



PROTEUS

*The Newsletter of
The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators*

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New York, NY

Message from the Board

“WORDS BEYOND BORDERS”

MIAMI MEETING TO FOCUS ON TERMINOLOGY

Although the program is still in the planning stage, news of NAJIT's upcoming 17th Annual

Meeting and Educational Conference has already stirred considerable interest here and abroad. The event is to take place at the Miami Beach Ocean Resort from May 17-19, 1996. Inquiries have come from as far away as England and proposals for presentations have come from Canada and from colleagues in Mexico.

The event will emphasize various aspects of terminology, including research, compilation, dissemination and teaching. The Centro de Estudios de Lingüística Aplicada from Mexico and the Centro de Traducciones y Terminología Especializada from Cuba will present workshops to share information and methodologies they have developed. Other sessions will discuss the specialized terminology of immigration and extradition hearings, *santería*, and legal documents from various countries. In addition, participants will be able to take a limited-attendance, Spanish-English, all-day advanced consecutive interpreting workshop, offered by Janis Palma, and hear about such varied subjects as escort interpreting for the U.S. State Department, navigating through cyberspace, and interpretation at a 19th century trial of a queen as compared to O.J. Simpson's. A workshop on cross-cultural issues will use practical exercises to explore differences between various Latin American countries. The results of a Canadian investigation of interpreter issues affecting accuracy and efficacy of interpreters will be another topic on the program.

The membership meeting will include discussion of the need to create a NAJIT credentialing program, a subject that has been under consideration for some time. To investigate this possibility further, an ad-hoc committee appointed by the Chair recently interviewed the president of a company that specializes in designing

May 17-19, 1996 at the Miami Beach Ocean Resort

credentialing exams for professional associations, and he has been invited to address these issues in Mi-

ami. An open-mike session, which was very well-received last year, will be added if time allows. Conference registration materials and the schedule will be available in the next few weeks. Members can help publicize the Miami conference by posting notices and putting stacks of announcements in places interpreters frequent. If you would like additional programs for this purpose please inform Arlene Stock at (212) 759-4457.

Concerning the recently held elections (the results will be announced soon), the outgoing Board of Directors thanks Dena Millman, who chaired the Nominations Committee, and members Joaquín Chan Sánchez and Donna Whitman, for an excellent job. There were again more names proposed this year than ever before and the Committee devoted considerable time to contacting and interviewing all of them in order to present a slate. Several very talented prospective candidates declined to run due to other commitments, but we hope they will consider running in the future.

One other major undertaking this fall were the weekend workshops in Brownsville, Texas and New York City to help prepare candidates for the federal oral certification exam. These got mixed reviews. Some problems stemmed from the fact that last minute changes in the instructors may not have afforded them adequate time to prepare, particularly in Brownsville, where the event came a week earlier than in New York. We are grateful to those who took the time to inform us verbally or in writing of their complaints. The opinions of the membership are taken seriously and we will keep these useful comments in mind as we plan future events.

MIRTA VIDAL
Chair, Board of Directors

The Manager's Column

Arlene Stock

The Secret Ballot: You Asked for It

As we go to press, election ballots for members of the Board of Directors are pouring in. We will announce the results as soon as they are in. You may have noticed that this year we switched to a secret ballot, and we'd like to let you know how the change came about.

Concerned members brought to our attention their displeasure at NAJIT's practice of requiring ballots to be signed, citing the secret ballot as the hallmark of a democracy. The issue was taken up at a Board of Directors meeting, and after due consideration a motion was passed that henceforth all NAJIT balloting be secret.

1996 Dues: Have You Paid?

By now you will have received your dues invoice for 1996. It costs NAJIT (and that means *you*) considerable sums of money to send dues invoices two, three and four times. There are many better ways for NAJIT to use its resources, so please pay promptly. And we apologize to those who were so prompt in paying for having to read this reminder.

Credit Card Payment Now Accepted

We are pleased to inform you that NAJIT now has the ability to accept credit card payments. We consider this to be an indication of NAJIT's continuing growth and vitality. All of the major credit cards are accepted: Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Discover.

