

ITIA BULLETIN

November 2005

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

With both International Translation Day and the AGM falling in October, it has been a busy month for the ITIA.

The International Translation Day event was very well attended. Fortunately, there was still plenty of wine to go round. The speakers gave interesting talks on the issue of Translators and Human Rights which led to lively discussion. For more on this event, see page 5.

The 2005 AGM (report on page 6) also drew a crowd and revealed an association that has recovered from dire financial straits and is moving forward. Tony Pratchke and Miriam Watchorn addressed the meeting in the morning session. For more on that, see page 6.

There's plenty more besides so read on and enjoy!

Elizabeth Hayes

Editor ITIA Bulletin elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie

■ Professional Membership of ITIA

Translators and interpreters who wish to become professional members of the ITIA should complete and submit their application before Saturday, 19th November 2005.

The Professional Membership Sub-Committee will sit on Saturday, 26th November to consider only those applications to hand.

For downloadable forms and further information, please visit http://www.translatorsassociation.ie. Click on Leaflets and download forms 2.03 and 3.04 in particular.

■ To revive or not to revive

In June, Bill Marsh of the New York Times wrote a short but intriguing piece on the dying languages of Europe. He writes this in the context of Irish gaining official status in the EU, which he sees as a move 'to help keep Ireland's native tongue from disappearing.' On this point I would disagree with him as the recent recognition of Irish at EU level is not so much a helping hand but a recognition of the resilience of the Irish language.

Nonetheless, Marsh goes on to list some languages that are 'nearly extinct' according to the UNESCO Red Book on Endangered Languages. Some of these languages are being spoken by not hundreds but just dozens of people. These are known as 'hearth languages' as they are not written and are only spoken among elderly people in their own houses. The languages that are nearly extinct and the countries where they are spoken are as follows:

- Ume Sami (Sweden)
- Piti Sami (Sweden)
- Akkala Sami (Western Russia)
- Ter Sami (Western Russia)
- Votian (Western Russia)
- Livonian (Latvia)
- Krimchak (The Ukraine)
- Judeo-Italian (Italy)
- Judeo-Greek (Greece)

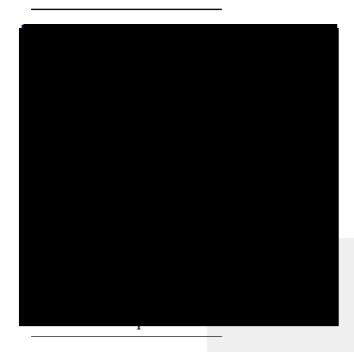
The dominance of English as a world language has made survival of lesser spoken languages and dialogues almost impossible. It is, of course, sad to hear of the disappearance of a

language as it hints at the disappearance of the way of life. However, language is a living thing and as such is subject to a Darwinian-type survival of the fittest. With languages such as those listed above, the best we can do is record what we can of them prior to their disappearance.

New Members of the ITIA

The ITIA welcomes the following ordinary members...





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

■ Paul Celan Fellowships for Translators 2006

1. Objective

The Institute for Human Sciences (Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, IWM) invites academics to translate important works in the humanities or social sciences from an Eastern to a Western European language, or vice versa, or from one Eastern European language to another.

2. Conditions

Paul Celan Visiting Fellows will be invited to spend three to six months at the IWM in 2006 to pursue their translation project while working in residence at the Institute. The fellows will receive a stipend to cover living expenses, travel, health insurance and incidentals. The IWM will provide Paul Celan Visiting Fellows with a guest apartment, an office, a personal computer and access to e-mail and Internet, in-house research facilities and other relevant sources in Vienna. The fellows will participate in the scholarly community and activities of the IWM.

