

Liebe GLD-Mitglieder!

von Frieda Ruppaner-Lind, GLD Administrator

Wer an die in fast vier Wochen stattfindende ATA-Konferenz in Seattle denkt, sollte dabei auch nicht vergessen, dass zertifizierte ATA-Mitglieder durch die Teilnahme an der Konferenz 10 CE-Punkte erwerben können. Im Rahmen der Neugestaltung des Zertifizierungsprogramms müssen zertifizierte ATA-Mitglieder seit Januar 2004 innerhalb von drei Jahren 20 Punkte sammeln, um einen Nachweis für ihre Weiterbildung zu erbringen. Auch falls es so aussehen könnte, als ob ich mit den folgenden Informationen offene Türen einrennen würde, schneide ich dieses Thema trotzdem an, weil ich im Verlauf des Jahres ab und zu Anfragen erhalten habe, wie man diese Punkte sammeln kann. Wie aus einer E-Mail hervorgeht, die ich vor kurzem erhielt, haben manche Mitglieder zum Teil den Eindruck, dass die jährliche ATA-Konferenz die einzige Möglichkeit wäre, diese Punkte zu sammeln und sie sind sich nicht sicher, wie sie das schaffen können. Es stimmt zwar, dass man durch die Teilnahme an dieser Konferenz sehr viele Punkte erwerben kann, aber es gibt auch viele andere Möglichkeiten dazu. Nicht jeder kann oder will innerhalb von drei Jahren an zwei ATA-Konferenzen teilnehmen.

Die ATA-Website bietet ausführliche Informationen über diese Weiterbildungsanforderungen unter <http://www.atanet.org/bin/view.fpl/285.html>. Der Eintrag mit der Überschrift „About Continuing Education Points“ enthält mehrere Abschnitte, in denen erklärt wird, was es für Möglichkeiten zum Erwerb von Punkten gibt. Ich persönlich finde den Artikel „Guide to Continuing Education Points“ (http://www.atanet.org/acc/Guide_Education_Points.pdf) sehr hilfreich; er enthält auch ein Formular, das man für solche Veranstaltungen ausfüllen und bei ATA einreichen kann, die nicht bereits automatisch für den Erwerb von CE-Punkten genehmigt sind. In diesem Zusammenhang ist anzumerken, dass Workshops oder Veranstaltungen, die von ATA-Chapters angeboten werden, bereits im Voraus genehmigt sind; man muss lediglich einen Nachweis für die Teilnahme erbringen. Für alle anderen Veranstaltungen muss dieses o.g. Formular ausgefüllt und eingereicht werden. Auch wer in einer Gegend wohnt, wo es keine ATA-Gruppen gibt, kann durch die Teilnahme an allen möglichen Workshops, die

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The newsletter of the German Language Division (GLD) is a quarterly publication within the American Translators Association.

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Zugehörigkeit zu beruflichen Organisationen oder das Verfassen von Artikeln und Beiträgen für Mitteilungsblätter Punkte sammeln.

Auch wer bereits eine Anzahl von CE-Punkten erworben hat, sollte daran denken, dass auch ein Punkt davon auf das Thema „Berufsethik“ entfallen muss. Der Artikel „Online Ethics Component of the Continuing Education Requirement“ (<http://www.atanet.org/bin/view.fpl/285.html#ethics>) enthält genauere Angaben darüber und beschreibt, wie dieser Punkt durch eine Online-Selbstwertung erworben werden kann.

Wie Sie sehen, gibt es viele Möglichkeiten für den Erwerb dieser Punkte, auch wenn ein gewisses Maß an Eigeninitiative gefordert ist. Noch ein kleiner Trost: Falls das Suchen nach diesbezüglichen Informationen nicht allzu intuitiv erscheint, so ist eine Erleichterung in Aussicht, denn im November dieses Jahres soll die neugestaltete ATA-Website vorgestellt werden. Wer in der Zwischenzeit Fragen zu diesem Thema hat, kann sich gern per E-Mail (frlxlator@gmail.com) oder telefonisch (913-649-5147) an mich wenden.

Wie ich im letzten *interaktiv* bereits erwähnt habe, bemüht sich unser GLD-Webmaster darum, öfters aktuelle Informationen auf der GLD-Website in der Rubrik „*Das steht woanders...*“ zu veröffentlichen. In einem der Artikeln (Das Conradi-Prinzip: Faule und langsame Übersetzer?) geht es um die Vergütung literarischer Übersetzer und im anderen (Tom Appleton: Stimmen hören. Über die Qualität der Stimme des Übersetzers) um das Wesen der Literaturübersetzung. Viel Spaß bei der Lektüre!

Falls Sie planen, an der ATA-Konferenz in Seattle teilzunehmen, freue ich mich bereits darauf, Sie bei einer der deutschen Veranstaltungen sowie dem Empfang und der Jahresversammlung der GLD willkommen zu heißen. Auch wenn die Anmeldefrist für die ermäßigte Teilnahmegebühr am 3. Oktober abgelaufen ist, können Sie sich trotzdem noch bis kurz vor der Konferenz anmelden. Das vorläufige Programm ist schon seit einiger Zeit von der ATA-Website aus verfügbar und wird ständig aktualisiert. Werfen Sie einen Blick auf das Programm, falls Sie das nicht bereits getan haben. Auch dieses Jahr stehen viele interessante Beiträge auf dem Programm und eine Aufstellung der Veranstaltungen, die entweder unter „Deutsch“ im Programm stehen oder von GLD-Mitgliedern in anderen Themenbereichen gehalten werden, finden Sie in dieser Ausgabe von *interaktiv*.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Frieda Ruppaner-Lind



Perspektiven

Als Sprach-Profis sollten wir uns geehrt fühlen, dass die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika das Jahr 2005 zum Jahr der Sprachen erklärt haben, auch wenn dies erst im Anschluss an Europa geschehen ist, wo das Jahr 2001 bereits zum Jahr der Sprache ausgerufen wurde und wo seither jedes Jahr eine Woche der Sprache gefeiert wird.

Hier in den USA scheint die Proklamation in erster Linie auf die Bemühungen des American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), einer landesweiten Organisation, zurückzuführen zu sein, die es sich zum Ziel gesetzt hat, das Lehren und Lernen aller Sprachen zu fördern und stärker zu verbreiten.

Wir als Übersetzer und Dolmetscher können sowohl in unserer tagtäglichen Arbeit als auch in unseren anderweitigen Aktivitäten einen Beitrag zur Förderung ähnlicher Ziele leisten, wie sie dieser Kampagne zugrunde liegen. Die ACTFL möchte die folgenden Ziele unterstützen:

1. Die zunehmende Wichtigkeit des Sprachenlernens betonen.
2. Schüler, Eltern und die breite Öffentlichkeit über die Vorteile informieren, die Schüler und Studenten aus dem Erlernen und Studieren anderer Sprachen ziehen.
3. Die Bedeutung von Sprachprogrammen hervorheben.

Auch wenn die meisten von uns nicht direkt mit der Entwicklung fremdsprachlicher Fertigkeiten anderer zu tun haben, so leisten wir mit unserer Arbeit doch einen Beitrag dazu, das Bewusstsein der diversen Sprachen und Kulturen zu steigern, die nicht nur eine Bereicherung des Lebens in den USA mit sich bringen, sondern des Lebens überall auf der Welt.

Dazu zählen auch oft genug unsere Bemühungen, unseren Kunden dazu zu verhelfen, die Wurzeln, die Kultur und die Literatur ihrer Zielgruppen besser zu verstehen.

Da das Jahr der Sprachen noch lange nicht zu Ende ist, haben wir alle sowohl individuell als auch gemeinsam die Möglichkeit, diese Ziele tatkräftig zu unterstützen, indem wir beispielsweise über die Kulturen und Sprachen schreiben, mit denen wir arbeiten. Für all jene von uns, denen die nötige Inspiration fehlt, besteht bei Teilnahme an der diesjährigen Konferenz in Seattle selbstverständlich auch die Möglichkeit, nach der Rückkehr in unsere Kommunen dort die Einblicke, die wir gewonnen haben, mit anderen zu teilen. Dies kann beispielsweise in Form eines Erlebnisberichtes an eine Lokalzeitung, einen Radiosender oder ein Fernsehprogramm geschehen.

In diesem Zusammenhang sollte auch erwähnt werden, dass ATA unter dem Titel „School Outreach“ Material für Vorträge über unseren Beruf zusammengestellt hat, das von der ATA-Website (http://www.atanet.org/ata_school/welcome.htm) kostenlos heruntergeladen werden kann. Darin findet man Vorträge für Schüler und Studenten aller Altersstufen und sogar hilfreiche Tipps, wie man seine Nervosität überwinden kann. Als Gegenleistung wird lediglich erwartet, dass man die Quelle des Vortrags nennt und ATA mitteilt, wann und wo man einen auf diesem Material basierenden Vortrag gehalten hat.

Roland Grefer und Frieda Ruppaner-Lind

ATA Conference - Overview of German Sessions

G-1 *From the Trenches: Technical Translation Tactics for Today*

Jutta Diel-Dominique and Frieda Ruppaner-Lind

Thursday, 1:45pm-3:15pm - All Levels

G-2 *U.S. Product Liability De-Mystified*

Mathew Kundinger, Invited Speaker of the German Language Division

Thursday, 3:30pm-5:00pm - All Levels

G-3 *Interpreting and Translating: From the Fall of the Iron Curtain to EU Enlargement*

Liese Katschinka, Invited Speaker of the German Language Division

Friday, 1:45pm-3:15pm - All Levels

G-4 *German Language Division Annual Meeting*

Frieda Ruppaner-Lind

Friday, 3:30pm-5:00pm - All Levels

GLD Happy Hour

**Thursday
7:00pm-8:00pm**

G-5 *Translating German Financial Market Texts: Terminology Used in the Securities and Currency Trading Markets*

Ted R. Wozniak

Saturday, 8:30am-10:00am - Beginner/Intermediate

G-6 *German Grammar and Other Knotty Points for German Translators*

Renate Chestnut

Saturday, 10:15am-11:45am - All Levels

G-7 *Translation of Personal Documents (English>German)*

Elke Limberger-Katsumi

Saturday, 1:45pm-3:15pm - All Levels

G-8 *Taking the English>German ATA Certification Exam*

Susanne Lauscher

Saturday, 3:30pm-4:15pm - All Levels

G-9 CANCELED: *Das österreichische Pensionssystem (The Austrian Pension System)*

Preconference Seminars

Seminar C *U.S. Product Liability and Its Particular Dangers for German>English Translators*

Mathew Kundinger, Invited Speaker of the German Language Division

Wednesday, 9:00am-12:00pm - All Levels

Seminar E *Advanced Spanish Legal Translation Workshop*

Thomas L. West III

Wednesday, 9:00am-12:00pm - Advanced

Seminar M *Simultaneous Interpreting Workshop*

Liese Katschinka, Invited Speaker of the German Language Division

Wednesday, 2:00pm-5:00pm - All Levels

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Overview of Presentations by GLD Members

