



Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Ateangairí na hÉireann

ITIA Bulletin

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In this issue

Editorial.....	2
Members' Corner.....	3
EULITA General Assembly 8-9 April 2016 in Strasbourg, France.....	4
History, Memory and Translation in Hispanic Literature ...	5
Argentinian Rights Bill for Literary Translators	6
Announcement.....	7
What's hot, what's not.....	8
Worth-a-click.....	8
Joining the ITIA.....	8
New ITIA Members.....	9
Contacting the ITIA.....	10

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Editorial

Spring 2016 heralds quite a number of CPD events which we hope will be of interest to members and non members alike, starting with a workshop on certified translation for members, given by Sarah Jane Aberásturi on 21 May. Another workshop with Kirsty Heimerl-Moggan on note taking, German/English, on 18 June, open to all, and two more talks planned for the autumn on the diverse topics of marketing and emotional intelligence. As always we will give you plenty of notice, both here in the Bulletin and on our website, so you can book your places in advance!

We will also soon report on our activities of the last year and on the results of the Members' Survey - many thanks to all of you who took the time and trouble to fill in the forms.

One more goodbye and many thanks from the Executive Committee - Tatiana Kovalenko was a very active member who, amongst her many duties, looked after all our social media, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We wish her the very best for her very busy future.

Whilst the ITIA makes great efforts to promote all fields of translating and interpreting, particularly as the general public often associates our profession exclusively with literary translation, we sometimes tend to bypass this area of specialisation. In the interests of redressing any imbalance, this issue contains two articles on literary translation which we hope give an insider view to that world.

Anne Larchet, Editor

MEMBERS' CORNER

Sarah Jane Aberásturi, ITIA Professional Member and ITIA Certified Translator, whom readers and members may know from her workshops, on certified translation in particular, is our contributor for this issue.

Q: Describe yourself professionally in a few lines.

A: I'm a freelance translator working from German, Spanish and Catalan into English, with about 24 years of experience under my belt. I'm an ITIA Certified Translator for German-English and Spanish-English, and a conference interpreter (English A, Spanish B) working to achieve AICC membership. I also provide language consultancy and mentoring services on request.

Q: When and why did you decide on a career in translating/interpreting?

A: I knew from my teens that I wanted to work with languages. I had a flair for them and spent my summers in language immersion situations from about age 17, in au pairing, voluntary work, English teaching etc. This grew my language skills and raised my cultural awareness, confirming my decision to study translation at DCU.

Through the translation aspect of Leaving Cert Latin and subsequently my degree course, I discovered that I loved the various aspects of translating, from getting to grips with the source text to researching new subjects, tracking down elusive concepts, and crafting the target text in a way that accurately reflected the tone and intent of the original.

Q: Name the most important thing you did that helped you launch your career.

A: The single most important thing was studying in DCU's School of Applied Languages, where my translations skills and strategies were formed and developed. After college, I jumped in at the deep end: I literally upped and went to Barcelona, having written to various translation agencies (but not heard back from any), and contacted them again with my "local" phone number. As it was summer and some of their regular translators were away, I was lucky enough to get a small trickle of jobs, which eventually grew. I think my ingenuity and confidence were key!

Q: How important are training and qualifications for a career in translating?

A: My honest answer is that they are very important, though not always essential. I have known some very good translators who "fell into" the industry by various different routes without specific training. Most of them had some other training or specialisation that was relevant to the subject fields they ended up working in, and all without exception had a very high sensitivity to the nuance of language, coupled (obviously) with a very high degree of fluency in two or more languages.

In my own case I had only basic training in interpreting, through an introduction to its various modalities in the final year of my degree. This was enough to confirm I had the basic skills to build on; but even so I only moved into conference interpreting after spending five years in Spain, when my fluency and cultural familiarity had grown enormously.

