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**Deadline for next issue:
FRIDAY
21 February 2003**

AUSIT National Newsletter

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS INC.

Volume 10 Number 4 November 2002

Report From The Acting President

I was honoured when asked to take the place of Moreno Giovannoni, who is spending three months' language maintenance in Venice. Realising he wanted me to write his President's report, rather than actually *take his place* in Venice, diminished this honour only marginally.

It has been a challenge keeping up with the number of new developments in AUSIT. Outstanding amongst these are the courses and seminars that Branches are organising, along with the systems and indeed the expectations that these Branch-based activities be recorded and made available to all Members Nation-wide. The Branches are more energised and taking responsibility for recruitment and active engagement with Members, leaving the National Council to focus on broader matters such as industry policy.

There is a clear message from the Membership that Professional Development is one of the most pressing policy issues. AUSIT must ensure that every Member is developing the skills to better represent the accumulated wisdom that constitutes the profession of T&I, whether these skills are small business management, desk-top publishing and CAT technology, linguistics or intensive training for specific settings. Widespread access to these opportunities will yield the greatest benefit for the cost of Membership, both from the point of view of the individual Members and the profession as a whole.

As well as addressing specific technical issues, a course or seminar also requires practitioners to get together and talk. This is the professional association that our Professional Association makes possible. An excellent example of this was the National AGM and Conference held last month in Perth which, with some generous assistance from AUSIT, I attended as the Principal Delegate from the Victoria/Tasmania Branch.

Perth is sunny with the cleanest air, easy to traverse with plenty of nice restaurants. For three days this place was full of people who wanted to talk about T&I. It was

Heaven. I congratulate Mary Gurgone and her committee on their organisation, although I confess the distinction between the "workshops", the "conference", the "JBML" and the beers and dinners that fell between meant little to me. There was no dead air in the program. No one is totally happy at conferences of course: interesting presentations cut short; parallel sessions of equal appeal; presenters that are immensely enjoyable to disagree with. This is just how it should be. Three days jam-packed with stimulating ideas leaving us tingling for more.

Not more conferences, but more association. For years we struggled against the popular perception that our profession was no more than a quirk of personal history; that our sole qualification was as individuals who happen to speak two languages. Progress has been made, but sometimes we still argue for recognition on the basis of a similarly limiting qualification; that we enjoy a quirk of *cultural* history.

Several times at the Conference I saw people present problems as unique and intractable attributes of a particular language group, when in fact they are common to many, amongst which solutions may then be found, once people start associating with one another. It was wonderful to see people realise how much we have in common simply by virtue of being interpreters and translators. We saw that the problems experienced in diverse languages, domains and settings will all be solved by the same T&I expertise, and that we need not define ourselves by personal or cultural history, or by field-specific knowledge. These moments highlight and strengthen the common thread between us, which is our identity as a profession.

The more we associate, comparing and debating our ideas, and experiences, the more able we shall be to represent the best and most reliable set of skills that underpin the profession of T&I. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and admiration for the increasing numbers of people who are helping to further these aims. It's energy well spent because we're on the right track.

Chris Poole
ACTING PRESIDENT

AUSIT
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
Perth 25-27 October 2002

A Kaleidoscope



Mary Gurgone, AUSIT WA Chair

Experiential Learning

In the words of Conference participants:

"It was wonderful to meet colleagues from all over the country and especially the ladies from the Kimberley. I still giggle when I remember Olive's recounting of the bilingual elder's comment on her interpreting:

'Why is she repeating everything. Doesn't she have a mind of her own?'

"I was bowled over watching AUSLAN interpreters for the first time; such animation and expression....I'll never complain about how tiring voice interpreting is ever again....

....and of course the inimitable Professor Formica's face, speech and gestures also live on in the memory!"

Seamless Organisation

Another participant said:

"The conference was useful and varied. The AUSIT meetings went like clockwork, thanks to the planning and preparation

(particularly by Vince, Moreno, Ilke and Mary) and to Moreno's benign chairmanship. That was certainly the most efficient AGM in AUSIT history. Probably also the shortest, yet so seamlessly managed that nobody could have been left feeling they hadn't had a chance to have their say."

Relaxation

In the words of one participant:

"Although the workshops and the conference demanded a lot of concentration there was still adequate time for relaxation and networking activities."

Hospitality

Other participants have delighted in the hospitality as expressed by participants:

"Thanks so much, not 'just' for a great Conference but for your warmth and hospitality."

One of our speakers said:

"I had a great time in Perth at the conference and was touched by the warm hospitality of so many people."

One of our National Council members suggested:

"the main feeling at the end of the weekend was the warm glow."

Excellence

The commendation included:

"Len Roberts-Smith's presentation was excellent. If every state had a Len Roberts-Smith we might be a lot further ahead."



The Hon. Justice
L W Roberts-Smith

"The other presentation I really enjoyed was Evan Blackmore's. He's a very appealing speaker. It's quite unusual to have a paper on literary translation at one of our conferences, and this one was very practical, accessible, interesting and full of useful information for anyone thinking of trying to work in that area."

Challenging

Our speakers challenged us, in the words of another participant:

"Doctor Cooke's presence would certainly have triggered some reactions in some of us to update their knowledge in key areas of research - those that are important for communicating efficiently in certain settings and with particular groups who use language in a particular way... How can we interpret if we have no idea of the code used by the client, but content ourselves with interpreting what they say by applying our own code?"

Generous

Many participants were so impressed with the workshop presenters' generosity in sharing their wisdom. In the words of participants:

"...the presenters were so generous with their information." and

"I learnt such a lot and was able to meet so many interesting people. I won't forget the experience for a long time. I will arrange to do a workshop on 'Wordfast' once I have mastered it over the holidays (I went to Ian McAllister's session) and I will try to get more MAJIT students to join AUSIT as, after listening to Chris Poole's speech, I really think it's worthwhile."

Prizes

The following members received prizes for their early registrations: Helene Jaccopard and Michelle Komatsu, in the form of on-line enhancements that they can add to their entries in the website and one of them will be included in the AUSIT Yellow Pages advertisement at no charge, in the state of their choice. The name will be pulled out of the hat at the WA AGM on 14 December 2002.

Future Focus

The outcomes included:

1. An excellent PD experience for those who attended the Conference and surrounding



Zdenka Juric, Sue Massoudi, Maya Coltman, Monika Mayson

workshops (so far we have had overwhelmingly positive feedback).

2. A valuable networking opportunity for business growth and professional purposes for all those present, especially some WA members who were unable to travel to Conferences in the east.
3. The involvement of a significantly increased number of members in key projects, including:
 - Website
 - Professional Development
 - Technology.
4. Increased profile for the profession among key organisations.
5. Strong focus on Aboriginal Interpreting Issues, especially in the Kimberley region.
6. A notable increase in membership: in WA 75% growth and Australia wide 18% growth, linked closely to the awareness of AUSIT that has resulted from the Conference marketing activity.
7. Filming by WestOne of all the Conference and JBML will allow this event to travel further on the electronic media.
8. The conversation with State Services all over Australia including the NT, by the WA Government in its early stages of developing a State Services Training Needs Analysis for Language Service in WA.

It's a bit early for decisions because each of the 6 workshops held before and during the Conference is yet to report fully to the National Council and then decisions can be made. However, it may be useful to know

that some issues are already emerging as front runners in the decision-making process, specifically:

Training

This is a top issue with a focus on Technology; our members expressed strong support for a PD points system to be adopted by AUSIT, which is now being worked on and will be submitted to the NC soon.