Job Referrals

We mentioned in the last issue of *Proteus* that we frequently take calls at headquarters from attorneys and members of the general public asking for referrals to judiciary interpreters and translators. These are among our most welcome calls because they mean assignments for our members. We thought you would be amused by a call that came in from a gentleman who said he wanted to hire a German translator. We said we would be happy to refer him and asked what part of the country he was in. "I'm not in the country," he replied; "I'm in Berlin." He explained that he

wanted someone in the New York area to translate a document. We asked him to hold on so we could do a search of NAJIT's database to find our German translators in the New York area, whereupon he said, "Yes, but please don't keep me waiting; I'm at a pay phone." We quickly gave him the names, and one or more of you should be able to pick up the story from there.

To Be or Not to Be: Member Advertisements

As you can see, the *NAJIT Directory of Interpreters & Translators and Language Services Guide* is a valuable resource. We are considering accepting display advertising for a fee from those members who wish to more fully present their qualifications. We will take our cue from you on this matter, so let us know how you feel about it.

That's all for now. Happy holidays to all, and we'll catch up again in 1996.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

September 1 - November 30, 1995

Marianela Capitán, Brooklyn, NY
 Daniel L. Felitti, San Francisco, CA
 Rejane M.C. Franco, Fairhaven, NJ
 Rosi I. Fuentes-Betting, Willmar, MN
 Michele A. Harris, Silver Spring, MD
 Lucy Hilford-Grenier, Miami, FL
 Lily Ishii, Irvine, CA
 Arlene M. Kelly, Milton, MA
 Younghee Kim, Seattle, WA
 Katherine Kirsheman, Largo, FL
 Nancy Laddon, San Diego, CA
 Ileana Marti, Secaucus, NJ
 Suzanna Martínez, Lincroft, NJ
 Kevin M. Matthewson, New York, NY
 Patricia McCormick, Riverside, CA
 Virginia Miller, El Paso, TX
 Steven T. Mines, Austin, TX
 Mirtha B. Nebeker, Tucson, AZ
 Mónica Pintado, Forest Hills, NY
 Maria E. Rivera, Oro Valley, AZ
 Elena Rojas, Santa Ana, CA
 Sulamita Schoenfeld, Barrington, RI
 Sylvia K. Schulter, Layton, UT
 Deborah Jenkin Yépez, Albuquerque, NM

ARE FREELANCE INTERPRETERS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS?

There has been much discussion about factors that prompt the Internal Revenue Service to classify workers as independent contractors. For the edification of our members, freelancers and agency owners alike, we present this information. If you consider the interpreter or translator to be an independent contractor, you could be in trouble if:

- The agency or its employees instruct the worker in how, when, where, and whether the work should be done.
- The agency must train the worker before the job is undertaken.
- The worker becomes substantially a part of the agency's operation.
- The worker must personally perform the work rather than have it done by his or her employees.
- The worker does not have employees or people only he/she hires, supervises, and pays.
- The agency has a continuing relationship with the worker.
- The agency tells the worker what hours of work to follow.
- The worker works virtually fulltime for the agency.
- All the work is done on the agency's premises.
- The worker does not control the sequence of events to follow.
- The agency requires frequent significant progress reports.
- The agency pays on the basis of time put in, rather than the type of work done.
- The agency reimburses for costs not covered by the contract.
- The agency furnishes the tools and equipment.
- The worker has no significant investment in his/her own business.
- The worker will realize neither profit nor loss from the job.
- The worker works for only one agency.
- The worker does not offer services to the general public.
- The agency can discharge the worker.
- The worker can terminate the relationship without penalty.

IT WASN'T THE
DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S
DANGLING PREPOSITIONS
AND AMBIGUOUS
ANTECEDENTS....



I COULD HANDLE THE
AUSA'S OCCASSIONALLY
INSPIRED RHETORIC
DELIVERED AT 250 PLUS
WORDS PER MINUTE....



I MANAGED TO PUT ON
A PLEASANT FACE WHEN
THE COURT REPORTER
DEMANDED THAT I STAND
AT LEAST 25 FEET AWAY
AND SPEAK IN A
WHISPER....



I WAS GRATEFUL WHEN
THE JUDGE ASCERTAINED
THAT THE DEFENDANT
COULD UNDERSTAND ME...
WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME
ABOUT HIM.



BUT WHEN
THEY TOLD ME
THAT THE
DEFENDANT
REQUIRED A COLOMBIAN
INTERPRETER FROM
BARANQUILLA, WHO HAD
WORKED AS A HARBOR
PILOT AND COULD
SING ALL FIVE STANZAS
OF "BESAME" IN THE KEY OF
B FLAT, I FELT OBLIGED
TO WITHDRAW FROM THE
ASSIGNMENT....
GRACEFULLY!



