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# ITIA BULLETIN

October 2003

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**Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association**  
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## ■ Editorial

Welcome to the October issue of the *ITIA Bulletin*. This month's issue sees the start of what will hopefully be a regular new feature, namely the *Translation in...* column. The idea behind this feature is to give others an insight into the translation industry and the day-to-day life of translators in different countries. Of course, it doesn't have to be about a particular country, you can write about being a translator in your particular city. While we translators have a lot in common, there are still many things that set us apart and what is normal for one may be extraordinary for others. This feature is a chance for you to give others an insight into what it is you do, the conditions you work in, the problems you face and the way the business works where you are. For this feature to become a regular occurrence, we will need regular contributions. You don't have to write much, just a page or so describing how the translation industry where you are works and affects you. As an incentive, I'll send a nice bar of chocolate to anyone who sends in an article. You can't say that's not an attractive proposition!

Anyway, we hope you enjoy this issue of the *ITIA Bulletin* and look forward to receiving your news, views and articles. Please let us know if you have any ideas, comments or suggestions relating to any of the articles here or subjects you would like to see dealt with.

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## ■ ITIA Chairman's Book Prize

Congratulations to the winner of the *ITIA's Chairman's September 2003 Book Prize* who is *Hilde Ekama-Van Bogaert* of Belgium. *The King of Torts* by the well known and widely translated author John Grisham is on its way to the lucky winner as we speak.

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 October 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\(a\)yahogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine-subscribe(a)yahogroups.com)
- 2 Send a blank Email to [bookprize\(a\)infomarex.ie](mailto:bookprize(a)infomarex.ie) to confirm your participation in the October 2003 draw.
- 3 On the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2003, we will pick a low prime number at random and - in the date and time order of the replies to [bookprize\(a\)infomarex.ie](mailto:bookprize(a)infomarex.ie). A member of the [itia-ezine\(a\)yahogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine(a)yahogroups.com) mailing list will then be the proud and lucky owner of a translation related book.

- 4 The winner will receive the book in the post /mail and his/her name will be announced in the November 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\(a\)infomarex.ie](mailto:bookprize(a)infomarex.ie)

## ■ Translation in Poland

In a recent report in the Newsletter for the European Society for Translation Studies (available at [http://est.utu.fi/html/EST\\_Newsletter\\_22.doc](http://est.utu.fi/html/EST_Newsletter_22.doc)). Maria Piotrowska presents an interesting and informed account of the translation and Translation Studies scenes in Poland from the perspective of a Polish translation scholar and teacher. While I think that I would concur with most of the points which Piotrowska makes, I believe that my own point of view - that of a non-Pole who has worked as both translator and

translator trainer in Poland - might colour my impression of the translation scene here somewhat differently and that many of these differences are in themselves revealing, both in terms of the world of translation and Translation Studies in Poland, and in post-Communist states in general.

It is obvious that the 1990s ushered in a new era in both translation and Translation Studies throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The opening up of a free-market economy and the commercialisation of translation brought fundamental changes in the very nature of language mediation activities (for an interesting account of these changes, see *Successful Polish-English Translation: Tricks of the Trade* by Aniela Korzeniowska and Piotr Kuhlaczak, Warsaw: PWN, 1994. Though working in the Polish context, much of what they write is true of the development of translation in other former Communist states). As Korzeniowska and Kuhlaczak note, these changes have been for both better and worse, with the prospect of immediate short-term profits frequently attracting soi-disant language experts producing lamentable renditions of often basic texts. Thus the 'success story' to which Piotrowska refers is not without its darker aspects which those of us working in the area have become all too familiar. On the whole, of course, the situation does certainly appear more optimistic, particularly with the mushrooming of publications in Translation Studies (a sizeable sample

of which will feature in the forthcoming Bibliography of Translation Studies from St. Jerome Press). One translation studies series under the general editorship of Piotr Fast in Katowice has already spawned over 10 separate volumes of monographs and anthologies.

Yet this is not to suggest that the esteemed tradition of language studies in Poland ever ignored translation previous to this. Under the direction of Ludwik Zabrocki, the development of glottodidactics at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan was instrumental in nurturing a tradition of translation studies scholarship referred to as *translatologia* from the 1960s onwards, a tradition continued by scholars such as Franciszek Gucza and Barbara Kielar at Warsaw University (for a fuller account of this

justify the provision of such courses. However, with the harmonisation of European third-level education which is being brought about through the Bologna Process, and the greater student mobility at an international level which will ensue, Poland will increasingly witness the arrival of students from Slavonic Studies programmes elsewhere in Europe who are entitled to expect training in translation to cater for their needs. Besides, in spite of many interesting and stimulating arguments to defend the legitimacy of translating into non-native languages (pace Stuart Campbell's *Translating into the Second Language*), the adage that translation into the second language is a 'necessary evil', not countenanced by EU administrative institutions and only to be undertaken as a last resort is still generally propagated, in spite of the fact that most translator training programmes are heavily biased towards providing training into the second language.