Website

The resource that this provides is being enhanced significantly by new members' input into useful links: watch this space!!

Constitutional Review

The review will address the membership categories

All in all, the weekend had rave reviews.

Congratulations & Thanks

I'd like to thank the wonderful team effort that caused this to happen:

- The WA Organising Committee
 - Dr Harry Blackmore
 - Dr Francine Giguere
 - Rossana Perino
 - Jean Page
 - Younghi Newman
- WA Working Party
- National Council – especially
 - Moreno Giovannoni
 - Vince Danilo

and all the wonderful helpers that we have had.

Let's not forget the sponsors whose financial and other support made the event possible:

- Central TAFE

- WestOne
- Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
- Office of Multicultural Interests
- Italo-Australian Welfare and Culture Centre
- Department of Training (WA)

Website

Have a look at the website for the address by the Hon Justice Len Roberts-Smith and the photos of the weekend. Your branch will have a copy of the interview with Professor Piero Formica of Bologna University. Why not borrow it?

Mary Gurgone
AUSIT (WA) Chair



*Festive Season Greetings
And
Best Wishes To
All AUSIT Members
From:*

- ♦ *The President*
- ♦ *The National Council*
- ♦ *AUSIT State and Territory Branch Committee Members*

*May Your New Year
Be Filled With
Professionally
Challenging And
Rewarding Experiences.*

*May the World Be Filled
With Peace, Tolerance
And Understanding.*

AUSIT
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
OF INTERPRETERS &
TRANSLATORS INC.

MINUTES

15th National
Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 26 October 2002
8.00 am
Theatrette, eCentral TAFE
140 Royal St., East Perth

1. Opening

Chair: Moreno Giovannoni
Minutes: Ilke Brueckner-Klein
There being a quorum present,
the Chairperson declared the
meeting open at 8.10am.



Moreno Giovannoni, President

2. Attendance

- 2.1 In attendance:** see attached Attendance List (Appendix 1)
2.2 Apologies received: Merie Spring
2.3 Observers present: Henry Liu, Nat. Secretary, NZSTI

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 14th National AGM held on 11 November 2001

- 3.1 Motion:** "That the minutes of the 14th National AGM held on 11 November 2001 be taken as read.
Moved: Mira Chapman
Seconded: Ursula Hoffmann
Carried."
3.2 Amendments: None

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 14th National AGM held on 11 November 2001

No matters were raised (Appendix 2).

5. President's Report

The President's Report was published in the September 2002 issue of the National Newsletter (Appendix 3). No matters were raised.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was published in the September 2002 issue of the National Newsletter (Appendix 4). No matters were raised.

7. Branch Reports

The individual Branch Reports were published in the September 2002 issue of the National Newsletter (Appendix 5). Adolfo Gentile said he was pleased that all the reports were published in time before the National AGM. This was a great step forward.

Motion: "That the AUSIT National Council Annual Report be accepted as tabled."
Moved: Adolfo Gentile
Seconded: Ursula Hoffmann

8. Election of Office Bearers

Harry Blackmore conducted the election. Nominations for NC members 2002/2003 were as follows:

- President: Moreno Giovannoni
- Vice-President: Chris Poole
- Secretary: Ilke Brueckner-Klein
- Treasurer: Vince Danilo

There were no other nominations. The members voted for the above positions to be filled accordingly. The position incumbents accepted the vote. (2 Proxy Votes: Appendix 6a/b)

9. Date and Venue of 16th National AGM

Moreno Giovannoni suggested that the date and venue of the National AGM in 2003 do not need to be decided now. Discussions can take place via email. If there are no objections, the NC will determine a date and venue in January 2003. David Connor reported that Mary Parkinson, a member from Hobart, had suggested to hold the next National AGM in Hobart or Launceston. This will be taken into consideration.

10. General Business

The formal business being concluded, there was now room for open discussion.

- 10.1** Henry Liu introduced himself. He is the Secretary of NZSTI (New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters), which has three branches, in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. He proposes a closer relationship between NZSTI and AUSIT, because the organisations have the same objectives. AUSIT too thinks that cooperation is beneficial. There will be informal talks.
- 10.2** Annick Bourveau asked Moreno Giovannoni what AUSIT's vision is for the next year. Moreno replied that there is an itemised list in the last National Newsletter. Apart from last

(administration changes, central 1800 number, up-to-date membership data base, workshops/seminars, website) there are still many things to be done, such as: membership needs assessment (700 members will be surveyed), lifting AUSIT's profile in small steps (printing/distributing brochures, YP collective ads in 4 capital cities, becoming publicly visible in the form of press releases, increasing the membership).

- 10.3** Bente Sorensen inquired about membership categories and changes to the constitution. Moreno Giovannoni referred to page 13 of the last National Newsletter. Vince Danilo mentioned that only a few changes were made in the past, but now requirements have changed as times have changed. Two or three items in particular will be dealt with in the coming year: membership categories, professional development, and introduction of a sophisticated membership database. In general, members' input is sought to carry out any changes. Chris Poole offered to provide a paper he prepared regarding membership categories.
- 10.4** Susana de Pereda inquired about ID Cards for T&I's. Moreno Giovannoni responded that there are management problems, such as issuing, renewal, cost, etc. Henry Liu presented the card used in New Zealand. AUSIT will look into it. The issue has been discussed in the past, and it seems that there are enough members who see the need to have such a card.
- 10.5** Terry Chesher, one of the editors of "Antipodean", pointed out that the journal is in need of a coordinating editor, someone with experience in editing and production processes. Anyone interested is invited to contact Terry Chesher or Barbara McGilvray.
- 10.6** Zdenka Juric suggested that AUSIT prepare a mission statement. Moreno Giovannoni said that AUSIT does not have a document exactly titled as such, but the information given on the Website in the public section represents the objectives of a mission statement.

Moreno Giovannoni thanked everyone present for attending the National AGM.

AUSIT NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2002



NOTES ON ETHICS WORKSHOP PERTH 26 OCTOBER 2002

Participants included Dr Michael Cooke, Olive Knight, Gail Smiler, Maggie Rowan, Terry Cheshier, Chris Poole, Rossana Perino, Harry Blackmore, Christoula Nicolaou, John Hallett, Barbara McGilvray, Mira Chapman, Amber Oh, Michele Dreyfus, Anne Ryden, Alexandra Hayes, Michela Clavanzani-Wilkins, Zdenka Juric and others who joined later. Sincere thanks to all participants for their worthwhile observations.

Issues raised:

- 1) **Role and context.** When additional input is requested, how far can/should interpreters go in assisting the parties with language and culture problems? This was raised by Magdalena Rowan specifically in the context of legal interpreting in Indigenous languages, but is equally relevant in areas such as health care and other community-based contexts.

We need to look carefully at the wording which implies the T&I must be no more than a conduit. It's a concern others have raised from time to time on the eBulletin and elsewhere. Harry Blackmore also raised the question in relation to mental health interpreting. Should the interpreter be free to talk to the doctor after the interpreting session? Michael Cooke suggested this was a debriefing session. The example was given of a psychiatrist's patient saying to the interpreter before the interview that s/he was feeling very low and inclined to end it all. Should the interpreter suggest to the doctor on that basis that the patient might be assessed as a potential suicide? Or should the interpreter tell the patient that the doctor should be made aware of this? Terry Cheshier pointed out that during the NSW AUSIT Workshop on Ethics some years ago when this example was discussed, the psychiatrist on the panel said he expected the interpreter to

ensure that the information was given to the consulting psychiatrist, in such a life-or-death situation.

