



ITIA BULLETIN

April 2006

In This Issue

■ Editorial.....	2
■ English language nears the one million-word milestone ..	2
■ Former FBI translator awarded.....	2
■ Jin Di and Eugene Nida – On Translation.....	3
■ Joining the ITIA.....	3
■ The Institute of Linguists and its elevation to chartered body status.....	4
■ FLOSS: OpenOffice (continued).....	4
■ Conferences, Calls & Courses.....	7
■ Contacting The ITIA.....	10

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Teangairí na hÉireann

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■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the April issue. This month a Turkish-American translator who was fired from the FBI for whistle-blowing received a top award in New York. Read an intriguing account of how she stood up to this powerful organisation in the name of professionalism. Hers is a salutary tale of how professional standards must be maintained in the face of pressure from employers. All of us, to varying extents, have to marry the ethical codes of our profession with the demands of our paymasters. Thankfully, few of us have faced extreme circumstances such as those experienced by Sibel Edmonds.

Also in this issue is the next instalment on open source software. It's not too late to join the revolution!

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■ English language nears the one million-word milestone

It will not be of much comfort to President George Bush and others who, on occasion, struggle to make themselves understood. But some time soon the English language, according to at least one reasonably authoritative source, will create its one-millionth word.

The Global Language Monitor (GLM), a San Diego-based linguistic consultancy, reckoned that on 21 March (the vernal equinox) this year, there were about 988,968 words in the language, "plus or minus a handful". At the current rate of progress, the one-million mark will be reached this summer.

■ Former FBI translator awarded

The *PEN American Center* has named Sibel Edmonds, a translator who was fired from her job at the FBI after complaining of intelligence failures and poor performance in her unit, as the recipient of this year's prestigious PEN Newman's Own First Amendment Award. Ms. Edmonds will receive the \$20,000 prize at PEN's annual Gala on April 18th, 2006 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Shortly after 9/11, Edmonds was hired as an FBI Language Specialist for Turkish, Farsi and Azerbaijani. In her work, Edmonds discovered poorly translated documents relevant to the 9-11 attacks and reported these to her supervisors. She also expressed concerns about a co-worker's relationship with a foreign intelligence officer. The FBI has admitted that when the co-worker was hired, the bureau didn't know that she had worked for a Turkish organization being investigated by the FBI's own counter-intelligence unit. They also didn't know she'd had a relationship with a Turkish intelligence officer stationed in Washington who was the target of that investigation. Edmonds also reported being told to work slowly to give the appearance that her department was overworked, despite the large backlog of documents needing translation. That way, it was hoped the department would receive a larger budget for the next year.

Edmonds followed all appropriate procedures for registering her concerns. However, instead of acting on her information, the FBI fired Edmonds in March 2002, claiming she had "committed security violations and had disrupted the translation unit." The FBI has, however, conceded that some people in the language department are unable to adequately speak English or the language they're supposed to be translating.

In June 2002, two U.S. Senators wrote to the FBI demanding information on Edmond's case, noting that many of her allegations had been confirmed by the FBI in unclassified briefings to Congress. The following month, Edmonds filed a lawsuit challenging the FBI's retaliatory actions, but in July of 2004 *Edmonds v. Department of Justice* was dismissed by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia after Attorney General John Ashcroft invoked "State Secrets Privilege" to prevent any materials that supported her case from becoming public. The Supreme Court has refused to hear her appeal.

In early 2004, an unclassified summary of the Justice Department's Inspector General's report on Edmonds confirmed that many of her claims "were supported, that the FBI did not take them seriously enough, and that her allegations were, in fact, the most significant factor in the FBI's decision to terminate her services." In February of that year, Edmonds testified before the 9/11 Commission about problems at the FBI.

Three months later, the Justice Department retroactively classified Edmonds' briefings to Senators and the 9-11 Commission, as well as the information the Senators had cited in their letter to the FBI, and forced

the Members of Congress who had information about Edmonds' case posted on their web sites to remove the documents.

