



Multi-Languages Newsletter

Serving the communications needs of Canada's international community



Fall/Winter 2003

Our first interpreter's training session a success

By: Ann Menoudakis, Interpreter Coordinator

On Wednesday June 4 and Thursday June 5, 2003 we had our first interpreter training session. It was lead by Nelson Cabral of Access Alliance Interpreters Services. It was an interesting session and proved all of us had something new to learn about interpreting.

On the first day we got to know each other. What a joy it was to attach a face to the voices I have been talking to on the phone the last couple of years. It was also

constituent tasks of interpreting. After a great lunch that was included in the training session, we played a game to test our active listening and memory skills. Who could forget Nelson's neuralgia, Peter's pathology, Regina's rheumatology and Seema's Sudafed

etc? We then reviewed the need for note taking, mental transposition and verbalization in the target language.

On the second day we started the day with a review and

practice of the Constituent tasks of interpreting. We went on to discuss cultural competence and how our own values and attitudes affect our interpretation. The next topic we covered was obscenities. Oh how difficult it was for some of our interpreters to swear when we were practicing. Interruption skills were covered. We then had pizza for lunch. After

great for the interpreters to meet each other and network. We then got to work and went through the core competencies of interpreting and the roles and responsibilities of an interpreter. We reviewed the code of ethics and were introduced to the

lunch it was sight translation that was covered, then research strategies for terminology. Finally, we ended the day with a puzzle reviewing the role and responsibilities and the code of ethics of an interpreter.

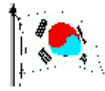


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Participants: (Instructor) Nelson Cabral, (Interpreter Coordinator) Ann Menoudakis, (Interpreters) Regina Backal- Spanish, Gurvinder Bahra-Kalsi-Punjabi, Seema Bhayana-Punjabi, Tony Bui-Vietnamese, Jyoti Chaudry-Gujarati, Yuri Geifman-Russian, Sevki Gokpar-Turkish, Peter Gorski-Polish, Steven Jung-Korean, Nancy Lai-Mandarin, Carlos Ponte-Portuguese, Samy Ramachandran-Tamil, Siva Sivakumar-Tamil, Stojanka Tomic-Serbian, Hoang Van Pham-Vietnamese. **Thank you for your participation!!!!**



Message to our Interpreters...

Please remember....

- You should be:
 - * Neutral, trustworthy
 - * Assertive, **Punctual**
- You shall dress and behave in a business manner.
- Interpret Language and Culture.
- Always maintain confidentiality and remain impartial, please don't add, edit or omit anything of what has been said.
- Don't get involved with the situation. You are an interpreter *not* a counselor.
- You should interrupt:
 - * To clarify any word / sentence not completely understood.
 - * To ensure the family / client is understanding all the information provided.
 - * When too much information is being given.
- To report your times within 24 hours.

Thank you

Interpreters for SBT !!!!!

Hearings for Social Benefit Tribunal are held in different locations across Ontario that are NOT Board offices (libraries, hotels, civic centres), you **MUST** arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time and bring complete information with you; exact address, room number and Board Member's name.

Make sure you have all the information the day prior to the hearing as reception/information desks are not always aware of these hearings.

Most widely spoken languages in the world



Mandarin	1 billion
English	514 million
Spanish	425 million
Hindu	420 million
Russian	275 million
Arabic	256 million
Bengali	215 million
Portuguese	194 million
Malay-Indonesian	176 million
French	129 million
Japanese	125 million
German	120 million

Source: Ethnologue

Evolution of the Language: Greek
By Effrosyni Fragkou. Greek translator/interpreter

Greek language occupies a prominent place among the languages of the World. Many reasons justify this bold statement. The first one relates to the language's historical background. The second reason takes into account the diverse uses of the Greek language and its contribution to the promotion of various forms of civilization. Several linguists would argue that Greek language was shaped in order to express the most advanced forms of human intelligence and invention, ranging from the arts to science and Religion.

In terms of its origins, Greek language belongs to the family of the Indo-European languages. However, this explanation does not account for the etymology of some of its words that is not consistent with the Indo-European characteristics. In order to explain this phenomenon, many specialists agree that Indo-European Greeks, who came to Greece (around 3000 B.C.), were not the first to occupy this territory. During their descent, they came across local tribes that had their own languages. Several linguistic elements merged and formed what we now call "the Greek language".

