



---

# ITIA BULLETIN

March 2008

---

## In This Issue

■ Editorial.....	2
■ HSE National Intercultural Health Strategy 2007-2012 ...	2
■ New Members of the ITIA .....	3
■ Career Questions.....	3
■ Time Management for Freelancers (part II) .....	6
■ Some Thoughts on the Garda Tender Process for T&I ..	7
■ Translation in Second Language Teaching and Learning .....	9
■ Languages and Intercultural Dialogue in a Globalizing World.....	10
■ Conferences, Calls & Courses.....	11
■ Employment.....	12
■ Contacting The ITIA.....	13

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

19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland  
Tel.: +353-1-872 1302 Fax: +353-1-872 6282  
Email: [itiasecretary\(a\)eircom.net](mailto:itiasecretary(a)eircom.net) Web: [www.translatorsassociation.ie](http://www.translatorsassociation.ie)

## ■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

This month brings the first in our 'Career Questions' series of articles. As the T/I world is so broad and diverse, it is difficult to keep track of what people are doing in other areas. This series of articles aims to give a snapshot of different jobs in the field. So, whether you are thinking of career moves or are simply curious about how others make a crust in T/I, stay tuned. Donal Carey is our first contributor.

Enjoy!

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

is translated into other languages without any alteration of information to suit a different audience. For example, a translated booklet about a hospital might not mention access to interpreters. It makes sense to have an organisational policy on translation.

On the interpreting front, the Strategy recommends that 'A thorough audit and evaluation of existing systems of facilitating interpretation should be undertaken to inform the nature and design of a national interpretation service. This will include consideration of current models and practices in this area and some evaluation of their effectiveness.' The document includes a recommendation that 'This service should use trained, accredited interpreters whose practice is registered and regulated.' Unfortunately there is no explanation as to where these accredited interpreters will be found. Nor is there a timeline or action plan for the introduction of change.

The Strategy also mentions that the HSE is awaiting the findings and recommendations of current research into cost effective translation and interpreting services that is being carried out by Farrell Grant Sparks. This research is funded by the Minister for Integration and was due to appear in February but has not been published yet. Annette Schiller, chairperson of the ITIA, is a member of the advisory group for this research.

According to media reports, the HSE has allocated one million euros to the Intercultural Health Strategy for 2008. This amount is very disappointing because the HSE will not be able to fund much translation or interpreting with this small budget. In 2006 the HSE spent 750,000 euros on interpreting. This year there is increasing pressure on the HSE budget with many services being cut and it appears unlikely that translation and interpreting will be prioritised. This is very disappointing when patients around the country who have limited English are finding it very difficult to access services. All too often they depend on friends, family members or children to interpret. Despite the very pleasant launch and the beautifully presented documents, it appears right now that the Intercultural Health Strategy will be left on the shelf.

You can find the National Intercultural Health Strategy and the Consultation Report at:

<http://www.hse.ie/en/Publications/HSEPublicationsNew/HSECorporatePlans/InterculturalHealthStrategy/>

## ■ HSE National Intercultural Health Strategy 2007-2012

The *Health Service Executive (HSE) National Intercultural Health Strategy 2007-2012* was launched in the Mansion House on 21st February 2008. The launch was attended by Minister for Health Mary Harney and by Professor Brendan Drumm of the HSE, both of whom expressed the hope that the Strategy would not be left on the shelf.

During their work on the Strategy, the HSE held consultations with various bodies and found that there were four main priorities for improving access to health services:

- 1 Information, language and communication
- 2 Service delivery and access to services
- 3 Changing the organisation
- 4 Working in partnership with ethnic minority communities.

The first priority is of particular interest to our association. The Health Strategy recommends 'coordinated development of guidelines for the production and application of translated material. Guidelines will include direction around the type of information that should be provided, languages in which these should be available, and to whom and how the information should be circulated.' The ITIA would welcome the development of guidelines about translation because at present it seems that different hospitals are commissioning translations and there is very little sharing of translated material between hospitals. Often information aimed at English speakers

## ■ New Members of the ITIA

The ITIA welcomes the following new members...

