

The Northwest Linguist



INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY 2012

by Irene López Hawkins and Carlo Tanne

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WITS and NOTIS celebrated International Translation Day on September 29th at Seattle's Museum of Flight, one day before St. Jerome's Feast Day, the patron saint of translators. This is a proud day for a profession increasingly indispensable in an era of globalization. Any professional with the intent to make an impact or a difference around the world will eventually find him- or herself relying on the expertise and experience of professional interpreters and translators in a multitude of world languages. St. Jerome himself would be quite impressed by everything his legateses have accomplished today. Let us include the leaders and members of the two Pacific Northwest organizations, NOTIS and WITS, who sponsored this event, and keep true to their Mission Statement "to inform the general public, clients, and persons in allied fields ... raising awareness and respect for the value of the professions; and to seek to influence public policy as it applies to the professions of translation and interpretation."

Forensic Transcription and Translation

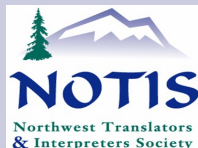
The field of forensic translation and transcription can be an appealing career option for colleagues looking for new challenges and new ways to apply their bilingual and bicultural skills. Have you ever been approached by law enforcement or attorneys to transcribe and translate audio/video wiretaps, witness/suspect interviews, or 911 calls? Or have you been offered a job only to find out that you had no idea how to approach it? Did you find yourself not knowing where to start, covering at the

sound of a terrible recording, or maybe feeling a bit illiterate when faced with punctuating and formatting a transcription?

Fortunately, conference speakers Claudia A'Zar and Glenna White shared many of their practiced tips with us for dealing with and generating accurate and intelligible transcripts. Likewise, Sam Mattix offered us a demonstration on converting analogue tapes to digital files, as well as using a readily available software application for enhancing sound called *Audacity*.

A'Zar and White are both federal and state court certified Spanish interpreters well known in their field, and former WITS board members. A'Zar teaches interpreting classes at Bellevue College and has hosted many interpreter workshops over the years. White holds a degree in Spanish from the Universidad Autónoma de México. She interpreted for the accused, Cuban-born Castro reject J. Mezquía, in Seattle Grunge Rocker Mía Zapata's brutal murder case. Mattix authored the brilliant article, "Bilingual Forensic Transcripts for the Twenty-First Century" in the 2012 summer issue of *The Northwest Linguist*. Mattix, a former WITS president, has the distinction of being a Washington State Court Interpreter certified in Laotian and registered in Thai.

The transcription process involves converting spoken-language recordings into text documents commonly used for legal, medical, and business purposes. (Continued on page 11)



Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS)

A Chapter of the American Translators Association

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NOTIS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual:	\$45.00
Student (without directory listing):	\$15.00
Institutional:	\$50.00
Corporate:	\$75.00

For membership information send an email to:
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NEW MEMBERS

Elise Krudenier	French > English
Ramona Lungoci	Romanian <> English
Sachie Nakano	Japanese <> English
Carmen Parrinello	French <> English
Wendy Tan	Chinese <> English
Amelia Uvalle	(No listing)
María A. Vera	Spanish <> English
Thomas Wu	(No listing)

RETURNING MEMBERS

Shelley Fairweather-Vega	Russian > English
Magdalena Labori	(No listing)

STUDENT MEMBERS

Renata Akalin
Manbir Kaur
Anna Koldunova

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Mandarin Experts



Washington Interpreters and Translators Society (WITS)

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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

Raul Aguirre	Spanish
Ana Armijo	(No listing)
Magdalena Rangel	(No listing)
Thomas Wu	Mandarin, Cantonese,
	Shanghainese
Amelia Uvalle	(No listing)

A MESSAGE FROM THE NOTIS PRESIDENT

By Faiza Sultan



The opportunity to give back to one's community, when one is fortunate enough to do so, is amazing. I have enjoyed this privilege for some years now, and intend to continue: doing so has given me strong feelings of strength and happiness.

In a recent article by Bloomberg BusinessWeek, *What Tomorrow's Jobs Look Like*, Translation and Interpretation were listed as the 15th fastest-expanding job category in the United States. I was honored to be featured in the article, and proud to represent our growing industry.

I am equally honored to have been elected to the ATA's Board of Directors. I appreciate the challenges this new office will bring, but am confident that the creativity, hard work, and new ideas I bring to ATA will benefit our ever important industry. I worked closely with the ATA to establish its Arabic Division and have had great success expanding and developing the community.

In keeping with the national trend, my own company is growing fast as well. We have a brand new office in Bellevue, and received three new contracts already this year, including one for King County.

It is due to these commitments that I have decided not to run for a second term as President with NOTIS. It has been an honor serving as NOTIS president. As you know, I served as acting president for 7 months and then as president: my term is ending, and it is time for me to step down.

I depart feeling proud of what we have accomplished in the past few years: I leave NOTIS with a healthy budget, more members, a new website, ten wonderful incumbent and new candidates, and a top-notch office manager. There are great people taking care of NOTIS, and I am confident the organization will grow even stronger in the coming years.

