



ITIA BULLETIN

December 2010

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■ Editorial

Dear Readers,
Welcome to the December issue of the ITIA Bulletin.

In this month's issue, Ann Marie Bohan who attended METM 2010 (Mediterranean Translators and Editors Meeting) reports on the event that took place from 28 to 30 October 2010 in Tarragona, Spain. Another report that you will find in this issue is from The Sixth International Postgraduate Conference in Translation and Interpreting (IPCITI) 2010 that was held on the campus of the University of Manchester.

For the past year I enjoyed editing the Bulletin but due to a new pursuit I will be a less active member of the ITIA and I am looking for someone to fill in the position of the editor. It is a very interesting job, which involves mainly researching and writing stories, attending ITIA committee meetings that take place once a month in Dublin and bringing readers the latest news related to translation, interpreting and other areas of interest for them. If you are interested in the position, do contact me at the [itiabulletin\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:itiabulletin(a)gmail.com).

Best wishes for the festive season!

Gosia Emanowicz
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Of the 200,000 interpreter hours needed annually by the Swedish Migration Board (*Migrationsverket*), only 6 percent are carried out by licenced court interpreters, SR reports.

Sweden's 1,000 licenced interpreters are only qualified in 36 languages, while the Migration Board receives cases in well over 100 languages. As a result, most of Sweden's 30,000 annual asylum seekers who require an interpreter are reliant on services from interpreters who have not gained accreditation.

A recent study carried out by the Swedish Courts Administration (*Domstolsverket*) showed that licenced interpreters are of markedly better quality than unlicensed ones. "You can see that the translations don't flow in the way you're used to with a qualified interpreter," said the Courts Administration Ulla Pålsson, who led the investigation, to SR.

She added that poor quality translations can lead to misunderstandings and mistakes which Pålsson said the agency "cannot accept" within the Swedish judicial system. In order to address the situation, the government needs to launch an inquiry into how to train more interpreters, argued Pålsson.

In addition, she thinks that rules governing how interpreter services are supervised should be reviewed, something which was first proposed following a previous government inquiry six years ago.

Reproduced with permission from The Local - Sweden's News in English
Source: <http://tinyurl.com/33ayh5w>

■ Lack of interpreters are a threat to asylum process

Sweden's lack of qualified interpreters with specialised skills in legal terminology poses a threat for those seeking asylum in the country, warns the head of the Swedish Bar Association (*Advokatsamfundet*).

"The risk is that asylum seekers won't be understood and that, as a result, an asylum seeker won't be able to put forward the arguments that serve as the basis for their case in an effective way. And therefore there is a risk that they will be rejected, and we think that's very serious," Anne Ramberg, director general of the Swedish Bar Association, told Sveriges Radio.

Only one sixth of the 6,000 interpreters in Sweden are licensed by Sweden's Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency (*Kammarkollegiet*), and even fewer have specialised competence in legal terminology.

■ Commission wants more universities to offer courses for translators

The European Commission has launched a new drive to encourage more European universities to offer high-quality courses for students who want to work as translators. As part of this, the Commission is expanding its 'European Master's in Translation' (EMT) university network, which was set up last year in response to a growing shortage of properly qualified translators in the job market. As well as being a network, the EMT is a recognised quality label.

To date, 34 European universities have successfully applied to join the network (see link below for list).

Universities wishing to use the EMT label have their courses assessed by translation experts, who are mostly members of the existing network. The EMT network meets for its annual conference in Brussels from 11 -13 October.

'In many countries, anyone can claim to be a translator without any guarantee of professional competence. The long-term aim of the EMT project is to raise the standard of translator training; a course carrying the EMT label is recognised as being one of the best in the field,' explained Androulla Vassiliou, the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.

The EMT project was conceived by the Commission in response to two main concerns: a rapidly growing demand for high-level language services worldwide and a doubling in the number of official EU languages from 11 to 23 between 2004 and 2007.

Demand for translation services across the world is soaring. According to a 2009 study on the European Union language industry, its current turnover is set to increase by at least 10% annually over the next few years and it is estimated that the industry will be worth up to €20 billion by 2015.

The language industry covers translation, interpretation, subtitling, dubbing and 'localisation' (adapting translation to specific local needs). The skills that a translator needs in the modern job market increasingly go beyond pure linguistic abilities.

