



# PROTEUS

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

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## VARIATIONS ON A THEME

Third Congress of  
the FIT Regional Center for North America

Five hundred translators and interpreters from Mexico, the U.S. and Canada gathered from May 27-29 at the Hotel Meridien in Montreal to unravel threads of the theme "Translating in North America--A Community of Interests." Not surprisingly, Canadians represented the majority in attendance (some 350), followed by 75 from the U.S., 12 from Mexico and a sprinkling of others from South America, Japan and elsewhere.

The professional associations formally affiliated with the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs are: the Asociación de Traductores Profesionales [ATP] and associate member Instituto Superior de Interpretes y Traductores [ISIT] from Mexico; the ATA from the U.S.; and the Canadian Translators and Interpreters Council [CTIC], which groups local organizations from all Canadian provinces, and the Literary Translators' Association of Canada [AATLC].

The agenda included panel discussions that centered on the main areas of specialization in the field (commercial, technical, literary translation, court and conference interpreting); the history and applications of new technologies for terminology management; an overview of native languages in Mexico and Canada; and professional training. Simultaneous interpreting was provided in English, Spanish and French.

Nearly all speakers read from prepared texts, which lent an air of formality to the proceedings, perhaps to be expected in a gathering of this size. Although the oratory was uninspired, the points were familiar to anyone who has attended a translators' conference in the last ten years: the cultural and intellectual importance of our work; the "image problem" that plagues translators; the stringent training requirements for the field-- more than one speaker maintained that autodidacts were an extinct if not endangered species--; the need to uphold accreditation standards; the desirability of information exchange among colleagues and across borders; and the computers and communications tools are revolutionizing the translators' world.

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## NEWMARK AT SAN JUAN SYMPOSIUM

NAJIT Among Sponsors

Mirta Vidal Orrantia

A rich and varied discussion about aspects of translation, ranging from the theoretical to the practical, took place before an audience of 150 at the First Symposium on Translation in San Juan on September 5 and 6, 1992. The event was sponsored by the Professional Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI) in cooperation with the Translation Program of the University of Puerto Rico. NAJIT was one of the many organizations co-sponsoring the symposium.

A highlight of the weekend was the presentation entitled "Translation Theory: Past, Present and Future" by Peter Newmark, well-known for his writings on translation. Newmark pointed out that translation began as a profession in the 1950's and has now gained recognition in other areas beyond the literary. He then gave an overview of the theories that are prevalent in the field today.

These include: the *functional theory*, which holds that the important thing about translation is that it has a job to perform. This theory emphasizes the communicative aspect of translation, to the exclusion of the descriptive aspect, based on the notion that all writing has a purpose and that it is a narrow purpose. Such a view dethrones the source language text and makes translation a commercial activity. This theory, according to Newmark, first became fashionable in Germany. *Discourse analysis* calls for considering the grammar beyond the sentence. The weakness of this theory, says Newmark, is that in seeing the whole text as a unit of translation, its proponents miss the importance of minor correspondences between source and target language.

*Dynamic equivalence* advocates the practice of cultural substitution in translation. In a British text to be read in French, for instance, would wine be considered a good equivalent of beer? This search for equivalents -- trying to produce in the reader the same effect as the original text achieved -- can be useful at times but is inaccurate and not always necessary.

Newmark also referred briefly to several other theories. *Value-free theories*, which he described as

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## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

In an effort to open up a dialogue with the legal profession and the judiciary, I spent two days in early June meeting with several Section Directors at the American Bar Association (ABA) headquarters in Chicago. I left two articles to be considered for publication by the editor of the *Judges Journal* of the ABA's Judicial Administration Division: "Excerpts from Judge Margaret O'Toole's address to the 1992 NAJIT Meeting in Washington, D.C." and a piece by me, "Judiciary Interpreting and Translating: A Demanding Task for Professionals." I joined the ABA's Judicial Administration Division, which will open doors to one of the six national judges' conferences, through which we will endeavor to get the court interpreter's message to members of the bench and bar.

Through Jack Sweeney, Director of the ABA's Division of Bar Services, I met with Douglas Somerlot, Project Director of the Judicial Services Division. He gave me the names and telephone numbers of officers of several court administration associations to whom we can send copies of *Proteus*. By the way, *Proteus* was described by ABA personnel as an excellent newsletter.

As follow-up to the meetings, Norman Gross, Director of ABA's Division for Public Education wrote a letter of acknowledgment, saying "it was a pleasure to learn more about NAJIT," as did Jorge Montes, Program Coordinator of the Commission on Public Understanding About the Law.

On April 15, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) asked for additional documents regarding the Subpoena Duces Tecum served on NAJIT in January of this year. Specific documents requested were mailed by our counsel, Dan Ratner, to the FTC on May 22. The FTC has advised Mr. Ratner that they are looking into the question of recommended rates to members, but he does not anticipate hearing from them in a while. Other translator/interpreter organizations have also incurred considerable legal fees in order to comply with their requests.

Complaints keep coming in from many of our colleagues around the country regarding the use of unqualified interpreters in state courts. The board provides materials that can be used to persuade uninformed court administrators to use certified or otherwise qualified interpreters in the judicial process.

