



PROTEUS

The Newsletter of
The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators

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New York, NY

THE MANAGER'S COLUMN

Arlene Stock

Although technically NAJIT's records are maintained by the calendar year, our functional year really begins in the fall, and we at headquarters have hit the ground running. Here is a brief overview of what we are currently involved in.

Membership Directory

By the time you receive this issue of *Proteus*, you should have received your 1995 Membership Directory. Our membership has grown since the last publication of this important benefit of membership, so we all have a lot to be proud of. During the course of the year, many copies of the Directory are sold to the users of the services of judiciary interpreters and translators. And among the many phone calls we get are those from people seeking referrals to translators and interpreters — a service we gladly perform.

Nomination Time

As we go to press, a Nominating Committee is in formation, and we will soon be sending out NAJIT's Call for Nominations. Your recommendations are given serious consideration, so if you or someone you know would like to serve on the Board of Directors, please give equally serious consideration to your nomination. Serving on the Board of any not-for-profit corporation requires a substantial time commitment, and NAJIT is no exception. The Board meets via lengthy telephone conference calls at least four times a year, for a full day prior to the Annual Meeting, and several times in between these regularly-scheduled commitments, and is responsible for setting policy for this Association. NAJIT's is a "working Board." If you have any questions on this subject, please feel free to call headquarters at 212-759-4457 and we will be glad to be of assistance.

About 1996 Dues

Early in December, you can expect to receive your 1996 dues invoice. We are pleased to inform you that for the third year in a row there will be no dues increase. We feel justifiably proud of our ability to

(continued on page 6)

CALIFORNIA INTERPRETERS URGE HIGHER RATES

We reprint below a letter that Elizabeth McCarthy, a certified interpreter in San Francisco, reports was recently sent to the Hon. Robert Milano and twenty-five members of the State Trial Budget Commission. It was signed by 89 state-certified interpreters of fourteen languages.

McCarthy writes: "Apparently, the Commission is suggesting that the minimum per diem rate be set at \$90 for a half day and \$180 for a full day, and my understanding is that this would not go into effect until 1996 or 1997. Our letter explains why the rate should be much higher, and we would like to ask interpreters for their support. California interpreters are encouraged to send letters to the Commission supporting the \$135/half day and \$250/full day that we are requesting."

For comparison purposes, a schedule of rates for free-lance interpreters in New Jersey appears on page 3.

It has come to the attention of the State Certified court interpreters that the State Trial Court Budget Commission is in the process of developing statewide minimum standards or guidelines for per diem rates for court interpreters. We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some preliminary information that you may find useful.

State certified court interpreters have been underpaid by most state courts for many years. For example, in the Bay area, the \$82 (for half a day) and \$164 (for a full day) rate was set in Alameda County in 1986, almost a decade ago. Using the Consumer Price Index figures for the Bay area, the \$82/\$164 standard of 1986 should be 35.8% higher today; the appropriate rate of pay would then be \$111 for a half day and \$222 for a full day, just for the cost of living increase. However, the highest rates being paid in the Bay area are \$90 (for half a day) and \$180 (for a full day). The cost of living has risen steadily over the last nine years, as have the costs of health insurance,

(continued on page 3)

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR OR EMPLOYEE: WHO DECIDES?

The Northern California Translators Association, a chapter of the ATA, sent us the following letter, which we reprint for your information and response:

For the past two years, the state labor departments of New York, New Jersey, Colorado, Washington and California have issued regulations that could reclassify translators and interpreters as employees rather than independent contractors. These regulations have been strongly contested in every instance, but the finances, manpower, and legislative expertise required for effective resistance have far exceeded the resources of local professional groups.

As one example, California's Employment Development Department (EDD) grossly misrepresents the status of free-lance professionals as well as the working relationship between translation companies and independent contractors; some of EDD's criteria for contractor independence require that "the language interpreter does not receive payment for services from the agency or principal if the client does not pay," that "details of work not be supervised by the agency or principal," and that "client and language interpreter resolve client complaints."

