My fellow readers,

As we approach the end of the year, we tend to do some kind of balance about our personal and working life. And some probably are setting their goals for the year to come, others may be crossing out their accomplishments on their 2012 to-do list (what a lovely feeling!). And as we hear bells jingling in the streets and light some candles in our homes, our hearts fill with wishes and hope for an even better year. It is the ideal time to gather with our loved ones, find peace of mind and nourish our inner spirit.

The profession needs strong souls with clear minds that can hold high the banner of better working conditions for older professionals and younger colleagues who join us year by year in the art of translation, interpreting and communicating. Current market conditions and efforts to save money for a few people at the expense of many have us standing at a crossroads, and sometimes we don’t know which way to turn. Sometimes, it is necessary to reinvent ourselves, break new ground, use our creativity, and also make mistakes, but never lose sight of our goals. So this holiday season, let’s come back to our center and let all that strength and energy we have flow, and recover the dropped ball, as our President says.

Personally, I would like to raise my glass with my IAPTI colleagues the same way we did in 2009 when IAPTI was created.

Luciana E. Lovatto

Newsletter Editor
Translators and interpreters are curious people — intellectually so, that is. They tend to have an inextinguishable thirst for knowledge and, consequently, an encyclopedic mind. Thus, by nature, they are generalists.

Languages, however, are complex, and turning something from one into another — in writing or in speech — is never easy. The process itself is not harder than it was before, but everything that accompanies the act of translating or interpreting is more intricate than ever, and the fields in which translators and interpreters work are increasingly compartmentalized. Furthermore, there is an ever-lengthening list of dos and don’ts: acts, regulations, directives, practices, standards, guidelines, rules, and so on. In short, being a generalist has become too much. Therefore, one must specialize.

So, what should you specialize in? Some choose their specialties. Others are chosen by them. If you can choose, do so wisely, because your choices will determine what you will become, probably forever. Ideally, you should go for things that you know very well and love. In practice, you might have to settle for things that you are familiar with and have a liking for. But, whatever you do, keep it simple. Translate or interpret only into your native language — or languages, if you happen to be truly bilingual and bicultural, which is rare. And, even if you are a polyglot, keep the number of source languages to a bare minimum. The same applies to your fields of specialty. Do not specialize in too many of them. If you do, you will no longer be a specialist.

Specialization does have advantages. By always dealing with the same subject matters, you will become better and faster, and your work will be easier. In other words, you will spend less time doing research and more time translating or interpreting. Besides, in a world where specializing is the norm, marketing yourself will be a lot easier if you are a specialist.

Finally, once your day is over (even though, as we all know, a freelancer’s day is never over), forget all about your specialties. Exercise, read, write, draw, paint, play, compose, program, discover or invent. Go wild, physically or mentally, or both. Be what you were born to be: free. Then, and only then, will you become what you really are: a generalist — if not at work, at least in life.

Respondent: Michel Huot
Montreal, Canada
English > French Translator
Head of Canadian Chapter
http://www.aipiti.org/eng/michel-huot/
News from the Board

The more the merrier. The more the stronger!

Not a member of IAPTI yet?

Join IAPTI now and enjoy the benefits of belonging to an international association!

IAPTI is your representative in the T&I world, no matter in which country you’re located, and is actively working to promote fair and ethical professional practices. Membership for those joining as of November 2012 will be valid until December 2013.

Registration: http://www.aipti.org/eng/register/

We look forward to having you on board!!!

www.facebook.com/IAPTI  @iapti
Meeting other IAPTI Members!
Meet the multifaceted translator David Ronder, who also describes himself as an editor, teacher, author and travel journalist.

David Ronder
Freelance translator & editor
Spanish-English
Whitstable, U.K.

How did you become a translator?
I always loved languages at school, particularly literature and the written side of things, but for various reasons I decided to study history at university. There was this sense of “unfinished business” with foreign languages, and Spanish in particular. Well, I worked as an English teacher in Barcelona in the 1990s and picked up my Spanish again there (though lamentably not Catalan). I nursed a fantasy of being a translator for several years and eventually got qualified with the Institute of Linguists, all through private study. Around that time, the college I was working for in London offered a voluntary redundancy scheme and I took my chance, setting up as a freelance language professional, with translation the key element.

Which is your specialization?
I officially specialize in business and marketing, travel and tourism, politics (quite a few radical Latin American texts recently), education, linguistics and football; but history above all has become a real niche for me recently.

What was the most rewarding experience you have had in your career?
Once or twice I’ve found myself in the happy position of having a good quantity of interesting, reasonably paid translation work with a comfortable deadline. If only it was always like that!

