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THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS INCORPORATED NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE AUSIT NATIONAL PRESIDENT

As President I believe it is my job to keep you informed about the progress we are making in working towards our goals for 2002-2003.

This is a good opportunity to re-state them:

1. To develop Phase 2 of the AUSIT website.
2. To promote AUSIT through the Yellow Pages around Australia, either as a group or as AUSIT only advertisements.
3. To improve the quality and number of AUSIT-run workshops, possibly to be delivered by outside organisations and for these to be available, in one form or another (including on video), in all states.
4. To review the Constitution and our administration to take into account the new realities of the T&I industry and the needs of a diverse membership group.
5. To develop a strategy to promote AUSIT beyond the Yellow Pages advertisements and the website, and start to implement it.
6. To maintain and further develop the existing opportunities for members to meet and exchange information either through electronic forums such as Yahoo Groups or face to face.

You will find that the brief notes below all link back to one or other of the above goals.

WA BRANCH TO HOST 2002 AUSIT CONFERENCE

The WA Branch will host the 15th National Annual General Meeting, the Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture and associated Conference. I urge all members to make room now in their schedules for a trip to Perth on the last week-end in October 2002. Mary Gurgone and her Branch have already done a lot of work in preparing these events. We are all behind WA as they put in the massive effort required to make this a success.

For notices about this major event read this newsletter and the eBulletin. See you there!

AUSIT NORTHERN REGION ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED

As many of you will already know, Yveline Piller is our new Northern Region Administrator. Yveline's background is in corporate management and she is now building a career as a French translator and interpreter.

David Connor is the Southern Region Administrator.

For administrative purposes AUSIT has been divided into 2 regions – Yveline administers the North (Queensland, NSW, ACT) and David Connor the South (WA, SA/NT, VIC/TAS).

The AUSIT 1800 284 181 Australia-wide telephone number automatically detects where you are calling from and takes you through to the appropriate office - North or South.

The number has been running hot ever since it was installed. The evidence is that all kinds of callers are finding it easier to contact AUSIT. The feedback has been positive.

ADVERTISING

AUSIT has printed 3000 brochures in the past 2 months and they are going like hot cakes. NAATI regional offices all over Australia in particular have been asking for large quantities. Hopefully this will result in an increase in membership.

Work is continuing on the Yellow Pages campaign. To sign up for an entry in your name under the AUSIT logo in any Australian capital city contact John Crone (Vic/Tas Treasurer), who is managing this project.

EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Congratulations to Eva Hussain on organising the Business Skills for T&Is course held at Holmesglen TAFE (I was one of the grateful participants).

The course contents were relevant and interesting and sparked lively discussions among the 20 participants. The exchanging of experiences was a major part of the learning process and for this I also thank those AUSIT

members who took part. The buzz in the room was electric. The interest is such that a second course is already being prepared. We are also starting discussions with a view to running the course in NSW and other states.

A souvenir video of the week-end is available for \$8 by emailing David Connor on:

<europatrans@optushome.com.au>

and sending him a cheque made out to AUSIT.

VHS tapes of the lecture by visiting Canadian academic Candace Seguinot are also available for \$20. Visit the AUSIT website to read the lecture notes and then send David Connor a cheque for \$20 made out to AUSIT if you would like a copy of the tape. This event was organised by the NSW branch.

Congratulations also to the recent NSW and Queensland branch workshop initiatives. All states are continuing to organise useful sessions very much aimed at the practitioner. I believe that education is one of AUSIT's principal obligations to its members and we are going ahead in leaps and bounds in this area.

We hope to publish a consolidated annual calendar of educational / professional development events soon which will be included in the NAATI publication: "Australian Translator & Interpreter Training Opportunities".

WEBSITE

Recent developments on the <www.ausit.org> website include the following additions to the member area:

- ◆ Translator's Tools
- ◆ Educational Resources
- ◆ Vic/Tas Branch Events
- ◆ WA Branch
- ◆ National Newsletter
- ◆ Statistics
- ◆ Official Documents
- ◆ Yellow Pages Stuff

There is a team of writers beavering away at the moment. Additional links are being added as material becomes available.

ADMINISTRATIVE & CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Vince, David and Yveline (our Finance and Administration Department) are working hard on this. It's tough, behind-the-scenes work that will soon start to have an impact in easing the administrative workload of every branch.

Work will soon commence on the process of reforming our constitution (which you can all read, by the way, by visiting the member area of the website).

MEMBERSHIP NEEDS SURVEY

The most rewarding aspects of being an AUSIT member for me are:

1. the contact with colleagues and the support and friendship to be found on the end of a phone line, an email address or a bulletin board log-in;
2. the opportunity to learn from others who are in the same line of work

In order to find out what you get out of being a member and to hear what you would like AUSIT to do for you we will be conducting a Membership Needs Survey in the near future.

We will be writing to some 600 members all over Australia and will be aiming for a high survey response rate. This will be your chance to let us know what you think, so look out for the letter in the mailbox.

Moreno Giovannoni

National President

ADVERTISEMENTS

The AUSIT Newsletter, published quarterly, reaches an Australia-wide network of interpreters and translators. You may know someone who would benefit from advertising in the AUSIT Newsletter or of an organisation which wishes to gain exposure to this large professional group. Our rates are as follows:

1. Sponsorship: For a written sponsorship message at the bottom of each page for six newsletters with a readership of approximately one thousand, \$2000
2. Advertisements: Costs of advertisements vary according to size. Full page \$500, Half page \$250, Quarter page \$125.
3. Line rates available.
4. Special long term rates by negotiation. Contact the Editor for details.
5. Minimum charge of \$40 per advertisement.

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Resolutions By The National Council

The members of the National Council decided to streamline their affairs by holding “virtual” meetings, rather than costly, infrequent teleconferences. Prior to resolutions, propositions are discussed via e-mail. This way, the Council members can read propositions by other Council members in their own time, and give their input after consideration. Here is a list of the electronic resolutions (“e-resolutions”) made since the last National Newsletter.

Resolution No 6 (14.02.2002)

Regarding the motion

That the following new members accepted at the NSW Committee Meeting on 13/2/02 be ratified by the National Council:

- ◆ GAJIC Dragana, Associate, Serbian Paraprofessional Interpreter
- ◆ FAIRWEATHER Carmen, Ordinary, Spanish Professional and Senior levels

National Council Resolution No 6 (14.02.2002)

Votes in favour: 6 Votes against: Nil Abstained: 5

Resolution No 7 (14.02.2002)

Preamble

The Administration Review currently being carried out has now reached the stage where remuneration for the Administrators needs to be determined. When this matter was considered at the time of the recent AGM in Melbourne, a Working Party consisting of Judie Novak and David Connor submitted a proposal which recommended remuneration levels for Administrators. Within the recommendations was one concerning David Connor. The Executive Committee is of the opinion that that recommendation ought now to be implemented.

Regarding the motion

That the National Council enter into a contract with David Connor under which he will provide his service as defined in a List of Duties in consideration of a payment of \$500 per month. It will be his responsibility to invoice the National Council at the expiry of each month from February 2002.

