



Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Ateangairí na hÉireann

ITIA Bulletin

2018 / 2

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Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association
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Editorial

As part of the series of articles from other national translators' and interpreters' associations, this issue's piece is from an association with much in common with the ITIA: an island nation and former British colony with its own indigenous people and language, the New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters (NZSTI) also celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in 2016 and undertook a most ambitious project to mark the occasion. The part reproduction of THE TREATY TIMES THIRTY not only contains aspects of the history of New Zealand but also showcases the standards required for the highest quality of translation and professionalism. The Treaty of Waitangi was translated into 30 languages, including Esperanto, Bislana, Gujarti and Tagalog.

Our Members' Corner contributor this month is ITIA Honorary member, Professor Lorraine Leeson, who tells us about her career path in sign language interpreting.

For any language teachers or students out there, don't forget we are running our secondary school translation competition again this year, with yet another new language included – Polish.

Also included are details of our first CPD event of 2018 on an up-and-coming aspect of our profession, Transcreation. Please do book early to avoid disappointment!

Anne Larchet, Editor

MEMBERS' CORNER

ITIA's 2014 Honorary Member, Lorraine Leeson, Director of the Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College, tells us how her career chose her.

Q. Describe yourself professionally in a few lines.

I am an Irish Sign Language/English interpreter, who has also had the good fortune to learn some American Sign Language, British Sign Language and "International Sign". I am also an academic. My research work focuses on aspects of the linguistics and applied linguistics of sign languages, and a great deal of my work focuses on aspects of interpreting.

Q. When and why did you decide on a career in translating/interpreting?

Interpreting chose me. In 1990, I was working as a houseparent at St. Joseph's School for Deaf Boys in Cabra, with teenagers aged 15-20, and I was horrified by the lack of access to information that they, as Irish Sign Language users had. Fortunately for me, in 1992, the Irish Deaf Society, in partnership with the Centre for Language and Communication Studies at Trinity College Dublin and led by the Centre for Deaf Studies at Bristol University secured European Commission Horizon funding that established the first Irish Sign Language (ISL) interpreter (and Irish Sign Language teaching) training programme. I was a successful applicant, and that programme truly changed my life, showing me what excellent interpreting looked like and introducing me to my other great 'love', linguistics. I've always felt extremely fortunate to have had training from both signed and spoken

language interpreters, which has always helped me to see the value of conversations between sign and spoken language interpreters.

Q. Name the most important thing you did that helped you launch your career.

On completion of the Diploma in Deaf Studies (Interpreting), I had the opportunity to work as the Irish Deaf Society's first in-house interpreter, and subsequently, to work in Brussels for the European Union of the Deaf. Working as an interpreter raised critical questions for me which informed – and continue to inform – the issues that I tackle with my research.

Q. How important are training and qualifications for a career in translating/interpreting.

I believe that education is increasingly important for interpreters and we see that for sign language interpreters there has been a continued move towards bachelor and, indeed, masters level qualifications internationally. In an increasing number of countries, an interpreting qualification is now a prerequisite for licensing/registration, or, in the absence of that, to working for public bodies. Here in Ireland, we have (since 2009) offered a 4-year pathway to ISL/English interpreting at Trinity College Dublin. Today, stakeholders are rightly increasingly conscious of quality; the Gardaí and the Courts increasingly ask about the qualifications of interpreters. For example, I have seen this come up when interpreters have been called to Court to give evidence around their interpretation in police interviews, and, on foot of the Irish Sign Language Act (2017), there are moves towards a national register of sign language interpreters, which will move us towards embedding minimal qualification requirements for those working as interpreters here.

Q. How do you find clients?

I'm fortunate in that they find me! I accept interpreting work via a number of agencies/bodies that specialise in ISL/English interpreting,

and also sometimes have requests from the European institutions.

Q. Do you think it is necessary to specialise?

Over the past 25 years, the contexts in which deaf people operate, and the levels at which they engage have significantly changed. Today, we have deaf PhDs, hedge fund managers, healthcare providers, business owners who are deaf, and interpreters have to keep up. Furthermore, we have become increasingly aware of the need for specialist training for practicing interpreters in a range of domains (e.g. public service settings, education, workplace settings). However, given the relatively small number of ISL/English interpreters, there is a need for us to have the capacity to be good generalists, with some opportunities for specialism. For example, some ISL/English interpreters have completed Bachelor of Law degrees, which enhances their understanding of the legal system, and a number of European projects that we've worked on at the Centre for Deaf Studies have led to the development of training and open-access resources for interpreters, deaf community members, and other stakeholders. Ultimately, it is impossible to embed "everything" in initial education pathways, and as a result, continuous professional development opportunities, and potentially, a postgraduate pathway that addresses some specific domains may be a viable option at some point.

