



ITI-LRG Newsletter

Issue 41

<http://www.iti-lrg.org.uk>

May 2015

From the Editor

Welcome to this Spring edition of the *LRG Newsletter!*

First of all, let me take this opportunity to thank the LRG for inviting me to take over as its Newsletter Editor. It is a great honour and opportunity for me. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do.

The year 2015 has started with a busy schedule of events: two events on legal terminology, the annual Meet the Client event and the ITI Conference in Newcastle (page 4). If you did not have the chance to attend all of them, here you will find the reviews, together with details of upcoming events.

For new members and those who have not had the pleasure to meet our former Newsletter Editor yet, Lina has kindly accepted to take part

in an interview that you will find on page 9, with precious advice for newcomers in the profession.

Furthermore, as our Yahoo! Group increases in popularity, on page 12 you will find a summary of the main discussions and topics of 2015 to date, along with some useful advice for getting the best out of this fantastic tool.

I would like to thank all the members who have contributed articles and interviews for this issue. They have been immensely helpful.

I look forward to seeing many of you at one of the next LRG events.

Martina Loi, Editor

Forthcoming LRG Events

IntelliWebSearch with Michael Farrell

Friday, 19 June 2015 6:30 for 7 pm - 9 pm

Imperial College, Exhibition Road, Gower Street,
London WC1E 6BT

Nearest tube: Euston Square or Warren Street.

A joint Infotech/LRG seminar

Michael Farrell, Creator of IntelliWebSearch, will give a presentation and live demonstration of an application used to search terminology across a number of Internet sites.

Cost: LRG and infotech members: £10, Others: £15

Please book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/intelliwebsearch-with-michael-farrell-tickets-16491766317>

NB: Please note change of venue – see Eventbrite link

EU Revision Workshop with Peter Workman, Brian Porro and Paul Kaye

Mon 22 June 2015

1000 to 1245 and 1345 to 1630

(Two separate sessions with a light lunch for all participants at 1pm)

Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU

Nearest tubes: St James Park, Westminster

Are you ever called upon to revise a translation - a colleague's, a competitor's, your own? How would you define the task; what does it involve; what purpose does it serve and how should you set about it? And do you ever struggle with punctuation?

An opportunity to discuss these questions (and doubtless many others) with members of the EU Commission's DGT. The workshop will include a short, group exercise.

Event organised jointly by LRG and representatives of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation.

There will be two separate sessions, one in the morning, one in the afternoon. Light refreshments will be served at the start of both sessions and a sandwich lunch in the mid-way break, providing a networking opportunity for participants from both sessions.

NB: Event supported by EU Commission DGT and sponsored by LRG.

Cost (to cover catering charges): £10 LRG members; £15 non-LRG

NB: this event is currently sold out. To be put on the waiting list, please contact Giannina Spanu, LRG Events Secretary – see p. 11.

This event qualifies for 3 hours CPD.

NB: this event is sold out; please contact Giannina Spanu (see page 13) to be put on the waiting list.

LRG CPD activities for members

The LRG offers a regular programme of CPD and social and networking events for its members. We also welcome non-members to these events.

For updates on all upcoming events, please always check the following social media:

Website: <http://www.iti-lrg.org.uk>

Twitter: @ITILRG

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ITI-London-Regional-Group/420785661324621?ref=hl>

E-group: uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/iti-lrg/

To subscribe to the LRG e-group please send an email to: iti-lrg-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

Welcome to our new LRG members!

Keith Baddeley, Catherine Barteau, Helena Chick, Farideh Colthart, Phoebe Goulding, Eri Ishikawa, Nicholas Nicou, Joanna Pawulska Saunders, Marta Prieto, Gian Luca Scappini, Charlotte Smith, Angie Taylor, and Dinnie Yuno.

Reviews of Recent Events

Workshop and introduction to the terminology of English law for translators and interpreters

Wednesday, 25 February 2015
Upstairs at The Devereux Pub

Have you bought a property in England? Did you get married in England or to a British citizen? Do you sign contracts with companies based in the UK or the USA? Do you specialise in legal translation or interpreting? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the workshop on legal terminology, led by David Hutchins and organised by the ITI LRG on 25 February, would have been of great interest to you. This is especially true for legal translators and interpreters, as the session was organised specifically for them.

The English legal system is based on common law. The same goes for most countries that once formed part of the British Empire or its colonies (this includes the United States). Common law, or case law, is based on precedent, which are decisions made by courts on previous, similar cases. As a French national, used to the notion of civil law, this is a very fascinating, albeit a tad bizarre, concept! Civil law is in place in most European countries.