In addition to courageously pursuing her case, Edmonds founded the National Security Whistleblowers Coalition in August 2004. The NSWBC organizes current or former government employees who have been punished for exposing official wrongdoing and advocates for legislation to protect the rights of National Security whistleblowers.

In announcing the award in New York, PEN Freedom to Write Program Director Larry Siems praised Edmonds' commitment to preserving the free flow of information in the United States in a time of growing international isolation and increasing government secrecy. "It is hard to think of a position in public service more valuable to the nation in these turbulent times than a language specialist who is engaged in making important international information accessible to government officials and policymakers," said Siems. "Sibel Edmonds understood the importance of her position and carried out her work with energy and honor – only to face retaliation and dismissal. Unintimidated, she has fought to inform US Congress and the American people on the urgent need for better translation services in areas vital to their national interests.

■ Jin Di and Eugene Nida – On Translation

Many ITIA members will remember the visit of Jin Di, the Chinese translator of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, to Ireland last year to receive honorary membership of the ITIA and to speak at the *Second DCU International Postgraduate Translation Studies Conference*.

The City University of Hong Kong Press has recently reissued *On Translation*, a study co-authored by Jin Di and Eugene Nida, originally published in 1984 by the China Translation and Publishing Corporation in Beijing. It is widely recognized as a classic in translation theory with a practical orientation.

Following the theoretical framework Nida has developed over decades of work on translation and semiotics, the two authors offer an easily comprehensible analysis of the complex problems involved in translation. After a critical review of the historical development of translation theory in the light of modern information theory, they elucidate the most

fundamental principles of translation in accordance with the concept of dynamic equivalence. The treatment is closely related to actual translation practice, and the principles elucidated are applicable to all types of translation, though most of the examples analysed are taken from translations between Chinese and English.

This new and expanded edition has two main parts. Part I is the complete text of the original work as published in the early 1980s. Part II consists of six of Professor Jin's more recent essays, which provide further insights into the principle of equivalent effect and its applications in literary translation. Particular attention is paid to practical procedures and the extremely complex relationship between creative translation and real fidelity.

Appended is "A Translator's Life", an interview with John Kearns of the ITIA, conducted during Prof. Jin's visit to Ireland. The interview reveals much about Jin's background and career as a renowned translator and translation theorist.

For more information and purchasing details, please see <http://cityupress.ccnnet-hk.com/>.

John Kearns
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■ Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is always delighted to welcome new members to the Association.

There are five categories of membership:

- ◆ Ordinary
- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Concession (undergraduate & senior citizen)
- ◆ Honorary

Ordinary membership is open to anyone with an interest in translating or interpreting. *Professional membership* is for those who meet strict criteria set by the professional membership committee of the ITIA and which is part of the drive to raise the status of the profession in the European market.

Corporate membership is for firms and agencies associated with the profession while *concession membership* is for undergraduate students engaged in third level language and/or translation studies and

senior citizens. Finally, *honorary* membership is intended for national and international persons who have distinguished themselves in our professional field.

For more information on how to join as well as for the relevant application forms, visit the ITIA website at: www.translatorsassociation.ie

■ The Institute of Linguists and its elevation to chartered body status

The 60 or so present at the *Institute of Linguists* (IoL) AGM on March 4th discussed implications of the clauses to be contained in a charter petition already sent to the Privy Council for its seal of approval. While, obviously, linguistics includes more than translation and interpreting, the qualifications and performance indicators for the applied activities of translating and interpreting dominated the meeting. Taking university charters as a guide, it should be appreciated that their clauses may be changed only on successful application to the Privy Council or equivalent. On the other hand, once a charter has been approved, the body or institution concerned may, subject to the constraints and ethos of the charter, prescribe regulations – like by-laws – as and when ‘circumstances and international developments demand, so that such regulations would complement the charter’s set of clauses. Presumably the introduction of charter status reflects the IoL’s desire to increase professional status and maintain harmonised minimal standards for professional performance and remuneration.

