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Newsletter of the German Language Division
of the American Translators Association

MT & AI:
FRIEND OR
FOE?

ata American Translators Association
The Voice of Interpreters and Translators



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Editorial



Marion Rhodes is a bilingual English/German copywriter, ATA-certified English-to-German translator, and search engine optimization specialist at Integrated MarCom Translations. Before starting her translation business, Marion worked as a reporter for the Omaha World-Herald in Nebraska and as a freelance writer. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in integrated marketing communications. A native of Germany, she has lived in the United States since 2001 and currently resides in San Diego, where she runs a small home zoo consisting of 4 dogs, 3 cats, various foster kittens, and two horses.

Dear Readers,

Are you afraid of artificial intelligence? Should you be? Or are you excited about the opportunities AI creates? Wherever you stand on the topic, chances are you're not indifferent to it. Chances are also that it has affected your work in some way at this point. If it hasn't, it's only a matter of time.

In this issue, we're taking a closer look at the current state of AI as it relates to our profession. Carola Berger has provided an in-depth look at how machine translation works (page 20). Ruth Boggs explains how she came to appreciate DeepL and is now using it as a productivity tool (page 24). And on page 27, I'll tell you about my personal experience with the much talked-about ChatGPT.

This being the first issue of the year, we also have two recaps of the last ATA Conference, written by Susanne Henke (page 8) and Halla Bearden (page 10). You'll also find our Annual Meeting Minutes (page 12) and, sadly, the last Listmaster Report written by Gerhard Preisser (page 15).

Our Translator in Profile this time is Robin Limmeroth, who has stepped up as assistant administrator of the GLD after serving as our webmaster. Find out more about her on page 32, and don't forget to check out Karen Leube's Word

from the Administrator (page 4) for other important changes in the GLD! Our Collaboration Pool Coordinator, Heike Holthaus, also has an update for you on page 18.

European Coordinator Ellen Yutzy-Glebe will keep you informed about our GLD happenings in Germany (page 6), while Stella Waltemade has put together a calendar of upcoming T&I events across the globe.

We also have a book review by our Review Coordinator Rosalie Henke, who will tell you about Miriam Neidhardt's *Überleben als Übersetzer: Das Handbuch für freiberufliche Übersetzerinnen* (page 34).

Before I let you dive into this issue, I'd like to introduce you to a new member of the *interaktiv* editorial team: Randal Gernaat has joined us

as a proofreader to make sure that our content continues to be as error-free as possible. He jumped right in and started working on the issue at hand.

We hope you'll enjoy reading this newsletter.

Mit sonnigen Grüßen aus San Diego,
Marion Rhodes

"In this issue, we're taking a closer look at the current state of AI as it relates to our profession."



Karen Leube grew up in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in German in the United States and obtained a PhD in English and German as a foreign language (DaF) from the University of Heidelberg. She taught translation at the Universities of Heidelberg and Mainz (Germersheim) and now works as a freelance translator and seminar facilitator from her office in Aachen.

Word from the Administrator

By Karen Leube

As I write my first column as the GLD Administrator, it is snowing—with enough snow accumulating to have required me to shovel a path from the street to the house, a rare occurrence in Aachen these days. And yet it feels “normal,” since it’s January in Central Europe, and in the past, snow and ice were par for the course here at this time of year. When it comes to my work, ATA and the GLD, this winter doesn’t feel “normal.” For one, I am now the administrator of the German Language Division, a position I took over from Carlie Sitzman in November. So many things seem to be moving targets, whether it is the erratic translation market, changes at ATA, and new faces on the GLD Leadership Council. As my son once exclaimed after reading the book *Who Moved My Cheese* on managing change, “Just put the cheese back, and I will be fine!”

While some of us feel that machine translation and AI-based chatbots are pulling the rug out from under us, others are harnessing the efficiency of these tools for the benefit of their work—and taking their businesses to new heights. Still others are hunkering down in their niche specialties, hoping to ward off automation through their stylistic prowess. And some of us are preparing

to transition to other (language-based) income streams. Earlier this year, I was invited to talk to T&I students studying at the University of Heidelberg on the topic of “Fachübersetzen im Wandel der Zeit.” While there is a lot to say about how nonliterary translation has evolved over the years (“Fachübersetzen” being one of those words we love to hate), surely what the students want to know is what’s in store for them in the years to come.

One area I wanted to focus on was collaboration and professional association membership. If you have been following our blog series entitled “7 Questions for GLD Leadership Council Members,” you know that none of us have trodden a straightforward path to date. We have a near even cross-pond exchange, with four of us US-born but based in Germany, and five Germany-born but US-based. Erin Riddle, one of our new digital events coordinators, is our token “US-born,” “US-based” LC member. And among our LC consultants, it’s two US-based Germans versus one US-based American.

Just in the past six months, one LC member has switched from full-time freelancing to a full-time in-house position, and another has done just the

ata
THE ATA PODCAST



News and Insights from the
American Translators Association



“At the German Language Division, we are working hard to provide our members with the networking and educational opportunities they need to navigate the uncharted waters ahead.”

opposite. This is not to say that we are all footloose and fancy-free. But just as translation and interpreting require life-long learning, they also demand life-long flexibility. At the German Language Division, we are working hard to provide our members with the networking and educational opportunities they need to navigate the uncharted waters ahead.

I’m so grateful to the GLD Leadership Council members who are working so hard on behalf of our members. **Webmaster Robin Limmeroth** agreed to step up as **GLD assistant administrator** when I moved to administrator. **Marion Rhodes, Ilona Friedman, Ellen Yutzy Glebe**, and our LC consultants **Ruth Boggs, Gerhard Preisser, and Carlie Sitzman** are continuing their service in their various LC roles. **Rainer Klett** is our wonderful new **listmaster**. **Katrin Rippel Galati** and **Erin Riddle** are our new **digital events coordinators**, and they kicked off the new year with the first Digital Social in January. **Heike Holthaus** is staying on at the helm of the **Collaboration Pool**. **Kristina Cosumano** is serving in the newly created position of **new member coordinator**.

But that’s not all. I’d like to extend a warm welcome to some other GLD members

who are new to behind-the-scenes roles. **Nathan Wiegand** has agreed to compile and manage a **list of GLD members who specialize in old German script/handwriting**. If that is your specialty and you are not yet on the list, please contact Nathan at nlwcdw@gmail.com. **Beate Maier** is compiling a list of sworn translators, i.e., Europe-based translators who can certify translations in line with local regulations. You can reach Beate at maier_services@hotmail.com if you would like to be added to the list. Both lists will be stored in the “Files” section of the GLD groups.io group.

And finally, I’d like to express my thanks to **Noah Alter** for setting up and “feeding” our new [GLD LinkedIn page](#). Please follow our new page and help us by passing on interesting content for us to post.

Perhaps the tone of this piece seemed a bit glum at the outset. Yet as I compile the list of enthusiastic helpers, view the pictures of GLD activities on our newly overhauled division website, and eagerly anticipate our next in-person GLD meetup, the uneasiness is giving way to optimism: “Gemeinsam sind wir stark.”

Become a GLD Contributor!

Do you write or blog about the translation industry—or would you like to start and need a platform? We want you! Please contact Marion Rhodes about how you can become a GLD contributor! E-mail: marion@imctranslations.com.



A native of western North Carolina, **Ellen Yutzy Glebe** was a history and German studies major at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, and earned a PhD in European history at UC-Berkeley before transitioning to a career as a professional translator (GE>EN) and editor (EN) of academic texts. She now lives in Kassel, Germany, a town with beautiful green spaces and good ICE connections. She is a member of ATA, BDÜ, and a number of historical associations. For more details see www.writinghistory.de.