### Ordinary members

#### CIARAN KELLY HDIP TRANSLATION STUDIES

9 The Writings  
Dromin Road  
Listowel,  
Co Kerry  
Tel: 087 2834773  
E-mail: ciarankellykk(a)yahoo.ie  
English- Irish, Irish- English  
General; Technical; Literary; Commercial

#### ANNA KASPRZYK BA

11 Woodville Drive  
Athlone  
Co Westmeath  
Tel: 085 7321816  
E-mail: anna.aniaff(a)gmail.com  
Translation and interpreting  
Polish to and from English - Legal, business

#### ELINA DERGACA

10D Stradbroom  
Stradbally Road  
Portlaoise  
Co Laois  
Tel: 086 2197643  
E-mail: elinadergaca(a)ddmsols.ie  
Latvian to and from English, Russian into English  
Interpreting/Translating

#### TOMAS CHRISTIAN JENSEN

5 Greenlea Grove  
Terenure  
Dublin 6W  
Tel: 087 2130555  
E-mail: tjens05(a)student.sdu.dk  
English into Danish

### Corporate member

#### PRO EUROPE TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

Moir House  
Trinity Street, 2nd Floor  
Dublin 2  
Tel: 087 7435434/087 7477436  
Fax: 01 6718535  
E-mail: info(a)proeuropetranslations.ie  
Web: www.proeuropetranslations.ie  
Translation and interpreting  
All languages

## 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](http://www.translatorsassociation.ie)

## ■ Career Questions

*DONAL CAREY IS A SENIOR TRANSLATOR FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S DGT (DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR TRANSLATION). BORN AND EDUCATED IN IRELAND, HE HAS BEEN LIVING AND WORKING IN BRUSSELS FOR 19 YEARS.*

### Describe your typical working day

At the moment I don't really have one. I work for my home unit in the English language department and for the small Irish language unit, where I am the acting head. I spend some of my time doing translations from French, Finnish, Italian or Polish into English or I may spend time evaluating freelance translations, particularly from Finnish and Polish. I also revise translations done by various colleagues, although that accounts for relatively little of my time. More than half of my time is spent working for the new Irish language unit. I deal with the administrative side of things, signing leave sheets, writing career development reports, staff recruitment, attending management meetings and the like. Along with my assistant Barbara I keep track of incoming requests for translations into

Irish, I make sure the work gets done and to deadline. I also oversee the translation process to some extent and although I am not up to translating into Irish myself I am amazed at how much I seem to have retained passively from my school days! I am able to spot check the translations and ensure that the translators have followed our in-house style, have understood EU jargon and where they have not done so I point it out and explain what things really mean. I also have a watching brief on policy towards the Irish language and so advise the senior management on policy issues relating to or affecting Irish as an EU official language. I really enjoy my work. The official working day is seven and a half hours long, but staff translators can avail themselves of flexitime. Managers tend not to, as we have to ensure coverage until 6pm anyway every evening, after which a stand-by system takes over until 8am the next morning.

### **Describe the professional pathway that led to your current career**

I graduated from TCD in French and Italian in 1980 and followed that up with a M.Phil. in applied linguistics. I worked for a number of years as a contract teacher of French in the College of Technology in Kevin Street, where I also taught translation studies leading to the Institute of Linguists diploma examinations. As I was not a full member of the teaching staff I had no choice but to accept a full time job in the Irish civil service when the opportunity presented itself. This was the economically depressed 1980s after all. I was lucky enough to work on European regional policy, so I could use my French on a regular basis. In 1989 I was seconded as a temporary official to the Directorate-General for Agriculture in Brussels. While there a competition came up for English language translators which I sat and successfully passed. I started working for the translation service as it was then known in 1991 and I have been there ever since.

### **Do you have an area of specialisation?**

The English language department is divided into three units, each of which works for a specific number of Directorates-General. In my case I have always worked in the unit dealing with agriculture and fisheries, among other things. That said, the translators working out of less common languages cannot really afford to specialise because there are relatively few of us. We have to take whatever comes in, so although I can specialise to a certain extent in French and Italian I do not have that luxury in Finnish or Polish.

The Irish language unit is in a different situation. Because of the current derogation on what has to be

translated into Irish, the unit only deals with direct correspondence with the general public (of which there is very little) and Regulations jointly adopted by the Council and European Parliament, known as 'co-decision regulations'. Co-decision is currently restricted to a small number of areas, primarily transport and energy, statistics, consumer protection, veterinary matters etc. Next year, if the Lisbon Treaty comes into force, co-decision will become the normal method of adopting EU regulations so the unit will have to deal with a large number of new subject areas and a corresponding increase in translation demand and perhaps staff.