"Today, stakeholders are rightly increasingly conscious of quality; the Gardaí and the Courts increasingly ask about the qualifications of interpreters"

Q. What is your favourite type of text/assignment?

I particularly enjoy interpreting in contexts dealing with applied linguistics issues, or in political/diplomatic settings. In terms of language direction, I love working from Irish Sign Language or "International Sign" into English.

Q. What is the best/worst thing about being a translator/ interpreter?

The best thing about being an interpreter is about bearing witness to a moment in another person's life. I've been incredibly humbled to interpret for people at moments of great happiness, great sadness, at moments of opportunity, success, and in the mundane moments of the everyday. As interpreters we can make a difference, but we need to tread lightly and remember that it is not about us. Our presence impacts though – and I think that as interpreters, we sometimes don't realise that while we made interpreting decisions that seemed good in the moment, we will rarely (if ever) know how the combined effect of our interpreting decisions, and those of other interpreters, impact on how deaf and hearing people perceive and experience each other over time.

The worst thing about being an interpreter is leaving an interpreting assignment where someone is in emotional pain – in a locked psychiatric unit, in a prison cell, having had a child removed from them, having told a harrowing story of abuse – and not knowing if they will access support in an accessible language. Having interpreted for a significant number of survivors of abuse over the years, the emotional impact of their stories stays with me and has certainly touched me to my core. I'm very grateful that I've had the opportunity to complete training with the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, which certainly helped me to deal with this difficult aspect of our work.

Q. Is it possible to have a good standard of living?

This is an area that certainly needs further attention as sign language interpreting fees have generally not been increased in well over a decade. A colleague, Cormac Leonard, carried out a survey of interpreter income in 2016 and reports that the average income in 2016 was €27,812, with just 16% reporting annual incomes of more than €30,000. However, there have been

a number of remote interpreting positions offered in the past few years that are aligned to public service salary scales. This, with the potential of increased interpreter provision arising from recognition of Irish Sign Language (and ratification of the UNCRPD in 2018, which makes reference to sign language users too), there is scope for interpreter organisations to push for improved financial outcomes for interpreters.

Q. What advice would you give someone thinking of embarking on a career as a translator/interpreter?

Consider yourself a lifelong learner and take opportunities to learn. Be open to feedback and seek to integrate your learning into your work. Find a mentor and develop an individual plan so that you can track your development. Remember the value of reciprocity in deaf communities – be a community member and make time to give something back to the community.

Lorraine Leeson

THE TREATY TIMES THIRTY PROJECT

Below, part reproduction, with kind permission of the NZSTI and their President Quintin Ridgeway (whose father is from Dublin) of the fascinating TREATY TIMES THIRTY project. The treaty was also translated into the third official language of New Zealand, NZSL (New Zealand Sign Language).

FOREWORD

The choice made by the NZSTI to mark its thirtieth anniversary with translations of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi into thirty languages is an ambitious one. It has been achieved by following a clear process and planning which is intended to demonstrate the professional standards of the NZSTI and its commitment to quality translation. The selection of the founding document of the country, Te Tiriti / the Treaty, as the focus of the project was, and is,

both daring and particularly challenging. A key part of the project's overall aim is to show the different understandings conveyed by the two treaty texts. Academic research since the 1970s has clearly elucidated this fact but the extent to which this should shape our future as a nation is still in debate.

As the country's founding compact and first constitutional document – an agreement between Māori chiefs and the British Crown's Queen Victoria, represented by William Hobson – this agreement enabled settlement to proceed in New Zealand in a relatively peaceful way. From the outset, however, the meaning of the compact was challenged by Māori leaders who were uneasy about its intent, even as copies of Te Tiriti / the Treaty were still being signed in some 50 or more meetings around the country between February and September 1840. Suspicion continued as Hobson began to implement the right to govern and effect changes in the country. It was soon evident that Māori and official understandings of the 1840 agreement would differ. Lauded initially as a departure from previous British colonial practice in dealing with indigenous peoples, the compact promised a sharing of authority akin to a partnership in forging a new nation, but this was overtaken by settler interests and political dominance. The gap in understanding would shape Crown-Māori relationships and power balances in the country from 1840 to the present.