We had a terrific workshop on Translator's Day, September 29th. I would like to thank all the speakers and especially Jost Zetsche, who drove from Oregon to amaze us with his presentation! I would like to issue a special thanks to our generous Gold Sponsor, Dynamic Language, for showing their appreciation for our members and community, as well as thank all the people from NOTIS and WITS involved in planning and making the workshop the success that it was!

I would like to encourage you to renew your memberships. Unfortunately, the NOTIS board of directors decided not to continue the discount in membership with our sister organization, WITS, for administrative reasons.

Finally, I cannot believe that I am writing my final letter! I will continue to serve the ATA Arabic Division members, but I am sadly saying goodbye to NOTIS.

"Put your heart, mind, intellect and
soul even to your smallest acts.
This is the secret of success."

Swami Sivananda

Have a great rest of the year!

Faiza Sultan
NOTIS President
ATA Board of Directors

A MESSAGE FROM THE WITS PRESIDENT

By Nancy Leveson



What a beautiful extended summer we had this year in the Pacific Northwest—it's amazing how many sunny days there were! I hope you all had a chance to get out and take advantage of the wonderful weather with your family and friends.

On one of those sunny days at the beginning of August, we held the WITS/NOTIS joint picnic at

a beautiful spot on Lake Washington in Magnuson Park. As is always the case at WITS and NOTIS potluck events, the food was varied and delicious. We had a fun group of attendees, and I had the chance to meet many new people as we enjoyed a seemingly endless array of dishes.

Our major event this past quarter was another joint event between WITS and NOTIS, in celebration of International Translation Day. It was a day packed with interesting speakers and fabulous food, and yet another chance to network with fellow interpreters and translators. We were very lucky to have four expert speakers willing to join us and share their knowledge, so I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to all of them. Thanks as well to everyone else who helped make this event a reality, with special thanks to Louise Morehead, who put in countless hours to pull all the details together. One thing I've definitely learned this year is that putting programs together is very hard work!

On a smaller scale, WITS also held an encore presentation of the "Interpreting for Polygraphs" session from our annual meeting. This was a chance for us to try a few new things, such as scheduling a class on a weekday evening for those whose schedules may make weekend events difficult to attend. The other new aspect in this training was collaboration with Bellevue College. Bellevue College provided the space for the class and handled the registration process, while we at WITS provided the content. Both organizations publicized the event through our own respective channels. We had a good response and a full room of attendees. Sheila Harrington was the one who came up with the idea for doing an encore presentation and was also the one who coordinated with Bellevue College to work out all the details. Many thanks, Sheila, for making it happen. Thanks to René Siegenthaler from Bellevue College, as well—we look forward to future

collaboration opportunities!

Now that fall is upon us, it's once again time for the WITS board election. This year we have six people who are finishing up their terms on the board. That's a big percentage of an eleven-member board! Luckily, our intrepid Board Development Committee went to work to find new candidates for this upcoming election, and I'm really excited about the new perspectives this will bring in. Watch for your electronic ballot to learn more about the candidates, both new and incumbent, and then be sure to cast your vote. Apart from new board members, we've also had a number of people express interest in helping out with WITS activities in other ways, so I'm looking forward to incorporating lots of new ideas and energy into WITS in the upcoming year. The biggest limit on what we can accomplish is having the people to make it happen, so please get in touch with me if you'd like to know about opportunities to get involved.

In December, I hope you'll all join us at the annual joint holiday party. It will be held on Dec 8 at the traditional location at the Waterfront Activities Center. It's a great chance to catch up with old acquaintances and meet new colleagues as we bring the year to a close. If you make it, I hope you'll find a few moments to stop by and chat with me. I'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

As we near the end of 2012, I'm also wrapping up my first year as president of WITS. This has been an interesting and challenging experience for me; I've learned so much, and I've had the opportunity to develop new leadership skills. It's been a great and rewarding year, and I plan to apply everything that I've learned this year to serve you all to the best of my ability in the upcoming year. On a personal note, I'd like to express my thanks to everyone who has provided support for me this year as I've come up to speed. There have been so many of you! It's been a great pleasure to work with my fellow board members, and it's also been very satisfying to have close interaction with so many people who have been intimately involved with WITS over the years. I've received guidance and advice on many fronts, and that has been, without a doubt, priceless.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season, and I hope to see you at the holiday party!

THE WITS /NOTIS PICNIC



MEET OUR MEMBERS: María Dopps

By Edward Wung

If you have never met María Dopps, you might think, as I did, that she is shy. Fortunately, I took the time to talk to her, and discovered that she is not only friendly, but a person with a huge heart.

María grew up in Autlan, Jalisco, Mexico, a city that thrives on agriculture and cattle farming, and is home to approximately 40,000 people. She came to California in 1987 and attended Pasadena City College, majoring in Computer Information Systems. The IT industry was still young at that time, so for Maria, who came from a farming town, and had never used computers, this was a fascinating area to pursue.

Nevertheless, the course of her life took an unexpected turn when she took a job in a local law office upon her graduation from college. María at first intended to work there temporarily until she found somewhere more intriguing to move on to. She started out as the office manager and legal secretary, and her duties included software calendaring, establishing and maintaining relationships with clients, and so on. For those who have worked in courts, things can be quite complicated, even if it's just administrative stuff. Maria ended up staying with that office for 4 years until 1997.

