

The Northwest Linguist



TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT'S OFFICE OF INTERPRETER SERVICES

by Amy Andrews

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On April Fools' Day this year the King County Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services didn't participate in any hijinks—no *poisson d'avril* paper fish, no prank phone calls, no mischief. This year we were taking note of the twentieth anniversary of the office, established on April 1, 1992. Foreign language interpreting had been available to the Superior Court through the Office of Public Defense, but on this date Martha Cohen and Susana Stettri Sawrey became the heart and soul, founders, and developers of Interpreter Services for King County Superior Court. Together, they share the burdens and the joys of interpreting and providing interpreters to an ever-growing number of people needing those services. With a current total of seven members on the team, the office has been able to respond to the growing need for language access.

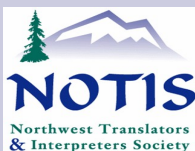
Indeed, over the years the number of languages for which we've provided interpreters has increased. You wouldn't be surprised to know that we have trials using Spanish, Vietnamese, Amharic, or Somali interpreters every week, but can you imagine a list that is 142 languages long? The Puget Sound area is a richly diverse area and that diversity is reflected in our court system, one of the largest in the country.

At the center of the work of KCSC Office of Interpreter Services is the effort to make justice, such as defense against criminal or civil actions or obtaining a divorce or an adoption,

accessible to all. It's the sustained effort to see that everyone can have access to the Superior Court whether or not they speak English and whether or not they have a "spoken" or voiced language (interpreters are also provided in American Sign Language). Great emphasis is placed on quality control with special attention paid to appropriate interpreter ethics and protocol.

Martha and Susana constantly receive awards and recognition for their excellent work and they often receive requests from other organizations for assistance in establishing or improving their own interpreter services. They give their time generously. You may have heard the saying, "If you have something you need done, give it to a busy person." Martha's personal philosophy is, "If you rest, you rust." Martha and Susana, aside from their more-than-full-time jobs with King County Superior Court, spend many hours on other interpreting activities. Susana has taught at the Agnese Haury Institute for Interpretation, University of Arizona, for many years. They both teach courses for translators and interpreters at Bellevue College and participate in other training programs, and are very active in national and local professional organizations such as WITS and NAJIT. In addition, they give presentations to judges, attorneys, and court personnel on how to work effectively with interpreters. Some of the honors that the office has received are:

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Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS)

A Chapter of the American Translators Association

OFFICERS

President: Faiza Sultan
faiza@translation4all.com
 Vice-President: Kathryn German
translationskg@comcast.net
 Treasurer: Paul Natkin
greentree333@hotmail.com
 Secretary: Toby Tusukao Kawahigashi
ttkawah@comcast.net

COMMITTEES

Directory: Jonas Nicotra
membership@notisnet.org
 Membership: Jonas Nicotra
membership@notisnet.org
 Program: Louise Morehead
moreheadlouise@yahoo.fr
 ATA: Jean Leblon
 Certification: (206)-432-9203
 Outreach: Katrin Rippel
krippel@menuintl.com
 Executive: Faiza Sultan, Kathryn German,
 Paul Natkin, Toby Kawahigashi,
 Jonas Nicotra
 Nominating: Jonas Nicotra
 Rosa Bendezu
 Kathryn German
 Website
 Manager: Katrin Rippel
website@notisnet.org

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Medical SIG: Louise Morehead
 Chinese SIG: Michelle LeSourd
michele@c2translation.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Jonas Nicotra
officemanager@notisnet.org

NOTIS
 1037 NE 65th Street, #107
 Seattle WA 98115
 or call: NOTIS Voice Mail (206) 701-9183.
 Email: info@notisnet.org
 Website: www.notisnet.org

NOTIS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual & Institutional:	\$45.00
Student (without directory listing):	\$15.00
Individual WITS member discount	\$40.00
Corporate:	\$75.00

For membership information write to:
 NOTIS, 1037 NE 65th Street, #107,
 Seattle WA 98115 USA
 or call: NOTIS Voice Mail (206) 701-9183.
 Email: info@notisnet.org
 Website: www.notisnet.org

For information on the American Translators Association
 (ATA) contact: 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
 Alexandria, VA 22314
 Tel: (703) 683-6100 Fax: (703) 683-6122
www.atanet.org

NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Adams	Spanish <> English
Aleksandra Anderberg	English > German
Carine Boekee	Dutch <> English
Simone Clark	German <> English
Mahamud Duale	(No listing)
Mahmood Ibtihal	English <> Arabic
Anna Kirrillova	English > Russian
Rania Oteify	English <> Arabic
Guillermo Romano	English <> Spanish
Flora Salto	(No listing)
Anne Marie Sanchez-Balke	English <> Spanish
Vanessa Schleider	English > German
Godelieve (Ginou) Tapp	English <> French
	Dutch > English
María de Lourdes Victoria	(No listing)
Eugenio Vidrio	English <> Spanish
Franziska Willnow	German <> English
Thei Zervaki	English <> Greek
	French <> Greek

STUDENT MEMBERS

Li Ning
 Lilliam Quiñones
 Scarlett Saavedra
 Dana Sanders
 Carmen Zamani

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Effie Bar-Caspi—GLP Tax & Accounting