As a registered medical doctor, I am aware of the increasing demand for performance by means of refresher courses, periodic assessment and peer review, the essence of professionalism being the abiding skill, judgment and experience of practitioners. A charter

■ Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out in May 2006. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 950 subscribers worldwide, send them to Elizabeth Hayes at [elizabeth.hayes7\(a\)mail.dcu.ie](mailto:elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie).

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To unsubscribe, simply send an Email to [itia-ezine-unsubscribe\(a\)yahogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine-unsubscribe(a)yahogroups.com)

would presumably have similar aims. To judge by the drift of the discussion, the quality, rather than the quantity of work done, be it translating, publishing, teaching or examining, would seem to have been an overriding criterion for continued entitlement to the titles ‘Chartered Fellow’ or ‘Chartered member’.

The risk of giving bad professional advice is illustrated by the case of *Heller -v- Hedley*. Translators/interpreters advise their clients (by implication) that the translated version is correct. Due care and competence enter the picture. The point was made at the AGM that, unfortunately, a person who is expert in one L2 may choose to translate from a closely related L2 in which he or she has no adequate qualification. Clearly, it is hoped that a chartered Institute may have more disciplinary clout.

The meeting also addressed problems arising from interpreters’ unconscious or deliberate misrepresentation. Again, the disciplinary role of the IoL would be an important consideration. I think it is a pity, therefore, that the proposed charter does not provide for a mechanism (one person or a committee) to adjudicate in respect of disputes. This is less expensive and less publicised than would be a case brought to the courts.

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■ FLOSS: OpenOffice (continued)

Introduction

As stated in the Editor’s Note to last month’s article detailed step-by-step instructions and screen shots of the software in action had to be withheld for reasons of space and size that would have made the e-Bulletin unsuitable as an e-mail attachment. For that reason future articles will be confined to more generalised overviews with limited use of diagrams. Detailed versions of the same article complete with the necessary detail will be made available in an archive on the CD as they become available. Early subscribers will be kept up-to-date with information by means of quarterly bulletins and “refresher” CDs.

The OpenOffice suite consists of six core programs. OpenOffice.org Writer is the main word processing program in the suite and others are:

- *Base*, a sophisticated database program;
- *Calc*, a traditional spreadsheet format;

- *Draw*, an interesting and comprehensive drawing program with lots of extras;
- *Impress*, a program for preparing presentations with slides, overheads, notes, prompts, and
- *Math.*, a high-powered program to provide advanced mathematical formulae for use in other programs. This is unlikely to be of interest to the general user but may of great importance to translators of technical, engineering and scientific documentation.

If you use Microsoft Office then you will already be familiar with Excel, Accord, and the other programs in that suite. You should have no difficulty in adapting to the OpenOffice equivalents. The CD contains step-by-step instructions and detailed graphical illustrations that will be of use to those with less experience of using these programs. Down to work then! This month we shall use OpenOffice to prepare a document for use with the translation software OmegaT.

Myth Buster: When you use CAT (Computer Assisted Translation) software you, as a translator, are NOT surrendering your expertise to a machine! You do use dictionaries, don't you? And a thesaurus, perhaps? And you refer back to previous translations you have made? Well, think of CAT as a way of clearing your desk of all that paperwork and replacing it with an assistant who will anticipate your every wish, putting the relevant page of the dictionary in front of you before you even realise you need it, offering previous versions of the same passage that you have already translated as and when you need them! Clearing that desk space also means that there is more room now for that essential cup of coffee and a "sticky" bun for elevenses (and less danger of spilling the coffee because you can now see where you put it!)

Preparing a file for translation

Let's look at the work flow involved in preparing a document for translation. Depending upon the source of the document and the software already in use, you may join this process at any appropriate point for you. Let us say that you have received the document from the client in MS Word document (Let's call it *source.doc*) format. From now on I shall use "source" as the name of the starting file irrespective of the format.

Step #1:

Start OpenOffice. (Note that "OpenOffice", as the name of the software, is written with no space between the words and is often abbreviated to "OOo", the acronym for <openoffice.org>).

