



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

ITIA Bulletin

2015 / 5

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Editorial

Once again many thanks to all our members, especially those who travelled from afar, who attended the 29th ITIA AGM on the 10th of October at the IWC. It passed off peacefully with good participation from the floor. It was preceded by a CPD workshop on Taxation, also very well attended. With CPD always high on the ITIA's list of priorities, the other October ITIA CPD event was held at DCU, 'Trados Studio 2011 Workshop', which was a fabulous, if head spinning, opportunity to taste and test this software before deciding to invest.

Autumn brings two goodbyes and two hellos on the Executive Committee - goodbyes to long standing member Giuliana Zeuli, former Chairperson and Honorary member and ITIA's representative at CEATL. Among her many feats of translating contemporary Irish fiction is translating Roddy Doyle's Barrytown trilogy into Italian.

Our other departee is John Kearns, former Editor of the ITIA Bulletin and of Translation Ireland. Amongst his many achievements was the time and effort he dedicated to bringing translators to Dublin for public interview, amongst them Edith Grossman and Antonia Lloyd Jones. He built relationships with both the Irish-Polish Society and the Centre for Literary Translation at TCD.

We would like to thank them both wholeheartedly for their many years of service to the ITIA.

Hellos to Miriam Abuin Castro, who studied Journalism at the University of Seville (Spain) and underwent further training as a translator

at the Open University of Catalonia in 2012. Since then and thanks to her interest in reviewing the Arts, she has collaborated with Instituto Cervantes Dublin and become a freelance translator leaning towards projects linked to cultural events

Also warm welcome to Karl Apsel, who is originally from near Cologne, Germany, but has been living in Ireland for more than twenty years. He has worked in the translation industry as project manager and freelance translator since 1995. Karl is a PM of the ITIA and has law degrees from the University of Limerick. He has recently completed an MA in Conference Interpreting at NUI Galway.

Anne Larchet & Adam Brozynski, Co-Editors

MEMBERS' CORNER

Continuing our windows into members' professional starting points, this issue's Members Corner contributor is Lidia Grabowska a Polish-English translator, ITIA Professional member since 2007, ITIA Certified translator since 2009.

Q: Describe yourself professionally in a few lines.

A: I am Polish and I am a certified Polish-English and English-Polish translator, professional member of ITIA. I work as a freelance translator. My main focus is on the translation of official documents that require 'the stamp'; occasionally, I work as an interpreter, usually in the legal environment (courts, solicitor's office, etc.). I arrived in Ireland in 2003 and it has been my home since.

Q: When and why did you decide on a career in translation/interpreting?

A: Since I can remember, I always wanted to study the English language without really thinking what my future career would be. I graduated from the English Philology Department at the University of Silesia, Poland with a Master's Degree. After the university, as many of my classmates, I ended up teaching English as a foreign language for 5 years. Lucrative as the profession was, I did not see myself doing it for the rest of my life. So I started looking for something more exciting. I decided to do a post-graduate course in Translation and Interpreting at the School of Translation, Interpreting and Foreign Languages in Poznan. I loved it from day one! Studying there helped me to further develop my language skills, but more importantly, I learned a lot about different aspects of the profession.

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

A: After graduation, I decided to travel a bit before looking for a 'serious' job and I came to Ireland. Initially, I planned to stay for a few months. When I decided to stay a little longer, I started to look around and enquire how I could get into the translation business in this country. Before I arrived in Ireland I had some translation experience gained in Poland but only after I joined the ITIA I slowly started progressing my career as a translator.

Q: How important are training and qualifications for a career in translation?

A: I think they are necessary. In my case, the training I received in the translation programme made me aware of numerous issues that are involved in the translation profession such as ethical issues, stress management, or even voice training; thanks to it I was prepared for many situations. Of course, you do learn as you go along and practice is the only way to make perfect but with good grounds you reach that 'perfect'

sooner.

Q: What type of texts do you translate?

A: I mostly focus on translation of official document that require certification such as birth or marriage certificates, court documents. I also translate a variety of texts for agencies those could be legal documents, contracts, social welfare documents, medical certificates and many others.

Q: How important are CAT tools in your daily work?

A: They are not really useful with the type of texts I translate. I have my own translation database that I have created over the years and that I use all the time. I have used SDL Trados in the past, and I admit it helps a translator work considerably faster. It really depends what kind of projects you work on.

...only after I joined the ITIA I slowly started progressing my career as a translator.

Q: How do you find clients?

A: My target audience are mostly Polish people living in Ireland so I try to reach out to the Polish communities. After a few years of work, the word-of-mouth rule works great ways; and of course I always have a couple of business cards at hand.

