



ITIA BULLETIN

January 2007

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

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■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

Time marches on and I am scurrying to keep up. While 2007 still sounds futuristic, there is not denying that it has, in fact, arrived. I hope this year will bring success and happiness to all our readers. Plenty of interesting news, features and calendar items in this month's issue.

Throughout the coming year, think of the ITIA bulletin when you come across interesting events or news items related to T/I. I look forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes,

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

■ The ITIA in 2006

The past year saw plenty of activity for the ITIA. Most notably, the Association celebrated 20 years in operation. To mark the occasion, there were two major events.

The first took place over a few days in late May and early June and was a joint event with Ireland Literature Exchange and Culture 2006. The event was on the theme of Translating Irish Literature - Exchanging Experiences and involved translators from Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia and Poland reading and discussing their translations of modern Irish fiction, poetry and drama. Some of the translators involved were:

Iglika Vassileva - A Bulgarian translator who has translated a range of Irish literature during her prestigious career as a literary translator including *Ulysses*, two collections of Mary Lavin's short stories and more recently, novels by John Banville and Neil Jordan.

Adrian Opoiu - A Romanian academic, writer and translator who has translated writings by Flann O'Brien into Romanian. His translation of *At Swim Two Birds*, *La Doi Lebadoi* was published by Paralela 45 in 2006.

Doris Kareva - An Estonian poet and translator who edited and translated a selection of Irish women poets, *Rogha Dánta*. The book was launched in Tallinn to

great public and critical acclaim in December 2006.

Klaudyna Rozhin - A Polish translator who specialises in theatre translation and direction. Her translations of Irish plays into Polish include: Martin McDonagh's *Leenane Trilogy*, Enda Walsh's *Bedbound*, Conor McPherson's *This Lime Tree Bower*, *Rum and Vodka* and *The Weir*.

Krista Kaer - An Estonian translator who has translated over 50 titles in the course of her career including John Banville's *The Newton Letter*, Oscar Wilde's *De Profundis* and *Fairy Tales* and Brian Friel's *Faith Healer* and *Aristocrats*.

Another event to celebrate the 20th anniversary was held in The Irish Writers' Centre and was a two-art session that took place on September 9th. The first part of the session was a round table of all the former chairpersons of the Association. The discussion centred on the evolving role of the ITIA, the changes that have happened since the inception of the Association and some predictions of changes to come. Cormac Ó Cuilleánáin, Michael Cronin, Angela Ryan, Gabrielle Milch Skinner, Giuliana Zeuli, Michael McCann and Annette Schiller took part in the discussion.

After the round table discussion, there were refreshments and then a talk by novelist Pat McCabe and his German translator, Hans-Christian Oeser. McCabe and Oeser gave excellent readings from three of McCabe's novels. Both were interesting and entertaining speakers.

These events are judged successful based on the attendance of ITIA members. The atmosphere is inclusive and convivial, not to mention an excellent way to keep up with what is going on in T/I and to network. We hope to see you at our 2007 events!

■ ITI launches "International Calendar of Events" (ICE)

The Institute of Translation & Interpreting is offering a free and unique facility to anyone who is organising or planning to attend a language industry related event. ICE is ideal for publicising calls for papers, training, conferences, product launches, social events etc. Enter details of your events and see them instantly displayed.

ICE includes an RSS feed to speed dissemination to a worldwide audience.

Event organisers can search up to 60 months ahead to check on availability of dates. We are all aware of the frustrations of fixing a date only to find out that another event is taking place on the same day. Make sure you achieve maximum publicity and attendance. Be first to fix your date – and cut out the risk of event clashes. ICE also includes World Holidays - an easy to use list of all bank and public holidays by country.

If you want to attend an event you can search by many criteria including date, city, country, event, organiser and organiser type.

Available in English, French, German and Spanish, ICE is a major new tool for the language industry; it offers you the opportunity to plan ahead and get it right.

Visit the ITI website – www.iti.org.uk and use ICE free!

■ New Members of the ITIA

The ITIA welcomes the following new members...