- 2) **Accuracy.** Again cross-cultural input is an issue. The level of communication to which the term applies may need to be clarified (concept? sentence? word?). Suggestions included:
 - add "intention" to "truthfulness" and "completeness" (Michael Cooke)
 - introduce the concept of equivalent effect (Barbara McGilvray)
 - add "the meaning of" after "completely" (Terry Cheshier)

- 3) **Conflict of interest.** This is a substantial problem with Indigenous languages, where there are not enough interpreters in any given language for excusing oneself from interpreting for relatives, for example. The Aboriginal language interpreters find it difficult, if not impossible, to observe our ethics code and are constantly caught in the middle in difficult situations. They ask for this to be recognised.

In one case the interpreter's uncle had interrupted the proceedings to demand that the interpreter not say certain things because she was his niece (a relationship automatically requiring respect).

Gail Smiler and Olive Knight (Indigenous language interpreters from the Kimberley) asked for AUSIT's support in seeking a solution to such conflicts. Chris Poole pointed out that all interpreters have accuracy problems: nobody gives a perfect rendering in the other language every time. He also suggested that problems of the kind illustrated should be addressed by the government providing the language service: it should not be the interpreter's problem.

The Kimberley interpreters would eventually like to have the Code of Ethics translated for Aboriginal users.

- 4) **Omissions/additions.** Sometimes the need to explain is an imperative [see 1) above]
- 5) **It was recommended** that a section on **debriefing** of interpreters (not done often enough – see also point 3 above) and one on **cultural issues** should be included in

Michael Cooke offered to provide, on request, copies of a "plain-language" version of the AUSIT Code of Ethics he prepared a few years ago for use in the Indigenous languages context.

The above notes will be circulated to the membership with a request for anyone interested to submit their suggested wording for discussion and debate.

The National Council will be asked to consider the need for a revision of the present AUSIT Code of Ethics and how this may be undertaken if considered desirable.

Harry Blackmore, Chairperson
Barbara McGilvray, Note-taker

Pun Fun

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned...couldn't concentrate.

Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.

After that I tried to be a tailor, but I just wasn't suited for it - mainly because it was a sew-sew job.

Next I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was too exhausting.

Then I tried to be a chef. I figured it would add a little spice to my life but I just didn't have the thyme.

I attempted to be a deli worker, but any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard.

My best job was being a musician, but eventually I found I wasn't noteworthy enough.

I studied a long time to become a doctor, but I didn't have any patience.

Next was a job in a shoe factory. I tried, but I just didn't fit in.

I became a professional fisherman, but discovered that I couldn't live on my net income.

I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining.

So then I got a job in a workout centre, but they said I wasn't fit for the job.

I finally got a job as a historian, until I realized there was no future in it.

My last job was working at Starbucks, but I had to quit because it was always the same old grind.

Contributed by:
Yveline Piller

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 ("eResolutions") made since the last National Newsletter.

A large number of T/I professionals have joined AUSIT in the past few months. Welcome aboard!

Resolution No 15 NCM 10.09.2002

Regarding the motion brought forward by the Northern Region Administrator, Yveline Piller, the following motion that the following new members (See Table 1) for the ACT, NSW and QLD branches be ratified by the National Council:

Moved: Moreno Giovannoni
Seconded: Ilke Brueckner-Klein

The resolution is as follows:

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

Votes in favour: Sarina Phan (VIC), Vince Danilo (NSW), Barbara McGilvray (NSW), Mary Gurgone (WA), Ilke Brueckner-Klein (VIC), Merie Spring (QLD), Derek Dixon (QLD), Moreno Giovannoni;

Abstained: Anatolij Onishko (ACT), John Hallett (SA), Skender Bregu (NSW).

Resolution No 16 NCM 11.09.2002

Regarding the motion brought forward by the Vic/Tas branch that the following new members for the Vic/Tas branch be ratified by the National Council:

July 2002

Rebecca Chen, Box Hill North, Assoc. Affil.
Stefanie Wendler, Rowville, Translator -> German
Danny Tedeschi, Doncaster, Translator <-> Italian
Wenjie (Anna) Yuan, Cheltenham, Interpreter Mandarin Paraprof.
Djordje Bratic, Hawthorn East, Serbian interpreter & translator -> E
Gabriela Thiecke, Sandringham, German translator <->

August 2002

Mansour Odisho, Meadow Heights, Arabic & Assyrian parapr. interp.
David Verrelli, Mulgrave, Indonesian -> E translator

Table 1	Name	State	Language	T/I	Level	Membership
1	Attard, Karmenu	ACT	Maltese	T/I	3	Ordinary
2	Petrova-Draskovic, Biljana	ACT	Macedonian	T/I	3	Ordinary
3	Vidinovski, Vlado	ACT	Macedonian/Serbian	T/I	3	Ordinary
4	Xu, Victor	ACT	Chinese	T/I	3	Ordinary
5	Abdulla, Issam	NSW	Arabic	I	2	Associate
6	Brotherton John	NSW	Spanish	T	3	Ordinary
7	Chen, Grace	NSW	Mandarin	T/I	3	Ordinary
8	Ching, Gregory	NSW	Chinese	T	3	Upgrade to O
9	Dussoni, Vittoria	NSW	Italian	I	3	Ordinary
10	Muruet, Victor	NSW	Spanish	T	3	Ordinary
11	Phillips, Helen	NSW	Indonesian	T	3	Ordinary
12	Sarram, Hossein	NSW	Persian	I	2	Associate
13	Shkara, Masako	NSW	Japanese	T/I	3	Ordinary
14	Stevenson, Vivian	NSW	Spanish	T/I	3	Ordinary
15	Thibaux, Maurice	NSW				Affiliate
16	Turner, Kim	NSW	French	T	3	Ordinary
17	Faour, Khaled	QLD	Arabic	T	3	Ordinary
18	Miller-Patajewicz	QLD				Affiliate
19	Scott, Gregory	QLD	Japanese	I	3	Ordinary
20	Tamura	QLD	Japanese	T/I	3	Ordinary

T <->, I <->

Yukari Nakamura, Carlton North, E -> Japanese translator
Patrizia Burley-Lombardi, Hawthorn, Italian T <->, I <->
Stella Goiser, Launceston, Greek parapr. T <->, I <->
Slavica Vukic, Mentone, Serbian paraprof. interp.
Mecia Freire, Werribee, Portuguese T <-> & I

September 2002

Isha Nielsen, Prahran, Polish paraprof. interp.
Eugenia Mocnay, Ferntree Gully, Slovak T/I (prof.)
Marzena Chyzynski, Dandenong, assoc. affil.
Swarna Pragnaratne, Mill Park, Sinhalese T/I (recog.)
Zdenka Juric, Bulleen, Croatian T/I (prof.)
Lawson Bayly, East Doncaster, Spanish->E trans.
Isabel Castro, Mulgrave, Spanish paraprof. interp.

Moved: Sarina Phan
Seconded: Chris Poole

The resolution is as follows:

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

Votes in favour: Sarina Phan (VIC), Vince Danilo (NSW), Barbara McGilvray (NSW), Mary Gurgone (WA), Ilke Brueckner-Klein (VIC), Merie Spring (QLD), Derek Dixon (QLD), Moreno Giovannoni;
Abstained: Anatolij Onishko (ACT), John Hallett (SA), Skender Bregu (NSW).

Resolution No 17 NCM 30.09.02

Regarding the motion brought forward by the Northern Region

Administrator, Yveline Piller, that the following new members for the NSW Branch be ratified/approved by the National Council:
New members for National Committee's approval - Northern Region - 30 September, 2002 (See Table 2 on page 7.)