### 1992 Summer Institute

The 1992 Summer Institute for Court Interpretation was held for its ninth year on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson. Sixty-four students came from the surrounding community and from as far away as Bolivia to attend what I consider the oldest,

most reputable, intensive short-term training program for Spanish/English court interpreters in the world. The core faculty of the Institute, Frank Almeida, A. Samuel Adelo, Linda Haughton, Laura Murphy and Sara Krauthamer, were joined by Joyce Garcia, a freelance interpreter from Tucson as an intern in training who will join the faculty for the 1993 season. This year's Institute included video and computer demonstrations. I introduced a series of video tapes produced by the Federal Judicial Center that outlined the stages of a trial, and Fred Krauthamer demonstrated *Automated Plus*, a computer program intended to simplify the preparation of dual-language tape transcripts.

For the first time the Institute required that participants either (1) already be working as interpreters or volunteers for a social service agency, (2) have a passing score on the written portion of the certification exam or (3) have state certification. As a result the students were more professional than ever before and were able to network with other participants who had more experience in the field. The Institute faculty commented that the higher caliber of participants added a qualitative difference to the learning atmosphere. Participants were able to reduce the number of errors they had been committing by 40 to 50 percent as measured by pre- and post-course tests administered on the first and last days of the course.

Each of the three weeks focused on medicine, weaponry and drugs, with guest lecturers who spoke about recent innovations in their fields. Topics included DNA fingerprinting, new weapons and interdiction strategies to counter the newest forms of drug smuggling. The faculty added new simultaneous tapes and consecutive scripts and sight translation to the wide breadth of classroom exercises. Perhaps the greatest change in materials was a result of the recent publication of *Fundamentals of Court Interpretation: Theory, Policy and Practice*, by Gonzalez, Vasquez and Mikkelsen [Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 1992]. The first two authors are Director and Assistant Director, respectively, of the Summer Institute. This year's participants were the first to be taught with a textbook especially designed for court interpreter training.

Further information regarding the Institute may be obtained from: Roseann D. Gonzalez, M.L. #67, Room 445, University of Arizona, Tucson, 85721. Telephone: (602) 621-3686 or FAX (602) 624-8130.

A. Samuel Adelo  
Chairman

## THE OBSTACLE COURSE

Richard Palmer

We interpreters can never really know what a judge or a lawyer is thinking as they see one of us sitting next to the defendant talking quietly. I am sure they see just that, someone speaking. What is so difficult about that? He speaks both languages, doesn't he? It hardly seems like a profession. Millions of people can speak two languages. Why is he so special and why does he get so much money?

I should like to point out some of the obstacles which lie in the path of all interpreters with the hope that a non-interpreter who reads this might understand what goes on in the mind of the person who is sitting there whispering into the ear of the defendant.

**WORD LENGTH** Spanish words almost invariably have more syllables than their English counterparts. Logically, therefore, many utterances in English can be said in a shorter time span. Add to this the hundreds of contractions used in conversational English-Spanish has two--, and "You've a right to remain silent" ends up in about eight syllables, whereas *Usted tiene el derecho de permanecer callado* has fifteen. The problem lies in having to say them in the same amount of time as the English utterances. Obviously, the Spanish is sped up to the point of often being unintelligible. No wonder very important and oft repeated speeches given by judges leave unsophisticated listeners in complete bewilderment. How often we hear questions from the defendant amounting to "What was that all about?" The request that the English speaker slow down is usually met with equal bewilderment or even hostility on the part of the speaker who often is more concerned with his own performance than with the right of the defendant to due process.

**POSITION OF ADJECTIVES** Adjectives tend to precede nouns in English and follow them in Spanish. To the simultaneous interpreter, this only presents a problem when 3 or 4 adjectives precede a noun and one must wait until the noun is heard before beginning to interpret, thus running the double danger of falling behind because of the long pause and of not remembering correctly all the adjectives.

**SERIES OF NOUNS** Much akin to the above problem is a series of nouns, such as "the tooth brush handle" (5 syllables), *el mango del cepillo de dientes* (10 syllables).

**SPEED OF SPEAKER** Naturally, people speak at different speeds. Many tend to increase their speed when reading from a prepared script. The faster the

speech in English the fewer fractions of seconds for the translation into Spanish and the higher risk of error and concomitant unintelligibility.

**FALSE COGNATES** On the obstacle course one must always beware of the ever present false cognates such as actually, eventually, deception, etc. "Where were you actually at the time of the robbery?" *¿Dónde estaba usted actualmente en el momento del robo?* may sound right to certain "bilinguals" but it is sheer nonsense to a person who speaks only Spanish.

**JARGON AND TECHNICAL TERMS** Early on we hear such phrases of legal jargon as "Are they going to violate him?" This strikes the new interpreter as particularly violent conduct until he realizes that a great deal is missing in the phrase which actually means "Are they going to charge him with parole violation?"

**IDIOLECTS AND SPEECH PATTERNS** Each speaker has spent his entire life developing the speech patterns by which he defines his personality. We as interpreters must immediately step into these patterns and out again as we pass onto the next person who has his own particular style. The picture becomes even more muddled when the speech is regional, i.e., a Texas truck driver being questioned by a lawyer from Brooklyn, or strongly accented English as occurs with foreign speakers, for example, a Pakistani chemist.