(Translation) Notes from the Homeland

By Ellen Yutzy Glebe

I have a confession to make: still a little jet-lagged and feeling devoid of inspiration, I toyed with the idea of asking ChatGPT to write this column. After all, I've only just returned to Europe after six months in North Carolina with my family, and I was so busy during that period that I was largely oblivious to what was going on in the translation world on either side of the Atlantic and focused on getting my own work done. Even so, I could hardly have missed the **frenzy** around ChatGPT: It was suddenly being discussed in all kinds of mainstream media outlets (including **Tagesschau** and **Slate**) and sparking concerned discussion in nearly every professional forum I follow. The editors were worried about whether it would put them out of business, the historians wondered what it meant for the future of academia and whether it could fake footnotes, and the teachers asked themselves how they would motivate students to hone their writing skills if the machines were poised to take over anyway.

Are we on the cusp of a brave new world? Teetering on the precipice above a slippery slope that plummets into a society ruled by algorithms and AI? Or is this just the latest wave that will ebb soon enough as **the shortcomings** and **difficulties** are inevitably revealed?

Perhaps the frenzy will have died down a bit by the time this column makes its way into print, but questions will remain regardless—questions of ethics, economics, efficiency, and even our very existence. We might be able or even

inclined to ignore some of these, like the question of **what happens to those unfortunate souls** who get hired to help train AI as to what it may and may not repeat of the vitriol it finds as it crawls around online. (Those questions, as the TIME article in the link above makes clear, apply not just to AI but also to **social media networks**, which have similar problems in controlling the vitriol itself.) While the machines **may not (yet?) be able to produce stellar academic prose**, the potential for plagiarism is immense, whether **conscious** (feeding it a text to rephrase so as to be unrecognizable) or **unconscious** (getting a reply to a prompt that is in effect regurgitated from a particular source). And, when AI operates based on existing examples that are permeated with **bias and prejudice**, does it **perpetuate these attitudes** in its output?

For language professionals like the readers of *interaktiv*, however, some of these questions are existential and ignoring them would be to stick our heads in the sand. Will new technologies make competent linguists more efficient or render us obsolete? (**Nina Sattler-Hovdar's answer** seems to be a “no” on both fronts, at least for now.) Will we go from translators and editors to fact-checkers trying to flag those cases where the AI has just blatantly invented or inadvertently misinterpreted things? (And here I highly recommend **this article** about a researcher who had the chatbot write his obituary!) I must admit that when DeepL got a lot of hype in the media just a few years ago, I told myself that, given my



penchant for editing, I did not need to worry too much about having enough work to do in the future. Even if my clients turned to MT, I figured, their texts would still need a thorough editing. So when DeepL recently launched their new service called [DeepL Write](#), I did do a bit of a double take. While I haven't succumbed to any nightmares about AI encroaching on my livelihood, I did wonder for a brief moment if it was too late to consider teaching after all.



Post published with permission from Nina Sattler-Hovdar.

How fitting, then, that the topic of the upcoming GLD in Europe workshop in Mainz is machine translation. The event, planned for early March, will probably be over by the time you read this, but I predict now that we will find the machines have some pretty amazing capabilities—but nothing that our talented colleagues can't improve upon! And after three years of not seeing each other due to the pandemic, I also feel confident in predicting that we'll value the human interaction all the more! Our worries this winter go far beyond the existential questions of AI and MT as we turn down the thermostats and keep a wary eye on geopolitical developments, but our being able to come together for an in-person event is nonetheless cause for celebration.



Seit 1995 ist **Susanne Henke** – zunächst von den USA und heute von Deutschland aus – für Kunden in aller Welt tätig. Zu ihrem Kundenkreis zählen Gesundheits-einrichtungen, Medizintechnik- und Pharmaunternehmen, Anwaltskanzleien und Wirtschaftsunternehmen. Als öffentlich bestellte und allgemein beeidigte Übersetzerin für die englische Sprache (Landgericht Augsburg) erstellt sie unter anderem beglaubigte Übersetzungen in ihren Fachgebieten Medizin, Recht und Personalwesen (HR).

Annual Conference Recap: Die 63. ATA Jahreskonferenz aus deutscher Freelancer-Perspektive

By Susanne Henke

This article was initially published on susanne-henke.de/aktuelles/usa-ata63. It was adapted and published here with permission by the author.

Der Wow-Effekt stellt sich spätestens beim Betreten der Lobby des Konferenzhotels ein, das mitten im Finanzdistrikt von Los Angeles liegt und aufgrund seiner aufwendigen Bauweise schon Drehort einiger Hollywoodfilme war. Man merkt sofort, dass die 63. Jahreskonferenz der American Translators Association (ATA) hochprofessionell und glamourös (ein Wort, das mir sonst nie über die Lippen kommt) aufgezogen ist. Was für eine willkommene Abwechslung vom Homeoffice-Alltag der zurückliegenden Pandemiejahre!

Spätestens beim Abendempfang auf der Dachterrasse mit Blick über die Skyline von L.A. fängt man an, sich als Teil dieser besonderen Gemeinschaft zu fühlen, strafft innerlich die Schultern und stürzt sich angenehm aufgeregt ins Getümmel. Der Empfang ist herzlich. Manche Kolleg:innen kennt man schon persönlich, manche kannte man bisher nur aus den sozialen Medien oder von Diskussionsplattformen der ATA und des BDÜ. Es stellt sich sofort ein Gefühl der Kollegialität ein, aus Bekannten werden Freunde und Pläne werden geschmiedet.

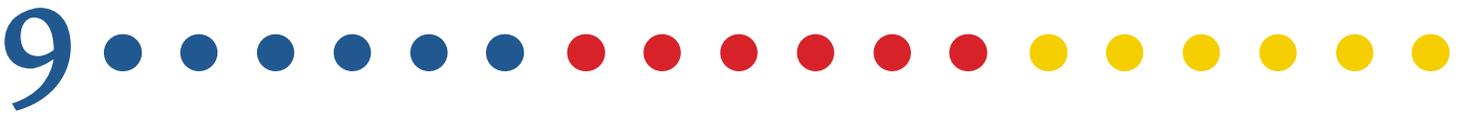
Gestärkt vom gemeinsamen Continental Breakfast in ausgelassener Atmosphäre, geht es am ersten Morgen zur Auftaktveranstaltung, wo die amtierende ATA-Präsidentin Madalena Sánchez Zampaulo und ihre designierte Nachfolgerin, Veronika Demichelis, über die Konferenz-Highlights und aktuelle Entwicklungen und Zahlen zur American Translators Association informieren.

Jetzt gilt es, aus einem riesengroßen Weiterbildungsangebot zu wählen. Ich besuche während der Konferenz unter anderem die folgenden Vorträge:

- **How to Keep Track of Your Marketing Efforts with Ease**, präsentiert von Molly Yurick
- **Whys and Wherefores of Pro-nominal Adverbs in German to English Translation**, präsentiert von Michael Schubert, CT
- **The Language of Diversity—in German**, präsentiert von Lisa Rüth, die von der German Language Division

What's all the "ataTalk" about?

"ataTalk" is a forum for discussing ATA policy, activities, and governance. It's a place where members can voice opinions and be heard by the association at large. Join in and find out what all the talk is about! (Please note that questions and problems that need to be addressed right away should continue to be directed to president@atanet.org.)



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Lust auf mehr!“

der ATA als Distinguished Speaker eingeladen ist

- **Institutional Websites: Tera Resources for Translators**, präsentiert von Françoise Herrmann
- **How to Build Your Network before You Actually Need It**, präsentiert von Judy Jenner
- **Unlocking the Power of Syntax in German**, präsentiert von Lisa Rüth

Neugierig? Die Vorträge sind nicht nur lehrreich, sondern auch meistens *interaktiv* angelegt, humorvoll und kurzweilig und machen definitiv Lust auf mehr! In meiner persönlichen Linksammlung mit Bildern am Ende dieses Artikels finden Sie weitere Informationen.

In den Pausen zwischen den Veranstaltungen findet sich immer wieder die Gelegenheit für ein spontanes Gespräch mit einer Kollegin. Am ersten Abend wage ich mich zum Speed-Networking, aus dem ich eine Stunde später mit rauchendem Kopf, aber um eine wichtige Erfahrung (und etliche Visitenkarten) reicher wieder auftauche.

