



**Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association**  
*Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Teangairí na hÉireann*

# ITIA Bulletin

**July 2012**

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## Editorial

First of all, my apologies for not being able to produce a June issue of the Bulletin. This was due to a breakdown of my broadband connection. This July issue is meant to compensate for the lack of a June issue. The next issue will appear in August.

Secondly, I would like to share an observation regarding current payment practices in Ireland as experienced by community interpreters. I collaborate with many legal firms and have recently noticed that a lot of them try to increase their days payable i.e. they try to pay their bills for interpreting services with enormous delays. This is helpful to them from the point of view of their operating cash flow, as longer days payable are tantamount to free credit.

This, however, is obviously very disadvantageous from the interpreter's point of view as it affects their cash flow situation. Some solicitors justify the payment delays saying that they can only pay when civil cases, in connection with which the interpreter was engaged, are settled. In my view this is not a valid excuse, unless such a stipulation is made at the onset, when an interpreter is being engaged. Some companies will even try to delay the payment by a year, which is totally unacceptable. This has happened to me recently and only a threat of complaining to the Law Society of Ireland made this particular legal firm react positively.

My suggestion to those starting up in the profession would be to clearly state their payment terms when accepting every job. Say when you expect to get paid and

also clearly write the due date on your fee note to the client. While it is reasonable to give more time to pay for your service to a regular and therefore valuable client, it makes no sense to wait for more than a month for a payment from a new client who might never use your service again.

I wish you all enjoyable reading,

Adam Brożyński  
Editor

*Adam Brożyński is a freelance community interpreter and translator of the Polish Language from Dublin.  
(<http://www.polishtranslator.ie>)*

## 384 warrant appeals made to Ireland

Most people whose extradition from Ireland are sought under the European arrest warrant are Polish, according to the annual report on the operation of the EU warrant. Fraud, corruption and computer crime, the largest category, generated 106 extradition requests. Ireland sent 71 warrants to other EU states, and 36 people were returned.

A total of 384 warrants seeking the surrender of people from Ireland were received from member states in 2011, of which 260 related to Polish nationals. The next largest group came from the UK, which sent 32 extradition requests. Some 84 warrants were processed last year, while 300 were still on-going at the end of the year. However, some are not processed in the same year as they are received, and 177 people were surrendered last

year. Some 59 were withdrawn, 21 were closed following arrest elsewhere and 22 people were released.

Other crimes for which people were sought included 16 for murder, 13 for sexual offences, 41 for drug offences, 126 for robbery and assault and 38 for racketeering

Carol Coulter

Original source: <http://tinyurl.com/d5k4xng>  
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## “Soft Machine” and “Snuff” on Trial

*An Istanbul court ruled to suspend the proceedings against the translators and publishers of “Snuff” by Chuck Palahniuk and “The Soft Machine” by William Burroughs on Thursday, even though the official expert report vindicated the novels.*

A court in Istanbul ruled to suspend the proceedings against the translators and publishers of “Snuff” by Chuck Palahniuk and “The Soft Machine” by William Burroughs on Thursday, citing the amendments that came into force the same day, following the ratification of the Third Judicial Package this week.

The expert reports prepared by specialists from Bosphorus University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Istanbul Kemerburgaz University's Department of Law also arrived in court during the seventh hearing of the trial on “The Soft Machine” and the fifth hearing of the trial on “Snuff” that began at 09:30 a.m. at the Second Criminal Court of First Instance in Istanbul's Çağlayan courthouse.

The prosecution had accused the defendants of “obscenity” based on reports prepared by the Prime Ministry's Board for the Protection of Minors from Obscene Publications.

The expert report, however, said “The Soft Machine,” translated by Süha Sertabiboğlu and published by the Sel Publishing House, and “Snuff,” translated by Funda Uncu and published by the Ayrıntı Publishing House, do not violate the rules of obscenity since they constitute literary works, as stipulated in article 226/7 of the Turkish Penal Code (TCK.)

“Snuff” cannot be read as a pornographic novel. It constitutes a [critical] literary work that exposes through a tragicomical perspective the million-dollar porn industry and how women in particular are turned into objects in a consumerist society,” the report said.

