

# ITIA BULLETIN

## August 2011

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## ■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

I hope you are all keeping busy in these difficult times which, it seems, are set to last a little longer than we would all wish. Regardless, however, of the never ending Irish recession and the European financial crisis we must all remember the value of a good rest which gives us a chance to recharge our batteries. With the Irish summer not at its best this year I hope everyone has had a chance to catch some real sunshine with their feet up, elsewhere in the world. And if you are just back from your holidays maybe this issue will help you ease back into the working mode.

Enjoy reading!

Adam Brozynski Editor ITIA Bulletin theitiabulletin@gmail.com

## ■ Translations available on request

The ITIA regularly receives requests for translation from two groups of people who can obtain an English language version of their documents free of charge on request to the relevant body. The first group is graduates from a small number of Irish universities (Trinity College Dublin, National College of Surgeons) that still award degree parchments written in Latin. Typically, the graduate is planning to emigrate to Australia and needs a copy in English to obtain a working visa.

The second group is people who are naturalised Irish citizens and have been issued with a certificate in Irish only. John Lyons, Labour TD for Dublin North West, took up the issue of Irish language certificates with the Minister for Justice and Equality on three occasions in June 2011. The replies were all written which gave no opportunity for further discussion.

The first question (114 on 2nd June) was: To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding the practice of providing naturalisation certificates only in the Irish language; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The written reply from Mr Shatter was: 'The Irish language is the first official language of the State and it is the long standing practice of the citizenship division of my Department to issue certificates of naturalisation in Irish. A translation of the certificate in English is available on request.

On the 9th June, John Lyons returned to the theme again: Question 173 To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 114 of 2 June 2011, if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the English version of a naturalisation certificate has no legal standing in view of the fact that it is not a certified translation of the document and this can lead to difficulties for new Irish citizens in their dealings with various organisations.

The Minister's reply was: I refer the Deputy to my reply to Parliamentary Question No. 114 of 2 June 2011. The Irish language is the first official language of the State and it is the long-standing practice of the Citizenship Division of my Department to issue certificates of naturalisation in Irish. This certificate of naturalisation as provided is the only official certificate provided to an

applicant should they be granted naturalisation.

An English version of the certificate of naturalisation is not available. However, as previously stated a translation of the certificate of naturalisation is available on request. This is a general translation of the contents of a certificate of naturalisation and has no legal standing.

JOHN LYONS ASKED HIS THIRD QUESTION ON 16TH JUNE:

To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will consider changing the long standing practice of issuing certificates of naturalisation only in Irish and provide a dual language version in Irish and English, as is the practice with most other official State documents including birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates and which would be a cost saving measure as well as saving administration time for civil servants in dealing with requests for English versions of the naturalisation certificate.

FURTHER TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NOS 114 AND NO. 173

The written reply from the Minister was: I refer the Deputy to my reply to Parliamentary Question No. 114 of 2 June 2011 and Parliamentary Question No. 173 of 9 June 2011. The Irish language is the first official language of the State and it is the long standing practice of the Citizenship Division of my Department to issue certificates of naturalisation in Irish.

I can further inform the Deputy that the volume of requests made to my Department in any given year for

an English version of a naturalisation certificate is negligible.

In the ITIA we would argue that the number of requests to the Department is negligible because people who want or need a translation are contacting translation agencies and paying for translations. Anyone who needs an English version can request it free of charge from the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (http://tinyurl.com/3qegtwb). However, it seems that this English version is not an official translation and is not always accepted.

The obvious solution to this problem is to issue bilingual naturalisation certificates in Irish and English. This would be in line with the new citizenship ceremony which took place for the first time at Dublin Castle on 24th June 2011 where, according to The Irish Times, '73 applicants from 24 countries across five continents took oaths of fidelity and received their certificates of naturalisation to become Irish citizens.'

Mary Phelan ITIA Honorary Secretary

## 'Promotoras' bridge doctor-patient language barrier in hospitals

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2011

LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- Being diagnosed with cancer is overwhelming as it is. But imagine how difficult it would be if you didn't speak the same language as your doctor. For so many patients, that's the case. A new program is trying to help breakthrough the language barrier.

