



The Newsletter of The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators

## NAJIT CERTIFICATION ON THE WAY

Mirta Vidal

*The following is an edited version of the report given to the NAJIT annual membership meeting in Miami, Florida, on May 20, 2000.*

Some of you may think NAJIT's efforts to create a certification program for judiciary interpreters has been a long time coming. Actually, most of you were not even members when the idea began to be seriously considered. I remember sitting with Dagoberto Orrantia and Janis Palma, who was then chair, in a restaurant in San Juan nine years ago having a heated argument about whether or not we should have an exam, what kind of an exam, and how it could be done. And that was only the first of many heated arguments—as Cristina will remember because the importance of the issue makes people very passionate about the subject.

But we persevered because we knew this was needed and wanted by the interpreting community. And when we asked the membership for their opinion, we received a clear and unequivocal response. When, in response to the survey three years ago, we were given a mandate by the membership to create a certification program, we knew it was time to stop debating the issues and get down to work. And once we knew what we had to do, many of the questions we had agonized over began to resolve themselves. But big hurdles had yet to

be overcome: first, we needed to create a tax-exempt arm of NAJIT to enable us to raise the needed funds free of tax. This we finally accomplished two years ago, with the creation of SSTI (Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation) as an entity granted 501c3 status by the IRS. Sandra Morra deserves our thanks for her help with that. Then we had to choose a team of people willing and able to devote a great deal of time and energy to the project, with the necessary expertise to do the required research and evaluate the proposals that would result from a bidding process. So after the San Antonio conference two years ago, the NAJIT Board appointed Alex Rainof, Gladys Segal and myself to constitute the SSTI Board to spearhead this effort.

I can now report to you that after a year and a half of meetings, telephone conferences and e-mail exchanges, having thoroughly considered several proposals submitted in response to our RFP, we have accepted in principle a proposal from a corporation specializing in test development and scoring of educational performance assessments. We are now in the final stages of negotiating a contract mutually agreeable to the parties. Assuming the terms discussed and agreed to at our meeting with their vice-president remain the same, we expect to have the final contract in continued on page 3

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### FEATURE STORIES

##### NAJIT Certification

Mirta Vidal, Front Page

#### Enigmas of Cuban Spanish

Anthony T. Rivas, Front Page

#### BOARD MESSAGE

Cristina Helmerichs D., Page 2

#### CHARLOTTE'S CORNER

##### Web on the Web, VI

Alexander Rainof, Page 14

#### REAL COURTROOMS

##### Anyone Speak Russian?

Daniel Sherr, Page 17

#### DICTIONARY REVIEW

##### Russian Legal Dictionaries

Yana Agoureev, Page 16

#### NAJIT SUPPORTS TEAMS

Page 12

#### NEW MEMBERS

Page 18

## Enigmas of Cuban Spanish

Anthony T. Rivas

Non-Cuban Spanish speakers have occasional trouble understanding fast Cuban speech. While less educated Cuban speakers can be difficult to understand, as with speakers of other dialects of Spanish, better educated speakers of Cuban Spanish can also exhibit speech sounds typical of "careless" or relaxed speech.

For ease of reference, Cuban geographical regions are broken down into the six traditional provinces that existed prior to the mid-seventies. As with any other dialect, Spanish from Cuba can be divided into three main overall registers: educated continued on page 3

### Next Issue

#### Appeals Based on Interpreter Issues

Virginia Benmaman

#### Training Challenges for the Twenty-first Century

Inge Urbancic

## THE NAJIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Cristina Helmerichs D., Chair**  
Austin, Texas  
helmerichs@najit.org

**M. Cristina Castro, Treasurer**  
Portland, Oregon  
castro@najit.org

**Holly Mikkelsen, Secretary**  
Monterey, California  
mikkelsen@najit.org

**Jeanette Bustos Gilhooly**  
Dover, Massachusetts  
bustos@najit.org

**Steven T. Mines, J.D.**  
Austin, Texas  
mines@najit.org

Executive Director  
**Arlene Stock, Dynamic Management**  
New York, New York  
headquarters@najit.org

*Proteus*

Proteus, published quarterly, is the official newsletter of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Inc. 551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3025, New York, NY 10176. Editor: Nancy Festinger; Address submissions to proteus@najit.org with attached file. Submissions preferred in Microsoft Word with spaces, no indents, between paragraphs. All submissions subject to editorial review. Deadlines: Spring issue, March 1; Summer issue, June 1; Fall issue, September 1; Winter issue, December 1. Annual subscription rate: \$16.00, included in membership dues. Online edition and archive available at <http://www.najit.org/proteus>

The opinions expressed in articles and editorials of Proteus are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Association. Postmaster: Send address changes to NAJIT, 551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3025, New York, NY 10176.

Postage paid at Friend, NE 68359. Copyright 2000 by the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Inc. Printed by Pioneer Publishing Co., 130 Maple Street, Friend, NE 68359. Address requests for reprint permission to NAJIT.

# message from the board

Now that we are all back home, it is with great appreciation and gratitude that the Board looks back at the annual conference that NAJIT just held in Miami, Florida. Often, it is only during these events that people's commitment, kindness and support are truly appreciated. Once again our membership, our staff and friends came together, with over 225 attendees, and jointly made the Miami meeting a resounding success. The pre-conference workshops were very well attended and extremely fruitful to the presenters and attendees alike. The presentations during the annual conference were interesting and many, like the Haitian Creole Glossary presentation, Brainstorming for the Future, the Independent Contractor and others have sparked ongoing discussions and activities.

After many years of dedication and arduous work, Dagoberto Orrantia formally stepped down as editor-in-chief of Proteus. He has not left the effort completely, but Nancy Festinger is now the editor-in-chief and Dagoberto will continue to collaborate in an advisory capacity. Mirta Vidal, chair of the SSTI Board, announced that a final contract for the development and implementation of NAJIT's credentialing exam is scheduled to be signed in the near future. This is a long-awaited and precedent-setting step in NAJIT's history and exemplifies this organization's commitment to excellence in the field of judicial interpreting and translating. In recognition of this the NAJIT Board voted to make \$50,000 available to SSTI as a one time payment towards the future of court interpreting in the United States. After many years of a careful planning and budgeting, NAJIT is now financially able not only to philosophically support the further professionalization of court interpreting but to economically support these efforts. We ask all NAJIT members and supporters to do the same.

The 2001 Educational Conference and Annual Meeting will take place in Chicago. Besides working on next year's conference, the Board has committed itself to developing a program of regional meetings.

The Board also made some other important decisions. Working with our dedicated and irreplaceable Webmaster, a members-only section will be created for the NAJIT Webpage. The existing list serve will continue to be open to all, but other discussion groups will soon require a password. Please stay tuned. The Board also created a new By-Laws Committee to be chaired by Steve Mines. One of the points this committee will be looking into is the viability of expanding the NAJIT Board. Anyone interested in participating in the Committee should contact either Cristina Helmerichs or Steve Mines.

Once again, the Board wishes to thank you all for your commitment to professional excellence and for your active participation and faith in NAJIT.

Cristina Helmerichs D., Chair of the Board

## NAJIT's 21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING AND EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Held: May 19-21, 2000 in Miami

226 attendees, representing 28 states and the District of Columbia; Puerto Rico  
Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands

## NAJIT CERTIFICATION continued from page 1

a few more days. This means that the actual work of creating the exam will begin in the next few weeks.

The timetable for creation of the exam from start to finish calls for one full year. If all goes according to plan, we would be ready to administer the first exam soon after our annual meeting next year. Now that the actual work is about to begin, we will issue periodic reports of our progress on the website, by mail and in the pages of *Proteus* to keep you informed.

The NAJIT exam will be different from the federal and state court exams that already exist. Ours is conceived to encompass every aspect of the work performed daily by those involved in judicial interpretation. The exam will cover in and out-of-court work that may occur in criminal and civil cases, with a wide range of medical, commercial or technical terminology, involving subjects as varied as divorce, real estate transactions or bank fraud. Of course, not every imaginable subject that may come up in the course of our work can be covered in a single exam. But our aim is for the content to be sufficiently representative that a person who performs well can be deemed truly competent to work in this field in its myriad variations. Its purpose is to provide us with a valid credential of competency that can become the accepted standard for the profession nationwide and give validation to highly qualified individuals who have not had a way to measure their own performance until now. It will not provide a credential for employment in the state or federal courts, as do the tests currently being adminis-

tered. Since its inception, the certification exam developed by the University of Arizona's National Center for Interpretation Testing, Research and Policy has set a high standard for the federal courts—indeed, it represents a benchmark for the profession, and we hope it will continue to do so for a long time to come. But NAJIT is striving for something different, broader in scope, embracing the entire interpreting community.

The first exam will necessarily have to be in Spanish. But creating exams in the other language combinations represented by our membership remains a very high priority for us. We know interpreters of languages other than Spanish are among those most anxiously awaiting an exam they can eventually take in their own language combination, and that's understandable, because you are the ones who most desperately need this exam. Because exam development is a very costly proposition, we expect that the revenues generated by the Spanish exam will be able to finance the creation of exams in the other languages. Of course, we will have to approach the question of which languages to test, and how often they are tested, in close consultation with the membership. What's important to keep in mind is that once the Spanish exam has been written, a model will exist on which to base all the others, so it will no longer be necessary to start from scratch. Exams in the other languages could then be developed faster, at reduced expense.