ABC-9 *Translators as Editors*

Miki S. Allen, Patricia L. Bown, Gerhard Preisser, and Thelma Leoni Sabim

Saturday, 10:15am-11:45am - All Levels

ATA-4 *Skill-Building Seminar for Mentors and Mentees, Part I*

Courtney Searls-Ridge, Thursday, 1:45pm-3:15pm - All Levels

ATA-5 *Skill-Building Seminar for Mentors and Mentees, Part II*

Courtney Searls-Ridge, Thursday, 3:30pm-5:00pm - All Levels

ATA-9 *Workshop on the ATA Code of Professional Conduct and Business Practices*

Courtney Searls-Ridge, Friday, 3:30pm-5:00pm - All Levels

ATA-11 *Standards for the Language Industry, Part II: Data Standards*

Peter Constable, Jennifer DeCamp, Alan K. Melby, and Sue Ellen Wright

Saturday, 10:15am-11:45am - All Levels

IC-1 *Homepage Building for the Savvy Language Professional*

Frank Dietz and Rainer Klett, Thursday, 1:45pm-3:15pm - Beginner

IC-5 *The Beginning of Wisdom: Some Practical Aspects of Freelance Technical Translation*

Nicholas Hartmann, Friday, 2:30pm-3:15pm - All Levels

MED-2 *Epilepsy: History and Terminology*

Maria Rosdolsky, Thursday, 3:30pm-5:00pm - All Levels

TAC-1 *Searching and Researching on the Internet*

Anne M. Chemali and Jill R. Sommer

Thursday, 1:45pm-3:15pm - Intermediate/Advanced

TAC-5 *There's More Than One Way to Skin a CAT: Introduction to Computer-Assisted Translation Tools*

Jost O. Zetzsche, Saturday, 8:30am-10:00am - All Levels

TAC-7 *Introduction to Word Macros and Their Applications*

Karl F. Pfeiffer, Saturday, 1:45pm-2:30pm - Intermediate/Advanced

TP-6 *Changing a School District by Teaching Interpreting*

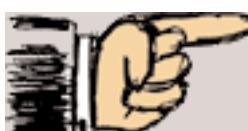
David Cotlove, Elisabeth Scheuer-Sturgeon, and Courtney Searls-Ridge

Saturday, 1:45pm-3:15pm - All Levels

TP-8 *Building the Future of the Profession: Internships and University-Industry Engagement*

Cynthia L. Hazelton, Vernon J. Menard, III, Daniel Q. Roundy, and Sue Ellen Wright

Friday, 3:30pm-5:00pm - All Levels



Find out more about the conference schedule

<http://www.atanet.org/conf2005/glance.htm>

Best Face Forward: In Person Marketing Skills for T&I Professionals 1

by Diane E. Teichman

After you've mailed your résumé to a thousand agencies, sent out brochures detailing your services, or paid dearly for a display advertisement, how else can you market your services? Consider meeting potential clients in person. After all, some of the greatest business relationships in the world were initiated person-to-person. Here are a few steps to finding your most desirable clients in person, while making a great first impression.

Start with an outline of what kind of clients you want to develop. Then identify places where they gather to network, such as their trade associations. You will find the same networking opportunities they do there. You can identify these by the titles of the people that hire you or the name of their profession. Often there are local divisions of national associations listed in the telephone book by their title under "Association." Sometimes they break down into gender (Association of Women Engineers) or even race. Do you want more exposure to people who would hire you to translate engineering material? Look to the American Council of Engineering Companies. Do you want more work in medical translation or interpreting? Look up the local chapter of the American Academy of Medical Administrators. You can also find the non-competitive professions that are seeking the same people you are. If you are a literary translator, authors are also in the market for publishers. Are you a legal interpreter? Videographers and court reporters are always soliciting law firms. Every international association is a source of work for conference interpreters. You will need to verify if they welcome guests at their meetings, lectures, or Programs. Another option is attending one of their fundraisers or social functions. Before you go, do your homework. The more relevant your services are to the people you will meet, the more you can maximize their receptiveness of what you have to offer. On the web you can learn about the association and the profession. Target meeting people who will have the power to contract, hire, or recommend you. Prepare yourself for the face-to-face meeting. In almost any business or social situation, in the course of a person-to -person introduction, you have between 45 and 60 seconds to capture the interest of the person you are meeting. First impressions are comprised of your appearance and the initial information received about you and from you, in other words, how you are introduced and what you say about yourself. For purposes of this article let's focus on clients for the translation and interpreting professions.

Both professional translators and interpreters often face the burden of an uneducated market. Our clients don't always know how we work or what we do even if it is critical to their own profession. I have found the best way to conquer this problem is to learn as much as possible about my client's work and responsibilities. This allows easier conversation with a potential client besides impressing them.

The initial information received about you in the introduction is critical, whether you are being introduced or are introducing yourself. You can capture their interest to learn more about you just as you can with the first words you place in your display advertisement of your services or the first few lines of your résumé. They need to know your name and what service you provide. Since you are still in that 45- to 60-second window, inform them of your services. Even the catchiest company name won't tell them that you are capable of the work.

Compare these two introductions:

"Hello, I'm Robert Waterman with Around the World Incorporated."

"Hello my name is Robert Waterman; I'm a professional science and technology conference interpreter."

It is then natural for them to comment on what you've said. In the latter introduction it will be about your profession as it relates to them. This potential client will either mention how his business employs people like you, such as his last experience with a conference interpreter, or if they don't recognize the profession he or she will ask you for more information. Be careful to avoid the lethal introduction; when someone introduces you and misstates your services. Picture this scenario. Here you are, already employed as the senior translation project manager at a major company, but you are in the market for a better position. A former student of yours from the "make ends meet" days when you taught is about to introduce you to the human resource director of a Fortune 500 Corporation. Imagine the damage done if you are introduced only as his former Spanish teacher. The 60 seconds are gone and you cannot tactfully correct this person doing you this great favor. I suggest avoiding this by briefly reminding your host with the exact wording of your expertise and goal: "I really appreciate your introducing us, as I am looking to move on from my translation project manager job at XYZ company." If the potential client then expresses an interest in your work, remember to be brief and considerate of their time.

Your progress in achieving your goal can be measured by every subsequent question they ask about your work. Design a maximum ten-word, single-sentence description of your key services to start with. Offer your business card as you are speaking, and ask for that person's card. If you've done your homework and know about the company, then show interest in their work and company. Don't tell them about their work, such as why they suffer failures in translation or interpreting. Let them be the expert. When you are asked about your work, avoid personal aggrandizement. Calling yourself or your company the best, the oldest, or the largest begs a challenge to the claim. Measure their interest in what you are saying by watching their body language and ensuing questions. Only offer to send them more information or to meet with them if they express such an interest. It really stings to be told "No thank you, I'm not interested" in person. You can contact them a few days later if you are not sure about their interest. Whenever the conversation moves away from you or your services, be polite and don't bring it up again. You may have made a good impression already, and trying to refocus on yourself would demolish that progress.

Before you go, put your business card to the professional litmus test. There is nothing more unprofessional than a cluttered business card. It should be limited to the company name, your name, address, phone number, email, and Web site. If necessary, a description of services should be limited to a maximum of five words. A tagline under your logo serves the same purpose. Adding the acronyms for professional memberships are a good sign of your dedication to your work. Physical addresses are less mandatory as contact information in today's cyberworld, so removing this can free up space on your card. You are now armed with the right appearance, the right script, and the right approach. Now go out and get those clients!



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QED, ASAP, etc!

How to Live With Abbreviations

by Frank Dietz

Abbreviations can be the bane of a translator's existence, particularly when they appear in the barren terrain of a list without context. You are translating along merrily, when you suddenly come across the abbreviation "PLA". Let's see ... this could be People's Liberation Army ... or Programmable Logic Array ... or Pylon Loading Adapter ... or Power Level Actuator ... or...

Here are a few tips for dealing with these shrivelled words:

- **Read on.** Many times a writer will forget to explain an abbreviation the first time it is used, but will do so at a later occurrence. Use your word processor's Find function (if you are dealing with an electronic copy).
- **Concentrate on the context.** If you are dealing with a bank brochure, "ATM" is more likely to be "Automated Teller Machine", while in a printer manual "Adobe Type Manager" would be a better guess.
- **Don't be afraid to ask the client** (if that's possible). Some of the most knotty problems concerning abbreviations might turn out to be company-specific jargon (or even simply typos!)

Here are a few of the resources I use in attacking acronyms and abbreviations. I still occasionally consult de Sola's *Abbreviations Dictionary* (Elsevier, 1978) which dazzles with its all-inclusive subtitle:

Abbreviations – Acronyms – Antonyms and Eponyms – Appellations – Contractions – Geographical Equivalents – Historical and Mythological Characters – Initials and Nicknames – Short Forms and Slang – Shortcuts – Signs and Symbols. While it is not particularly strong on computer-related acronyms, it will tell you that the "Home of Contented Cows" is Carnation, Washington – just in case you needed to know.

Most of the time, however, I would try web-based resources first: **Acronym Finder**

(<http://www.acronymfinder.com>) is one of the heavyweights, with over 2.4 million entries. Make sure you read the "Help" section before using it. If your abbreviation happens to consist of three letters, try The **Great Three-Letter Abbreviation Hunt** at <http://www.atomiser.demon.co.uk/abbrev/index.html> or its counterpart, the **Great Four-Letter Abbreviation Hunt** (<http://www.stuartbruce.net/abbrev/4/index.shtml>). There is also the abbreviation portal **AbbreviationZ** (<http://www.stands4.com>). Another compilation of online glossaries , with subjects ranging from accountancy to veterinary medicine, can be found at <http://www.opaui.com/acro.html>. In many cases, though, it would be best to consult a specialized abbreviations site, be it **Postal Service Abbreviations** (<http://www.usps.gov/ncsc/lookups/abbrev.html>), **Jane's Defence Glossary** for military acronyms (<http://www.janes.com/defence/glossary/index.shtml>), a list of **computer-related** acronyms (<http://www.cs.tut.fi/tlt/stuff/misc/babel.html>) or **electronics** acronyms (<http://engr.smu.edu/~kaytaz/menu.html>). For medical and pharmaceutical abbreviations, the **Medi Lexicon** (<http://www.pharma-lexicon.com/medicalabbreviations.php>) is useful starting point (turns out, our old friend PLA could also be Peripheral Laser Angioplasty or Platelet Antigen or...). Finally, don't forget your good old search engine. While a common acronym will most likely generate too many results, combining an acronym with some context words might just work, plus you have the option of filtering the results by language for instance at http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en.

So, BBFN, HTH (<http://www.netlingo.com/emailsh.cfm>).

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Frank Dietz is a freelance translator living in Austin, Texas. He specializes in technical translation and software localization, and he has actually been paid to play computer games (well, not just play...). His website can be found at <http://www.frankdietz.com>.

Language by the Numbers

by Joanne Cavanaugh Simpson

At the dawn of modern computing, the first "machines" weighed 30 tons, used bulky vacuum tubes, and had memories smaller than today's pocket calculators. Yet scientists were already looking to the day when this 20th-century invention would catch up with millions of years of evolution -- and match the spark of intelligent life that fuels the human brain.