Ordinary Members

LAURA KING

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Specialised areas: literature, legal, medical, engineering

Corporate Member

F.C.S. FUTURE CAREER SOLUTIONS

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Website: www.careerireland.ie
Contact: Mr Arturs Zausalous
Recruitment, education, translation and interpreting

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

■ Robot Interpreter at John Hopkins Hospital

A robot that has been used to allow remote presence of doctors and specialists at patients' bedsides is now being used to bring the services of an interpreter to patients during the night. The robot is known as RP7 or Dr. Robot. At John Hopkins Hospital in Maryland, the time it usually takes for an interpreter to reach the patient on-site from the moment the request is placed after 10 p.m. is about 30 minutes. Depending on the language requested, it can take as long as 120 minutes for us to find an interpreter, says Fumika Dulay, manager of the Community Services at John Hopkins Medicine International, where all interpretation requests go. An average of 60% (approximately 10,000) of the interpretation requests are in Spanish, given Baltimore's growing Latino community, and a good amount of the requests are for on-site interpretation in the emergency room, where physician, nurses and family have to take fast decisions. But this is not machine translation. There is a human interpreter who is remotely connected to the computer and can even move the robot via a joystick. The patients and medical staff can also see the interpreter via video link-up on the robot's monitor.

■ Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out in February 2007. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 980 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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Reports of results from the robot's pilot program on interpretation say that physicians and patients are satisfied with the use of the robot. "The patient does not lose the personal contact with the interpreter, because they still can see his face in the monitor, and we can have a faster response from the interpreter, since most of our patients are in a very delicate situation," says Tina Tolson, Nurse Manager at the Department of Emergency Medicine.

The patients and medical staff can also see the interpreter via video link-up on the robot's monitor.

There is nothing particularly new or exciting about the technology that enables Dr. Robot to do his job but it is a new and interesting deployment of existing technology. Interpreters often complain about the fact that they are not paid for the time it takes to travel to a job. Dr. Robot allows interpreters to work remotely.

■ New Electronic Braille Translator wins Red Dot Award

For the visually impaired, finding the latest best-seller in Braille is not easy. Availability of Braille books really limits reading options which not only takes away from the pleasure of reading but can affect educational possibilities. A new portable product has come on the market that translates any text (printed or online) into Braille in real time.

Blind reader-"Bridge" allows visually impaired readers to enjoy printed works. When it is scanning the text in books or other presswork, the product translates the text into Braille, which is then displayed on its special screen. At the same time, "Bridge" saves the text into the internal hard disk to be read later. In addition, the product can download data from the Internet. So that it can fit books of different sizes, it has been designed with a foldaway shape. The user can delete files on demand. In order to allow users more convenient reading, the Braille screen can display a column of words only. The device is easy to operate, with easily identified functional divisions. It is small and easy to carry, allowing it to be used anywhere.

How does it work? The Braille screen works with electromagnetic or piezoelectric principles. When the current or voltage goes through every array of six stitches, the resulting rise and decline gives birth to Braille. The product scans the original printed matter, then translates the images into analog electrical signals with an optical-to-electrical transducer. Finally, it translates the analog electrical signal into a digital signal.

... "Bridge" allows visually impaired readers to enjoy printed works.

The international "red dot design award" ranks among the largest and most renowned design competitions in the world. The competition attracted almost 6,000 submissions from 52 countries in 2006 alone. The award-winning products are put before an international public in the red dot design museum. The Bridge product won the interaction and communication category.

■ Army interpreter denies spying

It was reported by Press Association that an Army interpreter in the UK has been accused of passing secret information to "the enemy". Corporal Daniel James, from West Sussex protested his innocence as he was sent to the Old Bailey to stand trial.

He did not make a formal plea to the charge during the hearing, but said as he left the courtroom in custody: "Not guilty. This is the way the Army has repaid me." His solicitor, David Martin, speaking outside the central London court, said his client was distressed by the "false allegation apparently being made by the very people he served so loyally", and would clear his name.

The Iranian-born Territorial Army soldier, who became a British citizen in 1986, is charged with an offence under the Official Secrets Act 1911 sec one (1)c. The indictment alleges that on November 2 this year, for a purpose prejudicial to the safety of the State, he "communicated to another person information calculated to be, or that might be, or intended to be directly or indirectly useful to the enemy". The prosecution claims that the information implicating

Corporal James in espionage came from a "foreign agency".

James's solicitor said later: "As you heard personally from my client, Corporal James, when he spoke in court, he's innocent of the charge against him". James was an interpreter for General David Richards, British Commander of Nato forces in Afghanistan, and is accused of divulging secrets to Iran.

