



capital translator

Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Translators Association
Vol. 20, No. 6 September 1998

NCATA holds Seminar on

Translation and International Development

by Donna Sandin

The NCATA seminar on the subject of Translation and International Development, held on June 20, 1998, featured presentations by seven well-qualified and well-prepared speakers.

The first speaker, **Neil L. Inglis**, a translator at the International Monetary Fund, listed seven components of current trends in international development that translators should keep in mind:

- (1) cost-effectiveness;
- (2) targeting resources;
- (3) project ownership;
- (4) state modernization (re-inventing government);
- (5) environment/sustainable development;
- (6) women in development;
- (7) the effect of cultural values on results.

International development today is much more focused on performance and results than it used to be. Big projects funded with big bucks produced mixed results, waste and fraud, and often met with passive resistance. The emphasis now is on development from the bottom up, channeling aid through existing institutions, and making the target population feel that it has a stake in

the project and can “take the ball and run with it” once the project is well underway or completed.

In terms of re-inventing government, I was surprised to hear Mr. Inglis say that reform of the judiciary is key. The reason he gave is that property rights and contract performance — what is termed *certainty as to the law* — are crucial to the micro-entrepreneurs that development projects seek to encourage.

With regard to translation in this field, Mr. Inglis said that there is a strong “tendency to write translations that are intelligible to other translators but not to monoglot end-users.” He urged us to recast the murky, tortuous, elaborate and lengthy sentences found in Spanish and some other languages. Eliminate dangling dependent clauses. Working into English, when using past and present participles as adjectives, keep them close to the word they modify. He also warned that the linguistic register of development texts “is very earnest.” There is no place for humor.

John Bachmann, Director of Asian Programs for PADCO Inc., is an urban planner and architect with a dozen years of experience in

Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. One of the main points he made concerned the competition between *authenticity* and *precision* in translation. A development agent, the person in the

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President's Corner

by Scott Brennan



Welcome back from the long summer break! I know everyone is rested and ready for a busy Fall, and we have one planned for you.

But the first order of business is to welcome **Eric Barcel** as NCATA's new Membership Chair. A German to English translator based in Charlottesville, he has already gotten his feet wet up to his neck managing the update and production of the *Professional Services Directory (PSD)*, due out in September. The *PSD* is distributed in hardcopy to nearly 300 buyers of language services in the Washington area and beyond, with a searchable version accessible on the NCATA website (www.ncata.org). Your entry is a benefit of NCATA membership.

Eric takes over from **Michael Wahlster**, who served four years as Membership Chair. Michael reinvented and streamlined the chapter's membership record-keeping, and is personally responsible for a number of innovations, including the revamped *PSD* and the NCATA website. Michael also made a valuable contribution as a member of the board, always well-informed and insightful with the chapter's best interests at heart. He graciously agreed to continue serving through the first half of this year, when the position was not filled at last December's elections (Membership is now an appointed,

rather than a board, position). Michael deserves our heartfelt thanks for his hard work and contribution to making NCATA the vital and visible professional organization it is today.

I would also like to thank the many speakers and organizers **Alison Sondhaus-Carroll** and **Kim Olson**, on behalf of those who attended the *Translation and International Development* seminar held June 20 (see article on page 1). The event's success was due in no small part to the skill and energy they put into the task.

NCATA's first Fall event is our annual luncheon with the Society of Federal Linguists (SFL), to be held September 12 (see announcement on page 5). SFL is our closest sister organization in the area, and this event offers an excellent opportunity to meet and relax with colleagues with whom we might not otherwise come into contact, and listen to an interesting speaker. I am very happy we have begun to see more SFL members at NCATA events (a number took part in the Spring job fair and international development seminar), and I look forward to more joint programs in the future. It will be a pleasure to see everyone there sporting their new tan (or was that computer-screen burn...?). ☞

Welcome!

Awarm welcome to the following new members: Elizabeth Bryson Rojas, Olga Ivonne Corretjer, Diana Decker, Margarita Tobar, Jean-Marie Banatte, and Julia Karin Lawson. ☞

Seminar ...continued from page 1

field, wants to *walk and talk* like the people in the host country, because by doing so he will persuade the hosts that he can understand their problems and can produce a project that really fits. He wants the documents he works with to *sound right*. If the translations are too precise, they may *sound funny* to the target audience. Translators, on the other hand, seem to be reluctant to use what they believe is an ugly or grammatically incorrect word, even if it is the one that people in the field use, i.e., the *authentic* rendition.

