GLD

Interaktiv

2/2025

Newsletter of the German Language Division of the American Translators Association

DETECT AI

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In this issue...

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Editorial

Sabine Seiler lives in Niskayuna, located in New York's Capital District, near Albany. After several years studying in Florida and Louisiana, she moved to New York State more than 20 years ago for her first in-house translation and editing job at a small publishing company. Soon thereafter, she started her own translation business. Sabine has been an ATA member since the 1980s. She translates and edits German <> English and for several years has been editing English texts for publishers and translation agencies, specializing in scholarly texts in the humanities and social sciences as well as legal translations. She can be reached at seilersabine7@gmail.com.

Dear Readers,

As is fitting for the season, the fall 2025 issue of *interaktiv* showcases the rich harvest of the GLD's productive year in lively and engaging reports on in-person workshops, such as the Pennsylvania Dutch Day, and digital events, such as the virtual book club. And it is also fitting for fall issue to look ahead to the last quarter of 2025 and to the events and adventures on the horizon for next spring.

The next and biggest event is the ATA66 conference in Boston, and you will find the Conference Primer on page 8. As you get ready for the conference, please consider writing about your experience for the spring 2026 issue of *interaktiv*. We'd love to hear from newbies and experienced conference attendees, especially about the German sessions and the GLD networking event. If you're willing to share your experience, please contact me (Seilersabine7@gmail.com).

The feature articles in this issue highlight two themes and are intended to kick off two ongoing series. One is called "Hinter den Kulissen der Geschichte: Würdigung" and honors translators/interpreters of the past who have been unjustly forgotten; the series begins with Bettina Schreibmaier-Clasen's homage to Veza Canetti. A review of Canetti's book is planned for the spring 2026 issue. The other series looks to the future: it deals with AI, its effects on our profession, and its larger ramifications for our languages. Carola Berger shares insights on AI detection in "Is It AI" and Michael Schubert offers an assessment of AI's usefulness in "The Value of Human Translation." Matthew Bunczk's feature on nonviolent communication (NVC) opens up interesting perspectives on language and the role it can play in building and supporting community.

You will also find the usual reports in this issue, among them Ellen Yutzy Glebe's (Translation) Notes from the Homeland, as well as Karen Leube's Word from the Administrator, and a Calendar of Events provided by Stella Waltemade. Carola Lehmacher is featured as interpreter in the Translator in Profile column, and she also reviewed Corinne McKay's book on freelance interpreting.

I want to thank the *interaktiv* team of editors, proofreaders, and writers for their patience and outstanding work. A special thank you to Daniela Radivo-Harder for her excellent design work. We are sad to see Annett Kuester stepping down as copyeditor and Stella Waldemade leave the post of calendar of events editor—thank you both for all you contributed to *interaktiv* over the years. We are happy to add Kristina Cosumano to the *interaktiv* team as new calendar of events editor and Bettina Schreibmaier-Clasen as proofreader.

Last but not least: *interaktiv* needs you! We're looking for copyeditors and writers, especially for the spring 2026 issue, on the themes outlined above. And if you're willing to share your experience of attending any of the events in the event calendar, we'd love to hear from you. If you'd like to tell us about a book that was meaningful to you, please let Rosalie Henke (translation@rosaliehen.ke) know. Of course, please write in English or German, as you like. If you're interested in writing for *interaktiv*, please contact me (Seilersabine7@gmail.com or sseiler@nycap.rr.com).

Happy reading—enjoy this issue of *interaktiv*!

Sabine H. Seiler

Editor-in-Chief

A Word from the Administrator

By Karen Leube

Karen Leube, a native of Pennsylvania, is a freelance translator and translator trainer based in Aachen, Germany. She served on the faculty of the universities of Heidelberg and Mainz, where she taught biomedical technology and general medical translation courses in cooperation with local hospitals and research institutions. Since establishing her freelance business in 2004, she has taught numerous continuing education courses for translators and interpreters. Karen founded ATA's GLD Members in Europe group in 2009, coordinating the group until 2019. She served as the GLD's Assistant Administrator for two years prior to assuming the position as Administrator in 2022.

For the GLD, 2025 might be described as the "*Sommerloch* that never was." Instead of the usual lull before our Annual Meeting and the ATA Annual Conference, the GLD—in partnership with the Delaware Valley Translators Association—hosted its first **Pennsylvania Dutch Day** on July 19 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (see).

The event drew more than 40 participants from across the United States, including a notable number of attendees from outside professional language associations—about a quarter of the total. Professors **Mark Louden** and **Steve Nolt** both "read the room" beautifully, offering talks that spoke equally to language professionals and to those simply curious about Pennsylvania Dutch and the PA Dutch-speaking community. A highlight was Prof. Louden's interview with interpreter Margaret Zimmerman, whose dedication to giving women and children a voice in court proceedings—often in cases involving their own community—left a deep impression on all present.

It was also gratifying to see GLD member **Jamie Hartz**'s vision come to life in Lancaster. Many thanks to Jamie for her initiative, and I hope her example inspires others to share their ideas. As always, **Assistant Administrator Robin Limmeroth** and I rely on your input to shape GLD activities. We, along with our Leadership Council colleagues, are eager to hear your suggestions and ready to help implement them. One upcoming opportunity is the **GLD Annual Meeting** on **September 19 at 8:00 pm CET (2:00 pm ET)**—please join us and share your thoughts. Looking ahead, the GLD will be responsible for inviting a **Distinguished Speaker** to ATA's 67th Annual Conference in San Francisco in 2026, and it's not too soon to begin brainstorming.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for our GLD Members in Europe Workshop in **Fulda, February 20–22, 2026**—a chance to raise your profile, exchange insights, and connect with colleagues. But first, we look forward to seeing many of you at ATA's 66th Annual Conference in Boston**, October 22–25, 2025**. Thursday will be "German Track Day," featuring two afternoon sessions followed by our GLD Conference Networking Event at the **Boston Goethe-Institut**. By renting the event space at Goethe-Institut, arranging local catering, and even bringing our own German wine, we hope to make the evening affordable and more conducive to networking than is sometimes possible at a commercial venue. Many thanks to Robin Limmeroth and Abby Huber for their pre-event preparations.

And if travel isn't in the cards for you this year, we hope to see you online. In addition to the Annual Meeting in September, we're planning a webinar and a virtual social event later this year.

Karen Leube

Administrator
German Language Division

(Translation) Notes from the Homeland

By Ellen Yutzy Glebe

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 writinghistory.de.

I've often enough said that *after* the ATA-GLD workshop is *before* the ATA-GLD workshop but it's not the only thing that feels that way. Maybe *after* the latest AI developments is also *before* the latest AI development. Who can keep up? Chat GPT 1 … 2 … 3 — 4 … 5 … ? When will we make it to 6? Hard to say, but when it drops, we're sure to see our airwaves, screens, bandwidths, and whatever other forms of media we're monitoring (no pun intended) flood with reviews—from enthusiastic declarations that now they've gone and done it for real to antagonistic naysayers pointing out all the ways even the newest model comes up short.

That said, after the workshop is before the workshop, and this time around we've decided to focus on the ABCs. Alexa, Bixby, and Claude, you ask? Algorithms, bytes, and coding? No, we're returning to the ABCs of *old-school* success—adaptation, business acumen, and creativity. We're in the process of recruiting a number of interesting speakers for a slate of presentations about how to sell our services, remind our clients of the added-value expert translators bring to the table, and juggle all the variables involved in running our own businesses.

Not that this means we're sticking our heads in the sand regarding the opportunities and challenges presented by the twenty-first century, mind you. Trust me, given that I'm a historian by training and a translator/editor by trade, I was as interested and concerned as anyone else by that new Microsoft study that made the rounds. Maybe you saw it, too? It was widely interpreted as meaning that jobs in the translation industry were the most likely to be lost as a result of GenAI, and second on the list was … historians! Before we all run off to become roofers, dredge operators, and rail-track layers, however, I think we might want to look more closely at the chart, which refers to "occupations with highest AI applicability score." If we consider the nuances of the language, it's not exactly saying that those jobs will no longer exist, it's saying that professionals in those fields perform tasks with which GenAI can assist. It does seem anachronistic to me to maintain that translators should eschew all such technology (although I continue to plead for measured and thoughtful use of AI, given the environmental and ethical considerations involved), but if we use these things judiciously (not lazily!), they can improve our work.

As for GenAI taking over the work of the historian: As in so many fields, these systems might be able to replace the entry-level work. I suppose chatbots can regurgitate historical arguments as well as many college fresh…people, but there have recently been some interesting discussions about the extent to which using GenAI for writing causes our brains to shut down. This article in *The Japan Times* caught my eye. When an instructor asked her students to write about a personal experience, she was struck by the high rate of "Sallys" that appeared in the accounts and realized that this was because they weren't "writing" about *personal experiences* at all but rather prompting the bots to spit out a text. She agreed with a recent study about the effect of such technology on student writing, saying that "both spelling errors and authentic insight"

> **"*Mein Pläydoyer*, then, is for an intentional, mindful use of AI."**

had become less common since 2022. If historians (or more generally—humans?) are supplanted by AI, it will be in part their own fault for forgetting that *insight* comes from a creative process of looking for correlations and trends in the historical record and forging connections to the present. As long as we remember that and hone those skills, AI's capacity to troll through the historical record and massive data sets can open new doors for historical scholarship rather than just replace it.

Mein Pläydoyer, then, is for an intentional, mindful use of AI. This sounds fairly straightforward, but we are already using AI in many situations without being aware of it. A few months ago, some Germans noticed something strange going on in their inboxes. At first, readers of the t-online newsletter *Tagesanbruch* thought the publication's editors were out to lunch—or perhaps back from a boozy luncheon! Articles talked about Trump having an *Arsch im Ärmel* or suggested a day would be haunted (*gegeist*) instead of a travel day (*viel gereist*). These changes at least jumped out at readers as weird, but other instances referred to the Russian army where the

text should have said Israeli and suggested that American soldiers were fighting on the ground in Ukraine. The editors at *Tagesanbruch* were initially stumped, too. In the end, it turned out to be a bug related to a new feature of Gmail that is translating users' emails from German into "German" even though they don't realize this feature is activated.

Meanwhile, well-meaning individuals are pushing us to sign agreements to not use GenAI, but how are we to do so when these functions are so often built into the tools we use—in such a way that we might not notice, and often without a possibility to deactivate them, even if we do notice? When authors recently issued an open letter decrying the use of AI and asking publishers to pledge to avoid using it to create and edit content, Jane Friedman rightly pointed out the difficulty of anyone making such a pledge. She writes,

> Hybrid works—in which the author or publisher has been assisted or supported by AI in any number of ways—are all around us. Even if that weren't the case, publishers don't have any sure-fire way to detect hybrid efforts delivered by authors or freelancers other than their own

gut instinct and familiarity with their styles and processes. I find that people less familiar with AI believe there's a clear line between AI work and human work, but that doesn't reflect the reality of how these tools are being used by creative professionals.

It's all too easy, given the rate at which such studies and stories appear, to lose track, both of the bottom-line regarding AI but also of the other variables that play a role in whether we succeed or fail as freelancers and language professionals. By casting the next ATA-GLD workshop as an opportunity to take the time to reflect on these questions, we hope to remind each other how we got here and to consider where we want to go, individually and as a profession.