In both cases, I would say that those who can build a successful career without first training and achieving relevant qualifications are the exception rather than the rule. The sensitivity to language and to the important differences in structure, expression etc. that professionals deal with every day is something that few people can develop without expert guidance and in-depth study and practice.

Q: How do you find clients?

A: Recommendations from colleagues and word of mouth from existing clients are great ways to

get new business, of course, but these are largely outside our control. I think it's important to think about the fields we enjoy working in, and go where potential clients are. So, in terms of face-to-face contact, think trade fairs, sector meetings, etc; and focus on these areas in your online and other materials.

Q: Do you think it is necessary to specialise?

A: I think we all end up specialising in one way or another, but it's also important to retain the investigative skills to quickly familiarise ourselves with new areas. Sometimes our specialisations are deliberate and targeted, while others are more "opportunistic", growing out of specific assignments or clients that open up new areas of interest and opportunity.

Q: What is your favourite type of text/assignment?

A: One of my favourite assignments is translating texts for scientific magazines, making research in a variety of areas accessible to the educated layperson and/or scientists from other disciplines. I also enjoy medical, cultural and literary texts.

In interpreting, one very enjoyable assignment is the Irish-Spanish-Latin-American Literary Festival (ISLA) held at the Cervantes Institute each year. In general terms, I enjoy interpreting for people who are enthusiastic about their subject.

Q: What is the best/worst thing about being a translator/ interpreter?

A: I love the variety of freelance work; there is always new and interesting material to learn about and communicate.

The fact that I work in both translating and interpreting means that I get the best of both worlds. I get down into the detail of all sorts of interesting texts in science and the humanities as I parse and recraft written texts in my home office; and then I get to work closely with colleagues in the interpreting booth, keeping our brains sparking as we constantly challenge ourselves to transfer meaning faithfully in mere moments.

Q: Is it possible to have a good standard of living?

A: Yes, and a good standard of living must obviously include a decent income, but work-life balance is a really important consideration too. In terms of work and income, many freelancers seem to go through periods of “feast or famine”; and one challenge for maintaining a good standard of living is to establish strategies for overcoming and/or coping with these ups and downs.

...an enjoyment of the “detective” aspect of tracking down elusive concepts is important.

Q: What advice would you give someone thinking of embarking on a career as a translator/interpreter?

A: If you are thinking of being a translator, you need to be a good, confident writer in your own language, as well as achieving a very high degree of fluency and cultural familiarity with your second language(s). It helps to specialize in a subject area that interests you, but you will regularly need to gain an overview of new areas as required by specific jobs, and an enjoyment of the “detective” aspect of tracking down elusive concepts is important. A disadvantage is that the work can be very solitary; just you and your PC.

Interpreting requires a different skill set, with the obvious overlap of very high fluency requirements in both languages. Whether working inside or outside the booth, you will need excellent concentration, memory and linguistic resourcefulness: interpreters learn to think in terms of concepts rather than words, and have only moments to come up with adequate solutions when confronted with difficult concepts. Thorough preparation and a quick mind are key.

Annette Schiller represented the ITIA at the EULITA meeting in Strasbourg in April and reports back to us in this article

EULITA General Assembly 8-9 April 2016 in Strasbourg, France

EULITA is the European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association. It was founded in 2009 with the aim of advancing “the quality of legal translation and legal interpreting in both spoken and sign language in all Member States of the European Union”. The association has 33 full members, 34 associate members (institutions and associations) and 24 associate members (individuals). Members hail from within and outside the EU. The ITIA has been a full member of EULITA since 2012.

The pre-assembly conference included a visit to the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg.

The Council of Europe:

The Council of Europe is Europe’s leading human rights organisation. It has 47 members, including the 28 members of the European Union, and all are signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

After a guided tour of the plenary chamber of the Council at the Palais de l’Europe, we were treated to a very interesting talk by Eleanor Sharpston, Advocate General at the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in Luxembourg. Sharpston explained that language and the work of linguists and interpreters are vital to the proper functioning of the ECJ. She pointed out that ECJ interpreters have to deal with 28 different types of “legal thinking”, a range of EU law and a range of cases involving widely diverse subject areas and, therefore, terminology. On consecutive days, for example, they could be interpreting cases involving refugees or VAT or export refunds www.curia.europa.eu .

