



ITIA BULLETIN

June 2006

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Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
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■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

The interpreting profession is finally starting to make it into the headlines in Ireland. As has been previously reported in this ezine, the lack of quality interpreters has become a huge problem, particularly in the legal and medical sectors. Unfortunately, the measures being taken to fill this gap are short-sighted in the extreme and insulting to the profession as a whole. There is little political will to make any changes in this area and as long as that continues, non-English speakers in Ireland can expect sub-standard treatment in the hospitals and in the courts. The lengths doctors and agencies are going to in an effort to secure interpreting services has been reported on in two separate articles in the last month. Read on for more on these articles.

Enjoy!

Elizabeth Hayes
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■ Skype launches telephone interpreting service

Skype is one of the biggest internet success stories of recent times. A VoIP (voice over internet protocol) service, it has 50 million users worldwide. For the uninitiated out there, Skype is a free downloadable application for using the Internet for making voice phone calls at substantially lower cost than POTS, or plain old telephone service. If you are calling from a computer to a computer, the call is free. All you need is a decent internet connection and some basic hardware (which comes as standard with most computers). For anyone with friends in far flung places, it's a godsend. 24 million registered users can't be wrong.

Recently, Skype has joined with two other companies (Language Line Services and Voxeo) and is now offering a telephone interpreting service to be used over its VoIP service.

The service utilizes solutions from Language Line Services, a language services firm, and Voxeo, which provides standards-based interactive voice response (IVR) technology. Generally callers will communicate in English and another language. The offerings range from Arabic to Vietnamese.

A live, professional Language Line Services (LLS) interpreter can be available on the phone in minutes, according to the companies. *LLS' Personal Interpreter Service* utilizes Voxeo's Prophecy voice platform to automate the transfer of calls from Skype.

The service is being offered in 150 languages and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at a cost of US\$2.99 a minute.

■ ITIA in the News

ITIA SECRETARY MARY PHELAN WAS RECENTLY INTERVIEWED BY BREDHEFFERNAN OF THE IRISH INDEPENDENT ON THE LACK OF COURT INTERPRETERS IN IRELAND. THE RESULTING ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED ON JUNE 6TH:

Recruitment of court interpreters is put in the dock
Job agencies are going to ethnic restaurants and even handing out flyers on city streets in an effort to recruit interpreters to work in the courts system.

One Romanian woman who had an interview with an agency in the morning found herself interpreting in the District Court that afternoon, despite not knowing some of the legal terms being used. And some agencies have told interpreters to "just keep talking" in front of a judge, even about the weather, so that they'll seem to be accurately interpreting.

Making the revelations, Mary Phelan, secretary of the *Irish Interpreters and Translators Association* and director of the country's only graduate certificate in interpreting at **Dublin City University**, said there is no quality control for interpreters working in the courts system.

"People who appear in the courts have a right to understand what is going on but that is just not happening at the moment."

"I've heard of one agency handing out flyers on O'Connell Street trying to recruit interpreters. That's the equivalent of stopping 100 people and asking them to teach English - it's ridiculous. I've also heard from interpreters that, if they can't do a job, the agency will ask them if their brother or partner or somebody else can step in. "There is an assumption that if you can speak two languages, then you can interpret, but that's just not the case."

Ms Phelan said revealed that some agencies tell their interpreters to keep whispering to the defendant just "to

be seen talking” because it's only when the interpreter is not talking that a judge realises there may be a problem.

“There is an assumption that if you can speak two languages, then you can interpret, but that's just not the case.”

She warned that it is “very risky” for Gardaí to work with translators who have no proper training as suspects may not fully understand their rights. Prosecutions could also be called into doubt if it is discovered that a defendant was not given a full and proper translation of evidence before the court.

Many non-national interpreters are not familiar with Irish legal terms and translate them to what they think are equivalents from their native legal systems, despite the systems being fundamentally different, added Ms Phelan.

Last year the courts system spent €1.5m on interpreters - a tenfold increase on five years ago. Polish, Lithuanian, Russian, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Czech and Irish are among the most common languages requiring translation in court. The courts service can currently access interpretation in 210 languages and dialects from a panel drawn up among agencies and native speakers of particular languages. And the service announced plans to have just one service provider for all translation requirements. It is now in discussions with a preferred bidder and expects to sign a contract soon.

