



ITI-LRG Newsletter



Issue 27

www.iti-lrg.org.uk

October 2011

Editorial

2011 is flying by; it seems like only yesterday that I was writing about our 2010 AGM and Christmas Party, yet the 2011 event is nearly upon us! The LRG committee would love to see as many members as possible in December. The Christmas Party is a chance to find out how the LRG has fared over the year and to make suggestions for events you would like to see in 2012. There will be a buffet (with mulled wine and mince pies) and it is a good opportunity for informal networking. And this year's event will be even more interesting as LRG Conference grant recipient Charlotte Monnier will be reporting on the ITI Conference. The Christmas Party is also a good time to put yourself forward if you are interested in joining the committee and helping to organise events. New members are always welcome!

We also have a range of other events in the pipeline, including our ever-popular dining out evening and a pricing event in the New Year - see further details below. We are also now starting to think about our programme

of events for 2012. Potential ideas include: a workshop on negotiating for translators; an event with the Chamber of Commerce; a presentation on Wordfast and cloud computing; and joint events with Imperial College and Westminster University. If you have any other ideas or have thought of a subject you'd like to see tackled, just contact a member of the committee (contact details on the back page).

2011 has been a busy year for LRG. If you missed our spring and summer events - a talk on machine translation, a computer up-date, our annual pub crawl and a voice-over event - you can read all about them in the *Review* section.

All that remains is for me to wish you happy reading and a pleasant autumn (filled with the sunshine we have missed over the summer I hope). I look forward to seeing you in December.

Rosemary Harvey, Editor

Forthcoming LRG Events

LRG Dines Out
Thursday, 10 November 2011
7.30pm for 8pm

**The Clarendon, 123a Clarendon
Road, London W11 4JG (Notting Hill)**

**Nearest tube: Holland Park (Central Line); Ladbroke
Grove (Hammersmith & City Line)**



Our perennially popular dining out evening will take place at the Clarendon in Notting Hill this year. The Clarendon is one of London's newest restaurants, located just minutes from the Portobello Road. Come along to enjoy some tasty continental food, a good atmosphere and good company.

Lorna Sandler, the organiser, has arranged a special deal of £25 for 3 courses (food only).

Don't delay booking because our dining out event always proves to be popular and space is limited.

Cost: £25 for 3 courses (food only). Please contact Lorna Sandler (Adept.LRS@btinternet.com) to book your place.

AGM & Christmas Party
Thursday, 8 December 2011
6.30pm for 7pm

**Function room at the Devereux Pub, Devereux Court,
Essex Street, nr Strand, London, WC2R 3JH**

Nearest tube: Temple or buses to The Strand

This year's AGM and Christmas party will take place at the Devereux pub, which many of you will already know from previous networking and CPD events. We look forward to a strong turnout at the AGM. For added interest, Charlotte Monnier, LRG Conference grant recipient, will report on the conference at the AGM.

In keeping with treasured LRG tradition, the Christmas party buffet will - of course - include mince pies and mulled wine. We hope that it will be a good way to round off a successful year of events.

To book your place, please fill out the enclosed booking form and send it to Peter Linton (3 Roseacre Close, London W13 8DG) by Thursday 24 November. £14 per person for LRG members, £20 for non-members.

Pricing and Negotiating Skills February 2011

The committee is in the process of organising an event on pricing and negotiating skills for the New Year. Watch this space for further details. This is bound to be a popular event and will be a very good way to kick-start our 2012 programme.

Review of LRG Events

“Machine translation systems and applications; past and present” – talk by John Hutchins Imperial College, 11 May 2011

Many thanks to the MSc Trans students who kindly gave their impressions of this event.

"It was a very interesting presentation. The most interesting part was the one on the limits of MT, especially those resulting from the lack of knowledge of the world and of the linguistic context."

"This presentation was very well organized and provided us with information and inspiration in related areas. Thanks a lot!"

"It was an extremely informative and comprehensive presentation, from which I learnt a lot about the scale of MT and research relating to it, as well as gleaning information on its future development."

