THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR

ATA CONFERENCE REVIEW

by **Katie Spillane**

By the virtue of the authority vested in me, [I] do hereby officially proclaim October 27 through 30, 2010, to be known as Translators and Interpreters Days," declared Denver Mayor John W. Hickenlooper, and thus began the 51st Annual ATA Conference. The ensuing three days were filled to the brim with informational sessions, networking opportunities, social mixers, and product exhibitions.

Conference Sessions

Starting with "Pre-conference Seminars" on Wednesday, sessions were offered across 25 broad language and specialization categories in five time slots each day. By my count, eleven sessions were presented or facilitated by our New York colleagues (see pg. 4) on topics ranging from Japanese sight translation to post-editing machine translations. From creating a marketing plan to revamping a business, there was something for everyone wanting to run a business – freelancers getting their footing, veterans looking to inject a breath of life into their businesses and even large language service providers. Healthy servings of language-specific sessions were offered as well. One of my personal favorites was "Le Québec et son français" a session which introduced the nuances and unique sociopolitical context of Canadian French. Cancelations, substitutions and new offerings were announced every morning through the conference newsletter. While some canceled sessions were quickly replaced with new ones, this was not always the case and a notably large number of the Portuguese offerings were canceled.

The ATA adopted an environmental (and travel-friendly) stance this year, providing all handouts and slides on a CD Rom at registration. Hardcopy handouts for in-session activities (e.g. samples to be translated) were available, but by and large there were surprisingly few papers floating around. With more "must-see" sessions on my list than humanly possible to attend, I found myself among many others in line for a digital copy of the full conference proceedings (available for purchase through the ATA at: http://www.associationarchives.com/SITES/ata). That most seminars were well attended even as the third day wound to its close spoke well of both the quality of the sessions and the enthusiasm of the conference participants.

Different aspects of machine translation had the conference abuzz this year with numerous sessions and a panel discussion entitled "Man vs. Machine: Do Translators Need to Pick a Side?" devoted to exploring the topic. ATA President Nicholas Hartmann also made an appearance as a keynote speaker at the 9th Conference of the

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Guidelines for Submission

Please submit all contributions as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word format. Articles should be limited to 1500 words or less.

The Gotham Translator is published six times a year by the New York Circle of Translators, Inc., a chapter of the American Translators Association. The deadline for acceptance of contributions is the first day of the month preceding the month of publication. Articles and other materials should be e-mailed to the Editor at editor@nyctranslators.org. The opinions and views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or the policies of the NYCT or the ATA. All material submitted is subject to editing and becomes the property of the New York Circle of Translators unless accompanied by a copyright statement.

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The Gotham Translator accepts and welcomes contributions of articles about all aspects of translation and translator-related issues. These may include, but are not limited to, **specific translation problems** or **approaches to translation**, **legal issues**, and the **business of translation**. We also welcome **dictionary and hardware/software reviews** as well as **reviews of books, conferences and workshops**. Any ideas or leads on interesting stories and articles for which we may try to obtain reprint permissions are also welcome.

In general, articles and other submissions should be limited to around 1500 words. All text should be submitted as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word format. In case of previously published submissions, please advise us of this fact at the time of submission. ■

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Association for Machine Translation ("AMT") which opened at the Denver Hyatt on October 31st. (Hartmann's speech is available at: www.atanet.org/conf/2010/ata_amta_keynote.pdf.).

ATA Elections, Honors & News

As a first-time attendee, I valued the ATA Conference as an opportunity to gain a broader perspective of the language service industry and my colleagues. Awards were presented to several ATA members in recognition of their professional accomplishments and contributions to the profession as a whole. Glenn Nordin was awarded the Alexander Gode Medal for his tireless service as an "informal intermediary" between the government and the world of language service providers and linguists. He has served as the executive secretary of the CIA's Foreign Language Committee and pioneered the development of virtual language processing. Margaret Sayers Peden was also honored with the Lewis Galantière award for her translation of *La Celestina* (published by Yale University), a Spanish classic second only to *Don Quixote*. Alan Melby, David Rumsey, and Ted Wozniak were each elected to join the Board for a three-year term.

To the excitement of many, the Board also unveiled the new ATA Seal at the annual membership meeting. Translators working in markets where seals are the standard for certifying translations have long awaited this seal. The seal is available in embossing, self-inking and electronic formats. ATA certified translators eager to begin using their seal will be able to order one through Acorn Seals, although at last check the ATA seal was not found on their website.