3. Application Procedure

The application consists of the following materials (in English or German):

- the application form (please download)
- a curriculum vitae with a bibliography of translations and other relevant publications
- the author and work to be translated (from the original language) and an explanation for the choice thereof
- · the exact number of pages
- a contract with a publisher for the publication of the translation or a letter of intent from a publisher
- proof that the translator / publisher holds the rights to the translation and its publication (or has an option for them)
- · the planned date of publication
- · information on the program of the publishing house

Works which are thematically related to the IWM's research fields will receive preferential treatment. The deadline for Application is 22 December 2005 (date of receipt). Please send the application by mail to:

Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen Fellowship Coordinator Spittelauer Lände 3 1090 Wien AUSTRIA

For further details see http://iwm.at

BULLETIN

■ Community Interpreting News

Many of you will be aware that Lionbridge (www.lionbridge.com) bought out Bowne Global Solutions (BGS) in June of this year. Like BGS, Lionbridge specialises in localisation. However, BGS holds a number of contracts for interpreting services; Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC), Refugee Appeals Tribunal and ten Dublin hospitals. They are also involved in some research with the Health Service Executive into an interpreting service for GPs and their patients. In the UK, BGS holds the contract for telephone interpreting for the NHS.

The Irish Council of General Practitioners has a new publication 'A Guide to Interpretation Services and Cultural Competency' available at www.icgp.ie. While this is a laudable project, it is a missed opportunity. Some of the advice included is rather strange in that it seems to take power away from the interpreter and give it to the GP. For example: 'If there is any particular procedure you would like the interpreter to follow explain it to him/her before the session commences' - is the doctor going to organise how the interpreter does his/her job? 'Interpreters are instructed not to interrupt the patient' 'Interpreters are instructed to seek permission from the GP before seeking any clarification from the patients.' Most trained interpreters in other countries have no difficulty taking control. A simple hand signal can be used to request the patient or indeed the doctor to stop while the interpreter provides the interpretation. When clarification is needed from either party the interpreter should explain to the other party what is happening and obtain that clarification. It's just a question of behaving professionally so everyone in the room knows what is happening.

The Refugee Legal Services (RLS), part of the Legal Aid Board, provides advice to asylum seekers. Up to now they worked with a number of different translation agencies. However, they have just issued a tender for the provision of interpretation and translation services (www.etenders.gov.ie). The tender includes the worrying provision that 'No charge will be paid by the R.L.S. for any cancellations where two hours notice of the cancellation is given.' This could mean that an interpreter accepts a booking for Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m., the session is cancelled at 12 and the interpreter receives no payment despite the fact that s/he will not be able to find alternative work at such short notice and may have rearranged a work schedule or organised

childcare for the afternoon. This type of practice will merely encourage more people to leave interpreting.

Appendix 3 of the RLS tender is particularly interesting. On the one hand the interpreter is expected to be the consummate professional, arriving on time, neatly presented and possessing a 'professional attitude'. The interpreter is expected to observe confidentiality, to declare any conflict of interest and to interpret 'as faithfully and precisely as possible.' The interpreter is not supposed to make any comments at any stage and should not engage in conversation. All of that is fairly standard during the interview but the following provisions, which in my opinion demonstrate distrust of interpreters, also appear in the document:

4. If a literal translation appears to be impossible, and it is necessary to paraphrase in order to facilitate good comprehension, this should be brought to the attention of the caseworker/solicitor.

What is a literal translation? And why are so many people obsessed with literal translation? There may be no exact equivalent for a word in which case any translator or interpreter will have to find an alternative way of conveying what is meant. That is part of translation. So what is the point in bringing that to the attention of the caseworker?

12. It is the responsibility of the caseworker/solicitor, not the interpreter, to stop the applicant after 2-3 sentences in order to allow the interpreter to interpret consecutive sentences.

Once again, the assumption is that the interpreter cannot or should not control the interview. Many interpreter would have no problem with 2 or 3 or 4 sentences. Why not let the interpreter take control?

Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out towards the end of November 2005. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 900 subscribers worldwide, send them to Elizabeth Hayes at elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie.

Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

To subscribe, simply send an Email to itia-ezine-subscribe(a)yahoogroups.com

To unsubscribe, simply send an Email to itia-ezine-unsubscribe(a)yahoogroups.com

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15. Interpreters may take notes during the consultation as an aid to memory and to facilitate the effective translation of the clients' statements. These notes are for interpreters' use only and should be destroyed at the end of the consultation and in the presence of the client.

I cannot understand why this point has to be made in a tender document. It is obvious that interpreters will take notes but most interpreters' notes would make no sense to anybody else because they are just a prompt, not transcription.

16. Swearword/profane language should be translated literally.

Again, the emphasis is on literal translations. Could an equivalent term in the target language not be used?

17. Interpreters should, as far as possible, endeavour to reflect the emotion/tone of client.

Does this mean that if the client is tearful the interpreter should be tearful too? If the client is angry should the interpreter be angry too? If the client is depressed should the interpreter be depressed? This is nonsense—the caseworker/solicitor can see the emotion of the client, the interpreter does not have to be some kind of ham actor in order to do his/her job well.

Meanwhile we await the results of the Courts Service tender. According to an article published in the Irish Independent (17th August), the Service paid €549,677 for interpreting in 2004. Apparently, the highest paid was Forbidden City, which received €189,245, followed by Word Perfect on €109,976 and Access Translations in Cork on €81,009.

Mary Phelan

Email: mary.phelan(a)dcu.ie
Mary Phelan is honorary secretary of the ITIA and chairperson of
the ITIA subcommittee on Community Interpreting. She runs the
Graduate Certificate in Community Interpreting at Dublin City
University.

I am a PhD student at London Metropolitan University working on a thesis in which I intend to develop a systematic approach to the teaching of the translation of economic texts English into German (intended to be transferable to other language combinations and/or specialised subjects).

While the theorising of translation teaching is recently gaining in importance, I have developed a questionnaire addressed to teachers of economic/specialist translation at any level of academic institutions with the aim of finding out about teaching practice in the field. The results will afterwards be contrasted with the literature available on translator training.

Here is the link where I am publishing the questionnaire: http://www.fen-net.de/martin.pfeil/srehnen

Instead of filling it in online, you can also choose one of the following options:

- Download the questionnaire, fill it in, save the version you have completed and attach it to a return e-mail to S.Rehnen.Translation(a)t-online.de
- If you prefer to fill it in by hand, you can also print it, and send the filled-in version to my address:

Sonja Rehnen Hessdorfer Weg 5a D-91056 Erlangen Germany

It would be really helpful if you could complete the questionnaire and return it to me by 20th November 2005, but your response would still be welcome after that date. Thank you very much in advance for your efforts and your co-operation.

Sonja Rehnen S.Rehnen.Translation(a)t-online.de

Calling all economic translation teachers

Are you a teacher of translation? Do you work with economic texts? If so, I would be very grateful if you could support my research and complete a questionnaire for me. It will only take you about 10 minutes.

Report on International Translation Day

On Saturday 1st October, International Translation day was marked by the ITIA in the Irish Writer's Centre. The event was celebrated by a series of talks chaired by Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin on Translators and Human Rights. The four speakers struggled to keep within their fifteen minute slots such was the strength of feeling on the matter.

Michael Friel kicked off with critical and disturbing information on the dangers that translators/interpreters are living with in Iraq. Thirteen translators have been killed in Mosul since fighting began. Often, their deaths are brutal in the extreme. Female translators are treated worse than their male counterparts. Translators/interpreters in Iraq are living in fear of their lives and many have gone into hiding. For more on this issue, see page 7.

Mary Phelan continued the theme of poor treatment of interpreters but in the Irish context where the problems faced by interpreters, while not life-threatening, are significant nonetheless. The problems mentioned pointed to a system where the well being of translators is not being taken care of as there is no counselling available to interpreters working with asylum seekers. Sometimes an interpreter will be working with an asylum seeker who has witnessed horrifying events. This can be traumatising for the interpreter but they must deal with these issues alone. The Centre for Survivors of Torture and Abuse is exceptional in that it does offer counselling to interpreters.