I don't need to tell you that an undertaking of this scope does not come cheap. Nor will this come as a surprise, since we have already been ask-

ing you for contributions to this effort and many of you have already responded generously. What we have raised so far is only a fraction of what will be needed to finance the development of the exam from start to finish: between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The board will naturally seek other means to raise such a large amount, including applying for grants from institutions that fund projects of this nature. But unless we have an incredible stroke of luck, we should assume that a very substantial portion of the money will have to be raised by the membership. By this I mean, among other things, that we will be asking you to contribute as much as you can possibly afford to the fund raising campaign. Just to illustrate what's possible, if everyone were to contribute equally, we could easily raise \$200,000 by next year, when the bill is due, if each one of us were to invest approximately \$200 in the project. That's less than one day of work for interpreters working in the federal courts, and probably not much more than one day's pay for most of us. I say invest because when we ask you for money, we are not asking for charity. Far from it. This exam is being created because you have been asking for it. It is the will and demand of our membership, and the SSTI and NAJIT boards are simply carrying out that mandate because we understand that is what you expect from us and why you have elected us. But we are simply the vehicle for making it happen. You are the ones who will ultimately benefit from it. If it's a good exam, as we intend it to be, it will set the standard for the entire profession not only in the U.S. but, in these times of globalization,

even internationally. And to help in the funding of this effort is the best investment in your careers that you will ever make.

**M**ore important than your financial contributions, however, are your input and your help in organizing fund-raising activities wherever you may be. We need ideas from all of you about possible ways to collect funds, and everyone's participation in carrying out those ideas. This is our chance to be very creative. There are many different things we can do to generate funds, and if we all put our heads together, many more practical and realizable ideas will emerge than the SSTI board could ever devise on its own. We can hold parties, raffles, dances; organize speaking tours and traveling workshops. Gladys and Alex, for instance, have agreed to expand the workshop on tape transcription they gave here this weekend and take it on the road so that part of the income will go to SSTI. And incidentally, they are also donating the honoraria they received for the workshop here to SSTI. If any of you are inclined to do the same, please feel free to do so. Janis has agreed to go on the road with her ever-popular consecutive interpretation workshop and split the proceeds with SSTI.

**O**f course, there are other ways in which we'll need the active participation of our members and, as the work gets underway, many of you will be asked to participate in various phases of the process. These include: an initial survey to review the task description, the writing of test items, the item review, taking the pilot test, rating the exam, and finally, setting the standard. Naturally, these various groups will have to be

chosen on the basis of a specific set of criteria, and a great deal of talent—much of which is right here in this room—will have to be tapped to accomplish our goal. All of this will be worked out at the appropriate time, and again, we will do our very best to keep you informed at every stage.

**N**one of this, however, can materialize if we don't have the money to pay for it. And this is why the best way you can become a part of the certification project right now is to join the fund-raising campaign we are launching here today before you leave the conference this weekend. Of course, no project can generate funds if nobody knows about it. Therefore, an equally important aspect of the campaign will be the effort to publicize the exam to others, get them excited about taking it and enlisting their support.

**W**e are proposing the creation of two new committees that we hope many of you will sign up for: a fund-raising committee that will include a sub-division to work on writing grant proposals, and a publicity committee to come up with various ways of advertising what we're doing and mobilize support. Gladys Segal will head up fund-raising for SSTI, so let her know what you would like to organize or do in your local area ([segal.ssti@najit.org](mailto:segal.ssti@najit.org)).

**R**egardless of how much time and energy you might have to get involved in these activities, however, there is one thing all of us can do, starting now: please think hard about how much you might be in a position to invest in the future of your career and of our profession. The sooner we have the funds, the sooner we'll be

able to implement exam administration in Spanish and in the other languages that all of us are so anxious to have.

**T**his is a historic step, one we have worked long and hard to take. The SSTI board is confident that the certification program we are about to put in place will help to create a new and higher standard for the interpreting community. NAJIT's credential will give interpreters an additional incentive to expand their knowledge and develop their skills, and ultimately will contribute to the further professionalization and recognition of our field. We should all feel proud of this accomplishment, which is a measure of our maturity. I can't emphasize enough how important the input of every one of you has been to this project.

**I**would like to thank NAJIT's board and especially Cristina Helmerichs, who have given us their confidence from the start. Much credit also goes to Arlene Stock, who not only threw herself wholeheartedly into doing the necessary groundwork, but always stood firm in the belief that we could do this, even when the more fainthearted of us wavered. She taught us that all you really need in order to get something done is the conviction that it has to be done, and the will to do it.

**A**s I look back on that first lively debate in San Juan, and realize how close we are to making what was then a mere figment of our imagination a reality, nine years doesn't seem like such a long time. The really hard work, of course, is still ahead of us. But some of the major hurdles have now been overcome and we are on our way. I hope you will all join us in seeing it through. ■



## *Proteus:* NOT ONLY A GREEK GOD

It is hard to conceive of *Proteus* without Dagoberto Orrantia, editor-in-chief since the first issue in the winter of 1992. He established the quarterly's name, its editorial policy, standards of accuracy, masthead and layout, the sections, and its pro-active stance in support of adequate compensation and uniform working conditions for interpreters in state and federal courts throughout the United States. As editor, his decisions were always based on what the record needed to reflect and on accurate reporting of issues that the membership had a right or a need to know. His efforts have been protean, his patience infinite, and his eye for detail unwavering. In the past eight years, our membership has grown from 200 to nearly 1,000. Today *Proteus* routinely reports events that are not merely national but international in scope. His vision, of establishing a respected publication of record for court interpreters everywhere, has largely been fulfilled. He has now decided to pass the editor's baton because he accomplished much of what he set out to do and knows that the publication's continuity is ensured.

I hope to continue the high standards he set for *Proteus*, while modernizing the format for ease of reference and intensifying visual interest. The Board of Directors has agreed that to achieve these goals, *Proteus* needs a graphic designer, and we are fortunate to have found James Mowrey, whose imprint you will no doubt be noticing in this and future issues. For those who regularly visit NAJIT's website, please keep your eye out for new ways to communicate with *Proteus* directly from the website.

I hope that my predecessor is satisfied in the knowledge of a job well done. As we look to the new millennium, *Proteus* will continue to carry NAJIT's message to every port. Interpreters and translators have become or are becoming an integral part of the justice system in most of the world. The more accurately the interpreter conveys what all parties are saying, without fear or favor, the more honor is done to the process itself and to those people (from any country, who may find themselves in any other country) who cannot understand or adequately express themselves in the court's language.

Nancy Festinger  
Editor

## NAJIT Board of Directors MINUTES May 21-22, 2000

*Present: Arlene Stock, Cristina Helmerichs, Jeanneatte Bustos-Gilhooly, Cristina Castro, Steven Mines, Holly Mikkelsen.*

The meeting was called to order on May 21, 2000 at 1:35 pm EDT.

Approval of minutes:

Minutes from the March 13 meeting already approved by email.

Election of officers: Cristina Helmerichs was re-elected chair by acclamation. Holly Mikkelsen will continue as secretary through the remainder of her term.

Webmaster's report: Board will decide on changes to be made in membership application and will inform David so that online application can be updated by members themselves. Board consensus is that members-only section of website should be limited to NAJIT business, and as much information as possible should be disseminated to public. Castro/Bustos-Gilhooly: moved and seconded to approve the web policy drafted by Holly Mikkelsen, as amended. Carried.

Treasurer's report: attached.

SSTI report: Cristina Castro will be the Board's liaison with SSTI. Cristina Helmerichs will co-chair the SSTI/NAJIT fund-raising committee with Gladys Segal. Helmerichs/Castro: Moved and seconded that NAJIT make a one-time contribution to SSTI of \$50,000 for the purpose of funding the development of a credentialing exam for judicial interpreters. Carried.

*Proteus* report: Nancy Festinger reported by conference telephone call that she will take over as editor-in-chief, and will be working on a trial basis with a graphic designer to change and modernize the look of the newsletter. Castro/Mines: moved and seconded that Holly Mikkelsen be appointed liaison between NAJIT and the National Council on Health Care Interpreting (NCHCI). Carried.

Contract with Dynamic Management: Bustos-Gilhooly/Mines: Moved and seconded to approve the renewal of the contract with Dynamic Management, effective April 1, 2000 through March 31, 2001, with the modifications agreed to during this meeting of the Board of Directors, i.e., with an adjustment of the base management fee to reflect current membership figures and annual cost-of-living adjustments for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000. Carried.

Schedule of board meetings: Wednesday, August 23, 2000; Monday, November 13, 2000; Tuesday, February 6, 2001; Wednesday, April 25, 2001; and May 17-21, 2001 at the NAJIT Annual Conference.

Credentials Committee: Helmerichs/Castro: Moved and seconded that the credentials policy revised draft, as amended, be approved by the Board. Carried. Helmerichs/Castro: Moved and seconded that the credentials guidelines, as amended, be approved by the Board. Carried.

Conference venue: Mines/Mikkelsen: Moved and seconded that the 2001 annual conference be held in Chicago. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned on May 22, 2000 at 3:30 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Mikkelsen, Secretary

# Enigmas of Cuban Spanish

continued from page 1

or standard; informal/colloquial; and slang. Cuban Spanish is broken down by linguists into 5 different subdialects: 1) Habanero (city of Havana); 2) the western subdialect (provinces of Pinar del Río and Havana); 3) The subdialect of the provinces of Matanzas and Las Villas; 4) The subdialect of the province of Camagüey; and 5) the subdialect of the province of Oriente (De la Cuesta 1987:125). While lacking conclusive proof, some linguists believe that the marked intonation pattern exhibited by some natives of the former Oriente province originates in Arawak, a language spoken by the indigenous Taíno people, who survived for a limited time just in this province.

