
ITIA BULLETIN

May 2003

ITIA Bulletin

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

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■ Editorial

Welcome to the May issue of the *ITIA Bulletin*. This month we have our usual mix of news, events and information as well as some very important information relating to the ITIA.

The *Executive Committee of the Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* has called a Special General for Saturday, 14th June 2003 at 2.00 pm. All members of the ITIA - ordinary, professional, corporate, student and honorary - are invited to attend as they have an important part to play in our Association. This is a very important meeting and its purpose is to update our Constitution and Code of Practice.

ITIA members will shortly receive in the post, the following documents along with a formal notice announcing the meeting:

- ◆ The current Constitution of the ITIA (Version March 1993)
- ◆ Our current Code of Practice
- ◆ New Standing Orders
- ◆ New Constitution of the ITIA (June 2003)
- ◆ New Code of Practice and Professional Ethics (June 2003)

Please compare the old/current versions to the new version and raise any issues at the meeting. This is **your** chance to have a say in the way our Association works. The Executive Committee looks forward to seeing you at the meeting and hearing your comments.

Jody Byrne, MITIA
Editor
jody.byrne@dcu.ie

worker. In one disturbing case, the “interpreter” was the 11-year-old sibling of the patient. The official interpreters made 231 errors; 53% of them were judged to have the potential to cause clinical problems. The ad hoc interpreters made 165 errors, and 77% of them were potentially dangerous.

The fact that this situation has arisen and, is probably true of other countries, is extremely worrying and it highlights the need for greater regulation of the language sector. Imagine if the doctors themselves had been responsible for this level of mistakes!

■ ITIA Chairman's Book Prize

The winner of the April 2003 Book Prize is **Agustina Cendán** of Montevideo, Uruguay. Her prize “Mother Tongue” by Bill Bryson has now actually arrived in Montevideo. Congratulations Agustina!

■ Multilingualism in Healthcare a Prescription for Disaster?

With all of the recent discussions regarding the issue of regulating translators and interpreters to ensure the highest standards and professionalism, it is interesting to note that the issue of professionalism and quality of service in the translation and interpreting professions has arisen in the United States. In a recent American study published in the medical journal *Pediatrics* researchers at the Medical College of Wisconsin maintain that healthcare translation errors are more common than most of us would like to think. What is more, they can be so serious as to be dangerous to patients who don't speak English. These findings come less than three years after former US President Bill Clinton signed *Executive Order 13166* which required hospitals in receipt of government money to provide translators and interpreters for non-English speaking patients.

The research team examined the transcripts of 13 audio recordings of consultations between Spanish speaking patients and medical staff at a paediatrics clinic. Six of the cases involved an official hospital interpreter; seven involved an “ad hoc” interpreter like a nurse, social

By way of a “continuing thank you” and in order to promote the ITIA Bulletin a little more, we are continuing the Chairman's Book Prize for our subscribers in May 2003.

To enter, all you need to do is:

- 1 Invite a colleague to join the ITIA Bulletin mailing list by their sending an email to itia-ezine-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- 2 Send a blank email to bookprize@infomarex.ie to confirm your participation in the April 2003 draw.
- 3 On the 20th May 2003, we will pick a low prime number at random and - in the date and time order of the replies to bookprize@infomarex.ie. A member of the itia-ezine list will then be the proud owner of Steven Pinker's “*The Language Instinct - The Science of Language and Mind*” - a difficult but very interesting analysis of language.
- 4 The winner will receive the book in the post /mail and his/her name will be announced in the May issue of the ITIA Bulletin.

So, don't delay, invite a colleague to join our ITIA Bulletin list and send a blank email to bookprize@infomarex.ie

■ New Members of the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is delighted to welcome the following new members to the Association:

BEGOÑA ALVAREZ-O'NEILL

184 Sutton Park, Sutton, Dublin 13
Tel. 01- 832 5218
Email: begnaoneill@hotmail.com
SPANISH from English - general, business

MARÍA TERESA CALVO, BA MA

2 Mountpleasant Terrace, Ranelagh, Dublin 6
Tel: 01 491 3903 Mobile: 086 607 0644
Email: calvomartin2003@hotmail.com
SPANISH from English, Italian - general
Interpreting: Bilateral

SONIA CASTILLO-JUANHUIX, BA DIPTS

2 Blackhall Green, Arbour Hill, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 677 4150 Mobile: 086 195 7735
Email: sonia.castillojuanhuix2@mail.dcu.ie
CATALAN SPANISH from English - biology, scientific, literary