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*The opening up of a free-market economy and the commercialisation of translation brought fundamental changes in the very nature of language mediation activities...*

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tradition, see Gucza's article on the history of applied linguistics in Poland in *Towards a History of Linguistics in Poland* ed. Konrad Koerner and Aleksander Szwedek, Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins 2002). My own experience has been of a tendency on the part of many Poles to play down the significance of much of the work conducted in translation studies before 1989, in spite of the fact that centres at Warsaw and Poznan educated many of those who went on to play such an important role both in TS and in the efforts towards professionalising the discipline in founding many of the translators' organisations to which Piotrowska refers. While historians may provide us with dates that we eagerly accept as turning-points, it is disingenuous to presume the natural run of progress to adhere similarly to such artificial chronologies.

Piotrowska describes Poland as being 'monocultural' and certainly this is a fact that may well be borne out by the experience of non-Polish translators working in Poland. Without doubt there are not many of us, but prospects for any increase in our numbers seem bleak in the absence of training programmes designed for foreigners who wish to be trained in Polish translation. Presently we must make do with attending programmes designed for those with Polish as a native language. The obvious rejoinder to this is that numbers do not yet

Certainly translation into the second language is among the most difficult language skills to acquire and, on this account, the pedagogical emphasis is justified. However, it does provide an interesting instance of the translator's invisibility, the translator in this case being the non-Pole translating into her native language. For example, ask any Polish literary translator to name a translator of Polish literature into English and the names that will inevitably be mentioned are Stanislaw Baranczak and perhaps Adam Czerniawski. In spite of their huge contribution to the translation of Polish literature (and prose in particular), translators such as Louis Iribarne (Witkacy & Gombrowicz), Lillian Vallee (Gombrowicz), and the excellent Richard Lourie (Konwicki) are largely forgotten figures in Poland. Examples of non-Polish literary 'translators' who would be recognised would include Seamus Heaney (who collaborated with Baranczak on a translation of Kochanowski's *Treny*) and Donald Davie (a great champion of Polish literature who produced a very loose English rendition of Mickiewicz's *Pan Tadeusz* 'The Forests of Lithuania'). The irony here is that neither Heaney nor Davie ever learnt Polish!

Perhaps the ultimate sign of our invisibility is that, up to now, non-Poles have not been allowed to become sworn translators in Poland, citizenship being a prerequisite. And this in spite of the fact that, as Piotrowska points out, any graduate from a university magister language programme who is over 25 years old, in possession of the necessary accoutrements, and not of a criminalistic bent, can apply for the title, even though (in extreme cases) they may never even have pursued a translation course during their university studies. It is my feeling that this is part of a greater tendency, both in Poland and

other Central and East European countries, to shirk any expectation that foreigners (or at least those coming from European and North American cultures) should learn the national language. Consequently, those foreigners who do come to Poland from so-called 'dominant' cultures and who learn Polish are viewed as the exception - novelties almost - and certainly not to be factored in to any notions of language planning. Friends in other Central and Eastern European countries have told me that this tolerance is beginning to wane particularly in more urban environments where, for example, monoglot anglophones who have been resident in the culture for several years are being seen in an increasingly negative light. Ultimately, this may well be a development to be welcomed from both a linguistic and a social point of view.

John Kearns  
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## ■ 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
- ◆ 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](http://www.translatorsassociation.ie)

## ■ Translation & Language Events

The following is an overview of events taking place over the coming weeks:

A LECTURE ON TRANSLATION OF IRISH POETRY INTO RUSSIAN,

Reading Room IWC

in association with Poetry Ireland & the ITIA

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm

including the works of Yeats, & Heaney

Adm. Free, refreshments served, all welcome

ATLAS - 20<sup>th</sup> LITERARY TRANSLATION CONFERENCE IN ARLES, FRANCE

"Mediterranees"

Date 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November

Place: Arles

Email: atlas(a)atlas-citl.org

Fax: 04 90 93 43 21

FIT 50<sup>th</sup> PARIS NOVEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2003 INCLUSIVE AT UNESCO

1. Translations of Harry Potter

2. FIT Copyright Conference

3. Translators' rights

[www.fit-ift.org](http://www.fit-ift.org)

LRC'03 - THE 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND SHOWCASE FOR MULTILINGUAL DIGITAL MEDIA PUBLISHING.

