



JOINT STATEMENT

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators and The American Translators Association

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In re: Washington Post Story by Ernesto Londoño
Saturday, July 21, 2007

“Md. Judge Dismisses Abuse Charges:
Clerk Was Unable To Find Interpreter”

A criminal case in Maryland that was dismissed for lack of an interpreter has been widely covered in the news media. In our organizations' view, this case is an unfortunate symbol of a systemic problem that affects our entire country, a problem for which we all share responsibility: the need for language professionals to be identified and readily available to serve our courts and justice partners.

We represent two national organizations, the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) and the American Translators Association (ATA), which have made great efforts to network with community and government entities to make them aware of our extensive networks of language professionals. On occasion our advocacy efforts have been successful but our overtures have also sometimes been dismissed.

When a language barrier exists and a person's liberty or a victim's life is at stake, it is always best to err on the side of caution by appointing a competent interpreter. When state or federal authorities are unprepared, uninformed or unwilling to find a way to resolve a language barrier, the courts are poorly served, defendants' rights are unprotected, victims are doubly victimized, and our justice system suffers.

Information on how to tap into available language resources is vital to the effective functions of our court systems. Any court or justice-related department that lacks policies for dealing with the limited English proficient persons is poorly equipped to deal with the demographic realities of the 21st century.

ATA and NAJIT may not always be able to identify certified or qualified interpreters and translators in every language through our membership directories, but we have the means to quickly survey our members, network with local sister organizations and other government entities, or exchange knowledge with community and private sector agencies to assist in locating needed interpreters or translators.

Courts and other justice partners often say that they do not have the funding to extend searches or to contract with service providers beyond their jurisdiction. They say that they are unable to assess an individual's language proficiency. They say that they cannot train bilinguals to function as language links in cases where experienced court interpreters are difficult to find. This is exactly why policies need to be established outlining the various options in cases of urgent need.

Our organizations consist not only of certified and qualified interpreters and translators but also Ph.D. linguists, expert consultants, trainers and expert witnesses. These interpreter experts are available to help the justice entities develop policies and procedures for training bilinguals of less common languages in a relatively short period of time to adequately interpret court proceedings. The ability to comprehend a court proceeding is not an immigration issue or an English-only issue; it is a matter of fundamental fairness and due process.

September 11th alerted us to our pressing language needs and the need to have organized lists of qualified interpreters and translators. Katrina reminded us once more, and although efforts have been made to correct some of our deficiencies, as a nation we are not there yet.

We need to begin to develop the connective tissue between professional organizations of language pro-

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Proteus

Proteus, published quarterly, is the official newsletter of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Inc., 603 Stewart Street, Suite 610 Seattle, Washington, 98101-1275
Editor: Nancy Festinger
Assistant Editor: Andrew Erickson
Address submissions to proteus@najit.org with attached file. Submissions preferred in Microsoft Word. All submissions subject to editorial review.

Deadlines for copy : summer issue April 1; fall issue July 1; winter issue October 1; spring issue December 15.

Annual subscription rate: \$20.00, included in membership dues. Online articles and archive available at: www.najit.org/proteus

The opinions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the association or the editor. Postmaster: Send address changes to 603 Stewart Street, Suite 610 Seattle, Washington, 98101-1275

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Graphic design by Chuck Eng Design
Printed by Consolidated Press
600 South Spokane Street
Seattle, WA 98134
Address requests for reprint permission to proteus@najit.org

Message from the Chair

It was great seeing many of you again, meeting new members and putting faces to the names of people with whom I've corresponded throughout the years. As some of you already read in Cybernews, this year's annual conference in Portland, Oregon was a huge success. Registrations exceeded expectations (over 300 participants) and rank the Portland conference among our best attended ever. The workshops returned mostly excellent evaluations.

Our conference committee co-chairs, Cristina Helmerichs and Lois Feuerle, together with the conference committee members, NAJIT's executive director Andy Ozols, administrative staff and hotel personnel all did a superb job in making sure that everything ran smoothly. All deserve a big round of applause for the success of the conference. Also instrumental in lending a helpful hand were board member spouses Alice Rainof and Bob Projansky. Thank you both! About 30 individuals at the conference joined as members on the spot. Our thanks mainly go to Dawn Bernie Piper, manager of Lionbridge, for promoting and sponsoring the attendance of Lionbridge interpreters. Our current membership now stands at approximately 1,100 members.

I am grateful to have been reelected for a third term on the NAJIT board, and for the subsequent vote of the board electing me as chair. At the annual meeting, Dr. Alexander Rainof gave a heartfelt speech announcing that for his last year on the board he would not run again for chair but rather felt that it was time to pass the baton. Alex served as chair for the past 4 years and has led the organization well, with an open mind and fairness. He advocates term limits in order to allow others to bring enthusiasm and new energy to the organization, a philosophy which I share. I'll miss his wit and sense of humor during the annual conferences but fortunately I can still lean on him for guidance during my first year as chair.

It is my pleasure to welcome our newest member of the board, Rosemary Dann. Rosemary brings many years of experience: she is an attorney, with a B.A. in Spanish, M.A. in English literature; she is active in community and professional theatre, and has worked as a Spanish interpreter since 1997. Currently serving on NAJIT's advocacy committee, and having been on the committee since its inception, Rosemary is also chair of NAJIT's certification commission.

Heartfelt thanks to Judith Kenigson-Kristy for her many years of service on the board and as NAJIT's treasurer. We owe many innovative ideas and policies to Judith. The NAJIT board will miss her very much. Although Judith's term on the board is over, her enthusiasm and energy remain at NAJIT's service through her work on various committees.

The resolution against torture passed 50 to 42 (*see text on page 16*). The positions for and against were powerful, handled very professionally and all points were well taken. Throughout the process the board learned much about resolutions, given that this was the first in NAJIT's history.

I'd like to thank all candidates to the board for their enthusiasm and willingness to serve. The nominations committee (Susan Bilodeau, Sabine Michael, Jeck Navarrete and Susan Stettri Sawrey) and the elections committee (Albert Bork, Joyce Garcia, Georganne Weller and Cristina Helmerichs) also deserve a round of applause for their hard work, professionalism and integrity in the nomination and election process.

Keynote speaker, the Honorable Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, Paul J. De Muniz gave an outstanding speech. In addition to addressing the importance of and support for certified and qualified interpreters, he also discussed the Ventura Morales case, on which he had worked as defense attorney. We are very fortunate to have a Chief Justice who cares about and

[> continues on page 4](#)

NAJIT occasionally makes its member information available to organizations or persons offering information, products, or services of potential interest to members. Each decision is carefully reviewed and authorization is given with discretion. If you do not wish to have your contact information given out for this purpose, please let headquarters know and we will adjust our records accordingly.

LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE

Stephanie Tipton

The city of Philadelphia is a global city. Eight percent of Philadelphians do not speak English or do not speak it well. Almost 18% of Philadelphians speak a language other than English at home. Nine percent of Philadelphians are foreign born, an increase of 31% since the 1990 census. And Philadelphia's Puerto Rican population is surpassed only by New York City and Chicago.

Spurred by the push of federal and local mandates and the pull of demographic changes, the city of Philadelphia launched Global Philadelphia in 2003, an initiative to ensure that English language proficiency is not a barrier to accessing city services and programs.

The mission of Global Philadelphia is to unify the city's efforts to strengthen the relationship between diverse linguistic communities and the city by improving Philadelphia's language accessibility. As such, each city department develops and implements its own language access policy. The city's Managing Director's Office (MDO), in turn, provides resources in the form of contracts with document translation, in-person and telephonic interpretation vendors, training, and implementation consulting and assistance. The Managing Director's Office, community advocates and the Department of Justice help to keep departments accountable to their language access plans.

The Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) is an excellent example of Global Philadelphia's mission in action. Representing collaboration between PPD, the Department of Justice, and Limited English Proficient (LEP) and immigrant advocates, Directive 71, PPD's language access plan, was implemented on December 9, 2005. The Directive specifies the department's policies and procedures for working with LEP individuals, from how to handle 911 calls and encounters in the field, to interrogations. Upon initial implementation of Directive 71, 22 "vital" documents were translated into 7 languages. The documents were made available at each police facility.

As well, signs in 7 languages notifying LEP individuals of the availability of free interpreter services and translated documents were posted in each police facility.

A further illustration of the critical need for language access services within the police department: in 2007, the PPD fielded over 3,500 911 emergency calls from LEP individuals between the months of January and April alone. The majority of these calls (approximately 3,300) were handled by bilingual radio room staff on shift at the time of the call. It is the practice of the PPD to have at least two Spanish-speaking staff on each shift, as the majority of the LEP emergency calls are from Spanish speakers (95% for the same time period). The remaining calls, representing languages other than

Spanish, are handled by PPD's telephonic interpretation service.

Training is critically important to the implementation of Directive 71. To date, 198 bilingual and multilingual officers have been trained to serve, as appropriate, as volunteer interpreters— also known as Philadelphia Police Department Authorized Interpreters (PPDAIs). Similarly, as part of state-mandated Municipal Police Officer (MPO) training, all uniformed personnel (6400+) received a 2-hour training in 2006 on Directive 71 and how to work with an interpreter, with refresher training scheduled for 2008. Lastly, a 9-week Spanish for Law Enforcement class was offered free of cost for interested officers in March 2007 in collaboration with a local university. The course, designed for persons with little to no prior Spanish language instruction, focused on teaching officers the fundamentals of conversational Spanish needed to work with LEP individuals.

The language access services provided by vendors for the PPD are regularly monitored by both the vendors and the MDO. Evaluation processes are incorporated into each vendor's contract and include such activities as: regular interpreter and operator evaluations (for telephonic interpretation services), in-person interpreter observations, and proofing and review of translated documents by several linguists prior to submission. As well, the MDO regularly reviews utilization of all services by PPD to identify issues and ensure accountability by the vendors on key deliverables established in vendor contracts.

For fiscal year 2007, the city of Philadelphia spent approximately \$3,650 for in-person interpretation; \$219.84 for document translation; and, \$10,644.01 for telephonic interpretation on behalf of PPD (these amounts represent costs through the end of May). Similarly, training costs were approximately \$23,400.

The PPD's language access work has been recognized by the Department of Justice, with Directive 71 acknowledged as a model policy. PPD also fields a number of inquiries from other municipalities and research organizations. In sum, their work represents the successful collaboration between city and federal agencies and community advocates, and could not have been accomplished without high-level support from access champions, adequate resources from the Managing Director's Office, and an established network of supporters within departments.

[The author is assistant managing director, Office of the Managing Director, City of Philadelphia. Email: Stephanie.tipton@phila.gov or (215)686-3499.]