MARY FULHAM, BA DIPTRANS IOL

45 Shandon Park, Phibsboro, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 868 3728 Mobile: 087 225 3446
Email: bmaccl@gofree.indigo.ie or mary.fullam@dresdner-bank.ie
ENGLISH from German - business, cultural, general

SANDRA SCHMID, DIPTRANS, DIPSASP, MIL

4 High Street, Bantry, Co. Cork
Tel/Fax: 027 50972 Mobile: 087 938 9867
Email: wordsmithoffice@eircom.net
GERMAN from English - social science, literature, equestrian, travel, environment, DIY, commercial

Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* welcomes applications for membership. There are five categories of membership:

- ◆ Ordinary
- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Student
- ◆ 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 *student membership* is for undergraduates engaged in third level language and/or translation studies. 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

■ Machine Translation: Troops use high-tech translator

Ever wondered exactly how US and British troops went about the business of looking for weapons of mass destruction and other proscribed weapons in Iraq? With the obvious language barriers, it's unlikely that a marine can simply knock on a door and ask "*Excuse me madam, have you seen any weapons of mass destruction?*". So how do troops in postwar Iraq with no foreign language skills or interpreters manage to ask questions like this in perfect Arabic and Kurdish? How do they communicate with POWs and local citizens about scores of other topics. Meet "*The Phraselator*". No, it's not the title of another Hollywood blockbuster, instead it is a hand-held, electronic language translator / phrasebook packed with phrases of use to the military. Whether the Phraselator can ask for directions to the nearest oil well remains to be seen.

■ Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the *ITIA Bulletin* will be out on **15th June, 2003**. So if you have any contributions, news, suggestions or something you'd like to share, send them to jody.byrne@dcu.ie. The deadline for submissions is **10th June**.

Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

To subscribe, simply send an email to itia-ezine-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To unsubscribe, simply send an email to itia-ezine-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

■ Advertising in the ITIA Bulletin

The *Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association* (ITIA) is the only professional body representing translators and interpreters in Ireland. It currently has in excess of 400 members.

The *ITIA Bulletin* is a full-colour, monthly electronic newsletter which is distributed to over 780 people around the world. It provides a fast, regular and accessible means of keeping the ITIA, its members and supporters informed of news and events in the world of translating and interpreting.

Thanks to its regular mix of magazine-style articles, conference calls, news items, courses, and resources the *ITIA Bulletin* has built up a large and varied audience of professional linguists from across the globe. By advertising in the *ITIA Bulletin* you can be certain that you are reaching a huge and enthusiastic audience of over 780 language professionals each and every month. We offer a number of highly competitive options for advertisers:

ADVERTISING RATES

- | | |
|---|------|
| • Full Page Advertisement | €200 |
| • Half Page Advertisement | €100 |
| • One Third Page Advertisement | €60 |
| • Box Advertisement (max. 8.5cm x 6 cm) | €35 |

For more information on advertising in the ITIA Bulletin, please contact the Editor at the address given below. To subscribe to the *ITIA Bulletin*, send a blank email to itia-ezine-subscribe@yahoo.com.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT

Place four or more ads of any size in the ITIA Bulletin and receive a 25% discount.

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■ Interpreter Wanted: Klingon ↔ English

“Major hospital in Portland, Oregon seeks professional interpreter to provide Klingon ↔ English language support. All interested and suitably qualified candidates should send their applications to the Department of Human Services, Multnomah County”.

As bizarre as this jobs notice may seem, there really was an advertisement for a fluent Klingon speaker to work as an interpreter in hospitals. Klingon, an artificial language created for the TV series “Star Trek” is one of roughly 55 languages needed by the office that treats mental health patients in Multnomah County, Oregon.

According to the county Department of Human Services, the department provides services to over 60,000 mental health clients and they simply have to provide information in all of the languages their clients speak.

Although an entirely artificial language created for the show, Klingon was designed to have a consistent grammar, syntax and vocabulary. Recent research by Multnomah County has shown that many people -- not just Star Trek fans -- regard it as a proper functioning language.

There have been a number of reported cases where mental health patients were admitted and Klingon was the only language they would speak.

This, apparently, means that authorities are obliged to respond with a Klingon-English interpreter, thus putting the language spoken by Worf and other Klingon characters on an equal footing with natural languages such as Russian and Vietnamese and less common languages such as Dari and Tongan.

