



Multi-Languages Newsletter

Serving the communications needs of Canada's international community



Spring/Summer 2005

What is the CILISAT/ILSAT?

Cultural Interpreter Language Interpretation Skills Assessment Test

Interpreter Language Interpretation Skills Assessment Test

These tools are designed to test an individual's language fluency in English and the other language, as well as his or her ability to perform consecutive interpreting and sight translation.

Sight translation is an oral translation of a written text. Two texts are presented, one in English and one in the other language. For each text, the candidate has up to 10 minutes to prepare. After the preparation time, the test administrator starts recording as the candidate interprets in the other language.

Following the Sight Translation tests, the candidates are given a five-minute break. After the break, the Consecutive Interpreting test begins. **Consecutive interpreting** is interpreting a conversation between two parties who do not speak the same language. The candidate is required to switch between the two languages and interpret for both parties in turn.

The consecutive interpreting test requires that the candidate interpret with speed in the time allotted on the tape. The candidate is required to interpret into the other language as soon as the speaker finishes each segment and pauses. Following the pre-recorded segment, there is a segment of blank tape to allow the candidate to interpret.

The CILISAT/ILSAT is assessed by trained markers who are obligated to maintain impartiality and confidentiality. The test marking service providers are Across Languages Translation and Interpretation Service and the Cultural Interpretation Service of Our Communities (CISOC).

The assessment is based on how well the candidate accurately conveys the meaning of the original text or dialogue, and whether they omit, distort or add words or meaning that are not in the original text. For the CILISAT there is also a grade given to overall language proficiency.

CILISAT

1. Amharic
2. Arabic
3. Cantonese
4. Farsi
5. Cambodian
6. Korean
7. Kurdish – Sorani
8. Kurdish - Kurmandji
9. Greek
10. Hindi
11. Mandarin
12. Oromo
13. Polish
14. Portuguese
15. Punjabi
16. Russian
17. Serbo-Croatian
18. Somali
19. Spanish
20. Tamil
21. Tigrigna
22. Turkish
23. Twi
24. Urdu
25. Vietnamese



ILSAT

1. Albanian
2. Bengali
3. Bulgarian
4. Burmese
5. Czech
6. Dari
7. Dinka
8. Dutch
9. Finnish
10. French
11. German
12. Gujarati
13. Hebrew
14. Hungarian
15. Italian
16. Japanese
17. Low German
18. Nuer
19. Ojibwe
20. Ojicree
21. Pashto
22. Romanian
23. Tagalog
24. Thai
25. Ukrainian

The ILSAT is produced, distributed and marked by Across Languages Translation and Interpretation Service located in London. The CILISAT is produced, distributed and marked by CISOC in Ottawa

These tests were developed with the financial support of the **Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration - MCI**

Sources:

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Interpreters: get tested, get trained

We are persistently working on *quality assurance and higher standards* on interpretation. We are giving priority booking to those interpreters that have been tested and trained. Even if you have many years of experience, you should continuously develop and improve your skills. If your language is on the CILISAT/ILSAT list, we recommend you to take the language test.

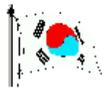
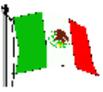
To be admitted to the **HIN training** program, you would need an average of 70% on the language test. Contact Kristofer at HIN to take the test and our office to be screened for the coming training for September. Space is limited.

Special thanks to our translators/interpreters:

**Effie Fragkou, Krystina Libera-Wydech
Pasquale Capo, Tho Nhan**

For your continuous support and excellence in your work





Conference on translation and interpretation for freelancers 2004

By: Effie Fragkou Certified trilingual translator



U of T

On November 27, 2004 in the historical setting of Victoria College, Multi-languages gathered around translators, interpreters, scholars, practitioners and tutors, services providers and service users giving them the unique opportunity to share their views on translation and interpretation and the challenges professionals and users of translation and interpretation services face in today's market.

During registration time, participants had the opportunity to view a video on the "Best Practices for Working with Interpreters", prepared by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration of Ontario. The video describes at length the roles and responsibilities of a community interpreter, his/her professional obligations and also his/her rights as well as the kind of services a client should expect and request from a certified language professional.