**SLANG AND IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS** The scope of these expressions is so vast that depending on the age of the speaker the expression may be either quite dated or of most recent vintage. A lawyer once said, "And there comes Vinnie boppin' down the street eyeballin' all the dudes." *Y ahí viene Vinnie con su andarcito de títere, chequeando con la mirada a todos los tipos.* In this case, the slang that one uses in Spanish varies a great deal from one interpreter to another since it is in slang that Spanish most differs from country to country. In the above expression the word "títere" will conjure up the image of a street tough to a Puerto Rican but to most Hispanics it will merely mean a "puppet."

**JOKES** This hurdle is probably the most insurmountable of all since a huge proportion of jokes depends entirely on word-play and double meanings. One way to get around the hurdle is to say, "The judge is telling a joke that loses its meaning in Spanish."

**LIMITED ABILITY OF DEFENDANT** The interpreter is often aware that the level of speech in the courtroom is over the head of the defendant. This should not, however, lead the interpreter into watering down the language or giving him a more comprehensible summary. This betrays the whole philosophy of simultaneous or consecutive interpretation.

**EIGHTEEN COUNTRIES** Spanish is spoken by more than 300 million people in some 18 countries. Naturally, there will be variations in vocabulary and no one can ever master all of them. However, all interpreters should familiarize themselves with the most common speech variants by reading specialized books on the subject and by seeking contact with speakers from as many countries as possible.

**THE WORD "YOU"** This English word causes more trouble to the interpreter than one would imagine, especially during lawyers' summations to the jury, when histrionics are often given free rein. The interpreter is never sure whether the speaker means *ustedes* "you members of the jury" or *uno* as in "you just never know" (*uno nunca sabe*) or *usted* as in "if you were there what would you do?" When interpreting for a witness, the interpreter must follow the context to know if "you" is singular or plural; if it is not evident, the interpreter has to ask for clarification.

**GENDER IDENTIFICATION** Words like child, teacher, doctor, judge, agent indicate no gender in English. We have all found ourselves talking at length about a "doctor" who turned out to be a *doctora* minutes later when the word "she" finally came out.

**ELLIPTICAL PHRASES** My favorite is a document called "Waiver of Removal." After asking what it meant I discovered that it was a "Waiver of Identity Hearing and Consent to a Removal to Another Jurisdiction." I know no way of abridging it in Spanish to that degree.

**LAWYERS' HISTRIONICS** Some lawyers and indeed some interpreters are frustrated actors who strut and fret their hour upon the stage. This hurdle is one of the worst, since invariably it takes on the form of an impassioned appeal to the jury, shifting constantly between street language and legal parlance, the former to demonstrate that "I'm just one of you and I've got loads of street smarts" and the latter to keep from straying too far from the matter at hand. These fast-moving speeches are challenges for all interpreters.

**CROSS-CULTURAL SMARTS** The interpreter should be able to recognize, through having lived in both cultures, sensitive areas. The phrase "I'll bet you'd

even sell your mother down the drain if you had to" would perhaps get little or no reaction from an English speaker, whereas the Spanish speaker would undoubtedly react, possibly quite violently. "*Don't be so stupid*" gets hardly any reaction from an English-speaking defendant, whereas *No sea tan estúpido* might produce some fireworks in the eyes of the Spanish speaker.

**EXPERT WITNESSES** All the spectators in the courtroom, including the judge, lawyers and jury, listen to an expert witness as passive listeners and do not have to worry if whole sentences or ideas escape them. Not so with us who are expected to have the word for everything on the tip of our tongues, no matter what the subject. This demand on us is even greater than that of having to know legal terminology without ever having attended law school.

**THE TWO LEGAL SYSTEMS** Most Spanish-speaking defendants come from countries with a different legal system from ours. Even the position of the arm when being sworn in can look like a Nazi salute to a North American. The differences in attitudes regarding certain practices which may be viewed as illicit in one culture but merely as "what everyone does" in another can add to the cross-cultural confusion often encountered during interviews.

These are only a few of the obstacles which interpreters face daily and which we painfully understand. I have not mentioned the paucity of good bilingual dictionaries, poor acoustics, etc. However, when we try to convey some of these problems to monolingual judges or lawyers, it is as if we were speaking a foreign language.

One would think that bilingual lawyers would be more sympathetic, but this is seldom true. They are often our worst bugaboos, for they are seldom truly bilingual and the little knowledge they have causes them to interrupt and seek to correct the interpreters. Sometimes their status as attorneys gives more credence to their linguistic claims.

I am certain that interpreters of languages other than Spanish face some of the same obstacles and could add others, depending on the syntactical structure of the language and the culture in which it is embedded. The extraordinary thing is that we manage to surmount the obstacles and convey meaning across the hurdles.