Where better to do that than an ancient *Tagungskloster* with modern amenities in a town like Fulda that combines a rich history with a central location and good train connections? Keep an eye out for the official workshop announcement this fall, and in the meantime block the weekend of February 20–22 in your calendar!

Before I sign off, I want to give a shout out to the blog that alerted me to many of these studies and stories: AI Sidequest: How-To Tips and News. Maybe some of you already know the site, and many of you will know the author behind it as Mignon Fogarty, aka Grammar Girl. I don't read all her posts, but I rarely fail to find something interesting when I do!

The 11th Annual GLD in Europe Workshop

Fulda, February 20–22, 2026

The ABCs of Old-School Success

Adaptation – Business Acumen – Creativity

After several years of focusing on technology and disruption (yes, AI!), it's time to get back to the ABCs of old-school success at our next GLD in Europe Workshop. The 11th annual event will take place in Fulda (Tagungskloster Frauenberg) from **February 20–22, 2026**.

That's **A** for *Adaptation*, **B** for *Business Acumen*, and **C** for *Creativity*.

We're putting together a slate of sessions to support each of these themes—and we invite you to be part of it. Whether it's a hands-on workshop, a moderated discussion, or a short talk, we welcome your ideas. Here are some of ours:

- **Adaptation**: How are you adapting to this new era in our industry? Specializing, diversifying, reskilling—or something else?

- **Business Acumen**: What makes a client proposal (or tender) succeed or fall flat? What does a successful client-freelancer relationship look like?

- **Creativity**: Do you have hands-on tips to share to help us all be better translators? Have you tackled a particularly tricky translation you'd like to unpack with a group? Would you like to lead a translation slam?

Let's learn from each other! Share a story—a success, failure, or lesson learned—that others could benefit from. Offer your insights and experience. All ideas, feedback, and suggestions are welcome.

Registration will open in mid-October, but mark your calendars now!

ata 66 Boston

ata American Translators Association

66th Annual Conference
October 22-25, 2025
Boston, Massachusetts

Celebrate your passion and profession at ATA66!

Dedicated translators and interpreters come from all over the world to share their unique experiences while building relationships in a supportive and generous community. They come to invest in themselves and their future as professional language services providers.

Celebrate with 1,000 translators and interpreters from over 60 countries who love what they do... *just like you!*

The ATA 66th Annual Conference in Boston will feature several sessions of interest to GLD members. Below is a list of presentations in the German track to help you map out your virtual conference schedule. Full descriptions as well as a list of other conference sessions are available here.

Conference Sessions and Events

ATA66 provides a comprehensive selection of educational opportunities for professional development specific to your needs. You'll find sessions that focus on practical skills and theory across all levels of experience. You'll be inspired and challenged to consider new ideas.

The conference also offers a variety of networking events. You'll find opportunities to promote yourself and your services, connect with friends, get involved with your association, or just have fun!

ATA-certified translators may earn 1 CEP for each hour attended, up to a maximum of 10 CEPs.
Certified interpreters may earn continuing education credit. **Learn more.**

German Topics Agenda

Thursday, October 23

(016) From Hype to Hands-On: Real-World AI Adoption among German to/from English T&I Professionals

Presenters: Robin Limmeroth, Karen Leube   2:40 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. EDT

While there are numerous resources on how to use artificial intelligence (AI) in our work, this session will offer a unique opportunity to exchange real-world applications and experiences specific to the German to/from English market. Members of ATA's German Language Division (GLD) will be surveyed beforehand on their AI use, workflow adaptations, and tool preferences, as well as ethical considerations and client communication strategies. The survey will also address the impact of AI on work volume and potential alternative revenue streams. During the session, the survey findings will be presented first, followed by breakout sessions. All survey and session insights will be published on the GLD website after the conference.

Track: Translation   Language: German   **Hashtag(s): #ATA66**

(028) Patent Translation in the Time of Machine Translation Post-Editing (MT/PE)

Presenter: Matthew Schlecht   2:40 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. EDT

Patents have traditionally made up a well-defined and relatively recession-proof niche in the technical translation market, but the advent of machine translation post-editing (MT/PE) has upended this market segment. This work still requires specific knowledge of style, terminology, wording, and register that are unique to the field. This session will cover the MT/PE process as it applies to patents as well as the revision of MT/PE texts. It will suggest strategies useful in patent translation, give examples of patent translation in the German/French/Spanish/Japanese into English pairs, and point to resources to aid translators in MT/PE tasks in the patent field.

Track: Translation   Language: English   **Hashtag(s): #ATA66**

(029) Vocabulary Building through Visual Context

Presenter: Carola Lehmacher   2:40 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. EDT

As the saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words." In this session, we'll put this expression to the test by using a single image of a car accident as the foundation for exploring accident-related terminology. Attendees will engage in a collaborative brainstorming session, identifying key vocabulary and expressions linked to the scenario. Through guided discussion, we'll explore effective strategies for researching, categorizing, and activating new vocabulary.

Track: Interpreting   Language: English   **Hashtag(s): #ATA66**

Thursday, October 23 (Continued)

(033) Pennsylvania Dutch: From Past to Present

Presenters: Jamie Hartz, Karen Leube   4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. EDT

Macht's nix if you aren't from Pennsylvania—all are "wilkum" at this session on Pennsylvania Dutch language and culture. The speakers will provide an overview of where Pennsylvania Dutch came from and where we find it today, beginning with the historical and cultural context of the language and people all the way up to recent developments in translation and interpreting services for the Pennsylvania Dutch-speaking community. The influence of Pennsylvania Dutch language and culture in the U.S. will be discussed. Attendees will learn some useful vocabulary and compare variants of this German dialect spoken only in North America.

Track: Interpreting   Language: German   Hashtag(s): #ATA66

(035) Differences between Legal English in the U.S. and England

Presenter: Thomas West   4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. EDT

U.S.-based legal translators are sometimes asked to translate documents into British English for clients in the United Kingdom or Europe. Although it's easy enough to change the spellcheck to English (U.K.) and use familiar terms such as "lift" instead of "elevator," the challenge is to employ the legal terminology of England and Wales (E&W), which often differs significantly from the terms used by American lawyers. The terminology of civil procedure in particular was completely overhauled in E&W in 1999. More importantly, there are terms with completely different meanings on each side of the Atlantic.

Track: Translation   Language: English   Hashtag(s): #ATA66

(036) Practical Strategies for Improving Your Consecutive Interpreting

Presenter: Corinne McKay   4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. EDT

Consecutive interpreting often "seems" easier than simultaneous because the interpreter isn't trying to listen and talk at the same time. However, consecutive isn't necessarily easier and presents its own set of challenges, particularly when the interpreter's rendition serves as the official record in court, or when people grow impatient with the slower pace of consecutive. In this session, we'll first examine the particular challenges of consecutive interpreting, then we'll talk about specific techniques to improve your consecutive interpreting.

Track: Interpreting   Language: English   Hashtag(s): #ATA66

THE ATA | CHRONICLE

German Language Division Networking Event at ATA66

Join us for an evening of networking, lively conversation, and Gemütlichkeit!

WHERE: BOSTON GOETHE-INSTITUT
170 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02116

WHEN: Thursday, October 23, 2025 from 7–10 p.m. EDT

This year we're trying something new: instead of our usual restaurant dinner, we'll gather at the Boston Goethe-Institut, where a welcoming German atmosphere and a private, quiet space will set the stage for connecting with colleagues.

To make the evening both enjoyable and affordable, the GLD administrators have arranged catering and will even bring along German wine and other beverages to accompany a light meal.

Your event fee includes:

Venue

Exclusive use of the Goethe-Institut event space

Finger food:
- Wheat wraps (vegetarian and meat/cheese varieties)
- Mediterranean mezze selection
- Cheese & charcuterie collection
- French baguette
- Veggie sushi
- Regular sushi
- Cookies

Beverages:
- White wine
- Red wine
- Soft drinks

(Gratuity and delivery fees are included.)

All photos courtesy of Mark Römisch

Registration Details

Price: $68 per person (non refundable)

Sign up here: Cheddar up. (Registration is managed via Cheddar Up. Please note that platform and payment processing fees apply.)

Sign-up deadline: September 25, 2025 or until sold out.

Getting there

The Goethe-Institut is about a 15-minute drive or 30–40 minutes by public transportation (including a 20-minute walk).

Want to share a ride? Meet in the conference hotel lobby at 6:40 pm.

We look forward to seeing you in Boston!

Is It AI? A Semi-Scientific Study of AI Detectors

By Carola F. Berger

Note: This article was originally published as a blog post on the author's website. The present version has been edited to fit the format of interaktiv. *The original blog article contains all texts that were used for testing as well as additional screenshots and supporting material. You can view the original article here:* cfbtranslations.com/is-it-ai-a-semi-scientific-study-of-ai-detectors

Carola F. Berger is a German <> English translator, ATA-certified in both language directions, with a PhD in physics and a master's degree in engineering physics. She specializes in the translation of patents and technical texts in the fields of robotics, artificial intelligence, electronics, energy, cryptocurrencies, and other innovative technical topics. When not tinkering with neural networks or autonomous robots, Carola serves as webmaster of ATA's Science & Technology Division and of the Northern California Translators Association. She can be reached at CFBtranslations.com or info@cfbtranslations.com.

Introduction

Do you know somebody who has been falsely accused of using AI for their school or work project? Are you a manager in charge of written content, wondering whether the texts you receive are AI-generated? Or are you merely curious about the accuracy of AI detectors? (AI detectors are online tools created to detect whether a text was written by generative AI or humans.)

I have been wondering for a while how accurately these AI detectors actually detect human vs. AI-generated content. So I decided to do a semi-scientific study to answer this question. The study is "semi-scientific," because instead of testing these AI detectors on a large scale with randomly selected texts to obtain statistically meaningful results, I chose a handful of manually curated texts. However, the rest of the methodology is as scientific as possible, with detailed, auditable records of all results. More on the methodology below.

Methodology

Text Selection

The texts were selected with the following constraints. First, I needed 100% verifiably human texts not constrained by copyright or other legal issues. Then, the text passages needed to be longer than 200 words, but preferably less than 750 words (or 1000 words). The lower limit is because virtually all available AI detectors state that they cannot reliably detect AI usage for shorter passages. The upper limit stems from the fact that I decided to use the chosen AI detectors' free trial versions (which impose length limits) because I did this study out of mere curiosity and not as part of a formal (funded) research program. Further, the texts should not contain any equations in display format to break up the flow of text because this tends to "confuse" the AI detectors.

Now, where was I going to find 100% verifiably human, scientific text passages? Simple: I chose older texts. The reason for selecting mostly my own writing is not to show off my research career, but rather to avoid any copyright issues. I chose the following sources:

- My own PhD thesis from May 2003, guaranteed AI-free and verified by my PhD thesis committee. The thesis is freely available for download from the arXiv here.

- My most-cited physics publication, which I co-authored in 2008: "An Automated Implementation of On-Shell Methods for One-Loop Amplitudes," C. F. Berger et. al, *Phys. Rev.* D 78 (2008) 036003. The preprint is available for download here.