Was ich an der ATA-Konferenz sonst noch bemerkenswert finde:

- Die langfristige Terminplanung – erleichtert die Reiseplanung
- Die eigens programmierte Konferenzapp – sorgt für optimalen Überblick
- Der Fokus auf Networking – setzt genau da an, wo es bei vielen von uns hapert
- Die außerordentliche Kollegialität und Offenheit – wärmt das Herz
- Die Präsenz in den sozialen Medien – ist vorbildlich und heute ein Muss
- Angebote wie Mindful Movement, um gemeinsam den Tag einzuläuten, bis hin zur abendlichen Zumba-Session

Die Konferenz verbuche ich insgesamt als sehr positive und wichtige Erfahrung und der Abschied von den Kollegen und Kolleginnen fällt mir am Ende nicht ganz leicht. Nur gut, dass die ATA schon einen Veranstaltungsort und Termin für die nächste Jahreskonferenz festgelegt hat!

Displaying the ATA logo is a benefit that some members overlook

If you don't, you're missing out on an important way ATA can work for you. All ATA members may access and use the ATA logo. Learn more here: atanet.org/membership/ata_logo_guidelines.php





“Another highlight of the GLD dinner was Germany-themed Jeopardy!”



afterward to chat with the presenters or with other attendees who had asked interesting questions during the session led to several helpful connections.

Since I wanted to squeeze the most out of every networking opportunity, I eagerly signed up for the division-specific dinners hosted by the German Language Division and the Slavic Languages Division, where I enjoyed good food and great company. (Pro tip: if you’re ever in L.A., have dinner at the 10e restaurant.) Since so much of the networking at the conference happens fast—a quick introduction, an elevator pitch, the customary exchanging of business cards—I appreciated the chance for smaller-scale, more focused networking with colleagues who shared one of my working languages. Another highlight of the GLD dinner was Germany-themed Jeopardy! While my trivia skills are generally quite poor, I was even able to

answer one question, “What is ‘sus’?”, thanks to my since-abandoned pandemic habit of playing Among Us.

The end of the conference came all too quickly—but after an amazing four days of geeking out over translation and interpreting with new friends, what better way to cap things off than a dance party? Getting down on the floor to Michael Jackson and ABBA with colleagues was certainly a night to remember. After dancing, I stayed up a while longer with a few fellow recent graduates from T&I programs to swap stories from school and from our professional experiences thus far, which was both fun and therapeutic, since most of the friends I see regularly have fairly little knowledge of the world of T&I. We’ve stayed in touch since the conference, too, and I hope to see them in person again next year. Who else is already making plans for ATA64?

Die Liste wo einiges los ist!

The GLD List is one of our member benefits—an opportunity to collaborate with and learn from each other. Subscribers pose questions, assist others by responding to queries, or simply follow the conversation.

As Listmaster Gerhard Preisser puts it: „Wer helfen kann, hilft; wer eine Antwort weiß, hält damit nicht hinterm Berg. Kollegialität und Kooperation werden großgeschrieben. Die auf unserer Liste vertretenen Übersetzer und Dolmetscher konkurrieren nicht miteinander – sie inspirieren einander, und ich habe das außerordentliche Vergnügen, diesen regen, auf höchster Kompetenz und viel gutem Willen beruhenden Austausch moderieren zu dürfen.“

Subscribing is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

Send an email to:

ATA-German-Language-Division+subscribe@groups.io

1. In the subject line, enter: subscribe gldlist
2. In the body of your email, write your:
 - email address
 - full name
 - ATA membership number



Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the German Language Division

The Annual Meeting of the German Language Division was held on October 3, 2022, via Zoom prior to ATA63 in Los Angeles.

In the discussion among members who had tuned in early, mention was made of the public holiday in Germany, German Unity Day.

GLD Administrator Carlie Sitzman called the meeting to order at 11:00 am EDT. She displayed the agenda via screen sharing; the agenda had also been sent to the listserv earlier in the day.

Forty-two GLD members attended the virtual meeting.

Motions were made and accepted to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, which had been posted to the chat, as well as the agenda for the current meeting.

Carlie reported that she had been re-elected as division administrator and Karen Leube elected as assistant administrator (after being appointed to serve the previous term). Carlie gave a brief overview of the past year's activities. These included various digital socials as well as the division's first division webinar. She mentioned several vacancies on the GLD Leadership Council, including digital events coordinator (Elani Wales stepped down from this position in the summer) and GLD listmaster (Gerhard Preisser has given notice).

GLD Assistant Administrator Karen Leube reported on the GLD-related sessions at the upcoming ATA 63rd Annual Conference. She shared that Lisa R uth would be the distinguished speaker. Lisa had been invited to be the GLD

Distinguished Speaker for the 62nd Annual Conference but had been unable to enter the US due to COVID-related travel restrictions. Other German track sessions will be offered by Michael Schubert and Kenneth McKerrow. Sessions by Abigail Dahlberg and Ted Wozniak will touch on German-English translation (MT and financial translation; translating sustainability reports).

The German Language Division social event will be held on October 14 at 10e, a restaurant near the conference hotel. Response to the event has been good, and there is still space available for attendees. The deadline for signing up is October 10.

Karen reported that she and Carlie had noted that several Leadership Council members had elected not to attend this year's Annual Conference for business-related reasons, among them a downturn in translation business due to machine translation. They had contacted the president and president-elect of ATA to express these concerns and asked for an opportunity to address these concerns at the upcoming conference. In addition, Karen started threads on the GLD and Business Practice listservs in which she asked members to share their experience with machine translation. When several members called for a forum for discussing the impact of machine translation at the Annual Conference (e.g., "town hall meeting," panel discussion), Karen had posted a request for such a forum on the ATA Talk listserv. In response, the president-elect has asked the Language Technology Division to host discussions at breakfast on Thursday and Saturday morning at the





Annual Conference addressing various aspects of machine translation and its impact on the T&I industry. Karen encouraged GLD members to attend these discussions.

Karen reported that she had prepared a GLD member survey and conducted it from July to mid-August. Response was good; around 115 GLD members participated. She will be writing up the results and will post them on the GLD website. One interesting result was that at least half of the respondents have belonged to the GLD for at least 10 years. Only a handful of respondents had belonged for less than one year. At a recent Leadership Summit other division administrators reported that activities in their divisions also tended to be carried out by longer-term members. Strategies had been discussed for making new members feel welcome and encouraging them to volunteer. One approach could be a “buddy system” between seasoned members and “newbies.” Karen called for members interested in being division “mentors”/“mentees” to contact her or Carlie. In the chat it was suggested that this be included in emails to new members and that refresher emails could be sent to longer-standing members.

Leadership Committee reports:

- Marion Rhodes (**editor-in-chief of *interaktiv* newsletter**) reported that two issues had been published this year with the themes “25th Anniversary Edition” and “Evolving Languages.” Marion thanked her fellow *interaktiv* staff members for their work in the past year. She announced that the next issue, due out in spring 2023, would focus on machine translation and asked members for their contributions to the topic. She also encouraged

members to volunteer to help with the editorial work.

- Robin Limmeroth, **GLD webmaster**, reported that relevant information is posted to the website (ata-divisions.org/GLD), which also gives access to previous conference presentations. She asked for uploads of any sessions that have not been posted yet. She reported that she had updated the GLD history and that she plans to feature German-English/English-German translation-related blogs on the website blog and asked for contributions and recommendations. When updating the division history, she came upon impressive statistics including the number of posts on the GLD listserv and the dramatic increase in the number of likes and followers on GLD social media (the GLD’s Facebook page has 590 likes, while its Twitter account has 1,043 followers, up from 262 and 213 in 2017).
- Dr. Ellen Yutzy Glebe, **European coordinator**, reported that she is currently living in the United States with her family and would be returning to Germany in the winter. Her responsibilities are currently being performed by Karen Leube. The annual workshop had not been held in 2022 due to the pandemic. Karen announced the next workshop would be held from March 10 to 12, 2023, in Mainz featuring Invited Speaker Jay Marciano. The workshop announcement was posted in the chat and will be posted on the GLD listserv shortly. Karen reported that Robin Limmeroth had arranged for the venue and had reserved a block of hotel rooms at a discount.