Anne-Marie Brinsmead opened the series of presentations by giving a lively and extremely interesting account of what makes a good translator and what needs to be done in order to improve one's linguistic competence, his/her translation capabilities and the final product, i.e. the translation itself. Every good translator has every interest in following her tips and adopting a self-evaluation system to check upon his/her work and performance. An important issue covered was how to avoid burnout due to work overload and repetitiveness and how to care about the body and the mind of the translator.



Prof. Anne Marie Brinsmead



Nelida Chan

Nelida Chan dazzled us with her profound knowledge and her long-life experience of translation tools and their increasing part in everyday translation practice. According to Nelida, translation tools (or CAT) are "here to stay" and should not be considered as the "enemy". Translation tools are the translator's best friend, since they can increase productivity (in strictly quantitative terms), but can also, and foremost, improve quality by ensuring consistency in terminology and style. Nelida offered an exhaustive list of translation tools currently in use as well as a considerable number of electronic databases that every translator should know in order to improve his/her work while making it easier. Thanks to Nelida technology is more user friendly in our eyes.

Nelson Cabral and his co-presenter, Mercedes Ortega, gave us an account of community interpretation in the current North-American context, i.e. the all-pressing need for certified interpreters in a considerable number of languages, the financial stress that interpretation puts on service providers requesting multilingual products and the importance of having trained, certified community interpreters ensuring a minimum of linguistic competence and interpretation skills. Emphasis was placed on the ethical considerations surrounding community interpretation. The examples given demonstrate Nelson's long experience in providing interpretation services for a multi-lingual, multi-ethnic community.



Nelson Cabral



After lunch, Effie Fragkou attempted to shake the ground by breaking free from the traditional considerations regarding translation and translation services. To do so, she attempted to give an account of how the industry works and what a freelancer is to expect from the market. Emphasis was placed on the criteria used by clients who need translation products to select their outsourcers in North America. The notions of globalization, internationalization and localization were introduced and examined from the point of view of the additional challenges they represent for modern-age translators.

Jeffrey Miller managed to end on a happier note thanks to his great humor and his unsurpassed oratory capabilities. His presentation on mistranslation in transferring law texts from French to English and vice versa, and the "spicy" examples to support his hypothesis, demonstrated the importance of traps to the unsuspected translator and the ways to avoid them. Jeffrey's examples draw not only upon his experience as a legal translator but also on his profound knowledge of the law as a lawyer.

During an excellent lunch and a succulent diner and lots of wine and other beverages colleagues have laughter and conversations which made this date a unforgettable moment. All that was made possible thanks to the unique personality of our guest, Lola, and the countless hours of work and preparation that she and Ann put in this event so as to make it a memorable one.



A special thanks to the panel that answered many of our practical questions regarding translation, interpretation, professional certification and resources.



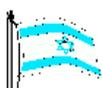
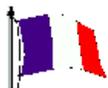
Adriana



Finally yet importantly, congratulations to this years award recipients! We are proud of you!

Panel: Cesar, Pat, Tho, Regina and Jaime

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



Multi-Languages Awards 2004



Christopher Lee



Muhamad Shafique



Regina Backal



Himmat Benjamin



Yuri Geifman

For the third year we have recognized our interpreter/translator's hard work, dedication and commitment to the profession. Our Award recipients for 2004 were Regina Backal (Spanish), Himmat Benjamin (Urdu), Yuri Geifman (Russian), Christopher Lee (Cantonese) and Muhamad Shafique (Punjabi). Thank you.

professional development

Mark your calendars!



Workshop on interpretation and translation

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

7:15 pm - 8:15 pm

Medical Terminology - Interpretation

Nelson Cabral

Manager Interpreter Services

Access Alliance Multicultural HC

One of the editors for the HIN Manual on interpretation.

Interpreter Trainer.

Revision - Translation

Brian Mossop

Translator and Language Adviser

Translation Bureau of Canada

Researcher in the fields of translation and revision, professor at the school of Translation.

Date: Monday **May 30th**

Time: 4:45 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: U of T Victoria College, Alumni Hall

Fee: Free to regular interpreters/translators (by invitation).