Cartoon by Nicholas Luttinger, visual artist and federally certified Spanish court interpreter

"GO TO MADRID, YOUNG MAN!"

Daniel Sherr

Of course it will never happen to you. But you know them. Their court interpreting career is in a rut. They have interpreted one drug case too many. They have had so many illegal alien cases they can describe the border checkpoint from memory. They are afraid of burnout. They thirst for change.

Change is waiting in the courts of Madrid. There, not only can the visiting interpreter observe trials and see court interpretation in a Spanish setting, but perhaps have the chance to actually interpret, and maybe, just maybe, get paid for it.

Hassan Saharaui has worked in the Spanish court system for twelve years and is Spain's most veteran staff interpreter. He extends a cordial invitation to NAJIT members to visit the Plaza de Castilla courthouse in Madrid. The languages most used in the courts are Arabic, French, and English, the latter two often spoken by non-native speakers. There is a very heavy representation of drug cases (surprise!). Two French/Arabic interpreters and one English/German interpreter are on staff. If one of them is on vacation, or an interpreter is needed after hours (official court hours are 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.), there is a good chance one of you might get to work.

Saharaui has supervised students of interpreting while they interpreted at proceedings in the Plaza de Castilla courthouses. When asked about the risk of entrusting an actual case to a student, he replied that if the student made any mistakes, he intervened.

No court in Spain uses interpreting equipment. All interpreting is consecutive, except when an interpreter takes it upon himself to resort to *chuchotage*. Nor is everything translated for the defendant. In a trial, the presiding judge, called the *ponente* (there is usually a panel of three), will usually indicate to the interpreter when he is to interpret: *Pregúntele si...* ("Ask him if ..."). Most interpreters respond in the third person. *Dice que* (he says that) is a common preamble.

Working as a free-lance interpreter in Spain is one of the few jobs where one can work legally without a work permit. According to an official from the Office of Court Administration in Madrid, "Imagine we have a case where the defendant speaks some dialect of Wolooof, and the only one who can interpret for him is the guy down the block. Do you think we are going to ask the interpreter for his NIF [*número de identificación fiscal*, the equivalent of the American social security

number]?" No identification of any kind is required.

Ironically, while the staff interpreters in Madrid are paid the meager net wage of 110,000 pesetas (about \$917) a month, free-lancers are compensated at a rate of 6,000 pesetas (about \$50) an hour. Money should not be your main motivation in visiting the courts, however; government agencies in Spain typically take between 6 months and a year to effect payment.

For more information or to set up a time to visit and/or work, contact Hassan Saharaui or his colleague, Mohamed Sali, at 011-34-1-397-3376 (tel.) or 011-34-1-571-5094. They'll be delighted to hear from you.

A RANDOM SAMPLING OF TERMS, PHRASES AND EXPRESSIONS FROM THE SPANISH COURTS

It should be kept in mind that until this year, there were no juries in Spain. Consequently, lawyers are not in the habit of using colloquial language to win over a jury. Rather, they use elegant-sounding legal discourse when addressing the judge. I have tried to pick expressions which might be of use to colleagues in court interpreting here in the States.

mi patrocinado (defendido, representado) my client; *mi patrocinado manifiesta que*, my client states that; *la manifestación vertida por mi representado*, the statement made by my client

lesionar, conculcar, vulnerar un derecho violate a right

delitos bagatela trifling crimes

familiares a cargo dependents

las declaraciones han quedado desvirtuadas the statements have been disproved (invalidated)

puntos discordantes points of contradiction

el sentido común no puede dar curso a esas manifestaciones common sense cannot admit those statements

irregularidades hay a mansalva there are irregularities galore

la endeblez de sus pruebas the weakness of their evidence

ha quedado acreditado it has been established

atestado policial complaint

haga un poco de esfuerzo de memoria try to remember

¿se ratifica en las declaraciones que prestó en comisaría? do you stand by the statements you made at the precinct headquarters?

El testimonio del Sr. Aranguren es fundamental, máxime teniendo en cuenta que era el propietario y usuario habitual del citado Ford Sierra y que incluso su procesamiento fue solicitado por el ministerio fiscal. Entiendo que su incomparecencia en el acto del juicio conculca el derecho de mi defendido a la tutela judicial efectiva, y así lo destaco a efectos de un posible recurso de amparo.