However, Ms Phelan warned that the tender requires competency in languages rather than in interpreting. This means that if people are competent in English and a second language they can interpret, despite not having any legal background or training.

“It's very difficult to keep up with the pace of change for the courts service and other agencies but nobody is thinking ahead,” she said. “They should prioritise certain languages and start training interpreters in those so that in five years' time there will be a much better situation.”

She called on the Government to set up a national testing system for interpreters and to compile a register of qualified interpreters.

■ New Members of the ITIA

The ITIA welcomes the following new members...

Ordinary Members

YLVA HOLMGREN
19 Carrigeen,
Annacotty, Co. Limerick
Tel: 061 3711637
email: ylvaastridcecilia@yahoo.se
Swedish from English and French
English to and from Swedish and French
Education, IT, politics

DR. PASCALE DUPARC PORTIER
64 Cuan Glas,
Salthill, Galway
email: duparcportier@yahoo.fr
English to and from French
German to English
Law

DOMENICA ALESSIA NICOLO
10 Dolphin Road,
Dolphins Barn, Dublin 12
Tel: 086 3090281
email: alessia.nic@libero.it
ITALIAN to and from English,
ITALIAN from English, German, French
Legal, medical, financial

JANE KANE
Ballinlea House,
68 Ballinlea Road
Ballycastle, Co Antrim
N. Ireland, BT54 6JL
Tel./fax: +44 028 207 62678
email: info@janekane.co.uk
ENGLISH from German and French
General, commercial, aerial surveying and mapping

AIDA RAMOS
63 Shanowen Grove
Santry, Dublin 9
Tel: 085 7499288
email: aida.ramos2@mail.dcu.ie
SPANISH from English

ADRIENNE O'REILLY
70 Grattan Park
Grattan Road, Galway
Tel: 087 2245657
email: [adoreilly\(a\)eircom.net](mailto:adoreilly(a)eircom.net)
ENGLISH from Italian

Corporate Members

CERTIFIED TRANSLATIONS
31 Moanbane Park
Kilcullen, Co Kildare
Tel: 085 1375777 Fax: 045 480572
email: [certifiedtranslations\(a\)op.pl](mailto:certifiedtranslations(a)op.pl)
Contact: Olga Slattery
POLISH to and from English
Legal/official documents, general, medical, technical
Bilateral and telephone 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.

Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out in July 2006. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 950 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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To unsubscribe, simply send an Email to [itia-ezine-unsubscribe\(a\)yahogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine-unsubscribe(a)yahogroups.com)

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

World Cup snippets

20,000 volunteers will work at the World Cup including many translators and interpreters.

In USA 1994, Eleven languages were spoken by 44 volunteer interpreters at Giants Stadium in New York. Only Romanian and South Korean could not be translated.

FIFA has four official languages – German, English, French and Spanish. The motto of the 2006 World Cup in the four official languages:

- ◆ A Time to Make Friends™
- ◆ Die Welt zu Gast bei Freunden™
- ◆ Le rendez-vous de l'amitié
- ◆ El mundo entre amigos

The British embassy in Germany launched a special website just for the occasion with information, both consular and otherwise, for visitors: www.britishembassyworldcup.com

In the more light-hearted section are translations into German of popular British football songs including "God Save the Queen".

The Berlin company *Audiantis* is offering the beta version of its combined translation and speech output service *iSound TranSpeaker* free of charge for the duration of the World Cup. This enables an English speaker to input a request or an order into his/her mobile device and immediately receive the German translation as speech output.

Equally, he/she can input an unfamiliar German text – from a newspaper or from a signpost – receiving the speech output in English.

