



ITIA BULLETIN

September 2007

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Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Teangairí na hÉireann

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■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

It is not often that the working conditions of translators or interpreters make it into mainstream media. The actions of court interpreters in California have changed this. They have taken to the streets in a battle for equality. While the main contingent are employees of the Courts, some freelance interpreters have joined the picket in solidarity. Striking is a not a tool that most freelancers can use, if those in the public sector can raise standards, the benefits will trickle into the private sector. It is comforting to see our colleagues exercise their rights and show their true worth. Power to the interpreters!

Elizabeth Hayes
Editor ITIA Bulletin
elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie

case, an interpreter was present. If a qualified interpreter was indeed called in, there is no reason to believe that the deceased did not understand the medical advice given to him. After all, medical advice is often ignored by patients.

While I empathise with the plight of nurses and wholeheartedly agree with their call for better interpreting services in hospitals, the incident used to illustrate their point was not very well chosen. After all, the man in this incident had access to an interpreter where many patients with poor or no English are never afforded this privilege.

Elizabeth Hayes

■ Court interpreters take to the streets in California

Court interpreters in California are holding firm in their strike action that has been ongoing since the 5th of September. The interpreters took the unprecedented action after a series of talks in which their demands were not being met. The talks began in May but reached an impasse. Hundreds of interpreters in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo are involved, demanding equality of treatment from management, as compared to other employees in the Courts. The striking union, the California Federation of Interpreters (CFI), affiliated with the Communications Workers of America (CWA), has sent certified professional interpreters into courts to observe proceedings during the strike.

Information on how the strike is affecting business in the Courts varies according to sources. Some representatives of the Courts were claiming it was business as usual but this has since been undermined by reports from interpreters and in local media. Interpreters say that the strike is causing chaos, "We have been told that in one arraignment court in the Criminal Courts Building, an attorney has been using custodians to interpret for him," said Sylvia Barden of the CFI. According to reports in local Spanish language newspapers, accused defendants have been released from jail, and others in custody have had their jail time extended as a direct result of the strike.

Prior to 2003, court interpreters in California worked as independent contractors and therefore had no benefits or entitlements. Then, Californian legislation made interpreters employees of the Courts (in effect, the state) and granted them collective bargaining rights.

■ Immigrant's death prompts calls for development of medical interpreting services

A Polish immigrant to Ireland died after returning to his home country for a visit against medical advice. Questions are being raised as to whether the man understood the instructions of hospital staff. The 48-year-old man had been hospitalised for an angiogram procedure in Ireland. After the procedure, he asked staff if he could fly home and they told him he could not. They had called in an interpreter and "we were doing our best and thought that he understood the information" but questions remain regarding the effectiveness of the communication.

Mary Forde, executive officer of the Irish Nurses Organisation (INO), said that non-Irish were welcome but treatment was often delayed while staff waited for an interpreter to arrive. The story was highlighted at the INO conference by nurses who, quite rightly, wish to draw attention to the pressures they are under dealing with patients across a language barrier. These issues have been highlighted in this publication on many occasions.

It is clear that more needs to be done in the area of medical interpreting in Ireland where there is no structure of services and most of the services are provided on an ad-hoc basis. Reports of passers-by, other patients, or juvenile family members being requested to interpret are common. However, in this

Interpreters are seeking salary steps, which provide pay increases based on years of service as other Court employees are entitled to this. The interpreters working for Los Angeles County Courts received a 2.5% pay raise last year (the first in eight years) and were offered a 4% increase last month, raising their salaries to more than \$73,000. But the interpreters want a graduated pay scale that would give them 22% salary increases over five years. They say other Court employees receive such pay raises and that they deserve to as well. To assist the court in addressing this disparity and the shortage, the interpreters' union has sought and found funding in the state judiciary budget exclusively allocated for criminal court interpreters. The money is renewable and available to fund the interpreters' proposal. As such it does not take money from the Court's budget.

The fact that salaries have not kept pace with the marketplace has led to a shortage of qualified interpreters. The CFI claim the Courts are short 20-40 interpreters per day which postpones and delays criminal proceedings. This puts further pressure on existing interpreters.

Mary Lou Aranguren, staff representative for the interpreters' union, could not give an estimate Tuesday about how long the strike might last. "That's very hard to predict," she said. "What I can tell you is our people are very determined to be treated fairly."