María then moved to Everett, Washington where she secured a job as a paralegal assistant in another law office. This time, she was given greater responsibilities, such as negotiating settlements of personal injury cases, writing and editing settlement demands, and communicating with parties involved in a case to help them solve their dispute. Those new responsibilities engaged her not only in matters of the law and but also put her in a position in which she needed to bridge the gap between English and non-English speakers and facilitate their communication.

After working for about 3 years in the Everett law office, María decided to officially become an interpreter. She passed the DSHS tests and the Court written exam all in one year, and became certified in social and medical services, and translation in 2001. Ever since



then she has been an active interpreter in the Everett area.

Every diligent interpreter, including María, seeks ways to improve his or her own interpreting skills. One of the ways to do so is to seek challenges, and court interpreting definitely meets the criteria. María was very interested in becoming a Court Certified Spanish Language Interpreter, but she also realized that she needed to sharpen some of the required skills to pass the oral test. Therefore, she enrolled in a three-week boot-camp style training program for interpreters held at the Agnese Haury Institute, a division of University of Arizona. After completing the program, María gained the confidence and skills to approve the test and became a court certified Spanish language interpreter in the State of Washington in 2011.

When María passed the oral exam, she had been an interpreter for about 9 years with professional work experience amounting to 18 years. What was María missing in order to pass the court interpreter exam? María reflected upon her life before she answered the question. She came to the United States at the age of 18, received her higher education in this country, and had been using mostly English throughout her career years. Therefore, she felt that the foundation of her original culture was not as solid as her knowledge of the English world. Since she started working as a court interpreter, she has sensed a greater need, even an urge, to reconnect with her past, the Spanish world and culture she has missed out on during her years in the United States.

María now tries to go back to Mexico once a year and she is very excited about the Guadalajara International Book Fair she plans to attend this November. One of the main reasons that she gets so excited about the Fair is that it is going to take place in the state where her hometown is located. In addition, she will get to network with fellow translators and interpreters who work outside the United States. María also indicated that she would love to

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YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED, *ENIT?*

By Lorane West

*I wish
my
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from mean-
ing more
than from
specific word
choices.*

There was an article a couple months ago in our newsletter regarding the use of regional slang and local dialect in writing literature. The article celebrated the great flavor and zest of local vocabulary. This is a matter of common discussion amongst authors, and we each reach our own conclusion. As an author myself, I have been thinking about my own ideas on how much slang or local dialect terms are appropriate for text intended for a broad audience. Language choice is the first concern in writing a text, and audience determines the language choice. My first published book, *COLOR: Latino Voices in the Pacific Northwest*, I wrote and published in English, because I wanted to bring the Latino immigrant experience to English speakers who need to know and learn to empathize with that experience which is most often outside their own. And in order to bring them that experience, I worked hard to avoid filling the book with Spanish terms that would alienate those readers.

Once a language is chosen, word choice and expressions within that language come into play. I have recently written a novel in Swedish that I hope to have published in Finland. My intended audience is all Swedish speakers, most of whom live in Sweden. The Swedish I learned comes from my father's village on the West Coast of Finland, where many villagers still speak Swedish at home. It is rich and playful, with its own structures and expressions, and a strong influence of borrowed and bastardized Finnish terms. When I had my editor in Stockholm, Sweden, read through my book, he was able to tell me which words and terms would not be understandable to a wider audience (i.e. everyone in Sweden and most Swedish speakers in the Helsinki area). These were terms I took for granted were "Swedish" and not just words that people in my village could understand. I know what they meant, and it was hard at

first not use the same words. But in the end, I decided that the words I was using were tools for a specific purpose—meant to convey meaning to my intended audience—valueless in themselves if they did not carry out that purpose.

Anyone who reads has had the experience of feeling excluded from the intended audience when word after unknown word comes up, because the author is sprinkling in words in a foreign language or some localized dialect. We each develop a personalized lexicon based on where we have lived, what we have read and listened to, and who we speak with. Most of us, as educated as we may be, continue to come across words and terms of which we cannot be sure of the meaning, and we struggle to guess those meanings from context. As interpreters, we have the ability to interrupt the proceedings and ask for clarification. As readers, we are left guessing or skipping over text. As an author, what do I want my readers to do? I cannot expect them to contact me for clarification, especially as I fervently hope to be read after my death. I do not wish to have a long set of footnotes as if literature were a PhD dissertation. So I am left deciding that I wish my language to be clear and readable, and have the color and flavor come from meaning, more than from specific word choices.

Can we color and flavor our text without using obscure, regionally limited words that exclude most of our readers? We each have beloved phrases and expressions that mean so much to us, as much as our old Aunt Mia. Ah, but you do not know old Aunt Mia, may she rest in peace, and I am humble enough to understand that she cannot mean to you what she does to me. Aunt Mia is not going to evoke emotion in you unless I can explain her to you in words

(Continued on page 10)

Meet Our Members: María Dopps (continued from page 7)

connect with more Spanish interpreters who are interested in forming a study group to prepare for the Federal Court Certification, and welcomes those who want to join her at the Book Fair.

From computer major, to paralegal, to interpreter, these changes are not completely unrelated for María. When she reflected on her life, she realized that she had enjoyed being the bridge to connect groups of people who could not communicate well because of the language barrier. She marvels at the many opportunities and responsibilities our profession faces. She believes in local economies, community activism, and accountability. She volunteers to interpret once a week at the Family Law Clinic of Snohomish County Legal Services because she believes that we all should have equal access to justice.