The EMT project recognises that they are also required to have skills in entrepreneurship, project management and negotiation. Many universities, for instance, are now teaching translator students how to run a business as well as how to translate.

Nearly 250 universities and other higher education institutions in the European Union currently offer courses for would-be translators.

The Commission's Directorate General for Translation provides administrative support to the EMT network and acts as a hub for the exchange of information and best practices. The Commission has allocated around € 300 000 to cover the cost of its administrative support and the network's annual conference in 2010. It does not provide direct financial support to the training courses or students.

Further information:

Universities in the EMT network:

<http://tinyurl.com/manoq6>

Call for applications to join the EMT network:

<http://tinyurl.com/34xm442>

The European Master's in Translation project:

<http://tinyurl.com/38xnn68>

Source: Press releases (Brussels, 12 October 2010),

<http://tinyurl.com/36zk7hx>

■ Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is pleased to welcome new members to the association. We currently have the following categories of membership:

- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Associate
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Institutional
- ◆ Student
- ◆ Honorary

Professional Membership is awarded to translators or interpreters who meet the strict criteria of the ITIA based on qualification and level of experience. Applicants must also achieve a PASS in the annual Professional Membership Examination (translator or interpreter) set by the ITIA.

Associate Membership is available to translators and interpreters who are starting out on their careers and to those who do not work full-time as a translator or interpreter. Many members avail of Associate Membership until such time as they have acquired the requisite experience and/or qualifications to apply for Professional Membership. Associate Membership is also availed of by people with a professional interest in the professions of translation and interpreting (e.g. terminologists, translation/interpreting tutors etc.) and by those who have a general interest in these professions.

Corporate Membership is available to translation companies. As this category is currently under review, we are not accepting applications at the moment.

Institutional Membership is available to bodies that do not function as commercial agencies, for example university centres for translation and interpreting studies or cultural institutes. Application documents for Institutional membership are currently being prepared.

Student Membership is available to persons undertaking undergraduate studies in any discipline or those undertaking postgraduate studies in translation or interpreting.

Honorary Membership is awarded by the ITIA AGM to persons in Ireland or abroad who have distinguished themselves in the field of translation or interpreting. For further details and application forms, please see our website at <http://tinyurl.com/y65bgtb>

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■ Conference Report: METM 2010

I recently attended METM 2010 (Mediterranean Translators and Editors Meeting), which took place from 28 to 30 October 2010 in Tarragona, Spain. The three-day conference programme included workshops, presentations and plenary talks and offered participants extensive opportunities for networking.

MET was established in 2005 as an association of language service providers (LSPs) working mainly into or with English. Members include both in-house and freelance LSPs. As part of the association's activities it holds an annual conference in a Mediterranean city. Previous locations have included Madrid and Split. In Tarragona, the conference was hosted in Universitat Rovira i Virgili.

The first workshop I attended was entitled "Revision matters", designed and facilitated by Barcelona-based translators Ailish Maher and Luci Vázquez. Given that all translators revise at least their own work, if not also the work of others, this was a very worthwhile event.

Using a revision framework that covered the various types of errors occurring in texts, participants identified issues relating to areas such as accuracy, logic, idiom and layout. The 'fitness for purpose' of a text was another theme covered and a lively discussion ensued on the level of revision required and desired given the usual constraints of time and money.

The second workshop I attended was presented by John Bates, Head of the Language Service at Universitat Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona. Entitled "Approaches to effective paragraphing: the topic sentence revisited", this workshop was aimed at authors, editors and translators. It began by reviewing the traditional approach to paragraphing and its fundamental principles (e.g. topic sentences, unity, coherence). We then examined how paragraphs are constructed to ensure logic, sense, clarity and interest on the part of the reader. Both workshops were very 'hands-on' and informative.

Emma Wagner, from the Directorate General for Translation at the European Commission, delivered a very interesting presentation on the Commission's Clear Writing campaign, whose flagship publication *How to Write Clearly* sets out ten top tips for clear writing and is available in all of the EU's 23 official languages. Emma had some surprising information for into-English translators in particular. English is now the lingua franca of the European Union: 90% of Commission documents are drafted in English, 13% of those who draft these texts are native English speakers and 54% of those who draft English documents rarely or never have them checked. So: plenty of opportunities for English-language editors!