Certification itself was a topic of discussion during the meeting's open question period. The Board was queried about both developing certification for new language pairs and mutual recognition of ATA and various other international certifications. The Board affirmed its desire to work towards mutual credential recognition with other certification bodies. President Hartmann also encouraged those interested in being certified in a language pair not currently offered to build a coalition of at least twenty people willing to work towards establishing an exam in that language pair. Judging from the experience of the Chinese language division, which has spent nearly ten years trying to develop a Chinese>English exam, rallying the troops and producing an exam is easier said than done. During the question and comment period, proposals were also made for creating new ATA divisions for revising and non-profit work as well as for an award recognizing outstanding linguistic service to the non-profit sector.

See page 14 for photos from the 51st Annual ATA Conference.

ATA members were encouraged by both the Public Relations Committee and the School Outreach Program to continue contributing to public education about our profession. We can do so, we were reminded, by forwarding copies ATA publications (including the ATA Compass, *Translation: Getting it Right* and a new publication for client education about Interpreting), by volunteering for ATA's School Outreach Program and by publicizing language-industry news on our blogs and social networking profiles.

Networking Events

If professional development was the only reason for attending the ATA Conference, I would be tempted to stay at home pajama-clad and working while watching the conference on a laptop. But, looking at a stack of business cards two inches thick I can only say that the ample networking opportunities were well worth the trip to Denver. In between the welcome reception and the conference-closing dance, attendees mingled at division open houses, a speed networking session, a "Book Splash" showcasing the work of our colleagues, the After Hours Literary Café and open mic session, division dinners, mentor-mentee orientation, morning exercise sessions, generous continental breakfasts and numerous coffee breaks. As one presenter put it, "If you are alone, it's either a conscious choice or you aren't networking properly.

The Exhibit Hall was another forum for networking that hummed with activity for the duration of the conference. A large section of the hall was devoted to the Job Marketplace. Tables grouped by language and geographic region were available for linguists and language service providers to display their business cards, resumes and marketing materials. Although this was a quieter corner of the Exhibit Hall, checking in there remained important because business cards and resumes seemed to fly off the tables. Another corner of the room was reserved as a Cyber Café with computers for public use. Although wifi was available in the area, seating was notably lacking for anyone

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hoping to use a laptop. The massage booth was extremely popular and never saw a dull moment. The majority of the Hall was, of course, dedicated to hosting translation agencies, government representatives, academic institutions offering linguistic programs, publishers and many software companies (see sidebar). Translation tool demonstrations also continued non-stop, with presenters and audience alike continuing their exchange even as hotel staff turned the lights off in the hall.

Outside the Exhibit Hall, regional and specialization-based associations displayed their information and recruited among the attendees. The tables did not receive the same traffic volume as the booths inside the Exhibit Hall, but having a booth in Boston seems well worth NYCT's consideration. The Colorado Translators Association maintained a visible presence throughout the conference adorning its members with red ribbons proclaiming, "Ask me – I'm local!" and hosting a hospitality booth offering directions, restaurant recommendations and friendly local advice.

Next Year

In the final hours of the conference, the torch was passed to our colleagues in Boston. The New England Translators Association presented a short video in which a handful of languages were used to inform us that Boston is not only a charming, historical and linguistically distinct city, but also the "center of the universe." Whether or not these claims will hold up under close scrutiny remains to be seen. But, having had such a positive experience in Denver, I wouldn't miss it. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katie Spillane is a freelance Chinese > English translator. This was her first ATA Conference. She can be contacted at: spillanetranslations@gmail.com.

New York Presenters

Maria Barros:	*Punctuación comparada*
Ibrahima Diallo:	*Translating into Arabic: The Number Problem*
Alison Dundy:	*Training Translators: Essential Skills in a Virtual Classroom*
Walter K. Hartmann:	*Machine Translation Post-Editing and Machine Translation for Productivity*
Ariel Lenarduzzi:	*When Your Limited-English-Proficient Patient Is an Older Adult*
Agnes Meilhac:	*Terminology for French<>English Translation for the Cosmetic Industry* *Transforming Science into Dreams: Taking a Closer Look*
Courtney M. MacNab:	*Japanese Language Division Annual Meeting*
Satomi Nishimuro:	*Workshop: Importance of Sight Translation*
Sandro Tomassi:	*Advanced English > Spanish Criminal Law Terminology* *Translating Plea & Plea Bargain into Spanish: A Comparative Analysis of Criminal Procedure Laws & Semantics*