Moved: Vince Danilo
Seconded: Moreno Giovannoni

The resolution is as follows:

Votes in favour: 7
Votes against: Nil
Abstained: 4

Votes in favour: Moreno Giovannoni (VIC), Vince Danilo (NSW), Barbara McGilvray (NSW), Mary Gurgone (WA), Ilke Brueckner-Klein (VIC), Sarina Phan (VIC), Merie Spring (QLD);

Abstained: Anatolij Onishko (ACT), John Hallett (SA), Skender Bregu (NSW), Mira Chapman (QLD);

Resolution No 18 NCM 08.10.02

Background Information

The change in our Bank's charges structure and the coincidental change in our administrative procedures have brought about an increase in cost of banking, which depends on the volume of cheques handled. The interest that our funds are earning in the type of account we have is quite low in comparison with the rates available in the Bank's Cash Management Account. A switch from the Business Cheque Account to a Cash Management Account within the same Bank would reduce the cost of cheque handling as well as enhance the interest income, the rate now ruling being above the 4 percent mark. In order to simplify the change, it is proposed that the signatories

Table 2	Name	State	Language	T/I	Membership
1	Akdeniz, I	NSW	Turkish	I	Ordinary
2	Craney, V	NSW			Student
3	Hoang, Bich Thuy	NSW			Assoc. Affiliate
4	Jennings, D	NSW	Italian	T	Ordinary
5	Lim, Chung-Kum	NSW	Korean	I	Assoc.
6	Marcelja, C	NSW	Spanish	T/I	Ordinary
7	Okuyama, H	NSW	Japanese	I	Assoc.
8	Osman, T	NSW	Assyrian	I	Assoc.
9	Ziha, M	NSW	Bosnian, Serbian, Hungarian, Croatian	T/I	Ordinary
10	Hartlaub, I	QLD			Assoc. Aff. (Para)
11	Kaur, K	QLD	Malay	T	Ordinary
12	Miller-Patajewicz, G	QLD		T	Assoc. Aff.
13	Sibillew, V	QLD	French		Ordinary

Table 3	Name	State	Language	T/I	Level	Membership
1	Cheng, K	ACT	Chinese	T	3	Ordinary
2	Huseinspahic, A	NSW	Bosnian	I	2	Associate
3	Karakira, S	NSW	Arabic	T/I	4	Ordinary
4	Mayes, G	NSW				Student
5	Serrano, M	NSW	French, Spanish	T	3	Ordinary
6	Setionago, T	NSW	Indonesian	T/I	2	Associate
7	Van, Tu Quyen	NSW	Vietnamese	I	2	Associate
8	Wen, Ph-Hsun	NSW				Student
9	Youssef, R	NSW	Arabic	T/I	3	Ordinary
10	Vallin-Thorpe, I	QLD	French	T	3	Ordinary

remain unchanged, to avoid the cumbersome identification procedures. It should be noted, however, that the National Council elections to take place at the AGM in Perth will most likely make such changes necessary.

The Motion

Whereas it has been established that the Institute's banking would be more favourably conducted if our current arrangements with the St George Bank were altered by changing the nature of our account from being a St George Bank Business Cheque Account to being a St George Bank Portfolio Cash Management Account it is now moved that the National Treasurer be and is hereby authorised to complete the necessary arrangements with the Bank to have this change put into effect.

It is moved that present cheque signatories remain unchanged.

Proposed: Vince Danilo
 Moved: Moreno Giovannoni
 Seconded: Ilke Brueckner-Klein

The resolution is as follows:
 Votes in favour: 10
 Votes against: Nil Abstained: 1

Votes in favour: Moreno Giovannoni (VIC), Ilke Brueckner-Klein (VIC), Vince Danilo (NSW), Barbara McGilvray (NSW), Mary Gurgone

(WA), Anatolij Onishko (ACT), Merie Spring (QLD), Sarina Phan (VIC), Skender Bregu (NSW), Mira Chapman (QLD).
 Abstained: John Hallett (SA).

Resolution No 19 NCM 31.10.02

Regarding the motion brought forward by the Northern Region Administrator, Yveline Piller, that the following new members for the ACT, NSW and QLD branches be ratified/approved by the National Council:

New membership for National Council Approvals
 As at 30 October, 2002
 (See table 3.)

Moved: Moreno Giovannoni
 Seconded: Ilke Brueckner-Klein

The resolution is as follows:
 Votes in favour: 10
 Votes against: Nil
 Abstained: 1

Votes in favour: Moreno Giovannoni (VIC), Barbara McGilvray (NSW), Ilke Brueckner-Klein (VIC), Sarina Phan (VIC), John Hallett (SA), Mary Gurgone (WA), Mira Chapman (QLD), Skender Bregu (NSW), Chris Poole (VIC), Vince Danilo (NSW).

Abstained: Anatolij Onishko (ACT).

Resolution No 20 NCM 13.11.2002

Regarding the motion brought forward by the Southern Region Administrator, David Connor, that the following new members for the Vic/Tas, SA/NT and WA branches be ratified/approved by the National Council:

Victorian Branch - Nov. 2002

Dolora Stanimirov, Serbian prof. interp.
 Klara Maksimovic, Serbian prof. I/T
 Giuliana Piccari, Brunswick, RMIT student
 Edward Chunguang Liu, Mandarin prof. interp.
 Atilla Babaali, E -> Turkish prof. trans.
 Malgorzata Monazewska, Polish paraprof. interp.
 Miranda Lai, Chinese prof. trans.

SA/NT Branch, July to Nov 2002

Laura Pieraccini, Italian trans. prof.
 Maya Cifali, NT, French trans. prof.
 Joelle Coussaert, French trans. advanced
 Margit Pehrsson, Danish trans. recognition
 Carmine Piantedosi, Italian paraprof. interp.
 Mary Coley, NT, German trans. prof.
 Miyoko Kijima, Japanese trans. paraprof.
 Entel Dajsmali, Albanian trans. prof.
 Isobel Grave, Italian trans. prof.
 Kathy Tozer, NT, Pitjantjatjara paraprof. interp.
 Tatsuhiko Sakai, Japanese trans. prof.
 Annick Carrick, French trans. prof.
 Daniella Prelic, Serbian I/T prof.
 Belinda Hercus, Chinese trans. prof.

WA Branch - July to Nov. 2002

Akiko Kunita, Japanese interp. prof.
 Nasir Bakshi, Dari interp. paraprof.
 Trendafil Hasarliev, Bulgarian trans. prof.
 Jerzy Brodzki, Assoc. Affil.
 Jane Shaw, Assoc. Affil.
 Hongwei (Judy) Zhao, Chinese trans. prof.
 Diana Rodriguez-Losada, Spanish trans. prof.
 Susana de Pereda, Assoc. Affil.
 Michela Clavenzani-Wilkins, Assoc. Affil.
 Christina Panovrakou, Greek interp. paraprof.
 Amber Oh, Assoc. Affil.
 Haider Altaey, student
 Domenico Perino, Assoc. Affil.

Moved: Sarina Phan
 Seconded: Chris Poole

The resolution is as follows:

Votes in favour: 7
 Votes against: Nil Abstained: 4

Votes in Favour: Vince Danilo (NSW), Barbara McGilvray (NSW), Mira Chapman (QLD), Sarina Phan (VIC), Chris Poole (VIC), Ilke Brueckner-Klein (VIC), John Hallett (SA).