Step #2:

From OpenOffice, go to *File>Open*. Then, from the *Files Open Dialogue Box*, making sure that you have

selected "*All files (*.*)*", just select "*source.doc*".

OpenOffice will now import the file and convert it for use in OpenOffice. Check that the file has appeared correctly and immediately save it again, but this time in OpenOffice format as an SXW file, thus: *File>Save As* and then select "*OpenOffice.org 1.0 Text Document (.sxw)*" from the "*Save as type*" drop-down menu.

Again let us say that you stay with the original filename, then you will now have a new file called "*source.sxw*".

That's all there is to it! You now have a version of the client document in a format that can be used in OmegaT. The same procedure can be used for other document formats such as a text document (*source.txt* or *source.rtf*). An additional step or steps may be required if you receive the document in different format, such as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file. Detailed advice on this conversion will be supplied if requested. Suffice it to say for the moment that the basic principle of conversion is either "cut and paste" (a tedious process for a PDF file!) or convert the file using OCR (optical character recognition) software, such as SimpleOCR. Incidentally, as a kind of "trailer", SimpleOCR can turn a hand-written document (non-cursive script) into an electronic document format for further processing! More about that later.

In short:

*START-Select file-Available formats-Convert file
File now in OOo format .sxw-Ready to use in OmegaT*

When we look at OmegaT software next month and in later articles I shall deal with such issues as 'segmentation' but let's not worry about that at the moment.

Selecting the peripheral items

But what about my dictionaries, I hear you say! We need a glossary for use with OmegaT and yes, you may continue to use the hard copy dictionary for as long as you need to. When you use CAT software you will gradually accumulate your own personalised glossaries. You may also import glossaries from other sources including databases that you have previously prepared. I find it useful to have a general glossary and then a number of smaller, specialised glossaries usually tailored for specific clients or specific categories of document, such as legal, engineering, and so on. Irrespective of the category the process of preparing a glossary is the same which is as follows:

Step #1:

Select your list of glossary items and import it to OpenOffice Writer. You should now edit the file so that

each pair of glossary items appears on a separate line with a tab space between them. You may also add a second tab to produce a third 'column' in the line which can be used for notes. The general procedure is as follows:

- ◆ Start
- ◆ Collate list of glossary items
- ◆ Prepare OOO document file
- ◆ Save file in specified format
- ◆ Glossary file ready for use

An example from my own general glossary for English>Irish is as follows

Source [TAB]	Target [TAB]	Notes
law enforcement agencies	gníomhaireachtaí dlí	¶
leader	ceannasaí	¶
leading	cinnireacht, ceannaireacht?	as in 'guiding' ¶
league table	clár sraithe	¶
Lebanon	An Liobáin	¶
liaise	dul i gcaidreamh le	¶
libel laws	dliithe clúmhillte	¶

You will note that there is a single TAB space between each item on a line, there is a carriage return (ENTER/¶) at the end of each line, and finally, there is a space between each pair of lines (ENTER/¶). You may start with a relatively small glossary but you will be surprised how quickly it builds up. My approach is to examine each new source document and identify the words that I need to check in the dictionary for meaning, for spelling, for inflection, and so on. I then incorporate these into my current glossary file and update it. I keep these successive glossaries together in the one folder and use the following format for naming them:
glossary_genl_060419.tab

The numbers at the end are just the current date (19/04/06) in reverse order which helps to keep them in chronological order in the folder. You will also note that the file type is .tab. More about that in a moment.

When you are satisfied with your glossary layout then you will want to save it for use with OmegaT. Here we come to what you might regard as an idiosyncrasy of the FLOSS community. I have often thought that FLOSS is a very appropriate acronym for the community that is Free/Libre Open Source Software because, like 'floss', it

is hard to pull the individual contributors apart! There is considerable mutual support. For example, to use OmegaT you must also use OpenOffice to prepare your files.