British mathematician Alan Turing, who designed a protocomputer to break the German Enigma code during World War II, also proposed a test in 1950 that he believed would demonstrate when computers reached this level of artificial intelligence, or AI. In the Turing Test, as it has become known, an observer or "judge" initiates a question-and-answer session via a keyboard with two entities: one a computer, one a person. If the judge can't tell the difference in the majority of cases, the machine could be described as effectively "thinking."

Despite Turing's prediction that by the year 2000 a human judge would not have more than a 70 percent chance of making the correct identification -- and even with a number of contests, including one offering \$100,000 in prize money -- no program has met the Turing Test to any degree of general acceptance.

Sure, by the mid-1990s, IBM's Deep Blue computer defeated chess world champion Garry Kasparov in 19 moves, and a computer at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois developed a proof for the Robbins Conjecture, a difficult problem that had stumped human mathematicians for more than 60 years. But the question remains: When exactly does a computer understand? What is "understanding" or intelligence anyway?

Here at Hopkins, unique research into the areas of language and computer programming has been probing such questions. As part of the Center for Language and Speech Processing (CLSP) at the Whiting School of Engineering, researchers are training computer programs to "understand," translate, and cull information from texts in Chinese, Basque, Tagalog, Czech, and dozens of other sometimes obscure languages around the world. David Yarowsky, associate professor of computer science, co-leads the Natural Language Processing, or NLP, research group. "A lot of people in computer science don't worry about whether computers think, or what qualifies as intelligence," says Yarowsky. "That is a philosophical question in the realm of Sartre or Kierkegaard, up there with the question of 'What is the meaning of life?' After a while, what does it matter?" If the computer gets so good at something that it looks like it's intelligence, maybe you can just call it that.

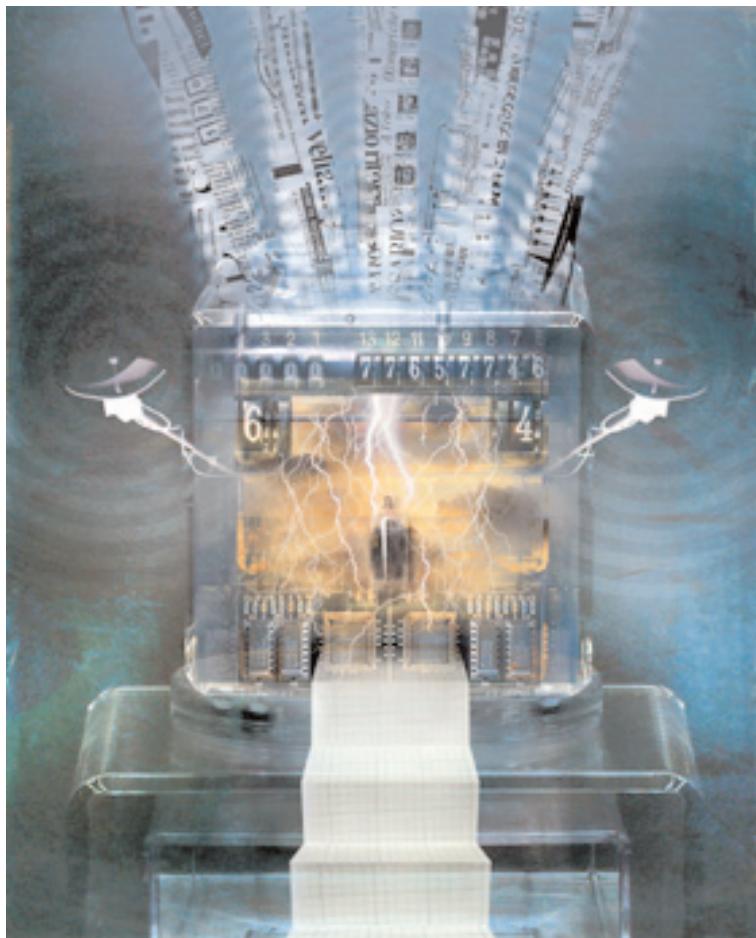


Illustration by Stuart Bradford

"Computers now play chess so well, and some of the questions answered by a machine can be quite sophisticated," Yarowsky adds. "Maybe the computer is just doing sophisticated pattern matching. But if you get back the right answer, does it matter if the computer understood?"

Yarowsky is sitting on a worn brown couch in his department's stripped-down lounge in Homewood's New Engineering Building. He has long been intrigued by foreign languages -- having lived abroad, he speaks Spanish, Japanese, Nepali, and Ladakhi, a Tibetan dialect. And he touts the potential for computer translation of human languages, also known as machine translation, in an ever-shrinking world where what's whispered in a mountain cave in Afghanistan is of interest to the U.S. Pentagon.

Automatic translation technology is useful outside national security circles as well. With vast and ever-growing information sources worldwide, today's scholars and researchers, for example, can't access all the archived texts or published papers -- especially in foreign languages they don't understand. So the ability to use computers to scan texts in various languages for a piece of information, a trend, or a link between disease symptoms, for example, would be invaluable. There are potential benefits, too, to international commerce, where e-mail and Web sites could be more accurately translated, as could manuals, legal documents, and even phone conversations. "The goal is the universality of information," Yarowsky notes.

To help accomplish this goal, NLP researchers are tapping the vast memory capability, processing power, and increasingly sophisticated "intelligence" of computers to make machine translation, as well as information extraction, possible for nearly every written language in the world. As Yarowsky explains: "We want to make humans able to understand foreign languages, and computers able to understand any human language."

There's that word again. Understanding. A computer program named Brutus can now translate simple Latin into English, helping students learn the ancient Roman language. An IBM scientist and world traveler recently used a digital camera and cell phone to send pictures of Chinese grocery signs to a server, where software translated the text and flashed the words in English on his cell phone screen.

American soldiers in Afghanistan this year used a hand-held device called the Phraselator to translate up to 1,000 phrases, including, "I am here to help you" and "Show me your identification," into Pashto, Urdu, Arabic, or Dari. And in Croatia last year, conversation between Croatian and English speakers became possible using a portable computer translator and speech synthesizer.

Such computer-aided language translation seems like science fiction. And Universal Translators like those used by Star Trek's Captain Kirk and crew won't be on Circuit City store shelves any time soon. Nevertheless, says Yarowsky, "the notion of a Universal Translator is a very real concept. I believe that in my lifetime we will have computers that can roughly translate all the written languages in the world." Yarowsky, who earned his PhD in computer and information science from the University of Pennsylvania, says he was drawn to this field after Harvard University computer science professors showed him how computers could analyze language. "Human languages have so many different interesting properties and complexities," says Yarowsky. An adventurer by nature, he did volunteer work through a Rockefeller fellowship in Nepal and Tibet in the late 1980s, after completing his undergraduate degree at Harvard. In the early 1990s, he worked with speech synthesizers and language analysis at Bell Labs. About eight years ago, Yarowsky decided to take the academic approach to improving computer-based speech understanding and translation by joining Hopkins' interdisciplinary CLSP, of which the NLP group is the computer science wing. CLSP, which was set up at Hopkins in 1992 with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Defense, and other federal agencies, brings together researchers from six Hopkins departments, including Biomedical Engineering, Cognitive Science, and Computer Science. Through collaborations, researchers focus on such areas as language modeling and acoustic processing (how humans hear language), as well as on how language is acquired. The center, considered one of the best in the world, draws top guest lecturers in the field and hosts an annual international research workshop.

In one project at CLSP, for example, researchers are working on speech recognition technology to help transcribe more than 117,000 hours of interviews with Holocaust survivors videotaped by the Shoah Visual History Foundation. With that much material, it's dauntingly time-consuming -- and exorbitantly expensive -- to have humans transcribe or index every tape. So, as part of a \$7.5 million NSF research grant, Hopkins computer scientists are developing software to recognize several languages, including Czech, Russian, and Polish. It's a challenging endeavor. As Bill Byrne, associate research professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has noted, such speech is heavily accented and highly charged. "When people get emotional, the [speech] recognizers have a hard time. But that is the sort of spontaneous speech we want to record."



Illustration by Jefferson Jackson Steele

Various universities have built large research groups dedicated to computers and language -- including Carnegie Mellon, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute. Hopkins, through the NLP lab, has found a cutting-edge niche, specializing in what's known as statistically based machine translation and text analysis. Currently, most machine translation technology, including consumer-oriented programs such as Systran's Babel Fish, have been "taught" the rules of language, such as verb tenses and when to use parts of speech. Programmers painstakingly hand-build systems based on such rules. "The computer is told, if you see this thing in Russian, replace it with this thing in English," explains Yarowsky. While somewhat effective, such systems are time-consuming to build (consider how long it takes most humans to learn a language and all its rules), and resulting translations are still marred by grammatical and other errors. Those that do work fairly well usually tackle popular Western languages, such as French, German, and Spanish; there are few translation programs developed for other important tongues, such as Chinese, Turkish, or Arabic, let alone for more obscure languages like Tajik.

To tackle a broader range of the world's languages, and to improve on the quality of machine translation, Yarowsky and his Hopkins colleagues are developing computer programs that can be trained to figure out any language using statistical analysis, i.e., looking at the probabilities of language patterns. In what's known as automatic knowledge acquisition, the computer could "learn" Serbian well enough to translate future documents or conversation, or at the least pick out pertinent words like "bomb."

As Yarowsky explains: "Say you want to teach a computer how to translate Chinese: You give the computer 100,000 sentences in English and the same 100,000 sentences in Chinese and run a program that can figure out which words go to which words. If in 2,000 sentences you have the word Washington, and in about the same number of sentences you have the word Huashengdun, and they occur in the same place in the sentence, these words are likely translations. It's all just observation," Yarowsky adds.

"Children do the same thing, but they also do it through visual stimulation and feedback. They see a book and hear the word 'book,' and eventually they learn that it's a book. They see a bird with its wings flapping around and learn that is called a bird. It's the same with machines, only they have much better memories. Computers could remember exactly when and where they saw the words bird and book."

So, instead of telling a computer how to do something -- conjugate the verb 'to be' in Spanish, for exam-

ple (I am = soy) -- researchers give it tens of thousands of examples and program the computer to find repeated patterns that the computer can use to conjugate new verbs. Trained this way, the program could potentially "learn" phrase structure and the rules of translation. As Yarowsky notes in his 100,000-sentence example, one way to accomplish automatic knowledge acquisition is to use bilingual or parallel text. The program "reads" a document in English and then a version in a second language. Such texts used by Hopkins researchers include the Bible, which is available on the Web in more than 60 languages, the Book of Mormon (over 60 languages), and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (240 languages).

Aiding the computer is the fact that the English version of such texts can be annotated by hand or using another computer program -- essentially marked up to show, for example, that Jesus is a noun and pray is a verb. The translation program-in-training needs such information because it cannot translate future text just by substituting individual words in each language; it must also be able to analyze how sentences work. To do so, the computer program uses pattern recognition templates and other tools to understand sentences on a syntactic level. Simply put, the program is essentially given clues to know what to look for, notes Yarowsky: "It should figure out the subject, figure out the object, and other elements of sentence structure."