Abstained: Skender Bregu (NSW), Moreno Giovannoni (VIC), Mary Gurgone (WA), Anatolij Onishko (ACT).

Ilke Brueckner-Klein
 (National Secretary)

THE TRANSLATING AND INTERPRETING PROFESSION IN EGYPT

Having come to Australia from another part of the world, i.e. from Egypt, barely two months ago, and having been an active practitioner of the translation and interpreting (T&I) profession there for eight years, both practically and theoretically - as a university instructor of both - I thought I'd share my first impressions with you.

One major difference between T&I in both countries is obviously that Cairo, the Egyptian capital, is by far not as cosmopolitan as Sydney. Accordingly, there is barely any demand in the market for foreign languages other than English.

In addition, and from the AUSIT picnic of last month, which was my very first contact with fellow Translators & Interpreters (T&Is) in Australia, I observed another difference. In Egypt, T&Is are primarily Egyptians, who master the other language(s) only as a FOREIGN language and not as their own. They have probably been students of a private language school, or have spent some time abroad, and have hence gained proficiency in a language other than Arabic. Here, on the other hand, I noticed that T&Is mostly stem from other linguistic backgrounds and work between English and their mother tongue. So, whereas most T&Is here are non-Australians, all their counterparts in Egypt ARE exclusively Egyptians.

I further observed a predominant presence of agencies here, while these don't play this vital role in Egypt at all. In fact, a good T&I would never work for agencies, but would rather deal with clients directly.

As Egypt is classified a developing country, there is a myriad of development projects taking place there, some of which are permanent, and others only short-term. These are sponsored by industrial countries, mainly the US and

Germany, and they need translations of documents, project proposals, relevant newspaper articles, etc. on an almost daily basis. Additionally, their non-Egyptian resident representatives are always in need of interpreting, whenever they attend meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences or other events sponsored by their respective - or other - organizations, which are indeed abundant.

Should this person go to an event exclusively attended by Egyptians, he is accompanied by an interpreter who whispers him the proceedings and interprets his address consecutively into Arabic to the participants. However, should the number of non-Egyptians exceed two, the need arises for interpreting equipment and two interpreters to provide a simultaneous interpreting service.

This is our main market as T&Is and it's indeed a significant one that may make or break the T&I. If you are a competent T&I, you ought to be ready with business cards whenever you go to such events and be almost sure you would return home without them. Because if your performance is satisfactory, the attendees who happen to come from other such organizations, would be keen to know you better, ask for your business card, contact you ... and... another avenue of business has been created. So by the time a project ends, you would have established other contacts that would secure your continued presence in the market.

Accordingly, only a T&I who fails to leave such an impression, create such a reputation for him/herself and make his/her own clients would have no alternative but to accept working for agencies, who pay the piper and call the tune.

As for the main problem we, the Arab T&Is, face, it is by all means inconsistent terminology, for there is mostly no standard set of terms applied uniformly throughout

the Arab world. We have two types of Arabic: the standard Arabic, which is identical in all 18 Arab countries, and the local modern Arabic dialects, which vary from country to country.

This problem is particularly felt at the introduction of a new term or concept. In this case, we tend to abide by the Arabic rendering concocted by the UN, and which is never satisfactory to all. What happens is that the first Arab UN translator who comes across the novel term coins an Arabic equivalent thereto, which is usually acceptable by his countrymen, but which often leaves T&Is from other Arab countries puzzled by a coinage they often deem to be bizarre.

An example would be the UN translation of the expression *sustainable development* as *al-tanmeya al-mustadaama*: each time I mention this term to my students, I have to be asked the question: What does *mustadaama* mean? Because for us Egyptians, this word simply doesn't exist. And if we chose instead a word we believe to be more appropriate, it won't be a proper UN term, and the translator would be judged as less proficient and not up-to-date with the novel terms around. So, we are still using *mustadaama*, not exactly knowing what it means!

Another appertaining incident happened to me when I was recently interpreting at a Euro-Mediterranean conference in Germany with delegations from most Arab countries present. During the break, an Algerian delegate rushed to me, asking me on behalf of his delegation to explain what I mean by "*khaskhasa*", which was my rendering of *privatization*. When I replied that I meant *privatization*, he seemed enlightened and said: "Ah, you mean *khawsasa*", which is how they put it. Looking through my UN glossaries, I found that both variations were granted by the UN, but it's just that each country has opted for the one version that was more appropriate to it and was not aware of the existence of the other.

Riham Youssef

AUSIT (ACT BRANCH) Professional Development Activity

Dr Kevin Windle, Reader in Translation Studies at the Australian National University, launched AUSIT's professional development program for 2002/2003 in the ACT on 19 October, when he spoke to Branch members about "some interlingual difficulties" encountered in his translation of **Andrzej Drawicz's** biography of **the Russian novelist and playwright, Mikhail Bulgakov**. (It was for his translation of that work that the National Council of AUSIT recently nominated him for FIT's "Karel Capek" prize for translation from a language of limited diffusion.)

After sketching the life and work of Bulgakov and of his Polish biographer, probably the leading authority in Poland in the field of 20th century Russian literature until his death in 1997, Dr Windle spoke of some of the difficulties in translating Drawicz for an English-speaking audience.

He began by distancing himself from Vladimir Nabokov's "ideal of literalism" [expressed in the Foreword to his translation of Lermontov's *A Hero of our Time* (1958)]: "In the first place, we must dismiss once and for all the conventional notion that a translation 'should read smoothly' and should not 'read like a translation'. The experienced hack [...] will tone down everything that might seem unfamiliar to the meek and imbecile reader visualized by his publisher. But the honest translator is faced with a different task."

Dr Windle admitted to being firmly of the meek and imbecile persuasion and, as a translator, among the thoroughly dishonest and disreputable (in Nabokov's terms), seeking to create the illusion that the product is not a translation but an original, while doing all possible to reflect the content of the original accurately and fully, and certainly not sacrificing any of the meaning.

Amongst the translator's problems were features of Drawicz's deliberately precious style, old-fashioned confidences to the reader, for example, that in some instances echoed Bulgakov's own imitation of Gogolian features for deliberate comic effect. Some of these devices were toned down in the English translation but Dr Windle decided to preserve them, wherever possible, so as to allow the flavour and texture of Drawicz's highly literary style of literary criticism to come through.

Likewise, Dr Windle often kept the narrative present tense of the original but adjusted it where he felt oddities of tense would be confusing or disconcerting.

Latin phrases, a prominent feature of Drawicz's prose, were a problem:

some did not have wide currency in English discourse and would be understood only by classicists; and the density of their use overall would be simply too great for most English readers to tolerate. Where the English equivalent of the Latin phrase (e.g. "with a grain of salt" for *cum grano salis*) is in common use, Dr Windle saw little point in preserving the Latin. A particular problem, however, was *lege artis*, a term unknown to classicists of Dr Windle's acquaintance and, if used in educated Polish writing, unknown to Dr Windle's educated Polish friends. From the contexts he concluded that it had to mean "thoroughly", "completely" and he used those words or loose paraphrases in his translation. He later came upon the German expression *nach allen Regeln der Kunst*, which exactly parallels the Latin (almost a calque) and does indeed have the sense of "thoroughly".

Expressions in other languages (eg. *belle époque* and *embarras de richesse*) caused fewer problems, but on rare occasions Dr Windle even introduced French. With "Został B. **uznany za nieboszczyka pierwszej rangi** [288 Eng. Ch.10, Pol. 290], he felt that even Nabokov would have to have been unhappy with "a Late of the first class", so, as a personal contribution to the spread of *Franglais*, he came up with *Décédé First Class*.