Due to too much watching of *Law&Order* or *The Good Wife*, there is usually some confusion about the terms 'solicitor', 'barrister', 'attorney', 'advocate', 'jurist' and 'council'. A solicitor works in offices and firms. A barrister works at the bar or the chambers. An attorney is an American lawyer. Advocate is a Scottish term. A jurist is a very eminent lawyer (think Montesquieu, rather than Judge Judy!). The term 'council' refers to a barrister. And all of these are lawyers, of course!

Linguists, beware! There are a number of false friends in legal terminology. For example, do not use 'tribunal' and 'court' interchangeably. A 'tribunal' is a specific type of court, headed by experts (but not lawyers) on such matters as employment and taxes. Similarly, a 'magistrate' is not exactly the same as a 'judge'. Magistrates, also called 'justices of the peace', are officers of lower courts. They can give fines of up to £5 000 and sentences of up to 6 months per offence.



Confusingly, and much like many specialised topics, common English words have a very specific meaning in a legal context. The challenge, of course, is to identify these words correctly. Some examples are:

- 'To deem' means 'to consider'
- 'Construction' means 'interpretation'
- 'Consideration' means a reciprocal element, in contract law.

Here is a further selection of terms that are often misunderstood:

- 'Limitation period'. This is the limited period (6 years for tort and contract) during which proceedings can be issued.
- 'Vicarious liability' arises for an employer when an employee has done a tort.
- 'Domicile' is a connection to a territory, not to be confused with 'residence'. The notion of domicile is important for divorces, wills and taxes.
- A 'McKenzie friend' is someone with a legal background but not necessarily a legal qualification, who helps another person being tried in a court of law.
- A 'litigant in person' is a person defending themselves.
- A 'litigation friend' is acting for someone who is under 18 or deemed not capable of acting for themselves.
- A 'witness' is someone who gives evidence.

A question was raised in relation to contracts signed by translators with translation agencies: if a deadline is not met - does that constitute a breach of contract? David Hutchins recommended

checking whether there was a clause in the contract stating that 'time is of the essence'. If that is the case, the former is a fundamental clause, which means that failure to respect it is not only a breach of contract but also grounds for terminating the contract and for the agency to sue the translator. David recommended refusing such a clause.

This was a very detailed session during which I learned a great many details about the English legal system and terminology. It was also a great opportunity to catch up and network with fellow London translators and interpreters.

Elise Le Mer is an English to French translator specialised in business, marketing, advertising and transcreation. She is an Associate of the ITI and a member of the LRG.

Meet the Client **A joint LRG/UoW event**

Thursday, 19 March 2015, 5.30 pm to 9.00 pm
University of Westminster

On 19 March, the London Regional Group of ITI held its latest Meet the Client event, bringing together freelance translators of all levels, hosted by the University of Westminster in Regent Street. Over the course of the evening, four industry experts provided an insider's view of the freelance recruitment process, offering advice on how to apply, how to catch a company's eye, and how to distinguish oneself in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Targeting your applications

Clare Suttie, Director of Atlas Translations, opened the evening with some top tips for optimising your applications to translation companies. Clare explained that you should always check that the agencies you are interested in work in your language combinations prior to applying and also enquire about the general rates they can offer you. Once you have made it onto the agency's roster, you can make a good impression by responding promptly to offers of work and raising any queries before you accept a job.

The second presentation of the evening was delivered by Jonathan Coutts, Scrivener Notary at John Venn & Sons; Jonathan noted that inside knowledge of your chosen field is the key to distinguishing yourself on the freelance market. Stressing the benefits of obtaining relevant practical experience or undertaking academic courses before applying to specialist agencies, he

noted that you should “be positive about your qualifications and experience and sell yourself”.

Howard Cardinal, Translation Director at Dora Wirth Languages (DWL), was next to take to the stage, warning against sending out generic mail shots and emphasising the importance of tailoring your CV and cover letter to specific companies. In his view, researching an agency’s specialisms and amending your CV accordingly is essential for showing them that you are a good fit. Likewise, continuing professional development was highlighted as yet another crucial element of success, with peer support groups like the ITI and the CIOL offering invaluable opportunities for keeping your specialist knowledge up-to-date.

Rounding off the opening presentations, Lindsay Bywood of Voice & Script International discussed optimal approaches when applying to an agency. Referring to test translations, Lindsay explained that candidates should always request feedback so that they know how to improve in future assessments. Moreover, she offered some practical pointers for preparing an effective application, such as keeping the subject line of your cover letter concise and factual and remembering to note down your mother tongue on your CV and cover letter for agencies’ ease of reference.

Following their presentations, the panellists were joined by established LRG members and industry specialists for short round-table sessions; all were quizzed about various aspects of the translation profession. Peter Linton, Co-Chairman of LRG, sparked a debate about the differences between working for translation agencies and dealing with direct clients, while Nathalie Reis, LRG Publicity Officer, spoke about the mentoring opportunities available to budding translators. Drawing from her own experience mentoring up-and-coming French translators, she encouraged students to contact specialists in their chosen fields for personal advice on starting up their freelance business.