Jean-Luc Dumont, an engineer who now trains other engineers, business people and scientists to communicate effectively, proved to be a very

entertaining speaker on the somewhat dry-sounding topic of “Effective slides: design, construction, and use”. While perhaps not so relevant to those of us freelancers who work alone and communicate mostly virtually with our clients and colleagues, Jean-Luc’s presentation contained many practical and useful tips for anyone who needs to make presentations from time to time. It also struck a chord with those of us who translate PowerPoint slides sometimes overflowing with words.

One very useful panel discussion that I attended was on the subject of getting the most out of our working environment. Three freelance translators – Anne Murray, Ann King and Kim Eddy – presented a range of tried and tested practices aimed at saving time and increasing overall efficiency, or as they put it, ensuring ‘money in the bank’. These included free desktop search tools, notebook software, a website builder and free backup software. They also covered hardware issues such as the use of two screens (or more!) when translating and editing. The discussion was particularly informative as many participants were able to comment on and add to the panellists’ suggestions.

The entire conference was a very enjoyable experience, particularly as the conference organisers had arranged a number of social events including a reception, a dinner, a beach walk and a guided tour of Roman Tarragona. As with all translator events, there was plenty to discuss both at the talks and in the evenings – in some cases right through to the early hours!

For more information on MET, please see <http://tinyurl.com/3ycbanb>

Ann Marie Bohan

■ Conference Report: IPCITI 2010

The sixth International Postgraduate Conference in Translation and Interpreting IPCITI 2010 was held on the campus of the University of Manchester, on October 29-31, 2010.

This was the 6th such conference organised jointly by the University of Edinburgh, the University of Manchester, Heriot Watt University (Edinburgh) and Dublin City University. It was organised by postgraduate students (Organising Committee) from the Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies (University of Manchester) in collaboration with postgraduate students from the other Universities.

Translation and Interpreting, both in theory and practice are the focus of the research community that is becoming larger and more relevant. This year’s conference was entitled ‘*From Reflection to Refraction: New perspectives, new settings and new impacts*’ and aimed to showcase the rich diversity of research in translation and interpreting studies.

Present at the conference were university postgraduate students of translation and interpreting and affiliated study programmes. The conference was a great opportunity for postgraduate students —new in the field— to present their research, exchange ideas and to network. It was also an opportunity for novice academics to get feedback and to allow postgraduate students to share their research in a supportive event enabling them to learn not only from their peers but also from more experienced researchers in the field.

Participants from all continents, representing a vast variety of cultures, languages and research interests, offer varying perspectives and backgrounds to the discipline. The conference was opened by welcoming speech by Dr. Maeve Olohan, Director of the Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies, University of Manchester.

The first plenary lecture was given by Prof. Kate Sturge, visiting senior lecturer in Translation Studies at Aston University. The keynote speech was entitled: “Translating Cultures? The Ethnographic Museum as a Site of Translation.” She addressed how translation studies can respond to the new conceptions of translation emerging in other disciplines, by applying the “translation “concept to plurilingual contexts beyond traditional texts”.

The plenary lecture was followed by parallel sessions on Translation and Interpreting: Publishing; Historical studies of Translation, Translating Fiction and Pedagogy, Translation as Cultural Encounter, Assessment Tools and Methods and Poster Session. In the afternoon there was a poster session, where five presenters were given the opportunity to present their work on a more informal basis. Michèle Milan (Dublin City University, Ireland) outlined French influence on 19th Century Ireland in a paper entitled: ‘Found in Translation: Franco-Irish Translation Relationships in 19th-Century Ireland’ -an Interdisciplinary Approach’

On the first day Maria Iaroslavschi from Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania, spoke about assessment and self-assessment in practice sessions for interpreters. The second day of the conference started

with a very informative lecture by keynote speaker Raffaella Merlini from the University of Macerata, on “Working with Authentic Data in Interpreting Studies: Methodological, Theoretical and Professional issues. Professor Merlini gave an overview of the development of the field of research in interpreting. Merlini pointed out the importance of redefining the norms of conduct and the code of ethics as well as the provision of qualified professional training. These are two of the areas where cooperation between researchers and practising interpreters may be most productive. Professor Merlini emphasised the repercussion that research activity in the interpreting field may have on community of practitioners.