## Salient Speech Sounds

The most salient troublesome speech sounds of Cuban Spanish are as follows:

**A**ssimilation/Gemination. When located in syllable-final position (implosive position), /r/ and /l/ become assimilated to the following voiced consonant speech sound that starts the next syllable (explosive position), as in:

*Carmen y Carlitos se curdean con chispa'e tren.*

[kám-men-i-kal-lí-to-se-kud-dé-an-kon-chíh-pa-e-trén]

"Carmen and Carlitos get high on home-brew."

**S**peech sound /g/ in syllable-final position may also become assimilated to the next consonant speech sound, e.g. *magnífico* [man-ní-fi-ko] and speech sound /k/ may be rendered /g/ (velarization) at the end of a syllable when followed by consonant speech sound /t/. Thus, the word "doctor" is rendered [dog-tód]. Traditionally, gemination is a hallmark of western Cuban speech.

2) Loss of speech sound /d/ when occurring at the beginning of a syllable, as in:  
*El dedo de David* [ed-dé-o-ea-bí] "David's finger"  
The intervocalic /d/ and /b/ are fricative and at times barely heard. De la Cuesta believes that this disappearance (elision) of intervocalic /d/ is generalized in Cuban speech.

3) Aspiration or loss of syllable-final /s/. the /s/ is aspirated (an h-like sound in English), at times barely

audibly, in syllable and word-final positions before a pause as in:

*Los socios más pingús meten las rucas pa' fuchar.*

[loh-só-sio-máh-pin-gúh-mé-ten-lah-rú-kah-pa-fa-chá]

"Ballsy dudes use their paws to steal."

**A**spirational /s/ occurs throughout the Caribbean Spanish-speaking region: Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, and Atlantic coastal areas of Colombia and Venezuela, especially in major cities like Barranquilla and Cartagena, in Colombia, and Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, and the River Plate area. However, at times, as I have observed on recent trips to Cuba, /s/ may go unrendered in syllable and word-final positions (as occurs in colloquial Dominican speech) in the eastern region of the former Oriente province, especially amongst its black population. Paz Pérez confirms that this occurrence is particularly noticeable in the cities of Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Baracoa, providing the following examples: *escuela* [ekwéla]; *tres* [tré]; *casco* [káko]; *prisma* [príma]; and *lunes* [lúne] (Paz Pérez, 36.) Additionally, Varela (1992) says, "En el habla cubana, este fenómeno está en proporción inversa con el nivel de educación: más educación > menos elisión, menos educación > más elisión." While the point is valid, my own observations have led me to believe her assessment is only applicable to the dialect of the former Oriente province, particularly to speakers in the areas mentioned by Paz Pérez. This is not new in Cuban Spanish, being prevalent in traditional black Cuban folklore, typified by Luis Carbonell, a Cuban reciter from pre-Revolutionary days.

4) The sound /r/ is rendered [l] in syllable-final and word-final positions, as occurs in Puerto Rican and Dominican colloquial speech, although not as often in Cuba as on the other two Caribbean islands. The sound /l/ may be rendered [r] in syllable and word-final positions as well. De la Cuesta states that this takes place in Pinar del Río province, in Western Cuba; nonetheless, in my experience, these particular phonetic variants or allophones are not frequent anymore, mainly occurring in uneducated speech of western provinces (Havana and Matanzas) in addition to Pinar del Río. Noted Cuban early twentieth century pedagogue and author Arturo Montori believed that speech sound /r/ rendered [l] in word and syllable final positions, as well as some cases of consonant sound assimilation, were trace-



able to the influence of the many Canary Islanders who settled in Cuba. (Alonso and Fernández, 1977:I,328.)

While these speech sounds may seem odd to those unfamiliar with Cuban speech, they occur in other varieties of Spanish, leading Varela to conclude that there is no speech sound unique to Cuban Spanish, since the aspiration or elimination of /s/ in syllable final position, the neutralization of /l/ and /r/ and other phonological phenomena exist in other Spanish-speaking countries.

The following features are listed in Resnick's "Phonological Variants and Dialect Identification in Latin American Spanish":

- Gemination (assimilation): *caldo* [káddo], *carta* [kátta]. (Colombia: Bolívar, El Chocó, and both coastal areas, especially among the black population; Ecuador: coast; Mexico: Oaxaca, San Luis Potosi; Panama: Herrea, Los Santos, Veragias, San Blas; Puerto Rico (occasional); Dominican Republic (sometimes); Spain: Andalusia.)
- Loss of /d/ between vowels and word-final (general occurrence)
- Aspiration or elision of /s/: *mosca* [móhka] or [móka] (Caribbean areas; Spain: Canary Islands, Andalusia)
- /r/ and /l/ interchangeability: *perdón* [peldón], *caldo* [kádo] (Puerto Rico; Spain: Andalusia; parts of Ecuador; Venezuelan coastal area; Dominican Republic; Chile: popular speech.)

## Syntax and Morphology

Differences among Cuban subdialects are few. These involve intonation and vocabulary, but syntax plays no role in them (De la Cuesta, 1987:124.) Cuban Spanish does have some syntactic peculiarities shared with other varieties of Caribbean Spanish. The most salient features of Cuban Spanish syntax and morphology are:

(1) Placement of second person singular pronoun "tú" before instead of after the verb in questions Varela believes that placing the pronoun before the verb in interrogative sentences is a hallmark of Caribbean Spanish and differentiates Cuban from Mexican Spanish, where the pronoun is placed after the verb in interrogative sentences (Varela, 1992:91.) Although I have heard constructions like "*¿Por qué usted no quiere*

*que yo vaya?*" I've more often observed that this phenomenon involves second person singular pronoun "tú." Interestingly enough, every example shown by Varela to exemplify this occurrence uses "tú": *¿Qué tú crees?*; *¿Qué tú haces aquí?*; *¿De dónde tú eres?* Charles Kany documented this occurrence in Venezuela, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, stating that the subject pronoun is often placed before the verb in interrogative sentences, except "él, ella, ellos, ellas" (Kany, 1951:125)

(2) Usage of "le" and "les" instead of "la" and "las" when preceded by "se."

Utterances like *A Juana se le ve en la tienda todos los días* (instead of "*se la ve*", since "la" is the direct object pronoun) are commonplace in Cuban Spanish, according to Padrón (Alonso and Fernández 1977 II: 154) and confirmed by my own experience.

3) Use of "*decir a*" to denote the beginning of an action. When talking about a gall bladder polyp, a well-known Miami surgeon told me: *Si ese pólipo dice a crecer, ahí empiezan los problemas.* ("If that polyp begins to grow, it will mean trouble.") Referring to this usage, Padrón states: *Es también corriente decir aquí 'decir a': Estábamos listos para salir, cuando de pronto dijo a llover y tuvimos que quedarnos en casa.* ("We were ready to leave, when, all of a sudden, it started to rain and we had to stay at home.")

4) Use of "*para*" instead of "*en*" to indicate location

Padrón (Alonso and Fernández 1977 II: 164) believes that this usage is particular to peasants and illiterate people; however, I have heard people with secondary schooling or higher say phrases like *Pepe está para Hialeah* ("Pepe is in Hialeah"); *Cuca está para el campo* ("Cuca is in the provinces" — people from Havana refer to the rest of the island as "campo.")

5) Use of "*lo cual*" to mean "but" or "while"

A phrase like *Nunca voy a la pelota, lo cual él sí* ("I never go to the ballgame, but he does") may be heard in individuals with little or no schooling.

6) Negative construction with "*cómo*" with affirmative meaning.

¡Cómo que no! is a Cuban variant of ¡Cómo no! as in ¡La saludaste? ¡Cómo que no! ("Did you say hello to her?" "You better believe it!/Of course I did.")

#### 7) Use of "coger" before a verb as reinforcement

This usage seems to have lost preference amongst Cuban speakers; however, it is still heard, mainly in elderly, less educated people. Padrón (Alonso and Fernández 1977 II:58) described this usage as commonplace in colloquial speech back in 1949, providing the following example: *El policía registró la casa y al ver que no encontraba al ladrón, cogió y se fue.* ("The police officer searched the house, and when he didn't find the thief, he took off.")

#### 8) Use of indefinite "uno" by women instead of "una" to mean indefinite "one"

This usage at least dates back to 1949, when Padrón gave the example: *Está uno cansada de tanto hablar.*

#### 9) Placement of adjective "más" before negative indefinite pronouns *nada* and *nadie*

Varela points out that as in Caribbean Spanish, current speakers of Cuban Spanish prefer to place modifier *más* before negative indefinite pronouns *nada* and *nadie*, e.g. *más nada/más nadie/más nunca* instead of standard *nada más/nadie más/nunca más*.

#### 10) Adjectives used as adverbs

Varela (1992: 89) provides the following list of adjectives which acquire an adverbial value in Cuban Spanish usage: *clarito* instead of *claramente*, e.g. *contestó clarito*; *feo* instead of *mal*, e.g. *huele feo*; *fuerte* instead of *fuertemente*; *rapidísimo* instead of *rapidísimamente*.