Meanwhile, court interpreters in Dallas, Texas are also demanding a raise in salaries as it has been eight years since their last raise. They are currently looking for an increase from \$25/hour to \$50/hour to bring them in line with other counties and Access interpreters (a company that contracts interpreters to the Courts).

■ Translating Diplomacy

A new book, "Undiplomatic Activities" by Richard Woolcott has been published by Scribe Publications. Woolcott was head of the Australian diplomatic service for many years and worked in Europe, South-East Asia, Africa, and the United Nations. The book charts his path through the world of international diplomacy and is filled with anecdotes and tall tales from his extraordinary career from junior diplomat in Cold War Moscow to secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. Translating and interpreting gaffes feature heavily with several amusing stories of linguistic stumbling. One example is the interpreter who rendered the peculiar and peculiarly

Australian term "funny buggers" as "laughing homosexuals". While there are many of these entertaining stories, Woolcott also criticises contemporary Australian foreign policy and what he saw as Australia's slide into a "a fearful and mean society".

■ New Members of the ITIA

The ITIA welcomes the following new members...

Student Member

GRAHAM DALY
77 Oakleigh Wood
Dooradoyle
Raheen, Co Limerick
Mobile: 086 3198105
Email: [grahamdaly4limirl\(a\)hotmail.com](mailto:grahamdaly4limirl(a)hotmail.com)

Ordinary Members

ANA REGINA LESSA
5, Cluain Iseal
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E-mail: [ana_lessa\(a\)hotmail.com](mailto:ana_lessa(a)hotmail.com)
ENGLISH to and from PORTUGUESE
general and literary

DAVID McLOUGHLIN
14 Laghtagoona
Corofin, Co Clare
Mob: 086 2462588
E-mail: [davidmcl18\(a\)hotmail.com](mailto:davidmcl18(a)hotmail.com)
IRISH to and from English
general, government administration, business, technical

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Manor Park
London E12 6JZ, United Kingdom
Email: [sri1\(a\)hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sri1(a)hotmail.co.uk)
TAMIL to and from ENGLISH
Bilateral and Conference Interpreter (UK/Charity based)
refugee issues, representation, political issues, asylum seeking

Corporate Member

CONNECT INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION SERVICES
No 1 Pinewood
Station Road
Castlebar, Co Mayo
Tel: 094 9044467
Fax: 094 9044467
Email: [connecttranslation\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:connecttranslation(a)gmail.com)
Contact: Abdelhalim Bouacha (Agency Manager)
Consecutive Interpreting, Telephone Interpreting, Translation Services

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

■ International Translation Day

IRISH WRITERS' CENTRE, SEPTEMBER 27TH 2007.

International Translation Day – the annual international celebration of the work of translators and interpreters – is celebrated each year sometime on or around September 30th, the feast day of St. Jerome the patron saint of our profession. Traditionally the ITIA have used it as an occasion to get together with fellow translators and interpreters over a glass of wine, with the added attraction of an event organised to link in with the International Translation Day theme designated annually by the International Federation of Translators (FIT). This year's theme was "Don't Shoot the Messenger" – a particularly timely concern, given the challenges and dilemmas which translators and interpreters are often faced with in areas of conflict and political instability throughout the world. (Indeed, at a more local level, the theme might by some be considered even timelier considering the much publicised allegations made by the German ambassador here in Dublin towards his interpreter, though this is probably a discussion for another day...)

The evening's festivities at the Irish Writers' Centre were opened by ITIA Honorary Member Cormac O Cuilleain who has been organising the ITIA event annually for several years. Cormac introduced the first speaker of the evening, Padraic MacKernan. After completing a degree in French, Mr MacKernan had a long and distinguished career with the Irish diplomatic service in the USA, the UN, and finally in France, where he was our ambassador for several years. He has also served as Secretary to the Department of Foreign Affairs and thus is in an excellent position to speak of his personal experience with the vagaries of language mediation in international diplomacy. He treated us to a variety of anecdotes illustrating the political significance of subtle nuances in translation and interpreting decisions, many of which went on to have considerable political consequences.

Mr MacKernan's lecture was followed in the second half of the evening by a performance of Polish poetry in translation by the English translator Anita Jones Debska, accompanied by the Irish harpist Aisling Ennis. Anita visited these shores in February of this year, when she gave a performance of her translations at the Irish Polish Society (IPS), an event co-organised with the assistance of the ITIA and the IPS similarly supported this visit. It was at the February event that Anita first met Aisling and since then they have worked together extensively, developing a synergetic performance style where both artists contribute substantially to the overall effect. Perhaps this was most in evident during their performance of Jones Debska's translation of 'Conversation with a Stone' by Nobel laureate Wislawa Szymborska. Other highlights included Anita's translations of Konstanty Ildefons Galczynski, Krzysztof Kamil Baczynski, Szymon Zimorowic, and Daniel Naborowski along with Aisling's performances of music by Bach, Fauré and some traditional folk melodies.