Due to the nature of our profession as interpreters, we probably won't have many opportunities to work with María, unless we speak Spanish and are assigned to team up with her in a trial. There may be other opportunities, however. María is planning to become more active in our professional associations, loves language and learning, and is always open to joining you for a walk and to having a good hearty conversation especially if it is about history, interpreting or translating. She also loves to try out new restaurants so give her a call next time you go to a new restaurant, especially if it is Mexican, Thai or Indian food!

ATTENTION MEDICAL INTERPRETERS!

NOTIS MedSIG is pleased to announce its
December 12, 2012 program, entitled

Medical Genetics for Medical Interpreters - Part II

Watch the NOTIS and WITS websites for further
details

www.notisnet.org and www.witsnet.org

Streamline Event begins at 6:00 pm - ends 7:50 pm

Pre-registration necessary—
no at-the-door admissions

UWMC Location: Further details with registration

NOTIS ANNUAL MEETING

NOTIS will be holding its **Annual Meeting and Board Elections/ ATA Conference Recap**

Saturday, November 17th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
North Seattle Community College,
Room E2843A

Come and meet our new and incumbent
board members:

Renata Akalin
Anne Marie Sánchez-Balke
Edgard García-Ramírez
Kathryn German
Manbir Kaur
Toby Kawahigashi
Paul Natkin
Rania Oteify
Cynthia Roat
Fahmi Slail

YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED, *ENIT*?

By Lorane West (cont. from page 8)

you understand, in words that evoke your own emotion. In my extended family, we frequently interject words in Finnish, Swedish, Spanish, Russian, and even Ilocano and Japanese into our daily speech. It would not occur to me to use these terms in a novel or set of short stories, unless I only want my own family to read it. We can extend out from there to any number of speech communities—our own neighborhood, town, city, county, region, country, or the world. In deciding how much exclusionary vocabulary to use in our literary writing, the question we need to ask ourselves is, how large and inclusive is our reading family? How large do we want it to be?

By the way, the term “*enit*” in the title of this article is an expression that is commonly used by many Native Americans whose original languages included certain endings that had sociolinguistic meaning, such as “I am telling you something you don’t know” or “I am asking you for confirmation.” “*Enit*” is something added to a statement that functions like the English phrase, “isn’t it so?” Perhaps anyone living in the US should know this about Native languages and national culture. Perhaps anyone who doesn’t should just either skip over the word or look it up. But as I am writing to you with respect, and wanting you to understand, I am going to do my best to combine using shared terminology that includes my readers, and finding a way to explain and contextualize any terms that might lead to your exclusion. This adds some work and deep thought for the author and any later translators to consider, but is a vital part of communication. The final question an author must ask in choosing language and vocabulary is, whom do you wish to reach?

The extremely brilliant Seattle Municipal Court coordinator Emma Garkavi once pointed out to me that while national literature is created by national authors, world literature is created by translators. Any understandable text can be translated into another understandable text. There is another saying: for such a fish, such a net (choose the tools you need to suit your purpose). As an author, I visualize my target audience, and from there I choose my writing style for a particular text. I would like to end with a quote attributed to Chuang-Tsu, who lived around 2500 years ago. This is of course a translation of a very simple text, which has thus survived and is understandable across time and place:

The purpose of a fishtrap is to catch fish, and when the fish are caught, the trap is forgotten.
 The purpose of a rabbit snare is to catch rabbits. When the rabbits are caught, the snare is forgotten.
 The purpose of words is to convey ideas. When the ideas are grasped, the words are forgotten.
 Where can I find a man who has forgotten words? He is the one I would like to talk to.

*Break language
 barriers with effective
 communication.*



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INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY (continued from page 1)

for legal, medical, and business purposes. A common example would be the court reporter's transcript of court proceedings in criminal and civil trials. Jobs in transcription show no signs of decline today, and, in fact, appear to be growing. Transcription services typically send staff to law firms, government agencies, courthouses, trade associations, or nonprofits. They might also accept recordings on cassette, compact disk, video tapes, or digital sound files; and seeking in some cases the services of a translator.

As with any gainful trade, a good toolbox is critical for overcoming challenges. Good listening skills and excellent translation skills are, of course, essential here. Many assignments stem from federal narcotics cases, and, therefore, federal certification and experience in 911 calls, in-custody interviews, wiretaps, and trafficking slang make a difference. The Patriot Act, by the way, allows for certain kinds of wiretapping without authorization in international intelligence gathering and preempting terrorist acts. Otherwise, search warrants from the bench are a constitutional requirement, and, depending on the type of search warrant and jurisdiction, will typically be validated for up to a certain number of days. The Federal Electronic Communication Privacy Act provides for certain extensions. In working with entrusted sensitive information, extreme care is always expected, and, likewise, must be guarded within professional ethical and legal prescriptions.