#### 11) Adjectives originated in English as used in Miami Cuban Spanish

Miami Cuban Spanish is Cuban Spanish of 30-40 years ago spiced with some Anglicisms, mainly English-language calques and loan words. Many speakers of Miami Cuban Spanish transfer English-language meanings to Spanish-language cognates or use inappropriate English calques or loanwords as follows:

ENGLISH SOURCE	ENGLISH CALQUE MEANING	NEW SPANISH MEANING	ORIGINAL MEANING
conservative	conservativo	N/A	N/A
shocked	choqueado	upset, moved,	in shock outraged
involved	envuelto	committed	wrapped mixed up in
summarized	sumarizado	condensed, resumed	N/A

ENGLISH LOANWORD	ENGLISH SOURCE	SPANISH MEANING
flonqueado	flunked	same
friqueado	freaked out	same
taipeado	typed	same
cuítear	to quit	same
frizar	to freeze	same
baquear	to back	same

## Current Cuban Speech

Colloquial/ informal Cuban Spanish is extremely rich. Its usage spans every social stratum on the island. The following illustrates colloquial or informal Cuban Spanish:

- ¡Hola, viejo!
- ¡Hola, chico! ¿Qué se cuenta?
- Ahí, en la bobería. ¿Y tú?
- Nada, que la mujer me dijo que tenía que ponerme pa' mi número. Por eso es que me ves aquí cogiendo la guagua rumbo al paradero.
- O-ká, entonces nos encontramos más tarde pa' darnos una frías.
- O-ká, y no te me hagas el sueco. Vamos a hacer una poni-na entre todos porque todo el mundo está sin un quilo.
- Está bien. Bueno, se me va la guagua. Chau.

No Cuban from any walk of life or social stratum would have any problem understanding what was said in this brief exchange.

- "Hi, guy!"
- "Hi, man! What's up?"
- "Well, same ol', same ol'. How about you?"
- "Well, my wife told me that I had to get my act together. That's why you see me here catching the bus to the train station."
- "O.K., then we'll get together later to knock back a few cold ones."
- "OK, and don't play dumb on me. We're gonna take a



collection from everybody, 'cause everybody's broke."  
 "All right. Well, I'm gonna miss the bus. 'Later.'"

However, as occurs elsewhere, younger and less educated people use slang that is different from informal speech. In addition, there is also a Cuban underworld slang not widely understood by speakers of Cuban Spanish. As in any other language, this underworld subdialect is used and understood by individuals in relation to criminal activity.

The same conversation as above, in slang, might be:

—¡Oye, my socio!  
 —¡Vaya! ¿Qué volón?  
 —Ahí, en la marchita. ¿Y tú?  
 —Nada, que la jeba me dijo que tenía que ponerme en algo.  
 Por eso es que me ves aquí cogiendo la rufa pa'l paradero  
 — O-ká, entonces nos encontramos más tarde pa' coger una  
 nota con unos laguers.  
 — O-ká, y no te me hagas el chivo loco. Vamos a hacer una  
 ponina entre todos porque todo el mundo está arrancao. —  
 Cirilo. Bueno, se me pira la rufa. Chau.

"Hey, dude!"  
 "All right! What's cookin'?"  
 "Well, same ol', same ol'. How about you?"  
 "Well, my old lady told me that I had to get with it.  
 That's why you see me here catching the bus to the  
 train station."  
 "O.K., then we'll get together later to get high on  
 foam." "O.K., and don't play dumb on me. We're gonna  
 take a collection from everybody 'cause everybody's  
 broke." "Yep. Well, I'm gonna miss the bus. 'Later.'"

Words used in the old Oriente province are worthy of some discussion, since they may be different from the vocabulary used in the rest of Cuba. This distinction was more noticeable some years ago, according to Paz Pérez (Paz Pérez: 34). In the following list, words used in the former Oriente province are contrasted with those used in the rest of Cuba to denote the same thing.



OLD ORIENTE PROVINCE	REST OF CUBA	ENGLISH MEANING
cutara	chancletas	slippers
papaya	fruta bomba	papaya
balance*	sillón	rocking chair
balde	cubo	bucket
rallado, rasco-rasco (Matanzas)	granizado (Bayamo and Santiago)	Ice cone
macho	lechón	suckling pig
pluma, llave**	faucet	tap
túnico*	vestido	dress
hallaca	tamal	tamale
guíneo	plátano (fruta)	banana
fana	fanoso	good-for-nothing/ cheapskate
tienda ***	bodega	grocery store

\* Also used in Camagüey Province

\*\* "Pluma" and "llave" coexist in Camagüey Province.

\*\*\* In Havana, "tienda" with no modifier denotes a clothing store.

## Expletives and Obscenities

Obscenities abound in Cuban Spanish. According to Paz Pérez, all the following are slang words for the male sex organ: *animal, barra, biáncamo, bicho, cabia, cabilla, cohete, cuero, estaca, fenómeno, guindola, hierro, leña, lezna, machete, mandao, mandarria, manguera, material, mendó, morronga, morrongón, muñeco, picha, pinga, pito, polla, rabo, sable, tareco, tolete, tranca, tronco, tubo.*

At least 11 documented slang terms refer to the female sex organ: *bollo, crica, chocho, chocha, papaya, papeleta, papo, perilla, raja, sahuaca, toto.*

As Alvarez Guedes explains in a comedy routine, Cubans are known to pepper their speech with "*coño*," rendered "*ño*" in fast speech. While this word is quite strong in many Spanish-speaking countries, particularly in South and Central America, it is less strong in Cuban Spanish, more equivalent to "damn it!" or "darn it!" in English.

Other Cuban Spanish obscenities used in vulgar speech and underworld language are: *alforjas, limones, melones, senadores* (for "boobs"); *beroco(s), huevos, jolongo, cojones* (for "balls"); *¡Cojones!* (a strong vulgarity, equivalent to "fuck!"); *fambeco, fonil, fotingo, el siete, inán, and linán* (for "ass").

## The Language of Afro-Cuban Religions

With regard to Africanisms in Cuban Spanish, Paz Pérez believes that *La incorporación de vocablos de procedencia africana se ha hecho sentir fuertemente en el habla popular y vulgar, ocupando un lugar preferencial aquellos provenientes del abakuá, del congo y del yoruba* (p.58). He lists the following as Cuban Spanish words originating in African languages: *adordi* ("faggot"), *asere* ("buddy, guy, dude"), *beroco* ("nuts, balls"), *cufón* ("fleabag" for sexual encounters), *cúmbila* ("buddy, guy, dude"), *ecón* ("piece"), *embori* ("snitch"), *endominisa* ("faggot"), *iriampo* ("chow"), *macri/macrí* ("honky"), *manganioni* ("faggot"), *monina* ("buddy, dude, guy"), *moropo/molopo* ("thinker, potato"), *múcaro* ("honky"), *ñampear* ("to stiff, waste"), *ocambo* ("old dude").

Montori points out other Cuban Spanish words originating in African languages, such as *quiquiribú mandinga*, meaning "it's finished; it's over; that's the end of it" and *quimbámbaras* or *quimbambas*, meaning "boondocks" or "boonies." (Alonso and Fernández, I: 343.)

A whole chapter could be written on the language of Afro-Cuban religions, which originated as a result of the blend of Roman Catholicism with African traditions. Of the many religions rooted in Africa, those known in Cuba are: *Regla de Ocha* or *Lucumí*; *Regla de Palo*, *Palo Monte* or *Mayombe*; *Ñáñigo* or *Abakuá*; and *Regla de Arará*. The *Regla de Ocha* or *Regla Ocha* is referred to as *santería*. Paz Pérez has 76 Afro-Cuban religion words in his "Diccionario Cubano de Habla Popular y Vulgar," including the following: *abrir camino* ("cast out spells"), *aché* ("blessing, protection"), *amarrar* ("to cast a binding spell"), *asentarse* ("to become inducted into *santería*"), *babalao* ("santería priest"), *bajarle el santo* or *coger el santo* or *montar el santo* ("to become possessed by a spirit"), *bajarse el santo* ("to become unpossessed"), *bilongo* ("spell"), *brujo* ("warlock, sorcerer"), *caballo* ("possessed person"), *camino* ("manifestation of an *orisha* or *santería* deity," who in turn is an envoy of the Almighty God Olodumare), *daño* ("evil spell"), *despojar* ("to cast out evil spells or influences"), *fundamento* ("an *orisha's* devices, such as stones, shells and bracelets"), *jurar* ("induct a person into the

*Abakuá* religion"), *meter en el caldero* ("to cast a spell on someone"), *letra* ("revelation" as seen in seashells and pieces of coconuts cast by a *santería* priest in a consultation), *limpieza* ("spiritual and bodily cleansing"), *montar una prenda* ("to have an object become possessed"), *registro* ("consultation with *santería* priest"), *rayarse en el Palo* ("induction into the Palo Monte religion"), *resguardar* ("protect"), *resguardo* ("charm, amulet"), *salación/salazón* ("punishment by an *orisha* or evil spell") (Paz Pérez, 168-174).

When syncretism occurred between Roman Catholicism and the religion of the Yoruba people, giving rise to *santería* or *Regla Ocha*, the *orishas* kept their African name, but took on the likeness of Roman Catholic saints. These envoys of the almighty god Olodumare rule specific forces of nature, for instance, Changó (St. Barbara): fire, lightning, thunder, dance and drums; Orunla/Orunmila (St. Francis of Assisi): The Great Benefactor of Humanity; Babalú Ayé (St. Lazarus): The Father of the World, who rules over leprosy and sexually transmitted diseases; Yemayá (Virgin of Regla): The Mother of All, ruling the seas and maternity; Ochún (Our Lady of Charity - Cuba's patron saint): the *orisha* of love, femininity, and rivers.

## Features of Cuban Underworld Slang

Cuban underworld slang, like criminal argot in many other areas, resorts to enlargement, reduction, replacement, switching, reduplicative creation and personification to conceal the meanings of words.