Washington Interpreters and Translators Society (WITS)

OFFICERS

President: Nancy Leveson
nancy@levesonlanguage.com
 Vice President: Milena Calderari-Waldron
mvivianar@earthlink.net
 Secretary: David Neathery
davidneathery@hotmail.com
 Treasurer: Sheila Harrington
sheharr@aol.com
 Board Member: Kamal Abou-Zaki
abouzakik@msn.com
 Board Member: Veronica Barber
veronicabarber1@wavecable.com
 Board Member: Alicia Lanzner
acldotcom@yahoo.com
 Board Member: Louise Morehead
morehadlouise@yahoo.fr
 Board Member: Hernan Navas-Rivas
hernannavasrivas@comcast.net
 Board Member: Viengkham (Pheng) Nix
Viengkham_nix@yahoo.com
 Immediate Past President: Barbara Hua Robinson
Barbara@goAmcan.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advocacy Chair: Kenneth Barger
KennethBarger@q.com
 Email Guru: Diana Meredith
DianaEMeredith@gmail.com
 Membership Chair: David Neathery
davidneathery@hotmail.com
 Outreach Chair: Christina Woelz
Christina.woelz@idiomasavants.com
 Programs Chair: Alicia Lanzner
acldotcom@yahoo.com
 Website Manager: Sheila Harrington
sheharr@aol.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Sam Mattix
laothailangsvcs@comcast.net

WITS
 PO Box 1012
 Seattle, WA 98111-1012
 Website: www.witsnet.org

WITS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual & Institutional:	\$45.00
Student	\$15.00
Individual NOTIS member discount	\$40.00
Corporate:	\$90.00

To join WITS, renew membership, or update your online directory listing, visit the WITS web page at www.witsnet.org or write to: WITS, PO Box 1012, Seattle, WA 98111-1012.

NEW MEMBERS

Tony Basler	Spanish
Miriam C. Delgado	Spanish
Stephan Derout	French
Christine Gonzalez	Spanish
Cristina Klatovsk	(no listing)
Jackie Meredith	Spanish
Jenny Tupper-Moomaw	Spanish
Eugenio Vidrio	Spanish

STUDENT MEMBERS

Guadalupe Carillo	Spanish
Dorizel Groth	Spanish
Kimberly Nieves	Spanish
Carmen Zamani	Spanish

REJOINING MEMBERS

María Dopps	Spanish
Nova C. Phung	Vietnamese
Pablo Sepúlveda	Spanish

A MESSAGE FROM THE NOTIS PRESIDENT



© Faiza Sultan

Happy summer! It is finally summer in Seattle and I hope you are all enjoying the weather, the beautiful sites, and your vacation time. This season has kept me very busy with my company's new office in Bellevue.

I am so thrilled that we have seven potential candidates for our board of directors for the 2012 election. Two candidates are from the State of Oregon, and the remaining candidates are local. Our Nominating Committee is in the process of reviewing and interviewing all of our potential candidates. Before the NOTIS annual meeting and election in November, you will receive a packet containing information about each candidate.

I am also excited to announce that I am one of the candidates for the ATA Board of Directors. I hope you will vote for me at the ATA Conference in San Diego in October!

NOTIS is planning a very interesting full-day workshop with our sister organization WITS for Translators' Day! I am confident that it will be one of the best workshops that NOTIS and WITS have ever offered. Not only will it provide new training for translators and interpreters, but it will be a true celebration of our careers and our role in creating understanding between peoples and cultures. The annual all WITS/NOTIS picnic will be held on August 5th at Magnuson Park. This is a free international potluck event and we hope you will attend.

Finally, I would like to share some Kurdish proverbs with you:

A heart in love with beauty never grows old.

If skill could be gained by watching, every dog would become a butcher.

Fear an ignorant man more than a lion.

A thousand friends are too few; one enemy is one too many.

May love, happiness, and peace surround you! Thank you.

The Northwest Linguist is a quarterly publication published jointly by NOTIS and WITS.

The Northwest Linguist is published in February, May, August, and November. Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Please send submissions to Kathryn German, Editor, at: translationskg@comcast.net. Please note that all submissions become the property of The Northwest Linguist and are subject to editing unless otherwise agreed in advance. Opinions expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Societies, or their Boards. Submissions should be limited to no more than 1,000 words.

Editor and Layout: [Kathryn German](#)

Deadline for next issue: October 15, 2012

A MESSAGE FROM THE WITS PRESIDENT

By Nancy Leveson



I hope you're all enjoying your summer so far! We at WITS have just wrapped up one of our big summer events, the 24th annual meeting and continuing education workshops, which were held July 7th. This was a full-day event to a sold-out audience. In spite of the temptation of a beautiful sunny day outside, the room was packed, and the energy and interaction levels remained high throughout the day.

For those of you who couldn't attend, I want to let you know about several special recognitions that took place during the annual meeting portion of the day. First of all, we were pleased to announce that honorary WITS membership has been granted to two very deserving individuals, Angela Torres Henrick and Ann Macfarlane. Honorary membership is something that WITS bestows from time to time on those who have made extraordinary contributions to our organization and to the profession, and the awardees make up a small and select group. Prior recipients of this honor are Mary Marti, Martha Cohen, and Susana Stettri Sawrey.