List of Exhibitors

Academic Institutions & Language Trainers
Bromberg & Associates, LLC
Kent State University
Montery Institute of International Studies
New York University
University of Arizona
University of Chicago
University of Denver
University of Texas at Brownsville
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Language Service Providers
1-Stop Translation
Arabize
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CETRA Language Solutions
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Language Line Services
Language Service Associates
LanguageWorks, Inc.
LUZ, Inc.
Mile High Multilingual Services, Inc.
MultiLing Corporation
Prime Production, Ltd.
SEA TONgue
STAR Group America, LLC
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Language Technology Providers
Across Systems, Inc.
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Kilgray Translation Technologies
Landmark Audio Technologies
LinguaLinx, Inc.
Logosoft Technologies, Inc.
LTC
MultiCorpora
Plunet GmbH
PowerLing/Déjà Vu
SDL
STG, Inc.
Terminotix
TranslationLinks
VRI Direct
Western Standard
Wordfast

Non-Profit & Volunteer Organizations
KIVA
National Language Service Corps

Other
Central Intelligence Agency
U.S. Department of State, Office of Language Services
Hays Affinity
InTrans Book Service, Inc.
John Benjamins Publishing Company
National Geographic Television
National Library of Medicine

2010 ATA Conference Speaker Highlight

Karen McMillan Tkaczyk, PhD, CT, works as a French and Spanish into English freelance translator. Her translation work is highly specialized, being entirely focused on chemistry and its industrial applications. Karen speaks frequently at professional development events for translators. She has been a speaker at ATA Annual Conferences 2007-2010, and also in 2010 at the ATA Science and Technology Professional Development Seminar in San Antonio and the Tradulínguas Technical Translation conference in Lisbon. Since 2008 she has been speaking at regional association events in Nevada (NITA) and northern California (NCTA). Karen has also contributed to the ATA "Chronicle" and the ITI "Bulletin" as well as regional association newsletters and blogs.

Karen McMillan Tkaczyk

Karen was very busy at the recent Denver conference. She gave a pre-conference seminar on Wednesday morning called "From Soap to Drugs and Back, via Quality Assurance and Standard Operating Procedures", led a tour to NIST in Boulder that afternoon, led the Science and Technology Division Annual Meeting on Friday, and gave a session in the French track with Agnes Meilhac on Saturday on "Fr<>En Terminology for the Cosmetics Industry."

Tell us a little about your personal and educational background.

I grew up in the UK and studied at Manchester and Cambridge universities (MChem Chemistry with French and PhD Chemistry). I lived in Lyon, France, for a year as part of the first of those degrees. The experience I gained working for a French pharmaceutical company (Rhone-Poulenc, now part of Sanofi Aventis) later became crucial when my career took its unexpected turn. After university I worked for two other large pharmaceutical companies in Ireland, and then in 1999 I moved to Nevada, near Lake Tahoe. There I worked for a cosmetic and medical device manufacturer until 2001. I met my French husband during the year I lived in Lyon. I translate from French and Spanish into UK and US English. I learned Spanish at school and during a period spent as an au pair in Spain.

How and why did you get started in T&I?

The answer is a bit corny, really. I stopped work when my first child was nine months old, after we decided that the two-career lifestyle was not what we wanted for our family. We had two more children quickly, and in 2005 I was beginning to feel like I should find something to do, but that I did not want to go back to a high-pressure job. Now comes the corny part. My husband was thinking of going independent and we read a book called "What Business Should I Start?" (http://www.amazon.com/What-Business-Should-Start-Discovering/dp/096696358X). As we both went through the exercises it delivered an 'Aha!' moment for me: there was a whole world of freelance translators working from home. I had the necessary language skills and sufficient writing talent, and I had subject-matter expertise in a fairly unusual area. From there my translation practice took off remarkably quickly.

Do you have a good early story about your business?

I do – it's about the power of networking and the importance of leaving the comfort of the home office and meeting other translators. At the first ATA event I went to, only a few months after I had decided to start my business, a very experienced translator got to know me a little and gave me four contacts that she thought would be a good fit, work-wise. Two of them became clients immediately, and one provided an on-the-job mentoring relationship that taught me the craft of translation over the next two years. If I had not spent money at a time when income was still patchy, my business would not have taken off in the same way.

Do you have a typical customer?