- To change things up, a patent on bicycles by George Seyfang from 1903, whose patent protection expired long ago: US Patent No. 730,194, available for download here.

From these sources, I picked six passages that fulfilled the aforementioned requirements and saved them as plain text files, which I then copy-pasted into the online AI detectors.

For good measure, I added one entirely AI-generated text to the mix. This text was generated by the free version of ChatGPT on July 1, 2025. I prompted ChatGPT to create a 500-word summary of my publication in plain text format, "Higher Orders in A(alpha(s))/[1-x]+ of Nonsinglet Partonic Splitting Functions," C. F. Berger, *Phys. Rev.* D 66 (2002) 116002, the preprint is available for download here. I did not edit the output at all, not even for factual errors.

All texts can be viewed and downloaded in the original blog post here, in case you want to perform your own studies: cfbtranslations.com/is-it-ai-a-semi-sci-entific-study-of-ai-detectors

AI Detector Selection

I picked four well-known AI detectors that offered a free trial without signing in or at most with signing in with a Google account. I also picked two AI-detection aggregators that purported to aggregate the results of several individual AI detectors, including the four individual engines I tested. My choice of AI detectors is merely a random sample of all the detectors out there. Beyond that, you should not infer any other reason for selecting these and leaving out others.

The detectors I tested are:

- GPTZero, model 3.5b, and earlier model 3.4b
- Grammarly
- Originality.ai
- QuillBot, v.5.3.1
- Aggregator undetectable AI; states that it uses GPTZero, OpenAI, Writer,

QuillBot, Copyleaks, Sapling, Grammarly, and ZeroGPT
- Aggregator JustDone; states that it uses Originality.ai, Scribbr, GPTZero, and Copyleaks

GPTZero and QuillBot state a model/version number, but the rest do not, which is why I dated the tests. As we will see below, the results evolve over time and depend on the specific model version.

Running the Tests

The rest is straightforward: I simply fed each of the text passages above through each of the AI detectors. For reference and auditability, I took screenshots of all results. I also entered the results into a simple spreadsheet. Obviously, the number of tests is far from sufficient to come to any statistically relevant conclusions, but some of the qualitative results are quite intriguing. Most of the tests were run on June 30, 2025, and July 1, 2025, but a few were done on May 30, 2025. That is when I started this study, but I got sidetracked in June with paying projects. This timeline led to some unexpected and interesting secondary results, which I will now present along with the main findings.

The Results

First Attempt – Ph.D. Thesis Abstract

My very first attempt at the end of May was to simply grab the first 100% human text I could find and run it through the aforementioned AI detectors. This first text, no. 1 above, happened to be the abstract of my Ph.D. thesis, written in 2003, at a time when the only AI people knew about was a township in Ohio (it's still there). All four individual detectors, GPTZero, Grammarly, Originality, and QuillBot, correctly identified the text as 0% AI. Interestingly, JustDone claimed that the text was 93% AI (as of June 30,

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The GLD has its own LinkedIn page!

Make sure to follow us at linkedin.com/company/german-language-division!

2025) although JustDone says that it uses Originality and GPTZero asks to "double-check" the result, as can be seen in Fig. 1.
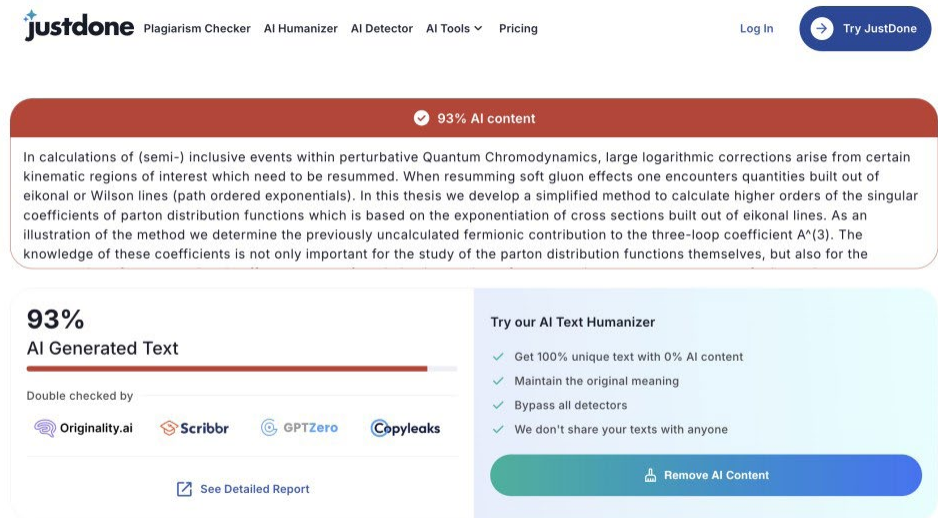
Fig. 1: Results by JustDone AI detector for Text 1, June 30, 2025

Even more interestingly, I ran the same abstract through undetectable AI twice, once on May 30, 2025, and once on June 30, 2025. On May 30, it identified the text as 61% AI, cf. Fig. 2.
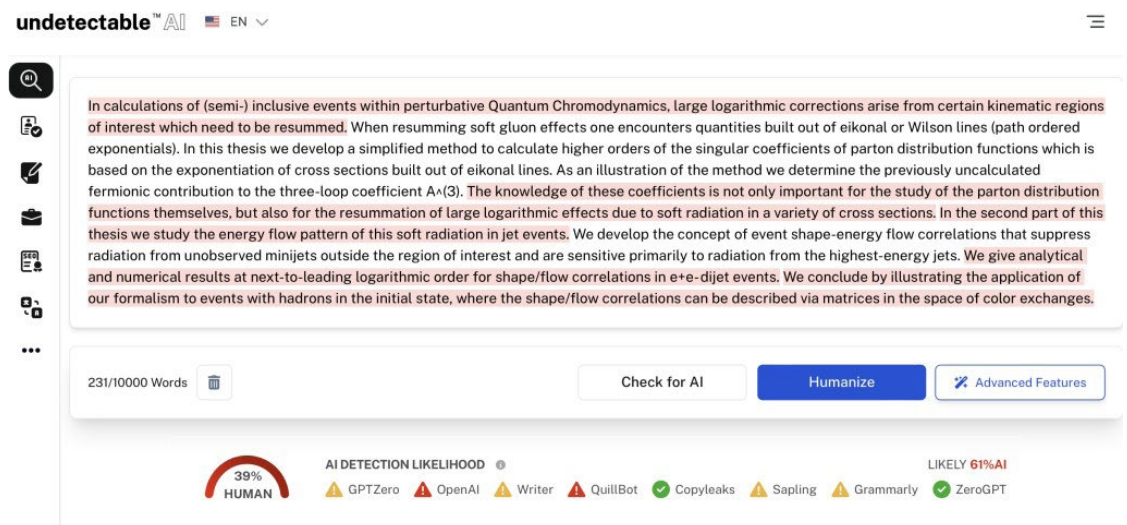
Fig. 2: Results by undetectable AI detector for Text 1, May 30, 2025

Then, notably, on June 30, undetectable AI gave a result of 1% AI. While undetectable AI does not state a version/model number, the results clearly vary over time.

Results for 100% Human Texts

Grammarly and Originality.ai correctly output 0% AI for all human-written texts, regardless of length, and undetectable AI output 1% AI, which is essentially equivalent to 0%. Interestingly, QuillBot version 5.3.1 claimed that while they had been written by humans, 11% of Text 4 and 5% of Text 5 were refined with the help of AI. I would like to reiterate that generative AI engines did not exist

at the time Texts 4 and 5 were written, in 2008, so they could not have been refined by any artificial method at all, except perhaps by a spell checker.

GPTZero model 3.5b correctly gave 0% AI for all human-written texts, but interestingly, GPTZero model 3.4b, available in May 2025, also claimed that 7% of Text 5 was refined with the help of AI.

JustDone's output, on the other hand, asserted that a large percentage of each of the human-written texts was written by AI, as follows:

- 93% for Text 1
- 75% for Text 2
- 83% for Text 3
- 77% for Text 4
- 84% for Text 5
- 74% for Text 6

Results for the AI-Generated Text

Finally, I sent the entirely AI-generated summary of my old paper through the AI detectors. The results were a mixed bag. Grammarly and QuillBot v. 5.3.1 both claimed the text was entirely human (0% AI), and both Originality. ai and undetectable AI concurred with that statement at 1% AI. Only GPTZero model 3.5b output that 31% of the text was generated by AI and another 11% was refined by AI, whereas the remaining 52% was allegedly written by a human.

Interestingly, JustDone determined that 72% of the AI text was generated by AI, its lowest percentage of all texts that I tested. By contrast, the human-written texts above scored a higher AI percentage than the actual AI-generated text.

In other words, JustDone identified the AI text as the most human of the seven texts that I tested.

Conclusion: Caveat Emptor

While I did not have the time, money, or energy to run a statistically significant number of human-created and AI-generated texts through these AI detectors to come to a quantitative conclusion, it is qualitatively safe to say that the results are certainly a mixed bag. Sometimes human-created text was correctly identified as such, sometimes not; sometimes AI-generated text was identified as human and sometimes as partially AI.

AI detectors are nothing but generative AI engines (also known as large language models, or LLMs) fine-tuned to detect AI output. As such, AI detectors seem to be just like any other AI tool out there—sometimes they give good results, but more often than not, humans need to double-check the results instead of blindly believing the AI output. Further, the results seem highly model-dependent and thus evolve over time along with the underlying language model. The results I presented above from May to July 2025 may not hold in a year or even a month from now.

Where does that leave us? I believe that content, not writing style, will be the distinguishing feature between AI-generated content and human-created pieces. AI is (currently) incapable of original thought, and those humans who think before they write (or translate) will stand out, in the future even more so than now.

The Value of Human Translation

By Michael Schubert

Can meaningful human-to-human communications be outsourced successfully to AI?

Michael Schubert is an ATA-certified German-to-English translator providing premium translation services with a focus on corporate communications for the software and logistics industries. He is also an adjunct professor for German-to-English translation at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. Michael is a native Californian who lived in Germany for over a decade and now resides in Paris. More at michaelschubert.com

I'm a technophile. In my very human career field of translation and copywriting, I embrace technology wholeheartedly. I also advocate for it when I teach and mentor others. *I think tech skills are just as critical as language skills for a successful career in translation.*

So I don't dislike AI. On the contrary, I am fascinated by the promise of emerging technology and enjoy experimenting with AI. But because I've seen what AI *cannot* do, I'm dismayed to see it emerging as an existential threat to many in my profession.

The usefulness of AI in language services has been vastly oversold—driven by ignorance or profit motive—and I fear that customers who are told that free or cheap AI solutions can duplicate time-consuming human language services will discover that the old adage always applies: *You get what you pay for.*

- **GIGO.** That is: "garbage in, garbage out." AI doesn't "think," of course. It extrapolates based on the massive amounts of data it ingests. But this Roomba-on-steroids is also sucking in broken glass and thumbtacks—subpar translations and outright errors—which, by design, it dutifully spits out again.

- **AI skips what it doesn't know.** I see this again and again: It skips the hard stuff, the nuances. In my language combination of German to English, AI notoriously ignores the modal particles (*gerade, immerhin, doch, wohl, gar, bloß, eben …*) that lend so much character to good writing. It does this because the solutions are too vexingly context-specific, and because it learns from subpar human translations (back to GIGO 👆). The result is a translation that lacks the sparkle and impact of a good source text. And that's a shame.

