

Teaching The Intricacies Of Legal Translation



Javier F. Becerra

LEGAL TRANSLATION, A UNIQUE DISCIPLINE

There can be no doubt that the field of legal translation encompasses its own particular body of knowledge separate from that of other areas; arguably, it is an art whose mastery presents the more daunting challenge. Translation in other fields almost always has a common point of reference or at least identifiable objects. In medicine, for instance, a “Caesarean section procedure” is an “*operación cesárea*” in Spanish, and both involve an alternative way of giving birth to a child. This is often not the case with legal translations, where separate systems may not have shared a common past, and even if they had, have now evolved new doctrines that have no equivalent in other systems.

Law is a strange animal that does not fit the traditional schemes of most human knowledge. It is simply a set of rules governing the behavior of a society. Over the course of time, each country (and in some cases, each state or region) has developed its own concepts and procedures of law and justice, whether they are based on one of the classical legal systems, such as Roman Law, Civil Law and Common Law, or some other system.

For example, the uniquely Mexican legal concept of “*juicio de amparo*”, which is an extensive, separate body of Mexican law that affords a legal action against the government for violation of constitutional rights, may not have an equivalent in other legal systems. Likewise, the concept of “consideration” which means that each party must give up something, essential for the execution of a contract under United States law, does not exist as a legal requirement under Mexican law.

THE EVOLUTION OF A LEGAL SYSTEM

In the past, the invasion of one country by another has often resulted in the imposition of the conqueror’s legal system on the vanquished. Usually the new legal system does not entirely displace the local system, but instead intermingles and adopts parts of the latter. The customs and traditions of a society are not easy things to tame, and often seep into the framework of the new legal system.

Thus, when the Roman Empire invaded what is today France and Spain, Roman Law became the rule of the land. In the Middle Ages, Spain was invaded by the Arabs, and Islamic Law became a part of Spanish Law. In turn, Spain discovered the American continents, and Spanish Law became the dominant legal system, but always permeated with elements of local law and custom. When the Latin American countries individually proclaimed their independence from Spain, they maintained the core Spanish Law structure, but also studied other legal systems to personalize and construct their own law for their own reality. In the case of newly-independent Mexico, for example, the leaders borrowed heavily from the United States Constitution and the French Revolution's principles of democracy and individual liberties.

As an individual legal system evolves, words and phrases are taken from common parlance, and over time are given specific technical meanings by legislators, judges and lawyers, from which whole bodies of law and doctrine can sprout. Moreover, the system develops its own legal principles, institutions and procedures, both creating new terminology and adapting common language to describe them. These words, and the concepts they embody, may have equivalents in other legal systems, or may be novel ones unique to their own system, born from the system's own history and circumstance.

MODERN CONTEXT OF LEGAL TRANSLATION

Historically, the differences among legal systems would not affect the functioning of each set of rules, as long as the societies remained independent from one another. The geographical application of each set of rules was circumscribed by the territorial boundaries of the community. As a result, each legal system, with its own rules and enforcement procedures, could coexist with other legal systems, despite the fact that they may have had little in common.

Today, however, given the enormous advances in transportation and communication technologies, communities are no longer isolated by vast oceans, high mountains or great distances. With new technologies, international trade is booming, forcing previously independent and alien legal systems to somehow become more compatible. The North American Free Trade Agreement and the European Union are two examples of the movement to interconnect disparate legal systems. Nevertheless, the differences among legal systems are far more pronounced than their commonalities, and it ultimately falls on the legal translator to explain these differences while at the same time working in multiple languages.

In sum, the translator who attempts to bridge the law must not only confront different languages and ways of expression, but also whole new worlds of intricacy, as complex as each legal system, which increases the difficulty of his or her work by many orders of magnitude. For these reasons, legal translators must not only be proficient in the languages in which they work, but also must have a high degree of familiarity with the legal systems of the countries where these languages are spoken.

THREE CATEGORIES

The translation of a legal concept will fit into one of three categories. In the first category, a concept may have a nearly identical equivalent in the target language, whether or not the words in the two languages are similar to each other, such as these: "*homicidio*/ homicide, murder," "*robo*/ theft," "*contrato*/ contract, agreement," "*quiebra*/ bankruptcy," "*matrimonio*/ matrimony, marriage," "*divorcio*/ divorce," "*sociedad anónima*/ corporation," etc.

In the second category, a legal concept may have no easily identifiable equivalent, but with a little research, one can find a concept meaning roughly the same, such as "*daños y perjuicios*/ compensatory damages and loss of anticipated profits," "*daños morales*/ non-pecuniary damages," "*responsabilidad objetiva*/ strict liability," "*subordinación*/ control (by an employer over an employee)," etc.

The third category comprises legal concepts with no near or rough equivalent in the target system. For example, the Mexican legal concepts of "*juicio de amparo*," as described above, and "*ejido*" (village lands communally held in the traditional system of land tenure that combines communal ownership with individual use), have no equivalent under the United States legal system and would require explanation to the degree necessary to the particular context.

The translator, when selecting the target language's terms, must be especially careful when using second and third category words in order to avoid rendering a misleading or distorted message. In fact, the translator must exercise judgment in word choice much akin to the legal judgment used by a lawyer. He or she must be sure that the recipient of the message understands the concept in the source language to the extent pertinent to the context.

FALSE COGNATES

A common error by translators unschooled in legal translation is to fall into the ever-present trap of false cognates. These traps can be innocuous, and merely cause the recipient to misunderstand the intended communication. For example, in Mexico the word “*liquidación*” used in an employment situation means “final severance payment for an employee fired without cause.” If translated literally as “liquidation,” the message may evoke the image of the summary execution of an ill-fated employee.

Another example is the Spanish word “*adjudicación*,” which does not mean “adjudication” in English, as in a court ruling or judgment, but rather the “court-ordered transfer of secured property to a creditor upon the debtor’s default in payment.”

Or the error can be more profound, as when the English word “material” is translated literally into Spanish. Consider the phrase “a material breach of this agreement will cause the breaching party to pay liquidated damages in the amount of US\$1,000,000.00.” Although under United States law the word “material” represents a well-known legal concept meaning “important” or “substantial,” the Spanish word “*material*” means only something physical, related to a body of matter. Therefore, when the word is incorrectly translated into Spanish in conjunction with the word “breach,” the translator has created a provision ripe for litigation. After all, do we know what a “bodily breach” is? In this example, the false cognate could cost the client significant time and money, should the client have to litigate the meaning of the provision, not to mention the US\$1,000,000.00 to which he or she might have otherwise been entitled, had the provision been clear.

Finally, due to cultural differences, there are words, which, when used in the target language, impart a different message from the one intended to be conveyed. For example, the word “dispute,” which is a staple of United States legal jargon, when translated as “*disputa*” in Mexico evokes visions, not of a legal conflict, but of a nasty quarrel with one’s family. Similarly, the word “reputation,” as used in the phrase “he has a solid reputation in the community,” when translated as “*reputación*,” unavoidably makes one think of “*mala reputación*” or bad reputation, since the word “*reputación*” is only used in this context in Mexico. While in other Spanish-speaking countries the word “*reputación*” may or may not be used both positively and negatively as it is in the United States, cultural usages in Mexico have narrowed it to mean only the negative.

