

## Letter from the Editor



Dear Readers,

As the weather heats up and we prepare to publish this summer issue of *Proteus*, change is in the air. I am thrilled to commence my role of editor-in-chief of this publication. In large part, my excitement is due to the talented team of individuals who come aboard this issue as co-editors: Arianna Aguilar, Cecilia Golumbeanu, Dan DeCoursey and Andre Moskowitz have begun full steam ahead. Because of their enthusiasm and initiative, we have already been able to introduce two regular columns ("Cracking the Code" and "Interpreters Everywhere"), with several more in the works. And of course, Kathleen Shelly and Rosemary Dann have proved to be an invaluable resource as I gently prevent them from retiring altogether. Make sure you take a look at "A History of Proteus" so you can see where this publication began, how much it has changed and where we hope to go.

Speaking of change, take a peek at our feature article, "An Overview of Laptop-Assisted Interpretation" by Robert Zemser, a colleague of mine in a neighboring vicinage here at the New Jersey Judiciary. I must say I feel quick to defend my old friend the steno pad, but I believe it paramount to our profession that we move with the times and take advantage of technology as it can serve us. Another feature article, "Embrace your Curiosity and Grow" by Gio Lester, encourages us to change for the better. (Think you can guess what "*Absolutamente!*" means in Portuguese? Read the article and you just might learn something new!) The issue doesn't end there; check out Arianna Aguilar's review of a new Spanish<math>\leftrightarrow</math>English dictionary, NAJIT news, including an advocacy letter and a description of the recent Atlanta, Georgia, conference, and a particularly tricky situation for an American Sign Language interpreter in "How I Handled It."

And then, dear readers, consider this: we need you! We seek your input and wisdom in particular. Take a peek at our new column, "Cracking the Code," and use the respond button to tell us the best translation you know for *blow-back* in your language. Then read the debut article for the new column "Interpreters Everywhere," which in this issue features the ups and downs of the profession in California. After reading Mr. Siller's poem and having your "Last Laugh" (the interpreter in that joke could sure use a course in ethics!), consider submitting an article about a situation you have handled yourself or about what life is like in your neck of the woods; you may even have an academic article you hope to have featured. Then, stay tuned for more projects in the works and ways to be involved.

Change is in the air, and our network of interpreters becomes closer-knit and better informed every day. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Warmly,

*Athena Matilsky, Proteus Editor-in-chief*  
*June 12th, 2015*

## Meet the Editors



**Arianna M. Aguilar** has a degree in communications and has been interpreting and translating since 1999. She has been a certified court interpreter in North Carolina since 2005, and master certified Spanish-language court interpreter since 2013. She is president of Latino Outreach Consulting of NC, Inc., a translation and consulting agency, and is a published author. She has given presentations on a range of topics at both NAJIT and American Translators Association (ATA) conferences.



**Rosemary Dann** currently lives in Phoenix, AZ. (Yes, but it's a DRY heat.) She holds a B.A. and M.A. in Spanish language and literature, as well as a J.D. degree. She is also a Massachusetts state-certified Spanish-language court interpreter. She has worked as a high school and college instructor, held various law jobs including law clerk to two judges, a public defender, and a private practitioner, and has free-lanced as a judiciary interpreter in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Florida. She joined NAJIT after attending "The Institute" in 1999 (thank you, Cristina Helmerichs!) and has since served on numerous NAJIT committees and on the Board of Directors for six years, two as chair. She took over the position of editor-in-chief of *Proteus* upon Nancy Festinger's retirement from that post, and now turns over the reins to the very capable Athena Matilsky. She is staying on staff as the unofficial "advisor-in-chief", as she has returned to college as a theater major in performing arts. Her bucket list includes visiting Machu Picchu, seeing her son married, and appearing in a national TV commercial.



**Dan DeCoursey** is a state and federally certified court interpreter in San Diego, as well as an ATA-certified Spanish>English translator. After working for several years as a teacher and textbook editor, he was ready to make a change, so he moved to Guadalajara, Mexico, where he earned a master's degree in translation and interpreting from the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara. He has over a decade of experience working as an interpreter in both state and federal court, and as a freelance translator specializing in legal documents. Currently, he is a staff interpreter at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California (San Diego).



**Cecilia Golumbeanu** is a Romanian-language court interpreter and a French-language translator in New York. As a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, she wrote a legal and economic bilingual dictionary of American and European terms, published in 2005 in Romania. She has a bilingual blog of thoughts and links on language, arts and science at [ceciliago.wordpress.com](http://ceciliago.wordpress.com).



**Athena Matilsky** is a Spanish-language interpreter certified by the United States federal courts and approved at the master level by the New Jersey state courts. She is also a certified healthcare interpreter, and she holds a B.A. from Rutgers University in Spanish interpretation and translation. She is a fulltime staff interpreter at Mercer County Superior Court in Trenton, NJ, where she was recently involved in the working group for drafting the statewide Language Access Plan. She teaches classes in interpretation with de la Mora Interpreter Training and gives private classes to individual students. In addition to being editor-in-chief of *Proteus*, she is a regular contributor to the NAJIT blog and a member of ATA. When she is not busy writing or interpreting, you may find her in acrobatic partner yoga poses or studying French.



**Andre Moskowitz** is a Spanish-language interpreter certified by the United States federal courts and the California state courts. He is also a Hispanist, lexicographer and dialectologist, who has published a series of works in the areas of Spanish lexical dialectology and Spanish lexicography. He taught English in Colombia and Ecuador for four years, and holds a B.A. in humanities from Johns Hopkins University (1984), an M.A. in translation studies from the City University of New York Graduate Center (1988), and a second M.A. in Spanish with a minor in Portuguese from the University of Florida (1995). He is certified by the American Translators Association as a Portuguese>English, Spanish>English and English>Spanish translator. He is also an editor for *Intercambios*, the newsletter of the Spanish Language Division of the American Translators Association (ATA).



**Kathleen Shelly**, a Delaware and Maryland translator and interpreter certified by the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts, has worked as a professional interpreter and translator for the past 18 years. She has a master's degree plus doctoral work in Latin American literature from the Ohio State University, and was a college professor for 12 years. A member of NAJIT since 2005, she has served as Secretary of the Board of Directors and a co-editor of *Proteus*, and always welcomes the opportunity to work to promote the interpreting profession. She is also a member of ATA and Delaware Valley Translators Association.

