



ITIA BULLETIN

June 2008

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Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
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■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

The 'invisibility' of translators is something that is often discussed at conferences around the world. With wringing hands, we worry that translators are being sidelined and not receiving due recognition. I was reminded of this when trying to find biographical information on award-winning literary translator, Margaret Jull Costa (see article below). Despite her achievements, there is precious little information to be found online. Is this dearth of information another example of the poor status of translators or is it, just maybe, exactly how we like it?

Enjoy!

Elizabeth Hayes
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■ Equality Tribunal Case: 58 Named Complainants vs Goode Concrete Ltd.

The 58 complainants from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia, Romania and Uzbekistan took a case against their employer Goode Concrete Ltd claiming discriminatory treatment, discriminatory dismissal, harassment, victimisation and equal pay on the grounds of race. The respondent denied all the allegations. The Equality Tribunal decision was given on the 30th April 2008.

This was quite a complex case but the key area of interest to translators is the translation of contracts of employment and of health and safety documentation. The equality officer had to consider if the complainants were treated less favourably than their Irish counterparts.

Contracts of Employment

In this case, contracts of employment were available in English and Russian. The company argued that there is no requirement in law for an employer to provide contracts in the language of the foreign national. If the company had to provide translations they would have to do so in 13 different languages.

The Equality Officer found that the approach of having contracts of employment in English and Russian 'could be considered reasonable? Alternatively, 'a translator

acting on behalf of the employer (not another employee) should explain the terms of the Contract of Employment and employees "should be asked to sign a document confirming that the Contract of Employment had been explained to them".

Safety Documentation

Again, some safety documentation was made available in Russian. Training was provided by work colleagues who spoke the relevant language. Interpreters could be asked to provide a translation of the safety statement. A Russian interpreter was asked to interpret at a Health and Safety seminar.

The Equality Officer found that there was an onus on the company to ensure that all safety documentation was set out in whatever language or languages that all employees would understand.

The workers were awarded €5,000 each because the contracts and safety documentation were not translated into their own language. Nor was a sight translation provided by an interpreter.

The case is to be appealed to the Labour Court.

From the ITIA point of view, there was an interesting assumption by the company that everyone from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia, Romania and Uzbekistan would understand Russian. Also, the Equality Officer's suggestion that an interpreter could provide a sight translation of a contract of employment does not seem very realistic because these are quite long documents and the employee would probably need to take notes. The point was made that another employee should not be expected to translate the contract. This is a good point because all too often companies ask employees who speak other languages to provide translations or act as interpreters. A translation would be a much better option because the employee would be able to refer to the document at a later date if any question arose. The recommendation that safety documentation be made available in the relevant language is welcome. Full details on the case are available [here](#).

■ FIT 2008

The FIT conference takes place in Shanghai on August 4-7. The event promises to be interesting with plenty of talks and activities. There will be a full report on the conference in the August issue of the ITIA bulletin.

■ ITIA Membership Fees

The annual membership subscription for 2008-2009 is now due. Our membership year runs from June 1st to May 31st each year. New members joining after December of any subscription year are entitled to a reduction of 50% in their subscription for the following year. The rates for members are as follows:

Reduced/Student membership:	€ 15.00
Ordinary membership:	€ 40.00
Professional membership:**	€ 75.00
Corporate membership:	€ 120.00

Please note that the fees are likely to increase next year.

All subscriptions remaining outstanding as of August 1st 2008 will result in those members being removed temporarily from the register. Professional members may be required to resubmit their application. A number of subscriptions are received every year with no name, either as postal orders or bank transfers. If you believe this may have been the case, or if you have any other queries relating to your subscription payments, please contact the treasurer at [treasurer\(a\)translatorsassociation.ie](mailto:treasurer(a)translatorsassociation.ie).

■ Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is always delighted to welcome new members to the Association. There are five categories of membership:

- ◆ Ordinary
- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Concession (undergraduate & senior citizen)
- ◆ Honorary

Ordinary membership is open to anyone with an interest in translating or interpreting. *Professional membership* is for those who meet strict criteria set by the professional membership committee of the ITIA and which is part of the drive to raise the status of the profession in the European market.