At the end of the evening, Anita announced that she is at work on a future show involving the work of W.B. Yeats and Stanislaw Wyspianski so I am sure that many of us will be eagerly awaiting this event which will hopefully take place in Dublin in early 2008. Anita also self-publishes her translations in her own handmade booklets, copies of which are available from her personally. She may be contacted at [anita.debska\(a\)virgin.net](mailto:anita.debska(a)virgin.net). For more information on Aisling Ennis, see her website at www.harpireland.com.

John Kearns - ITIA / IPS
[Kearns\(a\)pro.onet.pl](mailto:Kearns(a)pro.onet.pl)

■ New name for an old product

Microsoft recently launched an automatic translation service as part of its Windows Live Search offering. The engine behind the offering is Systran so the service is very similar to that provided by Google and Babelfish. However, the version in use is possibly more recent as the results are not exactly the same but not necessarily much better.

Currently, the new offering translates up to 500 words of text or a URL. The languages covered so far are English, Arabic, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian although not in all combinations.

The original and translated texts are displayed side by side for ease of comparison. Beneath the text windows is a link for anyone interested in purchasing Systran products. There is nothing new or exciting about this new product from a translation perspective. For Windows Live, it is merely a step towards having the same spectrum of services as their competitors.

<http://translator.live.com/Default.aspx>

■ Frankfurt Book Fair 2007

OCTOBER 10-14TH 2007

Thursday 11th, 12-1pm in Reading Tent
Catalan Women Write the World
Victor Catalá- Carmé Riera-Teresa Solana and Petra Zickmann translator of the 3 writers

CHAIR: Pilar Beltrán (Edicions 62)

INTERLUDE

inspired by texts of above writers
Aus dem Herzen in die Finger
Director: Barbara Wachendorff Musician/composer:
Jens Daniel

Session in: Catalan + German with interpreter

Friday 12th, 3-4pm in Reading Tent
Translating Barcelona: Rebel Translators and Rebel Poet

(i) How to survive as a literary translator in the Catalan publishing industry: the experience of Anuvela.

With translators: Ana Alcaína, Verónica Canales, Laura Manero.

CHAIR: Peter Bush (FIT Literary Translation Committee) Session in English

(ii) Poet Priest: From Ramblas Palace to Vallcarca slum - Jacint Verdaguer.

Presentation of the first anthology of his poetry in English Translation (Chicago UP). Ronald Puppo (translator) and Enric Cassases (poet) read and are in conversation.

CHAIR: Lynn Hoggard (Co-Chair FIT Literary Translation Committee)
Session in English

Sunday 14th, 2 pm in Translators' Centre Hall 5 E955.
Session in English and German
FACE THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF
TRANSLATING LITERATURE

Register at: www.bookfair.com
Contact: [fit.ift.ie\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:fit.ift.ie(a)gmail.com)
Tel: 353868245345 <http://fitlitter.blogspot.com>

Organisers: FIT Literary Translation Committee
www.fit-ift.org/en/committ-literary.php + support from
KOPINOR; FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
FOUNDATION, Oslo; FIT; Institut Ramon Llull;
Frankfurt Book Fair

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out at the end of the 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).

Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

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■ Jobs

Director, Center for Translation Studies
School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, University of Illinois, USA

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is seeking a dynamic leader to establish a premier program in translation studies. The envisioned program is a cooperative venture involving units from many disciplines across the campus. It will be wide-ranging, including literary, commercial, scientific translation (among others) as well as computational linguistics, and machine, and machine-assisted translation. The successful candidate will have a distinguished record in translation or translation studies and in translation education, experience in academic program administration, and a strong record of success in obtaining external funding. Masters Degree required, PhD preferred.