THE TEACHING OF LEGAL TRANSLATION

Prerequisites needed by students

In any translation class, the starting point for students is a basic proficiency in the languages in which they are to work. Obviously, before progressing to a specialization such as legal translation, students must already have an advanced command of the languages involved. Beyond this fundamental prerequisite, any exposure to legal training or legal concepts is tremendously helpful. Law students and lawyers doing international work are likely to benefit from the class, and at the same time contribute their insight and experience to the rest of the group. Prior knowledge of the legal systems of their own countries on the part of the students will serve not only as an aid to further learning about these legal systems, but also as a platform for researching identical or similar concepts of the legal system of the country where the target language is spoken.

Of course, the ideal legal translator would be one who has studied the law and become a lawyer in all of the countries in which he or she is translating. Although this ideal situation is not realistic, the message is that legal translation is an extraordinarily complex discipline, one that requires the translator to spend a lifetime learning and honing the craft.

Structure of the course

Assuming these two minimum criteria for teaching a legal translation course—general proficiency in the languages involved and exposure to legal concepts in general—the most effective approach is a combination of broad-based instruction on the legal systems involved, along with a workshop environment in which large numbers of actual typical legal documents are translated. Naturally, if students are interested only in certain areas of law, the course can be fine-tuned to expose them to terminology and legal concepts exclusively in those areas, rather than to a smattering of such diverse areas as criminal law, environmental law, employment law, intellectual property law, constitutional law, rules of procedure, etc. In the absence of a specialized study program, many students will be primarily interested in corporate law and international business transactions, since these fields yield a significant amount of work for professional translators and attorneys. Corporate law also constitutes a hub connecting many other legal specialties. The practice of corporate law seeks to achieve the goals of the client, who wishes to conduct his business in accordance with commercial, environmental, employment law, etc., in hopes of avoiding any possible litigation.

Ultimately, the scope of a legal translation course can be narrowed only so far. There is no escaping the law’s diversity, which, by the way, is what also makes it much more difficult to translate than, for example, electrical engineering or pediatric

medicine. A legal translator will encounter electrical engineering terms in a contract between an airplane manufacturer who is contracting the services of an instruments manufacturer, but an electrical engineer probably will never have to explain the ins and outs of eminent domain or adverse possession to a foreign colleague.

Teaching approach

The legal translation course must provide: (1) general comparative legal training, and (2) extensive experience on how to translate legal documents and terminology. One approach is to divide the course based on a series of typical legal documents, documents that the translator is likely to see time and time again in practice. For example, if the course is to focus on corporate law, a series of corporate documents, such as articles of incorporation, bylaws, a lease agreement, an employment agreement, and other types of contracts could be provided to the class.

Generally, a translation course should not endeavor to study more than two legal systems at a time, since with each added language and legal system, the complexity and difficulty of the class expand geometrically. Human frailties and time limits work against anything but superficial learning when more than two legal systems are involved. If this paper has stressed one point, it is that the art of legal translation, along with the practice of law, does not lend itself to superficiality.

One of the most effective tools for learning is trial and error, especially when the translator believes that he or she has a mastery over the languages. Allowing the translator to attempt the legal translation first, to then reveal the errors of the translation, serves two purposes: it both humbles the translator and demonstrates that legal translations must be done with a high level of care. Further, if we are open-minded, we tend to remember better those things we thought were right but were shown to be wrong.

Before the students attempt a translation, the instructor should give a brief introduction explaining some of the overall legal concepts that exist in the two systems as they relate to the document. Then, after the students have completed the translation, the class as a whole should go through the document. The instructor should call on students to share their versions of individual paragraphs. As each legal concept appears, the students and the instructor can give their versions, and class discussion can focus on those legal concepts that are the most problematic. In this way, the experience of each of the individual students is combined with the experience of the instructor, enriching the learning experience for all.

In addition, the course should not only provide experience for the students translating from the foreign language to their native language, but should also include some translations in reverse, a task that is substantially more difficult. This exercise is often very revealing because the students suddenly see how imprecise their work in the foreign language is, as compared to that of a native writer.

The combination of classroom and workshop has the advantage of both teaching the core substantive concepts that underlie the translations, while also exposing the translator to the way sentences are constructed and how terminology is employed in both of the language/legal systems. Composing sentences and using terminology correctly in any language are skills that very difficult to teach, and that are only acquired from experience. The heavy doses of actual translation work in this model are intended to speed the student along in acquiring this experience.

CONCLUSION

Since legal systems and concepts evolve over time, each system has its own body of doctrines, institutions, and procedures that vary dramatically from one another, and that make legal translations immensely challenging. Add to this the fact that the practice of law itself encompasses virtually every other discipline, since a contract or business venture can involve many other concepts from the fields of engineering, medicine and science, for example, as well as legal ones. Finally, throw into the mix a different language and a different culture, and the true complexity of legal translation emerges.

To overcome these diverse obstacles, translators must study the legal concepts that make up the systems between which they translate, as well as gain practical experience learning how the terminology is employed in the real world. One effective method for teaching these elusive skills is to use a combination approach that provides both traditional comparative law training with intensive workshop experience in translating the types of documents that students will encounter in their work. This maximizes the students' experience, focuses the class on useful examples, allows students to contribute their own experiences for the benefit of all, and provides a dynamic learning environment where the instructor often will also acquire new knowledge.

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A Guide To Depositions For Neophytes



By Esther M. Hermida

This article assumes that you are a certified or registered court interpreter, that you are new to the interpreting profession and that you have certain trepidations about plunging into the legal arena.

Depositions are great training grounds for interpreters. Since they are legal proceedings that take place outside of the courtroom, depositions provide excellent preparation for interpreting at the witness stand. Once you know what a deposition is, you'll be better prepared to handle it.

What Is a Deposition?

In tort and other civil litigation —malpractice, accidents, workers' compensation, contracts, etc.—a deposition is perhaps the most important discovery device; it's a fact-finding proceeding in which sworn testimony is taken out of court (e.g. an attorney's office,) but has the same force and effect as testimony given in a court of law. The deponent may be asked to produce documents by means of a subpoena *duces tecum*, an order to "bring [physical items] with you." Attorneys may take depositions of fact and expert witnesses, plaintiffs and defendants. Each party has the right to depose witnesses for the other parties. A deposition gives all the litigants in the case the opportunity to extract information under oath that can help shed some light on a case or quickly settle it. It serves as a way to gauge a witness' credibility and see how a jury may react to such testimony. In addition, a deposition helps to preserve the testimony of a person who is either living abroad, is unable to appear at a trial, or is not expected to survive until or through the trial stage of a case. Depositions are also taken in criminal cases, but much less frequently.

Who Is Present?

Court Reporter - The court reporter, who sits at the end of the table, keeps a record of everything being said and notes the start and end times.

Deposing Attorney - This attorney has issued the *Notice of Deposition* or *Subpoena to Testify at a Deposition* and asks all the questions. It's her show. She'll be sitting across from the deponent.

Attorney Representing Deponent - Sitting next to the deponent, this attorney will make sure that all the questions asked are in accordance to the Rules. If not, he'll state objections on the record.

The Interpreter - You, as the interpreter, will be sitting across from the deposing attorney, between the deponent and the court reporter on the other side.

Videographer - If a videographer has been requested, s/he will set up a backdrop behind the deponent, a video camera aimed at the deponent and microphones for all parties. The interpreter will never appear on camera.

Any of the parties to the lawsuit who wish to be present - Unless they are attorneys of record, parties are not allowed to speak or help the deponent with answering in any way.

Is There A Sequence?

Once you interpret in a few depositions, you'll be able to estimate how much time it will take to complete the assignment.