It's a challenge some cancer patients who speak primarily Spanish face when they visit their doctors. And it's scaring some away from getting the help they need. But now a new project aims to bridge the language gap.

Maria Gloria Sanchez, a breast-cancer survivor, likes to spend quality time in the kitchen with her family.

Hispanic women have lower rates of breast cancer compared to white and black women. Still, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among

Maria's daughter, Selene Elias, did not want her mom to become a statistic.

"We had never been exposed to anything like that," said Selene.

Low screening participation is one reason Hispanic women are more likely to be diagnosed at a more advanced stage. Language barriers with their doctors can make things even worse.

But right after Maria was diagnosed, she was contacted by a Patient Navigator, or "Promotora."

Bilingual, bicultural patient navigators like Guadalupe Cornejo are stationed at cancer centers in a handful of U.S. cities with large Latino populations. They're helping Hispanics with cancer fill out important medical forms, make doctor appointments and arrange transportation for treatment.

"Or just provide that emotional support, which a lot of patients do like that," said Cornejo. "Patient Navigators are out there saving lives," said Sandra San Miguel de Majors, Institute for Health Promotion Research.

Sandra helped develop the Patient Navigator Research Program. The goal is to ensure Latinos get timely, potentially life-saving cancer care. "A lot of them don't speak English, and there's a lot of fears and myths," said Sandra.

Rudy Gamboa says his cultural connection to Guadalupe Cornejo helps him feel less fearful dealing with colon cancer

"I know that if I have any questions or I need anything I can always call her and ask her and she'll be there," said Gamboa, a colon cancer patient.

Maria is now cancer-free, but still turns to Guadalupe for help, and she's happy to make house calls.

The Patient Navigator Research Program is funded by the National Cancer Institute. While it's coming to an end, funding from Lance Armstrong Foundation's LIVESTRONG is helping keep Promotoras in hospitals around the country.

> Denise Dador Original source: http://tinyurl.com/3wudol8

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## Language app helps U.S. troops in Afghanistan

AUGUST 10, 2011

A new iPhone app is helping soldiers deployed overseas overcome a major obstacle: the language barrier.

TripLingo Dari, released on July 4, is the first interactive language application designed to help American personnel in Afghanistan learn Dari. Dari is a Persian dialect spoken by about half of Afghanistan's population.

The application also features information about Afghanistan, including its history, culture and local etiquette.

Once downloaded, TripLingo does not require an Internet connection, making it much easier for soldiers overseas to use the app.

But, language isn't the only thing TripLingo Dari offers. The application also features information about Afghanistan, including its history, culture and local etiquette. It reminds you, for instance, about the importance of taking off your shoes before you walk in a house.

There are two versions of the app: one for soldiers and civilians, the other for medical personnel. The latter includes advanced medical terminology.

According to TripLingo CEO Jesse Maddox, more than 1,000 people have downloaded TripLingo Dari, including NATO soldiers, NGO workers and contractors.

Lt. David Duffus of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland tried for nine months to learn Dari without much success. He is now able to communicate in the language. "It helps break the ice with the locals... I can talk directly to the soldiers without needing an interpreter and when we are under fire that can save lives -- ours and theirs," Duffus says.

Maddox has two friends and a cousin serving in Afghanistan who he says inspired him to create the app.

"Soldiers aren't your typical traveller... but, they have the same problems that tourists do and perhaps even more pronounced," Maddox says.

James Tomecsek is a civil aid worker in Afghanistan who uses the app to communicate with locals. He says the application helps both parties: "It's teaching them [Afghans] English while it's teaching me more Dari."

The Department of Defense's annual "Strategic Language List" says Dari is one of the languages for which there is a critical need in all branches of the service.

TripLingo Dari is among a couple of free language apps that TripLingo makes (Its other free offering, "Pirate," helps users learn to speak like pirates). All other languages cost \$9.99 a piece.

TripLingo is just one of dozens of iPhone language applications, all of which are becoming a popular resource for travellers everywhere.