Palahniuk's “Snuff” relates the story of a pornstar who intends to conclude her career through a final act of consummation by having sex with 600 men in a single day and thus breaking the world record for serial fornication.

“In conclusion, Burroughs's novel ‘The Soft Machine’ is a work of literature. The writer whose fame goes [far] beyond the boundaries of the United States [aims to deliver] social criticism rather than [attempting to] arouse the reader's sexual instincts. The element of sexuality in his avant-garde narrative technique that resonated with the literary community also serves this purpose,” the report also said about the work of influential Beat generation writer William Burroughs.

Suspect translator Süha Sertabiboğlu and İrfan Sancı, the manager of the Sel Publishing House, consequently requested an immediate verdict for their acquittal in accordance with the expert reports.

The Chief Justice, however, announced the court's decision to suspend the proceedings in view of provisional article 1/1-b of the 6352nd Law in the Third Judicial Package.

“We are trying to expand the borders of the freedom of speech. We are going to publish books again. This law is against us. This file will resurface. We demand an immediate verdict in conformity with the [expert] report. [This] has become a law of intimidation rather than a law of amnesty,” Ayrıntı Publishing House manager Hasan Basri Çıplak then said in response to the court's ruling.

The provisional law in the Third Judicial Package that Parliament ratified on July 3 and which appeared on the Official Gazette two days later stipulates that when a court suspends proceedings against offenders, then

charges levelled against them shall be dropped, provided they do not commit a new offense within three years through the press or other publications or by stating such opinions.

If the suspects in this case commit a new offense within three years and which lead to a conviction by the court, however, then both trials will re-commence and due proceedings will resume.

- "The Soft Machine," ("Yumuşak Makine,") Author: William Burroughs, Translator: Süha Sertabiboğlu, Publisher: Sel Yayıncılık
- "Snuff," ("Ölüm Pornosu,") Author: Chuck Palahniuk, Translator: Funda Uncu, Publisher: Ayrıntı Yayınları

Rana ENÇOL  
BIA News Center

Original source: <http://tinyurl.com/cplzcc7>

## Research Changes Legal System

*The Danish Court Administration has decided that the education of judges and the guidelines on courtroom interpreting must be changed following the publication of new research from Aarhus University, Business and Social Sciences at Department of Business Communication. The Danish Court Administration is now changing the judicial training and education following the publication of new research from Aarhus University, Business and Social Sciences.*

Researchers have recently documented that most Danish judges have encountered problems with incorrect and inadequate interpreting of court cases involving non-Danish speakers. This is ascribed to a lack of qualified interpreters and to the fact that the judges know too little about interpreting. Based on the researchers' conclusions, the Danish Court Administration is now changing the judicial training and education and its guidelines on interpreting.

The researchers recommended that interpreters should be trained in more languages, that the court lawyers should be trained and thus better equipped for using interpreters and that a system of quality control of courtroom interpreters should be introduced.

We are extremely pleased that our research is being taken seriously and that drawing attention to the

problems which we have identified will actually make a difference. There is no doubt that providing judges with more knowledge about interpreting and the importance of their own way of communicating will help solve the problems in this area, says Associate Professor from Department of Business Communication, Tina Paulsen Christensen, one of the researchers behind the project.

### Changes to education of judges

The Danish Court Administration has decided that the education of judges will be changed from 2012 based on the conclusions set out in the report. This means that they will look into whether it is possible to prepare court lawyers better for the use of courtroom interpreters. As from autumn 2012, the Danish Court Administration will start educating judges, for example, in the use of courtroom interpreting services. The Danish Court Administration will then consider whether there is a need to revise the guidelines on courtroom interpreting which set out a number of recommendations for both interpreters and lawyers and which can be found on the courts' intranets and websites.

Finally, the Danish Ministry of Justice has, based on the research, called a meeting with the Danish Immigration Service, the Danish National Police and the Danish Court Administration to discuss the recommendations.