Liese Katschinka spoke about Justisigns, a new multi-partner project, part of the lifelong learning programme of the EU, aimed at providing education and training for sign language interpreters in a legal setting. Justisigns is coordinated by Interresource Group (Ireland) Ltd. and the legal representative for the project is TCD: www.justisigns.com.

The translators work with Dragon voice recognition software. The translation word count is an average of 1,700 per day...

Jana Gajdosova of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) delivered some preliminary information on the success or otherwise of the transposition by individual Member States of Directive 2010/64 EU on the right to interpreting and translation in criminal proceedings. The full report will be available in June. The first ECJ ruling on the Directive can be accessed at: <http://www.eulita.eu/first-cjeu-ruling-directive-201064eu-right-interpretation-and-translation-criminal-proceedings>.

The ECHR:

The European Court of Human Rights is part of the Council of Europe. Johan Callewaert, Deputy Grand Chamber Registrar spoke about the important work of the court translators. The working languages of the court are English and French. Even though the court may be dealing with cases from countries that do not have English or French as their official language, the judgments are not translated into the language of those countries. However, sometimes, unofficial translations are done at national level.

James Brannan, senior translator at the ECHR spoke about the day to day work of translators at the court, where there are six translators and two revisors for French and four translators and two revisors for English. They also use four language checkers for French and nine for English. The translators work with Dragon voice recognition software. The translation word count is an

average of 1,700 per day as the work involves a considerable level of discussion and clarification with the document drafters. The website HUDOC www.hudoc.echr.coe.int contains judgments, decisions, resolutions and other information relating to cases before the ECHR.

Georges Mouhkeiber and Christiane Driesen spoke about whether legal interpreters can or should be linguistic experts, expert witnesses or experts, and the situation in other countries.

The Eulita General Assembly took place on the afternoon of Saturday, 9 April with a very good attendance by member associations from Europe and further afield. Five of the seven members of the board of Eulita will be stepping down in 2017 as required by the Constitution. The next EULITA General Assembly will take place in Vienna in 2017. Details to follow.

Annette Schiller

History, Memory and Translation in Hispanic Literature

This was the topic of the discussion between Nick Caistor, English translator of *The Sleeping Voice/La Voz Dormida* by Dulce Chacón, and Argentine, Matias Battiston, Translator in Residence at Trinity College, Dublin, about his long career and about literary translation as a trade. This public talk was hosted by Instituto Cervantes in conjunction with DCU and presented by Sinead Mc Aodha of Ireland Literature Exchange.

The starting point was Dulce Chacón, poet, novelist, dramatist, deceased just before the publication of her book, *The Sleeping Voice*, referring to the silence about the Spanish Civil War, which holds strong even today. From 1999, Chacón interviewed 200 people over 4 years, documenting their first hand stories, conscious of the fact that the number of survivors were fast diminishing, time was running out and that she wanted to lift the silence and give a voice to their experiences.

Nick Caistor lived and worked as a journalist in Argentina from 1975 - 1978 during the dictatorship of the military junta, where silence also prevailed, and he too had the opportunity to give a voice to the voiceless when he was offered the job of translating the 1984 Dr Ernesto Sabato report on the Argentine 'Dirty War' and the disappeared. It was entitled 'Nunca Mas/Never Again' and contained first hand testimonies of the horrors inflicted by the military dictatorship on an estimated 30,000 victims.