Mr. Bachmann also outlined the project cycle. The phase stage is pre-identification (sector strategy, sector assessment, resulting in an aide memoire). Then comes the identification phase (project ID document and an MOU). Project preparation is the most document-intensive phase. It includes the project preparation document, a feasibility study, sector assessment, a legal/regulatory audit, a model contract, and a market study. This is followed by an appraisal of the work done so far, a kind of *second opinion* presented in the form of an appraisal report. Loan Processing (loan agreement, summary of earlier preparation documents, guarantees) and Supervision (sub-project feasibility study, a legal/regulatory audit, detailed design of sub-projects, and periodic progress reports) are next. The final stage is post-project evaluation (the project completion report, a performance audit, and impact evaluation).

Nadine Asef-Sargent, of World Learning, a training program management firm, spoke to the group about her company's work in overseeing and managing training programs for USAID. Recently, emphasis has shifted to Central and Eastern Europe, where USAID's strategic objective is to try to identify measures that will, in a given country, achieve the change from socialism/communism to democracy/free markets. Some of the *hot topics* she

mentioned were: association-building, NGO development, legislation drafting, public utility regulation and privatization, court administration, accounting standards, capital markets, bank supervision, investment management, bank privatization, medical doctor training, and potable water.

World Learning helps ensure that individuals who trained in the U.S. learn something that they can actu-

... (a) tendency to write translations... intelligible to other translators but not to ...end-users.

ally use back home. (Results-based training means evaluating not how many attended and were trained, but whether they learned something they can implement). To help participants stay focused during what is often a fast-paced program here in the U.S., World Learning arranges for *action teams* to work with them during their training. Later, the company works with trainees after they return to their home countries. Follow-up training means immediate attention to a participant who is returning from US training. Follow-on is additional training that takes place about six months after participant returns, to see what he/she may need in order to keep applying what was learned.

In discussing her organization's use of language professionals, Ms. Asef-Sargent said the biggest problem is that the training providers who submit bids to run the pro-

grams do not always realize what is involved in interpreting a training course, and that it is not enough to simply be able to speak two languages. Although they may have years of experience in international training, these contractors generally do not understand the differences between interpreting and translating skills, or the qualifications required of a language professional. In evaluating the bids, World Learning must look closely at the lists of translators and interpreters the provider proposes to use. Furthermore, especially in the Balkans, training is complicated by heightened language sensitivity. World Learning must see that nothing in the way language is handled would allow politics to overshadow training.

Luis Fierro and **Maria Eugenia Kyburz-Ochoa**, both of the Inter-American Development Bank, spoke to the group about recent trends in the focus of development loans. The shift has been strongly away from industry, energy, agriculture, and toward the social sector. There are new actors in the development process, groups that had previously been silent (women, minorities, the elderly). Furthermore, there is a commitment to improve the equity of resource allocation by, for example, emphasizing aid to primary education instead of university education. Ms. Kyburz-Ochoa noted that gender has become a factor in development planning (gender-equitable development). She referred to problems in producing gender-neutral Spanish texts and in translating some of the newer buzzwords into Spanish.

Bob Feron, head of Language Services at the Brazilian Embassy, talked about the importance of coordinating terminology use among translators on larger projects. He emphasized the efforts being made in his office to standardize terms used to refer to government officials,

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Seminar ...continued from page 3

military ranks, and the various forms of privatization. One of the handouts he provided consisted of a few pages of a Portuguese-English glossary he has developed, fully annotated as to sources of suggested translations. He also distributed a list of development-related web pages.

Mr. Feron, who has established a translation internship program at the Brazilian Embassy, also expounded on the qualities that translators who want to work for organizations like the World Bank and the IMF must have. Quality and reliability are essential. This means no significant errors, nothing to lead the reader astray, and delivering work on time. In fact, in his experience, the private sector is also becoming more demanding as to quality, and is willing to pay for it.

Scott Brennan, president of NCATA, primary organizer of this seminar, and a free-lance translator who does a lot of work on USAID projects, provided some valuable handouts on procedures and jargon involved in bidding on large development projects. His presentation sparked a discussion about *what to call* certain documents. Is it an invitation to bid, a request for proposal, a solicitation, or a call for bids? What about lowest bidder/ best offeror? Proposals/offers? Specifications/contract requirements?