About half of my clients are US-based small or medium sized multi-language vendors that expect high quality and give me reasonable turn-around times. My family life does not allow me to drop everything for rush jobs. The balance is a mixture of agency and direct clients in North America and Europe.

What is unusual or unique about your practice, in comparison to your competitors?

I can think of two things. The more obvious one is my high degree of specialization. I work in the field of chemistry, its industrial applications, and its intellectual property, and rarely have to step outside that. The other area is that I speak and write for the T&I industry. Many people attend conferences for years without offering a session, and similarly read

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Understanding the FREE in Freelance

by Alex Eames

What does the term *"free-lance"* actually mean? Free lance was coined in 1820 by Sir Walter Scott and it meant a "medieval mercenary warrior."

So basically you are a warrior who will work for whoever pays the best. If you substitute warrior for translator, does that measure up to your reality? Are you a translator who will work for whoever pays the best? Hmmm.

Wrong Attitude

A lot of people have a very wrong attitude towards what it means to be a freelancer. They like the idea of being FREE, but they don't actually live it out. They feel enslaved to accept the rates and onerous terms, that anyone wielding a job tries to slap upon them.

Now it may be fear, or inability to negotiate, but I think it's also partly to do with not quite having grasped what the FREE in freelance actually means. Think for a moment. What are the benefits of being freelance?

You are FREE to...

- accept or reject any project offered to you;
- set your own rates (the client is FREE to accept or reject them);
- work (or not) for anyone you chose; and
- persuade clients to accept your higher rates and that you are worth what you are asking for.

Position in the Marketplace

I often get e-mails from people applying for "*a freelance position*". This shows a lack of understanding of what freelance is. Freelance is a position in the marketplace, not a position in an organisation. When you're a freelancer, you don't have a position in someone else's company. You are not in their company. You are... FREE.

Remember the FREE in freelance! You are not ensnared or imprisoned or closely tied to an employer. You are an outsider!

That means you are FREE to accept or reject any terms, any payment levels, any projects – and any nonsense from clients. If you decide "I'm not taking that" you can say "bye bye. I'm not working for you any more." I've done it before. And believe me, people aren't used to it.

Real-World Example

We once did a press release project for a fairly large multi-national company. The chief executive was rude and obnoxious, so when he phoned to speak to my wife I gave him a

talking to before I would let him speak to her.

Chief execs of large multi-nationals are not used to being talked to like that. But it's very good for them.

He spoke briefly to my wife after that. He was much more polite and friendly. When we'd finished the piece we were working on we decided not to take any more work on that project.

Think Like a CEO

What I said to my friends when I discussed it with them was "well he's chief executive of one company, I'm chief executive of two companies." You've got to think of yourself as the CEO of YOUR company, and NOT as a low-life sub-contractor. This puts you on a level with the top people in large organisa-

tions. In fact, many of them will envy your freelance status because you get to work from home and watch your kids grow up.

Employment vs. Freelance

What's the difference between employment and freelancing? Well the difference is huge actually. Your client won't...

- pay you any benefits;
- deduct any of your taxes;
- pay any of your insurance or pension contributions; or
- give you any perks.

You decide how much they pay. They'll accept, negotiate or walk away.

A freelancer is a FREE agent - a separate independent business. That's what the FREE in freelance really means.

- You set your own rates;
- You accept/reject projects you want/don't want;
- You negotiate terms; and
- You are FREE to succeed or fail on your own merits.

But not everybody can handle the responsibilities that go with freedom. "Freedom is a battle that must be fought and won each day" (Sartre). It's the ultimate performance-related pay, but not everybody can cope with it alone. Don't worry, help is at hand.

View From The Other Side

When we were operating as an agency, we used to ask translators what they wanted to be paid. If it was too high, we wouldn't work with them. If it was a level that we could still make a decent profit on – then we worked with them. We gave them what they asked for. And they were happy to take that money. It was profitable for both sides and that's how EVERY business transaction should be. If both sides don't profit from a transaction, that is not sustainable in the long term.

Highlights of Being FREE

Let's remember some of the best aspects of being FREE. I'm FREE to...

- organise my time and use it wisely – if I wish;
- practise my hobbies whenever I want;
- do unusual things that other people can't do. FREE to spend many weeks per year in another country in our second home;
- organise my life the way I want it to be;
- go and do my supermarket shopping or go to the gym in the middle of the day, any day of the week if I want to. And that means I can choose the best time to go, when it's not busy.