Other tools used by Hopkins researchers to train computer programs to translate languages include bilingual dictionaries or lexicons that can be fed into the program, as well as WordNet, a thesaurus of sorts that shows links between words like pain, headache, and migraine. The end result: A computer program will be "trained" to translate Pashto or Basque or Hindi into English, even though it doesn't actually understand them. Or does it?

"It sort of understands," says Yarowsky. "It partially understands some of the ambiguities, some of the meanings when words can mean multiple things. It can understand a lot of the structures of language, but it won't understand deeper subtleties. Some languages, for example Chinese, don't distinguish the male and female pronoun. He or she is the same word, so it can be ambiguous who something refers to. And sometimes there's a subtle metaphor."

So far, statistically based translation is faster to develop and more flexible, though often more plagued by grammatical or translation subtlety errors than the rule-based approach. Hopkins researchers have trained a program for Chinese, as well as one for Czech and French, that could roughly translate nearly any text. They are pursuing other projects with data from 240 languages. "It's intense work," Yarowsky notes. In some languages, like Turkish, a whole sentence can be represented by a single word and with Chinese, there are no spaces between words. A Chinese translation program created by Yarowsky and his colleagues already has outperformed current commercially available programs at recent machine translation competitions. "It's much more accurate on news text, which is what it was trained on, but it probably won't do very well on poetry," Yarowsky says. "Its accuracy depends on how many training sentences it has seen."

A famous anecdote in the machine translation field centers on the biblical saying "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." When the phrase was translated into Russian by an early computer translation program in the 1950s, the story goes, the answer came back: "The whiskey is strong, but the meat is rotten." Over the years, that story has been debunked as myth. Yet enter the same phrase into Babel Fish Translation online today and translate it into, say, Spanish, and the answer comes back, "The alcohol is ready, but the meat is weak." For some



Illustration by Jefferson Jackson Steele

real fun, translate that back into English. The resulting phrase harkens to that game known as “Telephone” where a phrase is passed down the line and misinterpreted along the way. The next Spanish-to-English version reads: “The ready alcohol this, but the meat is debil.” And that’s for two of the most commonly spoken and computer-translated human languages.

In the 1950s, during the infancy of machine translation, hopes were high that systems would soon be developed to rival high-quality human translation. The United States government poured millions of dollars into projects, fueled by an interest in Cold War-era translations and language analysis of Russian documents and radio transmissions. With all the early limitations in hardware, software, and computer memory, the first machine translation researchers relied almost solely on bilingual dictionaries, and word-for-word translation. But researchers quickly realized that “perfect translation” was more difficult than they imagined. A federally commissioned report by the Automatic Language Processing Advisory Committee (ALPAC) found that machine translation had failed to reach its goal of adequate-quality translation by the 1960s, and likely would never be cost-effective. Generous funding sources soon dried up.

The Holy Grail question then and now remains: Will a computer ever be as good as a human translator? In many ways, not even close, at least until AI reaches the level of Star Trek's android character, Data. That's because language, in its many forms, is complicated and nuanced, ambiguous and contradictory, illogical and artistic -- much like humans themselves. “Language is an incredibly complex, multifaceted puzzle, too big for any one person to solve,” Yarowsky says. Nonetheless, advances are being made today. And researchers are finding that machine translation doesn't need to be “perfect” to be useful. Computers, in some cases, can do much of the heavy lifting in translation, with post-editing being done by humans. Partly to minimize such clean-up measures, Hopkins NLP researchers are tackling theoretical research in language acquisition and creating practical tools to improve translation. Gideon Mann, now starting the fourth year of his PhD in computer science at Hopkins, says he was a fan of science fiction who hoped someday to converse with Asimov-style robots: “When I grew up, I was really upset that there weren't any computers I could talk to, so I thought, 'I guess I'll have to build them.'”

So far, Mann is developing software that can answer simple questions by analyzing sentences. Say, for example, that one has the question: “When did Hitler's armies invade France?” Mann's programs can search the Internet, looking for Web pages where a date or year is found near words from the question (i.e., invade, France, Hitler). In this case, “1940” would be the program's most confident answer based on statistical analysis relative to the syntactic context. In general, “the Web has a nearly limitless supply of information, and the more we understand about language structure, the more effectively we can harness this information,” says Mann.

While such approaches are incremental and highly specific, these are the building blocks on which language “understanding” works -- for humans as well as computers. Yarowsky, and the other researchers in his lab, are, in a way, engineers and architects and general contractors figuring out how to make each piece of the computer-language edifice fit together. Linguistics is at the cornerstone of their endeavors. The NLP lab's co-leader, Jason Eisner, assistant professor in computer science, uses a familiar computer science tool known as “finite-state machines” to program computers to analyze sentences on a highly syntactic level known as parsing -- much like how English students look at the logical structure of sentences when diagramming parts of speech.

Richard Wicentowski, a linguist and computer scientist who has just finished his PhD at Hopkins, has been working with morphology, or the study and description of word formation. “Basically, it's the way that new words are built up from old words,” Wicentowski says. To provide a clearer picture of this linguistics-computer science link, Wicentowski explains how he trains computer programs to discern whether one word is related to another, such as drink and drank. “What you are trying to do is find ways for the computer to automatically discover the relationship between drink and drank,”

Wicentowski says. One way is to recognize that the words are nearly the same, except for one letter. Or, the program could scan nearby words, such as Coke or milk, for clues. In a unique demonstration of how this technique could be used in any language, Wicentowski trained a program to conjugate Klingon, a language made up by particularly avid Star Trek fans. "It turns out Klingon is a very easy language for computers to learn because although it is complex morphologically, it was designed very consistently by one person," he says. Though Yarowsky's office boasts a copy of Shakespeare's Hamlet translated into Klingon by the Klingon Language Institute, neither he nor Wicentowski speaks Klingon. (The obvious question? If you want to ask, "To be or not to be?" in Klingon, simply utter "taH pagh taHbe'!"). Wicentowski says that using Klingon in translation and language research emphasizes how a computer program doesn't, in his opinion, actually "understand" the text: "The computer couldn't possibly understand what it is doing because I'm the one who told it what to do, and I don't understand."

For researchers like Wicentowski, it's the ambiguous meaning of words that remains -- as was shown by the spirit-is-willing example -- one of the primary hurdles. The word "plant," for example, could refer to a biological organism, a factory, a police "plant," or a ringer in the audience. How's a computer program to know? The process to clarify the meaning of such words in various languages is known as "word sense disambiguation."

Radu Florian, also finishing his PhD, has been working on algorithms, or sequences of instructions, that teach computer programs to assign a specific sense to a word by giving it a large number of examples for when each meaning of the word is used. Through statistics, the program will know there's a 70 percent chance that when it sees the word worker near plant, plant will likely refer to a factory. "The program is given different parameters for different words," Florian says. "If the word leaf is near the plant, it would know that it's a living plant, not a manufacturing plant." Yarowsky envisions how advances like those being pursued by himself, Eisner, Florian, and others will inevitably propel statistical machine translation to the next plateau. "With each [researcher] tackling a different piece of this puzzle," he says, "they can help provide an end-to-end solution."

A database residing at the NLP lab holds two terabytes of memory -- that's 2,000 billion bytes or characters of text. And lab researchers have filled most of that memory up with stored text from over 100 languages, mostly news stories pulled off the Web. On a daily basis, a computer robot that acts like a super search engine accesses the Internet and automatically visits many of the newspapers and news sites in those 100 languages and downloads information. "It takes the pages and strips the images and the ads and what's left is a news story about the events of the day. We try to line those stories up across languages," Yarowsky says. "If there is an earthquake in Chile, for example, a story on the earthquake might run in Poland, and China, and in Bangladesh." Though the stories won't necessarily match word for word, much of the content, including the use of the word "earthquake" in various languages, will be similar. Through a process known as "iterative alignment," a computer program, given enough text, will start to pick out such similarities and translate key words.

Before the advent of the Web, and the subsequent explosion of sites in hundreds of languages, the availability of bilingual text was limited -- especially in such languages as Azeri, Icelandic, or Punjab. Today's researchers, however, can in most cases find the comparable documents they need to train translation programs, whatever the language.

Hopkins graduate student Charles Schafer does research in information projection across languages. He uses bilingual texts to take NLP programs that analyze English and automatically develop the same analysis skill for a different language. "Say you have a program that reads English sentences and identifies where people are claiming responsibility for bombings -- people have spent lots of effort creating this capability over the years," Schafer says. "We can then run our existing programs on the English text, and use statistical techniques to figure out what kinds of clues in the Arabic translation indicate people claiming responsibility for a bombing. So you get the Arabic NLP program for free -- as long as you can find the translated texts you need for this technique." Schafer, now in the fifth year

of his PhD, also was drawn to this focus in computer science because of a fascination with language, but in his case it was the history of English and the origins of words. He doesn't own an Oxford English Dictionary, though he points to a tattered expanded Random House sitting on a shelf by his desk. "The OED is on my wish list," says the graduate student. Schafer's wish list includes perfecting the area of science he intends to make his career. It's a long shot, he knows. "We can make estimates that in several decades we will have one million times the processing capability," he says. "For the time being, we can improve. But it won't be human-quality anytime soon." But that doesn't mean computer scientists can't dream about what Turing himself envisioned as the spark of nonbiological intelligence that could someday lead to a deeper level of understanding, perhaps even surpassing that of humans.

Hopkins PhD student Florian tells a well-known joke about scientists building a computer as large as a planet. Once they build it, they try to figure out what to ask it. Eventually, they decide on the most central question plaguing humankind since the dawn of civilization: Is there a God? The answer: "There is now."

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Keep a Song in Your Heart . . . and a Good Translation in Mind: Translating for the Singer.

by Nancy E. Wright

It's almost the season . . . for singing! As the cacophony of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa melodies about to dance in our eardrums is not too far away, those of us who sing undoubtedly can recall good, bad and amusing experiences of singing in English translation. This brief article notes (pun intended!) just a few examples of the challenges of translating for singers and singing in translation. While I limit my illustrations to English as the target language, the anecdotes and the suggestions are undoubtedly universal.

The failure to convey meaning accurately, of course, is an experience shared by both singers and audience. For example, Metropolitan Opera dramatic baritone Don Barnum recalls the laughter during *Tosca* when Tosca is disturbed by the way Mario Cavaradossi is painting a portrait in the chapel, claiming it too closely resembles the Marchesa Attavanti. She asks Cavaradossi to repaint the eyes and make them black, that is, to give her "occhi neri." Meanwhile, the English supertitle reads, "give her black eyes."

Moreover, in supertitles, as in life, timing is everything. Professional tenor and New York University Translation Certificate student David Ronis recalls entering the stage to an audience laughing at a line he had not yet sung. The supertitle translation had flashed on the screen before he had had a chance to sing it.