Mr. Aranguren's testimony is essential, especially when one considers that he was the owner and habitual user of the previously mentioned Ford Sierra, and that the prosecution went as far as to request his indictment. In my view, his failure to appear at the trial violates my client's right to effective legal assistance, and I am so stating here with a view towards a possible appeal.

impugnamos cuantas declaraciones se han prestado we challenge the testimony in its entirety

no ha lugar a la suspensión the request for adjournment is denied

abundando en los argumentos expuestos and to further emphasize what I have just argued

el caso de autos in the present case

parece claro y meridiano it seems crystal clear

una hoja intachable a spotless record

me decanto a pensar I'm inclined to believe

el informe obrante en las actuaciones the report which is a part of the record

le apercibo para que abandone ese tono im-

pertinente I'm putting you on notice to refrain from using such impertinent language

de lo contrario, se le retirará el uso de la palabra otherwise you will be denied permission to speak

era vox populi que habían vivido juntos it was common knowledge that they had been living together

testimonio en referencia hearsay evidence

la detención ha sido conforme a la legislación vigente the arrest was made in compliance with current legislation

refrendará a esta defensa en su tesis will support the defense's thesis

leerle los derechos sin presencia letrada read him his rights without counsel being present

Daniel Sherr, a free-lance interpreter based in New York and Barcelona, always went to court in Spain by bicycle. He is delighted to report that in Madrid, jacket and tie are not required attire for court interpreters.

POSITION AVAILABLE

COURT INTERPRETER (Spanish/English) for the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County. Ct. Intp I (\$30,576) requires 6 mos exp as a Ct Intp Trainee or 2 yrs of paid professional exp interpreting in Eng & Span. Acceptable exp is professional conference or formal interpreting exp. Ct Intp Trainee (\$24,918), requires successful completion of college level coursework (at least four classes at the 300 level or above) demonstrating a high degree of proficiency in Eng & Span. Candidates will be required to take a written multiple-choice exam. The highest scoring will be required to demonstrate sustained simultaneous & consecutive interpreting and sight translation. Upon successful completion of the oral demonstration, the hiring authority will interview & select the successful candidates. Obtain info & required application form from Maricopa County Human Resources Dept., Suite 200, 301 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix, AZ 85003-2277. Tel: (602) 506-3755. Open until filled. EOE.

Research Update

Facing the Future: Translators & Interpreters in Cyberspace

José Varela-Ibarra

"We must train our students so they can function in an increasingly computerized world... The communications revolution has made isolation impossible."

Much as I disagree or distrust most of his current opinions, I must admit Newt Gingrich was right when as an assistant professor of history at West Georgia College in 1971 he foresaw the need to prepare students for cyberspace. His call for universities to be computer-rich has echoed across the land. At Carnegie-Mellon all students are issued a personal computer. At other campuses, students are required to buy one. Where I teach, new computer labs for student use sprout every year. And yet, most of my students are still turning in handwritten translation assignments.

None of my students comes to class on a *burro*. New parking lots on campus multiply as fast as the new computer labs. So, why are not all my students wired? Why aren't you? How many of us have computers? How many of us use them? How many of us are ready for the future? The future is now.

Ted Turner recently revealed the secret of his success: he doesn't dwell in the past; he only looks to the future. Do you still do your translations on the remains of dead trees?

Start with a copy *Wired*, source of my Newt Gingrich quote. [P.O. Box 191826, San Francisco, CA 94119-9866 or 1-800-SO WIRED or subscriptions@wired.com. \$39.95 for 12 issues]. *Wired* is to cyberspace what *Glamour* is to a woman's face. In addition to interviews, profiles, and opinion and feature articles, the magazine is full of short what's-new takes, all with their e-mail address.

Want to know about "Computer Spanglish?" *Butear, clickear, el Web, emaillear, efetepear, Mosaiquear*? Surf over to Yolanda Rivas, at <http://www.actlab.utexas.edu/~seagul/spanglish.html>. She has a list of 300 terms.

Want your translation or interpreting business to be seen on the Web? Want to build your own home page and join the net set? You can download a 30-day free trial from WebFest, order their NaviPress for just \$99 or register for a workshop at a city near you by calling 1-800-956-6623 or at Web site: <http://www.navisoft.com>. Other ads in *Wired* promise you the power to create

your very own Web site. Most cost \$99.