National Council Resolution No 7 (14.02.2002)

Votes in favour: 9 Votes against: Nil Abstained: 2

Resolution No 8 (20.02.2002)*Regarding the motion*

That new members for the Vic/Tas branch be ratified/approved as follows:

December 2001:

- ◆ Mrs Nam Thi Doan, Lower Templestowe, student (RMIT)
- ◆ (Mr) So Ung, St Albans, student (RMIT)
- ◆ (Ms) Poni Poselli, Parkville, Italian professional interpreter
- ◆ Donna Perez, Windsor, RMIT student
- ◆ Gary Bekker, Blackburn South, Assoc. Affil.
- ◆ Gloria Camara, Windsor, student (RMIT)
- ◆ Lilian Diek, North Melbourne, Assoc. Affil.
- ◆ Josephine Kourieh-Shaheen, Mordialloc, Student (RMIT)
- ◆ (Mr) Deeb Shaheen, Mordialloc, Student (RMIT)
- ◆ Ana Elena Riveroll, Eaglemont, Spanish prof. Interpreter
- ◆ Tania Rondanina, Mentone, Assoc. Affil.
- ◆ Dr Shigeko Nariyama, Parkville, E -> Japanese translator
- ◆ Dr Heinz Kreutz, School of European Languages (School of Languages Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University) Assoc. Affil.; Ms Blagica Stamenkovska, Footscray West, student

February 2002

- ◆ (Mrs) Renying Dong, Mt Waverley, student
- ◆ (Mr) Marek Grzelinski, Richmond, Polish professional translator <->
- ◆ Henry Jian Yu, Beijing, China, E->Chinese translator [already passed by email vote]
- ◆ Antoaneta Janeva, Ardeer, RMIT student
- ◆ Louis Vorstermans, Mont Albert, Dutch prof. Trans. -> E Nida Hussein, Oakleigh, Assoc. Affil.
- ◆ Wendy Bush, Somerset (Tas.), French -> E prof. trans.
- ◆ Annick Bourveau, Elwood, French <-> prof. trans.
- ◆ Masato Takimoto, Clayton, E -> Japanese Adv. Trans., Conf. Interpreter
- ◆ Nadine Watson, South Melbourne, French prof. trans <->

National Council Resolution 8 (20.02.,2002)

Votes in favour: 8 Votes against: Nil Abstained: 3

Resolution No 9 (21.02.2002)*Regarding the motion*

That all members of AUSIT in all categories who do not reside in Australia or its external territories should pay the same annual membership rate that is currently paid by the members of the NSW and Victorian Branches in the relevant categories, regardless of which Branch such overseas members may belong to, and that this new rate be applied as and when overseas members renew their memberships with their own Branches.

National Council Resolution 9 (21.02.2002)

Votes in favour: 8 Votes against: 1 Abstained: 2

Resolution No 10 (21.03.2002)*Regarding the motion*

That the following new member for the Vic/Tas branch be ratified/approved:

March 2002:

- ◆ Mrs Cindy Husein, Prof. Translator, E > Indonesian

National Council Resolution No 10 (21.03.2002)

Votes in favour: 9 Votes against: Nil Abstained: 2

Resolution No 11 (19.04.2002)**Preamble**

Following a discussion on the question of the location of the next AGM, there seems to be a fair deal of positive reaction to the idea that it be held in Perth, where the Branch has shown an interest in combining it with a substantial conference. As the issue has been ventilated at some length, it is time to move a formal motion to the National Council to agree to the WA Branch's request.

Regarding the motion

That the next AGM be held in Perth on the previously determined date of 26 October 2002, and that the WA Branch be authorised to do all things necessary for the success of this proposal.

National Council Resolution No 11 (19.04.2002)

Votes in favour: 10 Votes against: Nil Abstained: 1

I lke Brueckner-Klein

National Council Secretary

The Concept of Bilingualism in Deaf Education

Classifying Languages by “Word Order”

Different languages are often distinguished by the order of words in sentences. Consider the usual preferred pattern in these languages (acknowledging that a language may vary from the usual for effect on special occasions, e.g., in poetry); there are six possible variations on the order in which SUBJECT, VERB and OBJECT appear in sentences.

For example, the usual word order in English is S-V-O (also in French). *The lecturer teaches the class.*

Other word orders are:

- ◆ S-O-V [e.g., in Japanese (O-S-V also common), Korean, Turkish]
- ◆ V-S-O [e.g., Welsh, classical Hebrew (modern Hebrew favours S-O-V)]
- ◆ V-O-S [e.g., Tagalog or Filipino (usually V first but O and S vary)]
- ◆ O-S-V [e.g., “*strange fits of passion have I known*” – Wordsworth]
- ◆ O-V-S [e.g., “*Jones I invited – not Smith*” – example by David Crystal, Cambridge Encyc. Lang.]

Latin exhibits free word order; i.e., unlike English, in which word order determines the meaning of the sentence, in Latin it is the endings of words that show their function no matter where they appear in a sentence (changing the ending = inflection – Latin is a highly inflected language).

Sign Language Word Order

Usually, the order of signs in a Sign Language sentence is not so rigid as in English. English word order may be followed if, for example, the signer is interpreting an English text or when Sign Language is the signer’s second language and English order dominates his or her signing.

In Sign Language, the word order may be either *lecturer class teach* or *class lecturer teach* - both forms are grammatically acceptable, readily understood, and not ambiguous. (It is not likely to be read as the class teaching the lecturer!). In this example, the verb comes after the object. However, sometimes the object comes before the verb; e.g., *cup break*. Again, no word order may be necessary when a single sign is inclusive, e.g., *open door*.

In Sign Language, the main topic usually begins the sentence and is followed by whatever is said about it. For example, *car – no problem, good*.

So long as the topic is clear, it is acceptable to sign in the following ways:

- ◆ S-O-V *lecturer class teach*
- ◆ S-V-O *lecturer teach class*
- ◆ O-S-V *class lecturer teach*
- ◆ V-O-S *teach class lecturer*

The manner in which each of these orders is signed establishes the topic.

It is not possible to sign Auslan and speak English grammatically at the same time!

Definitions

Before considering bilingualism involving Sign Language and English, it is necessary to define **what is meant by ‘Sign Language’** – this is important in relation to the topic of bilingualism.

Not all signing is “Sign Language.” What is often called sign language includes mime and simple gesturing, ‘home signs,’ and the various forms of manually-coded English, and even ‘cued speech,’ simply because there is a visual-gestural mode of communication involved.

- a) **Mime and simple gesturing** are commonly practised, even by hearing people, especially between people of different cultures and languages. This is a form of communication but it is not a true language – it has no grammar or syntax characteristics of a true language.
- b) **Home signs** are simple signs devised within a hearing family where a member is deaf and this mode of expression facilitates communication within the home. Often the signs used are specific to the family and not recognised outside.
- c) **Manual-coded English (MCE)** is what is used in many schools for deaf children to instruct the pupils in English language. There are several forms of this system, e.g., “Signed Exact English” (SEE), Paget-Gorman method, Rochester method (finger-spelling), Pidgin (or Contact) signing, etc. Some of the reasons for using MCE include the fact that 90% of deaf children have hearing parents who want their deaf children to blend into the hearing world, and few parents favour or are prepared to learn Sign Language. Another reason is that most hearing teachers of deaf children do not use or are not fluent in Sign Language. A further reason is that while many deaf children struggle to learn by an oral method alone, and Sign Language cannot be used by itself to teach any spoken language (different structure, etc), a compromise is made (**Signed Exact English**) by using some Sign Language signs and supplementing these with ‘contrived’ signs for such spoken words for which there are no existing signs (e.g., the articles and conjunctions of an English sentence are not needed in Auslan). Likewise, the **Paget-Gorman** system is representative of those methods where signs are used in English word order in addition to adding plural ‘s’ and past tense ‘ed’ where needed (not in Auslan). The **Rochester method** was devised in New York and uses finger-spelling, together with lip-reading and speech – again enabling direct relaying of English sentences in correct word order. **Pidgin or Contact Signing** is a mixture of signs and speech.

Another major method of teaching deaf children involves **oral education** (excluding signs). Again, there are several kinds of oral teaching:

- a) **Aural-Oral method** – relying on lip (speech)-reading and articulation training.
- b) **Auditory-Verbal method** – relying on the fact that most deaf children have at least a little “residual hearing” and, with modern assistive amplification technology (hearing aids, cochlear implant, etc), children may be enabled to hear speech and learn to talk.