Enlargement of the word is achieved by adding suffixes such as *-ardo*, *-arda*, *-andabia*, *-urria*, etc.; e.g., *cepillardo* ("brush"), *galletarda* ("cookie, cracker or slap," according to context), *nichardo* ("spook"), *nochezarda* ("night"), *guarandabia* ("good relations"), *meriendurria* ("late afternoon snack"), *mortalache* ("awesome"), *pencatazo* ("chicken /coward/"). According to Paz Pérez, *gente de guarandabia* is either "tough dudes" or "popular celebrities." (Ibid, 199 : 53.)

Syllable reduction to conceal meaning yields words like *buga* (from *bugarrón*), *calzonso* (from *calzoncillo*), *chiva* (from *chivato*).

Sounds and suffixes may be replaced and combined in Cuban underworld Spanish for concealing meaning as follows: *bugarrichi* (derivative of "bugarrón"), *mulañé* (derivative of "mulato"), *títiri* (derivative of *títere*).

Switching is attained by syllabic inversion as in *calo* for *loca*, *chepo* for *pecho*, *llopepi* for *pepillo* ("teenager"), *tapu* for *puta*.

Reduplicative creation is achieved by repetition of sounds or syllables, for instance, *bachече* ("cool dude"), *cheche* ("tough guy, show-off"), *chinchín* ("drizzle"), etc.

Paz Pérez believes that proper nouns are resorted to often in underworld speech to conceal meaning as in *federico* (feo, "ugly"), *dolores* (dólares, "dollars"), *cirilo* (sí, "yeah"), etc.

## Dictionaries Of Cuban Speech and Slang

Friar José María Peñalver was the first who attempted to describe Cuban speech and slang in his "Discurso para promover la formación de un diccionario de voces cubanas" in 1795. Released in 1836, the first dictionary of Cuban slang and speech was authored by Esteban Pichardo y Tapia, born in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic and raised in Camagüey. There were subsequent editions of this work in 1849, 1862, 1875, and 1976. By 1959, nine dictionaries of Cuban speech and slang had been published and by 1960 no fewer than 5 major monolingual dictionaries of this nature had been published, including:

Darío Espina Pérez, *Diccionario de cubanismos* (Barcelona: I.G. Pareja, 1974).

Carlos Paz Pérez, *De lo popular y lo vulgar en el habla cubana* (La Habana: Editorial Ciencias Sociales, 1988).

Carlos Paz Pérez, *Diccionario cubano de habla popular y vulgar* (Madrid: Aguilar Editores S.L., no date).

José Sánchez-Boudy, *Diccionario mayor de cubanismos* (Miami: Ediciones Universal, 1985).

Argelio Santiesteban, *El Habla popular cubana de hoy*



(La Habana: Editorial de Ciencias Sociales, 1985).

From a linguist's standpoint, Paz Pérez's "Diccionario cubano de habla popular y vulgar" (no date, but circa 1998) is the best and most useful for its explanations of meanings, linguistic nuances, and dialectology of Cuban Spanish. Santiesteban's dictionary is quite good as well, but at times contains unnecessary political editorializing, as does Paz Pérez's first dictionary, published in Cuba, in 1988, prior to his arrival in the United States. From the interpretation and translation perspective, Sanchez Boudy's dictionary is probably the best, since it is the most comprehensive of these works. However, it lacks scientific rigor, since the author included *any* unusual word or term ever heard from a Cuban. Thus, some of the words in his work are not really part of Cuban Spanish, but his dictionary does contain Miami Cuban Spanish words, a useful reference to anyone doing interpretation or translation in the United States. Espina Pérez's dictionary is obsolete and not a good value for your money.



This author is working on the first Bilingual Dictionary of Cuban/Miami Cuban Spanish- U.S. English ever prepared. My main purpose is to provide as many old and current Cuban Spanish words as possible, featuring basic linguistic explanations only when indispensable and simple easy-to-read dictionary entries. While preliminary in nature, the following is a sample grouping of entries:

fandoquear	to act like a jerk (Carnagüey, Western Oriente)
fanoso, fana	(rest of Cuba) good-for-nothing, cheapskate
farol	bluff (see tirar un farol)
farolero	bluffer
federico	ugly
fenómeno	penis
filomático	egghead
filtrar	to catch on
filtrar un mazo	to catch on fast
filtro	brain, smart guy
fletera	hooker (prostitute)
flonqueado	flunked
flonquear	to flunk
fonil	ass
fotingo	ass; clunker (old car)
fotuto	vehicle horn
fria	cold one (beer)
friqueado	freaked out
friquear	to freak
friquearse	to freak out
frizar	to freeze
frontear	to front (usually money for drugs)
fruta bomba	papaya (Oriente only)

Note: In provinces other than Oriente, the term papaya is used for "pussy, cunt, box," etc.

## Conclusion

As is the case with dialects of any other language, Cuban speech is not homogenous. It has speech sounds and syntactic patterns that are particular but not exclusive to this variety of Spanish. In addition to the standard lexicon, most speakers share a stock of words used only in this variety of Caribbean Spanish. However, usage varies with a speaker's schooling, socio-economic status, age and contact with underworld speech. Cuban Spanish is not more mysterious than or different from other dialects of Spanish. It just takes exposure and getting used to.

*The author, a Spanish court interpreter (California and federal certification), is a freelance translator and interpreter in Miami. A version of this paper was presented at the NAJIT conference in May, 2000. ■*

## REFERENCES

- Alonso, Gladys y Fernández, Angel Luis. 1977. *Antología de lingüística cubana*. Tomos I y II. La Habana: Editorial de Ciencias Sociales.
- De la Cuesta, Leonel. 1987. *Lecciones preliminares de traductología*. San José: Ediciones Guayacán.
- Kany, Charles E. 1951. *American-Spanish syntax*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Paz Pérez, Carlos. 1988. *De lo popular y lo vulgar en el habla cubana*. La Habana: Editorial de Ciencias Sociales.
- Paz Pérez, Carlos. n.d. *Diccionario cubano de habla popular y vulgar*. Madrid: Aguilar Editores S.L.
- Resnick, Melvyn C. 1975. *Phonological variants and dialect identification in Latin American Spanish*. The Hague: Mouton.
- Varela, Beatriz. 1992. *El español cubano-americano*. New York: Senda Nueva de Ediciones.

## NAJIT SUPPORTS TEAM INTERPRETING

In an effort to bring due recognition to those Courts that implement team interpreting, NAJIT would like to publicly thank those judges and interpreters who have contributed to excellence in court interpreting through the practice of team interpreting in their courts. Please send an e-mail to [proteus@najit.org](mailto:proteus@najit.org) with the name of the courts in which team interpreting is an established practice, or with the name of individual judges who have endorsed it. Please refer to the example below and forward all information to NAJIT whenever a case of implementation of team interpreting in court comes to your attention.

Information	Example
Jurisdiction:	The Commonwealth of Kentucky Fayette Circuit Court
Address:	Fayette County Courthouse First Division 215 W. Main St., Room 104 Lexington, Kentucky
Authority:	The Honorable Laurance B. VanMeter (Example: Clerk of the Court, Court Administrator, Judge)
Interpreter:	Teresa I. Thorpe, FCCI Lexington, Kentucky

Judge VanMeter first implemented team interpreting in his Division on March 7, 2000. Ms. Thorpe provided the Court the information needed for implementation.

## Items of Interest

In June, 77% of the California Federal of Interpreters' membership voted for unionization, with 99% favoring affiliation with the Southern California Media Guild (SCMG)/The Newspaper Guild-Communications Workers of America (TNG-CWA). CFI, founded as an independent organization five years ago, represents certified and registered spoken and sign-language interpreters throughout Southern California. CFI followed the lead of the Bay Area Court Interpreters (BACI) which affiliated last year with the Northern California Media Workers Guild/TNG-CWA. CWA represents interpreters and translators through units in N.J., Ill., Mass., Washington, D.C. and now, two in CA.

Janice Snow, Director of Translation and Interpretation Services at Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, reports that the State Court Interpreters Certification Program completed a two-day state court interpreter ethics and training workshop in Memphis.

"The goal of the workshop was to fulfill an ethics requirement for eventual state certification. [Presenters Marvyn Bacigalupo and Judith Kenigson-Kristy] gave us that and so much more. They showed us what it takes to be a truly professional interpreter and gave 25-30 fledgling interpreters a road map toward that goal."

In May, Nancy Festinger, Chief Interpreter of U.S. District Court, S.D.N.Y., received an "outstanding supervisor" award from the Federal Executive Board, which recognizes federal employees with special projects worthy of recognition. The citation was for initiatives in recruiting and training interpreters of languages other than Spanish to better serve the needs of the court and the public.

*Proteus* is seeking writers on subjects of interest to interpreters. Focus on what fascinates you about your work. All submissions in electronic form to [proteus@najit.org](mailto:proteus@najit.org).

## Websites of Interest

Sandra Layman reports on the following resource: The Oyez Project, the U.S. Supreme Court's website, at <http://oyez.nwu.edu>, has a link to a CD-ROM for sale,

of the Supreme Court's Greatest Hits. Publicity states: "The audio materials have not been edited for drama or continuity, and the arguments are presented as if you were there."

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters/)  
California state interpreting program

The Southern District of New York Interpreters Office webpage: [www.uscourts.gov/interp.htm](http://www.uscourts.gov/interp.htm).

Also available, Interpreter Term, SDNY's work-in-progress, an English-Spanish data base of 7,000 courtroom expressions and phrases, an alphabetical listing with many entries classified by theme. Valuable to interpreters of all languages for the English listing alone. Uses Foxpro database, can be downloaded from the internet and you can make your own entries.