What is most amazing in the case of Greek is that this language has a longstanding tradition: 4,000 years of spoken history and 3,500 years of written evidence (with the exception of the period between 1200 and the 8th century B.C.). What makes this language unique is that, despite time, Greek has conserved an incomparable historical continuity as well as an unprecedented structural cohesion. For that reason, it is now safe to talk about a *unified language* that stayed *intact* through the centuries. Despite the language's inevitable evolution in terms of pronunciation, spelling and grammar, a Modern Greek is able to read and understand a text written 3,000 ago, because the hard core of the language remains the same.

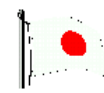
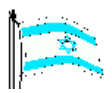
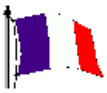
For several centuries, Greek language became the *lingua franca* for millions of people, from Rome to Mesopotamia, and Egypt. Greek was the language of commerce and trade, but most importantly, it was the language of the educated elite. Tragedy, comedy, history, philosophy, logic, mathematics, physics and medicine were invented by Greeks, and expressed in Greek. They were all witnessing the Greek way of thinking. It is said that Romans conquered Greeks by using their powerful army. Nevertheless, Greek spirit managed to conquer them back. This is the reason why, Roman intellectuals would use Greek as their favored language of expression.

In the post-Christianity era, the most recent achievement in the history of Greek language was the New Testament that was written directly into Greek and then translated, repeatedly, into many languages. During her rituals, The Greek Orthodox Church uses the original version of the New Testament that is easily perceivable and understood by Greeks.

Nowadays, Greek is spoken by almost twelve million people in Greece and Cyprus together. It is the official language of both the Greek and the Cypriote Republic. Outside Greece, Greek is spoken by approximately ten million people, the so-called *Greek Diaspora* (US, Canada, Australia, South Africa, etc.) Although Greek is a rather minority language in terms of the extent of its current use, it is important to notice that Greek poetry has been twice awarded with the Nobel prize (Seferis, Elytis), an additional proof to the importance of this old language that still remains young.



*"A professional translator **only** accepts jobs that he/she is able to do with the **highest** standard of quality"*



Languages of India

Languages recognized by the Indian Constitution



1. Assamese.
2. Bengali.
3. Gujarati.
4. Hindi.
5. Kannada.
6. Kashmiri.
7. Konkani.
8. Malayalam.
9. Manipuri.
10. Marathi.
11. Nepali.
12. Oriya.
13. Punjabi.
14. Sanskrit.
15. Sindhi.
16. Tamil.
17. Telugu.
18. Urdu.

Hindi is the principal official language of India. English is considered an "associate" national language. Hindi is the native language of about a third of India's people, but many speak Hindi as a second language. Only about 2 percent speak English.

The Indian government has at times promoted Hindi as a national language. But many Indians who cannot speak Hindi did not want it to become their nation's only official language. Many Indians take pride in their regional languages, many of which have old and honored literatures. They fear these writings would someday be lost if everyone spoke Hindi. In response to these concerns, the Indian government now recognizes 18 regional languages as official languages.

The people of India speak 16 major languages and more than 1,000 minor languages and dialects. The major languages of India belong to two language families--Indo-European and Dravidian. Indo-European languages are spoken by about 73 percent of the people, mainly in the northern and central regions. They include Hindi--India's most widely spoken language--and its closely related form, Urdu. They also include Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, and Rajasthani. These languages come from Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language with many words similar to words in European tongues.

Dravidian languages are spoken by about 24 percent of the population, mainly in the southern part of the country. They include Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu. People in the northern Himalayan region and near the Burmese border speak Sino-Tibetan languages. Some ethnic groups in eastern India speak Mon-Khmer languages.



Source: World Book Encyclopedia, Ethnologue

Interpreting and translating, are they one in the same?

By: Nelson Cabral.
Access Alliance Multicultural
Community Health Centre

The words "interpreter" and "translator" are often used to mean the same thing in various situations; however, they respectively have their own complexities and skills. To clarify, "interpreting" is the word used for the transposition of the *spoken* word whereas "translating" is the word used for the transposition of the *written* word. Both professions require finding the equivalent word and level of meaning in the other language and linking communication between two parties, which creates the lack of concern in distinguishing them.

Interpreting requires a high level of fluidity and rapid reflexes between languages beyond the requirements of translating. However, interpreting is often forgotten because we live in a highly literal society in which the written word usually takes precedence over the spoken word. An interpreter is an active listener, message recorder, message converter, and public speaker, all the while being impartial, usually in the physical presence of both parties – quite a mechanical process for a human being to be involved in. Furthermore, an interpreter is required in an instant to produce the equivalent word unlike a translator who is given more time to digest the message without the feeling of immediate judgement.