- **AI hallucinates.** This is an open secret at this point. It seems to abhor a vacuum so much that it inserts "best guesses" where it lacks data, and it also seems oddly eager to please its human prompters.

Bottom line: AI results need careful scrutiny. Everybody—except possibly

those hawking AI "solutions"—seems to agree on that.

But are AI results helpful for generating a first draft? Does AI save time in the overall process of producing a useful translation?

No. More on that below.

We translators rarely receive perfect texts to translate. A good translator will always correct errors, check facts, test and localize hyperlinks, fix formatting errors, and work with the client to clarify ambiguities. We glean the essence of the source text and deliver the message clearly and idiomatically in the target language. This is strictly gray-matter added value that goes well beyond the capabilities and mandate of AI solutions.

The most common compliment we translators get is: "Wow, your translation is better than the original!" That's because **no one scrutinizes a text as carefully as a good translator**—not even its author.

Liefersicherheit is **not** "delivery security"

Some real-world examples from my work for the German logistics industry: In my own language combination of German to English, AI-based machine translation (MT) is still unable to consistently see beyond German's notorious compound nouns to produce a natural English. An example I've seen over and over again is *Erhöhung der Liefersicherheit* translated as "increased delivery security" (wrong sense of *Sicherheit!*) or "increasing delivery reliability" (said no one, ever) instead of **"more robust supply chains"** or **"increasing supply chain resilience,"** which is what a good translator would write and what someone reading the English text would actually understand. The web is already full of proclamations of "delivery security"—just ask Linguee, which has been scraping the internet for years to fuel the leading MT tool DeepL. But this kind of self-propagating robot reflux is only good for reducing translation expenses, not for actually getting potential customers to stop scrolling and swiping.

Moving from a merely uninspired translation to a dangerous mistranslation, here's a jaw-dropper from my experimentation with DeepL. Can you spot the error?

German (detected) ∨	⇄	English (US) ∨	◯✕ Glossary ∨
Die Künstliche Intelligenz liefert im Praxiseinsatz einen Beitrag zur Reduktion der Vorhersageungenauigkeit.	✕	In practice, artificial intelligence helps to reduce the accuracy of predictions.	

It's hard, because this is not the kind of translation error (… **un**genauigkeit = **in**accuracy) that we would expect a machine to make. I only spotted it because the target text was counterintuitive, and my human brain was turned on, which is what my clients pay me for!

AI's working model leads it to endlessly propagate human errors unless corrected by vigilant humans during machine translation post-editing (MTPE).

But how likely is that? Not at all, since MTPE is not prestigious or lucrative and is therefore often handed over to lower-skilled linguists. **And the temptation is strong—given how shiny and "right" the translations appear—to skip the post-editing altogether.** Everyone loves free.

The above examples are just anecdotal, of course. Individual mistranslations can be fixed. What's problematic is the fundamental structural flaws that produce such errors to begin with and will continue to do so.

> If the accuracy of a cheap or free translation cannot be trusted, does it have any value?

It's often argued that AI is the perfect tool for low-value texts that otherwise wouldn't be translated. But if the accuracy of a cheap—or free—translation cannot be entirely trusted, does it have any value? Indeed, might it not actually be worse than no translation at all, since it creates **risks of reputational damage and legal liability?**

Since we cannot trust AI to compile error-free translations, someone has to comb through gigantic haystacks looking for the needles that almost certainly lie within. This kind of work is mind-numbing and difficult for humans, so it means most needles will never be found.

The pertinent question here: Is it more promising to meticulously search haystacks for needles or to build your own needle-free haystack from scratch?

Language is a tool for humans to connect with other humans. Texts that are carefully written by humans and for humans in one language—whether product documentation, legal arguments, financial disclosures, marketing copy, literature, or anything else of significance—deserve to be just as carefully translated if they are to have the same impact in another language.

This is the message that we translators must continually communicate to serious clients in this new era of AI.

Finding Compassion with NVC in the Age of AI

By Matthew Bunczk

Matthew Bunczk
is a translator, proofreader, editor, trained paralegal, and native of southeastern Pennsylvania in the United States. During his undergraduate studies, he spent a semester in Strasbourg, France, and a year in Senegal, West Africa. After spending ten years in the corporate world, he happily embarked on a career as a freelance translator in 2015. He is ATA-certified for translation from French and German into English, working primarily with business, legal, and financial texts. He is particularly passionate about nonviolent communication (NVC) and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. You can reach Matthew at mattbunczk@gmail.com.

In addition to English, German, French, Italian, and Polish, I began learning another language in 2009. It's called *nonviolent communication* (NVC)—*Gewaltfreie Kommunikation* (GFK) in German. Although it's not a "foreign" language *per se*, it definitely requires much practice. I'd call it a language of the heart. Its developer, American psychologist Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D., considered it a spiritual practice. The purpose of NVC is to help us care for our own and others' needs moment by moment—so that we can create a deeper, more joyful experience of life for everyone. In the age of artificial intelligence (AI), when we translators and interpreters are experiencing upheaval in our professional and personal lives, NVC might be a helpful tool as we navigate the changing landscape.

NVC is an "embodied" approach to communication. It has us focus on our *feelings* and *needs,* particularly in relation to our observations of the world around us. It also makes us aware of the *requests* we can make of others to make life more enjoyable for everyone. At the same time, it sensitizes us to the feelings and needs of others, helping us understand what it's like to be in another person's shoes. As we develop this *empathy* for one another and focus on each other's feelings and needs, we cultivate a deeper interpersonal connection and a greater desire to contribute to each other's well-being.

To give a very simple example, suppose your partner wants you to stop talking to them because they're really tired after a long day of work. They could snap at you and yell, "Just shut up! Can't you see I'm exhausted!" Or they could try to connect with their feelings and needs—as well as yours—and say, "Look, I'm really exhausted after work. I need some peace, quiet, and space. Could we talk about this in an hour after I nap? I know this discussion is important to you. I'll be able to focus better after I rest."

In the above example, as the receiver, you might prefer to hear your partner's second reaction. Their first reaction might create tension in your body. It might even trigger you to fight or run away. But your partner's second reaction might create ease in your body and a willingness to continue the dialogue. You hear their *request* to take a nap. You hear their *needs* for peace, quiet, space, and rest. Your partner also implicitly acknowledges your needs to be seen and heard and to know that you matter to them. As your partner holds your needs as important, you are then more inclined to reciprocate and see your partner's needs as equally important to your own.

If only every interaction in life were as simple as this example. In reality, we sometimes find ourselves in interactions where unpleasant feelings and words are flying every which way, and it's virtually impossible to connect with others' needs, let alone our own. Practicing NVC in simpler situations can better equip us for the more challenging ones. We can build our vocabulary around feelings and needs, stand at the ready to identify them, and more meaningfully connect with those around us—whether

we're interacting with family, clients, or colleagues.

As AI elbows its way onto the professional scene with the "adapt or die" directive, we might have a whole host of feelings swirling through us. Some of us might feel panicked, annoyed, or even heavyhearted as we seek out new ways to meet our needs for sustenance, security, and stability. Others may feel excited, inspired, and optimistic as they discover new ways to meet their needs for creativity, exploration, and learning. It's important to remember that our experiences will be unique in any given moment. As we use NVC to track needs and feelings, hopefully we can find more compassion for ourselves and others, especially when others are having experiences different from ours. Most important, may we hold everyone's needs as equally important and take steps to meet those needs—both ours and theirs—from a genuine desire to contribute to each other's well-being.

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The Voice of Interpreters and Translators

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 our former 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."

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Neue Serie: Hinter den Kulissen der Geschichte: Würdigung vergessener Übersetzerinnen und Dolmetscherinnen Erster Teil: Veza Canetti

By Bettina Schreibmaier-Clasen

Veza Canetti wurde 1897 unter dem Namen Venetiana Taubner-Calderon in Wien geboren. Als Frau und als Jüdin sollte sie im Wien der Jahrhundertwende und in den darauffolgenden Jahrzehnten kein einfaches Leben haben.

Und dennoch war sie eine kluge, mutige und doch so bescheidene Frau, die von Büchern gar nicht genug bekommen konnte und schon früh anfing, selbst zu schreiben. Erste Erzählungen wurden bald in den Zeitungen der Stadt veröffentlicht, sie las in Literatursalons und es folgten ihre ersten Romane. Ihr schriftstellerisches Werk zeichnet sich neben vielen anderen Besonderheiten durch ihre scharfsinnige Beobachtung und schonungslose Kritik der gesellschaftlichen Verhältnisse ihrer Zeit aus. Zeitweise musste sie auch unter wechselnden Pseudonymen schreiben. Aber damit nicht genug:

Veza Canetti war eine geborene Autodidaktin. Die Möglichkeit, eine Universität zu besuchen, hatte sie nicht. Und doch verdiente sie ihren Lebensunterhalt und lange Zeit auch den ihrer Familie als Übersetzerin. Ihre Arbeitssprachen lernte sie in Eigenregie: Englisch bei einem längeren Aufenthalt in England und Französisch im Selbststudium. Und das Schreiben war ihr sowieso gegeben.

1934 heiratete sie Elias Canetti, ein Name, der aus der deutschsprachigen Literaturszene nicht mehr wegzudenken ist. Beide widmeten sich mit Leidenschaft dem Schreiben – und Veza unterstützte Elias, wo sie nur konnte: Sie lektorierte all seine Texte, schrieb seine Briefe und bereitete die meisten seiner Vorträge vor. Dadurch hatte sie maßgeblichen Anteil an seinem Werk. Auch ihr eigenes Schaffen kam dabei nie zum Erliegen. Neben Haushalt und Beruf, versteht sich.

Waren die Canettis also ein Power-Paar, bei dem sich beide Partner gegenseitig in ihrem Erfolg unterstützten? Weit gefehlt. Elias war großes Ansehen vergönnt, er wurde ein gefeierter Star der Literaturszene und erhielt letztendlich sogar den Nobelpreis. Und Veza? Ihre Person und ihr Werk sind vollkommen in Vergessenheit geraten. In einem Akt der Verzweiflung verbrannte sie 1956 sogar viele ihrer Schriften. Ihre Erzählungen wurden erst später in alten Wiener Zeitungsarchiven wiederentdeckt und ab den 1990er-Jahren erfuhr sie mit der Veröffentlichung ihrer Romane eine späte Rehabilitation. Seit 2014 wird in Wien der Veza-Canetti-Literaturpreis verliehen. Das nützte ihr persönlich natürlich nichts mehr. Sie starb 1963 unter nicht vollständig geklärten Umständen im Londoner Exil.

Ich selbst habe Veza Canettis Werk erst 2025 bei einer Lesung ihres Romans *Die Schildkröten* (1939) kennengelernt. Hier schildert sie in sehr eindringlicher und für mich unvergesslicher Weise die Eindrücke ihrer Ausgrenzung, Vertreibung und schließlich Flucht aus Wien im Jahr 1938, eine Flucht, die gerade noch im letzten Moment gelang.

Elias Canettis Werke zieren mein Bücherregal, von Veza hatte ich bis dato noch nie gehört. Diese schreiende Ungerechtigkeit hat mich sprachlos gemacht. Und wütend.