On the second day, other topics included translation, education and language acquisition; audiovisual translation; interpreting techniques and cognition. Some of the sessions were more specialised, dealing, for example, with translating religious text and postcolonial settings. Other topics included themes such as pedagogy, audiovisual, specialised texts, such as the paper by Sandra Navarro from the University of São Paulo, Brazil “Collocations in the Hotel Industry – a Corpus-oriented Study

I was particularly interested in the presentation given by Elena Sanz from the University of Edinburgh on dubbing and subtitling of polyglot films, referring to Galician and English. Her research focuses on the translation of the polyglot film genre and its reception by the Spanish audience. Sergio Pasquandrea’s (Università per Stranieri, Perugia, Italy) presentation was entitled “Co-constructing dyadic sequences during mediated healthcare encounters”. He focused on interpreting in healthcare settings, outlining patterns of verbal and nonverbal actions and investigating the interaction doctor-interpreter and patient-interpreter roles and authority. Police interpreting and discourse markers were discussed by Fabrizio Gallai (University

of Salford, United Kingdom) who looked at the pragmatic aspects of interpreter-mediated interaction between police interrogator and the interrogated. His research poses challenging questions on policing and police reform.

On the topic of interpreting in healthcare settings, Anna Claudia Ticca, (University of Bern, Switzerland), gave a paper on the medical interview “The construction of illness among contemporary Mayas - A study of doctor patient interactions in Yucatan Mexico”. She analysed hours of video recording during interpreting sessions between Spanish speaking doctors and Mayan culture and the role of the Mayan-Spanish interpreter. A lively discussion took place afterwards.

Interesting topics for discussions both days were the code of conduct, how to obtain data for research, the progress and prospects of machine translation, then the new forms of interpreting and the question of ethics and responsibility of the translator and interpreter. On top of all that, there was a pre-conference workshop on “The Translational English Corpus: “Operationalising Research Question” conducted by Prof. Mona Baker. The workshop took place on Friday.

In conclusion, I feel quite strongly that the IPCITI conference was successful and that it fulfilled its fundamental objective to create a supportive environment in which young researchers can present their work, receive feedback and exchange ideas on current research on themes referring to Translation and Interpreting Studies. Participants were able to network and receive some useful practical guidelines for the research.

There were a total of seventeen panels and more than 120 attendees at IPCITI 2010, with 50 papers and 5 poster presentations. Both keynote lecturers from Interpreting and Translation studies were excellent. I was highly impressed by the quality of the papers particularly with the discussions that followed in which many very interesting questions were asked and feedback offered.

The conference was a great opportunity for postgraduate students, and those who are new in the field, to present their research, exchange ideas and network. It was also a place where novice academics can get feedback allowing postgraduate students to share their research in a supportive environment.

For more information visit: <http://tinyurl.com/32x8c86>
Miren Maialen Samper

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 Gosia Emanowicz at theitiabulletin@gmail.com.

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■ Conferences, Calls and Courses

TRANSLATED!

An Interactive Festival of Literary Translation

Monash University, School of Language, Cultures & Linguistics

February 7–12, 2011, The Wheeler Centre, Melbourne, Australia

The Interactive Festival of Literary Translation is aimed at early- to mid-career translators and will involve a week-long residential program of hands-on translation practice, as well as a number of public events such as talks and panel discussions addressing various aspects of the theory, practice and business of literary translation.

Hands-on practice will be offered in the form of daily language-specific workshops led by an expert translator and the author of the text to be translated. Each workshop group will comprise 10–15 participants and will be led by an expert translator with the involvement of the author of the text to be translated. The participants will be organised into three groups:

- ◆ French–English (mono-directional) with translator Jean Anderson and author Moetai Brotherson
- ◆ Spanish–English (mono-directional) with translator Peter Bush and author Jorge Carrion
- ◆ German–English AND English–German (bi-directional) with translator & author Heike Brand and author Elizabeth Honey

Translated! will provide a stimulating opportunity for translators and writers to work together and learn from one another as well as from literary professionals, creating a practical and coherent mechanism for improving the quantity, quality and dissemination of literature in translation published in Australia.

For more information visit: <http://tinyurl.com/335e85y>

■ Contacting The ITIA

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■ ITIA Resources for Translators

For more information about the *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* and its activities, please visit our website at www.translatorsassociation.ie.