Corporate membership is for firms and agencies associated with the profession while *concession membership* is for undergraduate students engaged in third level language and/or translation studies and senior citizens. Finally, *honorary membership* is

intended for national and international persons who have distinguished themselves in our professional field. For more information on how to join as well as for the relevant application forms, visit the ITIA website at: www.translatorsassociation.ie

New Ordinary Members

PAT O'KELLY

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Tel: 087 2486825; Email: pat.trans@gmail.com
ENGLISH from French; ENGLISH from Italian – legal, medical, insurance claims

MAGDALENA ANNA KORKOSZ

135 Bailis Downs, Oak Crescent, Athlumney, Navan, Co. Meath
Tel: 046 9073351; Mobile: 085 1787068; Email: [magdakorkosz\(a\)interia.eu](mailto:magdakorkosz(a)interia.eu)
ENGLISH from Polish; POLISH from English – business, cultural studies. Interpreting: community interpreting

YULIA KHARCHENKO

23 Portersgate Way, Clonsilla, Dublin 15
Tel: 087 294 2488; Email: [kh.julia\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:kh.julia(a)gmail.com)
ENGLISH from Russian; RUSSIAN from English

JUDYTA NOWAKOWSKA

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ENGLISH from Polish; POLISH from English -

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SPANISH from English; ENGLISH from Spanish – legal, economic, general

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ENGLISH from Spanish; ENGLISH from German – IT, marketing, general business, corporate

VIRGINIE HICKEY

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Tel: 087 7826044; Email: garfieldmob@yahoo.fr
ENGLISH from French; FRENCH from English – tourism, arts

MARTYNA SZYMCZAK

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POLISH from English; ENGLISH from POLISH – legal, medical, general

JENNIE ROTHWELL

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ENGLISH from Spanish – literature

IZABELA MIHALACHE

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ITALIAN from English; ROMANIAN from English -

Corporate

CHERRY-COMM

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Website: www.cherry-comm.com
Contact: Ms Colette Kinsella

■ Interpreting in Situations of Sexual Violence and Other Trauma

INTERPRETING IN SITUATIONS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND OTHER TRAUMA - A HANDBOOK FOR COMMUNITY INTERPRETERS, DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE MAY 2008

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre received funding from Pobal to run 2 day courses for interpreters working in situations of sexual violence or other trauma. The course ran twice in Dublin, once in Cork and once in Galway. Many ITIA members attended and found the course very useful.

Interpreters could find themselves unexpectedly being asked to interpret in a situation of sexual violence. For example an interpreter could be called to a garda station and discover on arrival that the case involves sexual assault or rape. The course helped interpreters think through the issues and find ways to work through difficulties that arise in this type of situation.

The handbook is divided into 3 parts:

1. Sexual violence and other trauma,
2. Interpreting in situations of sexual violence and other trauma
3. Preventing and dealing with secondary post traumatic stress.

The first section examines common myths about rape and sexual abuse. For example, some people believe that victims provoke rape by their dress and behaviour; a woman who has been raped has brought dishonour to her family; men and boys are not raped or abused; people are usually sexually assaulted by strangers; only young attractive women are raped; sexual abuse occurs mainly where there is socio-economic disadvantage and false allegation of rape and sexual abuse are common.

Interpreters bring their own prejudices and beliefs to an assignment but of course an interpreter cannot appear judgemental and cannot express opinions. It is also

important for interpreters to be aware of their own prejudices. Part One goes on to consider the impact of sexual violence in general and particular issues that face certain groups such as asylum seekers, refugees, children and survivors of torture.

...course an interpreter cannot appear judgemental and cannot express opinions

Part Two looks at principles and ethics of interpreting - confidentiality, accuracy, impartiality and professional behaviour. This is followed by a very useful, practical section on what exactly happens when a complainant goes to a garda station, to the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit and to court. It is important for interpreters to decide if they are the right person for this sort of work. Part Two also includes guidelines for service providers on how to work with an interpreter and then moves on to interpreting in a counselling context.

Part Three is very useful because it describes symptoms of Secondary Post Traumatic Stress which interpreters may experience and suggests various strategies for self-care. While the Handbook focuses on the Irish context, a great deal of the content would be suitable in other countries. The Handbook is available [here](#).

■ Translation at centre of South Korean beef debacle

A plan to relax a ban of U.S. beef in South Korea resulted in widespread outrage and massive protests. The recently elected president, Lee Myung Bak, has seen his popularity plummet to 20% as a result of this issue. The outcry, fuelled by protectionism and anti-Americanism, more than hard facts is paralysing the country where Koreans feel that the president is putting trade deals ahead of public health. Information and misinformation on the risks involved in eating U.S. beef is spreading via the media and the Internet and translators are getting caught in the crossfire. One TV programme is under fire for misrepresenting the facts around BSE and vCJD. *PD Diary*, the current affairs programme in question, is being sued by the Korean government for airing a show that allegedly exaggerated the risk of getting vCJD from U.S. beef. *PD Diary* staff apologized for the programme by saying there was a problem with liberal translation.