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## **A History of *Proteus*, Updated**

### ***Proteus* in print**

In a world that changes as quickly as the click of a button, every organization needs a source of institutional memory. We need to see where we have been so we can better chart where we are going. As one of her last contributions, before her untimely passing, Nancy Festinger prepared a brief history of *Proteus*, parts of which are included here. NAJIT's quarterly publication, available to members of the organization, has a long and storied history, going through several iterations over more than thirty years. NAJIT (formerly CITA) was founded in 1979, and one of its first endeavors was to publish a newsletter, called *Citations*, which was edited by Janis Palma through the 1980s. Then came NAJIT News, edited by Mary Ellen Pruess.

*Proteus* began publication in the winter of 1992, with Dagoberto Orrantia as editor-in-chief and Nancy Festinger as associate editor. David Mintz and Mirta Vidal assisted in editing and laying out many issues in the early 1990s. All layout was done by the editors in columns using Wordperfect, and the printing process was coordinated by the executive director.

As first editor, Dagoberto Orrantia established the quarterly's name, editorial policy and standards of accuracy. He pledged that the publication would uphold the same high standards of impartiality, accuracy and completeness as that required of judiciary interpreters. The contents of the newsletter aimed to mirror the diversity of the membership. The publication promised to take pro-active stances in the promotion of adequate compensation and fair, uniform working conditions for court interpreters throughout the United States.

The name of the publication was chosen to reflect the protean nature of the court interpreter. For a full description of Proteus in Greek mythology, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proteus>.

In 2000 Nancy Festinger became editor-in-chief. The masthead and format of the publication were re-designed and color printing was introduced by James Mowrey Visual Design Works. In 2002 Chuck Eng Design took over as layout and graphic designer. From that point forward, editing and layout were done by computer, and each issue went through four or five drafts until reaching final form. In 2007, Virginia Oakes de Acosta served as assistant editor and proofreader. Julie A. Sellers worked as assistant editor with Nancy Festinger in 2010-2011. When Nancy stepped down as editor in May, 2011, she was replaced by Rosemary W. Dann, with Julie as transitional co-editor.

Kathleen Shelly replaced Julie as an editor in the fall of 2012, with Rosemary serving as editor-in-chief. Together, they oversaw the publication of *Proteus* until spring of 2015. Athena Matilsky joined the staff in fall 2014.

With the advent of the electronic format, *Proteus* was expanded to include recurring features: "Notable Quotables," "The Last Laugh," "For Better or Verse" and "How I Handled It". A special "Links" section was incorporated to afford a broad range of relevant topics in a categorized form for easy selection, according to the reader's interest. Special efforts were made to include articles relating to languages other than Spanish, academic articles and themed issues. The torch has now been passed to Athena, who becomes editor-in-chief as of this issue; she will be heading a team of editors and proofreaders who are taking the publications to new heights of innovation with fresh new ideas for our cherished newsletter.

### **From print to online publication**

In February 2011, with volume XX, no.1, *Proteus* ceased to publish its paper edition and became an interactive online publication, a step that brought with it a certain amount of controversy within the organization. Many have asked why NAJIT decided to end its print publication of *Proteus*. The main reason, of course, was the cost. As indicated above, the publication of *Proteus* involved the participation of professional layout and graphic designers, which came to be more expensive each year. Added to this was the cost of paper, printing and mailing. By 2011, the organization was spending a total of \$10,000 a year on the publication of four issues of *Proteus*, which included layout, graphics, printing and postage, an amount that included advertising revenue. At the time that NAJIT decided to turn to online publication, the cost of the printed version represented the largest single expense for the organization. When the membership was polled as to whether they would approve a larger amount for dues in order to pay for the print version, the response was overwhelmingly negative, leaving the organization little choice as to whether to continue print publication.

The advantages of a print version of *Proteus* are obvious. In the first place there was the enjoyment of receiving the current edition in the mail; members often wax nostalgic about the pleasure of perusing the current copy over their morning coffee. In addition, it has been pointed out that copies of the publication could be easily shared with others and also used as an educational tool, since members could give out copies of pertinent articles to judges, attorneys and other interested persons. Finally,

comparison has been made with the *Chronicle*, the glossy magazine published by the American Translators Association, which is subsidized by extensive print ads. **(1)** Some members feel that a professional organization such as NAJIT should make its presence felt in the field and beyond with a more substantial manifestation of its importance in the world of interpreting in the form of a professionally produced printed newsletter.

On the other hand the advantages of an online publication are also manifest, especially in the internet media culture of today. Past issues of the publication going back to 1992 are immediately accessible to members, and previously published articles can easily be located by a detailed search. All *Proteus* articles, news, links and other pieces are truly interactive. Not only can readers access references and information through the online links provided in the text and endnotes, but they also have the opportunity of publishing their own comments and opinions in spaces provided for this purpose. The online version of *Proteus* is also more decorative. Color pictures and graphics can be inserted easily and help to bring the publication to life. In addition, the online publication of *Proteus* makes it possible for the editors to consider running articles of greater length than was possible with the print version, such as Dr. Georganne Weller's significant article on interpreting indigenous languages in Mexico, "The Growing Need for Trained Interpreters in Mexico's Indian Languages in Mexico and in the United States," which was published in *Proteus* in the summer of 2013, and Dr. Roda Roberts' study, "Tiered Court Interpreter Systems," published in fall of 2014.

Instead of receiving *Proteus* by mail, readers are advised of a new issue by email through NAJIT's Cyberblast service and are then directed to click on a link to find the new issue. Also provided is a printable PDF version of the current issue that the interested member can easily download and share either by printing or sending by email. Yes, it was pleasant to receive *Proteus* by mail, it was useful to be able to share a copy with a friend or colleague, and it seemed important to maintain NAJIT's presence in printed form, but the general consensus does seem to be that the advantages of an online publication outweigh other considerations.

### **The future of *Proteus***

The new *Proteus* team will be debuting its first issue in the summer of 2015. While the torch has been officially handed to incoming editor-in-chief Athena Matilsky, Rosemary Dann and Kathleen Shelly retain active roles as consultant and proofreader/co-editor, respectively. In addition, *Proteus* now has a formidable team of co-editors consisting of Andre Moskowitz, Dan DeCoursey, Cecilia Golumbeanu and Arianna Aguilar. The summer issue will see the introduction of two new regular columns, "Interpreters Everywhere", a space for members of the profession to share what is happening in their corner of the world, and "Cracking the Code," a participatory column that allows us to discuss solutions to challenging terminology. We also already have two pieces of work from interpreters of languages other than Spanish and hope to keep those numbers growing. In addition, we will be introducing a regular "Letter from the Editor." The new staff aspires to continue publishing quality feature articles, to further introduce new regular columns and to encourage more reader participation. Their goal is to reformat the online version of *Proteus* to make it more pleasing to the eye. Other plans, to be disclosed shortly, are also in the works. Stay tuned!