Swearing In - First, the interpreter is placed under oath by the court reporter. Then the deponent is sworn in and is asked to state his or her name.

Admonitions - Deposing counsel will admonish the witness to remember certain rules, such as: do not guess or give estimates as to times, distance and numbers; give audible responses; if you don't know the answer, say you don't know, etc.

Background Information - The deponent will be asked to give his home address and to state whether he is married and/or has children, and if so, to provide their names and ages. He will also be asked to give the names of everyone else who lives in the household. Questions will also be asked about employment history, criminal background, and other lawsuits in which the deponent may be, or has been, involved.

Questions About the Event - This area is very specific and related to the lawsuit: times, dates, distances, addresses, names of people, witnesses, machinery, car makes, etc.

Medicals - In cases dealing with physical injury, deposing counsel will focus a great deal on the time and number of visits to doctors and medical chronology. For example, assume the person has been injured and has gone to the doctor. The attorney will want to know what parts of the body were injured, the names of doctors, specialties, modalities of therapy, and whether the treatment alleviated the pain or if it still persists.

Wrap Up - Deposing counsel will go over her list of questions to be sure that everything has been covered. Deponent's counsel will then have the opportunity to ask follow-up questions to clarify for the record any of deponent's answers.

Stipulations - These are instructions to the court reporter as to what to do with the transcript. Most often, it is mailed to deponent's attorney, who will then have a certain amount of time to read, review, and make any appropriate changes. Deposing counsel will admonish the deponent that any substantial changes, such as changing a "yes" to a "no," may be commented upon at the time of trial.

How Can I Prepare?

Now that you know what a deposition entails, let's talk about your role as interpreter. Although depositions are commonplace, they are very important procedures, and should never be taken lightly. If the case in question goes to trial, the deposition testimony may be used to impeach the witness. Entire passages may be read in open court. The English transcript reflects and records the interpreter's words. Video depositions are played "in stereo" in the courtroom. Your voice will be the predominant one heard. In the background, you'll hear the original language spoken, however faint.

When contracting with a language service provider, do not expect to receive detailed information about the nature of the deposition. The provider will, however, give you the name of the case and the name of the firm where the deposition will take place. A cursory check online will help you find out what the specialty of the firm is. Google the caption; it may be related to a newsworthy case. If you can, get all the juicy facts before you get there. Take your dictionary with you (an electronic one is best). Give yourself plenty of time to find parking and go through metal detectors. Yes, high-rise buildings in large cities have metal detectors, and/or a check-in lobby. This may take you an extra ten minutes or more if there are people ahead of you.

Arrive about 15 minutes prior to your assignment, introduce yourself to the receptionist and give her the case name. You'll be escorted (or not) to a conference room or an office for the deposition. Most likely, the reporter will have arrived early to set up. Give him/her your name and the language for which you will interpret. Better yet, show your credentials. Introduce yourself when the deposing attorney comes in to set up. The deponent will enter with counsel. Greet everyone with a smile. You'll be confident knowing that you are as prepared as you can be.

Inquiries

During the deposition there may be questions you don't understand. It is perfectly acceptable to ask that the question be repeated. If the deponent says something you didn't understand or if he turned his face so you couldn't catch the term, it's acceptable to say, "The interpreter needs to inquire about a word the deponent used." After you get your answer you should state on the record, "The interpreter asked the witness to explain a term and this is his reply..." The point is that you need to be quite sure as to what was said in order to render the correct interpretation.

Modes of Interpretation

This is a subject that has caused a great deal of debate among court interpreters. Should it be simultaneous? Consecutive? A hybrid of the two?

One thing is certain: You are the only person interpreting in that room. It is you who sets the tone. Some interpreters prefer simultaneous since it is fast and to the point; as long as you don't interpret very loudly to the deponent, no one will complain. In fact, you'll find that some attorneys prefer simultaneous.

Consecutive interpretation is the preferred method for video recordings, but this does not apply to all situations. While some technicians set up and simply monitor the equipment during the deposition, some will adjust your microphone and not the deponent's so that deponent's voice remains in the background and yours in the foreground, allowing for simultaneous interpretation. Ask the videographer how she handles it.

Hybrid interpretation is a combination of simultaneous and consecutive. You can ask the questions in simultaneous and give the answers in consecutive. Tip: Always look toward the court reporter when giving your answers. In some instances, using two or all of the modes is appropriate and helpful. You'll find your own cadence and style as you experiment with all of these modes.

Always remember to speak in the first person when interpreting and refer to yourself in the third person. For instance, never say, "I didn't hear the question," but rather, "The interpreter didn't hear the question."

Depositions Where Interpreters Are Typically Used

Workers' Compensation- This is by far the most common type of case in which interpreted depositions are used. Insurance companies hire firms to depose injured workers and to evaluate their cases. On average, these depositions take two hours or less. Be ready to know the names of machinery, heavy equipment, and tools. Some deponents may not know the proper term in their own native language so they may resort to a mispronounced English word, so be prepared to inquire.

Personal Injury - A large number of depositions are related to personal injury cases. Most of them arise out of car accidents—from a simple fender-bender to loss of life—and "slip and fall" incidents at supermarkets, etc. Familiarize yourself with your local traffic laws, car makes, and car parts as well as human anatomy. Pre-accident medical history will come to light as well as prior accidents and other lawsuits. In motor vehicle accidents, the witness will be asked to approximate distances between vehicles and automobiles in front, beside, and behind him/her.

Sexual Harassment - Instances of sexual harassment at the workplace still abound, in spite of laws against it. Be ready to interpret very explicit sexual language.

Labor Law - Wage and Salary - This is a common lawsuit filed by employees claiming unpaid wages or overtime. Some of these cases may be filed as a class action lawsuit.

School District- Some of these cases may involve child molestation lawsuits arising out of criminal charges.

Other Types of Depositions - Real estate fraud, property ownership disputes, construction flaws, contract disputes, commercial cases and patent infringement are just a few examples of what you may encounter as an interpreter in a deposition.

What To Do If Your Interpretation Is Challenged

Although depositions take place in a more relaxed environment, they are still a very serious proceeding. Opposing counsel can challenge you if she feels that you did not interpret correctly. The most important rule to remember is not to take it personally. It is not about you; it's about keeping a record of testimony offered by the deponent. If deponent's counsel questions a term, this will be on the record. Wait until deposing counsel asks you about it. If you are certain that you used the correct term you can say, "The interpreter stands by his/her interpretation." Most likely, that will be all you need to say. You may need to say it more than once. Remember to remain objective and consider the term in question. If counsel is correct then state on the record, "The interpreter stands corrected." It may be that the term you are using is not the best choice. You may ask permission to consult your dictionary online or otherwise to seek alternative terms to a word. Remember to state the term in question, spell it for the record, and offer your explanation. This may help any future interpreter involved in the case and it will show that the interpreter is aware of the problem and has offered a solution. Remember, you are there to facilitate communication—not to hinder it.

Check Interpreters

Don't be surprised if you find another court interpreter present to monitor the interpretation given. Do not be intimidated; do your job as you usually do. The interpreter has been hired by the other party to ensure an accurate record. Do introduce yourself to the other interpreter, and remember that this person is a colleague. The function of a check interpreter is a subject that deserves its very own article.

Below you'll find some useful links to help you better understand a deposition.

Anatomy of a Deposition

Deposition Questions

Indiana University School of Law

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Zen and the Art of Interpreting (When You Really Wish You Could Say What You Were Thinking!)



