do manage to keep up with Russian literature in general and in English translation, it is thanks to Lisa Hayden Espenschade and her marvelous blog, [Lizok's Bookshelf](#). I strongly urge anyone with an interest in



ГОД ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ В РОССИИ

contemporary Russian literature to subscribe. I'm not sure where she finds the time to crank out translations (of works by Vodolazkin, Yakhina, and Vadim Levental, to name a few) while keeping up such a high-quality blog and all the reading involved in her reviews and the news she posts, but somehow she does a wonderful job. In addition to reviewing recent translations and sharing news from the world of contemporary Russian literature, her blog has suggested reading lists: “Top 10 Fiction Hits of Russian Literature: My Slightly Biased Russian Lit Reading List,” “Post-1917 Top Fiction Hits of Russian Literature: A Very Biased Russian Lit Reading List,” and lists of “Notable New Translations” by year, dating back to 2009. You can follow Lisa on Twitter @LizoksBooks.

# SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

Lydia Razran Stone

Even though this is far from light news, I would like to use this column to inform readers of the death of Christina Sever (1945-2018), my dear friend (indeed first ATA friend) and a founding member of SLD. Christina, a Russian to English translator and graduate of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (back when it was the Monterey Institute), was the first editor of *SlavFile* but had to give it up in 1994 when she was diagnosed with cancer. Her treatment cured the cancer but left severe damage and Christina was frequently too ill to attend ATA conferences. When her health did permit her to attend, she was delighted and grateful (once, I remember, to the point of tears) to be with us and, unless she was hospitalized, insisted on doing *SlavFile's* copyediting, along with Jen Guernsey, which she said made her feel useful and involved in the organization she helped to found and continued to love. The last time she was able to attend ATA, in 2013, she had dinner with John Riedl, who had not met her before. Here is what John writes: "I didn't know Christina well but spent a memorable evening with her and some colleagues swapping stories about our adventures in Russia and the Soviet Union. I was struck by Christina's kindness and sharp wit and always hoped to continue our conversation. Sadly, that was the last conference (San Antonio) Christina was able to attend."

Here is what Mila Bonnicksen, a former neighbor of Christina's in Oregon, who was first her mentee, then her translation partner, and now is a State Department Interpreter, has to say about her.

"Christina had the sweetest personality and never judged me or my actions, although as far as I can tell sometimes judgement was warranted. She was my mentor and friend and I never, ever heard her say a

cross word about anyone. She didn't have any anger in her even about her disease and she was always surrounded with love — lots of love from her family, from her husband from all the people that she loved and volunteered for and with. Christina gave me a lot of great translation advice. For example, she would explain to me in detail what a certain English phrase meant in a way that no dictionary could have done. (This was before Multitran.) We would have conversations of the kind you would have only with a close friend, and afterwards I would feel a confidence and overall wellbeing. This was Christina's gift to me —taking me under her wing and sheltering me there for 10 years.

"Cristina and I translated a beautiful art book together (*The Gold of Troy*, published by Abrams publishers) and this was a kind of a pinnacle of our joint endeavors. Then I transitioned into oral interpretation while Christina continued with translation. However, it was also she who opened up the whole new world of interpretation for me by introducing me to a client for whom I worked for years."

Christina's obituary can be read at <https://bit.ly/2IxQFPs> It is a lovely tribute but tells little about her life in translation. I will try to get more details from her family, but want to give them more time to recover before I contact them with anything other than condolences. Christina described herself professionally on LinkedIn as follows: Freelance translator from Russian, 24 years. Specialties: specialize in legal, commercial, medical translation, as well as work in art, archaeology, history and environmental protection. She was certified by ATA in 1991." I invite readers to send me their reminiscences about Christina.

Inspired by Mila's description of her friendship with Christina, I (Lydia) would like to elaborate on mine. Christina and I could not have come from more different backgrounds (at least given the fact that we were both US born translators of Russian), and our personalities were also quite different. She was considerably more reticent, meticulous and spiritual than I. I certainly never could have handled 25+ years of more or less grave medical problems with the grace she did. However very quickly we found that we agreed on virtually everything: politics, ATA policy,



At the very first SLD dinner in Philadelphia in 1993. Christina Sever is at the upper right, Lydia Stone and her husband Ned at the left. Unfortunately, the early SLD member at the lower right (first name —Tom) cannot be more exactly identified.



minor preferences, favorite books, etc. — we even had given our only daughters the same name—Amanda. We joked about this, and when I found out that while I was two years less 21 days older, Christina had been born on what my mother informed me was my official due date. After this discovery, we began to refer to

ourselves as “cosmic twins.” We thought it hilarious when we finally found something that we disagreed about vehemently: one year when Halloween was during the conference, Christina brought a bag of her guilty pleasure candy—candy corn, only to find that I had absolutely hated this supposed treat since childhood.