Angela Torres Henrick is one of the founding members of WITS and served as president and vice-president for many of the early years. She has remained involved and active ever since. Ann Macfarlane is a registered parliamentarian and over the years has served as president of the ATA, as executive director of NAJIT, and as a representative to the Washington State Interpreter Commission. She has been a valuable resource and support to our organization and has provided guidance and training to many of us at WITS. I know that as president I have already benefitted from her sage advice on things like the role of president and how to run effective meetings, and I definitely know that I will turn to her again for advice as time goes on! We greatly appreciate Ann and Angela's commitment to helping ensure the long-term success of WITS.

Secondly, we took a moment to recognize the 20th anniversary of the founding of the King County Superior Court Office of Interpreter Services, along with the critical roles that Martha Cohen and Susana Stettri Sawrey played in making that program a reality. Look for the article in this

edition of the Northwest Linguist to learn more about the history of this exemplary and influential program.

In the morning, prior to the annual meeting, representatives from the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) presented a continuing education workshop titled "Understanding Sexual Assault." Megan Allen, Martha Maginniss, and Guadalupe Ramirez shared information with us about sexual assault and the different crimes that fall under this heading, about how these cases are handled by the legal system, and about the role that KCSARC advocates play in that process. The WITS Outreach Committee, in exchange, is planning to provide a presentation to KCSARC on the topic of working with interpreters. It's a great trade-off that will ensure that both of our organizations can benefit from the expertise of the other.

In the afternoon, Kenny Barger teamed up with local polygrapher Rick Minnich to present "Interpreting for Polygraphs." Rick provided enlightening information about how polygraph examinations work, and Kenny shared tips on approaches he finds useful for interpreting in these examinations. The session wrapped up with a demonstration in which a brave student member, Kimberly Nieves, played the part of the person subjected to the polygraph examination. Thanks, Kimberly, for being so willing to jump right in and take part!

Kimberly was not the only student in attendance; I'm happy to report that we had four students join us for the day's activities. Student participation is something near and dear to my heart. I personally began attending WITS and NOTIS events back when I was still taking interpreting and translation courses at Bellevue College, and I learned so much from my early involvement. I learned not only from the programs themselves, but also from simply talking to people about their work. This also gave me the beginnings of a network of colleagues and familiar faces that I continued to run into once I started interpreting professionally. It's advantageous all around to have students at our events. It obviously gives students a great opportunity to start getting to know people and to learn about the industry. Just as importantly, however, students bring a unique energy and help us look at

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THE WITS ANNUAL MEETING



MEET OUR MEMBERS: Fumi Janssen

By Edward Wung

In the 1960's it was uncommon for Japanese students to study overseas, but Fumi Janssen had big dreams even while growing up as the youngest of four children in a traditional Japanese family. Aspiring to being part of a bigger world than the one she knew, she successfully leapt many hurdles, including the lengthy paperwork process and numerous interviews that culminated in admission to the University of South Carolina. At the time, news broadcasting was a new industry in Japan, so Fumi chose broadcasting and journalism as her major, hoping to make her own contributions to the field in that country.



During her sophomore year, Fumi took an eight month leave in order to assist with Expo '70, the World's Fair held in her hometown of Osaka, Japan. Afterward, she returned to the United States to complete her studies, and with her new degree, she then found a position as a news director at ACTV Kansai Cable in Japan. This television station offers news broadcasting services in English to hotels, mainly for English-speaking travelers.

Journalism is a career that opens the window to endless opportunities to learn new things and meet new people. During the three years she worked with the television station, she met her husband from the United States and eventually relocated to Port Angeles, Washington in 1975.

In 1982 she was hired by Seattle City Light and moved to Seattle, holding that position for twenty-eight years until she retired. It is not an easy transition to jump from journalism to working in the field of electricity. Fumi had always been a hard worker and she constantly sought out ways to improve herself. She enrolled in a program at North Seattle Community College that would later enable her to start working as a Residential Service Representative, then a Commercial Service Representative, and finally a Supervising Service Representative. Fumi offered advice to Seattle City Light customers who needed electrical service installation and inspections. Over the years, Fumi's work schedule

at the company became quite flexible, and once in a while, she would receive requests to interpret for Japanese speakers, including in court hearings. This ultimately led to her registration in 2008 as a Washington State Court Interpreter.

The Japanese community in the United States is not a small one, but generally there is not a big demand for Japanese interpreters in the courts. Nevertheless, Fumi recognizes the importance of this profession and treats her new title as a court interpreter very seriously. She understands that when there is a party present in court who does not fully understand English, an interpreter is indispensable, so she continually strives to do her best even when the job does not necessarily have much financial reward.

After years of hard work Fumi now considers herself to be "semi-retired." In reality, though, her life has just begun! Her life is full of books, symphony concerts, operas, and music. On average, she attends nine symphony concerts each year. In addition, she travels extensively. When asked what her favorite country was, she said her choice would be Southern France, for its beauty and the not-so- hectic pace of life. Before I could ask more questions, Fumi continued, "Oh, I love Paris too. I have been there many times. And Tibet. The Potala Palace is so beautiful. India. India is nice." At this point, Fumi had a dreamy look, as if she were reliving all those fascinating travel destinations she had visited. "And Italy, the climate is great, and every little town is like an interesting picture...."