Q: Is it really necessary to specialise?

A: Yes, it's very important to have a specialisation. If you're an expert in a particular area you can dazzle clients more easily, consequently they will be willing to pay a higher rate for your services!

Q: Does it become boring translating the same types of text day in day out?

A: Most of the time I get similar projects, I don't really mind that – all part and parcel of the job. However, sometimes I get a super interesting project that makes my day/week/month. Such projects are essential not only to keep you sane but also to extend your skills

and knowledge.

Q: Is translation a high-pressure job with tight deadlines?

A: Just like in most jobs, you have to work to deliver on time. The advantage of being a freelancer is that, most of the time I can extend the deadlines to match my schedule. In general, private clients are more flexible than agencies but if you do your best to deliver good quality translation, and have a good relationship with them, they can forgive an odd slip.

... clients do ask about my credentials and I know that some of them verify my details on the ITIA website

Q: Very often these days, we never get to see or meet the client, all communication is done by email or phone or skype. Is that a good or a bad thing?

A: I do meet clients in person but I also have clients whom I have never seen. I don't mind having an 'e-mail relationship' with a client. Sometimes it works to my benefit: it gives me time to think whether I really want to work on the project, or to do research on the client. What can be a little bit frustrating though, is that an e-mail client usually expects my answer straight away, and if I don't respond quickly enough (usually within 15 minutes!), I get a phone call.

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

A: Oh yes, that's difficult...this is a problem I have been dealing with throughout my freelance years. You have to be very well organised, I suppose, designate time for work and stick to it. Especially if you work from home, you have to try to avoid all sorts of distractions.

Q: Is it possible to have a good standard of living as a freelance/staff translator/

interpreter?

A: I suppose it is possible, but you have to be very much business-oriented. Being a mum, I have always worked as a part-time translator and that works fine for me.

Q: Is it of benefit being a member of the local translator/interpreter association?

A: Yes! Certainly I benefit from that, my clients do ask about my credentials and I know that some of them verify my details on the ITIA website.

I think that being a member of some recognised body should be a prerequisite for translators/interpreters who want to work for the government, public offices, etc. Unfortunately, in Ireland there is no regulation that would require interpreters to undergo a scrutinised selection process in order to be able to work for the government.

Q: Is it hurtful that qualifications are not appreciated?

A: Of course! I think every translator could provide examples of clients who believe that translation is very easy and always complain about being overcharged. Usually, I stop working with such clients almost immediately.

I believe that in Ireland this lack of appreciation is more evident than in Poland (I can only compare these two countries) and it is due to the absence of proper regulations regarding this profession. In Poland government agencies, public offices, courts would never accept documents that do not bear stamps of a sworn translator; in Ireland, you can hand in a translation of your birth certificate done by practically anybody and it will be accepted in the Civil Registrations Office. In Poland this would be unthinkable.

Q: What are the most important characteristics of a good translator?

A: This is common sense really... but you should be very thorough, if not meticulous and have that keen eye for detail. As you are

bound to have clients from different walks of life you have to be flexible, tolerant and non-judgemental and always remember what your role is.

Q: What advice would you give to someone thinking of becoming a translator?

A: I think that translation/interpreting is one of those jobs you have to have a passion for. It also depends if you want to work with a written word or be a conference interpreter, freelancer or in-house translator – the advice would be different. So if translation is something you are truly passionate about, then you should follow the calling.

2015 Annual Meeting of FIT Europe

The 2015 annual meeting of FIT Europe, the regional centre of the International Federation of Translators/Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs, took place in Brussels on Saturday, 26 September.

The full board of FIT Europe was in attendance: Natacha Dalügge-Momme, President (Germany), Michal Stasa, Vice-President (Czech Republic), Annette Schiller, Vice-President (Ireland), Dagmar Sanyath, Secretary General (Austria), Dimitra Stafilia, Treasurer (Greece), Eyvor Fogarty (UK), Max de Brouwer (Belgium).

35 people representing 22 of the 52 European associations attended the meeting. A number of associations nominated a proxy.

The meeting was addressed by Henry Liu, President of the global organisation. He spoke about the issues facing the industry such as differing perceptions between language experts and the end user, the commoditisation of language services, the definition of “quality” and sustainability and the future of the industry.

The Board reported on a number of ongoing projects and initiatives within FIT Europe:

- As the name says, the “admission criteria

survey” is aimed at comparing the admission criteria of the individual translator/interpreter associations within FIT Europe.

- The German association VDÜ has provided a list of translation houses including information on grants available at international level.