STANDARDS IN INTERPRETING *continued from page 1*

viders and governmental agencies. We need to promote the flow of best practices and information so that the language communication barriers can be resolved quickly and effectively. We need national standards. We need to support funding for court interpreter programs such as Senator Kohl's bill, S. 702, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to state courts to develop and implement state court interpreter programs.

We need to support the recruitment and training of interpreters and to certify interpreters in many languages other than Spanish. We need to create and fund certification exams in languages for which certification does not currently exist. Lastly, we need to offer incentives to recruit and retain already certified and qualified interpreters and translators.

The courts, the defense, the prosecutors' offices, and law enforcement agencies all need to establish language assistance processes that work accurately and effectively. Only when the justice system taps into existing networks of language professionals to seek out potential interpreters, will shocking situations such as the Mahamu Kanneth case be avoided.

"There is nothing easy about any trial where liberty is at stake and a victim is at loss. It is even less so when there are multiple languages involved. However, fundamental due process requires a level playing field, and that all persons answering to the law of the land be given a similar opportunity to answer. A Movant is entitled to such fairness regardless of his ability to speak and comprehend English. Perfect understanding is not required to mete fairness, but a reasonable understanding is."¹

NAJIT has prepared a position paper entitled "Preparing Interpreters in Rare Languages" which bears upon the current situation: <http://najit.org/Documents/RareLanguages200609.pdf>.

For more information, contact NAJIT at <http://najit.org/>; contact ATA at <http://atanet.org/>

Isabel Framer, Chair of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators

Marian S. Greenfield, President of the American Translators Association

¹ COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY FAYETTE CIRCUIT COURT DIVISION FIVE (Opinion)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR *continued from page 2*

understands first-hand the importance of the judiciary interpreter in ensuring due process, equal access and equal protection to all. We were honored that he agreed to be our keynote speaker. Thank you, Chief Justice!

NAJIT's outstanding scholars represented great language variety and were a personable and interesting group of young people. Thanks to Vanesa Ieraci and Amy Free who helped with the selection of the scholars and to Laura Garcia-Hein for guiding them at the annual conference. The scholars chairmanship has been passed on to Carlos Cerededos.

In our honors category, lifetime membership in NAJIT was awarded to Dagoberto Orrantia and the Mirta Vidal-Orrantia Award was presented to David Mintz. These two gentlemen have been active members of NAJIT for countless years, have been instrumental in the organization and never tire in their efforts to promote professionalism and assist the association in its effort, growth and mission. They deserve our deepest gratitude, which we express with these awards.

NAJIT is also grateful for the continued support and excellent relations we have with the American Red Cross, Juliet Choi, Esq., emergency preparedness and response; Everette Jordan, Director, National Virtual Translation Center, national and natural emergency response; Purvi Shah, Executive Director of Sakhi for South Asian Women; Dr. Caroline Kinney, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; Wanda Romberger and Carola Green of the National Center for State Courts Certification Consortium; U.S. DOJ Civil Rights Division; and our recent partner, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

Lastly, we'd like to acknowledge everyone who presented at or attended the conference. It's impossible to include every individual who has contributed to the growth and success of NAJIT but we are very grateful to all of you. To view individual contributions, please visit our website to view the final conference program and list of attendees.

This coming year we will focus on increasing membership through our enthusiastic committee chair, Claudia Samulowitz and the membership committee. Remember that there is power in numbers and it is critical that our voices be heard. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join NAJIT and become actively involved in NAJIT's committees. We will continue to work on developing relationships and establishing new partnerships with various entities. The advocacy committee will continue to monitor legislation and to speak up for the interpreting community. We will advocate for the use of certified and qualified interpreters where life, liberty, equal access and equal protection are at stake.

As always, thank you for your support and trust in NAJIT's leadership. We look forward to a very healthy and productive year and hope to see you all next year in Pittsburg... please, don't forget to submit your proposals soon! ▲

Isabel Framer, Chair
NAJIT Board of Directors

NAJIT Needs You!

Join a Committee and Contribute your
Energy and Expertise

see page 18

INTERPRETERS AT HOSTAGE BARRICADES: A SPECIAL ROLE

Chip Flory

On Saturday, April 14, 2007, judicial interpreters in central Ohio were offered a unique training opportunity. Hosted by the Columbus Division of Police at their regional training center, the “Interpreters at Hostage Barricades” training brought together interpreters and law enforcement for the first time to address on this critical topic.

Instructed by Isabel Framer with Language Access Consultants, LLC, Detective Dana Farbacher and Officer Tim Halbakken (assistant team leader, hostage negotiation team) of the Columbus Police, the session was as valuable a learning opportunity for law enforcement as it was for interpreters. Negotiators with the Columbus Police, who volunteer their time to be negotiators in addition to regular duties with the force, participated in the training alongside the interpreters. The agenda covered introductions to both hostage barricade procedures and judicial interpreting ethics and standards. Other presentations included the role and duties of the negotiator, multimedia presentations of actual interpreted sessions and negotiations, and hands-on demos with SWAT equipment and vehicles.

Statistics showed that there had not previously been a hostage barricade in central Ohio that required the services of an interpreter. The proactive stance that the Columbus Police have taken in hosting this invaluable training and the collegial environment in which it was presented left the participants confident that any future collaboration in the field would have the best possible outcome.

Lessons Learned

It was apparent that several points are of the utmost importance for interpreting during a hostage barricade scenario:

- Spirit of the message: Negotiators have extensive training in their art. They employ calculated choices in wording, phrasing, and intonation in an attempt to establish rapport with perpetrators. They also monitor these same characteristics in perpetrators’ speech to make certain determinations. These linguistic subtleties must be conveyed with full accuracy and completeness to allow the negotiator to fulfill the duties of their role.
- High-stress environment: A hostage barricade is stressful in and of itself. In addition, it’s likely the interpreter will be inside a cramped SWAT vehicle interpreting life-altering messages over a loudspeaker. Fully accurate and complete interpretation must take place despite these distractions.
- Knowledge of procedures: law enforcement must do everything “by the book,” and interpreters must be aware of who is in charge, from where they will receive instruction, and where they should direct any questions.
- Life and death: The ultimate goal of law enforcement is to reach a resolution in which everyone is safe and unharmed.

Nonetheless, force — including lethal force — may be necessary to ensure the safest outcome possible. The negotiator’s goal may be to ultimately place the perpetrator in a position where he or she will be forcibly detained, and the interpreter’s accurate rendering of a message is the only way to facilitate this. Though never the first choice of the negotiator, misleading or false statements may be the only way to ensure the safest outcome. These statements must be interpreted with the utmost accuracy and impartiality.

- Equipment and terminology: There are myriad pieces of equipment unique to SWAT. An exhaustive list with descriptions could fill a small dictionary. Add to that all the specialized terminology involved in hostage negotiations, and that dictionary would grow significantly. Interpreters must be thoroughly versed in these terms, not only to render an accurate interpretation, but also to be completely aware of what is happening around them. The following reference book and online video are good places to start.

References:

The SWAT Cyclopedia: A Handy Desk Reference of Terms, Techniques, and Strategies Associated with the Police Special Weapons and Tactics Function
www.amazon.com/Swat-Cyclopedia-Techniques-Strategies-Associated/dp/0398069786

Online Video: SWAT Weapons & Equipment
www.metacafe.com/watch/304938/swat_weapons_equipment/

[The author works with Human Resources at ASIST Translation Services. Email: chip@ASISTtranslations.com] ▲

Limited English Proficient Populations and the Police

“Police departments have substantial flexibility in determining the appropriate mix of services for their needs. A department’s size, its level of existing resources, its level of need, and the costs involved all factor into decision making. But departments should not overlook the need for competent and accurate language services. As some of the cautionary examples demonstrate, competent and unbiased communication is the key to preserving arrests and convictions, avoiding lawsuits, protecting the LEP community, and avoiding federal scrutiny.”

— May 2007, Bharathi A. Venkatraman, Attorney, Civil Rights Division, Coordination and Review Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

PREPARING INTERPRETERS FOR CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS: A DETECTIVE'S VIEW

Dana Farbacher

On April 14th, 2007, members of the Columbus Division of Police Hostage Negotiation Team hosted a training session for local interpreters. Approximately thirty interpreters, representing a multitude of cultures and backgrounds, met with negotiators at the Columbus Police Training Academy. The purpose of this initial training was twofold: to establish a relationship between the negotiators and interpreters, and to expose the interpreters to the equipment that tactical officers and negotiators use during a crisis situation. Due to the high stress nature of crisis negotiations and the preconceived ideas interpreters might have due to fictional representations of negotiations, we felt it was important to show interpreters what to expect in a real-life situation.

The Columbus metropolitan area has a population of approximately 1.1 million people, including large numbers of Hispanics, Somalis, and Eastern Europeans. In addition, Ohio State University attracts students, family members, and faculty from around the world. This presents the potential for crisis situations with non-English speakers. As a result, members of the negotiation team believed it would be wise to have a pool of available interpreters to turn to if needed during crisis negotiations.

Negotiators must respond at a moment's notice to situations where a person may be threatening to harm themselves and/or others. Such a person may be barricaded inside a home with a loved one, standing on the top deck of a parking garage, or teetering on the top of a bridge threatening to jump. Negotiators must be able to communicate with this person immediately in an effort to bring a peaceful resolution for everyone involved. In our experience, it is critical that communication be set up as rapidly as possible in an effort to establish a bond between the negotiator and the person in crisis. This is impossible to accomplish if the negotiator and person

in crisis speak different languages. Thus negotiators must be able to call upon interpreters immediately to respond to the scene and facilitate these crucial communications.

Interpreting during crisis negotiation presents a unique challenge for most interpreters. In the majority of situations, communications are negotiated by telephone, not face-to-face, due to safety concerns. In situations where face-to-face negotiations do take place, an interpreter may have to endure inclement weather while wearing ballistic helmets and vests. The person in crisis may be mentally unstable, which can affect how well they communicate. Frequently negotiations can turn volatile, with the person in crisis threatening to harm themselves, a hostage, a law enforcement officer, or even possibly the interpreter. Most interpreters have not experienced these situations before, which is why training is important to prepare them for any eventualities.

The training session was a good opportunity for negotiators to meet potential volunteer interpreters and to explain what would be involved if they were needed for future negotiations. It also gave interpreters an opportunity to learn more about negotiations and to decide whether they felt up to the task. Our team intends to schedule additional training to determine which interpreters would be best suited to assist in these situations. That training would include role-play scenarios where interpreters would interpret negotiations between a negotiator and a non-English speaking person in crisis.

The Columbus Police Hostage Negotiation Team looks forward to continuing to build their relationship with the interpreters in the central Ohio area.