What do you do when you are not translating?
I teach English, including my own courses here in Whitstable and pre-sessional at the University of Kent in nearby Canterbury; I edit and write. I walk my dog, spend time with my family, watch football, cook, eat - and read at night if I haven’t had too much to drink!

I’ve learnt that you have recently published the book “Past Simple: Learning English Through British History and Culture”. Can you share this experience with us?
Like many good ideas, it was born in the pub. I was chatting one evening with an old history teacher friend, who has also taught English abroad (in Berlin), and we agreed it would have been wonderful to have been able to learn the history of the countries we

had lived in along with their languages. We then reflected that there were no materials offering anything like that for people learning English. Why not? We realized we were on to something. About four years later, Past Simple was published. But it was a struggle to sell the idea to a publisher in the first place, and then there were many bruising editorial battles along the way, mainly over political correctness. Modern educational publishing is extremely politically correct. As anyone who has studied the subject knows, history isn’t. But the book is finally out and I am proud of it.

Which is the best book you have read?
“Past Simple” – you should try it. I’m joking, of course. There are just too many to say. But these days I don’t read a lot of fiction; it’s mainly history or language-related books. And I’m very slow. But at least it does all sink in. My mother, by contrast, is an extraordinarily prolific reader, but never seems to remember much of it.

Which countries would you like to visit?
Oh, Argentina, Chile, Brazil and all of Latin America. The States. Australia. I’ve been all over Europe, and even had articles published on some of my trips, but I’ve travelled embarrassingly little in the rest of the world.

Which are your hobbies and interests?
Food, drink, football, history, politics, dogs, cats, Spain, the sea. And language, of course.

Which are your future goals?
To become recognized as the absolutely go-to guy for Spanish history translation, always to have more than enough translation work, and for Past Simple to become a runaway global success.

David and his two sons, enjoying his free time.
Translation and the Meaning of Everything

Speaker: David Bellos
Language: English

David Bellos is an English-born translator. He currently teaches French and Comparative literature at Princeton University (US) and is Director of Princeton’s Program in Translation and Intercultural Communication.

Bellos published an award-winning translation of Perec’s most famous novel "Life A User’s Manual" in 1987. He won the first Man Booker International Prize for translation in 2005 for his translations of works by Albanian author Ismail Kadare. Despite not speaking Albanian, the translations were done from previous French translations.

Bellos has written an introduction to translation studies "Is That a Fish in Your Ear? Translation and The Meaning of Everything" published in 2011.

** This webinar is FREE for IAPTI members **
Red Vértice members: 22.50 USD
Non-members: 25 USD

Registration: info.request@aipti.org
Time to laugh!

Interpreting Challenges

A good speech a day keeps the doctor away
Funny animated anecdotes about interpreting

http://interpretationisnotgoodforyou.tumblr.com/

MemoQ 6 in Quick Steps (eBook)
By Kevin Lossner

A collection of tutorial modules covering many aspects of productivity with the translation environment tool memoQ version 6 from Kilgray Translation Technologies. First electronic edition, includes updates from the author for a year for registered buyers.

More info: http://tinyurl.com/c7d3wcu

New benefit! Multilingual Matters
IAPTI Members can now buy books and reference material at a discounted price (25% discount) on the Multilingual Matters website. Contact us to make use of this offer!
IAPTI has organized its first

**HAiku CONTEST**

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1st prize*: Zoria April with 27 votes

“Paper fruits ripen.
I close my dictionary
and put down my pen.”

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2nd prize**: Zoria April with 24 votes

(Yes, again! Looks like we have a very talented poet in the house!)

“The *Thesaurus is my
eternal, timeless, ageless
best pet-dinosaur.*”

---

3rd prize**: Helena El Masri with 15 votes

“Bad Interpreting is
a verbally transmitted disease
protect yourself!”

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*1st prize: An IAPTI mug.
**2nd and 3rd prize: Free registration to one of our paid webinars.
Building the Universal Translator: a challenge for machine translation, human-machine interaction and human nature

Science-fiction almost unanimously takes one vision of our future universe for granted: that all peoples shall be able to communicate with one another. The technology enabling this is generally known as the “Universal Translator”: enabling interaction, profitable trade agreements, peaceful resolution of conflicts and cross-cultural understanding.

At present, translation and interpreting remain time-consuming tasks, requiring the dedicated attention of highly-trained individuals, who each can only specialise in a limited combination of languages, or even fields. But even as a translator myself, if my job were to disappear overnight, I would indubitably rejoice at the utopian prospects the “Universal Translator” may realise: universal access to information, a level playing field for all! Égalité! But how close are we to achieving this wondrous goal, if it is even possible?