Governments depend on the support of a voting public in finding resolution of differences. This makes it imperative that there is broad community knowledge of the country's history and understanding of the 1840 Tiriti / Treaty. This is not easy to achieve. Although New Zealand's bi-cultural foundation base is widely acknowledged, the country is already multi-cultural and multi-lingual. The 2013 census revealed that New Zealand had 213 ethnicities and 160 languages and, looking to the future, it is clear that New Zealand's population will become increasingly

diverse. This project therefore is responding to the country's diversity. It is going out to the many who have made New Zealand home and especially to recent migrants.

Translations in one's parent language can provide better understandings of the 1840 compact. They can also be the basis of a deeper grasp of Crown-Māori relationships which continue to evolve and need the better understanding of a broader community. It is possible that the translations will produce fresh understandings of the country's bi-cultural underpinnings as well as considerations for future developments which accord with its diversity. This would take into account New Zealand's global position, the wide respect for its blending of peoples and its commitment to human rights. It would also consider that it is one of only three countries which have no constitution and that this could change in future; protection for Te Tiriti / the Treaty and its unique position as a founding compact will be important. That these translations will stimulate lively discussion and debate is certain and is to be welcomed. Bringing the work to a conclusion has been a huge effort generously given by translators who remain responsible for the translations' accuracy. The translators and the project's sponsors and production team are to be warmly congratulated. May this work go out to seed greater understanding and informed discussion.

Claudia Orange PhD OBE DNZM

Honorary Research Fellow

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
Wellington

Treaty Times 30 New Zealand

In 2016, the New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters (NZSTI) celebrated thirty years of existence. To mark this anniversary, the Society undertook to translate New Zealand's founding document, Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi, into thirty different contemporary languages with the help and

support of over 150 professional translators.

At the heart of this voluntary project lie respect and collaboration. This is why the project's organising committee adopted, as a guiding principle, the Māori proverb 'He toa takitini tōku toa, ehara i te toa takitahi' (My strength is that of many, not that of an individual). That proverb permeated every step of the project.

As translation has played a key role in the history of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi, it seemed a fitting subject for a project celebrating translation in New Zealand. On 4 February 1840, the missionary Henry Williams was given instructions by Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson to translate a draft version of the Treaty from English to Māori overnight, in preparation for a meeting with local chiefs at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands on 5 February 1840. He did this with the help of his son, Edward Williams, both of them native speakers of English.

The resulting Treaty in Māori – Te Tiriti o Waitangi – was deemed to convey the same meaning as the English version. In fact Te Tiriti o Waitangi, which is the version most Māori chiefs signed, contains a number of key differences in meaning from the English version. These have in turn led to differences in the interpretation of Te Tiriti / the Treaty.

When it was first signed at Waitangi on 6 February 1840, and later at various locations during 1840, it was a treaty signed between two parties. The first party comprised those hapū [clan] whose chiefs throughout New Zealand signed it, and the second party was the British Crown, whose representative, William Hobson, signed on its behalf. In the present-day context the two Treaty partners are Māori as tangata whenua [people of the land] (even though some iwi [tribe] and hapū did not sign the Treaty) and the Crown.

Given the complex history of Te Tiriti / the Treaty, it was important to the project's organising committee to use both versions as source documents, as a way to highlight the differences

in meaning to non-English speakers and underline the importance of a robust and professional translation process. Unfortunately, there were not enough qualified translators available to translate directly from Māori into a language other than English to meet the target of thirty languages.

After consultation with Treaty experts, the committee decided to translate the widely-used English translation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi by Professor Hugh Kawharu, as published on the NZ History website maintained by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. This version is also used by the National Library Te Puna Mātauranga Aotearoa, Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga, and the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

The Translation Process

Unsurprisingly, the translation Henry Williams and his son produced was not reviewed. Some of the translation choices they made led to key differences in meaning between the English and Māori versions of the Treaty – most notably in regards to the terms 'governorship' and 'sovereignty'.

The translation process followed at the time was very far from the professional standards the NZSTI promotes today. This project aimed to highlight those differences in meaning, while also showcasing high quality translation and professionalism.

The international standard ISO 17100 describes today's standard process in the translation industry as consisting of 2 steps, with an optional third step:

Step 1. Translation: A qualified translator translates a text from one language to his/ her native tongue.

Step 2. Revision: Another qualified, usually more experienced, linguist reviews the translation and makes necessary corrections.

Step 3. Proofreading: A final quality check is

carried out to make sure the translation meets professional standards.

Given the national significance of the project, and to ensure the best outcome, the organising committee used a robust translation process that exceeded the industry's standard practice:

"Some of the translation choices they made led to key differences in meaning between the English and Māori versions of the Treaty – most notably in regards to the terms 'governorship' and 'sovereignty'."