The experts’ final thoughts

To conclude the evening, the four industry experts reconvened for a plenary session in which they gave their final thoughts on a variety of translation issues. Jonathan Coutts began by offering useful advice for those who are embarking on their translation career, urging them not to be dissuaded at the start of their journey. “You start with a burden of expectation as a self-employed translator” he noted. “You will get knocked back, and it can be very disappointing, but you cannot dwell on it. You are a business.”

In Clare Suttie’s opinion, these teething problems can be soothed by paying a visit to local

translation companies. “If you live in London”, she said, “pop in, and some agencies will welcome you and offer you a cup of tea.” Doing so is an invaluable way of striking up a personal rapport with agencies, allowing you to distinguish yourself from other candidates and offer a personal touch. “People do come in and see us”, she added, “and it does make a difference”.

Finally, Lindsay Bywood offered some closing advice on tailoring your CV, urging prospective candidates to make the most of their skills and experience. As she concluded, the way you present your CV can be just as important as its content, quickly and effectively showing agencies your main attributes. “Many CVs that we receive have plenty of good information hidden away”, she explained. “Get professional advice or ask other translators to help your CV shine”.

In summary, this latest iteration of the long-standing Meet the Client event was a rousing success, offering new and expert translators alike an invaluable insight into the thoughts and expectations of translation clients, and providing a wealth of practical advice on how to stand out from the crowd.

Thanks are due to Pamela Mayorcas and Havila Peck for organising the event.

Nicholas Nicou is a member of the ITI London Regional Group and is currently undertaking an MA in Technical and Specialised Translation at the University of Westminster, translating from French and Spanish into English. He is also London Sub-Editor of Sounds and Colours magazine and has created his own trilingual blog called freecritique. You can follow him on Twitter @NicholasNicou.

ITI 2015 Conference

‘Renew, rejuvenate, regenerate - translating and interpreting in an evolving world’

23-25 April 2015, Hilton Newcastle Gateshead

The ITI Conference 2015 took place in the beautiful city of Newcastle upon Tyne from 23 to 25 April. I was lucky enough to receive a grant from ITI’s London Regional Group to attend this conference.

The theme of this year’s conference was ‘Renew, rejuvenate, regenerate – translating and interpreting in an evolving world’. The programme was indeed all related to this theme.

Let’s start with the controversial one. The translation industry consultant, Stefan Gentz, gave

a presentation entitled 'Ten facts about the future the translation industry cannot afford to ignore'. These ten facts have a common thread, and that is CHANGE. First of all, translation technology is changing: '99% of translation market opportunities are taken by MT giants such as Google and Microsoft'. Secondly, the translation workflow is changing: 'translation has become a sub-process embedded in other processes such as content management'. Thirdly, the role of translators is changing: 'translators are becoming post-editors for machine-translated text'. Finally, the clients' expectations are changing: they want faster translation at a cheaper price, or sometimes for free. Translation is now a global and cloud-based business, which means that translators have to face competition from all around the world. In order to survive and thrive in the business, translators must go with the change; for example, as Stefan suggests, they could offer free translation but ask for a percentage of the profit that the translation helps to generate. This is certainly something that LSPs can consider in their practice.

During my one-to-one Q&A session with Stefan, he also advised individual translators to be open-minded, to be more aware of and to embrace change. The predictions in Mr Getz's talk were quite bold and not all the delegates would agree, but the talk itself was definitely thought-provoking.

The panel discussion 'Moving beyond translation to offer clients more' was definitely to the point. ITI Fellow Cate Avery talked about her experience of going from translation to journalism to meet the requirements of a long-standing client, during the 2008 recession, when her usual translation workload reduced dramatically. Terence Lewis MITI shared his view on cross-selling (selling additional services to existing clients based on the trust already built up through previous collaborations). Ros Schwartz FITI branched out by adding project management to translation services, expanding from a freelancer to an agency. All three panellists provided new insights about adding value to our translation services, bringing new ideas for us on how to develop our careers. The one thing they had in common was that they are all established translators. So their routes to diversification may not apply immediately to newcomers in the business, but they certainly provided ideas on how one's career can progress over time.

Another important aspect of change is that it makes you go out of your comfort zone and embrace something new. Nick Rosenthal and Judith Townsley, for example, shared their experiences of translating a book as "book-virgins"- it was their first time translating a book. With the help of memoQ, input from a native German linguist and a lot of research, they worked very hard and closely with one another and

completed the translation of a highly technical and specialised textbook in project management, learning a lot along the way.