- FIT Europe has drawn up a position paper on TTIP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) which will be distributed to all FIT Europe associations.

- Michal Stasa outlined his proposal to set up a “conference interpreter platform”. The platform is intended to serve as a forum at association level for an exchange of opinions, drafting position papers and for addressing issues that cannot be addressed by individual conference interpreters such as public procurement practices where bulk contracts are awarded to a single service language provider for long periods of time.

The German association, BDÜ, reported on an initiative referred to as the “leadership academy” which has been introduced by the association. It involves the provision of training for association officers on topics such as: defining strategy, leading without disciplinary powers, association management (chairperson); financial matters, fundraising (treasurer); principles of PR and marketing (PR/marketing officer). FIT Europe is to examine whether this model could be adapted to suit the needs of officers at international (e.g. FIT Europe) level.

The weekend also marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of our Belgian sister association, Chambre Belge des Traducteurs et Interprètes/Belgische Kamer van Vertalers en Tolken. The celebrations included a well-attended conference day with a variety of papers on topics as diverse as “Certification or ethics”, “CAT tools”, “Building your business model” and a round table discussion on “What does the future hold for the translating and interpreting professions”. A gala dinner was followed by

dancing into the small hours of the morning. Many thanks to our Belgian colleagues for hosting a successful FIT Europe annual meeting!

The next FIT Europe annual meeting will take place in Dublin, Ireland, on Saturday, 24 September 2016.

Annette Schiller

Victim of 'Google translate' rapist is determined to rebuild her life after horrific four-hour attack

29-year-old woman was held captive by beast Roman Torac who raped her six times

2 SEP 2015 by NEAL KEELING

The brave victim of a sex beast who was held captive and raped six times during a terrifying four-hour ordeal is determined to rebuild her life.

The 29-year-old woman was falsely imprisoned in a flat by Roman Torac, 36.

As well as being raped by Torac she was repeatedly sexually assaulted, beaten, tied up and gagged, and psychologically tortured.

At one point warped Torac dressed the victim, giving her the impression that her ordeal was over - only to slit open her clothing with a knife and attack her again.

Torac, 36, of Claremont Road, Moss Side, then choked her until she passed out before fleeing to London.

He then walked into Belgravia police station and told an officer: "I have a big problem."

Officers used the online Google Translate programme to reveal he had written into a police computer in his native Slovakian 'this morning I raped girl'.

Det Sgt Alison Witkiewicz, of GMP's Serious Sexual Offences Unit, described the sustained attack by Torac as 'horrific'

She added: "The victim still has flashbacks and nightmares. It was horrific. I've never heard of a case like it. At one point he has dressed her and she was thinking it was finished, only for him to rape her again - that would screw your head up.

"He has completely controlled her. It was awful.

"But the victim is quite a resilient woman and was strong. She has a new job and is determined to rebuild her life.

"My belief is that Torac was going to go back to Slovakia - there is a coach station which takes people to Europe, in London, near to the police station where he walked in. He has perhaps had a pang of conscience and handed himself in."

Torac said 'no comment' throughout his police interviews but pleaded guilty to six charges of rape, two sex assaults, false imprisonment, and threats to kill.

A Manchester Crown Court he was jailed for eight years and the sentencing hearing was told his victim was feeling 'destroyed and humiliated' by her ordeal.

She had been woken up on April 5 to find a male friend had gone to work at 5.30am and Torac in bed with her.

At one point Torac held a carving knife to her and told her: "You're already dead." He even told her it was her fault and that he would get her pregnant.

Defending Torac, who has a previous conviction for fraud in his native Slovakia, Michael Goldwater said the attack was not premeditated, saying he had 'lost control of himself' after an 'immense amount of drink'.

Arguing Torac shouldn't be jailed for life, he said: "This series of offences are about as frightening an example of rape as one could expect to find.

"But when you take into account this man handed himself in to police and pleaded guilty at the first opportunity, I can't see what higher

expression of remorse could be offered.”

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Seminar, Royal Irish Academy
30 September 2015

Human Rights and Interpreting: The Irish legal system

One of a considerable number of events to celebrate International Translation Day, 30th September 2015, the seminar was hosted by the Royal Irish Academy, in association with NUI Galway and Dublin City University, on Dublin's Dawson Street. The round table presentations were chaired by Dr Anne O'Connor, lecturer in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, NUI Galway and the format was a ten minute presentation by five individual participants on the theme 'Human rights and wrongs in interpreting in the Irish legal system'. The panel was made up of an interpreter trainer, our Chairperson, Dr Mary Phelan, who is also Programme Chair of European Masters in Translation Studies, an interpreter and interpreter trainer of Irish Sign Language, Prof Lorraine Leeson, Centre for Deaf Studies, TCD, an ISL court interpreter, Bernadette Ferguson, a conference interpreter and co owner of a translation and interpreting agency, Ulrike Fuehrer and finally a barrister specialising in human rights law, Colin Smith.