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- c) **Cued Speech method** – A method of lip (speech)-reading supplemented by handshapes adjacent to the lips to signify consonants (eight handshapes) and vowels (four hand positions) which are otherwise indistinguishable by lip reading alone (e.g., bat - pat - mat).

Other terms encountered in the education of deaf children are:

- a) **Simultaneous Method** – combining speech with signs concurrently (with finger-spelling) in English word order.
b) **Total Communication** – uses any and all methods to get the message across! A popular and widely-used method in schools for deaf children.

Bilingualism

There is much disagreement among educationists regarding an acceptable definition for the term “bilingualism.” Professor David Crystal (*The Penguin Dictionary of Language*) defines it as “A speech situation where an individual or community controls two or more languages”. A major problem arises when bilingualism and second-language learning are confused. This has been made evident by the claim of some authorities that a child who acquires two languages before the age of two demonstrates “simultaneous acquisition” (bilingualism), but a child who acquires a second language after the age of three demonstrates “successive acquisition” (second-language learning).

Another problem with the term “bilingualism” is the question of what languages are being considered. In the case of English and Sign Languages, what form of English and what form of signing are involved? Since most methods of signing in the education of deaf children is really one or other methods of manually-coded English, and most hearing teachers of deaf children are not fluent in Sign Language, is “bilingualism” a justifiable claim for what is being used in many places?

If bilingualism, for argument’s sake, is good “standard” English Language acquired along with “true” Sign Language (Auslan in Australia), who may teach deaf children to be bilingual and where may this method be found?

If it were accepted that there is no perfect situation, what forms of English Language and Sign system would be accepted as bilingual? Should the signs be taught only by Deaf tutors in order to ensure an acceptable standard of Sign Language learned by the children?

What if the proficiency gained by an individual in two languages is unequal – good, say, in Auslan, but not very good in English – can that child be said to be bilingual? This, in fact, is the situation affecting many Australian Deaf people.

One of the common methods of introducing the bilingual system for deaf children is to expose them to Sign Language only in one session, and then to expose them to read/write English only in another session. Will this really help deaf children acquire a better comprehension and usage of English than other methods of instruction in the past? Bearing in mind that English is a language mainly acquired by hearing – hence the development of the alphabet based on phonemes (speech sounds)!

For bilingualism to have optimum success with deaf children, it follows that it is essential for hearing parents and family members to participate as fully as possible in the program. It is unlikely to be successful if the children’s only exposure to bilingual training is confined to the classroom.

Some Bilingualism Theories

Several theoretical models underlie the concept of bilingualism in the continuing debate between education linguists.

1. Balance Theory

It is claimed that each person has a fixed amount of language learning ability that must be divided among two or more languages or devoted entirely to one. It is also said that most people are unable to learn two languages simultaneously as well as monolinguals learn one by itself.

2. Interdependence Theory

An apparently contradictory claim is made that, under certain learning conditions, access to two languages can positively influence the development of some cognitive processes and lead to a higher IQ and academic achievement.

3. Additive/Subtractive Theory

Some bilinguals develop in an additive environment [second (majority) language (L2) is no threat to the first (home) language (L1)], and others develop in a subtractive environment [majority language (L2) threatens to replace first language (L1)].

4. Societal Factor Theory

Perhaps various social and attitudinal factors (e.g., community support for the school program, relative prestige of the languages involved, teacher expectations and attitudes) provide an explanation for the differential success of some programs over others.

5. Threshold Theory

Another assumption is that those aspects of bilingualism that might positively influence cognitive growth are unlikely to come into effect until the child has attained a certain minimum or threshold level of competence in the second language.

6. Developmental Interdependence Model

Is the development of skills in a second language (L2) a function of skills already established in the first language (L1)? In situations where L1 is inadequately developed, the introduction and promotion of L2 can impede the continued development of L1. In turn, inadequate development of L1 will limit the development of competence in L2.

7. Vernacular Advantage Theory

It is claimed that the best medium for teaching a child in a bilingual situation is the mother tongue or first language (intended for children whose first language is a minority language). It is argued that the acquisition of reading skills in L1 leads to an efficient transfer of skills and, thus, faster acquisition of L2 reading.

And the debate continues...(as if you thought the subject was a simple one!)

Dr Harry Blackmore

Understanding Both Sides of My Culture

“In the Interpreting Course it was very important to understand both sides of my culture...”

My name is Gail Smiler.
My skin name is Nangala.
I live in Bayulu Community.
I am a Walmajarri speaker and Kriol.



Gail Smiler with Francis Brookliss

I have lived all my life in Fitzroy. I also grew up around here. All my schooling was here in Fitzroy Crossing right up till year 12. I love school and decided to look for a job. I was working for the Community Health Service around the stations in the Fitzroy Area (Fitzroy Crossing is located in the Far Northwest of Western Australia, in the remote Kimberley Region).

After that I spent 1 year and 7 months working for C.H.S., then went over to the A.I.M. Hospital. After that I got a job as an Aboriginal Education Worker at Bayulu Primary School for 7 years. Then I did further training at Aboriginal study (early childhood course) and got my certificate and passed my studies.

Then I decided to do more training on my interpreting course because it was very important to do this course to help me to understand both sides of my culture.

When I did the course, it really helped me with my job and with the Kaetiya (or Gaddyia, i.e. “white fellas”) way of understanding of working together and making our people aware of what’s going on around the place.

In the early days we used to speak in our own language when I went to school or Kriol because there was a mix of kids from different languages in the same school.

Today, I am working for KALACC (Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre, Fitzroy Crossing). I have been working for 5 years there. I do a lot of interpreting in our meetings and I have been working with Mangkaja Art Centre for 2 years. I also do a lot of interpreting with them and going places everywhere.

I am also a Chairperson for Wangki Radio Station in Fitzroy Crossing and Community Member for Cultural Health Service and the Vice-Chair for Mangkaja Art Centre. Furthermore, I work as a contract interpreter for Kimberley Interpreting Service and do a lot of court interpreting.

I really like doing interpreting around the place wherever it is needed.

Gail Smiler
Fitzroy Crossing

News From Yveline & David

- Our 1800 number:** Over recent weeks more and more administrative improvements have been made in AUSIT, and as of today callers to the AUSIT number 1800 284 181 who are in Qld, NSW and ACT will be answered by Yveline Piller the Northern Administrator, who is in Sydney:
<nsw@ausit.org>
and callers in Vic/Tas, SA/NT and WA will be answered by David Connor, the Southern Administrator, who is in Melbourne:
<victas@ausit.org>
- The deadline for contributions to the NAATI newsletter** is 7th June and contributions should be sent to Lynne Goodyer at:
<lynn@naati.com.au>

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3. **Editors are required** for the AUSIT professional journal "Antipodean" and for the International Federation of Translators' (FIT) journal "Babel". For more information contact Terry Chesher at:
<tchesher@bigpond.net.au>
 4. **Issuing of receipts:** Based on advice received from accountants, as from 1 July 2002, AUSIT will no longer issue receipts for payments made by cheque.
 5. **For your tax records**, it is sufficient for you to retain the renewal letter which is sent to you when your membership is about to expire, together with the bank statement showing the amount paid. This measure will save valuable administration time and money, which we can use in other, more profitable ways for our members. Receipts will continue to be delivered for cash payments, such as workshop fees.
 6. **You can talk to your fellow members** (or watch them debate all sorts of topics) by sending a blank message to:
<AUSIT-eBulletin-subscribe@yahoo.com>
 7. **AUSIT's eBulletin system** has many specific language groups operating on these days. Is there one in your language? There most likely is. Ask David at:
<victas@ausit.org>
 8. **The eBulletin distribution list** will be weeded out over the next few days. Those members who have not renewed will be taken off the list, as well as a number of prospective members who haven't joined. It's never too late to contact Yveline (ACT, NSW & Qld) or David (Vic/Tas, SA/NT & WA) about membership or membership renewal. Use the 1800 number.
 9. **If you need your ID and password** to access the member's area of our website:
<www.ausit.org>
contact your administrator by email. Explore what's on offer on the site.
 10. If you're going to be in Melbourne on the following dates, mark them in your diary. More detailed information will be available soon.
 - Interpreters group in the city on the evening of Friday the 7th June.
 - Networking session in Parkville on the evening of Friday the 14th June.
 - Restaurant night in Carlton on the evening of Thursday 18th July.
 11. The administrators now have the new AUSIT brochure available in electronic form or in hard copy, so please ask if you have a need for it.