### Also a need for more and better interpreters.

The Danish Court Administration agrees with the researchers' conclusion that there is a need for more and better trained interpreters in a number of languages. The greatest barrier to good courtroom interpreting is a shortage of interpreters and translators in a number of languages. This means that the courts are sometimes forced to rely on the services of people who do not possess the necessary qualifications to act as interpreters. However, no solution has as yet been found to this critical point.

In fact, the researchers recommended that the interpreters be better educated and that the courts introduce quality control of the interpreters. The Danish

Court Administration basically agrees with this recommendation, but points out that the problem cannot be solved by introducing quality control of the interpreters currently used by the court as they are, in many languages, the only available ones. There is therefore no avoiding using these interpreters in court.

Introducing quality control of the courtroom interpreters used today is the only way that the courts themselves can contribute to safeguarding the legal rights of non-Danish speakers. However, the fundamental problem can only be solved through investments in more and better interpreting courses in Denmark, concludes Tina Paulsen Christensen.

## FACTS

The research project from Aarhus University, Business and Social Sciences has documented that three out of four judges have encountered problems with interpreters. For example, interpreters are not always sufficiently fluent in Danish, their interpreting is imprecise and incomplete, they do not possess the necessary knowledge about the legal system or legal terminology, and they do not have the required technical interpreting skills. The project thus documents that legal rights are compromised in court cases where interpreters are used.

According to the researchers, Tina Paulsen Christensen, PhD, and Associate Professor Bodil Ringe Martinsen, this is due to the unavailability of enough qualified courtroom interpreters. Of the interpreters working at the courts, 80% do not have any interpreting qualifications. This has been known for some time, but the project now shows that legal rights are compromised by the fact that Denmark does not guarantee non-Danish speakers access to professional interpreters.

Tine Bagger Christiansen

Original source: <http://tinyurl.com/ccrszgw>  
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## 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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## Blog: The Realities and Benefits of Translation as a Full-time Job – An Introduction (article excerpts)

### What makes a good translator?

What traits are important for the translation profession?

The ideal translator is flexible, adaptable, good with technology (or willing to become good with it), an excellent writer, and can learn foreign concepts quickly.

The synthesis of these traits results in an analytical person who pays close attention to detail. Hold on there a second. Did I mention biotechnology? Automotive?!

The vast majority of translators, including myself, come

from an academic background, we are 文系, not 理系. What do we do?! This may seem like a hindrance at first, but in reality there are so many things a translator has to learn that even those who have a scientific or technical background are going to be encountering many fields they have no familiarity with. Don't get me wrong though, if you have a background in economics, law, or technical fields then other translators will worship you as a god. But how does one actually learn these things? It's not as hard as it sounds. Don't know what a fuel injector is? Look it up. Don't what it means when a market is bullish? Look it up. Almost everything you need to know you can find online for free, you just need good research skills. Research skills are what makes or breaks a translator.

#### **How do I know if I'm ready to do translation? How can I prepare?**

How does one even know if they are ready to translate yet? The quick and dirty answer is that many translation agencies will give you a test, and if you never hear back from them after taking it, then you aren't ready. When you translate, all that matters is what the client wants. If your language skills are sub-par, but the client likes how you write, then congratulations, you are ready. If your language skills are great, but the client doesn't like what you do, then unfortunately you are not ready. There is a classic saying about translation: translation is like a mistress; if it is beautiful it is not loyal, if it is loyal it is not beautiful. But this is not a translation theory class where you sit around and discuss subtle nuances and whose translation is best. In reality, your client decides whether it is loyal, and your client decides whether it is beautiful. Most serious companies have comprehensive quality assurance steps, however, so don't think you can just BS your way through a translation.

To read the whole article, go to:  
<http://tinyurl.com/c5ebeaf>

## 10 Ways to Prepare

*How to Prepare for Life as a Translation, Interpretation, and Localization Management Student*

### **1. Read extensively, especially in your non-native language(s).**

- Read high quality newspapers (e.g. the New York Times, Wall Street Journal) EVERY DAY for at least a year.
- Read high quality news magazines (e.g. the Economist), cover to cover.
- Read your favourite topics in your non-native language(s).
- Read other well-written material that will help broaden your general knowledge.