By only having their ten minutes to put their cases each presentation was concise and succinct and the audience could get a glimpse of how interpreting in the legal process works from the point of view of many of the players or stakeholders involved.

Mary Phelan focused in particular on the EU Directive 2010 64 on the right to interpreting in the judicial process and its transposition into Irish Law by the courts, not entirely

reflective of the original directive and a more accurate version by the Gardai. She emphasised the need for the training and accreditation of interpreters.

Colin Smith, a barrister specialising in human rights law and Adjunct Assistant Professor of International Humanitarian Law, TCD spoke about the Irish Refugee processing system, ORAC (Office of the Refugees Appeals Commissioner) and RAT (Refugee Appeals Tribunal) and the importance of refugees' stories being heard, their right to be heard, neither of which can happen without accurate interpretation. He highlighted the many flaws still occurring in the system i.e. interviews not being recorded, difficulties in the way affidavits are taken or not being translated and the need for training for the members of the courts.

Lorraine Leeson spoke of the human aspect of interpreting for non hearing people, of the lack of access to services, and within the legal system the poor attitude to deaf people and to interpreting for them, particularly as there is no status for SL interpreting. She spoke of the general lack of awareness of the needs of deaf people and of the prevailing phonocentrism.

...courts services [...] failing to understand the enormous importance of supplying defendants with professional interpreters and translators.

Bernadette Ferguson's presentation confirmed the very poor status of SL interpreting throughout the state services. Unlike spoken language interpreting, she works in a small community where both rapport and impartiality must work hand in hand.

Ulrike Fuehrer spoke about the preparations for NSAI ISO standards in interpreting and translation coming on foot of the publication of ISO 13611 'Interpreting - Guidelines for

Community Interpreting'. She also spoke of the difficulties of trying to offer any quality of service given the miniscule budgets.

The panel took questions from the floor.

Sad to say, all the participants spoke with one voice in their frustration with the organs of the state, the courts services in particular, continually failing to understand the enormous importance of supplying defendants with professional interpreters and translators. Despite many efforts on the part of all stakeholders, a lack of awareness and will to remedy all the current ills prevails and rather depressingly looks unlikely to change in the near future.

It would have been most interesting if we could have completed the picture with the viewpoint of the judiciary who are tasked with meeting out justice based on information related, in part, through translation or interpreting and, more significantly, the viewpoint of a defendant who has been the subject of the legal process and how their experience of, in many cases, not being able to understand any of the proceedings concerning their fate and their future.

Anne Larchet

Trados Studio 2011 Workshop

Anyone familiar with Trados CAT tools will know that these complex software packages don't come with an instruction manual, so the Trados Studio 2011 workshop presented by Miriam Watchorn in Dublin City University on Saturday 17th October was a welcome opportunity to get to grips with some of the essential functions of this software.

Workshop participants ranged from university students, freelance translators with no previous CAT tool experience to those proficient in the use of other translation tools.

The day was split into two parts, with the

morning dedicated to introducing a number of handpicked functions, while the afternoon was used as an opportunity to individually test these functions and raise questions or flag any difficulties encountered.

The morning session focused on basic necessities such as setting up a project, adding source and target files, creating and adding translation memories and starting a translation. The questions were many and varied, often deviating from the task at hand, but Miriam did an excellent job of sticking to her agenda.

During the practical session each participant worked at his or her own pace, translating a short text into his or her target language in Studio, and it was at this point that Miriam addressed individual queries and remedied problems.

In the face of a CAT tool of this calibre it is often difficult to pinpoint the most important functionalities required to translate a document, so this experience served as the perfect introduction to Trados Studio 2011, providing participants with a basis upon which to build and showing them the potential of such a tool to increase translation productivity.

Julie Napier

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association and Ireland Literature Exchange will co-host a roundtable discussion with translators Enrico Terrinoni, Giuliana Zeuli and Andrea Binelli and special guest novelist Catherine Dunne

Venue: Room 5052, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin
Time: 6 – 8 p.m.