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*Richard Palmer, a federally certified court interpreter, until recently taught court interpreting and translation at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.*

## WORDPERFECT TIPS FOR BEGINNERS: MACRO COMMANDS

David Mintz

In a recent *ATA Chronicle* there appeared a column on how to create some sophisticated WordPerfect macro commands to automate much of the drudgery of translating patents that include a lot of boilerplate text. These macros involved arcane codes and exquisite conditional logic, which is fine for those who are well-versed in the intricacies of WP. But the less proficient WP user needs first to know what macros are and how to create them.

A macro is simply a super command that automatically plays back a series of keystrokes so as to save the user the trouble of repeatedly entering those strokes. These labor-savers are not unique to word processing programs. The problem with WP is that the way you create a macro is not particularly intuitive, and the manual that comes with the program doesn't help much. So let's walk through an example. Suppose you want to be able to write "The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators" without 60-plus keystrokes.

1. Press CTRL + F10. At the lower left of your screen you will see a "Define Macro" prompt. WP is asking you to tell it what keystrokes you will use to *invoke* (play back) the macro that you are about to create (record). WP offers two ways of defining, or naming, macros. You can either hold down ALT and type any single letter, or enter a name of up to eight characters for your macro. If you opt for the former, then to play back your macro you will press ALT + the letter; if you use the latter method, you will press ALT + F10 and enter the macro name to invoke the macro. Let's assume you want to use ALT + N to play back your macro, so at the "Define macro" prompt you enter ALT + N.

2. Now you will see a "Description:" prompt. The description, which is optional, can be up to 60 characters, and can be useful in some cases, but for now let's forget it. To bypass the description, press ENTER.

3. Next you get a flashing "Macro Define" prompt. WP is asking you to enter exactly those keystrokes that you would like the computer to memorize. For our example, you would write out "The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators."

4. Then press CTRL + F10 to seal the macro: this tells WP you have finished recording the macro. Now try pressing ALT + N and see what happens.

If you make a mistake and notice it while recording the macro, you can correct it the same way you do in normal text editing. Then, when you invoke the macro, it will play back both the mistake and the correction you made, and it will do it so fast that the loss of speed will be inconsequential. If you make a mistake while recording the macro but don't notice it until you play it back, fear not. You have two choices: either edit the existing macro, or replace it by doing it over again.

For simple macros you are better off redoing the definition, in which case you would start again from the top. When you repeat steps 1 and 2, the screen will read:

"ALTN.WPM Already Exists: 1 Replace;  
2 Edit; 3 Description: 0"

Press either 1 or R for "Replace" and press Y for yes when the prompt asks you to confirm it, and proceed as before, only not repeating the mistake you seek to correct. (".WPM" is the *file extension* that WP automatically assigns to macro commands.)

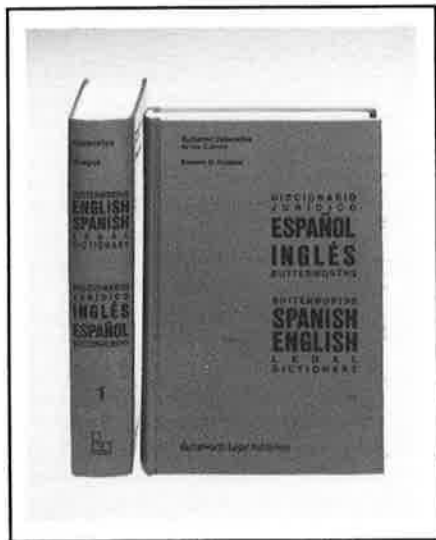
If you want to edit rather than replace the macro, consult your incomprehensible manual for further details.

Macros can be used not only for automating the entry of text but also for commands. In fact, you can embed one macro within another, which is known as *nesting*, or make one macro invoke another, which is known as *chaining*.

I have a macro called ENV.WPM, which I use in the following way: (1) I block (highlight) the name and address of the person to whom I'm writing a business letter and (2) load the envelope into my printer. (3) Then I invoke the ENV.WPM macro, which opens a second document window, retrieves a file called BLANK.ENV (my envelope definition), pastes the block on the envelope, and prints it.

Once you create a few clever macros of your own, you will be quite pleased. Who knows, you might even be on the road to becoming a hardcore computer nerd like the ones who write in *The ATA Chronicle*.

# Resources for Legal Professionals from B U T T E R W O R T H S



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## RESEARCH UPDATE

José Varela-Ibarra

BIBLIOGRAPHIES  
RE: INTERPRETATION

Interpreting, an old practice and a new profession, as Peter Newmark has called it, in spite of still being an extremely young academic discipline, has a rather respectable corpus of literature. But as evidenced by lists published in recent years (see *The ATA Chronicle*, March 1990), good interpreting bibliographies are hard to come by.

Often in languages we have not mastered, or simply outdated, interpreting bibliographies seem to be scarce. Henry's *Bibliographie internationale de l'interprétation* (Sudbury: Librairie de l'Université Laurentienne), although valuable, is already 14 years old, dating back to 1978. It is also so exhaustive, as Altman (1987) points out, "that utterly irrelevant references occasionally creep in." Roberts (1981) dealt mainly with translation and some of the programs described in her list are 30 years out of date.