Actual quotations needed special treatment. Drawicz's original quotes Bulgakov (and other Russian writers and critics) in Polish. Dr Windle decided to translate these quotations from the original Russian - mostly: while there is relatively little difficulty in tracing Bulgakov's works in the original, Drawicz's references are not always accurate and in any case the text of Bulgakov's works undergoes great variations in different editions. Moreover, critical articles that appeared in Russian newspapers of the 1920s, for example, may not now be traceable. In some (rare) cases, then, the translation is from the Polish.

There was thus a great deal of essential clerical work in checking sources, facts and quotations - not always easy: Drawicz often cited unpublished archives or hard-to-find newspapers and journals. Even Bulgakov's early stories were difficult to locate when Drawicz was writing (1970s). Many of these (and all the stories) have now been reprinted and readers can find them in good Western libraries in their new editions.

The translation process is always likely to introduce errors. These will be compounded if one fails to notice the author's errors. Drawicz indeed has total command of Bulgakov's work but is not immune to slips: in speaking of a

General, Drawicz mistakes the name of the hero; in translating a quotation from *Notes of a Young Doctor*, p.23 Pol. , Drawicz confuses the Russian words (very similar) for "ribs" and "hips". These are corrected in the English version.

The ACT Branch of AUSIT is extremely grateful to Dr Windle for conducting its first professional development activity in over five years. Further activities are now planned every 2-3 months.

For enquiries please contact:

Mike Ovington

PD Coordinator

Tel. 6290 2298 or at:

<travtext@webone.com.au>

Invitation to Obtain A Yahoo ID & Password

Recently Yahoo gave group moderators a new feature, the ability to send an invitation to subscribers to get them to obtain a Yahoo ID and password which would allow them to access the archives of the group and read messages from the website. Many of you already have a Yahoo ID associated with your subscription. If you don't and you just want to continue receiving messages as at present and have nothing else to do with yahoo, then you need do absolutely nothing. But if you'd like to have a go at getting these extra features by registering with Yahoo, send a message to me at:

<europatrans@optushome.com.au> (not to the whole list by using the reply function, otherwise you'll be shot down in flames by 260 members - a new high point in group membership by the way) and next time I'm in the group membership list, I'll click your Yahoo invitation button. The following is a message sent out by a contributor to the Yahoo group moderators list.

It is *not* mandatory for list members to read messages from the website. They may be mailing list members. That's fine.

However, it has *always* been the rule that if members of a Yahoo Group wish to use the web features, they will need to obtain a Yahoo ID and password. That is, it has been the rule since Yahoo integrated its services with eGroups, about two years ago.

Next point. Some members have completed the process to obtain a Yahoo ID and password, but perhaps they have not yet selected a "profile" name to use for their groups. They may create several different profile names if they wish.

Right now, Yahoo has added the button to permit moderators a little easier method for asking the list members to do that.

Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to:

<<http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>>

Moderator: David Connor

<victas@ausit.org>

Telephone 1800 284 181

<www.ausit.org>

TIPS FOR FINDING A TRANSLATOR

Language skills are highly undervalued within the Australian business environment, probably (no, actually) because it is an English-speaking country and many European, South American, African and Asian countries employ bilingual staff to deal with commercial correspondence. However, in a business environment and especially where exports are concerned, correspondence with the non-English-speaking client is not the only issue. Once the product is sold, there are also contracts, instruction leaflets, brochures and manuals, etc., to be provided with that product and probably press releases to be prepared in the foreign language.

I would like to share with you some information, which clearly illustrates some of the problems that can arise if documents are not translated professionally.

How much does one letter of the alphabet cost? As much as \$10,000, a foreign country's forest products executive learned to his chagrin. He lost twice that sum as a result of a translator's error in the contract for a delivery of wood chips to an overseas customer. Because the translator ignored the letters "BD" in the abbreviation BDMT (bone-dry metric tons), the supplier delivered several tons of wet wood chips, and the money he received for the reduced tonnage - after the chips were dried out - didn't even cover his shipping costs.

That is just one example of how costly miscommunication with foreign partners can be. Australians entering a foreign country's market must be attuned to problems associated with the language barrier.

When Do You Need a Translator?

Operating in a foreign country's market, Australian companies have various translation needs. Among the types of documents they work with are letters, product manuals, advertising materials, contracts and market surveys. Some of these need to be translated from English into a foreign language and some from a foreign language into English. And while letters are just working tools and don't have to be perfect, translations of contracts must be very accurate, while ads need to be translated with some flair. These differences determine which translator is needed for a given job.

There are several options. Most working documents (letters, reports) can be written in either English or a foreign language—whichever you require—by foreign employees who know English. However, to create documents that are accurate and consistent in two languages (such as contracts), or to translate texts that have to sound absolutely native (such as ads), you need the help of professional

translators. And, as the example of the wet wood chips shows, the ones you hire must also be familiar with your type of business in order to handle standard terms and abbreviations.

Rule Number 1.
For translation jobs: Hire a professional translator, preferably one who specialises in your area.

Contrary to a common belief that any translator can translate in either direction between two languages, most translators are good only at translating into their native language.

Rule Number 2.
Hire Australians to translate into English and foreigners to translate into a foreign language.

Foreign companies often break this rule and engage foreigners to translate into English. You can see the results on many foreign language web sites, where, for example, visitors are urged, "Right us please!" You wouldn't want to risk ending up with an equivalent foreign language mistake in your ad.

Finding a Translator

Choosing among foreigners, you have two options: foreign expatriates living in Australia or overseas-based foreign language translators. The former usually have a better knowledge of English and of the Australian environment, so they can better understand the nuances of your English original. The latter, however, are more fluent in the contemporary foreign language. They can produce more idiomatic translations, as well as help with another dimension of a translated text—localisation. Will your advertisement say what you intend it to say in the social and cultural setting of your audience? For instance, a local foreign translator would surely have warned a Swiss sewing-machine manufacturer against promoting its product in a foreign country with the slogan it used at home: *Dependable as a bank!* In Switzerland, the comparison would evoke that country's famously rock-solid financial institutions, but it sounds a bit dubious to residents of a foreign country after the 1998 financial crisis.

It is often assumed that overseas-based translators are cheaper than others, but nowadays that is true only to a certain extent. The cost of translation services in the foreign country's market varies more widely than in Australia. It's true that, especially in the foreign country's capital city, you can find translators who charge five or even 10 times less than Australians, but most of them - with rare exceptions - are either novices (are you ready to take a risk?) or produce poor quality of work. The recent wide and rapid spread of the Internet in many foreign countries has given foreign

translators access to the international market, so highly qualified professionals usually can offer their services worldwide and thus price them at standard international rates.

Rule Number 3
If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys.

Having established these criteria, the next question is where to find reliable, qualified translators. The short answer is through reliable organisations like the Australian National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (N.A.A.T.I.) <http://www.naati.com.au/> and the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT) <http://www.ausit.org/>, which have directories listing qualified professional practitioners (both Translators and Interpreters) or from friends and acquaintances with experience. There are also two other approaches that may be helpful, though time-consuming. First, you can use Internet search engines to collect information about freelancers and/or agencies, and then contact the ones you select. Secondly, you can publish an ad—either on-line or in print—inviting translators to send you short samples of their work in the relevant area (usually one or two pages of an original, with its translation, will suffice). However, these methods take a lot of time and effort. Whichever method you choose, keep in mind that you need a person who is able to combine a good knowledge of both English and the foreign language with extensive experience in your area of business.