So are YOU, but you may not have quite captured the "dream" yet. It isn't just a dream though. It can be a reality. And for many successful freelance translators it IS their reality. It can be yours too. But it does require work, effort, sometimes a little bit of luck. But ALWAYS a lot of skill and a lot of hard application over a sustained period of time.

Sadly, some FREE lance warriors get defeated and captured in battle. But don't let that drag YOU down. You can do it. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alex Eames is the founder of www.translatortips.com, editor of *tranfree* and author of several eBooks.

This article was adapted from the April 2010 edition of *tranfree*.

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CIRCLE NEWS

NYC MEETINGS

All meetings start at 6:30 PM and end at 8:00 PM with dinner at a nearby restaurant. Check website for details. Please e-mail the Program Director at NYCTProgramDirector@gmail.com if you plan to attend a meeting.

November 2010 Meeting

Monday, November 15, 2010

ANSI Center 25 W. 43rd Street New York, NY 10036

RSVP Date: Monday, September 20, 2010

Description: Guest speaker from the New York-based agency thebigword. Please check the website for details or email: nyctprogramdirector@gmail.com.

Moshe Dayan Used to Live in Zahala

by **Meir Turner**

At the outset of depositions interpreters take a solemn oath to fairly and accurately interpret the proceedings. This obligation is repeatedly reinforced in interpreter education courses and in articles that appear in professional journals. Despite all of these directives, some interpreters continue to interject themselves unnecessarily into colloquy with the parties and fail to remain neutral. The excerpts below, from a transcript of a deposition, offer examples of some pitfalls interpreters should do their best to avoid. In all but one case, the deponent responded in Hebrew. His answers appear in English as rendered by the interpreter. My comments appear in brackets. All names have been changed to protect the parties' privacy.

ATTORNEY *[to the interpreter]*: Ms. Bloom, did you meet with Mr. Mizrachi [the deponent] prior to coming here today?

INTERPRETER: I drove down with him from *[a city's name appears in the original transcript and is omitted here]*, yes. *[Interpreters should try to avoid the company of the deponent prior to the deposition.]*

ATTORNEY: Mr. Mizrachi, my name is Joseph Smith. I'm the attorney who–

INTERPRETER: The more frequently we stop, the more accurately I can translate.

[Interpreters should know the difference between interpreting and translating. Also, the interpreter should not interrupt the questioner at such short intervals, even in the name of accuracy. An interpreter who does not have sufficient recall should take notes and refer to them.]

ATTORNEY: Mr. Mizrachi, did you give Mr. Stein any information regarding David Rosen's family estate so that Mr. Stein–

DEPONENT: It's not an estate. His parents, his parents –I'm sorry *[said by interpreter]*– his parents are alive.

INTERPRETER: I'm sorry. It's very tough, some of this.

[If an interpreter says anything, she should indicate that it is she and not the deponent who is speaking. The above comment is not only gratuitous and inappropriate; it also confuses the record.]

ATTORNEY: Could you just read the last answer back?

INTERPRETER: I'm just telling him to ask you the questions for clarification and not me because I am not, ask me. Tell me your question. I'll ask you. I just want to explain something to you, something to him about translating. I'm explaining about first and third person, that's all.

[The interpreter should neither provide explanations nor tell either party what to do or say. She may only, when necessary, ask that the deponent be instructed to answer the questioner directly. If the interpreter wants to address the witness, she must request permission from the parties. Otherwise, as happened here, the interpreter's attempt at clarification will only compound the confusion.]

ATTORNEY: You are looking at Mr. Zangwill and I wish you wouldn't... Look at me.

DEPONENT: *[in English]* I look only for you. Okay.

INTERPRETER: He's saying he only has eyes for you.

[The interpreter should never say "He's saying" unless the deponent has said "He's saying" in the source language. Here she inserted an explanation, using the third

person pronoun, of the deponent's English language answer. The interpreter's statement is improper, and, unless the deponent is enamored of the attorney, also inaccurate.]

ATTORNEY: And where is that located?

DEPONENT: In Zahala.

INTERPRETER: Moshe Dayan used to live there.

[While the deponent simply identifies the location, the interpreter, in an apparent attempt to display her knowledge, provides additional information. While the deponent may have an interest in playing down the value of the property, the interpreter is, in effect, advising the deposing attorney that the property is in an affluent area. The interpreter's neutrality has been compromised. Also, a grammatical point, since Moshe Dayan is dead, the correct usage is "he lived there." To say "he used to live there" implies that he is still alive and has merely relocated.]