Machine translation has progressed a long way from simple dictionary-based methods pioneered in the 1950s. These have been replaced by context-based methods and advanced statistical tools, such as those used by Google Translate. These technologies promise to continually improve through increased integration of crowdsourcing principles, both imperceptibly in Google Translate, or obviously through Facebook or specialised platforms such as Transifex, which lists technology leaders such as Intel, Nokia, Firefox and redhat among their clients. However, the success of crowdsourced translation shows us this: translation technology only succeeds when it succeeds in making the process more human. Similarly, attempts by major translation companies such as Lionbridge or SDL to employ linguists as “post-editors” of texts lovingly-crafted by machines have been met with great scepticism, and the common remark that the humans must pick up the slack where machines have failed.

Problems will always arise when profiteers seek to separate translation from its intrinsic human element. Indeed, machine translation will never succeed as long as there is no natural language understanding, that is to say, as long as the machine does not understand the intricacies of meaning, grammar, dialect, emphasis, errors and cultural references in a text, it will remain unable to produce reliable translations.

I do not rule out that Universal Translator may one day come into being, but maintain that this development hinges on the simulation of all it means to be human: this machine must be able to interact with our society, understand jokes, think not just objectively but subjectively, creatively, and even sensitively to the character of its audience. It must think like a human.

I question that if we were to reach such an evolved level of human-machine interaction, whether inter-human interaction would remain our top priority? By comparison, research into communication with our fellow primates and earthlings has taken a long-standing back-burner following more exciting developments in space exploration, sending messages into outer space, and finally, artificial intelligence. When we finally develop a new “toy” capable of perfect machine translation of natural language, I doubt our desire for seamless cross-cultural interaction will remain as strong, given the toy’s greater potential... Indeed, such a developed life-form may consider such a task to be beneath itself.

Rose Newell (The translator’s teacup)

Read more IAPTI free articles at: http://www.aipti.org/eng/articles/
In this issue we interviewed the IMIA authorities, Lola Bendana (President) and Izabel Arocha (Executive Director), to learn about the promising conference they are organizing for January, 2013.

1. What are your expectations for 2013 IMIA Conference?
This is a very special conference for IMIA as it is the first conference outside of Boston Massachusetts. It is our 16th annual conference and now we will be moving around the US and eventually around the globe. We already have over 300 participants registered and paid for. Our theme this year is: Specialized Interpreting Getting Beyond the Basics: Exploring Quality Interpreting for Multiple Specialties. The public is not aware of how specialized the field is, as an interpreter is one minute in a delivery room and then gets called for an oncology appointment of a rare cancer. This specialization is very engaged in medical ethics and caring for patients, while maintaining a professional distance as all healthcare professionals do. This year we have focused on engaging panels that discuss the measures of quality and patient safety, as well as exploring the identity of a profession or specialization that is caught between medicine and language. This, combined with 56 professional workshops, three courses, over 40 vendors and 24 stakeholder meetings, makes it for a very exciting event.

2. Why should medical interpreters attend this conference?
This is the largest annual event for medical interpreters anywhere. These are three days packed with activities and completely focused on the specialized field of medical interpreting. Workshops are specific to certain specialties, and it offers participants the opportunity to really see the latest developments in the field. It is at the conference that new trends and ideas are established for the field and one can learn what is happening not only in their region but nationally and internationally. This is also the conference that has established the new visionaries and leaders of the field and where great professional connections are made. Every year, for example, association leaders from all over the world meet at the IMIA Conference to discuss how to collaborate as we further our common mission.

3. How do you prepare for this conference?
As soon as one conference is over we are already preparing for the next. In fact, at this very moment, we are discussing the theme and location for 2014. It is important that we have plenty of time to put a robust program together and that interpreters and other stakeholders have time to plan as there are so many other interpreter related events competing for attention. In our view the strength of this particular conference is that it is focused in its subject, yet broad in its international reach. We will unveil the location and theme for 2014 at the 2013 Conference.

For more information about the conference, please visit:
http://www.imiaweb.org/conferences/2013conference.asp
Our Stars

Let’s close our eyes and travel in time with the introduction to this amazing story, which was translated into English by IAPTI member, Christine Walsh.

I am certainly no ‘star’ from the professional point of view, but I’ve had the fortune of rediscovering translation after many years. English is my mother tongue, and usually my working language. I became a teacher first, and later took a degree course in translation. Four years later, armed with my diploma, I just couldn’t find the ‘right’ job. Furthermore, I was already deeply involved in teaching. So I put my new qualifications aside and continued with the work I had learnt to love.