"I was impressed by the details about and comparison of different MTs. Thanks a lot."

"On the whole, I was very impressed by John Hutchins, as he clearly knew his stuff on MT and I definitely learned a lot from his lecture. In particular, I was extremely interested in where MT is heading in the future and its wide range of uses."

"It was a very informative and well rounded lecture. I'm very interested in machine translation, which is actually my dissertation topic. The lecture helped guide me on what kind of research I could be doing. Thanks very much."

"The most interesting part of John Hutchins' talk about MT was the bit about possible future areas of application. The idea I found most intriguing was the one of spoken language MT."

"This was a really informative presentation about machine translation. It covered almost every aspect of MT. I am interested in the concept of statistics-based MT and example-based MT, which was elaborately analysed with diagrams. I really appreciated that."

"A very impressive presentation that gave me a wealth of valuable knowledge about MT. It has inspired me to find out more about the history of MT. Thanks!"

"Yesterday's talk by John Hutchins provided an extensive and very informative overview of MT and its current and future uses."

"It was a relief to learn that according to Hutchins, not everything translated by MT is used for publication (dissemination); sometimes the 'translations' are only used for assimilation (as the translations are often 'below publishable quality')."

"I liked Hutchins' quote: 'MT translation is not translation as usually understood, it is merely a computer-based tool for translators, for cross-language communication, for access to information resources.'"

"It is scary to think of the possible future MT uses mentioned by Hutchins, which might include MT subtitles or the Camera MT (which is already being used as an iPhone application) to translate road signs!"

"Thank you for your presentation; it was very impressive. I am curious about your opinion on the future of MT. Do you think that MT will eventually replace human translation? I am really interested in the potential development of this field."

"I thought the talk gave a very good overview of all aspects of machine translation, but it did leave me wondering how, if machine translation ever becomes good enough to simulate human translation, it will ever be able to keep up with human linguistic change."

"I was pleased to hear that MT research is advanced, but it is a terrifying situation for those who work as translators."

"Hutchins mentioned that MT software for patent translation already exists. I work as a patent translator and I think that it is impossible to completely replace translators with MT software in that particular field. However, engineers who commission patent translation seem not to think so. If there was acceptable and cheap MT software available they would choose it rather than translators. I am starting to worry about my employment future."

"I found John Hutchins' lecture interesting and informative. Although MT architectures are complicated, he explained them very clearly."

"Thank you very much for the impressive presentation. I have always been curious to know how a particular language model really works in the process of machine translation. Translating speech? It is still a matter of Science Fiction. But, in spite of everything, machine translation has made great progress since the Cold War. And so has Human Translation. I suppose that we still have some work to do (in both fields). Thanks, Mr Hutchins, for your lecture!"

"This talk was very informative and it was also interesting to find out how different types of MT work."

"I found it interesting to hear about the possible applications of MT that are being developed, and new ways that it is likely to be used in the future. I would have liked to have heard even more about this but unfortunately there was not enough time."

"I knew nothing about machine translation before this lecture. I did not realise that machine translation could be used in so many different areas. Machine translation is a new but interesting project for us to discuss. However, in my opinion, machine translation should rely on human input in order to produce a better translation."

Computer Up-Date

9 June 2011

The computer up-date took place at the Devereux on a Thursday evening and turned out to be a very informative and useful event.

Given the rapid development of computer technology, we will, from time to time, need to take stock and decide whether to upgrade our computer or whether to ditch it and buy a new one. But that raises a further issue – whether to buy a conventional computer from one of the big heavily advertised companies like Dell, or whether to buy a computer tailored to your needs from a small local shop. The advantage of the former is a good value

standard machine, whereas the latter is an unknown – unless you happen to patronise a computer shop regularly and get to know the proprietor, who can provide advice and support that can come in very handy if you have a problem.

Two of our members did in fact know local computer shops, so we invited the proprietors to come and talk to us about computers – what to buy, what to install, etc.

The first speaker was Phil Stilliard, owner of Computability (Richmond) Ltd.