The all-day seminar, which was held at the Alexandria Embassy Suites Hotel, gave a comprehensive overview of translation and international development, and provided invaluable information to translators/interpreters working in the emerging markets languages. Was it result-based? You bet! ✍

Donna Sandin is a fellow NCATA member and P > E, S > E translator who lives in Reston, Virginia. She can be reached at dsandin@compuserve.com.

As a translator into English, one of my goals in attending this seminar was to collect a list of *buzzwords* with which to refresh my vocabulary. In no particular order, here are some of the ones I gleaned from the presentations:

emerging markets (replaces *developing world* and *Third World*, both now politically incorrect)
 solidarity (alternatives might be *fellow feeling*, or *community of interests*)
 consultation (emphasizes the participatory approach)
 stakeholders
 design (as in project design, urban design, building design)
 environmental services (used to be *water and sewer*)
 institution-building
 regulatory reports
 BOT — build, operate, transfer
 replicable
 tailored training programs
 training providers
 strategic objectives
 transitional economies
 transitioned economies
 democratic initiatives
 economic restructuring
 intermediate results
 move people/country closer to....
 capacity-building
 cross-border economic zone
 paradigm
 empowerment
 poverty reduction
 sectoral approach
 actors in the development process
 human capital
 gender-focused projects (or *projects with a gender focus*)
 client-focused (privatized firms are more client-focused than the government-owned enterprises they replaced)

Another job well done!

Just in time for the *CT* cutoff date, Alison Sondhaus Carroll, translator, frequent *CT* contributor and esteemed colleague, finished a big job she started with husband Tony Carroll about nine months ago. Here are the stats:

Job number:	3
Job title:	Frederic Austin
Format:	8 pounds, 7 ounces; 20.5 inches
Completed on:	12 August, 8.30 a.m.
Onsite location:	George Washington University Hospital
Rate:	Priceless



The *CT* congratulates and sends its best wishes to Alison, Tony, Odile, James and little Frederic. ✍

ATA Accreditation – What Will it Take to Pass the Test?

by Bill Keasbey, NCATA Accreditation Chair



Teresa S. Waldes's article in the June *ATA Chronicle* provides a lot of excellent practical information for persons planning to take an ATA accreditation examination. Do read it and take it to heart, along with all of the information provided to the candidates by ATA Headquarters.

This contribution is intended to elucidate the grading criteria and help the candidates know what to strive for in their translations. To become accredited, the candidate must receive a passing grade on at least two passages. A passage fails if it is incomplete or if it contains two or more major errors, one major error and more than six minor errors, or 20 or more minor errors.

A major error is one that changes the meaning of the passage from what was contained in the original. For example, if the original said that John hit Bill and the translation came out with Bill hitting John, this would be a major error. The omission of an essential element is also a major error.

A minor error is a little harder to define. It may be an infelicitous choice of words or word order, a misspelling, a grammatical error, something that does not sound as though it were written by a native speaker of the target language. It is something that an editor could correct without looking back at the original and would feel compelled to correct before sending the translation to a client.

How can you avoid making either major or minor errors? The first thing to take into account is the fact that what is desired is an accurate and complete rendering of the meaning of the original. This does not mean a word for word translation that sounds strange in the target language. It also does not mean an edited version of the original or a paraphrase. It does mean a well-written translation that conveys precisely the same information as the original. In general, avoid inserting items to explain or expand on items that are not explicitly or implicitly contained in the original

text. Do not change units of measure from metric to English or vice versa unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

Another way to avoid errors is to check your work carefully. Under time pressure it is easy to misread a phrase or to skip a word or even a whole line.

Some translators are concerned about differences in spelling and usage between different countries. Those translating into English may use either British or American spelling, provided they are consistent. Persons translating into Spanish, Portuguese, or French should strive to use language that would be understood in all of the countries in which these languages are spoken and avoid localisms. Again, consistency is very important.

Finally, the best thing you can do is take a practice test and study the corrections and remarks made on it by the grader very thoroughly. ✍

NCATA/SFL Luncheon is Back!