**(1)** Interestingly, the ATA *Chronicle* is also offered online in both a flipbook and a PDF format, neither of which is interactive, but rather is an online replica of the organization's flagship publication. Unlike *Proteus*, the online *Chronicle* contains no internal or external links, and there are no accommodations for reader comments. For a summary of the fascinating survey conducted by ATA as to the print/online version of the *Chronicle*, **[click here](#)**.

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[Contributors to this article are Rosemary W. Dann, Kathleen Shelly, Athena Matilsky. See their full bios **[here](#)**.]

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## An Overview of Laptop-Assisted Consecutive Interpretation



**By Robert Zemser**

In 2003, an article appeared in the spring edition of *Proteus* describing a new method of consecutive interpretation using a digital recorder (Lombardi, 2003). I am a tech geek, so naturally I was fascinated by the idea of using new technology in the courtroom to enhance the interpreter experience. Years passed and I never got around to mastering the technique, let alone figuring out how to convince court staff to let me record a witness. Instead, I began thinking about my new laptop and how I might apply touch-typing abilities to the art of consecutive interpretation.

The idea of replacing my steno pad with a notebook computer started informally. I tested the waters in quasi-judicial proceedings, i.e. probation intake interviews, customer service walk-ins, telephonic interpretation and informal settings wherever there was desk space and somewhere to sit. Eventually, I mustered the confidence to bring the laptop into actual courtrooms.

To my pleasant surprise, judges were receptive. I then wondered, could I bring it to a grand jury proceeding? Such hearings are known for their secretive nature. The mere presence of an interpreter, let alone a laptop, is an unusual sight for the grand jurors tasked with judging evidence in serious criminal cases. I was nervous the day I took the laptop with me and flipped open the lid. I began typing and the proceeding went ahead without a hitch.

In the three years that I have used the computer in court proceedings, I have encountered no resistance. By the time I began testing the new technique in early 2012, judges in my work sphere had already begun to see a gradual influx of technology into their courtrooms. Lawyers were appearing with tablet PCs and laptops to supplement their arsenal of tools.

A computer-toting interpreter is a less traditional sight than an attorney with the same equipment, to be sure. Consequently, I am mindful of the importance of being as unobtrusive and invisible as possible, and take pains to preserve these qualities whenever I appear with a laptop. (Palma, 2014)

The laptop I use in court is discreet. It has a small footprint (the screen measures approximately 12 inches diagonally) and is quite thin. Brand is of no consequence, but size, portability, and color do matter. The device should feel almost as light in my hands as a notepad and, like pen and paper, be ready to go in an instant. It should not have a hot pink protective cover, and the last thing a judge needs to hear in court is a Windows or Mac boot-up chime.

I put considerable thought into how it is used in the courtroom to minimize distractions. Volume is always set to zero. Screen clutter is minimized. The digital notepad is front and center. The message to all who may glance in the direction of this interpreter is that this is a professional tool of the trade.

It is critical that the keyboard be full size in order to permit maximum possible typing speeds. Normal human speech can easily surpass 100 words per minute and sometimes reach even 200 wpm. To be effective using this method, the interpreter should be capable of typing at least 80 words per minute.

As a judge begins to ask a complex question of a plaintiff, it should be typed out at or close to the word per minute rate of the



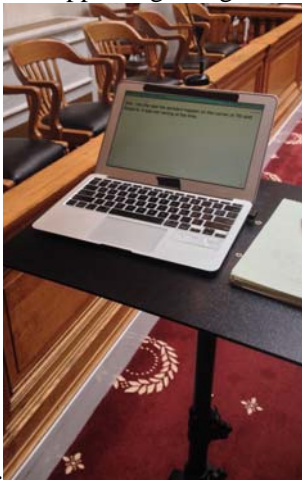
speaker. Abbreviations of words, akin to symbols in traditional note-taking, can maximize typing efficiency. By the time the question has been fully uttered, even while it is being typed out, I am analyzing the content of the question and preparing for an immediate sight translation (González et al., 1991). When the foreign language is being spoken, typing occurs in this language and the reverse interpretation follows. The end result is a form of consecutive interpreting that is stylistically unique, fast-paced, and extremely effective.

When interpreting in laptop-assisted consecutive mode, I have concluded that judges and lawyers do appreciate the capture of longer utterances, but only to a certain extent. There is an expectation that interpretation of the statement or question into either language will occur relatively quickly. Judges typically do not want to listen to a five minute answer. They want information in manageable quantities. (Palma, 2009)

A court interpreter taking notes on a laptop should also be wary of excessive information capture as compared to the ability of a partner interpreter who is relying on conventional note-taking techniques. Tension could result from an exaggerated stylistic imbalance due to the way each interpreter performs. The objective of both interpreters should be faithful and accurate interpretation, not to compete with each other as to who can recall the greatest amount of information.

In spite of the potential for creating both a distraction and/or a stylistic imbalance, fellow interpreters, judges and court staff in general welcome the use of a laptop. The computer is noticed but rarely questioned. When asked about it, I am quick to display and explain what is on the screen, essentially the digital equivalent of a blank sheet of notepad paper. To all who might inquire further, I point out that words are typed during the moment of interpretation and immediately deleted and replaced by new utterances. Incidentally, deleted strings of text *can* be made to reappear using the Ctrl + Z command. This feature is helpful when the interpreter is asked to recall a long question or answer following an objection.

Inevitably, situations do arise in which the use of a laptop can be more distracting than productive. Some judges prefer to have parties and attorneys stand for the duration of a brief hearing. Under these conditions, for an interpreter to be seated with a laptop while appearing alongside everyone else would be visually disruptive. In these circumstances, I resort to the conventional



notepad.

Extended trial testimony at the witness stand presents a similar challenge to the laptop-equipped interpreter in that typically there is no table or desk space available. Interpreters using traditional notepads have become accustomed to resting pen and paper on narrow witness stand railings. My solution to this is a simple, affordable, and adjustable laptop stand readily available for sale online. It resembles a podium and is lightweight. Some models feature enough surface area to fit an emergency notepad, and my partner interpreters have welcomed the newfound space to rest their own notepads when it is their turn at the witness stand.



The idea of using a laptop for more effective consecutive interpretation of witness testimony in a jury trial was certainly a daunting proposition, much like the experience of using it in grand jury proceeding. However, both situations have resulted in highly successful interpretation of events, and comments from judges and prosecutors over the years have been overwhelmingly positive and encouraging. The success of the technique can be attributed not only to possessing the requisite typing skills and discreet, powerful technology, but to confidence and assertiveness in bringing such tools into the interpreting environment.

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Lombardi, J. (2003). DRAC Interpreting: Coming Soon to a Courthouse Near You? *Proteus*, 12(2), 7-9.