An English schoolboy and an American-Argentine student have created a new language, socceranto, to enable footballers to communicate with each other. It's based on Esperanto, the world language invented in 1887, and football phrases, words and names drawn from throughout the world. Some examples from its subject delimited vocabulary include:

- ◆ fliegenfanger: useless goalkeeper
- ◆ Maradona: goal scored with the use of the hand
- ◆ trequartista: flamboyant player who operates between midfield and attack
- ◆ Ronaldinho: no-look pass
- ◆ Baggio: missed penalty
- ◆ Klinsmann: dive
- ◆ Baguette: tall or lanky player

■ Lack of medical interpreters reaches crisis

It was recently reported by Claire O'Sullivan in the *Irish Examiner* (15/6/2006) that the lack of medical interpreters is so dire that doctors are themselves contacting asylum seeker support groups looking for untrained interpreters. The situation is so bad that contacting a non-governmental agency that does not specialize in T/I services is a last ditch effort to conduct a medical examination in an appropriate manner.

The lack of interpreters has become so chronic that translation agencies are reportedly approaching non-national service staff in restaurants and offering them legal interpreting work.

The area most in need of interpreters is psychiatric services. Psychiatric consultations are going ahead without interpreters and it is hoped that patients will sufficiently grasp the concepts of their illness. There is a telephone interpreting service available to GPs but, according to *Irish Immigrant Support Service* spokeswoman Gertrude Cotter, 'the telephone translation for GPs is available sometimes and not at other times. It's not reliable.'

It is the responsibility of the HSE (*Health Service Executive*) to provide medical interpreting services and this responsibility is not being met by any standards.

Edward Horgan, manager of CCST (*Spirasi Centre for the Care of Survivors of Torture*), is opposed to that attitude that allows medical consultations with non-English speaking patients continue without an interpreter. In CCST, an interpreter is considered so important that they refuse to muddle through without one, 'it is essential that you don't try to give such treatment without translation services. If we can't get a translator for our counselling service and a client's English is bad, we just won't go ahead with treatment.'

...it is essential that you don't try to give such treatment without translation services...

It is very difficult for medical professionals to do justice to themselves when trying to treat a patient who understands only a small percentage of what they are saying. In the face of sub-standard interpreting services, many do their best to get the most important points across to the patient in the hope that they understand enough.

Perhaps, employing the strategy of the CCST and refusing to treat without a qualified interpreter would be a more effective way of ensuring improved services in the future.

■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

FORENSIC TRANSLATION

Increasingly, translation is playing a significant role in forensic analysis and criminal investigations. A new multidisciplinary knowledge domain is emerging in Translation Studies that can be termed Forensic Translation. Three notable events have placed translation under the spotlight in recent years: *The O. J. Simpson Trial*, *The Bin Laden Tapes* and *Aljazeera* correspondent Tayseer Alluni's Trial—all involve crucial and controversial evidence based on translation. Evidence of presumed guilt, authorship attribution, and complicity are only three areas of translation involvement in today's global, cross-cultural settings.

Translation Watch Quarterly invites submissions from academics and professionals in the areas of forensics, criminal justice, forensic linguistics, translation and adjacent disciplines, for a special December 2006 issue devoted to examining the role of translation in forensics and criminal investigations.

Submissions should demonstrate a deep understanding of the current issues of Forensic Translation problems, procedures, techniques and standards.

TRANSLATION WATCH QUARTERLY

Editors: Ali Darwish and Scott M Rogers

Submissions to this peer-reviewed journal should be between 8 and 20 pages in APA format.

Send enquiries, proposals and submissions to:

Ali Darwish, Editor

TRANSLATION WATCH QUARTERLY

P O Box 418 Patterson Lakes, Victoria 3197

AUSTRALIA

Simultaneous Interpretation Seminar**Long Island, New York, June 26 - 30 2006**

Subject to sufficient enrolment, a simultaneous interpretation seminar will be held at the Grenville Baker Club, Locust Valley, New York, from 26 to 30 June 2006.

Working Languages: English, Spanish and French.

Instructor: James Nolan. James Nolan served as Deputy Director of the Interpretation, Meetings and Publishing Division and Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service of the United Nations, as UN Senior Interpreter and as Head of Linguistic and Conference Services of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. Mr. Nolan is a graduate of the School of Translation and Interpretation of the University of Geneva and of New York Law School, and a member of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC). He is the author of *Interpretation Techniques and Exercises* (see below).