It is a measure of EDD's failure to understand the nature of our industry that it defines both translators and interpreters as "language interpreters" despite the briefings it received from NCTA, CCIA, ATA, and other groups through letters, meetings with memberships and appearances at hearings.

The California situation is analogous to events in the other states. Further attempts at piecemeal regulatory definitions of the profession can reasonably be expected elsewhere, with isolated resistance proving once more inadequate.

The Voice of the Profession

Because this issue will reshape our profession, the industry, and the climate in which we earn our living for many years to come, the NCTA is disseminating this letter as broadly as possible in order to bring these matters to the attention of all those with an

interest in the issue, and to provide a springboard for the formation of a nationwide task force whose sole mandate will be to vigorously address and resolve legislative and regulatory issues affecting both professionals and the industry in the United States.

As a public service, the NCTA will act as a communication channel and clearing house until an organizing committee has been formed and the task force has acquired its own identity. We therefore invite all concerned to write to NCTA/Taskforce at the letterhead address, or to e-mail taskforce@ncta.org, indicating whether they wish to be part of the organizing committee, and in what capacity; whether they wish to participate in the task force once it is formed (as a private party, professional organization, or business); and how much time and what resources (financial, manpower, other) they can commit to this project.

This information will be collected until mid-September; at that time, the NCTA will mail a detailed report on the answers it receives to all who have responded, and will then withdraw from the organization process.

Please make this letter available to anyone you believe might be interested in these matters.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NAJIT

**The 17th ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
MAY 17-19, 1996
MIAMI, FLORIDA**

CALIFORNIA INTERPRETERS

(continued from page 1)

disability insurance and retirement packages which we as independent contractors must provide for ourselves. We are costing the State nothing in terms of benefits.

In the courts where the interpreting profession is held in high esteem, such as the federal courts and the Los Angeles courts, the rates are significantly higher. Although there has not been an increase in the federal court rates since 1991, the per diem rate currently paid nationwide is \$135 for half a day and

"We suggest that statewide minimum rates for per diem interpreters be the same as federal court rates."

\$250 for a full day. The Los Angeles court rates are \$128 for half a day and \$210 for a full day. For work outside the criminal courts such as depositions, civil trials, interviews and other private work, state certified court interpreters are paid between \$60 and \$90 per hour, with a two hour minimum, plus

mileage. Conference interpreters are paid between \$300 and \$500 per day.

Recent state legislation certainly recognizes interpreters as an important and vital part of the justice system. This newer legislation has placed interpreter management under the auspices of the Judicial Council and imposes more stringent certification requirements, including assessed annual fees and continuing education provisions. While these legislative measures will certainly improve the quality of interpreter services, they have also placed an increased burden on certified interpreters in terms of time commitment and expense.

For the reasons outlined above, we suggest that the statewide minimum standard for per diem rates be the same as the federal court rates: \$135 for half a day and \$250 for a full day. It is also important that the statewide rate be adjusted on a regular basis to reflect cost of living increases.

Court interpreting is a rapidly developing profession. It is in urgent need of qualified individuals committed to providing their best efforts so that the courts can rest assured that non-English speakers are in fact being afforded due process and equal access to the justice system.

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR FREELANCE INTERPRETERS IN NEW JERSEY

TYPE OF INTERPRETER	RATE FOR PREPARATION TIME (Hourly)	RATES FOR INTERPRETING PER UNIT OF TIME			
		TWO-HOUR MINIMUM	ONE-HALF DAY RATE	FULL DAY RATE	OVERTIME RATE (Hourly)
Certified Interpreter: Master	\$25.00	\$110.00	\$160.00	\$250.00	\$50.00
Certified Interpreter: Journeyman	\$20.00	\$ 85.00	\$125.00	\$200.00	\$40.00
Conditionally Certified Interpreter	\$13.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 85.00	\$125.00	\$30.00
Eligible Uncertified Interpreter	\$ 8.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 70.00	\$15.00

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET

David Mintz

The Facts on File English/Spanish Visual Dictionary. Jean-Claude Corbeil and Ariane Archambault. New York: Facts on File, 1992. 924 pp.