Und so ist es mir ein besonderes Anliegen, unsere Serie „Hinter den Kulissen der Geschichte: Würdigung vergessener Übersetzerinnen und Dolmetscherinnen" mit Veza Canetti zu beginnen. In der nächsten Ausgabe wird es daher um Vezas Leben als Frau und Jüdin in einer dunklen Zeit gehen – und auch auf eine Rezension ihres Romans *Die Schildkröten* dürfen sich die Leser*innen von *interaktiv* freuen.

Dear listmates,

If you will be in Boston for the ATA Conference, you will have the opportunity to attend **(by registering)** a book talk at Goethe-Institut (yes, the networking venue!) **on Saturday, October. 25, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm**:

In the early twentieth century, Pacific Palisades was home to America's most modern film studio of the time as well as the proposed site of the world's largest Christian center. But by the end of the 1920s, the Los Angeles neighborhood had become the refuge of the rich and beautiful as cultural and intellectual giants of the Weimar Republic fled Europe. Figures such as Thomas Mann, Salka and Berthold Viertel, and Lion Feuchtwanger, turned Pacific Palisades into a "Weimar under the palm trees."

Recounting a story of glamor and great minds, Thomas Blubacher tells of the history of German-speaking exiles that is still alive there today, going on a foray through the film industry, taking us on a journey to this special place which was so recently devastated by fire and whose history deserves to be celebrated— now more than ever.

Thomas Blubacher has written over thirty books and has worked as a theater director in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. A specialist on theater and film of the 1930s, his books inaclude biographies of the siblings Eleonora and Francesco von Mendelssohn, Gustaf Gründgens, Oscar Wälterlin, Ruth Landshoff-Yorck, and Ruth Hellberg. He has also written essays and travel features, and has published a bestselling book on cruises and several historical crime novels.

Elisabeth (Liz) Lauffer is a German-English literary translator based in the US. She received a B.A. in German Studies from Wesleyan University and Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her career in literary translation began in 2014, when she won the Gutekunst Prize for Emerging Translators.

PACIFIC PALISADES, GERMAN EXILES, AND THE INVENTION OF HOLLYWOOD

WEIMAR UNDER THE PALMS
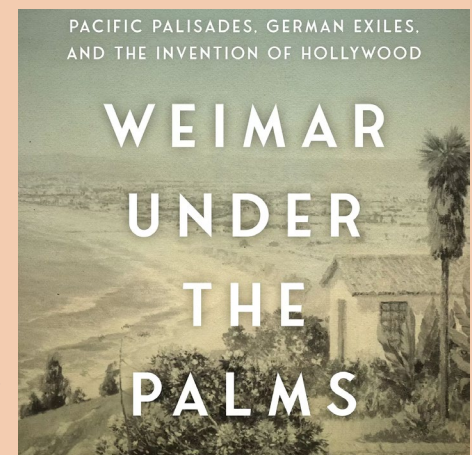
Translator in Profile: Carola Lehmacher

Where are you based and what brought you there?

I've been based in Atlanta, Georgia, for the past 10 years, ever since I moved here to marry my husband. My roots, however, are in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where I grew up in a German-speaking family.

What got you started in translation?

My very first "assignment" was back in school, when I interpreted for newly arrived students from Germany so they could follow what our Spanish teachers were explaining. I'm not sure that counts toward my (many) years of experience, but it certainly shows that interpreting was a calling from early on. I went on to study translation at university—since, at the time, Argentina didn't offer a degree in interpreting—and I complemented that with a 3-year interpreting course at a private institute. More recently, I fulfilled a long-held dream by completing my master's degree in conference Interpreting.

What languages do you work in and what are your areas of specialization?

These days, I work mainly between English and Spanish, though before moving to the U.S., my primary language pair was Spanish–German. I also occasionally work from French. Currently, about one third of my work involves the federal courts, another third is interpreting at conferences and for broadcast, and the remaining third is devoted to teaching and coaching, combining structured courses with personalized mentoring.

What do you like most about being a translator?

What I love most about interpreting is that every assignment is both a challenge and an opportunity. Some push you out of your comfort zone, while others allow you to shine. Each experience teaches you something new and gives you a chance to improve, keeping the work endlessly engaging and rewarding.

What do you like the least?

What I like least about interpreting is that interpreters are often the last link in the chain even though we play a vital role in communication. Many people still don't fully understand what we do and how we do it, which is why I see it as an amazing opportunity to educate clients and help them see the value of including interpreters early on in the planning process. Being part of that planning process can make a real difference in the success of any project.

What are your goals for the near future?

One of my main goals for the near future is to create new course materials. I'm currently working with a colleague in this regard—a very exciting project that will be revealed soon. I also hope to speak at more conferences and expand my client base in order to create new opportunities along the way.

What are your hobbies or other interests?

I enjoy reading, being outdoors, and cooking—especially when the kids enjoy what I make. During the summer, we volunteer at a shelter and foster puppies. I'm also passionate about traveling, spending time with family and friends, and participating in the kids' activities.

If you asked my mother, she'd probably say my profession is my hobby—lol! I truly enjoy attending trainings, engaging in continuous development, and learning from colleagues, which makes my work both fulfilling and fun.

Saag, kannscht du Deitsch schwetze?

Petra C. Rieker

Am 19. Juli 2025 fand unter gemeinsamer Regie der ATA German Language Division und der Delaware Valley Translators Association (DVTA) der erste Pennsylvania Dutch Day in Lancaster, PA statt. Vor Ort waren nahezu 40 Interessierte, die mehr über die Kultur, die Geschichte und die Sprache selbst erfahren wollten. Rund um die Stadt Lancaster leben die meisten Sprecher*innen dieser germanischen Sprache, die heutzutage fast ausschließlich in den USA und Kanada gesprochen wird. Und so war es nur folgerichtig, die Veranstaltung auch dort durchzuführen.

Petra Caroline Rieker is an accomplished freelance journalist and published translator of six works of fiction and translation reference. Specializing in English > German, she owns The Art of German Language, a translation and tutoring practice, and publishes a blog that explores the nuance of translating creative works (TheArtofGermanLanguage.com/petras-blog). She holds an MBA from the Otto Friedrich University in Bamberg, is a certified Public Relations Consultant, and is currently enrolled in a master's program for German Literary Studies at the University in Hagen, Germany. She served four years on the Board of Directors for the DVTA, a chapter of ATA.

Von 9 Uhr morgens bis 17 Uhr nachmittags wurde den Teilnehmenden, die aus dem Umkreis von Philadelphia und sogar aus Ohio angereist waren, viel geboten. Karen Leube, GLD Administrator, und Jamie Hartz, ATA Public Relations Committee Chair, die beiden Co-Organisatorinnen des Events, führten durch einen erlebnisreichen Tag. In seiner Keynote räumte Professor Mark L. Louden von der *University of Wisconsin-Madison* dann auch gleich zu Beginn mit ein paar Klischees auf. Pennsylvania Dutch leite sich nämlich nicht, wie man oft denke, aus dem Wort „Deutsch" ab, aus dem man aus Bequemlichkeitsgründen ein paar Buchstaben herausgestrichen habe, ebenso wenig handele es sich um einen deutschen Dialekt und es seien auch nicht nur die Amischen, wie man es aus Harrison Fords Kinofilm *Der einzige Zeuge* kenne, die Pennsylvania Dutch sprächen.

Aber was genau ist dann Pennsylvania Dutch?

Die Wurzeln dieser Sprache reichen über 300 Jahre zurück und sie kam mit den ersten deutschen Siedlern in Pennsylvania, zwischen 1750 und 1780, an. Die meisten der Auswanderer stammten aus der Pfalz (Palatinate), weshalb Pennsylvania Dutch zwar stark diesem deutschen Dialekt ähnelt, ihn jedoch nicht abbildet, da die Sprache beispielsweise zu gut 20 Prozent mit Wörtern aus dem Englischen angereichert ist. Die erste Generation, die Pennsylvania Dutch sprach, bestand zu 95 Prozent aus *Lutheran,* sogenannten *Church People* und die restlichen fünf Prozent gehörten den Anabaptisten und Pietisten an. Heutzutage wird die Sprache von den Amischen und den *Old Order Mennonites* gesprochen, den sogenannten *Plain People*. Einen detaillierten Überblick über die Regionen, in denen Pennsylvania Dutch aktuell gesprochen wird, gab Steven M. Nolt vom *Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies am Elizabethtown College.* Seinen Forschungsergebnissen nach findet man Sprecher*innen, wie bereits angeführt, vor allem in Pennsylvania, insbesondere rund um die Stadt Lancaster. Weit verbreitet ist die Sprache aber auch im Bundesstaat Ohio. Vereinzelte Sprachregionen finden sich zudem in Kanada und sogar in Florida. Hochinteressant waren auch die Einblicke in die Kultur der *Plain People,* die Nolt den Teilnehmenden gewährte. Denn wer diese Sprache erlernen und die Lebensweise ihrer Sprecher*innen verstehen möchte, der kommt ohne ein tiefergehendes Verständnis dieser Kultur nicht aus.

> „...für Pennsylvania Dutch gibt es die Möglichkeit, sich über die AOPC (Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts) zertifizieren zu lassen. Da die Sprache zu den eher Seltenen gehört, müssen auch nicht ganz so viele Hürden genommen werden, bevor man theoretisch den ersten Job antreten könnte."

Werden Dolmetscher*innen oder Übersetzer*innen für diese Sprache gebraucht?

Gut gestärkt, nach einem Mittagessen im angrenzenden Southern Market, ging es in die Mittagsrunde, die mit einer Paneldiskussion eröffnet wurde. Auf der Bühne: Mark Louden und die Dolmetscherin Margaret Zimmerman. Sowohl Zimmerman, die aus einer *Old Mennonite*-Familie stammt, als auch Louden erzählten ausführlich von ihren Berufserfahrungen als Dolmetscher*innen. Obwohl die meisten Amischen und Mennoniten mittlerweile zweisprachig aufwachsen, da Englisch die offizielle Sprache ist, die in den eigenen Schulen gelehrt wird, gibt es einen sehr hohen Bedarf an Dolmetscher*innen, denn viele *Plain People* sind beispielsweise mit dem Gesundheits- und Rechtssystem und dem damit verbundenen Fachvokabular nicht vertraut. Auch müssen manche Fachbegriffe umschrieben werden, da sie aus kulturellen Gründen nicht direkt verwendet werden können, wie beispielsweise der Begriff „schwanger sein", für den die Umschreibung *„an eckschpeckte sei"* (*'to be expecting'*) herangezogen werden sollte. Der Bedarf an Übersetzer*innen strebt dagegen gegen Null. Das liegt daran, dass Pennsylvania Dutch eine mündlich überlieferte Sprache ist und phonetische Alphabete erst viel später entwickelt wurden. Folglich gibt es zwar manchen Briefwechsel, aber ansonsten nur wenige Texte, weshalb es außerhalb des universitären Umfelds auch kaum Bedarf für Übersetzungen gibt.