Yveline & David
Your Administration Team

AUSIT NOMINATION

ACT branch member **Kevin Windle** has been nominated by AUSIT for the Karel Capek Medal, awarded every three years by FIT (the International Translators' Federation) for the outstanding translation of a work – or a body of work – from an LLD (language of limited diffusion). This year's medal will be presented at the 16th International Congress in Vancouver in August (where AUSIT will be represented by delegates Terry Chesher, convenor of the Community-Based Interpreting Committee, and Adolfo Gentile, outgoing FIT President).

Rosh Ireland (also an ACT branch member) has written the following short piece about Kevin for the newsletter.

He describes the translation we have submitted for the Capek Medal as "a superb demonstration of the skills of the literary and scholarly translator: to be confident in the two source languages (Polish and Russian), to be at home in two source cultures, to be meticulous in dealing with each sentence, to be able to use all the resources of the target language to recreate the author's thought, to edit and adjust (and occasionally correct) with tact, and to be aware of two very different readerships and their sensibilities."

Barbara McGilvray

Kevin Windle: An Academic Translator

Five years ago, the then Dean of Arts at the Australian National University concluded that student numbers no longer justified the teaching of Russian and deleted Russian from the curriculum. Two staff members retired. The third, Kevin Windle, was reduced to half-time, though not long after this promoted, and invited to teach two units in translation.

It is an irony that translation was long unfashionable in university language departments. One of Kevin's students told us ten years ago that, studying a second language in the same department, she had never been asked to translate. Yet to translate is often the first request made of a language student emerging into the world, however unprepared for this many of them may be.

It is an irony also that DEETYA (now DEST), in assessing scholarship in universities in order to allocate funds, has also a contemptuous attitude to translation – as it has also to scholars who are unwise enough to publish their research in languages other than English.

Kevin took his degree in Russian, Spanish and Portuguese at Liverpool, his M.A. at McMaster on Solzhenitsyn, and a Ph.D. at McGill which was a comparative study of translations of Sienkiewicz. He came to Australia in 1974 as lecturer in Russian at Queensland. He then returned to England to the BBC monitoring service, where he spent six years before joining the ANU in 1987.

He regards himself as a language teacher, but teachers of Slavonic studies have always taken a broad view of their discipline, and he has taught Russian language, literature and history, comparative Slavonic philology, Polish, east European history, and, of course, translation.

His range as a translator has been remarkable. He has NAATI qualifications in four languages. He has published literary translations from Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Czech, Slovak and Portuguese, together with a book on language development in early childhood from French and Bernhardt Maier's history of the Celts from German (for publication later this year).

In addition to research on topics from symbolism in Solzhenitsyn to competing texts of underground songs about Stalin, he has published a number of articles analysing and assessing translations from *1001 Nights* to *A Clockwork Orange*.

This great body of translation and related work notwithstanding, his major achievement since joining ANU has been his work on the *Routledge Macedonian-English Dictionary*, a major project begun by the late Professor R. de Bray, completely rewritten in difficult circumstances by a team led by Kevin and published in 1998.

He has been awarded two Australia Council translation grants: for Vladimir Kabo's memoirs *Road to Australia* (a joint project) and for Andrzej Drawicz's *The Master and the Devil: a Study of Mikhail Bulgakov*, the translation for which AUSIT has nominated him for the Karel Capek Prize.

Rosh Ireland
ACT Branch

DO YOU WANT A NEWSLETTER?

The AUSIT national newsletter will continue to be available in a hard copy, but it will also be posted on our website so that members can read it there. A new box has been added to your member's profile on the website <www.ausit.org> It says "newsletter" and consists of a ticked box. If you want to continue to receive the hard copy of the newsletter, do nothing. If you would like to save AUSIT the expense of sending you a hard copy newsletter, go into your profile and untick the box, this will result in no newsletter being sent to you. Please make sure your details are correct and up-to-date. If you have any inquiries, please contact:

David Connor at: <victas@ausit.org>

REGARDING RECEIPTS

Based on advice received from accountants, as from 1 July 2002, AUSIT will no longer issue receipts for payments made by cheque.

For your tax records, it is sufficient for you to retain the renewal letter that is sent to you when your membership is about to expire, together with the bank statement showing the amount paid.

This measure will save valuable administration time and money, which we can use in other, more profitable ways for our members. Receipts will continue to be delivered for cash payments, such as workshop fees.

Yveline

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2002 – 2003



**Deadline for contributions
to the next newsletter:
Friday, 30 August 2002.**

AUSIT

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND
TRANSLATORS INC

15th National AGM, Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture & Conference - Perth 25 - 27 October 2002



Central TAFE Perth WA

The Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators invites you to expand your horizons as a practitioner by attending its 2002 National Conference, "*Strength in Diversity*"; a conference for practitioners, by practitioners. The venue for the Conference will be Central TAFE in Perth, W A. A program of pre-and post- Conference activities and accompanying partner programs during the weekend 25-27 October 2002, will make the most of the wine, fine food, wildflowers and other natural delights of Perth in spring.

YOU MAY CHOOSE TO:

Attend the Conference to:

- Debate and discuss issues, concepts, and philosophies that address the future of the translating and interpreting profession
- Participate in optional extra social and professional program events offered before, during, and after the main Conference
- Obtain the latest information about current trends in professional linguistics in Australia
- Be informed about specialist areas such as aboriginal and deaf interpreting
- Give your input to clarifying issues defining and confronting practitioners
- Build relationships with peers to support your business or career
- Network across Australia with colleagues in the profession
- Develop yourself professionally and commercially
- Explore the capabilities of distance technologies

GST inclusive delegate fee: \$77 (Students \$38.50) Add all prices here for WAITI & AUSIT Members

Facilitate an interactive workshop, make a thought-provoking presentation, or suggest a facilitator or presenter:

The Conference organisers are looking for competent facilitators and challenging presenters to design, lead, or keynote sessions. Successful proponents will:

- Help define emerging trends (in technology, marketing, deregulation, globalisation, competencies)
- Be comfortable with interactive video-conferencing (either delivering or chairing sessions)
- Pose issues that will focus delegates on professional and AUSIT priorities
- Present topics that cross linguistic and modal borders
- Encourage dialogue between interest groups

Deadline for brief proposals (100 words maximum): 30 June 2002

Offer your organization as or recommend a sponsor: (For costs involved see the Registration form that follows).

A range of opportunities will be available for sponsorship in cash or in kind for people or organizations seeking to promote their services and expertise to conference delegates and the broader linguistic profession. They will include, but not be limited to:

1. Logos or advertising in printed Conference promotion materials (approx circulation 10,000 individuals and organizations)
2. Strategic logo display at the Conference and during associated program events
3. Contribution of delegate kit components (including: files, pens, notepads, rulers, bookmarks, calendars, mouse-pads, coasters, and other give-aways)
4. 'Branding' of specific Conference sessions, program components, or services (including: tours, transfers, session breaks, meals, video conferencing, professional development, and Conference proceedings)
5. Panel or desk displays of marketing materials

Register for Conference attendance by 24 August 2002 and you will go into the draw for:

- Online directory enhancements in the AUSIT website database (10 prizes for AUSIT members)
- Standard 1 year inclusion in the Yellow pages AUSIT ad. in the state of your choice (1 prize for an AUSIT member)
- Attendance at the gala AUSIT Dinner (1 prize)
- Contribution of delegate kit components (including: files, pens, notepads, rulers, bookmarks, calendars, mouse-pads, coasters, and other give-aways)

For further information contact: Mary Gurgone: email: <gurgone@iinet.net.au>
OR the AUSIT National Office: email: national@ausit.org - Telephone: 1800 284 181

SEE THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR MORE DETAILS

AUSIT

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS INC

Fifteenth National Annual General Meeting and associated Conference
Central TAFE in Perth, Western Australia - during the weekend 25-27 October 2002.