By Athena Matilsky

During a presentence interview with a man who had pled guilty to stabbing a stranger to death “by accident,” I could almost *see* an embodied form to the protests taking shape inside my brain. The vision was similar to a cartoon where the angel and the devil sit on either shoulder egging on the poor hapless human, except in this case the drawing depicted a fight between me as an ethical professional interpreter and my sense of righteous indignation.

I must say, it was a difficult battle, but Interpreter Me managed to contain Sense of Outrage long enough to finish the interview. It wasn’t just the fact that the limited English proficient (LEP) person for whom I was interpreting had murdered someone -- it was his whole demeanor. He looked genuinely apologetic, the way I would feel if I unwittingly slammed a door on someone’s finger. *Except in the scenario with the door, no one died.* He alleged true regret, and I actually believe he felt sorry... which makes what he did even that much more unbelievable.

There is more to the story, including my Sense of Outrage kicking and screaming at the man’s admission to the fact that he “had not acknowledged” his only son born back in his home country, and the fact that he “didn’t remember” his son’s mother’s name. But with some difficulty, I shut up my inner voices and finished interpreting the interview.

While I have a right to my opinion of murderers, rapists, and other Really Bad People, there is a linguistic dilemma posed when one’s angry thoughts start overtaking one’s brain. But there are other areas of criticism and judgment that are more difficult to justify. Yes, the bilingual attorney is extremely irritating when he objects to a client’s utterance before you have interpreted it, interrupts you and then corrects your interpretation. Yes, the couple before the judge arguing about who has to pay their kid’s medical bills is behaving like a pair of selfish five-year-olds whining to their mom. And yes, it is frustrating when your clients whisper, mumble, don’t wait for you to finish, and in other ways put your interpreting skills to the test. On the other hand, who among us hasn’t interrupted someone, talked fast or said unfortunate things to a spouse?

Here’s the thing: the people we interpret for are human and so are we. All of us hear, think and react. But the art of our profession as interpreters manifests itself in how we process our reactions. We simply must put everything out of our minds except for meaning and language if we are to do our jobs effectively. Mindful focus and concentration become paramount, and with practice we can home in more precisely on what people are saying. Background noises don’t bother us as much, and we become skillful at letting things go.

I daresay that with practice, we can also cultivate a more empathetic and open mind. The key phrase here is “with practice.” Empathy does not necessarily come naturally, and it helps to purposefully inject some perspective. The fact that I don’t often associate socially with the demographic that I interpret for in court can distance me and make me more judgmental.

On a recent trip to Honduras, while interacting with friends and acquaintances, I stopped to think, “these are people who, if they were going through a rough time right now and found themselves in my New Jersey courtroom, would need me to interpret. They might not understand how to speak in a way that would make interpreting easy. They might behave childishly toward their ex-husbands or wives. On the other hand, they are normal people with everyday struggles and diverse personalities. Also, some of them tell hilarious jokes or make *baleadas** that are to die for. In other words, I took the opportunity to see LEP individuals in context. Then, when I returned home with a fresh dose of perspective to accompany my Honduran mosquito bites, I practiced kindness.

As it turns out, being nice takes practice. But when we go into an interpreting situation with the understanding that everyone deserves respect, it becomes that much easier to concentrate on doing our job. And then, even in truly challenging interpreting situations, where we think maybe they don’t deserve any respect at all, we are able to set aside those angry, sad or outraged voices in our heads.

We are interpreters. Passing judgment is the judge’s job, not ours. And thank goodness for that!

Notes

* A *baleada* is a wheat flour tortilla, often quite thick, folded in half and filled with mashed fried beans and other ingredients. A Honduran specialty.

The views expressed here are the author’s own. They do not reflect the opinions of her employer or any other entity.

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Message From The Chair

Dear colleagues,

I trust that you are all doing well and I hope that your interpreting and translation practice is joyful and successful wherever you may be. I would like to make my first message as NAJIT Chair one of appreciation for you, my remarkable colleagues. I have much to say and will continue to communicate with you via this medium and others. I am cognizant of the fact that I would not have had the honor of being elected Chair of this amazing association if it were not for the professional interpreters and translators who came before me, and those of you who are still here every day, making this association one of the best groups of like-minded colleagues anywhere.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Rob Cruz, my predecessor, for his years of selfless service to our profession and his incomparable leadership. Rob, on a personal note, your kindness and good will are appreciated more than you will ever know. By all accounts, you are a tough act to follow, but I will endeavor to continue your legacy and do my part. Next, I would like to express my gratitude to our outgoing Secretary, Kathleen E. Shelly, for her dedication and tireless work. Kathleen, I cannot thank you enough for your encouragement and gentle disposition. During my first year as a member of the Board of Directors you made me feel welcome and did not hesitate to offer your counsel on more than one occasion. I am so glad that you have stayed on as Co-Editor of *Proteus* and as a contributor to various committees. Rob and Kathleen, besides being my colleagues, I am so fortunate to now also count you as my friends. Please stay in touch.

Next, I would like to thank my comrades-in-arms: Claudia Villalba, incumbent Director and our newly-elected Secretary; Bethany Korp-Edwards, incumbent Director and now reelected as our Treasurer; and our two newly-elected Directors, Jennifer De La Cruz and Melinda González-Hibner. My dear colleagues, we came together as the new Board scarcely three months ago, and we have already become an incredibly powerful team. Thank you for the countless hours you have dedicated to NAJIT in the previous months, and for the many years you have spent putting our profession at the forefront, in your own practice, in your state of residence and beyond. As an important note, I was thrilled to find out that all members of our current Board of Directors are federally-certified court interpreters! Ladies, I look forward to us doing great things together.

I would also like to thank our fabulous group of volunteers and Committee Chairs (<http://www.najit.org/about/committees.php>). I am well aware that without you, those wonderful ideas of ours would only remain a distant dream. It is through your hard work and boundless energy that our profession keeps moving forward. It might appear at times that things move slower than we would like, but if I have learned anything in my 29 years as a language professional, it is that solid, tangible progress is never fast but is always rewarding.

Next, I would like to acknowledge our outstanding support staff: Robin Lanier, our Executive Director, and our outgoing Administrator, Carrington Blake. I would also like to welcome our new Administrator, Tanni Rednor. Thank you all for keeping us in line and for working in tandem with us. It is a pleasure to work with such professionals.

My thanks also go to the Editor-in-Chief of *Proteus*, Rosemary W. Dann, for making us look and sound first-rate every time. You are a consummate professional, my friend, and I am glad to know you.

Finally, I am deeply grateful to our members for driving our efforts and contributing with your opinions, ideas and professionalism. You are the heart and soul of our association and I am honored to represent you in our quest for excellence. I would like to invite you to send us a line via our contact page (<http://www.najit.org/contact/contact.php>) and tell us what you would like to see in your association. I would also like to encourage you to become an active part of NAJIT by joining one of our wonderful groups of volunteers. Our committees are being reconstituted as we speak, so there is plenty of room for new volunteers and fresh ideas. Please remember that all of us together make up NAJIT, and that it is through this togetherness that we can shape the future of our profession.