Ordinary human beings usually have a vocabulary sufficient to name most of the objects they encounter in daily life, and many multilingual individuals' lexicons are such that they can do that in more than one language. But most of us run out of vocabulary as soon as we get beyond the most superficial level of detail or specificity, unless the subject at hand happens to be one of our specialties. Don't you hate it when that happens when you're interpreting? A board is a board, but what about *peeled veneer*, *moulded plywood*, *multi-ply plywood*, *core plywood*, *blockboard*, *laminboard*, *particleboard*, and *hardboard*? *Telephone* is literally a household word, but what about *plunger*, *cradle*, *clapper*, *gong*, and *ringer coil*? How about when you're trying to interpret a discussion of some object, and not only do you not know the proper terms in your target language, you can't visualize this object, and thus can't even improvise very gracefully? The ESVD enables us to prepare for such situations, or react to them, as efficiently and as easily as possible.

This dictionary, as the name suggests, relies on images. Each page consists of one or more illustrations, which in turn are grouped into thematically organized sections. The categories range from things naturally occurring in the world --plants and animals (including the human animal), astronomy, geography, etc.-- to human-made objects and activities, such as transportation, architecture, office supplies and equipment, communications, heavy machinery, gardening, clothing, and so on. It's hard to think of anything that isn't in here. And although the book does not claim to specialize in any area, the degree of detail and specialization appears more than adequate to get a court interpreter through many a challenging situation.

Unlike the Oxford-Duden series (the other major pictorial dictionary publishers), these illustrations have the bilingual nomenclature printed outside the drawing, with lines pointing to the thing shown in

the illustration. The Duden, though more comprehensive than the Facts on File dictionary, uses a far less reader-friendly system: the individual objects are numbered, and the reader must refer to a numbered list beneath or above the drawing, or on a facing page, to see what word corresponds to which thing. The ESVD's superb illustrations are also graphically superior to the Duden's; they are larger, clearer and less busy. The result is that the ESVD is not just easy but indeed a pleasure to use for reference purposes, or simply to browse through.

The beauty of this arrangement is that thematically related items are grouped together on the same page, whereas with conventional text-based dictionaries, you have to go searching through entire inventories of lexical items to hunt down the ones you need. (A noteworthy exception is Holly Mikelson's *Court Interpreter's Companion*, which is a set of discrete glossaries rather than one big dictionary.) Moreover, the ESVD approach shows you words that you may not have realized you needed and therefore would not otherwise have looked up. If you look up chairs in the section on house furniture, you get *back*, *seat*, *support*, *ear*, *top rail*, *cross rail*, *rear leg*, *front leg*, *spindle*, and *apron* all in one place, with the drawing.

The English terms are printed in black ink and the Spanish in blue. The editors' approach to the problem of regional variations is that they favor the most nearly universal term; where warranted, they include two or three variants. My only criticism is that I have found a few orthographic mistakes, and it seems likely that there are more. Hence this word of caution: if it doesn't look right, it may well be wrong and should be checked against another source. Another inherent limitation of this and any reference work of its kind is that it has only nouns. But it certainly puts the reader on the right morphological and semantic track to investigate further the vocabulary of a given subject.