On a budget but still want to have your own homepage to tell the world what a great translator or interpreter you are? **Plugged In**, a community-based, non-profit partnership in East Palo Alto, has students who for as little as \$50 will put you on the Web. Call 1-800-225-PLUG or surf to <http://www.pluggedin.org/>

Want free Internet access? One company promises it to you. (I haven't checked it out.) Call 1-515-945-7000. Looking for work? Want to post your résumé to On-Line Resumes? *The Monster Board* advertises itself as the place in cyberspace where top hiring companies come to search. Call 1-800-MONSTER or point your Web browser at <http://www.monster.com>

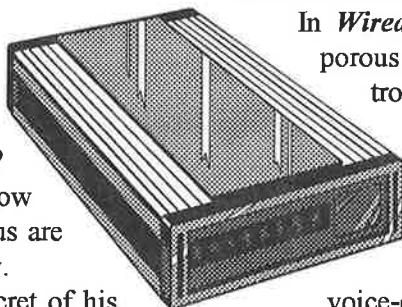
In *Wired* the line between ads and news is as porous as the Rio Grande is for the Border Patrol. All news articles come with an e-mail address and many with a price. "Can Nautilus Sink Clipper?" [August 1995] describes a completely spook-proof telephone, AT&T's Clipper, obtainable for \$1,295, and a

voice-encryption program called "Nautilus" with the ability to use an algorithm called "triple-DES" widely believed to be unbreakable. No price given, but you can get a copy if you are wired, *efetepeando* to: <ftp://csn.org/mpj/>, downloading the file README and following the instructions.

Reviews, too, include price and address. For \$49.95 you can get Pedro Meyer's "Truths and Fictions/*Verdades y Ficciones*," a CD-ROM that "juxtaposes the darker side of Mexican and American cultures in a Day of the Dead/Halloween parade along Los Angeles' Hollywood Boulevard." Call 1-800-446-2001 or on the Web at <http://www.voyagerco.com>.

Are you socially conscious? **Amnesty Interactive** offers a CD-ROM for only \$10 so you can explore what it means to be human and be interactively exposed to "the ideas and events that have shaped the human rights struggle." Call 1-800-446-2991 or <http://www.organic.com/amnesty>.

From Newt Gingrich to Amnesty Interactive (I almost skipped the cyberfeminist group VNS Matrix, "neither wholly lesbian nor anti-male: We do like men," they insist. "Some of us even have sex with them." E-mail: jules@sysx.apana.org.au), it's all in *Wired*.



Wake-Up Call for the States

Nancy Festinger

Court Interpretation: Model Guides for Policy and Practice in the State Courts. William E. Hewitt. Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 1995. 250 pp.

Once upon a time courts were careless in their treatment of non-English speakers or deaf persons. Ethnocentric attitudes, fueled by emotion and arrogance, prevailed over reason. Clerks and judges balked rather than siphon precious funds from the court's coffers to pay for interpreters.

Today court interpretation is understood as a highly specialized skill that few people have the potential to develop and fewer still can demonstrate in a performance examination. Journalists and bar association surveys have concluded that accuracy standards vary widely depending on the state and the language, sometimes resulting in gross miscarriages of justice. Typically, conditions from one courthouse or indeed one courtroom to the next vary like the weather, depending on who --if anyone-- is in charge of interpreter policy. As Bill Hewitt, the author of *Model Guides*, points out, "Only a handful of the nation's trial judges and court administrative officials are enlightened about what should be required of a court interpreter and about what can and does go wrong when court interpreting is improper." Now that adequate interpretation is gaining official recognition as a cornerstone of fundamental fairness, interpreter training and testing are the order of the day, and court managers need help.

For a panoramic view on the state of court interpretation in the United States, the present volume offers sensible suggestions for finding, training, testing and utilizing interpreters. Its uncluttered format, up-to-date information and no-nonsense approach make it a valuable tool not only for researchers and students, but also for court planners and judges operating with limited knowledge and resources.

The book's main points bear repeating: accurate interpretation is not a luxury but a necessity for an unbiased justice system; court rules should include a code of professional conduct for interpreters; uniform quality will only come with task-related proficiency testing; cooperative efforts will yield more and cost less than a multitude of band-aid solutions by individual states; much can be gained from existing programs; court in-

terpreter training and orientation should be mandatory; and recruitment of volunteer experts can save money.