"Do you have any goals for your retirement?" I asked. "We are retired! We don't have to have goals!" Fumi exclaimed, wearing a broad smile. "I want to just to live a good life with my husband, have a good time, and continue to enjoy good health." It seemed to be the right plan for her, because two minutes after our conversation, Fumi was off and running to meet a friend, for there was shopping to do, and a dear friend's birthday party to attend that night.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT'S OFFICE OF INTERPRETER SERVICES

(continued from page 1)



Martha and Susana play key roles in providing education and standards for court interpreters everywhere and they serve as role models, leaders, and inspiration to all.

- Professionals of the Year from the Family Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association, 1999
- Outstanding work in ensuring accessibility of court services to people with disabilities from the King County Office of Civil Rights, 2002
- Special Contribution to the Judiciary Award from Washington Women Lawyers, 2003
- Community Justice Award from the Access to Justice Institute of Seattle University Law School, 2004
- In 2006, King County Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services was recognized by the National Center for State Courts as one of three model programs selected nationwide for delivering excellent interpreter services to people seeking protection orders.

King County Executive Dow Constantine had high praise for the office when he spent a day with us in March. His visit included a brown bag lunch and courtroom time. He said the staff "was fun and engaging and clearly cared about the valuable work they do...." He also said the "complexity of the proceedings and the speed with which the interpreters absorb and convey information between the judge, attorneys and clients was impressive. I walked away with a new appreciation of our interpreters, who provide an invaluable service to our non-English speaking residents in order to provide a more fair experience in the judicial system."

If I speak of humble beginnings for the office in 1992, I'm referring to the physical side of things, since I saw the actual space that Martha and Susana cheerfully shared on the 9th floor before some of the Courthouse retrofitting took place. If one of them needed to open a filing cabinet drawer, they had to stand and move their chairs out of the way. It has been called a broom closet but that may be a bit of a glorification. Since those days there have been many moves--back to the 8th floor, to the 4th floor, the 5th floor, a different space on the 5th floor, the 9th floor again and finally settling on the 7th floor. I hope we're not rusting! One of the things we most appreciate about our current space is having room for a world map so we, and others, can ask interpreters to point out to us where they are from.

We also have an office on the ground floor of the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent and one at the Youth Services Center at 12th and Alder. Our mission at all three sites is to provide quality interpreting efficiently. It would be impossible to overstate the importance of Martha's and Susana's work in the field of court interpreting both locally and nationally. They play key roles in providing education and standards for court interpreters everywhere and they serve as role models, leaders, and inspiration to all.

CHAYA VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Want to learn more about domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking to help others in your community, develop your professional skills, or to create a world free of violence?



API Chaya's Natural Helper Volunteer Training

Learn from our experienced trainers and discuss/explore topics such as anti-oppression, domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking with a focus on immigrant women, young people and LGBTQ Asian, South Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Dates: August 20th – October 10th 2012

Time: Every Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 TO 8:30 PM

FREE with volunteer commitment of 60 hours minimum in 1 year . **OTHERWISE \$350** (email /call for scholarship details)

Location: To Be Determined

Register by July 31st 2012

Open to all community members, especially survivors of violence, all genders, people of color, youth (age 15+), lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning people, multilingual/multicultural people (especially those who speak Tagalog, Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese languages, Khmer, Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali, Thai, other Asian & Pacific Islander languages), community organizers, professionals (mental health, social services, legal), students, & members of faith communities.

INTERESTED? Email us at volunteer@apichaya.org or call Maryam at 206-467-9976 for details.

API Chaya provides support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. We educate and mobilize Asian, South Asian & Pacific Islander community members, and train and provide technical assistance to community organizations and service providers.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WITS PRESIDENT

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things from a fresh perspective. I'm hoping we'll continue to see even more students at upcoming events. If you are a student, be sure to check out our special student rates for membership and programs, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

As far as upcoming events, the traditional WITS/NOTIS picnic is right around the corner, on August 5th, and soon after that we'll once again be celebrating International Translators Day. The picnic is being held in a new location this year, at a beautiful lakefront setting in Magnuson Park. Bring your friends and family to socialize, network, and enjoy a variety of dishes from around the world. For International Translators Day, planning is currently underway for a full-day event on September 29th. See page 10 for more details.

I hope to see you soon at one of our events!

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY

**SAVE THE DATE—SEPTEMBER 29TH**

Enjoy a retreat from your regular busy schedule to acquire new skills and knowledge, meet and mingle with fellow translators and interpreters in the community at the Boeing Flight Museum. Lunch will be another gourmet affair to rival the one from last year!

Acquire new skills, meet and mingle with fellow translators and interpreters, and celebrate your career!

More details on registration and location to follow soon. Watch the NOTIS and WITS websites and your email.