The Army interpreter is said to speak fluent Pashtun, the main language in Afghanistan. His application for bail was refused yet it is reported that the case may not be tried until January 2008.

■ Pirated DVDs produce comedies of errors

While DVDs are being pirated all over the world, China is a hotbed of this type of activity. While some authorized copies of DVDs are available, the Motion Picture Association of America estimates that last year more than 90 percent of the DVDs sold in China were illegal copies. The discs sell for US\$1 to US\$3 each, depending on the quality of the copying technology used. Movies are dubbed into Cantonese and Mandarin or subtitles are added at the speed of lightening and sell for a fraction of what you would pay for a legal copy. Quality varies depending on how the pirate copy was made. If it copied from a legal DVD, the quality will be good and the source text for translation will be the English subtitles. On the other hand, if the copy is made from someone smuggling a camcorder into a cinema, the quality of the film and the dubbing and/or subtitling will suffer. The dubbing and/or subtitling is often done by students who are under-qualified and under pressure to get the work done in as short a time as possible. As a result, research is out of the question and is replaced with creativity.

...subtitles are added at the speed of lightening and sell for a fraction of what you would pay for a legal copy.

For example, when "Minority Report" was first released on pirate DVD in China, the dubbing was done by one man and one woman who played all the characters and made no effort to vary their voices. At

one point in this film, Tom Cruise shouts to Samantha Morton “Run” which was translated into Chinese as “I love you!”

A Western blogger who is resident in China wrote about his entertaining experiences of watching “Star Wars, Revenge of the Sith” on pirate DVD. In this case the film had been dubbed into Chinese and then backtranslated into English for the subtitles. This is done when DVDs are intended for export. Here are some examples of the translations:

Original	Backtranslation
Revenge of the Sith	The Backstroke of the West
This is where the fun begins	Game time started
May the force be with you	the wish power are together with you
Hello there	Everybody is good
I agree	you can say that again
do what must be done, lord vader	doing you needes must its matter
Nooooooooooooo!	do not want!
jedi council	presbyterian church

See <http://www.winterson.com/2005/06/episode-iii-backstroke-of-west.html> for more.

■ Summary of CARE: Communication with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE LANGUAGE BARRIER IN PRIMARY CARE AND A DESK TOP INFORMATION GUIDE FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS FROM DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE, NUI, GALWAY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GALWAY REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP AND HSE WESTERN AREA PRIMARY CARE UNIT

The arrival of new ethnic minority communities in Ireland presents new challenges for Irish health services. The provision of culturally appropriate, accessible healthcare is urgently required. The Department of General Practice at NUI, Galway in partnership with the Health Services Executive, Western Area and the Galway Refugee Support Group has been involved in a programme of work about the language barrier in general practice. Research has been carried out with Serb-Croat and Russian speaking refugee and asylum seeking patients (26 interviews) and the general practitioners (17 interviews) with whom

they consult in Galway city. The research findings highlighted that while general practitioners interviewed felt that communication problems had settled down over time, language is considered a major barrier to meaningful communication in general practice consultations for refugees and asylum seekers.

In the absence of statutory interpreter services, there is a reliance on informal strategies for communication in day to day practice. These include the use of dictionaries and phrase books, gestures and body language but, mostly, informal interpreters, that is spouses interpreting for each other, children interpreting for their parents and friends interpreting for each other. While the general practitioners in our research were broadly happy with using informal interpreters and they did offer some support to refugees and asylum seekers it was also clear that they are an inadequate solution to a complex problem. General Practitioners were concerned about discussing sensitive or personal health issues with parents whose children were interpreting on their behalf. These concerns were shared by the parents who said that they avoided bringing certain health issues up if their children were present as interpreters.

In the absence of statutory interpreter services, there is a reliance on informal strategies for communication...

There is an assumption that friends and relatives who are asked to interpret will have good English. However, our research revealed that this is not always the case. Friends and relatives who acted as informal interpreters were not necessarily people who had very good English but had, perhaps, slightly better English than the patient. One Russian speaking woman explained that she and her friend tried to ‘patch’ together the meaning of consultations after they had ended. There was also an example of a Serb-Croat speaking woman living in direct provision who needed to see her GP soon after her arrival in Galway. Her only friend was from Czech Republic who agreed to act as her interpreter on the basis that their languages were somewhat similar and they could try and make sense of what was being said together.