The translation problem centres on two terms vCJD and downer cows. The programme included a segment about an American woman who died of what her mother suspected was CJD. The programme concluded that the woman had probably died of vCJD. The crucial difference is that CJD is not caused by BSE infected beef but vCJD may be. The second problem arose by an insinuation in the programme that BSE was the main cause of downer cows. In fact, a downer cow is simply a cow that cannot walk. The reason for its inability to walk could be any number of defects, physical or neurological. By equating "downer cow" with "BSE-infected cow" the programme gave the impression that the U.S. is awash with BSE.

language interpreters were contacted as well as the Garda and the Courts Service. The questionnaire was sent to people all around the European Union in order to obtain a clear picture of what exactly is happening in police stations and the courts when defendants do not speak the language of the country. The information is now available online from: <http://www.agisproject.com>

The responses from Ireland and other countries can be accessed by clicking on the individual country to the left on the Agis Project home page. For example, in the case of Ireland you will see links under Procedural Safeguards to five Excel worksheets. If you go into the worksheets (part 2b doesn't work) you will find the answers from official and unofficial sources to the questions. Be sure to click on the tabs at the end of the page in order to access all responses. In the case of Ireland there were 12 unofficial responses (from the ITIA, individual interpreters, translators and possibly lawyers and agencies) and only one official response. This was quite a good response compared to that from other larger countries so many thanks to all those who took the time to respond to the questionnaire. Thanks are also due to Erik Hertog and Jan van Gucht who took on a huge task and completed it very successfully. Let's hope that the survey leads to an improvement in training, standards and recognition of legal interpreters. Extracts from the resulting publication 'Status Quaestionis' are available [here](#). The book is published by **Intersentia** and costs €50.

...this is a clear case of translators doing a poor job and inadvertently causing a scare.

So, it would seem that this is a clear case of translators doing a poor job and inadvertently causing a scare. However, one of the translators involved in the programme has spoken out to defend herself and her profession. Chung Ji-min who participated as one of the translators in the project claims that she repeatedly told the production team in the translating and editing process that it was not reasonable to describe downer cows as potentially infected with mad cow disease. Her protests were ignored. She made the allegations in a post on the "PD Diary" web board as well as an interview. Chung believes that this case has nothing to do with translation errors and everything to do with deliberate scare-mongering, "PD Diary should admit that their intention was to play up the risk of mad cow disease? The criminal investigation continues.

Mary Phelan

Mary Phelan

■ Legal Interpreting and Translation in the EU

STATUS QUAESTIONIS - QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE PROVISION OF LEGAL INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION IN THE EU - EDITED BY ERIK HERTOOG AND JAN VAN GUCHT INTERSENTIA

ITIA members with experience of court interpreting and translators were asked to complete a very well designed questionnaire on legal interpreting and translation some time ago. The questionnaire was part of the Agis Project and was a follow on to the Grotius Project. A number of barristers, solicitors and sign

■ Career Questions

NICOLA RYAN IS AN ACCOUNT MANAGER TEAM LEAD WITH VISTATEC, SHE HAS OVER NINE YEARS EXPERIENCE WITHIN THE LOCALISATION INDUSTRY.

1. Describe a typical working day.

A typical working day for me tends to be split between:

- projects I am directly involved in an Account Manager capacity
- overseeing and providing support to the Account Managers within the Team
- reviewing the Team Accounts on a regular basis, the key here is to identify and ensure efficient processes and procedures are in place, amending as needed over time as Accounts adapt and change.

From a project specific perspective, I begin the day reviewing the status of each project individually, checking they are proceeding according to schedule and budget. If there are any issues evident I log them in

terms of priority and address accordingly. With regard to the team, all are experienced, competent and reliable Account Managers who are great to work with so my main focus is to provide support and ensure that the mechanisms necessary are in place to allow the team to run projects effectively.

I also tend to check in regularly with Clients. This allows both the Client and myself improved visibility, providing a strong foundation as to the particular requirements of a project and/or the Account in general. Often we can view these requests in isolation, the focus can understandably sometimes be restricted to turnaround but I have found that by establishing good channels of communication we can have a clearer understanding of the requirements for all which in turn provides a better basis for flexibility and adaptability. Combined with the above, my typical working day also includes completing the various Company or Account required administration tasks, be they analysis, reporting, budgeting and scheduling for statistical purposes.