In a wintry mood as I write this column, I offer you two winter poems and a song. All reader comments on the translations invited.

Вянет лист, проходит лето, Иней серебрится... Юнкер Шмидт из пистолета Хочет застрелиться. Погоди, безумный, снова Зелень оживится! Юнкер Шмидт! Честное слово, Лето возвратится! <i>Кузьма Прутков</i>	Leaves are dead, all warmth has left, Silver hoarfrost's shining Junker Schmidt*, depressed, bereft To shoot himself is pining. Crazy fool, you're quite absurd! Green revives, you need not fear!! Junker Schmidt, you have my word, Summer will come back next year! <i>LRS</i>
---	---

\*A junker was a fairly new graduate of an officers' academy in prerevolutionary Russia. The use of a Germanic surname in the poem might be taken as a reference to the copycat suicides and infatuation with despairing Romanticism inspired by Goethe's *Sorrows of Young Werther*.

The next poem, a translation of one of the most beautiful poems written by an American, Robert Frost, was sent to me by Galina Raff. Neither she nor I was able to discover the translator's name. I think it is one of the best translations of poetry from English into Russian I have ever read, although I am not happy about the ракита (goat willow) trees the Russian translator chooses to place in a New England forest. I have looked through all the numerous translations of the poem on the Internet and none match this one, or in my opinion, are as good.

<b>Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening</b> <i>Robert Frost</i> Whose woods these are I think I know His house is in the village though; He will not see me stopping here To watch his woods fill up with snow. My little horse must think it queer To stop without a farmhouse near Between the woods and frozen lake The darkest evening of the year. He gives his harness bells a shake To ask if there is some mistake. The only other sound's the sweep Of easy wind and downy flake. The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.	<b>У леса в зимний вечер</b> <i>Translator unknown</i> Владелец леса мне знаком, В селе он свой поставил дом, И он не видит, как метет Метель снега в лесу ночном. Мой конь, бедняжка, не поймет, Чего его хозяин ждет У сонных сосен и раки,т Когда вокруг-лишь снег да лед. И тихо упряжью звенит, Но лес безмолвствует и спит, Лишь мягко падает снежок, И ветер ветви шевелит. Лес чуден, темен и глубок, Но мною твердый дан зарок: Мне отдохнуть еще не срок, Мне отохнуть еще не срок.
---	--

Here is a translation of a winter folksong, undoubtedly considerably more well-known in its country of origin than the Frost is here. I did this translation for a friend who wanted to show off his baritone without having to cope with pronouncing Russian vowels.

Метелица	The Snow Storm
<p>Вдоль по улице метелица метёт, За метелицей мой миленький идёт. Ты постой, постой, красавица моя, Дозволь наглядеться, радость, на тебя. Ты постой, постой, красавица моя, Дозволь наглядеться, радость, на тебя.</p> <p>На твою ли на приятну красоту, На твоё лишь толь на белое лицо. Ты постой, постой, красавица моя, Дозволь наглядеться, радость, на тебя. Ты постой, постой, красавица моя, Дозволь наглядеться, радость, на тебя.</p> <p>Красота твоя с ума меня свела, Иссушила добра молодца, меня. Ты постой, постой, красавица моя, Дозволь наглядеться, радость, на тебя. Ты постой, постой, красавица моя, Дозволь наглядеться, радость, на тебя.</p>	<p>All along the street the raging snow storm blows. Right into this gale, my pretty darling goes. Please don't go, don't go, no need to run away. Let me gaze entranced on your fair face today. Please don't go, don't go, no need to run away. Let me gaze entranced at your fair face today.</p> <p>When you're not with me, your face I long to see. Do not leave, my beauty, stay a while with me. Please don't go, don't go, no need to run away. Let me gaze my fill on your fair face today. Please don't go, don't go, no need to run away. Let me gaze entranced at your fair face today.</p> <p>From this longing for you, I feel I'm going mad, I, who was a fearless, strong and carefree lad. Please don't go, don't go, no need to run away. Let me gaze my fill on your fair face today. Please don't go, don't go, no need to run away. Let me gaze entranced on your fair face today. LRS</p>