H. Jane Altman's *Teaching Interpreting, Study and Practice* appeared in 1987, a specialized bibliography from England's Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research. And in 1989 *Terminología* published an unannotated bibliography of interpretation, listing works that had seen the light since 1980.

Of all these recent efforts, Altman's seems the most valuable. Of a specialized nature, but still very useful to all types of interpreters, Altman's book contains 172 annotated entries, drawn from journals such as *Babel* (Budapest), *Meta* (Montreal), *Cuadernos de Traducción e Interpretación* (Barcelona), *Interprete* (Geneva), *Traduire* (Paris) and current bibliographies and indexes (MLA, Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts, British Humanities Index, etc.).

The book contains sections on reference works,

theory, collective volumes, training in conference interpreting (the most substantial, with four subsections: general, consecutive, simultaneous, and curriculum), interpreting as a language teaching technique, non-conference interpreting (court and community interpreting, i.e., medical, social, etc.), and interpreting as a career.

Each section or subsection is preceded by a brief introduction. Most works are from 1970, but "Major theoretical studies or works whose interest is intrinsically historical" are also included. The cut-off date for inclusion was September, 1986.

Altman regrets and apologizes for her inability to scan East European sources, since she does not read Russian. (Ever since the erudite presentations by S. C. Mittal, professor of translation at the Center for Russian Studies, Nehru University, New Delhi, India, at the International Conferences on the Training and Education of Translators and Interpreters, held in Calexico, California in 1983 and 1984, we have been painfully aware of the huge amount of research material on translation and interpreting theory and practice in Russian that we are blissfully ignorant of.)

Altman does, nonetheless, provide a very useful bibliography from English, Spanish, French and German sources. Her annotations and introductions are clear and concise yet comprehensive capsules--consecutive and non-conference interpreting items are excellent.

We in the U.S. are often not aware of what our colleagues are doing in Europe, even in a language as accessible to us as English. Altman's bibliography should definitely be on our shelves. I have no current price, but the address, if you are interested is: Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS, England.

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José Varela-Ibarra teaches translation at the University of Texas at Brownsville. For this column he welcomes information on research in translation and interpreting, particularly in the judiciary context. Address: Dr. José Varela-Ibarra, University of Texas at Brownsville, 1614 Ridgely Road, Brownsville, TX 78520 or FAX (512) 982-0115.

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## FIT CONGRESS

(continued from page 1)

The panel discussions, in which speakers representing each of the three North American countries examined particular facets of the language services market, were well attended, although the U.S. perspective was unevenly represented due to the absence of two scheduled panelists.

Nair Maria Anaya Ferreira of Mexico, suggesting that we are living in the "century of translation," compared the importance of the international technological advances we are witnessing to the changes which brought about an upsurge in national literatures from the late 16th to 17th centuries. In the last thirty years, Mexico has become increasingly involved in training translators for the literary, scientific, economic and mass media domains, most of the training being offered from within university foreign language and literature departments. Mexican institutions are interested in greater contact with foreign universities and have an urgent need for data bases and information centers. Noteworthy is the emphasis the National Autonomous University of Mexico has placed on practical experience for translation students: there is a requirement of 480 hours of social service, for example, placement as an intern with a translation agency, prior to the awarding of the equivalent of a BA degree.

Canada has become the continent's torch bearer in the field of terminology and glossary development, to a large degree on account of the politicization of the language issue, the passage of laws declaring Quebec a bilingual province and the creation of a multitude of governmental offices. Yet, as Brian Harris of the University of Ottawa remarked in his talk on university exchange programs, Canada's concentrated excellence in French-English translation has neglected other languages: there is no degree program in Russian or Italian translation (and only one in Spanish), and no doctorate in translation studies offered in any Canadian university. Exchanges of students or faculty with other institutions are difficult to obtain and enmeshed in committee-driven bureaucratic regulations; furthermore, the fee structure penalizes foreign students wishing to study in Canada.

### 55 Different Languages

Linguists' horizons were widened by informative talks on indigenous languages in Mexico and Canada by Georgeanne Weller and Susan Sammon. Our neighbor to the south has five million native speakers of some 55 different languages-- some with as few as 350 speakers-- belonging to ten language families; of these, Nahuatl has the greatest number of speakers at 1.5 million. Indigenous language speakers represent 7% of the total population. In February of 1991 the Instituto Nacional Indigenista began to recruit and train interpreters in indigenous languages to work in court. It is hoped that the institutionalization of translator/interpreter training will not only help the

indigenous languages survive but will also enable indigenous peoples to assert their legal rights as citizens.

In Canada the aboriginal languages are protected by recent legislation which promotes their retention and enhancement. As recently as 1989, an Aboriginal Language Office was established. In the northwest territories an Official Languages Act recognizes English and French as official languages and seven aboriginal languages as "official aboriginal languages." Efforts made to provide public services in all languages have resulted in a more active market for freelancers since the demand for services cannot be met by the Language Bureau. In addition, a 1989 Northwest Territories Jury Act provides that monolingual citizens may sit on juries, hence are entitled to court interpreters if they cannot fully comprehend the official language of the court proceedings. One of the greatest challenges for interpreters of indigenous languages of both Canada and Mexico will be term development, given that the cultural context in which each language is embedded is markedly different from that of Indo-European languages.