Happily, there is a minimum of hand-wringing over the state courts' chronic lack of time and resources truly to commit to interpreter reliability. Instead, a pragmatic approach is advocated, including coordinating state and federal efforts; creating an interstate authority for testing and training, as well as a national database referral service; instituting programs for judicial education on interpreter issues, and exploiting the potential for wider use of telephone interpretation. Except for the latter, all would be unanimously endorsed by interpreters as desirable and attainable goals.

Pooled expertise and shared resources at local, state and interstate levels will relieve the pressure on individual court managers. Currently Minnesota, Oregon, Washington and New Jersey are collaborating on test design and administration in several languages, and their effort may later be expanded to include other states. Mr. Hewitt urges resource-sharing among counties in state-funded or inter-county service contracts, and advocates hiring at least one professionally trained expert so that statewide offices of interpreter services for training, recruitment, and testing can be set up.

Such offices would also be used to educate judges and attorneys-- a task that has proven more daunting than interpreters ever imagined. (Recently, an interpreter inquiring about working conditions for an out-of-town assignment was told, "No, you can't talk to the judge!") Certainly more could be done by state and federal entities to get interpreter issues before judges at orientation sessions. Most judges don't realize all that is involved in interpreting because there is no official recognition of the subject at any point in their legal careers.

Chapters four and five, on training and testing, offer sample workshop agendas, recommended objectives of a model testing program, sample test questions, an explanation of scoring units, as well as a fairly current list of consultants and institutions offering interpreting classes. Chapter six, the "Judges' Guide to Standards for Interpreted Proceedings," which should be required reading for all judges, goes a long way in clearing up the mystery about what interpreters do and how to tell if they are doing it properly. If a photocopy of this section were sent to every municipal, state and federal judge in

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GRAMMAR NOTES FOR TRANSLATORS VII

Adverbial Equivalences

George K. Green

Adverbs are all-purpose modifiers that define or limit any class of grammatical forms other than nouns. (Modifying a noun is traditionally considered the function of an adjective.) Although the school-house definition of an adverb has generally been "a class of forms that modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs," a careful examination of any extensive English text will reveal cases of adverbs used to modify prepositions: "very near the house," "directly behind the box." Moreover, these forms are often employed with conjunctions to produce just the sort of nuance that might prove important in the courtroom: "Immediately before he left," "just after the crime was committed." Examples from other languages could also be cited: *muy lejos de la casa*, *direkt an der Grenze*, *inmediatamente antes de que él se fuera*.

Like the adjectival forms discussed in the last article in this series, adverbs also occur in a variety of different grammatical structures.

One of the most common English adverbial forms is a word with the "-ly" ending, a morpheme related etymologically to the word "like"; such adverbs were derived originally from a description based upon a comparison. Other European languages have similar adverbial endings: *-lich* and *-weise* (German), *-mente* (Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese), and *-ment* (French). Nonetheless, not all English words that end in "-ly" are adverbs: a substantial number are adjectives or often function as adjectives: "a stately house," "a friendly person," "a timely idea."

In a way perfectly analogous to the adjectival structures commented upon, adverbs also take the form of prepositional phrases, especially when they modify a verb: "he ran rapidly" or "he ran like the wind"; "they spoke softly" or "they spoke in a low voice."

In addition, adverbs, again like adjectives, may be found in the form of subordinate clauses: "he ran rapidly" or "he ran as though all the demons in hell were after him"; "they spoke softly" or "they spoke in a voice that was barely audible." (The last example combines a prepositional phrase followed by a subordinate clause.)

Certain monosyllabic English prepositions of German origin are sometimes used as adverbs, especially those indicating direction, such as "up," "down," "in," and

"out." For example, "I was going up when they were coming down." Sometimes such adverbs are hard to distinguish from the second part or particle of a bipartite verb, sometimes called a "phrasal verb" by British grammarians (see *Proteus*, Vol II, No. 4). When directional adverbs are combined with emphatic adverbs such as "on," as well as adverbs of time and place, the result may well be as many as five adverbs in an unbroken chain, a structure that is much less common in the Romance languages: "Come right on up here now."