Trotz hoher Nachfrage bleibt es ein enger Markt

Auch für Pennsylvania Dutch gibt es die Möglichkeit, sich über die AOPC (*Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts*) zertifizieren zu lassen. Da die Sprache zu den eher seltenen gehört, müssen auch nicht ganz so viele Hürden genommen werden, bevor man theoretisch den ersten Job antreten könnte. Der Hürdenlauf fängt aber eigentlich erst an, wenn man die Zertifizierung in der Tasche hat. Das liegt jedoch mehr an den zwei Lebenswelten, zwischen denen man sich hin- und herbewegt. Verglichen mit anderen Sprachkombinationen, muss man sich in die Kultur und das Denken der PA-Dutch-Sprechenden hineinversetzen können oder sogar in deren Kulturkreis aufgewachsen sein, wie beispielsweise die Dolmetscherin Margaret Zimmerman. Auch Mark Louden, der einzige Dolmetscher in all den genannten Staaten, der in den *Amish Communities* akzeptiert wird und der sich deshalb vor Jobs kaum retten kann, lebte viele Jahre selbst unter den Amischen, besucht seit über 40 Jahren Gottesdienste der Amischen und der *Traditional Mennonites* und hat sich so in deren Gemeinschaft integrieren können. Auch Margaret Zimmerman, die oft bei Scheidungs- und Missbrauchsfällen dolmetscht, erzählt, dass selbst sie immer mal wieder bei Jobs abgelehnt wird, da oftmals ein Dolmetscher der Dolmetscherin gegenüber vorgezogen wird. Auch wollen viele Amischen und *Traditional Mennonites,* die Person, die für sie dolmetscht, erst persönlich besser kennenlernen, bevor sie sich öffnen. Eine Gratwanderung, denn es ist ja gerade dieses „Persönliche", das Aufbauen einer Beziehung zum „Kunden", was Dolmetscher*innen in eine Konfliktsituation mit dem AOPC-Code bringen könnte.

Pennsylvania Dutch *Hands-on*

Den Abschluss dieses gelungenen Tages bildeten die zwei letzten Sessions, in denen es um die Sprache selbst ging. In beiden *PA Dutch Language Lessons* lernten die Teilnehmenden die Phonetik, gängige Vokabeln und ein paar Basissätze kennen. In Partnerarbeit wurden kurze Dialoge einstudiert und das Ergebnis den Zuhörenden in der Gruppe präsentiert. Unterhaltungen zu den Themen „Schwetz Deitsch" (*Talk Dutch*), „Die Vendyu" (*The Sale*) und „Witt du mit mich geh?" (*Do you want to go with me?*) entpuppten sich als phonetische Herausforderungen. Für Teilnehmende, die ihre Wurzeln in Süddeutschland haben, insbesondere für alle Pfälzer*innen, klangen viele der Wörter zumindest bekannt. Da das gemeinsame Singen ein wesentlicher Bestandteil der Kultur der *Plain People* ist, sangen alle Teilnehmenden zum Abschluss gemeinsam das Lied „Schloof, Bobbeli, Schloof" (*Sleep, Baby, Sleep*) oder auch „Schlaf, Kindlein, schlaf". Auch noch lange nach dem offiziellen Ende der Veranstaltung beantwortete Mark Louden den Teilnehmenden viele ihrer weiteren Fragen.

Interessiert? Wer noch mehr erfahren will, der findet jede Menge Informationen und Veröffentlichungen auf padutch.net/cv oder mllouden@wisc.edu.

BP25: Rückblick auf Krakau und Ausblick auf die Zukunft

By Bettina Schreibmaier-Clasen
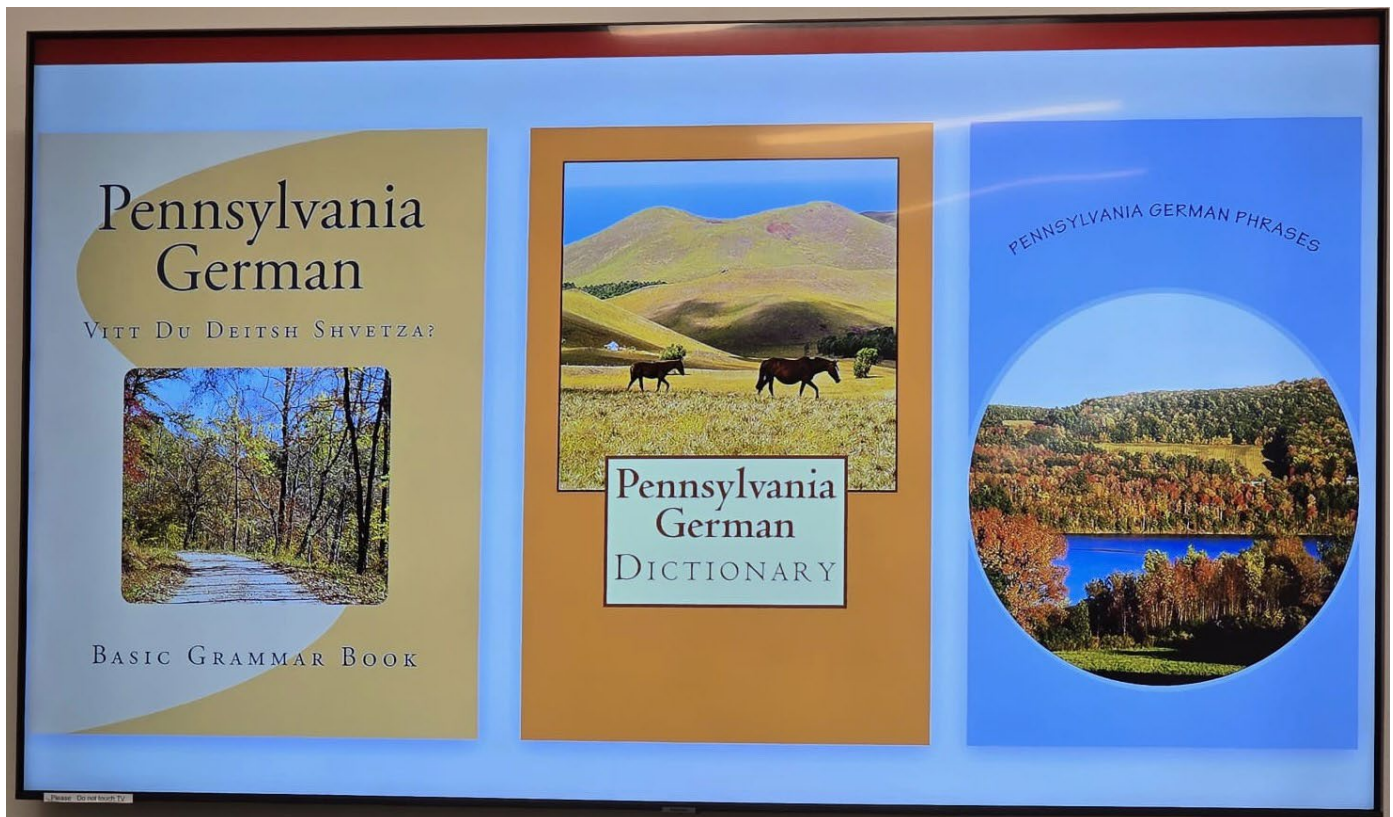
Bettina Schreib-maier-Clasen ist ATA-zertifizierte Fach-übersetzerin mit den Schwerpunkten Technik und Nachhaltigkeit. Als zertifizierte Werbe-texterin verfasst sie Artikel und Transkrea-tionen zu technischen und verschiedenen kulturellen Themen. Nach ihrem Studium in Heidelberg lebte und arbeitete sie in Singapur, Spanien und Tansania. Seit 2013 lebt sie in Wien und betreibt dort seit fast 10 Jahren ihr eigenes Unternehmen.

Eine BP-Konferenz muss man einfach erlebt haben. Allerdings ist die Wahr-scheinlichkeit groß, dass es nicht bei einer bleiben wird, denn es besteht ein gewisses Suchtpotenzial. Die Ab-kürzung BP steht offiziell für „Business and Practice" und inoffiziell für so einfallsreiche Kreationen wie „Badass Polyglots", „Boosting Productivity" oder auch „Brain Power".
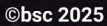
Gegründet wurde das Format einer unabhängigen Branchenkonferenz im Jahr 2014 von unserem ungarischen Kollegen Csaba Bán. Das erste Treffen internationaler Kolleg*innen aus der Sprachdienstleistungsbranche fand in Budapest statt – und auch mit dem Na-men dieser Stadt wurde die Abkürzung „BP" zu Beginn in Verbindung gebracht. Es folgten weitere Konferenzen in Za-greb, Prag, nochmal Budapest, Wien, Bologna, Lissabon, Utrecht, Sevilla und diesmal in Krakau – und zwei Online-Konferenzen in der Corona-Zeit. Was klein begann, ist mittlerweile mit tatkräf-tiger Unterstützung von Csabas Frau Zita zu einem erfolgreichen internationalen Konferenzunternehmen geworden. Neben der klassischen BP-Konferenz stehen auch andere Formate auf dem Programm, wie das „Winter Transla-tion Forum" und, geplant für September 2025, XCreate25 speziell zum Thema Transkreation.

Aber was ist denn nun das Besondere an den BP-Konferenzen? Neben den tollen Veranstaltungsorten mit Sicherheit auch die ganz besondere Stimmung, die so typisch für alle BPs ist, bei denen ich bisher dabei sein durfte: Hier gibt es Networking vom Feinsten. Man ist in jeder Runde und an jedem Tisch willkommen, alte Bekannte wie neue Gesichter erfahren die gleiche Wert-schätzung und Freundlichkeit. Und aus neuen Bekanntschaften werden nicht selten Freund*innen, mit denen man sich dann schon für die nächste BP verabredet. Die Konferenz sei gerade auch all jenen empfohlen, die sich mit dem Netzwerken und dem Knüpfen von Kontakten schwertun – bei der BP wird garantiert auch das dickste Eis gebrochen!

Ich war zum ersten Mal 2017 in Buda-pest dabei, damals noch ganz frisch in der Selbstständigkeit. Es folgte Wien im Jahr 2018 und nach ein paar Jahren Pau-se 2024 Sevilla und 2025 Krakau – bei

dieser Gelegenheit stand „BP" dann auch für „Beautiful Poland" …
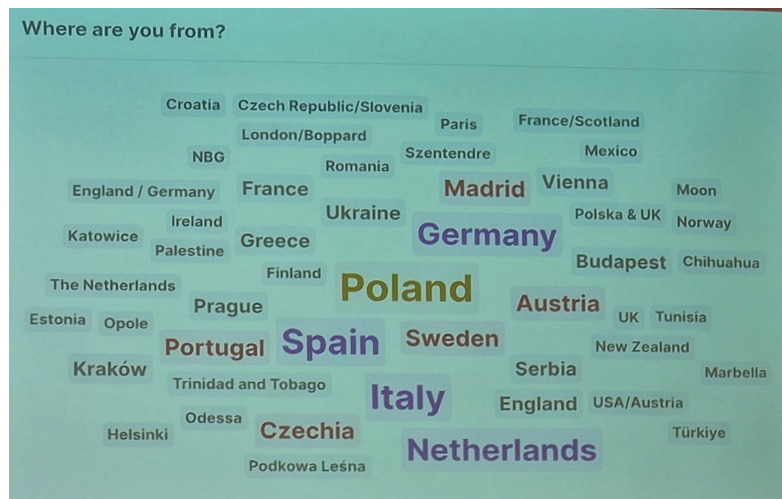
Angesichts der allgegenwärtigen disruptiven Veränderungen der letzten Jahre hatte ich bei so mancher Veranstaltung in letzter Zeit den Eindruck, dass sich eine gewisse Apokalypse-Stimmung breitmacht. Nicht so in Krakau: Hier wurde nicht geklagt, sondern es ging um

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konkrete Wege und Alternativen, um mit den zweifellos großen Herausforderungen und Veränderungen unserer Zeit umzugehen. Sehr erfrischend!