Good Communication with Clients

Transcription clients, as with translation clients, will typically demand an up front price and time frame. Both A'Zar and White agree that this is not a question to be taken lightly from the get go. Information needs to be gathered with respect to the source language; the source of the recording, be it a wiretap or an interview; the subject matter, be it firearms, drugs, money laundering, or other crimes; the inclusion of coded language; and background noise, which can impact the time it takes to decipher voices and content. Request an opportunity, therefore, to listen to the recording and review it; stay in touch with the client. Be realistic about the amount of time you will need to put into it. It is better to make a fair evaluation before making a commitment than to have to return a job to the client and have it affect your business reputation. If necessary, reach out to more experienced colleagues for direction. If you don't feel you have all the skills

required or understand the technology involved well enough, consider collaborating with other reliable professionals. Should a client ask you to simply summarize the content of a transcription, keep in mind that as an outsider to the case you are not in a position to assess or highlight what may or may not be important. As such, you may be chancing a subpoena to testify—piecemeal at your own risk. At times you will find it necessary to listen to the recording over and over until patterns or context become evident, or you have an epiphany. The transcription field standard suggests an hour's work for every 15 minutes of audio. By the way, never accept an original and always request a copy; obviously, you do not want to find yourself accused of tampering with evidence.

Tools of the Trade

Use technology to your advantage to work smarter, not harder. Sound editing applications and hardware are widely available today, as Mattix explained. Some are more complex than others, some more expensive than others. *Audacity* offers the beginner many powerful digital features which will allow you to filter, equalize, and change tempo or pitch anywhere clarity in audio segments degrades. The price: free. The learning curve: low, medium, high; depending on your experience. Again, you might consider teaming up with an experienced colleague to save time and trouble; hire a sound pro, or get a head start now.

On a lighter note, A'Zar and White illustrated a confounding yet hilarious example while on a sound transcription assignment. Imagine some Mexican delinquents uttering the word *m-a-d-o-n-a*. What's this? Could they possibly be talking about Fra Filippo Lippi's Virgin Madonna with child? Getting *Into the Grove* with Madonna Ciccone? Santa Evita (Perón), code for the Buenos Aires cartel? A cover for doughnut-gobbling cops? Someone begging for *ma donas* Bimbo? Uh, trafficking in meth-cream doughnuts? The answer: none of the above. Turns out it was simply plebeian code for MacDonalds (*rot-proof burgers*). ¡Sí, *M-a-d-o-n-a!* Can't blame the guys; few words in Spanish contain the consonant pair *cd*: *anécdota*, *ecdótico*, *sinécdoque*, *anecdótico*, *anecdótico*. Not exactly the kind of vocabulary you're likely to hear in *Los Caballeros Templarios* gangsta rap.

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INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY (continued from page 11)

Even if transcripts are not admitted in evidence, in the sense of being marked as exhibits, they are read and relied on by the jury to follow the playback.

On a weighty note, A'Zar and White stressed the importance of proper punctuation in transcription. A comma, period, colon, semicolon or apostrophe placed incorrectly, or missing altogether, will not only muddle a text but render it inadequate for use in legal proceedings. Punctuation, therefore, can't simply be banished to the proofreader or copy editor. A transcriber and translator, like a writer, must be conversant in these tiny but significant markings. As trifles as they may seem to the non-writer, they are conventions designed to clarify meaning and define structural units. Quotation marks alone, essential in dialogue and sundry uses, improperly used or used to customize evidence, have been the cause of legal reviews and court findings of fact. Case in point: *U.S. v. Gonzalez Maldonado Nori* 94 CR360.

Carbone, 798 F.2d at 27.

Even if transcripts are not admitted in evidence, in the sense of being marked as exhibits, they are read and relied on by the jury to follow the playback.

The government should not be allowed to bolster its argument by customizing the transcript to reflect its own theory of the case. Nor is it enough for the government to subsequently present evidence that the words were code words. It is not enough that the court instructed the jury that only the tapes, and not the transcripts, were evidence. We hold that the trial court erred when it allowed the use of transcripts that contained quotation marks around certain words. The government does not claim that there is any audible emphasis or other vocal inflection placed on the marked words that is discernible when listening to the tape and failed, both at trial and on appeal, to offer any legitimate explanation for the quotation marks. The quotation marks used in the transcripts submitted to the jury in this case reflect the government's theory of the case.

A'Zar and White recommended a couple of outstanding manuals on the subject: *The Chicago Manual of Style*, a standard in the publishing industry since 1906; and *The Gregg Reference Manual*, first published in 1951 and now a classic manhandled on desks across America. If you fancy yourself a transcriber, translator, or wordsmith, these had better be on your desk too—not just sitting there looking pretty in their new-edition covers, but fondled like a new found love. Ok, so they're not that hot. But without them, or like tools of the trade, to sharpen your quill, Mark Twain would not be impressed with your scribbles or excuses, "The more you explain it, the more I don't understand it." ♣

Going the Way of Travel Agents and Photo Processors? Technology and the Future for Translators and Interpreters

It's challenging enough to understand one another even as we speak the same language and dwell within the same culture, and homogenous subcultures. Now, drop in another language and culture into an established community and what do we get?

Let us take one worldly example amongst so many. In the historic Italian city of Prato, known throughout Europe as the center of quality textile production since the renaissance, local manufacturers, unable to find cheap European labor to meet the insatiable world demand for the "Made in Italy" brand, imported just a handful of Chinese laborers in the late eighties. As might be expected, these laborers then brought in family members and these family members in turn brought in more family members and so on and so forth, all the while, unrestrained by China's one-child policy, reproduction was set free. Chinese now account for one in every three residents there. Sound familiar?