### **2. Watch the TV news and listen to radio news and podcasts on current events in all working languages.**

- Don't just listen to news stories; analyse them.
- Keep abreast of current events and issues.
- Record news programs and interviews so you can listen to them later.

### **3. Strengthen your general knowledge of economics, history, the law, international politics, and scientific concepts and principles (in that order).**

- Take college-level courses, review high school texts, etc.
- Strengthen your knowledge in a specialized field (preferably in a technical field, such as computers).

### **4. Live in a country where your non-native language is spoken.**

- A stay of at least six months to a year is recommended.
- Live with and/or frequently interact with native speakers of your non-native language.
- Take content-related courses (e.g. macroeconomics, political science) in your non-native language (not just pure language courses).
- Work in a setting that requires high level use of your non-native language.

### **5. Fine-tune your writing and research skills.**

- Take challenging composition courses (not just creative writing courses, but classes in journalism, technical writing, etc.) so you can "speak" journalese, UNese, legalese, etc.
- Copy (by hand) sections of textbooks and periodicals in your non-native language(s).
- Make a note of unfamiliar or troublesome grammatical points and work towards mastering them.
- Practice proofreading.

## 6. Improve your public speaking skills.

- Take rigorous speech courses and/or join Toastmasters ([www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)).
- Practice writing and making presentations in front of other people in both your native and foreign language(s). (Have native speakers of your non-native language edit your speeches.)

## 7. Hone your analytical skills.

- Practice listening to speeches and orally summarizing the main points.
- Practice writing summaries of news articles.
- Practice deciphering difficult texts (e.g. philosophy, law, etc.).
- Practice explaining complicated concepts understandably.
- Identify resources for background research (e.g. library, Internet, etc.).

## 8. Become computer savvy.

- Familiarize yourself with navigation and file management under current Windows operating systems (most of the software tools used in the localization industry today are not compatible with the Apple operating system).
- Develop an understanding of the features Windows offers for multilingual processing, such as language-specific keyboard layouts, regional settings for units of measurement.
- Learn to use advanced functions of Word, Excel, and other Microsoft Office applications in both your native and non-native languages.
- Become an expert in search engines and online research by using these tools on a daily basis.

## 9. Learn how to take care of yourself.

- Eat sensibly, exercise regularly, and get sufficient sleep. These are all habits required of a good translator/interpreter.

## 10. Be prepared for lifelong learning.

- Be patient. Bringing your language skills and analytical skills up to the level required of a professional translator or interpreter is not a task that can be accomplished in a few short years. Only with a lot of sustained hard work can anyone truly succeed in these challenging and exciting fields.

Original source: <http://tinyurl.com/5v9m5os>  
Reproduced with permission from Monterey Institute  
of International Studies.

## Interpreter request refused because man has 'been in UK long enough'

A STONEHOUSE man has been denied a Kurdish interpreter at his forthcoming trial because he has been in the UK long enough to learn English, a judge has ruled.

Baravan Yahia, aged 26, is due to face trial on September 26, charged with taking a BMW on September 12 last year and driving it dangerously.

Yahia's barrister, Ali Rafati, said that while his client's English was sufficient for everyday use, he was not confident he could follow a trial.

But Judge Francis Gilbert QC said Yahia, of Durnford Street, did not need an interpreter.

"There has to be a line drawn somewhere and he's the wrong side of it," he said. "At that sort of age, he must be alert enough to pick up the language. There has to be a limit; interpreters are expensive and cause a delay."

Judge Gilbert also refused to allow a friend of the defendant who speaks better English to help him in court, saying the issues in the case were straightforward and the barristers could keep their language simple.

Original source:  
<http://tinyurl.com/dybpepo>

## Useful Links for Court Interpreters

The previous issue of the Bulletin was devoted to the situation of court interpreters in the United Kingdom. For those who are interested in this topic below are a few links to articles detailing the latest developments in the story:

- <http://tinyurl.com/c72kxhn>
- <http://tinyurl.com/cctu8sq>
- <http://tinyurl.com/ctk6sc6>
- <http://tinyurl.com/c72kxhn>

## Contacting the ITIA

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