The 1998 NCATA / Society of Federal Linguists Luncheon will be held on September 12 at the Lighthouse Tavern in Rosslyn, Virginia, starting at 12 noon until 3 p.m. This year's guest speaker will be Jack Gurin, who will discuss how the US Army dealt with language during WWII, and his personal experiences as a Japanese translator and interpreter in New Guinea, the Philippines and during the occupation of Japan. After the war, Mr. Gurin worked as a translator of Russian, his native language.

The Lighthouse Tavern is located at 1901 N. Fort Myer Drive, two blocks from the Rosslyn metro station on the blue and orange lines.

Sign up early! This is a popular event, and space is limited. Contact Sandy Kay at 202-364-5884. ✍

*Onionskin***Babelfish for Websurfers**by *Chris Durban*

The Onionskin is a column in the ITI Bulletin (UK). ITI is the UK's foremost association of professional translators and interpreters.

Search engine AltaVista's launch of a free and instantaneous online machine translation (MT) service in December is sure to mark a radical change in many monolingual Websurfers' habits.

Users access the service, based on software developed by the French company Systran, at **www.altavista.digital.com**. By entering the URL of their choice, they can then produce all but immediate translations into and out of English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German and French.

Not surprisingly, business users welcomed the new service, which they claim will allow monolingual researchers to tap the Web's vast resources more effectively. Ideally, users will use it to identify sites or documents for real (human) translation.

Many linguists also welcomed the news, but for entirely different reasons.

The output is, of course, unreliable: even its most fervent supporters admit that MT-generated translation is rarely useable without extensive editing, and Systran is not the most effective tool around. Also, as professional translators know, such editing can take as much time as preparing a human translation from scratch.

Our own test run yielded mixed results, with quality varying considerably from one language pair to the next. If all texts produced were indeed "inaccurate summaries written in gibberish," as critics have claimed, demand would probably dry up. But some of the translations

we ordered were understandable, if comical. Not surprisingly, into-English was less bumpy than the other way around in almost all cases. Our assessment: in situations where gist is all that is needed and clients are not prepared to spend any money at all, the new service will surely come into its own.

Perhaps the most important point for most professional translators is that the service does not impinge on their market. In other

But some of the translations...were understandable, if comical.

words, for these texts it's either Babelfish — the tag given to Systran's AltaVista offering — or nothing.

Reflecting the generally enthusiastic reception in the business press, columnist Tim Jackson reproduced an example of a French-to-English news item from *Le Monde's* website in his column in the *Financial Times* (19 January 1998), commenting that while it might seem "laughably lame" to anyone unfamiliar with machine translation, it was nonetheless comprehensible. Mr. Jackson judged the service "useful."

Many professional linguists would agree that free online MT is indeed a useful means of raising awareness and respect for human

translators, since it so effectively demonstrates the limits of MT. While the press has frequently run glowing accounts of breakthroughs in computer-assisted translation, few consumers have actually had the opportunity to see MTed text.

A recent example was an enthusiastic review of a Japanese<>English package in *The Economist* (17 October 1997). Significantly, the journalist failed to cite a single example of text generated, which would have allowed readers to form their own opinions. Some Japanese translators complained that the article consisted largely of claims recycled directly from the developers' press releases.

Seen from this angle, Systran's link-up with AltaVista will educate the general public by making MT, with its blinding speed but also all its warts, easily accessible.

"With AltaVista, users around the globe will quickly realize that translation is not just a process of word-for-word transfer," suggests Alicia Gordon, a French and Spanish-to-English translator based in Los Angeles. Robert Killingsworth of Palo Alto agrees: "What better way to create widespread appreciation of MT's shortcomings than to have it widely available at no charge on the Internet? Millions of people can now find out for themselves what it can and cannot do."

Yet given unwary consumers' inability to judge the quality of language output in a foreign language — an issue that crops up regularly in the *Onionskin* — the penny is sure to drop faster if articulate translators and their professional associations capitalize on the AltaVista launch to emphasize the difference between human and machine output. Energetic lobbying to convince



AltaVista to differentiate more clearly between MT and human translation in its **Help** and **Feedback** sections would be one place to start.