In the case of the glossary file you should first save it as a simple text file. Do this from the OpenOffice Writer drop down menu by File>Save As and then select the file type as 'Text (.txt)'. Then go to the folder where you have saved this file and right-click with the mouse (OK, left click with the mouse if, like me, you are left-handed! Let's call it alternate-click!) to get the pop-up menu and from that select 'Rename'. Leave the filename as it is but change the file type from .txt to .tab by just selecting 'txt' and typing 'tab' in its place. Et voilà, the initiation ceremony is complete and your glossary is now fit and ready for use by OmegaT.

That's all there is to it. Why not prepare a short document for use next month and prepare a glossary to go with it? We will then be ready to use OmegaT for our first project. Until then, where did I put that cup of coffee? Ahhh! There it is. Happiness is....!

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A CD containing the current versions of the following programs is available FREE:

- OpenOffice
- Omega T (translation software)
- Mozilla Firefox (Internet browser) (available in either Irish or English)
- Mozilla Thunderbird (email)
- Cats Cradle (translation software for web pages)
- PO Edit (localisation software)
- SimpleOCR (An Optical Character Recognition program converting a printed document to electronic format with the use of a scanner)
- plus, at a later stage, other programs that may be requested by readers or become available in the near future.

Just contact the author by e-mail at <tonypr@iol.ie> or write to the following address: Tony Pratschke, "Lothlorien", Síol Éalaigh, Co. Chill Mhantáin. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Your subscription (€20 suggested) will help me to defray expenses and to continue providing this service in the spirit of Free/Libre Open Source Software. Thank you.

■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

TRANSLATION AND CENSORSHIP From the 18th Century to the Present Day

Portuguese Catholic University, Lisbon. November 27-28 2006

Organisers: Portuguese Catholic University of Lisbon (www.ucp.pt) and Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (www.esse.ipb.pt), Portugal

AIM: The relationship between translation and censorship has been thoroughly investigated when related to the 20th -century dictatorships in Spain, Italy and Germany, whereas other timeframes and political contexts have been overlooked.

This conference aims to provide new insights into the study of Translation and Censorship from the 18th century to the present day.

Suggested topics for discussion:

- ◆ How did/does the censoring apparatus operate?
- ◆ Who were/are the censors?
- ◆ How was/is censorship exerted? At what levels?
- ◆ Do translators use self-censorship?
- ◆ Does censorship differ according to genre and/or gender?

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Abstracts (250-300 words) should be submitted electronically. E-mail for all information, registration and contacts: tradcens@ucp.pt Further information will soon be available at www.tradcens.net Deadline for abstract submissions: 30 June 2006. Notification of acceptance will be given by 28 July 2006.

Languages accepted in papers: Portuguese, English and Spanish.

Guest speakers (to be confirmed):

- ◆ José Miguel Santamaria (University of the Basque Country, Spain)
- ◆ Kate Sturge (Aston University, UK)
- ◆ Raquel Merino (University of the Basque Country, Spain)

Registration fees (until 30th September 2006):

- ◆ Speakers – €50
- ◆ Participants – €60
- ◆ Students – €25
- ◆ Late registrations (after 30th September 2006) - +€10

Payment by bank transfer:

- ◆ NIB 003300000017013412105
- ◆ IBAN PT50 0033 0000 0017 0134 1210 5
- ◆ SWIFT BCOMPTPL
- ◆ or by cheque endorsed to: *Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Centro de Estudos de Cultura, Línguas e Literaturas*

UCL/Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellows Programme (2006-2012)**Translations/Transpositions: Old and New Models of Translation**

FACULTIES OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES & SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

With funding from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, UCL intends to appoint six Post-Doctoral Fellows, each for a two-year term, across a six year period, to research into the following themes (the first of these is for the 2006-2008 appointment):

- ◆ Old and new models of translation;
- ◆ Migration and non-mother tongue writing;
- ◆ 'Intergeneric' translation;
- ◆ 'Intermedia' translations (i.e. literary works 'translated' or transported into films, operas, art works, etc.);
- ◆ Translation as dissemination: museums and their audiences.