PS I am somewhat conflicted about translating *приятну красоту* as *fair face*, though encouraged in this choice by the thought that anyone running around in a snow storm in Russia is likely to present only her face open to inspection. Fair form works equally well in terms of sound and meter, but, while face may be too limited, I wonder if form is too suggestive. What do you think, readers? LRS

*Happy winter, everyone.*

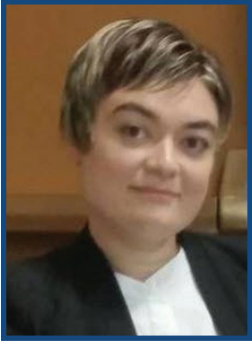
Lydia Razran Stone, an ATA certified Russian to English translator, has been editing *SlavFile* since 1995, and has written a Lite column for every issue. She invites unsolicited articles and reader comments both general and particular, which may be sent to [lydiastone@verizon.net](mailto:lydiastone@verizon.net)

Finally, another entry for the Tolstoy file, this one an advertisement by "Russian Life Books" for a Russian themed coffee called DARK RUSSIAN suggested as an appropriate Russian Christmas gift for Russophiles.

**TASTING NOTES:** *Robust and rich, almost oligarchic, it resonates with deep, earthy tones **redolent of Tolstoy**, dachas, and forest fresh mushrooms. And yet there are also lighter, friendlier notes of fruit and spring flowers, for this is a coffee to enjoy with friends, Russian friends — they of the deep soul and boundless friendship. This blend is best served with lightly sweetened cookies or mild chocolates, or perhaps with a collusion — sorry, infusion — of steamed milk.*

# Recognizing and Avoiding Translation Scams

*Olga Shostachuk*



You would think that after decades of attempting to scrupulously identify and combat the Internet's oldest hustle, namely email scams, there'd be a fix for them by now. Alas, there is not. Internet access, social media, and the convenience and anonymity of email, along with the capability these provide for

easily contacting thousands of people at once, enables scammers to work in volume. Although translators are generally aware of scams these days, even experienced, savvy translators get duped on occasion. The fraudsters continually refine their techniques and expand their targets, so it is crucial to stay alert.

This article describes some of the many email-based scams targeting translators (and often other types of freelancers as well). We hope this information will help you to better recognize potential traps and avoid them. The Federal Trade Commission (<https://www.ftc.gov>) is a great resource for further information on new and "recycled" scams and how to avoid cybercriminals.

## Common types of scams

Many scams fall into a few broad categories, described below.

### 419 Advance fee fraud

This type of scam is also known as the Nigerian Prince scam, the Spanish Prisoner scam, the black money scam, Fifo's Fraud, and the Detroit-Buffalo scam. These schemes are quite elaborate and, despite their somewhat preposterous appearance, they manage to hook a surprising number of victims. The classic 419 advance fee scam attempts to entice the victim into a bogus plot to acquire and split a large sum of cash. The translator variant of this scheme is usually one in which a translator is asked to perform a translation, paid in advance for the work, and then asked to refund an accidental overpayment.

Here is how it works. Once you've taken the initial bait, i.e., responded to the original job message, you will likely receive a sizable document to translate (usually 3,000-5,000 words) and an offer of payment. If you go on to accept the job, you will soon discover that the client has sent payment in advance (even if advance payment was not among the agreed-upon terms) and has "mistakenly" sent a check for a much larger amount than the agreed-upon fee. The scammer will ask you to return the excess funds, usually by

bank wire. Alas, because of the length of time it takes to process a check, particularly one from overseas, by the time your bank informs you that the check is fake and no funds have been credited to your account, you will have long since sent the bank wire and had the money pulled from your account and transferred to the scammer. Thus, you are out whatever effort you put into the translation as well as the funds you wired to cover the "overpayment."

## Phishing emails

Phishing emails have been crafted to look as if they were sent from a legitimate organization, when in fact they aim to fool you into visiting a bogus website where you inadvertently download malware (viruses and other software intended to compromise your computer) or reveal sensitive personal or account information. Phishing emails usually contain a link that appears to take you to a legitimate company's website to fill in your information, but the website is a clever fake and the information you provide goes straight to the crooks behind the scam.