Refugees and asylum seekers did not always have friends or relatives whom they trusted to interpret for them. This meant that they were faced with the dilemma

of asking someone in their community who they knew could speak English but who they did not necessarily trust to act as their interpreter. Given that the Serb-Croat and Russian speaking communities in the city are so small, this raised serious worries about confidentiality for some.

Another interesting finding was that even refugees and asylum seekers with good English would sometimes have valued a professional trained interpreter because they were lacking medical terminology or enough English to get subtle nuances across to their doctors. This highlights the fact that it is more helpful to think about language ability along a continuum rather than as a dichotomy e.g. whether someone has/has not English.

The cornerstone of good medicine is good communication...

'Getting by' in general practice consultations with dictionaries and phrase books, gesture and body language and informal interpreters are the current 'solutions' to the language barrier in general practice. The cornerstone of good medicine is good communication and the cornerstone of culturally appropriate and accessible health care is a comprehensive statutory interpreter service provided by trained interpreters who are aware of medical terminology and issues of ethics and confidentiality. However, our research indicates that, at present, accessing and using private interpreter companies is considered negatively by general practitioners because it is time consuming and unwieldy. Therefore, once more appropriate services are available the task of encouraging and supporting general practitioners to avail of them will also need attention.

Meanwhile, a desk top guide for general practitioners in Galway city has been prepared. This is based on research findings reported here and, also, information from the Irish College of General Practitioners. The guide includes specific advice for general practitioners on communication with patients from new communities in Ireland with LEP. It includes information about regional private interpretation companies and funding available from the HSE Western Area for their use. It provides basic guidelines on working with an interpreter in a consultation. This will be disseminated more widely following evaluation and appropriate development work.

Acknowledgements

The research reported was funded by Health Research Board Health Services Research Fellowship 2002-2005 (Dr. Anne MacFarlane). The Desk Top Guide was prepared as part of the post of Fellow in Refugee and Asylum Seeker Healthcare funded by Health Services Executive Western Area Primary Care Unit 2004-present (Dr Hans Pieper). Both projects benefited from support from the Galway Refugee Support Group.

The peer researcher group, Zhanna Dzebisova, Dmitri Kanapish, Bosiljka Kovacevic, Florence Ogbebor, Ekaterina Okonkwo, were instrumental to the collection of data from the asylum seeking and refugee community. Freelance researchers, Pauline Clerkin, Evelyn Stevens, collected data from general practitioners.

■ New international peer-reviewed journal "Translation Studies"

FIRST ISSUE JANUARY 2008

This journal aims to extend the areas of interest, methodologies and conceptual frameworks inside the discipline of Translation Studies, while testing the traditional boundaries of the notion of 'translation' and offering a forum for debate focusing on historical, social, institutional and cultural issues that are strongly rooted in the text level, but also go far beyond it.

In addition to scholars within Translation Studies, we invite those as yet unfamiliar with or wary of Translation Studies to enter the discussion. Such scholars will include people working in literary theory, sociology, ethnography, philosophy, semiotics, history and historiography, gender studies, postcolonialism, and related fields.

We invite contributions of approximately 5-8,000 words, in English, by email. Detailed style guidelines will be available shortly via the Routledge journals website, or contact the Editors:

Michaela Wolf, [michaela.wolf\(a\)uni-graz.at](mailto:michaela.wolf(a)uni-graz.at)
Kate Sturge, [k.sturge\(a\)aston.ac.uk](mailto:k.sturge(a)aston.ac.uk)

■ Employment

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES University of London Reader/Senior Lecturer in Translation Studies

Faculty of Languages and Cultures

Reader/Senior Lecturer Scale: £42,378 - 47,751 p.a inclusive of London Allowance

Vacancy No: 100215

We propose to appoint a Reader/Senior Lecturer with a primary specialisation in Translation Studies and Translation Theory.

You should have an established reputation, an international publication record and substantial teaching and supervisory experience at all levels. You will have knowledge of at least one of the languages within the SOAS remit (Asian, Middle Eastern or African languages). You will be expected to play a key role in developing and expanding the programme of Translation Studies at SOAS and will be active in generating research income.