[The author is a detective in the city of Columbus and team leader for the hostage negotiation team, Division of Police.] ▲

STRATEGIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ENSURE LANGUAGE ACCESS

- Determine the languages spoken in your jurisdiction by collecting demographic data from local and federal sources.
- Undergo a planning process to develop a language access policy and protocol guidance.
- Educate all agency personnel about language access and how to utilize agency language assistance services.
- Recruit bilingual personnel and offer a base pay increase for staff who pass a proficiency exam.
- Provide bilingual personnel with police interpreter training.
- Encourage officers and civilian staff to use their language skills.
- Train staff on how to effectively work with "ad hoc," volunteer, and professional interpreters during an interaction with an LEP individual.
- Deploy bilingual personnel to areas with high numbers of LEP residents.
- Use bilingual civilian staff to conduct community outreach and build relationships between your department and immigrant and LEP residents.
- Translate signage and documents that communicate vital information to the public into the most prevalent languages spoken by LEP community members.
- Notify the public about your agency's language access policy and language assistance resources.
- Pool resources and leverage assets with other agencies and services in your city or county.

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POLICE OUTREACH TO NEW IMMIGRANT GROUPS

The United States has not seen so large an increase in immigration since the early twentieth century; and never has the immigrant population been so diverse and geographically dispersed. The new demography, combined with the threat of terrorism, has law enforcement agencies throughout the country examining and rethinking their relationships with hard-to-reach immigrant communities. Building trust with these communities has become an essential task. But police departments trying to do so face many barriers, including:

- Fear that contact with police could lead to deportation;
- Imported distrust of police and judicial systems carried over from countries of origin;
- Language and communication barriers; and
- Cultural misunderstandings.

Issues to be Considered by Police Depts

- Because immigrant groups are not monolithic — they are made up of ethnically, culturally, socio-economically, and often linguistically diverse subgroups — police must engage a wide range of immigrant leaders and representatives.
- Engaging a diverse group of immigrant representatives involves managing dissension among the community representatives; it is important for police to remain neutral in intra-group rivalries and hostilities.

- Levels of community participation may change throughout the process, but as long as there is a core group of regularly-attending community participants to lead the effort, a decline in attendance is not necessarily an indication of failure.
- If high-level police officials and policy makers do not participate, or if community participants do not see immediate changes in police policy and procedures, the community representatives may perceive an initiative as little more than public relations. Particularly if police chiefs or other high-level policy makers are absent from the process, police representatives must communicate specific ways they intend to use community feedback.
- Community organizations within new immigrant communities typically have limited resources and may be unable to contribute to trust-building efforts at optimal levels. The police, thus, may have to put in more resources — both financial and human — than community participants to make the effort sustainable.

Full report available on line at www.vera.org

[Source: Anita Khashu, Robin Busch, Zainab Latif, Francesca Levy, *Building Strong Police-Immigrant Community Relations: Lessons from a New York City Project*, Vera Institute 2005.] ▲

STRATEGIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES *continued*

Language access trainings can include:

- Demographic information about local LEP populations and where they live,
- Guidance on accessing interpretation and translation resources
- Tips on how to work with bilingual staff and interpreters
- Instruction on what to do when no bilingual officer or interpreter is available.

Individuals who undergo training should receive tangible resources to carry with them in the field.

Interpreter training can include information about:

- The interpreter's role and responsibilities
- Key terminology used in law enforcement settings
- How to prepare for an interpretation
- How to negotiate rank when interpreting
- How to maintain control during difficult interpreting situations

[Source: Susan Shah, Insha Rahman, Anita Khashu. *Overcoming Language Barriers: Solutions for Law Enforcement*. New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2007. Full publication available at www.cops.usdoj.gov and www.vera.org/overcomelanguagebarriers]

“Our unprecedented growth has enabled the city to change in ways never dreamed of. Providing public safety services in this diverse, rapidly changing environment is a challenge, but it brings out the best in all our staff. Our police department exemplifies the quality of persons who choose public safety as their profession. Our agency staff are compassionate professionals who contribute to the improving quality of life in a growing and changing community.

For communities anticipating or preparing for similar change, the message is this: Change occurs whether you want it or not. It is the charge of a professional public safety agency to be flexible, to adapt, and to provide professional services to any and to all regardless of birthplace, language, or skin color.”

“Policing a Diverse Community” *Mark A. Prosser, Jan 2007*
[Published in *The Police Chief*, Vol. 74, No.1. The author is Public Safety Director of the Storm Lake, Iowa Police Department.]

Websites for further information: www.vera.org/translatingjustice, www.cops.usdoj.gov, www.LEP.gov

Articles on line: Police Chief Magazine, www.policechiefmagazine.org

THE LINGO OF POLICE FORMS AND PROCEDURES

Arlene M. Kelly

Law enforcement officers often have the first contact with defendants before they ever get to the criminal justice system. The series of encounters and steps through which “persons of interest” or suspects pass is important contextual information that can be used in court interpreter training. Most of the paperwork and conversations generated by law enforcement contact will be used in court. Thus, knowledge of how law enforcement works is essential for court interpreters, even if no professional interpreter was used during the law enforcement phase.

In Massachusetts, unlike England, there are no trained police interpreters. Police departments rely on bilingual police officers and civilians including relatives and children of the suspects and victims, translated forms (some quite poorly translated) and telephone interpreters. When police submit an application for a complaint, there is no place on the form to indicate a need for an interpreter. Yet aspects of police procedures provide fertile training opportunities for court interpreters.

In order to generate police involvement, an incident is either reported or witnessed by civilians or police. When the police witness an incident and arrest people at the scene of an incident, certain prescribed legal steps should be followed. One of the most important is to be informed of one’s legal rights, that is, the Miranda warning, before answering any questions. Much of what Miranda expresses will reoccur in colloquies throughout the crim-

inal process, which makes knowing Miranda an important aspect of working in the criminal justice system for interpreters, even though they are generally not present when those rights are given.

While Miranda must be recited to a suspect before any questioning about alleged criminal activity, not all those arrested by the police are questioned. However, all those who are placed in a cell at a police station are booked or registered by the booking officer. The booking officer notes pedigree (personal data) information about the prisoner and receives information from arresting and transporting officers about aspects of the crime allegedly committed.

Some of the information requested for the booking sheet would present no difficulty, since personal details required on the form are basic: name, address, marital status, birth date, place of birth, general employment information, the pedestrian details of everyday life. An aspiring court interpreter may encounter difficulties around detailing more personal aspects of the suspect as well as the characteristics of the crime.

Some of the categories on a full booking form reveal broader areas of knowledge such as: weapons, entry points, methods of entry, tools, possible means of theft, extended terminology surrounding kinship, and aspects of teeth, eyes, build, speech, general appearance and clothing. At first glance, even these categories may seem rather run-of-the-mill, so here is a listing that appears under

[> continues opposite](#)

BAIL DETERMINATIONS IN FEDERAL COURT

Michael J. Fitzpatrick

The work of Pretrial Services is very demanding. One of the most challenging aspects of our agency is the time sensitive nature of much of our work. Very often, a defendant is arrested and brought to the courthouse only hours before they will make their initial appearance before a magistrate judge. It is at this initial appearance that many important issues will be decided, not the least of which is whether an individual will be detained or released on bail.

During the brief time in which Pretrial Services is given to complete our bail investigation, many events take place which are crucial to the judicial process. The most important event is our interview with the defendant. Most of our activities are based upon this interview, and it is for this interview that Pretrial Services relies upon interpreters to assist us. Statistics for our district show that in 2006, when Pretrial Services conducted approximately 1,942 interviews, the service of an interpreter

was required in 319 cases (16%). The languages that required interpretation services ranged from the fairly common (Spanish in 201 cases) to the relatively obscure (Twi, a language spoken in Ghana, in one case). Many questions asked during our interview involve legal and financial terms with which many individuals are not familiar, so a competent interpreter is crucial.

The interpreter’s service sometimes continues after the interview. As part of our investigation process, Pretrial Services will attempt to contact family members and other collateral sources of information. During these collateral interviews, interpreters will often assist Pretrial Services. There is no doubt that the work of Pretrial Services would in many cases be difficult, if not impossible, without the services of an interpreter.



[The author is Chief U.S. Pretrial Services Officer in the Southern District of New York.]

THE LINGO OF POLICE *continued*

possible tools used: *key, pry tool, saw drill, hammer, bolt cutter, chipping tool, chain locks, vise grip and crowbar*. As for the possibilities surrounding personal appearance, eyes can be described as: *missing, crossed, bulging, squint, blinking and afflicted* and speech as: *profane, abusive, soft, polite, apologetic, accent, stutter, deep, raspy, high, effeminate, lisp*. In order to describe teeth, some dental adjectives include: *gold, silver, gold design, missing caps, protruding, decayed, dirty, broken, and very white*.

These words do not appear in isolation but are commonly used to develop accompanying police reports. Along with a command of vocabulary from booking reports, knowledge of common abbreviations better prepares court interpreter to carry out duties. Even if court interpreters in Massachusetts do not work directly with police before defendants arrive at the courthouse, the forms filled out, the steps taken and the paperwork the police prepare provide the basis for ongoing court cases and a thorough understanding of them and the contexts in which they appear provides court interpreters and their trainers the initial material with which to prepare themselves.

Working interpreters should be able to find the booking forms with case information when defendants are being arraigned, or when motions are heard. Outside of courts, the police stations have blank forms. Once we explain why we want the forms, police officers generally are happy to help us out with materials we need for training.

Useful abbreviations used in the state of Massachusetts:

BOP = Board of Probation (criminal record)	209A = Restraining Order
MV = motor vehicle	58A = Dangerousness Hearing
MA reg = Massachusetts registration (license plate number)	DSS = Department of Social Services
Triple I (III): Interstate Identification Index (interstate criminal background checks)	51A = child abuse suspicions reported to DSS
ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement	DMH = Department of Mental Health
CORI: Criminal Offender Record Information	A&B = assault and battery
	DW = dangerous weapon
	OUI = operating under the influence
	DOB = date of birth

[The author is a staff interpreter in Portuguese for the Massachusetts Trial Court and ATA Certified, Port>Eng. This is an edited version of a paper given at the Critical Link 2007 conference in Australia.] ▲

Law Enforcement Stats: Did You Know ?

Number of police officers in the United States: 663,535
 Kinds of Police Officers:
 Local: 410,956; sheriffs: 152,922; state: 54,587
 Number of police departments in the United States: 18,769
 [Source: BJS, LEMAS Report]

HEARD (AND SEEN) IN COURT

Andrew Erickson

The location: Woodland, California. Yolo County Superior Court. (25 miles west-northwest of Sacramento on the busy Interstate 5 corridor.)