Proposed Schedule:

◆	Monday 26 June:	9 AM – 12 Noon S>E
◆		1 PM – 4 PM S>E
◆	Tuesday 27 June:	9 AM – 12 Noon S>E
◆		1 PM – 4 PM S>E
◆	Wednesday 28 June:	9 AM – 12 Noon E>S
◆		1 PM – 4 PM E>F
◆	Thursday 29 June:	9 AM – 12 Noon F>E
◆		1 PM – 4 PM F>E
◆	Friday 30 June:	9 AM – 12 Noon F>E
◆		1 PM – 4 PM F>E

Adjustments in the above schedule may be made at the request of the participants.

Program: Sessions will comprise a brief presentation and a practicum conducted “round-table” fashion, using audio and video recordings of UN and other speeches. The topics covered will include Preparation, Segmentation, Complex Syntax/Compression, Word Order/Clusters, General Adverbial Clauses, Formal Style, Economic & Political Discourse, Humor, Latinisms, Numbers.

Required Reading: *Interpretation Techniques and Exercises*, by James Nolan, available from the publisher, Multilingual Matters or from the internet vendors listed below. The seminar will include reading assignments and written exercises may be assigned tailored to students' needs. It is recommended that participants obtain and begin reading the book before the seminar. Texts and recordings of speeches studied will be provided.

Tuition Fee: Applicants may enrol in the 5 English-Spanish sessions (\$250), the 5 English-French sessions (\$250), or both (\$500). To reserve your place, payment of the tuition fee is due by check upon acceptance of application and is non-refundable.

What You Should Bring:

- ◆ Blank notebooks.
- ◆ A copy of *Interpretation Techniques and Exercises*, which you can order from the internet vendors listed below. Please note that orders placed with the publisher are sometimes slow to arrive, so it may be advisable to order from Amazon or the supplier nearest you. If you do not receive the book in time, loan copies will be available at the seminar.
- ◆ A portable cassette recorder and 10 blank 90-minute cassettes.
- ◆ Recommended (not required): a laptop computer equipped with Real One player software.
- ◆ Earphones: New lightweight earphones or standard communications-type earphones with fresh ear pads will be provided. If you prefer, you may bring your own earphones.

Applications: Applicants must have substantial interpretation or translation experience in a relevant language combination. To apply, please send an e-mail to [jamespnolan\(a\)aol.com](mailto:jamespnolan(a)aol.com), with the following information: Your name, address, telephone number and e-mail / Brief description of translation interpretation experience / Native language, other languages, & degree of fluency / Sessions for which you wish to enrol.

Pathways to Translations

Escola Superior de Tecnologia de Tradução, Instituto Politécnico de Leiria, Portugal
November 9-10 2006

At a time when globalization is in order, translation gains greater importance for taking on the mission of providing mediation solutions for communicative exchanges which occur in changeable environments.

Concepts and practices of the past, still to be valued for what they convey of the established order, are presently confronted with new challenges, begging us to question the new directions in which Translation is moving.

It is in this context that we invite scholars and professionals to take part in our 5th Annual Translation Conference, to take place on 9 and 10 November 2006, at the *Escola Superior de Tecnologia e Gestão do Instituto Politécnico de Leiria*, in Leiria, Portugal.

LANGUAGES: Portuguese, English, French, Spanish

IMPORTANT DATES:

- ◆ Final date for proposals (abstracts): 10 July 2006
- ◆ Notification of acceptance: 31 July 2006
- ◆ Extended abstracts/full papers: 1 October 2006

Theme(s): Translation Studies – emerging paradigms, Translator education and training. Interculturalism and translation, Ethics, New translation practices

Contact Details: Proposals for (20 minute) presentations ought to be submitted by e-mail before 30 June 2006. Send to: [jornadastrad\(a\)estg.ipleiria.pt](mailto:jornadastrad(a)estg.ipleiria.pt)

Registration: [jornadastrad\(a\)estg.ipleiria.pt](mailto:jornadastrad(a)estg.ipleiria.pt)

■ Contacting The ITIA

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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*
- ◆ *Database Entry*
- ◆ *Code of Practice*
- ◆ *Background Information*
- ◆ *Translation Services in Ireland*
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