Stage 1: Translation

All participating translators were required to translate both texts. A minimum of 3 participating translators was required for any given language to qualify – this provided a variety of translations to work with in order to draft the best translations possible during phase two of the project: the collaborative stage.

Translators also received background material about the two versions of the Treaty and the differences in meaning, and had access to Treaty expert Dame Claudia Orange for questions and further information. Treaty education organisations such as Network Waitangi Otautahi and Tangata Tiriti – Treaty People provided information sheets and a booklet to support the translators in their work.

Stage 2: Collaboration

Once a language had met the minimum qualification criteria, and once no other translations were expected, participants were invited to work together using online collaboration tools to either select the best translations or to choose and combine the best elements of each entry to produce the best translations possible.

Stage 3: Review

A final step to ensure the translations were of the highest quality possible, the third phase, was a final check carried out by experts who are native speakers of the languages Te Tiriti and the Treaty were translated into. Reviewers included among

others ambassadors, consuls, international lawyers and university professors.

This book and the translations you are about to read are the result of a vast amount of time, effort and dedication. The initial group of 6 volunteers came together in September 2015, and was later joined by others to form a working committee of ten. As the project progressed, other people contributed to the process in various ways. Most, but not all, of these were NZSTI members.

This project would not have been possible without an incredible amount of commitment by translators, reviewers and committee members – all of whom took part as volunteers. The hundreds of hours involved were in recognition of the significance of the project.

The Treaty Times Thirty project committee have built a very strong partnership with Archives New Zealand. Other institutions whose support should be acknowledged are: the Office of Ethnic Communities, which provided support, guidance and financial assistance; the Ministry for Culture and Heritage; the European Union Delegation to New Zealand, the Pelorus Trust and Pub Charity, which granted the project financial support.

This project is of both national and international interest and significance because:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi is New Zealand's founding document.
- The translations will give many more people, both migrants in New Zealand and members of the international community, access to Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi in their native language.
- It is primarily a translation project that showcases best practice in the industry and thereby plays an important role in educating the public on translation issues.
- It highlights the need to train and employ qualified and professional translators.
- The NZSTI and the project's organising committee are delighted to have had the

opportunity to work on this wonderful initiative and hope that the resulting translations help communities in New Zealand to gain a wider understanding of our nation's founding document.

To read the entire most worthwhile work:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9e5ljvx>

Announcements

ITIA CPD – full-day Transcreation workshop in Dublin on 30 June 2018

Transcreation – copywriting for translators. How to position, sell, and provide professional transcreation services. The demand for transcreation services is high, and rising. However, misconceptions about transcreation abound. What is it, really? To some it's just a fancy term for selling translations at a higher price tag. Yet while it's certainly true that transcreation work doesn't come cheap, it's because it is more than just a premium-quality kind of translation. It's actually a service that combines the expertise and skills of a translator with those of a copywriter. In this dynamic full-day workshop, you will gain insights into the special challenges (and rewards!) that this translation-cum-copywriting service poses. You will get to work on typical examples, practise various transcreative techniques, and not least, learn how to effectively sell your services to the market, all in an interactive setting. In addition to plenty of practical exercises and examples, the topics we will cover include:

- Which situations and types of texts call for a transcreation?
- In what ways does a transcreation process differ from that of a translation?
- How does creativity work in transcreation?
- How can I better tap my creative potential / improve my copywriting skills?
- What are the deliverables in a transcreation project?

- Why are transcreation jobs so time-consuming?
- How can I estimate the time needed for transcreating different types of texts?
- How do I respond to translation requests that should actually be treated as transcreations?
- How can I convince clients of the value they get for their money?
- How can I become better at selling this service?

About 4 weeks before the workshop date, participants will receive a questionnaire so that they can provide their language combinations and any specific queries they would like the workshop to address. The data provided will be used only for purposes of creating a customized workshop experience and will not be shared with others. This workshop is for: translation professionals who would like to start out in the field of transcreation or gain more confidence in their transcreative work and especially, their commercial approach to transcreation services.