He recommended laptops with a 17" screen and a good keyboard. He also pointed out that hard disks are unreliable because they have moving parts. This emphasises the importance of backing up and ensuring that your back-up is updated regularly. Another way to reduce the risk of hard disks is to buy solid-state disks – still more expensive than hard disks, but with no moving parts.

Phil offers an extensive range of computer equipment and accessories, and is based in South-west London: *Phil Stilliard, Director of Computability (Richmond) Ltd, 0845 166 4076, 55 Morley Rd, Twickenham, TW1 2HG.*

The second speaker was Keith Todd, of KAT Computers, also based in Twickenham. He emphasised the importance of having good antivirus software. What's more, it is worth paying for such software rather than relying on free software, which could easily turn out to be a false economy.

Keith Todd, 020 8744 5116, info@katcomputers.co.uk 171 Powder Mill Lane, Twickenham, London, TW2 6EQ.

There was time for networking after the two presentations, and it was a good opportunity to catch up with other LRG members. Thank you to both of our speakers for an interesting evening.

Peter Linton

Annual LRG Pub Crawl

7 July 2011

This year's pub crawl took us to the Borough Market area in Southwark. As our intended first pub, The George, was closed for refurbishment, a handful of LRG members went straight to what should have been our second pub, The Market Porter. Over our first pints, we made new acquaintances, met old friends, and exchanged personal and professional news and stories.

We then had to make a difficult decision – should we stay for another drink in the Market Porter or go to the last pub on the list? We opted for yet a third idea and made an impromptu visit to a pub called The Old Thameside Inn, which sits right next to the replica of Sir Francis Drake's ship The Golden Hinde. We squeezed around a small table and enjoyed another round of

drinks and more chat. From here, we made our way through the, by then, empty halls of Borough Market to our final pub The Wheatsheaf.

The Wheatsheaf is based in a cellar, which – as we found out – can make it a bit stuffy on a busy and warm summer evening. We were not deterred by this, however, and rounded off the evening with another drink and a bite to eat.

Julia ten Elsen

Subtitling and Voice-Over event 6 September 2011

Language work comes in many different forms and guises. We are familiar with translation and interpreting, but for most of us, much less so with subtitling and voice-over work. So it was a pleasure to hear about these aspects of the business from a couple of seasoned professionals – Eve Lowen of Evesvoice and Daniel Pageon (Actors World Production Ltd).

Eve kicked off by listing the remarkably wide range of work available in this field – basically voice work is non-acting work. This includes voice-overs in commercials, commentaries, dubbing films, animation, promotions, English language lessons, radio plays, and surprising things like doing the voice commands for GPS satellite navigation. You might think that sat nav would be simple – but it needs to be done carefully. For example, the name of a place may need to be done in three varieties – with the voice rising, staying level or falling, depending on its position in the sentence. A rising word makes the instruction sound like a question, for example "Turn left at the next junction?" Making it sound like a question does not inspire confidence. What you need, said Eve, is a good ear, good timing, and awareness of your audience.

Where do languages feature in all this? Dubbing or subtitling films is one obvious area, and language skills can be a great asset.

So are good voices, and particularly these days, idiosyncratic voices – in other words unusual ones, often with a regional accent. Less popular nowadays is what used to be called RP (Received Pronunciation), or more popularly Queen's English or BBC English (though in my day the BBC called it Standard Southern). These days regional accents are regarded as having more "street cred". In short, "drop yer aitches" and say Ammersmif, not Hammersmith.

Daniel talked about the sort of work available, particularly language work, in voice-overs and subtitling. Agents preferred to hire people able to do both translation and voice. But it was all about translating the spoken word, not the written word, needing short sentences and an ability to edit text to fit the medium. Particularly for subtitling, it was vital to translate the idea, not the words. This sometimes meant straying away from the literal meaning. But the important thing was to carry the story forward, and match the actor's mouth movements.