In recent years, the push to distinguish interpreting from translating and its respective prerequisites has become more pronounced in Canada but we still fall behind in standardizing the profession. A translator can present a dossier of his/her written work and have it assessed – the experience is captured there. The challenge is in the assessment of a profession based on the "spoken" word? Some places have managed to overcome this hurdle and create recognized models of accreditation such as the state of Massachusetts and Australia. Laws in those regions have helped in the development of these models. Remember, not all translators can be interpreters just as not all interpreters can be translators. For more information on the accreditation processes in place in Massachusetts and Australia, please visit www.mmia.org and www.ausit.org, respectively.

Country profile: Italy - The Sweet Life

By: Lesley Peterson Capo. Italian translator/interpreter

The Republic of Italy extends south from Europe, like a high-heeled boot dipping its toe in the sparkling Mediterranean Sea. Inhabited since Paleolithic times, Italy's rugged landscape—more than three-quarters of its land mass is mountainous or highland—served naturally through history to divide its populace into regions greatly diverse in dialect and cuisine. United politically in 1870 and joining the European Economic Community as one of its original six members in 1957, Italy's 57 million inhabitants celebrate their regional differences with pride while devoting themselves to their common passions for the “three F's” of Italian life: family, faith and food, as well as the national sport of soccer. And not always in that order!



Coliseum

Southern Italy, historically poorer in industry and agriculture than the north due to rocky soil and shortage of fresh water, saw much emigration of its people in the past, a situation helped along by Mother Nature who saw fit to place four active volcanoes and three converging tectonic plates (read earthquakes!) in the region. Colourful Naples, in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius, is home to the National Museum which houses one of the most important archeological collections in the world, many of its treasures claimed from the ruins of nearby Herculaneum and Pompeii. Ferries leave its lively harbour regularly for the islands of Capri, Sardinia and Sicily.



Sicily is unique, its dialect, architecture and cuisine still bearing memories of occupation by ancient Greeks, Romans, Normans and French kings and Arabs, not surprising given its strategic location. The lack of industrialization has proven to be a modern-day blessing; the island has not suffered environmental damage to the same extent as the north. Largely agricultural, the island's hills produce wheat, olive oil, wine and citrus fruit. Visitors may hike a nature preserve, breathe crystalline mountain air scented with wild oregano and woodsmoke, wander the well-preserved ruins of ancient Greek temples and amphitheatres, splash in therapeutic hot springs once the spas of Roman emperors or join other holidaymakers on any one of the island's golden beaches.

And on warm summer evenings, in towns and cities throughout all Italy, young and old gather in the piazzas for the *passeggiata*, strolling to see and be seen, chatting, buying cones of luscious *gelato* for the children, meeting friends for a crispy pizza. *La dolce vita*, the sweet life, indeed!

To explore the treasures and pleasures of every picturesque hilltown, country road and stretch of romantic coastline would require a life-long ramble; most visitors, regrettably, must make do with hitting only the highlights of an Italian tour. A lucky traveler coming from the north must cross the Alps and the glittering, pine-wrapped lakes of Italy's northern border. Between the Alps and the Apennines, a mountain range that runs the length of the Italian peninsula, the vast Po River valley contains two-thirds of the country's fertile soil and most



Venice

of its industry as well. The sheer size and wall-to-wall traffic of industrial giants Milan and Turin can be intimidating, and travelers may be forgiven for fleeing east in search of Venice with its delicate Gothic palazzos seemingly afloat in the sea mist. Perhaps the best time to visit Venice is winter, when the canals are empty of tourist-laden gondolas and characters garbed for *Carnevale* loom eerily out of the fog in mysterious masks and 18th-century capes.

A little further down the peninsula amid the hills of Tuscany, Florence flourished from the 14th to 16th centuries as “Man's perfect center of the Universe,” as the writer D.H. Lawrence wrote. Much of that Renaissance glory may still be seen today,



Florence

embodied in priceless works of art such as Michelangelo's statue of David held within the city's many museums and churches. Another masterpiece acclaimed the world over is the rustic Tuscan cuisine.

Despite the grandeur of its many Imperial monuments and grandiose baroque churches including Vatican City and St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of Christianity, Rome remains a warm and accessible city. Visitors can take a breather from the sheer weight of history and relax in a sidewalk café beside a splashing fountain, cool off in one of the city's many enchanting gardens or simply lie under the umbrella pines on one of Rome's seven hills and watch the tumultuous clouds in the ever-changing sky overhead.



St. Peter's Basilica



“Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too.”
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