This is a time of transition for interpreting and translation. There are many challenges and triumphs that await us in the months ahead. Every day we hear about the need for client education, interpreter certification, better pay/working conditions, best practices and the increasing use of technology in today's market. During my term, I will continue to espouse the values that have made NAJIT the great organization it is today: advocacy, ethics, continuing education, professionalism and a forward-thinking attitude. I would also like to continue our collaboration with other groups and associations that foster the same ideals and beliefs for which that NAJIT is known. In addition, I would like to create new lines of communication among our members and welcome new professionals into the fold. I am sure that NAJIT could reach a broader audience in the judiciary interpreting and translation arena with greater international exposure, so I hope our members are up to the challenge. In spite of the communicative nature of our profession, many of us work in isolation. Thus, I would like to foster a deeper sense of community, collaboration and training, all of which are essential for a profession which has come of age.

It is my hope that with your help, we can accomplish all this and more.

Stay well and see you soon,

Esther
Chair, NAJIT
(Twitter: @NAJITChair)

Conference Photos

NAJIT's Annual Meeting and Educational Conference, held in Las Vegas from May 16-18, 2014, was an all-around success. 239 attendees took part in 21 sessions led by 41 presenters. We were joined by five NAJIT Scholars from across the United States: Marina Grishayeva, Alexandra Guevara-Salcedo, Kristen Mages, Priscilla Muzza-Pastor, Valeriya Yermishova and our Susan E. Castellanos Bilodeau Scholarship recipient, Teresa Ost, who travelled from Mexico City to attend. Special thanks to those who volunteered to mentor to our new colleagues at the conference: Al Bork, Heidi Cazes -Sevilla, Rosemary Dann, Jennifer De la Cruz, Abel Flores, Cecilia Mihaylo, Ernest Nino-Murcia, Janis Palma, Sandra Regina Rosal Bezerra and Anna Stout.

We said "adios" (but not "goodbye") to departing Board members Secretary Kathleen Shelly and Chairman Rob Cruz, and welcomed new Board members Jennifer De la Cruz and Melinda González-Hibner, and congratulated returning Director Esther Navarro-Hall as the new Chair. We hope that these notes will inspire you to start planning to attend next year's Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, so mark your calendars for May 15-17, 2015, and we'll see you there!

If you have personal photos from the conference, please share them with us, for publication in future issues.



Federally Certified Interpreters



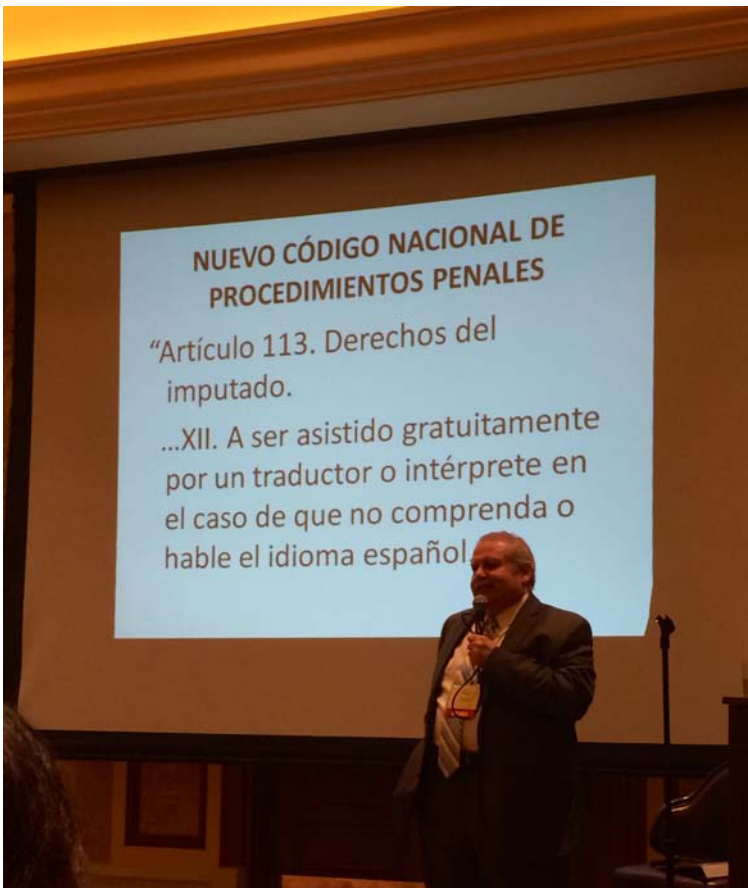
Janis Palma, speaking on the history of NAJIT



Our conference hotel



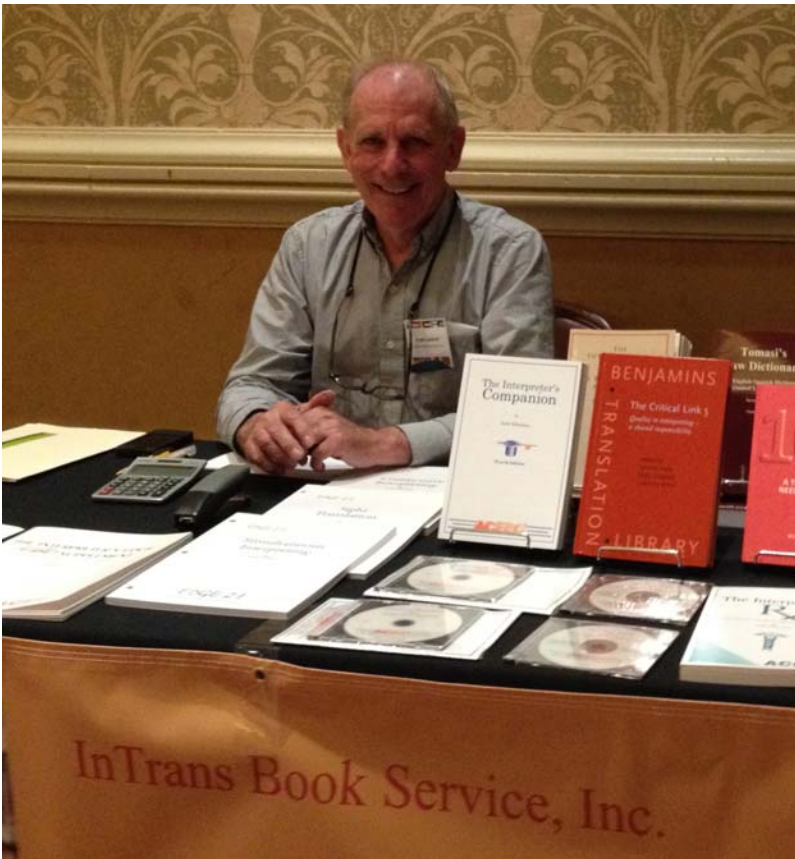
NAJIT outgoing and incoming Boards, SSTI Board, Keynote Speaker Judy Jenner



Tony Rosado, Presenter



Town Hall Meeting



Freck Lankof, our go-to bookseller



Carrington Blake, our outgoing Administrator



Executive Director Robin Lanier and outgoing Chairman Rob Cruz

2014 NAJIT Scholars



Kristen Mages is a freelance interpreter and Translation and Interpretation student based in St. Paul, Minnesota. She graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, with a B. A. in Honors Spanish and Communications. She then went on to live and work in San Pedro de Macorís, Dominican Republic, for nearly two years. Upon return to the United States, she began work toward her certificate in Translation and Interpretation at Century College, a two-year program. She is halfway through the program and working as a freelance interpreter in the Twin Cities area in various medical and educational settings. She is a member of the Upper Midwest Interpreters and Translators Association (UMTIA) and NAJIT.