The Director will oversee the budget, and supplement it with external funding; s/he will develop, coordinate and participate in the instructional program; s/he will work with units across campus to develop the instructional and research program in translation studies across the campus. This is an exciting opportunity to build a program, taking advantage of considerable strengths already present on campus, including the presence of the Dalkey Archive, and a substantial campus commitment to the future of translation and translation studies. The effective date of appointment is negotiable, but no later than August 16, 2008. This is a regular, full-time appointment. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Candidates are invited to send applications (a letter presenting their qualifications and their vision for the program, a CV, including e-mail address, and a list of four references), to:

- ◆ Douglas A. Kibbee, Director
School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
707 South Mathews Avenue (MC-171)
Urbana IL 61801

Phone: 217 244 3252
E-mail submissions may be sent to [slcl\(a\)uiuc.edu](mailto:slcl(a)uiuc.edu)

Full consideration will be given to applications received by November 1, 2007.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer.

American Translators Association 48th Annual Conference

San Francisco, California. October 31st-November 3rd 2007

The ATA Annual Conference offers a multitude of features and events that allow attendees to connect with over 1,500 translators and interpreters from throughout the U.S. and around the world. You'll find opportunities to promote your services and interview with language services companies at the Job Marketplace, an Exhibit Hall that brings companies together for you to see the latest software, publications, and products available that fit your unique needs, a chance to meet conference sponsors that provide invaluable support to the translation and interpreting fields, as well as plenty of ways to socialize.

Don't miss this opportunity to network, market yourself and your company, meet seasoned professionals and newcomers, reunite with friends and colleagues, and have fun!

See <http://www.atanet.org/conf/2007/> for more details

■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

Audiovisual Translation: Multidisciplinary Approaches / La traduction audiovisuelle: Approches pluridisciplinaires

19-20 June 2008 / le 19-20 juin 2008. University of Montpellier 3, France / Université Montpellier 3, France

CALL FOR PAPERS / APPEL À COMMUNICATIONS

The aim of this conference is to explore audiovisual translation from an interdisciplinary perspective. We invite contributions on any form of audiovisual translation (audio description, dubbing, interpreting, narration, subtitling, subtitling for the deaf and the hard-of-hearing, surtitling, voice-over, etc.) from scholars working in the areas of film studies, translation and interpreting, linguistics, psychology, cultural studies and language teaching, as well as from professional translators, software engineers and broadcasters. We would like this conference to be an opportunity for people coming from different disciplines to exchange ideas and experience about audiovisual translation and to learn about new theoretical frameworks and research methods which could help answer some of the questions they are asking in their own research or practice. Papers discussing the role of the audience in shaping decisions about translation strategies are particularly welcome.

Topics might include, but are by no means limited to:

- ◆ film making, screenwriting and audiovisual translation
- ◆ language and cultural policy and audiovisual translation
- ◆ linguistic approaches to audiovisual translation
- ◆ cognitive psychology and audiovisual translation
- ◆ new research methods in audiovisual translation
- ◆ the reception of translated audiovisual programmes
- ◆ language teaching and learning and audiovisual translation
- ◆ markets for audiovisual translation: trends, tools, needs, the industry
- ◆ new technologies and developments in audiovisual translation
- ◆ professional practice: working conditions, standards, quality assurance, project management
- ◆ audiovisual translation training

A selection of papers will be published after the conference.

Abstracts of 300 words accompanied by a brief bio-note (75 words) should be sent to Adriana Serban at [adriana.serban\(a\)univ-montp3.fr](mailto:adriana.serban(a)univ-montp3.fr) and [adriana.serban\(a\)wanadoo.fr](mailto:adriana.serban(a)wanadoo.fr) no later than 12 December 2007.

Plenary speakers: Jorge Díaz Cintas (Roehampton University, London, UK) and Christian Viviani (Université Paris 1 - La Sorbonne, France)

WORKING LANGUAGES: English and French / LANGUES DU COLLOQUE: le français et l'anglais

IMPORTANT DEADLINES / DATES BUTOIR

- ◆ Submission of abstracts: 12 December 2007 / Envoi des propositions de communication: le 12 décembre 2007
- ◆ Notification of acceptance of proposals: 3 February 2008 / Avis d'acceptation des propositions: le 3 février 2008
- ◆ Registration (early bird): 7 April 2008. After this deadline, the registration fee will be higher. / Inscription: le 7 avril 2008. Après cette date le montant des droits d'inscription augmentera.

Information about how to register will be made available by the end of January 2008. / Les renseignements concernant l'inscription au colloque seront disponibles avant fin janvier 2008.