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*[Robert Zemser is a federally certified court interpreter for Spanish. He currently works as a staff interpreter at Essex County Superior Court in New Jersey. Born in the United States, he was raised overseas and lived in Spain for many years. In the past, he has worked in both state and federal courts and interpreted in conferences on technology and gaming.]*

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## Embrace Your Curiosity and Grow



**By Gio Lester**

I have developed the habit of always carrying something with me on which to write or record things that call my attention. I find myself jotting down expressions that make my brain do a double take, and they are not always translations. One recent example was “get (some) air,” which means to go higher in rollerblading, skating and snowboarding. There are instances when I record a translation for an especially interesting word or expression, such as *tá fechado* in negotiations, which is Portuguese for “done deal,” for example. The Brazilian cable channel I watch almost every morning is doing a great job of helping me update my Portuguese vocabulary.

Work also provides great contributions. An example is the Brazilian Portuguese word *isso* [//ee-sue//], when used in answer to a question. It could be rendered as “that’s it” or “that’s right,” but it simply means “yes” when it is not emphatic. There are situations when one or the other English expressions fits better. An example is the answer to a question such as “So, you gave the papers to your accountant and waited?” “*Isso.*” The word “yes” would fit perfectly here. However, if the question had been posed a bit differently, such as: “So, what you mean is that you gave the papers to your accountant and then waited for his response, right?” the answer “*Isso!*” could be easily rendered here as “That’s it!” Mind you, the word “*isso*” is a demonstrative pronoun, just like the words “this” and “that” in English.

Problems arise when I run across the occasional Spanish-speaking attorney who knows she did not hear anything close to a “*sí*,” or the ones who took Portuguese in high school, or dated a Brazilian, and question when I render an *Isso* [//ee-sue//] as “That’s it” – the length of the sounds of the two expressions are markedly distinct.

I vividly recall one such instance when the attorney approached me after the fact to explain that he was just striving for accuracy and that he had clearly heard the witness answer something else. My reply was one of my favorite examples: when a witness says “I see” it is not rendered as “I have a visual reference,” because everyone knows the expression means “I understand,” and it is my sworn duty to uphold the meaning of the utterance, and not simply render a literal translation.

There are so many “linguistic” opportunities for misunderstanding on the part of those who “know a few words” or “studied some Portuguese.” A great example is *pois não*. Despite the negative particle it means “yes” or “with pleasure” or even “how may I help you?” Its twin expression *pois sim* is a negative meaning “no way,” “in your dreams.” Another favorite of mine is *Absolutamente!* which is a very strong negation in Portuguese, just as strong as “Absolutely!” is in English, but means the opposite.

Keeping my notes straight is not that hard. I have Evernote on my phone and on my computer to make sure my little pearls don’t get lost. I sync the two every day so my notes, both written and spoken, are the same and available wherever I am. My lists keep growing, and I am careful to include references such as subject and grammatical function just to make sure later on I don’t find myself trying to guess what I meant. There are many apps available; some offer a free and a paid version. (Have you met the word *freemium* yet?)

Curiosity has been a constant companion of mine. I recall asking my mom if Jesus was history or legend (got a scolding for that one—I was only seven), and asking my Biology teacher in high school where the first bacteria found RNA to replicate its DNA from—she was just as happy with my question as my mother had been.

All these many years later, it turns out that my curiosity and love for accuracy are great assets for my current professional life. My advice to you is to embrace your curiosity and turn each linguistic obstacle into an opportunity to enrich your knowledge base. But ensure you are ready for it by making use of the many tools available to help you keep organized regardless of the device or platform you choose to use.

## REFERENCES

Note-taking apps to keep you organized:

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2423146,00.asp> \*

<http://lifehacker.com/5837191/five-best-note-taking-applications> \*

\*Springpad, ceased operations on June 25, 2014 after the articles were published.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemium>

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*[Brazilian-born Giovanna “Gio” Lester has worked in the translation and interpreting fields since 1980. Originally from Bahia, Brazil, she has lived in the US since 1985. She is a regular contributor to the NAJIT Blog and is also a member of ATA, NBCMI, IAPTI and the new ATA Florida Chapter, ATIF, which she co-founded and is serving a second term as president.]*

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## The 2015 NAJIT Conference

By Arianna Aguilar

Warm and sunny Atlanta, Georgia, welcomed the more than 200 attendees to the 36th NAJIT Annual Conference, held May 15th through 17th, 2015, at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency in the downtown area.

The posh hotel was the backdrop for 46 workshops, with topics ranging from “Challenges of Legal Terminology for Arabic Court Interpreters” to “Ethics: A Situational Conundrum.” In attendance were old and new friends alike; for some this was their first time at a NAJIT conference, while others in attendance were well-known presenters and members of NAJIT.

One well-known face at the conference was Dr. Alexander Rainof, PhD, former NAJIT Chair and early proponent of SSTI, the **Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation**, NAJIT’s sister organization. One of the original purposes of SSTI was to develop an interpreter’s exam. According to Dr. Rainof, this took several years. First of all, NAJIT did not have anyone who could develop a viable exam, specifically in the area of psychometrics. “Science can be used to invalidate the exam. All tests are challenged in court, and we must be able to prove that it is fair,” said Dr. Rainof. “Of course, it is very expensive. We were able to find a group that was interested in research of this aspect of psychometrics.” Through his efforts and those of others, such as Janis Palma and Mirta Vidal, SSTI introduced the NAJIT certification exam in Spanish, thereby elevating the profession. SSTI’s current focus is research into the fields of translation and interpreting, especially in the legal field. The SSTI Board is excited to begin the first comprehensive literature review of existing studies, with a view towards identifying areas most in need of further study. SSTI board member Janis Palma was present at the Conference, and her presence was acknowledged by Melinda Gonzalez-Hibner. Holly Mikkelson, Susan Berk-Seligson and Aida Martinez-Gomez join Ms. Palma to form the SSTI board. Bethany Korp is the NAJIT board liaison.

Among the first-timers was Liz Essary, a Certified Healthcare Interpreter and an Indiana State Supreme Court Certified Interpreter. Ms. Essary had been selected as a 2015 NAJIT Scholar, which afforded her complimentary registration for the conference, a stipend of \$500, complimentary registration for one full-day preconference seminar or two half-day pre-conference seminars, and complimentary student membership in NAJIT for one full year, including a one-year subscription to *Proteus*.

According to Essary, she had a wonderful experience. She said, “Everything was very well-organized, and they offered so many opportunities to meet people involved in the organization. One of my favorite things was that they matched each scholar with a conference mentor to guide us through the conference and answer any questions we might have. It turned out that my mentor had a very similar background as mine, and he had some great advice for me and really helped make me feel welcome. I also enjoyed the chance to meet the other scholars and get to know the experience of others who are just starting out in the field. Meeting everyone at the conference and attending the workshops has really inspired me to get out there and test the waters of legal interpreting!”