We learned some interesting new terms – "down and under" is where you have for example a video of a company chairman, presenting the company's results in his own language – say French. After a few seconds, the volume is turned down and you hear another voice speaking the English version, but the chairman's voice can still be heard under the English – hence "down and under".

During the evening, we did a little audition. Eve handed out a short script about an orchestra holding a meeting, and various people were given a few lines to read out – preferably with an interesting accent and without inhibitions. Good fun, and some convincing performances. But as with translation, one thing we did learn was that voice-over work and subtitling are harder than they look.

Peter Linton

LRG News

New LRG members

We welcome the following new members who have joined the LRG since January:

Jane Beeson, Ana Belen Bravo de Pedro, Richard Ferguson, Imogen Hancock, Marie Le Carlier de Veslud and Andrew Viggers

ITI Conference

The ITI Conference has come and gone and was a resounding success. Charlotte Monnier was awarded the LRG grant to attend the Conference and she will be reporting on her experience at our AGM and Christmas Party on 8 December. (Please see the enclosed booking form for more details of how to book your place).

Volunteering on the LRG Committee

Would you like to join the LRG Committee? Are you interested in helping to organise events, getting to know other committee members and making a difference to the life of the group? Then why not put yourself forward at our AGM in December or speak to one of the existing committee members? You could also contact one of the committee members by email if you would prefer (see contact details on the back page). We would be delighted to welcome new people on board!

A German day out

LRG Chairman, Peter Linton, reports on a pleasant day out with some German translators from ITI's sister organisation the BDÜ.

We have had a couple of successful pub crawls along London's South Bank, so when a group of German translators from Ulm, members of our sister organisation

the BDÜ, proposed a get-together during their 4-day visit to London, it seemed a good idea to go there.

And so it turned out. We met outside Southwark Cathedral, and as it was lunchtime, we wandered round the nearby Borough Market, a foodie paradise. If you have never been there, it is well worth a visit, though prices are not the lowest.

By this time it was raining heavily, so we had lunch round the corner in the improbably named Southwark Cathedral Refectory. This pleasant cafeteria was originally for the clergy but is now for tourists.

After lunch, the rain suddenly stopped and we had a pleasant wander along the South Bank, passing some impressive *Sehenswürdigkeiten* (sights) such as the Globe Theatre, Tate Modern, the National Theatre, Festival Hall and even Big Ben.

Altogether a delightful afternoon (thanks, Alison!). The visitors would love to meet any LRG members passing through Ulm, though they may test you by asking you to pronounce *Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer* without hesitation or deviation.

ITI News and Events

News of forthcoming ITI events and CPD opportunities:

ITI Webinars

Don't forget about upcoming ITI webinars. For further information, please contact education@iti.org.uk.

- Becoming an MITI: Elizabeth Dickson, Tuesday 1 November at 11am

Webinars are worth 1 hour of CPD.

Please see the ITI website, www.iti.org.uk, for further details.

Risk Management for Translators

Friday, 2 December 2011

Holiday Inn London – Bloomsbury, Coram Street, London, WC1N 1HT

This workshop will look at the risky environment in which translators and interpreters may currently operate. How to deal with non-payment, cash flow problems, reducing risk and bad debts will all be covered.

Please see the ITI website to book:
<http://www.iti.org.uk/indexMain.html>.

Cost: £120 for ITI members; £150 for non-members. The fee includes VAT, lunch and refreshments.

Noticeboard

Useful websites

www.good2recycle.com

Do you find that you don't know what to do with your toner cartridges when they are empty? Why not take a look at Good2recycle and stop sending them to landfill.

Good2recycle has been set up for business and personal customers to donate all their old or unwanted ink and toner cartridges and mobile phones directly to registered charities.

All donated items, including packaging, get recycled, saving disposal costs. They are collected free of charge by Good2recycle volunteers.

Unlike other recycling schemes, Good2recycle collects all items, and does not pick and choose which ones may be of more use than others. All cartridges can make funds for charities, even just a few pence.

Thanks to LRG committee member Pamela Mayorcas for details of this scheme.