Maddox says these applications can have a huge impact on an individual's experience abroad. He says the potential of applications like these is limitless: "The ability to communicate can go far in delighting someone and getting them on your side... It can help make them no longer see you as a foreigner... but as a person."

Kristen McCrae, CNN
Original source: http://tinyurl.com/3gjx7rr

# ■ Paramedics advised parents to give boy 7UP, inquest told

JUNE 8, 2011

A MOTHER who called an ambulance on two occasions to bring her 11-year-old son to hospital broke down at an inquest yesterday as she recalled that personnel on the first ambulance advised her to give him water and 7UP.

Leonardo Sala of Mount Andrew Court, Lucan, Co Dublin, died of acute inflammation of the colon, secondary to chronic constipation, on July 21st, 2010.

Maria Sala called an ambulance just before 5pm on the day before her sons death. Leonardo, known as Leo, had diarrhoea and vomiting. A Dublin Fire Brigade ambulance attended at the family home at 5.14pm, but

did not take the boy, who had an underlying condition called mitochondrial disease, to hospital.

Garda Sgt. Mark Campbell told the Dublin City Coroner's Court there was a language and communication issue.

...said an ambulance crew could never refuse to take a patient to hospital...

A second ambulance went to the Sala home at 10.27pm, after another call was made to the emergency services, and the boy was taken to Tallaght hospital, accompanied by his father, Antonio Sala.

When the boy, who had a history of constipation, arrived at the hospital, he was in a semi-conscious state and had a distended abdomen. He was diagnosed with inflammation of the colon secondary to chronic constipation, which may have been associated with his underlying metabolic disease.

He was transferred to Temple Street hospital, where he died the following day.

A tearful Ms Sala told the inquest she asked the first crew to take her son to hospital and was expecting the ambulance would take him straight away. She said an ambulance paramedic said there was not a problem and advised her to give him water and boil 7UP for him. Ms Sala, a native Portuguese speaker, told the coroner that she felt guilty.

The way the young man explained the situation, he was so confident ... so sure there was no problem...they [the parents] did not ask him to take the child [to hospital].

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out in two months. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 1,000 subscribers worldwide, send them to Adam Brozynski at theitiabulletin(a)gmail.com.

#### Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

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The way he said it, they thought there was no problem, said interpreter George Mopinga.

Asked by coroner Dr Brian Farrell if she had explained her son s medical history, Ms Sala said she indicated her son could not talk and she showed them a laxative medication he was being given. She said she was advised to stop the medication.

Paramedic Gary Mason, who was with the first ambulance, told the coroner he had no recollection of the incident. He said an ambulance crew could never refuse to take a patient to hospital and that he could not have left the house if Ms Sala was asking him to take Leo to hospital.

Dr Farrell recorded a narrative verdict, a summary of the facts of the case. He said he would write to all paediatric metabolic units asking them to consider giving a care card to patients that could be presented to emergency services and at A&E departments.

Georgina O'Halloran

Reproduced with permission from The Irish Times

## 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
- Corporate
- 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 is available to translators and interpreters who are starting out on their careers and to those who do not work full-time as a translator or interpreter. Many members avail of Associate Membership until such time as they have acquired the requisite experience and/or qualifications to apply for Professional Membership. Associate Membership is

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also availed of by people with a professional interest in the professions of translation and interpreting (e.g. terminologists, translation/interpreting tutors etc.) and by those who have a general interest in these professions.

Corporate Membership is available to translation companies. As this category is currently under review, we are not accepting applications at the moment.

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

#### New Members of the ITIA - July/August 2011



Correction to New associate members, June 2011 (language combinations):

To keep up-to-date with our latest activities, events and news you can now follow the Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association on both Facebook and LinkedIn.

#### Announcements

#### Hello.

I'm a Dublin-based freelance journalist specialising in issues affecting ethnic minority communities in Ireland (previous work can be viewed at http://tinyurl.com/ 3wkyqtk).

I am currently developing a freelance article on how lack of regulation of interpreting/translation in Ireland has affected professional interpreters/translators, and members of the public. I am particularly interested in issues pertaining to the medical field.