### Court Interpreting

In the panel focusing on court interpreting, the Canadian perspective was offered by Sylvia Mendes-Roux, an attorney who coordinates interpreter services in New Brunswick. The situation in Canada is unique since proceedings may be held either in French or English, and under a 1990 law, the judge can elect to hear argument in either language. A new law promotes the presence of bilingual judges in federal courts, yet while bilingualism is not a fait accompli there is an increasing need for court interpreters. Before a monolingual judge, the interpreter may be called upon to interpret all the arguments and testimony to the judge, and his rulings to the participants. Before a bilingual judge, the interpreter's role is restricted to interpreting the testimony of the witnesses who come before the court.

Representing the U.S., Virginia Benmaman gave an informative if well-tread summary of the conceptual underpinnings of legal language and the terminology research which led to the publication of the *Bilingual Dictionary of Criminal Justice Terms (English/Spanish)* [Binghamton, NY: Gould, 1991]. The audience expressed interest in having such a reference tool in other languages and learned that two projects were proposed in 1991 to create glossaries for Vietnamese, Cambodian and Korean to be used in conjunction with in-service training programs.

Donald Gilmore, a Canadian conference interpreter, discussed ways of assessing competency for court interpreting, and described terminology as a secondary issue. He spoke of the "ideal system" as being an exam given across Canada equivalent to the U.S. federal exam. Unlike the U.S., in which the Administrative Office assists the courts, in Canada it

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## SAN JUAN SYMPOSIUM

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"manipulation," assert that there is no such thing as a "good" or "bad" translation, that no judgment is needed so long as the translator is doing the job. *Translation as process* advocates observing how people translate to arrive at theory. *Translation as communication* overlooks the fact that language is not always communicative. *Translation as ideology*, in the Marxist view, maintains that translation can be used as a tool of colonialism. Newmark believes that there is some truth to this theory but its scope should not be exaggerated. Finally, *translation and relevance*, for Newmark a rather obvious theory, is based on the idea that the subject keeps changing.

In conclusion, Newmark alluded to five aspects of the truth by which he believes translators must be guided: the ethical truth, or respect for human, animal and ecological rights in language and not just in thought; reality, which means that the translator is responsible for the factual truth, even if the original is not; the logical truth, which requires that the translation coincide with the factual truth; the esthetic truth -- writing well and using language properly; and pure language, or the recognition that all languages represent only part of the truth and have shortcomings, yet express something unique and need to be translated.

These last comments, as well as others made during a discussion of translation of political terminology, formed the basis for a lively debate where everyone who presented a paper exchanged ideas with the audience. Opposing views were expressed by panelists and participants alike on the moral responsibility of the translator and what it implies. There was a general consensus on the need to delve deeper into the subject at future gatherings.

In his talk "With Translation in Mind," Marshall Morris gave an illuminating summary of the concepts, many originating from anthropology and history, that can help to shape one's thinking about language and translation. The six notions he discussed were: *communication precedes language* (Harris) -- seeing the text as part of a larger effort to communicate; *beyond the information given* -- (Bruner) that language is only one part of communication: the contemplation of meaning goes beyond the literal text; the *importance of clues* (Ginzburg), which enable us to acquire information beyond our direct knowledge; the *logic of Q and A* (Collingwood) as used in the study of artifacts, which is applicable to translation if we grasp the question that the text is trying to frame or answer; *reciprocity* (Mauss) as the foundation of human interaction; and Evans-Pritchard's insight that in the *translation of culture*, it is possible to make the experience of vastly different peoples understandable without

domesticating it or adopting a patronizing attitude. Seen in the light of other disciplines and given what Newmark called "the importance of lateral thinking," Morris depicted translation as but one step in a human continuity that both precedes and transcends the translator.

In "The Translator as Front-line Defender of Language," Angel Casares presented a spirited defense of the idiosyncracies and varieties of Spanish. Language, he reminded us, is ever-changing and can never remain static, and one must neither disdain the words that popular use has made current nor follow the path of least resistance and adopt any buzz word in vogue. Casares countered the notion that the borrowing of English-language expressions has "ruined" Spanish; rather, he pointed out, 65% of the Anglicisms now in circulation are in the field of banking -- and if English has a concise word, why not accept it? He illustrated his remarks with many examples and references to the evolution of Spanish syntax and grammar, and closed by suggesting that respect for the idiosyncracies of language, while viewed by some as an outdated idea, requires nonetheless a degree of heroism.

Ada Franzoni de Moldavsky, a professor in the University of Buenos Aires Master's Program in Translation, described the theory and methodology applied to training certified judiciary translators in Argentina. Franzoni stressed the importance of comparative law and the need to find conceptual equivalents to avoid translations that are mere "linguistic noise." The degree of organization of Argentine judiciary translators was a source of inspiration to their counterparts at the San Juan meeting. Other presentations were well received by the audience, including one by Sara Irizarry, Director of the Master's Program in Translation at the University of Puerto Rico, on the academic programs available in the field; a panel discussion on ethical and practical aspects of translation by Carmen Díaz and Barbara Cohen; "Language, Translation and the Law," led by Mayra Huergo, María de Lourdes Rodríguez Valledor and Janis Palma; and a discussion of political and literary translation with talks by Mirta Vidal Orrantia and Nancy Festinger, both of NAJIT.