Who would have thought a translator who almost never missed a deadline would deliver the translation of a book one year later than originally planned? Well, this did happen to Nick and Judith, but in their humorous presentation they also explained how translating a book is rather different from other commercial translation activities: it is definitely longer, more complicated and quite rewarding, though not necessarily financially.

Moving now to the changes that have come about in the translators' work environment, the panel discussion on 'Farewell to isolation: co-working as a new way of life and a business tool' introduced us to some refreshing ideas. For example, <http://www.uk-jelly.org.uk/> provides information on local groups where people just show up and work together under the same roof, regardless of their profession or the length of their stay in the group. For a more established business community in the North East of England, you can go to <http://www.colleaguesontap.com/>, or better, as one delegate suggested, just take your laptop to a local café, and soon you will get to know people working in a similar way to you. The benefits of co-working are obvious: increased productivity, networking, sharing of ideas, getting help from others, and more importantly for translators, the possibility of marketing or soft selling. Furthermore, as Emma Paulay suggested, it keeps you up-to-date with the latest trends and the ever-changing market. Co-working is a growing phenomenon and is definitely a good option for translators.

New marketing strategies for translators can also be adapted to the evolving world. Neila Fahloun MITI and Cecile Joffrin MITI experimented with a shared marketing initiative, using the Get Clients Now! programme (book and website) as a framework for structuring their individual marketing efforts and supporting one another throughout a four-week period. The result? They gained more clients, earned more while working less, became more self-confident (both about themselves and their careers) and strengthened their friendship. What a marvellous win-win situation! If you and someone else have a good relationship and are not competitors at work, this method can surely be worth trying. Of course, there are pitfalls such as stress and overwork, but the overall gains do outweigh the pain. If you are not that lucky to have a 'buddy' already, there is also 'The One-Person Marketing Plan Workbook' to try out.

New kinds of workflow are also available for translators. Technical translator William

Casemiro explained how MT can actually be a friend and be incorporated into the workflow, together with CAT tools, to increase productivity dramatically. He showed a workflow method using the rule-based MT software ProMT and CAT tool memoQ. ProMT can be trained with existing translation memories and glossaries and can pre-translate any new document. Then, the result can be fed into a CAT tool, to be post-edited and polished. This kind of workflow is particularly helpful for a large document with many technical terms. It brings a new perspective: maybe other MT and CAT tools can also be used together to improve the efficiency of translation.

Last but not least, for every translator: how to be better equipped to survive the changing world. Chris Durban FITI ('Budgets and you') and Alison Hughes MITI ('It's not what you spend, it's the way you spend it') provided some answers, sharing their opinions and experiences about the monetary side of things:

- In order to be successful, a translator must move from being the disposable 'mechanical turk' or 'handyman', to aiming to be at least 'craftsman' or, even better, unique and remarkable, thus irreplaceable to the client.
- What a translator is selling is, ultimately, his/her time; therefore, it is probably better to charge an hourly rate rather than a per word rate. Also, the billable hours should also cover the non-billable hours.
- A successful translator should invest time and money in attending events to find and target upmarket direct clients and make herself/himself indispensable to them. There are always passionate, well-heeled clients out there and you just need to have faith, engage yourself and reach them.
- Translators should also review and raise their rates from time to time. Chris shared a very clever Good cop/Bad cop technique: telling the client that her 'accountant', i.e. the bad cop, has told her that her rate is quite low compared to other clients, then herself playing the good cop and telling the client that she will talk to her accountant about this but also popping the question about raising her rate 'slightly'.
- When working out a budget, take into account the non-negotiable expenses such as your ITI membership fee, the cost of business cards, website and software, and most importantly, health, because 'nothing will work until you do'.
- Social media such as Twitter and Facebook are very good tools for engaging with potential clients directly and exclusively, on a more informal basis. Translators can

use them to promote themselves quietly and subtly.

- Tips for new parents: start doing small jobs when your babies are little, and when they are older, you will be able to pick up your career more quickly; if you cannot physically attend networking events, try to find someone who can and kindly ask them to spread the word for you.

Another major subject was quality, or rather 'good quality'. Doctor-turned-medical translator Siegfried Armbruster made it clear in his presentation 'Surgery was successful but the patient died' that the quality of the translation can sometimes be a matter of life or death, especially in a medical context. Siegfried proposes that a QA report be applied to each piece of translation, rather like a surgical checklist. This could significantly reduce the amount of errors. This is certainly a good method that technical, medical or legal translators can follow.

The Fringe programme was another highlight of the conference: the interpreting booth gave delegates a taste of the latest conference technology; the pop-up photo studio could be used to update your LinkedIn profile picture and many delegates took advantage of this. The Singing Translators gave a marvellous performance of 'Circle of Life' before the end of the conference. There were also SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) and online image consultations, meet the FITIs, Conference Tweet up, exercise groups such as yoga, Tai Chi and salsa, and much much more. I was only able to attend a few of them, but I heard lots of good reviews about those I could not attend. With this much diversity, the Fringe programme had something for everyone.