### **What are the main advantages of your job?**

The fact that it is so varied. I get to work on a very interesting range of texts. There is a lot of teamwork as well, far more than one would imagine. Most people think of translation as a rather monkish profession but nothing could be further from the truth where the DGT is concerned. The English language department works mainly on texts coming into the Commission from the Member States, so we tend not to work on legislative texts. The Irish language unit, by contrast, is more like the other language departments in that its work mostly involves the translation from English of legislative proposals. The DGT is also very committed to training staff and so I have been able to go to a lot of thematic training events as well as to language training. While working at the DGT I have been able to add Dutch, Finnish and Polish to my range of languages and I hope to restart Bulgarian in the autumn (I did it for 18 months but had to abandon classes for personal reasons a year ago). We also have very good support facilities, including a central library, online dictionaries, a special version of the Trados translator's workbench and the terminology database IATE, which is also available to the general public. Another advantage is a regular salary, of course, without the need to invoice customers, keep accounts, file VAT returns and so forth. I very much admire freelance translators who must also spend valuable time on those kinds of administrative tasks as well as finding - and keeping - customers. I'm thankful I don't have to do that because I'd be rotten at it! I also enjoy the multicultural nature of the institution I work for.

### **What are the main disadvantages of your job?**

Do you know, I really don't see many. We are officially on call 24/7, so theoretically I could be called in to work at any time of the day or night but it very rarely happens. We are required to work weekends on occasion to make sure a deadline is met. There are so many other calls on my time that it's quite difficult to complete a translation

without a least one interruption. That can be frustrating but it's a small price to pay for the variety of the work.

### What advice would you give to someone at the beginning of their career?

While not a prerequisite, if you haven't had formal translation training, consider getting some. I have been involved over the years in a number of open competitions to recruit translators to DGT's English and Irish departments and it is no exaggeration to say that graduates of translation courses stand out from the crowd. If your interest lies in Irish translation, consider doing the highly regarded distance learning course offered online by University College Maynooth – that way you can both work and learn at the same time. If you are translating from a major language like French or Spanish then some level of specialisation is to be recommended. If you want to work for an EU institution, consider learning one of the less common official languages to offer at competition alongside French or German, for example. The languages of the new member states are always in demand, as are some of the older languages like Danish or Greek.

### What changes have you witnessed in your profession?

When I first started working in the DGT the translators there were still using dictaphones or were typing their translations on old-fashioned typewriters. Nowadays it is impossible to work without a pretty good knowledge of computer tools, computer-assisted translation software, online databases and the Internet. The Internet is a godsend but you really have to know what you are doing and treat search results with caution. It finds you answers to questions that years ago would have required days of searching, but issues of reliability and validity still arise.

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out next month. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 1,000 subscribers worldwide, send them to

Elizabeth Hayes at  
elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie.

#### Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

To subscribe, simply send an Email to  
itia-ezine-subscribe(a)yahogroups.com

To unsubscribe, simply send an Email to  
itia-ezine-unsubscribe(a)yahogroups.com

DGT translators not only have to be far more computer-literate than ever before, they also have to offer a wider variety of products. For example, we sometimes do not provide full translations but instead offer oral or written summaries. Editing and summarising skills also are more important now than they were when I first began and drafting for the Web is a skill in itself. Another major change has been the relative importance of English as the preferred language for drafting legislative proposals. When I first started in 1991, French still had the upper hand when it came to legal proposals. As more and more Member States joined the Union English began to replace French and now accounts for about 72% of the originals. As a result, the other language departments, the Irish one included, spend most of their time translating from English. The English department by way of contrast has to cope with incoming demand from 20 of the 23 official languages. (As the Irish unit and Maltese department are officially bilingual, they do translations from Irish and Maltese into English, although in our case they are few and far between.) In the English department a translator coming in with French and Italian, for example, simply cannot rest on their laurels; they have to add several more languages if they want to progress their career at a reasonable pace. The other language departments do not need multilingual translators to anything like the same extent, but even in the Irish unit a knowledge of French is an advantage. French may have lost out to English overall, but it hasn't quite gone away yet. About 12% of our originals are still drafted in French, the language other speakers of Romance languages tend to prefer, for obvious reasons.

### How do you see the profession developing?

Machine assisted translation will continue to be part of the professional translator's armoury. By machine assisted translation I do not mean translation done by a machine in its strict sense – I am of the view that the job of a human translator is safe for many years to come. But computers will help the translation process through specialised software applications like Trados and other translation memories, online glossaries etc. Not everyone is a fan, of course, but I believe these tools are here to stay and will develop further. Translators will need to keep up to date with developments or simply get left behind.

### Do you think technology has helped or hindered your earning potential?

As I am on a fixed salary, my earning potential is not really dependent on the technology I use, except indirectly perhaps. The technology has certainly made light work of very repetitive texts – annual reports,

certain fisheries regulations, financial statements, etc. It helps to keep my productivity up and that has a bearing on my career development. Each year objectives are set for me to meet and my ability to meet them affects the pace at which I get promoted. I am fully convinced that the technology has helped me to achieve the objectives set for me.