Morning Sessions**Transcription and Translation (TT) Workshop: The Bilingual Forensic Transcript: How and Why? - Presented by Glenna White, Claudia A'Zar, and Sam Mattix**

Have you ever been approached by attorneys or law enforcement to transcribe or translate audio or video recordings from a wiretap case ("body wires" or telephone calls), witness or suspect interviews, or 911 calls? Did you turn down the job because you weren't sure how to do it? Or did you accept the job and then find you were in over your head, not knowing where to start, how to format, and how to deal with poor sound? Workshop presenters who have faced these difficulties will share what works for them.

Claudia A'Zar and Glenna White, federally and Washington State court-certified interpreters have been working in the trenches for many years in this field and will discuss suggestions and tips for creating an accurate, intelligible, and readable transcript, as well as best practices for issues unique to transcription and translation. Sam Mattix, Lao (AOC-certified) and Thai (AOC-registered) interpreter and a consultant to NAJIT's Transcription and Translation sub-committee will show how to convert analog audio to digital, how to work efficiently with audio data, and how to enhance sound.

Afternoon Session**Going the Way of Travel Agents and Photo Processors? Technology and the Future for Translators and Interpreters - Presented by Jost Zetsche**

What does the future hold in store for translators and interpreters? Is technology our friend or our enemy? Jost Zetsche will present new strategies for presenting our work with confidence and for using technology in ways that make our lives easier and more fun.

Jost is an English>German translator, a localization and translation consultant, and a widely published author of books and articles on a variety of aspects of translation. A native of Hamburg, Germany, he earned a Ph.D in the field of Chinese Translation history and linguistics and has been working in localization and technical translation since 1997. In 1999 he founded International Writer's Group on the Oregon Coast. His computer guide for translators, *A Translator's Toolbox for the 21st Century* is now in its ninth edition. In October of this year he and his co-author Nataly Kelly will publish *Found in Translation* with Penguin books (www.xl8book.com). The goal of this book is to present translation and interpretation in an attractive and engaging manner.

"INSATISFAIT": A Poem

By Kenneth Barger

"Insatisfait" is a poem I wrote for my French class. I am currently studying French at the University of Washington, which has thus far been a deeply satisfying and very stimulating experience. When the professor asked us to write a poem, I was at a loss as to what to write, because I have never been much of a poet, let alone in my third language, and I had no idea for a topic either.

I finally decided to write the tale of a Haitian immigrant. Haiti is the poorest nation in our hemisphere, and its history is marked by dictatorships and environmental degradation. Things got much worse with the 2010 earthquake. I have long found it tragicomic that Haitians flee to the Dominican Republic, Dominicans flee to Puerto Rico, and Puerto Ricans flee to New York City. In the poem, our hero follows this trajectory, then gets arrested in an immigration raid and is deported back to Haiti.

I included some spelling and grammar errors in the poem because I felt the protagonist would express himself in this way. For instance, "Chu pas satisfait" instead of "Je ne suis pas satisfait," "N'y a que" in place of "Il n'y a que," etc.

And I chose to leave certain expressions in their original language, such as the foods of the different countries (mangú, mofongo, corned beef), to emphasize the cultural and linguistic odyssey that our hero undertakes.

In many ways, cultural and linguistic odysseys are what we interpreters and translators are all about. I am in the midst of my own new adventure with language. Mine is less difficult than that of the protagonist of this poem, but it certainly has its challenges. I hope you enjoy this poem.

Insatisfait

Je suis né à Port-au-Prince
Au sein d'une famille nombreuse
Mais qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire ici ?
N'y a que de la pauvreté odieuse
Chu pas satisfait

Donc je pars pour Santo Domingo
C'est un pays beaucoup plus sûr
Je mange du mangú, je danse la bachata
Mais ici n'y a pas de futur
Chu pas satisfait

Faut partir pour Porto Rico
Pays de jungles, pays de richesses
Je mange du mofongo, je danse la salsa
Mais ici n'y a que de la tristesse
Chu pas satisfait

On m'a beaucoup parlé de New York
La grande pomme, la ville qui ne dort jamais
Je mange du corned beef, j'écoute le jazz
Mais n'y a que de la délinquance, n'y a pas de paix
Chu pas satisfait

Puis un bon jour, je travaillais
Dans un jardin, sous le beau soleil
« Cuidado, la migra » on m'a crié
C'était une raffe, j'étais arrêté

De retour à Port-au-Prince
Le mangú et la bachata, ça me manque
Le mofongo et la salsa, ça me manque
Le corned beef et le jazz, ça me manque
J'étais si content là-bas
Chu pas satisfait



CULTURAL BREAKDOWN

By Lorane West

*A court is not
a classroom...
and the role
of the court
interpreter
does not
include
teaching.*

*

*It is our job
to speak
for others
only to the
extent that
they speak
through us.*



One of the main philosophical clashes between the medical interpreting and court interpreting professions tends to be the concept of “cultural brokerage.”. While the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) Code does not elaborate on this and would appear to prohibit it, the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) Code of Ethics states at number 7: “Interpreters will engage in patient advocacy and in the intercultural mediation role of explaining cultural differences/practices to health care providers and patients only when appropriate and necessary for communication purposes, using professional judgment.” There is an argument to be made that these expanded views of the medical interpreter role are in absolute conflict with the interpreter role, a subject impossible to cover in this article. But there should be no question that for court interpreters, there is no room for court interpreter intervention in any judicial interaction.