Nick recounted the total silence in Argentina on 2 April 1982, the day the Malvinas War began. This silence represented the powerlessness of the people who knew nothing about what was happening. There only sources of information were from the media in other countries. This was undoubtedly helpful in understanding the atmosphere of silence which was the backdrop to both works. He noted, coming from a journalism background - he has contributed to the BBC World Service, The Guardian, The Times Literary Supplement - the parallels between translating and journalism, in that, in both instances, the task is to render someone else's experience. In the case of the Spanish Civil War, in the post World War II Britain that he grew up in, accounts were told by foreigners, Ernest Hemingway, George Orwell, or by Franco's version of events - Spain had to be saved from Communism, Masonry etc. or by the exiles who had their views from the outside. It wasn't until the 1980s that events were described from within Spain, with a current wealth of research and stories of the Spanish Civil War in books and films, in particular with links to history through oral memories.

There was a Q & A session at the end of the talk with a question in relation to the gender of the translator i.e. can a male translator translate a female author and vice versa. This was reminiscent of the question posed at the ITIA and Literature Ireland Exchange round table discussion at Trinity College last November. Hosted by Giuliana Zeuli, Catherine Dunne, accompanied by the two Italian to English translators, Enrico Terrinoni and Andrea Binelli,

was asked directly if a male translator could translate her work? Both Nick Caistor and Catherine Dunne, from translator and author points of view, believed that gender is not a factor in being able to produce a good translation.

Both these events were a fantastic opportunity to hear, and learn, firsthand, about the process of translation and the diverse and unique approaches of individual translators. Much credit to Instituto Cervantes, DCU and ILE .

Anne Larchet

Argentinian Rights Bill for Literary Translators

Coincidentally, the Argentinian translator, Matías Battistón, the interviewer mentioned in the previous article, is part of a group of Argentinian literary translators working on a project to have a bill passed by the Argentine Congress which would give certain basic rights to Argentinian literary translators and drastically improve their working conditions. Matías is currently translating Samuel Beckett's Trilogy and James Stephen's The Insurrection in Dublin into Spanish for Ediciones Godot, an independent Argentinian publishing house. He is also current translator in residence at Trinity College.

Matías told me that the bill has been drafted and submitted and it is now in Congress, awaiting discussion. He believes that if it were passed, it would be the first of its kind, not just in Argentina but also the rest of the world, setting an important precedent for other countries to follow. The campaign, backed by the Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI), has the support of a number of other translator associations from all over the world, including the European Council of Literary Translators (CEATL), the International Federation of Translators (FIT), and the Latin American Association of Translation and Interpretation Studies (ALSETI). (The full list of associations, together with their letters of support, can be found

here.)

The proposed Translation Rights and Translation Promotion Law aims, amongst other things, to promote translation both as a trade and as an academic field of studies, to secure intellectual copyright on the translation, to bolster the visibility of translators and translated works, and to guarantee agreed contractual terms. Matías and his colleagues have been working on this project for a number of years and looking for as much support as possible from the translation community.

...if it were passed, it would be the first [bill] of its kind, not just in Argentina but also the rest of the world, setting an important precedent for other countries to follow.

The project has its own Facebook page, Proyecto de Traducción Autoral, as well as a blog with related information, including the full text of the bill in Spanish, media coverage, debates, articles and lectures, interviews, and related news. Furthermore, the group responsible for the project has been collecting information on the current situation and working conditions of literary translators in other countries, now easily accessible on their webpage. An English translation of the bill can also be found here.

Anne Larchet

Announcement

"The Face of Translation" – CEATL's Picture Contest

Help us make literary translators visible!

CEATL, the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations, is calling on amateur visual artists to create sparky and clever pictures reflecting the existence and importance of literary

translations and translators, their challenges, and their role in literature. Any technique from photography, drawing, printmaking and painting can be used – as well as any topic, as long as it is in some way related to literary translation.

One digital picture per participant will be accepted. The contest will be launched on April 23, The World Book Day, and the deadline will be May 22. A 200-Euro voucher for dinner and books will be awarded to the winner before International Translation Day, September 30, 2016.