Caution: will not work on MAC machines. [www.crl.com/~usdcsdny/interpreter\\_terminology/](http://www.crl.com/~usdcsdny/interpreter_terminology/)

[www.nflc.org](http://www.nflc.org) National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages

[www.outreach.utk.edu/ljp/](http://www.outreach.utk.edu/ljp/)

Language in the Judicial Process

### San Francisco State University College of Extended Learning

[www.cel.sfsu.edu/programs/lci.html](http://www.cel.sfsu.edu/programs/lci.html)

## Legal/Court Interpretation COURSES fall 2000 Aug.-Dec.

- ▶ **Intro to Legal/Court Interpreting**  
(Spanish/English) 3.6 CEU
- ▶ **Sight Translation** (3 Units)  
(Judicial Council CIMCE #510)
- ▶ **Consecutive Interpretation I** (3 Units)  
(Judicial Council CIMCE #506)
- ▶ **Simultaneous Interpretation I**  
(with Lab) (3 Units) (Judicial Council CIMCE #508)
- ▶ **Medical Interpretation: Interpreting in Worker's Compensation** (3.6 CEU)

For More Information Call (415) 405-7770



**SFSU Downtown Center**  
425 Market Street (at Fremont St.)  
1/2 block from Embarcadero BART/Muni  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2406

## CHARLOTTE'S CORNER

# Web on the Web - Part VI

### Alexander Rainof

Charlotte's Corner reminds you that a byte in time saves nine, so we would be most grateful if you were to share any useful websites you may have discovered. We will try to include them and will most certainly give you credit for your contribution. Please send your information, or any questions you may have, to

Dr. Alexander Rainof, either  
by mail (2835 Colorado Avenue,  
Santa Monica, CA 90404);  
by e-mail (arainof@ucla.edu);  
or by FAX (310-828-4911).

[www.courtstv.com/legal-docs/index.html](http://www.courtstv.com/legal-docs/index.html)

[www.courtstv.com/legal-docs/newsmakers/wills/diana/](http://www.courtstv.com/legal-docs/newsmakers/wills/diana/)

[www.courtstv.com/business/tobacco/tobaccoindex.html](http://www.courtstv.com/business/tobacco/tobaccoindex.html)

Part VI of "Web on the Web" is the last installment of Charlotte's most ambitious pedagogical project to date, a comprehensive cross-language learning methodology for the translator/interpreter using some of the numerous resources available on the internet. (Since prior publication, the Court TV website has been redesigned several times. Any search for legal documents may now begin at their new address.

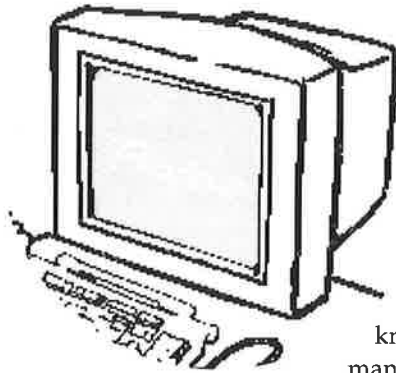
In "Web on the Web I" an internet-based propaedeutic approach was outlined, going from acquisition of technical vocabulary (probate terminology) to exercises in sight and written translation involving a variety of testamentary documents of increasing difficulty, such as Jacqueline Onassis' and Elvis Presley's wills. By the way, two new interesting wills have been added to the web site, Princess Diana's and Marilyn Monroe's. "Web on the Web II" surveyed documents dealing with weapons and drugs terminology, and to transcripts relating to the Timothy McVeigh and O.J. Simpson trials. "Web on the Web III" focused on documents suitable for consecutive and simultaneous interpretation involving famous politicians such as President Clinton, House Speaker Gingrich, and Senator Packwood, and in a lighter vein, from civil cases involving entertainment personalities such as Stephen Spielberg. "Web on the Web IV" discussed the pedagogical uses of a variety of documents relating to a specific topic, such as patholysis. This thematic approach was explored further in "Web on the Web V" and involved numerous URLs dealing specifically with the death penalty. It is further illustrated here in relation to tobacco litigation, but with cross-thematic expansion to include tobacco-related medical URLs.

Tobacco-related litigation has proliferated, and all information on this subject comes under the general heading of "Tobacco on Trial," at Michigan, New Jersey, Florida, Minnesota, Connecticut, Texas, Maryland and Los Angeles County have all filed lawsuits against the tobacco industry. The immense corpus of printed materials provide a rich source for legal, civil terminology through complaints, motions, rulings, briefs, memoranda, etc., as well as plethora of medical and financial terminology. For court interpreters, the civil terminology is particularly useful, since most of their work is in the criminal sector and civil terminology may be unfamiliar. Thus, reading these documents and extracting terminology from them, from English into whatever target language one works with, is excellent training.

The documents provide a wealth of civil legal, financial, and medical terminology, all the more useful because the terms can be seen in context rather than in glossary form. They allow the reader to learn while delighting in the process. At times they have the engrossing feel of a John Grisham novel, such as "The Runaway Jury" (which also deals with the tobacco industry in a court setting, has been translated into many languages, and could be used in this thematically oriented curriculum). These transcripts can and should be used for work in sight and written translation. Passages ranging from beginning to highly advanced levels abound. Some of these documents also lend themselves readily to being put into script form, for consecutive interpretation exercises, with questions and answers relating to nicotine addiction, tobacco related illnesses, marketing tactics targeting minors and minorities, etc. These same passages can be read and recorded for simultaneous interpretation training.

Finally, all these resources can be used for simultaneous interpretation exercises in a conference interpretation setting on the theme of tobacco-related information and litigation. For instance, one of the more interesting documents is a judicial order





permitting airline flight attendants as a class to sue tobacco companies for second-hand smoke-related health problems they have experienced. The case in question, *Norma Broin et al vs. Philip Morris*, represents some 60,000 flight attendants as a class. A student/interpreter could take the role of Norma Broin and, based on the documents at hand, could explain how non-smoking flight attendants have suffered and died from diseases and disorders caused by their exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in airline cabins. Similarly, another student could play the part of DeWitt W. Clinton, County Counsel for the Superior Court of the state of California for the County of Los Angeles, Plaintiff, versus some twenty tobacco industry corporations, Defendants, in a case that alleges that "through a fraudulent course of conduct that has spanned decades, defendants have manufactured, promoted, distributed or sold tobacco products to thousands of residents in the County knowing, but denying and concealing, that their tobacco products contain a highly addictive drug, known as nicotine, and have, unbeknownst to the public, controlled and manipulated the amount . . . of nicotine . . . with the intent of creating and sustaining addiction."

Another presentation could show how many of the lawsuits filed by individual states against the tobacco industry trace the manner in which this industry followed a nefarious path in order to suppress research, and how this path led to the creation of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, which later became the Council for Tobacco Research. These two tobacco-industry-sponsored research organizations selectively involved lawyers in the results of their research that were "harmful" to the tobacco industry's interests so as to be able to invoke the attorney/client privilege in order to prevent disclosure of "harmful" research. Research with a risk of a negative result were labeled "special projects" and all the information relating to them was funneled through law offices. Negative results were code named "deadwood" and were to be removed from files. Tobacco-sponsored "objective, scientific research" was, of course, controlled by the industry and anyone who did not toe the line was fired. Researchers in universities or other institutions who received grants soon saw these grants transformed into contracts, which were cancelled if the research results displeased the tobacco industry. Other speakers at the "conference" might reproduce the various arguments adduced by the tobacco companies in their defense.

Thus, courses in simultaneous and conference interpretation may be based wholly or partly on the Court TV website. They might cover the three topics we have examined: the death penalty, patholysis, and tobacco litigation. A related conference topic to the latter might revolve around diseases due to smoking such as emphysema, lung cancer, or cardiovascular conditions. Yahoo has a web page which would be a very good place to start: "Health - Diseases and Conditions" <[http://dir.yahoo.com/Health/Diseases\\_and\\_Conditions/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Health/Diseases_and_Conditions/)>. It lists, for instance, Respiratory Diseases (52 entries). Under these entries, links are to be found to specific diseases such as emphysema and lung cancer, which, in turn, will lead to additional links.

As can be seen from the six articles that form "Web on the Web," Charlotte has woven a rich tapestry of materials for training translators and interpreters, all starting from one website. We have covered numerous areas of expertise and all the main aspects of translation and interpretation: legal, financial, weapons and drugs terminology acquisition, sight and written translation, consecutive and simultaneous interpretation, including conference interpretation. The training itself can take place in a formal classroom, a language laboratory, or at home, in individual self-improvement training. ■

# Russian Legal Dictionaries

Yana Agoureev

I recommend  
the "English-Russian  
Legal Dictionary."  
It is by far  
the best choice.

## REFERENCES:

English-Russian Law Dictionary  
S.N. Adrianov  
A.S. Berson  
A.S. Nikiforov  
1993  
ISBN 5-200-022185-5

English-Russian Comprehensive Law  
Dictionary  
A.Mamulyan  
S. Kashkin  
1993  
ISBN 5-87465-001-6

*The author, a translator and  
interpreter of Russian, is currently  
Chief Interpreter at  
Eastlink Translations.  
She has an MA in Linguistics from  
1986 until 1993 was an Assistant  
Professor at Moscow Linguistic  
University, English  
Interpretation Department.*

Court interpretation and translation has always been perceived even by the most experienced interpreters and translators as a challenging endeavor, especially when dealing with languages as distinctly different as English and Russian. Not only are these languages hard to compare using the usual tools available for language studies (comparative grammar, lexicology, stylistics, etc.), but they are as far apart as languages can be, when examined by their genealogy and development. Nevertheless, the common properties of all languages make interpretation and translation possible, and equivalence can be achieved, though often it takes laborious efforts on the part of the interpreter or translator. This is why, especially when dealing with such a specific field as court interpretation, the search for quality reference materials is so important, for we rely on these works to clarify a multitude of problems.