2. Describe the professional pathway that led to your current career.

I graduated with a B.A in European Studies from the University of Limerick in 1998. Following on from this I successfully completed a Graduate Diploma in Software Localisation, also at the University of Limerick in 1999. From there I started with the then ITP (now SDL) as a Project Manager in June of 1999, moving to Senior Project Manager until 2006 when I started with VistaTEC as an Account Manager. Within VistaTEC I then became an Account Manager Team Lead in late 2007 and continue in that role today.

3. Do you have an area of specialization?

Within Project Management I am very focused on putting in place process driven mechanisms to address efficiency with a goal to minimizing and eradicating

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out next month. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 1,000 subscribers worldwide, send them to Elizabeth Hayes at [elizabeth.hayes7\(a\)mail.dcu.ie](mailto:elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie).

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issues. I very much enjoy constantly reviewing, adapting and updating processes for the various stages within a project. I find that providing templates to work from allows for a structured and informed environment where communication is key to successful projects for all involved.

4. What are the main advantages of your job?

I enjoy the overall perspective Project Management provides. Each required task in a project provides a specific part of the whole and each in its own way is crucial for successful project completion but as a Project Manager it is certainly advantageous to be able to see all aspects as a whole, appreciating where each slot into place, working towards a particular goal.

5. What are the main disadvantages of your job?

It's not quite a disadvantage but what I tend to struggle with ironically is similar to the main advantage point above. Project Management has an overall project perspective, we cannot be experts in all areas and it can be frustrating occasionally not to be able to immediately jump in and fix an issue but rather to take the moment to review, assign and address, essentially to be able to turn to the given expert as needed is important to understand.

6. What advice would you give to someone at the beginning of their career?

I would advise that regardless of the career the person be patient with themselves, allow themselves the time to learn, the time to make mistakes and realize that experience cannot be rushed. I would tell anyone starting off not to be afraid or embarrassed to ask questions and/or make suggestions and to grow within their role over time.

7. What changes have you witnessed in your profession?

From a Project Management perspective I have benefited from some excellent automation tools that have certainly freed up my time to allow me to focus more on project flow issues. I have also noticed that the experience level for Project Management is constantly improving, there is an appetite currently for certification and accreditations that reflects this.

8. How do you see the profession developing?

I think as technology improves, Project Management can be afforded the additional time needed to really appreciate key items, such as the importance of quality,

budget, schedule and communication to an in-depth level would be beneficial.

9. Do you think technology has helped or hindered your earning potential?

I don't actually view technology as an adversary to localization in terms of earning potential. The goal of technology is to improve efficiency, to allow better use of a resource. There can be learning curves involved of course but my experience has been overwhelmingly positive.

10. How could standards be improved?

I think the path that Project Management is currently following, with regard to certification and accreditation, is a good starting point and I would welcome moving towards standardizing basic understandings of localization specific processes.

■ British translator wins two prestigious awards

Two prominent literary translation awards have gone to the same work. The translator, Margaret Jull Costa, is no stranger to awards having already won the *IMPAC Dublin Literary Award* (1997) among others. This year saw her translation of Eça de Queirós's *The Maias* win both the PEN Translation Prize and the *Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize*. Eça de Queirós was a Portuguese writer who has been ranked among the top realist writers in Europe. Emile Zola described de Queirós as being "far greater than my own dear master, Flaubert". He died in 1900. Jull Costa, a British translator, has translated many of his novels into English. She says that the Portuguese writer is "the writer I feel most empathy with, of the writers I translate? The PEN award netted the translator \$3,000 and the Oxford-Weidenfeld prize is valued at £2000.

■ Survey by the FIT Translation Technology committee

The FIT Translation Technology Committee, chaired by Prof. Alan Melby, would like your contribution to the first part of their recent survey.

We have not set a specific time table for this first part of the survey but we hope to launch the next part in the fall, so it would be great if participants could have responded by the end of September.

■ eCoLoMedia Project

The project "eCoLoMedia" (Developing shareable and customisable resources for vocational training in multimedia eContent localisation) funded in the framework of the European Leonardo-da-Vinci programme aims to facilitate the integration of multimedia localisation into conventional translation teaching. To this purpose, the intrinsic difficulties of multimedia translation are addressed: the difficulty of obtaining illustrative film or game sequences; the time-consuming preparation of multimedia files and corresponding pedagogical scenarios. *eCoLoMedia* targets trainers and teachers of professional translation, localisation and cultural adaptation in academe, professional bodies and industry.

The project is coordinated by the *Haute cole de Bruxelles, Institut supérieur de traducteurs et interprètes* (ISTI), Belgium; project partners are a number of other training institutes for translators and interpreters in Europe as well as professional associations for translators and interpreters and two partners from the language industry.

Further information on the project can be found on the project website currently under development (<http://ecolomedia.uni-saarland.de>).