All this legwork will give you a generous payback. First of all, most foreign countries' Consumer Rights Laws require that any product sold in that country come with instructions in their particular language. And the need for foreign language documentation is especially great, because knowledge of foreign languages in general, and English in particular, is not widespread in many countries, particularly those in Eastern Europe, for example. That's why comprehensive and well-worded foreign language announcements, descriptions, and manuals will give you a significant competitive advantage in the foreign country's market.

Please note that the above information applies to translators of the written word. The same concept applies to interpreters of the spoken word, i.e., serious problems can arise if the interpreter is not qualified/accredited. For example, imagine what could arise from a business negotiation meeting where the interpreter isn't a professional and "interprets" the negotiations incorrectly. It is a known fact that people have gone to jail because of an incompetent court interpreter!

Information compiled by:

Adriana Ferrigno JP
MAIOP MAUSIT

INTERPRETERS AND LEGAL ISSUES

A South Australian course funded by the Law Foundation of South Australia Inc.

The rationale for this project was developed as a result of a consultation held in May 2001 by the Legal Services Commission with key stakeholders in the interpreting sector in SA. At this meeting it was apparent that some people working as interpreters, especially those from newly arrived communities, are not accredited as interpreters. They also lack knowledge of the Australian legal system and often their own. The level of English of these people, and even their own language competency, is untested.

Another issue the meeting identified was that the legal profession and justice system are frequently seen as poor users of interpreters' skills and further training would improve access to justice by people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The Courts Administration Authority became involved with the proposed project through a meeting of the Justice Portfolio's interagency Managing Diversity working group. A further meeting established common interests and led to the Courts Administration Authority becoming a partner in this project, as the smooth operation of the court system relies on the effective use of interpreters.

The Adelaide Institute of TAFE was seen by participants as the logical provider. Therefore, in September 2001, the Legal Services Commission of South Australia, the Courts Administration Authority and the Adelaide Institute of TAFE successfully sought funding from the Law Foundation of SA for the development and implementation of a law course for interpreters.

The project was designed to be implemented in two stages. The first stage, a pilot project, includes the design and delivery of a 10 week course. This first stage course (which started in May 2002) is for people who already act as interpreters in small newly arrived communities where there are few or no accredited interpreters and currently no interpreter courses available.

This project, which has received the support of NAATI, is designed to focus on the particular need for interpreters in the justice system. In addition to dealing with interpreting skills and legal issues, the course includes sessions on ethics and the professional role of interpreters.

Applicants were targeted and selected by T&I service providers

{Interpreting and Translating Centre (Division of Multicultural Affairs Department of the Premier and Cabinet), Multilingua, (a private legal and commercial interpreting and translating service) the LSC and the CAA.} Twenty-two students were selected, covering Arabic, Dari, Persian, Albanian, Bosnian, Hazaragi, Somali, Kurdish, Sudanese, Azande, Dinka, Turkman, Turkish, Mandarin (covering several dialects) and Tigre.

In the second stage of the project, following evaluation and refinement, the course will be offered to interpreters who have already completed paraprofessional training, or have a paraprofessional qualification, but for whom no existing courses are available on legal interpreting. This project will also provide opportunities, in both Stages One and Two, for legal practitioners and others in the wider justice system to enhance their use of interpreters. This will occur through inclusion in the interpreter course's practical training sessions, and through specific training for these workers on best practice in the use of interpreters. The first stage course will be open to staff of the Legal Services Commission and the Courts Administration Authority to gain this training. In the second stage, there will be the potential to involve university law school students or to run sessions in the Law Society's professional development program on best practice in the use of interpreters in a legal setting.

The Courts Administration Authority, the Legal Services Commission and the Adelaide Institute of TAFE are committed to providing ongoing support and have staff with the technical skills to manage and maintain the courses.

The University of Adelaide and Flinders University Law Schools have supported a proposal for law students to attend future courses on legal issues for interpreters, thus gaining valuable training in the use of interpreters. This may be possible as an ongoing outcome of the project.

Overall, it is expected the project will enhance the provision of services to culturally and linguistically diverse clients who are involved in the justice system and particularly the court system.

Magdalena Rowan
*Translating and Interpreting
Coordinator
Adelaide Institute of TAFE*

A MATTER OF PRONUNCIATION

- Milburn - capital of Victoria
- Peck - to fill a suitcase
- Pissed aside - chemical for killing insects
- Pigs - items used to hang up washing
- Pump - person who manages prostitutes
- Peg - porcine animal with a curly tail
- Nin tin dough - computer game
- Munner stroney - soup
- Min - male of the species
- Mess Kara - eye makeup
- McKennock - person who fixes cars
- Mere - Mayor
- Leather - foam produced from soap
- Lift - departed
- Kiri Pecker - famous Australian businessman
- Kittle crusps - potato chips
- Ken's - Cairns
- Jumbo - nickname for someone called Jim
- Jungle Bills - well known Christmas carol
- Inner Me - enemy
- Guess - vapour
- Fush - marine creatures
- Fitter cheny - type of pasta
- Ever cardeau - avocado
- Fear hear - blonde
- Ear - gaseous mix of nitrogen and oxygen
- Ear Roebucks - exercise style conducted at gyms
- Duffy cult - not easy
- Amejen - visualise
- Day old chick - very young poultry
- Bug hut - popular recording
- Bun button - been bitten by insects
- Beard - a place to sleep
- Sucks peck - half a dozen beers
- Ear New Zulland - an unscrupulous airline
- Beers - large dangerous animals found in North American forests
- Veerjun - a mythical New Zealand maiden
- One Doze - a common computer disk operating system
- Brudge - a structure spanning a river or gap
- Sivven - the number 7
- Sex - one less than sivven
- Tin - one more than nine
- Iggs Ecktly - precisely
- Earplane - a flying craft
- Beggege Chicken - place where you deposit your luggage when travelling by air
- Sivven Sex Sivven - large Boeing aircraft
- Sivven Four Sivven - larger Boeing aircraft
- Cuds - children
- Pits - domesticated family animals
- Cuttin - baby cat
- Munce - meat used to make patties

A TRANSLATING AND INTERPRETING MISSION IN THE BALKANS

The following is an attempt to bring closer to AUSIT members and readership at large the state of translation and interpreting (T&I) in the post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina, where I have worked for the past four years as a staff translator and interpreter.

The majority of translators and interpreters (T&Is) in the area are locally recruited by organisations set up after the 1992-5 war by the international community with the mandate to stabilise the environment and reconstruct the destroyed infrastructure and housing facilities and enable the return of refugees.

The great demand for T&Is in the early days after the war led to a hotbed of bad practice. Recruitment criteria have since been on the rise, but still many working as T&Is are underqualified and mostly drawn to the profession by considerably higher remuneration packages in comparison with other jobs.

Accordingly, the quality across the T&I services market varies enormously. And while nothing hinders established T&Is from excelling as senior staffers and maintain high professional standards if they wish to, opportunities abound for aspiring practitioners to gain hands-on experience through on-the-job training.

In the area-specific circumstances many facets of work done by T&Is are not purely linguistic. Namely, apart from exclusively T&I jobs, there are numerous positions that include but are not limited to translation and interpreting tasks. Some posts offer more decision-making freedom and are sought after by those trying to turn their careers away from being "just" an interpreter.