(Continued on page 13)



Prato, built before the middle ages, is a walled city. Architecturally speaking, townships erected walls to protect themselves from invaders. Today, ironically, this wall has become a physical boundary segregating the Chinese community from the Italian natives. The local natives feel under siege from the unbridled globalization and Chinese sweat shops spindling in their own back yard, many of them smuggling illegal Chinese workers themselves only to earn paltry wages. Deportations barely make a dent. The competition weighs heavily on the traditional family textile spinners and local Italian craftsmen historically imbued with an eye for quality. They're up against the importation of cheap Chinese textile materials here only to be labeled as "Made in Italy" and knocking off an entire branding by stitching merely a few buttons in place—literally.

The elders claim this foreign culture respects "nothing" and along with Beijing's influence are monopolizing the entire industry underhandedly. Feeling his buttons pushed, Prato's mayor keeps the Chinese dragon dance, celebrating the Taoist new year, from overstepping the town wall gates leading into the heart of town, and anywhere near the town's Catholic Cathedral; which dates back to the 10th century and curates Fra Filippo Lippi's Frescoes. Sprawling Chinese ghettos homestead just beyond the wall along La Via Pistoiese spindling their own family garment shops. The new Italian-born Chinese generation names the Italian attitude *silent intolerance*; invisible but felt. Oddly, the Chinese in Prato call the Italians: *waiguoren*, foreigners. And, likewise, the Italians call them, well, *stranieri*. Now, how might we interpret all of this?

Found in Translation co-author, Jost Zetzsche, a German>English translator with a Ph. D in Chinese translation history and linguistics, began his conference discourse by transporting us way back to the seventh century translation of The Bible into the Chinese language. Finding words for physical objects we can see, hear and touch is the easy part, claims Zetzsche. However, "transferring religious texts into another language can be a veritable minefield." The outcast Nestorian missionaries recruited Buddhist monks in search of the proper translation for the Christian message. While the Nestorians ignored the outcome, the monks translated the term God using *fo*, meaning Buddha. And the term Christian disciple, *aluohan*, which means 'Buddhist spiritual practitioner.' To make matters even more beguiling, compensating for the

lack of vowels in Chinese, the term Jesus was translated into *yishu*, meaning 'to move rats.' Hardly a doppelgänger—maybe Rattenfänger von Hameln. Poetic justice? Well, let's say someone had to shepherd the lost children of Hameln to Eastern Europe or, that is, to a higher spiritual consciousness. Ok, we must have a glitch in the USS-E transporter bay here.

Jesting aside, Zetzsche asserts that to this very day the debate over the proper translation of the Christian concept of God into Chinese which started in the 1800s rages on. This is serious stuff. Or as Zetzsche puts it: "The translation of that single word was a very big deal. In fact, one translation of God's name may have resulted in the deaths of twenty million people." The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom movement led by Hong Xiuquan, believing himself the younger brother of Jesus, may be blamed for this violent rebellion ignited in 1836.

Unbelievable what a little misunderstanding or even one misunderstood word can do. Zetzsche and his co-author Nataly Kelly illustrate, in their work, other damning consequences of a single-word mistranslation. The Maori natives of New Zealand signed a treaty with the British colonizers in 1840 in the hopes of restoring order and ending the bloodshed in their land. Unbeknownst to them, however, the word sovereignty had been translated as governance. And thus, they unknowingly and unwillingly ceded sovereignty to Her Majesty the Queen of England. The rest is history.

Now back again to Italy today. Is it any wonder the inhabitants of Prato seem unable to overcome their differences? Is it any wonder the governments of China and the U.S. can't see eye to eye on the Syrian intervention and genocide? Now, didn't we humans create language to improve our chances of survival, create sameness and identity, to keep us all together, and, well, ourselves together too? Is it working? Since the beginning of civilization, societies, such as the Uruk in Mesopotamia, built defensive walls around their cities as protection from *foreign* tribes eager to rape, pillage and plunder. Ironically, our virtual walls today apparently remain standing.

So it begs the question: Is all this just a matter of language? We're waiting for an answer: translators and interpreters? Wait now, why us? (Continued on page 15)

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY



INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY (continued from page 13)

What have we done to deserve this? Ok, it's not an understatement to say the responsibility of translators and interpreters is enormous. Indeed, and yet, how under appreciated despite what's expected of them. Zetzsche and Kelly never miss an opportunity to praise our work and encourage self-appreciation. (Granted, if no one even notices what we do and accomplish, we are, at least, well aware of the work we put into it and must put into it—continuously.)

The average person verbalizes at most around two, maybe three, thousand words in their daily life exchanges. Monolinguals and even average bilinguals just aren't trained to think about the nuances of language, contextual applications, levels of meaning, or how it affects communication across languages, or culture for that matter. Imagine for a moment the number of words embedded in the English dictionary, nearly three quarters of a million terms and growing. When an interpreter walks into a clinic, courtroom, laboratory, conference room, workshop, or wherever he or she may be summoned, he or she had better be prepared to understand what the doctor, lawyer, social worker, politician, engineer, or scientist is saying in order to properly fulfill his or her responsibility as an interpreter.