Priscilla Muzza-Pastor, CLA, is from McAllen, Texas, and is a graduate student at the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College (UTB), where she is pursuing a Master of Arts in Spanish Translation and Interpreting. While attending UTB, she received a Graduate Certificate in Spanish Translation. While working as a freelance interpreter and translator, she successfully completed an internship at the United States District Court-Southern District of Texas in McAllen, Texas, under the supervision of the Chief Interpreter. In addition to her interpreting and translation studies, Priscilla also holds a B.A. in International Studies and a Legal Assistant Post-Bachelor Certificate. She is a certified legal assistant by NALA (National Association of Legal Assistants), and worked for several years at a local defense law firm in McAllen, Texas.



Valeriya Yermishova has a B.A. in French Language and Literature from State University of New York at Binghamton and a French-to-English translation certificate from NYU SCPS. She is pursuing a Russian-to-English translation certificate at the University of Chicago Graham School. She proofreads high-volume financial documentation and would like to specialize in legal, business and literary translation. In April 2014, she stepped in to serve as President-Elect of the New York Circle of Translators. She has spent the summer working on her first book-length literary translation for Dalkey Archive Press. Her website is www.valeriya-yermishova.us.



Marina Grishayeva was born and raised in Russia where she earned her Bachelor's Degree from Chuvash State University. After graduation she conducted academic research and taught Russian as a Second Language and Foreign Literature at her alma mater. She later worked for the government when her former Dean was elected as Prime Minister of Chuvash Republic, a federal subject of Russia. After her family moved to the United States, Marina shifted her focus to the legal field. She received a Paralegal Certificate from an ABA-approved program at Gainesville State College in Georgia and has worked for prominent law firms in Atlanta since then. During the course of her career, Marina had a number of opportunities to use her education and language skills to assist people with interpretations and translations, which helped her discover a true passion for languages. Constantly persevering to expand her knowledge via continuing education, Marina is currently looking forward to completion of her Translation Certificate at the University of Chicago Graham School and preparing herself for examinations to become a Georgia court-certified interpreter. Marina strives to master the vocabulary in the areas of her chosen specializations - jurisprudence, art history and history of spirits, which integrates her legal experience, passion for the arts and literature, and hobby for gastronomy and mixology.



Alexandra Guevara-Salcedo is a physician and a certified medical interpreter. She completed her medical training in Colombia where she practiced as a primary care physician for three years. She also worked as a research associate at the University of Miami for three years and completed two years of medical residency in internal medicine and neurology at the University of Illinois in Peoria. Alexandra became a volunteer medical interpreter and translator while she worked in research and continued doing so during her residency years. She is a certified medical interpreter by the NBCMI and holds an undergraduate certificate in translation from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is currently a freelance translator and interpreter and a graduate student pursuing a degree in Spanish / Translating and Translation Studies. She completed her internship at the Mecklenburg Courthouse in Charlotte, NC and has worked in conjunction with immigration and adoption law attorneys. She is currently a member of the Spanish and Portuguese Review Editorial Board where she works as a copy editor and also a member of the ATA, the IMIA and NAJIT.

The Susan E. Castellanos-Bilodeau Scholarship Recipient



Teresa Ost

It was a delight to attend the NAJIT conference, as the recipient of the Susan E. Castellanos Bilodeau Scholarship award. Currently living in Mexico, I mostly translate and interpret telephonically as a Washington state court certified Spanish interpreter. This allows me the blessing of being home with my newborn adopted son Nathaniel Micaiah. In my spare time I'm the US Secretary and Mexico Coordinator of the North Korea Freedom Coalition, highlighting the plight of those suffering human rights abuses in North Korea.

Thank you, NAJIT, for helping us continue in our efforts to excel in our profession and the services we provide.

Take-Aways from a NAJIT Scholar (2014)

By Kristen Mages



Attending the 2014 NAJIT conference as a student scholar was an eye-opening experience! Coming from a relatively new translation/interpretation program in small-town Minnesota, I felt extremely privileged to have the opportunity to meet some of the well-known members of the interpreting profession. Face to face, I was interacting with people whose articles I've been reading and whose dictionaries I've been perusing for as long as I've been studying this profession. By the end of the three days, I had learned an abundance of practical information from the breakout sessions taught by these expert presenters. Some of my favorite workshops were focused on note taking, interpreting slang and taboo, and memory-enhancing techniques.

As if that weren't enough, the most uplifting part of the NAJIT conference was the realization that 250+ colleagues believe in me. I cannot tell you how inspiring and motivating it was to be in the presence of so many established and experienced interpreters. Initially, I felt overwhelmed, knowing I lagged 20-30 years behind those around me in real-world experience. But that feeling quickly changed to one of encouragement. I realized that I aspire to have experiences like the ones I was hearing about during lunch conversations. I am eager to take on the inherent challenges in the field, to make improvements as those before me have done, and to continually strive to educate myself so that I am equipped with the tools to accomplish these goals.

Beyond the initial investment NAJIT offered to me and four other scholars by bringing us to the conference, we received another gift: the gift of time. Each and every interpreter we encountered willingly invested time in us by sharing personal stories. It was intriguing to hear how so many people first became interested in the profession, how they trained, and how they made it to where they are today. I valued the time spent questioning my mentors, assigned and unofficial, and just listening to all of the interpreters converse with each other, sharing their triumphs and frustrations. It truly was a conference with long-lasting effects, far beyond the three days of activities.

So what does this mean for my professional future? Yes, I hope to attend the NAJIT conferences in upcoming years, and yes, I plan to stay in touch with the many new contacts I made. But more than anything, I hope to "pay it forward." I plan to share what I learned during the conference with my classmates and colleagues here in Minnesota. I am determined to be the person who gives that extra push when the going gets tough. I will do my part to communicate to fellow newcomers to the profession that there are many people throughout the country who believe in us. And I will continue to develop myself professionally so that I can one day be a mentor and role model to others.

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for bestowing this amazing opportunity upon us. I hope I speak for all five scholars in saying that we will not let you down. Along with them, I am committed to moving forward and sharing the newfound insights and information within my community. Most of all, I will continue to spread the inspiration and encouragement that you have so generously offered to me!

Meet the New Board



Jennifer De La Cruz

Jennifer De La Cruz first became interested in learning Spanish in her college years, earning a bachelor's degree in Spanish with an emphasis in linguistics from California State University at Fullerton. She took on a position as a medical interpreter and translator shortly after earning her degree, and at the same time began her career as an educator for aspiring interpreters in the medical professions. While interpreting and translating for the healthcare field, she earned certification as a court interpreter for both the California and federal Courts, later accepting a staff position with the California trial courts. In addition to certification as an interpreter, she is also certified as a translator by the ATA for Spanish into English and English into Spanish. She is currently an instructor for the UCSD Extension Translation Certificate Program. She has been active in the profession throughout her career, participating in a wide variety of projects, programs and initiatives aimed at improving language services provided by government institutions. She is one of the authors of the NAJIT Blog, and she has also presented educational sessions for the Annual Conference of the ATA. Her passion for the Spanish language has become a thriving and satisfying career both in the interpreting and the translation fields, while her professional posts have allowed her to specialize in the highly challenging fields of law and medicine.