The Conference theme is "Strength in Diversity".

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print neatly

Title _____ Family name _____ Given name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

State _____ Post Code _____

Email _____ Mobile Telephone _____

Telephone (Home) () _____ (Work) () _____

I will be attending the following: (Tick the appropriate box/es)

- The 15th AUSIT National Annual General Meeting
- The Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture
- The Conference / Workshops

I have included my cheque/money order to: (Tick the appropriate box/es)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Present at the Conference or conduct a Workshop | |
| | Send a 100 word proposal by 30 June 2002 | <i>No Cost</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Conference Registration (inc. GST): | |
| | \$77 for non-members | |
| | \$30 for student non-members | |
| | \$45 for AUSIT & WAITI members, | |
| | and \$15 for student members, | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Be a sponsor (recommendations welcomed) | |
| | For \$2000 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Display of marketing materials at the Conference (max. 2metres x 1metre) | |
| | For \$300 (\$200 for members) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Include marketing materials in satchels | |
| | For \$110 (\$80 for members) | \$ _____ |
| | TOTAL: | \$ _____ |

I would like to recommend the following as a potential sponsor _____

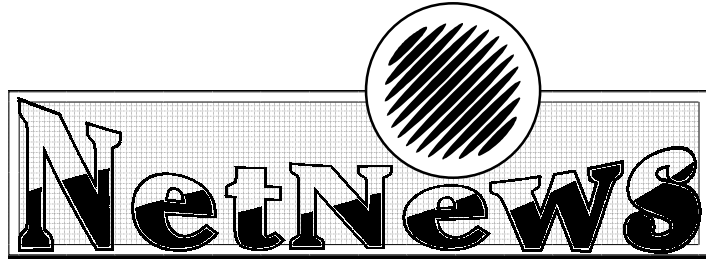
Cheques/Money Orders should be made payable to: AUSIT

Register by 24 August 2002 and you will go into the draw for many prizes!

Remember: Attach a summary (100 words maximum) of proposed presentation/workshop.

Return to: Mary Gurgone: Facsimile: (08) 9227 8938 Email: <gurgone@iinet.net.au>
Address: AUSIT Conference, 544 William Street, Mount Lawley, WA 6050

SEE THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR MORE DETAILS



Role of the Interpreter in the Healing of a Nation: An Emotional View".

I found this very interesting report on the internet. It describes the multilingual interpreting service (11 languages) which was set up as part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It explores the role of interpreters in the context of the Commission's aims to restore moral order, seek the truth and create a culture of human rights. Amongst other things, it looks at the emotional implications of the process on the interpreters. It focuses on cross-cultural influences, interpreting and debriefing techniques.

<http://www.uovs.ac.za/faculties/Humanities/units/etfb/afr/Kanada%20oefening.pdf>

Eva Hussain

Chinese >> Dutch Dictionary

Originally posted on LANGIT. Now, this is really unusual: a web site with a Chinese><Dutch dictionary!

<http://home.wanadoo.nl/cnwb/n/WBWA01.HTM>

Avagudwikend everyone.

Adriana
Sydney

US Medical Interpreters' Association.

An inspiring website.

<http://www.SOMInet.org>

Terry Chesher
Sydney

Jobs Being Offered

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jobs-translators/messages/2932>

If anyone's interested - you are welcome to share.

Marina Del Greco

Medical & Health-Related Websites in Seventeen Languages.

<http://www.interfold.com/translator/medsites.htm>

Over 1,050 links to useful & informative medical & health-related websites in seventeen languages; compiled by André Fairchild, translator & terminologist in Denver, Colorado, USA.

The text of this long web page is mostly in English, but many of the links below are to sites in languages other than English. Of these sites & glossaries, 494 are in English, 220 are in Spanish, 54 in Portuguese, 2 in Catalan, 140 in French, 26 in German, 36 in Dutch, and 51 in other languages.

Conferences

Here is a good source of information about forthcoming conferences.

<http://lisa.tolk.su.se/konfindx.htm>

David Connor
<europatrans@optushome.com.au>

Halal Food Directory

Here is the direct link.

<http://avoca.vicnet.net.au/~entimp/nies/halal.html>

Eva Hussain

Translation Tool

I have for years tried to find a tailor-made system for freelance translators, where I could keep track of projects, PO's and do invoicing. And suddenly this popped up in my mailbox:

<<http://www.translation3000.com>>

Have a look at their demo - I bought one immediately. Very promising program - they are even seeking translators to translate it to French (for money!!).

These guys deserve support - and I'm in no way affiliated with them or know them - just find it a good tool for many freelancers.

Adriana Ferrigno

Right to an Interpreter

I couldn't find any legislation that supports a claim to the right to an claim

AUSIT National Yellow Pages

Dozens of enquiries tell us that many of you are very keen to participate in one of the AUSIT YP advertisements. Time to make up your minds! Here is who is doing what and where. Good news first.

MELBOURNE. The cooperative ad in the Melbourne Yellow Pages edition is definitely going ahead. With a total of 34 participants, AUSIT and those in it are assured of a visible presence. We are looking for some more takers, particularly in those languages with only one participant. (Potential clients usually ring more than one provider and with a few more AUSIT members for each language, we could keep the business 'in the family'.) Participants (total of 36) by Language:

Albanian	1	Bulgarian	1
Chinese	4	Danish	1
Dutch	1	French	4
German	4	Greek	3
Indonesian	4	Italian	2
Japanese	1	Malay	2
Portuguese	2	Russian	1
Spanish	4	Vietnamese	1

PERTH is looking good too. In terms of the number of AUSIT members in the West, this is a spectacular ratio! Participants (total of 12) by Language:

Auslan	1	German	2
Hungarian	1	Indonesian	1
Italian	1	Japanese	1
Korean	1	Malaysian	1
Russian	1	Spanish	2

BRISBANE, needs a few more too before it can fly (This is a major market, how come there are only 7 takers?) Participants (total of 7) by Language:

Chinese	1	French	1
German	1	Indonesian	1
Serbian	1	Spanish	2

SYDNEY, one of Australia's biggest markets with only 9 participants. Where are you? Participants (total of 9) by Language:

All Languages	1	Arabic	1
Chinese	1	French	1
German	1	Greek	1
Indonesian	1	Italian	1
Malaysian	1		

ADELAIDE has two confirmed participant and we're looking for another 8.

German	1	Japanese	1
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Booking fees received: \$23,929.50

Some ads may not happen as cooperative ads unless we get the numbers. We will only run cooperative ads with 10 or more participants and a reasonable spread of languages because we don't believe anything smaller would reflect well on AUSIT and wouldn't be as effective for the members. In those cases AUSIT will resort to Plan B, which is a small box ad listing only AUSIT's details. Alas, like most plan Bs, it is not nearly as attractive as sizeable cooperative ads that catch the eye.

If you are sitting on the fence get off! Your YP Team needs to know immediately if you want to be in something. Request details from John Crone at:

<cronej@dragonlink.com.au>

or at (03) 9836 2930 and remember to send payment too!!!

Your YP team

John Crone
Silke Gebauer

SA Branch News

SA has always held 3 to 4 seminars a year, open to all practising T/Is, whether AUSIT members or not, with the hope of encouraging new members.