In marked contrast to the IMIA code above, we court interpreters have no code which allows us to act as mediators, clarifiers, advocates, or communicators of any information that originates in the mind of the interpreter. We are simply there as a conduit, to “say what they said” to the best of our ability and judgment. There are many reasons for this. In an adversarial system, we could swing the outcome of a case. There are specific and very strict rules about the use of expert witnesses, and we cannot be both expert witness and interpreter. As soon as we speak in our own voice, we become a witness. The rules of evidence are very strict and are there for the protection of all participants. Interpreters simply cannot intervene in the legal process, even when we “want to help” with all our hearts.

We court interpreters routinely witness cases where cultural issues are of central importance. One example comes to mind, which I have changed for purposes of confidentiality. A Latino man and an Asian woman are colleagues in an English-speaking setting. Both have limited communication skills in English, although they are highly educated in their home countries. Both are married, and both have an interest in remaining in the US for professional development. At some point, the parties agree, there is some physical contact. The man describes it as a mutually consensual embrace after joking around in a friendly, flirtatious manner. The woman describes it as a highly offensive and traumatizing assault, in which she was cornered, shoved, and essentially mauled against her will, while indicating her dissent both verbally and with body language.

At trial, the Asian interpreter could have added a good bit of cultural information, as to his ethnic group being particularly offended by unwanted physical touching, including hands around shoulders, and certainly kisses. He could have explained how devastating it could be for an Asian woman’s marriage and dignity in her community—the suspicions it would create, her loss of face, disgrace, the lasting indignity of an assault both on her person and character. The Spanish interpreter could have explained that for a Latino, hugging, patting on the back, even a bear hug, along with flirting, and yes, perhaps a spontaneous kiss in a dark corner, would not at all be done with any criminal intent. The stakes in this case are very high—the consequences could include divorce, shame, deportation. With our unique insight and experience, both interpreters could have helped out so everyone in the courtroom could understand more about cultural norms, personal space, gender issues, ethnic issues, and much more. But to what end? Ethical issues aside, what would the purpose of our intervention be?

(continued on page 13)

TRANSLATION /INTERPRETER BLOGS

Medical Translation Insight

<http://blog.fxtrans.com>

Information on clinical trials, translation tools, medical translation resources, educational events, etc.

Translation Tribulations

www.translationtribulations.com

Translation technologies, marketing strategies, workflow optimization, resource reviews. Etc.

Translation Times

<http://translationtimes.blogspot.com/>

Judy and Dagmar Jenner's blog on the business of translation, professional development, software, humor, and many other items.

David Smith Translation

<http://blog.davidsmithtranslation.com>

Theory of translation and proofreading, computer back-ups, invoicing, Google Translate, Sub-languages in Trados Studio, etc.

The Interpreter Diaries

<http://theinterpreterdiaries.com/>

Experiences as an interpreter, tips for new interpreters, dealing with trauma, interpreter training, etc.

The Liaison Interpreter

<http://japaninterpreter.blogspot.com/>

Agencies, daily experiences, handling tough times, sight translating, business notes, etc.

About Translation

www.abouttranslation.com

Advice to beginning translators, definitions, translation tools, resources, payment boards, etc.

Thoughts on Translation

<http://thoughtsontranslation.com>

Corinne McKay's site on the translation industry and on becoming a translator. Issues encountered in freelancing, etc.

(more to come in the next issue...)

CULTURAL BREAKDOWN

(cont. from page 12)

If we interpreters could have been with these two individuals, in the setting where this cultural breakdown took place, we may have been able to prevent it (if it was not, indeed, an intentional assault, about which I draw no conclusions) by taking these people aside and in a friendly manner explaining something of their cultures to each other. As a former Academic English instructor at the University of Washington for international students, I often set up cultural discussions amongst the students and had lively discussions of all kinds of things, such as adult children's responsibility to keep their parents married, what counts as polite in inquiring about another's health, gender roles, etc. But court is not a classroom. And the role of a court interpreter does not include teaching.

Aside from being inappropriate and unethical, the court does not really need the interpreters to become cultural expert witnesses. The prosecutor could have brought in an expert witness to explain why this incident qualifies as "offensive touching" under the law, from the victim perspective, and the defense attorney could have brought in another expert to show that the accused did not have any intent to offend. Those experts should absolutely not be interpreting testimony! The attorneys also had the opportunity to interview and screen potential jurors to assess their cultural backgrounds, biases, and knowledge. In addition, of course, the attorneys had the option to have each party testify, and explain from their own point of view, the relevant cultural positions that inform their perception of the alleged incident. But there is simply no place for court interpreters to step in—with the best of intentions—and attempt to add their personal opinions, no matter how well-informed we may be. It is our job to speak for others only to the extent that they speak through us.

Lorane West is the author of COLOR: Latino Voices in the Pacific Northwest (c) WSU Press

Bilingual Forensic Transcripts for the Twenty-First Century

by Sam Mattix

Bilingual forensic transcripts (BFT) lag far behind technology and practices in related fields. Instant information search, retrieval and communication are part of our everyday lives.