### How could standards be improved?

By standards I assume you mean the quality of translations. I am a firm believer in translator training courses. They allow a budding translator to practice their skills without anyone getting hurt in the process. They also help to identify weak spots. That way something can be done about them before a translator launches him- or herself on an unsuspecting world that must take ability on trust to some extent. There is a general notion around that anyone who knows two languages must be able to translate or interpret between them. I wish I could say that those of us who do know more than one language are more clued in and understand that this is not necessarily so, but the quality of some translations I have seen over the years leads me to the opposite conclusion – that there is still a bit of arm-chancing out there where translation is concerned and some people tackle translations they are just not able to do. I do not think it is necessarily a case of deliberate dishonesty on anyone's part – more a lack of understanding of what is truly involved. A system of translator accreditation – as *Foras na Gaeilge* has now done for Irish - is not a magic bullet that solves all problems, but it is a valuable starting point in my view.

## ■ Time Management for Freelancers (part II)

In last month's issue, I wrote about some of my struggles with time management, particularly in the areas of controlling internet surfing and scheduling. I have (mostly) been using the *micro egg timer* software to control my surfing time. Okay, I'll admit to stretching the boundaries at times but, in my defense, I don't own a television and it was a big news month (Tibetan riots, Federal Reserve slashing interest rates, Bertie Ahern's secretary admitting to lodging sterling into accounts...).

A sympathetic reader, Caitilin Walsh, wrote to offer advice regarding inbox management that she gleaned from a book called '*Bit Literacy*'. The book, by Mark Hurst, aims to educate people on how to manage the vast amount of 'bits', as in the smallest unit of data that a computer recognizes, that are thrown at us each day.

To manage all the 'bits' that land in our inboxes, Hurst suggests (and Caitilin swears by) emptying your inbox every working day by:

- Responding to personal messages first
- Deleting junk
- Taking care of quick requests (those that take less than two minutes)
- Moving items requiring more time to a scheduled task list
- Moving through your task list

By following these steps, you can prevent items from building up but how you manage your inbox is also dependent on the email application that you use. MS Outlook, for example, enables users to drag emails directly to a task list and schedule them for a future date. While *MS Outlook* (and some other desktop-based applications) is excellent for office settings, I am a fan of the web-based *Gmail* (and some other Google products) which I find takes less management by doing a lot of the work for you. There are no folders in *Gmail* as it automatically links emails that are related. So if you send and receive several emails under the same subject heading, all the emails will be grouped together as one 'conversation'. You can use labels to further group mails and mark as 'starred' items that you want to return to.

For the purposes of my time management odyssey, I familiarized myself with Google's calendar function and have started to use it quite frequently. I suspect that the calendar function is not integrated into the mail system as well as in *MS Outlook*. For someone as disorganized as me however, it has some useful functions. I use it to remind me of non-essential jobs that need to be done regularly. You can set the calendar to send you emails or pop-up reminders for each event. Of course, events can be set up to repeat (daily, every weekday, monthly etc.) so once you get set up and put in your regular events, it shouldn't take too much hands-on management. You can even get a daily agenda sent to you each morning to set you up for the day.

One old-fashioned tool that all the time management experts insist you need is a to-do list. Like writing diaries, I have had phases in my life of using to-do lists. And also like writing diaries, I always think it will be a life-long habit until I wake up one morning and realize I haven't looked at my diary/to-do list in two months. When freelancing though, I find writing a to-do list gives me a sense of achievement and a morale boost. As well as listing tasks, serious time managers insist that we also rank them so we know the order in which they are to be tackled. Now I'm a fan of to-do lists but I try to keep them short and to the point so I know instantly

which ones are most important. I've started doing daily to-do lists again recently (as part of this time management blitz) and have been sticking with my trusty post-it pad. Pen and paper are superior over any of the to-do list software that is freely available in one important aspect: having completed a task, I can write a prissy little tick beside the job. A computerised alternative to ticking would, I fear, rob me of the smug self-satisfaction that the hand-written tick bestows.

There are many (free) software applications available to those who wish to use a computerised to-do list such as *time tracker* (a to-do list with a clock), *Ta-da list* (a simple, easy-to-use application without fancy add-ons) and *Toodle-do* (a more complex organizer for the super-busy).

Unfortunately, Google calendar does not currently provide a to-do list. This omission has been lamented by customers and word on the e-street is that Google is currently working to introduce a to-do list. In the meantime, I have (in the name of research) started to use a website called [rememberthemilk.com](http://rememberthemilk.com). This is a web-based to-do list without any complex functions. However, it does necessitate keeping yet another window open full-time in my browser. This really does not appeal to me so I found a little gem of software that plugs my *rememberthemilk* to-do list into my Gmail account. Now, I can see my to-do list to the right of my mail. Nifty. I can make, time and postpone to-do items without opening any other website or software. That's the kind of simplicity I like but it will take time to get used to and I'm not yet sure if I can derive the same satisfaction from computer ticking. Let's just say I'm not ditching the post-it pad just yet.