Passend dazu erinnerte uns Csaba zum Auftakt der Konferenz an die zwischenzeitlich oft zitierte Aussage von Henry Liu, dem damaligen Präsidenten der FIT, bei der BP17 in Budapest: „There will be no translators in 2025". Und siehe da: Wir schreiben das Jahr 2025 und die Übersetzer*innen sind noch nicht ausgestorben. Und dennoch sind Einfallsreichtum, Resilienz und Flexibilität bei den Überlebenden der Branche derzeit so gefragt wie vielleicht noch nie.

Besonders einprägsam fand ich den inspirierenden Vortrag „Breaking the Translation Bubble: Why It Matters and How to Do It" von Rafaela Mota Lemos. Sie lud uns ein, unser Selbstbild und unsere Denkweisen zu hinterfragen und uns zu trauen, unsere zahlreichen Talente auch in anderen Bereichen einzusetzen. Auch das oftmals mit vielen Narrativen vorbelastete Konzept „Erfolg" sollten wir in unseren Köpfen einmal getrennt von KPIs und Unternehmenswachstum definieren. Denn wahrer Erfolg ist eine sehr persönliche Angelegenheit.

Daniel Sebesta forderte in seiner Keynote „Mindset and Skills for Success in a Technology-driven Era" die alteingesessenen Denkweisen unserer Branche heraus. Und traute sich auch, unangenehme Fragen zu stellen. Denn die technologischen Entwicklungen definieren vielerorts auch das Verständnis von Qualität und das Wertversprechen menschlicher Sprachexpertise neu (an dieser Stelle ging nicht nur einmal ein Raunen durch den Saal). Aber ob uns das nun gefällt oder nicht – wir müssen uns dieser Realität stellen und nicht selten auch unsere eigene Denk- und Arbeitsweise hinterfragen und anpassen. Und trotz aller Disruption ist eines klar: Am Ende ist unsere Branche noch lange nicht.

Das war auch die Botschaft von Carlos la Orden Tovar in seiner kurzweiligen Präsentation „Skill and Talent Today: Are We Still Translators?" Die Antwort? Auch wenn wir vielleicht (bald) nicht mehr wie klassische Übersetzer*innen arbeiten werden und sich der Markt und die Branchenanforderungen in rasender Geschwindigkeit verändern – unser Dasein als Sprachprofis hat uns viele Qualifikationen und Qualitäten mit auf den Weg gegeben, die auch in Zukunft gebraucht werden. Vielleicht in einem
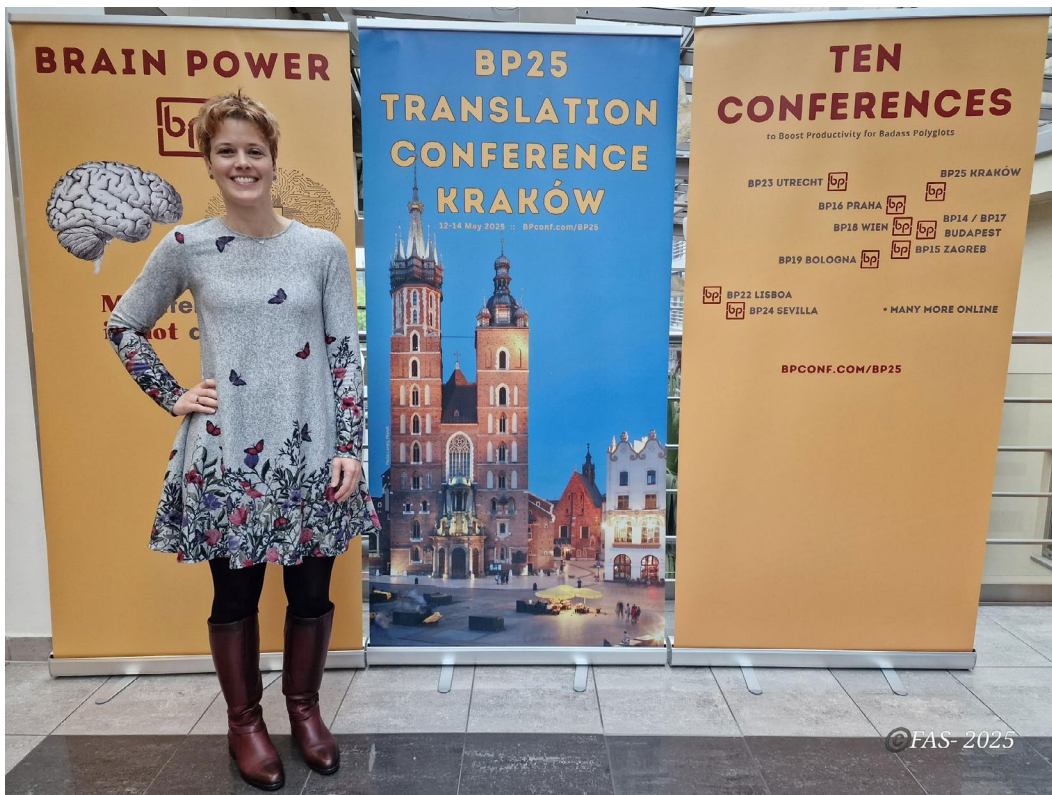
anderen Setting. Und vielleicht auch mit einem anderen Namen.

Nicht unerwähnt bleiben soll an dieser Stelle noch der abschließende Vortrag von Chris Durban „Are You Ready for High-profile Clients?". Gleich zu Beginn lud die renommierte Vortragende die anwesenden Freelancer dazu ein, sich aus ihrem Silo-Denken herauszuwagen und sich auf den Weg in das von Chris schon vielfach zitierte „Client Land" zu machen – das heißt, potenzielle und Wunschkund*innen mit ihren spezifischen Anforderungen und vor dem Hintergrund ihrer Branche zu verstehen. Und die von uns angebotenen Dienstleistungen aus Perspektive der Kund*innen zu begreifen. Sie führte uns vor Augen, dass es nach wie vor einen Premium-Markt gibt, in dem hohe Qualifikationen benötigt – und auch angemessen bezahlt werden. Chris zitierte

Kevin Hendzel, nach dessen Definition Premium-Märkte all jene Settings sind, in denen die Kosten eines Versagens wesentlich höher sind als die Kosten für die angemessene Leistung. Daher decken Premium-Branchen oftmals gerade die Bereiche ab, in denen ein hohes Risiko besteht – und davor sollten wir uns als professionelle Dienstleister*innen nicht verstecken. Denn genau hier haben wir die Möglichkeit, langfristig Vertrauen aufzubauen!

Nach den BP-Konferenzen kehre ich immer mit aufgeladenen Batterien und frischen Inspirationen an den Schreibtisch zurück – mit einer To-Do-Liste für die eigene Weiterentwicklung, interessanten Buchtipps und neuen Perspektiven. Aber bevor man nach Hause fährt, ist es fast schon ein Muss, sich noch ein bisschen an den beeindruckenden Veranstaltungsorten umzuschauen. Und so

habe auch ich die Gelegenheit genutzt, in Krakau tief in die polnische Kultur und Geschichte einzutauchen, durch die wunderschönen Viertel dieser alten Stadt zu schlendern und natürlich auch einen obligatorischen Pierogi-Stopp einzulegen.

Die nächste BP-Konferenz findet vom 20.–22. April 2026 in Avignon statt – in meinem Kalender ist sie schon vorgemerkt: bpconf. com.

Exploring the Past: Working with Kurrentschrift

By Megan Falk

Megan Falk is a German to English translator with an MA in Translation from UW-Milwaukee. In 2023, she founded her freelance translation business, Überlation. She specializes in translating old German script (*Kurrentschrift* and *Sütterlin*), historical documents, and textbooks. In her free time, Megan enjoys knitting, spending time outdoors, reading, writing, traveling, and cooking. She is currently learning Spanish, Russian, and ASL and plans to continue learning additional languages.

As a translator specializing in old German script, I was excited to learn that Mark Louden would be hosting a *Kurrentschrift* webinar (June 5, 2025) for the GLD. A professor of Germanic linguistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Louden has 37 years of experience in the field. Among other roles, he has worked as a court and medical interpreter for Pennsylvania Dutch, giving him a unique perspective on translation and language variation. He shared his expertise in language contact, sociolinguistics, and dialectology, emphasizing the significance of understanding regional varieties of German when working with *Kurrentschrift*.

Louden began by providing a brief history of *Kurrentschrift* and its connection to *Fraktur*. While *Fraktur* is more familiar to most people, both writing systems developed concurrently. *Kurrentschrift*, derived from the Latin verb *"currere"* meaning "to run," features connected letters. In contrast, *Fraktur* letters are more separated. *Sütterlin*, developed in 1915, was the last official form of *Kurrentschrift*, which the Nazi regime officially stopped using in 1941.

Louden highlighted that learning to write *Kurrentschrift* can be beneficial for effectively deciphering it. Louden recommended scanning the entire text to grasp its content and suggested starting from the middle or end of complicated words. Looking for proper names, recurring prefixes and suffixes, and maintaining an open mind about spelling variations are also useful strategies.

Several challenges exist when working with *Kurrentschrift* documents. These include understanding the historical context in which the document was created, writers' sometimes inconsistent knowledge of the German language, and variable writing and printing styles. Additionally, archaic and regional vocabulary, non-German words, and the physical condition of the document can complicate the process.

The presentation explored the significance of regional variations in German, explaining the distinction between Low German (*Niederdeutsch* or *Plattdeutsch*) and High German. The High German dialect area includes West-Mitteldeutsch and Oberdeutsch. Key criteria for differentiating dialects involve the second

List of Handwritten Documents Translators

Nathan Wiegand has recompiled and manages 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.

The list can be accessed on the GLD website.

consonant shift and diphthongization. Common spelling variations in older German texts were also discussed, including the confusion between B and P, T and D, and K and G. The use of G instead of CH, vowel variations, and the influence of regional pronunciations further contribute to these spelling variations.

Louden concluded by emphasizing that transcribing and translating *Kurrentschrift* documents requires consulting various sources beyond dictionaries. He noted that deciphering *Kurrentschrift* is greatly enhanced by learning to produce it and practicing with multiple documents. While AI-based tools are becoming more prevalent, they are not yet a substitute for human translators. The demand for professionals skilled in old German scripts far exceeds the supply, making this expertise a valuable asset for translators.

In my own work, I've used most of these strategies when transcribing Old German script. Writing in *Kurrentschrift* is one method that I have not implemented, but I now plan to try my hand, as I'm always looking for ways to improve my processes. I believe that mastering writing *Kurrentschrift* could enhance my understanding of the nuances in the original texts, allowing for more accurate transcriptions and translations. Additionally, I'm excited about the possibility of connecting with others in the field who share a similar interest in old German script. Collaborating and sharing insights could lead to new discoveries and a deeper appreciation for the historical context behind these writings.