Melinda González-Hibner

Melinda González-Hibner is a Spanish court interpreter certified by the Colorado and U.S. courts, and a contract interpreter for the U.S. Department of State. She holds a B.A. from the University of Texas, a Master of Science degree from the London School of Economics, and she is currently attending the Graduate Program in Interpreting and Translation Studies at the University of Maryland. Melinda's interpreting experience is diverse, covering court, community and conference assignments at all levels. Previously, Melinda served as the Colorado State Court Interpreter Program Administrator, where she worked actively to support language access to the courts and promoted the highest level of professional practice for interpreters working in all languages. She is a founding member of the Colorado Association of Professional Interpreters (CAPI), where she served as Co-Chair and as a member of the Board of Directors. She also previously served on the Board of SSTI. Melinda is a frequent presenter at professional conferences and is a lively court interpreter trainer, regularly teaching interpreter ethics and skills in different states. She is an active member of NCATA, CAPI, NAJIT, CTA and ATA.



Esther M. Navarro-Hall

Esther Navarro-Hall is the owner of 1Culture (www.1culture.net), an interpreting, training and consulting company. She is an Adjunct Professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, where she teaches Conference Interpreting (EN>ES, FR>ES) and Court Interpreting (EN<>ES). She holds a Master of Arts in Conference Interpretation (MIIS) and has worked as a freelancer in the conference, corporate, court, medical and community specialties for the past 29 years. She provides training for interpreters and interpreter trainers at a national and international level. Most of her conference work is in the area of business, politics, medicine and technology. She has also interpreted for the U.S. State Department, state and federal courts, and various healthcare institutions and government agencies throughout her career. She is a federally certified court interpreter, a state-certified court and medical interpreter (CA), and an ATA-Certified Translator (EN>ES).



Bethany Korp-Edwards

Bethany Korp-Edwards is a federally certified court interpreter on staff with the United States District Court in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She also chairs the Code of Conduct Work Group for the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts' Language Access Advisory Committee. She has served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators since 2012 and currently holds the position of Treasurer. In addition, she has worked as a court interpreter trainer for the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts and for the National Center for Interpretation. Previously, she worked as a staff interpreter at the New Jersey Superior Court in Newark, and taught translation and interpreting at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, in New Brunswick. She is also certified by the American Translators Association in Spanish-to-English translation and is the former President of the New Mexico Translators and Interpreters Association. She

holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from The College of William & Mary and a Master of Arts in Spanish Translation from Rutgers.



Claudia E. Villalba

Claudia E. Villalba, a federally certified, Florida state certified and New Jersey master-level approved interpreter, is currently the supervising court interpreter for the 7th Judicial Circuit in the State of Florida. She is an NCSC-approved rater at both the state and federal levels. She is a member and secretary of NAJIT's Board of Directors. She is also an on-site and on-line instructor for the Florida Institute of Interpretation and Translation and an interpreter trainer and presenter for de la Mora Interpreting Training in Florida. She was born in Cali, Colombia and raised in New Jersey, where she graduated from Kean University and worked as a staff interpreter in the superior courts of Hudson and Middlesex Counties for a total of ten years. She then re-located to Volusia County, Florida, where she has been working for the Florida Courts System for the past 10 years. She is passionate about interpreting and enjoys teaching and learning from her students. Claudia shares her love for the profession and her knowledge as a way to pay it forward to those who inspired and encouraged her in early years as a court interpreter.

Meet NAJIT's New Administrator



NAJIT has a new Administrator. Please welcome Tanni Rednor to the team. Tanni is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland with a degree in Communications. She is originally from Phoenix, AZ. Tanni runs all of NAJIT's social media, as well as well as the Cybernews from NAJIT's headquarters in Washington, DC.

NAJIT News

Congratulations to everyone on the Blog Subcommittee! The NAJIT Blog has been nominated for the 2014 best overall interpreter-related blog at **ProZ.com**! Check it out, and vote here! **<http://www.proz.com/community-choice-awards>**.

This really shows how much everyone's hard work has paid off. NAJIT's blog is truly influencing the language community!

Book Review



English-Spanish Glossary of Technical and Forensic Ballistics and Firearms/Glosario español-inglés de balística técnica y forense y armas de fuego

Reviewed by Rosemary W. Dann

Author: Blanco, Martín S.

Publisher: martinblanco@comcast.net (self-published 2013)

ISBN: 9781467588058

Paperback: 142 pages

Price: \$19.95

Available from Intrans Book Service (www.intransbooks.com)

E-book available through iUniverse.com

Before embarking on a review of this book, I must point out the obvious: this is a bilingual glossary, not a dictionary. A glossary, for our purposes, is a lexical corpus of words that are most often used, developed by a practitioner in a particular field. A dictionary, on the other hand, contains not only the terms, but their definitions, pronunciations, parts of speech, common usage, provenance, etc. While a monolingual glossary will normally give a brief explanation, this book offers only the translations of the terms. Do not expect to find explanations of usage or illustrations of firearms, serology or fingerprinting terms.

The book is compact and easy to handle, which makes it convenient to take along to court or interviews, and the paper quality, brightness and size of type are comfortable to thumb through and read. It is divided into two major sections and several minor ones: ENG>SP (50 pages) and SP>ENG (49 pages), relating to ballistics; a page of slang names for firearms in each language; DNA and serology terminology (6 pages each language); and fingerprint terminology (4 pages each language.)

The glossary presupposes a fairly thorough knowledge of firearms, their parts, and workings. For a reader with only basic knowledge, an accompanying monolingual dictionary is a must. For example, a "spall ring" - "*anillo de resquebrajamiento*" or a "rarefaction head" - "*cabeza de enrarecimiento*" are not terms that are commonly used in everyday conversation. Without further explanation, e.g. - does the term refer to a weapon part, a projectile, or a target, the reader must rely on further research. For readers with limited knowledge of the subject, it would also be helpful if the entries were designated as referring to the weapon, the crime scene or the laboratory. On the other hand, there are terms that are, perhaps, unnecessary to include. "Dull gray" - "*gris mate*", "energy" - "*energía*", "smudge" - "*mancha, manchón*" or "sphere" - "*esfera*" are not really specific to ballistics and are widely understood.

The pages devoted to slang names for firearms are certainly helpful, but not all names indicate the type of gun that is being described. In the English section, some entries have parenthetical explanations: a "biscuit", a "burner" and a "heater" are "any handgun"; a "pipe" and a "toolie" are "any gun"; a "Mossy" is a "Mossberg shotgun"; and a "chopper" is a "fully automatic weapon", but we are left to wonder what, exactly, is a "bulldog", a "jammy" or a "thang". The Spanish section is helpfully

broken down by specific country: Colombia, Guatemala, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Honduras, as well as widely-used terms, but again, not all are designated as to type, and some have annotations in Spanish, and others in English.

The sections on DNA /serology and fingerprinting are short, but informative. I note that the header on page 73 is incorrectly labeled as "DNA Serology" rather than "Fingerprints", but that is a minor defect.

In short, this book, written by an Oregon State Certified Court Interpreter who draws from both his military service in the Gulf War of 1991 and his experience in working with juveniles, is a handy reference and a good starting point for working with terminology in the fields of ballistics, DNA, serology and fingerprints, but for a clear understanding of what the terminology means, significant further research and study are necessary.

[Rosemary W. Dann, Esq. is a Massachusetts State Certified Court Interpreter, former Director and Chair of NAJIT, and Editor of Proteus.]