The mind boggles at the kind of conversations that will soon be heard in Oregon's hospitals but if you can make sense of the following, you should probably consider applying!

Doctor: bIpIvHa'law'

Patient: jIwuQ

Doctor: choSuvchugh 'oy'Ilj Daghur neH

(PS There are plenty of Klingon phrasebooks on the Internet to help you figure out these phrases!)

■ Conferences

Translating and the Computer 25 - Conference and Exhibition 20th-21st November 2003, London

This conference is one of the few international events which focuses on the user aspects of translation software and as such has been particularly beneficial to a very wide audience including translators, business managers, researchers and language experts.

Once again, this year the conference will address the latest developments in translation (and translation-related) software. This call for papers invites abstracts of papers to be presented at the conference. The papers (and the presentations) should focus on the user aspects of translation or translation-related software rather than on theoretical issues. Presentations accompanied by demonstrations are especially welcome.

Topics:

The range of topics includes (but is not limited to)

- ◆ use of MT systems
- ◆ machine-aided translation and translation aids
- ◆ controlled languages and their use in MT
- ◆ speech translation
- ◆ terminology
- ◆ localisation
- ◆ multilingual document management/workflow
- ◆ case studies of technology-based solutions
- ◆ the Internet and translation aids/services
- ◆ the value of “free” versus “charging” services/sites on the Internet

For more information, visit:

<http://www.aslib.com/conferences/submission%20guidelines.html>

The 10th International Conference On Translation And Interpreting TRANSLATION TARGETS

Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University, Prague
September 11th - 13th, 2003

The conference will focus on the role of translation in different cultures as well as on the contextual factors that influence both the selection of source texts and the make-up of translations. Because cultures show varying degrees of “permeability” with regard to other cultures, the conference will also aim at discussing the socio-economic, ideological and cultural conditioning of textual transfer (including interpreting) and its practices in the past and today. Papers, based on research, are invited on the following topics:

- ◆ The status and role of translation/interpreting in the past and today
- ◆ Publishing and editorial policies and practices in translation
- ◆ Translation reception and the role of criticism
- ◆ Cultural, ideological and socio-economic factors in translation/interpreting
- ◆ Language policy, cultural identity and translation/interpreting
- ◆ Translation/interpreting in the period of globalisation and integration processes

For more information, visit:

<http://utrl.ff.cuni.cz/konf2002.htm>

■ Training, Courses & Education

Online Postgraduate Certificate In Advising For Language Learning University of Hull

The Postgraduate Certificate in Advising for Language Learning is aimed at graduates and professionals with an interest in language learning. They may be, or hope to be, employed as a language tutor, language adviser, material designer or manager of a language centre. They will have an active interest in promoting autonomous learning/ self-directed learning in their present or future capacity.

This Certificate is a unique programme which has been designed to answer the training needs resulting from the new demands put on language staff in Higher Education. It aims to:

- ◆ Provide a useful foundation of teaching and learning theories
- ◆ Prepare staff in the utilisation of new learning environments
- ◆ Prepare staff in evaluating and designing open and distance learning materials
- ◆ Develop new professional skills to perform an effective role regarding language learning support and the promotion of learner autonomy
- ◆ Develop the competencies of emerging roles such as e-tutors or developers
- ◆ Provide a recognised qualification for the new profession of Language Adviser

To date over 40 people from a variety of countries and education sectors (secondary, further education, higher education and the private language sector) have attended this course to enhance their abilities to support learners in open and independent learning programmes or simply to integrate such new skills and knowledge in their teaching approach.

For further information go to:

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/langinst/ma/pg-cert.htm>

Online Certificate in Technical Communication University of Limerick, Ireland

This part-time distance-learning programme provides flexible access to technical communication modules for people unable to attend a full-time course. The Technical Communication modules at the University of Limerick focus on writing for the IT industry, and on Instructional Design for E- learning.

Objectives

- ◆ To provide students with a good grounding in the theory and practice of technical communication;
- ◆ To provide tuition on the main tools of the profession;
- ◆ To equip graduates with a professional qualification in the area of technical communication.

Programme Content

Semester 1: Foundation Course in Technical Communication, Technical Communication Theory.

Semester 2: The Context of Technical Communication, Documentation Management and Information Production.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.ul.ie/techcomm>

■ 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*
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