The Mellon Fellows will be attached to the Department of their main discipline, but will be expected to function in a broad inter-Departmental and inter-Faculty way in their research. Applications are invited now for the first Mellon Fellow to work on the first theme: 'Old and new models of translation'.

The salary, including London Weighting, will be GBP27,286 per annum. Fellows are expected to teach up to a maximum of four hours per week. The Fellowship is available from September 2006.

There is no application form. Please submit a covering letter together with the following materials (hard copy only) to the address below:

- ◆ Curriculum Vitae
- ◆ PhD Abstract
- ◆ A sample of written work (no longer than 50 pp);
- ◆ A short research proposal for the Fellowship
- ◆ A description of teaching and experience and interests;
- ◆ The names and contact details of three referees.

Please send all applications (hard copy only), by post, to Andrew Pink, Vice-Provost's Office, UCL (University College London), Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT. Telephone 020 7679 1374, Fax 020 7916 8505, e-mail a.g.pink@ucl.ac.uk.

Further particulars on the Fellowship and Mellon Programme are available at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/mellon-program>

The closing date for applications is Friday 12th May 2006.

We particularly welcome female applicants and those from an ethnic minority, as they are currently under-represented within UCL at this level.

Full details are on the programme's website www.ucl.ac.uk/mellon-program

The Second IATIS International Translation Studies Conference Cape Town, South Africa

The Second IATIS International Translation Studies Conference, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa this July, will be preceded by a day of workshops which will be of interest to those interested in training and research in translation and interpreting. The workshops will take place on Tuesday July 11th. For more information, log on to

<http://www.iatis.org/content/iatis2006/programme/workshops.php>.

For general information concerning the conference, see

<http://www.iatis.org/content/iatis2006/index.php>

Literary Translation Summer School, University of East Anglia, Norwich. July 2-8 2006 British Centre for Literary Translation. Special Theme: Translating for the Stage

The seventh international BCLT Summer School bringing together writers, translators, and literary professionals for a week of literary translation workshops, round tables, seminars, and readings.

Writers in residence: Patricia Duncker, Elena Lappin, Tim Parks (English); Chantal Bourbigot (French); Peter Waterhouse (German); Eleni Yannakakis (Greek); Gianrico Carofiglio (Italian); Michal Witkowski (Polish); Andrei Kurkhov (Russian) Carlos Gamarro (Spanish).

Workshop leaders: Ilide Carmignani, Robert Chandler, Howard Curtis, Maria Consta, Iain Galbraith, Magda Haydel, Miguel Martinez Lage, Cecilia Rossi, Barbara Schaden, Giuliana Schiavi, Ros Schwartz.

Keynote speakers: Roger Baines, Fred Dalmasso, Alan Dix, David Johnston, Katherine Mendelsohn, Blake Morrison, Simon Rees

Translation workshops from English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Russian and Spanish. All language combinations are welcome – contact BCLT for further details.

Fees: £650 (residential) £295 (non-residential)

Bursaries: Bursaries are available for students wishing to join the Polish-English translation workshop. BCLT is grateful to Literature Across Frontiers for supporting this initiative. Additional bursaries for other languages may be available subject to confirmation of funding. Further details from BCLT.

British Centre for Literary Translation, School of Literature and Creative Writing, University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk, NR4 7TJ

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/eas/centres/bclt/bcltintro.shtml>

<http://www.literarytranslation.com>

Tel.: +44 (0) 1603 592785. Fax: +44 (0) 1603 592737

E-mail: [bclt\(a\)uea.ac.uk](mailto:bclt(a)uea.ac.uk)

The BCLT reserves the right to change the programme subject to availability and confirmation of funding.

■ Contacting The ITIA

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ITIA BULLETIN

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■ ITIA Resources for Translators

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* has compiled a series of useful information leaflets for translators and interpreters - both members and non-members alike. These leaflets are available from the ITIA website at www.translatorsassociation.ie.

- ◆ *The Translation Profession*
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