Tutor Nina Sattler-Hovdar is an English-Norwegian-Danish into German translator specialising in marketing, advertising, PR and other texts that, due to their sales or image-critical nature, require top writing skills and subject-matter expertise. After graduating with a Master's degree from the University of Graz, Austria, Nina worked as a conference interpreter in central Europe, then moved on to work as an executive in an international marketing research company and as a strategic planning consultant in the Americas for several years, followed by a four-year stint in the financial hub of Frankfurt, Germany. Based on her combined expertise from the translation and the marketing worlds, she has become a well-known transcreator and has held presentations, seminars, workshops, and webinars for various industry associations (FIT, BDÜ, ATA, Universitas, Austrian Economic Chamber, and others) and international companies. She also works as a consultant and coach for freelance translators aspiring to gain better positioning in the market, and for

companies wanting to improve the ways they work with language providers in the field of marketing communications. Nina's highly praised book on transcreation ("Translation – Transkreation: Vom Über-Setzen zum Über-Texten", currently available in German only) was published by the German Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators (BDÜ) in 2016.

Date: Saturday, 30 June 2018. Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.

Venue: Irish Writers' Centre, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Fee: Up to 30 April: ITIA members and members of other FIT associations €90.

Non-members €120.

From 1 May: ITIA members and members of other FIT associations €120. Non-members €150.

Cancellation policy: full refund up to 20 May, less €30 administration fee. We offer a reduction of €10 to members living outside the Greater Dublin Area.

To book a place, please contact Rosemary on info@translatorsassociation.ie

ITIA Translation Competition for Secondary School Students

Calling on all budding translators

Following the successful competitions in 2016 and 2017, the ITIA is once again organising a translation competition for secondary school students in Ireland and has added the Polish language.

A prize of €100 will be awarded to the best translation for each language.

Students are asked to translate an excerpt from a novel or short story from one of the following languages into English: Chinese, French, German, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Polish or Spanish.

While students are encouraged to do online research and to use dictionaries, the use of a

machine translation system such as Google Translate to actually translate the text is not permitted.

Please, include your name, the name of your school and your year at school on your translation.

The deadline for receipt of translations is **5 pm, Monday, 14th May 2018.**

Completed translations are to be sent as a **PDF attachment only** (please, save as: name-surname-language e.g. Mary-Smith-French) to competition2018@translatorsassociation.ie

Translations submitted after the deadline will not be considered. The decision of the ITIA Executive Committee is final.

Winners will be announced in September 2018.

The texts for translation and details for submission are available on the ITIA website.

Please address all queries to: competition2018@translatorsassociation.ie

Please note: the competition is not open to the families of members of the Association.

What's Hot, What's Not

What's HOT...

One of the six shortlisted books in contention for the Man Booker International Prize is Vernon Subutex 1 by Virginina Despentes and has been translated by Irishman Frank Wynne. Should the novel win, author and translator will split the £50,000 prize!

...What's NOT

A survey carried out at the special clinic for immigrants at Denmark's Odense University Hospital found that 41% of Danish-Arabic interpreters were incompetent. Not helpful for patients.

Worth-A-Click

What language learning can do to your brain

<https://tinyurl.com/yayrj8u4>

Highly amusing article by Rossa Ó'Snodaigh on the importance of the fada

<https://tinyurl.com/y8ugxtjt>

Intriguing piece by Joss Moorkens (DCU) on machine translation

<https://tinyurl.com/y7rq9zrh>

New ITIA Members Feb - Apr 2018

New ITIA Associate Members

Carolina Hennessy

Spanish and French to English

Małgorzata Stryjewska

English to and from Polish

Yuri Gulevski

English to Russian

Ines Pascoa Baptista

English and Italian to Portuguese

Lidia Sumonovic

English to and from Croatian

New ITIA Certified Legal Translator

James Pelow

English to and from Irish

Joining the ITIA

The Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association is pleased to welcome new members to the association. We currently have the following categories of membership:

- Professional
- Associate
- Affiliate
- Institutional
- Student
- Honorary

Professional Membership is awarded to translators or interpreters who meet the strict criteria of the ITIA based on qualification and level of experience.

Applicants must also achieve a PASS in the annual Professional Membership Examination (translator or interpreter) set by the ITIA.

Associate Membership may be granted to holders of a third-level qualification in translation and/or interpreting and/or languages or to holders of a third-level qualification with relevant experience.

Affiliate Membership is generally availed of by people with a professional interest in translation and interpreting, by those with a general interest in these professions or by professionals from other sectors who wish to work in the area of translation or interpreting and do not currently have a specific qualification or experience in the area.

Institutional Membership is available to bodies that do not function as commercial agencies, for example university centres for translation and interpreting studies or cultural institutes. Application documents for Institutional membership are currently being prepared.

Student Membership is available to persons undertaking undergraduate studies in any discipline or those undertaking postgraduate studies in translation or interpreting.

Honorary Membership is awarded by the ITIA AGM to persons in Ireland or abroad who have distinguished themselves in the field of translation or interpreting.

Contacting the ITIA

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association

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