## ■ Some Thoughts on the Garda Tender Process for T&I

The situation regarding interpreting in Garda stations has been unsatisfactory for some time. Five years ago the ITIA Executive Committee made a submission to the *Garda Síochána* about interpreting and two members of the Executive Committee attended a meeting at Garda Headquarters. Further submissions were made in 2006 and 2007. Garda staff also wrote reports and made recommendations. But nothing changed. (The ITIA submissions are available on <http://translatorsassociation.ie/content/view/28/49/>)

At present, some Garda stations work with one particular translation agency, some work with several, some employ interpreters directly, many do not. Overall

we believe that the Garda do not call on interpreters as often as they should. In some cases the Garda call on people they happen to know who speak English and another language. There have been cases where friends of victims of crime have been asked to interpret. Therefore, a tender process to rationalise provision would appear to be a good idea. However, it is a pity that the Garda decided to press ahead before the publication of research on Interpreting and Translation funded by the Office of the Minister for Integration and carried out by Farrell Grant Sparks.

The Garda Síochána have commenced a process to establish Framework Agreements in four separate areas. The total value of the contracts is estimated at €12 million over four years. The first step in the process is a questionnaire to be filled in by interested parties. A number of companies will be selected on the basis of the questionnaires and will be invited to tender. The selection criteria are based on 40% for resources such as staffing and organisation, 45% for previous experience (3 contracts of similar nature and scale) and 15% for quality control (Please describe any policy you have in relation to quality assurance). Questionnaires were to be received by the 13th March 2008. The proviso that companies should have previously held 3 contracts of similar nature and scale will benefit the small number of companies that already hold contracts.

All companies have to submit a certified auditor's statement, insurance certificates, current tax clearance certificate, an organisation chart, quality assurance certificates if applicable and a declaration of bona fides. Any company that does not submit all of these documents will be eliminated from the process.

In the case of Telephone Interpreting and Translation Services there will be an initial contract from September 2008 to December 2009 followed by one year contracts. The initial contract seems like a good idea to ensure that everything is working satisfactorily. All four lots, even translation services, are 24 hour, seven day a week, 365 days a year services.

### Lot 1. Telephone Interpreting

Telephone Interpreting has been a problem area for some time in Ireland. There are no guidelines about when telephone interpreting is appropriate and when it is not. The ITIA hopes that the Garda will put together guidelines for staff on the ground. We believe that telephone interpreting can be very useful in certain circumstances but is inappropriate for extended sessions. We would like to see the introduction of video interpreting but there is no mention of this in the

documentation. We believe that telephone interpreting is often used simply because no interpreter is available on site. The fact that most interpreters use mobile phones and could be anywhere is also problematic. We hope that this contract will help the development of telephone interpreting into a more professional service on the lines of services in other countries.

The plan is for a single operator that will provide telephone interpreting to all 703 Garda stations around the country. This is the first specific contract for telephone interpreting in Ireland and it is likely that the contract will go to a company from outside the country such as Language Line <http://www.language-line.co.uk> or The Big Word <http://www.thebigword.com>.

## Lot 2. Translation Services

On the basis of the questionnaire, five contractors will be invited to tender for translation services and one will be chosen. The ITIA would have preferred a multi-agency agreement for Translation Services because a monopoly situation could lead to lower rates of pay for translators. This questionnaire does not include any qualification levels but there is a relevant question on this point:

Please outline the minimum qualifications you require in order for an individual to become an approved translator with your organisation.

In reality the minimum qualifications depend a great deal on the language involved. For some languages there are no degrees in translation available. It would have made more sense to divide up the languages into EU and non EU languages. After all, degrees in translation are available in most EU countries.

## Lot 3 Sign Language Interpreting

The Garda are planning a multi-operator framework agreement on a national basis with at least 3 tenderers. It is disappointing that this document makes no mention of qualifications. There is a small number of specialised sign language interpreter providers in Ireland.