Like NSW, our seminars have cost us little. Postage and photocopying/paper (often donated) were part of our administrative expenses. The Royal SA Deaf Society has for many years now, kindly allowed us the use of their premises for a nominal donation. Guest speakers were mostly free with a small gift of appreciation given at the end of the evening.

Unfortunately AUSIT members have participated less and less over the years, with the bulk of seminar attendees being TAFE students. Very few new members are acquired via seminars. Most of the TAFE students are Asian paraprofessional level, and I have been told that they see no point in becoming members, because paraprofessionals do not have full voting rights.

This year we have arranged to co-ordinate our seminars with Adelaide TAFE which has T/I course (paraprofessional) as well as a newly introduced Advanced course for T/Is (NAATI approved professional level). The seminars are accepted as extra curricular for the students and therefore TAFE provides a theatre free of charge to AUSIT. The seminars are still open to all AUSIT members or non-members of the T/I profession. The first this year on "Computer-aided translations" was attended by 40 people - including students and non-students. Reports were generally positive.

We hope that the TAFE venue will be 'seen' as being an educational institution and the seminars therefore more worthy of attendance. Although, I can assure you, those held at the Royal SA Deaf Society were all of an equally high standard.

I have written to one of our NT members to see if she might be able to encourage her colleagues to resurrect the NT branch.

The videotape from NSW was on an interesting topic, but we found the sound was of very poor quality and unusable. We strongly recommend that an external microphone be used and not rely solely on the camera microphone.

AUSIT brochures sent to us were distributed very quickly and we have requested more. We hope some new memberships will result from this.

Nella Schulz
Chairperson, SA Branch

AUSIT Northern Regional Administrator Appointed



First, I would like to thank all those who sent me messages of welcome on my appointment as the Northern Administrator. It was very heart-warming and much appreciated. My thanks also go to Judie Novak, who was very helpful in organising the hand-over and to whom I wish all the best in her new family adventure in Queensland.

In this new role, I look after the members for New South Wales, Queensland and the ACT, including new memberships, renewals, questions, payments. All their queries should be directed to me at:

actyve@iprimus.com.au

or on 1800 284 181 or (02) 95 83 28 76.

David Connor, Southern Regional Administrator, takes care of Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. He can be reached at:

<victas@ausit.org>

or on 1800 284 181 or (03) 9877 4369.

Outside this role, I am also a NSW Committee member, assisting our National Treasurer, developing PD ideas, and taking on board more projects than I should. I am NAATI-accredited at the Professional level in French, in interpreting and in translation in both directions. My speciality areas are business, IT and finance but, like most T/I practitioners, I love the variety that comes with the job.

One of my first AUSIT projects revolves around the redesign of the database, which will greatly facilitate the service to members. As we check through the data, I might need to contact you for clarification.

I look forward to this new role and to our work together!

Yveline Piller
Administrator - Northern Region



The Editor

AUSIT National Newsletter

I refer to the article published under "News from AUSIT WA Branch" in the National Newsletter (Feb 2002) and would like to make the following corrections to the information provided, as the organisations mentioned have access to the Newsletter and would most likely appreciate that their efforts are acknowledged accurately.

1. Central TAFE (School of Management, Business and Client Services) conducts professional development courses for accredited interpreters wishing to specialise in the health and mental health areas. These courses are a joint venture with the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) and the Multicultural Access Unit of the WA Health Department, with the Transcultural Psychiatric Unit of the Department as a major supporter and contributor. These courses are also available, and attended by, Auslan interpreters.
2. Professional development is not available in the legal area due to funding problems. However, Central TAFE is able to deliver this type of training, having developed and piloted an in-depth course for the Attorney General's Department in Canberra, some three years ago.

As regards the remark that "*Translators and Interpreters in Western Australia are in the awkward situation of having two professional T & I associations co-existing...*" I can only say that this is a subjective statement, not supported by evidence. The Western Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters Inc. (WAITI) has had an active membership since 1975 and has cooperated with AUSIT WA since its inception. WAITI's members made their choice on their own volition, and there are good reasons why WAITI continues to thrive. A number of members have joined both organisations (WAITI and AUSIT), and some have been on both organisations' Executive over the years. Nobody has ever felt *awkward* about that.

I would appreciate it if you could publish this contribution in the next newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Dagmar Dixon

A/President WAITI
Coordinator Interpreter Programs, Central TAFE (Perth Campus)
Member of AUSIT and WAITI

The Editor

Dear Nella,

I remember that, some time ago, you asked about publishing an "article" on me, to which I agreed. Unfortunately, I have never seen the article. If, somehow, it has not yet appeared, you might care to add something to it:

- ◆ I am now returning to Australia this December, to set up home in Sydney, having sold my home in Israel.
- ◆ Many of the problems facing I/Ts in Australia also exist here in Israel, which has a multicultural society very similar to that of Australia, except that there is, of course, a very much higher proportion of Jews.
- ◆ I am continuing to work for the reform of the roles of NAATI and AUSIT, to allow AUSIT to grow into a true professional association and NAATI into the registration board (and nothing else!). In this way the I/T profession will conform with the pattern for the running of other professions.

I hope to become a practitioner in Australia, but realise that there is probably an oversupply in the languages in which I am most competent (German, French and Italian). I am hardly likely to be rushed with work in Latin! I plan to sit down with some former colleagues to see whether I can somehow collaborate.

It would be nice to have such a "reminder" inserted in the Journal.

All the best to you, hubby and SA colleagues.

Paul Sinclair

Address: 22/15 Borochoy Street, Ra-anana, 43433, Israel.

Email: Dalia and Paul Sinclair <rialcnis@bezeqint.net>

13 May 2002

P.S.: 8 years ago, I was close to moving from Surfers to SA to live in Adelaide - I was thinking of places like Belair or somewhere near Mt Lofty. My wife lived in Australia 19 years, but never visited SA. I shall be rectifying that - so, like it or not, the proverbial bad penny will be turning up on your doorstep one day. I know how much there is to see there. I even want to ride on the Pichi Richi Pass steam train, near Quorn!

*(Some creative 'vandal' changed the sign to:
' ichi ichi ass'. Ed.)*

I will send the relevant newsletters. Nella



Werner Richter, an Austrian literary translator, some AUSIT colleagues may recall from the FIT congress we hosted in Melbourne in 1996, has just won a copyright case - with the support of his association - which means that in Austria it is now illegal to quote from a literary translation without naming the translator concerned. What a wonderful precedent! Roll on the day when we don't have to write to the literary editors of newspapers, radio programmes etc every time a translated work is reviewed with no mention of the translator.

For those who may be interested the full story is below.

Barbara McGilvray

PRESS RELEASE

The Austrian Association of Literary Translators (Uebersetzergemeinschaft) today gave out a press release. This is the gist of it.

David wins against Goliath Austrian Supreme Court ruling on authors' moral right for translators.

The Austrian Supreme Court recently published a final ruling in a copyright case that had gone on since 1999. According to this decision, it is unlawful to quote from literary translations without naming the author of that translation, i.e. the translator. In the case in point, it was the Austrian state-owned broadcasting company (ORF), but the ruling will have repercussions on the presence of translated literature in all the media, at least in this country, since omitting translators' names -- which has been unfortunately a frequent neglect in so many literary reviews and feature articles about authors -- might now have legal consequences in whatever medium.

In 1999, translator Werner Richter switched on the Austrian radio to listen to a literary feature about "his" author, US writer T. Coraghessan Boyle, which was 44 minutes long, including several longish music "bridges", with a total of 12 minutes of quotations from two of his translations, without the radio station bothering to give his name, at least in the final credits where everybody is usually named: narrators, producers, technicians etc.

The radio station denied any obligation to have mentioned the translator's name, and because of the obvious infringement of his author's moral right, his association decided to make it a case of precedence, therefore supporting him in a lawsuit. The case went through all the courts, and already the second court suggested a supreme-court ruling in order to have the status and the moral rights of literary translators decided upon once and for all.