But meanwhile, trial attorneys still struggle to locate audio segments that underlie phrases in BFTs. Translators and translation supervisors have difficulty finding audio to verify transcriptions and to hear intonation and phrasing for themselves; transcribers even find it hard to keep their place in audio source material while translating their own transcription.

As a non-native speaker of Lao and Thai, I generally refer transcription jobs to native speakers. But if source audio is poor quality (wiretaps and body wires usually are), jobs bounce back to me because, lacking a few basic techniques, my Lao and Thai colleagues find the tapes impossible to transcribe. This article is designed to show the broad steps to produce BFTs using readily available hardware and software in various display formats. It also demonstrates possibilities for creating a specialized software tool for working efficiently with BFTs in any language.

Ingredients:

Hardware:

- ◆ Computer (author's OS is Windows XP)
- ◆ Patch cord(s) with appropriate connector plugs
- ◆ Appropriate player for audio: cassette, VCR, CD, DVD

Software:

- ◆ Audio: Audacity - <http://audacity.sourceforge.net> (also available for Mac and Linux)
- ◆ Data entry and data management software (optional): Toolbox - <http://www.sil.org/computing/toolbox/downloads.htm>
- ◆ Keyman - keyboard mapping program: www.Tavultesoft.com
- ◆ Word processing, formatting and rendering software: Word for Windows, PowerPoint
- ◆ Media player software that can play digital audio in required format and allow instant access to any point in media file and displays elapsed time at play position.

Step One: Convert Analog Audio to Digital Audio

Typically a transcriptionist receives a first generation copy of the original recording. The copy is generally analog data on cassette, microcassette, videotape. In recent years jobs are often received in digital format on CD or DVD or as MP3 or iTunes files.

If the audio is analog, convert it to digital so it can be replayed as often as necessary without further degradation of the data. For cassette tapes, a patch cord is needed that can plug into the headphone or speaker jack on the tape player and plug into the microphone jack or line-in jack on the computer. For videotapes, a patch cord is needed that can plug into the audio output of the VCR and plug into the computer microphone or line-in jack. This transfers only the audio, not the video, from the videotape. Connect the player to the computer, start "record" in Audacity on the computer, then press "play" on the analog device (e.g. cassette tape player). Experiment to get desired volume and quality.

If you are unable to find a good volume level for all the voices because some voices are very loud while others are very soft, try converting audio two times, once set to record the loud voices without clipping (distortion), and once set to make the soft voices as audible and intelligible as possible.

Step Two: Segment and Label Audio File

Use Audacity to listen through the digital audio file and label starting points of all utterances, then make sure to save your labeling work (File, Save Project As). Use Notepad to open the resultant *.aup (Audacity project) file. Find the labels you entered, copy and paste them with accompanying time reference (e.g. <label t="6.37768100" tI="6.37768100" title="Hello."/>) to a text file for easy reference during transcription.

Before the next steps, note that software could be adapted to perform Step Two automatically: voice recognition could assign utterances by individual speakers to individual label tracks and parse breath segments and pauses, automatically keeping track of start and end time of each utterance. User interaction could train the software to better differentiate voices. And Steps Three

(continued on page 15)

BILINGUAL FORENSIC TRANSCRIPTS (cont. from page 14)

and Four, transcription and translation, could proceed directly on label tracks associated with individual voices, with audio waveforms visible and playable at all times.

Steps Three and Four: Transcribe and Translate

My way of doing this next step in Toolbox may be impractical until it is integrated into proposed TT software, especially for accomplished transcriptionists working in European languages. Even so, it has distinct advantages for working with non-Roman scripts, multiple keyboards and for output to multiple presentation formats, once initial setup is completed. To use it, one must gain some familiarity with the program Toolbox.

With Audacity open in one window and Toolbox in another, transcribe the audio file into a Toolbox database, e.g. TT_test01.bft, switching back and forth between programs to control playback in Audacity. After transcribing the audio file, return to the first record in TT_test01.bft to begin translation. Listen to the audio in Audacity as needed at any time. The time reference fields in the database and the labels in Audacity will enable you to precisely locate the source audio segments.

Step Five: Export to Multiple Display Formats

From Toolbox it is possible to export to RTF files with various options that make it possible to export only

fields of selected types and to retain paragraph and character styles from Toolbox. The resultant RTF files can be manipulated using advanced Find and Replace features in Word to create completed BFTs in various formats, including PowerPoint slides that can be linked to audio files.

Conclusion:

This overview shows possibilities for transcription and translation work using a standard data format that can be exported to multiple presentation formats and that provides precise reference to source audio data. More importantly, it shows how much work it takes to do what could be done so effortlessly if existing computer programs were integrated and adapted to create a software tool specifically designed for TT work.

For an unabridged step-by-step description of this method, download TT_COOKBOOK.zip from www.witsnet.org/programs/INDEXWorkshopHandouts.htm.

Sam Mattix is a Lao (AOC-certified) and Thai (AOC-registered) interpreter and has interpreted in Lao and Thai for legal proceedings in 15 states. He was a consultant to the NAJIT Transcription & Translation Subcommittee and former chair of NAJIT TT Ensemble Task Force.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have you written an article, a review, a poem, or a letter that you would like to share with the Translation and Interpretation community of the Pacific Northwest? We would love to have you submit your articles to The Northwest Linguist for consideration! Issues are published on a quarterly basis, so the deadline for articles for Fall issue will be October 15th. Articles are limited to 1,000 words. Please send your work to Kathryn German at: translationskg@comcast.net.