The "just"-an-interpreter view of the trade, implying passive inferiority, is widespread. And it is not improved by employers who recruit as interpreters former cleaning personnel or labour workers. These "promotions" are a sad reality personally witnessed by the author of this text on a few occasions. Even knowing that the individuals concerned are simply looking for a better paid job and may have the best intentions does not exonerate employers who hire them. And when mistakes and misconduct do occur, the easiest route out of it is sacking the interpreter. Finding a replacement is not hard when the

selection criteria are low and chaotic.

Recently, as mentioned earlier, recruitment requirements have begun to change in favour of the profession. A degree in English and minimum two years of relevant experience are mandatory for more and more T&I vacancies. Of course, the fact that the international presence is constantly being scaled down has a lot to do with the changes.

Furthermore, prospective T&Is are expected to demonstrate willingness to work with people of different ethnic backgrounds and be personally dedicated to the reconciliation and peace process.

Translating written words and interpreting spoken words from the source into the target language defines well what all T&Is do. But, in an environment where three very similar local languages and two very different alphabets must be used, things can get complicated at times.

While the translating process by default excludes direct contact with customers, interpreting is a different ball game. And the local people, despite being fed up with ethnic divisions, generally feel more at ease if the interpreter speaks their language and not a language they can understand, but which has different characteristics that make it a language of another ethnic group. Moreover, they are likely to inquire not only about the interpreter's name and place of birth, but also about their family and political orientation. One has to be careful not to cut such curiosity off too abruptly. Stressing one's role as interpreter only and, if necessary, providing a place of birth that is geographically as far as possible from the current locality helps keep the conversation focused between the clients. Due to enduring mistrust and painful war memories an interpreter's origin may be seen by the local population as an obstacle to their impartiality, even if they speak the required language. And as local names in most cases immediately communicate a person's ethnicity, it very often takes more than just cool professional detachment to instil confidence and avoid becoming an obstruction in the conversation.

One might ask then, why not use the interpreters selectively, i.e. match the interpreter's ethnicity with that of the target local language users? Although the answer is superfluous, the question is illustrative of the type of ethical challenges local T&Is

issues such as confidentiality and impartiality.

And what if the English-speaking client's limited language skills require an on-the-fly simplification critical to their understanding of the interpretation? Asking the client if they have understood the interpreted text without appearing overbearing at the same time is a feat surpassed only by adjusting the terminology and constructions used while simultaneously evaluating the client's response in search of coherence. After that the interpreter turns to the local language client. What was the language, again?

All in all, working as a T&I in the Balkans is a priceless and rewarding experience. This is also the biggest market in the world today for T&Is in the South Slavic languages.

Aleksandar Petrovic

Aleksandar Petrovic is a NAATI accredited translator in English and Bosnian, both directions.

For the past three and a half years he has been working full-time as a senior in-house T&I for NATO in the Balkans. He expects to return to Australia in January 2003.

He prepared this report especially for AUSIT.

LESS FAMOUS PROVERBS

1. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
 2. Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.
 3. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
 4. I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.
 5. Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.
 6. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
 7. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted then used against you.
 8. Honk if you love peace & quiet.
 9. Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?
 10. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
 11. It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial cost and blamed it on the cost of living.
 12. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
-



Court Interpreting

Not that it's my area, but here's an interesting and comprehensive site regarding court interpreting.

<<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters/infopack.htm>>

Regards

Michael P. Grunwald (Manager)

German Translation Online

URL: www.german-translation.com.au

Email: mail@german-translation.com.au

Directory of Translation Dictionaries

Lexicool is the most comprehensive directory of bilingual and multilingual dictionaries on the internet. The site has a fully searchable database, with over a thousand titles referenced.

Clara Castello

Site coordinator

<http://www.lexicool.com>

T&I Websites

At the recent FIT World Congress in Canada there was a competition to see which national association had the best website out of the ones nominated below.

The candidate sites were:

<www.aticom.de> Germany

<www.atanet.org> USA

<www.sfoe.se> Sweden

<www.traductores.org.ar>
Argentina

<www.translatorsassociation.ie>
Ireland

The jury members were from South Africa, Australia, Switzerland, Norway & Belgium. The winning site was that of el Colegio de Traductores Publicos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires.

Have a look at them all and see how you think ours rates alongside theirs.

David Connor

europatrans@optushome.com.au

Software

Dear Tech Support

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a slow down in the performance of the flower and jewelry applications that had operated flawlessly under the Boyfriend 5.0 system.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.9, but installed undesirable programs such as NFL 7.4, NBA 3.2 and NHL 4.1.

Conversation 8.0 also no longer runs and housecleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system, I've tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail.

What can I do?

Signed

Desperate

Dear Desperate

First, keep in mind that Boyfriend 5.0 was an entertainment package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Try to enter the command: C:/ I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME and install Tears 6.2. Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications: Guilt 3.3 and Flowers 7.5. But remember, overuse can cause Husband 1.0 to default to such background applications as Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0, or Beer 6.1. Please remember that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will create Snoring Loudly.WAV files.

DO NOT install Mother-in-law 1.0 or reinstall another Boyfriend program. These are not supported applications and will crash Husband 1.0. It could also potentially cause Husband 1.0 to default to the program: Girlfriend 9.2, which runs in the background and has been known to introduce potentially serious viruses into the operating System.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have a limited memory and can't learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to enhance his system performance. I personally recommend Hot Food 3.0 and Single Malt Scotch 4.5 combined with such applications as Boob Job 3.6D and that old standby... Lingerie 6.9 (which have both been credited with improved performance of his hardware).

Good Luck,

Tech Support

Translating Web Pages

I've just completed the web pages about the CD.

Go to:

<<http://smarthomebiz.com/AUSITworkshop/>>

and follow the link to the order page.

Last week I added ten lessons in HTML to the CD, to help you translate web pages.

Don't be afraid of HTML coding. ML stands for markup language, and if you have ever done proof-reading with the correct symbols, you have

used markup language to show where there is a new paragraph, what letters should be bold or italic, etc. It's easy.

Ian McAllister

Hi to all Tech-Freaks

This has to be of interest to all techies out there! The amazing world of the USPTO site - what a goldmine of information, e.g. their classification system incl. glossaries of relevant terms in each classification.

<<http://www.uspto.gov/go/classification/>>

I had only ever searched specifically for US patents, but not explored further. This came about as a result of a question I placed on the ProZ noticeboard (www.proZ.com)

Michael

German Translation Online

Dyseducational Driving Lesson

Just in case you've got some time, need a laugh.

<<http://windward.nodalpoint.net/doc/media/liikenne.swf>>

Andrea Hoffman

<www.hoffmanns-translations.com>

Translating & Interpreting Agencies

I am trying to compile a list of T&I agencies in Australia, including those who might not be listed in yellow pages.

Please send me their Business names, websites and/or email addresses? Thank you.

Dogan Sahin

Email: <doansahin@hotmail.com>

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<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me a Membership certificate^.	Price soon due to increase!	A\$ 8.00 incl. postage and handling	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please sign me up on the eBulletin.	Exchange forum by email which connects you to participate in professional discussions.	Free. My email address is:	
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^ available to ordinary and associate members

All cheques and money orders should be payable to **AUSIT National** and posted with this form to the appropriate address :

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If you are in VIC/TAS, SA/NT, WA: PO Box 1070, Blackburn North VIC 3130

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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 2003 AUSIT newsletters by the following deadlines:

Deadlines for 2003 – Fri 21 February, Fri 23 May, Fri 29 August (AGM Announcements), Fri 7 November
email to: garysads@picknowl.com.au. All newsletter contributions should have the email subject box named '**Newsletter Contribution**'. 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.

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