\$30 for interpreters registered with us.

\$35 general admission.

Registration is needed for this event. If you received an invitation please confirm attendance for printed material and coffee break purposes

To our service providers..... Tips on how to work with interpreters

- * Whenever possible, provide background information for the interpreter to become familiar with the subject matter
- * You will need extra time when working with an interpreter
- * Avoid long, complex sentences, do not use slang, idiomatic expressions, highly technical vocabulary or jargon
- * Speak clearly, loudly and at a moderate pace
- * Talk directly to your client/patient not to the interpreter
- * Don't ask the interpreter for his/her opinion
- * For long assignments, provide a break as accuracy declines with time (simultaneous after 30 minutes, consecutive after 2 - 2 1/2 hours)
- * Pause frequently to allow the interpreter to render **all** the information
- * Be aware of non-verbal communication
- * Encourage the interpreter to clarify terms
- * Some words don't have an exact translation into the foreign language; the interpreter would have to provide an explanation of the term, that does not mean he/she is adding information, feel free to clarify if in doubt.

Useful links

AILIA - Language Industry Association

www.ailia.ca

Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC)

www.cttic.org

Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario (ATIO)

www.atio.on.ca

Association of Canadian Corporation in Translation and Interpretation (ACCTI)

www.accti.ca

Critical Link

www.criticallink.org

Ontario Association of Sign Language Interpreters (OASLI)

www.oasli.on.ca

International Federation of Translators

www.fit-ift.org

Localization Industry Standards Association

www.lisa.org

American Translators Association (USA)

www.atanet.org

International Association of Conference Interpreters (USA)

www.aiic.net

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (USA)

www.najit.org

Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators

www.ausit.org

International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS)

www.iatis.org

Update your files!!!

Do we have your current information?

Translators: make sure we have copies of your professional association certification, degrees or courses in translation as well as information about new projects in your portfolio (number of words, subject matter).

Interpreters: we need all your training certificates, accreditations, references or language test certification.

Translators: when doing a revision please check for accuracy of meaning and terminology, correctness of the language, consistency, spelling and syntax; you don't need to rewrite the document, please respect the original translator's style.

Country profile: Vietnam

By: *Tho Nhan - Certified Vietnamese translator*

Lying on the eastern part of the Indochinese peninsula, Vietnam is an elongated strip of land shaped like the letter "S". Bordered by China to the North, Laos and Cambodia to the west, and the East Sea and the Pacific Ocean to the southeast, Vietnam is also a transport junction from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. Vietnam's coast line is 3,260 km long and its inland border measures 4,510 km. The country's total length from north to south is 1,650 km and is divided into three regions: the North, the Centre and the South. It is composed of 64 provinces and cities. The mainland territory is 329, 241 square kilometres.

Hanoi is the national capital and is located in the North. Hanoi is the capital of Thang Long (Ascending Dragon) founded in 1010 by King Ly Thai To. In Vietnamese, Ha means river, in reference to the Red River and Noi means this inner side. Other major cities include Hue in Central Vietnam, the old imperial capital of the Nguyen dynasty, with many famous royal tombs and mausoleums, and Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon) in the heart of the South. Saigon is the most important city in Vietnam after Hanoi and is a major tourist attraction.

Vietnam is located in both a tropical and a temperate zone. The annual average temperature ranges from 22°C to 27°C. The climate is generally hot and humid in the South with the hottest month in April and the coolest month in December. The most noticeable temperature variations are found in northern provinces where differences of 12°C have been observed. In Central Vietnam, the dry season lasts from March to August and the temperature may reach a high of 39.5°C while the rainy season lasts from September to February, and it sometimes rains all day.