Karen reported that currently 158 GLD members live in 11 European countries and that there was a dedicated listserv

Umfrage unter den GLD-Mitgliedern zu sprechen kommen. Deren letzte Frage lautete, welche Art von Beteiligung an GLD-Aktivitäten sich unsere Mitglieder vorstellen können. Eine Option war die Übernahme des Amtes des GLD-Listenmoderators. Der Grund, weshalb diese Möglichkeit überhaupt erst aufgenommen wurde, war meine Ankündigung letztes Jahr, das Amt einem Nachfolger oder einer Nachfolgerin übergeben zu wollen. Es stellte sich heraus, dass von den 115 Umfrageteilnehmern niemand bereit war, als neuer Listmaster zu fungieren, und auch entsprechende Aufrufe in *interaktiv* und hinter den Kulissen blieben bisher ohne die erhoffte Resonanz.

Ich muss nicht eigens betonen, dass mir nach 13 Jahren in dieser Funktion viel an einer geregelten Nachfolge gelegen ist. Ein Listserv ohne Listmaster ist nicht nur problematisch, sondern nicht vorstellbar – und wohl auch nicht realisierbar. Deshalb möchte ich an dieser Stelle nochmals eindringlich an Sie alle appellieren, Ihren inneren Listmaster zu

entdecken und ans Tageslicht zu bringen. Für mich ist am Jahresende Schluss, und ich würde mich sehr freuen, die Liste an jemandem übergeben zu können, dem oder der sie genauso am Herzen liegt wie mir.

Ich möchte diese Gelegenheit nicht verstreichen lassen, ohne mich bei Ihnen allen für Ihr Engagement auf der Liste über die Jahre hinweg ganz herzlich zu bedanken. Ich habe diesen Job gern gemacht, auch und vor allem, weil Sie ihn mir leicht gemacht haben. Ich habe, und das ist absolut nicht als Floskel gemeint, viel von Ihnen gelernt; Ihre Fragen, Antworten und Kommentare, meist praktischer und hin und wieder auch esoterischer Art, haben mir gezeigt, wie vielfältig unser Beruf doch sein kann, und sie haben mich zu einem besseren Übersetzer gemacht.

Ich freue mich auf ein persönliches Wiedersehen mit vielen von Ihnen in Los Angeles und bedanke mich für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit.

New: Handwriting and Sworn Translators Lists!

Nathan Wiegand has agreed to recompile and manage a list of GLD members who specialize in **old German script/handwriting**. If that is your specialty and you are not yet on the list, please contact Nathan at nlwcdw@gmail.com.

Beate Maier is compiling a list of sworn translators, i.e., Europe-based translators who can certify translations in line with local regulations. You can reach Beate at maier_services@hotmail.com if you would like to be added to the list.

Both lists will be stored in the "Files" section of the [GLD groups.io](https://groups.io) group.



“In the case of machine translation, the input layer, often called encoder, converts text strings (language) into numbers, i.e., ‘embeds’ the words into a numerical space.”

Neural Networks

First, let’s look at general artificial neural networks, which are at the core of neural MT engines. In the following, the term neural networks refers to artificial neural networks, as opposed to biological neural networks, unless explicitly stated otherwise. Figure 2 shows a simple neural network (for the experts, a feed-forward neural network). Neural networks consist of several layers. The neural net in Figure 2 has three layers: one input layer, one output layer, and one hidden layer in between. Each layer consists of several nodes, or artificial neurons, illustrated as blobs in the figure. The neurons are more or less modeled after neurons in biological brains.

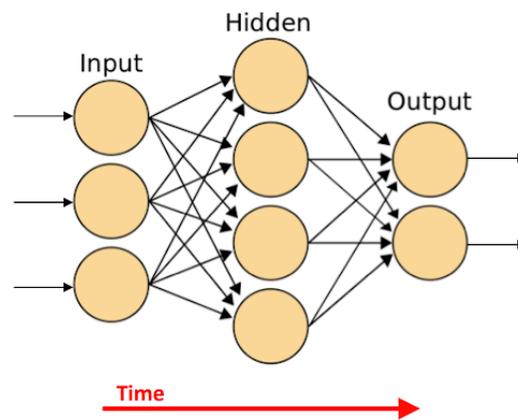


Figure 2: Simple neural network.
Adapted from: Cburnett,
[commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/
File:Artificial_neural_network.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Artificial_neural_network.svg)

The inputs into a neural network (language, images, etc.) are converted into a numerical representation. These numbers are then fed into the next layer with different weights (different importance)

and so forth, until they reach the output layer, where they are converted back into human-readable form and output to the external world. These connections are shown as arrows between the blobs in the figure. The strength of the connections can vary; that is, the importance of the connections is weighted differently. In the simplest case, the weights are either 0 (no connection) or 1 (full connection), but they can be any numerical value. The hidden layers are called hidden because they are not visible to the external world outside the neural network.

Even if the possible connections/weights and each node can only take on the values 0 or 1 (2 possibilities each), you get over 2 million possible combinations for the simple network shown in Figure 2. Imagine continuous values and more nodes and layers, and the number of possible values or connection patterns becomes enormous. How are these patterns determined? Let’s look at machine translation.

Neural Machine Translation

In the case of machine translation, the input layer, often called encoder, converts text strings (language) into numbers, i.e., “embeds” the words into a numerical space. Figure 3 illustrates the numerical representation of the word “translator,” also known as embedding or encoding. You can play around with these encodings yourself at projector.tensorflow.org. These numerical strings are then fed through the network via complicated connections in many hidden layers, as above. The hidden layers perform the



“...neural networks cannot (yet) think; they perform pattern recognition.”

Similar to the probabilities for SMT, the weights in an NMT engine are determined through a training process. First, the nodes and connections in the network are initialized with some random numbers. Then, huge amounts of training data in the form of billions of source sentences of a bilingual corpus are fed into the network. After each run or epoch, the output translation is compared with the desired output in the training set, and each of the weights is adjusted, with the goal to get closer to the desired output. This training process is repeated many times until the output is close enough to the desired output. In other words, the weights are trained by extracting very complex features (patterns) from large bilingual training corpora. While SMT calculates the statistical probability of fairly simple patterns (n -grams and the like) not unlike fuzzy matches in CAT tools, NMT calculates “matches” in enormously complicated patterns between words and even individual characters. Due to the large amounts of weights in the network, these patterns can be very complex and not (consciously) discernible by humans. However, in conclusion, NMT is still nothing but pattern recognition.

Statistics on Steroids

In some sense, neural MT engines take context into account, in the form of the aforementioned very complex patterns and word encodings. But that does not mean that NMT “understands” language. The patterns have to be trained with the help of billions of examples, whereas humans can learn

new words and utterances after only a few attempts. Further, if an NMT engine encounters something completely unknown, the results are entirely unpredictable and usually nonsense (see for example here: cfbtranslations.com/what-is-nmt-how-does-it-work).

The final trained huge neural network, where all weights have been fixed after training, is known as a large language model (LLM). The much-hyped chatbot ChatGPT is built upon one such LLM with hundreds of billions of parameters. Just for fun, I asked ChatGPT to explain NMT. You can find the result here: cfbtranslations.com/a-conversation-with-chatgpt. Who explained it better—the human (in this article) or the machine?

Conclusion

In short, despite the hype, neural networks cannot (yet) think; they perform pattern recognition. Artificial neural networks become more and more complex as computing power increases. But will they ever be able to “think”? Nobody knows. Despite tremendous advances in neuroscience, the biological brain is not yet understood. Therefore, nobody can currently predict whether these artificial neural networks will one day be capable of independent thought. Until then, humans in the (translation) loop are still very much needed, despite claims to the contrary. Who supplies the training corpora? Humans. Who trains the MT engines? Humans. Who provides feedback to the engines? Humans. And who saves the day when an MT engine goes off the deep end? Humans.



“So how did I get into DeepL?”