The time: November, 2006. 1:30 PM.

The scene: Criminal Division. Department Two. Felony sentencing on a drunk driving and hit-and-run case.

The parties: Spanish-speaking defendant from El Salvador; defense attorney; certified Spanish court interpreter; Punjabi-speaking victim and his son from India; Deputy District Attorney; registered Punjabi court interpreter; judge; clerk; reporter; family members from El Salvador and India for defendant, victim and son, respectively.

I was told I'd be working with a Punjabi interpreter, and I was looking forward to it. I love watching colleagues of other languages in action. Forget that I have thousands of cases under my belt: I'm always in awe of colleagues' abilities, especially in languages I don't understand. Watching them always makes me wonder: "How do they *do* that?"

My colleague was professional and his attention to detail was impressive. He interpreted on the stand for the victim and the victim's son, facing a barrage of questions from the prosecutor, defense attorney, and judge. The victim was over 80 years old, easily confused, and quick to explain himself with his hands. When asked about the injuries he sustained in the accident, he consistently used the interpreter as a mannequin, as evidenced below:

DA: Where were you injured, sir?

Interpreter: *[consecutive interpretation into Punjabi]*

Witness: *[Punjabi response, with witness touching interpreter's thigh, ribs, hindquarters, knee, and hind quarters]*

Interpreter: I was hurt here, here, here, and here.

DA: Your Honor, indicating the victim's, upper leg, right rib area, knee, right buttocks...

Defense: Judge, I think that was the left buttocks. And the knee. We didn't verify which knee it was. I think he indicated his right knee.

Interpreter: *[quietly switching into simultaneous interpretation into Punjabi]*

DA: The defendant indicated his right knee. The police report shows that it was the defendant's right knee.

Defense: Okay, Judge. And the buttocks?

Interpreter: *[simultaneously interpreting into Punjabi]*

Judge: Counsel, wait. You mean the witness, not the defendant, right?

DA: Yes. The witness. He was injured in the right knee and left buttocks.

> continues on next page

HEARD (AND SEEN) IN COURT *continued from page 9*

Interpreter: [simultaneously interpreting into Punjabi]

Witness: [Punjabi response as he touches interpreter's left knee and right hindquarters]

Interpreter: Yes, sir, I was hurt here and here.

Over at my end of the courtroom, I quietly interpreted everything into Spanish for the defendant while protecting my hindquarters to avoid similar unpleasanties.

When the victim's son testified, my colleague glided through nonsensical testimony with ease.

DA: Prior to your father's accident, did you have any experience with caring for anyone over eighty years old?

Interpreter: [consecutive interpretation into Punjabi]

Witness: [Punjabi response]

Interpreter: Yes, I did.

DA: For whom?

Interpreter: [consecutive interpretation into Punjabi]

Witness: [response in Punjabi]

Interpreter: My wife.

Witness: [continuing to respond in Punjabi]

Interpreter: And my mother.

Witness: [continuing to respond in Punjabi]

Interpreter: And my daughter.

DA: Well... OK, how old is your mother?

Interpreter: [consecutive interpretation into Punjabi]

Witness: [Punjabi response]

Interpreter: She's 22.

DA: Would that be your daughter?

Interpreter: [consecutive interpretation into Punjabi]

Witness: [Punjabi response]

Interpreter: No, she's my wife.

DA: OK, your wife's 22?

Interpreter: [consecutive interpretation into Punjabi]

Witness: [Punjabi response]

Interpreter: No, that's my mother.

DA: Your mom's 22?

Interpreter: [consecutive interpretation into Punjabi]

Witness: [Punjabi response]

Interpreter: No, my mother passed away. That's my step-mother. She's 55.

At no time did the intrepid Punjabi interpreter delve into separate conversations with the victim or his son during their testimony. At no time did he try to "explain" confusing questions. Most impressively, he did not flinch when being used as a mannequin by the victim. I learned a lot from observing this interpreter that day: first, that the ability of the human mind to render communication from one language to another is truly amazing. Second, that watching a real professional keep his cool under pressure is a source of inspiration. And third, I thanked Krishna it wasn't me up there! ▲

[The author is assistant editor of Proteus.]

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

U.S. Police slang & codes

<http://sinai.critter.net/mutant/dawn/slang.htm>

<http://www.9thcircle.net/slang.htm>

U.S. crime slang: <http://www.slangsearch.com/crime.html>

Crime Reference: www.glossarist.com/glossaries/government-politics-military/police.asp

http://eac.gov/research_reports_glossary.htm

Spanish-English glossary of election terms, approved by U.S. Election Assistance Commission

www.asihablamamos.com

Examples from many Spanish-speaking countries of local words and colloquial expressions. User interface available to add entries.

http://www.scselfservice.org/sp_glossary/glossary.htm

Spanish monolingual glossary of legal terms by the County of Santa Clara.

www.vera.org/transglossary

Vera Institute of Justice developed criminal and juvenile justice glossaries in Spanish and traditional Chinese for interpreters, translators, and bilingual staff at New York City's justice and public safety agencies, courts and nonprofit organizations. The glossaries include 640 legal and criminal justice words and phrases commonly used in NY courts, justice agencies and nonprofit organizations. The terms are organized both alphabetically and in the following categories: Agency Names, Court Proceedings & Sentencing, Detention & Corrections, Drugs & Weapons, Juvenile Justice, Law Enforcement & Investigations, Penal Law & Offenses, and Probation & Parole. ▲

RECOMMENDED READING

Empires of the Word: A Language History of the World

by Nicholas Ostler, 559 pages; 2005, Harper Collins

Not exactly beach reading, but perfect for a rainy day: this fascinating work plumbs the intersection of history and language, describing the encounters or clashes between languages in times of war and peace. Written by a linguist in a compelling narrative style.

Is this sample enough to draw you in?

"If we compare English to the other languages that have achieved world status, the most similar — as languages — are Chinese and Malay. Of course, we need to discount the main sources of its vocabulary: English has been in close touch all its short life with French and Latin; and since 1500 the education of very many of its elite speakers has involved Greek too. As a result these three languages have provided the vast majority of words that have come into the language, whether borrowed or invented. But when the origins of its words — and hence their written look on the page — is set to one side, the amazing fact emerges that the closest parallels to English come not from Europe but from the far east of Asia." ▲

PORTLAND CONFERENCE

SEEKING ADVANCED-LEVEL SESSIONS

Conference Feedback from a NAJIT Veteran

Marianne Pripps



After a few years' absence from NAJIT, I re-joined the association in April. I had been assured by former board members that the issues that made me leave had been corrected, and I was ready to see and interact with my friends and colleagues again. I decided to attend the 28th conference since it was held in Portland, Oregon, a location I love and know well, close to my new base in Reno, Nevada.

I was pleased that several intermediate and advanced sessions were on the schedule. On Saturday morning, I attended Translation Procedures, Native Speaker Errors in Simultaneous Translation, and Tools for Transcription and Translation. The first discussed techniques on how to improve our translations to make them sound fluid and natural in the target language. A good many examples of the difference between direct or literal translation and oblique techniques were shared. The second session presented research on how native speakers unknowingly make mistakes into their own language during simultaneous. It was interesting to see that many of the mistakes involved calques and false cognates. This could be due to the rapid codeswitch that the brain has to do in simultaneous settings, something that I can attest to when judges, attorneys, and witnesses are not good speakers and going at what seems like a thousand words a minute. It bears more investigation to see what cognitive processes are at work here, and how these mistakes can be avoided. The third session discussed a new software tool, devised by NAJIT members, which can greatly ease the transcription/translation process and its inherent costs. There is no need for the old machines with pedals since the tapes are now completely digitally recorded, something that I'm willing to try to increase my business now that I'm back to independent contractor status.

I was not pleased with the federal interpreters roundtable. I expected it to address issues encountered by those of us who work in the federal arena. Instead, it turned into a "why join NAJIT"

discussion, which annoyed me and a few people as this was not the point of the session. Experienced federal interpreters should have been tapped to lead a real roundtable discussion.

On Sunday, I attended the Left/Right Brain Processing, Memory Development, and Teatro Milagro Bilingual Theater. I only wish there had been more time to cover the complexity of the first two issues. Memory Development, for example, was so packed with illustrations that there was no time for questions and discussion. For Teatro Milagro's presentation, I would have preferred more attention on the script translation process and perhaps a performance of a mini-play. Nonetheless, I liked the fact that it was an out-of-the-box session on translation issues.

All three Saturday morning sessions were heavily attended, barely enough room to fit us all in. They were so popular that participants had to sit on the floor or spill out of the room.

I was pleased with the conference overall, given that the presentations mentioned went beyond the tried and true conference rehash. For interpreters with a lot of years and experience, it's always rewarding to find sessions that go beyond the introductory stages. Professional associations should keep striving to solicit more intermediate and advanced presentations. Presenters with experience and skills are needed so that we can be challenged. Although aware of how difficult it is to research a topic and present it well (I've been a presenter in the past), I know there are experts out there who can do it. We might also reach outside the interpreter community into other disciplines. Forging a cooperative relationship between interpreter presenters and experts in other fields is one way to breach the gap to make a meaningful session even more so.

[The author is a CA and federally certified Spanish court interpreter from Reno, Nevada.]

ONE INTERPRETER'S PROGRESS

Abby Li



It was a long journey before I participated in NAJIT's 28th Annual Meeting and Educational Conference in Portland, Oregon on May 18-20, 2007. The long course began with an old lady who insisted on hiring me as her interpreter for her Worker's Compensation lawsuit four years ago. Prior to that, the idea of being a court interpreter had never entered my mind. In fact, I had not even heard of the profession. In fear of messing up her case, I sought assistance at the Mid-America chapter of the American Translators Association (MICATA) annual conference. One of

the sessions I attended for neophytes was offered by Christina Helmerichs D. and a colleague from NAJIT. They quizzed us on the most elementary legalese used in criminal proceedings, which I failed terribly. While stumbling through English and Spanish legal jargon, I became mesmerized by the profession. A sense of kinship with their organization started to develop mostly due to the foresight, goals and advocacy efforts of its members. Right then I resolved to learn the trade, hoping to be part of a polyglot society

> continues on next page

One Interpreter's Progress continued from page 11

and meet other enthusiasts some day.