## Lot 4 Interpreting

The interesting aspect about this Lot is that the country is divided into six regions:

- ◆ Dublin Region – Dublin City and County
- ◆ Northern Region - Donegal, Sligo/Leitrim and Monaghan/Cavan
- ◆ Southern Region – Cork North, Cork West, Cork City, Kerry, Limerick,

- ◆ Eastern Region –Longford/West Meath, Louth/ Meath, Carlow/Kildare, Laois/Offaly
- ◆ Western Region – Clare, Mayo, Galway West, Galway East, Roscommon
- ◆ South Eastern Region – Tipperary, Waterford/Kilkenny, Wicklow/Wexford

According to the documentation, 'Five candidates will be invited to tender for each lot with at least three of the best tenders being admitted to the framework agreement.' There are not many translation agencies based in the Northern Region, Eastern Region or South Eastern Region so presumably those contracts will go to companies based elsewhere. It could be possible for one company to be awarded a tender in each region. However, the purpose of this tender would appear to be to ensure that interpreters can be obtained locally. This makes sense because suspects cannot be detained indefinitely while an interpreter is dispatched from Dublin or Cork.

The Qualification levels for Interpreting to be used by the Garda are very disappointing. This is the same schema as used by the *Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC)* in May 2006 for their tender process. Only levels 8 and 9 are of any value. For levels 1 to 7, we have to wonder what exactly is meant by competency? Also, how exactly can it be shown that the interpreters are competent? The ability to speak English fluently is no guarantee of accurate interpreting in a Garda station or anywhere else. We are still at the stage where we think that anyone who speaks two languages can interpret.

Level of Qualification for Interpretation in An Garda Síochána (Applies to Telephone Interpreting and Interpreting Services)

- ◆ Level 1 The person can be shown to be competent in both English and the language concerned.
- ◆ Level 2 The person is a native speaker of the language concerned and can be shown to be competent in English.
- ◆ Level 3 The person has been educated to second level in the language concerned and can be shown to be competent in English
- ◆ Level 4 A person with a third level education in languages that can be shown to be competent in both English and the language concerned
- ◆ Level 5 A native speaker of English with third level education who can be shown to be competent in the language concerned.
- ◆ Level 6 A native speaker of the language concerned with a third level education that can be shown to be competent in the language concerned.

- ◆ Level 7 A native speaker of English with a third level qualification in the language concerned OR a native speaker of the language concerned with a third level qualification.
- ◆ Level 8 Level 4 plus qualifications specific to translating and interpreting.
- ◆ Level 9 Level 7 plus qualifications related to interpretation and translation.

Clearly the Garda have devoted quite a lot of thought to this tender process and how it could work and in some ways the organisation of the tender process is quite innovative. The most worrying aspect about the Garda tender is that it probably means that over the next four years the situation will remain static in terms of improving quality. The interpreters are mobile and will go to whatever agency has a contract. There has to be an incentive for interpreters and translators to improve their skills. There are many very able, committed interpreters working in Ireland but their skills are not valued at present and they are not prioritised when work is being allocated.

It is essential that Garda, defendants, victims and witnesses should have access to highly qualified, competent interpreters. How much longer are we going to have to wait?

*MARY PHELAN IS A MEMBER OF THE ITIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND RUNS THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY INTERPRETING AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY. THE NEXT COURSE COMMENCING IN SEPTEMBER 2008 WILL BE FOR SPEAKERS OF RUSSIAN AND ROMANIAN.*

## ■ Translation in Second Language Teaching and Learning

*NUI MAYNOOTH, MARCH 27TH – 29TH 2008.*

It's ok to use translation in second language teaching! This was the main message reiterated by many of the participants at the recent conference 'Translation in Second Language Teaching and Learning' at NUI Maynooth. Nevertheless, the conference was far more than a mere repudiation of the more extreme interpretations of communicative methodology and several of the panels represented a general consonance between many in the translation studies and the second language learning academic communities.

The conference was opened by Michael Cronin, honorary ITIA member and head of the Centre for Translation and Textual Studies at DCU. Cronin has written eloquently on translator training issues before

and here he focussed his discussion on teaching translation in the new century, charting in particular the move away from transmissionist modes of instruction, predicated on literalist equivalence models of translation, to methodologies which are more aware of the contexts in which translation occurs and which have the potential to offer a more stimulating learning experience for students.

The next speakers, while all coming from backgrounds in applied linguistics and second language acquisition rather than translation studies, shared Cronin's concern with developing more imaginative pedagogies and more innovative approaches to translation in the language learning experience. Theo Harden of UCD discussed translation as a means of acquiring conceptual fluency and metaphorical competence and addressed translation's potential in the development of Kecskes and Papp's notion of a Common Underlying Conceptual Base (CUCB) through thought processes that are (in Lakoff and Johnson's terms) largely metaphorical. The other co-organiser of the conference, Arnd Witte of NUI Maynooth, was next to speak and discussed the difference between 'translating' and 'translation', a distinction which he based on the difference between internalised L1 categories and their actualisation in L2 learning which, when achieved successfully, can result in the development of linguistically and interculturally competent translators.