The introduction to the ESVD explains that there are essentially four types of dictionaries: traditional language dictionaries; encyclopedic dictionaries; encyclopedias; and specialized lexicons or vocabularies. Each has its own function, and its trade-offs. An encyclopedia, for example, has more detail, description and illustrations than a dictionary, but a dictionary is far more comprehensive than an encyclopedia. And interpreters and translators well understand the usefulness and importance of specialized vocabularies. Fitting into none of the above categories

(continued on page 6)

GRAMMAR NOTES FOR TRANSLATORS V

BORROWED MORPHOLOGY

George K. Green

Paraphrasing, the expression of the same idea in other words, represents perhaps the most basic of all techniques utilized by translators and interpreters. (Of course, the rephrasing of the message almost always occurs between two or more languages.) For this reason, one area of grammar that seems particularly relevant to our profession is the study of the functional equivalence of different grammatical structures that may be used somewhat interchangeably. Let us consider briefly the six or more structures of English that are commonly employed as adjectives.

In traditional grammar an adjective is usually defined as the "part of speech that describes or limits a noun." The first obvious case of English adjectival equivalence involves the cosmopolitan lexicon of the language. [See *Proteus* Vol. 4, Nos. 1 and 2.] Often, simple or one-word English adjectives may be grouped into pairs of synonyms consisting of an Anglo-Saxon form with at least one cognate in modern German and a Latin word, often of Norman French origin, with cognates in the Romance languages. For example, the English adjectives that describe the attributes of "fire" include "fiery" (*feurig* in German) and "incendiary" (*incendiaire* in French and *incendiario* in Italian, Portuguese and Spanish). The pattern of the dual grouping of English adjectives into those of Germanic and those of Latin origin with recognizable cognates in the respective modern language groups is reasonably frequent: "wonderful" (*wunderbar* in German) and "marvelous" (*merveilleux* in French, *maravilloso* in Spanish, *meraviglioso* in Italian, *maravilhoso* in Portuguese), "sharp" (*scharf* in German) and "acute" (*aigu* in French, *agudo* in Spanish and Portuguese, *acuto* in Italian), "cold" (*kalt* in German) and frigid (*froid* in French, *frío* in Spanish and Portuguese, *freddo* in Italian), "good" (*gut* in German) and "favorable" (*favorable* in French and Spanish, *favorevole* in Italian, *favorável* in Portuguese), "better" (*besser* in German) and "superior" (*supérieur* in French, *superior* in Spanish and Portuguese, *superiore* in Italian), "sour" (*sauer* in German) and "acid" (*acide* in French, *ácido* in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese). A clear consciousness of such patterns of dual grouping in much of the English lexicon may prove quite useful in the daily

activities of the translator and interpreter. For example, a translator working into English from a Germanic language, when faced with an adjective that seems to defy translation, might well consider the Latin adjectival forms of English. Most moderate-sized English dictionaries indicate the etymologies of each word at the beginning of the entry, with standard abbreviations such as O.E. for Old English, F. for French or N.F. for Norman French. Of course, a substantial number of English lexical items are of exotic origin and thus fall completely outside of such groupings.

Participles constitute the second case of English adjectival equivalence. These are postverbal forms used to describe a noun. The present participle, regularly formed in English from virtually any verb by adding the "-ing" ending, describes a noun in relation to the action the verb root designates as either occurring at present or being possible in the future: "burning issue" or "firing pin." The past participle, regularly formed in "-ed" but including many irregular forms, describes the noun it modifies in relation to the result of the action of the verb in the past: "burned food" or "fired employee." Most other European languages also have participle forms. Curiously, the present participles of Spanish, which end in *-ante* or *-iente* have fallen into disuse and may be formed from only a limited number of verbs. However, they often represent the logical translation of an English present participle, as in "Sleeping Beauty": *La bella durmiente*; "contracting parties": *las partes contratantes*; "adopting parents": *padres adoptantes*.

Prepositional phrases form the third group of grammatical structures that are utilized as adjectives in English and in many other European languages: "the house in flames" or "the house on fire." As a more complicated form, a phrase of no less than two words involving at the very least a preposition and a noun, they tend to convey more information than one-word adjectives.