While these incidents are not necessarily desirable, they do evoke a laugh and an amusing memory. Distorted meaning, however, can have the more serious consequences of misleading singers and listeners. Regina Opera lead soprano and St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church soloist Deborah Ann Faw has noted as problematic the English text printed in the G. Schirmer edition, arranged by Johann Muller and revised and edited by Nicola A. Montani, of W.A. Mozart's well-known and beloved "Ave Verum Corpus" for chorus. When I myself perused the English text, I was at once amused and annoyed. The text did not even approximate an accurate translation, but rather was a paraphrase of the eighteenth century hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," which I have known since childhood! I have provided the series of texts below to illustrate my point:

Ave Verum Corpus

*Ave, Ave verum Corpus natum de Maria Virgine;
Vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine;
Cujus latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine:
Esto nobis praegustatum mortis in examine.*

Following is a very accurate translation by Dr. Robert Ulery of Wake Forest University:

*Hail true Body, born of the Virgin Mary;
Truly afflicted with death, sacrificed on the cross for humankind,
Whose pierced side flowed with water and blood.
May it be for us a foretaste in the trial of death.*

While it is true that the hymn paraphrase below is congruent with the rhyme and meter of Mozart's composition, unlike the translation above, the former nevertheless departs entirely from the meaning—and therefore, the true spiritual significance—of the Latin text:

*Saviour, source of every blessing,
Tune my heart to grateful, grateful lays;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,*

*Call for ceaseless songs of praise.
 Teach me some melodious measure,
 Sung by raptur'd saints above;
 Fill my soul with sacred pleasure,
 While I sing redeeming love,
 While I sing redeeming love.*

Finally, one can compare the paraphrase above with the actual text of the first stanza of “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing:”

*Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
 Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 Sung by flaming tongues above.
 Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
 Mount of Thy redeeming love.*

COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

(No. 4 from *Four American Folk Hymns*)

For Mixed Choir (SATB) and Organ

Robert Robinson

Melody from Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813
 Arranged by Mack Wilberg

With conviction and expression ($\dot{\text{C}} = c. 60$)

Soprano: Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing. Tune my heart to sing thy

Alto: grace. Streams of mer - cy, new - et ceas - ing. Call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me ...

Bass: Streams of mer - cy, new - et ceas - ing. Call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me

Organ: some mel - o - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; Praise the

Bass: some mel - o - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; Praise the

A noteworthy contrast is the English translation of Ludwig von Beethoven's setting of the first two stanzas of the poem “Die Himmel ruhmen des Ewigen Ehre,” by Christian Fürchtegott Gellert. Below is the poem in the original German:

*Die Himmel röhmen des Ewigen Ehre;
 Ihr Schall pflanzt seinen Namen fort.
 Ihn röhmt der Erdkreis, ihn preisen die Meere;
 Vernim, O Mensch, ihr göttlich Wort!*

*Wer trägt der Himmel unzählbare Sterne?
 Wer führt die Sonn aus ihrem Zelt?
 Sie kommt und leuchtet und lacht uns von ferne
 Und läuft den Weg gleich als ein Held.*

S. mount! I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of thy tr - deem-ing love.
 A. mount! I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of thy tr - deem-ing love.

Piano: *F only*

Following is a translation by New York Circle of Translators Treasurer Antje Katcher, written for the purpose of comprehension not singing :

*"The heavens proclaim the honor of the Eternal [God]
 His name travels onward in their echoing sound
 The whole earth proclaims his fame, the seas praise him—
 Listen, oh man, to their divine word!"*

*Who holds up the heavens' uncounted stars?
 Who leads the sun forth from its tent?
 It [the sun] rises and shines and smiles at us from above and runs a course as befits a
 hero!*

Finally, note below Charles Haywood's English text, written to be sung:

*The heav'ns are praising His glory and splendor,
 Their sounds proclaim His glorious name.
 The earth and waters sing praise of His wonder,
 Perceive, O man, God's holy word!*

*Who guards the stars in their journey through Heaven?
 Who leads the sun across the sky
 With shining brilliance it smiles from the distance,
 And like a hero soars on high, and like a hero soars on high.*

The accuracy and integrity of meaning are preserved, and the English verse accommodates Beethoven's composition perfectly. Moreover, those words such as "soars" which are sung at the high end of the range, or tessitura, of the piece, contain vowels that are relatively easy to sing in the upper register of the voice. This brings me to another critical point about translating for singers. Certain vowel sounds are particularly problematic in the higher register. For example, a sustained sung "ah" is much easier on the voice and ear than the English short vowel sound "a" as in "at." Therefore, for example, when singing in English the opening chorus of Johann Sebastian Bach's St. Matthew Passion, "Come, my daughters, hear my anguish," choirs will often be advised to sing "ahnguish" on the chorus's numerous melismas (passages of several notes sung to one syllable of text). In the case of the St. Matthew Passion, the word "anguish" is repeated sufficiently, and the audience typically is familiar enough with the narrative, that the modified word is still intelligible. This is not always the case, however, and when confronted with a vowel that lies awkwardly in a certain part of the voice, the singer is often forced to sacrifice intelligibility to achieve beauty.

As one might expect, Italian composers are particularly sensitive to this.

As Barnum, who is also Minister of Music at St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church explains, "An Italian composer is aware of what vowel (or vowels) certain voices want to sing on a high note, and will try to accommodate that. They have that vowel in their ears when they write the vocal line. Therefore, that sound should be used, if possible, in the translation."

While achieving the combination of accuracy, meter, and "singability" can be formidable for the translator, the rewards are great for all involved. Chair of the Department of English at Western Michigan University and New York Circle of Translators member Arnie Johnston recalls, ". . . . one of the more rewarding experiences I've had was when I attended the New York revue, *Brel: L'Escapade de Musique*—that featured my translations. I knew that some English-speaking Belgian and French visitors were seated nearby in the audience, and when the performers began to sing, I heard gasps of pleasure and delighted laughter from them as they reacted to English lyrics that actually came close to the originals." He further recalls an occasion when a native Parisian and member of the French faculty at Western Michigan University, where Johnston teaches, informed him that she had been listening to his Brel CD and actually forgot that she was listening to English. Johnston remarked, "High praise, I thought."

As the "high praise" that befits this holiday season approaches us in song. I hope that this article will inspire a holiday season and a New Year of enhanced dialogue among composers, singers, and translators committed to translations that fulfill the ultimate in the meaning and beauty that are the essence of language, of music, and the language of music.

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Nancy Wright translates from Spanish, French, and Portuguese into English, and has been a member of the New York Circle of Translators since 1998. She is currently Director of Community and Business Outreach for the Alternative Modes Unit of the Division of the Traffic Operations in the New York City Department of Transportation, and an adjunct faculty member at Long Island University's Brooklyn campus, where she teaches courses in international relations, comparative politics, American government, and public administration. She is completing a doctorate in political science at the Graduate Center of The City University of New York, with a focus on organizational learning by the United Nations in humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction. She is also a singer and writer. She leads service music and is a soloist and member of St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church Choir in Brooklyn Heights, as well as several other choirs in the New York area. She enjoys writing song lyrics and poetry; two of her poems recently won prizes at the North American Welsh Festival's annual Eisteddfod, a music and poetry competition.

The Voice-Over Business: Speak Now or Be Forever Silent!

by Guylaine Laperrière

So you think you should be doing voice-overs. Complete strangers give you compliments on your voice each time you get on the phone. The airlines representative who takes your reservation over the phone ends up flirting with you. You've obviously got what it takes.....but what do you do with it? The voice-over business can be all at once challenging, lucrative, scary, fun, humbling, intimidating and sometimes completely absurd. In any case, you need to be prepared. If you have been considering getting into the field of voice-overs, here are a few tips that will help you make your first recording a rewarding experience. After all, having the "right" voice is one thing, making sure they'll want to hear your voice again and again is another.

As a native speaker of a foreign language, you have probably been asked more than once if you do voice-overs. A lot of companies and government agencies need foreign language speakers to record their corporate videos, public announcements, training courses, advertising campaigns, phone systems, etc. Why do they record in the US instead of going to the target country? Simply because they often record in several foreign languages at the same time; it is a lot cheaper to rent a studio in one location and record every language there. It is also a lot easier for a client who wants to have some control over the recording session to deal with foreign talents who understand English well, which might not always be the case if they have to record in the target country and use local talents.

It is essential for you to be able to identify your type of voice, your accent and the level of your abilities as a reader. Different types of voices land different types of jobs. Your voice is smoky, sexy, naturally low in pitch? Chances are you will end up doing ads for perfumes and beauty products. Your voice is young and energetic? You'll be the young man telling the consumers how much weight you've lost on this miracle diet plan, or you'll be the mom who swears by these new diapers for her toddler. You have a calm, soothing voice? You will be recording corporate videos promoting the mission of such and such corporation. Voices are cast according to their type. They are often type cast and you must accept this fact. Rejection will be a part of the equation. Not knowing why you have been rejected will also be part of the equation. Not getting a job does not necessarily mean that your reading was mediocre at an audition, it could simply be that your voice was wrong for this specific project.

The voice-over business is still a very sexist industry. Men work more often than women do. You will very rarely hear a woman read about how to change a drive shaft on a tractor, nor will you hear a man describe a new line of cribs for infants. You can certainly help educating clients but don't expect the world to change for you. When you watch TV, when you listen to the radio, close your eyes and listen to the voices. Who is recording what? How does your voice measure up to what you hear? What would YOU be recording? Ask your friends, your family and your colleagues for their opinion on your voice.

As a foreign voice-over talent, make sure your accent is still "current" in your own language. Second generation speakers of a foreign language beware. If you don't regularly go to your country of origin, you have probably lost your accent. Do not fool yourself, this business can be quite unforgiving. Remember that you might be able to fool an American client who does not understand a word of your language but you will be crucified once your voice is heard in the target country. Sounding "near native" is not good enough. You have to sound EXACTLY like a native speaker of that language. If you don't, consider instead recording in English with a foreign accent. There are a lot of requests for accent-ed English readers and American voice-over talents are often preferred over native speakers. Why? Because, depending on their fluency in English, native speakers can be difficult to understand for the average American listener. Non-native speakers of English will often put the stress of a word on the

wrong syllable, therefore changing the “music” of the language. American readers who speak a foreign language, particularly Americans whose parents are first generation immigrants, know how to get the “flavor” of the foreign accent while speaking in “proper” English.

Be aware of your ability to deliver a text. If acting is not your thing, you’ll do well recording any automated phone system or industrial texts. If your natural voice is expressive and you love to play different characters, you will be perfect for children stories, ads and other lively promotional material. If you are called in for an audition, ask what you will be reading for. If you feel you are completely wrong for a project, it’s OK to let the agency know. When you make a decision about going or not to an audition, weigh the pros and cons and identify which part comes from the fear of being rejected and which part comes from truly knowing that a project requires abilities that are beyond the scope of your competences. If you don’t know yet where your abilities lie, go ahead, take a chance. You’ll know soon enough.

You’ve been called to record a voice-over, you accepted the job and you don’t know what to expect once you get in the studio. What if they find out you have no experience? Breathe, relax. If you said yes to the job, it’s now time to prepare and to put on a show. Ask for the script ahead of time and rehearse your reading. Mark the words that are difficult to pronounce. Fix the punctuation that is confusing. Make note of the acronyms and company names so you can ask if they should be recorded in American English, in your own language or in accented English. Rehearse, rehearse and rehearse again. If the agency or the client who hired you asks you if you have experience, say that you have a little experience or “some” experience. A little white lie is not going to hurt you as long as you can deliver the text! Clients get nervous when they take a chance on a newcomer; everyone in the studio at the time of the recording is on the clock from the moment you show up and clients fear that a beginner will take more time than what has been planned. Since you’ll be a little nervous yourself the first time, there is no need to put everybody in the studio on edge.