When my law firm clients started to offer me machine translations (“feel free to use it if it helps”) when they requested a certified patent translation, I always politely declined.

“Don’t bother to send it, I’m not going to use it anyway.” And I didn’t. For many years.

So how did I get into DeepL? A couple of years ago, a law firm client introduced me to it.

That firm, based in the U.S., was working with a German law firm on a billion-dollar patent infringement lawsuit. I’d been working with them on the case for a few years, doing lots of rush translations the old-fashioned way, when one of their attorneys called me from Munich early one Saturday morning.

“We have a tight deadline to prepare a reply to the German court, but we only have a machine translation of the opponent’s brief, which was provided to us late yesterday afternoon by the translation agency our German partner firm works with. Their translators won’t be in until Monday morning to post-edit the MT, but we need to work on this over the weekend to make our deadline. It’s 120 pages.”

I empathized with their predicament, but respectfully declined, not knowing that I’d eventually have to eat my words.

“Sorry, but I don’t work with machine translations. Never have, never will. And besides, it’s impossible to translate a document of that size over the weekend.”

Lawyers are persuasive, and she was good.

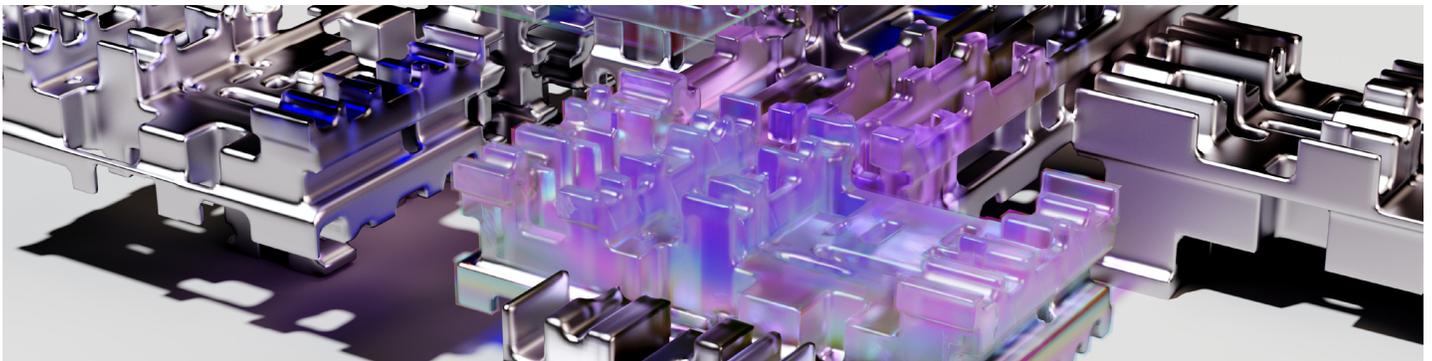
“Of the 120 pages, only 20 are really crucial for my purposes; can you just take a look at those?”

Again, I declined. Then she pulled out the big guns.

“I’m desperate. We’ll pay you overtime, rush fee, whatever you want. Money is not an object. And we don’t need it certified, just an attorney work product translation.”

Sigh. I reluctantly agreed to the 20 pages, with a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach that I might regret it later. When I received the MT, I approached it with some trepidation and was mentally prepared for disaster, expecting to spend my whole Saturday on the 20 pages. I didn’t—it took me only about four hours to go through the 20 pages, and the job turned out to be an eye-opener that left me speechless.

The case was about a complicated pharmaceutical issue, and the unedited machine translation was at least 80% on the mark. There were some grammar





“DeepL is here to stay—let’s find ways to use it to our advantage.”

issues and terminology inconsistencies, but the many numbers, chemical equations, formulas, and nomenclature, which usually take a lot of time to reproduce, had been transcribed almost perfectly. I carefully reviewed every single word, phrase, sentence, and paragraph, and though the MT required post-editing, it was not the train wreck I’d expected it to be.

That day, it became clear to me that, at least for my niche in the translation market, DeepL would be a game changer. A considerable part of my revenue from rush “attorney work product” (AWP) translations that were needed practically overnight would fall by the wayside, and that’s exactly what happened. In recent years, a large part of my regular translation projects has vanished.

I didn’t have to do any client education on MT because my law firm clients understand that while DeepL saves them considerable time and rush fees for “I just need to know what it says” AWP translations, machine translations are far from perfect. When they need a certified translation, they call me, expecting to get one with a certification and the ATA seal on it, and I gladly deliver. I go through any DeepL machine translation with a fine-toothed comb and provide my clients with a certified translation that will stand up to scrutiny in court.

Among translators, there has been discussion about whether it is ethical to charge full rates when using MT. Incidentally, no law firm client offering me an existing MT to work with has ever asked me to lower my fee. And why should they? The MT they provide me with undergoes painstaking, extensive review, and post-editing. The final product, which is the only thing that matters,

is no longer a machine translation but rather a final version that represents my language, expertise, style, knowledge, and years of experience. Sometimes, that post-editing process takes just as long as a “from scratch” translation would.

So, what’s the benefit I get from DeepL? Since I’ve never worked with any TM tools whatsoever, I don’t have extensive TMs generated over the course of many years. DeepL provides me with instant terminology resources. In most cases, MT gives me a good starting point that doesn’t require me to completely reinvent the wheel. (By the way, after said wheel was invented, nobody insisted on continuing to travel on horseback or by donkey or camel because that’s the way it had always been done. 😊)

In my niche of the translation market—and I keep repeating this because I want to stress that my arguments do not apply to ALL genres in general—DeepL represents progress, so why not embrace it the way we embraced typewriters, computers, and fax machines?

I was fortunate that when DeepL wiped out a large part of my business, I had a second leg to stand on: interpreting. Some colleagues who were not as diversified consequently had to give up their freelance practice for traditional employment. It was sad to see that, and I understand their frustration. But demonizing DeepL is not the answer.

MT is steadily evolving, and it won’t go away. We must accept that and deal with it. Put it on the agenda for ATA64, give members who are working in languages and genres most impacted by it a voice, brainstorm to seek solutions.

DeepL is here to stay—let’s find ways to use it to our advantage.



Feature: Should you fear ChatGPT?

By Marion Rhodes

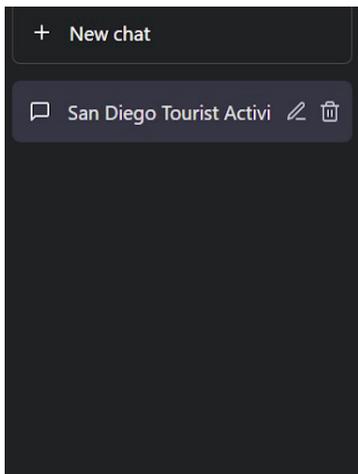
For years now, we translators have faced competition from machines. With the advent of NMT and free online translation tools such as DeepL, many of us have noticed a drop in assignments and plummeting rates. Certain sectors have been more affected by AI than others, and those of us in the creative field have felt pretty confident that robots weren't about to rob us of our jobs.

"Machine translation doesn't work for marketing copy," we said.

Well, my copywriting colleagues, there's a new kid on the block, and this one might just try to steal your lollipop. It's called ChatGPT.

What is ChatGPT?

Chat GPT stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer, a chatbot launched by OpenAI in November 2022. It's designed as a research tool that will answer questions in a conversational way—an interactive version of Google if you will. For example, here is an answer it generated when asked "What to do in San Diego":



what to do in san diego



Some popular things to do in San Diego include visiting Balboa Park, which features museums, gardens, and the San Diego Zoo; spending time at the beach, such as at La Jolla Cove or Pacific Beach; visiting the USS Midway Museum; and exploring Old Town San Diego, which is home to historic buildings and Mexican-style shops and restaurants. Additionally, there are many outdoor activities to enjoy in San Diego, such as hiking in Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve or snorkeling at La Jolla Underwater Park.