The Supreme Court ruling (GzOGH 29.1.2002, 4Ob293/01v) states that all the -- rather nebulous -- objections made by the ORF lawyers over the course of the lawsuit are without any substance, and that Werner Richter should indeed have been named as an author/copyright holder in the broadcast programme in point.

This might be a major precedent for, at least in Austria, every translator whose work is quoted in the media even in small parts can now refer to this court decision. We are quite confident that the respect it expresses with regard to our creative work will have a long-awaited positive effect on journalists and authors writing or reporting about translated literature in the Austrian media, although we must say that we consider it somewhat astonishing that it was necessary to wave such a big legal stick at all in order to enforce mentioning the name of the translator whose creative work was used by somebody else for their own creative purposes. We should have thought this to be a mere question of respect among colleagues.

For the time being, this ruling is of course of purely national value for our profession in Austria, since copyright law is different in every country. (And for what it's worth, the text of the decision -- which can be obtained by fax through our office -- makes explicit mention of the relevant German law under which the case would have had a different outcome.) Nevertheless, it is good news and a positive development for the status of our profession worldwide. And after all, progress in these matters often consists in having the national legislation follow a good example from somewhere else!

In two words: I won!

objection overruled (objection overruled)

Werner Richter

Translation (Studies): A Crossroads of Disciplines

14 - 15 November 2002

Faculdade de Letras - Universidade de Lisboa

Translation Studies can and will hopefully continue to draw on a variety of discourses and disciplines and to encourage pluralism and heterogeneity. (Mona Baker)

Only when our neighbours' disciplines will need systematic insights delivered by Translation Studies in order to solve their own problems will such a discipline as ours be given the scholarly status that we claim for it. (José Lambert)

Translation Studies can be seen as a dynamic, plural and heterogeneous field of centrifugal and centripetal flows of discourses and disciplines such as Cultural Studies, Linguistics, Literary Studies, Corpora Studies, History, Anthropology, Sociology, Literary History, Media Studies, you name it.

Translation as "one of the key instruments of contemporary societies that ensure the access to intercultural and international interaction." (José Lambert) is in itself a crossroads of processes, products, functions and agents, thus, calling for such a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach.

We invite contributions that help us map in some detail the directions leading to and coming from Translation (Studies) as interdisciplinary crossroads, both from theoretical and empirical descriptive standpoints.

Papers might deal with such topics as:

- ◆ Translation as target of interdisciplinary flow
- ◆ Translation as source of interdisciplinary flow
- ◆ Case studies of translation as product, process and function
- ◆ Case studies of translation as social interaction
- ◆ Translation and literary history
- ◆ Key role of translation in society
- ◆ The social relevance of research in Translation Studies
- ◆ Translation history/history of translated literature
- ◆ Professional aspects of translating (localisation, technical writing, multilingual text-production, document management)
- ◆ Analysis of interdisciplinary alliances active in Translation Studies

Key-note speakers:

- ◆ Yves Gambier (University of Turku, Finland), "Pour une sociotraduction: modèles et méthodologie"
- ◆ Gideon Toury (Tel Aviv University, Israel), "Studying Translation on a Wish-to-Understand Basis"
- ◆ Andrew Chesterman (University of Helsinki, Finland), "Problems in the Sociology of Translation"
- ◆ Kirsten Malmkjaer (Middlesex University, UK), "Why we Should Bother with Literary Translation"

Presentations in Portuguese, English, French, German or Spanish should last no longer than 20 minutes.

Deadlines:

- ◆ Submission of titles and abstracts (250 words): 4 July 2002 (please send abstracts in the message, not by attachment).
- ◆ Communication of acceptance: 20 July 2002.
- ◆ Registration: 5 October 2002.

Contact:

Centro de Estudos Anglisticos
Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa
Alameda da Universidade
1600-214 Lisboa
Portugal
Facsimile: (+351) 21 796 00 63
Telephone: (+351) 21 7920092
Email: <crossroads2@mail.fl.ul.pt>

Further information soon available at:

<<http://www.fl.ul.pt/Crossroads2>>

Community-Based Interpreting Committee

Report supplied by Terry Cheshier

Following is a report on the Committee's activities over the last 3 years. AUSIT members who participated in the survey will be interested to read about progress. This report will be presented at the World Congress of the International Federation of Translators (FIT), of which AUSIT is a member, in Vancouver in August this year. More news about the Congress later.

See the report on the following page.

Committee for Community-Based Interpreting (CBI)

Activity Report 1999 - 2002

Introduction

There is increasing interest worldwide in community-based interpreting. In 2001 the third international Critical Link conference¹ on interpreting in the community was held in Montreal, Canada, and it was noted that evolution towards professionalism was a recurring theme. One of the speakers pointed out that community interpreting started out as an unregulated profession, practised by "well-meaning but untrained individuals who were left to their own devices to figure out how best to proceed"². The profession is now at the stage of developing internationally recognised standards for training, codes of conduct and improved working conditions. Training, accreditation and selection of interpreters from health care to legal settings have become broad topics of interest, and the particular significance of ethical issues is acknowledged. In the light of the complexity of the profession, further research will lead to greater insight into the nature of this type of interpreting.

International survey

In undertaking an international survey of interpreters who work in community settings, the Committee for Community-Based Interpreting set out to explore the nature of CBI around the world from the practitioner's perspective. Our objective was to find out from the interpreters themselves the circumstances and settings in which they work, as well as their opinions and perceptions of interpreting in this domain.

Preliminary results from survey respondents were presented at Mons FIT Congress in 1999³. Survey data revealed that patterns were emerging of the profile of interpreters who work in this domain. Results highlighted the importance of ethics in defining the interpreters' role and in providing the guiding principles for their practice. The second stage of analysis resulted in more comprehensive findings, and confirmed the complexity inherent in community-based interpreting. A presentation on these findings was made at the Critical Link 3 conference⁴.

The Committee was successful in 2001 in its application to FIT for a grant to employ a research assistant. The research assistant will undertake further data analysis, calculation of hypotheses of association and collation of findings. This will provide a more in-depth understanding of the findings of the survey, which will be presented at the FIT Vancouver Congress, in a paper on ethical practices of community interpreters.

Planned future activities of the Committee:

- ◆ to continue to hold meetings on a regular basis
- ◆ to develop a database of interpreters practising in CBI
- ◆ to develop a listing of institutions worldwide which offer training in community-based interpreting
- ◆ to undertake further research activities building on the findings of the initial survey
- ◆ to explore possibilities of expanding the committee to a larger group, particularly members from other countries
- ◆ to continue to consolidate existing networks and exchange information with individuals and organisations associated with this domain.

There has been active participation in international conferences and meetings and conference presentations made on the survey, at Critical Link 3⁵ and Babelea⁶. Members hope to participate in Critical Link 4 in Stockholm, 2004⁷.

Macquarie University, Sydney offers an MA in Interpreting and Translation, and two of the Committee members are responsible for the Community-Based Interpreting strand. The course includes review and discussion of findings of the CBI survey.

Committee members:

Terry Chesher (Chair), Vadim Doubine, Rosy Lazzari and Helen Slatyer, all long-standing members of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT). Lia Jaric is no longer available to take part in the Committee's activities, but maintains her interest and support.