ATTORNEY: Who owns it with her?

DEPONENT: About another twenty people.

ATTORNEY: Why?

INTERPRETER: Okay. This is a very tough concept. It's kind of land called musha land, and there really is no translation for it. You can ask him to explain it and I will translate it for you.

[The attorney asked a simple, one-word question: "Why?" The interpreter should have interpreted that word into its one-word Hebrew equivalent and left it at that. Instead, she anticipated the answer and then, inappropriately, provided her own (inaccurate) statement that the word musha has no English equivalent.]

ATTORNEY: Let the record reflect that I was handed documents mostly in Hebrew from—

INTERPRETER: Do you need some help with it?

ATTORNEY: ...From the witness. I'm going to mark these.

[The interpreter should not interrupt an attorney in mid-sentence in order to offer unsolicited services.]

In conclusion, this interpreter became actively involved in the proceeding, and was unable to limit herself to interpreting, which should have been her sole function. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Meir Turner is a simultaneous Hebrew-English interpreter who lives in New York City.

ERRATUM

Due to an editing error in the article about NYU's Translation and Interpreting Programs, which appeared in the July/August issue of the Gotham Translator, a quote on page 4 was incorrectly attributed to Anne Hecht.

The statement was actually made by Eve Hecht, who has been teaching German to English translation at NYU since 1999. Eve is also a freelance translator from German, French and Hebrew.

She was extremely generous with her time, providing essential background information that made the writing of the article possible. The Editor regrets the error and apologizes for any confusion it may have caused.

OUR LINKEDIN COMMUNITY IS GROWING

All NYCT members are invited to join our virtual community on LinkedIn. We now have 57 members and counting…

Join by clicking on the "Join Group" button located on our home page. All monthly meetings are posted under Events (look for LinkedIn Applications), which you can add to your profile page.

See you there!

Effective Time Management for Translators

by Lana Rachkovskaya, NYCT Mentoring Committee

You are working on three different projects with various deadlines. You get a phone call with a question about a project you delivered last week. At the same time an e-mail comes in with a request about your rates and availability, and a new project is on the way. It is 3 p.m. and and you haven't had your lunch yet. And one of your clients just asked you to translate one sentence for free. Feeling overwhelmed yet? These simple techniques will help you keep your head above the water during those busy days.

Lana Rachkovskaya

Be In Charge of Your Own Schedule

Write your to-do list the day before. Next day prioritize your tasks and even number them. As the day goes by, revise your priorities.

Tip:

Put the time you anticipate the task will take to complete next to the task and/or wordcounts.

This will also help you determine your priorities. For example:

5. Fre>Eng Contract TR for [client name] – 3,300 words (due by [date and time]/ongoing)
4. Spa>Eng Patent ED for [client name] – 2,500 words / 2-3 hours (due by COB today)
3. Answer client's questions for [client name] – 15 minutes
2. Fre>Eng Rush TR for [client name] – 250 words (due by 3 p.m. today)
1. Request about rates + availability – 5 minutes

Feel free to highlight high-priority tasks on your schedule with a highlighter. Do not feel embarrassed asking your clients how soon they need the requested information and if it can wait a little. Would it be faster to write an e-mail addressing questions about the translation you delivered last week or to answer them over the phone?

Get Rid of Distractions

Some interruptions are simply a waste of time, so your next step is to cut way down on them.

REARRANGE YOUR SPACE. If your office feels like Grand Central, make it less inviting. Close the door just enough to avoid eye contact with people passing by.

BREAK THE E-ADDICTION. If you are in the middle of a rush job, turn off your e-mail alert and let the voicemail pick up when you really need to concentrate.

BEGIN THE CONVERSATION WITH "What can I do for you?" rather than, "How are you?" The latter is an invitation to chat. You want to get straight to the point.

REHEARSE A FEW COMFORTABLE EXIT LINES in case someone gets you at a bad moment. For example, "I'm in the middle of finishing a project; can we talk this afternoon?" or, "I'd love to help you out, but my schedule is full today."

IF YOU ARE WORKING ON A DOCUMENT, put a bright-colored Post-It on the exact spot where you left off. This will make it easier to get re-oriented. You can also highlight a word/section in an electronic document.

TRACK YOUR TIME. Some inexpensive applications like ExactSpent (http://www.exactspent.com) can help you with

projects where you need to keep track of the time you spend and you may be interrupted. Instead of hand writing and calculating the total time for your editing and proofreading projects, you just press the button every time you get interrupted and need to switch to another task.