Mary went on to discuss the importance of a code of ethics for interpreters pointing to the huge range of ability that is out there. A code of ethics would increase the standing of the profession and would be of help to individual interpreters as it would give guidance on basic problems such as what to do if you make a mistake, if you cannot hear a speaker properly etc.

John Kearns spoke up for the rights of people who translate into a language that is not their mother tongue. John questioned the commonly held notion that translators who translate into their second language are 'chancers and opportunists'. He pointed out that outside of the major languages (English, German, French, Spanish), translators have to translate into a non-native language as there will never be enough mother tongue English speakers with Polish or Latvian for example. According to John, it can be preferable for non-native English speakers to translate into English in certain cases. A translator who is a specialist of the subject in hand more than compensates for native competency. Furthermore, if the text is being translated into English for an audience who speak English as a second language, a non-native English translator is more likely to produce a text that is easily understood by the audience.

The final speaker was Tara Madden of *Frontline Defenders*, an NGO (Non Governmental Organisation) that works with human rights defenders. Frontline Defenders write 'urgent action letters' to the authorities of countries where human rights are being infringed. Letters are sent in one of the languages Frontline works in – English, Spanish, Russian, German and Arabic. Frontline has a database of translators working for them on a voluntary basis. If anyone is interested in doing some voluntary translation work for Frontline, they can be contacted via their website www.frontlinedefenders.org.

■ Report on the 2005 AGM

On the morning of the AGM, Miriam Watchorn and Tony Pratschke gave presentations.

Miriam's presentation - Becoming a freelance translator - contained some gems of information for the budding translator. There was information on how to get work, the equipment a translator needs (both hard and software) and useful online resources. My favourite tip was that if you are having difficulty getting a foot in the door as a freelance translator, make yourself available in August and December/January. That way you are available when most people are on holidays.

Tony Pratschke spoke about Irish and its new status as a working language in the EU. After a brief history of the decline and rise of Irish, Tony made a call for Ireland to be considered a bilingual island to move away from the idea that Irish is only spoken in Gaeltacht areas. He also spoke of the high demand and current deficit of qualified Irish>English translators. This deficit needs to be fed and quickly. There will of course be need in the not too distant future for translators with pairings such as French>Irish, German>Irish etc. so training courses will have to take this into account.

After a break for lunch, the 2005 AGM commenced.

The financial report showed that the association is in the black which is very positive. The fact that Translation Ireland has not been published for a while was a factor in this.

A major effort has been made over the last few months to chase up outstanding subscriptions. One of the problems encountered was that there are three different databases of members with varying information. This problem is being rectified in conjunction with the creation of our new website. The new website will have

a function whereby professional members can be searched in terms of their contact details or language combinations etc. There will also be a full database of all members on the site but separate to the main search function

Our membership of FIT is ongoing and the ITIA is now very well represented within it. Three of our members - Miriam Lee, Michael Friel and John Kearns - are directly involved in the workings of the federation. Miriam, as many of you know, recently became vice-president of FIT.

Four motions were forwarded.

The first was in relation to a change in the wording of one of the articles of the ITIA constitution. The motion was carried.

The other three motions were in relation to the standing of the Irish language in Ireland including a motion to change the official name of the English spoken in Ireland to 'Hibernian'. All three motions were defeated.

The above is just a small synopsis of the events of the AGM as I saw it. A full and official report on the AGM will be published in the next issue of Translation Ireland due out in late Winter.

Elizabeth Hayes

elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie

Assassinations Of IraqiTranslators And Interpreters

The dramatic plight of native Iraqi translators and interpreters working with the American forces in the country was shockingly illustrated by Prof. Salah Ali of Mosul University to delegates at the World Congress of the International Federation of Translators (FIT) which took place in Tampere, Finland, during the first week in August 2005.