Relative clauses constitute the fourth set of English grammatical structures that may be used as adjectives: "the house that burned to the ground early this morning." As a more complex form than the prepo-

(continued on page 7)

GREETINGS FROM HQ

(continued from page 1)

hold the line, especially in light of increased expenses from our vendors, most notably the United States Postal Service. You can help NAJIT conserve its financial resources by paying your dues promptly. Follow-up notices are a waste of your money.

Credit Cards

And speaking of dues payments, we cannot promise to be up and running by the time your payment is due, but we are working on bringing you the ability to pay your dues and conference registration fees by credit card. We recognize that for many of you, credit card payment is more convenient than writing a check, especially if we can take your payment over the phone. We at headquarters want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to expedite the implementation of this new service. We will keep you posted.

New Members

We are pleased to bring you a new feature starting with this issue of *Proteus* -- a listing of new members. Members are the lifeblood of any organization. You are the reason for NAJIT's existence. We want you to know we value your membership and look forward to your active participation in this, your professional association.

Welcome to New Members--July 1 through August 31, 1995:

Individual Members

Evelyn Ambros, River Forest, IL
 Sylvia Arizmendi, Tampa, FL
 Patrice Binaisa, Oakland, CA
 Dr. Saúl Cano-Chávez, Flagstaff, AZ
 Mikhail J. Fabrik, Arlington, VA
 Dr. George K. Green, Brownsville, TX
 Linda J. Krausen, South Pasadena, CA
 Bea Rubio Fuqua, Fresno, CA
 John F. Saunders, College Station, TX

Institutional Members

American Bureau of Professional Translators, Houston, TX
 The University of Georgia Law School Library, Athens, GA

Bylaws Revision Vote

Of 155 ballots received, 128 were in favor of the bylaws revision; two were against, and there were 22

abstentions. Three votes were invalid.

Welcome Aboard

You may or may not know that NAJIT is professionally managed by Dynamic Management Services, Inc., of which I am President. Under the terms of Dynamic's agreement with NAJIT, I have the privilege of serving as your Executive Director and am responsible for the day-to-day operations of NAJIT and carrying out policy set by the Board of Directors. Those of you who have called NAJIT recently may have heard a new voice on the phone. I am delighted to introduce Glen Konstantin as my new Chief of Operations. Glen is a valuable addition to my organization, and he adds immeasurably to my ability to give the very best service to NAJIT and its members. Until again, enjoy the beautiful fall weather wherever you are. We will be back with the next issue of *Proteus*.

WYSIWIG

(continued from page 4)

ries, the English/Spanish Visual Dictionary fills a void and is an important addition to the personal library of any interpreter or translator who works in that language combination. There are also French/English and Chinese/English editions; let us hope that editions for other languages will be forthcoming.

IN MEMORIAM ROBERTO FUENTES

We mourn the death of our colleague Roberto Fuentes, a longstanding NAJIT and ATA member, certified Spanish interpreter, who died in July of this year in his native Puerto Rico. A gentleman of the old school, he was self-effacing about his own abilities and always generous with colleagues.

GRAMMAR NOTES

(continued from page 5)

sitional phrase, they generally convey even more information. Most other European languages have similar syntactical structures.

Undoubtedly one of the English language's most common adjectival forms are nouns that become adjectives when placed before another noun: "fire house," "burn ward," "chair cover." [See "Noun Chains," *Proteus*, Vol.3, Nos. 2 and 3.]

The possessive variants of English nouns, regularly-formed by adding "-s" in the singular and "-s'" in the plural, represent the sixth group of adjectival structures in the language: "the boy's dog" or "the boys' dog." The possessives are most often formed with nouns that refer to people and in cases that imply literal possession. "The back porch of the house" is considered more natural by native English speakers than "the house's back porch."