Marina Orellana, author of the *Glosario internacional para el traductor* [Santiago de Chile: Editorial Universitaria, 1990] and *La traducción del inglés al castellano: Guía para el traductor*, [Santiago de Chile: Editorial Universitaria, 1987] gave a special presentation, sharing some of her thoughts and experiences in a long and productive career.

In her closing remarks, APTI Vice-President Janis Palma, the key organizer of the highly successful event, announced plans to hold a second symposium on translation in Puerto Rico next year.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## SASTRA, INGENIERA...

Me permito discrepar de la afirmación que hace mi querido colega Cándido A. Valderrama en su reseña del *Diccionario Santillana* [Spring, 1992] cuando afirma que el femenino de Juez es un "barbarismo usado por algunos."

En la línea de las recomendaciones de la Comunidad Europea, el Plan para la Igualdad de Oportunidades de las Mujeres (1988-1990), del que tomó conocimiento el Consejo de Ministros del Reino de España del 25 de septiembre de 1987, recoge, entre sus actuaciones, la revisión de los textos reglamentarios para evitar usos y expresiones que refuerzan actitudes de desigualdad hacia las mujeres: "Se incluirá, por ello, en el proceso de renovación del lenguaje administrativo que se está realizando, el control y la eliminación, en su caso, de este tipo de discriminaciones en las circulares, impresos y formularios utilizados por la Administración."

En esta línea, el *Manual de estilo del lenguaje administrativo* editado por el Ministerio para las Administraciones Públicas de España (libro que recomiendo a mis colegas de NAJIT) en el capítulo titulado "Uso no sexista del lenguaje administrativo" realiza la siguiente propuesta de uso:

Cuando los cargos y puestos administrativos están ocupados por mujeres, la mención a sus titulares debe hacerse en femenino. La norma y, sobre todo, el uso admiten como correctos los términos **presidenta, jefa, concejala, jueza, médica...**

Gramaticalmente, no existen sustantivos invariables: el grado de aceptación de **gerenta o conserja**, tradicionalmente sustantivos invariables, lo determinarán los cambios en la realidad social y el consenso de la comunidad de hablantes.

Animo pues a mis colegas a no discriminar por sexo en materia de lenguaje. Reconozco que el principal escollo para una utilización lo más neutra posible del lenguaje deriva de la pertenencia del español a las lenguas de género, categoría gramatical que afecta no sólo a la terminación de los nombres, sino también a la de artículos, adjetivos o participios en régimen de concordancia con el sustantivo. Fenómeno de naturaleza sistemática y, por lo tanto, muy enraizado en el idioma-- normativamente se considera el masculino como término no marcado, genérico y válido, en consecuencia, para uno y otro sexo-- tiene, desde el punto de vista social, un claro efecto de exclusión de reforzamiento de estereotipos: la Administración aparece como un mundo del varón, en el que no sólo los que autorizan, certifican, adjudican... son los hombres, sino también los que declaran o solicitan, los denunciados, los propietarios de inmuebles, los infractores de tráfico, etc.

Aprovecho la oportunidad que me brinda NAJIT para informar a mis colegas del otro lado del charco, del resto de normativa no sexista de nuestro ministerio. Dado que como sucede en el lenguaje común, en los casos en los que hay mención expresa de ambos sexos, el masculino precede siempre al femenino ("padre, madre o representante legal", "ponga una V, M o una X según sea varón, mujer o razón social") el ministerio afirma: "Ninguna razón hace preferible, con carácter sistemático, un orden a otro." Ante la frecuente identificación de la mujer a través del hombre ("se procedió al embargo del inmueble que a continuación se detalla como de la propiedad de Don... y su esposa Doña...") y considerando que ello connota idea de pertenencia, la propuesta en este caso es la siguiente: "Algunas expresiones encontradas en la lengua administrativa (D... y su esposa Doña...) conllevan una presentación estereotipada de la realidad que conviene evitar."

Confío que mis líneas sirvan de acicate para la modernización no sexista de nuestro querido idioma común.

Josep Peñarroja Fa

*The writer is official translator and certified interpreter in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Barcelona*

## FIT CONGRESS

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has generally been the department of Justice that has endeavored to assess competence. While currently each province has its own assessment mechanism, varying from an informal interview to a written and/or oral exam-- none of which include sections for testing simultaneous interpretation, the CTIC is currently developing an exam similar to the U.S. federal exam, which it hopes to administer uniformly across Canada. It was pointed out that in Canada, as in the U.S., there is no official incentive for training.

There was much talk of the North America Free Trade Agreement and how it would affect the free movement of white collar workers. At present, interpreters and translators are not included on the list but there are efforts underway, spearheaded by Deanna Hammond, to correct this omission.

Canadians expressed interest in training Spanish interpreters and in exchanging Spanish and French resource materials but no formal mechanism was suggested to facilitate such an exchange. Perhaps NAJIT could step forward, via committee or coordinator, to contact Canadian governmental offices and universities who might want to participate in an information exchange program. Alternatively, a future conference could be planned incorporating this topic and Canadians could be invited to attend.