Another first-time attendee, Nicholas Ferreira, Member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario, shared his impressions. “I really enjoyed the diversity of presentations and the wide range of participants, which made for very stimulating networking sessions. [It was] such a passionate group of people, and a great city for holding this event.”

His favorite highlights from the program were Dr. Rainof's presentation on "Cooking and the Courts," "Voice Training" by Juanita Ulloa, and the much-applauded keynote speech at the Annual Meeting given by James R. Clayton, a judge of the 7th Circuit in Florida. The judge spoke about his experiences working with court interpreters and his support for respecting the interpreting profession.

After his speech, he recapped some advice that he would give to judges who work with interpreters. He said, "Local judges need to be more sympathetic to the need for qualified interpreters, and respect the profession. We can't do business and protect people's rights without qualified interpreters. In fact, he gave a list of six things that every judge should do. They are:

1. Practice "guestology." In other words, treat everyone as a guest
2. No one is as important as they think.
3. Interpreters and clients need to be treated equally, fairly and with dignity and respect.
4. Talk to people, not down to them.
5. Be patient; don't get angry.
6. Be willing to repeat yourself and slow down for the benefit of the interpreter.

His speech, along with all of the other presentations, afforded attendees the opportunity to expand their horizons and meet colleagues in the field.

During the Annual Meeting, Esther Navarro-Hall, the Chair of the Board of Directors of NAJIT, addressed the attendees and said, "I would say that our profession is a profession of choices...whether we are interpreters, or translators, or both. We are always looking for the most precise terms to convey meaning from one language to another... all the while guided by context, culture, ethics, and so many other factors that enter into the communication equation. Yes. We are a profession of choices, but most importantly, this IS our profession of choice. So, to all of you who have made interpreting or translation your profession of choice, and to our friends and guests who have joined us this weekend because you are interested in finding out more about what we do, a HUGE welcome! Those of you who attend training conferences, and that includes the trainers as well as the attendees, have long come to realize that in order to be the best of the best at what you do, you must become a perpetual learner. Thank you so much for being here!"

Not to be forgotten were the social times, such as salsa dancing at a local restaurant, where attendees kicked back and hit the dance floor.

Ms. Essary, mentioned earlier, summed up this year's NAJIT experience well. She said, "I loved the fact that there were such great sessions to choose from, and such a variety, as well as social events where I could meet people."

Did you miss this year's conference? Keep an eye on *Proteus* for information regarding next year's conference so you can benefit from this educational and networking opportunity. We hope to see you next year in San Antonio!

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## NAJIT Conference Photos



Tweet by Heidi Cazes:

Who's the most important person in a courtroom? Many times, it's the interpreter. Judge Clayton [#NAJIT2015](#)



Tweet by Esther Navarro-Hall:

[#NAJIT2015](#) Board of Directors, EO & Admin. Set for tomorrow! :) [@NAJITChair](#) [@NAJITOrg](#) [@DeLaCruzTrans](#)  
[@IntrepidInterp](#)



Tweet by NAJIT HQ:

Great all day PreConference session on **#FTT** at **#NAJIT2015!**



Tweet by NAJIT HQ:

Our wonderful scholars at our Scholars Reception! Congrats to all **#NAJIT2015**

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## **Scholar Takeaways**

**Hear what our scholars had to say about this year's NAJIT Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA!**



**Veronica Escobar:** Participating at the NAJIT annual conference was a great experience for me. I had three days of constant learning, not only in the very interesting sessions that I attended, but also through talking to other industry colleagues. I had the opportunity to meet amazing people. Some have been in this profession for a long time while others are newcomers, but all of them were willing to share their experiences and advice. I can truly say that NAJIT is a very welcoming community, where members learn from each other and take advantage of their collective knowledge. The conference motivated me to keep studying and improving my skills; I hope to be able to give back to the industry by raising awareness of what a professional translator and interpreter really is.



**Melina Coria:** We study, learn legal terms, read what we can get our hands on and dedicate ourselves to the art of interpreting, but it is never enough. I believe this is why we are interpreters: our quest for knowledge is never-ending. As a NAJIT Scholar, I learned about the business of interpretation and translation and received firsthand knowledge from experienced instructors. Since I'm just starting out, some of the workshops felt daunting, specifically "Mexican Legal Procedure," where I was almost certain Thomas West was speaking a different language. I thought for a moment it was my inexperience in the field that confounded me, but as I looked around and recognized wide eyes and learning on other faces I realized that interpreters do not in fact know everything. No matter which stage we are in the process, there is always more information waiting to be unveiled. I also learned a lot about the practical facets of the business that they never teach in school. Heidi Cazes used her sweet sense of humor to explain invoices and the importance of not procrastinating with your business. We had a blast with Juanita Ulloa learning to pronounce "teenager" without an accent. In fact, just having the opportunity to speak to other successful interpreters was incredible. Some may call me naïve and young, but I am very proud to belong to a profession where we build each other up and help our fellow colleagues. We thrive on partnership and learn from each other. This is one of the things that makes our growing profession unique.



**Myahanh Che:** I had heard about the NAJIT conference for a long time, but until this year I never thought I would be able to attend; that was due to cost as well as doubt about whether the conference was better than any local conference in my state. I am so glad I was picked as a Scholar this year...and what an experience it was! I had a chance to learn from law professors, colleagues with experience in the field, a speaker from Australia, and a peek into transcription and translation. I also had the opportunity to meet new friends from all over. My new friends and I already have a plan to come back to next year's conference in San Antonio, TX. Thanks so much to NAJIT for this wonderful scholarship. It has opened a door to new opportunities.



**Elizabeth Essary:** I attended my first NAJIT conference this year in Atlanta, and it marked a special occasion for me. I had just finished my first year of graduate school, which included coursework in court interpreting. Having worked for over a decade as a healthcare interpreter, the conference afforded me a wonderful chance to get out of the classroom and explore the work that interpreters do in the legal setting, and meet the people who are doing that work. As a Scholar, I was invited to attend the preconference workshops of my choice. I jumped at the chance to attend one workshop for simultaneous skills and another for consecutive skills. I appreciated the experience of taking what I had learned in the classroom setting and applying it in a completely unfamiliar setting with other interpreters and trainers who could offer a new perspective. During the weekend, I attended sessions on terminology, VRI, ethics, and even some healthcare-focused topics, like interpreting in Mental Health. When I wasn't in the sessions, I enjoyed receptions where NAJIT leadership and membership recognized and welcomed the Scholars with enthusiasm and support. They even paired each scholar with a mentor to guide us through the conference. Overall, it was a wonderful learning experience, and I can't wait to attend next year!