Public perception of translation value may also suffer. Richard Weltz of Spectrum Multilingual Communications in New York cites a photoheadline machine manufacturer whose ads claimed its equipment allowed "anyone in your office to set professional-looking headlines for only pennies a word." While those who bought the machine were quickly disabused, casual readers subsequently "couldn't understand why the commercial shops were charging three or four dollars a word for something they had been told was really worth only 'pennies'," notes Weltz.

Some linguists have also expressed concern that AltaVista or Systran might be tempted to set up a cut-rate post-editing service, which they claim would drive quality down while further confusing MT/human input in users' minds.

Finally, for translators worried that AltaVista's machine translation of their own carefully crafted websites would reflect poorly on their professional skills, Dutch-to-English translator Dick Lodge of St. Louis had a simple solution: insert a disclaimer, such as "This page is in English. If you are reading it in another language, it has been machine translated and probably contains inaccuracies."

Mr. Weltz would take a harder line: "...has been machine translated and is so full of errors in meaning and style that it is an excellent demonstration of the compelling reasons for employing competent human translators such as those whose services are provided by our company."

The *Onionskin* remains convinced that professional translators who produce good work and sign it have little to worry about. Systems like Systran do not replace human translators; instead they are restricted to use in situations where the choice is

MT or no translation at all. At best, they can and will help raise overall awareness of the profession.

For Mr. Killingsworth, free online translation may even end up serving the quality-in-translation cause. "Current MT is no threat to the livelihood of translators who can render meaning in another language with accuracy and style," he says. "But having it available at zero cost provides almost the best imaginable competition to those [human] translators who cannot. Even an ignorant

client is not going to want to pay for a bad translation when he can get one free." ✍

Chris Durban is a F > E translator specialized in finance and capital markets. Based in Paris, her extracurricular translation activities include coordinating the Paris Bourse workshop for financial translators (next event: Spring 1999), promoting signed work, and encouraging client education in general. Chris can be reached at 101327.35@compuserve.com

From the Editor...

by Ruth Zimmer Boggs



By the time you read this, tans are solid, berries picked, travels completed, kids back in school, and the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are all too soon leading into fall. After an almost two-month reprieve, we're back in business, and there's some housekeeping to be done. In a nutshell:

- **Dimitra Hengen**, a brave and courageous new NCATA member, has agreed to fill the vacant Assistant Editor position. We look forward to great things from her.
- To better meet your information needs, we're adding a couple of new features to the *CT* on a trial basis: *A Technology Corner* to discuss computer-related issues (thanks to **Michael Wahlster** for getting that off to an excellent start), and an *Information Exchange* corner to share glossaries, dictionaries, mailing lists, and interesting web sites. Needless to say, your contribution to either feature is much welcomed and appreciated.
- Also starting this month, we will start bringing you **Chris Durban's** *Onionskins* on a regular basis. Chris Durban is a F > E translator based in Paris, and her column, which appears in a number of European translation-related magazines, deals with – what else? – the business of translation and interpretation.
- Last but not least – the June *Brain Puzzler*. What started as nothing more than a blurb to fill space was met with an overwhelming and unexpected response. I had hoped to publish the name of our *Brain Puzzler* Champion this month, but there's a slight problem. The gentleman with the smoky voice who left a message on my answering machine the same Friday afternoon the *CT* reached most mailboxes in the D.C. area did not leave a phone number – and the machine garbled his name. Other than "Bill" – I could not make out much. I hope he will call back so we can give him proper credit. Until then – the mystery continues.

The solution to the brain puzzler? There was no letter 'e' in the entire paragraph! ✍

Freelancer or employee?

Legal Aspects of our Profession

by Valerii M. Schukin

This article first appeared in the Spring 1998 issue of PROTEUS, The Newsletter of The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators.

Quite a large number of freelance translators occasionally give work to other translators. This happens either because they get requests for foreign languages other than their own working languages, or they have so much work in their language that they delegate some work to others, so as not to lose a client, for example. Consequently, there appears to be an employer/employee relationship here — or at least that's what the Department of Labor would like to think.

But is it really so? My purpose in writing this article is to recount my personal experience with this issue in the hope that it will be of some help to those who are dealing with this problem or may face such a problem in the future.

What should you do if a representative of the local labor office calls you and requests that you bring all your books in for an assessment of employer's tax? My first piece of advice is: don't even try to convince the representative that the translators are not your employees but are independent contractors. Whatever you say, their task is to convert anybody into your employee. They'll be after you like hawks! What you should do is request a hearing at the Administrative Law Judge Section of your state Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board. (In New York City, the address is 110 King Street, Room 6000.) Those judges are objective and fair.