Witte was followed by two major international guest speakers. Elke Hentschel of the University of Bern who, following research carried out by Thierry and Wu, discussed the inevitability (at a neurological level) of translation in SLA. This was followed with a paper by the eminent German linguist Harald Weydt, who discussed the potential of reading parallel translations as a pedagogical tool in learning foreign languages.

The majority of the conference papers were delivered in two parallel sessions on Friday and Saturday and are far too numerous to go through in detail. Nevertheless particular highlights for this reviewer were Laura Incalcaterra McLoughlin's elegant use of inter-lingual subtitling in foreign language teaching, a theme which was fittingly complemented by Conceição Bravo's presentation of learning-via-subtitling to raise exchange students' awareness of elements pertaining to register and culture in their language learning. Neide Ferreira Gaspar presented an attractive defence of the use of translation in foreign language activities with senior high school students in São Paulo, though emphasised the resistance that one is still liable to encounter from conservative adherents of the old-style 'direct method'.

Boguslawa Whyatt discussed the teaching of translation in the School of English at the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, focusing in particular on students' attitudes towards the acquisition of translation skills, particularly in teaching programmes which emphasise translation as meaning transfer rather than transcoding.

Rossa Ó Muireartaigh of Newcastle University gave an interesting account of the use of terminological systems in the teaching of advanced reading and translation skills – a topic of particular interest to the growing number of us who are required to grapple with terminology in specialist translation work. Rossa discussed this in relation to Japanese, which was also the language which Nobuko Tahara was concerned with in her discussion of difficulties in translating anaphoric nouns and nominalizations. Rachel MagShamhráin of Mary Immaculate College, Limerick gave a dazzling defence of Heinrich von Kleist's *Die Herrmannsschlacht*, rehabilitating for inclusion in the teaching curriculum what has often been thought of as proto-nationalistic propaganda. MagShamhráin argued that the text deconstructs notions of identity and difference, foregrounding the construction of identity at the juncture between different linguistic and cultural systems. Also highly stimulating was Lisa Stiefel's presentation of the potential of translation as a means of acquiring intercultural competence – a subject which I suspect will only gain in relevance in years to come.

The dinner on Friday evening in the elegant surroundings of Pugin Hall, was also an occasion to celebrate Harald Weydt's 70th birthday – appropriately in the company of his former doctoral supervisees Harden and Hentschel, with whom he led seminal research into the linguistics of German particles in the 1980s and 1990s.

Saturday morning brought more papers, among them excellent contributions from Graham Howells (proposing a system for teaching new vocabulary of relevance for translation purposes using IT resources) and – my personal favourite of the conference – Lillian DePaula's discussion of 'translation as a learning well for teaching'. DePaula presented perhaps the most radical – though also the most well-rounded – adoption of translation in foreign language teaching, and her use of it is notable at the curricular (rather than at the syllabus) level. DePaula's conclusion – that translation should be considered not just by language teachers and translation scholars, but by teachers in any learning environment – was a fitting conclusion to the three days' discussions on translation and education.

Presently there remains an inevitable gap between the concerns of translator trainers who realise that their work always and inevitably involves an element of language teaching (a claim that is arguably true for all higher levels of training), and the concerns of language teachers who are prepared to swim bravely against the current of direct-method ideology in re-introducing L1 contexts to their students' learning experiences. Nevertheless, conferences such as this demonstrate that the discourses used by both groups are diversifying in their adoption of approaches from a variety of other disciplines. Full credit goes to Arnd Witte, Theo Harden, and Alessandra Oliveira for their sterling work in organising this excellent conference.

John Kearns  
Kazimierz Wielki University, Bydgoszcz.  
kearns(a)pro.onet.pl

A full timetable of papers scheduled at the conference is available [here](#). Abstracts of all papers are available [here](#).

## ■ Languages and Intercultural Dialogue in a Globalizing World

*HABANA LIBRE HOTEL, HAVANA, CUBA, DECEMBER 8-13 2008*

The UN has proclaimed 2008 the International Year of Languages and to join in the events, MAAYA, the World Network for Linguistic Diversity, is celebrating the Year of Languages and Intercultural Dialogue in a Globalizing World through various activities to take place on all five continents.

As part of these activities, the MAAYA Network and the Unión Latina are convening the World Congress on Specialized Translation, intended to be a forum for discussion on current international policies that advance the work of translation and of translators in general, one of the key factors in the preservation of linguistic diversity. The World Congress on Specialized Translation has the support of the Centre for Translation and Interpretation (ESTI), the Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI) and the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC).