Dublin, Ireland 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November 2003

"Where digital media meets localisation"

[www.localisation.ie](http://www.localisation.ie)

## ■ Dictionary Review

LANGENSCHIEDTS FACHWÖRTERBUCH TECHNIK & ANGEWANDTE WISSENSCHAFTEN (DEUTSCH-ENGLISCH)

2180 pages, 17.0 x 24.0 cm, hardback, 250,000 terms & 500,000 translations, Order No.: 3-86117-187-2, €132.70

The new dictionary of technology and applied sciences from Langenscheidt is one of a new breed of specialised technical dictionary, not just in terms of its content and layout but also in terms of the way it was produced. Created from a concept-orientated database of roughly 250,000 entries, this dictionary was created, maintained and updated entirely by computer. This method of managing terminological data resulted in the finished

product being available in shops just 10 weeks after the editorial deadline.

Edited by Dr. Peter A. Schmitt, this weighty volume (over XXkg in fact) draws on thousands of sources from the editor's own glossaries, catalogues, parallel texts and specialist publications as well as a previously published *Fachwörterbuch Technik & angewandte Wissenschaften* by Rudolf Walter (VEB Verlag Technik, Berlin). The preface to this work starts out by stating that the primary objectives of the publishers were to ensure the dictionary's *currency, quality* and *user-friendliness*. The currency is assured by the extremely fast production times while the exhaustive range of sources coupled with standard contextual, grammatical and semantic information ensures the quality of the terminology.

Arguing that there has to be a trade-off between the quality and the amount of information presented in a dictionary, the publishers explain that there simply is not enough space to give examples and definitions for each term. In truth, I don't think there are many, if any, bilingual dictionaries that do. And if I'm honest, I wouldn't expect this kind of information. Most people are really only interested in finding the correct term in the target language.

The same logic, however, is applied to the provision of synonyms for source language (SL) terms. Now I'm still undecided about this because while I can understand the logic behind not including SL synonyms, I like the educational aspect of dictionaries like Ernst's *Wörterbuch der industriellen Technik* that do provide SL synonyms. While synonyms do not help you find a term more quickly (and I've often gotten lost in huge lists of synonyms), it's surprising the way you learn new words without realising it simply by seeing them in a dictionary. I will freely admit that this is a minor quibble, particularly when you consider the fact

that each synonym is defined separately and without cross-references directing you to some other part of the dictionary. While by the publishers own admission, this increases the volume of duplicated information, it makes finding a term much easier and faster. I cannot remember how many times I have forgotten what I was looking for or gotten distracted while looking for a cross-reference.

But the thing that really makes this dictionary easy to use is the superb layout and typography used for each entry. With clearly defined formatting for each piece of information, it is always perfectly clear what you are looking at and which of the possible terms is the preferred one.

Having used this dictionary on a number of translations ranging from telecommunications to process engineering and energy management, this dictionary is definitely up there with the best of them, although on one or two occasions I did have to refer back to the ever-reliable *Ernst* for help. But then in a dictionary which covers over 100 different areas from mining and construction to electronics, metallurgy, transport and engineering, it's unrealistic to expect it to have everything. As it stands, this dictionary is ideal for all but the most detailed specialist texts. I did wonder, however, about the logic of including entries such as *CD-Digital Audio* and *CD-Navigation* when even someone who doesn't speak German can tell you they mean the same thing in English. Even more puzzling is the inclusion of the following entry:

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**Carpool-Sex** m <kfz.verk.> (*prostitution auf Carpool-Parkplätzen*)\*  
carpool sex

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Now this confuses me for a couple of reasons: firstly, I have never heard of this (maybe I'm just too innocent) and secondly, what in the name of St. Jerome is it doing in a technical dictionary? I'm sure they had their reasons.

Aside from these quirks, which are admittedly minor, Langenscheidts *Fachwörterbuch Technik & Angewandte Wissenschaften* is a solid, fine and reliable reference source which, although it won't replace other dictionaries, will certainly make an invaluable addition to your reference library. For more information, visit [www.langenscheidts.de](http://www.langenscheidts.de).