Any person who wishes to contact me is welcome to do so, at 086-8847853 or catherinereilly00@gmail.com. Of course, if someone wishes to speak to me off-the-record their anonymity will be respected, and agreement reached on how information they give can/cannot be used.

Many thanks, Catherine Reilly 086-8847853 catherinereilly00@gmail.com

#### Dear Colleague,

We are very pleased to announce that the electronic volume related to the AVIDICUS Project is now available online at: http://tinyurl.com/3kndt47

The volume, entitled Videoconference and Remote Interpreting in Criminal Proceedings, contains papers presented at the Project Symposium in February 2011, together with the findings and recommendations of the AVIDICUS Project.

With best regards, Sabine Braun, Project Leader, AVIDICUS

Judith L. Taylor, Research Fellow, AVIDICUS

#### Worth a Click

If you would like to know "how languages can help you succeed in international business" this website comes highly recommended:

http://tinyurl.com/3e7jpo7

## ■ FIT 2011 on Interpreting (BLOG)

Below are some excerpts from a blog post entitled FIT 2011 on Interpreting by María Cristina de la Vega, who attended the recent FIT conference in San Francisco. The author shares her thoughts and reports on some of the conference sessions that were of particular interest to her.

"...the European Parliament is experiencing a serious shortage of interpreters. There are not enough young interpreters joining the ranks to fill the shoes of the baby boomers who will be retiring."

"There is such a shortage of high quality interpreters that they are working with schools in Europe to supervise and have input into the teaching of languages."

"...I learned at an AIIC meeting that I attended after FIT, that ISO is developing a standard in community interpreting, which could impact conference interpreting ISO standards."

"One of the closing speeches was delivered by Benoît Kremer, the president of AIIC, and I will likewise end with his thoughts on our industry. Mr. Kremer vigorously exhorted us to adapt to the changing world, diversifying our skills. He stated that the profession is under siege from the standpoint of costs and informed us that in the EU, if you do not speak 4-5 languages, you are limited. It will be necessary for interpreters to learn new languages."

If you would like to read the whole post, click on this link: http://tinyurl.com/3r4tp56

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## ■ Conferences, Calls and Courses

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TRANSLATORS IN TRAINING!

The aim of the scholarship programme is to train a new generation of translators of Romanian literature from a wide spectrum of foreign language backgrounds, as well as to establish closer links with professional translators who have already had their work published abroad. In order to achieve this, the selected candidates have the opportunity to spend a period of time in Romania in order to maintain direct contact with the Romanian literary and cultural milieu. Link: http://tinyurl.com/ygpodkn

20 two-month scholarships are offered annually, in two stages:

- first session: 1 May 30 June (10 scholarships) deadline for enrolment: 31 March
- second Session: 1 October 30 November (10 scholarships) deadline for enrolment: 31 August
- Scholarship value: €1,500 for the entire period of the scholarship

Documents necessary for enrolment:

- A cover letter addressed to the president of the Romanian Cultural Institute
- CV
- A list of publications (optional)
- A letter of recommendation from a teacher of the Romanian language or a translator working from Romanian.

These documents should be sent by post to the following address:

#### Florin Bican

INSTITUTUL CULTURAL ROMÂN Aleea Alexandru nr. 38 011824 Bucuresti, România

# Call for Papers INTERPRETING THE FUTURE

Translators and Interpreters: Experts for International Communication in Specialised Fields

International Conference hosted by the Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ) Berlin, 28-30 September 2012

Encouraged by the success of the first conference, "Interpreting the Future", which took place in Berlin in September 2009 with around 1,600 people from over 40 countries attending, Germany's Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators (BDÜ) is planning a further three-day international conference for September 2012 on the subject of Translators and Interpreters: Experts for International Communication in Specialised Fields.

Presentations, workshops, seminars, a trade exhibition, networking sessions and a job exchange will be organised with the aim of bringing clients, authorities, university teachers, suppliers of software tools, students and professional translators and interpreters closer together.

Further information can be found in the internet at http://tinyurl.com/3m6v2u5. You can also email us at konferenz2010@bdue.de.





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### ■ Contacting The ITIA

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#### ■ ITIA Resources for Translators

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