In conclusion, the two-day conference was packed with many, many interesting talks; I could only attend one third of them, as there were always three different talks happening at the same time! There was a huge amount of information shared during the conference. Many delegates, including myself, felt that it would take some time to digest and take it all in.

In between the presentations, delegates had plenty of time for networking. Everyone had an opportunity to talk to exhibitors including LSPs and CAT tool providers as well as fellow delegates. I tried two different kinds of the latest cloud-based CAT tool: MemSource and MateCat, and my LinkedIn connections to fellow translators and interpreters almost doubled after the conference. It is such a pleasure and an excitement to have intellectual, brain-stimulating and fun conversations with so many wonderful delegates.

It made me feel that I am no longer alone as a translator, but belong to this big and warm family.

The next ITI conference will be in 2017. Will I be there? Oh yeah!

Catlin Fu is an English to Chinese translator specialising in marketing, market research and technology. She holds a Master's degree in translation from Imperial College London, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Engineering. She is an Associate of the ITI and a member of the LRG.

Clarity Breakfast Event

'Clarification and Easification of Legislative Drafting'

25 March 2015, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London

LRG is a member of Clarity and receives a limited number of places to their events which are reported on in the LRG Newsletter - hence this article, which helps all LRG members to keep up with linguistic developments in the field of legal writing.

On 25 March 2015 Natalie Reis and I attended a joint event organised by Clarity International and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) at London University. Clarity is an international association of lawyers and others for the promotion of plain legal language. LRG is a member of Clarity and receives a limited number of places to their events in order that we can keep up with various linguistic developments.

Five speakers from a number of legal institutions presented their thoughts and perspectives on clarity in legislative drafting both from a practice-related and academic, theoretical point of view. This article focuses on the practice of drafting and the problems caused by legalese.

The symposium started with a presentation by Daniel Greenberg under the title: "Plain language drafting: limited solution or complete red herring?" He is a legal draftsman who worked at the office of the Parliamentary Counsel in Whitehall from 1991 to 2010. He was responsible for drafting acts of parliament in accordance with instructions from departmental lawyers who in turn receive instructions from policy officials in reaction to policy directives from Ministers. After leaving government service, he started a drafting practice for commercial clients and foreign governments.

Daniel introduced different aspects of legislative drafting that throw some light on the challenges

for legal language in the UK. A drafter is the person who has to find out what his "client", in fact the politician, wants to say. According to Daniel, he has to analyse the intention of the bill and identify its audience, and finally, find a language that is as precise, structured and clear as possible for that audience. When a sufficient level of lucidity is reached, a choice of terms becomes available. What matters in communicating law is its effectiveness. If the bill is directed at a particular sector of society, it has to be accessible to those people, eg the audience for the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 is directed at local authorities and other bodies dealing with those matters. So the draft should use their technical jargon rather than be simplified for the sake of people who would not be involved in the matter. On the other hand, when a law speaks to everybody, it is crucial to keep it as simple as possible so that it is understandable without the need for advice from lawyers. As an example, Daniel referred to the prohibition on smoking in public spaces and used a typical "no smoking" sign underlined by a £200 notice as the best illustration of clear legislation.

For the UK guide to legislation:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/328408/Guide_to_Making_Legislation_July_2014.pdf

Then we heard William Robinson dealing with the question: "Could the EU do more to make its legislation clearer?".

William worked for many years in the field of EU law and language, first at the European Court of Justice and then at the European Commission. William observed that clarity problems arise from the multilingual nature of the EU with its current 28 member states and 24 official languages.

In the EU, the final legal texts in their accessible versions available to all citizens have travelled a long way through the departments of the Commission, the European Parliament (EP) and the Council. It is only after final agreement by the three institutions that the final text is passed on to the Translation Service of the Parliament or of the Council. The Translation Service consists of lawyer-linguists (or legal revisers) whose task it is to translate and harmonise the texts ("legal-linguistic concordance"). As the legislation has to be authentic in 24 languages rather than translated from one into 23, the lawyer-linguists are instructed to avoid terms that are specific to one national legal system. Numbering and cross-references must be coherent and the texts have to produce the same legal effect.

Clarity problems arise when all the internal discussions and negotiations that take place before the texts are finalised focus on just one language version, generally English - obviously not everybody's native language. The first drafts are produced by technical departments responsible for different policy sectors, ie by technical experts rather than by lawyers and/or linguists, most of them not working in their native language. Even the small minority among the drafters who are native English speakers (13%), use an English that is specific to the EU and that might not be understandable to genuine native speakers. It is also a historic fact that the very first principles and concepts of the EU were originally set up in French, before English became the preferred working language. So frequent amendments in English have tended to make them more obscure rather than clearer.