Spanish presents translators and interpreters with at least one adverbial form that is quite different from the adverbs of English, the *gerundio*, a posverbal adverb ending in *-ando* or *-iendo* (*hablando*, *comiendo*, *viviendo*), often believed simply to correspond to the English present participle ending in *-ing*, in theory adjectives, which purists say should never be used as adverbs. Of course, such correspondence is nearly perfect in verb phrases involving the progressive variants of various verb tenses, which stress the continuing nature of the action expressed: *estoy hablando* = "I'm speaking"; *estaba lloviendo* = "it was raining"; *hemos estado pensando* = "we've been thinking." However, outside of verb phrases such as these, the Spanish *gerundio* can rarely be translated into English with a single word: *Hablando nos entendemos*. = "Speech allows us to understand each other." *Practicando se aprende la lección* = "The lesson is learned through practice." In such cases, the Spanish *gerundio* is considered a *complemento circunstancial de modo*, an adverbial modifier of the verb that answers the question "how" or "in what way." The surest equivalent for such Spanish adverbial forms that modify a verb is to use the English *-ing* form with the right preposition in front: *Hablando nos entendemos* = "By speaking we can understand each other." *Practicando se aprende la lección*. = "The lesson is learned by practicing it."

Keep your eye out for equivalent adverbial forms capable of expressing similar ideas.

The author, a graduate of the Munich Interpreters Institute and co-founder of the translation and interpretation programs at the University of Texas at Brownsville, is currently preparing a translation textbook.

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the country, a sea change might occur. Chapter seven is devoted to problems involved in interpreting for the deaf.

On the subject of telephone interpretation, Mr. Hewitt advises courts to "weigh the need for immediacy in conducting a hearing against the potential compromise of due process if...interpreting is inadequate." He cautions that it should not be used by the courts as an alternative to developing a full interpretation program, and although he admits that telephone interpretation should only be used for the most extreme problems of comprehension or dialect identification, he goes on to suggest that courts might cooperatively develop their own services. (AT&T's Language Line Services, which some courts now use, does not provide court-qualified interpreters, and equipment is not currently customized for multi-purpose courtroom use.)

But for extreme cases such as medical emergencies, it would be a mistake for courts to rely on telephone interpreting.

Yet even if technical and competency problems were resolved, the double-standard issue remains: why should only foreign-speaking defendants be informed by telephone? Why not advise *all* defendants telephonically of "quick adjournments?" Secondly, by limiting telephone interpretation to short adjournment proceedings or to bail hearings in which the defendant is likely (*in whose opinion?*) to be released, a court runs the risk of being unprepared for wrong predictions or unexpected applications by either side. If there is one rule of thumb in court, it is that things often don't proceed according to plan. Further, communication in court is interpersonal and dynamic. An attorney's ability truly to be understood by a client depends on their being in close proximity with time enough to talk. A courtroom is not a radio station or an airport lounge. While telephone interpreting may be useful in extremis, such as for medical emergencies, it would be a mistake for courts to rely on it. If expediency alone were the determining factor, impersonal and disembodied interpretation might become the rule. Big Brother would not be far behind.

NAJIT members who attended the 1995 Annual Meeting received a complimentary copy, but those who missed it can order a copy for \$8.50. The National Center for State Courts can be reached at (804) 253-2000; fax (804) 220-0449.

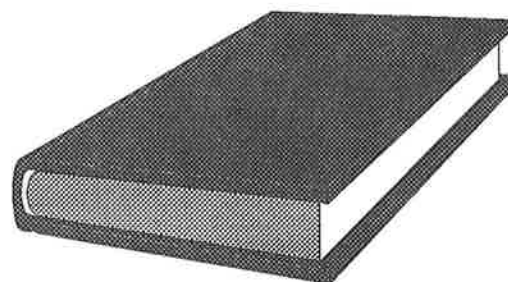
ITEMS OF INTEREST

February 12-16, 1996. Melbourne, Australia. Translation: New Horizons--XIV World Congress of the FIT. Address: FIT Congress Management Team, Fauth Royale & Associates, 15 Cooper Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010, Australia. Fax: 61-2-211-6608.

May 25-27, 1996. San Juan, Puerto Rico. Tercer Simposio sobre la Traducción: El multiculturalismo y la práctica de la traducción. Hotel Condado Plaza. Topics for which papers may be invited include: Translation/Interpretation and the Media; Culture and Difference; Translation/Interpretation in the Marketplace and Linguistics and Translation; From Paper to Cyberspace. Pre-Conference workshops on pharmaceutical, building, ecology, legal and financial terminology will be offered on May 24. Address: 3er Simposio sobre la Traducción, P.O. Box 22723, San Juan, PR 00931. Fax: (809)-764-4065; e-mail: s irizarry@upr1.uprcu.edu

REFERENCES

New Publication. *Non-English Speakers and the English Legal System: A handbook to good practice for those working in the legal system across language and culture* by Ann Corsellis. Published by University of Cambridge Institute of Criminology. Order by Fax (01223) 335356.