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## ■ Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the *ITIA Bulletin* will be out on **15<sup>th</sup> November, 2003**. So if you have any contributions, news, suggestions or something you'd like to share, send them to [jody.byrne\(a\)dcu.ie](mailto:jody.byrne(a)dcu.ie). The deadline for submissions is **10<sup>th</sup> November**.

### Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

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## ■ Conferences

### Translation and the Construction of Identity

#### Special Panel: Teaching Translation - Global Challenges for the Twenty-First Century

12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> August 2004

Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, Korea

As part of the **Translation and the Construction of Identity** conference organised by the *International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies*, an additional special panel dealing with the training of translators has been established. Concomitant with the increasing professionalisation of language mediation activities, recent years have seen a growing awareness of the fact that training for translators is as desirable and necessary as it is for professionals from any other field. Discussions of the particular competencies and sub-competencies translators should possess have led to attention being focused on identifying the most appropriate aims and objectives for training in language mediation, and this in turn has been matched by an examination of the goals of translation studies courses and research training programmes.

Don Kiraly has drawn attention to the important distinction to be made between 'translation competence' – competence in mediating texts effectively between languages – and 'translator competence', which involves the translator joining various new communities which have developed as a result of the professionalisation of the field. Such communities may include "educated users of several languages, those conversant in specialized technical fields, and proficient users of traditional tools and new technologies for professional interlingual communication purposes" (Kiraly 2000:13). The contemporary translator is thus expected to have a familiarity with a range of tools and resources and to be skilled in working practices and research techniques which were of far less importance to translators even as recently as ten or fifteen years ago. This in turn provides new challenges for translation trainers, but approaches developed from traditional language pedagogies seem ever more ill-prepared to meet such challenges. Furthermore, trainers must also keep abreast of developments in the tools and technologies of instruction, so that recent developments such as e-learning may successfully achieve the democratizing effect they currently promise. The panel will thus seek to address a broad range of issues relating to the pedagogy of translation and translation studies in general, and more particularly to the training of translators, interpreters, and all involved in language mediation activities.

#### Important Dates & Information

Deadline for submitting abstracts: 30th November 2003

Notification of acceptance: 15th January 2004

Length of abstracts: 300 words

Language of the conference: English

Format of submission: by email or post

#### Contact Details

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Or visit:

<http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~lbowker/iatisconf/iatisconfmain.htm>

## ■ Training, Courses & Education

### Graduate Course: Specialist Training Course In Translation And Interpretation In Public Services

(Arabic-Spanish, French-Spanish, English-Spanish, Russian-Spanish, Romanian-Spanish, Chinese-Spanish)

UNIVERSIDAD DE ALCALÁ

2<sup>nd</sup> February- 13<sup>th</sup> May 2004

#### OBJECTIVES

To train specialists to serve as linguistic and cultural liaisons for the foreign-born population by: Delving into the specific characteristics of translation and interpretation in public services; becoming familiar with and practising the primary techniques involved in translation and interpretation in the language pair chosen; giving students the necessary instruction as a means of professionalising the field of Public Service Translation.

#### AIMED AT

- ◆ People with an extensive knowledge of Spanish and/or English, French, Arabic, Russian, Romanian, or Chinese.
- ◆ People who have served or are currently serving as liaisons for the foreign-born community, eliminating all types of barriers.
- ◆ People who have experience as linguistic and cultural mediators on either an oral or written level (interpreters and translators), but who have not been trained.

**PROGRAM** (25 credits, 250 hours) divided into four sections which can be taken consecutively or in different years (ask for more information):

The theory block covers translation and interpretation in Public Services, definitions, methods, and elements which intervene in the transfer of information. and codes of conduct and a guide on how to practice the profession correctly.

A series of practical modules include a section on health-related T&I on subjects dealing with health-related matters, legal, administrative, and educational T&I and a RESEARCH PAPER or INTERNSHIP in public centres (subject to availability)

#### PRE-REGISTRATION

Deadline: 9 January 2004

#### REGISTRATION FEES AND FINANCIAL AID

- ◆ Course fee: €1750 (50% of which must be paid upon registration).
- ◆ A limited number of scholarships are available. Applicants must submit a copy of their latest tax return or a certificate documenting their earnings and expenditures upon registration.
- ◆ Diplomas will be issued upon the students' request.
- ◆ A minimum of 5 students per language pair is needed in order for this seminar to be held.

For more information, contact:

**Carmen Valero Garcés:** mcarmen.valero (a) uah.es

**Raquel Lázaro:** raquella1980 (a) mixmail.com

or visit <http://www.uah.es/otrosweb/traduccion>

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

- |                                              |                                          |
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