Ten years later the unbelievable happened: I was asked to translate a book into English. In actual fact, I was recommended by my mother, who was well into her eighties and lived next door to one of the book’s sponsors. After several interviews and a moment of panic at the sheer volume of the project, I started work on Las Maestras de Sarmiento, a bilingual book which tells the story of the teachers who, between 1869 and 1898, came to Argentina from the United States to establish teacher-training colleges. It was President Sarmiento’s initiative, vigorously supported by Mary Mann, the widow of American educator and statesman Horace Mann.

Over sixty young women—and three men—encountered many dangers and difficulties, from civil warfare and yellow fever to non-existent schoolhouses and unreasoning prejudice. However, they carried out their job magnificently, bringing about changes in teaching methods and enabling well-educated Argentinean girls to become independent and respected working members of their community, no mean feat in the 19th century.

The book was written by Julio Crespo, former Bureau Chief in Washington for LA NACION newspaper, who researched the subject while living in the United States. His knowledge and journalistic expertise produced an engrossing, finely crafted story that was a delight to work with. I empathized with the young women’s courageous endeavours, and later found the courage to avail myself of the doors opened by the translation, thus embarking on my second career. Since then opportunity has come knocking several times: the occasional book, literary and academic translations, proofreading...and when it happens I hurry to open the door.
Browsing the Web

Blogs

**Financial Translation Blog**
To keep Miguel Llorens’ memory alive, and his legacy to the translation community, we would like to feature his well-thought-out writings in this issue.
http://patenttranslator.wordpress.com/

**Unprofessional Translation**
This is a blog of news and ideas about natural translation, native translation, language brokering and related topics.
http://tinyurl.com/a3nhv7z

**The translator’s teacup**
Rose Newell’s blog is full of articles with useful information for translators and translation clients.
http://translatorsteacup.lingocode.com/

Journals

**Studies About Languages**
The scientific journal KALBŲ STUDIJOS/ STUDIES ABOUT LANGUAGES is a publication for all involved in the field of theoretical and empirical language studies. The journal aims at bringing together the scientists interested in linguistic theory development, empirical research of different aspects of languages functioning within a society, issues of language learning and teaching.
http://www.intralinea.org

**Tusaaji – A Translation Review**
Tusaaji – A Translation Review is a space of collective inquiry into translation as the embodiment of larger questions of culture. We investigate translation at intersections across traditions, languages, and fields of knowledge and discourse. Our aim is to entertain a variety of voices in translation with a focus on the Americas.
https://pi.library.yorku.ca/ojs/index.php/tusaaji/index

Articles

**Steal My Book! Why I’m abetting a rogue translation of my novel**
Peter Mountford, author of A Young Man’s Guide to Late Capitalism, discovered through a Google alert that his debut novel, was being translated into Russian by a black market e-book publisher. Rather than be offended, he started working with his Russian translator, helping him to understand concepts.

**1536—1546: Ten Years that Changed The Perception of the Translator**
Those who suppose translators lead hard lives today might want to consider the fate of their Sixteenth Century colleagues. During the ten years between 1536 and 1546, three famous translators met their death. One was tortured first and then burned at the stake in that great center of civilization, Paris. The second was strangled and then burnt in the city of Antwerp. And even though our third colleague died more naturally, it wasn’t because half of Europe didn’t long to see him hanged, drawn, quartered, and impaled in pieces.
http://language.home.sprynet.com/trandex/30years.htm#top
Technology: What’s up?

SDL Trados 2007 has reached its scheduled ‘end of life’ and will be retired on 31st December 2012. From this date all support and special upgrade pricing for SDL Trados 2007 will permanently cease.

FileZilla is a free FTP solution. FileZilla is open source software distributed free of charge under the terms of the GNU General Public License. More info: http://filezilla-project.org/

MP3 Skype Recorder is a free program which automatically records all your Skype conversations (including conferences). It stores your conversations locally in files using compact and very popular MP3 format. Translators can use this tool to record a conversation with their client in case any instruction is forgotten. More info: http://voipcallrecording.com/

AnyCount produces automatic word counts, character counts, line counts, and page counts for all common file formats. More info: http://www.anycount.com/
Upcoming seminars and conferences

**CIUTI Forum**
17-18 January 2013
Geneva, Switzerland
Organizer: CIUTI
More info: http://www.ciuti.org/

**2013 International Medical Interpreters Conference**
18 - 20 January 2013
Miami, USA
Organizer: IMIA

**First National Conference on Interdisciplinary Translation Studies**
30-31 January 2013
Mashhad, Iran
Organizer: Imam Reza International University of Mashhad

**Perspectives on Interculturality**
28 February - 1 March 2013
St. Louis, MO, USA
Organizer: Center for Intercultural Studies of Saint Louis University

**“Beyond Mediation? Exploring Translation and Interpretation in the Current Globalized Landscape”**
23 March 2013
Toronto, Canada
Organizer: Glendon University

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