You will be attached either to a language and culture department or to the Department of Linguistics, depending upon the particular nature of your expertise.

You can obtain further information about SOAS and the Faculty of Languages and Cultures from the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Michael Hutt (mh8@soas.ac.uk).

An application form and further particulars can be downloaded from www.soas.ac.uk/jobs. Alternatively, write to the Human Resources Department, SOAS, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG, fax no: 020 7074 5129 or e-mail humanresources@soas.ac.uk stating your name, address and the vacancy reference number. CVs will only be accepted when accompanied by an application form.

Closing date: 16th February 2007

SOAS values diversity and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

FIT XVIII World Congress, 2008

Shanghai, China. August 4-7, 2008

First Announcement and Call for Presentations

For more information about the Congress, please visit the Congress website at www.fit2008.org (in English, French and Chinese), or send an e-mail to [fit2008info\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:fit2008info(a)gmail.com)

Marie Curie Euroconference MuTra 2007

Vienna, Austria. April 30th – May 4th, 2007.

The conference programme will be finalized as soon as possible after the selection of papers to be presented has been made. Pending publication of the final programme, the following activities for the 2007 MuTra Conference have been scheduled:

Workshops:

TEXT AND TRANSLATION MAPPING: Anneli Rothkegel & Heidrun Gerzymisch-Arbogast: 2nd May

RESPEAKING: Andrew Lambourne/Sysmedia & Carlo Eugeni: 3rd May

Sections

Conference sections will be chaired as follows:

LSP COMMUNICATION: Jan Engberg & Klaus Schubert

LSP TRANSLATION: Gerhard Budin

TRANSLATION & INTERPRETING THEORY: Lew Zybatow

AUDIOVISUAL TRANSLATION SCENARIOS: Mary Carroll & Jorge Diaz-Cintas

(LSP) INTERPRETING: Franz Pöchhacker

MuTra PhD School, 29 April 2007

We are happy to announce that, in the tradition of previous MuTra Conferences, a one-day MuTra PhD School will be held on 29 April in Vienna to provide an opportunity for a group of senior PhD students to discuss and explore their research with a panel of established researchers in the fields of translation and interpreting. The event is independent from the Conference and is intended as an opportunity for students to develop the skills necessary to effectively write research papers.

Applications for scholarships, which will also cover the costs for the conference, are invited from eligible candidates. Further information can be found at

www.euroconferences.info/2007_updates.php?konferenz=2007

2007 European Language Label for Educational Institutions

The European Award for Languages recognises creative and innovative ways to improve the quality of language teaching and learning. It is awarded annually to a limited number of projects in each EU member state.

Applications for the 2007 European Language Label are invited from schools, third level institutions, adult education providers, the community and the commercial sector. Successful projects will be recognised in a number of ways including cash prizes. Small and large scale projects are welcome to apply.

The priorities for 2007 are:

- ◆ Diversification of Languages on offer
- ◆ Whole School Language Policies

These priorities are not exclusive and a diverse range of projects with other perspectives are welcome to apply.

The closing date for applications is 1st March 2007

There will also be an individual European Award for Languages in 2007 for the Language Learner of the Year. This will be awarded to a person in the formal or non-formal sector, where language learning has enabled the learner to achieve further goals and objectives.

The deadline for application for the Language Learner of the Year Award is 30 April 2007.

Application forms and guidelines are available on our website www.leargas.ie/education/lingua/eal.html

For further information contact

Ivanna D'Arcy

Léargas

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Dublin 1

Tel 01-8731411 Fax 01-8731316

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2nd English-German Workshop for Literary Translators in Straelen

Vom 16. bis 21. April 2007 im Europäischen Übersetzer-Kollegium Nordrhein-Westfalen in Straelen

Leitung: Karen Nölle-Fischer

Gefördert vom Deutschen Übersetzerfonds und vom Ireland Literature Exchange

<http://www.uebersetzerkollegium.com/de/kollegium/seminare-und-werkstaetten/aktuelle-seminarausschreibungen/16-2142007-uebersetzerwerkstatt-englisch-und-deutsch/index.html>

■ Contacting The ITIA

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ITIA BULLETIN

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ITIA COMMITTEE - 2004/2005

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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*
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- ◆ *Code of Practice*
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