In order to gather information on the methods, tools and workflows of multimedia localisation, as practised in the industry and taught in various educational settings (university, vocational training), a survey is carried through by the project in training institutes, industry and professional associations.

The questionnaire is available in English, French and German; all versions attached or request a printed or electronic copy from Institute of Translation & Interpreting www.iti.org.uk email: [info\(a\)iti.org.uk](mailto:info(a)iti.org.uk)

We would like to ask you to participate in the survey and/or to pass on this information to colleagues working in your organisation or in related fields.

Thank you very much in advance for your cooperation!

■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

A Sea of Languages: Rethinking the History of Western Translation

Translation in the multi-lingual and multi-cultural world of the ancient Mediterranean was a manifest necessity, and yet there have been very few studies on the role of translation and translators in this rich linguistic environment. Even when authors such as Cicero and St. Jerome are discussed they are too often seen primarily as archaic precursors of modern Western translation theory and divorced from their cultural context. With the current upsurge of interest in translation and the explosive growth of the field of translation studies, we feel that this is an opportune time for scholars of the ancient Mediterranean to contribute to the present debate by complicating the too-often monolithic representation of ancient translation practices and to examine translation in this region as a field worthy of investigation in its own right, as a multifaceted historically and culturally grounded activity.

We invite contributions to a proposed volume on translation and translators in the ancient Mediterranean which will place both in their historical, linguistic, literary, and cultural contexts. We seek papers from all regions and all time periods up to the 5th century CE. Questions we would like potential contributors to consider are: how did ancient translators function? Under what constraints did they operate? How did literary translators position themselves vis-a-vis other forms of translation? What role did official translation play? Can we recover ancient theories of translation?

We seek particularly seek papers that touch on the following topics, though papers on all subjects are welcome:

- ◆ ancient theories of translation
- ◆ translation and cultural appropriation
- ◆ official translations and translators
- ◆ interpreting and oral translation
- ◆ translation as literary transformation
- ◆ the physical and temporal environment of translation
- ◆ translator loyalties and translators as social agents
- ◆ religious translation and its constraints
- ◆ pseudo-translations

Abstracts of 500 words should be submitted to either Siobhan McElduff ([mcelduff\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:mcelduff(a)gmail.com)) or Enrica Sciarrino ([enrica.sciarrino\(a\)canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:enrica.sciarrino(a)canterbury.ac.nz)) by September 15, 2008. Notification of acceptance will be sent out by October 15, 2008. Please provide abstracts within the email itself or as attachments in MS Word.

■ Employment

Instructor/Assistant Professor

Instructor/Assistant Professor of Translation Arabic-English and English as a Foreign Language at the German-Jordanian University in Amman/Jordan

The German-Jordanian University in Amman/Jordan is a public Jordanian institution founded in 2005. The courses are developed in cooperation with German universities and the university has already achieved an excellent reputation within the Jordanian higher education system. It offers a lot of room for creativity.

The GJU invites applications for a position at the rank of instructor or assistant professor to begin in fall 2008 (start of academic year: 7 September; arrival in Amman preferably end of August).

Full-time, fixed-term appointment, one-year contract, with possibility of renewal. The successful applicant will join the Translation Programme (Arabic-German-English).

Minimum requirements: Master's or Ph.D. in a relevant discipline (preferably Translation Studies); native speaker of English with high-level fluency in Arabic; appropriate teaching experience; evidence of high quality in teaching; training in TEFL would be an asset.

Responsibilities include teaching Arabic-English translation courses and initially some English as a foreign language courses (intermediate and advanced level), participation in curriculum development, and in various programme activities. Normal teaching load is 15 or 12 resp. hours per week. Teaching period: September-June.

Salary: According to rank and experience

Benefits: Tax-free import of personal goods (incl. car), Jordanian medical insurance, social security allowance

Please send letter of application, CV, and evidence of teaching ability to:

Head of Translation Programme, German-Jordanian University, 11180 Amman

Applications can also be sent by fax to: Fax +962 6 5300 668, ATTN: Head of Translation Programme; or by e-mail to: kerstin.wilsch@lju.edu.jo.

Review of applications will begin immediately but all applications will be considered until the search is concluded.

For any inquiries please contact Dr. Kerstin Wilsch at above e-mail address.

■ Contacting The ITIA

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■ ITIA Resources for Translators

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* has compiled a series of useful information leaflets for translators and interpreters - both members and non-members alike. These leaflets are available from the ITIA website at www.translatorsassociation.ie.

- ◆ *The Translation Profession*
- ◆ *Joining the ITIA*
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