Diary dates

Translating and the Computer Conference

17 – 18 November 2011

The Hatton, 51-53 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8HN

The Translating and the Computer Conference is now in its 33rd year! It is a meeting point for translators, researchers, developers, academics and students in the translation and localisation field. This year it is taking place near Kings Cross and Farringdon.

Attending the conference will enable you to:

- learn about the latest developments and current issues in the translation arena;
- investigate new technologies on the market;
- identify new methods and expand horizons;
- network with industry leaders.

The conference covers a wide range of topics, including:

- Machine translation
- Speech in the translation process
- CAT tools
- Terminology
- Localisation
- Standards and sharing
- Training and research

For more information, please see the conference website:

http://www.aslib.com/training/conferences/tc_2011/index.htm

Intensive translation technology workshops at Imperial College

Imperial College London is running a series of one-day intensive translation technology workshops, which are open to both students and translation professionals. The courses are run in the Translation Lab, Room S309, Level 3, Sherfield Building.

Introduction to Audiodescription: Joselia Neves

Saturday, 11 November 2011

10:30 - 16:30

Respeaking: Pablo Romero-Fresco

Saturday, 26 November 2011

10:30 - 16:30

Legal and Business Translation: Anabel Borja Albi

Saturday, 3 December 2011

10:30 - 16:30

Introduction to Subtitling: Adriana Tortoriello

Saturday, 10 December 2011

10:30 - 16:30

Deja Vu: Mark Shuttleworth

Saturday, 4 February 2012

10:30 - 16:30

Audiodescription in Museums: Joselia Neves

Saturday, 11 February 2012

10:30 - 16:30

Subtitling for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing: Soledad Zarate

Saturday, 25 February 2012

10:30 - 16:30

Introduction to Dubbing: Frederic Chaume

Saturday, 10 March 2012

10:30 - 16:30

Introduction to Voice-over: Anna Matamala

Saturday, 17 March 2012

10:30 - 16:30

For more information, please see:

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/humanities/translationgroup/translationtechnologycourses>

LRG events programme for winter 2011 / 2012

<p>Thursday, 10 November 2011 7.30pm for 8pm</p>	<p>LRG Dines Out The Clarendon, 123a Clarendon Road, London W11 4JG (Notting Hill)</p> <p>Enjoy a delicious meal and the company of fellow LRG members at a new restaurant in Notting Hill.</p> <p><i>Cost: £25 for 3 courses (food only). Please contact Lorna Sandler (Adept.LRS@btinternet.com) to book your place.</i></p>
<p>Thursday, 8 December 2011 6.30pm for 7pm</p>	<p>LRG AGM and Christmas Party Devereux pub, 20 Devereux Court, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JH</p> <p>An opportunity to look back over the past year, make suggestions for the year to come and enjoy a buffet, mince pies and mulled wine with fellow LRG members. The perfect way to round off the year.</p> <p><i>Cost: £14 per person for LRG members; £20 for non-members. Please send the enclosed booking form to Peter Linton (3 Roseacre Close, London W13 8DG) by Thursday 24 November.</i></p>
<p>February 2012 Details to be announced</p>	<p>Event on Pricing and Negotiating Skills</p> <p>The committee is in the process of organising this event. Further details will be announced in the next Newsletter and on the LRG e-group.</p>

See www.iti-lrg.org.uk for the latest updates on forthcoming events.

LRG Committee Contacts

Chair / Website & Database Manager	Peter Linton	peter@lintononline.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Daniela Ford	dford@softrans-ltd.com
Treasurer	Oliver Walter	
Newsletter Editor	Rosemary Harvey	translations@rosemaryharvey.co.uk
Interpreters' Representative	Lorna Sandler	adept.Lrs@btinternet.com
eGroup Moderator	Vacant	
Committee member	Pat Wheeler	pmlwheeler@btinternet.com
Minutes Secretary	Julia ten Elsen	j_tenelsen@yahoo.com
ITI Liaison	Pamela Mayorcas	translation09@hotmail.co.uk
Publicity Officer	Kari Koonin	kari@koonin.co.uk