Although my goal was sound, the ride to the destination was rocky. At first I was confronted with the challenge of acquiring the ability to perform for court appearances. Where could I receive legal education in the shortest amount of time at the most convenient location? After I exhausted all my resources, I found two places financially affordable and close in distance. They were the ABA approved Paralegal Studies at Johnson Community College (JCCC) in Overland Park, Kansas (approximately an hour's drive from home) and the Certification Program in Interpretation and Translation Chinese/English at UCLA Extension, located 1,600 miles away in Southern California. I managed to finish both with the highest honors. The most valuable lessons I learned from the two institutions related to legal and bilingual electronic research skills. Diligent preparation by using these skills proved to be the first step toward successful court interpretation. I am also indebted to Shiru Hong, the lead instructor of the Mandarin Chinese Program at UCLA Extension, who set the protocol for twenty-first century Mandarin court interpretation in the U.S. Without her instruction, I would still be groping in the dark without knowing how to render court proceedings accurately.

During my student years, I often envied those who could attend NAJIT conferences. Last spring was my last chance to apply as a student scholar, but only non-members are eligible to apply, which was not my case. Against all odds, I submitted a plea to the board and the scholarship committee and argued on my own behalf. Both responded quickly and positively and granted me permission to apply. The committee chose Sirley Ann Nebel, Anna Vasylyivna Bondarenko, Josue Carmon, Laura B. Ceron and myself to be the 2007 NAJIT Scholars. I could not believe that my dream was about to come true.

On May 17, 2007 I flew into Portland with anticipation, about to meet those to whom I felt akin in the past. I also went with great expectation to learn from my predecessors. Early Friday morning, executive director Andy Ozols and Andrew Estep greeted me at the registration table and set me off with conference schedules and information. Then Lois M. Feuerle led us to the Multnomah County Court House for a guided tour. One of the most inspiring presentations given by James Comstock was on the due diligence efforts done by the Oregon court system in deciphering rare tongues, acquiring qualified interpreters of those dialects, mentoring new interpreters, and preparing for future demands.

In the afternoon, NAJIT arranged a special orientation for the scholars. Laura Garcia-Hein, NAJIT's Secretary, facilitated the meeting to familiarize us with the goals and functions of the organization. We were also given a compilation of reading materials and articles pertaining to the translation and interpretation profession called *Nuts and Bolts*, plus most recent issues of *Proteus*, and copies of all position papers published by NAJIT. Then the "indispensable Isa" joined us and divulged her most recent thrilling experience related to an unintentional advocacy effort. At six in the afternoon, we had the opportunity to visit with Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Rainof, NAJIT leaders and former NAJIT scholars. On Saturday and Sunday, I had the privilege of sitting at the feet of six conference speakers including Professor Yisi Huang from China

University of Political Science and Law in Beijing.

Qualified Mandarin court interpreters are rarities in Kansas and Missouri. I was hoping to connect with more experienced interpreters and find a mentor at the conference. Though the latter wish did not come true, getting acquainted with the six Mandarin interpreters and translators from both coasts and China was a true delight. The entire conference experience made me realize that Mandarin interpretation in the U.S. court system still has a long way to go. European language interpreters came years before us and set good examples. I sincerely hope that I will be able to contribute someday through NAJIT.



Reflections of a Scholar

Under the early shadow of Mt. Hood
on a cool morning in May
A gathering grew into a conference
NAJIT leaders welcomed the group
Including the scholars
The spoken word reigned supreme in many languages
Its complexities and intricacies explored
The experts uttered knowledge
And the scholars listened
Experience was shared with generosity
And the scholars learned
Democracy in action, respect and passion
And the scholars observed
Dedication, distinction and services were recognized
And the scholars were, too
Great leadership, amazing experience, fantastic peers
Warm reception into the field, new friendships
For the scholars new horizons, endeavors and opportunities
The NAJIT torch lit, spreading light
on a cool afternoon in May

— Josué Carmona Fort Worth, Texas • 6/9/2007



Dear NAJIT,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for me to attend the annual NAJIT conference in Portland. It was an honor to be able to attend, and I enjoyed every minute of it! It was great to meet so many kind, friendly, and knowledgeable people, and to be able to put faces to the names that appear on the listserve. It would seem that this was a meeting of the "best of the best" in judiciary interpretation and translation.

The knowledge gained from the excellent sessions was valuable, and will be useful for years to come. Especially of interest to me was the session on left-right brain function; I am eager to explore this area further.

Thank you.
Shirley Nebel

NAJIT BUSINESS

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters And Translators

In Executive Session

Saturday May 19, 2007

Embassy Suites Downtown Portland, OR

1. The annual meeting was convened at 1:57 p.m. PDST by Chair Alexander Rainof. A quorum was present.
2. The Chair made his report.
3. The Treasurer made her report.
4. Reports were heard from the Advocacy, Membership and Publications Committees, the Certification Commission, the Elections and Nominations Committees and the TT Ensemble.
5. President Peter P. Lindquist reported on the work of the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation over the past year.
6. Nominations Committee Chair Susan Bilodeau presented candidates to the Board of Directors: Rosemary Dann, Maria Cristina de la Vega (in absentia), Isabel Framer and Roman Volsky (in absentia), and gave instructions for voting.
7. New business:
 - a. Member Aaron Ruby moved to adopt the “Draft Resolution Condemning and Deploring Torture” which had been presented to the membership for consideration in accordance with the NAJIT Bylaws. It was moved that vote on the Resolution be carried out by ballot and not by a “show of hands,” motion passed by a majority of the voting members present. The Elections Committee gave instructions for the voting process.
 - b. Members discussed statistics and accessibility of the Federal Certification and the NAJIT Certification Exams.
8. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. PDST and voting took place.

Laura Garcia-Hein
Secretary

Approved by the NAJIT Board of Directors, July 12, 2007.

NAJIT Board Elects Officers

The NAJIT board has elected the following officers for the coming year:

Isabel Framer, *Chair* Laura Garcia-Hein, *Treasurer*
Rosemary Dann, *Secretary*

Melinda González-Hibner, *Secretary*
Michael Piper, *Treasurer*
Alexander Raïnof, *Director*

Certification Commission

Rosemary Dann, *Chair*
Sebastian Aloom Esq., *Public Member*
Virginia K. Saltzman
Judith Kenigson-Kristy

SSTI News

The NAJIT Board has appointed to the following members to the SSTI board for the coming year, who have elected officers as indicated:

Peter Lindquist, *President*
Lois M. Feuerle, *Vice-President*

NAJIT Committees, Commissions and Projects 2007–2008 Appointments (Chairs)

Committees

Advocacy John Estill, <i>Acting Chair</i>	Nominations Susan Castellanos Bilodeau, <i>Chair</i>
Conference Lois M. Feuerle, <i>Chair</i>	Proteus Nancy Festinger, <i>editor-in-chief</i> Andrew Erickson, <i>assistant editor</i>
Elections Albert Bork & Joyce Y. Garcia, <i>Co-Chairs</i>	Website Judith Kenigson-Kristy & David Mintz, <i>Co-Chairs</i>
Membership Claudia Samulowitz, <i>Chair</i>	

Projects

Mentoring Michael Kagan, <i>Chair</i>	Transcription & Translation Liliana Gonzalez, <i>Chair</i>
Student Outreach Carlos Cerecedos, <i>Chair</i>	TT Ensemble Task Force Jeck-Jenard Navarrete, <i>Chair</i>
Position Papers Nancy Festinger, <i>Chair</i>	



TREASURER'S REPORT

NAJIT Annual Conference, May 19, 2007

In 2006 NAJIT enjoyed another financially successful year due to excellent profits from the annual conference in Houston combined with stable to slightly-increasing membership figures.

You may recall that at last year's annual meeting, I reported that 2005 was a somewhat unusual fiscal year. Due to some quirks in the timing of incoming dues, by the end of 2005 we had a larger than usual cash surplus to start off our 2006 activities.

As a result, for the first time in NAJIT's history, in 2006 we were able not only to allocate increased funds for committee and public relations activities but also to set aside a prudent amount for a "rainy-day fund" which was divided between an interest-bearing savings account (for immediate access in case of emergencies) and a certificate of deposit with a good rate of return. (See the Balance

Sheet for these figures.)

The chart comparing the 2006 Budget with actual Profit and Loss figures shows that for the most part we kept within the budget and continued to realize savings in many expense categories. Although the P&L seems to show a loss at year's end, please note that this was according to plan: the budget was based on supplementing income with a sizable portion (about \$22,000) of the 2005 surplus to provide increased allotments for outreach projects. As it turned out, we used only a small portion of the surplus. In short, we were able to increase allocations for worthy projects while still maintaining a comfortable surplus going forward into 2007. (NAJIT's net worth on 12/31/05, was about \$85,000; on 12/31/06 it was \$80,100.)

> continues opposite

	Jan - Dec 06	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Jan - Dec 05	\$ Change
INCOME					
1000 Membership	108,455.00	99,470.00	8,985.00	145,595.00	-37,140.00
1200 Advertising	1,130.00	1,480.00	-350.00	1,391.00	-261.00
1300 Publications	370.00	770.00	-400.00	50.00	320.00
1400 Conference	83,450.00	69,770.00	13,680.00	76,065.00	7,385.00
1760 Other rev-Mem list rental	710.00	600.00	110.00	710.00	190.00
1770 Other rev-Interest Income	32.49	595.00	-562.51	0.00	32.49
1800 Contribs recd for SSTI	1,265.00	4,200.00	-2,935.00	5,378.00	-4,113.00
TOTAL INCOME	195,412.49	176,885.00	18,527.49	229,189.00	-33,586.51
EXPENSE					
1810 SSTI Passthru Contribs	3,643.00	4,200.00	-557.00	4,801.00	-1,158.00
1815 SSTI Passthru Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,010.00	-2,010.00
1830 Contribs by NAJIT	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
1900 Professional Fees	78,451.00	77,110.00	1,341.00	69,028.74	9,422.26
1930 Administration	11,658.82	11,930.00	-271.18	10,801.85	856.97
1950 Service Charges	4,468.67	5,100.00	-631.33	4,175.05	293.62
1960 Gov't Fees	125.00	135.00	0.00	50.00	75.00
1975 Taxes-NY State Corp	250.00	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
1980 Website	8,334.40	8,580.00	-245.60	9,422.26	759.40
2000 Proteus	14,105.54	13,200.00	905.54	11,479.51	2,626.03
2020 Publications	4,593.40	3,000.00	1,593.40	1,256.89	3,336.51
3000 Conference	54,093.93	53,817.00	276.93	42,007.52	12,086.21
3400 Conference Sponsorship	2,164.39			0.00	2,164.39
4100 Volunteers	42.96	300.00	-257.04	274.73	-231.37
4200 Board	8,084.03	10,400.00	-2,315.97	8,442.40	-358.37
5000 Committees	3,242.06	2,880.00	362.06	1,518.14	1,723.92
6000 Dues & Subscriptions	956.92	675.00	281.92	450.00	506.92
7000 Public Relations	5,019.97	7,200.00	-2,180.03	3,651.00	1,368.97
9000 SSTI	4,008.99			652.95	3,356.04
Total Expense	203,243.08	198,777.00	4,466.08	173,819.27	29,423.81
NET INCOME	-7,830.59	-21,892.00	14,061.41	55,369.73	-63,010.32