Problems also occur when titles are too long, frequent amendments have been made and new drafters have adopted precedents, unknowingly causing inconsistency. Even some of the suggestions from the Commission, forwarded in the form of amendments, are sometimes based on misunderstandings of the original texts.

William mentioned the following example to illustrate the lack of clarity, the so called "air passengers' rights regulation":

"Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights, and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 295/91"

The title has 45 words and no official short title is given. The articles of the regulation incorporate a large number of references to other acts dealing with a similar matter. For example, Article 13 of the regulation consists of three sentences, each between 33 and 50 words. It is widely recognised that long sentences are difficult to understand and even official guidelines recommend the use of short sentences. But the habit of long sentences continues.

At least Eur-Lex has been developed to make legislation accessible to citizens and it allows for the multilingual display of three languages at a time:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN-FR-DE/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32004R0261&fromTab=ALL&from=EN>

As reported by William, the EU institutions are aware of these problems and action is being taken. Also the European Court of Justice (ECJ) is

involved in the law-making process by creating definitions and case law. Yet it is surprising that the EU does not have an official database of definitions created in legal texts and/or of those developed by the ECJ.

The next presenter was Jenny Gracie, a lawyer-linguist and French translator who also provides clear writing courses, legal English courses and rewriting services. She spoke about the French view of clarity in legislation, using the example of the French Constitution of 1958. In its preamble, the constitution proclaims its attachment to the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and refers also to the 1946 Constitution as well as to the Charter for the Environment 2004. Additionally, France has ratified international law and conventions on human rights. Thus the users of French law must check definitions against the entirety of these instruments, irrespective of the labyrinth they may enter. However, France also published a guide to legislative drafting in 2005. The guide lays down that the drafting of a bill, its preamble and its presentation must be clear, simple and grammatically correct. From these instruments, it is clear that the French approach to clarity is not an easy one to deal with. However, Jenny placed special emphasis on the fact that the public generally accepts that the authorities know what they are doing and so also accept their language. Similarly, the law is laid down by politicians who are, as a rule, neither necessarily lawyers nor linguists. As Jenny pointed out, they are merely speakers, the word parliament deriving from the French "parlement", the action of "parler" (speaking). From this perspective, the law is the written "codification" of the spoken word. Clarity, in French terms, must be understood as the process of decoding what was spoken about in the "parlement".

The French constitution (multilingual version) can be found at:

<http://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/conseil-constitutionnel/english/constitution/constitution-of-4-october-1958.25742.html#TitleVII>

Since major attempts at improvement have by now not delivered the desired level of clarity, welcome action has been taken by the linguists of the EU, in particular by the Court of Auditors (the Translation DG). The following useful documents, initiated by them, are recommended for further reading:

EU Jargon in English and some possible Alternatives:

http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/content/tips/words-style/jargon-alternatives_en.htm

List of misused English words by the EU:

“How to Write Clearly”:

<http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop->

Shara Atashi is an English to German legal translator specialising in humanities, patent law and intellectual property. She is a Career Affiliate of the ITI and a member of the LRG.

LRG Member interview

Lina Molokotos-Liederman – Former Editor of the LRG Newsletter



1. What made you decide to work as a translator? Did you always want to work as a linguist?

I learned two foreign languages when I was quite young, but I never thought of working as a translator or linguist. As a young child, I had the opportunity to travel

very frequently with my parents, partly to visit family in different cities in Europe and the United States. I also received an international education, from primary and secondary education through to post-graduate studies. Later on, life and work, alone and with my husband, took me to various cities in Europe and the United States. All this gave me an international outlook and an even stronger affinity and exposure to languages.

2. When and how did you start a career in translation? How did you train to become a translator? Did you come into the profession through another activity or job?

I actually started translating before I even thought about training and working professionally as a translator. I came into translation quite unexpectedly, through my post-graduate research and academic work as a researcher in sociology.

After studying Graphic Design and Art History (BA) and Mass Communication (MS) in the United States, I worked in the area of Marketing Communication for about three years. After meeting my husband and getting married, we moved to Paris where I decided to follow a different path and pursue a PhD in sociology of religion.

A few years after receiving my doctorate, which I wrote in French, colleagues (researchers and professors) from the university asked me to translate their work in sociology of religion from French into English. Since I was very familiar with the concepts and terminology in this field in both French and English, I was apparently the right person to translate their work so that it could

eventually be published in English language research reports, academic journals and books.