For years I had been asking my local labor office to show me any law or regulation as to who is con-

sidered an employee and who is an independent contractor. I had also asked them to cite at least one precedent or mention one translation agency, large or small, who treated freelancers as employees. All in vain. As the popular Russian slang expression goes, "They were trying to hang noodles on my ears." Their answer was only, "Well, your case may be different. We can't cite any law... We have to talk about your case specifically."

Finally I despaired and requested a hearing. It was held, and ultimately I won: the judge ruled that they were independent contractors and that I didn't owe any tax.

What makes freelancers indepen-

...don't ... try to convince the representative that the translators are not your employees...

dent contractors? I testified under oath with the following arguments:

- Translators have business cards and advertise their services. They are in business for themselves.
- Translators have multiple sources of income.
- Translators use their own equipment at home to perform their work.
- I provide translators with 1099 tax forms.

- I don't supervise their work in progress; I am only interested in the outcome.
- Sometimes translators bill my clients directly.
- I am a freelancer myself, a sole proprietor, not a business corporation.

However, this may not be the end of the story. The Department of Labor may appeal the judge's ruling. At my hearing, the representative of the local labor office did produce one document which showed that in a previous case the Board had reversed the decision of an administrative law judge. This was in the matter of the Department of Labor against Mercury Translations Inc., and I quote from the decision:

The employer is a business corporation which provides translators and interpreters to its clients. The principal and officer of the corporation incorporated the business in March of 1990. Before he incorporated the business, the principal personally provided Spanish interpretation for various federal agencies and private institutions.

Various government agencies and private persons and companies knew of the principal's expertise and experience, and began contracting him. The corporation advertised in the telephone directory. He established a working list of interpreters and a few translators of Spanish, Italian, Russian, Polish, Japanese and Chinese. He considered and treated these individuals as independent contractors.

Upon receiving a request from a client for an interpreter of a language other than Spanish, the principal contacted a person whom he considered to have the required skills. He listed interpreters and translators on his card index. He had met them during his years of service as an interpreter or he had obtained their names by advertis-

ing in a local newspaper.

As a result of the advertisements, he had received approximately 120 replies, which he screened. He then called those interpreters whom he deemed to have the required experience and expertise to discuss their background. He explained the nature of his business and informed them that they would be paid fifty percent of the fee which he charged his clients. The principal carried a beeper on his person so that he could respond

Translators ... are in business for themselves.

quickly to a request for an interpreter or translator. He also carried a list of interpreters in order to expeditiously meet requests of clients.

In conjunction with the demands and needs of his clients, the principal officer assigned interpreters to the work place, also advising them of the nature of the assignment as well as the date and time. After accepting an assignment, an interpreter would call the employer as well as the client if unable to keep an appointment. In such event, so long as it was not too late, the owner personally accepted any assignment involving Spanish interpretation unless he was unavailable. Otherwise, he would obtain a replacement if one were available. He received complaints from the clients and processed these complaints. At one time, he almost lost a client based on a complaint about the conduct of the interpreter whom he had assigned. In response to the complaint, the owner called the interpreter and advised her not to repeat her behavior.

The owner and the client negotiated the rate to be paid to the employer. The Department of Social Services, a major client, set a fixed hourly rate with a two

hour minimum. Private clients usually paid a higher rate than governmental agencies. The employer then informed the interpreter of the amount of remuneration he or she would receive for the job, which was 50 percent of the fee the employer charged the client.

On completion of the assignment, the interpreter would call the employer to inform him of the number of hours worked. For the Department of Social Service and some federal agencies, the interpreter would complete a mandatory time sheet which the employer submitted with an invoice to the agency. The interpreter was responsible for preparing such time sheets in triplicate and forwarding two copies to the employer. The employer alone would bill and collect its fee from the client. It was the practice of the employer to pay the interpreter or translator in their individual names within three to four weeks after the completion of the assignment. In most instances, the employer paid the interpreter or translator before the client paid him. For federal agencies, there often was a delay in payment to the employer by as much as one year after rendition of services.

The employer did not provide any fringe benefits to interpreters or translators, and did not make deductions from the payments to them. They were not prohibited from performing similar services for other translating services.