**David Garcia:** My experience at the 2015 NAJIT Annual Conference this past May was rewarding because it affirmed my decision to pursue a career as an interpreter and translator, offered practical guidance, and inspired me to reflect on its importance. At the conference I met professional interpreters and translators from all over the U.S. and Latin America, the *crème de la crème* of the profession, who freely shared with me their vast experience in the field. The passion that these individuals demonstrated for the profession was palpable, and meeting them reinforced my own reasons for pursuing the profession, at the root of which is the goal of integrating my own multicultural identities. Although I received plenty of practical guidance (which will surely help me to pass my future certification exams and obtain suitable work), what was most inspiring for me was to observe the sophisticated and subtle ways in which my newfound colleagues deftly and seamlessly navigated their own multicultural identities, demonstrating a deep respect for, and dedication to human rights. As a relative newcomer to the profession and to the conference, I experienced the excitement that you feel when you meet people who are passionate about the same things that you are, combined with the stimulus and challenge of digesting all of that newness in ways that connect you to the larger picture. Furthermore, in spite of the challenges the profession faces, the group that I observed in action at the conference is more than sufficiently capable, dedicated, and qualified to make the best decisions for the profession and define what it is we do.

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## The Susan E. Castellanos-Bilodeau Scholarship Recipient

*Melissa Fridlin-Murrell*



I have been an interpreter in various settings for over 15 years, and have worked in Alabama for the past five years. In Alabama we do not have many professional interpreters; the courts, other agencies and medical facilities are not consistently using qualified interpreters and there is very little training available in the state for interpreters and translators. So, what started out for me as a plan to work as a freelance interpreter has turned into a long-term project to expand opportunities for interpreter training and to educate providers and state agencies on the importance of using qualified (and ultimately certified!) interpreters.

I am a brand new member of NAJIT, and I was honored to be the recipient of this year's Susan E. Castellanos-Bilodeau Scholarship. This was my first opportunity to attend the NAJIT conference, and it was inspiring to meet so many interpreters and advocates who continue to work on this same long-term project, paving the way in other states and advocating for improved language access throughout the country. The people that I met will be able to connect us here in Alabama to resources that will make our work in the Deep South much easier. Of course, I also brought home a tremendous amount of concrete skills and vocabulary from the workshops that I will be able to share with other interpreters here in Alabama.

This, of course, is the goal of any professional association—to connect us to each other, build our skills, and help us feel like we are part of a community. I certainly now feel like a part of the NAJIT community, and I am proud to be a NAJIT member. Thank you to NAJIT for the opportunity, and I look forward to working with all of you in the years to come. See you next year in Texas!

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## Cracking the Code: What's That Word in Your Language?

### Cracking the Code: What's That Word in Your Language?

We are pleased to introduce a terminology corner for all translators and interpreters of all languages, devoted to the pursuit of the closest equivalent of the bolded terms and phrases. Here's the word for you this issue:

- 'These interventions have political and diplomatic consequences as well. The transformation of the Libyan campaign from a humanitarian mission to regime change has had serious political and diplomatic **blow-back**.' (Foust, J., 2012: When intervention fails. *Pbs.org [WNET/Opinion]* Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/need-to-know/>)

Definition of blow-back (as defined by the *O.E.D.*): **blow-back** n. fig. (*chiefly U.S.* The adverse consequences of a (political) situation or action (in quot. 1968 as part of an extended metaphor). In 1988, the entry was updated with the spy jargon meaning of 'unexpected—and negative—effects at home that result from covert operations overseas'.

How would you translate “blow-back” into your language? We look forward to your responses below!

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*[Cecilia Columbeanu is on the editorial staff of Proteus. See her full bio [here](#).]*

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## Interpreters Everywhere: Southern California

**By Dan DeCoursey**

*This is the first piece in a new series that will keep tabs on what is going on in the translating and interpreting community in different parts of the U.S. If you would like to submit a piece on your region, please contact the Proteus editor.*

These past few years both the state and federal courts in Southern California have been through quite a rough patch, with layoffs, court closures, work furloughs, sequestration, and even a government shutdown. The state courts were hit especially hard with **unprecedented cuts**, including 52 closed courthouses and nearly 4,000 layoffs for court employees, not to mention contractors who were no longer offered assignments.

The good news is that it looks like **the worst might be behind us**. Nonetheless, these are still lean times for many courts, and state courts are struggling to fund California's recently implemented **language access plan**, which was developed after a **complaint** was filed with the Department of Justice alleging that the courts' failure to provide interpreters for all civil matters was a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The California Federation of Interpreters (CFI), which represents interpreters who are court employees, **has expressed concerns** that California's language access plan proposes using video remote interpreting (VRI) to expand language access, without specifying any minimum standards regarding this technology, such as high quality audio and video, a preference for in-person interpreters whenever feasible, and limitations on which proceedings are appropriate for remote interpreting. CFI has proposed a pilot program to test VRI's use before this technology is implemented statewide. The Judicial Council's decision is pending on this matter.

In the federal courthouse in San Diego, where I am a staff interpreter, proximity to the border means that we continue to interpret for a large number of immigration and drug-related cases, most of which originate either on the border or at a Border Patrol checkpoint. While the vast majority of interpreter cases are Spanish, we encounter a fair share of languages-other-than-Spanish (LOTS) cases, including Somali, Arabic, Armenian, Cantonese and Korean. Surprisingly, as I described in **a recent article**, our second most needed language has been Mixtec, an indigenous language from southern Mexico. **A 2010 study** by California Rural Legal Assistance documented a steady increase over the past few decades in immigration from southern Mexico, in particular Oaxaca and Guerrero, where the majority speaks an indigenous language. Our court statistics would seem to indicate a recent spike in this trend. Other common indigenous languages in our district include Zapotec and Triqui, also from Oaxaca and Guerrero. We are fortunate to have a Mixtec interpreter who is available locally, but Zapotec and Triqui cases often leave us scrambling to find a remote interpreter to perform relay interpreting over the telephone.

Not surprisingly, many of the Spanish speakers we interpret for are from the border region in Mexico, predominately Tijuana and Mexicali. Quite a few of them are border crossers, i.e., people who live in Mexico and cross the border regularly for work. Therefore, we need to become acquainted with a whole range of border crossing vocabulary, such as *la línea* (the international border), *la garita* (port of entry) and *visa láser* (border crossing card, also known as a laser visa).

While the courts may have yet to get out of the woods completely, Tijuana is in the midst of an impressive comeback. Not too long ago, Tijuana was hit with a wave of drug-related violence, and **tourism declined by as much as 90 percent**. Border wait times lasting several hours discouraged visitors from both sides of the border. Now things are looking up.