Once you are back, press the Continue button and the software calculates the total time for you, no matter how many times you got interrupted throughout your task.

> Do not feel embarrassed asking your clients how soon they need the requested information and if it can wait a little.

Multitasking requires an excellent knowledge of the job, attention to detail, and an ability to remain calm, focused and professional under pressure – while simultaneously following proper procedure. This skill is sharpened with experience. Remember to always prioritize your work, utilize good organizational skills and anticipate problems. When communicating with your clients it is also important to stay in control and to remain calm. Try not to get defensive about your client's comments. Let them say what they came to you to say and then address the issues in a professional manner. And do not forget to leave your work behind you at the end of the day! ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

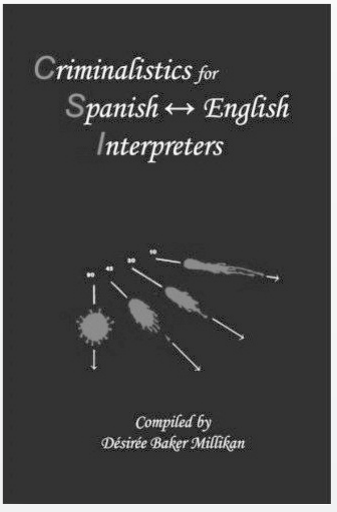
If you need help with looking at your career differently, taking a fresh look at your resume or just want a professional opinion, please contact NYCT Mentoring Committee (contact Lana Rachkovskaya at lana@capitaltranslations.net.)

NEW DICTIONARY HOT OFF THE PRESS

Interpreting for a forensic expert witness is one of the most challenging tasks facing a court interpreter.

"Criminalistics for Spanish-English Interpreters" includes 11 subject categories, such as ballistics, trace, fingerprints, and tools of the trade, as well as an alphabetical listing in both English and Spanish.

Created by a working court interpreter, the aim of this handbook is to enable the interpreter to prepare - at a moment's notice - for a criminalist expert witness, as well as to find a needed term quickly -- be it prosaic such as "chip or shaving," or specialized, such as "ulnar loop" or "contusion ring."



Individual books can be ordered directly from the author or via Amazon.com, effective October 25, 2010. A ten percent discount is available from the author for orders of five or more books.

Desiree Millikan has a Masters degree in simultaneous interpretation from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and works as a California State-certified court interpreter.

CRIMINALISTICS FOR SPANISH <-->ENGLISH INTERPRETERS

Author: Baker Millikan, D.
Yr. Published: 2010
Edition: 1st
Binding: Paper Bound
Pages: 126 Entries: 3,000
ISBN: 1892306255
ISBN13:9781892306258

NYU ONE OF THE TOP 10 US TRANSLATION SCHOOLS

by Agnes Meilhac

New York University was listed as one of the Top 10 US Translation Schools in a *Beyond Words* blog post. The blog was created by ALTA Language Services, a language provider with offices in Atlanta, Georgia and Washington D.C. ALTA boasts 27 years of experience delivering translation, language training and accent reduction, among other services.

Beyond Words comes across as one of the most comprehensive and entertaining information portals to the language industry. Written by nearly two dozen of regular contributors, articles are grouped under a variety of topics including ALTA News, Etymology, Interpreting, Language and Culture, Endangered Languages and many others.

The September post featuring a list of 10 leading translation schools in the US was a follow-up piece to the "Translation Degree Overview," published earlier that month by the same author, identified as Jes.

It is important to mention that Jes was careful to explain the ranking methodology used in compiling his "best-of" guide to our domestic translation programs. The schools were separated by their program's mission, resulting in a division between graduate and certificate programs. For the purpose of the ranking, each program's available enrollment data, number of languages, varying types of degrees or certificates and "general ability to address a field of translation and interpretation" were taken into account. The last point covered the number of courses offered, the number of faculty members, and department resources.

The ranking was also reported to be holistic, not reductive, highlighting the nation's premier translation and interpretation programs in alphabetical order so as to provide the "most unbiased information possible."

The top 5 graduate schools were listed as Gallaudet University, Kent State University, Monterey Institute, SUNY Binghamton and University of Texas, Dallas. Each program was broadly described in two to three paragraphs pointing out both general and specifically relevant information to potential students.