Bipartite verbs [see *Proteus*, Vol. 2, No. 4] might be considered to form one final, or seventh, group of English adjectives: "start up costs," "knock-down, drag-out fight," "run-on sentence." It is to be

noted that they specifically do not have prepositional endings ("-ing" or "-ed"). These may well constitute a generally forgotten group of adjectives, and they certainly can be used with great effect, especially in somewhat less formal language. These adjectives may owe their existence in part to the fact that modern English, unlike German, rarely forms present participles of bipartite verbs by placing the second element before the first and then adding the participle ending: "ongoing investigation," "onrushing train," "upcoming election."

A full awareness of the wide range of structures that English employs to describe a noun will make translating into the language easier. For example, the idea of advanced age in a man may be alternatively expressed by a simple adjective ("an old gentleman"), a present participle ("an aging gentleman"), a past participle ("a retired gentleman"), a prepositional phrase ("a gentleman of advanced age"), a relative clause ("a gentleman who is over the hill") or a noun ("a social security recipient").

Great flexibility in functional equivalence, such as that involving adjectives, may indeed represent one of the English language's greatest strengths.

WORKSHOP ON MACHINE TRANSLATION

Nashville, Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Find out what machine translation can and cannot do for a user. Topics to be addressed will include the specific requirements of individual translators, translation agencies, and in-house documentation departments with respect to machine translation. Each working environment poses particular challenges to the various MT products: an individual translator may only be interested in one or two language directions, while the other two environments usually call for many different language directions. Individual translators and translation agencies have little influence on the original source documents, whereas in-house departments have the capability to produce documentation for MT (controlled input). Since an individual translator fills many different shoes (system support, lexicographer, post-editor, quality control, etc.) she requires an easy-to-use, maintenance-free product; larger companies have

trained personnel to cover the various functions of the system. The list of specific requirements goes on and on, and it covers all aspects of the translation production process. This workshop not only presents an opportunity to learn about and discuss these issues but also to see some of the systems in action.

The companies represented at the workshop will be Globalink, Logos Corporation, and MCB Systems, a US distributor for Trados, a German translation software developer and vendor. Each company will introduce its system and point out the particular advantages for each user group. They will demonstrate their systems and give you an opportunity for hands-on experience.

For registration information contact: ATA, 1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 220, Alexandria, VA 22314. Tel. 703-683-6100; Fax: 703-683-6122; e-mail: 73564.2032@compuserve.com

NAJIT

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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Business Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Business Phone (____) _____

Fax (____) _____ Beeper (____) _____

Languages _____ Passive Languages _____

Accreditation or Certification:

____ Federal ____ State: From which state(s)? _____

____ ATA: What language combinations? _____

____ Department of State: Escort ____ Seminar ____ Conference ____

Are you willing to travel? Yes ____ No ____

If you are a language instructor at a college, please indicate which one. _____

I certify that the above information is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

1995 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Individual: \$75 ____ Student:* \$25 ____ Institution: \$150 ____

* Student membership is available ONLY to students of interpreting and translation who derive no income from employment as interpreters or translators.

Please make your check payable to NAJIT. Return completed application and your check to:

NAJIT

531 Main Street • Suite 1603 • New York, NY 10044

1995 Membership Directory - Errata

The names of three members in good standing were omitted in error from the 1995 Membership Directory. We deeply regret the omissions and apologize to Gisela Brett, Patricia Michelsen, and Dr. Alexander Rainof. Their listings follow.

Brett, Gisela (IT)

340 E. 64th St., #33B
New York, NY 10021-7505
Home: 212-486-9420
Work: 212-486-9420
Fax: 212-486-9420
German, P-French
NY State; ATA E=G; Dept. of State Seminar

Michelsen, Patricia (I)

3023 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, VA 23221
Home: 804-359-3447
Work: 804-359-3447
Spanish
Federal; NY State

Rainof, Dr. Alexander

1021 12th St., #101
Santa Monica, CA 90403
Home: 310-395-5655
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Spanish, French, Italian, Russian, Rumanian,
P-Bulgarian
Federal; CA State