A recent **report** found that violence in Tijuana (as well as in other trouble spots in Mexico) has been decreasing steadily. San Diego and Tijuana, which are sister cities, are starting to warm up to each other again, too. The San Ysidro Port of Entry, the **busiest land border crossing in the world**, is in the middle of a **major expansion project** that has already **reduced wait times significantly**. (Yes, there's an **app** for that, too.) There's good news for travelers as well. After decades of government plans that were repeatedly shelved to turn the Tijuana airport, across the street from the border fence into a binational airport, a group of private investors stepped up to start building the next best thing: **a cross-border bridge** that will allow passengers to walk directly from the Tijuana airport's baggage claim over to the U.S. (and will provide convenient access to discount Mexican airlines such as Volaris and Interjet).

In the meantime, Tijuana has recreated itself as a major foodie destination. In **a recent issue devoted to tacos**, the *San Diego Reader* included numerous taco shops from Tijuana. Food icons Anthony Bourdain and Rick Bayless made recent visits to the region, and high-end chefs have created their own cuisine, **Baja Med**, a fusion of cuisine from Baja California and the Mediterranean. There's even a wine region, Valle de Guadalupe, which has been called **"the new Napa."** Those who are not ready to venture to Tijuana on their own can sign up for a **tour**. All of this is good news for businesses on both sides of the border—**a recent report** suggested that long border wait times were causing Tijuana to lose \$230 million annually in revenue; San Diego's losses were estimated at over \$1 billion.

One would hope that these developments are good news for us, too. It does not seem far-fetched that increased collaboration across the border will lead to more opportunities for interpreters and translators in the region as well. All the more reason to believe that, hopefully, the worst is now behind us.

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*[Dan DeCoursey is on the editorial staff of Proteus. See his full bio [here](#).]*

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## How I Handled It



**By Denise Green**

As judiciary interpreters, we know there are basic rules of decorum expected of everyone in the courtroom and we understand the consequences for not adhering to these principles. Depending on the offense committed (and the policies and moods of the judge), one can expect a range of consequences. For instance, if a defendant appears in court dressed inappropriately (e.g., a dirty shirt and pants with holes in them), a judge may take this into consideration when deciding a case, but otherwise let it go unmentioned. However, if a defendant yells loudly out of turn during a proceeding while employing profanity, he or she could be charged with contempt of court. As officers of the court, we also see firsthand that not everyone who enters the courtroom abides by those principles of behavior that have become second nature to us. This is a situation of one such case, and how I, as an American Sign Language court interpreter, handled it.

I was interpreting an unremarkable bench trial. After the case was finished, a woman whom I knew to be affiliated with the defendant told me that someone had used their smart phone to film me while interpreting and had summarily sent it off to a social media site. Not only are cell phones forbidden in our local courtrooms for anything other than case related emergencies, but this man had recorded the proceeding, which is strictly disallowed without prior permission.

I told the bailiff, and he interrupted the next proceeding to notify the judge. What ensued was a series of events wherein the man in question denied having used his phone to film in court. He then lied to the judge about several more details, but eventually admitted to the filming. He explained that he could not delete the video because it had been sent to a social media site from which it could no longer be retrieved and he apologized for ignoring the signs forbidding cell phone use. After reprimanding the offender and apologizing to me and my client, the judge chose to leave it up to the prosecutor's office to pursue the issue at a later date.

First, let me say that I was taken aback by the situation. Regardless of how many times this has happened while working, dealing with someone filming me while at work it is always a delicate issue. On the one hand, I appreciate people's fascination with signed languages, and on the other, I have to protect my personal privacy and that of my clients.

As interpreters we bridge two or more cultures on a daily basis. Our behavior on an assignment not only affects our direct clients, but the beliefs and prejudices of onlookers, and it is in our best interest and that of the communities we serve to proceed accordingly. I tried to keep this in mind as I formulated what steps, if any, I should take.

The bailiff escorted everyone into the hallway and told the man to apologize to my client for having filmed his proceedings. During this brief confrontation, I was very aware of my internal/intra-personal dialogue. This was an interpreting scenario that (unlike most) actually did involve me. Was my likeness already across the internet for all to see? Our field has been getting the spotlight in popular culture and the assumptions of uninitiated and uniformed onlookers is enough to make one dizzy. I did not want to become part of that mix.

For example, a colleague became famous overnight for interpreting on television for the mayors of New York and New Jersey during Hurricane Katrina; a pop musician featured a Sign Language interpreter as part of her act when she recently performed on a late night show; and let us not forget the *New York Times* coverage of the man in South Africa who was not actually qualified to interpret for dignitaries at the memorial services of Nelson Mandela.

Again, I thought about the affects this man's behavior could have in the future not just upon myself and my client, but upon the interpreting and deaf communities, and how my reaction could influence the perspectives of what we in the field refer to as 'hearing people.' Ideally, observers of my work will walk away with a deeper understanding or respect for deaf people and American Sign Language.

I took a breath and considered all of the options I had for how to respond to the situation, and what was really at stake. I continued to interpret the apology while I processed my reaction. The man then turned to me and apologized, saying that he had never seen an American Sign Language interpreter before and "thought it was cool." And then, after respectfully asking permission of my deaf client to temporarily step out of the neutral interpreter role and speak for myself, as is customary in my field, I took my turn. I explained to the man that, although I appreciated his sentiment, he had committed an offense to the court, he needed to be aware of how his actions had affected my privacy and that of my client, and I was not pleased with this transgressions. In other words, what was fascinating for him was a serious situation for someone else. I felt good about having chosen my words carefully, and having my voice heard on an important issue.

I later followed up with the Prosecutor's office to hear what action had been taken in this matter. I was reminded that the hearing where this occurred was a public proceeding and so the privacy issue was not as big as I had initially considered it to be. I also reached out to the local Office for Equality and Access to the Courts, as it is a dependable advocate for interpreters. I wanted them to be informed of the occurrence and see if any of their interpreters had ever experienced this before. They had not.

Upon this writing, the case has not concluded. I look forward to seeing what, if any, repercussions the man with the cell phone experiences. I am humbly reminded that courtroom decorum, although a part of my daily life, is not followed by all who enter those hallowed doors, and that every day is a chance to hopefully add one humble brick to the bridge between the communities that I work with.