From the moment you walk in the studio, be the most charming person you know. The first impression counts and clients like to work with flexible, reliable, easy-going narrators.

Remember that your client’s client might be there, so it is not a good idea to make comments about the horrible quality of the product you will be reading about or bash the translation. Instead, if there are mistranslations or sentences that are problematic, ask questions before you start recording and offer solutions if you feel that the client is open to suggestions. If they seem hesitant, offer to record the text as is and an alternate version of the problematic sentences as well.

A monitor/director will also probably be there.

Typically, a monitor is someone who is a native speaker of your language and who will monitor your reading for mistakes. At all times during the recording, be friendly to the monitor and avoid arguing with him/her debatable errors. If you believe you’ve been corrected when you did not make a mistake, ask politely to listen back. If you were right, you just move on, and if you were wrong, you’ll be glad someone picked up the mistake.

The sound engineer will of course be in the studio during the recording. The engineer makes you sound good! The engineer is YOUR BEST FRIEND! When you take place behind the microphone, let the engineer place it for you in the right position. Then readjust your sheets so you can see your text. Never readjust the mic! Once the mic is properly positioned, you will be asked to give a voice level.



This is practice time for both the engineer and you. The engineer adjusts the level of your voice while you cease the opportunity to read the passages that are difficult to pronounce, the tong twisters, etc. Remember to read at the level to which you will be recording.

When it's time to start recording, breathe deeply and relax. You have nothing to worry about: you have been rehearsing your text over and over again. Concentrate on the sound of your voice in the microphone and on delivering ideas rather than reading words. Listen and take directions. Avoid moving behind the microphone. If you get tired or thirsty, ask to take a pause. A tired voice will sound crackly and dry. Don't forget to eat before you go to the studio, as sensitive microphones will pick up your stomach's embarrassing gurgling sounds. It might also be a good idea to leave at home your charm bracelet, your dangling earrings and your "noisy" clothing for the same reason.

Whether you are recording for an ad, a phone system, a video, you will typically do 3 types of readings. You will be asked to read in your own language while hearing simultaneously the English version in order to match the timing. OR You will be asked to read in a certain time frame but will not have the English version rolling at the same time. OR You will be asked to read "wild", meaning that there is no time code to match. You will then deliver the text at your own pace and will not hear the English version while you read in your language.

It might seem a lot to juggle at once but as you become more experienced, you will get more comfortable with the process. Of course, you will have "off" days where nothing seems to come out of your mouth in the right order. In this case, apologize, concentrate on your breathing and do your best. Remember that breathing deeply will energize your body and your brain and you want to be alert when you record. Make sure you stand or sit straight and keep the breathing flowing from your lower back and your abdomen to your rib cage. Breathing properly will also prevent you from getting tired and your voice will keep the same quality throughout a long recording session.

Doing voice-overs is a fun and lucrative way to supplement your income as a translator. As you become more experienced, you will be able to command higher fees. After all, clients will save time and money because you will be making less mistakes and recording in less time than planned. As people get to know you, you will discover that the same narrators are working over and over again. Clients often ask agencies (ad agencies, translation agencies, video production companies) to provide them with several different voices to choose from but in the end, the same good narrators are chosen over and over again. It's a small world after all.

So remember, doing voice-overs is no big mystery. You need to lie a little to get the job, rehearse a lot to keep it, never stop breathing to survive the recording session, be confident to impress your client and....have fun while you are recording!

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Guylaine Laperrière was a presenter at the ATA's Entertainment Industry Seminar in Los Angeles in 2003 and again in New Jersey in 2004. She is a member of the Actor's Equity Association, the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. An ATA member, she was the President of the New York Circle of Translators in 2004. Until recently she worked at NYU in the Translation Studies Certificate as Program Coordinator. She has now joined the ranks of freelance translators!.

Nachruf for Edith Losa

This short piece represents a response to a request to write a Nachruf for a dear friend and mentor, Edith Losa. I've used the German term here partly because I fielded the request in German and that is the term that has imposed itself in my range of vision, but also because the German term is somehow more meaningful to me in this case than the English obituary. I'm just not necessarily in a position to write an obituary for Edith because I'm not quite prepared to meet her death as such. It came as such a shock; it came so unexpectedly. Besides, ATA past-president Peter Krawutschke has done an excellent job with his formal obituary in the upcoming Chronicle, which should be in your snailmail boxes this next week. For my part, I am prepared to call back an image of her, beautiful, very much alive, laughing and friendly, supportive and willing to share her wealth of experience to an only slightly younger translator entering the profession. Such is my Nachruf for Edith.

Edith was one of the first thoroughly professional translators whom I had the opportunity to meet as I entered the field. She was classy, and she was that rare bird, an in-house translator and later a translation manager with Siemens. That was an unusual distinction in those days, when in-house translators were attached somehow peripherally to the typing pool (unless perhaps a company was forward-thinking enough to also have some technical writers on board), and another ATA past president, Kurt Gingold, was known to have observed that the career path for in-house translators was not so much a career ladder as it was a greased pole.

My first personal experience working with Edith conjures a recollection of her as a mentor specifically with respect to technical translation. To young translators beginning today, with their access to wonderful dictionaries and on-line resources, it may seem almost incomprehensible that many of us were really winging it so far as terminology was concerned back in the 70s and early 80s, especially with respect to the emerging terminology of electronics, programmable controllers, and computer science in general. The first edition of Brinkmann-Schmidt was a thin little volume, and if you were lucky, there was a similar in-house publication (not accessible to all) from Nixdorf, sometimes with vastly different solutions to similar problems. One of my first encounters with Edith involved her generously giving me an invaluable series of TEAM system dictionaries featuring Siemens proprietary terminology, which served me handsomely until the newer, expanded editions of Brinkmann-Schmidt appeared later in the 80s. My involvement in the evolution of PC-based terminology management systems drew on the Siemens model of the TEAM system, which notoriously ran off a mainframe in Munich, with daily dumps to the satellite offices around Germany and eventually the world. I well remember her irony during many phone discussions (email didn't exist back then!) as we tracked and post-mortemed the rise and fall of Siemens' Windows-based effort to emulate TEAM in the PC environment.

In particular, however, Edith's thorough professionalism stood us all in good stead when she brought her managerial and "people" skills to the office of ATA president. As Peter aptly recounts in his obituary, and as Muriel Jerome O'Keefe and I recently reminisced, the moment when Edith took up the mantel of office was not an easy one, but she bore it with grace and skill, although sometimes with difficulty. Her presidency represents a turning point from the sometimes factionalist, more provincial ATA of the 70s and 80s to the emergence of a truly national, well-managed organization with its sights on the broader international scene. In retrospect, the addition of Walter Bacak as a professional organization manager has to count as the pivotal accomplishment of her tenure. The legacy of this decision is reflected in the effectiveness and ongoing professionalism of the presidents who have followed.

Our paths diverged in recent years, not crossing recently, as Edith focused more on her own more private translation business and less on ATA matters. Yet if I thought of her it was as a stalwart friend and colleague carrying on somewhere in the world. That former physical distance in itself makes it difficult even now to accept the new distance that has opened up to separate us on a different plane.

Sue Ellen Wright

Dictionary Review

Fachwörterbuch Wirtschaft, Handel und Finanzen

Englisch-Deutsch/Deutsch-Englisch

Nachdruck der 2. stark bearbeiteten und erweiterten Auflage 2003
Fester Einband (ISBN 3-86117-191-0)

Bearbeitet von Merz, Ludwig und seinem Autorenteam
Verlag: Langenscheidt, in Kooperation mit Routledge
Etwa 60.000 Fachbegriffe und Wendungen je Sprachrichtung
Preis: 99,00 EUR

von Astra Van Heest



Das Erste, das mir an diesem Wörterbuch auffiel, war der Einband. Er war fest, offensichtlich auf Langlebigkeit ausgelegt und sehr griffig. Die Seiten sind gleichermaßen sehr leicht zu handhaben und fühlen sich relativ schwer an. Langenscheidt sagt im Vorwort, dass der vorhandene Wortbestand um über 15.000 Begriffe und Wendungen aus 26 Fachgebieten erweitert wurde, wobei veraltete Begriffe eliminiert wurden. Diese Erweiterungen kommen laut Langenscheidt vorwiegend in den geld- und währungspolitischen Bereichen vor.

Der Anhang enthält eine Zusammenstellung von Geschäftsbriefen, eine Auflistung von Berufsbezeichnungen in der Wirtschaft sowie Länderinformationen und eine Übersicht internationaler Börsenplätze – etwas, was für Studenten und vor allem Geschäftsleute interessant ist.

Die Hinweise zur Benutzung des Wörterbuchs befinden sich auf XIII bis XIX und sind, wie schon von Langenscheidt erwartet werden kann, sehr deutlich und klar dargelegt. Der Aufbau und die Anordnung der Einträge wird deutlich erklärt, mit Sachgebietskürzeln und Abkürzungen, die dann in XXI, XXII und XXIII erklärt werden. Die Einträge sind erwartungsgemäß klar, übersichtlich und deutlich und nach Fachgebiet gekennzeichnet. Da gibt es keine Überraschung.

Die Begriffe sind leicht zu lesen, das Papier ist augenfreundlich, gleichgültig welches Licht man in seinem Büro hat – und für Leute, die stundenlang vor dem Rechner sitzen, ist Augenmüdigkeit durchaus etwas, das einem den Tag verderben kann. Trotzdem wäre ein Daumenindex wünschenswert und hilfreich gewesen. Das gleichnamige, im selben Verlag erschienene e-Fachwörterbuch dürfte in dieser Beziehung noch augenschonender und vor allem schneller zu durchsuchen sein.

Auf der ersten Seite des eigentlichen Wörterbuches, oberhalb der Einträge für A, befindet sich ein kleiner Abschnitt mit einigen der Symbole, die in Windows zu finden sind, z.B. ¥, §, ©, _, ™, , mitsamt der Tastenkombinationen, die man für das Erstellen dieser Symbole benötigt. Ehrlich gesagt, ich fand dies leicht befremdlich, aber für andere ist das vielleicht sehr hilfreich. Unter den Symbolen gab es auch einige Zeilen mit den Erklärungen für 1Q, 2Q etc.

Um dieses Wörterbuch und seine Brauchbarkeit für Übersetzer zu beurteilen, suchte ich bestimmte Wörter, die dann auch im Schäfer Wirtschaftswörterbuch, 5. Auflage E<->D und gesucht wurden, im Zahn – Bank und Börsenwesen Deutsch <-> Englisch, 4. überarbeitete und erweiterte Auflage, Zahn, Bank und Börsenwesen Deutsch → Englisch, 5. überarbeitete und erweiterte Auflage, Zahn Glossarium der Wirtschaft, Englisch -> Deutsch, 4. vollständig überarbeitete und erweiterte Auflage sowie im Hamblock/Wessels Großwörterbuch Wirtschaftsenglisch, 5. aktualisierte und erweiterte

Auflage. Online Wörterbücher wurden nicht bemüht, da es sich hier um einen Vergleich von gedruckten Büchern handelte. Obwohl Langenscheidt sich Mühe gab, amerikanisches und britisches Englisch als solches zu kennzeichnen, so ist doch ein deutlicher Trend zum britischen Englisch zu erkennen. Es wäre wünschenswert, wenn Langenscheidt der Tatsache Rechnung tragen würde, dass im anglophonen Wirtschaftsbereich allein schon vom Volumen her die amerikanische Schreibweise überwiegt.