There are several useful and insightful legal dictionaries available with English as the source language and Russian as the target language. For our present purposes, I will contrast the "English-Russian Legal Dictionary" by Adrianov, Berson and Nikiforov and the "English-Russian Comprehensive Law Dictionary" by Mamulyan and Kashkin.

Court interpretation from English into Russian is mostly done for the benefit of a defendant, sometimes for witnesses and experts and rarely, with special permission, for family members and other interested parties. This target group is historically and culturally different from the source (the speakers') group. The listeners are not homogeneous and may be further divided by background, origin, and status. For example, if the person requiring interpretation is of Ukrainian heritage, he is more likely to be self-assured, aloof, and personality-oriented. At the same time a person from Moscow, St Petersburg or any other large Russian city is more likely to be language-oriented, using duality of meaning and misinterpretation, as a tool for his benefit. The interpreter has not only to stay personally impartial but also should avoid, as far as possible, any misconception on the part of the listener. The only way to succeed is by knowing your target group, understanding the source group, and having full command of both languages.

In comparing how useful the two above-mentioned dictionaries might be to a court interpreter or translator, it is helpful to examine first the source language entries. Adrianov was significantly more complete in this regard, even providing the user with cultural information. For example, in translating a plea agreement I encountered a word combination, "predicate act," for which I sought clarification. "The English-Russian Law Dictionary" not only explained the meaning of the phrase but also provided information on how it is used in the American legal system. The word "predicate" was missing entirely from the "Comprehensive Law Dictionary." The same thing happened with the word "predelinquent": Adrianov et al provided an equivalent in Russian whereas Mamulyan and Kashkin omitted the term entirely.

In general, the "English-Russian Law Dictionary" work traces more meanings, derivatives and word combinations than the "Comprehensive Law Dictionary," which does not quite live up to its name. For example, the word "delinquent," which appears in both, is treated differently by each: Adrianov et al include a reference to "delinquent" in the term "juvenile delinquent," whereas Mamulyan and Kashkin's work has no mention of this usage.

Strange as it might seem, neither dictionary has an entry for "sentencing guidelines" although the United States sentencing guidelines came into existence in the 1980's. The closest that Adrianov et al get to it is the general word "guidance," with a corresponding equivalent in Russian, but Mamulyan and Kashkin have no entry related to the concept of "guidance" or "guidelines."

Both works can be useful to court interpreters and translators, but the first is far superior to the second. Mamulyan and Kashkin's work can still be used as a back-up to Adrianov.

However, if an interpreter is pressed for time and does not have the luxury of doing comparative research, I recommend the "English-Russian Legal Dictionary." It is by far the best choice. ■

# Anyone Here Speak Russian?

Daniel Sherr

*I*t was my first time in Traffic Court in Brooklyn. I was there to fight a summons issued for going through a red light on my bicycle. And since my case was placed at the end of the docket, I had the opportunity to hear about 15 cases first-hand.

*I*n every single one, there were two conflicting versions: that of the policeman and that of the defendant. In every single case, despite what seemed to me compelling arguments to the contrary, the judge would finish by reciting the same litany: "Have you anything more to say? Then, based on the weight of the evidence, I hereby find the defendant guilty as charged." It was all very depressing.

*T*hen came the case of a man named Zagarov, and Mr. Zagarov had a witness. Before listening to the policeman and Mr. Zagarov, the judge sent the witness out of the courtroom. Then he asked the witness to return. All of a sudden, the judge blurted out,

"Don't tell him what to say!" yelled the judge.

"This man does not speak English. What language does he speak?" "Russian, Your Honor," said Mr. Zagarov.

*A*n interpreter was needed, and the judge wasted no time.

"*D*oes anyone here speak Russian?" he bellowed.

*A* man in the second row stood up. "Come over here," instructed the judge. The man approached the bench and the judge ordered him to raise his right hand. "Do you solemnly swear to interpret everything this gentleman says in Russian into English for me and everything I say into Russian for him?" After an inaudible answer from the interpreter, the judge turned to the witness, this time instructing him to raise his right hand. "Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?" The interpreter leaned towards the witness and said, "Da!"

"*D*on't tell him what to say!" yelled the judge. "Translate what I'm saying." After that, the judge proceeded to interrogate the witness. It was impossible to hear the interpreter, but it was clear he was concentrating. The wit-

ness finished testifying and the interpreter returned to his seat. As if to avoid breaking precedent, the judge once again found the defendant guilty.

*A*nd what of the interpreter? His case came up a few minutes later. The interpreter, a Mr. Gabrielov, was actually a taxi driver by profession. In somewhat unconventional English, he explained that when the policeman stopped him, he was stunned. He had no reason to break the law, he said, for his livelihood depended on his being able to drive. When the policeman gave him the summons, he recounted, "I said, 'What be this? What for you give it to me?'"

*H*e speculated that maybe the policeman didn't understand his English. But that hadn't stopped him from serving as an interpreter. He too was found guilty.

*O*h yes. You might be wondering about my two summonses. My case was the only case of the afternoon in which the judge disagreed with the policeman. One violation was dismissed. Instead of being fined \$1,000, I only had to pay \$500. ■

*Daniel Sherr is a free-lance interpreter and cyclist who on occasion makes charitable contributions to the NY Department of Motor Vehicles.*



# Welcome New Members 9-1-99 through 4-30-00

Alberto N. Abreu, Arlington, VA  
 Jaime Aguirre, Mount Prospect, IL  
 All World Translation Services, Sioux City, IA  
 Allegro Quality Language Services, Las Vegas, NV  
 David J. Almeyda, Houston, TX  
 Alpine Interpreting, Salt Lake City, UT  
 Cristina Arsuaga, New York, NY  
 Authentic Translations, Inc., Hollywood, FL  
 Catherine Tebbets Bahr, Broomfield, CO  
 Maria do Carmo Balekjian, Lexington, MA  
 Sonia Barria, Dover, NJ  
 Berta Bauchman, Vero Beach, FL  
 Esperanza Becerra, New York, NY  
 Michele Bermel, Melbourne, FL  
 Juana Esther Blanco, El Cajon, CA  
 Eduardo A. Bonacic-Doric, Vienna, VA  
 Elizabeth-Susana Bonnifield-Dantes, Berkeley, CA  
 Jay Bostrom, Steamboat Springs, CO  
 Carol Bradley, Monroe, NC  
 Elizabeth Bridges, Florence, MS  
 Consuelo M. Burranca, Miami, FL  
 Mary C. Butler, Milton, TN  
 Felipe Calderon, N. Plainfield, NJ  
 Cynthia Z. Calderon-Gonzales, Carrollton, TX  
 Cecilia M. Cantor, Ossining, NY  
 Lorena Cavallo, New Rochelle, NY  
 Angelica Cervantes, Sugarloaf, PA  
 Jenny Chan, Brooklyn, NY  
 Pablo Chang, Seattle, WA  
 Ildelfonso V. Chavez, Minneapolis, MN  
 Mirenda S. Chin, Kew Gardens, NY  
 Bannie P.L. Chow, El Cerrito, CA  
 John Choy, Apple Valley, MN  
 Laura Clark, Clarksville, TN  
 Helen D. Cole, Silver Spring, MD  
 Ricardo Colon, Paris, TN  
 Ines Conguta, Palm Harbor, Florida  
 Continental Interpreting Services, Inc., Orange, CA  
 Karen K. Cornett, Phoenix, AZ  
 Emel T. Cox, Fairfax, VA  
 Alice Crespo, Astoria, NY  
 Ofelia G. Cuenca, Fresno, CA  
 Cynthia Dacaret, Austin, TX  
 Ahmed E. Dali, Iowa City, IA  
 Pedro Luque Davis, Tucson, AZ  
 Rodney C. de Carvalho, Long Island City, NY  
 Talitha M. De Luco, Sharpsburgh, GA  
 Cynthia De Pea, McAllen, TX  
 Amy L. del Val, Seattle, WA

Mei-Ling M. Diep, Chelmsford, MA  
 Diplomatic Language Services, Inc., Arlington, VA  
 John F. Doublier, West New York, NJ  
 Nancy Doxy, Cape Coral, FL  
 Bonnie J. Dubiensi, Winnipeg, Canada  
 Claudia G. Dutra, Newburyport, MA  
 Fisseha B. Engida, Renton, WA  
 Ivelissa I. Escalera, Jamaica Plain, MA  
 Maria Escribano, Cabramatta, NSW, Australia  
 A. Cecilia Espinoza, Rosedale, NY  
 Maria Cecilia Fabricio, Amawalk, NY  
 Andrew B. Falc n, New Philadelphia, OH  
 Isabel Ferrandis-Edwards, Kansas City, MO  
 Jethel Fiallo Pellerano, Miami, FL  
 Cristina Fraga, Henderson, NV  
 Adriana E. Frizone, Fort Myers, FL  
 Myra S. Gann, Ph.D., Potsdam, NY  
 Alberto Garay, Waukesha, WI  
 Mar a E. Garcia, Florence, AZ  
 Rebecca Garza, N. Fort Myers, FL  
 Edmund Gaudette, Westfield, MA  
 Gerardo M. Fernandez, Passaic, NJ  
 Carmen Gomez-Nicholson, Miami, FL  
 Alvaro Gonzalez, Silver Spring, MD  
 Rafaela Graffos-Worrell, El Paso, TX  
 Al Gray, Brooklyn, NY  
 Carlos Gritz, Miami Beach, FL  
 Edward Hannan-Canete, Salt Lake City, UT  
 Mariana Harari, Plantation, FL  
 Yvonne Harestedt, SE-112-27 Stockholm, Sweden  
 Sonia H. Hart, San Antonio, TX  
 Joelle Haspil, Miami, FL  
 Carlos Hernandez, Merrifield, VA  
 Filiberto Hernandez, Tifton, GA  
 Guadalupe Hilliard, Missoula, MT  
 Joseph S. Hitti, Somerville, MA  
 Maria J. Horvath, Alexandria, VA  
 David J. Hreha, Minneapolis, MN  
 Jane E. Hudson, Los Angeles, CA  
 Inline Translation Services, Glendale, CA  
 Delia R. Irizarry-Diaz, Miami, FL  
 Carmen Izaguirre de Urquijo, Fort Washington, MD  
 Jody Jaffe, Great Neck, NY  
 Nicholas Kappas, New York, NY  
 Judy Kelley, Peachtree City, GA  
 Maureen Kilty-Marthon, Downers Grove, IL  
 Victoria B. Kirchgessner, Baltimore, MD  
 Julia H. Kirkscey, Germantown, TN  
 Fredrika Edstrom Klay, Newport, OR