But that's just scratching the surface of what this—free!—tool can do. For one thing, the model is trained on a diverse set of text data from various languages, which allows it to understand and generate text in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, French, German, and Chinese. And the texts it spits out are actually pretty decent. Unlike many machine translation tools, ChatGPT does not produce clunky grammar and stylistic nonsense.

Take this response to my German question below:



Wie alt werden Katzen?



Im Allgemeinen werden Katzen als erwachsen betrachtet, wenn sie zwischen einem und zwei Jahren alt sind. Die Lebenserwartung von Katzen hängt jedoch von verschiedenen Faktoren ab, wie zum Beispiel Rasse, Gesundheit und Pflege. Einige Rassen haben eine längere Lebenserwartung als andere.

Die durchschnittliche Lebenserwartung einer Hauskatze beträgt zwischen 12 und 15 Jahren, wobei einige Katzen auch bis zu 20 Jahre oder sogar älter werden können. Bei guter Pflege und regelmäßigen Gesundheitschecks kann die Lebenserwartung einer Katze jedoch deutlich überschritten werden.

Es gibt auch Rassen von Katzen, die eine längere Lebenserwartung haben, z.B. die Sphynx, die Maine Coon und die Siamesen. Eine gute Ernährung, regelmäßige Veterinärbesuche und ausreichend Bewegung und Beschäftigung tragen dazu bei, dass eine Katze ein langes und gesundes Leben führen kann.

What does this mean for you as a translator?

Depending on what your specialization is, you may be more or less at risk of competition from ChatGPT and similar tools that are sure to follow. If you work in marketing like I do, you may well have reason to worry.

Ever since the launch of ChatGPT, the marketing world has been abuzz with talk about the possibilities. Say you have a U.S. company launching a product in the German market, and you want to save money on translation work. Instead of translating your existing assets, you could just have ChatGPT produce new versions for you:



Create a product description in German for the Keurig K-Elite coffee maker



Die Keurig K-Elite Kaffeemaschine ist die perfekte Wahl für Kaffeeliebhaber, die Wert auf Geschmack und Bequemlichkeit legen. Mit ihrer patentierten K-Cup-Technologie können Sie in wenigen Sekunden eine Tasse frischen, heißen Kaffee genießen, ohne sich Gedanken über die Reinigung einer traditionellen Kaffeemaschine machen zu müssen.

Die K-Elite verfügt über 5 Größeneinstellungen, von 4 oz. bis 12 oz., damit Sie Ihren Kaffee in der perfekten Größe genießen können. Sie können auch Ihren Kaffee extra stark oder extra mild einstellen, um ihn perfekt an Ihren Geschmack anzupassen.

Die Maschine verfügt auch über eine Hot-Water-on-Demand-Funktion, die es Ihnen ermöglicht, Tee, Kakao oder sogar Suppen in Sekundenschnelle zu genießen. Es hat auch eine "strong brew" Funktion für einen stärkeren Geschmack.

Die K-Elite ist auch sehr energieeffizient und verfügt über eine programmierbare Auto-Off-Funktion, die die Maschine automatisch abschaltet, wenn sie nicht verwendet wird, um Energie zu sparen.

Sie können aus einer Vielzahl von K-Cups wählen, darunter Kaffee, Tee, Kakao und sogar spezielle Sorten. Mit der Keurig K-Elite Kaffeemaschine werden Sie immer einen perfekten Kaffeegenuss haben.



“Companies around the globe are currently experimenting with how to use ChatGPT to their advantage, and it’s not a stretch to assume that many will see—and use—it as a cost-cutting tool.”

There is one caveat. ChatGPT currently has a knowledge cut-off of 2021, so it won’t be able to include more recent information. And since it scrapes the entire internet for information without discriminating or providing sources, any “facts” provided by this bot should be taken with a grain of salt.

Still, the more details you feed into your request, the more accurate the response will be. Companies around the globe are currently experimenting with how to use ChatGPT to their advantage, and it’s not a stretch to assume that many will see—and use—it as a cost-cutting tool.

I can tell you from my own experience that marketing departments are more than a little intrigued by the possibilities. When I worked in-house for a large e-commerce aggregator, we had many discussions about how to leverage this new technology. At the time, we were hiring budget copywriters on Fiverr and outsourcing most of our translation work to the lowest bidder. The quality of ChatGPT output couldn’t be much worse, could it?

Curious if people would be able to tell machine-generated content from content written by a human, I conducted an experiment. I wrote a blog post for one of our brands, then used ChatGPT to auto-generate a blog post on the same topic by giving it a specific prompt: “Write an 800-word blog post in first

person about x and include the following keywords:” I then showed both versions to my team and asked them to pick their favorite and guess which one was AI-generated.

While everyone unknowingly preferred my version (hurray!), they all agreed that it was hard to tell which one was written by AI. To less discerning eyes, the difference would be insignificant. Most important, ChatGPT’s texts are not plagiarized from other places on the web (you can run them through plagiarism checkers), so you’re always getting original content.

For now, ChatGPT comes with limitations. Besides being untrustworthy, it has trouble with length specifications. In my experiment, I kept getting 500- to 600-word articles despite asking for 800 words. I worked around that by asking another question on a specific subtopic and tacking that response on under a subheading.

I also had to manually insert outgoing links and rewrite some headlines to improve the SEO. So, there’s still some human effort involved. But overall, revamping the AI article took about a quarter of the time of writing my own, which is a significant benefit when you’re selling hundreds of brands and thousands of products.

Many businesses are already using ChatGPT to produce everything from





Will ChatGPT make us all unemployed? No. The AI writer is only as effective as the inputs it receives, and getting good copy out of it requires pretty specific, and sometimes several, queries. The output then has to be reviewed by a human and requires some editing if it is to be published. Moreover, the bot is currently unable to replicate the hallmarks of effective marketing copy: human emotion, brand identity, and the type of personal experience Google is looking for when ranking web content.

I would caution against discarding this threat completely, though. I imagine it will further divide the market. There will always be premium brands that will pay for innovative, human-generated content (whether it be translations or original copy). But for many smaller businesses and companies handling large volumes of text, this, and future iterations of it, could become another way to save money in an ever-shrinking marketing budget.



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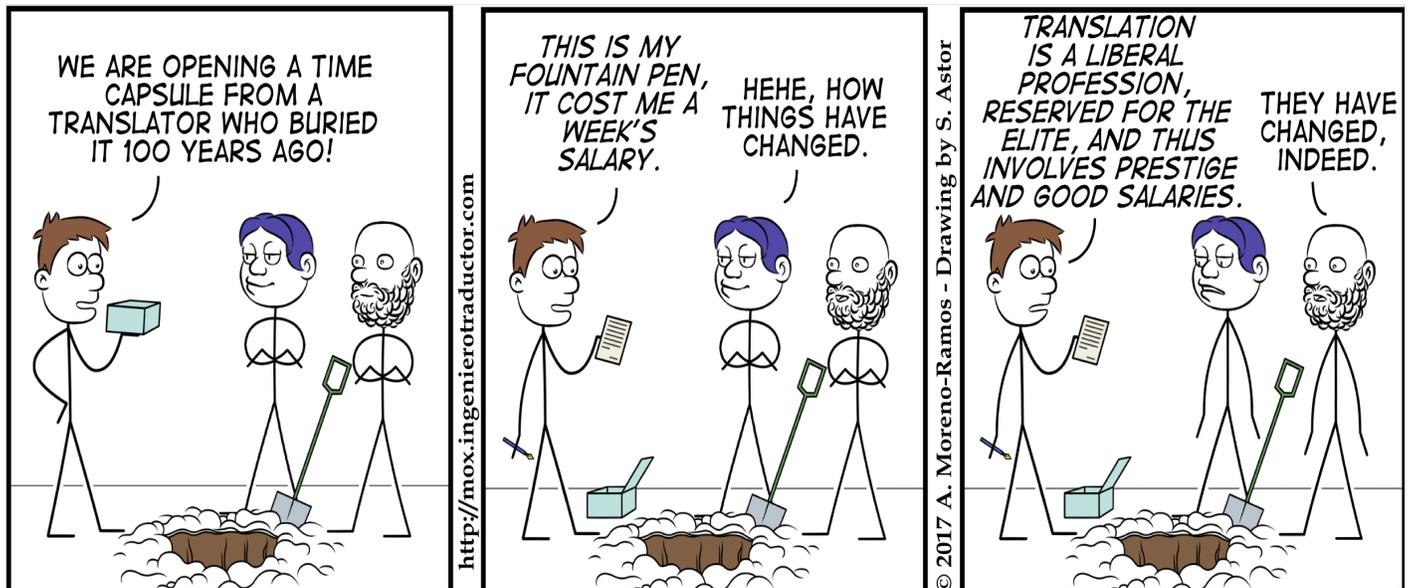
What are your goals for the near future?