Der erste Begriff, **Englisch -> Deutsch**, den ich wahllos in den oben genannten Wörterbüchern suchte und verglich, ist **absorption**.

Langenscheidt: **absorption** 1. <Acc> Verrechnung f 2. <Econ> Abschöpfung f, Absorption f, inländische Gesamtnachfrage f, Aufnahme f, Sättigung f, 3.<Fin> of a company Auflösung f, Übernahme f, Verrechnung f, Vollkostenrechnung f, 4. <Gen. Comm> of costs, profits, business Absorption f, Aufnahme, Übernahme f, of resources Bindung f, 5. <Transp> Übernahme.

Schäfer: **absorption** (com), Aufnahme f, Absorption f, Übernahme f (e.g., cost, freight), (Bw) Übernahme e-s Unternehmens (*i.e., a small company merges with a large one, syn. amalgamation*), (Pw) fortbestehende Seniorität (*i.e., bei Fusion od Übernahme*), (VGR) Absorption f – inländische Güternachfrage f, - Gesamtausgaben fpl. der Inländer für Güter und Leistungen (*i.e., total spending of residents on domestic and foreign goods and services = Teil des Sozialprodukts, der für C+I im Inland beansprucht wird; syn. domestic expenditure*)

Zahn (4. Auflage): Abschöpfung, Absorption; ~ of the cost Kostenübernahme, ~ of excess liquidity.....

Zahn, Business Glossary: i.e.S.: Zurechnung von Kosten auf die Kostenträger, i.w.S.: (Kaufkraft-) Abschöpfung, (Firmen-, Kosten) Übernahme. Dem folgten dann Einträge für absorption costing und absorption period.

Hamblock/Wessels: 1. Absorption f, Aufnahme f, Abschöpfung f, Auffangen nt; 2. Sättigungspunkt m; 3. (Waren) Abnahme f; 4. (*Gesellschaft*) Eingliederung f, Integration f; 5. Inlandsausgaben für Güter und Leistungen. Nach diesem Begriff folgen die zusammengesetzten: absorption of charges, ~funds, ~liquidity, ~surplus liquidity, ~losses, ~money, ~purchasing power; - absorpiton account, absorption costing, full a.c., modified a.c., standard a.c.; - absorption loan, a.point, a.value. Wie eindeutig zu sehen ist, enthält der Hamblock/Wessels die meisten Einträge.

Zweiter Begriff: **Letter of credit**

Langenscheidt: Letter of credit (L/C) <Bank> Akkreditiv n [einziger Eintrag, ohne Nachbareinträge]

Schäfer: Letter of credit L/C, (L.C.) (com) Kreditbrief m, Akkreditiv n n [einziger Eintrag, ohne Nachbareinträge]

Zahn (Bank und Börsenwesen): Letter of credit 1. Kreditbesicherungsgarantie 2. Zahlungsgarantie 3. Kreditbrief, Akkreditiv [auf diesen Eintrag folgen andere „letter of credit“ Nachbareinträge]

Zahn (Business Glossary): Kreditbesicherungsgarantie ü im internationalen Kreditverkehr übliche Garantie; sie wird beispielsweise von einer US-Bank einem US-Kunden gewährt, wenn dieser oder seine Tochtergesellschaft bei einer Bank in der Bundesrepublik einen kredit aufnehmen will. 2. im anglo-amerikanischen Rechtskreis übliche Bezeichnung für ein Dokumentenakkreditiv -> documentary credit.

Hamblock/Wessels: (L/C) Akkreditiv nt, Kreditbrief ; [dann eine halbe Viertelseite mehr, z.B. confirmed letter of credit (not in Langenscheidt), documentary letter o.c., revocable.....etc, etc. Natürlich ist keiner dieser Einträge falsch. Ich wollte hier nur auf die mangelnde Fülle im Langenscheidt hinweisen.

Dritter Begriff: **Systemic Transformation Facility**

Langenscheidt: Systemic Transformation Facility (STF), <Econ> Systemübergangsfazilität

Schäfer: Kein Eintrag

Zahn (Bank und Börsenwesen): Keine Angaben

Zahn (Business Glossary): Keine Angaben

Hamblock/Wessels: Keine Angaben zu obigem Begriff, hat aber systemic – systembezogen.

Vierter Begriff: **Mercosur:**

Langenscheidt: <Econ> Freihandelsabkommen zwischen Argentinien, Brasilien, Paraguay und Uruguay

Schäfer: Keine Angaben

Zahn (Bank und Börsenwesen): Keine Angaben

Zahn (Business Glossary): Keine Angaben

Hamblock/Wessels: Keine Angaben

Fünfter Begriff: **issue price**

Langenscheidt: 1. <Fin> Ausgabepreis m, Ausgabewert m, 2. <Stock> Abgabekurs, Emissionskurs m

Schäfer: (Fin) Ausgabekurs m, Emissionskurs m (syn, initial offering / subscription / coming-out . . . price), (Fin) Ausgabepreis m (ie, zu dem Investmentfonds Anteilscheine [Zertifikate] verkaufen; wird nach Inventarwert pro Anteil errechnet und börsentäglich festgestellt), (Bö) Abgabekurs m

Zahn (Bank und Börsenwesen): Emissionskurs

Zahn (Business Glossary): Keine Angaben

Hamblock/Wessels: Abgabe-, Ausgangs-, Emissions-, Bezugs-, Erstausgabe-, Zeichnungskurs m, Ausgabe(kurs)wert m

Deutsch -> Englisch, Erster Begriff: **AAA**

Langenscheidt: abb. 1.<Acc> (*American Accounting Association*) amerikanischer Rechnungslegungsfachverband; 2. <Fin, Stock,> (*Aaa, triple-A*) highest quality rating höchstklassifiziert, mit AAA-einstufung, mit bester Bonitätseinstufung f, erstklassig, risikolos in compounds Triple A . . . jarg (e.g., *Triple A-bond*); 3. <Ins> (*Association of Average Adjusters*) marine insurance Verband der Schadensregulierer, 4. <Transp> *American Automobile Association*) Amerikanischer Kraftfahrerverband

Schäfer: AAA (com) amerikanischer Automobilverband m (entspricht in etwa dem deutschen ADAC)

Zahn (Bank und Börsenwesen): Keine Angaben

Hamblock/Wessels: Keine Angaben

Diese Abkürzung, die im amerikanischen Sprachgebrauch nun doch des Öfteren vorkommt, ist, wie man sehen kann, weder im Zahn noch im Hamblock/Wessels zu finden, aber ist im Langenscheidt vorhanden, wie auch andere, allgemein übliche Abkürzungen, (z.B.: a.s.a.p., a/d, A1, etc), die man sonst woanders suchen müsste, die aber hier im (allgemeinen) **Fachwörterbuch Wirtschaft, Handel und Finanzen** gut aufgehoben sind. Während der drei Monate, in denen ich das Wörterbuch hatte und neben meinem **Hamblock/Wessels** und **Zahn** benutzte, fand ich so das eine oder andere Wort bzw. eine Abkürzung, die, in den anderen nicht vorkam. Besonders betroffen sind davon die Abkürzungen, wie bereits bemerkt.

Zweiter Begriff: **Nettoeigenkapital**

Langenscheidt: Nettoeigenkapital n <Rechnung> net equity. Relativ neuer Ausdruck, dazu gibt Google.de z.B. nur 75 Einträge für Nettoeigenkapital her.

Schäfer: Keine Angaben

Zahn: Keine Angaben

Hamblock/Wessels: Keine Angaben

Hier zeigt sich die Tatsache, dass der **Langenscheidt** eine „stark bearbeitete und erweiterte Auflage“ ist.

Dritter Begriff: **Unternehmensrisiko**

Langenscheidt: Unternehmensrisiko – nicht vorhanden, aber: Unternehmensrisikoausschluss m <Versich> business risk exclusion

Schäfer: Keine Angaben

Zahn: – corporate risk

Hamblock/Wessels: - business/commercial/entrepreneurial risk

Vierter Begriff: **Bilanz** (ohne Zusammensetzungen)

Langenscheidt: Bilanz, f. <Rechnung> annual accounts, asset and liability statement, balance sheet

Schäfer: (ReW) balance sheet, – annual financial statement, – year-end financial statement

– (GB) annual accounts, (ie, comprehensive term: may include balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other related documents; cf, Übersicht S.)

Zahn: balance sheet, annual financial statements, (*Kurzform*) accounts, (~ ziehen) 1. to balance the books 2. to strike a balance.

Hamblock/Wessels: balance sheet, accounts, statement assets and liabilities ~ (of financial position), assets and liabilities stament [US], consolidated statement of condition, (annual) financial statement, assets and equities, balance of account(s), set of accounts/figures. net movement, record review; 2. (*Lage*), balance, end results.

Hierzu muss bemerkt werden, dass der **Zahn** eine volle Spalte mit zusammengesetzten Bilanzeinträgen hatte, und der Hamblock/Wessels viereinviertel Spalten.

Die Anzahl der Wörter, die nicht in ein Wörterbuch für Wirtschaft, Handel und Finanzen gehören, hält sich lobenswerterweise wirklich in Grenzen. Außerdem trägt das Wörterbuch auch der Tatsache Rechnung, dass die heutige Wirtschaft Rechner gestützt ist und gibt eine Fülle von Worten her, die man eigentlich eher im **Brinkmann** oder **Ferretti** suchen würde, so z.B. „Serielles Abtastgerät“ – serial reader. Das Gleiche trifft für andere Wirtschaftsbereiche, z.B. Versicherungsrecht, Recht, Patentwesen, Transport, Computer, Medien, Umwelt und andere, die alle leicht angeschnitten werden.

Ein Pluspunkt ist die relativ ausführliche Fülle an Vokabular aus dem Bereich Umwelt, und auch Marketing kommt nicht zu kurz. Außerdem sind Abkürzungen bei jedem Buchstaben vor den eigentlichen Einträgen zu finden. Bei den Ps aber fiel mir beim Eintrag **p.o.** die Übersetzung auf – payment order. Ich kenne für P.O. nur Purchase Order, das war aber dort nicht vermerkt. Ein weiterer Pluspunkt für jene, die vorläufig nur ein Wirtschaftswörterbuch im Regal haben können, ist der Anhang, der, wie bereits erwähnt, u.a nicht nur Berufsbezeichnungen und ihre Übersetzungen enthält, sondern auch Jahresbilanzbeispiele (allerdings nur nach HGB) sowie ein paar Vertragsmuster und dergleichen.