OPINION: The credible evidence establishes that the employer herein exercised sufficient overall direction and control over the services of the interpreters and translators to establish an employment relationship with them. An employer-employee relationship is indicated by several significant facts. It was the employer alone who maintained active client contact, contracting with the client for the services to be rendered by the interpreters and translators. It was the employer alone who collected for such services from the client after billing the client.

As one can see from this long citation, there is a difference between my arguments and those of Mercury Translations, Inc.

Of course, it could be that the

best route to take is to hire a lawyer who specializes in labor issues. Granted: it is. But not all of us can afford such a lawyer and, fortunately, the Administrative Law Judge Section will accept pro se representation.

Finally, one last piece of advice: never, ever mistake a 1099 form for a W-2! ✍

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Valerii Schukin is a New York-based Russian conference and court interpreter and translator.

TRANSLATOR/EDITOR

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TRANSLATION AND THE GRAPHIC ARTS

Technology Corner

Caution: Surfing chokes your hard disk.

by Michael Wahlster



When I received the monthly parent newsletter of my daughter's school the other day, it had a prominent article on how to clear your browser's cache memory. Apparently, as a result of increasing assignments requiring Internet resources, many parents' home computers were choking on an overload of temporary browser files.

If you are a Web surfer and feel that your hard disk has less and less free real estate, keep on reading.

Web browser software stores the addresses, the graphics, and a number of other data on your hard disk so that loading the information is faster if you revisit a page or use your Back button. Unfortunately, they do not delete these files at the end of a session. There is usually a command to clear these temporary files, but it is buried somewhere in a submenu. Have you ever used it? In Netscape Navigator 3 you can find it under **Options > Network Preferences > Cache**; in Navigator 4 under **Edit > Preferences > Advanced > Cache**. Few users ever make it there, and as a result files accumulate by the megabyte, often leading to a collapse of one system component or another, or to a severe slowdown if Windows cannot find enough disk space anymore for its virtual memory swap file.

To start my work day with a clean slate, I have included a few commands in my autoexec.bat file. They delete all temporary browser files — as well as all other leftover temporary files. (There are quite a few programs out there that have not been properly taught to clean up after themselves!)

The following commands work for Windows 3.1 and Windows 95 with Netscape Navigator. (Perhaps an Internet Explorer user could contribute the Explorer-specific commands for a future newsletter issue.) They assume that Netscape Navigator (version 3.x or 4.x) is installed in the subdirectory **c:\netscape**. Change the path if you have your browser installed elsewhere.

In Windows, run the application **sysedit**, which is part of Windows. It is probably best to type the application name in the command line (**Start > Run**). This brings up a number of overlapping windows with all your editable system files. Select the window **autoexec.bat** and maximize it. If you are the cautious type, make a backup copy of autoexec.bat and keep in a safe place. In the unlikely event that you have trouble with editing autoexec.bat, you can always copy back the saved original.

Chances are, your autoexec.bat file will look something like this:

```
@ECHO OFF
SET TMP=F:\TMP
PATH C:\MSOFFICE\OFFICE;C:\MICROS~1\mail
SET PATH=%PATH%;C:\MICROS~1
set ieppp=C:\IEXPLORE
...
```

It may have fewer lines or more lines. First, make sure that **@echo off** is the command on the very top. Then, check which directory is designated by the **set tmp** command as the storage directory for temporary files. In this case, it is **f:\tmp**.

We will now include several commands to look for leftover temporary program files and browser files and delete them, if they exist.

```
First, leftover temporary program files:
if not exist f:\tmp\*. * goto notemp
echo y|del f:\tmp\*. * > nul
:notemp
```

The system looks into **f:\tmp** to check if there are any files (substitute **f:\tmp** with your own temporary directory). If there are files, it will erase them. If there aren't any, it will skip the erasing, go to **:notemp** (which is not a command, only a place marker), and continue from there.

Next, we erase the browser's history file. For Navigator 3.x:

```
if not exist c:\netscape\netscape.hst goto nohst
echo y|del c:\netscape\netscape.hst > nul
:nohst
```

and for Navigator 4.x:

```
if not exist c:\netscape\users\YourName\netscape.hst
goto nohst
echo y|del c:\netscape\users\YourName\netscape.hst
> nul
:nohst
```

Instead of **YourName**, use the name under which you log on to Windows.