TOP 5 TRANSLATION GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Gallaudet University
Kent State University
Monterey Institute
SUNY Binghamton
University of Texas, Dallas

The author chose the top 5 translation certificate programs from among a dozen of such programs existing in the United States. He stressed that most were designed for professional students and offered over a two year period either at night or in two-week increments. The second ranking lists American University, Boston University, Florida International University, Georgia State University and NYU as the five most worthy certificate programs in the US.

Visit http://www.altalang.com/beyond-words/2009/09/23/top-10-us-translation-schools/ to read the blog post in its entirety. ■

September Monthly Meeting

by **Brooke Bates**

On September 21, Jeff Nunner from TippingSprung Translations led an interesting discussion at the NYCT monthly meeting. As the agency's Director of Account Management, Mr. Nunner gave a talk focused on Project Management, the role it plays in the industry and how it has evolved as a profession.

Although most of us have worked with Project Managers throughout our translation careers, it is easy to forget what it might be like on the other side of the desk and how they play a key role in almost every aspect of a project from scheduling to designating tasks to payment. I once heard PMs described as the handshake between every agreement made, including that with the client, agency, translator and various other vendors.

With over 6,000 languages spoken in the world and globalization as the nature of today's market, translation is a major commodity. No matter how much advancement has been made in machine technology, for example, or that Esperanto was created to be the world's universal second language, translators will always be needed and their languages valued according to market trends. With increasing demand and developments in technology, clients are relying more heavily on PMs to deliver work quicker and more cost effectively in various file formats, perform in-country reviews, and make "live" changes on account of the time difference. Most clients have gone as far as to create their own CAT tools to make up for the time and costs. With this in mind, the PM's greatest challenge is to find translators who are easily and frequently available and often willing to work for lower rates. Nunner briefly mentioned that translators overall take a 15% pay cut as a result of different payment trends, such as setting 15 minute rates as opposed to a standard flat fee for example.

So in this newly technology-driven industry how does this change Project Management as a profession? PMs are valued more for their time management and organizational skills than for their language abilities. Nunner broke down the PM's job as "organization, triaging and re-organizing," emphasizing the importance of understanding the project's requirements, the timeframe and the necessary tools needed. Project management is becoming more professionalized to the point where degrees are now being created specifically for this line of work. For translators, it is vital to see the big picture of the industry as a whole in order to effectively meet the demands of PMs and their clients.

Afterwards, members headed over to Trattoria Dopo Teatro for a delicious dinner. ■

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newsletters and magazines, without ever offering an article. As well as the enjoyment I get from these activities, it makes me much more visible, and I think that in turn that increases the number of word-of-mouth recommendations that I get.

Do you have a customer experience or feedback that you are most proud of?

I do. In 2009 I had made my aim for the year to work on my technical writing skills. In the autumn of that year, I had translated a set of pharmaceutical validation procedures. The client, who was not an expert in the field, edited them and told me, "You've done a wonderful job on these files. Your English is so clear that I can actually understand the technical language!" That was very satisfying.

Does your business have an online presence?

I have a website at www.mcmillantranslation.com and I use LinkedIn for my online networking (http://www.linkedin.com/in/karentkaczyk).

Do you do any non-profit work related to T&I?

I don't do pro bono translation, as the multinational industrial companies whose documents I translate hardly need it! I do a lot of T&I association work though. I am the 2009-2011 President of the Nevada Interpreters and Translators Association and I am also the Administrator for the Science and Technology Division of the American Translators Association. ■

The 51st Annual ATA Conference

photos courtesy of Jeff Sanfacon (http://www.atanet.org/conf/2010/index.php#photos)

THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR

The New York Circle of Translators (NYCT) is a New York State not-for-profit corporation grouping independent translators and interpreters as well as companies and organizations. It is a chapter of the American Translators Association (ATA) which is, in turn, an affiliate of the International Federation of Translators (FIT).

NYCT members work in a variety of languages and specialties. Our members are committed to the exchange of ideas and mutual support. One of our goals is to educate the general public about the professional nature of interpreting and translating.

NYCT members enjoy the following benefits:

- Free monthly meetings featuring speakers on all aspects of the translation profession
- Networking opportunities at monthly dinners and annual holiday party
- Professional development workshops and seminars
- Subscription to our newsletter, The Gotham Translator
- Listings in the NYCT Online Membership Directory and the annual NYCT printed Membership Directory
- Referrals (if you indicate that you accept them, existing members may direct work requests to you or clients may contact you directly)

Visit us at www.nyctranslators.org and join online!

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