Being more active on Twitter and LinkedIn, watching continuing education sessions I've saved up, and finally finishing off my to-do lists!

What are your hobbies or other interests?

My kids are young adults now, so I'm finding myself in a phase of rediscovery and learning to focus more on myself. My somewhat geriatric dog Julius, who faithfully sleeps under my desk while

I work, demands a lot of snuggles. I love baseball, especially the Phillies—I watched all the World Series games in the middle of the night, communicating with family in Pennsylvania and Oregon on WhatsApp. I've been a board member of the Mainz Athletics baseball club for many years, helping to further the sport I love, here in Germany. I also inherited a love of travel from my parents, and hope to emulate them by visiting all seven continents (only two more to go!).

Evolution of the profession

Follow Mox's freelance-translator life at [Mox's Blog](#)



Rosalie Henke is an English to German freelance translator located in sunny San Diego in Southern California. With nearly two decades of experience in technical translations and the gaming industry, she is always looking for new, interesting challenges to continue learning. She regularly visits her hometown in beautiful *Schwabenland* in Germany to stay in touch with her native language.

Book Review:

Überleben als Übersetzer: Das Handbuch für freiberufliche Übersetzerinnen

By Rosalie Henke

Ich bin bereits vor Jahren in einem Übersetzerforum über den Link ueberleben-als-uebersetzer.de/dasbuch zu Miriam Neidhardts Buch *Überleben als Übersetzer: Das Handbuch für freiberufliche Übersetzerinnen* gestolpert und hatte es lange auf meiner Leseliste, bis ich es mir schließlich auf meinen E-Book-Reader gezogen und das Werk an einem Wochenende von vorne bis hinten gelesen habe.

Oftmals kommt uns Freiberuflern immer irgendwas dazwischen und meist hat es mit Arbeit zu tun. Umso froher bin ich, mir endlich die Zeit für den Ratgeber genommen zu haben.

Das Buch, das seit seiner Erstausgabe im Jahre 2012 bereits in *dritter Auflage* erschienen ist, deckt alle Bereiche ab, mit denen freiberufliche Übersetzer erfahrungsgemäß in Berührung kommen: vom ersten Eindruck und der Akquise über technische Feinheiten beim Übersetzen und Korrekturlesen bis hin zur Rechnung.

Mehr als einmal dachte ich mir, dass ich im Nachhinein viele Informationen auch gerne gewusst hätte, als ich mich selbständig gemacht habe, besonders wenn es in einen Fachbereich hineingeht, in dem man noch nicht so viele Verbindungen hat.

Mir gefällt besonders der Schreibstil der Autorin. Er ist authentisch und nicht belehrend, so nimmt man gern den ein oder anderen Ratschlag an, egal wie lange man schon im Geschäft ist:

Korrekturlesen passiv

Jede gute Agentur wird die Texte ihrer freiberuflichen Übersetzerinnen Korrektur lesen lassen. Das tut die Agentur nicht, weil sie den Übersetzerinnen mit Misstrauen begegnet oder nach Fehlern sucht, um den Preis drücken zu können, sondern weil sie weiß, dass kaum jemand in der Lage ist, alleine einen Text absolut fehlerfrei zu erstellen; und je länger der Text ist, desto unwahrscheinlicher ist die Fehlerfreiheit. Die Korrekturleserin wird also nicht eingesetzt, um Ihnen Ihre Fehler aufs Brot zu schmieren und Sie



Titel: Überleben als Übersetzer: Das Handbuch für freiberufliche Übersetzerinnen

Verfasser: Miriam Neidhardt

Herausgeber: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (29. Juni 2012)

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„Das Buch gibt Neulingen einen guten Überblick über die Branche, verrät wertvolle Tipps, ... und hält auch für alte Hasen noch so manche Anekdote bereit, die im Arbeitsalltag weiterhilft.“

zu belehren, sondern weil ein Text, der nach dem Vier-Augen-Prinzip bearbeitet wird, dadurch besser wird.

Das Buch gibt Neulingen einen guten Überblick über die Branche, verrät wertvolle Tipps, die auf den ersten Blick vielleicht logisch erscheinen, aber oft gerade deshalb gerne vergessen werden und hält auch für alte Hasen noch so manche Anekdote bereit, die im Arbeitsalltag weiterhilft:

Privates verstecken – Berufliches hervorheben

Haben Sie noch eine andere Website, mit der Sie andere Dienste anbieten, die sich mit dem professionellen Auftreten einer Übersetzerin vielleicht nicht vereinbaren lassen? Zum Beispiel einen Escortservice (alles schon da gewesen)? (...) Müssen Sie für diese Internetauftritte ein Impressum erstellen, in dem Ihr Name erscheinen muss? Dann sollten Sie dieses vor Suchmaschinen verstecken, damit ein potenzieller Kunde, der Sie googelt, nicht auf Ihr Zweitleben trifft. Kommt nun ein Besucher auf Ihre Zweit-Website, kann er Ihren Namen zwar im Impressum lesen, Sie googeln und so auf Ihren Internetauftritt als Übersetzerin stoßen (sofern Sie dort das Impressum nicht auch geschützt haben) – jedoch nicht umgekehrt, und genau darum geht es ja.

Für die meisten Übersetzer ist es nicht erst seit der Pandemie so, dass wir den Großteil unserer Arbeit im Homeoffice erledigen, daher leidet der Austausch mit Gleichgesinnten doch erheblich.

Durch eben solche lebensnahen Beispiele habe ich mich häufig mit einem Augenzwinkern verstanden gefühlt.

Auch, wenn manche Kapitel, wie etwa das über soziale Medien oder technische Neuerungen generell, inzwischen etwas veraltet sind, ändert sich doch grundsätzlich an der Art und Weise der **Kundengewinnung** nichts. Nach wie vor wichtig ist:

- eine gut auffindbare Website,
- das Eintragen in Verzeichnismedien und das Verlinken auf Seiten von Herstellern, Verbänden etc.,
- die aktive Nutzung von Social Media wie XING, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Google+, YouTube etc.,
- das Verfassen von Blogartikeln,
- das Veröffentlichen von Fachartikeln und die Präsentation von Vorträgen,
- Online-Werbung (z. B. Google AdWords) und das Schalten von Anzeigen in regionalen und überregionalen Zeitungen und Zeitschriften.

Viele Kapitel habe ich mit einem Nicken quittiert, manche Inhalte mit einem Lächeln überflogen, da sie nicht mehr komplett zeitgemäß sind, schließlich ist das Buch schon 10 Jahre alt, aber insgesamt habe ich sehr viel Interessantes mitgenommen, was mich doch mindestens in meinem Tun bestärkt.

Inzwischen arbeitet Miriam Neidhardt mit weiteren Gastautorinnen an einer Fortsetzung ihres Ratgebers.



Zum Schluss gibt sie uns noch ein paar Einblicke und verrät, was uns im Nachfolgewerk erwartet:

1. Du bist inzwischen seit 25 Jahren hauptberuflich Übersetzerin. Was hat dich dazu bewogen, dieses Buch 2012 zu schreiben und Autorin zu werden?