ASSETS	Dec 31, 2006
CURRENT ASSETS	
Checking/Savings	
Bank of America Checking	38,766.93
Bank of America Savings	20,032.49
Total Checking/Savings	58,799.42
Other Current Assets	
Certificate of Deposit 21732456	10,000.00
Undeposited Funds	11,300.00
Total Other Current Assets	21,300.00
Total Current Assets	80,099.42
TOTAL ASSETS	80,099.42
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	113.27
Total Accounts Payable	113.27
Credit Cards	
VISA Credit Card	127.93
Total Credit Cards	127.93
Other Current Liabilities	
SSTI Contributions	2,440.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	2,440.00
Total Current Liabilities	2,681.20
Total Liabilities	2,681.20
Equity	
Opening Balanace Equity	70,067.57
Retained Earnings	15,356.24
Net Income	-8,005.59
Total Equity	77,418.22
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	80,099.42

TREASURERS REPORT *continued*

On the revenue side, membership rose somewhat in 2006 but not as much as we might have wished. I'd like to encourage everyone to make 2007 a banner year for membership growth. Remember, the more members we have, the more activities we can fund! Help NAJIT grow by contacting Claudia Samulowitz (Claudia@TheLanguageConnection.us), membership committee chair, for information and support in recruiting new members.

In terms of revenue, I must mention the success of the 2006 annual onference held in Houston, Texas. Apart from presenting a wonderful variety of educational sessions, this event generated excellent profits. Our thanks go out once again to the Houston conference committee.

Looking to the future, the 2007 budget provides funds for even greater expansion of NAJIT's outreach. More money has been designated for a website upgrade and increased public relations efforts, as well as for committees to purchase supplies and hold regular meetings via teleconference so that they can more effectively carry

out projects essential to NAJIT's mission of raising professional standards and educating public and private sector stakeholders. I encourage each of you to lend your wisdom, time and energy to a committee of your choice. Through ongoing advances in NAJIT's position papers, advocacy work, *Proteus* articles, website content and other committee projects, we have clearly demonstrated that when we work together we can project a powerful voice and presence in the field of legal interpretation and translation.

In conclusion, 2007 sees NAJIT in a good financial position to continue moving ahead with important advocacy efforts, educational events and support for the profession. Thank you for your generosity both in financial contributions and as volunteers carrying out association work.

As always, it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your Treasurer during the past year. ▲

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Kenigson Kristy, Treasurer.

Report of the Election Committee

NAJIT Election of Directors and Annual Meeting 28th Annual Conference

May 19, 2007 • Portland, Oregon

Election of Directors

Candidate	Votes Received
Rosemary Dann	166
Maria Cristina de la Vega	68
Isabel Framer	162
Roman Volsky	46
Write-in candidates:	
James Clark	1
Vania Haam	2
Cristina Helmerichs D.	2
Abby Li	2
Dagoberto Orrantia	1
Daniel Sherr	1

Submitted by the 2007 Elections Committee — May 19, 2007
Members: Joyce Y. Garcia, Co-Chair Georganne Weller and Cristina Helmerichs D.
Observers: Michael Piper and James Clark

Report on Ballots for Election of Directors

Invalid Ballots	Number Received
Ballots lacking signature on envelope	3
Ballots sent without envelope	2
Envelope with no ballot contained	1
Ballot containing votes for more than 2 candidates	1
Total Invalid Ballots	7
Total Ballots Counted	246

Resolution on Torture Report

Ballots Cast	Number Received
Yes	50
No	42
Abstain	1
Blank	1

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



NAJIT 29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 16-18, 2008

**Omni William Penn Hotel
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators invites proposals for its 29th Annual Conference. Proposals on all topics relevant to our profession are welcome. The final proposal deadline is **Friday, September 21, 2007.**

Please visit our website for the proposal form.

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING AND DEPLORING TORTURE

adopted by the membership of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators
at the 2007 NAJIT Annual Meeting, May 19, 2007 – Portland, Oregon

WHEREAS

the infliction of torture and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment is abhorrent to all civilized societies and has been condemned by national governments and international organizations, including the United Nations in its Declaration and Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

WHEREAS

interpreters and translators strive to facilitate communication in the service of humanity, to create understanding and respect between speakers of different languages, and to break down linguistic and cultural barriers in order to ensure equal rights to all regardless of language; and

WHEREAS,

the NAJIT Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities states in part: "The function of court interpreters and translators is to remove the language barrier to the extent possible, so that such persons' access to justice is the same as that of similarly situated English speakers for whom no such barrier exists. The degree of trust that is placed in court interpreters and the magnitude of their responsibility necessitate high, uniform ethical standards that will both guide and protect court interpreters in the course of their duties as well as uphold the standards of the profession as a whole."

WHEREAS

the American Translators Association, at its 47th Annual Conference in New Orleans adopted a resolution condemning and deploring torture in any form, anywhere;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

condemns and deplores torture in any form, anywhere;

explicitly defines knowing participation in, facilitation or countenancing of, cooperation with, or failure to report torture or other mental or physical abuse or degradation of any human being as unethical behavior that violates NAJIT's Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities;

requires that its members who become aware that torture has occurred, is occurring, or is intended, promptly report those facts to a person or persons capable of taking preventive or corrective action;

expects governments and other national and international entities to refrain from retribution or other punitive action against interpreters and translators when they refuse to participate in or cooperate with the torture, abuse, or degradation of any human being; and

urges schools and programs responsible for the education and training of interpreters and translators to include in their curricula training in ethical behavior and in internationally recognized codes of professional conduct.

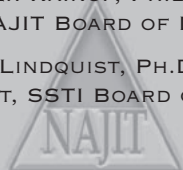
HONORS

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION BESTOW THE MIRTA VIDAL-ORRANTIA AWARD UPON:

DAVID MINTZ

FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION. GIVEN ON THIS 19TH DAY OF MAY OF 2007

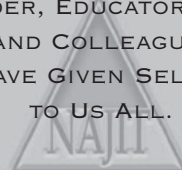
ALEXANDER RAÏNOF, PH.D.
CHAIR, NAJIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PETER P. LINDQUIST, PH.D.
PRESIDENT, SSTI BOARD OF DIRECTORS



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS HEREBY AWARDS LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO

DAGOBERTO ORRANTIA

IN PROFOUND GRATITUDE FOR YOUR ENDEAVORS OVER MANY YEARS ON BEHALF OF THE PROFESSION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION. AS LEADER, EDUCATOR, WRITER, AND COLLEAGUE, YOU HAVE GIVEN SELFLESSLY TO US ALL.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MIRTA VIDAL-ORRANTIA AWARD, 2007

It is never easy to compose an appropriate text for an occasion such as this without resorting to clichés. Yet one feels compelled to strive to come up with something better than “it is a great honor to receive this award,” because Mirta Vidal’s dedication, achievement and contributions to our profession were so extraordinary.

Mirta was one of those rare people who transcended ego. She came across as equanimous, calm and self-assured as she strove with unshakeable determination to improve the court interpreting profession, because her attention was fixed on what she was doing rather than on herself. Faced with health obstacles that would have made most people fold, she carried on with astounding courage and fortitude. Perhaps she understood that if you seriously intend to do something, the time to get busy and do it is now. The future may be too late.

A magnificent interpreter, beloved friend and colleague, and indefatigable worker on behalf of our profession, Mirta Vidal set an example that is unsurpassed. To receive an award that bears her name is, well, a great honor indeed. I will strive to deserve it.

David Mintz

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CALL FOR COMMITTEE & SPECIAL PROJECT MEMBERS

NAJIT needs the dedicated help of its members to fill a variety of committee seats and position paper teams that are currently available. The Board of Directors warmly invites and encourages members to apply for these coveted committee assignments. To apply, just submit a "Statement of Interest" giving your reasons for wishing to serve and describing the strengths you would bring to the committee on which you wish to serve, together with your résumé.

You may email your information to the Executive Director at: executivedirector@najit.org. Those who are interested in working on a position paper team may email their information to: proteus@najit.org. First consideration will be given to applications received by July 12, 2007.

The following committees are seeking additional members (See committee descriptions on NAJIT website):

BY LAWS AND GOVERNANCE

This committee is currently vacant and the NAJIT Board is seeking a diverse group of members that would include but is not limited to individuals with experience and skills in parliamentary procedures and legal expertise.

CONFERENCE

The committee Chair is seeking members including members living in the Pittsburgh area to serve on the conference committee.

ELECTIONS

The Co-Chairs of the committee are seeking one more member to serve on the Elections committee.

MEMBERSHIP

This committee is seeking more members.

NOMINATIONS

The committee Chair is seeking one additional member to serve on the Nominations Committee.

TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION PROJECT

The project Chair is seeking additional diverse group of members such as: researchers, TT practitioners, trainers, expert witnesses and/or consultants, legal scholars, and linguists.

The Position Paper Chair is seeking teams and needs writers who can work on a short deadline for the following papers:

1. Best Practices for Working with Attorneys
2. Confidentiality and Privileged Information
3. Spanish and Dialects
4. Interpreter Credentialing Explained

Send email to: proteus@najit.org expressing interest and availability to draft texts by Sept. 30, 2007.

SSTI COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS:

EDUCATION

This committee is currently vacant and the SSTI Board is currently seeking a diverse group of members that would include but are not limited to individuals with experience in T&I training, higher education and linguistics.

PUBLICATIONS

This committee is currently vacant and the SSTI Board is currently seeking members.

MENTORING

The Mentoring Project Chair is seeking more members.

STUDENT OUTREACH

The Student Outreach Chair is seeking more members.

You may email your information to Melinda González-Hibner at: intospanish@mindspring.com

*The art of conversation is the art of hearing
as well as of being heard.*

— William Hazlitt

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

INITIATION TO NAJIT

T. Andris (Andy) Ozols

The lead-in to the Portland conference was quite a challenge. Being new to the organization, not having attended a past conference and not being an interpreter or translator, I had much to learn and do in three and a half months.

For those of you who have planned large events, you know how time-consuming it can be to prepare for every conceivable scenario. Fortunately, Lois Feuerle, the conference co-chair, had everything under control. Upon arrival two days prior to the conference, I had my first opportunity to physically see the hotel and the areas NAJIT was to utilize. After my tour, I began to track down the myriad boxes sent to the hotel and the conference co-chair's home. Everything was accounted for and as I set out to organize the materials, help started to arrive in the form of the NAJIT Board of Directors (and some spouses), each of whom was eager to offer support services.