## Subscription scams

Subscription scammers approach translators (and other freelancers) with the promise of well-paying work, but they want you to pay for the leads or subscribe to their services for a fee. All they want is your money, not your skills. You might as well throw your money away.

## Resume (identity) theft

In this scenario, fraudsters pluck a translator's resume from a website such as [www.proz.com](http://www.proz.com), set up an e-mail account in the translator's name, and send (often poorly crafted) e-mails posing as the professional translator and soliciting work. It is unclear how exactly this profits them, although they might get paid; but certainly it damages your reputation.

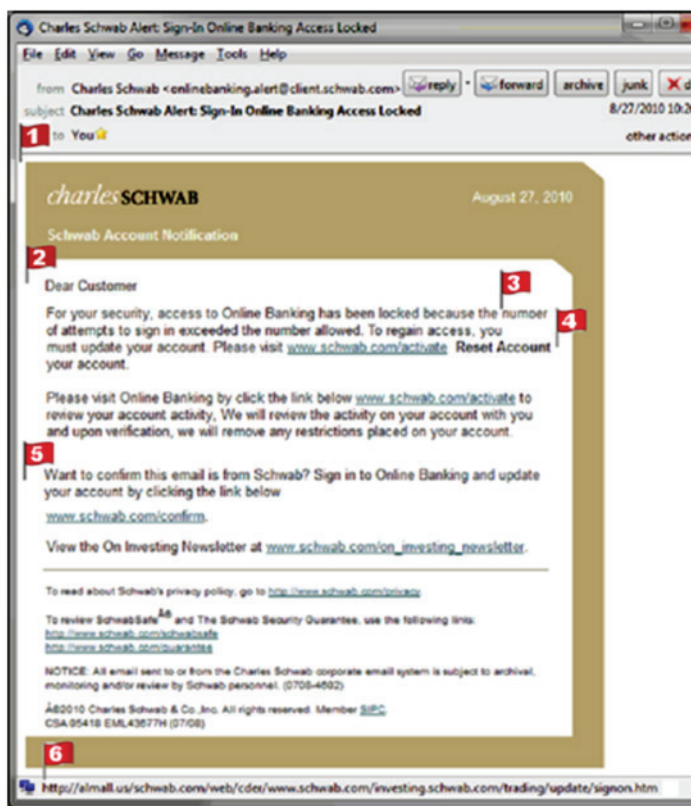
*SlavFile* editor Jen Guernsey warns of another scam in which the scammer impersonates a legitimate company. If a new company contacts you be sure to look closely at the website and domain name.

## Recognizing and avoiding email scams

The screen shot below contains numerous red flags indicating that this email is likely a scam:

1. The email is not addressed to the recipient by name. Here, the addressee is "you" and "Dear customer." Either the fraudsters don't know your name, or they are using a template and not bothering to customize it.





Source: [www.webroot.com](http://www.webroot.com)

2. The email doesn't make sense. In this instance, it might reference an account that you never created. Or it states that you have exceeded the number of login attempts allowed, when you haven't even been trying to sign in to that account.
3. The email contains a surprising number of grammatical or spelling errors, even though it ostensibly comes from a professional entity such as a bank or a translation company.
4. The email encourages you to confirm that the email is legitimate by clicking on a link provided in the email itself.
5. The email contains a link to a site or an email address that does not match the text of the link. To see the link destination, simply hover your cursor over the website link (without clicking), or click on the email address link, and you will see that the website or email address does not match the email originator or the purported destination. In this example, you can see the true link address displayed along the bottom of the screen.

Here is another typical example of a fraudulent solicitation. In November 2017, an email from George Boucher, [georgyboucher@gmail.com](mailto:georgyboucher@gmail.com), landed in my mailbox. It read: *My dear! I'm in need of your service to translate the attached English content document. However, I have some questions such as:*

*1. How much would you charge per page, word or for the entire translation?*

2. Specialized language/s.

3. Preferred mode of payment, though I would like to propose cashier's check or bank certified check and do not hesitate to confirm if this is okay by you.

Project deadline is 1 month starting from 12/20/2017.

What are the warning signs here?

1. First of all, no client, especially a new one, is likely to call you "My dear."
2. Grammar, style, and register are all off.
3. If a "client" found your info somewhere online, he or she would already know your language combination(s). No legitimate client reaches out to a translator without specifying the required language pair.