Date: 30th November 2015

*From James Joyce through Roddy
Doyle to Donal Ryan:*

Irish Writers and their Italian Reception

This roundtable discussion will focus on how Irish writers from a range of generations have been read and received by Italian audiences. A development can in fact be noticed in the reception of Irish literature in Italy: starting from Joyce, whose Irishness was originally neglected by the Italian literary establishment and has only recently be re-discovered thanks to new translations of *Ulysses* and the *Wake*, all the way through Doyle, MacLaverty, and Donal Ryan, whose works are primarily decoded as products of an Irish context. Is such a focus on Irish culture a mere opportunity, one which encourages a special link between Italian readers and Irish writers, or does it jeopardize the authors' peculiar styles by turning all of them into literary ambassadors? How is this process reflected in editorial policies and translational strategies?

The discussion will be chaired by **Giuliana Zeuli**.

Enrico Terrinoni is associate professor of English at the University for Foreigners, Perugia. He has translated many authors (Florio, Bacon, Hawthorne, Behan, Higgins, Burnside, Spark, Gray, Syjuco) and his Italian translation of James Joyce's *Ulysses* won the "Premio Napoli" for Italian language and Culture in 2012. He is currently working on the new Italian translation of the *Spoon River Anthology*, and with Fabio Pedone, on the Italian translation of *Finnegans Wake*. He is a regular columnist for Italian newspaper *Il Manifesto*.

Andrea Binelli teaches English and Translation Studies at the University of Trento, Italy. He has written articles and books on Irish English, Translation Theory,

Irish contemporary literature and culture. He has translated Elske Rahill, Donal Ryan, Patrick McCabe, Andrew Fox and John Kelly into Italian.

Catherine Dunne is the author of nine novels. Most recently, *The Things We Know Now*, won the 700th anniversary Giovanni Boccaccio International Prize for Fiction and was shortlisted for the Eason Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards 2013. Catherine has also published one work of non-fiction: a social history of Irish immigrants in London, called *An Unconsidered People*. Her work has been translated into several languages. She has facilitated Creative Writing Workshops for Listowel Writers' Week, The Seanchaí Literary & Cultural Centre Listowel, Dublin City Council, The Irish Writers' Centre and the Arvon Foundation in the UK.

Obituary

Suheil Bushrui September 1929 -
September 2015

Born in Palestine, a deeply committed follower of the Bahá'í faith, Suheil Bushrui was a scholar, educator and translator. He was one of the foremost scholars of Arabic, English and Anglo-Irish literature and brought the poetry of W.B Yeats to an Arab speaking audience. He was the first non-Westerner to be appointed as Chair of the International Association of the Study of Irish Literature. He contributed papers on James Joyce, John Millington Synge and Samuel Beckett, whom he apparently met with in Paris. His connections with Ireland were reflected in his compilation 'The Wisdom of the Irish' (2003) excerpts from old and contemporary Irish writing. He regularly attended the Yeats Summer School in Sligo as well as the Annual Baha'i Summer School, when it was held in Waterford in the 1970s.

Worth-a-click

Rape victim whose sick attacker confessed via Google Translate says ordeal will haunt her forever

<http://goo.gl/ZZHxpX>

Scotland becomes first part of UK to recognise signing for deaf as official language

<http://goo.gl/qTBCfD>

Immigration courts could lose a third of their interpreters

<http://goo.gl/mDyaxW>

What's hot, what's not

What's HOT...

Pope Francis has appointed a bilingual, Spanish/English, Monsignor from Gibraltar to his team of translators and interpreters. Amongst their duties are keeping up with his Twitter accounts in at least 8 languages -the Spanish one has the most followers - nearly 10 million. Divine inspiration certainly provides wisdom!

...What's NOT

A New York City deaf woman was unlawfully arrested, detained and refused an interpreter, ignoring police guidelines, by NYPD who put her through an appalling experience in 2012. Details came to light when she settled her court case against the city this month.

Joining the ITIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New ITIA Associate Members June – October 2015

ALINA BLANARU

ROMANIAN from English, Spanish

RAFAELA BIELECKI-WEYENBERG

ENGLISH to and from GERMAN

VALERIE FRANCOIS

FRENCH from English

MAGDALENA LÖHR

GERMAN from English, Italian

INES MASO

SPANISH from English, French

ANNA PAWLUS

POLISH to and from ENGLISH

TIZIANA PRIVITERA

ITALIAN from English, Spanish

BERNARD WADE

ENGLISH from Italian

DANNI ZENG

CHINESE to and from ENGLISH

New ITIA Affiliate Members October 2015

DAVIDE FEZZARDI

MICHAL LEWANDOWSKI

MARIOLA SEKOWSKA



For further details and application forms, please see our website at <http://tinyurl.com/y65bgtb>

Contacting the ITIA

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ITIA Bulletin

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