Links

DICTIONARIES/GLOSSARIES/VOCABULARY

New edition of Black's Law Dictionary

Internet slang dictionary

French legal dictionary

Glossary resource

Intellectual property terminology (English)

Glossary of legal terms: English/French/Spanish

Portuguese/Spanish vocab

Skin color in Portuguese

Brazilian-Portuguese soccer terms

Spanish idioms (illustrated)

Cop language (English)

English words with Arabic origins

LANGUAGE

Common English grammar mistakes

Know your -ables from your -ibles (English)

Word mistakes to avoid

Spanish/English proverbs

Usage -Spanish irregular verbs

New spelling rules from the Real Academia (Spanish)

English punctuation

Rules of adjective order (English)

False cognates in Romance languages (French, Italian, Spanish)

THE PROFESSION/BUSINESS

Social media work etiquette

The vendor-client relationship in real world situations

Choosing a sign language agency to work for

Why interpreters should dress professionally

Good practices tips

[Interpreters of indigenous languages treated differently](#)

ETHICS

[Professional standards and ethics \(good resource, but check your own state\)](#)

RESOURCES

[Federal LEP website](#)

[Fundéu BBVA promotes good usage in Spanish](#)

TRAINING

[How your memory works](#)

[Memory skills that will make you smarter](#)

[Why translators hate technology](#)

IN THE NEWS

[Dissent for lack of interpreter in murder case](#)

[UK's National Audit Office investigates ALS monopoly on interpreting services](#)

[Andrei Miranov](#)

GENERAL INTEREST

[Books to help you think differently](#)

[Words that will make people like you more](#)

[Language quiz](#)

[Famous translation mistakes](#)

[Untranslatable words, illustrated](#)

[List of world languages by number of speakers](#)

[Stats on Spanish](#)

[Benefits of multilingualism](#)

[New film in Cherokee language](#)

[Link between language and ecosystems](#)

[Losing fluency in your native language](#)

AUDIO/VIDEO

[Opening argument in criminal trial in Colombia \(Spanish\)](#)

[Podcast on Miami English](#)

[Interpretips - Talks and tips on interpreting](#)

[Tom's Language Files: videos about linguistics, languages, and love](#)

Notable Quotables

"The secret is not to give up hope. It's very hard not to, because if you're really doing something worthwhile I think you will be pushed to the brink of hopelessness before you come through the other side."

---George Lucas

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world."

---Robin Williams

"Just invented a new word: 'Plagiarism'"

---Chevy Chase

For Better or Verse

The Court Computers Are Down!

Court computers go down 'n everything's bad.
All the staff gets upset and everyone's mad.
We are quite dependent, it's really so sad.
We cannot do a thing because we've been had
By makers of PCs and software, so glad
When the things go awry that allow 'em to add
A charge for "Support;" their contracts ironclad,
Written by lawyers who've read Homer's "Iliad."
And the answers they give are the Devil's Triad,
Or a dialog from "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid,"
To which you can hear judges shouting: "Egad!"
"This wouldn't have happened when I was a lad.
When our work was done with a pencil and pad,
Text was found in books—not a handheld doodad.
A Luddite was King, high tech speech was forbad.
Geez, hope techie stuff is no more than a fad!"

---Douglas Hal Sillers

[Hal Sillers is a MN State and federally certified interpreter of Spanish and frequent contributor to this column.]

The Last Laugh

Weird Al Yankovic Word Crimes Video

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/15/weird-al-word-crimes-blurred-lines-parody-video_n_5588509.html

How to break down a scammer

<http://www.blogseith.us/basqueboise/2014/06/30/spam-handling-101-how-to-break-down-a-scammer/>

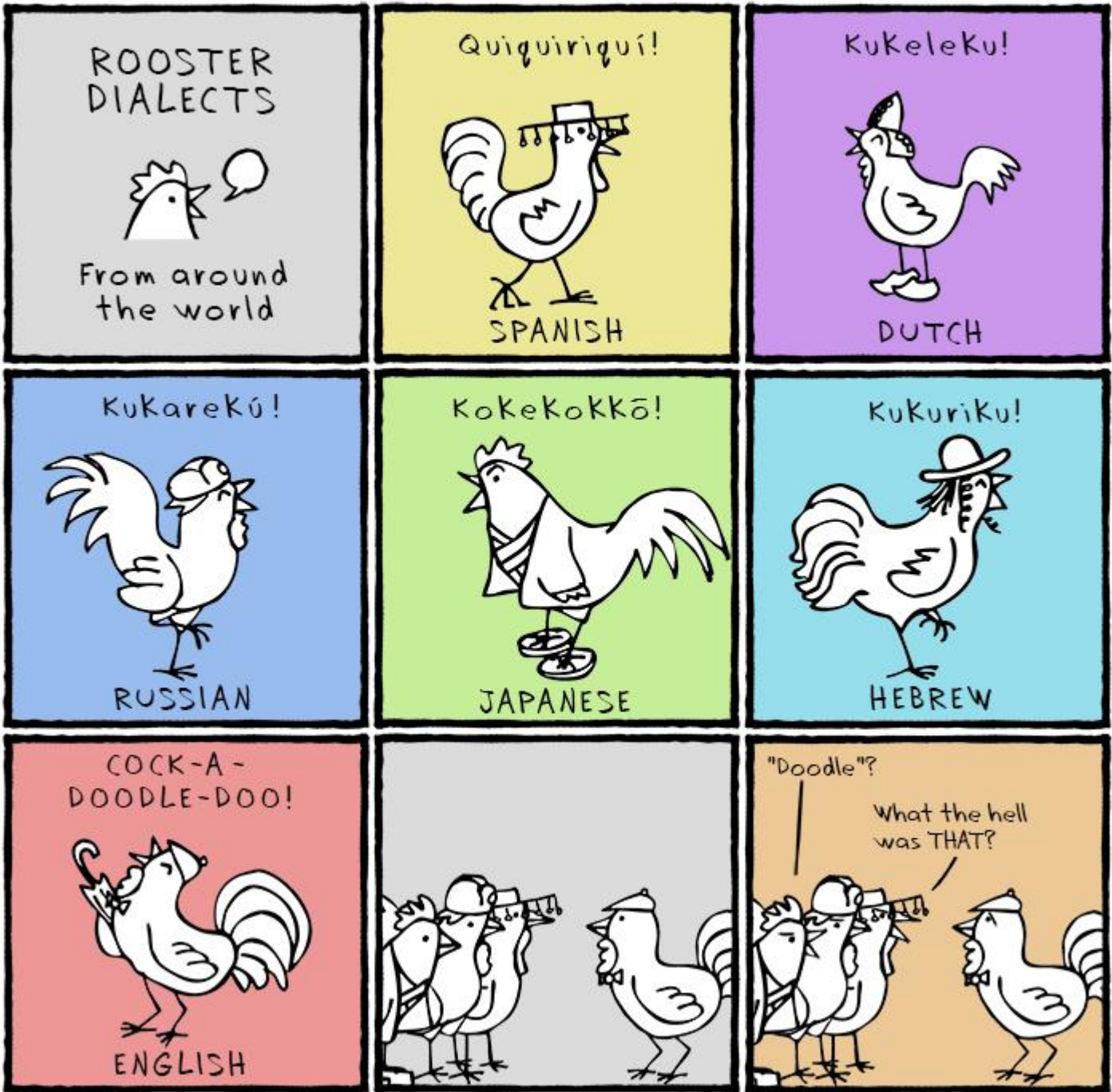
Bad translations for World Cup in Brazil

<http://www.megacurioso.com.br/copa-do-mundo-2014/44531-16-traducoes-hilarias-de-placas-e-avisos-em-ingles-feitos-para-a-copa.htm#!>

Lucy and Ricky on English pronunciation

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g10jFL423ho>

ITCHY FEET



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www.itchyfeetcomic.com