The fun started when we began to unpack the boxes, organize the welcome bag components and stuff 300 bags with session handouts, the conference program guide, Portland visitor information, the latest issue of *Proteus*, the most recent position paper and an assortment of goodies, including reminders of free and fresh breakfasts, and the hotel manager's free happy hour.

By the time the pre-conference workshops began on Friday, the first potential problem arose. Conference registrations (300+) had exceeded the hotel's room capacity (260) for both the Friday dinner/dance and the Saturday luncheon, but the hotel's catering and sales departments quickly developed a solution.

In the meantime, I began meeting scores of members who were arriving for the conference. I must say, what a terrific, friendly and fun group you all turned out to be. Everyone welcomed me with open arms and offered their help with anything I might need — and that included the twelve vendors who arrived on Friday to set up their exhibit tables. Volunteers seemed to come out of the woodwork to help with the registration table, move chairs and tables around, assist with audio/visual set-ups, collaborate with the elections committee and corral members to the annual meeting in order to establish and retain a quorum.

I had the pleasure and honor of meeting a distinguished group of session presenters, the keynote speaker (Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, The Honorable Paul De Muniz), committee members and committee chairs, the SSTI board, and of course, members from all over the country. This gave me a chance to engage in discussions about NAJIT, the profession of interpreting and translating, and how NAJIT was helping people prepare for certification testing, earn continuing education credits, advance

their careers, and offering the opportunity for people to mingle and network with colleagues.

While I was too busy during the conference to sit in on full sessions, I did listen in on a few and can say that the attendees got their money's worth. Each session had abundant information and afforded participants the opportunity for give-and-take exchanges with the session leaders. The only major complaint I heard was about something that no one had any control over: one of the first morning session speakers on Saturday was a 'no-show' who had not notified us in advance of the absence. That caused a ripple effect of overcrowding in other sessions scheduled for the same time slot, and some people had to stand. But all returned to normal once that time slot passed and attendees fanned out to the next round of sessions.

Based on the feedback from the members and the board of directors, the conference was a successful learning experience and an opportunity to make and renew friendships. I had a chance to meet the people I work for and to break bread with NAJIT's leadership, who are real people with an undying devotion to the profession in general and NAJIT in particular. I feel fortunate to have such a dedicated and friendly group to work with.

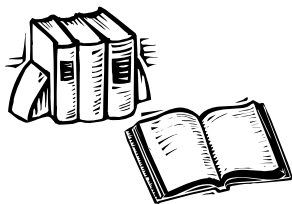
On Monday, the NAJIT board of directors met all day for their annual in-person meeting. The newest elected board member, Rosemary W.

Dann, and the re-elected Isabel Framer joined the board in choosing new officers for the next year's term. Alexander Raïnof declined to run again as chair of the board for another term, and nominated Isabel Framer to be NAJIT's chair for the next year, which the board endorsed. He "put his money where his mouth is" and ensured that the board would benefit from a change of leadership with fresh ideas and new energy. I for one was very impressed by his action.

By the time the board meeting concluded on Monday, all but a small handful of conference attendees had departed. I had a last opportunity to have dinner with the board and prepare myself for the exit reconciliation with the hotel. The following day, I packed up the leftovers, sent them back to Seattle and met with the hotel staff. The meeting with our hotel contact couldn't have gone any smoother. Aside from a few minor adjustments, everything turned out as expected.

As I prepared to return to Los Angeles, I told myself that the next conference in Pittsburgh would be here before I knew it — but I had made so many new friends and found myself in the company of so many dedicated and interesting people that I didn't want it to end. End it must, however, so thanks to all and see you next time. ▲





Book Review

Joanna Dezio

INTERPRETATION: Techniques and Exercises

James Nolan

Series: Professional Interpreting in the Real World

Multilingual Matters Ltd. (Clevedon, Buffalo, Toronto, 2005)

320 pages

ISBN: 1-85359-791-0 (hbk)

ISBN: 1-85359-791-2 (pbk)

Few books attempt to uncover the mysteries of interpreting and most of these confuse as much or more than they elucidate. In *Interpretation: Techniques and Exercises*, James Nolan, a United Nations interpreter of long duration and well-respected teacher of interpretation and translation, puts his experience into practical form, ranging in his coverage of the art from basic definitions to sophisticated solutions for the advanced practitioner.

Having previously reviewed Roderick Jones's *Conference Interpreting Explained* (Series: Translation Practices Explained) for this publication, I was immediately aware of the differences between Nolan's treatment and that of Jones. In the former review, I recommended Jones's book for teaching purposes, and still do. But just at the time when I was began reviewing Nolan's book, I was asked by New York University to give a one-on-one, intensive, out-of-semester course in French-English interpreting. Deciding on materials for the course was immediately obvious: I would put Mr. Nolan's book to the test immediately. Thus, in this review, I write as someone who has both read the work in question for review purposes and put it to use for pedagogical purposes. (I should add for clarity that Mr. Nolan and I are occasional colleagues in evaluating potential court interpreters.)

Mr. Nolan takes nothing for granted in the early section of his book, and this is a gift to beginners. Basic questions about the profession are clearly answered. He follows this introduction with two chapters which include both good advice on how to be at the top of one's game (get enough sleep and exercise) and fine practical exercises which test the interpreter's ability to complete phrases with the appropriate idiomatic expression or else quickly identify a need for more control of context and phrasing. Later chapters include tips on simplifying syntax as one moves through the interpretation and learning in complex situations to make hard choices when, for example, a point must be omitted in the interests of time or when there is simply too much information to grasp. Nolan's treatment of simplification and omission do indeed help an interpreter to be self-forgiving if needing to axe an embedded detail or two. Obviously, this reference is to conference interpreting. In the courtroom, one has no such luxury and the interpreter must ask for any missed material to be repeated. Nolan also gives fair warning to the interpreter confronted by a subordinate conjunction:

hold off, don't translate it for the moment, and begin with the rest of the clause. The conjunction may be unnecessary in the long run and jumping in with it may lead to mistranslation (*since* is a slippery word; *if* is not much better).

Nolan's chapters on word clusters and adverbial clauses are also quite helpful. His examples are excellent and he gives the student interpreter cogent expressions to translate, always with great attention to context. I enjoyed teaching with his chapter on untranslatability, mainly because it provided numerous opportunities for students to participate because the work asks more questions than it answers, requiring the student to come up with solutions. We've all had the experience of wondering, "Now what am I supposed to do with THAT?" There are no answers to untranslatables. Only ingenuity and resourcefulness, essential qualities to develop, will get us out of tight spots. And isn't that why we never tire of our profession?

The problem of figures of speech is dealt with in an extended chapter. Again, the examples are well chosen. Here the student interpreter can get to work on finding equivalents for figures of speech, even where no true equivalents exist. The reader is led to reflect on the differences between metaphoric and literal language and clever suggestions — such as the little expression "to the effect that ..." which can work wonders — help one discover workable solutions. This chapter invites the student interpreter to reflect upon subtle differences of feeling and to attempt to articulate them. For example, La Rochefoucauld's "L'esprit est toujours la dupe du coeur" is juxtaposed to Pascal's "Le coeur a ses raisons que la raison ne connaît pas," two seemingly similar statements whose stark differences emerge the more one reflects upon them. Nolan clearly implies that the ongoing work of the interpreter involves just this type of reflection.

A chapter entitled "A Policy Address" is extremely helpful because it encompasses challenging expressions encountered in many circumstances, not merely political ones as in the example. Once again, the examples and their contexts are thoughtfully chosen. "A Policy Address" analyzes major portions of a U.N. address by Canadian Foreign Minister André Ouellet. (A smaller part of the same speech is examined in an earlier chapter in which student interpreters are asked to supply missing words, as a sense expectation exercise. This is an ingenious method for testing recognition of complete phrases in context, rather than individual words.)

A structural problem arises, however, when the same passages are used more than once. With "A Policy Address" no explanation is offered for its reappearance — an insignificant lapse because the text serves its dual purpose very well. But there are many other repetitions of text for no readily apparent reason. Excerpts in Chapter 7 ("Figures of Speech") from a 1995 speech by Hillary Clinton at the U.N. World Conference on Women in Beijing are repeated in Chapter 9 ("Diction/Register") without sufficient illustration of different principles that might warrant its being used on two occasions. Such examples throughout the book point to inattentive editing.

Another editing problem is that of providing lists of words and phrases that are so exhaustive that the point is lost and the

> continues opposite

BOOK REVIEW *continued*

reader is hard pressed to sift through material lacking an organizing principle. For example, remembering a word grouping I had found quite effective for illustrating subtlety of shades of meaning (“to elaborate on, to embellish, to build up, to embroider, to gild”), I lost my way and spent quite some time trying to relocate it in the absence of any logic to the lists. Though many of the examples illustrate important points, others could be cut. And surely the lists could have been organized in a logical system. From a teaching point of view, the lack of progression or logic in the lists makes valuable individual examples get drowned in unnecessary profusion. Another risk is that the student will be discouraged by the onslaught. The fact that many expressions appear in more than one section gives the book a “stuffed” feeling. Some chapters feel overwrought and overlong.

This is not to take away from the book as a valuable teaching tool, which it most certainly is. The wise approach, as Nolan himself suggests, is to isolate chapters and use them as needed, with the goal of eventually going through all of them. Trying to cover the contents all at once would be like reading a collection of essays in which the author repeats certain stories, but each essay is reprinted as when originally published. This work should indeed be covered in its entirety, because every chapter addresses issues important to the interpreter. However, my instincts as a professor tell me that this ought probably to take more than one semester. This text could easily be used over two semesters and the repetitive aspect would be offset by a slower, more concentrated pace.

Another problem is the random selection of French texts interspersed with Spanish texts. Anyone who does not work in both French and Spanish would have to ignore much of the material, while at times missing the point, and for those who speak neither, the bulk of the material would be lost. A better division of the two major languages treated would have been helpful. It will be the task of another writer to address the issues inherent in interpreting other languages, a fact which reminds us of the challenges of training interpreters in the diversity of languages currently needed in the marketplace.

This work has so many fine qualities that these minor drawbacks do not overshadow them. The sustained policy address, for example, coming as it does towards the end of the book, serves an excellent purpose: it helps integrate what one has been learning piecemeal into a sustained text. Where the reader is invited earlier in the book to judge the solutions presented, this effort becomes intensified in the later chapters, when the reader is challenged more and more to come up with alternatives, a habit which must become second nature to the interpreter (the work itself is one of continual evolution). The examples toward the end become more subtle and require ever greater literacy.