In 2010, I decided to take a year off and study translation full-time at the University of Westminster from where I received an MA in translation and linguistics. In 2011, I started working as a freelance translator, while also continuing my research work in sociology of religion. My work in translation also opened the door to editing work in the social sciences, such as language editing and proofreading of academic articles, books and PhD theses.

The combination of research, editing and translation has made it possible for me to have a constant flow of different but complementary work since all three involve writing, using language skills and doing quite a bit of research.

3. What difficulties did you encounter in your first three years working as a translator and how did you overcome them?

Since my work includes translation, editing (language editing and proofreading) and research in sociology, I have always been very fortunate in having the opportunity to work on various projects, even when I have not had a constant flow of translation work.

My main challenge was building up my confidence and improving my translation skills, which I did by having some of my work revised by experienced translators and attending various translation workshops (CPD).

4. In your view how has the translation profession changed since you started? How do you think the profession is evolving and what are your thoughts on its future?

Machine translation (including Google Translation), despite all of its shortcomings, has to a certain extent contributed to translation as a highly skilled profession being undervalued and undermined. There is a certain assumption that knowledge of a certain language, combined with machine translation, can be sufficient for someone to produce an adequate translation. This has put more pressure on us to produce translations in shorter turn-around times and at a lower cost for

the client. The development of more and better CAT tools (such as Trados, MemoQ and Wordfast) means that translators use such software (and are expected to do so) in order to produce faster and cheaper translations. This has put even more pressure on us to lower rates, with the exception perhaps of very specialised subject areas, such as medical or legal translation. Demand for translation is increasingly becoming more subject and industry specific, which means that specialised translators with a particular highly-valued expertise may get better paid than generalists, although that may not always be the case. I expect that the present economic climate will add more downward pressure on translation rates and lead to yet further expectations of low-cost translations.

5. Have you ever mentored a newbie? Did you have a mentor when you started? If yes, how do you value that experience? If not, do you think it should be part of best practice?

I wished I had a mentor in my first few years working as a translator. During the first year or two of working as a new translator, it can be very daunting to submit translations that perhaps one does not feel very confident about. Having a mentor is not only a huge learning experience, but is also important for building one's confidence as a translator.

I know that several ITI networks, including recently the Medical Network, have started a mentoring scheme, which I applaud. As an Intermediate Member of the Society of Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP), where there have been established mentorship schemes for a few years now; I am quite surprised that this initiative has not been more prevalent and developed in the ITI as a whole.

6. What advice would you give to someone starting out?

In addition to contacting potential agencies and direct clients for work, it is important to make contact and network with colleagues, consider volunteering as a translator (for example, for Translators Without Borders) or try working as a proofreader or reviser for a translation agency (a great way to learn on the job and develop your knowledge and terminology of a particular area).

Specialisation is also very important. Deciding in which areas to specialise partly depends on your language pairs and on the market and country you will be working in. You would need to do some

research and identify subject areas that are in demand for translation in your particular language pair. Another way of specialising is to translate subject areas that you know: having an existing knowledge of a subject area or industry, can give you a competitive advantage, even as a beginner translator. If you do not have previous experience or knowledge of a subject area or industry on which to build on, it may be preferable to choose a subject area or industry that you enjoy or are interested in. Since you will have to invest a great deal of time and effort as a translator you may as well do it for a field that you enjoy and that you will want to learn something about. Undertaking translation work in subject areas that you enjoy will also probably help you to become a better translator because you will want to learn more about it. You may need to combine your personal interests and previous knowledge or experience in a specific area with more commercially-viable subject areas and industries. This means trying to find a balance between translating for subjects or industries that you already know (or that you enjoy) and expanding into new areas, where there may be more demand, more work opportunities and better opportunities for well-paid work.

Translation can be a lonely enterprise, especially if you are not connected with others in the profession, hence the importance of professional memberships in order to join a community of professional translators (for example, the ITI and CIOL).

You can also join a range of on-line forums and groups depending on your languages, subject areas and location/region. They are a key resource not only for translation itself (terminology), but also for business aspects (dealing with clients, rates, agencies), sharing concerns, networking, remaining up to date with developments and trends in the industry as a whole, finding work or even working together with other translators. Joining on-line forums and training webinars, and going to real time/face-to-face events means that you will always remain connected and be a part of a professional community, which will make you in the long run a better, happier and more successful translator.

Finally, as a translator you always have to continue improving your translation skills (terminology) in your particular subject areas and specialisms, but also develop technical and computer skills (including CAT tools) as well as business, marketing and administrative skills through training workshops, conferences and webinars.

The LRG Yahoo e-group

The ITI LRG Yahoo! Group is a wonderful resource for the community of translators in the London area, with regular discussions on a wide variety of topics. Here are the highlights of 2015 so far:

January began with an evening invitation for a workshop and introduction to legal terminology & to the English Common Law system, led by David Hutchins, to be held in February. There was also a plea for any interpreters in the Cambridge area speaking the minority Indian language of Konkani (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konkani_language). This was to assist the local police in interviewing suspects and victims. There was an encouraging response from LRG members who have contacts that may be helpful in this unique situation.