Prof. Ali named ten linguists killed in the Mosul area alone, several of whom were raped beforehand, or subjected to bloodcurdling execution with blunt knives. Translators, interpreters, and their families are regularly targeted by terrorists opposed to any form of collaboration with the US forces and with foreigners in general. Even funerals have been threatened. When they have been unable to find their primary victims, terrorists have turned their attention on family members, killing or kidnapping them. Other translators

have been forced into hiding or exile, while some are simply missing. Some of the survivors of attacks have been mutilated for life.

These casualties are in addition to the many interpreters and translators who have been killed and injured in ambushes while working with patrolling troops or with media workers.

Prof. Ali told the congress that he and several colleagues had set up the Society for the Protection of Human Rights of Iraqi Translators for the purpose of publicizing the situation and providing assistance to victims. The society has already aided family members of murder victims but is seriously under-resourced.

It is extremely grave that in a situation in which the declared aim of the American presence in Iraq is to restore democracy and openness, the very people who are fundamental for the exchange and diffusion of information are being left unprotected by their employers.

Other translators have been forced into hiding or exile, while some are simply missing...

Failure to protect these workers is a grave breach of the rights of workers set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Claims that these interpreters and translators are not US government or military employees but employed by subcontractors such as Titan cannot exonerate the authorities from their responsibility towards them.

The authorities in Iraq are urged to accept their responsibilities and provide adequate protection for these workers, who are making an indispensable contribution towards understanding between the various groups involved in the restoration of democracy in Iraq, and to make appropriate provisions for victims and their families.

Michael Friel

Chair FIT Human Rights Committee Mfriel(a)iol.ie

■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

Call for Applications: Graduate Diploma in Applied Language and Intercultural Studies

The School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies at Dublin City University will soon be accepting applications for its Graduate Diploma in Applied Language and Intercultural Studies programme. If you are interested in studying translation or intercultural studies, then this may be of interest to you. You can take single modules, or you can sign up to the programme on a part-time or full-time basis. The programme can also lead to a M.A. in Translation Studies or a M.A. in Intercultural Studies. The next intake of students will be in February 2006 and, following this, in September 2006.

For more information on the course and the modules taught, please visit http://www.dcu.ie/prospective/postgraduate.shtml and navigate to the GDALIS programme. For additional information please contact the Chairperson at: sharon.obrien(a)dcu.ie

2nd Conference of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies: Intervention in Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Encounters

University of the Western Cape, South Africa 12th-14th July 2006

SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS

- Contributions in the following areas are thus particularly encouraged:
- Interpreting cultural interfaces
- Translator and interpreter training
- Language survival and nation-building/nationalism/transformation
- Post-colonial acculturation and hybridity
- The translation of literature (adult and children's) as intervention
- Oral literary traditions and folklore as intervention
- Globalisation and localisation in the developed/ing world
- Interpreting and the authentic voice
- Interpreting silences
- Corpus translation/interpreting studies
- Forensic linguistics
- Translation technology
- The crisis of representation in Western theory

EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ABSTRACTS: November 30th, 2005

LATEST DATE FOR NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF ABSTRACTS: January 15th, 2006

Full details on registration, payment and accommodation will be posted at: http://www.iatis.org/content/iatis2006/

6th Workshop on Translation

University of Lublin, Poland, December 5th-9th, 2005

Dear Friends.

I take great pleasure in announcing the 6th Workshop on Translation. The Workshop offers an opportunity to take part in group translation sessions (Polish poetic works are translated into English), as well as in presentation sessions, where the guest speakers share their knowledge and expertise on a variety of issues relating to translation.

The Workshop day:

- 9.00-12.00 group translation session
- 13.00 to 15.00 presentation session (two or three papers each day)

The workshop will be "chamber" style so if you fancy this kind of atmosphere for discussing translation, please come and participate in any or all parts of it. The meeting is open to everyone: there is no conference fee or any other conditions to meet, except for the obvious one – to participate in the translation sessions you need a good command of English and Polish and some interest in translating literature. Of course, you may decide to only take part in the presentation sessions.

As in previous editions of the Workshop, we plan to publish the resulting translation and papers delivered in the subsequent conference volume. Three volumes have been published already, the fourth is in preparation. Also, our conference volume offers an additional Forum section, where interesting contributions in the field of translation theory and practice are published, without being presented at the conference.