As I delve into this method, I hope to document my findings and perhaps even create a guide for others who might be interested in expanding their transcription skills.

Webinar:
Übersetzen persönlicher Dokumente –
Herausforderungen und Optionen
Eine Podiumsdiskussion

Die *German Language Division* lädt ein:
am **14. Oktober 2025**
18 Uhr CEST / 12 pm EDT/ 9 am PDT
für 90 Minuten
Registrierung und weitere Informationen zu dieser Podiumsdiskussion (in Englisch und Deutsch):
subscribepage.io/podiumskiskussion

Personal Documents Translators

Do you translate personal documents or have you been asked for a referral for a certified translation? Frieda Ruppaner-Lind manages a list of GLD members who translate personal documents that can be accessed on the GLD website here. Please contact Frieda at frlxlator@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the list.

A Different Kind of Book Club

By Katrin Rippel Galati

Katrin Rippel Galati offers language translation and small business consulting. She is dedicated to supporting businesses in reaching international markets, making their products and services available in a different language and growing a foreign language customer base. Website:
translationpurpose.com

We met online for the third annual GLD Summer Social in July: "Books & Other Readings That Inspire You and Me." The circle of attendees was smaller than usual, yet it had the perfect size for introducing a book or two and sharing some personal insights.

The lineup of books was an interesting potpourri of contemporary life experiences—of the readers themselves—where the books supported, shaped, even guided present thoughts and actions. What follows are summaries of what we shared.

Good Girl by Aria Aber

"This author has an interesting bio: Born to Afghan migrant parents in Germany, she grew up speaking German and Farsi, but now writes in her third language, English, and teaches creative writing at a college in Vermont.

The book is a coming-of-age story (heavily autobiographical, I suspect) of a young girl navigating the cultural challenges of growing up in the migrant community in Berlin. Any reader familiar with Berlin will enjoy the vivid descriptions, although non-German speakers may find the many unexplained German cultural references challenging.

Not a light read, but a compelling one."

Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism by Rachel Maddow

"It is a fascinating nonfiction account of how Nazi propaganda infiltrated U.S. politics in the 1930s and '40s, and how a handful of Americans fought to defend democracy against rising authoritarian threats.

Prequel is aptly titled, suggesting that today's political climate is the 'sequel' to the historical struggle it chronicles. I found hope in its reminder that individuals, through courage and conviction, can push back against the rise of authoritarianism."

James by Percival Everett

"This book is a bold and brilliant re-imagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of Jim. It is both moving and, at times, darkly funny.

It made me reflect on how much storytelling shapes perception. This is the kind of novel that makes you reconsider everything you thought you knew about a classic, while standing powerfully on its own."

Wayfaring Stranger: A Musical Journey in the American South by Emma John

Emma had fallen out of love with her violin when a chance trip to the American South introduced her to bluegrass music. Classically trained, highly strung and wedded to London life, Emma was about as country as a gin martini. So why did it feel like a homecoming? Answering that question takes Emma deep into the Appalachian mountains, where she uncovers a hidden culture that confounds every expectation....

"As I am new to the bluegrass and old-time music world, this book resonated strongly, and it was a fascinating read while driving my 15-year-old son to

Umfahren… ist doch klar…

Image used with permission from Falkeninstitut

bluegrass festivals and summer camps in our very own state along the Blue Ridge and Appalachian mountains. Those events are unique with younger and older generations playing that music together, learning from and encouraging each other. Their repertoire of songs is endless, and the skills of playing fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar, and bass are astonishing."

The Postcard by Anne Berest

"*The Postcard* by Anne Berest, translated by Tina Kover, is a shattering novel that blends memoir and historical fiction to explore one Jewish family's experience in France during the Holocaust and the impact of anti-Semitism on the author's family during the post-war period and the present day. I couldn't put the book down."

Ungar German Translation Award

The ATA Ungar German Translation Award *is bestowed biennially in odd-numbered years for a distinguished literary translation from German into English.*

We were fortunate enough to have one attendee sharing the four titles of the finalists for the next *Ungar German Translation Award*—and their amazing translators:

Documentary Poetry by Heimrad Bäcker, translated by Patrick Greaney (Winter Editions, Brooklyn, 2024)

On the Marble Cliffs by Ernst Jünger, translated by Tess Lewis (NYRB: NY, 2023)

Seeing Further by Esther Kinsky, translated by Caroline Schmidt (NYRB: NY, 2024)

Star 111 by Lutz Seiler, translated by Tess Lewis (NYRB: NY, 2023)

The winner of this award will be announced at ATA's 66th Annual Conference in October 2025 in Boston.

The closing comment of one of the attendees was: "This event is a kind of book club without us reading all the same book—I like that!" We wrapped up the event and the sharing of reading adventures after 75 minutes—just the perfect time to feel refreshed and inspired on a hot summer day between work assignments and packing for a family trip.

The GLD Website is *Your* Resource!

The GLD website is not only our division's face to the world, it's loaded with information and resources for members. Find back issues of *interaktiv,* a calendar of events, and more. Follow the GLD blog for regular updates on division happenings!

Carola Lehmacher is a multi-lingual freelance translator, interpreter, and trainer with over fifteen years of experience (DE, ES, EN, FR) based in Atlanta. She is also a Federally Certified Court Interpreter (FCCI), works as a conference interpreter for various local and international clients and is one of the voices of a major news network. Moreover, Carola dedicates many hours to volunteer as President of AAIT, the Georgia chapter of ATA, among others.

Book Review: Insights from an Interpreter for Interpreters: Corinne McKay's *Getting Started as a Freelance Interpreter*

By Carola Lehmacher

As a seasoned interpreter, I was curious when Corinne McKay announced the upcoming release of her new book, *Getting Started as a Freelance Interpreter: Essential Strategies for Launching and Growing Your Business as a Spoken-language Interpreter*. I was intrigued to see what advice she might offer to those in the early stages of their careers and to discover similarities to my own career. In addition, I wanted to explore whether any of her insights could be applied to today's market conditions and the uncertainties brought about by rapid technological change.

I read the book during my summer break. At just 162 pages, it is easy to read and offers a general overview of the interpreting profession. For instance, the first chapter explains what interpreting is, outlines the different modes of interpreting, describes how languages are classified according to one's level of mastery, and introduces professional associations. This chapter also briefly explores different specializations and certifications. The last section of the chapter focuses on the current U.S.

market, which may make it less relevant for readers based in other regions, such as Europe.

Chapter 2, titled "Deciding What to Charge," left me with mixed impressions. I appreciate Corinne's clear and thoughtful approach to explaining the financial aspects of running a freelance business. Setting rates is undeniably an important and often challenging topic for interpreters, especially for those just starting out. However, I wonder whether this is the most suitable place to discuss specific rates. The rates mentioned—reflecting Corinne's own practice—may not accurately represent the realities faced by beginners or by those working in a different interpreting market. It is important to note that Corinne was already an established professional in the translation industry before she transitioned to interpreting; her entry point into the interpreting field thus differs significantly from that of someone at the very start of their career.

Chapter 3 stands out as the most compelling and valuable part of the book. Here, Corinne candidly shares her journey
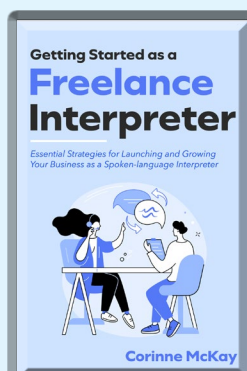
Title: Getting Started as a Freelance Interpreter
Author: Corinne McKay
Publisher: Tilt Publishing, 2025
Language: English
Paperback: 162 pages, also available as ebook
ISBN-13: 979-8-9917616-6-6

toward becoming a certified court interpreter and later earning a master's degree in conference Interpreting. While largely autobiographical, this inspiring chapter shows that professional excellence demands both dedication and sacrifice. Corinne not only studied independently but also hired a coach to guide her through the process. She completed several training courses, developed a structured study plan, and followed it consistently until she achieved her goal. Her commitment and insights should serve as a compass for beginners seeking to achieve certification.

Beyond her personal journey, this chapter also addresses whom interpreters typically work for and revisits the topic of setting rates. While the discussion of rates here is more in-depth than in chapter 2, it unfortunately overshadows many of the valuable insights presented earlier in the chapter.

Chapter 4 offers a solid overview of remote interpreting, including the necessary setup to perform effectively, along with several other practical insights. Chapter 5 focuses on marketing fundamentals, covering topics such as how to find clients, tailor marketing strategies to different client types, and create a basic website and LinkedIn profile. Last but not least, chapter 6 provides a brief overview of the author's thoughts on AI and its potential impact on interpreting.

In conclusion, I strongly recommend this book to anyone considering a career as an interpreter in the U.S. However, I would caution readers to carefully explore which specialization they wish to pursue, as the distinctions between court and conference interpreting are not always as clearly delineated here as they are in practice. Other specializations receive only brief mention early in the book.

The most valuable part of this book is the detailed description of the certification path, which should serve as a model for any aspiring interpreter. For more seasoned colleagues, this book offers a helpful reminder of how far we have come and the dedication required to reach this point. It also includes marketing tips that professionals at any stage can consider applying in their own business.

I admire Corinne for all she has achieved and for her generosity in sharing her knowledge. May her struggles and successes inspire many others to pursue this rewarding profession.

Calendar of Events 2025

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
Oct 14	Online	Übersetzen persönlicher Dokumente – Herausforderungen und Optionen: Eine Podiumsdiskussion	**subscribepage.io/podiumskiskussion**
Oct 14 – 16	Monterey, USA (CA)	LocWorld54	**locworld.com/locworld54-monterey-conference-program**
Oct 17 – Nov 6	Online	Deutsche Grammatik historisch erklärt	**seminare.bdue.de**
Oct 21 – 23	Salt Lake City, USA (UT)	TAUS Massively Multilingual AI Conference	**taus.net/events/massively-multilingual-ai-conference-salt-lake-city-2025**
Oct 22 – 25	Boston, USA (MA)	ATA66	**atanet.org/ata66**
Oct 25	Goethe-Institut Boston, USA (MA)	Book Talk: Thomas Blubacher presents "Weimar under the Palms"	**goethe.de/ins/us/en/ver.cfm?event_id=26911942**
Nov 5 – 7	Brussels (Belgium)	Translating Europe Forum	**commission.europa.eu/translating-europe-forum-tef/translating-europe-forum-2025-2025-11-05_en**
Nov 5 – 8	Tucson, USA (AZ)	ALTA48	**literarytranslators.org/event/alta-48**
Nov 5 – 26	Online	Diskriminierungskritische Sprache	**seminare.bdue.de**
Nov 11 – 13	Stuttgart (Germany)	Tekom Jahrestagung 2025	**jahrestagung.tekom.de**
Nov 28 – 29	63768 Hösbach (Germany)	16. Schmerlenbacher Tage 2025	**seminare.bdue.de**

Looking for even more professional development opportunities?
Check out our upcoming ATA webinars and workshops on the ATA website!

interaktiv

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