After the enthusiastic response to our previous 'Translation, Everywhere' photo contest and our 'Spot the translator' video contest, CEATL hopes that this new picture contest will appeal to many budding visual artists!

Contest rules:

- All entries shall be submitted to contest@ceatl.eu before 22 May 2016.
- Only one entry per participant is allowed.
- If the entry features any text in a language other than English or French, this text must be translated into English and/or French.
- 300 dpi digital photographs/artwork scans (2-3 MB) in JPEG format are accepted.
- CEATL reserves the right to use the winning picture to promote literary translators, for instance, as the image for CEATL's Translation Day postcard. It is understood that the winner will give permission for their picture to be used for that purpose. Should CEATL wish to use other pictures for promotional purposes, the permission of the artist/artists shall be requested. CEATL will not pass the pictures to any third parties other than CEATL member associations. CEATL will not use the pictures for economic profit.
- CEATL will post all the contest pictures to an open Facebook event page where everybody can 'like' their favourite one.
- The CEATL jury will consider five pictures that collect the most likes by May 29, and will choose a winner from among them.
- CEATL member associations may exhibit the

pictures and organize press conferences promoting the winning picture.

– CEATL delegates and honorary members are not allowed to take part in the contest.

– The winner will be announced in June 2016, and awarded a prize of a 200-Euro voucher for dinner and books.

– Offensive pictures will be removed from the contest. The jury has the right not to award the prize, or to split it between two participants in the event of a tie. The jury will not enter into correspondence (or any other contact) with participants about its decision.

Worth-a-click

Thousands of court cases adjourned due to failures in interpreting services

<http://tinyurl.com/h2synk2>

International Dublin Literary Award shortlist in review

<http://tinyurl.com/hk4pftl>

'The Vegetarian' towers over Man Booker International Prize long list

<http://tinyurl.com/z8bcnfc>

What's hot, what's not

What's HOT...

Yale University Press' publication of the first English language translation of Mairtin O' Cadhain's *Cre na Cille/Graveyard Clay*, a 20th century novel, richly idiomatic, comprised entirely of dialogue in an Irish speaking community in Connemara in the 1940s - no small feat for translators Liam Mac Con Iomaire and Tim Robinson.

...What's NOT

'Dheepan', a French directed film about a Tamil Tiger attempting to claim asylum in Europe, has a scene where the Tamil/French interpreter not only breaches every ethical code imaginable but also directs the hapless asylum seeker as to how to present his case before a helpless French official who has to constantly ask the interpreter to translate what the applicant is saying - certainly does our profession no favours!!

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
- Affiliate
- 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 may be granted to holders of a third level qualification in translation and/or interpreting and/or languages or to holders of a third level qualification with relevant experience.

Affiliate Membership is generally availed of by people with a professional interest in translation and interpreting, by those with a general interest in these professions or by professionals from

other sectors who wish to work in the area of translation or interpreting and do not currently have a specific qualification or experience in the area

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.

New ITIA Members Feb /Mar 2016

Professional Members

Marie Delumeau, conference interpreter

French into English; English into French;
Spanish into French

Armelle McAllister, conference interpreter

French into English; English into French

Certified Translators

Kate Murphy (no. 57)

English from French

Justin Browne (no. 56)

English from Serbian

Associate Members

Gisele Barbosa

English from Portuguese (Br) and Dutch

Adrian Berski

English from Polish, Russian

Markus Heinrich

English from German

Gabriela Kojouharova

English to and from Bulgarian

Ewa Loumbee-McCabe

English from Polish; Polish from French

Kelly McKillion

English to and from Irish

Jason Mulvaney

English from French, Spanish

Liz Osborne

English from French

Malgorzata Stich Silva

English to and from Polish

Aurelia Tudora

English to and from Romanian

Frederique van Buuren

English to and from Dutch

Contacting the ITIA

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