Likely inspired by Sofia Coppola's film, *Lost in Translation*, Jost Zetzsche and co-author Nataly Kelly offer us in *Found*, countless examples of the meaningful and positive impacts translators and interpreters have made around the world in modern times. And that's a really good thing. Because, if we remember actor Bob Harris (Bill Murray) on the somber bow-tie set for a Japanese whiskey commercial, it does not bode well for interpreters at all. While Bob listens intently and apprehensively to the director's long, involved, and intense stage directions addressed directly to him, his Japanese/English interpreter reduces, with an accent, the entire diatribe to: *He want you to turn, look in camera. Ok!*

To which Bob Harris responds: *That's all he said!?*

Interpreter: *Yes. Turn to camera.*

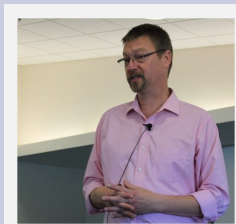
Harris: *Alright, does he want me to turn from the right or turn from the left.*

The interpreter animates the director into another extended conversation in Japanese as Bob becomes increasingly mortified. Interpreter then returns simply: *Right side, and, with intensity. Ok.*

Harris, very concerned now: *Is that everything? I mean, it seems he said quite a bit more than that!*

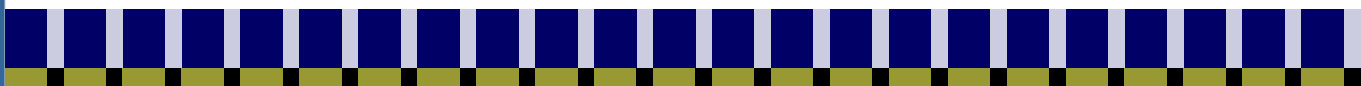
Again, the interpreter turns to the director who then fires another long, and increasingly aggravated and incomprehensible diatribe where *whiskey* and *camera* are the only detectable words. So, we get the picture. Likely meant to be a comical illustration of an intercultural moment, to many rookie interpreters, however, it may arouse embarrassing and cringing memories (viewer discretion is advised).

Let us now step onto the transporter deck once again and get back to the future, or rewind a bit to, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Ok, we must have another transporter glitch here because the HAL 9000 is nowhere near operational in 2012. Yet today, the average monolingual assumes machine translators will soon and effectively replace translators and interpreters if not already. Isn't this how the travel agents were slain?
(Continued on page 17)



*Unless
artificial
intelligence
outgrows
its sci-fi
antics,
translators
and
interpreters
will not be
rendered
obsolete
any time
soon.*

Good food, wonderful speakers, and the joy of being part of the translation and interpreting community



INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY

(continued from page 15)

And although the smug monolingual may offer machine translation as an admonition, translators find it inconceivable, tedious and laughable at best. One quick tryout with any piece of language translating software will quickly reveal itself as totally impractical to the trained translator. *Found* offers us an example: "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak," which allegedly returned in Russian, "The vodka is strong, but the meat is rotten."

Intelligent machines, some appearing anthropomorphic, have always played an important role in sci-fi entertainment, making them a credible possibility in the minds of many. But few realize the hurdles machines must overcome to make this a reality. First, speech recognition: although, perhaps, practical to the doctor writing up a patient's chart, computers are yet to present an ability to distinguish between voices, accents, tempo and pitch; or even attempt to block out extraneous sounds. Theoretically possible, but it would take years of recognition training and massive databases. Score for the interpreter. Second, semantics: *Spock, can a machine actually make sense of anything? Negative Captain. Computers make excellent and efficient servants, but I have no wish to serve under them.* Score for the interpreter.

In any case, Zetzsche suggested three MT models: rules based, statistical, and hybrid. To describe these complex approaches here would require an in-depth analysis beyond our intent. We recommend you read the book. But in summary, the rules-based model attempts to break down language into its syntactic and semantic structures; the statistical model attempts to record as many language pairs as possible. Google Translate is an example of the statistical model. Microsoft's Application Programming Interface may be considered a rules-based model but limited to certain applications. And it includes a trainable engine. The hybrid model, of course, would combine the two.

Yet, there is something to be said for the advancements in MT technology that actually benefit the translator in his or her work for they can be used as tools of the trade. And many are available on the Internet as Zetzsche demonstrated.

Unless artificial intelligence outgrows its sci-fi antics, translators and interpreters will not be rendered obsolete any time soon. Now with quantum-information technology in

the works, however, and the theoretical capacity of qubits to crunch trillions upon trillions of times faster current multi-core and distributed computing farms, the time is menacingly nigh.

HAL 9000: I am completely operational and all my circuits are functioning perfectly.

Yes, we translators and interpreters are completely operational and all our circuits are functioning perfectly... Neurologists suggest that if the human brain were a hard disk drive, it would be capable of storing 2.5 petabytes, that is, 2.5 million gigabytes of storage. That's massive! How do they come up with this stuff, did they start by counting all the synapses in the brain? It makes for a compelling subject. Anyhow, interpreters take note: short-term memory can hold up to 7 pieces of information at the same time; but only for around 20 seconds. Puff!

