



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

ITIA Bulletin

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Editorial

The ITIA's Honorary Membership conferring went off with, we believe, aplomb at the Xmas party and we think that Eileen Battersby was really quite pleased to see how many readers appreciated her championing the work of translators. She spoke at length in a public interview with our Chairperson, Mary Phelan, about her work, how she chooses the books she reviews - in general posted to her by publishing houses - and why she believes that translated works open up so many different worlds and world views to readers. She commented that someone said to her that, in these reviews, she was catering for a minority. Her response was a simple "Thank you" - for which we applaud her!

In the interest of balance of views, as well as the regular Members' Corner column, this issue includes an article from the long established translation agency, DCULS, who give us their perspective on what they look for in translators - hopefully helpful to any of you out there setting up as free lancers.

In the meantime, backstage, we are working on Professional Membership applications, setting up new CPD events based on the results of the ITIA Members' survey and last, but very much not least, updating our website which, hopefully, will meet with your approval. We think that the ITIA 2016 Translation Competition was worthwhile and positive in many ways - promoting the profession, connecting with the next generation and broadening our scope. With this in mind, we are working on offering the competition again in 2017 with a wider hit list - schools, heads of schools, teacher language associations - get

ready!

Happy New Year from all at ITIA!

Anne Larchet, Editor

MEMBERS' CORNER

Andrée Loredon, our contributor for this issue, has just celebrated the 21st anniversary of her arrival in Dublin, having planned to stay for just 11 months, the duration of her first Microsoft French Localizer contract. She joined the ITIA when she became a freelancer some years later and went on to become a Professional Member in 2013.

Q. Describe yourself professionally in a few lines.

I like to describe myself as a Language Consultant because a substantial part of my work consists of providing advice on how to improve a translation. My day-to-day work includes: QA (Quality Assurance) reviews, assessment of translation tests and candidates; analysing translation projects and identifying any potential difficulty, creating glossaries and definitions for specific terms, compiling language kits to document a project, and translating. Language Consultant sums up all of the different roles that I assume: Localiser, Technical Translator, Reviewer, Language Assessor and Language Moderator with English and Spanish as my source languages and French my target language and mother tongue.

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

The pressure to choose a career started when I was in secondary school. At the time, I wanted to become a dancer, but I was discouraged from going down that path, so I started giving an alternative career a lot of thought. I wanted to do something noble which would also be useful. During the same period, I discovered the importance of communication, which inspired me to look into facilitating communication. Good communication is key in life as it is something that enriches our world. When I first heard of the job of interpreter it seemed like an amazing role. I realised that it fitted perfectly with my aspirations so I decided to follow this path. However, after one year at university, I reviewed my choice as I felt I was really more suited and comfortable with a career in translation.

The most important thing I did that really changed my career was to give up my dream of becoming a literary translator and to adopt a more pragmatic approach..

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

The most important thing I did that really changed my career was to give up my dream of becoming a literary translator and to adopt a more pragmatic approach in order to get a good position: I analysed the translation industry, looking for the areas that offered the best guarantees of a decent standard of living and matched my education and training. In doing so, I discovered that technical translation - computer technology (IT) translating in particular - was the way forward. I had just completed a Master's degree in economic, scientific and legal translation. During my four years of study, I had also taken modules in IT, but I had disliked it so intensely that I did not want to

have anything to do with computers anymore! However when I realised that computers could be the key to a decent career, I overcame my aversion to IT and enrolled on a post-graduate degree course in translation and technical writing specifically applied to computer technology! This proved to be pivotal for my career progression. The course was excellent and provided a perfect introduction to localization. This post-graduate degree allowed me to grow in confidence as a translator and to acquire a job with Microsoft as a French Localizer.

Q. How important are training and qualifications for a career in translating/interpreting.

I strongly believe that it is extremely important to study and get as many qualifications as possible to be a good translator. It is also important to keep abreast with the latest trends, innovations and terminology in the translation world in order to improve employment chances and engage with translation companies, work more productively and ultimately improve earning power.

Q. How do you find clients?

I have several means of finding clients. One is to analyse the IT market and look for the best companies, the ones which are doing well, but also those who are designing interesting products in a socially responsible way, in keeping with my personal ethics and principles as well as organisations which take translation seriously. I approach them via e-mail, phone or a personal contact.

I am a member of several translation bodies: the ITIA and the SFT (Société française des traducteurs). I am also registered on the approved translator list of the French Embassy in Dublin.

When I have free time, I check online translation job websites such as Proz.com, Aquarius and Traduguide. There is also LinkedIn, Monster and Viadeo.

Otherwise, I try my best to establish good

relationships with all my clients. On several occasions, I am proud to say clients have recommended me to other companies. In fact, I enjoy networking with my clients, my fellow translators and with other professional linguists.