Then we erase the browser's cache for Navigator 3.x:

```
if not exist c:\netscape\cache\*. * goto nocache
echo y|del c:\netscape\cache\*. * > nul
:nocache
```

and for Navigator 4.x:

```
if not exist c:\netscape\users\YourName\cache\*. *
goto nocache
```

```
echo y|del c:\netscape\users\YourName\cache\*. * >
nul
:nocache
```

Here, as well, substitute `c:\netscape` with the path to Netscape Navigator on your computer and `YourName` with the name under which you log on to Windows.

Finally, insert those three deletion routines immediately after `@echo off`, so that the `autoexec.bat` files looks like this:

```
@ECHO OFF
if not exist f:\tmp\*. * goto notemp
echo y|del f:\tmp\*. * > nul
:notemp
if not exist c:\netscape\netscape.hst goto nohst
echo y|del c:\netscape\netscape.hst > nul
:nohst
if not exist c:\netscape\cache\*. * goto nocache
echo y|del c:\netscape\cache\*. * > nul
:nocache
SET TMP=F:\TMP
PATH C:\MSOFFICE\OFFICE;C:\MICROS~1\mail
SET PATH=%PATH%;C:\MICROS~1
set ieppp=C:\IEXPLORE
...
```

Save the file and close `sysedit`, and you now have an automatic cleanup process in place that deletes all left-over temporary and cache files with each system start. Normally, you will not even notice that the system is cleaning up. After a particularly heavy surfing session, however, it may take a few seconds to rid the system of all cached files — still better than doing it all by hand, or to run into disk-full errors. ☞

Michael Wahlster is a fellow translator (E > G), NCATA member and longtime membership chair. He lives and works in Charlottesville, VA.

In order to clear the Netscape (version 4.05) Cache on a Mac, go to the Edit menu and select Preferences. Click on the arrow pointing to “Advanced” to show the available options. Select Cache. In the pop-up menu click on “Clear Disk Cache Now”. An alert box will warn you that this will remove all files and ask you whether you want to continue. Click on okay. All done.

You will need to repeat this operation periodically.

– Karin Wuertz-Schaefer

Information Exchange

The amount of information available on the WWW is overwhelming. Glossaries, mailing lists, URL's – it's all there for the taking.

This is the space where you can share your finds with your colleagues. Just e-mail or fax them to the Editor, and we'll be happy to include them.

From Dr. Frank Dietz (E < > G), Austin, TX,
fdietz@rocketmail.com

Here is my most recent cyber-harvest of monolingual English glossaries:

- <http://www.matisse.net/files/glossary.html>
Glossary of internet terms
- <http://terra.org/journey/glossary/glossary.html>
Glossary of sailing terms
- <http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/doddict/>
DOD glossary of military terms
- <http://world.std.com/~jimf/biking/slang.html>
Glossary of mountain bike slang
- <http://www.sci.kun.nl/thalia/rapdict/>
Rap dictionary
- <http://www.nymex.com/new/glossary.html>
New York Mercantile Exchange glossary
- <http://gunsmoke.ecn.purdue.edu/~laird/Dogs/glossary.html>
Dog terms glossary
- <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/tours/glossary.html>
Glossary of space terms

And if you found this all rather dry...

- <http://www.samadams.com/glossary/gloss.htm>
Beer terminology

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And last but not least:

The Society of Federal Linguists also has a new website. Check it out at

- <http://www.federal-linguists.org/>

Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
September 3-5		5th RNA Congress	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada check the CTIC Web Site at http://www.synapse.net/~ctic/home.html or contact Raymonde Haddad, RCNA Office, 1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1202, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7, Tel.: (613) 562-0379, Fax: (613) 241-4098, E-mail: ctic@synapse.net
September 12	12 noon	Joint SFL/NCATA Luncheon	Lighthouse Tavern, Rosslyn, VA Contact: Sandy Kay, 202-364-5884
September 19	1:30 p.m.	Accreditation Exam	Alexandria Graduate Education Center, George Washington University, 1775B Duke Street, Alexandria VA Contact ATA, 703-683-6100
November 4-8		39th Annual ATA Conference	Hilton Head, SC Contact ATA at 703-683-6100

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