Margrit E. Kull, Las Vegas, NV  
 Marcia Kuusisto, Dallas, TX  
 Julia Lambertini Andreotti, Los Angeles, CA  
 Mariana Landaverde, Guatemala, Language Line Services, Monterey, CA  
 Ana Lorena Lefebvre, Alexandria, VA  
 Margarita Lloyd-Godsk, Miami, FL  
 Teresa Lopez, Miami, FL  
 Theresa R. Lopez-Soba, E. Northport, NY  
 Wachira W. Loth, Rochester, MN  
 Blanca Lucht, Scottsdale, AZ  
 Mary Darragh MacLean, Croton, NY  
 Natalie A. Malmberg, Norfolk, NE  
 Mary Maloof, Atlanta, GA  
 Debora R. Marchevsky, Oakland, CA  
 Maria Marcellino, Miami, FL  
 Monica V. Marcuse, Dunwoody, GA  
 Marsha Marlin, Ocean City, NJ  
 Enrique McDonald, Cambridge, MA  
 Marianne McEvoy, St. Paul, MN  
 Elena T. Medrano, McAllen, TX  
 Santiago Mendoza, Irvine, CA  
 Denise M. Migenis, M.A., Sebring, FL  
 Gregory S. Miller, Alhambra, CA  
 Mariola Mlekicki, Kinnelon, NJ  
 Minnesota Supreme Court Interpreter Program, St. Paul, MN  
 Monti Interpreting & Translation Services, Inc., Altamonte Springs, FL  
 Andr J. Moskowitz, Albany, CA  
 Leandra C. Mosley, Coldwater, MS  
 Valentina Mostipan, Chicago, IL  
 Rachid Naim, Washington, DC  
 Laura R. Nakazawa, Wellesley, MA  
 Jos-Manuel Navarro, Philadelphia, PA  
 Marlene H. Nissenblatt, N. Brunswick, NJ  
 James Earl Norman, Tallahassee, FL  
 Mariko Numaguchi-O'Hare, New York, NY  
 Luis Nunez, Marina, CA  
 Ronald Olson, Denver, CO  
 Patsy Ong, New York, NY  
 Maria Orozco-Minotta, Tarrytown, NY  
 Alice Ortiz, Atlanta, GA  
 Gloria A. Oudine, South Orange, NJ  
 Cecilia C. Palmer, Martinsville, VA  
 Myrna Panza, Englewood, CO  
 Rita Pavone, Shaker Heights, OH  
 Mar a M. P. rez-Chambers, Townsend, DE  
 Michael D. Powers, Miami, FL  
 Anita Prifti, Baltimore, MD  
 Edith E. Pross, Houston, TX  
 Olivia Qualley, Laredo, TX  
 Mildred Rivera, Newark, NJ  
 Daniel M. Robert, San Diego, CA  
 Laura Rodriguez, Ocean City, MD

Irving Rodriguez-Gonzalez, Burtonsville, MD  
 Lydia E. Rodriguez, Southwick, MA  
 Rogelio Camacho Seminars, Bonita, CA  
 Robert Roos, Lexington, NE  
 Peter Salmeron, Wichita, KS  
 James W. Plunkett, Lutz, FL  
 Ramon Rosario-Rodriguez, Miami, FL  
 Patricia C. Rosell, Centerville, VA  
 Ewa Rurarz-Huygens, Reston, VA  
 Carlos Salamanca, Jamaica Plain, MA  
 Nina Salgado, Oakley, CA  
 Yolanda Samayoa, New York, NY  
 Andra Saunders Basili, Ariccia Roma, Italy  
 Carina Schmidt, Miami, FL  
 Alex Shapiro, Houston, TX  
 Ramona Sharp, Henryville, IN  
 Renate Sieberichs, Mooresville, NC  
 Theresa Slater, Cortland, NY  
 Molly Smith, Shelbyville, IN  
 Brian Smith, Azusa, CA  
 Miguel Socarras, Elizabeth, NJ  
 Susana Starosta, Plantation, FL  
 Gloria Sunshine, Lawrenceville, GA  
 Richard Swanson, New York, NY  
 Daisy Tejera, Port St. Lucie, FL  
 Felix Toledo, Arecibo, PR  
 Marina A. Tolmacheva, Pullman, WA  
 Sedgwick Tourison, Jr., Crofton, MD  
 Rafael Treviño, Wauchula, FL  
 Sonja Trigo, Portland, OR  
 Inge M. Urbancic, Washington, DC  
 Peter P.U. Uzieblo, Chicago, IL  
 Nieves Valdes Costa, Miami, FL  
 Monique Van den Reijen, Waalwijk (N-B), The Netherlands  
 Doris E. Van Zandt, Samois-sur-Seine, France  
 Luisa Vega, Pembroke Pines, FL  
 Grace Velez, Merrillville, IN  
 Marianne Verruno, Ormond Beach, FL  
 Louis A. Wagner, Meadville, PA  
 Alicja W. Wesolowska, Deposit, NY  
 Marta West, Frankfort, KY  
 Hilary A. Williams, Seattle, WA  
 Worldwide Translations, Inc., Amherst, NH  
 John (Chong) H. Yhun, Floral Park, NY  
 Kiwon (Kay) P. Yim, Riverdale, NJ

# BRAINSTORMING: THE MEMBERS SPEAK

*The Brainstorming session held at NAJIT's 21st Annual meeting and Educational Conference (Miami, 2000) was an opportunity for the membership to bring their concerns to the attention of NAJIT's Board of Directors. The following topics were debated and later discussed at the Board of Directors meeting.*

- Medical-legal interpreting parameters - contact Joint Commission for Medical Interpreting
- Publish pay rates for jurisdictions throughout the U.S. on the web site
- Recruitment outreach: how to bring more state court interpreters to NAJIT
- Minutes of annual meetings (past and present) posted on web site
- Amend by-laws as they regard the cost for local associations to become NAJIT chapters
- NAJIT should have an annual forum (members and BOD) at conference. Meeting should not overlap with other sessions
- Publicize annual conference: disseminate information earlier and reach a larger audience
- Drop J from NAJIT, thus making it a generic interpreter and translator organization
- Work with RID.
- Legal translators outreach (paralegals, etc.)
- NAJIT should have a presence on Courts web sites (State and U.S. Courts)
- SSTI credential name: ACCREDITATION VS. CERTIFICATION
- SSTI: Does it have legal counsel? Contract signing by SSTI? Financial responsibility/liability? Funding for project?
- More public service publications. Example: Southern District of New York FAQ's for lawyers, the Bench, etc.
- Publish NCSC and AOUSC test information
- NAJIT should write a letter to the Federal Judicial Center requesting more workshops and information regarding training opportunities for interpreters
- NAJIT should write a letter to the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts requesting CE credit standards for certified interpreters
- NAJIT presence at judicial conferences, within the appropriate committee
- Courts that do not hire/recognize certified interpreters: Do they restrict access to information? Do they discriminate?
- NAJIT liaison to the Bar
- NAJIT needs to review its educational foundations/infrastructure and make every effort to attract state court interpreters in all languages

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

**PLEASE RETURN  
COMPLETED  
APPLICATION AND  
PAYMENT TO:**



NAJIT

551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3025  
New York, NY 10176-3099  
Ph. 212-692-9581 • Fax 212-687-4016  
**headquarters@najit.org**  
**<http://www.najit.org>**

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

	<u>Active</u>	<u>Student*</u>	<u>Organizational</u>	<u>Corporate</u>	<u>Associate</u>
Dues (Outside U.S.A. and Territories, \$15 Additional.)	\$95	\$40	\$175	\$300 with Hot Link, \$100 without Hot Link to Web Site	\$75
Suggested Voluntary Contribution to the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation, Inc. (Fully Tax-Deductible)	<u>\$35</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$65</u>	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$25</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$130</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$240</b>	<b>\$400 w Link \$200 w/o Link</b>	<b>\$100</b>

\* NAJIT reserves the right to validate applications for student membership on a case-by-case basis.

## PAYMENT METHOD

\_\_\_\_ Check or Money Order (payable to NAJIT)    \_\_\_\_ MC    \_\_\_\_ VISA    \_\_\_\_ Amex

[illegible]

Expiration Date	Amount
-----------------	--------

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT.)

Contributions or gifts to NAJIT are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, dues payments may be deductible by members as an ordinary and necessary business expense to the extent permitted under IRS Code. Contributions or gifts to the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation, Inc. (SSTI), are fully tax-deductible.