Als ich 2010 auf die Idee kam, das Buch zu schreiben (was zwei Jahre gedauert hat), war ich, ehrlich gesagt, gerade sehr genervt. Ich hatte mehrere Kunden, die Übersetzungen in andere Sprachen wollten und mich baten, ihnen jemanden zu finden. Und da ich schon damals gern sowohl Kunden als auch Kolleginnen helfen wollte, habe ich das durchaus versucht. Und stieß auf Websites, die völlig veraltet oder einfach nur schlecht waren, auf Antworten auf Ausschreibungen, die völlig am Thema vorbeigingen, auf schleppende und unbefriedigende Kommunikation, verspätete Lieferungen, falsch ausgestellte Rechnungen und so weiter. Und auf der anderen Seite stieß ich auf Klagen in Gruppen und Foren, dass Auftraggeber nur aufs Geld achten und man selbst am Hungertuch nagen muss. Und dann ist es ein bisschen mit mir durchgegangen, und ich hab mir gedacht, schreib ich mal auf, wie man Marketing betreibt, mit Kunden umgeht, eine Rechnung schreibt, auf Reklamationen reagiert und so weiter. Wer die erste Auflage von „Überleben als Übersetzer“ gelesen hat, dem wird meine leicht genervte Grundhaltung vielleicht nicht entgangen sein.

Hätte ich damals gewusst, Welch ein Erfolg dieses Buch werden würde, hätte ich es nicht so veröffentlicht. Nicht mit dem genervten Unterton und auch nicht mit der laienhaften Formatierung. Die nächste Ausgabe nur ein halbes Jahr später wurde deshalb besser, die

übernächste weitere zwei Jahre später noch besser und die aktuelle Ausgabe von 2016 ist schon gar nicht mehr genervt, deutlich durchdachter und richtig schön formatiert – auch ich habe durch das Buch eine Menge dazugelernt.

Die Intention war und ist aber immer: Kolleginnen dabei helfen, von ihrer Übersetzertätigkeit leben zu können.

2. Dein Buch hat letztes Jahr sein 10-jähriges Jubiläum gefeiert. Welcher Tipp ist unverzichtbar und auch heute noch genauso aktuell wie damals, und worüber liest Du inzwischen lieber hinweg?

Ich finde immer noch alle Tipps unverzichtbar. Na gut, fast alle. Google+ nicht mehr so. Ansonsten zwing mich bitte nicht, in das Buch zu gucken. Ich mag's gern, bin stolz darauf und steh dazu, aber ich gucke wirklich sehr, sehr ungern in Texte aller Art, die ich mal geschrieben habe. Das betrifft mein eigenes Buch, von mir übersetzte Bücher, meine Blogposts ... Ich lese nicht gern, was ich mal geschrieben habe, sobald es veröffentlicht ist.

3. Das Buch richtet sich in den allermeisten Fällen an den Lesenden in der weiblichen Form, welchen Hintergrund hat das? Wird es in der Fortsetzung genauso sein? In der letzten Dekade hat sich ja viel im Bereich Gendersprache getan.

Nun ja, die meisten Übersetzenden sind weiblich und verdienen weniger als ihre männlichen Kollegen. Und stehen mir naturgemäß näher. Ob wir das fürs nächste Buch beibehalten, war eine rege Diskussion zwischen uns Autorinnen des neuen Werks. Ich hätte gern die rein weibliche Form beibehalten, andere fanden das doof. Und deshalb ist es nun jeder und jedem selbst überlassen.



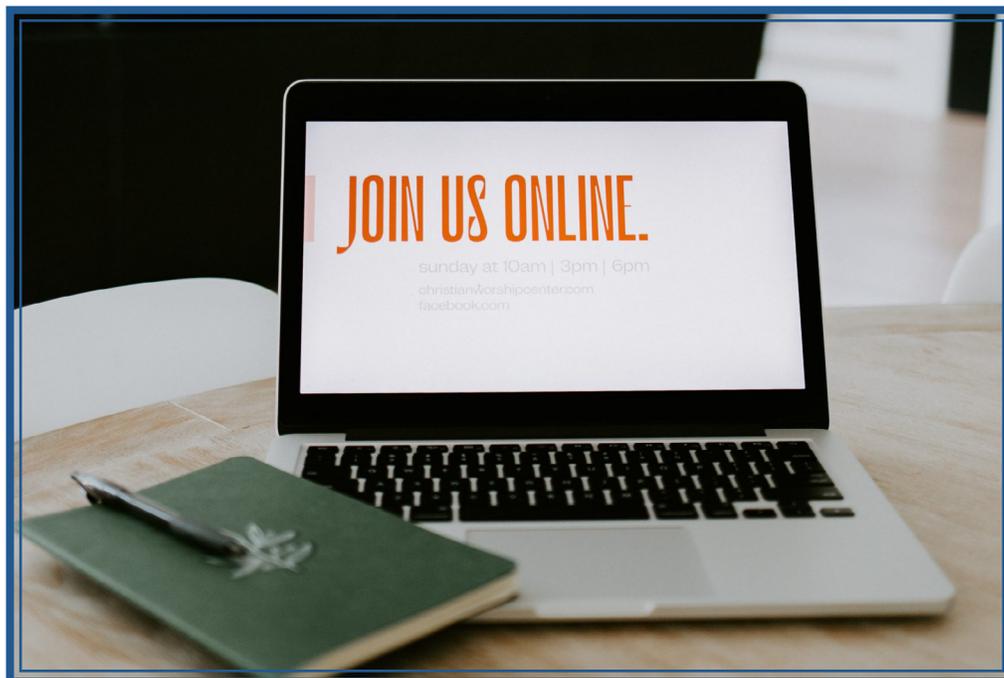
Calendar of Events 2023

The GLD calendar is available on the GLD website, where you can also add it to your Google Calendar, Outlook, iCalendar, and other calendar apps. Go to: ata-divisions.org/GLD/gld-calendar

Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
Mar 16 – 17	Luxembourg	Eulita Conference on Legal Translation at National and International Level	eulita.eu/en/2023/01/07/registration-for-the-eulita-conference-legal-translation-at-national-and-international-level
Mar 23 – 26	Cologne, Germany	RECHTSREIHE: BLOCK I Zivilrecht	seminare.bdue.de
April 13 – 15	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	TAUS Massively Multilingual Conference & Expo 2023	cantonfair.net/event/22139-taus-massively-multilingual-conference-expo
April 13 – 15	Paris, France	ICMTCS 2023: 17. International Conference on Machine Translation and Cognitive Science	waset.org/machine-translation-and-cognitive-science-conference-in-april-2023-in-paris
April 14 – June 16	Hamburg, Germany	3-tägiges Kombiseminar: Deutsche Rechtssprache und Einführung in das Gerichtsdolmetschen	seminare.bdue.de
April 20 – 23	Cologne, Germany	RECHTSREIHE: BLOCK II Zivil- und Strafrecht	seminare.bdue.de
May 03 – 04	Chicago, USA	DigiMarCon Midwest 2023 – Digital Marketing, Media and Advertising Conference & Exhibition	digimarconmidwest.com/register
May 08 – 10	Utrecht, Netherlands	BP23 Translation Conference	bpconf.com
June 02 – 08	Ripton, Vermont	Bread Loaf Translators' Conference	middlebury.edu/writers-conferences/translators-conference

Looking for even more professional development opportunities?
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Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
June 06 – 09	Malmoe, Sweden	LocWorld 49	locworld.com/events/locworld49-malmo-2023
June 12 – 15	Tampere, Finland	The 24th Annual Conference of the European Association for Machine Translation	events.tuni.fi/eamt23
June 23 – 25	Wolfenbüttel, Germany	18. Wolfenbütteler Gespräch	literaturuebersetzer.de/termine/jahrestagung
Jul 03 – 07	Bristol, UK	Bristol Translates: Literary Translation Summer School	bcla.org/bristol-translates-literary-translation-summer-school-university-of-bristol-3-7-july-2023
Oct 9 – 13	Mainz, Germany	Crash-Kurs Leichte Sprache mit Ausblick	fb06.uni-mainz.de/weiterbildung/crash-kurs-leichte-sprache-mit-ausblick
Oct 25 – 28	Miami, USA	ATA64	atanet.org/ata64





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