I will note in passing the chapters on Latinisms, note-taking and diction/register. Especially with respect to the law, Latinisms in English may be rendered into French with a French expression rather than a Latin one, so careful attention and research are the watchwords. As to note-taking, Nolan’s suggestions are definitely good, but, as he comments, this is a job everyone must do on his own. There is no substitute for notes that make sense to the

individual practitioner. As to diction and register, I would have preferred more interesting examples, but this is purely a personal opinion. We all have our pet examples of violation of register, up or down. Getting the register right is a skill that is acquired slowly.

Interpreters always read the writings of other interpreters with their own lessons in mind. These are bound to differ from person to person, sometimes merely in specificity of example, but sometimes in concept and principle. In the main, I found myself in agreement with Mr. Nolan, but sometimes I differed on how far to carry a concept or principle. For example, he states that the interpreter must have thorough mastery of the target language and a very good passive understanding of the source language. My opinion is that greater mastery is required of the source language than what he seems to suggest. Even if one cannot produce source language speech perfectly, it is fundamental to feel on extremely firm footing and have no doubt about what the speaker is expressing, insofar as humanly possible— but then, whoever said an interpreter was merely human? Inadequate command of the source language is a big problem among interpreters today who are often insufficiently bilingual. Being sufficiently bilingual, as interpreters know, is still only step number one to being an effective professional. We also have the phenomenon of the interpreter who swears that it is easier to interpret from the native language (usually the target language) into the second language because he or she is sure of every sigh in the mother tongue, but less sure of the second language (usually the source language).

As to Mr. Nolan’s suggestions to specialize, that would be ideal for our clients but impractical for interpreters since interpreting assignments are so varied and content is so seldom repeated that one cannot afford to be exclusive. Perhaps specializing in thematic areas would be a more practical suggestion. But these are mere quibbling points.

I will certainly use *Interpretation: Techniques and Exercises* again and again in my teaching. In retrospect, I see that Roderick Jones’s *Conference Interpreting Explained* is good for the beginner levels. Nolan’s book more adequately covers the advanced stages while remaining accessible to the beginner as well. The exercises give the instructor much more workable material. Nolan is shorter on theory than Jones, but much more helpful with concrete advice and examples. He stands for the theory that interpreting is learned by doing and doing and doing.

Finally, all interpreters have rules of thumb which they develop through years of experience, for we learn as long as we practice, and obsess over turns of phrase even long thereafter. We are, it may be said, the masters of the ongoing epiphany. Mr. Nolan’s appreciation of the interpreter’s great love affair with language informs his book throughout and will make it a valuable source for interpreters and teachers of interpreting for many years to come. ▲

[The author holds a PhD in French literature and is a French and Italian conference interpreter as well as Visiting Specialist in Interpretation and Translation at Montclair State University and an associate professor of foreign languages at NYU.]

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Report on Access to Justice for Asian Pacific Americans

In May, 2007 the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association issued a Report for Action on Increasing Access to Justice for Limited English Proficient Asian Pacific Americans (*see opposite page*). To download full text of report, go to: www.napaba.org

NAPABA is one of NAJIT's recent partners.

New Director of National Virtual Translation Center

Jeff Robinson from Ft. Meade has been named the new Director of the NVTC, to take over from Everette Jordan in August although he will begin working on July 2, 2007. He has close to 25 years of government service as a linguist, analyst, and manager. His email address: jrobinson@nvtc.gov. His contact information: Director, National Virtual Translation Center, 935 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite NVTC 200, Washington, DC 20535. Tel: 202-962-9420

Framer Chosen for Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel

Governor Ted Strickland appointed a second group of at-large members to share the workload with a first panel of at-large members of his Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendations Panel (OJARP). New At-Large Members of the Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendations Panel, for the term commencing June 6, 2007 are: James Ray, Chair; Members: Janica Pierce, John Kulewicz, Betty Davis, and Isabel Framer. All at-large panel members are appointed by the governor for renewable two-year terms. The governor designates one member as the panel chair, who leads the panel's operations to fill each vacancy. Panel members serve without compensation, include lawyers and non-lawyers and reflect Ohio's diverse citizenry. The governor has instructed the panels to consider all factors in reviewing and selecting potential appointees, but, in particular the panels evaluates the applicant's background and ability to serve fairly and effectively; the applicant's contribution to bringing diverse perspectives to Ohio's judiciary; and the likelihood that the applicant could and would effectively campaign to retain the seat if appointed to the bench.

Translating Legalese into English

It took four years for the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to be revised, the first attempted rewriting in the 70 years of their existence. The Judicial Conference and the Supreme Court have approved the rewritten rules. Congress may enact legislation to reject, modify or defer the changes, but if not, the new rules will become law on December 1, 2007.

Interpreters can quickly see the wisdom of the revisions. An example, as quoted in *The Third Branch, June 2007*:

Rule 8(e)(2): When two or more statements are made in the alternative and one of them if made independently would be sufficient, the pleading is not made insufficient by the insufficiency of one or more of the alternative statements.

Revision: If a party makes alternative statements, the pleading is sufficient if any one of them is sufficient.

Interpreters in Iraq

In the March 26, 2007 issue of the *New Yorker* a lengthy piece by George Packer, titled "Betrayed," examined the predicament of several Iraqi interpreters who worked with the American forces for several years but whose security could not be assured in an ever-more volatile environment. Some interpreters reluctantly chose exile. The article and an interview with one of the interpreters can be found on line, at www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/03/26/070326fa_fact_packer

On June 15, President Bush signed a bill temporarily permitting up to 500 translators or interpreters who served a year or more in Iraq to enter the U.S. as immigrants. There was a ten-year backlog of interpreters seeking entry into the U.S. www.metimes.com/storyview.php?StoryID=20070618-051225-8790r

On July 16, NAJIT's Advocacy Committee wrote a letter to the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security requesting that these asylum cases be expedited.

Slinging the Slang

In William Safire's April 29, 2007 "On Language" column in the *NY Times Sunday* magazine, three different senses of the colloquial term "fall guy" are parsed: (1) an innocent scapegoat, whipping boy or patsy, meekly absorbing the blame; (2) a dupe, pushover, sucker easily victimized; (3) a confederate taking the rap for others out of fear or in expectation of reward. (Miraculously, a concise Spanish expression appears to cover all three senses: "the guy who pays for the duck" or *el que paga el pato*.)

Interpreters in the Major Leagues

Major baseball teams are on the lookout for talent from Japan, and now some of these sought-after ballplayers have provisions for a full-time interpreter written into their contracts. As reported in the *Boston Globe*, two full-time interpreters have been hired by the Yankees, the Boston Red Sox and the Seattle Mariners respectively. Each team has two Japanese players who use interpreters to communicate with their coaches, teammates and the news media. Of course, these interpreters need to know baseball slang. A pitcher who "paints the black" is one who aims for the corners of the plate.

Bilingualism Studies: Can Eyes "Hear" Language?

An article in the journal *Science* [*Science* 25 May 2007:Vol. 316, no. 5828, p. 1159] reports an experiment in language recognition with infants from monolingual and bilingual households. Research used videotapes of English and French language speakers with the sound turned off, and results showed that infants can distinguish between the languages just by observing facial expressions, lip, cheek and head movements. Infants are most sensitive to visual cues from 4 to 6 months and appear to lose that sensitivity at 8 months. "Visual information about speech may play a more critical role [in language learning] than previously anticipated," said one of the researchers. The research lab site can be found at: <http://infantstudies.psych.ubc.ca/research.html>.

Recommendations by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

1. States should mandate the appointment of interpreters for Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals in all court and administrative proceedings.
2. State Legislatures, State Supreme Courts, State and Federal Agencies, and other entities responsible for improving judicial proceedings and access to justice should study the problem of the lack of qualified interpreters for judicial proceedings and develop plans to address any shortages.
3. States should create a court interpreting program to oversee the use of interpreters in the court system.
4. State legislatures, State Supreme Courts, state and federal agencies, and other entities responsible for improving judicial proceedings and access to justice need to work to increase the number of qualified Asian Pacific American (APA) interpreters.
- 5.. Interpreter compensation should be increased to reflect the essential role interpreters play in the American judicial system.
6. Entities should be created by states to oversee the use of interpreters for LEP individuals in court.
7. Colleges and universities around the country should create more court interpreting degree and certification programs.
8. States should make use of telephonic interpreting in efforts to increase access to justice, but only after extensive efforts to increase in-person court interpreting.
9. Community groups, advocacy organizations, and Legal Aid organizations should work together to create more legal clinics.
10. Multilingual hotlines should be created to increase linguistically accessible legal services.
11. Community groups, advocacy organizations, and Legal Aid organizations should reach out to their respective LEP communities.
12. Community groups, advocacy organizations, and Legal Aid organizations should work together to educate LEP APA Community members on legal issues in the LEP individuals' principal language.
13. Community groups, advocacy organizations, and Legal Aid organizations should look for funding resources to assist persons with limited English proficiency.
14. Legal Services programs need to more aggressively and effectively increase access for APAs with limited English proficiency.
15. The American Bar Association (ABA), State Bar Associations, and other local bar associations should play an important role in ensuring those with LEP have full access to justice.
16. The Federal Government should play a more significant role in the effort to increase access for LEP individuals.
17. APA advocacy groups should continue to help increase access to justice.

[See full details of recommendations at www.napaba.org]

CALENDAR

Sept. 14 -16, 2007, Nashville, TN. Fifth Annual Conference of Tennessee Assn. of Professional Interpreters and Translators (TAPIT) co-sponsored by NAJIT. Venue: Belmont University. Early-bird registration before Aug 24. See: www.tapit.org or www.najit.org for details.

Oct. 1-3, 2007, Moscow, Russia. "The Theory of Translation and Interpreting Today" by the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting at Lomonosov MSU. Participants to discuss a wide range of topical issues related to the modern theory of translation and interpreting. Working languages: Russian, English, German and French. See: www.najit.org for details.

Oct. 5-7, San Francisco, CA. 5th Annual Conference of the California Federation of Interpreters (CFI). See: www.cfinevents.org for details.

Oct. 6-8, 2007, Newport Beach, CA. Annual Conference of the California Court Interpreters Association (CCIA). See: www.ccia.org for details.

Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2007, San Francisco, CA. 48th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association (ATA). See: www.atanet.org for details.

Nov. 7-11, 2007, Dallas, TX. 30th Annual Conference of American Literary Translators Association (ALTA). See: www.literarytranslators.org for details.

NAJIT offers this calendar as a service to its members. No endorsement of courses or events offered by other organizations is implied.

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