For more information, visit:  
<http://dti1.unilat.org/cmte2008/en/descrpcion.htm>

## ■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

### Subtitling: A Short Course For Translators

Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Saturday, 3 May 2008 (10am—6pm)

The aim of this course is to introduce participants to Subtitling from a theoretical and a practical point of view, providing them with basic skills to subtitle and to critically analyse subtitled films and programmes. The course will also include a practical demonstration of Respeaking, a new speech-recognition-based technique that is being used by the BBC, among other television channels, to subtitle live programmes.

Using state-of-the-art subtitling software, participants will have the opportunity to subtitle audiovisual texts with different styles and registers (films, cartoons, documentaries, songs, etc.), applying a standard code of good subtitling practice. The course will also provide an introduction to Subtitling for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing as a means of widening accessibility to the audiovisual media.

#### Outline of content:

- ◆ A brief history of Subtitling
- ◆ Different types of Subtitling (compared to other types of Audiovisual Translation, e.g. Dubbing and Audiodescription)
- ◆ Main features and conventions of Subtitling (constraints and priorities)
- ◆ Hands-on Subtitling
- ◆ A practical introduction to Subtitling for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing
- ◆ Subtitling as a field of practical research
- ◆ Subtitling as a profession (current working conditions and practices, job opportunities, etc.)

**Fee:** £150

**Venue:** ILB, Henry Prais Building, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh EH14 4AS

For more information on the course, contact: Pablo Romero at [P.Romero@hw.ac.uk](mailto:P.Romero@hw.ac.uk)

For Registration and Payment, contact: Sheila Hodder at [S.Hodder@hw.ac.uk](mailto:S.Hodder@hw.ac.uk)

Please note that the number of places in this course is restricted to 20. Subject to demand, alternative dates may be made available.

## ■ Employment

### German Translator and Proof-Reader

The *Georg-Eckert-Institut für internationale Schulbuchforschung* in Braunschweig is currently seeking a translator and proof-reader for a part-time position (20 hours/week) for a period of 7 months, starting immediately.

#### *Requirements:*

- ◆ English as native language and fluency in German
- ◆ Academic degree in a subject of the Arts or Humanities, ideally German language and literature, history, geography, politics or religious studies
- ◆ Experience of translation and proof-reading/copy-editing.
- ◆ Fluency in French and a formal translation qualification would also be of advantage although not absolutely necessary.

The job would be ideal for anyone wishing to conduct part-time research in the Braunschweig area over the next few months. Payment would be in accordance with the relatively new TVL system (level 13).

Applicants are invited to email their CV to Wendy Skinner at [skinner\(a\)gei.de](mailto:skinner(a)gei.de) at the Georg-Eckert-Institut as soon as possible. Further information about the job is also available from this address.

ITIA

ITIA

## ■ Contacting The ITIA

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

Address: 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland  
Telephone: +353-1-872 1302  
Fax: +353-1-872 6282  
Email: [itiasecretary\(a\)eircom.net](mailto:itiasecretary(a)eircom.net)  
Web: [www.translatorsassociation.ie](http://www.translatorsassociation.ie)

### ITIA BULLETIN

Editor: Elizabeth Hayes  
[elizabeth.hayes7\(a\)mail.dcu.ie](mailto:elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie)  
Layout: Jody Byrne

To subscribe to the *ITIA Bulletin*, send an Email to [itia-ezine-subscribe\(a\)yahogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine-subscribe(a)yahogroups.com)  
To unsubscribe, send an Email to [itia-ezine-unsubscribe\(a\)yahogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine-unsubscribe(a)yahogroups.com)

### ITIA COMMITTEE - 2006/2007

CHAIRPERSON	Annette Schiller
HONORARY SECRETARY	Mary Phelan
TREASURER	Miriam Watchorn
EDITOR TRANSLATION IRELAND	John Kearns <i>Guest Editor: Iarla Mac Aodh Bhui</i>
EDITOR ITIA BULLETIN	Elizabeth Hayes
PRESS OFFICER	Vacant
PMSC	Máire Nic Mhaoláin
	Bassia Bannister
	Alison Boardman
	Michael Friel
	John Kearns
	Shirin Eldris
	Agnieszka Zareba
	Lily Orlovska
	Giuliana Zeuli
	Graciano Ciulli
	Adam Brozynski
CO-OPTED (ITD)	Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin
CO-OPTED	Bernadette Moynihan

## ■ 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](http://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*
- ◆ *Admission Criteria*
- ◆ *Recommendations on Rates*
- ◆ *Professional Indemnity*
- ◆ *Advertising*
- ◆ *Interpreting*