Im Großen und Ganzen handelt es sich um ein gutes, allgemeines Wirtschaftswörterbuch, das zwar nicht die Spezifität eines Hamblock/Wessels oder Zahn hat, aber als das Buch für jene funktioniert, die nur ein Buch haben können, weil sie gerade anfangen, also z.B. Studenten – aber da würde ich absolut die Version als e-Fachwörterbuch empfehlen. Wenn man nur ein einziges Buch hat, weil man selten Texte aus dem Bereich Wirtschaft übersetzt oder das Wörterbuch nur als Ergänzung verwendet, dann empfiehlt sich der Langenscheidt. Würde ich meinerseits jedoch bei einer Übersetzung zuerst zum Langenscheidt greifen, bevor ich zum **Zahn** oder **Hamblock/Wessels** greife? Wahrscheinlich nicht. Meiner Ansicht nach ist das Buch als allgemeines Werkzeug durchaus zu empfehlen, zum Beispiel, wie oben erwähnt, für Studenten oder für Geschäftsreisende (als e-Fachwörterbuch), nicht aber für jene Übersetzer, die entweder viel, vorwiegend oder ausschließlich im finanziellen und rechtlichen Bereich arbeiten. Da gibt es schlicht und einfach zu viele Begriffe, die nicht enthalten sind. Und etliche der Angaben müssen eben mit Vorsicht genossen werden. Würde ich als langjährige Übersetzerin das Buch kaufen? Meine Antwort darauf ist ein eindeutiges „nein“, weil ich es als für einen im wirtschaftlichen Bereich tätigen Übersetzer nicht als ausreichend umfangreich empfinde. Wenn schon, dann das e-Fachwörterbuch, das meines Wissens mit dem **Muret-Sanders** und dem **Technischen Wörterbuch** zusammenarbeiten kann.

Astra Van Heest kommt aus Ettlingen (bei Karlsruhe) und zog nach dem Studium in Germersheim mit ihrem Mann nach Grand Haven, Michigan, wo sie seit 1975 lebt. Sie ist seit 17 Jahren freiberuflich als Übersetzerin im technischen und wirtschaftlichen Bereich tätig, davor in Teilzeit, und übersetzt sowohl ins Deutsche als auch ins Englische. Astra ist unter astravanheest@novagate.com oder astravanheest@charter.net zu erreichen.

Dictionary Review

Fachwörterbuch Chemie und chemische Technik

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Preis: 99,00 EUR je Band

von Andreas Riepe



Das neue Fachwörterbuch für Chemie und chemische Technik liegt als zweibändige gebundene Hardcover-Ausgabe wie auch als e-Fachwörterbuch zum Preis von 199,00 Euro vor. Diese Rezension bezieht sich auf die gebundene Ausgabe. Einen ersten positiven Eindruck hinterlässt die bekannt hohe Qualität des Papiers sowie der hochwertige Einband. Über die Jahre habe ich mit unterschiedlich gestalteten Büchern und Einbänden gearbeitet und finde, dass die Qualität von Langenscheidt bei sorgsamer Behandlung eine lange Lebensdauer verspricht. Langenscheidt verzichtet auf ein Daumenregister zwischen den Kapiteln, was ich persönlich als keine Einbuße empfinde. Bei einem Wörterbuch, das regelmäßig verwendet wird, findet man in wenigen Sekunden die gewünschte Stelle.

Die ersten Seiten der beiden Bände unterscheiden sich leicht. Die deutsch-englische Ausgabe startet mit zwei Seiten der gebräuchlichsten Fachgebietskürzel. Die englisch-deutsche Ausgabe hat eine weitere Seite mit Beispielen für die alphabetische Ordnung, der Bedeutung der Zeichen und allgemeiner Abkürzungen. Diese zusätzlichen Informationen hätte ich in beiden Bänden zu Beginn erwartet.

Es folgt der Hauptteil mit den jeweiligen Fachbegriffen in alphabetischer Reihenfolge. Ein Vergleich der beiden Bände zeigt, dass die Erklärungen in der jeweils anderen Sprache im Deutschen etwas umfangreicher sind als die englische Übersetzung der deutschen Begriffe. Der Band E-D ist ca. 50 Seiten umfangreicher als der andere. Nachdem ich anfangs darüber gestutzt habe, hat die genauere Betrachtung gezeigt, dass die englischen Begriffe oft prägnanter sind, wohingegen im deutschen Sprachraum dafür mehr Worte gebraucht werden, um die Übersetzung eindeutig zu machen.

Im hinteren Teil der beiden Bände folgen identische Tabellen und Erklärungen von chemischen Symbolen und der Elemente, nähere Erklärungen zu chemischen Formeln und Gleichungen. Chemie kann nicht ohne Mathematik auskommen. So sind im Anhang auch vier Seiten zu den wichtigsten mathematischen Ausdrücken abgebildet. Dies kann im Rahmen des Wörterbuchs nur erste erläuternde Hinweise geben und ist so auch zu würdigen. Auch die letzten beiden Seiten mit der Gegenüberstellung

von SI-Einheiten mit früher gebräuchlichen Einheiten kann im Rahmen des Wörterbuches nur erste Anhaltspunkte geben. Interessant zu bemerken ist, dass zwischen europäischen (SI-Einheiten, metric system) und amerikanischen Maßeinheiten (foot-pound system) in Publikationen und Berechnungen bis heute zwei Welten existieren. Diese Einheiten sind im Hauptteil des Bands E-D zu finden und Hinweise für die Umrechnung in die jeweils andere Einheit sind ebenfalls angegeben (eng.-dt.: **British thermal unit** veraltete Einheit der Wärmemenge mit geringfügig divergierenden Bezugsbasen; $1 \text{ Btu} \approx 1055 \text{ J}$). Speziell Btu ist auch heute noch im Bereich der amerikanischen chemischen Technik eine aktuelle Einheit.

Im Hauptteil fällt sehr angenehm auf, dass sprachlich nahe verwandte Begriffe sehr differenziert dargestellt und übersetzt werden. Zum Beispiel **conveyor belt** Förderband *m*, Fördergurt *m*, Transportband *n* und **conveyor belting** Förderbänder, *npl*, Fördergurte *mpl*, Transportbänder *npl*. Diese Detailgenauigkeit ist hilfreich, da die direkte Übersetzung ins Englische vom einfachen Plural abweicht. Im Band D-E sind weitergehende Erklärungen in englischer Sprache angegeben: **Myrtol** *n* myrtol (*a fraction of myrtle oil distilling between 160 and 180 °C*), in der englisch-deutschen Ausgabe ist es umgekehrt. Beim Durchsehen der Lexika fällt auf, dass sowohl Namensreaktionen (Krupp-Lurgi-Verfahren), als auch die gebräuchlichen Abkürzungen für Molekülgruppen (**F-6-P** = fructose-6-phosphate) komplett enthalten sind. Neben der reinen Übersetzung erlaubt dies dem Nichtfachmann schnell einen besseren Zugang zu der Materie zu bekommen. In den beiden Bänden sind Begriffe aus allen Bereichen der Chemie zu finden, einschließlich der Biochemie und, wie im Titel erwähnt, der Bereich der technischen Chemie und geht darüber hinaus noch in den Bereich der Anwendungstechnik hinein: effect on yield Ertragswirkung *f* (z.B. von Düngemitteln). Auch Begriffen aus dem Bereich des molecular modelling sind zu finden.

Bei der Durchsicht für diese Rezension konnte ich keine Begriffe finden, deren Übersetzung mir als fehlerhaft erschienen wäre. Sehr positiv überraschte die Fülle von Begriffen aus allen Bereichen der Chemie. Einen großen Teil nehmen Begriffe und Abkürzungen aus der organischen Chemie ein, aber auch Spezialbegriffe aus der Lebensmittelchemie sind enthalten. Speziell die Kombination der Begriffe mit den gegeben kurzen Erklärungen machen dieses Fachwörterbuch sehr wertvoll. Mir ist kein anderes Wörterbuch bekannt, das so umfangreich ist.

Die beiden Bände sind aus meiner Sicht sehr zu empfehlen, wenn Übersetzungen zu allgemeinen chemischen Fragestellungen aus beliebigen Fachrichtungen der Chemie oder der oft komplizierten technischen Chemie benötigt werden. Die Wörterbücher bieten sich an für alle, die ein chemisches Basiswissen haben und schnell nach den richtigen Begriffen im jeweils anderen Sprachraum suchen. Der Preis für die Bände ist angemessen.

Dr. Andreas Riepe hat an der Westfälischen Wilhelms Universität in Münster/Westfalen Chemie/Diplom studiert und am Institut für Organische Katalyseforschung in Rostock promoviert. Er arbeitet seit acht Jahren für Unternehmen der Chemischen Industrie in Europa, sowie Nord- und Südamerika als Spezialist für die Einführung von Computer-Systemen die der Einhaltung sämtlicher nationalen wie internationalen Vorschriften für Inverkehrbringung, Transport und Nutzung von Chemikalien dienen. Andreas Riepe kann per E-Mail erreicht werden über: andreas.riepe@gmx.de.

Termine

Was	Wann	Wo	Inforomationen/Kontakt
Einführung in die Bilanzierung nach IAS/IFRS	Oct. 14-15 2005	Munich Germany	Info: www.bdue.de Kontakt: nw@bdue.de
Ohio Valley Regional Interpreter Conference	Oct. 29-30 2005	Kent OH	Info: www.ccio.org
The Language Show	Nov. 4-6 2005	Olympia UK	Info: www.thelanguageshow.co.uk Kontakt: info@valueaddedevents.co.uk
Urkundenübersetzen und Notariatsdolmetschen	Nov. 5 2005	Berlin Germany	Info: www.bdue.de kontakt: bgs@bdue.de
ATA, Annual Conference	Nov. 9 -12 2005	Seattle, WA	Info: www.atanet.org Kontakt: ata-hq@atanet.org
XIII Susanne Hübner Seminar: Translation & Cultural Identity	Nov. 23-26 2005	Zaragoza Spain	Info: www.iti.org.uk Kontakt: micaela@unizar.es
Translating and the Computer 27	Nov. 24-25 2005	London UK	Info: www.aslib.com Kontakt: tc27@aslib.com
Juristische Fachübersetzungen D>E, E>D Terminologiekarbeit	Nov. 25-26 2005	Munich, Germany	Info: www.bdue.de Kontakt: muehlhaus@sdi-muenchen.de
ITA 2005 Conference	Jan. 25-27 2006	Haifa Israel	Info: www.ita.org.il Kontakt: route1@bezeqint.net
Self & Identity in Translation	Feb. 4-5 2006	Norwich UK	Info: www.uea.ac.uk Kontakt: selfandidentity@gmail.com
Multilingualism & Applied Comparative Linguistics	Feb. 8-10 2006	Brussels Belgium	Info: www.macl.be Knt.: Rita.Temmerman@docent.ehb.be

Please note: If you know of any upcoming events that are of interest to other readers, please forward the information to the editors (RainerKlett@aol.com and r.grefe@gmx.net). Your help is much appreciated. The calendar listing of conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. includes only some of the upcoming events that might be of interest to GLD members. More comprehensive information is available on the organizers' Web sites, such as: www.atanet.org, www.bdue.de, www.adue-nord.de, www.ciuti-akademie.com, www.fit-ift.org, www.najit.org, www.sdi-muenchen.de