Overall the present volume lives up to its title in providing models for use by any court, including a model voir dire on interpreter qualifications, a model code of ethics, a model court interpreter act, and model jury instructions on how to evaluate interpreted testimony. With all this and more, *Model Guides* is one of the very few seminal references in the field.

LETTERS

From Guatemala

The examination to become a sworn translator in Guatemala is outdated and desperately in need of reform. Although we realize that the legal system in the United States is completely different to our Latin American systems, we would be interested in hearing how a person in the U.S. can become certified for doing legal translations. When we make the proposal for changing the examination, we would like to be able to present information on the methods used and examinations necessary in other countries.

Another matter that we are very concerned with at present is translator/interpreter training, either full-time courses abroad or how to organize short training seminars locally. We are also interested in the possibility of taking translation or interpreting examinations here in Guatemala. So if you have any information that you feel may be useful to us, we would very much appreciate it if you could send it to us.

We shall be forwarding you a copy of our bulletin, PRISMA, as soon as it is ready.

Sheila Wilkin de Melendreras, President
Asociación Guatemalteca de Intérpretes y Traductores
Fax: 341666

Let the Market Sort it Out

With reference to your "Call to Arms" [Proteus, Vol. IV, No. 2, and reprinted in Translation News], and to the scurrying around in place that characterizes the discussions of the in-hospital interpreting subject:

Is it not always possible to tell a really good from a fairly competent from a really lousy interpreter just by watching what happens during the first ten minutes of an assignment?

If so, are the really good interpreters and the fairly competent interpreters not recommended by lawyers, judges, social workers, doctors, etc., to others?

If so, is there really a need for certification and required "continuing education," etc., etc?

Is it not true that an interpreter can be trained and certified to kingdom come and still get paid very little? And maybe not be very good?

Can it not be made clear to hospitals and courts, etc. that if they really need better interpreters, they are going to have to be really better wages?

Would it not help to make this clear if interpreters simply refused to work for low wages or "all day without relief?"

Wouldn't the authorities come up with the cash pretty fast?

Tom Snow
72137.2327@compuserve.com

NAJIT Online Directory

Last year *Proteus* published an invitation to NAJIT members to submit their e-mail addresses in order to compile an online directory. The purpose was to develop online communications among NAJIT members. An abbreviated version of that directory follows. Just nine people responded, which is a disappointing response, and/or a true reflection of the low proportion of NAJIT members who are online. Surely more of us will get connected as we approach the next century.

To be included in the next edition, and to receive an electronic copy, send an e-mail message to David Mintz at <dmintz@ix.netcom.com> and include the following data about yourself: name; e-mail address; location (where you live and work); language(s); certification/accreditation; extra-legal interests and specialties; remarks (free-form, but please be brief).

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Los Angeles, CA
Spanish

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fridman@math.harvard.edu
Cambridge MA
Russian

GEOFFRION Frank
fgeoff@id.net;
74742.1413@compuserve.com
Cambridge MA
Spanish

JACKSON Donna
donna6@ix.netcom.com
Southern CA
Spanish

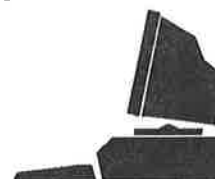
MINTZ David
dmintz@ix.netcom.com
New York City area
Spanish

OCHOA WILKINSON Marta
73622.1553@compuserve.com
Los Angeles CA
Spanish

PHAM Hung D.
hungpham@ix.netcom.com
San Francisco CA
Vietnamese

SIGLER Gwen M.
74132.3532@compuserve.com
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ANNOUNCEMENT

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The objective of NAJIT is the advancement of the profession of court interpreting. All interested persons are encouraged to join. Membership entitles you to a free subscription to *Proteus*, a scholarly newsletter published quarterly; a listing in the Language Services Guide and Interpreters/Translators Directory; and the right to vote and participate in the activities of the Association. Membership is extended to individuals, students, and institutions.

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