You do not have to register for the Workshop, but should you need our help in finding accommodation and making a reservation in Lublin, please contact me at the address below.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

Konrad Klimkowski, Ph. D.

Coordinator, 6th Workshop on Translation // Warsztaty Translatorskie VI

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Translating Terror: Globalisation And The New Planetary Wars

University of Warwick, November 12th, 2005.

An interdisciplinary conference to explore the relationship between globalisation and political violence and the role of language and translation in media discourses on terror

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Professor Upendra Baxi, University of Warwick

9.00 a.m. - 5.15 p.m.

Venue: Social Studies S0.20, University of Warwick

To register, please visit http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ctccs/research/tgn/events/tt/

Organised by: Centre for Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies and Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation

Call for Papers

Special Issue Target: "The Metalanguage of Translation"

In April 2004 a preparatory symposium on the metalanguage of translation was organised in Antwerp. It dealt with the problematic variations of usage and conceptualization in the theory and practice of translation.

The issue of the metalanguage of translation raises first of all a set of questions about larger topics concerning the role of translation and translation studies, such as the influences from other disciplines, the 'mapping' of translation concepts, the consistency of metalanguages, the usefulness of a metadiscourse, the possible contribution of a metalanguage to the social status of translators, etc.

On the other hand, the discipline has already tried to come up with (partial) answers to these questions. Translation Studies has, as a matter of fact, become more visible (and more readable?) through the compilation of anthologies, dictionaries and encyclopaediae, all of which are based, however, on models and criteria, sometimes implicitly, sometimes explicitly so. This special issue will focus on several aspects of the conceptualization and the metadiscourse in the field of translation studies for several types of interaction, without necessarily becoming extremely technical or purely terminological. The following list of tentative topics may serve as an indication for possible contributions.

- How do the differences in interdisciplinary expert-to-expert situations relate to the types of discourse used? Translation scholars have different backgrounds, sometimes they use the same terms but with different meanings. For example, does 'text' mean the same to researchers in translation, interpreting, media studies or linguistics? Do the same problems occur in a transdisciplinary situation, communicating with non-translation scholars (e.g. 'bilingualism' meaning different things to psychology or interpreting researchers)?
- To what extent does the academic situation (working in networks, in scholarly communities, through journals and conferences) require an 'appropriate' terminology?
- How can experts in a training or teaching situation meet the expectations of the trainees to use a 'clear' language? Is quality improved by the standardization of concepts?
- How does the metalanguage influence the bidirectionality in scholar-to-practitioner communication? Do we need a 'common' language for the attempts to correlate evaluation and quality?
- What metalanguage do/can scholars use in their contacts with decision makers, like publishers or bureaucrats deciding on grants or subsidies?
- Is there a need for a conceptual potential to popularize the discipline, since journalists, literary critics etc. ask for appropriate concepts when they refer to questions of translation? What can be the role of metaphors in the popularization?
- What are the consequences of the use of English as a lingua franca in international fora for the metadiscourse in other languages and how can this be dealt with?
- How do new technologies and new media affect and/or mark the metalanguage of translation studies?

Language of publication: Preferably English

Planning/deadlines:

- Oct. 2005: call for papers
- By Dec. 15th 2005: abstract (250 words)
- By Jan. 15th 2006: notification about acceptance of abstract
- By the end of May 2006: full article (about 15 pages) in accordance with Target style sheet
- By the end of Oct. 2006: revision by the authors
- Dec. 2006: publication

Guest editors:

Yves Gambier, yves.gambier(a)utu.fi Luc van Doorslaer, luc.vandoorslaer(a)lessius-ho.be



■ Contacting The ITIA

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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

Joining the ITIA

Ordinary Membership Application
 Professional Membership Application

Database Entry
 Code of Practice

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Admission Criteria

Recommendations on Rates

Professional IndemnityAdvertising

• Interpreting