-
1. "Interpreting in the Community: the complexity of the profession" Critical Link 3, Montreal May, 2001.
 2. Holly Mikkelson. Address to Critical Link 3.
 3. Chesher, T., Slatyer, H., Doubine, V., Jaric, L., and Lazzari, R. Community-Based Interpreting Around The World: Interim report on survey of interpreting in the community - FIT Proceedings (Vol.2 in press)
 4. Chesher, T., Slatyer, H., Doubine, V., Jaric, L., and Lazzari, R. Community based interpreting (CBI) – the interpreters' perspective. Accepted for publication in Proceedings of Critical Link 3.
 5. The third international conference, Critical Link 3, "Interpreting in the Community: the complexity of the profession". Presenters included interpreters, educators, researchers and service providers and the role and skills of interpreters who work in the community were examined from every angle. It was observed that greater awareness of the importance of interpreters in community settings can lead to a more humane society. Within the profession there is evidence of increasing solidarity, but there remains much to be done, for example in provision of training at university level, and more research to throw light on the work of interpreters in the community.
 6. The First Babelea Conference on Community Interpreting, Vienna, November 1999. Babelea is a non-profit organisation formed to represent the interests of Community Organisations operating in the European Community and Associated Countries. The objective of the conference was "to raise awareness of the importance of having trained and qualified interpreters, all of whom have undergone standard evaluation processes".
 7. Sweden will host the fourth Critical Link conference in Stockholm, from May 20-23, 2004 on the campus of Stockholm University. Conference website: <http://www.tolk.su.se/CL2004> The Committee has chosen to make professionalisation the explicit topic of Critical Link 4, to give a decisive impetus to the ongoing processes towards this goal world-wide. There will be a call for papers during 2002 and deadline for abstracts will be March 2003.

Quality Language Services in Rural Primary Care Partnership Settings

Late last year we informed you of the above project, which is now in an advanced stage. We also promised that we would keep you informed on interim findings and results.

To date we have carried out a survey on interpreting services and a separate survey on translation services. The response to the interpreting survey was stronger than to the translating survey. This clearly demonstrates that interpreting services are much more of concern to the members of the PCP's in the catchment area than translating services.

We also found that obtaining reliable data pertaining to the use of interpreting services, the languages involved and most importantly the number of patients/clients who receive language services was almost impossible. This is due to the fact that this data is currently not recorded in data bases and would have to be retrieved manually, which of course is too difficult a task to undertake retrospectively. We also found that one service provider in the catchment area accounted for the majority of interpreter bookings with smaller agencies only accounting for 3.5% of booking professional interpreter services. Thirty-six percent of respondents had used volunteers, bi-lingual staff and family members as interpreters.

On-site interpreting was most popular compared to telephone interpreting and videoconferencing.

It was interesting to note that the languages most required in the catchment area were Italian, followed by Albanian (settled migrant groups), followed by Turkish and Arabic in 4th place. The Arabic-speaking community group are all recent arrivals who have settled in the catchment area between 1996 and now.

We also found, that apart from a major agency, smaller PCP member agencies usually do not budget for the provision of language services.

As utilisation figures were difficult to obtain, we decided to carry out an "Utilisation Snapshot", requesting data for a particular day. The responses are due in the latter part of this month. With respect to the translating survey we found that only a few agencies were able to provide information on the material they are distributing and out of a total of 20 respondents only 4 maintained a publications register.

Disturbing was the fact that some agencies used computerised translating packages to translate information in order to save cost and some agencies had someone translate information verbally.

Once again only a few agencies made budget allocations for translating purposes.

In general, PCP member agencies were more than happy with the services they received from the providers of language services, such as CHIS and VITS.

Currently we are surveying the community members in the catchment areas with responses slowly coming in.

We have commenced four pilot projects within the Language Services Project. These projects will provide examples of cooperation between PCPs and other organizations and also provide the opportunity for information sharing. These pilots will trial protocols and procedures developed in an Interpreting and Translation Manual, which is currently in its second draft stage. Amongst others, the manual will contain helpful resources, tick lists, protocols and contacts.

If you are interested in more detailed information, please contact the project officer. An electronic copy of the report will be made available at the conclusion of the project.

In the interim I would like to thank everyone for their support and patience during the fact-finding mission.

Sigrid van Fonderen

Project Officer

PO Box 6747

Shepparton Vic 3632

Mobile: 0417 12 91 71

Email: evergee@cv.quik.com.au

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AUSIT

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Please complete this Membership & Database form and return it to the appropriate national administrator as soon as possible to ensure that you are a financial member and your details are listed accurately. (Addresses are on page 16)

Special note: Only financial members will remain listed on the Database and in the Directory.

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What does AUSIT do?

Amongst its objectives, AUSIT sets out to:

- improve access to professional Translating & Interpreting (T&I) in Australia
- uphold ethical and professional T&I standards
- advance the recognition of the T&I professions
- work for the regulation and promotion of the professions
- improve education, training and employment opportunities for T&I professionals
- ensure appropriate working conditions and fair remuneration for its members in parity with other comparable professions

AUSIT also works closely with relevant authorities to establish and safeguard the legal rights of non-English-speaking persons for whom language may hinder social, professional and legal rights.

Where is AUSIT located?

Northern Administrator, Yveline Piller
Sydney Office - responsible for ACT, NSW and QLD
Email: nsw@ausit.org

Southern Administrator, David Connor
Melbourne Office - responsible for VIC, TAS, SA, NT, and WA
Email: victas@ausit.org

Telephone: 1800 284 181, Facsimile (03) 9893 4686 Email: national@ausit.org

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

GPO Box 1732, Canberra City ACT 2601
Tel 1800 284 181 Email: act@ausit.org

SOUTH AUSTRALIA / NORTHERN TERRITORY

PO Box 6182, Halifax Street, Adelaide SA 5000
Tel 1800 284 181 Email: sant@ausit.org

NEW SOUTH WALES / NATIONAL

PO Box A202, Sydney South NSW 1235
Tel 1800 284 181
Email: nsw@ausit.org

VICTORIA / TASMANIA / NATIONAL

PO Box 1070, Blackburn North, Vic 3130
Tel 1800 284 181 Fax: (03) 9893 4686
Email: victas@ausit.org

QUEENSLAND

PO Box 10427, Adelaide St Post Office
Brisbane QLD 4000
Tel 1800 284 181
Email: qld@ausit.org

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

43 Newborough Street, Scarborough WA 6019
Tel/Voice/TTY (08) 9245 1474 or 1800 284 181
Email: wa@ausit.org

Database update: If any of your details already on the AUSIT database have changed, please send the information to the appropriate administrator. They will let your local committee know of any changes to your details.

AUSIT NEWSLETTERS

Please send your contributions for the 2002 AUSIT newsletters by the following deadlines:

2002 Deadlines – Fri 30 August (AGM Announcements), Fri 8 November.

Materials for the AUSIT Newsletter should be typed, and can be sent either as quality typed copy, on 1.44mb diskettes in PC MS Word format, or by email to: <garysads@picknowl.com.au>. We welcome quality photographs and sketches.

The AUSIT Newsletter is the quarterly publication of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc. (AUSIT) Articles of interest to those in the profession are welcomed. The AUSIT Newsletter Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit articles in accordance with editorial policy. The opinions and views written by contributors and printed in the AUSIT Newsletter are not necessarily those of AUSIT or its executive, but are reported in order to promote healthy debate.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Editor

Nella Schulz Fax: (08) 8264 6299
Email: garysads@picknowl.com.au

Members

Louise Dyer Fax: (02) 9570 8270
Email: dyerbiz@optusnet.com.au
Sylvia Jamieson Fax: (02) 6281 5549
Email: pricec@ozemail.com.au
Cheryl Appelkamp
Email: adroff@naati.com.au
Paul Cubberley (03) 9846 2632
Email: translav@bigpond.net.au

President

Moreno Giovannoni
Telephone (03) 9578 9827
Facsimile (03) 9578 1843
Email: morgio@ozemail.com.au

Layout & design work for the AUSIT Newsletter
is prepared by:

Gary Schulz, Consultant/Designer
Gary's Art & Design Services
11 Courtesy Crescent, Tea Tree Gully SA 5091
Telephone & Facsimile: +61 8 8264 6299
Mobile: 0417 082 963
Email: garysads@picknowl.com.au