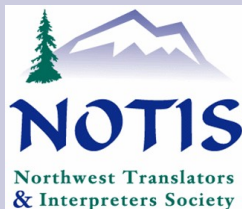
The Northwest Linguist also accepts advertising. Detailed advertising rates are available at: www.notisnet.org/nwl/Northwest_Linguist_Advertising_Rates.pdf

NOTIS AND WITS EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	LOCATION
August 2-4, 2012	Nebraska Translators and Interpreters Association Conference	http://www.natihq.org/	Grand Island, Nebraska
August 5, 2012	WITS/NOTIS Annual Picnic	www.notisnet.org/events/picnic.pdf	Magnuson Park, Seattle, Washington
August 11, 2012	TAPIT Summer Workshop—Aspiring Medical Interpreter Workshop	www.tapit.org	Nashville, Tennessee
August 13-16 2012	Computer Assisted Translation	http://www.miis.edu	Monterey, California
August 14, 2012	ATA Webinar—Documenting Terms Once and for All	http://www.atanet.org/webinars/ataWebinar113_terms.php	Online
August 20-October 10, 2012	API CHAYA Natural Helper Volunteer Training—Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30-8:30 p.m.	volunteer@apichaya.com	Seattle, Washington
September 7-8, 2012	TAHIT Symposium on Language Access	http://tahit.us/2012_symposium	San Antonio, Texas
September 8-9, 2012	Tennessee Association of Professional Interpreters and Translators - Annual Conference	www.tapit.org/events/type?id=2	Nashville, Tennessee
September 21-23, 2012	IV Brazilian Conference of ProZ Translators; Translation, Professionalism, and the Market	www.proz.com/conference/323	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
September 24, 2012	Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters—8th Annual Conference	www.matiata.org	Chicago, Illinois

NOTIS AND WITS EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	LOCATION
September 28-30, 2012	Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer - Interpreting the Future	www.interpreting-the-future.com	Berlin, Germany
September 29, 2012	NOTIS/WITS International Translators' Day Celebration	www.notisnet.org/pages.php?pgid=10 www.witsnet.org/programs/INDEXcalendar.htm	Seattle, Washington
September 29-30, 2012	Atlanta Association of Translators and Interpreters (AAIT) - 6th Annual Conference	http://aait.org/pages/1	Atlanta, Georgia
September 29-December 15, 2012	TAPIT - Healthcare Interpreter Certificate Program-Level I	http://e2.ma/message/3omjd/3knh9	Knoxville, Tennessee
October 4-5, 2012	International Translation Management Conference: The Future of Translation and Interpretation	www.tm-europe.org	Warsaw, Poland
October 13, 2012	Michigan Translators and Interpreters Network (MiTIN) - 3rd Annual Conference	http://mitin.org/conference/	Novi, Michigan
October 13-14, 2012	German Federal Association of Translators and Interpreters - Anatomy Workshop for German-English and English-German Translators	www.bdue.de/indexen.php	Stuttgart, Germany
October 22-26, 2012	Société française des traducteurs: 9th SFT Medical Translation Seminar EN-FR	http://www.iti.org.uk/ice/pages/viewDetails.asp?id=1903	Lyon, France
October 24-27, 2012	American Translators Association - 53rd Annual Conference	http://www.atanet.org/conf/2012/	San Diego, California
October 28 - November 1, 2012	Association for Machine Translation in the Americas - 10th Biennial Conference	http://www.amtaweb.org/	San Diego, California
November 3-4, 2012	II Conferencia Latinoamericana de Traducción e Interpretación: Una Ventana al Mundo	www.proz.com/conference/326	Lima, Peru
November 16-18, 2012	American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Annual Convention and World Languages Expo	http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=5289	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
November 21-23, 2012	Languages and the Media, 9th International Conference on Language Transfer in Audiovisual Media	http://www.languages-media.com/	Berlin, Germany



NOTIS AND WITS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	LOCATION
November 24-25, 2012	Sixteenth International Translation and Interpretation Conference of Saint Jerome: From the Tower of Babel to the Technological Peak	www.omt.org.mx/congreso.htm	Guadalajara, Mexico
December 11-13, 2012	Eighth Symposium on Translation, Interpretation, and Terminology	www.crtl.ca/article257	Havana, Cuba
January 18-20, 2012	2013 International Medical Interpreters Conference	www.imiaweb.org	Miami, Florida

NOTIS AND WITS BOARD MEETINGS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	LOCATION
Friday, August 3, 2012	WITS Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Nancy Leveson's home
Thursday, August 23, 2012	NOTIS Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Online - Details TBA

American Translators Association

53rd Annual Conference

Hilton San Diego Bayfront • October 24–27, 2012
San Diego, California



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Time to Sign Up! Register by September 21st for the early-bird rates. Special hotel rates are available for those registering before October 1st.

The **preliminary conference schedule** is now available online at <http://www.atanet.org/conf/2012/program.pdf>