Q. Do you think it is necessary to specialise?

I do believe it is necessary to specialise in order to be more credible and convincing when dealing with clients and other linguists, as well as to work with more ease and efficiency.

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

I like to translate software strings, instructions and texts with very little room for ambiguity or multiple interpretations. I like summaries and sentences that are straight to the point. I love when I can see the strings to be translated immediately in the software, and I get even more excited when I can see my own translation in the real context. But the difficulty with software translation is that often no context is provided. Then the translator's mind is faced with a complex procedure of deductions in order to recreate the missing context and I often find this exercise invigorating as I assume the role of detective, the victim being the little sentence that needs to be translated and the criminal the missing context; I start analysing every detail, looking for clues, and I design millions of scenarios in my head based on each piece of evidence provided so that my little sentence can be translated and saved!

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

The best things are the diversity of subjects that translation allows you to deal with in a very short space of time; you don't get bored when you work as a translator. Translation provides you with the freedom to work from anywhere in the world with a good computer and Internet connection.

What I find frustrating is that you can never produce the perfect translation; there is always room for improvement.

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

For years, I had a very good standard of living. I had the perfect client who paid me a very decent rate, gave me lots of interesting work every week and I got paid on time! This ideal situation did not last, but this experience does go to prove that it is possible to live well as a freelance translator, you just need to find the right clients (more than one) and to keep up with the industry evolution as well as to maintain your motivation and passion for your work.

...I assume the role of detective, the victim being the little sentence that needs to be translated and the criminal the missing context;

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

People who are thinking of embarking on a career as a translator should bear in mind that a freelance translator is also a business person who has to be able to negotiate well, almost on a daily basis, and therefore while studying translation, they should also get the grips with the art of negotiating and communicating. In the course of their daily work, translators do also have to write a high number of e-mails to ask and answer questions on a given project, but also to negotiate deadlines, to enquire about payments, etc.

I would recommend that new translators cultivate their organisational skills, ability to multitask and work fast, and deliver their work in a timely and accurate manner.

Andrée Loredon
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CEATL - The Skull Thing/Crâneries

As referred to in previous issues, ITIA is a member of CEATL (European Council of Literary Translators' Associations) one of whose multiple objectives is to raise the visibility of literary translators. To this end, out of the 35 member associations from 29 countries across Europe, 21 countries contributed to 'The Skull Thing/Crâneries' a video to celebrate Shakespeare's 400th anniversary.

This involved a number of skulls (not real - but excellent reproductions) travelling around Europe. Filming started at the Globe Theatre in London and ended at Elsinore Castle in Denmark, so that each country could record Hamlet's immortal lines, in translation, "To be or not to be, that is the question".

Each country had to pick from, in some cases, a number of existing and/or long existing translations of the bard's work, choose a performer, film the sequence, and send the skull on to the next country. From a logistical point of view this required considerable coordination by Lara Holbing, Croatia's CEATL Representative and Vice President of the organisation. Between very unreliable postal services, scheduling performers and camera people - not to mention the weather - it all took considerably longer than anticipated. However, the end result is certainly worth a look.

We asked our ex Chairperson, Honorary Member and translator of Harry Potter into Irish, amongst other translation feats, Maire Nic Mhaolain, to both translate and perform the Irish contribution. Her research could find no record of a translation of Hamlet into Irish, only some of his sonnets. We would be delighted if any reader could tell us the contrary.

Clicking on the below mentioned link is highly recommended - Ireland/ITIA's contribution is about half way through and don't forget to check out the credits at the end - especially the cameraman who spent some considerable time

on the very wet pavement outside the Irish Writers' Centre, ITIA's home, filming Maire - not to mention those throwing and catching the skull!

Here's the link: <https://youtu.be/GQ58X8TluVo>

Anne Larchet

CEATL's recent activities also include the following which may be of interest to you:

PETRA-E European network for education and training of literary translators welcomes new members

On 1 January 2017 nine European organisations (British Centre for Literary Translation (BCLT), Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires (CEATL), Deutscher Übersetzerfonds, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Expertisecentrum Literair Vertalen (ELV), Fondazione Universitaria San Pellegrino (FUSP), KU Leuven, Nederlandse Taalunie, Universiteit Utrecht officially launched the PETRA-E Network for the Education and Training of Literary Translators. The partners will expand, implement and further develop the PETRA-E Framework [<http://petra-educationframework.eu/>], the result of the Erasmus+ funded PETRA-E project (2014-2016), and will provide a collaborative space for the discussion of related topics.