Vietnam has an estimated population of close to 81 million (in 2003). Eighty five percent of the people are Vietnamese. Chinese and Khmer (Cambodians) make up about five percent of the population. At present there are 54 different ethnic minority groups inhabiting Vietnam. The Vietnamese speak the languages of eight different groups while many ethnic minorities speak their own distinct languages and dialects. Vietnamese is a monosyllabic tonal language. Each syllable can be pronounced in six different tones to confer a totally different meaning. The tones are expressed by five diacritical accents, where the syllable has no accent. For example, the word "ma", depending on the accents and the tone, can mean ghost, mother, horse, grave, a term of relationship (whom, which, that), or a rice shoot. These tones give the Vietnamese spoken language a musical quality and although the same language is spoken throughout the country, regional variations and local accents exist between the North, the South and the Centre.

Under thousands of years of Northern domination, Chinese was used for a long time as the official written language. Based on Chinese characters, the Vietnamese worked out a unique writing system of their own called "Chu Nom". In "Chu Nom", two Chinese characters were usually combined, one of which indicated the meaning of the Vietnamese word, while the other indicated pronunciation. Around the 17th century, western missionaries came to Vietnam and learned Vietnamese in order to disseminate Catholicism. They developed a romanized script to represent the Quoc Ngu (meaning the national language) in order to translate prayer books and catechisms. In 1651, Vietnamese alphabet was phonetically romanized by Alexandre de Rhodes, a French Jesuit missionary. After Alexandre de Rhodes, Quoc Ngu was further improved by foreign missionaries and Vietnamese scholars, and became the national written language after 1919.

The majority of religion practiced by the Vietnamese is Buddhism. Most people worship their ancestors and there is a widespread belief in spirits. Almost every village has a temple, called a "Dinh", which is regarded as the home of local spirits and gods. About 10 per cent of the population are considered Catholic as Catholicism was introduced in the 17th century.

Vietnam has many beautiful and famous beaches such as Tra Co, Sam Son, Lang Co, Non Nuoc, Nha Trang, Vung Tau, and Ha Tien. There are thou-

sands of islands and islets scattered offshore from north to south. One magnificent site is Halong Bay in Quang Ninh province, which has recently been listed as a World Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO. The quarters of Hoi An, in the Province of Quang Nam, about 30 kilometres south of Da Nang has also been recognized by UNESCO and was officially listed as a World Heritage Site. Hoi An's ancient past is preserved in its architecture. The old quarter is a fascinating blend of temples, pagodas, community houses, shrines, clan houses, shop houses and homes.

The forests of Vietnam account for most of the total land area. Some of the more famous national parks located throughout the country include Ba Vi in Ha Tay, Cat Ba in Hai Phong, Cuc Phuong in Ninh Binh, Bach Ma in Hue, and Cat Tien in Dong Nai. Vietnam's coast has been awarded a series of large seaports, such as the ones at Hai Phong, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Cam Ranh, Vung Tau, and Saigon.

Forbes magazine has recently published a list of the top 12 resorts of the world and Ana Mandara beach resort of Nha Trang, a coastal town, also known as "Ocean City", has been chosen to be one of the most ideal destinations for travelers. Nha Trang is the capital of Khanh Hoa Province and Khanh Hoa is located in South Central Vietnam. The city of Nha Trang has long been renowned for being a sea resort with plenty of historical vestiges and wonderful sceneries. Nha Trang Bay has also been recognized as one of the most beautiful bays in the world since July of 2003. Ana Mandara has been selected as one of the top global resort not only because of its unique design, thatched-roof cottages and beds enveloped in mosquito netting that deeply reflects Vietnamese characteristics, but also of the pure, authentic Vietnamese cuisine.



One of the most popular and well-known delicacies is spring rolls - small rolls of minced pork, prawn, crab meat, fragrant mushrooms and vegetables wrapped in thin rice paper and deep fried until crisp. Before eating, the spring roll is rolled in a lettuce leaf with fresh herbs (mints) and dipped in the fish sauce, a national condiment. Speaking of Vietnam, people may think about the war it had in the past, the loss of many lives and atrocities of war-time.

But besides that, Vietnam is a nation of marvelous physical beauty, a country with a 4,000 year history and tradition, and a people with great hospitality and generosity.

References:

Insight Guides Vietnam, First Edition (Revised), 1994, APA Publications (HK) Ltd.



"Each problem that I solved became a rule which served afterwards to solve other problems."
Rene Descartes (1596-1650), "Discours de la methode "

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