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*[Denise Green is a freelance community American Sign Language interpreter who holds national interpreter certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and has interpreted everything from SCUBA diving classes to top secret engineering meetings. She holds an Associate's Degree in ASL/English interpreting from National Technical Institute for the Deaf at RIT and a Bachelor's of Science in Linguistic Anthropology from Empire State College. She originally hails from the east coast and resides on the island of Maui, Hawai'i. When not interpreting she performs in professional and community theatre, creates art, practices tai chi, and is currently preparing to pass the legal specialist certificate for Sign Language interpreters.]*

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## **Review of: The Restaurant & Bar, English/Spanish, Spanish/English Dictionary**

**By Arianna Aguilar**

### **The Restaurant & Bar English, Spanish/English Dictionary**

Author: Maria Belknap

Publisher: John Wiley and Sons

Publication Date: 2007

Page count: 325

ISBN: 13: 978-0471-71182-7

Price: \$29.95

The Restaurant & Bar English/Spanish Spanish/English Dictionary by Maria Belknap aims to be a comprehensive equivalency dictionary for the bar, restaurant and hospitality industries. It has over 8,000 terms in Spanish and English, with 325 pages divided into eight sections: 1) Human Resources; 2) Business Operations; 3) Dining and Bar Areas; 4) Food; 5) Beverages; 6) Maintenance and Transportation; and 7) Basic Vocabulary.

As she explains on the back cover, the author endeavors to not only provide equivalent terminology, but also to enable non-Spanish speakers to “use this dictionary without preparation or linguistic training and still effectively communicate with coworkers and staff.” She even includes a Spanish pronunciation guide for non-Spanish speakers so they can communicate without needing to take “time consuming classes.”

Unfortunately, this guide does not quite live up to that statement. While the dictionary has some extremely helpful entries, it also contains some errors or omissions that lower the quality of the publication in general.

Chapters 7 through 9 offer some particularly useful entries. For example, Chapter 8, which is entitled “Food,” contains Spanish translations for different types of fish and seafood, including bass (*róbalo*), haddock (*abadejo*), monkfish (*rape*) and roe (*hueva*). The average interpreter or translator will not know these terms off the top of their head, so having a concise resource is extremely helpful if they come up in the course of their work. This dictionary is also an excellent resource for other rarely used culinary terms, as well as terms related to fruits and vegetables, which can vary by country, such as “apricot”: *albaricoque* or *chabacano* (Mexico) or *damasco* (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay).

The book’s weak points include idiomatic phrases that are sometimes given as a definitive solution, colloquialisms that are not always defined, and inaccuracies and typos, which indicate the lack of careful editing. For example, the translation of “Memorial Day” is *el último lunes de Mayo* [*sic*], which literally means “the last Monday in May.” The term “post-it” is translated as *libreta de apunte*, which literally means “notebook.” These inaccuracies take away from the general quality of the publication, and make the reader take all of the renditions with a grain of salt.

This book would also benefit if it focused just on vocabulary and did not venture into teaching Spanish to non-Spanish speakers. Furthermore, it has equivalent terms for rather strange phrases, such as “Don’t put bones in the garbage disposal,” and “[s]he was swigging brandy from the bottle.”

While this book has some very useful sections for the more unusual terms that an interpreter or translator may encounter related to the restaurant industry, its errors make this publication less effective. Hopefully, this book will be reexamined in the future with these aspects in mind and the mistakes corrected, and it will become an invaluable resource.

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*[Arianna Aguilar is on the editorial staff of Proteus. See her full bio [here](#).]*

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## **Notable Quotables**

"All meanings, we know, depend on the key of interpretation."

--George Eliot

"A language does not become fixed. The human intellect is always on the march, or, if you prefer, in movement, and languages with it."

--Victor Hugo

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## Links of Interest

### **LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES**

Names of countries in their own languages

Bulling “ar buile” in Irish English/BLOG POSTING

On the Language of Marriage

Separated by a common language/Linguist's blog on B.E. and A.E.

Our century and vanishing languages/VIDEO

Irony and the language of ‘defense’ Crimea

### **IN THE COURTS**

ASL footage

UK High Court rules against contractor for failure to provide court interpreters

### **INTERPRETING**

Bilingualism and the marketplace

Survey on interpreters’ glossaries by AIIC

Interpreter cartoons

Instructions for users of legal translations by European Association

Papers on training for consecutive and simultaneous

How to balance note-taking and listening in consecutive/FRENCH

### **DICTIONARIES**

English-French dictionary, with sources

Multilingual dictionary directory (search by language, subject or title)

Dictionary of Kiwi slang

### **LEXICOGRAPHY**

American and British attitudes to dictionaries, and the law

French/English Linguistic Glossary

### **SCIENCE**

Our brain’s visual dictionary

Bilingualism and children’s beliefs

## **ETHICS**

### **Canadian judges on interpreters' role/Video**

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## For Better or Verse

### The New Polyglots

To all the tongues we do not speak  
Now add the patois of Techie/Geek.  
It makes us feel that we are meek,  
Because its meanings, quite oblique,  
Cause our left-sided brain to shriek.

We find the outlook's very bleak  
That we'll interpret this mystique  
When we ask: "Where do I clique,  
So as to never nor forever wreak  
Havoc on PC, MAC or iPad chic?"

Or how to apply correct technique,  
To thus achieve some minor tweak,  
Requiring calls each 'n every week  
To kids who talk like a blue streak  
With sarcastic wit and great cheek.

Yet, although their comments reek,  
We know that they do not bespeak  
Any malice toward us folks antique.  
It is their way, not kind, but unique,  
To deal with a non-computer freak.

Douglas Hal Sillers 04-25-15

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*[Hal Sillers is a MN State and federally certified interpreter of Spanish and frequent contributor to this column. Hal is also the Staff Interpreter for the MN 8th Judicial District.]*

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## The Last Laugh

“Respectfully appropriated” from the Keynote speech at the Atlanta conference:

The Syndicate had been looking for a new man to make weekly collections from all the private businesses that they were protecting. Feeling the heat from the police force, they decide to use a deaf person for this job, figuring that if he got caught, he wouldn't be able to communicate to the police what he was doing. In his first week, the deaf collector picks up more than \$40,000. He gets greedy, decides to keep the money, and stashes it in a safe place. The head honcho soon realizes the collection is late and sends some of his thugs after the deaf collector. The thugs drag the guy to an interpreter. The enforcer says to the interpreter, “Ask him where da money is.” The interpreter signs, “Where's the money?” The deaf collector signs, “I don't know what you're talking about.” The interpreter tells the enforcer, “He says he doesn't know what you're talking about.” The enforcer pulls out a .38 and places it in the ear of the deaf collector. “NOW ask him where da money is.” The interpreter signs, “Where is the money?” The deaf collector signs, “The \$40,000 is in a tree stump in Central Park just east of the big fountain.” The interpreter's eyes light up, and he says to the thug, “He says he still doesn't know what you're talking about, and he doesn't think you got the guts to pull the trigger.”



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