The PETRA-E Framework maps out competences and levels in literary translating. It aims at improving the quality of literary translations and the visibility of literary translators in Europe. At present, the framework is available in nine languages: Bulgarian, Dutch, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

The Network welcomes new members, academic and non-academic, who are committed to the PETRA-E Framework and its underlying principles, wish to implement the Framework in their own institutions and programmes and contribute to its further development. The first

meeting will be held in the Autumn of 2017.

The Framework can be downloaded here (click on the flag for different languages).

Click here for a database with European programmes and courses for literary translation, another result of the PETRA-E project.

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www.ceatl.ie

An Agency's View

In 1992, DCU Language Services emerged from the School of Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies at DCU. Having built its foundation on a long-standing reputation of being renowned for its languages, the company successfully operates as an independent subsidiary of the University boasting a varied range of clients. There is no doubt that the translation industry has changed and evolved over the last number of years and the demand for translation in the European Union has been on the rise since 2008. A lot of new translation companies have been set up in Ireland in the past few years as well and there are courses available in Translation Studies in universities and schools across the country. If you are planning on building a career in this field these are the top five steps we have listed to becoming a successful translator:

1. Having the Right Qualifications

We prefer to work with translators who have educational qualifications in their areas of speciality, and preferably up to Masters Level. However, if a translator does not have a qualification in their field of work, it is advisable to at least obtain a language related qualification or relevant experience in the area. There are also professional organisations that translators can become a part of to further raise their profile, an example being the Irish Translators' and

Interpreters' Association (ITIA) and its equivalent in other countries; for Irish language translators, Foras na Gaeilge certification is very highly regarded and we place an emphasis on using Irish language translators who hold this qualification.

2. Gain Work Experience

While it is a necessary component to hold the specific qualifications needed for this role, it is also vital that freelancers have prior work experience. The ideal minimum we have set in place is 3 years working experience, which can be challenging for new translators who are beginning their career. If you are starting out as a translator, make sure you highlight any real working experience received through studies, internships, or even volunteer work. We are also always interested to know freelancer's experience with software and IT related knowledge (translation technology tools, design packages, Microsoft Office, etc.) and any areas of specialisation which may set you apart from the others.

3. What Languages Do You Have?

Language combinations depend on customer demand but languages constantly requested are the main European languages (Irish, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Dutch); Scandinavian languages; Eastern European languages (Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Slovak, Czech, Romanian); Russian; Chinese; Japanese and Arabic. As much as possible, we endeavour to only allow freelancers to work into their native language. It is also important to be clear about your languages and the extent of your knowledge of them – there is no point in lying about your level of knowledge in any language in order to get more work - if you are not comfortable enough with a language this will be evident through the course of your work.

4. Always be Available and Ready

It is important to state your level of availability to your translation company including days you are

unavailable for work or holiday periods, in advance, so that they can assign you work you are free for. It is also essential from our point of view that freelancers are contactable – this means regularly checking emails, answering your phone and replying. Due to the nature of how freelancers work, we need to ensure that we can rely on contacting you.

5. Build a Relationship with your Translation Company

When you are employed by a translation company it is important to remain professional at all times, stick to deadline, maintain high standards of quality and maintain strict confidentiality with documentation. It is important that freelancers are professional and flexible while practicing good communication and customer service abilities.

Niamh O'Mahony
Head of Business Development
www.dculs.dcu.ie

Obituary

Richard McKane 1947 - 2016

Interpreter, translator and poet, Richard McKane, studied Russian at Oxford, publishing his translation of Russian poet Anna Akhmatova's selected poems while still an undergraduate. He lived in Turkey in the 1970s and for more than eighteen years worked as an interpreter from and into Turkish and Russian at the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. He was vice-chair of English Pen's writers in prison committee. He translated selections of Oktay Rifat's work and Nazym Hikemt's poems in collaboration with others.

What's hot, what's not

What's HOT...

Dalkey Archive Press Ireland was awarded €60,000 grant by the Creative Europe culture programme to support the translation of 10 works from countries including Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia.

...What's NOT

Agness Kaku, Japanese professional translator who has worked for a number of politicians, is concerned that Donald Trump's frequent tweeting and lack of filters will increase 'amateur translation' across social media outlets.

Worth-a-click

Legal Translation at SAS

<http://legaltranslation.blogs.sas.ac.uk>

Translation, attribution and accuracy

<https://tinyurl.com/hwcjgup>

'Irish Times' journalist honoured for work 'raising awareness of translated novels'

<https://tinyurl.com/gvqlogy>

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 Dec 2016 - Jan 2017

New ITIA Certified Legal Translators

Karl Apse

German from English

Lidija McKinney

English from Croatian

New ITIA associate members

Mary Gallagher

English from French

Andreea Iordache

English to and from Romanian

Gary Ivie

English from German

Amy Ní Cholgáin

Irish from English and English from Spanish

Dorota Godowska

English to and from Polish

Contacting the ITIA

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