### Tips to help you avoid being taken

The following recommendations can minimize your chances of falling victim of an email scam.

1. Utilize good general cybersecurity practices:

- Filter spam
- Don't trust unsolicited email
- Treat email attachments with caution
- Don't click links in suspicious or unsolicited email messages
- Install antivirus software and keep it up to date
- Install a personal firewall and keep it up to date
- Install and activate a web tool that identifies malicious sites (every standard browser now has a tool you can turn on to alert you if a website you are trying to access appears malicious)
- Configure your email client for security.

2. Never share your banking information with somebody you don't know. If your overseas clients insist on paying you via wire transfer, or this is your preferred method of payment for overseas clients, you may set up a separate secondary account in your or any bank which you would use only for wire transfers for your overseas clients and transfer the money to your regular bank account right after the transaction. This is a great way to safeguard your regular account in case your bank info is hacked.

3. Ask as many questions as you can. If a "client" tells you that she has a 30-page article to translate, ask for the subject, style, details, background, and the like. A legitimate client will be able to give you all of this information in a blink, whereas a scammer will avoid the answers or will give you answers that seem off or simply don't make sense.

4. Be suspicious if an email says that they found you on <https://www.atanet.org/>, for example. People generally make reference to institutions, not domains.

5. If you receive a link to a site or a downloadable file from a known colleague but your colleague has not communicated with you in advance and/or you don't know why you're receiving the link, do not click on it. Instead, contact your colleague and ask him or her about the matter. Do NOT respond directly to the email. Create a new email, or better yet, call.

6. Use your own link. If you receive a message supposedly from a legitimate company, go to its site directly from the web using any search engine but not through the email you received. This is the ONLY way to guarantee that you land on the legitimate site of a known company.

7. Hover before you click. Whenever you receive an unsolicited email asking you to "click here," beware – even if it sounds like a legitimate company. The same goes for social networking links that take you to what appear to be login pages. These may in fact be sites designed to steal your information.

8. Google the named company or individual. Try keying in their name as well as an excerpt from the message text. Crooks often use the same wording and names for multiple translation scam attempts.

9. Ask for an advance fee. If the job is large, ask to be paid in installments and ask for a retainer. If at any stage the "client" suggests they've overpaid and asks you to wire back part of the payment, don't! It's a scam. Do not begin working until the payment fully clears. Be prepared to pay a bank fee if the check is fake.

10. Set up a PayPal or Square account, or any alternative thereof, (<https://www.merchantmaverick.com/top-7-square-alternatives/>) to be able to take a full or partial payment in advance from a new or unknown client that you find suspicious.

11. Pay no commissions or subscription fees. Translation is a large, fast-growing field, so you shouldn't have to pay to get work. Try to be creative in finding your own clients.

#### **Valuable resources:**

<http://wantwords.co.uk/school/lesson-61-how-to-protect-your-translator-cv-from-scammers/>

<https://www.proz.com/about/translator-scam-alerts>

<http://www.translator-scammers.com/translator-scammers-directory.htm>

<https://www.proz.com/forum/946>

<https://www.ftc.gov>

Olga Shostachuk is a PhD Candidate in Translation Studies at Kent State University, Kent, OH, where she previously completed her M.A. in Translation degree. She also holds an M.A. in Education and Linguistics from Lviv National University in Ukraine and a paralegal degree from the Academy of Court Reporting in Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Shostachuk served as the Vice Chapter Chair for Ohio IMIA and currently is a Ukrainian editor for SlavFile, the newsletter of Slavic Languages Division of the ATA. She is also a Ukrainian into English grader for the ATA certification exam. Her research focuses on legal and medical translation, computer-assisted translation, psycholinguistics, localization, pedagogy, and assessment. She can be reached at [olgalviv27@yahoo.com](mailto:olgalviv27@yahoo.com).

## **SCAM ALERT! SCAM ALERT!**

Dear Readers,

We have heard from three SLD members about an email they received, purportedly from the HR Department of a well-known publishing house, saying that the recipient's "portfolio" published on the ATA website had been reviewed and inviting the addressee to participate in an online interview for a translating job. Job details and rather extensive other information is given. If you get any messages like this, check directly with the publishing house using ONLY an email address or phone number you find through a web search.

**DO NOT COMMUNICATE IN ANY WAY USING ANY LINKS GIVEN IN THE EMAIL.**