9th Symposium on Translation, Editing, Proofreading and Translating

A Space of Confluences

Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, Universitat Jaume I, Castellón, Spain. November 8th-10th 2007

Organization: Esther Monzó, Daniel P. Grau

Introduction

Every two years the Department of Translation and Communication at the Universitat Jaume I organizes a symposium on different aspects of this discipline. In November this year the 9th Symposium on Translation will be devoted to the confluences between translation, proofreading and editorial design. For three days issues related to linguistic and terminological standardization, proofreading in Spanish and Catalan, design and typography will be at the centre of the debate.

The organizers would like to invite all those interested in these topics not only to attend and take part in the debates, but also to present their experiences and own research on the topics of this 9th Symposium.

Collaborations

In order to enlarge the views offered in the Symposium, the organizing committee would like to invite practitioners and researchers to submit 15-minute-paper proposals on the confluences between translation, proofreading and typographic design:

- ◆ Linguistic and terminological planning in Spanish and Catalan.
- ◆ The translator's and proofreader's profession.
- ◆ Proofreading and (institutional and editorial) language policy.
- ◆ Design and editing.

Timetable and Deadlines

- ◆ Those interested in taking part in this Symposium should submit a title and a 500-word abstract to the Symposium Secretariat ([correccio\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:correccio(a)gmail.com)) by 30th September 2007. They must include authors' institutional affiliations and contact details.
- ◆ Acceptance of selected proposals will be announced on 10th October 2007.
- ◆ The proceedings of the Symposium will be published.

Additional Information

Enquiries regarding scientific contents of proposals may be addressed to the Symposium Secretariat in Catalan, Spanish or English: [correccio\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:correccio(a)gmail.com). Website: <http://www.tipotrad.uji.es/ix/>

50ème Anniversaire de L'ESIT / 50th Anniversary of ESIT

International Conference: The Translator's Profession

ESIT, Université de Paris Dauphine, November 9th-10th, 2007

For the programme see http://www.univ-paris3.fr/esit/colloque/programme_definitif.pdf

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The conference finishes at 1pm. A ceremony will be held at UNESCO in the afternoon (starting 4pm) to mark ESIT's 50th anniversary. It will be followed by a buffet reception (starting 6pm). All conference participants are cordially invited. UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy 75007 PARIS - (métro Ségur ou Cambronne). All participants will be receiving a detailed program and invitation.

It is possible to register for the ceremony and reception only. For the registration form, see http://www.univ-paris3.fr/esit/colloque/Registration_form.pdf

Translation: theory and practice**Postgraduate translation symposium**

University of East Anglia. February 23rd-24th 2008.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The objective of the third postgraduate symposium, organized by the School of Literature and Creative Writing, is to explore the current relevance of theory to the practice of translation. There are theorists who maintain that a thorough grounding in translation theory provides translators with the means to select appropriate strategies and methods in their translation work. If this is the case, which of the current theoretical pronouncements on translation are most relevant to translation practice in today's society? And if so, how? Since the integration of cultural and gender theories in the 20th Century and of cognitive theories in this century how has research in translation studies changed? How does learning translation theory develop a translator's cognitive capacities? Or does theory merely describe practice? On the other hand many professional translators are still widely dismissive of theory and its application to real-life assignments; to what extent is there still a dichotomy between theory and practice?

Turning to translation in the future, what kind of theoretical knowledge is it necessary for translators to have in the modern day translation industry? The growing connections between theory and practice means that translation programmes have to balance theoretical and practical components in their translator training curricula. So is theory a tool for more effective training? Or, conversely, should translator training focus more on the development of practical translation skills such as text interpretation, composition, researching and editing?

Areas for consideration:

- ◆ The relationship between theory and creativity
- ◆ Translation theories for the 21st Century: cultural studies; gender studies; cognitive studies
- ◆ Translation and its relation with linguistics
- ◆ Functional theories of translation
- ◆ Postcolonial translation and identity
- ◆ Domesticating and foreignizing texts
- ◆ Descriptive translation studies approach: historical, social, political and ideological factors
- ◆ Corpus-based translation studies

Abstracts of max 300 words (with bibliographical references) for a 20 minute paper should be sent by 10th November 2007 to [translation.theory\(a\)uea.ac.uk](mailto:translation.theory(a)uea.ac.uk).

Notification of acceptance of proposals will be given at the beginning of December. It is the intention that selected papers will be submitted for publication. Organising committee: Karla Guadarrama and Rebecca Hyde Parker

■ Contacting The ITIA

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
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ITIA BULLETIN

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ITIA COMMITTEE - 2006/2007

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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*
- ◆ *Ordinary Membership Application*
- ◆ *Professional Membership Application*
- ◆ *Database Entry*
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