February saw multiple notifications of various emails that were circulating in respect of alleged Yahoo mailbox issues. Moral of this story: don't try to scam linguists, because they will pounce on the scammers' traditional errors of spelling, grammar and syntax with beady eyes - we are an ideal group of people to weed out potential email fraudsters! Generally good advice for staying safe online is to keep your eyes peeled and wits about you when opening attachments within emails or even the email itself, if it comes from an unrecognised source.

The theatre production from the Dulwich players, The House of Bernarda Alba, proved popular. Although not translated by one of us, there was plenty of interest in the piece.

There was also discussion around the Oxford comma, initiated by Bill Chilcott who forwarded an email he had received as part of his Oxford Dictionaries subscription for the group's perusal. A wonderful website for us language obsessives to while away a spare hour or two!

March began with more spam irritation, with an email sent from Patricia's hacked email account. A further reminder that we all need to remain vigilant and maintain a healthy level of suspicion and cynicism. Our members have a keen eye, we were all quickly alerted and the problem was quashed.

There were several notifications of upcoming events in London for translators – one on legal translation and legislation, another on 'Translate in the City', the literary translation summer school in July 2015.

EU Revision and a summer course on translation technology completed this month's offerings, with the revision event generating several group emails.

In April, some LRG members requested feedback on a translation company about whom there had also been discussion on ProZ. On a more casual theme, the LRG Committee invited suggestions for and help with the LRG annual pub crawl in July. This is just one example of how the Yahoo group involves everyone and makes us feel part of the team, ensuring that we actually have an influence on and can impact the events that are planned.

May's discussions saw the distribution of details of an event in June 'Media translation and accessibility in the EU', as well as those for an event on subtitling and open source tools, plus news of a Spanish networking event.

LinkedIn job notices were also posted on the forum, allowing those who may not have seen them the opportunity to review and apply if desired. This is a particularly helpful way of achieving as much visibility as possible amongst the LRG members.

The LRG Yahoo! Group is open to all members, providing help, clarification or insights, and our LRG forum is an excellent way of keeping in touch with local events and activities as well as the many developments in the world of translation and interpreting.

Annie Self

How to make the best use of the LRG Yahoo group

To post a message to the LRG e-group, please email iti-lrg@yahoo.co.uk, from the email address which you used to join the LRG e-group; otherwise the posting will not be accepted. The alternative is to log on to the Yahoo website (see link above) and enter your posting there directly.

To change the email address which you want to use for the LRG Yahoo group, log on to the Yahoo website, click Membership and then Edit Membership. Click the pencil next to Identity, choose or add a new email address and click Save.

To change how you receive messages from the LRG Yahoo group, log on to the Yahoo website, click Membership and then Edit Membership. Click the pencil next to Subscription, choose one of the options and click Save.

You can also start a poll in the LRG e-group. To add a poll, log on to the Yahoo website, go to the Conversations page, and click New Topic. Type a subject and click the Poll button. You can now enter the poll question as well as the answers. Enter your message and click Send.

NB: If you do not currently receive any messages from the LRG e-group, please email Daniela (dford@softrans-ltd.com) to receive an invitation.

To unsubscribe from the LRG e-group, send an email to: iti-lrg-unsubscribe@yahoo.co.uk.

LRG Committee Contacts

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Send your comments and views to mloi.translation@gmail.com, they could be published as Letter to the Editor on the next issue.

Dates for Your Diary

Friday, 19 June 2015 7-9pm	IntelliWebSearch with Michael Farrell. Imperial College, London – Shenfield Building
Monday, 22 June 2015 1000 and 1345	EU Revision Workshop with Peter Workman, Brian Ross and Paul Kaye. Europe House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU
July 2015 w/b 6 or 13 July	Annual LRG Pub Crawl – in and around Queen’s Square, Southampton Row, London
Thursday, 19 August 2015	Annual LRG Guided Pub Walk, led by Roger Bone. Spitalfields area – meet at Liverpool Street Station
Thursday, 10 September 2015 4 – 6 pm	Visit to Freedom from Torture (Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture). Hosted by Clarisa Carvalho, Interpreting Service Manager. 111 Isledon Rd., London N7 7JW
Friday, 16 – Sunday 18 October 2015	London Language Show. Olympia. West Kensington, London. Seminar, ‘A day in the life’ with Karie Koonin, Lina Molokotos-Liederman, Philippe Galinier tbc

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN AUTHORED ARTICLES ARE THOSE OF THE WRITER AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE LRG OR ITS COMMITTEE.