Now back to the question: Why us? Again, why blame us? Have translators and interpreters been entrusted to become cultural, philosophical, religious or scientific analysts and advisors? Maybe the issue is really with identity? With a *perfect* interpretation out of the way, does it make a difference how many times or in how many ways translators and interpreters convey someone else's words? Let us use our common sense now: the truth is, it's really up to the *stranieros* and *waiquoren* to understand or, at a minimum, learn to live with one another. So, really, after all is said and done, we submit it doesn't come down just to words, but to the values we're willing to live with and die for.

Malala: We believe in your message, may it live forever.

Irene López Hawkins is a freelance Spanish Translator and Interpreter based in Seattle, Washington. She holds a European degree in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Granada (Spain), University of Westminster in London (UK), and Moscow State Linguist University (Russia). She is a Washington State Court Certified Interpreter in Spanish, and a member of WITS, NOTIS, and the ATA. She has significant experience in localization and conference interpreting.

Carlo Tanne freelances nowadays for Thurston County Superior Court and Seattle's Academy of Languages. He returns to the Puget Sound from Chelan County Superior Court where as staff court interpreter heard hundreds of felony, civil, dependency, and juvenile cases, plus a number of manslaughter trials. He earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish Literature from the University of Washington in 2005 and launched his courtroom circuit the same year with state court certification. A summons to the University of Washington Medical Center, while working on his degree, initiated his interpreting career, and whetted his translation skills in medicine and science. He has trained aspiring medical interpreters and taught ethics at Puyallup Community College and has volunteered in English language schools in Spain and Ukraine.

NOTIS AND WITS EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	LOCATION
November 3-4, 2012	II Conferencia Latinoamericana de Traducción e Interpretación: Una Ventana al Mundo	www.proz.com/conference/326	Lima, Peru
November 10, 2012	Finding and Using Quality Healthcare Information Resources: Prescription for Success, A Training Program for Interpreters by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine	wascla.lep@gmail.com	1:00-2:00 UW Health Sciences Library, Seattle, Washington
November 13, 2012	Language Access for Healthcare in Washington State: What Every Nurse Should Know	https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/858496110	12:00-1:00 Webinar online
November 15, 2012	American Translators Association—Continuing Education Seminar—Financial Planning for Translators, Interpreters, and Owners	www.atanet.org/webinars/ataWebinar119_financial.php	Online
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 17, 2012	NOTIS Annual Meeting and ATA Recap	www.notisnet.org	North Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA
November 17, 2012	CIMCE Webinar: Grammar and Language Development—3 hrs.	www.sliu.org	Online
November 21-23, 2012	Languages and the Media, 9th International Conference on Language Transfer in Audiovisual Media	http://www.languages-media.com/	Berlin, Germany
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
November 26-December 1, 2012	The Community Interpreter Training of Trainers (TOT) - Six day program, 40 hour certificate program.	www.cultureandlanguage.net	Columbia, Maryland 8:30 am to 4:40 pm

NOTIS AND WITS EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	LOCATION
December 1, 2012	CIMCE Webinar: Medical and Legal Terminology	www.sliu.org	Online
December 8, 2012	CIMCE Webinar: Interpreter Ethics in Legal and Medical Settings	www.sliu.org	Online
December 8, 2012	Joint WITS and NOTIS Holiday Potluck	www.witsnet.org	UW Waterfront Activities Center, details to follow
December 11-13, 2012	Eighth Symposium on Translation, Interpretation, and Terminology	www.crtl.ca/article257	Havana, Cuba
December 12, 2012	Medical Genetics for Medical Interpreters	www.notisnet.org and www.witsnet.org	UWMC Seattle, Washington
January 17-18, 2013	Conférence Internationale permanente d'Instituts Universitaires de Traducteurs et Interprètes	www.ciuti.org/events	Geneva, Switzerland
January 18-20, 2013	2013 International Medical Interpreters Conference	www.imiaweb.org	Miami, Florida
January or February 2013	Preparing for the Washington State Court Certification Written Test	www.witsnet.org	Seattle, Washington
May 17-19, 2013	NAJIT Annual Conference	www.najit.org	St. Louis, Missouri
November 6-9, 2013	ATA Annual Conference	www.atanet.org	San Antonio, Texas

NOTIS AND WITS BOARD MEETINGS

November 9, 2012	WITS Board Meeting	www.witsnet.org	Home of Alicia Lanzer 6:00 p.m.
November 17, 2012	NOTIS Board Meeting	www.notisnet.org	North Seattle Community College, immediately following the annual meeting at 4:00 p.m.



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

The Northwest Linguist is published in February, May, August, and November. 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? Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Articles are limited to **1,000 words**.

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.

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Deadline for Winter Issue of The Northwest Linguist: **January 7, 2013**

Submissions to: **Kathryn German, Editor**, translationskg@comcast.net



Found in Translation, the new book by Jost Zetzsche and Nataly Kelly, is being snapped up everywhere! Language fills a much larger role in the world than most people realize, and these authors have illustrated this fact in a thoughtful and entertaining way. In their descriptions of how translation and interpreting affect all aspects of our daily lives, they enlighten readers to their value and impact in bridging diverse cultures and languages. For more information see, *Found in Translation* on Facebook.