Next year's meeting will be FIT's 40th anniversary and will take place on August 9-13 in Brighton, England.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

**NAJIT 14th Annual Meeting**

Plans are underway for the 14th annual meeting of the NAJIT to be held on February 12, 13 and 14, 1993. The Doubletree Hotel ("We'll Take Care of You in Tucson") has been chosen as the site for the convention that will take place during the President's Day weekend, which in 1993 includes Valentine's Day.

Sam Adelo has contacted members and friends of NAJIT to help with the program. In addition to the annual business meeting there will be panel presentations on standardizing legal and commercial terminology, workshops on tape transcription and computer aided translation and guest speakers from the legal community.

Reservations may be made by calling the Doubletree Hotel (800) 528-0444 or (602) 881-4200. Travel arrangements may be made by calling Marie-Alice Fombrun of Stern's Travel at (800) 722-9862, extension 227, or (212) 704-9862, or FAX (212) 704-0376.

**October 16-18, 1992. Annandale-on-Hudson, NY:** "Translation as Cultural Transmission: Toward a Politics and Poetics of Translation," Bard College. Panels on Political Determinants of Translation; On the Purposes of Translation; Re-Readings and Re-Writings of History and Literature; Translation, Exploration and the Expansion of Language. Keynote Speaker: Anton Shammas. Address: Susan Gillespie, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

**November 4-8, 1992. San Diego Princess Resort, San Diego, CA.** "Frontiers": 33rd Annual Conference of the American Translators Association. Address: ATA National Headquarters, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 903, Arlington, VA 22202; (703-892-1500 or FAX (703) 892-1501

**November 23-29, 1992. San Juan, Puerto Rico.** Taller de Interpretación Jurídica/Court Interpreting Workshop. For information contact: Janis Palma, Apartado Postal 324, Viejo San Juan, PR 00902; (809) 268-3818 or FAX (809) 268-0265

**January 15-18, 1993. San Antonio, TX.** Federal Judicial Center Conference for Federally Certified Interpreters. Freelancers invited. Contact: Denise Glover, Translation Specialist, at (202) 786-6397

**BORED BY THE BOARD?**

NAJIT members will elect two candidates to the Board of Directors this year, in accordance with the association's bylaws approved in 1991. Sara García-Rangel and Mary Ellen Pruess will be stepping down, having completed their terms of office.

The newly elected members of the Board will join Sam Adelo, Alea Alger-Robbins and Mirta Vidal-Orrantia. Once the Board is fully constituted, it will designate a Chair, a Treasurer and Secretary.

Members will soon be receiving a letter from the Board inviting them to submit nominations to: Alea Alger-Robbins, 1009 Madison Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116. Please respond promptly.

**TALLER DE INTERPRETACION JURIDICA**

*¿Te interesa la interpretación jurídica? Inscríbete para un taller especial en Puerto Rico el próximo noviembre, bajo el auspicio de la NAJIT y La Sociedad para el Estudio de la Traducción y la Interpretación (SETI).*

**Instructores:**

*Dr. Dagoberto Orrantia, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York*

*Janis Palma, USCCI, Intérprete Independiente, Autora: Introduction to Judiciary Interpreting (NY: NAJIT, 1989)*

*Fechas: 23-29 de noviembre de 1992 (libre el 26)*

*Lugar: San Juan, Puerto Rico*

*Cuota de inscripción: \$125.00 matrícula + \$25.00 materiales*

*Requisitos: Dominio del inglés y el español, conocimiento de los fundamentos de la traducción, familiaridad con el lenguaje y la terminología jurídica en inglés y español.*

*Nivel: Intermedio/avanzado.*

*Horas de contacto: 30 horas de instrucción, aproximadamente una hora de evaluación individual.*

*Para más detalles escribe al "Taller de Interpretación Jurídica," Apartado Postal 324, Viejo San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902 o comunícate al (809) 268-3818, FAX (809) 268-0265 con Janis Palma.*

## THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

The object of the NAJIT is the advancement of the profession of court interpreting. All interested persons are encouraged to become members. Members receive free copies of the newsletter *Proteus*, published four times a year, and have the right to vote and participate in the activities of the Association. You are invited to join us through one of the following memberships: Individual (\$50), Student (\$20), Institution (\$125).

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to join the NAJIT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Annual dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with your check or money order payable to NAJIT to:  
Sara Garcia-Rangel, 99 Harrison Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042

*Proteus* is published four times a year by the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Inc. in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Editors, D. Orrantia and N. Festinger. *Proteus* is mailed without charge to all members of the Association, the mailing address of which is Plaza II Executive Center, Inc., 125 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 400, Santa Fe, NM 87501. All editorial submissions for *Proteus* should be addressed to Dagoberto Orrantia, Editor, *Proteus*, Dept. of Foreign Languages, John Jay College, 445 West 59 Street, New York, NY 10019. All submissions are subject to editorial review. Deadlines for submissions: Spring issue, March 1; Summer issue, June 1; Fall issue, September 1; Winter issue, December 1.

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